

By Ricky Smith

John L. Barber Family

The mother of Dr. Nathaniel Barber Hall was Mary (Mollie) Barber. According to the *Hall Family History* (written by Dr. Hall), his mother "was an Irish girl, who belonged to the Colony of Irish Patriots from Antrim County, North Ireland that came to South Carolina in 1797." (According to John Barber's tombstone, he came to Fairfield County, South Carolina in 1791.)

Mary Barber's father was John L. Barber, who was born in 1770 in Glenderry, Antrim County, Northern Ireland. The Barbers were originally from Scotland but moved to Northern Ireland, where they were reported to be linen makers.

John L. Barber married Sarah Carmichael in 1790 and immigrated to South Carolina in 1791. Sarah died in South Carolina.

John L. and Sarah Carmichael had seven children: John L. Jr., Mary "Mollie" (mother of Nathaniel Barber Hall), Nathaniel Carmichael, Sarah Elizabeth, James Alexander, Jane, and William Thomas Barber.

John moved to Chambers County, Alabama in 1839. In the early 1830s, his son, Nathaniel Carmichael Barber, had been involved in the surveying of lands associated with the Indian removal. Nathaniel persuaded his father and brothers to move to Alabama.

Prior to moving to Alabama, John had at least 5 tracts of land containing 364 acres on the Wateree River, six miles from Winnsboro, South Carolina. He lived in South Carolina for about 47 years. He was said to be an educated man and owned books written in Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and French.

The house John built in Alabama was known for years as "Barber's Sweet Home," which is pictured in the book, *Pine Log and Greek Revival*, by William Davidson. The community around his home eventually became known as "Barber's Sweet Home."

John L. Barber's second wife was Margaret (last name unknown).

Jo Ann Barber, of Kansas City, is a descendant of Nathaniel Carmichael Barber. Jo Ann grew up in Chambers County, Alabama and is familiar with the family history. The following is an excerpt from one of her emails:

My Dad's aunt Simmie [Allurah Simmie Ann Barber, granddaughter of Nathaniel C. Barber] was the family historian and I have her trunk. Inside the trunk were lots of papers, deeds, and letters. Some of them were dated as far back as 1819 and all handwritten on parchment paper. I just donated the biggest portion of these papers to the Cobb Memorial Archives in Valley, Alabama, which is in Chambers Co. So they have a Barber Family papers collection there. I did this because I didn't know how to best preserve this valuable family history that was just deteriorating away, and they promised to archive and preserve them so they would be there for everyone to see.

John L. Barber donated land for the Sweet Home Methodist Church and Cemetery in Chambers County. Jo Ann also said in the email:

Emory Chapel was about 3 miles (less as the crow flies) from Sweet Home and one of the first ministers to preach there was Nathaniel C. Barber. The Barber family was big supporters of this church as well as Sweet Home UMC. John L. and his wife, Margaret [his second wife] went 2 miles up the road from Sweet Home and were founding members of Lebanon Presbyterian Church. (I think the Barbers were

Presbyterian in Ireland.) Both Sweet Home and Lebanon are still open and have regular services, but Emory Chapel burned down some years ago. My dad says he remembers going to services at Emory Chapel in the back of a wagon.

John died on July 3, 1848, and is buried at Sweet Home Methodist Church Cemetery, Chambers County, Alabama. The inscription on his tombstone reads:

Sacred to the memory of John Barber, who was born in Glenwherry, Antrim County, Ireland, A.D. 1770; and he married Sarah Carmichal, in 1790; and immigrated to Fairfield district S. C. in 1791; whence he removed to this State in 1839 and died on the 3rd of July 1848, aged 78 years.

John L. Barber was a half-brother to James Barber, who was the father of Eliza (Barber) Richmond Wilmore Brown, and great-grandfather of Nancy Ann (Boulware) Hall.

James married Sarah Gunion. He died in 1821 and is buried at Mount Olivet Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Fairfield County, South Carolina. Sarah is supposed to have also been buried there, but I couldn't find her grave.