

The Chappell Family  
in  
Early South Carolina

BUFORD S. CHAPPELL, M.D.



Property  
Of  
Fairfield Genealogy Room

urelia; Walter L. Holley and wife, Agnes Seybt, are all buried Little River Baptist Church near Jenkinsville, South Carolina. Lazier A. Holley, son of N. B. and C. E. Holley, was born July 3, 1845, and died October 26, 1854. His little brother, Nathaniel Holley, died April 14, 1858, aged 2 months and one day. They are buried at the Old Brick (Ebenezer) Church near their great grandfather, Captain John Glazier, and great grandmother, Elizabeth Glazier, whose daughter, Nancy E. Glazier, had married Nathaniel Holley, father of Captain Nathaniel Holley. Also buried at the Old Brick Church was the infant son of N. B. and C. E. Holley who died in "non-age" November 15, 1854. Also buried in this churchyard was William B. Holley, son of N. B. and C. E. Holley, who died on February 21, 1858, aged 17 years, 6 months and 15 days.<sup>15</sup>

II. John H. R. Chappell, second child and oldest son of John and Sevilla Chappell, was born in 1819 and moved to Pickens County, Alabama; married Margaret P. Lipsey and they had the following children: Mary, Laban, William, John, Charles, and Margaret.

III. Laban Christopher Chappell, the third child and second son of John and Sevilla Chappell, was born on March 6, 1822; married Catherine Porter Smith on March 24, 1846; died on April 3, 1891. Catherine Porter Smith was born in 1828 and died in 1907. They are buried at Bethel Methodist Church in lower Fairfield County. The family of Laban C. and Catherine Smith Chappell will be taken up in the next chapter.

IV. Nancy Chappell, fourth child and second daughter of John and Sevilla Chappell, was born in 1824, married J. (Jonathan) H. Rabb, and died in 1899. Jonathan H. Rabb was born January 24, 1819 and died on January 24, 1884. He and Nancy are buried in the churchyard of Little River Church near Jenkinsville.

The children of Jonathan H. and Nancy Chappell Rabb:

1. Charlotte Rabb, born February 1843, married Dr. T. G. Douglas, died in 1910.
2. Mary Rabb, born May 5, 1845, married Sylas (sic) Ruff.
3. Dr. Charles Rabb, born in 1847, married Lizzie Mays.
4. Ida Rabb, born in April 1850, married Joseph Shedd.
5. John Chappell Rabb, born in 1852, married Annie Garrison, died in 1915.

6. Willoughby L. Rabb, born in August 1856, married Mittie Rabb.

7. Thomas J. Rabb, born February 19, 1859, married Mary Yarborough, lived in Rock Hill.

8. Reverend Robert M. Rabb, born in 1862, married Josephine Griffith. He was a Baptist minister.

9. Elizabeth Rabb, born February 4, 1864, married David Hamiter.

10. Augustus Rabb, born January 10, 1866, married Estelle McGill.<sup>16</sup>

V. Rebecca W. Chappell, third daughter and fifth child of John and Sevilla (Sybil, Seveleah) Chappell, was born on January 4, 1827. She married Bennet W. Proctor and they moved to Attala County, Mississippi. Their children:

1. Nannie Proctor married C. J. Winters.
2. Sanilah (Savilah?) Proctor married Henry Landrum.
3. Rebecca Proctor married T. J. Harris.
4. Mary Proctor married L. C. Boyd.
5. Susan Proctor married J. D. Afterberry.
6. Bennie (daughter) married G. M. Winter.<sup>17</sup>

VI. Hix Benjamin Chappell, youngest son of John and Sevilla (Seveleah, Sybil) Chappell, was born on August 18, 1831. As a young man of 20 years of age he moved to Pickens County, Alabama. He first married Sarah F. Taylor and they had the following children: Hix B. Jr., and William P. (Preston) Chappell. His second marriage was to Sarah E. Feemster in 1874 and by her he had the following children: James B., Anna L., Jenny A., Lilly, Robert, Edward, and Curtis.

A letter that Hix Benjamin Chappell wrote his nephew, Oscar F. Chappell, tells a great deal about his character and intelligence:

"Dillsburgh, Pickens Co., Ala.  
February 23, 1895

Mr. O. F. Chappell  
Lever, S. C.

My dear nephew:

Language fails to express the extreme pleasure it was to read your esteemed favor of 1st inst. In reading your letter and learning

<sup>15</sup> Chappell, *Genealogy*, p. 190; Rabb, *Biographical Sketches*, pp. 55, 58; grave markers at the Old Brick Church (Ebenezer).

<sup>16</sup> Chappell, *Genealogy*, p. 192; Rabb, *Biographical Sketches*, pp. 47, 48.

<sup>17</sup> Chappell, *Genealogy*, p. 192.

that so and so was dead and that such and such was living, my mind went back to other days—days when I was a thoughtless, heedless, headstrong, and wicked boy. But few who were my seniors are now living. Jack Findley and I were schoolboys together; poor boy, I fear the world was not bettered by his having lived in it. I am getting old and a little gray. I can't boast your flesh, but I have the bone and muscle and as much will as ever—can get round quicker than my boys though I am not quite as supple (supple). My children are growing up very rapidly—my oldest boy Jimmie just 20 years old weighs 190 pounds. My three girls—Annie, Jenny, and "Lilly" are all as large as their mother. And my three youngest—Robert, Edward, and Curtis are bright boys and just the right age to make more fuss than a drove of geese. I too am trying to educate my children. Annie has been teaching but is now at home during the winter. Preston (William Preston) my youngest son of my first family is now past 30 and still unmarried. He says he is afraid to marry for his wife might boss. He has a place near and has built a pretty cottage and is trying to keep "bach."

