

<b>Husband:</b>	<b>Victor Neeley</b>
Born:	Abt. 1710
in:	Ireland
Source:	Fairfield County, SC Museum
in:	Fairfield County, South Carolina
<b>Address and Phone(s)</b>	

**Medical****Notes**

"THE NEELEY - NEELY FAMILY"

*The present day Neeley Family is one which has a very colorful and rich history. It has been said that "One can not understand his present if he does not know his past." The Neeley Family most certainly has a past. William Shakespeare said, "we are of the blood of our fathers and every drop of blood within us betray them." You as a Neeley are what you are today because of your Fath even one thousand years ago. You betray them even today. Note: some branches of the family use the spelling NEELY.*

*My wife is a Neeley and this work is to her and her family. They are all without exception beautiful people and I am very proud to be a part of their family through marriage. My own children will help to carry on into the future that*

*which was started thousands of years ago by the Neeley Progenitors. To you as Neeleys, I say "BE PROUD OF YOUR FAMILY AND OF YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY.*

*The lineage from Adam to Milesius, King of Spain, is traced in O'Harts Irish Pedigrees, Vol. 1, page 44. I have a copy of this work in my files; however, it is very complicated and hard to follow. Therefore, I will only summarize the work from Milius, King of Spain.*

*From Milius, King of Spain, Rooney in his "Genealogy of Irish Families," page 414 continues the lineage thus: -- "The Neale or Neeley Family is descended from Milesius, King of Spain, through the line of his son, Heremon. The founder of the family was Eogan, ancestor of the Northern Hy Nials and the son of Nial of the Nine Hostages, King of Ireland, A.D. 379. The ancient name- was Nial and signifies "Champion." The possessions of the Zept were located in the present county of Tyrone.*

*The earliest coat of arms is depicted in Burk's General Armory, "Argent a sinister hand couped at wrist affrontie gu. Motto "Monu et corde pro patria." O'Hart in his Irish Pedigrees, page 708 gives the same description.*

*The symbol emblazoned on the arms reminded the Neelys of an event which occurred in the coming of their ancestors to Ireland as described by Rooney in the introduction of his Genealogical History of Irish Families. "The Armored sign of the O'Neills, for instance - The Red Hand - dates from the landing of the Melesians in Ireland, centuries before the Christian Era. According to tradition, as the expedition was nearing the Irish Shore, it was announced that the person who first touched the land should be Lord of the Territory. Nial, one of the ancestors of Hy Nial, of the O'Neill line, who was in one of the boats, fearing a rival would land first, seized a hatchet, cut off his left hand and flung it ashore, thus first "Touching" and securing the territory. Hence the Red Hand, sinister gules, with Monograph O, has always been the armorial sign of the Province of Ulster --- The Land of The O'Neills.*

*O'Hart in the introduction of his Irish Pedigrees gives the same derivation of the armorial symbol, and reminds the readers "The Antiquity of Irish Heraldry" antedates that of any other people, ancient or modern --- and perhaps the oldest and most renowned of all Irish Armorial symbols is the Red Hand of Ulster. It dates from the landings of*

Victor Neeley - Notes

*the Milesius.*

*The war cry of the O'Neills became: "Lamb Dearg Eirin Abu" --- "The Red Hand of Eirin Forever." (O'Harts Irish Pedigrees, page 730). The descent of the Ulster O'Neille continues in O'Harts Irish Pedigrees Vol. L, page 727 -- - "Art O'Neill son of Henry hereditary Prince of Ulster, Born 1687; made the O'Neill on May eve 1709 at Aileach; married Kate O'Toole, daughter of Garrett O'Toole of Power's Court, County Wicklow and had by her Nial I, Thomas who emigrated to America. Francis who married a Miss Bellsang, Lawrence who married a Miss Cullina, Nuala who died in infancy, Rose who married James Talbot, Ada who married Mr. Talbot, Mer who married Henry O'Caham, Joan who married Felim MacCarthy.*

*In the same Vol., page 858, O'Hart says "The name O'Neill has been modernized Neele, Nealy, Neely, Niel.*

#### NEELEY - NEELY IMIGRANTS

*Thomas emigrated to "America" in the influx of Irish Settlers from Ulster, Ireland to Pennsylvania shortly before 1739 (Ref. Joseph Hart of York County, South Carolina). His children were: Thomas Neely, Married Hanna Starr and went to York Co., S.C. Samuel Neely, Married Jean (Mary Neely, Married John McGaghey Jackson Neely, lived in Mecklenberg Co., N.C. Matthew Neely (Neeley)*

