

GENEALOGICAL SKETCH OF THE DESCENDANTS OF HENRY AND
ELIZABETH NEELY, OF LANCASTER, CHESTER, AND YORK COUNTIES, SC.

by

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Henry and Elizabeth Neely were a part of the great 18th-century Scotch-Irish movement from Northern Ireland to Pennsylvania and then to North and South Carolina. Since Henry Neely did not receive Royal land grants for all the acreage he came to own, it would appear that he possessed sufficient money to purchase the land that he desired. This circumstance is so unusual that it calls for mention here. Most of the immigrants to the Carolina Piedmont were lacking in the funds with which to buy land; and, consequently, these pioneer settlers were wont to petition the King of England for land grants - and these were usually forthcoming, following a stated time for ripening of the grant. Henry Neely, it seems, was an immigrant of more than the usual wealth.

He and Elizabeth, his wife, settled on lands that were thought to be in North Carolina (Anson County, then Mecklenburg). Later the area was found to be in the Province of South Carolina. We know the section today as the Bethesda section, located about 10 to 12 miles southwest of the city of Rock Hill.

The Neelys first came (about 1755) to the Waxhaws region, a large part of which is known today as Lancaster County, South Carolina. Then they crossed the Catawba River, going west and south, and moved to the Bethesda section of York County. One of the major creeks of York County - Neely's Creek - was named for Henry Neely, according to the word of the eminent 19th-century historian of Upper South Carolina, the Rev. Robert Lathan, D.D. Also, Henry Neely is recorded as the first ruling elder of Bethesda Presbyterian Church, organized in 1769. There had been worship services for the people in the Bethesda neighborhood since the late 1750's, but the formal organization of the Church was not effected until 1769.

Henry and Elizabeth Neely lived until after 1778. Their names were mentioned in the last will and testament of their son William Neely in that year. They were buried in the cemetery at the original site of Bethesda Church, about one mile to the east of the present church building. Henry's tombstone did not survive the ravages of time, but the marker for his wife and the one for his son and daughter-in-law

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(William and Mary [Miller] Neely) have survived even until today. These stones were moved several years ago to the present Bethesda Cemetery, and an explanatory stone was erected nearby for the instruction of future generations.

Because Henry and Elizabeth Neely left no estate records owing to the unsettled condition of the area during the American Revolution, there exists no early list of their eight children. The list as given herein was assembled by using many sources. (In this sketch, the names of these children are designated with Roman numerals.)

By a most remarkable coincidence, this same list of names appeared in a query published some time ago in the Chester District Genealogical Society Bulletin. The inquiry was sent in by Mrs. Maud Ann Paulus, of Houston, Texas. Since Mrs. Paulus and I had never exchanged information, the latter wondered where Mrs. Paulus obtained her list. Herewith is Mrs. Paulus' reply, dated November 30, 1990:

My list of the Neely siblings of Samuel Neely (1726-1803), shown in CDGS Bulletin query, did not come from any one person -- but from research in our Clayton Genealogical Library in Houston, Rock Hill Library, Chester County Courthouse and Library--plus "Early Records of Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church" by Brent H. Holcomb & Elmer O. Parker, henceforth referred to as FCPC for brevity.

John Neely - b. 1722, d. 1783, buried in FCPC Cemetery. Since our Samuel Neely was born 1726, and buried in FCPC, John was in the right time and place.

Thomas Neely - had a land grant of 300A in 1753 in York County on Stony Creek, branch of Fishing Creek, and 250A in 1764 in Chester County, adjoining Samuel Neely's land grant. (Shown on "Map of Early Land Surveys in the Vicinity of White's Mill and Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church," published in Chester District Genealogical Society, Vol. IV, June, 1981, #2).

Robert Neely - had a land grant of 96 1/4 A in York County in 1774 (Robert Neely, a husband of Margaret White was only 6 years old). His land is a few miles above Samuel Neely's 400A in Chester County and Thomas Neely's grant of 1764.

William Neely - land grant in 1758 of 400A, asking for land "adjoining my brother Samuel." Cannot find this deed, but the plat is shown on the map.

