

631 S. Echo Drive
Brandon, Fl. 33511
March 28, 1990

Mrs. Marcella H. Sharum
R.R. 2, Box 166
Springdale, ARK. 72764

Dear Mrs. Sharum,

Another find, but first a little background. Have you ever been to Charleston, S.C. and taken the tours around the city? A few years ago my wife and I did and we were guided to a house that was owned by a William Aiken.

It did not dawn on me at first just who he was but as the guide continued, I remembered he was the same man who loaned large sums of money to the land owners in and around Chester and Fairfield Counties, including my third great grandfather, Thomas Hill.

Now as I have already explained before, Thomas Hill's maternal grandparents were Thomas Roden and wife Mary Potts, who lived on the Sandy River, just across the border from extreme northwest corner of Fairfield County. (You will understand all this in a minute).

From my studying over several deeds over the years, William Aiken would loan money to large land and slave owners, often the sums of money was quite large for those times. Often they could not pay him back so he took the land and slaves and sold it all again. This is the equivalent of a (today's) mortgage with the land and slaves being used for collateral.

Now I have the documents and dates for the following but not in front of me but in the case of Thomas Hill, he had borrowed a very large sum of money from William Aiken, but his wife Jemima Woodward (for what ever the reason) never signed the deed. Thomas Hill died very suddenly between January and May of 1824 and after studying the deeds etc..it seems that his widow Jemima Woodward had thus retained her dowers rights.

I gather that because of this there was a lien (held by Aiken) on the property and thus Jemima could not exercise her rights to it. By the same token, I think her dowery rights prevented Aiken from having clear title or use of the property.

Later (dates I have but not in front of me) two deeds were executed by Jemima and Aiken on the very same exact date. First, Jemima signed her dowers rights away to Aiken, thus giving William Aiken a clear title to do what he wanted with

the land (600 acres). He immediately sold it back to her. This was the land where Thomas and Jemima lived, in Fairfield County, just south of the Chester County line and very close to Sandy River. (In other words, the Rodens and your Head Family lived very close together in Chester County, on Sandy River, while just south (in Fairfield County) Thomas Hill and his family lived, along with his parents.

The interesting thing about this deed was that Jemima's widowed mother in law (Savilla (Roden) Hill witnessed the whole transaction along with her brother, John Woodward, who was a lawyer and later a judge.

Now I was browsing over the deeds and noticed just ahead of this deed for Thomas Hill was the tail end of another deed, apparently between Aiken and a John Bostick. The two witnesses were HENRY HEAD and a Brown Tims. At the bottom of the deed was Quote:

"South Carolina, Chester District,
HENRY HEAD appeared and made oath that he saw John Bostick sign, seal and deliver the foregoing of conveyance for the uses and purposes therein mentioned and that he with Brown Tims in the presence of each other witnessed the due situation thereof, Sworn to and signed May 12th, 1819.

signed/ HENRY HEAD

Before me J. Rosborough, Justice of Quoram"
END OF QUOTE.

After noticing this, I looked down below the deed between my Thomas Hill and William Aiken and lo and behold there was the beginning of a deed between Aiken and HENRY HEAD. It is only the beginning of the deed and thus not complete but this is what I can see:

Quote: No. 699

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

To all whom these Present may concern, I HENRY HEAD of Chester District, in the state aforesaid, send Greeting: Whereas I the said said Henry Head in and by my certain bond or obligation bearing date the twenty seventh day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nineteen (1819), do stand firmly held and bound unto WILLIAM AIKEN, of Charleston, in the said state, merchant, in the penal sum of Eleven Thousand, Two Hundred and Five Dollars and Twenty Two Cents, conditioned for the payment of the full and just sum of Five Thousand, Six Hundred and Two Dollars and Sixty One Cents, as in and by the said bond and condition thereof reference being there unto had, will more fully appear, NOW KNOW ALL MEN, that I the said HENRY HEAD in connotation (sic) of the said debt and sum of money aforesaid, and for the better securing the payment thereof, to the said WILLIAM

AIKEN, according to the condition of the said bond; and also, in consideration of the further sum of Three Dollars to me the said HENRY HEAD in hand, well and truly paid by the said WILLIAM AIKEN at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged by me the said HENRY HEAD, have granted, bargained, sold and released, and by these presents, do grant, bargain and sell and release unto the said WILLIAM AIKEN, all that plantation or tract of land containing (350) Three Hundred and Fifty acres, or thereabouts, it being the place on which I now reside, situate at the head branch of little Sandy River, in Chester District aforesaid, bounded on the east by land of JAMES HEAD, one the south by lands of E. (Ephiram??) Butler, on the west by lands of GEORGE HEAD & E. Butler (or Buttom?) and on the north by lands of James Coats, ALSO, all that other plantation or tract of land, containing Fifty (50) acres, in the District of Chester, situated on the branches of Little Sandy River, adjoining upon the north to lands of Archibald Wilson, upon the south to lands of Gideon Whitehead....(NOTE at this point something has been scratched over and a line written above...."the west?? to lands of William Young??? & Thomas Reonorse??? and upon the east to lands of Gideon Whitehead, ALSO four Negroes of the following description, TO WIT: one Negro man named Prince about Twenty Eight (28) years of age-one Negro boy named Baron, about fourteen (14) years of age, one Negro woman named Sarah, about (25) twenty five years of age, with her male child about one years old, together with the increase of the family-TOGETHER with all and singular, the Rights, Members, Herditaments and Appurtenances to the said Premises belonging or in any way appertaining ----(The document ends here).
END OF QUOTE

I gather from the above that Henry Head did not or could not pay his debt to Aiken so Aiken (in a gentlemen's type agreement with Head) took the land and slaves...(today it would be similar to a foreclosure).

Now since this information was ordered and obtained by me (through the mail) from the S.C. Archives Department, I thought you may want to try and get it. It is stamped on the back of the papers as being located in "Chester County Deeds, Book S, Pages 548-549." Now remember this was for Thomas Hill's deeds, your would be the one after that, beginning on page 549 and going until???

Perhaps this will be of interest to you.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Hill