

**JOHN COMBEST
AND
HIS
DESCENDANTS**

LERLENE ROWELL COVINGTON

PETER AND SARAH COMBEST HALSELL

By William F. Roberts*

Most of the HALSELLS in the upstate area of South Carolina settled near the old Columbia Road running between Chester and Columbia South Carolina near the Chester - Fairfield Counties border. Portions of this road are called the Halsellville road. There are some direct descendants of this family that live on the Halsellville road and they are still proud to tell you they live in the Halsellville Community.

We do not yet know how the HALSELL family came into the Chester/Fairfield Counties area of South Carolina. There was a family named HAUSEAL (HAUSIHL) who settled near Newberry, South Carolina after immigrating from Germany. There was also a THOMAS HALSEY who was born 2 January 1592 in Mercer of London, England. He emigrated to this country prior to 1640. Some of his descendants are in the Charleston, South Carolina area in the early 1700's.

Regardless of how they came into the area by 1790 the HALSELL family had established itself in the area and on the 13th. of March, 1790 GEORGE HALSELL received a land grant of 273 acres. In the oral family history there is a story of an earlier land grant from the King of England, but no records of it have yet been discovered. GEORGE was married to a lady whose first name was JEAN (Fairfield County Deed Book L, Page 266). There is still some confusion about the children of GEORGE AND JEAN HALSELL, however, GEORGE died intestate on 19 August 1807 and in a Fairfield County document dated ten years after his death his children and heirs assigned their rights of his property to LABAN HALSELL. (Fairfield County Deed Book Z, Pages 438, 439). According to this document his children and heirs were BENJAMIN; LABAN; GEORGE, JR.; JOHN; SARAH LOCKWOOD; ELIZABETH LAND; DORCAS WILLIAMS; MAYSEY TERRANT; and RACHAEL.

JOHN HALSELL (son of GEORGE AND JEAN HALSELL) is the next HALSELL to enter this history. He left little in the public records to mark his existence, but we do have confirmation of him from an old family Bible preserved by Miss MAGGIE HARRIS. The information in the Bible

*William F. Roberts, P.O. Box 333, Madison, Georgia 30650

was written and passed down by MISS HARRIS, but the Bible itself was lost after her death. JOHN was a shoemaker by trade and was killed by the Tories during the Revolutionary War. Oral history tells that JOHN married MARGARET WAGGONER (daughter of HANS AND MARIE DELASHMET WAGGONER). MARGARET was a member of Beaver Creek Church, but no record has been found of JOHN's membership. They had the following children: GABRIEL; SILAS; ELIZABETH; MARY, called OLD AUNT POLLY; and unknown daughter, who married a MR. WHITEHEAD; THOMAS; PETER; and EDWARD.

With PETER HALSELL (son of JOHN AND MARGARET WAGGONER HALSELL) more information can be reported. PETER was born 25 November 1770. He married SARAH COMBEST on 7 November 1799. PETER died on 2 May 1858. He is buried beside SARAH in the Beaver Creek Baptist Church Cemetery in Fairfield County, South Carolina. Their tombstones are made from indigenous stones and have aged poorly and are barely readable.

PETER was knowledgeable and literate. He served on the Chester County jury and witnessed numerous documents. He farmed for a living.

PETER owned a large amount of land beginning with a state land grant of 73 acres which he received on 2 April 1798. He also maintained at least four slaves. It is ironic that there are today no descendants with the HALSELL surname remaining in Chester County, yet some of the descendants of these slaves may still be in the area under the name of HALSEY.

The Oral history of this family is unique. There are no tales of strange behavior or unusual personalities, rather all of the family oral history regarding the HALSELL family involves their wealth and their willingness to help their family and friends. The stories of SARAH COMBEST HALSELL recall her declining health in her later years and her attractiveness in her earlier years.

It is PETER AND SARAH and their children who earned the respect of their neighbors and in 1828 the area around PETER HALSELL's land became officially known as HALSELLVILLE, when a post office was established for the community.

In his will PETER left all his land to his daughters MARGARET, ELIZABETH AND MARTHA; however at their death or marriage the land was to be sold and the proceeds equally divided between his legatees. He also stipulated that his sister, MARY, was to be allowed to live on the property. For unknown reasons the provisions of PETER's will were not completed until 1974 when his property was officially recorded so it could be sold. (Chester County Deed Book 470, Page 38). At that time he had 400.5 acres. It is ironic that the HALSELL family graveyard is on that property, but PETER AND SARAH chose to be buried elsewhere. (I last visited the site of the HALSELL graveyard in 1982. There were no standing grave stones and those that had fallen had been vandalized. Some of the stones that had been there a year earlier were gone).

