

from files of  
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Copy from newspaper at Winnsboro, S.C. Friday, March 5, 1920 ✓

History of the Harrison Family, the oldest in Fairfield

Many interesting notes of Pre-Revolutionary Days, appear in latest article of Major Dixon. "Life of "John Doug" Harrison, a man of unusual wealth and genuine purity.

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THE HARRISON FAMILY

The Harrison family was one of the first to come into what is now Fairfield County. Some say they were here even before the Woodwards. Land grants from the Crown bear this out - one to James Harrison, moving to Georgia from this section.

They were attracted to this County because of its charm, beauty and fertility and settled on the Wateree River - as the Lyles' did on the Broad River. They had inter-married with the Kirklands before the colony of South Carolina called on Virginia and North Carolina for assistance against the Cherokee Indians. They came from Berkely Co., Virginia and were closely related to the Pres. Wm. H. Harrison; one of the descendents has a ring with the initials W.H.H. engraved in it, said to have been given to one of the ancestors by this President. They were fine, well-to-do, cultured people when they came to this section and soon were people of influence and importance, taking a prominent part in the development and progress of this part of the County.

The first members of the family engaged in stock-raising. Mr. Kirkland, the grandfather of Reuben Harrison was said to have owned 50 brood mares, also large herds of cattle.

After the difficulties with the Indians had been settled, many dishonest men banded together for the purpose of stealing cattle and horses. As there was no court nearer than Charleston to try these men after catching them, the Kirklands, Harrisons and Tom Woodward (1st Tom) organized a band of "Regulators" similar to the afterwards famous K.K.K. - Made Woodward the head of it, - as one accustomed to command - he having been a captain in the French Indiana War. Tradition says they put 500 lashes on the back of every thief for a horse and 200 lashes for stealing a cow. On one occasion, two men were given 500 lashes each when caught with two of Kirkland's mares; there are reports of many such punishments.

W. Reuben Harrison, the progenitor of the Longtown Harrisons, was a young man during the Revolution and according to the record he served on an expedition at Four Holes and Edisto River in Gen. Henderson's brigade under Capt Starke. He received his pay for this service in 1785 - came back to this section and began to buy cheap land. We find deeds to land bought by him, every year until his death in 1835. This land was on the Waterree River and its tributary Creeks. It is interesting to note the names of some of the creeks named in the deeds - Goose, Morrison's Dutchman's, Thorntree, and Rochelle. He soon began to buy slaves and plant cotton. He was smart, aggressive, thrifty and he prospered. One of the first records is of the purchase of a stud horse, sorrell in color, and from one Lewis Marr. Today the Harrison race track is shown to strangers - and 20 years ago I talked to a very old Negro, Walker Harrison, who was once a jockey for the first John Harrison.

Reuben Harrison first married Sarah Burgess (B 1765 D 1831) in 1782 and after her death married Nancy \_\_\_\_\_ (?) reared a large family, and lived in the manner of the Virginia gentry. He died in 1835 and his interesting will is recorded in Winnsboro. He provides for each child by name, also his beloved wife, Nancy \_\_\_\_\_. Attached to the will is a list of his slaves, named and valued at \$25,000.00; also a list of his miles and horses and their value. Before he died he gave each of his three daughters a plantation and built them large homes; these houses are still standing (similar in architecture) - one of them a two story, frame house may be seen from the Longtown highway, and is now occupied by some of his descendants. The Dixons. The names of his children were as follows:

- bc 1786
- William - died 1827 - had children - no record
  - James - unmarried - grave well marked on his plantation
  - David - no record, will dated 6 Oct 1836
  - Kirkland - no record D 1850
- m 1. Ann Perry  
2. Phebe Trapp
- m Margaret A Smith

↑  
Mrs Antin + Sister  
Miss Harrison of  
Boyer, Tx of this line

of this line:  
Mrs H.H. Dugo  
of Shreveport  
check names with  
DPL copy 2) Hart Sister  
of Tyler  
2

We are sorry that all the records, and family Bible were burned in the John Harrison house and except for his family, the descendants of the other children are unknown. John married Lucy Rives, a member of the prominent family of that name in Columbia (Could some one supply the date of marriage). He lived on a part of his father's land, built a fine house and was the richest man in Fairfield County -- according to the census of 1850 - his land was then valued at \$100,000.00 and he had 500 slaves; He is referred to as "Old John" and I wish we knew more about him. He had several children. We have the record of three, John Rives Harrison was a Captain in the Civil War - in Belton's Battallion, So. B. He moved away and some of his decendants live in Florida. Richard, who moved to Alabama, - The story goes that after his death he was buried there and his body became petrified. Later his people wanted him brought back home for burial; the body was carried in a wagon, drawn by six mules and after the arrival was shown at the home of Capt. Eli Harrison; this created quite a lot of curiosity and the people came for miles to view the petrified body.

Capt. Eli Harrison married Nov. 26, 1844, Elizabeth Flemming Douglass (B 1829 D 1901) daughter of Dr. John Douglass of Blackstock. Mrs. Harrison's three brothers were surgeons in the Civil War. All of Capt. Eli Harrison's sons were in the War. He bought the home and plantation from his Aunt who had moved to Texas. There he reared a large family and the children were as follows:

Swanson Lunsford Harrison - married M. Walker -

Children = James H. Married Edmunds (Mac)  
Elizabeth married Duke  
Martha married Coleman  
Mary married Smith  
Roxie married Covington

Eli H. Harrison (B 1848 D 1897) married Martha Battie Adams (B 1858 D 1926) in Texas in 1875.

Children = Louise (B 1876 D 1943) Married  
John H. Ellington

Ross (B 1878 D 1946) married  
1. Dr. Eli Harrison  
2. Peter Schram

Eli H. Jr. (B 1888) married  
Lessie Lanier

Lucy Rives, B 1855), married in 1872 M.S. Dixon

Children = Eli (deceased)  
Miss Elizabeth Dixon, lives in  
Longtown, R. 1 Ridgeway  
Eugene - (deceased)  
Edna, Mrs. Edna McElvey, Route  
1 Ridgeway, S.C.  
John Lee - married L. Raborn  
(deceased)  
Miss Douglass Dixon, Rt. 1  
Ridgeway, S.C.

John Douglass (B 1846) married in 1867 Sally Dixon (Wright Book page  
173 has Dixon)

Children = William married Cattie Dixon  
Eli married Ross Harrison  
Mary married J.P. Jones  
Amanda married J.J. McEachern  
Viola married W. Kennedy  
Sallie married D.M. Clarke  
Estelle married R. Connor  
J.D. married E. McMaster

author's  
article

David Thomas (B 1856) married Mary Florence Rochelle in Texas

Children = Cordilla Fort married  
D.H. Witterstaetter

Elizabeth Rives married  
Thomas H. Fisher = their  
dau = Mrs W.S. Chance  
Douglas Sylvester married  
Irene Beth

4007 Park  
Rd  
Texarkana

dau of Henry Pickney  
Rochelle + Cordelia Fort

got grand parents =  
Nancy Moores + James  
Rochelle