

## Our Cork Family

John Cork came to America from Ireland on the ship "Lord Dunluce." He landed at Charleston, S.C. a short time prior to Jan. 6, 1773. This is from the "Original List of Protestant Immigrants to S.C. 1763-1773" by Janie Revill.

He was one of the Protestant refugees who came to S.C. on the encouragement of the Bounty Act passed by the General Assembly of S.C. July 25, 1761. This gave special benefits to these religious refugees to settle in that state. One part of the Bounty was a promise to give 100 acres of land to each single person 16 years old and up and to each married man 100 acres plus 50 acres for his wife and 50 acres for each child under 16 years of age.

Records show that John Cork was eligible for 150 acres, so that tells us he was married but had no children when he arrived. Tradition is that they were from County Antrim and that a baby of their died on the way over.

It is shown in the office of the Secretary of State in Columbia, S.C. that John Cork was granted 150 acres of land June 6, 1775 in Craven District, S.C., now Fairfield County in the Woodward Community. He acquired more acres later on the Bushy Fork of Little River.

He was hardly settled before Americans began their War of Independence against Great Britain, so he helped them. Proof is found in the Historical Commission Building in Columbia, S.C. Stub Entry #82 of the Revolutionary War Claims says on Oct. 29, 1785 John Cork was paid 17 pounds for 119 days duty as Horseman in 1781 and 1782.

There was only one Cork in the state of S.C. when the 1790 census was taken and that was John Cork with 1 male over 16, 3 males under 16, and 6 females in his household. He was living in Fairfield County of Camden District. Here he seems to have 5 daughters but he names only 4 daughters in his will, and I have been unable to learn anything about a fifth daughter.

Because he is buried there, it is assumed that he belonged to Concord Presbyterian Church on Highway #321 in the community of Woodward, Fairfield Co., S.C. In this church cemetery on a small tombstone is this inscription, "John Cork died Feb. 15, 1798 age 53 years." Six days before his death he made a will and below is an abstract copy.

Winnshoro, Fairfield Co., S.C.

Willbook = 2 p. 184-185

Apt. 2 File 58.

To my wife Elizabeth—her clothes, bed, bedding, spinning wheel, horse, saddles, 4 cows also the increase in cattle during her widowhood. She shall not enjoy horse or cows after marriage.

To son-in-law and daughter—7 shillings.

To my daughters Margaret, Isabell, Elizabeth—20 pounds each.