

Barbour County AlArchives Biographies....James J. Winn June 9 1842 - after 1893

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Author: Brant & Fuller (1893)

DR. JAMES J. WINN. - Among the prominent medical men of southern Alabama, Dr. James Winn has but few rivals and certainly no superiors in Barbour county, where his eminent abilities long since placed him at the head of the profession, a distinction he still enjoys. Dr. Winn is descended from Revolutionary stock, both his grandfather and great-grandfather on the paternal side having served with gallantry throughout the seven years' struggle for American independence. At one time they were both captured and condemned to suffer death by hanging, but were rescued just as the nooses had been placed around their necks at the place of execution. James J. Winn, father of the doctor, was a native of South Carolina, born at the town of Winnsborough, in 1804. He was the son of Major John Winn, of Revolutionary fame, whose ancestors came to America from Wales. James J. Winn married Miss C. M. Johnson of DeKalb county, Ga., and became the father of seven children, the eldest, of whom, L. J., for some years a well known lawyer of Atlanta, Ga., is deceased; the other members of the family are as follows: Mary E., widow of B. F. Caffee; Dr. James J., Prof. P. P. Winn, president of Female college at Talladega, Ala.; Rev. S. K. Winn, Presbyterian minister at Petersburg, Va.; Katy L., wife of William Kirkpatrick and Marie L., wife of G. B. Scott, residing at Decatur, Ga. This family were mostly raised in DeKalb county, Ga., where the father died on the 16th of April, 1892; and the mother is still living at a good old age. Dr. James J. Winn was born in Monroe county, Ga., June 9, 1842, and enjoyed the advantage of an academic education. He began the study of medicine under the tutorship of Dr. N. S. Liddell and afterward entered the Atlanta Medical college, where he made such rapid and thorough progress in his studies that he was graduated in the class of 1860, at the remarkably early age of seventeen and a half years—a record unprecedented in the history of that or, perhaps, any other institution in the United States. Receiving his degree, the doctor at once located for the practice of his chosen calling at Clayton, but six months later enlisted in what was known as the "Barbour Grays," a military company which went to Virginia as a part of the Fifth Alabama volunteers, in which he served as a private for twelve months. He then successfully passed an examination for the position of assistant surgeon, and receiving his commission was assigned to duty as acting surgeon of the Forty-fifth Georgia volunteers, and at the end of three months, upon petition of the regimental officers, was promoted to full surgeon and put permanently in charge of the regiment. He remained with the regiment until the surrender at Appomattox, and at the close of the war returned to Clayton, where he has since been actively engaged in the practice of his profession. Dr. Winn is a physician of reputation and his professional experience presents a series of successes such as few medical men succeed in attaining. That he possessed much more than ordinary skill is attested by the fact that of his having been made surgeon of a regiment before reaching his majority, and that, too, after a rigid and impartial examination and not by a system of favoritism which placed so many incompetent members of the profession in responsible positions during the war. He is also a leader in all enterprises for the benefit of the city, and the public enterprises of Clayton have ever found him a friend and liberal promoter. In 1888, he was instrumental in organizing the Clayton Banking company, of which he became president, a position still filled by him, and for a period of twelve years has been the popular and efficient mayor of the city. He is also president of the Clayton Improvement company, and in addition to his professional and official duties has large farming interests in Barbour county. In politics the doctor is, and always has been, a democrat; fraternally, he is a member of the Presbyterian church. The doctor was married in June, 1868, to Mary V. Crews, daughter of W. B. Crews, a union blessed with the birth of ten children, five

sons and five daughters, namely: Mamie C., principal of Female academy, Clayton; Guy W., law student; Pauline L., attending college at Decatur; Lochlan M., now at Washington and Lee university, Va.; James J.; Nannie ; Condie K.; Samuel R., deceased, Minnie and Hattie.

Additional Comments:

from "Memorial Record of Alabama" Vol I, p. 475-477

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The Winns
of
Fairfield County

COLONEL JOHN WINN,
WILLIAM WINN,
GENERAL RICHARD WINN

BUFORD S. CHAPPELL, M.D.

Property
Of
Fairfield Genealogy Room

CHAPTER 2

THE WINNS COME TO SOUTH CAROLINA

A few years prior to the Revolutionary War, John, William, and Richard Winn, all sons of the Immigrant Minor Winn, Fauquier County, Virginia, came to South Carolina. They were educated and intelligent men, and trained as surveyors, a common profession for Virginians coming to the frontiers of South Carolina; and a needed skill for the opening of the new lands of that state. By virtue of their profession as surveyors, they were in a favorable position to acquire large land holdings in this state, and, as a general rule, became well to do.

John, the eldest son of Minor and Margaret O'Connor Winn, was born in Fauquier County, Virginia about the year, 1727 (or a little later). In 1758, he married Dorothea Wright in Alexandria, Virginia. Some of their children were born in Virginia.

William Winn, son of Minor and Margaret O'Connor Winn, came to South Carolina with, or at about the same time, as did his brother John. He married Rosa (or Rosamond) Hampton, an aunt of the Revolutionary War Colonel Wade Hampton, and sister of Anthony Hampton.

Richard Winn, youngest son of Minor and Margaret O'Connor Winn, was born about the year, 1750, and came to South Carolina with his brothers while still not yet of age.¹

Mrs. Lettice Bearden, of Spartanburg District, was reported as being a sister of General Richard and Colonel John Winn.²

¹ Mr. Curry, *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 6, pp. 203-205.

