

For the benefit of our young Judge Clowney and that impudent boy, Thad Coleman, another relative, I take the quotation from Vol. 1 of Dr. Howe's History of the Presbyterian Church, page 535.

"An incident occurred in this region which may not be devoid of interest. Samuel Clowney, an Irishman, and a most determined Whig was out on a scout, accompanied by a negro man of remarkable fidelity to his master, and withal a strong Whig. As Mr. Clowney was approaching the margin of a stream, he heard a party of horsemen approaching from the opposite bank. It was dark. He conjectured that they must be Tories, and determined to try his hand with the whole party. He gave the negro an intimation of his intention and of the part he should act. They remained quietly at the brink of the creek till the Tories were within the banks. He then demanded who they were. They answered: friend to the King. He ordered them to come out instantly and give up their arms or be cut and shot to pieces. They obeyed. He directed his men as though he had a dozen or two, together up the arms and surround the prisoners. He then ordered them, 'Forward March', under the custody of their guide and conducted them safely to his own party. The prisoners were much chagrined when they found that their captors proved to be only two, in number, and one of them a negro.

It comes over us with a smile that this old veteran of the Revolution must have been of the same cloth that the Clowneys of the present day are made. At least we believe Mr. S. T. Clowney could have acted the part.

W. W. DIXON

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HISTORY OF THE BRICE FAMILY

James, John and William Brice, three brothers came to this county direct from Ireland. Whether they came together or separately is not ascertained, but the records of land conveyances in the clerks office indicate that they came about the same time. James Brice said he landed in Charleston with a dollar in his pocket, he made his way into up country and married Jane Wilson, a grand daughter of the Revolutionary soldier, William Wilson whose name is recorded in archives of the South Carolina Historical commission as a drummer in Captain Thomas Woodward's company of Rangers. His father was Robert Wilson, a country Squire and at that time an extensive property owner. Soon thereafter we find James acquiring land from his father-in-law and himself from David McDill (1805) and from James and Enoch Butler (1806) and from William Morris (1810).

The brother William purchased separate tracts of land about the same time from James Weir, Elisha Owens and William Blair. The brother John brought a tract from William Stevenson. Years after these conveyances, we find a nephew living with James Brice. They called him "Scotch John". Strange to say, the nephew married and his a most picturesque character, was called "Irish Billie". He is worthy of an entire article in these annals and some day we will devote it to him. He is the ancestor of Mrs. O. C. Scarborough and the Maggie B. Turner line of descent. (By way of parenthesis, old residents must not confuse Scotch John Brice with old Scotch John Brice who was a sailor before coming to this section and recounted weird tales of the Baltic Seas, stone mason who fashioned many stone steps and walled wells with rock and quarried the granite post you see about the county. He was a wit, a satirist and a humorist all blended into one - Old Scotch John.)

By his marriage to Jane Wilson, James Brice had six children - Robert, John, James, William, Nancy and Walter. After the death of Jane, John Brice married Mary Cathcart - children of this marriage were Sam and David Brice.

Robert Brice gave to our country the great preacher, Robert W. Brice, the Southern gentleman, Ashbel Brice who married a sister of Governor of Alabama, J. Steele Brice who once taught school at White Oak and was also a law partner of Congressman Finley and a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1895.

John Brice never married.

William Brice gave Calvin, who was for years the head of the firm Calvin Brice and Company at Woodward, S. C. – His children and Mrs. T. W. Brice, A. H. Brice, J. Mc. Brice, and R. George Brice who met his death in an automobile disaster, and William who was for years conductor on the Seaboard Airline, suffering death in a wreck on the system, and Mrs. E. M. Kennedy of Blackstock.

A son of William was James A. Brice. He first married the sister of the late distinguished lawyer J. E. McDonald, and after her demise he married a Miss Kennedy who survives him. She is now living with her son Luther, a lawyer at Spartanburg. Paul Brice was by the first marriage and a man of fine accomplishments, brilliant minded, a forceful writer and once auditor to the Fairfield News & Herald and later of the Columbia Register. Another son, Oscar married Rachel Thompson. He was well read and posted on the current events of his day and when he would let himself out would become a most agreeable and informative conversationalist. His son, Oscar, is an ace flyer of the U. S. Air Service. He married a Winnsboro girl, a sister of that impeccable rummy player, Robert H. Jennings.

James A. Brice was brought into the firm Ketchin, McMaster and Brice. After the death of R. S. Ketchin in 1871, T. H. Ketchin, the son, went into the firm, it being thereafter McMeekin, Brice & Ketchin.

There were sisters that come in this paragraph. One sister married a Galloway and one John Vinson. They lived near their brother William, at White Oak. William moved to Florida, Galloway and Vinson, to Texas.

