

From web:

<https://woodshedrounwytha.wordpress.com/2013/10/07/witches/comment-page-1/>

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FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Mary Ingelman, the First Witch of Winnsboro, S.C. Describes the illegal trial where a lady named Mary Ingelman was accused, found guilty and tortured for being a witch in 1792 in Fairfield County, South Carolina, USA.

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The Salem witch trials were not the last of its kind to be held in North America. In 1999 I visited the history museum in Fairfield County, South Carolina and was shown some news paper articles and one article from FATE magazine that all referenced a manuscript written before 1854 by Mr. Philip Edward Pearson. It talks about an illegal trial where a lady named Mary Ingelman was accused, found guilty and tortured for being a witch in 1792 in my county. I had always thought that in America there were no other witch trials after 1692. Now I wonder how many other “witch” trials have been held in our country, hidden away and not talked about.

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Four people were accused of witchcraft, including Mary Ingelman. She was accused by Rosy Henley for putting a spell on her and her sister. Both Henley and her sister were reported to have been levitating and could not be held down “by the utmost exertions of four strong men.” Another accused person was Mr. Joe Fairs of Lower Fairfield County who supposedly afflicted Drury Walker’s two children in a similar way.

Mary Ingelman was also accused by her son from a previous marriage, Adam Free, for causing one of his cows to spring up into the air and fall down and break its neck. Adam Free's son, Jacob also testified that Mary Ingelman turned him into a horse. A second person also accused her of turning him into a horse and rode him to a "grand convention of witches" where the devil complimented Mary Ingelman on her horse. She replied "Ah,...This is that rascal Collins!"

The four accused individuals were taken from their homes to Mr. Thomas Hill's farm 5 miles south of Winnsboro. Mr. Hill was chosen as the "judge" in this illegal trial. The "sheriff" and "executioner" was a poor man by the name of Mr. John Crossland. The only evidence presented were the depositions of the people who claimed they were afflicted. The accused offered no defense. They were found guilty and tied to the building's joists and were flogged severally. Then their feet were held "to a bark fire and confined there until the soles popped off." After this hideous torture they were let go. But Mary Ingelman did not get far from the Hill's farm before she was assaulted yet again by a man who threw her down and put a pine log across her neck. She was saved the next day by a kind person who came across her on the path.

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From the manuscript Mr. Pearson described Mary Ingelman as a "neat, tidy and descent old lady." She was born in Germany and was knowledgeable in pharmacy and "her application of simples in the cure of country complaints was the result of much observation and gratuitous practice...."

In the archives of the History Museum of Winnsboro are some photos of Mary Ingelman's house taken before it was torn down in the early 1970's. On the side of the chimney was a rune which are commonly found on many traditional buildings in Northern Europe. One of the reasons runes are placed on houses is for protection. The rune on Mary Ingelman's chimney was a diamond shaped rune which is the Germanic traditional version of the rune Ingwaz. This is the rune of fertility, good fortune and creative power. Inguz is the name of a Fertility God and God of fire and is the guardian of the hearth fire. Also the word "inglenook", which is Scottish in origin, means chimney corner. Also note the similarity between the Mary's last name and the rune's name.

Mary Ingelman very well may have been a Christian of German decent who came to America for religious freedom, like the women of Salem Massachusetts in 1692. From the rune on her home and the description of her being an herbalist and healer there is no doubt she was knowledgeable in some old way like many of our ancestors were that came to America. They brought with them their stories, folklore, traditions and healing crafts which have slowly been dying out over the last 200 years. With the revival of Paganism in the US many new generations of Witches and Wiccans are either rediscovering their Pagan roots or are lucky enough to have been passed on the healing arts from their parents, Grandparents, or Great-grandparents.

Bibliography:

Gandee, Lee R. "The Witches of Fairfield, S.C." FATE Jan. 1970: 36-44
Letter between P. Edw. Pearson and Dr. Thomas Cooper, April 26, 1837.
Dickson, Frank A. "Fairfield 150 Years Ago Letter Written by P. Edward Pearson of Winnsboro In 1837 Tells That "Burning & Beatings" Were Resorted To Here In 1792", (2/8/1940) —Can't read what news paper it was copied from.