² Dr. J. B. O. Landrum, *History of Spartanburg County* (Atlanta, 1900; Reprinted 1960), p. 158. *Directory of the Senate of South Carolina, 1776-1964*, p. 337. This is one of the few times that I have used secondary sources in this book. Mrs. Lettice Bearden is the great, great, great, great grand-

Mourning Bearden, daughter of Lettice Bearden married Judge (Captain) William Smith of Spartanburg District, an active patriot of the Revolutionary War, a prominent citizen of Spartanburg District, and the father of several prominent sons. Isaac Smith, oldest son of William and Mourning Bearden Smith, was born on October 31, 1784, and it can be assumed that his parents had been married a year or two prior to his birth.³

Little is known of Mrs. Lettice Bearden. We are not sure of the name of her husband but since Mourning Smith named her oldest son, Isaac, we might suppose that her father might have been named Isaac.

The Tyger River Church Book for the years 1801-1804 included the names of Benjamin Bearden, Delilah Bearden, Elizabeth Bearden, Isaac Bearden, John Bearden Sr., John Bearden Jr., Lettice Bearden, Mary Bearden, Rachel Bearden, Richard Bearden, and Sentius Bearden. The following Smiths were also members: Christina, John, Joel, Mary, Joseph, Milly, Mourning, Nancy, Sarah, and William Smith, Esq.

Mourning Smith, wife of William Smith Esq. and daughter of Lettice Bearden, in an unusual display of liberality, was allowed to join Friendship Baptist Church without being baptised again, although she had been raised as a Methodist.⁴

When John, William and Richard Winn came to South Carolina, there were Winns already in this colony. During the year 1716-1717, Robert Winn was one of the petitioners to the Crown against the Lord Proprietors.⁵

In February 1696, a group of Congregationalists arrived at Charles Town from Dorchester, Massachusetts. They proceeded up the Ashley River and established the settlement known as Dorchester after their place of origin in Massachusetts. Finding their new settlement unhealthy and not prospering, they sought a new location. In 1752, a location was chosen at Midway (or Medway) in Georgia. A number of South Carolinians went with the church

mother of the author, and if she is the daughter of Minor and Margaret O'Connor of Virginia, then they are my great, great, great, great, great grandparents. Richard and John Winn would, therefore, be my great, great, great, great uncles.

³ Dr. J. B. O. Landrum, *History of Spartanburg County*, pp. 156-166. *Directory of the Senate of South Carolina, 1776-1964*, pp. 312, 337.

⁴ Leah Townsend, *South Carolina Baptists, 1670-1805* (Florence, 1935), pp. 135, 136n, 182n, 218.

⁵ S. C. H&G Mag. vol. 62, p. 95.

to Georgia. Among those taking up land at Midway in 1752, were John and Joseph Winn. The Winns were devoted members of this church at Midway, and several members of this family became Presbyterian ministers: John, Peter, Thomas Sumner, and Thomas Clay Winn.

The Winns of Midway, St. John's Parish, later Liberty County, Georgia, undoubtedly had their origin in South Carolina. On October 14, 1754, James Jones, acting as attorney for Nathaniel Knotts, carpenter of North Carolina, sold John Winn, planter of Craven County, South Carolina, 300 acres of land in the Welsh Tract (South Carolina) for 1000 pounds, lawful money.⁶

On June 26, 1769, Henry Petty and his wife, Rebecca, St. John's Parish, Georgia, sold John Winn, of the same parish, 235 acres of land, St. George Parish, Berkeley County, South Carolina; and 200 acres of land in St. Andrews Parish, Georgia (just below St. Johns Parish).⁷

A Joseph Winn Sr. and a Joseph Winn Jr. were living in Charleston in 1803. On July 3, 1803, Thomas Lehre, Sheriff of Charleston County, gave a sheriff's title on a tract of land in the city of Charleston to Joseph Winn Sr. On August 5, 1803, Christianna Dener, Charleston, South Carolina, gave Joseph Winn Jr. a lease on several lots in the city of Charleston.⁸

In 1788, Peter Winn was one of the founders and a member of the Sunbury Academy in Georgia. Major John Winn (Georgia) was one of the teachers in the Academy.⁹

A Peter Winn from South Carolina was in the Revolutionary War. On April 9, 1785, he received an indent for 8 pounds, 2 shillings and 3 pence; and a second indent for 70 pounds, 17 shillings and 6½ pence for supplies and forage furnished the Continental troops in 1781.¹⁰

Joseph Winn received an indent for 56 pounds, sterling, on April 9, 1785, for twelve months duty in Colonel Horry's cavalry in 1782.¹¹

Thomas Winn, son of the Vestryman Thomas Winn (Sr.) of Cumberland Parish, Lunenburg County, Virginia, came to South

⁶ Chas. D., Bk. M-4, p. 193.

⁷ *Ibid.*, Bk. Q-3, p. 102.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Bk. S-7, p. 55; Bk. P-7, p. 149, 1803.

⁹ Paul McIlvaine, *The Dead Town of Sunbury, Georgia* (Asheville, 1971), pp. 58, 59.

¹⁰ S. C. Revolutionary War Records, S.E. N 427, N 419,

¹¹ *Ibid.*, N 426.

Carolina and settled in what is now Abbeville County. Winn (Jr.) made his will on October 1, 1796, and it was on March 28, 1797. His wife, Letice, was named his execut his son, John M. Winn, was named his executor. The will his children: Lettice, Robert, Abner, Elemuel, Thomas, Richard, Sarah and Elizabeth. He had a brother, Willian brother, Bannister Winn, Lunenburg County, Virginia.¹²

¹²Landon C. Bell, *Cumberland Parish, Lunenburg County Virgir* 1816 (Richmond, 1930), pp. 297, 298.