Margaret (Neely) McCance - wife of Samuel McCance. Both are buried in FCPC Cemetery, page 154. Margaret shown "alias Neely," died January 1772, aged 36 years. Samuel died November 1792, aged 54 years. This makes both of them born in 1736, making both of these born about the time of our Samuel.

James Neely - his will dated 1793 does not mention Samuel Neely, just wife Martha, sons George, Thomas and Isaac. On page 136 of FCPC in the home visits of Rev. John Simpson, February 1776, are listed James and Martha Neely, with George, Margaret, Thomas and Isaac. Again, right time and place.

After reading Mrs. Paulus' reply, I was confident enough of my own list to send this article to be published in the Bulletin. (Mrs. Paulus omitted from her list the name of Henry and Elizabeth's youngest daughter, Jane Neely, who married Capt. John Anderson, of Bethesda. With this exception, the two lists are identical, and, it must be emphasized, were arrived at by two different researchers working independently of each other).

To the best of my knowledge, the list of Henry and Elizabeth Neely's children as given herein is being published for the first time. Additions and corrections are coveted, and may be sent to me at 1273 Marydale Lane, Rock Hill, SC 29732.

A word of gratitude is spoken here to Mrs. Maud Ann Paulus for her generosity in sharing the fruits of her many years of genealogical research.

Henry Neely was born c. 1690-95 either in Scotland or in Northern Ireland. Elizabeth, his wife, was born in 1695 either in Scotland or in Northern Ireland. She died in York County, South Carolina, in 1785, her husband having already died. Issue:

I. John Neely. Born 1722. Died October 11, 1783. Buried at Fishing Creek Presbyterian Churchyard, Chester County, SC. Married Elizabeth_____. Born 1741. Died May 4, 1774. Issue:

- A. Thomas Neely. Born 1763. Died September 17, 1793.
- B. Samuel Neely. Born c 1766. Married Mary_____.
- C. Charles Neely. Born November 9, 1775. Died November

23, 1832. Married (1) Eleanor_____. Born 1777.
Died September 25, 1804. Issue:

1. Nancy Neely. Born c. 1800. Married John Drennan.
2. John Neely. Born April 21, 1802. Died 1845. One source states that John Neely was born on June 28, 1801, and died on November 9, 1845. Married Mary C. _____. A second source says that John Neely married (1) Mary Crow, and (2) Mary Clarissa Hunt. Another source says that John Neely married Mary Cooper Hartness. Born September 2, 1815. Died July 28, 1853. She was the daughter of John Smith Hartness (1784-1840) by his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of John Cooper (c. 1755-1804) and Elizabeth Walker (1765-c.1804), daughter of Lt. Robert Walker, son of Alexander Walker and Esther _____ (not to be confused with Esther Gaston, who married another Alexander Walker). Issue of John Neely and Mary C. _____.

- a. Elizabeth Eleanor Neely. Born July 16, 1834. Died October 14, 1838.
- b. John Murphy Neely. Born December 13, 1837. Died May 19, 1839.
- c. Alexander P. W. Neely. Born December 17, 1839. Died June 22, 1862.
- d. Hyder Ali Davie Neely. Born January 13, 1843. Died April 29, 1909. Married Martha Mae Neely, daughter of Samuel and Mary Melissa (White) Neely. Martha Mae Neely was born August 6, 1851. Died July 2, 1928. Buried at Rose Hill Cemetery, York, S.C. (See below).

3. Jane S. Neely. Born July 29, 1806. Died October 9, 1879.

4. Thomas Jackson Walker Neely. Born September 24, 1814. Died December 20, 1853. These last two children of Charles Neely were born to his second wife. Mary _____. Born 1785. Died March 8, 1843. Charles and Mary Neely were married c. 1805.

Also, Mary C. Neely, widow of John Neely (See above), married (2) Jeremiah Howell. Born 1828. "Jerry" Howell moved to Mecklenburg County, N.C., after the death of his wife. He served in the Confederate Army.

II. Thomas Neely, Born c. 1724. Died before February 3, 1774, without wife or issue. He received a Crown grant of land in Anson County, N.C., on the west side of Fishing Creek, on September 24, 1754. At the death of Thomas Neely, the grant then passed to his elder brother, John Neely (see above).

