

HISTORIC CAMDEN

PART ONE

COLONIAL AND REVOLUTIONARY



BY
THOMAS J. KIRKLAND
AND
ROBERT M. KENNEDY
CAMDEN, S. C.

Originally published 1905

Anniversary Reprint Edition
The Kershaw County Historical Society
Camden, South Carolina

1994

of the precious metal, and, though his mining operations were crude, Mr. Haile soon became a rich man. The mine that he discovered, still known as the Haile mine, is now operated, with improved machinery, at a handsome profit, and is rated the largest in the south.

Col. Shannon,* who knew some of the men of that early period, says: "Capt. Benj. Haile was a remarkable man in his day; rough, self-willed, yet of the most sterling integrity; devoted to principle, of sturdy and earnest attachments, frank, honest and true, he possessed the confidence and esteem of all. He amassed one of the largest fortunes ever built up in our district."

His plantations were on Lynches Creek, in West Wateree, and lower Kershaw, among them the present State Farm, near Boykin.

Mr. Haile represented the county in the Legislature in 1792. Among other offices that he filled with credit was that of Trustee of the South Carolina College (1809).

About the beginning of the 19th century, he purchased the Ben Bineham house on Broad street, Camden, at present the property of J. B. Wallace, and here he reared his large family of thirteen children, now scattered from Virginia to Florida. He died in 1842.

His first wife was Mary Cureton, a sister of Everard Cureton. Of this union were born:

1. James, who married Miss Truesdale, and was the father of the late lamented Capt. Columbus Haile.

2. Benjamin, who married Louisa, daughter of Isaac Lenoir.

3. Catherine, who became the wife of Christopher Matheson.

4. Susan, afterwards wife of Dr. Thomas Lanier, of Lancaster.

5. Sarah, who married a Mr. Knox, and lived out West.

The second wife of Benj. Haile was Amelia Evans, of Chesterfield. By this marriage his children were:

6. Mary, who married William Kennedy.

7. Caroline.

*Old Times in Camden.



8. Rebecca, who became Mrs. Farquhar Matheson.
9. Columbus, who married Louisa, daughter of Dr. John McCaa.
10. Elizabeth, who married Thomas E. Shannon, Esq.
11. Thomas, who married Serena, daughter of Capt. John Chesnut.
12. Edward, twice married; first to Mary Chesnut, sister to Serena; second to Miss Chapman. ←
13. William, accidentally killed at the University of Virginia, while target practicing with a pistol.
14. Charles, who married Elise McCaa, sister to Mrs. Columbus Haile.

Wm. Kennedy and both the Mathesons were merchants and landowners in Camden.

Columbus Haile removed to Staunton, Va., where he engaged in business. Thomas, Edward, and Charles made their homes in Florida. Benjamin (II) and James were large planters in Kershaw, and their descendants are the sole bearers of the name left among us.

Charles and Elizabeth (Mrs. Shannon) are the only surviving children of the first Benjamin Haile.

KERSHAW.

The Kershaw family, by reason of its great services to this community and to the State, deserves first consideration in the history of a town to which it gave the founder and of a county to which it gave its name. In each of four successive generations it has maintained its prestige of usefulness and honor.

Of such a family it is lamentable that we have so few personal data concerning the early members. The letters and other papers of both Joseph and Eli Kershaw were, by request, intrusted to the gifted Henry G. Nixon,* doubtless for some historic compilation, about 1820, but, by a curious stroke of misfortune, Nixon's house was burglarized and the valuable documents were lost. Thus, of necessity, must our sketches of these two notable characters be brief and unsatisfactory, and to be considered only as supplementary to what has been said of them in other connections.

*Johnson's Traditions.

INDEX TO
HISTORIC CAMDEN
COLONIAL AND REVOLUTIONARY
AND
NINETEENTH CENTURY

COMPILED BY
JAMES D. MCKAIN

SCMAR
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA
1995

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