No one now living in Alabama can realize how badly we have got things mixed. In 1892 R. F. Kolb was elected governor by 30,000 yet he was counted out by stuffing ballot boxes and fraudulent returns. In 1894 R. F. Kolb was again elected but by the same stealing and fraud with the aid of the military or state troops he was again counted out. The "organized" democracy ridicules and insults us with such names as "poor white trash." We have made the issue "A fair election and an honest count"—and this we are determined to have cost-what-it may. We have forced the legislature (now just adjourned) to pass a contest law, which means no more ballot-box stuffing and fraudulent counts. Heretofore we had no law to contest the election returns for state officials. Pickens County has all the county officers of the Reform Party and 2/3 of the white vote in Pickens County is opposed to the "organized" Democracy. The negro vote has caused all the trouble in Ala. They count the negro vote by the hundreds and thousands when the negro has never been to the polls on the day of election. This is in the 15 black belt counties, where 2/3 or 3/4 of the votes are negroes. The 45 counties where the white vote is larger than the black Kolb carried all of them but 2 or 3. So you see that a few of white "bosses" in the black counties rule the state of Alabama by voting the negro—or rather not voting him but counting him in the returns. This decision is to be regretted for it has

alienated neighborhoods, churches, schools and even families. I am with the reform party simply because I believe in honesty and fairness. A man that will steal a vote will steal a dollar and the man that will hide stolen goods is no better than the thief. You may rest assured that if I were in S.C., I should be an ardent Tillmanite because I believe the people should rule and not the political bosses. I am an unadulterated democrat for I believe that the people should rule, and believing this, my vote will always be with the laboring class and not with those whose hands have never gripped the plow or hoe handle. I am watching your dispensary law in the newspapers. It is something new and untried. It commends itself to me on several points. 1st the temptation to sell to minors is lessened and the people that will drink can get a better beverage than the miserable stuff now generally sold. I am an outspoken Prohibitionist, voted for Bidwell instead of Cleveland because I believed Cleveland was opposed to the free coinage of silver and you see I have not been mistaken. I am opposed to the sale of intoxicants simply on account of my boys and all the boys of the land, and the negroes. The habit of drinking is formed in boyhood. Let a boy be raised to his majority (21 years) without having formed the habit and you can rest easily he will not die a drunkard. If a man will drink let him drink at home and not tempt his neighbor or his neighbors boys.

Well Oscar, this has been the coldest winter that I remember ever to have experienced. The 7th & 8th of February was the coldest ever known in Pickens. I was in Mobile at the time and it was extremely cold there. The orange industry in Florida is ruined and I doubt that if that industry will ever be what it has been. We made a good crop last year here and most of us have enough corn and meal and molasses. (we plant the ribbon cane). The extreme low price of cotton together with the gold standard of value have made business very gloomy. These times have brought about one blessing, it has stopped extravagance and everyone is trying to economize.

Our relative, Phil E. Chappell of Kansas City Mo. will have the History of the Chappell family out about the first of March. I wrote out as best I could all I knew of my grandfather, father, brothers, and sisters—naming all of the children of each. Our relative is rich and intends to present a copy gratuitously to all the Chappells that wish it. I will see that you get a copy which I wish you to preserve in your family as an heirloom. Is Chappell Trapp and Uriah still living. If so tell them to write me. Give me your

brother George's post office in Florida. I will have one of my girls write to your daughter Bernice. Now Oscar the foregoing was written while Bettie, the girls and boys were all talking and gabbing around me. It is disconnected and really I am ashamed of it and promise next time to try and interest you more. Our love to all your family and all my relatives,

yours,

H. B. Chappell"

John Chappell died intestate in Fairfield District in 1835. His personal property was appraised on December 18, 1835 by Henry Lightner, John Turnipseed, and his stepson, Daniel Scott. Daniel H. Ruff was appointed administrator. Included in the property of John Chappell were the following items with their appraised value:

Mill wheels and apparatus—\$123.00  
 1,400 feet of plank @ \$0.75/hundred—\$10.50  
 3,000 shingles @ \$1.00/thousand—\$3.00  
 One canoe—\$5.00  
 Two fisheries on Broad River—\$10.00  
 6,380 pounds of oats @ \$0.75/hundred—\$47.85  
 Spinning wheel—\$1.00  
 One lot of plows and old iron hoes—\$3.00  
 Four plow stocks, singletrees, scythe, and cradle—\$3.00  
 4,146 pounds of fodder @ \$1.00/hundred—\$41.46  
 226 bushels of corn @ \$0.56½/bushel—\$127.12½  
 23,679 pounds of seed cotton @ \$3.25/hundred—\$769.56¼  
 Five mules—\$265.00  
 One gray horse and young mare—\$115.00  
 Three pair plow gears—\$2.50  
 Two rawhides, brace and bits—\$4.00  
 Three stock locks—\$3.00  
 Bristles, shoe thread and cloth—\$1.56¼  
 One bedstead and small table, two shot guns—\$6.50  
 One gun-head—\$5.00  
 Two large spinning wheels, pair of cards—\$2.00  
 Four chairs, knives, forks, tub, and pail—\$2.50  
 One skillet, two spiders, oven jar and line—\$2.00  
 Axes, pair of small steelyards (sic), harness, mill pick, etc.—  
 \$14.25  
 Twenty baskets @ \$0.08—\$1.60

