

With so many young Tidwell men (and so many of them bearing the same first names) in South Carolina, plus the large families of each, it becomes very difficult to establish family relationships. In this frontier country there were no marriage records, few family Bibles now in existence go that far back and not too many wills were recorded. To trace these relationships it is necessary to depend on land records, census records and the few wills and administrations. Fortunately one such record proved to be invaluable since it proved lineage from Francis, a son of Richard (II) and grandson of the immigrant Richard. And, working back from known facts in our line it has been proved that he is our common ancestor.

JOHN TIDWELL, eldest son of Francis Tidwell (according to the legal document which will follow) must be the one listed in the 1790 Census in the Camden District of Fairfield County, South Carolina. His family at that time consisted of himself and his wife, one son over sixteen, five sons under sixteen and three daughters. Another John Tidwell is also listed on the same Census as residing in the Camden District of Chester County. This John would have been a younger man, judging by the ages of his smaller family (all four children under sixteen). He could have been a cousin, nephew or even a son of the older John.