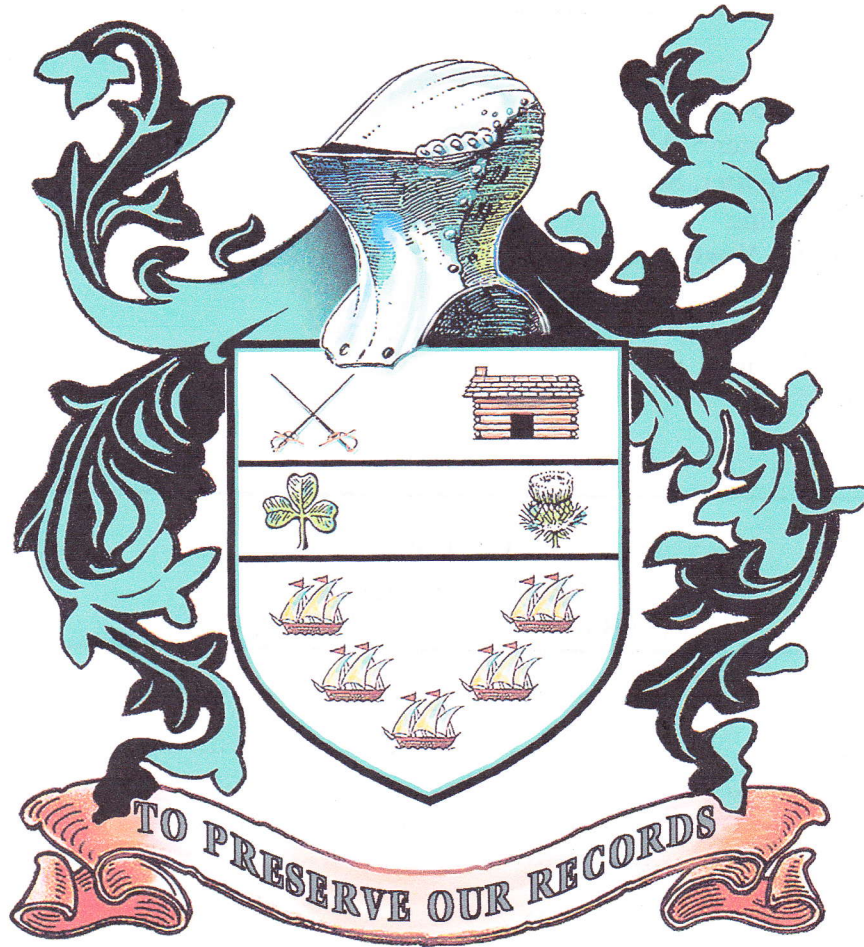


# THE BULLETIN



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**CHESTER DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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**Serving Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union and York Counties**

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# *The Bulletin*

December 2015

[www.ChesterSCGenealogy.org](http://www.ChesterSCGenealogy.org)

Happy Holidays~

Can you believe the holidays are here and that the year 2015 is almost over? Where has the time gone?

Our library, which is open each Tuesday from 8:30 am to 12:00 noon and at other times by appointment only, will remain open during the holidays. So if you are visiting in our area, please stop by for a visit.

Annual membership dues to the Chester District Genealogical Society (CDGS) are \$25.00 per calendar year. By joining, members are entitled to all issues of our quarterly publication, *The Bulletin*, free queries as space permits, and our Surname Book in the December issue. Enclosed in this issue of *The Bulletin*, you will find a form for renewing your membership. Along with your mailing address, please be sure to include your email address. Back issues of *The Bulletin* are available. Please see the Publications List at the back of each issue for prices.

**Please remember to send in your dues.** We depend on these to help keep us afloat. Also, any donations are most appreciated as operating expenses keep going up. We do appreciate all of you and anything extra you can do to help us. The Society needs your support in order to continue its important work and to survive in this difficult economy. Please consider giving a gift membership to someone you know who is interested in genealogy, or if you are able to do so, please make a tax-deductible contribution. It would be greatly appreciated.

If you are mailing us your membership dues or any other information, please be sure to use the following address, or the post office will not deliver it to us. Our mailing address is Chester District Genealogical Society, PO Box 336, Richburg, SC 29729-0336.

A huge thank you to all who have very graciously shared your family histories, stories, and articles with us. They are greatly appreciated. However, MORE family histories or articles are needed for future issues. To submit your article, all you need to do is mail it to our post office box address or email it to:

**[Research@ChesterSCGenealogy.org](mailto:Research@ChesterSCGenealogy.org)**

As 2015 comes to a close, I want to express appreciation to all our volunteers who make our Society productive and to all our members who show your support each time you renew your membership in CDGS.

