

The Winn Family

Minor Winn came to Fauquier County, Virginia from Wales in the early 1700's. His wife, Margaret O'Connor, came from Ireland.

An interesting tradition that has often been quoted is that the genealogy of the Winn family can be traced back to 1300 B.C. (not on paper, but by the "words of the ancient bards".)

About all that we know about Minor Winn is to be found in his will which he wrote on 1 July 1775, and which was proved on 23 March 1778. He named his wife, Margaret executrix, and his son Minor, Jr. executor of his estate. He listed his heirs as follows:

1. William Winn
2. John Winn.
3. James Winn.
4. Minor Winn, Jr.
5. Richard Winn
6. Margaret Johnson.
7. Mary Smith.
8. Susanner Grant.
9. Daughter, Elizabeth Smith, already deceased. Grand daughter Martha Smith was the daughter of Elizabeth.

A codocil to the will mentions a tract of land purchased from Martin Pickett on which Minor, Sr. and Minor, Jr. had erected a still. The profit was to be shared equally between father and son, and after the father's death to be shared with the mother. And after the mother's death, the son was to be allowed to purchase the other half interest in the still.

About 1765 John Winn, William Winn and Richard Winn went to South Carolina. John Winn was the oldest son and Richard Winn was still a minor.

The other Winn children remained in Virginia and there were perhaps other related Winn families in Virginia--at any rate, no attempt has been made to list them.

The three sons of Minor Winn had all been trained as surveyors as were most young men who lived on the American frontiers. This activity put them in position to acquire very large amounts of land. And they did manage huge grants--not all before the American Revolution.

John Winn was born in Fauquier County, Virginia about 1727 and he had married Dorothea Wright in Alexandria, Virginia on 17 August 1758. Some of their children were born in Virginia and the rest in South Carolina. Their children were:

1. Anna Winn married Lt. Samuel McKenny of Morgan's Rifle Brigade.
2. Minor married Mary Evans, daughter of David and Mary Evans.
3. James of Fairfield Co., SC. married Emily Evans, sister of Mary.
4. John, Jr. married Elizabeth Evans, sister of Mary and Emily.
5. Richard Francis married Prudence Lamar, the daughter of Basil and Mary Lamar, and moved to Georgia.
6. William Wright Winn married Jennie Payne.
7. Mary Winn married Obed Kirkland and they moved to Louisiana.

Dorothea Wright Winn died 1780 during the occupation of Winnsborough by Cornwallis, and John Winn married, a second time, Penelope Kirkland and they had the following children:

8. Joseph Winn married the daughter of Cato West, and second, Ann DeLoach.
9. Peter Winn married Nancy Walker and went to Texas before the Texas Revolution.
10. Daniel Winn, "became a Frenchman, fiddled and danced his life away."
11. Harriet Winn married Thomas Cabell Vaughn of Mississippi.
12. David Winn.

13. Martha Winn.
14. Margaret Winn married Mr. Tucker of Tennessee.
15. Jefferson Winn.
16. Obed Winn.
17. Zack Winn.
18. Edward G. Winn.
19. Robert Winn - never married.

One tradition tells us that John Winn had 27 children who lived to become adults, but this seems too much.

During all of this time, the American Revolution was being fought in South Carolina. While John Winn was serving as a Colonel, he was captured and sentenced to death. His younger brother, Richard, serving as a General threatened that if his brother was harmed, he would personally kill 100 British officers. The British apparently believed him because Col. John Winn was paroled and allowed to return to his home. He was inactive, according to his pledge, until the end of the war.

Meanwhile, General Thomas Sumter, the "Gamecock", General Francis Marion, the "Swamp Fox" and General Richard Winn were apparently the most active leaders of the Rebel forces. And it appears that the name, Richard Francis, originated here, when John Winn named his son for two of the generals of the American Revolution.

So now we follow with the family of Richard Francis Winn who married Prudence Lamar, the daughter of Basil and Mary Lamar.

Richard Francis Winn was born about 1767 and was married to Prudence Lamar who was born about 1782. Richard Francis Winn, Esq. was quite active in Lincoln County, Georgia, and when he died, 24 November 1807, he was still a young man. His six children were still minors.