III. Samuel Neely. Born 1726. Died September 9, 1803. One of the first ruling elders of Upper Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church, Chester County, S.C. Married c. 1751 to Sarah Ferguson. Born 1731. Died December 28, 1806. She was a sister of Elizabeth Ferguson who married Peter Culp. Issue:

- A. Thomas Neely. Born August 3, 1752. Died November 17, 1815. Married c. 1772 to Prudence Latta, daughter of John Latta (1727-January 9, 1795) and Elizabeth _____ (c. 1730-after 1775). Prudence (Latta) Neely was born c. 1751 and died in 1832. Issue:
1. Thomas Neely, Jr. Born c. 1778. Married Mary (Polly) Jordan, daughter of Henry and Frances (Rives) Jordan of Chester District, S.C. Thomas Neely was known as "Thomas Neely, Jr." Polly (Jordan) Neely was born c. 1780.
 2. Samuel Neely. Born c. 1780. Married Mary _____.
 3. John Neely (known as "Capt." or "Major" Neely). Born 6-30-1782. Died 1832. Married Rachel Dunlap, daughter of George Dunlap and Nancy (Craighead) Richardson Dunlap. Born c. 1785. They were married in 1806. Issue:
 - a. George Harvey Neely. Born September 5, 1807. Died November 13, 1890. Married on October 28, 1832, to Margaret Rose Moore Chambers. Born c. 1815.
 - b. Prudence Selena Neely. Born 1809. Died 1841. Married Major Robert Gill Mills, of Chester District, S.C. Born 1786. Died 1842.
 - c. Thomas Amzi Neely. Born c. 1812. Died c. 1864.
 - d. James Alonzo Neely. Born c. 1816.
 - e. John Leroy Neely. Born c. 1820.
 - f. David Dunlap Neely. Born c. 1822.
 - g. Agnes Jane Neely. Born c. 1827.
 4. Mary Neely. Born c. 1785. Married Thomas McFadden.
 5. Sarah Neely. Born c. 1788. Married John McFadden.
 6. Elizabeth Neely. Born c. 1790. Married Andrew Bradford. Issue:
 - a. Andrew James Bradford. Born and baptized in 1817.
 7. William Neely. Born May 7, 1792. Died February

11, 1852. Married October 1, 1816, by Rev. John B. Davies, to Eliza Gaston, daughter of Joseph Gaston (1763-1836) and Jane Brown (d. June 20, 1858). Eliza (Gaston) Neely was born September 20, 1794. Died June 7, 1845. Issue:

- a. John Newton Neely. Born August 18, 1817. Died November 8, 1894. Married on December 5, 1844, to Mary E. Crawford.
 - b. Thomas Latta Neely. Born December 20, 1818. Died January 18, 1846. Married on May 9, 1844, to Jane Gray.
 - c. Jane Clementine Neely. Born February 10, 1821. Died November 18, 1870. Married (1) August 5, 1851, to John Goude-lock. Married (2) August 16, 1859, to Matthew S. Lynn.
 - d. Esther Atwood Neely. Born March 7, 1823. Died February 2, 1901. Married March 11, 1847, to James Ferguson Wherry.
 - e. Prudence Paulina Neely. Born February 20, 1825. Died December 14, 1905.
 - f. Mary Narcissa Neely. Born January 16, 1828. Died April 4, 1857. Married November 6, 1855, to Robert Davidson.
 - g. Martha Eliza Neely. Born February 14, 1830. Died May 16, 1860. Married January 24, 1853, to John Leroy Neely.
 - h. Sarah Elizabeth Neely. Born January 10, 1832. Died April 9, 1910. Married October 22, 1878, to David Hood.
 - i. Margaret Ann Neely. Born March 13, 1837. Died June 21, 1913. Married March 14, 1861, to Hugh Wilson. After his death, she married (2) John Steele.
 - j. James Hall Gaston Neely. Born April 25, 1839. Died April 23, 1862. Married on September 12, 1857, to _____.
- B. Samuel Neely, Jr. Born 1753. Died September 19, 1769. Buried at Fishing Creek Churchyard.
- C. William Neely. Born c. 1755. Died after 1797. He was a blacksmith. Married _____. Issue.
- D. Mary Neely. Born July, 1756. Died September 9, 1779. Married Joseph Brown. Issue:
1. Sarah Brown.
- E. Margaret Neely. Born c. 1758. Died August 30, 1842. Buried in Maury County, Tennessee. Married on January 1, 1782, to John Latta, Jr., son of John Latta (1727-1795) and Elizabeth. Born c. 1756. Died January 19, 1819, in Tennessee. Issue:

