

# Finley (Finlay) Holmes ♂

Born: 1765 County Down, Ireland (in the Ulster-Scots region of Ireland)

Died: 1815 Columbia, SC or on his plantation, Fairfield SC - before June 17

Arrived in America about 1785



View old map of County Down in northeast Ireland

Just after the American Revolution, this first Finley Holmes came to America. His cousin, [William Holmes](#), traveled with him. Both were young men, and they landed at the port of [Charleston, South Carolina](#). The first map of the city of Columbia, S.C. that shows the names of the original purchasers of land in Columbia — several blocks (8) were held by Finley Holmes. These lots were sold in a sale held in Charleston, September 26-27 in 1786 and in Columbia on November 10, 1786. See more information on this map dotted [ • ] list towards the bottom of this page.

About 1790, Finley married a girl named Jenny Downes [Downs]. Jenny was attending a boarding school in Columbia, South Carolina at the time. Finley and Jenny made their home in Columbia. Records show that at his death (or shortly before) he owned a house in Columbia.

In Columbia (or near Columbia), there were born six children. Finley amassed considerable wealth before his death near Columbia in 1815. He owned land in Columbia (then called the Richland District) and in what is now known as Fairfield County S. C.

Finley died at his plantation (southwest of [Winnsboro in Fairfield County SC](#)) about 25 miles (north) out of Columbia, SC and is buried there or in Columbia. Records and the grave site were destroyed during the Civil War. The exact location of the homesite is unknown, however, a map of Fairfield County surveyed in 1820 shows the "[Holmes Store](#)" located on the old highway north out of Columbia at Neckley's Creek (GPS: 34° 16' 49.0"N 81° 15' 12.9"W or 34° 16' 01.5"N 81° 14' 58.4"W) - near the Little River. Since this map was published, the road to Columbia [SC state road 215] has been rerouted to the west with the rerouting starting about 1½ miles south of Jenkinsville to 3 miles north of Jenkinsville. The old portion of the road [east of SC 215] where the Holmes' Store was located is now named St. Barnabus [Church] Road (or State Road S-20-247 on some maps). Presumably the Holmes' landholdings might be located near the Holmes' Store. Records show that he may have disposed of some or all of the lands in Fairfield County before his death.

To the north of Finley's (speculated) land holdings is a Presbyterian church, the [Ebenezer A. R. P. Church \(now called the Old Brick Church\)](#) (GPS: N34°19'10.04" W81° 15'39.62"), that was providing services at the time Finley lived in Fairfield County. He well may have attended this church that is a mile and a half up stream from the Holmes' Store near the Little River in Fairfield County ([look for the Ebenezer M.H. \[Meeting House\] on map](#)).

Records show that Finley had purchased or sold some land on the [Terrible Creek](#) [or Tirrible Creek](approximate GPS: N34°22'36.70" W81°22'29.56"), northwest of the Holmes'

store location ([see map](#)). The Terrible Creek feeds into the Broad River. <sup>1</sup>

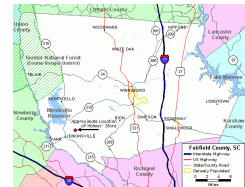
## Locator Maps of Finley's possible farm landholdings in Fairfield County, South Carolina



Fairfield County  
1820 Map -- [Open in new window](#)  
- Or -  
Copy from Library of Congress  
Click, then click again on map



Fairfield County 1820  
West Area Closeup of  
Land Along the  
Terrible Creek and  
the Holmes' Store  
[Open in new window](#)



Fairfield County  
2000 Map  
[Open in new window](#)



County Map of SC  
[Open in new window](#)

### Satellite Maps of Holmes' Store

### Geological Survey Maps of the Area



State of South Carolina  
[Open in new window](#)

## Finley's Family

Spouse: Jane (Jenny) Downs [Downes] Holmes

Children: James Holmes, William Holmes, Mary Catherine Holmes Bryan,

>> **Finley Holmes Jr**, Robert Holmes, William Thomas Holmes

## Finley's Heritage

Parents: James Holmes

Siblings: unknown

- **First Map of the City of Columbia, S.C. - 1786** - Shows Finley Holmes as original purchaser of land
- **1810 Census** Richland County SC - line 17 "Holmes Finlay" showing six males, three females and four slaves in his household
- **Finley Holmes Cited in SC Supreme Court Case** - 1813
- **Finley Holmes Inventory and Estate Holdings After His Death** - Richland District SC - 1815 - [see note](#)
- **Probate Records** - Administration Papers, Petition Papers, Miscelanous Papers - Richland District SC - 1815, 1816
- **Genealogy in Part, of the Anderson-Owen-Beall Families** - 1909 on the history of Finley Holmes
- **Family Record by Mrs. Emma Holmes Austin - 1926** (daughter of A. C. Holmes) from Anita W. Pawley
- **Letter to James E. Holmes** - From Mrs. F. H. Fant (wife of Frank Holmes Fant) - 1973
- **Finley Holmes** in the THE HOLMES FAMILY LINE section of Irene Beasley's *AS I REMEMBER THEM* -

<sup>1</sup> Reference note for plats of Terrible Creek purchase 1810, 1814 and 1816

Leads on information to the Holmes' line in Ireland