Please visit us on the web at: **[www.ChesterSCGenealogy.org](http://www.ChesterSCGenealogy.org)** or on Facebook at: **Chester SC Genealogy At Richburg.**

From all of us here at the CDGS, we would like to wish you and your family a very Happy and Blessed New Year in 2016!

Tom Mayhugh, President

**The Family Chronicle**  
*By Catherine Bradley Hood*  
*Transcribed by William David Craig*

**CHAPTER 5-A**

We have been on Beech Island such a long time I fear the good people of Chester will think we have entirely forgotten them. But such is not our intention so now we hope our reader will pardon us for trying their patience a little while longer until we see what has become of all those good people up in "Chester County."

Many sad changes have taken place in the long years that have passed around since Col. Mills and Mary Gill were married. She is now a widow. Her beloved husband has been dead 14 or 15 years. She is still a very handsome woman and she is now seated on her little porch watching her three handsome boys at play out in the yard. A look of sadness is in her fine gray eyes. She is thinking of years ago, when she stood on that same little porch and watched the brave soldiers and loved ones go to fight for their beloved country. A deep sadness comes into her heart as she allows herself to dwell on the past.

The eldest of these sons is a very serious looking young man, and as he tosses the large ball to his two younger brothers he catches a glimpse of his mother's sad face. He hastens to the low steps and takes his seat near the mother he is so fond of and he too begins to realize that on the morrow he is to leave his boyhood home to seek his fortune among strangers.

His mother has lived in the most economical way and has scrimped and saved in every way to give her oldest son an education and now though quite a young man he has finished and has received his diploma to practice medicine, and by the advice of some of his {father's} friends he has decided he will start out and see what luck he will have as a young M.D.

He and his mother have talked it all over, and she has given her consent for him to go to Beech Island, So.Ca. to practice as some of his father's old friends, both in Chester and Columbia, have recommended that place as a good field for a young physician. That section of the country having so much sickness caused from fever and other causes on account of the malaria in the low swampy places.

The Beech Islanders are a wealthy people owning large plantations on the Savannah River having their homes on the "High Land" which is called Beech Island.

So it is settled that "Thomas Sumter Mills" will leave his humble home and beloved mother on the next day. He and his mother are more like companions for since his dear father's death, the noble lad has been "all in all" to this mother and little brothers and "Sister Mary".

Robert Gill Mills, the second son, is a very steady young man and will soon enter the law school in Columbia. John, the third son, is of such a gay dashing disposition that he causes his older brother much uneasiness though he is of such a generous lively nature that his mother is less strict with him than she is with the other sons and will give in to his pleadings to be allowed to go on a "fox hunt", contrary to her own sound judgement, and to the almost stern {expostulations} of Thomas Sumter" telling his mother she must hold a stronger bit on his young brother.

As he sits on the steps, all these anxious thoughts pass through his mind, and he like his mother feels very sad. He is thinking that his dear mother will be left to control these two boys or at least John will have full sway; for Robert, too, will soon leave to start his profession for life.

John seeing the others all looking so depressed, he is gayer than ever and as he dashes after the ball with his handsome face all aglow with health, his mother can't help but watch her boy with a mother's loving look of pride in her fine gray eyes.

After a short time, the boys tire of playing ball and Robert and John come and seat themselves by the side of their elder brother. Mrs. Mills is seated on the porch and by her side is little Mary, her only daughter, who has been assisting her mother darn and mend Thomas' clothes so they can be packed away in the old saddle bags (The very pair, by the way, that their mother had used when she went on that perilous journey to carry clothes to the soldiers during the late war with Great Britain.)

She has just finished darning a pair of her brother Thomas' socks and is looking to see if her mother is pleased with the way in which she has darned. Mrs. Mills looks at the neatly darned socks and nods her head at her daughter with an air of approval. The girl looks pleased that she has done the wash nicely or at least mother is satisfied that she has tried to do her best.

Night begins to come on and the mother puts her work into a large wash basket and arises to go into the house. As she goes in, she says to Mary, "Mary, come it is time we see about our supper." So the mother and daughter go into their neat little kitchen, and Mary takes the kettle to a shelf where a water bucket stands full of water and fills the kettle with water. Her mother has in the meantime struck a match and set it under the rich pine splinters that John has managed so handily for his mother to light her fire.

Mary brings the kettle in and hangs it on the rack fixed in the big fire place for the purpose of hanging kettles, pots, and so on. Soon the kettle sends out a merry song.