Twenty-six head of cattle @ \$5.00—\$130.00  
 Four banks of potatoes—\$14.00  
 Ten geese @ \$0.25—\$2.50  
 Twenty-six fowl @ \$0.10—\$2.60  
 One loom and apparatus—\$3.00  
 Sideboard, books, and cooking ware—\$31.60  
 One cradle with side of leather—\$5.50  
 18 pounds powder and 12½ pounds of shot—\$8.00

The following slaves:

Man—Mingo—\$800.00  
 Woman—Linda—\$550.00  
 Boy—Simon—\$700.00  
 Woman—Nelly—\$550.00  
 Boy—Laz—\$500.00  
 Woman—Hannah—\$500.00  
 Woman—Mary (burn injury)—\$100.00  
 Boy—Billy—\$500.00  
 Woman, Milly and her children, Henry and Lalna—\$900.00  
 Boy—Prince—\$400.00  
 Girl—Patty—\$500.00

—and other items to bring the total to \$8,358.73. Sevilla Chappell bought back most of the household items and the old simple slave, Mary. She paid \$10 for the old slave because she did not wish to see her abused. It is probable that this old slave was epileptic.

The sale lasted for two days. January 19 and 20, 1836. Buying at the sale: John M. Robertson, J. P. Cook, Major J. W. Thompson, Zachariah Trapp, Benjamin Aiken, Silas Ruff, Captain Thomas Watt, Sevilla Chappell, Jacob Bookman, David Elkins, Abner O'Neal, Daniel Scott, Laban H. Chappell, Jacob Koon, John Holley, Nathaniel B. Holley, Nathan Lyles, Mary Leitner, Daniel D. Finley, David H. Ruff, J. W. Bougknight, William McCreight, Gabriel Friday, Humphrey Gibson, Robert Fabridge, Levi Turnipseed, Henry Leitner, Jacob Wirick, G. (Gracey) Chappell, Tyrus Bell, Adam Hawthorne, J. W. McCants, Esq., and J. W. Elkins.

The final reckoning took place on February 27, 1839. Sevilla Chappell was already remarried to J. B. Jenkins. The widow's share from the sale was \$1,591.18, and each of the five children received \$530.39 for a total of \$4,773.56 from the sale of personal property and the management of the plantation by Daniel H. Ruff

Ralph Smith, the father of Judge William Smith and the immigrant to South Carolina, along with his sons, William, Samuel, and Aaron, were all patriots in the Revolutionary War. Aaron Smith died a few days after receiving wounds in the battle of Cowpens.<sup>1</sup>

The children of Laban Christopher and Catherine Porter Smith Chappell:

I. Oscar Fitzland Chappell, eldest son of Laban C. and Catherine Smith Chappell, was born January 18, 1847, and died July 29, 1922. He first married Mary Martha (Mattie) Howell by whom all of his children were born. His second marriage was to Lula McMeekin. Oscar F. and Mattie Chappell will be considered in more detail in the next chapter.

II. Isaac Smith Chappell, second son of Laban C. and Catherine Smith Chappell, was born December 9, 1848 and died on October 3, 1918. He married Rebecca Black on November 16, 1870. She was born on April 27, 1850, and died May 4, 1933. She was known as "Aunt Beck." The children of Isaac Smith and Rebecca Black Chappell: May (married Charlie Douglas); Isaac Samuel (born March 15, 1882, died March 23, 1926); Wilmer S. (born March 17, 1873, died September 1, 1951); Hattie K. (born July 16, 1875, died February 24, 1958); Quay Kirkland (born May 24, 1888, died May 9, 1924); and Beulah, still living. With the exception of May, all the deceased members of this family are buried in the churchyard of Bethel Methodist Church.

III. John C. (Jack) Chappell, third son of Laban C. and Catherine Smith Chappell, was born on October 28, 1850; married Lula Powell on March 19, 1888; and died September 12, 1939. Lula Powell was born December 3, 1869, and died November 12, 1909. Their son, Phil Edgar Chappell, was born on July 21, 1895, died September 5, 1920, and is buried near his parents in the churchyard of Greenbrier Methodist Church in Fairfield County. Their son, John Henry Chappell, is a cotton farmer in Chester County. Their daughter, Lula, married Leonard Stevenson; their daughter, Ray, married Overton; their daughter, Estelle, married Steele Clark.

<sup>1</sup> Chappell, *Genealogy*, p. 191; Dr. J. B. O. Landrum, *History of Spartanburg County*, Atlanta, Ga., The Franklin Printing and Publishing Co., 1900, The Reprint Co., Spartanburg, 1960, pp. 156-166; Rabb, *Biographical Sketches*, p. 48; Emily Bellingier Reynolds and Joan Reynolds Fant, *Biographical Directory of the Senate of South Carolina, 1776-1964*, Columbia, S. C., Archives Dept., 1964, pp. 310, 312, 337; Spartanburg Will Books.



Catherine Porter Smith Chappell.



*Oscar Fitzland Chappell, 7 years of age.*

Uncle Jack was an extremely kind and gentle man, especially to children. When the author was a young boy, and it was hot plowing cotton in July, and much cooler in the shade, Uncle Jack, with a few kind and sympathetic words, saved him from the wrath of his father. Uncle Jack always went to bed early, but, as he termed it, "got up to rest awhile" several times at night. John Henry Chappell keeps up with the family better than anyone else and can be depended upon for family news. He has a real feeling for the family.

IV. George B. Chappell was born November 15, 1852; married Sadie Van Ness; and lived near Ocala, Florida. Among his children were: George Jr., Carlton, Clara, and Van Ness.

V. William Chappell's wife was named Laura. They had one child, William Chappell, a prominent politician in Florida, and a Representative in the United States House of Representatives from that state.

VI. Laban Christopher Chappell, Jr. married Maxcey Monteith and their children: Phillip, Christopher, Charlotte, Isabell, and Catherine.