The children of Richard Francis Winn and Prudence Lamar were:

1. Mary Winn, born 1801, married Thomas Lyon, son of John Lyon of Lincoln County, Georgia.
2. Susannah Winn married William Curry, 5 January 1823 and died 1827. He married, second Mrs. Mary Remson.
3. John B. L. Winn.
4. Jacob P. Winn.
5. Prudence Winn.
6. Sarah Winn, also married ----- Curry.

Shortly after the death of Richard Francis Winn, his widow Prudence Lamar Winn married a second time.

BIOGRAPHICAL
 DIRECTORY
 OF THE
 SOUTH CAROLINA
 HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVE
 VOLUME III
 1775-1790

by
 N. Louise Bailey
 and
 Elizabeth Ivey Cooper



N. Louise Bailey, Editor
Walter B. Edgar, Consulting Editor
Inez Watson, Research Consultant
Elizabeth Ivey Cooper, Editorial Assistant



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA PRESS
 COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

WINN, JOHN (Sr.) (1727?-1814). Father of MINOR WINN (b. 1759); brother of RICHARD WINN (1750-1818).

John Winn, born in Fauquier County, Virginia, was the son of Minor Winn (d. 1778) and Margaret O'Connor. Sometime in the mid-1760s, he moved with other family members to Camden District, South Carolina. A surveyor and planter, he acquired numerous grants and became a large speculator in the backcountry. Between 1769 and 1789, he was granted 3,749 acres in his own right; with his son Minor and others he acquired an additional 15,337 acres near Cedar, Rice, and Sawneys creeks in Camden District. Furthermore, Winn was one of the prime developers of the town of Winnsboro in Fairfield County. According to the 1790 federal census, he owned twenty-two slaves.

During the American Revolution, Winn served on the committee to enforce the Continental Association in the District Between Broad and Catawba Rivers (1775). A lieutenant colonel in the militia (ca. 1778), he was present at engagements at Fishdam Ford (9 November 1780) and Blackstock's (20 November 1780). At some point in time, he supposedly was given his parole by the British; in December 1780 he was arrested by the enemy and sentenced to hang for violating that parole. Fortunately, threats of Whig retaliation forced his release and saved his life. Throughout the war and afterwards, Winn remained active politically. He represented the District Between Broad and Catawba Rivers in the House in the First (1775) and Second (1775-1776) Provincial Congresses and the First General Assembly (1776) and was also a member of the Second General Assembly (1776-1778). Elected to the state Senate, he served the District Between Broad and Catawba Rivers in the Third (1779-1780) and Fifth (1783-1784) General Assemblies. Other offices he held included the following: justice of the peace (1776); commissioner of location for Camden District (1784); justice of the peace and county court judge for Fairfield County (1785); commissioner, for inspection and exportation of tobacco at Winnsboro (1785); petitioner for the establishment of a fair and market in Winnsboro (1785); and delegate for the District Between Broad and Catawba Rivers at the state constitutional convention (1790). On 9 January 1777, he was admitted to the Mount Zion Society and served as that organization's first president.

Married twice, Winn wed Dorothea Wright, daughter of Francis Wright, on 17 August 1758 in Alexandria, Virginia. At least seven children were born to them: Anna (m. Samuel McKinnie), Minor, James, John, Jr., Richard Francis, William Wright, and Mary (m. Obed Kirkland). Dorothea Wright Winn died 10 December 1780, and on 12 August 1782, he married Penelope Kirkland. They were the parents of nine (and possibly more) children: Joseph, Peter, Daniel, Harriet L., Martha, Margaret (m. [?] Tucker), David Jefferson, Obed, and Robert. John Winn moved circa 1808 to Rutherford County, Tennessee, and later to Jefferson County, Mississippi, where he died 16 July 1814.

<i>First Provincial Congress</i>	<i>District Between Broad and Catawba Rivers</i>	1775
<i>Second Provincial Congress</i>	<i>District Between Broad and Catawba Rivers</i>	1775-1776
<i>First General Assembly</i>	<i>District Between Broad and Catawba Rivers</i>	1776
<i>Second General Assembly</i>	<i>Member</i>	1776-1778