

JESSE HAVIS (1764-1827)

JESSE WAS THE SON OF JOHN AND SUZANNE HAVIS OF CAMDEN DISTRICT, S.C. HE WAS BORN IN 1764 POSSIBLY IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA.

HE MARRIED MARY WILLINGHAM THE DAUGHTER OF JOHN AND MARY WILLINGHAM AROUND 1785.

JESSE WAS A FARMER, WITH LARGE LAND HOLDINGS, (1900 ACRES BY 1809), A VETERAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, AND A POLITICIAN.

BEFORE HE WAS 18 YEARS OLD HE JOINED GENERAL SUMTER'S MILITIA BRIGADE AS A DRAGOON AND AS AN INFANTRYMAN. HE ALSO SERVED IN WILLIAM HENDERSON'S BRIGADE. IN 1781 WHILE WITH THOMAS SUMTER HE PARTICIPATED IN THE EXPEDITION OF BIGGAN BRIDGE AT MONCK'S CORNER. SEPTEMBER 23, 1784 HE WAS PAID £ 6.10.1/2 FOR 68 DAYS SERVICE AS A "FOOT AND HORSEMAN" IN THE MILITIA. MAY 12 1785 HE WAS PAID £ 10.0.0 FOR 115 DAYS DUTY IN MILITIA IN 1781-82.

IN 1791 HE WAS SWORN IN AS A CONSTABLE FOR FAIRFIELD COUNTY. IN 1794 HE WAS GRANTED A TAVERN LICENSE IN WINNSBORO, S.C. FROM 1792 TO 1797 JESSE WAS INVOLVED (AS IT SEEMS WAS THE CUSTOM THEN) IN OVER A DOZEN LAW SUITS, BOTH AS PLAINTIFF AND AS DEFENDANT. HE BOUGHT LOT 76 ON ZION STREET IN WINNSBORO FROM MINOR AND EMILY WINN IN 1808.

IN 1805 HE BEGAN A LONG SERVICE AS FAIRFIELD COUNTY CORONER UNTIL 1822. IN 1822 HE WAS A ROAD COMMISSIONER. HE WAS ELECTED TO THE TWENTY-SIX TERM (1824-1825) OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR A TWO YEAR TERM.

HE AND MARY HAD 8 OR 9 CHILDREN.

THE 1790 CENSUS TELLS US THAT THERE WERE 5 PEOPLE IN THE HOUSEHOLD, ONE MALE AND FOUR FEMALES AND THEY WERE LIVING IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY, S. C. THE 1800 CENSUS HAS THE HOUSEHOLD AS ELEVEN AND THE 1820 CENSUS LIST TEN PLUS ELEVEN SLAVES.

JESSE DIED SEPTEMBER 7, 1827—ACCORDING TO THE 1827 CITY GAZETT "HE DIED ON THE 7TH AT HIS RESIDENCE NEAR WINSBORO, FAIRFIELD DISTRICT, COL. JESSE HAVIS AN OLD AND RESPECTED INHABITANT OF THAT PLACE AND A REVOLUTION SOLDIER."

AT HIS REQUEST, HE WAS BURIED ON HIS PLANTATION OFF PEAY'S FERRY ROAD, IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY. THE SLAB THAT WAS ON HIS GRAVE WAS VANDALIZED SOME YEARS AGO. BUT IT WAS FOUND AND MOVED TO THE REFORM PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY IN WINNSBORO. I WAS ABLE TO GET THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION TO FURNISH A NEW GRAVE MARKER.

THE ORIGINAL MARKER READS AS FOLLOWS:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
COL JESSE HAVIS

WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE ON THE 7TH SEPT 1827 IN THE 63RD YEAR OF HIS _____ (LIFE). A YOUTH OF 18 HE ENTERED INTO THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY NEAR THE CLOSE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY CONTEST AND OBTAINED FOR HIS ZEAL THE REPUTATION OF EXEMPLARY BRAVERY IN AFTER LIFE HE WAS DISTINGUISHED FOR PATRIOTISM, CHARITY, AND PERFECT INTEGRITY IN HIS INTERCOURSE WITH THE WORLD

HIS WILL WAS PROVED ON OCTOBER 2 1828 AND PROVIDED FOR HIS WIFE MARY HAVIS, HIS DAUGHTERS CLARISSA HAVIS, MARTHA HAVIS GRAHAM, ELIZABETH HAVIS EVANS, AND FIVE SONS- JESSE D., JAMES, JOHNATHON, MINOR, AND OBED, AND A GRANDSON PAGAN MCKINNEY, (JANE HAVIS MCKINNEY'S SON.) JESSE'S WILL WAS METICULOUSLY WRITTEN. HE DISSOLVES A "FAMILY ARRANGEMENT" AND GIVES VERY EXPLICIT DIRECTIONS, GENEROUSLY DIVIDING PROPERTY BOTH REAL AND PERSONAL. HE LEFT ALL OF HIS CHILDREN (EXCEPT OUR JANE) LAND, MONEY, AND SLAVES. HOWEVER JESSE WAS NOT TOO KEEN ON ANY OF HIS SONS-IN LAW. HE MADE SURE THEY WOULD NOT GET ANY OF HIS DAUGHTERS INHERITANCE. MAYBE JANE'S LIFE INFLUENCED HIM,