PETER AND SARAH COMBEST HALSELL had the following children:

1. MARGARET WAGGONER HALSELL

Born: 25 August 1800

Died: 1844

MARGARET did not marry. She is buried at the HALSELL family graveyard. Her tombstone list her birthdate as 25 July 1800.

2. JOHN HALSELL

Born: 7 January 1803

Died: 23 August 1856

JOHN was recorded as being 49 years old and living at PETER HALSELL's home in the 1850 census. The assumption could be made therefore that he was unmarried. No further information is known about JOHN.

3. NATHAN HALSELL

Born: 27 August 1805

Died 12 February 1868

NATHAN married POLLY HOULDITCH on 17 October 1839. NATHAN is buried in the HALSELL family graveyard.

NATHAN AND POLLY HOULDITCH HALSELL had the following children:

3a. SARAH COMBEST HALSELL

Born: 4 September 1841

Married: JAMES BIGGS 19 January, 1860

3b. EDWARD ISAIH HALSELL
Born: 14 April 1843
No further information is known.

3c. MARY FRANCES HALSELL
Born: 4 June 1846
Married JAMES B. GRIFFIN 2 May 1876

3d. SUSAN ELIZABETH HALSELL
Born: 14 May 1849
Married WILLIAM PRESSLEY 28 December 1876

4. EDWARD HALSELL

Born: 21 December 1807

Died: 3 January 1851

EDWARD married MARY KITCHEN 14 May 1835

EDWARD AND MARY KITCHEN HALSELL had the following children:

4a. NATHAN HALSELL
Born: 14 April 1836

4b. MARY JANE HALSELL
Born: 15 June 1839

4c. LOUISA HALSELL
Born: 11 November 1840

4d. HENRY PRESTON HALSELL
Born: 29 May 1842
Died: 21 January 1891 in Fordyce, Arkansas.
HENRY PRESTON (PRES) is buried at the Chamberville
Cemetery. His journey to Arkansas was in the company
of DAVID ROE FEASTER AND MACK COLEMAN and is recorded
in the DIARY OF DAVID ROE FEASTER.

4e. WILLIAM EDWARD HALSELL
Born: 16 July 1846
No further information is known.

5. MARTHA HALSELL

Born: 14 April 1810

6. ELIZABETH HALSELL

Born: 28 November 1812

It is assumed that these two sisters were unmarried. In 1859

MARY HALSELL mentions them in her will. Leaving both of them one slave each.

7. PETER HALSELL II.

Born: 14 June 1816

Died: 2 May 1877

PETER married ANNE THOMPSON on 1st. of January, 1848. He moved from the Chester/Fairfield area at some time after his father's death in 1858. In the Chester paper in the column called HALSELLVILLE HAPPENINGS when PETER I died the paper reported the "death of the father of our beloved PETER HALSELL, JR." PETER II AND ANN THOMPSON HALSELL had the following children:

7a. ROBERT JAMES HALSELL

Born: 1 January 1851

7b. MARY ANNE HALSELL

Born 30 March 1855

7c. SALLIE ELIZABETH HALSELL

Born: 17 March 1857

Died 31 December 1926

8. JANE HALSELL

Born: 16 November 1819

JANE married WILLIAM ROBERTS on 4th. of March, 1844.

WILLIAM AND JANE HALSELL ROBERTS had the following children:

8a. LEROY ROBERTS

Born: 17 December 1844

8b. SOBASKI COMBEST ROBERTS

Born: 3 February 1847

8c. PETER ALBERT ROBERTS

Born: 26 February 1849

8d. ABIGAIL ROBERTS

Born: 1 July 1853

8e. ELIZABETH ROBERTS

Born: 3 January 1856

8f. WADE OSCAR ROBERTS

Born: 19 May 1858

Died: 20 May 1925

He married CATHERINE SARA ROBERTS (No relation) December 1878

9. ABIGAIL SUTHERLAND HALSELL

Born: 25 September 1828

Died: 13 December 1855

ABIGAIL married WILLIAM TAYLOR on the 1st. of December, 1849.