By Will Kale, submitted by Pelham Lyles

Source: Fairfield Genealogical Society Newsletter <http://fairfield.scgen.org/Newsletters-Fairfield/Fairfield-2012-Vol-23-Nr-3.pdf>

FREE-L Archives

[Archiver](#) > [FREE](#) > [1997-11](#) > 0878997820

From: Sybille Pierce <jspierce@FTC-I.NET>

Subject: Re: Will of James Free

Date: Sat, 08 Nov 1997 09:03:40 -0500

Rick wrote that my information on the Will of James Free came from an old defunct newsletter titled "Born Free". He is right & wrong. I have copies of all the newsletters which "Born Free" put out. A distant cousin, Penny Pennington, of Atlanta, Ga, a descendant of John Free of the Barnwell District, SC, was going to send me her copies, but had given them away. She had belonged to the "Born Free" group. She gave me the address of the lady in California, who I believe, she said, "started the "Born Free Group". I forgot the name of the lady or where she lived, this was several years ago that this happened. I did write the lady & she sent me the information. She said, "that the group had disbanded". She hoped this information in later years might help Frees researching their families.

None of the information in those newsletters helped me or my distant cousin. All if the information that I send, I personally researched myself. None of this information is second hand information.

I have been to Winnsboro, Fairfield County, SC & researched all the Frees that were located there. I believe but have been unable to prove that these Frees are the ones that I descended from. I also know when & where Adam's father Lawrence & his father & two brother arrived in Philadelphia, PA, in 1736, the name of the ship & the Captain's name. I have also researched & know that Lawrence Free & his brother Jacob Free were here in SC 1748-1752. I also believe that their brother Henry Free came to SC, also. These 3 brothers descended from Nickcolus Free a Revolutionary Soldier of Pennsylvania. Lawrence Free came to South Carolina in ca 1748 with a church group.

I have a copy of the will of James Free.

I also have a copy of "SUPERSTITIONS TRANSPLANTED" by Mary Bouleware published in the Chester Co., SC Gen Society quarterly telling about the witch trials which took place in Fairfield Co., SC in 1792.

Mary Free Ingleman, widow of Lawrence Free & now wife of Jacob Ingleman, mother of Adam Free & grandmother of Jacob (Edmond ???) Free along with three other persons were charged, by their peers, with witchcraft. They were tried, convicted & punished for being witches.

A Mr. Crosland acted the part of the sheriff & carried out the punishment of these four persons charged with witchcraft. He had them tied, beaten, & then put their feet up against a bark fire, they were left there until the soles of their feet popted open. I seriously believe that all of these persons were probably crippled for life. Mary Ingleman, with her vast knowledge of herbs & roots & how to heal, may have been able to treat her feet. I feel sure that she never walked right again. Her son Adam testified against her saying , he had a cow she wanted, & that he wouldn't let her have the cow. He stated.

"that she put a spell on the cow & instead of milk coming out of the udders that blood came out instead." Her grandson, Jacob (Edmond ???) Free testified that his grandmother changed him into a horse & rode him six miles to somebody's apple orchard. She sat on his back & pick apples off the tree. He said, "that he reached with his long horse's head for an apple & that she hit him on the horse's head." Isaac Collins testified, "that he went out one morning to shoot a deer. He saw a deer & aimed & his gun didn't fire. He rechecked the gun & went to shoot at the deer & the deer had changed to a black panther. He shoot at the panther & hit it. He could find the panther that day. The next morning at the river he saw Mary Free Ingleman, she had

her arm in a sling. Mr. Collina said, "that Mary Free Ingleman said, "you are responsible for this, Isaac Collins."" It was this testimony that really convicted her. They said, "that she was a deer, a panther, & herself & that therefore she must be a witch." Mary Free Ingleman was the only one of the persons charged, by their peers, that sought legal redress. She won her case. Mr. Crosland was found guilty, charged fifty pounds sterling. I believe this would amount to about \$125.00 now a days. Mr. Crosland

From: Sybille Pierce <jspierce@FTC-I.NET>

Subject: Re: Will of James Free

Date: Sat, 08 Nov 1997 09:51:19 -0500

I am sending the last part of my letter again as I believe that some of the letter got cut off.

Mr. Crosland to keep from paying the fine went West.

Knowing, probably, that Simeon Free was in Fairfield County, SC when the witch trial took place. I would say that the whole bunch got drunk on his moonshine whiskey.

You must realize that a number of these people were Germans. The Germans believed in superstitions.