Mary then goes into the little dining room to spread the table for tea. Everything is in perfect neatness and when the girl gets the snowy table cloth of pure white linen spread, she eyes her mother's china in the cupboard with a wistful eye. At length, she turns to her mother who has come into the dining room to bring a plate of her nice tea cakes that her boys are so fond of. Seeing Mary looking at the china with such a longing look she says, "What is it Mary?" The girl's face lights up and in a voice of pleading says, "Oh, Mother, I just wish you would allow me to set the table with your china dishes tonight, as it will be a long time maybe before brother Thomas will sit with us again."

The mother signified her consent to her daughter's request by a silent nod of the head, and hastened out of the room to hide the tears that would come into her eyes whenever any mention was made of her darling boy's going to leave for good. In those days, when all traveling had to be done by going on horseback, wagons and now of late a stage line had been established between Charlotte and Columbia. It seemed when your friends were going even to the lower part of the same state it was a distance that would separate you almost completely. So felt Mrs. Mills about her son's leaving, although not ever going to leave his own native state of South Carolina.

She and her three boys and Mary had been so happy and although Thomas had been attending the South Carolina College in Columbia, and was among the first students that college ever turned out, and Robert had attended the school for boys in Chester. Still, they would come home to spend their holidays with their dear mother. But this home leaving of her oldest son meant a final separation. She knew he would always love and remember her, but it was sure to make a difference in their intercourse with each other.

But she was a brave sensible woman and soon she threw off the sad feeling and bustled around her little kitchen with quite a business air, and soon the boys who were seated still out on the porch knew mother was going to give them one of her nicely prepared suppers.

Mary, too, was singing a gay little song as she moved with a light step around the pretty tea table. She looked with quite a gratified air, as she surveyed her work. She felt that she, too, was trying to make her brother's last evening at home one that he would remember with pleasure.

Mrs. Mills came in about this time and as she passed her little daughter, she patted her gently on the head saying, "Mary, you have excelled yourself this time in the pretty way you have set the table."

Mrs. Mills then went to a closet and soon came out with a pretty glass dish filled with delicious {quince} preserves which she knew her sons were so fond of. Soon all was in readiness with the smoking ham and eggs, and rich brown waffles and such biscuits as

only Mrs. Mills knew how to make, and rich yellow butter in the little butter stand in the middle of the table.

With the china that the boys had only seen used when Mr. and Mrs. Davis, their minister and his wife, would happen in to spend the day with them. So when Mary and her mother had all in perfect order, Mary went to call her brothers in to supper.

John was the first to come, and oh what a look of pleased surprise came into his handsome face. And with an extra "kick up" he ran to his mother and said, "Oh, my dear mother, you ought to have been "Mrs. George Washington" for you are the very "dearest Mommy" we boys ever had."

Laughing and pushing him to one side, she took her seat at the table and looked to see what effect it would have on her other two more reserved sons.

As the fine manly looking young men came into the dining room both started with a look of pleased surprise and both "bowed their thanks to their mother" who blushed with pleasure as she saw from their look of pleased surprise that she had succeeded in her effort to please them.

They were all seated now, the mother bowed her head and asked "God's Blessing" on their meal. John was in such a gay mood by this time that he reached over and pinched Mary's ear, and said, "Why little Sis, did you get word the preacher was a coming? You and Ma have put the big pot inside the little one." All laughed at John's mischief and Mary turned on him saying, "No, indeed, we did not hear the preacher was coming. I reckon we can have a good supper without his always being here." "Oh, yes, Sis. I beg your pardon; maybe you are looking for Mr. Alex Pagan."

Mary blushed crimson, for this young man referred to was quite a frequent visitor at the Mills cottage and though older even than her brothers, still this fun loving brother of hers looked to tease his young sister much to her annoyance.

"Come John, leave off teasing Mary now, and let's enjoy this nice supper that Mother and Mary have so kindly prepared for us." When Thomas Mills spoke to his fun loving brother in that stern steady voice, the boy knew to obey. So he straightened himself up in his chair and behaved like a little gentleman in balance of the meal; which they all enjoyed much to their Mother's delight.

Thomas was the first to finish and as he arose from the table he looked at his Mother and said, "Mother, I am sure, go where I will, I will never get the good cooked meals that you have always given me."

"Well, my son, I am glad you like your old Mother's way of cooking, but it matters not where you go, try and be satisfied and don't learn to complain if things are not like you have been accustomed to here at home." "Oh, no Mother, I will try and remember your good training, knowing full well that I have left the very best mother and friend I have ever had." She smiled a happy smile through her tears and turned to hide them by gathering up the dishes for Mary to wash and put away.