1. Samuel Latta.
 2. William Latta.
 3. Sara Latta.
 4. Alexander Latta.
 5. Jane Latta.
- F. Elizabeth Neely. Born July 17, 1760. Died April 5, 1808. Married John Chambers. Born December 15, 1749. Died September 9, 1824. Issue, if any, unknown.
- G. Martha Neely. Born November 23, 1765. Died February 18, 1847. Buried at Springhill Cemetery, Nashville, Tennessee. Married c. 1788 to Thomas Latta, son of John Latta (1727-1795) and Elizabeth. Born in Ireland on November 4, 1763. Died November 14, 1807. Issue:
1. John Latta. Born February 23, 1790. Married on January 24, 1815, to Jane Starr, daughter of John Starr and Martha Moore. Jane Starr was born September 17, 1793. Died July 20, 1854. John Latta died at Fort Smith, Arkansas, on October 2, 1861. Issue:
 - a. (Son). Born December 3, 1815. Died the same day.
 - b. Thomas Starr Latta. Born December 6, 1816. Died April 5, 1842.
 - c. Margaret (Peggy) Ann Latta. Born February 19, 1818. Married to Eli Kelly on September 19, 1839.
 - d. Samuel Neely Latta. Born December 20, 1819. Married to Tennessee Gray on November 26, 1844.
 - e. John Stewart Latta. Born November 4, 1821. Married to Mary J. Shannon on November 2, 1848.
 - f. William Ramsey Latta. Born May 26, 1823. Married to Anna Janes on November 20, 1851.
 - g. Robert Hall Latta. Born February 20, 1825.
 - h. James Eudorus Latta. Born January 9, 1827. Married to Hattie A. Sheldon on June 15, 1858.
 - i. Andrew Jackson Latta. Born May 7, 1829.
 - j. Eli Chambers Latta. Born April 8, 1831.
 - k. Martha Jane Latta. Born August 10, 1833.
 - l. Francis Marion Latta. Born March 11, 1836.
 - m. Sara E. Latta. Born January 6, 1839. Married to James Mitchell on January 31, 1860. Issue:
 1. Samuel Latta.
 2. Sarah Latta.

3. Elizabeth Latta.

- H. Robert Neely. Born 1768. Died 1811. Married Margaret White, daughter of Hugh White, the renowned miller of Fishing Creek (before, during and after the American Revolution) and his wife, Elizabeth. Issue:
1. Simpson Neely. Baptized on August 11, 1799. Died 1886.
 2. Thomas McCullough Neely. Baptized November 15, 1801. Died 1854.
 3. Hugh Neely. Born 1792. Died 1821.
 4. Samuel Ferguson Neely. Born 1794. Died 1815.
 5. Mary Neely. Born 1796. Died 1845. Married (1) _____ Whitesides, (2) _____ Higgins.
 6. James Neely. Born 1804.
 7. William Neely. Born 1806. Died 1831.
- I. James Neely. Born 1770. Died October 26, 1804. Married Jane Simpson, daughter of Rev. John Simpson, first pastor of Upper Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church, Chester District, S.C. She was born October 8, 1775. Died October 6, 1858. Issue:
1. John Simpson Neely. Born September 28, 1800. Died March 16, 1838. Married to Mary Strait Wherry. Born March 17, 1802. Died October 27, 1855.
- IV. William Neely. Born c. 1727. Died December 8, 1778. His will is recorded in old Camden District, S.C.; these papers are today housed at the Kershaw County, S.C., Courthouse, Camden. Married (1) Margaret _____, who died after 1770. Married (2) Mary Miller. Born 1742. Died October 16, 1815. She and William Neely were buried in the cemetery at the original site of Bethesda Presbyterian Church (about one mile to the east of the present church site). The marker for William and Mary Neely has survived the passage of time and has now been moved to the present Bethesda Churchyard. Issue by the first wife:
- A. Jane (Jean) Neely. Died before October 10, 1778.
 - B. Elizabeth Neely. Died after 1778.
 - C. Mary Neely. Died after 1778.
 - D. Isaac Neely. Died before October 10, 1778.
 - E. William Neely, Jr. Born 1770. Died February 8, 1842.
 - F. Samuel Neely. Born c. 1773. Married Margaret Murphy.