The knowledge of herbs & roots have passed down in my Free family for years. My Great-Aunt Sinia Free, my Grandfather Jacob Free's sister, had this knowledge & when she died the 7th of April, 1954, this knowledge died with her. My brother, R.A., almost died as a child with pneumonia. The doctors send him home from the hospital to die because they couldn't cure him. My Great-Aunt Sinia Free made up poultices & smeared them on his chest. R.A. recovered & the doctors said, "that it had to be the Poultices that saved him, because they sure didn't"

My grandfather's brother, Uncle Milton "Mish" Free & his sister Sinia Free, made the wine that was used for communion at the Springtown Baptist Church, Springtown Community, Bamberg Co., SC for years. I am related to most of the families buried at Springtown Baptist Church. The Frees, Rays & Rice families were all kin one to another. Most all the other families were related also. These families descended from people who migrated here from Virginia & Pennsylvania. & the old Orangebaugh District, SC

I believe that Adam Free, of Fairfield Co., SC, was off in the head. He gave his son, George Free, all of his possessions & land. In later years, he went to court to get his possessions & land back, He said, "that he was okay in the head now & wanted his property & possessions back to be divided equally among his children. The only child that I had information on was his son George Free.

Another fact that makes me believe the the Fairfield Co., SC Frees are my Frees is the fact that the Collins family married into my Jacob Free family. My Jacob Free was married twice. his daughter Nancy Free married Daniel Collins, son of James Collins of the old Barnwell District, SC. Was Daniel Collin's father a brother to Isaac Collins who testified against Mary Free Ingleman???

In later Bamberg Co., SC Census, I have found listed about three Adam Frees,

1 Black & 2 white. I haven't been able to do any research on these Adam
Frees.
Sybille at Sumter, SC

From: Rick Ribble <rribble@dataex.com>@athenet.net>
Subject: Will of James FREE
Date: Fri, 07 Nov 1997 12:49:39 -0600

This will is copied from an old defunct newsletter titled "BORN FREE".

Will of James FREE Proved 26 day of April 1811 Jn. Buchanan J.C.D.
Recorded 24 Jan 1812 will book #5 p 535 Apt # 15 File # 160

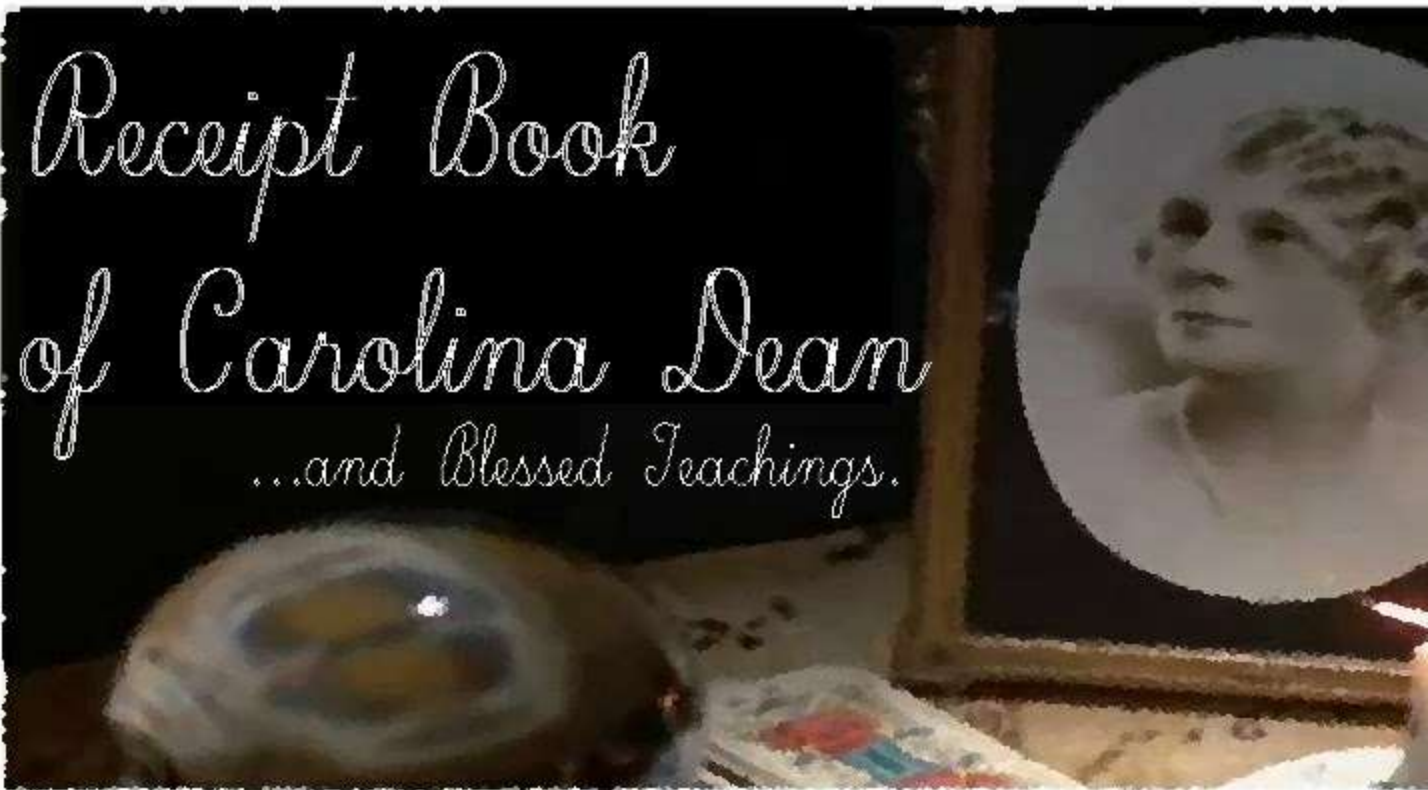
In the name of God amen.