IV. 1

The "OLD HALSELL PLACE" located in the HALSELLVILLE Community. The property on which the house was built was part of the PETER HALSELL Estate. The house no longer exists.

Recorded

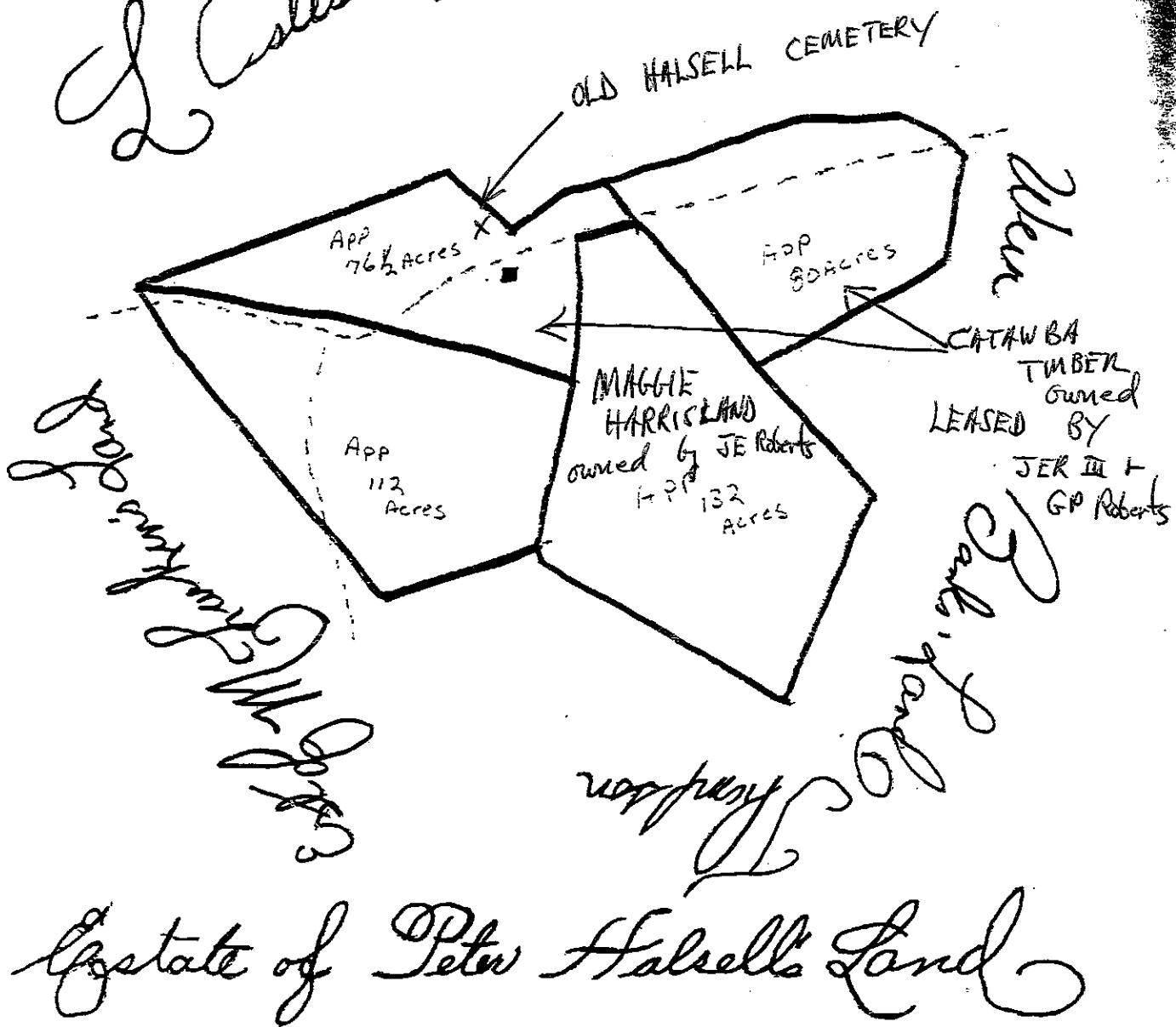
23 MAY 1974

Deed book 470

Page 38

JP

L. Ester land Castle



COPYRIGHT © 1987

LERLENE ROWELL COVINGTON

Printed in the United States of America, all rights reserved.

Lerlene R. Covington
709 Sandra Lane
Burleson, Texas 76028

Printed by:
Henington Publishing Company
1 Main Street
Wolfe City, Texas 75496