*There was also a Victor Neeley who migrated to Pennsylvania during this same time period. It is very likely (but not proven) that Victor and Thomas Neely were brothers. They both, however, were from Ireland and arrived in Pennsylvania in the same time period. Victor Neeley (Also spelled NALEY) was born in Ireland and arrived in America at the Port of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on the ship "The Pennsylvania Farmer" with his wife Martha.*

*There was also a Richard Neeley who arrived with Victor Neeley (Ref. Neeley Family File, Fairfield County, S.C. Archives by Cynthia Neeley). In reviewing my notes and all of my given facts, I believe that this Richard Neeley is the grandfather of our VICTOR NEELEY who was born in 1792 in Fairfield County, S.C. Victor Neeley (The imigrant) was a Sabbatarian Baptist Minister who brought his entire congregation from Connecocheaque and French Creek, Pennsylvania to Fairfield County, South Carolina around 1756 (Ref. book "South Carolina Baptist). He lived on land between Little River and Rocky Creek of Broad River. These Neeleys were members of what is now Broad River Baptist Church and practiced what were then percular rites. Some of these people later became Dunkers or Tunkers. Victor Neeley preached along the Broad River on the evils and sins of dancing, drinking and smoking. The people of Broad River no doubt thought that Victor Neeley was very strange as he was against every thing they were for. Victor Neeley served on Milita Duty in the American Revolution from 1781 to 1782. He also served as a "Road Official" for Fairfield County district where he resided.*

*In doing the research for this Family History, I discovered that our NEELEY FAMILY settled in what is now Fairfield County, South Carolina around 1756 and received a land grant in 1763. By 1776, he had obtained a total of 1,000 acres of land. At that time, Fairfield County had not been formed and the area was CRAVEN COUNTY. That included what is now York and Chester County as well as Fairfield County. It is most important for a genealogist to be fully aware of county formations within the state being researched. Other wise, valuable information and facts will be overlooked. In 1790, there were many Neelys listed in Chester and York County, S.C. as well as in bordering Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Those family of Neelys were well established and*

*were descendants of Thomas Neely who was an imigrant from Ireland. I have studied these Neelys extensively and conclude that our family of NEELEYS are very likely related to them. (Ref. Joseph Hart, History of the Neelys of York and Chester County, S.C.) Joseph Hart referred to the Fairfield County, S.C. family of Neeleys as "Another Family of Neelys.*

*Thomas Neely had five sons who moved to North and South Carolina front Pennsylvania. They established the York County and Chester County of Neelys. The imigrant Victor Neeley moved to South Carolina and obtained a land grant in what is now Fairfield County, South Carolina on July 1, 1763 (Ref. South Carolina Archive Records). These Land Records from the state archives reflect that the Neeleys owned a large amount of land in Fairfield County. The Neeleys were not quote "Poor Dirt Farmers." Note that some of our family was already using the spelling of NEELEY instead of NEELY which was used in York and Chester Counties. John W. Neeley established the use of NEELEY for the spelling of his surname which is still used today while other members of his family used the spelling of NEELY.*

*(Ref. Joseph E. Hart, Jr. of York, S.C.) THOMAS NEELY was born in Ireland and migrated to Chester County, Pa. before 1730. He died after 1750. I beleive that this Thomas Neely and VICTOR NEELEY may very well be brothers. They were, no doubt, closely related to one another in Ireland. The name of Thomas Neely's wife is not*

known, but their children were:

- I. Jackson Neeley, born before 1730 and married Ann
- II. Thomas Neeley, born 1720-27 and married Hannah Star.
- III. Mary Neely, and married John McGachey before 1765 in Pennsylvania.
- IV. John Neely, married in Pennsylvania to Susannah
- V. Samuel Neely, married Jane
- VI. MATTHEW NEELY, born \_\_\_\_ (Ref. S.C. Archives Records to Land Grants) Matthew Neeley received land grants and patents as early as 1763 - 1771 in the area of what is now Fairfield County, S. C. The other Neeleys lived in York and Chester County, S.C. This would indicate that Matthew Neeley and the immigrant Victor Neeley were closely related.

