

OUR JAMES

Our James was married to Mary, of whom we have little information, and had three children. The children were William (1796), Sarah (1797), and John (1803). *(All named in father's will.)*

Unfortunately, James died the year following John's birth in 1804 and he too is buried with his mother and father in the Aiken-Martin Cemetery (now known as Martin-McDowell, County Rd. 54). He wrote a will shortly before his death--apparently almost on his deathbed as he declared himself "very weak of body". His brother, Hugh, and a close friend, Robert Bankhead, were named executors. *(Fairfield Co. Wills, S.C. Archives)*

Through his will and estate papers, we learned he wanted his "cloos" sold to educate the children. James was a saddler and perhaps this was the fifty acres he had bought when he first came to America. By definition the noun form of a "close" is enclosed land.

In a document dated 1821, Hugh Aiken and Robert Bankhead reported that sums of money were paid to George McMillan in 1809 for William's schooling, to William Young in 1812 for John's, and to Robert Martin for Sarah's. This accounting may have been necessary because the guardianship of John and Sarah was given to William apparently at the death of their mother. *(Fairfield Co. Guardianship Papers, S.C. Archives)* It is not clear what happened to William and Sarah at this point and we did not pursue them. We did find the grave of William at Mt. Olivet Presbyterian Church near White Oak right outside of Winnsboro. Nearby there is also a grave for Sarah Aiken whose dates correspond with our Sarah.

We continued to pursue our quest for information on John, who is our ancestor. In 1826 he sold 330 acres on Lick Creek for \$825 to William Aiken of Fairfield (his brother). *(Fairfield Co. Bill of Sale, S.C. Archives)* This tract of land was a part of the original land bought from John Winn by James, Sr. In a separate document the wife of John, Margaret W. released any claim.

Apparently John and Margaret now live further west in the county by the Broad River in a place called Strother. They had two children, William B. born in 1828 and Mary Margaret born in 1831.

Most of what we know about John comes to us from the census, estate papers and church papers. We do not know how he acquired his land but a document shows it in three parts, totaling 323 acres. One part with 108 acres contained the home, right beside it is 110 acres. Across Huey Ferry Rd. was another 105 acres. Since John was married three times perhaps each came with a wife. *(Most of this information came from the pastor of Salem Presbyterian Church, the Reverend Richard Hodges, allowing us to examine the Session books.)*

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In 1867, Elizabeth went to court to try to gain the executorship of John's estate from Margaret against the whole family. (*Fairfield Co. Estate Papers, S.C. Archives*) The end results was that the land was sold and Elizabeth was allowed to bid. She wanted the section with the home but was awarded the tract across Huey Ferry Rd. Perhaps this is what she had brought into the marriage. We have no trace of what happened to her.

Margaret and Charles Blair and all her children by William B. are buried in Salem Presbyterian Church.

By the time all this court action was taking place our ancestor Sarah Jane had married James Samuel Hutchison. Her sister Ellen Marion married his brother John P. The Hutchison's lived on land close to the Aiken land. Theirs was closer to Monticello between Frees Creek and Terrible Creek.

Sarah Jane and James Samuel lived in this area until 1877. Their children William Pope, James M., John, Sara Ella, and Mayme were born in Fairfield. In December of 1877 they moved to West Union (suburb of Walhalla) for James Samuel to become the postmaster. After the move to West Union, Samuel Aiken, Jay W. and Teay B. were born to complete the family.

Sarah Jane was a charter member in forming the West Union Baptist Church.

James Samuel died in 1899 leaving Sarah Jane with the four youngest children still at home. He is buried in the Walhalla Baptist Church cemetery. (*Obituary, Keowee Courier*)

Sarah Jane (Sallie) Aiken Hutchison died May 4, 1934 at the age of 88. She is buried in the Walhalla Baptist Church cemetery. Only four of her children survived her: James, Samuel, Mayme and Jay. (*Obituary, Keowee Courier*)

We have come full circle with the Aiken side of our family tree--from our James who died in 1804 to his granddaughter, our great-grandmother, Sallie who died 130 years later.

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Note: This document traces the ancestors of our grandfather, William Pope Hutchison, through his mother, Sarah Jane (Sallie) Aiken.

When it first began, little did we know what an experience we were about to have in the search for OUR James. We first discovered that he seemed to be a part of the family, the Aikens, that nobody cared about. Everywhere we looked or asked, it seemed only the William or David Aiken family was known and documented. Maybe it was meant for us to come along in search of James.