VII. Clara Chappell was born in 1870 and died in 1961. She was first married to a Mr. Burnside; her second marriage was to a Mr. Bryan. She lived for many years in El Paso Texas and was remarkable for her energy, and for her joy of life, even as an elderly lady. "Aunt Clara," as she was affectionately known, had a great love for her family and often gave it a prominence that only she could justify. Her greatest pride was her part in the organization of the Captain John Chappell Chapter of the Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century.

In addition to the children of Laban C. and Catherine Smith Chappell who lived to maturity, the following died in infancy and are buried near their parents at Bethel Methodist Church:

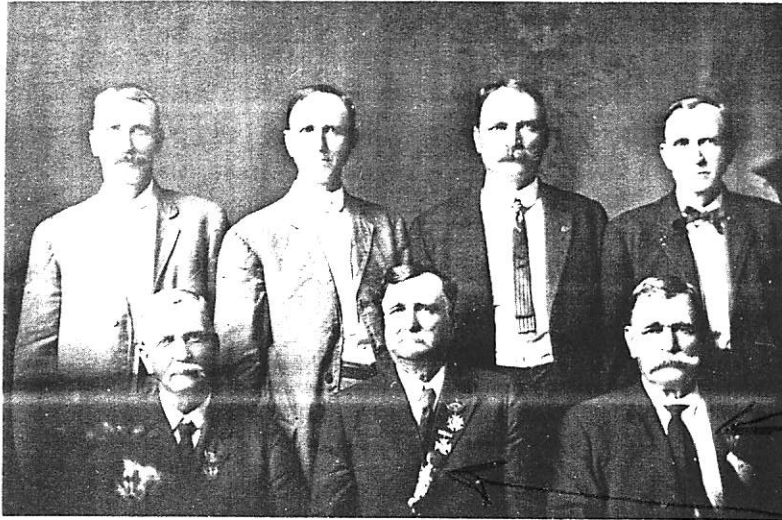
Laban C. Chappell, 1855-1855.

Hattie Letitia Chappell, 1858-1859.

Richard Lee Chappell, 1861-1862.

Lula Chappell, 1863-1863.

Reverend Laban Christopher Chappell is remembered by his family for his ability to do a tremendous amount of work. He was a Methodist minister, but as far as I know, he never had a regular church. His love for the hymn, "Amazing Grace," earned him the



Seated: John C. (Jack) Chappell, Oscar Fitzland Chappell, Isaac Smith Chappell. Standing: Oscar Chappell (a nephew), William Chappell, Laban Christopher Chappell, George B. Chappell. Taken at a Confederate reunion in Jacksonville, Florida, May 1914.

nickname "Amazing Grace." During the weekdays of winter, he ran a school where some of the students boarded. His love of children and his kindness and respect toward children was remembered across more than three-quarters of a century by one of his pupils, Mr. Turner W. Turkett. As a small boy, Mr. Turkett sometimes had to spend the night at the school and was given the honor of sharing the bed with the old gentleman. During the day, the Reverend Laban wore his beard tucked inside his vest and at night inside his night shirt—a fact that so impressed itself upon the mind of young Turner that he never forgot it.

Great Grandmother Catherine is remembered for her syllabub and for her love of parties—a situation sometimes at variance with solemnity of her husband's calling. Her love of life was equalled by her fortitude and courage.

*Jim Chappell  
4/12/04*

## CHAPTER IX

### OSCAR FITZLAND CHAPPELL

Oscar Fitzland Chappell, the eldest son of Laban Christopher and Catherine Porter Smith Chappell, was born on January 18, 1847 and died July 29, 1922. He first married Mary Martha (Mattie) Howell by whom all of his children were born. His second marriage was to Lula McMeekin.

He enlisted in the Confederate States Army at Alston on March 1, 1864 at the age of 17 years, and was assigned to Co. F, (Captain Hayne McMeekin's) 12th South Carolina Infantry, CSA. On April 16, 1864, he was admitted to the Receiving and Wayside Hospital No. 9 at Richmond Virginia for rubeola (measles). The following day he was transferred to Jackson Hospital at Richmond. On May 2, 1864, he was hospitalized at Farmville, Virginia for "Ascites." Apparently, this was a complication of his measles—might have been nephritis or Bright's disease—and he was given a furlough of 60 days. He returned to duty on June 26, 1864 and fought in all the battles in which the 12th S. C. Regiment was engaged until his capture at Petersburg on April 3, 1865. He was received at City Point, Herts Island, New York on April 9, 1865. After the fall of the Confederacy, he was released pursuant to General Order 109 on June 16, 1865; after having taken the oath of allegiance. He was carried to Charleston by ship and walked home barefooted. There is a family story that he was given a Bible when released. There was a picture of the flag of the United States in the front of the Bible, and this he considered the supreme insult to a captured Confederate soldier. During his service he was a sharpshooter. The duty of the sharpshooters in the Confederate Army was to form a skirmish line in front of the main body of troops and to absorb the initial fire of the enemy and then fall back upon the main battle line. While in this forward position, they tried to hit as many of the enemy officers as possible. Grandpa literally believed in "beat-

*Oscar*

*Isaac Smith*



Oscar Fitzland Chappell in the uniform of a Confederate soldier at about 17 years of age.

ing swords into plowshares," and his favorite tool for opening seed beds was a Confederate bayonet bent at right angles and attached to a hoe handle.