Issue by the second wife, a sister of James Miller of 96 District:

- G. Catherine Neely. Born c. 1777.
- V. James Neely. Born c. 1729. Died 1792. Received a Royal grant of land in what is now South Carolina on November 26, 1754. Married Martha _____. Issue:
 - A. George Neely. Born c. 1752. He served as a captain in the American forces during the Revolution.
 - B. Agnes Neely. Born c. 1754. Married (1) _____ Horton, (2) _____ Coland.
 - C. Thomas Neely. Born c. 1756. Married Mary _____.
 - D. Jane Neely. Born c. 1758. Married _____ Lee.
 - E. Isaac Neely. Born c. 1760.
 - F. Elizabeth Neely. Born c. 1763. Married John Morrison.
 - G. Margaret Neely. Born c. 1765. Died before 1792.
- VI. Robert Neely. Born c. 1730. Died 1804. Married (1) _____. Born c. 1730. Died after 1754. Issue:
 - A. David Neely, Sr. Born c. 1750. Died 1835. Married Agnes (Nancy) _____. Issue:
 - 1. David Neely, Jr. Born c. 1775.
 - B. Matthew Neely. Born c. 1752. Married Mary ("May") White, sister of Hugh White, the miller of Fishing Creek. She was born c. 1752. Issue:
 - 1. Jane Neely. Born 1775. Married Joshua Sturgis, son of Daniel Sturgis and Jean (Bratton) Sturgis, of York Co., S.C. Joshua Sturgis was born in 1761. There are many descendants of Jane and Joshua Sturgis.
 - 2. Hugh Neely. Born c. 1777. Married Mary _____.
 - 3. Nathan Neely.
 - 4. William Neely.
 - 5. (Daughter, name unknown).
 - C. Samuel Neely. Married _____. Issue:
 - 1. Thomas Neely.

After the death of his first wife, Robert Neely, married (2) Sarah _____. Died after 1804. Issue:

1. William Neely.
 2. David Neely.
 3. Thomas Neely.
- E. Andrew Neely. Born c. 1772. Married Agness
- F. . Born c. 1774. Married .
- G. John Neely. Born c. 1776. Married (1) Mary .
 . Married (2) Elizabeth . In
 Maury Co., Tenn., in 1813.
- H. Robert Neely. He was known as "Little Robert."
 Born February 14, 1782. Died April 22, 1847.
 Married Martha . Born August 25, 1787.
 Died September 13, 1861. Both husband and wife
 are buried at Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church-
 yard. Issue:
1. John Ferguson Neely. Married Jane .
 2. William Henry Neely. Born May 16, 1810. Died
 October 3, 1823.
 3. Samuel Neely. Born August 17, 1815. Died
 January 4, 1866. Married Mary Melissa White,
 daughter of Peter and Martha Randall (Rives)
 White, of the Tinker's Creek section of
 Chester District, S.C. Born April 24, 1830.
 Died September 19, 1904. Issue:
 - a. Martha Mae Neely. Born August 6, 1851.
 Married Hyder Ali Davie Neely. (See
 above). Issue:
 - (1) John Alexander Neely. Married
 Elizabeth (Bessie) Kee.
 - (2) Eleanor Jeanette Neely. Born
 November 7, 1875. Died unmarried on
 March 18, 1921. Renowned teacher in
 the public schools at York, S.C.
 Buried at Rose Hill Cemetery, York.
 - (3) Edith Neel. Born February 12, 1883.
 Died November 18, 1896.
 - (4) Hyder Arthur Davie Neely. Born
 October 14, 1894. Married Mary
 Barnwell.
 - b. John G. R. Neely. Born c. 1853. Married
 Mary McFadden. Born August 30, 1852.
 Died June 7, 1898. Daughter of James
 McCalla and Amelia Eleanor (Crawford)
 McFadden.
 - c. William Robert Neely. Born September
 23, 1856. Died February 5, 1921.
 Married (1) Margaret Agnew. Born
 October 3, 1857. Died June 25, 1887.