We must begin our story by looking at everybody's James. The original James Aiken with his wife, Elizabeth, and six of their eight children came to Charleston, South Carolina, from Antrim County, Ireland, in the year 1788. The children were Hugh (1768), John, Mary (1770), James (1773), Margaret (1777), William (1779), Elizabeth, and David (1786). Documentation indicates the two older sons, Hugh and James, did not come until later.

The family stayed in Charleston for about a year and then James decided to "go west" to the Camden District. However, William, who was eight years old, had started an apprenticeship with a Mr. Blakley, a cotton merchant. He promised to send him to school and bring him up in his business. He went on to become a successful merchant and president of the first railroad company. The county of Aiken is named for him and his son William became governor of South Carolina in 1844.

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On August 19, 1791, James purchased 200 acres of land from John Winn in Fairfield County located on Leek (Lick) Creek for the sum of 100 pounds. (*Fairfield Co. Deeds, S.C. Archives*) He made a home there for his family until his death January 6, 1798, at the age of 65. He was buried in the Aiken-Martin private cemetery located near Jackson Creek in Fairfield County. (*Visited site of cemetery Jan. & Mar. of 1998-have pictures and tomb rubbings.*)

It appears that Hugh and James came to America in 1797. James' son, William, was born in 1797 in Antrim County, Ireland. (*Tombstone info at Mt. Olivet Presbyterian Church*) His daughter was born in 1798 in America. In 1797 James had bought 50 acres on the Little River. (*Fairfield Co. Deeds, S.C. Archives*) James and Hugh together bought 250 acres on the south fork of the Little River from Joseph and Ann Vayra of Charleston. (*Fairfield Co. Deeds, S.C. Archives*) The brothers, James and Hugh, applied in August and were granted in October of 1798, to be the executors of their father's estate. (*Fairfield Co. Executor papers, S.C. Archives*)

Mother Elizabeth lived for another five years after her husband James. She died October 10, 1803, and was laid to rest beside him at Aiken-Martin Cemetery. She left her portion of the land to John and David. Our James got his father's bible and one dollar. (*Copy of will, S.C. Archives*)

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Margaret died August 31, 1834 and is buried at Salem Presbyterian Church. This church is located at Salem Crossroads about 6 miles from Strother. This church plays an important part in our story revealed.

John then married Jane Marion who had come to America in 1821 with her father. We don't have a marriage date but their first child was born 1839. That child was Ellen Marion Aiken. Jane along with baby Ellen and her step daughter, Mary Margaret who was 8 years old, joined Salem Presbyterian Church July 7, 1839. (*Session papers from church*)

John and Jane went on to have three more children, David M. born in 1841, John D. in 1850 and our ancestor, Sarah Jane born 1845.

The August, 1850 census showed the following lived with John, 47 and Jane, 40: William B., age 22; Ellen, age 11; David M, age 8; and Sarah, age 4. Apparently this census was taken before John D. was born and Mary Margaret had already married John Seymore and moved to Alabama. Also living there were Mary and Harriet McMillan, 18 and 16 respectively. John was listed as a planter.

Jane Marion died Sept. 9, 1854 and is buried in Salem Presbyterian Church cemetery, some few hundred feet adjacent to John's first wife Margaret. Below Jane's grave are two graves of children of son David M. that died in 1877 and 1879. Close by is a grave of a James Marion who was 11. Perhaps this could have been a brother. Below Margaret's grave is Robert Bankhead who died in 1850 and you may recall was the executor along with Hugh Aiken of our James' will.

The next thing we know about John is through the 1860 census. He was 58 and now married to Elizabeth, 35. Also listed at home was our Sarah, age 15; John D., age 10, Andrew F. Blair, age 18. Oldest son, William B. now had his own property next to John's.

William B. was now 33 and was married to Margaret age 26 with children William T., age 8; John T., age 5; Salley J., age 3; Mary E., age 1. Also listed was the overseer David Blair, 42 and Charles Blair, 21, and Thomas Schooler, 55.

John Aiken died May 20, 1861. We do not know where he is buried. William B. was made executor of his estate. (*Fairfield Co. Executor Papers, S.C. Archives*) William and his friend, Charles Blair, went to war. William B. was killed May 8, 1864 in the battle at Spotsylvania, Virginia. He is buried there in the Confederate cemetery. (*We visited his gravesite in Oct., 1998*)

William B.'s wife, Margaret, was then made executor of John's estate. (*Fairfield Co. Executor Papers, S.C. Archives*) She was left five children, the oldest being 12 years old and the youngest about 2.

Margaret married William's friend, Charles Blair in 1867.