I James Free of the state of South Carolina being of sound mind and
memory tho weak of body do make and ordain this my last will and
testament in manner and form following, that is to say----- I will that
my stall and Blacksmith tools be sold by my executors for the purpose of
paying my debts--- I give to my loving wife Sussanah all the rest of my
Estate both real and personal of whatever kind soever the same may be'
for the term of her natural life or widowhood. That after her death or
marriage I will and desire that my said estate be equally divided
between my four children, Sarah, William, Robert and Seinthea shear and
shear alike--- and in case either of said children shall die before they
come to full age-- it is my will and desire--- that the survivors or
survivor of them shall; have the whole of my estate divided among them
in the manner above stated---and I do nominate constitute and appoint my
friend Semion Free and wife Sussanah, my executors of this my last will
and testament disannulling all former wills by me made declaring this to
be my last---

In testamoney wherof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the fourth day
of March eighteen hundred and nine (1809) Signed sealed published and
declared in the presence of us,

S.R. Coleman James
his X mark Free
Robert Coleman
Roch R. Gofsa

Rick Ribble



The Life and Adventures of a Two-Headed Doctor in the Southern Folk Magic Tradition.

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Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Mary Ingleman: The First Witch of Winnsboro South Carolina

Note: Having been born in Lancaster and raised in Great Falls, South Carolina this article was of great interest to me and I thought I would share it with you all as well.

The First Witch of Winnsboro, S.C.

Mary Ingelman, the First Witch of Winnsboro, S.C. Describes the illegal trial where a lady named Mary Ingelman was accused, found guilty and tortured for being a witch in 1792 in Fairfield County, South Carolina, USA.

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Source: Fairfield Genealogical Society Newsletter

Carolina Dean

Posted by Carolina Dean at [4:52 PM](#) 

Labels: [History](#), [South Carolina](#), [Witch-Trials](#), [Witches](#)

3 comments:

x said...

Great blog! I Googled "Mary Free Ingelman" in search of more information after discovering she was my 5th Paternal Great Grandmother. Google pointed me to your blog. Glad I did the search now! I enjoyed your blog account of her life very much. Thank you.

~ Kenny Free, Memphis, TN (kenndave@msn.com)

[August 6, 2014 at 4:19 AM](#)



[Carolina Dean](#) said...

Hi Kenny,

You'll be happy to know that I wrote a revised, updated, and expanded version of this entry which will be published soon in the next "Hoodoo Almanac" of which I am co-author OR "Hoodoo and Conjure Magazine". When I know more, I will post here so that you can grab a copy for yourself.

Blessings,

[August 6, 2014 at 7:09 AM](#)

x said...

Hi!

That would be so great! How do I become notified? Reason I ask, I only just now saw your reply and that's because I'm searching for any 'new' post(s) being made about Mary Free Ingelman. I would be very much interested in further postings *especially* in regards to the Magazine. My email is kenndave@msn.com.

[July 14, 2016 at 2:16 PM](#)