AMONG ITEMS MENTIONED IN THE SALE OF HIS PROPERTY AT PROBATE WERE BOOKS OF JOHN WESLEY'S SERMONS, TWO BOOKS OF JOSEPHOUS, A BUST OF WASHINGTON, A BOOK OF BONAPART'S LIFE, FURGUSON'S ASTRONOMY, EWELLS MEDICAL COMPARISON, BURKS THEOLOGICAL DICTIONARY, METHODIST HYMNALS, AND QUICK'S JUSTICE. IF YOU CAN JUDGE A MAN BY THE BOOKS HE READS THIS SPEAKS WELL OF JESSE.

JESSE DIED 6-7 MONTHS BEFORE DAUGHTER JANE HAVIS PICKETT'S DEATH.

THIS BRINGS US TO A CONJECTURE OF WHY JANE HAVIS MCKINNEY PICKETT WAS LEFT OUT OF THE WILL. WE KNOW THAT SHE LIVED WITH HER PARENTS BEFORE AND AFTER THE SETTLEMENT WITH BENJAMIN MCKINNEY AND UNTIL SHE MARRIED JEPHTHA PICKETT. SHE THOUGHT ENOUGH OF HER FATHER TO NAME HER SON JESSE HAVIS PICKETT FOR HIM.

MARY WILLINGHAM HAVIS MOVED TO HOUSTON COUNTY, GEORGIA WITH HER OLDEST SON JESSE D. HAVIS AND DIED THERE ON MARCH 9, 1848.

JANE HAVIS (1791-1828)

JANE HAVIS THE DAUGHTER OF JESSE HAVIS AND MARY WILLINGHAM WAS BORN FEBRUARY 28, 1791 IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA.

WHEN SHE WAS ABOUT 25 YEARS OLD SHE MARRIED BENJAMIN MCKINNEY PROBABLY IN RICHLAND COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA.

IN THE FEBRUARY 1818 COURT WE FIND HER SUING BENJAMIN FOR SEPARATE MAINTENANCE AND ALIMONY. THE COURT HEARS TESTIMONY THAT ONE MONTH AFTER THEIR SON JOHN PAGON MCKINNEY WAS BORN, BENJAMIN IS ABUSIVE TO HER AND ONE WITNESS TESTIFIES THAT HE SAW HIM STRIKE HER "WHILE SHE WAS IN LOW SITUATION FROM HER SICKNESS". IT WAS ALSO PROVED THAT "HE ABANDONED HER AND TOOK UP WITH ANOTHER WOMAN, FRANCES MCKINNEY WITH WHOM HE STILL LIVES IN OPEN ADULTERY". UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES JANE HAD TO RETURN TO HER FATHERS HOUSE WHERE SHE HAS LIVED FOR THE LAST 20 MONTHS "WITHOUT NOTICE BY THE HUSBAND". THIS WOULD BE GROUNDS FOR ABANDONMENT. BENJAMIN GAVE OVER ALL OF HIS PROPERTY TO THE 'OTHER WOMAN' TO AVOID THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS SUIT.

THE JUDGE WAS SO UPSET BY THE HAPPENING THAT INSTEAD OF GIVING JANE THE NORMAL 1/3 OF THE HUSBANDS INCOME. HE GAVE HER 1/2. THE ONLY PROPERTY THAT THE COURT COULD FIND WAS A SLAVE NAMED JANUARY.

IN JUNE 1818 BOTH HER BROTHER JESSE D. HAVIS AND HER FATHER JESSE HAVIS REPORTED TO THE COURT THAT "THE SCOUNDREL HAD DISPOSED OF ALL HIS PROPERTY AND HAD ABSENTED HIMSELF FROM THE AREA". SO SHE ENDS UP WITH NO SUPPORT AND IT APPEARS SHE HAD TO LIVE WITH HER PARENTS.

ON DECEMBER 14, 1826, TWO MONTHS AFTER JEPHTHA PICKETT'S WIFE NANCY BOULWARE DIES, JANE MARRIES JEPHTHA IN MADISON, COUNTY, GEORGIA.

JOHN PAGON MCKINNEY, NOW ABOUT 9 YEARS OLD, EVIDENTLY REMAINS IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY, S.C. WITH HIS GRANDFATHER JESSE HAVIS.

JESSE HAVIS PICKETT WAS BORN TO JANE AND JEPHTHA PICKETT ON APRIL 12, 1828. JANE DIED APRIL 20, 1828 AT 37 YEARS OF AGE IN STEWART COUNTY, GEORGIA FROM CHILDBIRTH COMPLICATIONS.