Reverend Laban C. Chappell, like his son Oscar F., enlisted in the Confederate States Army (Alston, September 6, 1861) and was assigned to the Co. F., 12th S. C. Regiment, CSA. It is doubtful if he saw active service.<sup>1</sup>

Mary Martha (Mattie) Howell married Oscar Fitzland Chappell soon after the end of the Civil War. She was the daughter of Joseph R. and Sarah Sophie Whitehead Howell. Joseph Howell was the son of John R. and Sarah Howell Reese Howell, and was a descendant of the Howells that came to lower Richland County in the 1740's; and of the famed Baptist preacher, Rev. Joseph Reese.

Joseph Howell, although 36 years old, married, and the father of several children, served in the Confederate States Army. According to the official records, he was enrolled by Captain Waites at Camp Ripley on September 20, 1861. He was promoted from corporal to sergeant and was First Sergeant, B. Co., 3rd Battalion (Palmetto) South Carolina Light Artillery (White's Bn.) in November and December 1861. He was sick in a hospital in Columbia in July and August 1862, again in September 1863, and several times during the year 1864. From the records compiled by Mrs. Jesse Resse, Sr. of Columbia, South Carolina, Joseph R. Howell first volunteered for Company "M," Second S. C. Regiment and was on Morris Island when the first shots of the Civil War were fired. He was Second Sergeant, Girardy's Battery. He received a certificate for "extra service" from Brigadier B. D. Fry in Special Orders dated December 5, 1864, at Augusta, Georgia.<sup>2</sup>

The following letter was written by Sgt. Joseph R. Howell to his mother, Sarah Howell Reese Howell.

"May 27, 1862

Dear Mother:

No news this morning. There was heavy firing all of yesterday evening off the bar and our infilade battery on Sullivans Island was returning the fire. Supposed to be the Yanks trying to keep our boats from taking the cargo from off the *Catauba*. You recollect that I

<sup>1</sup> Records of the Confederate States Army, S. C. Dept. of Archives and History.

<sup>2</sup> Records of the Confederate States Army, S. C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S. C.; Mrs. Jesse Reese, Sr., Manuscript History of the Reese Family, unpublished.





*Mary Martha (Mattie) Howell Chappell.*

told you in my yesterday's note that she was run aground to keep the Yankees from capturing her.

I am on guard duty today. The guard duty now is very heavy as two of our Sergts. are sick and I have to go on every fourth night. Sometimes I am on James Island and away from camp for twenty-four hours.

Mike Howell was down here and spent a day and night with me. He left here for Adam's Run. I see by the Columbia papers that there was hail up (in) the county. Hope it did not reach us. I often think of the good butter you have at home, although we are living some better than we were sometime back as we are now getting some vegetables. They have all kinds of vegetables now green peppers, tomatoes, squash, and cucumbers. Remember me to Mr. and Mrs. Friday, say to Mr. Friday that he must write to me.

This leaves me very well, hope it may find you all the same. My love to all of the family and yourself. Kiss the children for me. Remember me to Mum Creasy and all the negroes.

Your son,

J. R. Howell"

Two years later, a letter from Sarah Howell Reese Howell to her son, Sgt. Joseph R. Howell, conveys the prayerful feeling of a mother for her soldier-son.<sup>3</sup>

"April 23, 1864

My Dear Jos.

Your kind letter of March 20 politeness of Capt. Kinsler came to hand yesterday. We did not see the gentleman who brought it; he said he had a message to deliver but we were not at home. We spent the day with Mrs. Hamiter, Mrs. Capt. Hamiter, Mrs. Friday, Mrs. Lever, Mrs. Souter, Mrs. John W. Lightner, and J. Lever from special invitation. The old lady gave us a nice dinner. So when you write again mention Captain Hamiter in your letter; his wife seemed mortified because you did not mention him. These ladies are all well and in pretty good spirits. We are glad to hear that you are tolerably well; hope that this may find you quite well. We are glad to hear that you are in the neighborhood mess; was hoping that you were tenting with them as I know they are a praying people. What I said to you, before, I say again: pray without ceas-

<sup>3</sup> Punctuation added to make the letter more readable since the original was almost without punctuation.



*Home of Sarah Howell Reese Howell and her son, Joseph R. Howell, as it appeared in 1971. This house later owned by Oscar Fitzland Chappell, now owned by Dr. Travis Chappell.*

ing. Prayer is the Christian's vital breath. Now is the time for you to establish your character for weal or for woe. Make friends of everybody; treat all men alike; if you make a difference, let it be in kindness to the poor; be in perfect friendship with everybody. On your conduct now, if you are spared, depends your earthly career. We are glad that your fare is good. I have not been to Columbia yet; think of going tomorrow. Rowe was here yesterday for the first time. Says we are getting on pretty well. Thinks we will finish planting cotton this week. They are still planting corn; in some places the stand is very poor. We begin to want rain again. The garden looks well, everything grows fast, the lettuce is headed beautifully and delightful. We often wish that you were here to eat with us; still, I am thankful that I have a son to do his country's service. You mentioned our young relations. Do tell them for me to be good steady boys; conduct themselves to be a credit to their families, not a reproach. Sophia begs you will be friendly with everybody. She is fearful you will not be with one of your mess-*you know who she means*—but I told her that he had never injured you, therefore you had no right to be otherwise than friendly with him. Squire Pullig comes to see us everytime he hears any news to let us know it. I received a letter from John dated fifteenth wishing

to know if you had left Charleston and where you were stationed. They are all well and send their respects to all the family. He did not say when he would be up. I will write to him today. Sophia and the children have a cry every letter we get from you. The baby is looking well; she says papa is in Charleston. My prayer is that we may all keep well. May the Lord preserve you is the prayer of your devoted mother.

