

DATA.069 INFORMATION ON LEONARD HILL, ORIGINALLY OF RHODE ISLAND BUT LATER OF SOUTH CAROLINA. (SPARTANBURG CO.).

This is only a small part of the history and genealogy of this Hill Family from Harriet Lapham and Leonard Hill through their daughter, Lucena Hill Kingsmore and Lucena's son, Edward Leonard Kingsmore to James Monroe Kingsmore. Many descendents live in Union County S.C; they are of English descent.

In the years of 1815 and 1816, there were great colonies emigrating from the New England States into the Southern States, principally cotton manufacturers. With this colony came LEONARD HILL and relatives. They came by boat down the coast from Providence, Rhode Island, to Charleston, S.C. They hired conveyances and started to explore what was then a wild and romantic country. They journeyed in covered wagons through the lower and middle belt (of S.C.) on into the Piedmont Section. They settled on the banks of the TYGER RIVER, with her rapid flowing stream and magnificent shoals. They put down stakes and started one of the first cotton mills in the South. At that time very little cotton was grown in the "Up Country" (areas of Chester, Union, York, Lancaster & Fairfield Counties S.C.) Soon that changed and plenty was grown as cotton became King.

LEONARD HILL, George Hill, William B. Sheldon and John Clark formed this plant, with Leonard Hill as Business manager. This was in 1816 or 1817. People from far and near came to see this first factory.

In 1820, William Sheldon retired, selling his interest in the Company. In 1825, George Hill sold his interest in the company and returned to Rhode Island. In 1830 John Clark sold his interest to Leonard Hill, who became the sole owner and conducted the business until his death in 1840. They also operated a big general store near HILL'S BRIDGE on the TYGER RIVER in Spartanburg County S.C.

On a hill near where the plant was, is the Hill Cemetery. Their home was nearby also. Leonard Hill and other members of the family are buried in the Hill Cemetery. It is enclosed with a high rock wall. The tombs are intact.

Leonard Hill was born on September 6, 1791 and died September 19th, 1840. He is buried in the Hill Cemetery.

Harriet Lapham Hill, wife of Leonard Hill and daughter of James & Jemima Lapham, was born July 21, 1794 and died December 27th, 1873. She is buried at Hill's Cemetery.

Lucena Hill Kingsmore, wife of Edward Harvey Kingsmore, and a daughter of Leonard & Harriet Lapham Hill, was born May 20th 1829 and died October 7th, 1853. She is buried at Hill's Cemetery.

There is no record of the birth or death of Edward Harvey Kingsmore, husband of Lucena Hill Kingsmore. He was married twice after the death of his first wife, Lucena Hill. Lucena and Edward had three children: Henry , Agnes and Edward Leonard Kingsmore. He is buried in Newberry, S.C.

James and Jemima Lapham, parents of Harriet Lapham Hill, are also buried at Hill's Cemetery. After the death of Leonard Hill, the mill was operated by his sons, James Hill, Albert Hill, Whipple Hill & Leonard Hill until 1866. They then sold the machinery to NESBITT & WRIGHT.

"Beneath the roots of tangled weeds, afar in country graveyards, lie the men whose unrecorded deeds, have stamped this nation's destiny."

--Mrs. Lillie K. Parks

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