Issue:

- (1) Samuel Clarence Neely. Born October 16, 1882. Died October 12, 1894.
- (2) Margaret Gill Neely. Born September 29, 1887. Died March 17, 1951. Married Addison Alexander McKeown. Born April 13, 1887. Died December 10, 1938. Both buried at Laurelwood Cemetery, Rock Hill, S.C. Issue:
 - (a) Susan Norwood McKeown. Formerly a member of the faculty of Winthrop College, Rock Hill. Now a resident of Sharon Towers, Charlotte, N.C.

William Robert Neely married (2) Susan S. Drennan. Born February 28, 1854. Died without issue on March 14, 1924. Buried at Fishing Creek Churchyard.

- d. (Infant son). Born November 13, 1849. Died December 25, 1849.
- e. Samuel Marion Neely. Born 1859. Died 1906. Buried at Fishing Creek Churchyard.
- f. Susan Jane Neel. Born October 20, 1862. Died October 19, 1937. Married John Harvey Drennan, who was born April 23, 1871, and died August 28, 1934. Buried at Laurelwood Cemetery, Rock Hill, S. C. Issue:
 - g. J. F. H. Neely. Born August 12, 1864. Died September 10, 1875.
4. Robert H. Neely. Born March 10, 1818. Died without issue on November 27, 1890. Married Nancy Elizabeth Erwin, daughter of Francis James and Letitia J. (Smith) Erwin. Born c. 1837. Died January 9, 1904. Buried in Bethesda Presbyterian Churchyard, York County, S.C.
5. Elias M. Neely. Born December 9, 1821. Died January 6, 1888.
6. Matthew James Neely. Born January 24, 1824. Died March 22, 1847.
7. Minerva A. Neely. Born c. 1827. Living unmarried in 1870.

VII. Margaret Neely. Born 1736. Died 1772. Married Samuel McCants (McCance). Born c. 1735. Died 1792. If there were children of this marriage, their names

are unknown to this writer.

- VIII. Jane Neely. Born 1742. Died 1816. Married Capt. John Anderson, son of William and Rebecca (Denny) Anderson, of Spartanburg District, S.C. Born 1737. Died 1814. Buried at Bethesda Presbyterian Churchyard, York County, S.C. Issue:
- A. Rebecca Anderson. Born c. 1761. Died after 1814. Married in 1782 to Capt. Joseph Steele. Born 1760. Died 1795. Issue.
 - B. Nancy Anderson. Born c. 1764. Died after 1814. Married _____ Lewis. Issue, if any, unknown.
 - C. William Henry Anderson. Born 1767. Died without issue in 1843. He was named for his father's father and his mother's father.
 - D. Elizabeth Anderson. Born 1768. Died 1856. Married William Wherry. Born 1771. Died 1850. Issue.
 - E. Sarah Anderson. Born 1775. Died 1856. Married Dr. Thomas Stewart Starr. Born c. 1770. Died 1806.
 - F. Samuel Anderson. Born c. 1780. Died after 1814.
 - G. John Anderson, Jr. Born 1785. Died 1845. Married in 1820 to Elizabeth Neagle. Born c. 1800. Died 1829. Issue.

(For a detailed account of the descendants of Capt. John Anderson and Jane (Neely) Anderson, please see Genealogy of Revolutionary Soldier of York County, South Carolina: Capt. John Anderson, 1969, by this writer.)

Please Note Carefully: The writer readily admits that his list of descendants of "I. John Neely (1722-1783)" and of "VI. Robert Neely (c. 1730-1804)" is based on slim evidence. Records for these two early families are almost nonexistent. In one or two instances, names were placed in these two families as the result of what might be charitably called educated guesses.

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