S. H. Howell

P. S.

Mom Creasy sends "howdy" to you and says that you must put your trust in the Lord, and look to Him at all times in humble prayer, to bless you, and to return you safe to the bosom of you family. Tom, Ephraim, and all the Darkies send "howdy" to you, and say that I must tell you they are doing their best. Sary is still poorly, the rest are well.

Your affectionate mother S. H. Howell" <sup>4</sup>

Mary Martha Howell Chappell, ancestor of a large segment of the Chappell family, was a young and starry-eyed girl a century ago. It's hard to imagine one's grandmother, dead these many years as a young girl concerned with boys and writing melancholic poetry—some of it quite good. During the Civil War she was at boarding school at Doko (Blythewood) and at Monticello. While at boarding school, she wrote her mother this letter.

"March 23, 1863

Dear Mother

I write you a few lines to let you know I am well and have not much to do as yet, but will have a good deal to do after a while. I am staying in the same room and sleeping in the same bed but they have moved the feather bed. Emma Felder was my bed mate at first but Mamie Zealy is now sleeping with me as Emma wanted to get a room with a fire place. I think we all need fire this weather. The snow is one foot deep. I wish I had some sugar to eat with snow. Sue Woodward and her sister came down to school Monday. We have had supper after we go to bead (sic) for three nights. I wish we could get something to eat for tonight. I have not been homesick but once. I am very anxious to get there. I expect that I can get home the last of next month as Mamie Zealy is going

<sup>4</sup> "Mom," or "Mum" Creasy has not been further identified, but was probably the respected Negro "Mammy" of the family. The "John" in this letter might have been John R. Howell, a brother of Joseph Howell.

home then. Do try and get Pa to stay until I can get home and when cousin (a line can't be read) please send me my Comstock Philosophy, candles, something to eat, and some knitting by the first opportunity. If you please give my love to Carrie and Clara and that they had better come hear (sic) to school. Emma Felder and Sue Woodward send there (sic) love to you and Ma (her grandmother, Sarah H. R. Howell) and kiss Jesse for them. Mr. G. Zealy came up here and visited this morning and walked up from the depot. Mr. C. Zealy had a hard chill since he came, Tell Jessie that she must write to me, Give my love to all and accept the same for yourself. Write soon,

Your affectionate

Mattie”

“Howdy to servants.”<sup>5</sup>

This letter was written by Sarah H. R. Howell to her granddaughter, Mattie Howell.

“Feb. 9, 1865

My Dear Mattie:

I seat myself to pen you a few lines to let you know that I arrived home safe Sabbath afternoon and was glad to hear that you got to Monticello safely. Adam told me that you hurried him off on account of measles and mumps in school. I am glad that you had both. Hope you are better of your cold and that you found the family all well. This leaves us all well. Your Aunt Ann is better; her cough is still troublesome at night. Your Ma speaks of going down to your Aunt Polly's if the weather will permit. I received a letter from you Pa dated the 3rd. He was then at Augusta, Georgia; he was not very well; had taken a cold in his head. He said that he would stay there a day to see if he could hear from his company, if he did not, he would go to West Point, Georgia. Hope you are getting on smoothly with everything and everybody. We all have to put up with some inconveniences. This is a world of troubles, though you ought not to have any yet. What you think is trouble is a mere matter of *moonshine*. You will find it so if you live long enough. Let me beg you to improve your time,

<sup>5</sup> Mattie Howell was not quite 15 years old when she wrote this letter. Her sister, Jessie, was not quite 4 years old.

write soon and let us hear how you are getting on with everything. Your Ma, Aunt Ann, and the children join me in much love to you. Tommie wants to know where my big sister is. Give our love to all inquiring friends. May the Lord bless you is the prayer of your Ma and Mother.

S. S. and S. H. Howell

The Darkies all send howdy.”<sup>6</sup>

Mattie Howell had apparently left Monticello soon after receiving the letter from her mother and grandmother in February 1865 because she received this letter:

“April 3, 1865

My dear Mattie

Having an opportunity of conveying a note to you by Lt. Fanbracle (?) I will do so with pleasure. Matt I was surprized (sic) when I heard that you had gone home from the Institute. I did think that you thought enough of me to come and say goodbye if no more; but I think that I might as well cast all such hopes away for I do not think you care anything for me now. All of the girls have gone from the Institute now with the exception of Georgia Mann and Florrie Wincey. I expect you found your Ma and family treated roughly by the Yanks when you arrived home. Matt I would like so much to hear from you. Do write the first opportunity you have of sending a letter. If you sent the letter to Winnsboro they would be very apt to come through here safely.

It is getting late so I will conclude by saying I hope to receive an early response to this. My love to your mother and accept a portion yourself.

Yours loving friend,

Mattie S.”

The letter continues across the top of the page: “Have you heard from Mary Walker since she returned home? Matt if Mr. Zealy resumes his school here in June do you expect to return? Hope you will decide to come back but I think the school here has pretty

<sup>6</sup> Some punctuation added for clarity. Capitalization and spelling left unchanged. “Ma” usually referred to her grandmother; “SS” was her mother, Sarah Sophia Whitehead Howell. Aunt Ann was her grandmother, Sarah H. R. Howell's, sister. Aunt Polly not identified.

well gone up the spout from the reports that are circulating through this neighborhood.”<sup>7</sup>

On January 17, 1864, Sue Woodward wrote Mattie Howell and asked if Mattie intended coming back to school at Doko. Sue didn't think she would return to school at Doko.

The Civil War is over and the nineteen year old Mattie Howell is visiting relatives. Her father writes her these letters.