Jackson Neely apparently migrated to South Carolina and is the progenitor of those found in York County, S.C. ca. 1790. Thomas Neely migrated into Mecklenburg County, North Carolina and is the progenitor of the Neelys in that county ca. 1790. Samuel Neely apparently remained in Pennsylvania. Victor Neeley (the immigrant) migrated to Fairfield County, South Carolina and established his family there.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA NEELEYS

MATTHEW NEELEY was first found in Craven County, S.C. in 1764 at which time he received a land patent for 100 acres of land on Rock Creek on Feb. 17, 1764. This same Matthew Neeley also purchased 100 acres of land on Jan. 13, 1765 from John Combest. A Mathew Neely (May be a different Neeley) had a land patent for 150 acres on Rocky Creek, Craven County on May 3, 1775. Mathew Neely's file was audited after 1776 (File no. 54568) for claims growing out of the American Revolution. Mathew Neeley is not found after this time in the South Carolina Archives. This suggests to me that he was an older man at this time and that he possibly died shortly thereafter.

There were several Neeleys (Neelys) who also had land patents during the same period that Matthew Neeley held land patents.

1. Victor Neeley had a land patent for 100 acres in Craven County July 1, 1763.
2. Victor Neely had a total of eight land patents in Craven County between Nov. 15, 1770 and 1776 for a total of 1,00 acres of land.
3. Richard Neeley had a land patent for 400 acres in Berkley County April 4, 1767 and then for 100 acres in Craven County Feb. 6, 1772.
4. Richard Neely (most likely same as above) had a total of ten land patents between March 5, 1768 and Aug. 4, 1775 for a total of 1,700 acres. These patents were in Berkley and Craven Counties.
5. Christian Neeley had a land patent for 100 acres in Craven County Feb. 2, 1772.
6. Christopher Neeley had a land patent for 500 acres in Craven County May 25, 1772. A Christopher Neely also had a land patent for 100 acres in Berkley County Sept. 15, 1768 and several other land patents thereafter for a total of 1,350 acres.
7. George Neeley had a land patent for 100 acres in Craven County June 6, 1773.
8. James Neeley had a land patent for 100 acres in Craven County on Sept. 9, 1775.
9. William Neeley had a land patent for 200 acres in Craven County Aug. 8, 1763. He also had another patent for 100 acres in Berkley County Nov. 27, 1770. In March, April and in May of 1773, William Neeley had patents for a total of 552 acres in Craven County, S.C.
10. Alexander Neely had land patents in Craven County which totaled 450 acres on Dec. 12, 1770, May 18, 1771 and June 25, 1771.
11. John Neely had a land patent for 100 acres in Craven County Aug. 11, 1764. He had another land patent in Berkley County Aug. 17, 1768 for 150 acres. Between 1770 - 1776, John Neely had land patents which totaled 1,050 acres in Craven County.
12. Mary Neely had a land patent for 150 acres in Craven County March 4, 1772 and other land patents in Craven County, S.C. dated 1773 - 1776 which totaled 759 acres.
13. Samuel -Neely first had a land patent on Fishing Creek for 150 acres on April 21, 1764. He had another land patent in Berkley County, S.C. March 30, 1769 for 150 acres. Other land patents in Craven County between 1769 and 1775 totaled 1,000 acres. Two of these were in North Carolina.
14. William Neely first had a land patent Nov. 15, 1763 for 200 acres in Craven County. He had forty-three (43) other land patents for a total of approximately 7,900 acres between 1764 and 1809. He apparently was a very prosperous man and a land speculator.

## Family Group Sheet

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*I have set forth in great detail the many land patents for the NEELEY AND NEELYS in South Carolina. This places many different Neeleys in South Carolina and shows that they were well established there as early as 1763. These land records also indicate that the Neeley Family was very active in the American Revolution as they received land grants which grew out of The American Revolution War claims.*

*I also conclude from these land patents that MATTHEW NEELEY was one of the older of NEELEYS who settled in that area of South Carolina where our family of Neeleys lived. Joseph H. Hart lists Matthew Neely as being the son of THOMAS NEELY and that he migrated to South Carolina. It is possible that some of the other Neeleys in Fairfield County were sons of Matthew Neeley. It is also interesting to note that VICTOR NEELEY received a land patent in 1770 and that other Neeleys who were of close kinship also received land patents. Our family of NEELEYS is descended from a VICTOR NEELEY of FAIRFIELD COUNTY, S.C who was born in 1792.*

*I conclude that the Victor Neeley (The imigrant) was the father of Richard Neeley and that Richard Neeley was the father of John Neeley who in turn was the father of the Victor Neeley who was born in 1792. It is this Victor Neeley who is the first proven progenitor (By official records) of our family of Neeleys.*

*NOTE: There were several other VICTOR NEELEYS.*

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<b>Marriage Information</b>	
Wife:	Martha ???
Beginning status:	Married
in:	Prob. Pennsylvania

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### **Marriage Notes**

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