Nancy Brice married a Simonton, Sam, a son of the Cathcart marriage, moved to Selma, Alabama. David married Polly Youngue, daughter of old John L. Youngue. (W. B. Woodward is one of the grand children of the marriage.) We often wondered why Will is like a double barreled shot gun? Now we cease to worry. One barrel is choke bore, the Brice barrel; the other is smooth bore, the Mobley barrel; the stock is Woodward; the ramrod, Youngue, and the hair trigger touch, Cathcart.

The youngest son by the Wilson marriage was Dr. Walter Brice and as we consider him one of the foremost men of his day, it is time to conclude this article with a sketch of the distinguished doctor and gentlemen.

(The sketch of Dr. Walter Brice will be presented in next week's News and Herald.)

W. W. DIXON

March 7, 1935 Issue of the Fairfield News and Herald

Mr. Editor:

Through an inadvertence I left out a sister, Margaret, of Calom and J. A. Brice. She married the eminent physician and greatly loved man, Dr. T. B. Madden. They were the parents of Campbell W., our fellow townsman, and Thomas M. Madden, who has been connected with the Columbia Post Office for over 30 years as assistant and becoming postmaster on the death of Coleman, retired a few months ago.

A daughter, Mamie, of Dr. T. B. Madden, was graduated from Due West Female College with first honors when only 17 years of age. She married John E. Matthews and moved to Columbia when John was connected with the Loan & Exchange Bank.

We unintentionally failed to mention A. W. Brice, of Woodward, among the children of Calvin Brice.

Dr. Walter Brice was born in this section in 1804 during the administration of President Thomas Jefferson and died in Grant's administration in 1871. He saw our country grow from a narrow strip along the Atlantic seaboard to the broad zone, stretching across the continent to the Pacific Ocean. He saw and heard Jackson, Calhoun, Hayne, McDuffie and Pettigrew in their eloquent periods of oratory. He doubtless engaged in the small talk in the homes he visited professionally about the Fulton invention, steamboats, and the idea of Edward Gendron Palmer and Gen. John Buchanan's trying to get a railroad through Fairfield County. He heard of the horse races of old man Whittaker, Ben Harrison, the Peays, the Hamptons and Maj. Berry; wondered if the law suit between Joe Woodward and Winn would ever end in regard to old man Fortune's holocaust last will and testament. He perhaps witnessed the change in dwelling houses from log cabins to frame buildings, the Robert Ellison home west of Winnsboro being the first of this pattern and construction in Fairfield. He welcomed the change no doubt when percussion caps on guns replaced the old flint lock guns and how interesting that device of Kincaid's must to have been to him – the one removed the cockle burs from the sheep wool. Why don't Morgan the overseer, try it on cotton and extract the seed from the lint? This query passed through the mind of Eli Whitney as soon as he saw it.

After attending the country school about New Hope, Dr. Brice attended a school at Monticello, then Mt. Zion College in Winnsboro. Finishing here he entered Jefferson College, Pennsylvania.

After being graduated at Jefferson College – and by the way, he began a diary and kept a scrap book here in which were recorded transactions of interest and friendships formed – he matriculated and passed a four year's course in the Charleston Medical College. On securing his diploma he settled down on the Cathcart place near New Hope Church as a surgeon and practitioner of medicine. He married Emeline Moore, a descendant of the Revolutionary soldier, Major Henry Moore. Mrs. W. H. Macfie, a granddaughter, was named Emeline for her.

Dr. Brice was an intimate friend and personal physician of Governor Means and received many testimonials in the way of presents and letters during the course of their life long regard for each other.

Dr. Brice was an influential member of the Mt. Zion Society of Winnsboro, and a pillar of strength in the A. R. P. Church at New Hope. If he had an idiosyncrasy it was his horror of debt. He instilled into his family the sacredness of keeping a fiduciary obligation inviolable. He amassed a fortune and was a great land-owner. It may be pertinent here to any other place to say that he acquired the old Marquis de Lashmotte's lands and lands adjoining, near Woodward. The old Marquis fled France and the guillotine about the same time as Nancy Barrettes family died. Nancy Barrette married Congressman William Woodward, but more of this anon.

Dr. Brice's children were: (1) James Michall, (Capt. Mike); (2) Walter Scott; (3) Robert Wade; (4) John Moore; (5) Thos. W. (The Major); (6) Rebecca Jane; (7) Wilson McDonald; (8) Sam G. (still living and alert at age 89); (9) David Lunceford. Eight sons and one daughter. Five of these sons volunteered in the Confederate armies, but two returned. Robert Wade, shot through the body; the other, Thomas W., lost an eye in battle. What a heritage to the descendants is this cross-section of Fairfield history.