“Columbia, Dec. 7, 1867

My Dear Mattie—It is now two weeks since you left home and we have not heard a word from you. Mother is about the same some days better and again worse. Jesse was quite sick last night—she still has chills and fever. I have a dreadful (sic) cold; the rest of us are as well as usual. I am in Columbia today and met Aunt Polly going up to our house. You must write me and let me know when you wish to come home and I will meet you in Columbia. Washington will be down between now and Christmas. Laura McKinstry is to be married now shortly, I can't say exactly what day. Miss Jannie Berry and Bob Martin are married. I believe that is all the news I have. We all miss you very much. Give my best respects to John. They all join me in love to the family—*there are so few of them that I can't mention all of their names.*

I merely write to let you hear from home. It is Saturday and I left home after the usual breakfast and I am going back tonight. I hope you have not taken sore eyes. I am now at Bob Howells. They are all better. Be sure and write. My love again my dear daughter.

Your father,

J. R. Howell”

“Red Point, Dec. 15, 1867

My Dear Daughter—This is the second letter that I have written to you and have not received a line from you. You have no idea how anxious we all are to hear from you. Mother is not near as well as when you left home. Complaining of aching through from her

<sup>7</sup> On February 20, 1865 the Third Division of the Fourteenth Corps of Sherman's Army was camped near Monticello. Captain Dexter Horton and Colonel George Este, learning of the girls' seminary there, filled an ambulance with food and going there were received so kindly that they were invited to attend a “gay and festive dance” that night. Undoubtedly, the School closed soon afterwards. John C. Barrett, *Shermans March Through the Carolinas*, Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina Press, 1956, p. 98.

breast to her shoulders—in fact she appears to be sore all over. Mother appears to miss you so much I am anxious for you to get home. If it is so you can get home before Christmas I would like for you to do so. Johnny has had chills and fever since you left—has missed it again and now has sore throat and tooth ache he is looking very badly. Jesse has had chills and fever also and missed it. The rest of us are all well except myself. I have had a cold. Aunt Polly has been to see mother—made but a short stay. Got here on Saturday and left on Monday morning. She was very much disappointed not finding you at home. If nothing happens Washington thinks of starting down the last part of the week. If you do not come home before Wash goes down you must make arrangements for me to meet you in Columbia. That is send word by Wash when I am to meet you. I hope you have enjoyed yourself and no accident happened on your trip down. Laurie McKinstry will be married soon I expect. Johnnie Cauthen has been here and got two turkeys for the wedding. No body here has an invitation, in fact, I do not know that anybody is invited yet. The Lady Waiters are Miss Douglas, Miss Stack, Miss Craig and her sister—so Miss Caroline Thomas says. I think now of killing a few hogs in the morning so I will have greasy time for a few days. Mother Sophy and the children join me in love to all of the family and a great deal to yourself. Remember me to J. F., June and Ben Walker, tell them to try and get up to see me that I can't say when I will get down there. Jessie says I must tell you tell that you are very much needed at home. Granny is gone. I have nothing more to write at present but remain

Your father,

Jos. R. Howell”

Mattie answers her father:

“Dec. 28, 1867

My Dear Papa

I received you letter of the 7th about a week ago. Wash got down here last Saturday. He has gone to his aunts today with Cousin Bob Whitehead. His Aunt is very anxious for him to live with her. I am very sorry to hear of mother's illness. I will come home Monday week and sooner if possible. I am having chills and fever every third day. I have had four chills. I had a very hard one last night. We all went to a big party night before last at Mr. Bell's. I enjoyed myself vey much. I have not got down to see Aunt Mary

Whitehead yet. I am going to Manning tomorrow to a big meeting at the Baptist Church. I have kept very busy since I have been down here. Cousin Annie has moved down to Santee, I have been to see her, spent two nights with her. Uncle John is to be sold out the first day of January for security debts.

I wish Laura McKinstry had waited until I got home before she was married but I expect I will miss all of the wedding. We had a dull Christmas, went to only one party.

I expect Low will come home with me. She is a very still and good girl. I must close as I have a very poor light and getting sleepy. Low joins me in love to all. Kiss Glenn for me.

Good night dear papa,

Your affectionate daughter,

Mattie"<sup>8</sup>

Nearly a year later Mattie Howell received this letter from Mary Holley (daughter of Nathaniel B. and Charlotte Chappell Holley), a cousin of her husband to be.

"Fairfield October 18, 1868

My dear Mattie:

I received your note yesterday. Was not at all surprised as it has been reported here so long. As you desire, I will certainly act as a "brides maid."

Mattie I expect you will be surprised to hear (if you have not heard already) that Mr. Zealy has gone to Texas, he started about three weeks ago. I have not time to write anymore but just take the will for the deed, excuse bad writing and all inaccuracies—

Your fond friend,

Mary Holley"

Years later, as a mature woman and a loving mother, she wrote this letter to her son, Howell Chappell, who was off at school.

"Home March 30/91

My dear son:

I will try and write you a few hurried lines this morning as I did not get to write you last night. Mrs. Friday and her boys were up here until bed time and Laban came from Andrews and I had to

<sup>8</sup> Mattie Howell was undoubtedly suffering from malaria.

chat with him a little. He went to Cedar Creek in his cart and Ossie rode a mule and when they came (back) Eleanor was going to walk alone and Oss carried her home in the cart and Laban went home with Sallie, he and Bubber. We had a great many visitors last week. Frank Whitlock came Monday, Labe, Maxie and Clara came Wednesday. Your grandpa is growing worse but keeps in good spirits and has a good appetite. I did not get a letter from Bernice Saturday as usual. I expect to get it tomorrow. I will send you some stamps. I have no money to send you yet. Your Pa will sell some cotton the first of May. I will try and send some then. He still has to pay Col. Pa one hundred dollars. They are getting on slowly planting, have planted some corn, have planted over one acre of Louisiana cane and have some to plant. They are going to try some on the creek. I will have to close as it is time for the mail boy.

God bless my dear boy,

Your loving Ma,

M. M. Chappell"<sup>9</sup>

A few years later, this intelligent and sensitive woman would undergo abdominal surgery on her own kitchen table and on June 7, 1904, she would die at the age of 56 years.

The children of Joseph R. Howell and Sarah Sophia Whitehead Howell:

Mary Martha (Mattie) Howell, May 3, 1848 - June 7, 1904.

Sally Marion Howell, January 16, 1851 -

John J. Howell, June 20, 1853 - October 26, 1928.

Jessie Louise Howell, November 4, 1859 - April 25, 1934.

Charles Thomas Howell, May 9, 1862 - March 18, 1928.

John Glenn Howell, October 15, 1866 -

Jessie Howell married the Rev. Josiah DuBose Huggins (born June 10, 1856; died August 5, 1918). Aunt Jessie was always a family favorite and retained the quality of gentleness and sweetness even as an old lady. I visited her a few months before her death and old age and illness had not dimmed these qualities.

<sup>9</sup> This is a tentative identification of the people mentioned in this letter: Laban was her 21 year old son; Ossie, her son, Oscar; Sally, her sister, Sally Marion Howell; Bubber, her brother John; Labe and Maxie, brother of her husband and his wife; Clara, Clara Chappell, her sister-in-law; "your grandpa" was probably the Rev. Laban C. Chappell; Bernice was her 16 year old daughter.

John J. Howell was known as "Big Bubber" and Thomas Howell was known as "Little Bubber." "Uncle Glenn" at church meetings would describe how the Negroes sang the old spiritual hymn, "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" and would lead the congregation in this song.

Sarah Howell Reese Howell, daughter of Joseph D. Reese II and Sarah Howell, was the widow of John R. Howell who had died in 1829. She owned the home in upper Richland County with her son, Joseph R. Howell, that was later owned by Oscar Fitzland Chappell and is now owned by Dr. Travis Chappell, grandson of Oscar Fitzland Chappell. Since Mattie Howell was not born in this house and all the rest of Joseph and Sarah Sophia Howell children were, Sarah Howell Reese Howell and her son moved to this home sometime between the years 1848 and 1851. The house is in excellent repair.

There is a family tradition that Joseph Howell incurred the displeasure of his family when he married the "poor" Sarah Sophia Whitehead instead of a Howell or Reese so that an extensive property could be kept in the family. It has been said that Joseph R. Howell was attending a party, and seeing Sarah Sophia Whitehead descend a stairway vowed that she would be his wife.

John R. Howell, Jr., brother of Joseph R. Howell, was born on July 28, 1826, a year after his brother, Joseph.

John R. Howell, Sr., born September 4, 1798, died March 17, 1829, aged 30 years, was married to Sarah Howell Reese on February 3, 1824, and is buried in Cabin Branch Cemetery.<sup>10</sup>

The children of Oscar Fitzland and Mary Martha (Mattie) Chappell:

- Laban Chappell, February 26, 1870 - August 31, 1904.
- Howell Chappell, February 16, 1872 - September 12, 1946.
- Oscar Chappell, April 21, 1874 - May 8, 1935.
- Bernice Chappell, July 18, 1876.
- Jesse Chappell, November 12, 1878.
- John Chappell, November 6, 1880.
- Harry Chappell, March 16, 1883 - December 19, 1893.
- Grace Chappell, November 27, 1885.
- George Glenn Chappell, August 1, 1888.
- Sophie Chappell, March 6, 1892.
- All are now dead.

<sup>10</sup> Much of the information concerning the Howells and Reeses came from a carefully documented manuscript history of these families compiled by Mrs. Jesse Reese, Sr.

## CHAPTER X

### THE NEWBERRY AND EDGEFIELD BRANCH OF THE CHAPPELL FAMILY

The family had its origin in Virginia where Samuel Chappell(3) (Thomas(2), Thomas(1)) made his will in 1748. It was proven in 1749. He married Elizabeth Scott and was the father of the following children: Samuel(4), James(4), Benjamin(4), Robert(4), Drury(4), John(4), Elizabeth(4), Sarah(4), Bethiah(4), Mary(4), Emelia(4), and Nancy(4).

It is thought that James(4) went to South Carolina and that Benjamin(4) and John(4) might have gone with him. John(4), the father of an extensive Chappell family in Georgia probably lived for a while in South Carolina with his brothers.

Traditionally, James Chappell married and had three sons: Charles, Henry and Thomas. Charles and Henry were supposedly killed while fighting with General Sumter. Charles was supposedly killed in a raid against "Bloody Bill" Cunningham.<sup>1</sup>

On December 8, 1766, James Chappell(4) had 100 acres surveyed for him on a branch of the Saludy (sic) River in Colleton County: bound on the northwest by the Widow Souter; on the northeast by David Kelly and vacant land; and on all other sides by vacant land. The Royal Grant for this land was dated April 29, 1768. On February 2, 1768, James Chappell presented a memorial to the Auditor General's office for the registration of this land.<sup>2</sup>

Hugh Giles, on December 8, 1770, certified a plat for James Chappell for 300 acres in Craven County on Maple Swamp, west

<sup>1</sup> Chapter 2 of this book gives a detailed genealogy of the family in Virginia; Chappell, *Genealogy*, pp. 74-77, 85-88.

<sup>2</sup> Colonial Plats, Vol. 10, p. 215; Royal Grants, Vol. 16, p. 380; Memorials, Vol. 2, p. 496.

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