She and Mary did all of their domestic work. The boy, Sam, that belonged to her father died soon after her marriage to Col. Mills, and Jane they had to sell to the Crawfords. So Jim, the man her brother had taken into the Army, was now the only servant.

He was now beginning to be quite an old Negro but he was still a very active old man and helped the boys in the farm work. Old "Jim Crow" as John called him was a great favorite with these "boys" as he called his young masters.

As soon as John finished his supper, he went out into the little side piazza and got a tin plate and a large tin cup saying, "Mother, now for "Jim Crow's feast." She took the plate and heaped it up with all the choice things she had prepared for her own sons and then going to a safe that stood on the little back porch, she filled the large tin cup with rich butter milk. She then handed it to John. He took the plate and cup and ran out with all speed calling in a loud voice, "Jim Crow, Jim Crow, come unto the feast."

The old Negro soon came out of the same cabin that was once occupied by "Old Moll" and seeing his merry young master with his supper under the wide spreading oak tree, he came up hurriedly and said in his kind old voice, "Now Johnny, what you got for your old "Jim Crow." "Oh, I have called you to partake of the "fat of the land." Don't you see Mother has sent you a slice of her choice old ham. So old Nig, just eat until you are satisfied, but don't kill yourself, for you know I want to sell you the next "Big Auction Day," so you must take care of your old self so I can get a big price for you."

The old Negro chuckled softly to himself and seated himself at the rude little table that he usually ate his meals during the warm weather. He turned to John and said, "Oh well, Johnny, I gwine to eat enough to look "fat" so you git big money for old "Dady Jim." He was very fond of this mischievous boy, and often sat in the evenings under this large oak tree and told him of the "war" and of how he had cooked in the camp for his "young Massa" and his "Pa, de Col." He always spoke of Col. Mills as "de Col." John would be so entertained and Jim so pleased to have such a willing listener that after Mrs. Mills would get up after having been asleep to call John in, telling him he must not worry "Dady Jim" by keeping him up so late at night.

John now seeing that Jim Crow was enjoying his nice supper too much to talk, left him and ran into the house whistling a lively air that he had heard the brass band play the last {mustering} day in Chester.



There was a large militia company now formed from men all over the county, and in fact all over the state, and Major Bradley had been made General of the entire state militia of S. C. Nothing pleased John Mills more than to be allowed to come with his two older brothers to Chester to witness the Grand Mustering of the state troops; and with Gen. Bradley in command on his fine horse, all [caparisoned] in the grandest style imaginable and the fine music that the band of regular organized men played delighted the boy beyond any thing that came his way.

He always came home humming or whistling the last tune that had taken his fancy. He would tell old Jim of all the grand sights until the old Negro remembering the grand officers he had seen in the "war time." John would make the old Negro nearly kill himself laughing at the ridiculous sights of drunken men fighting over the most silly nothings.

Well we think old Jim has had time to finish his supper so he gets up, going next to the kitchen, he sees his mistress standing in the back door. He makes her a "curtsy" and says, "Missy, you ain't forgot how to cook dem good little cookies yet." She smiled and said, "Oh now Jim, I have to keep in practice on account of my boys."

She then said, "Jim, you can put Spot in the pasture tonight as Thomas will have to drive him tomorrow." "Yes Mam, I will, for de old horse is needing all de coaxing he can git now like myself. He is seed his best days."

Mrs. Mills then went into the house, and soon she was sorting the clothes she wished to put into the "saddle bags" for her son to take as far as Chester. Then his mother told him he had better go to Mr. George Kennedy's or Mr. Dunovant's store and get himself a trunk as it would be more suitable for him to carry his clothes in.

He was to go to Chester the next morning in time to catch the stage coach which ran between Charlotte and Columbia with a change of coaches in Columbia for Augusta, Ga.

Robert Mills was to accompany his brother up to Chester in their old buggy and drive Spot, his mother's old horse. So they were all up early the following morning and breakfast was soon served by the ever willing mother to assist her sons in any undertaking that they might want to make.

She followed her oldest boy out to the little gate, her other children bringing up the rear. Robert had already gone out and seated himself in the buggy, and Jim stood by the side of the horse looking very solemn over the thought of his young "boss" going to leave home for good.

When they all reached the gate, Thomas turned to his mother and she went close up to him and slipped a small Bible, well-worn, into his hand saying, "Thomas take this Bible. It was given to your Father by Gen. Sumter for whom you were named. So you take it and read it for my sake." He took it without a word and put it into his coat pocket; then taking her hand in his he said, "Mother, you must write to me as often as you can and do be sure you let me know if you should need anything. Now, Mother, another request I make is that you don't work too hard. I hope I may be able soon to help you and pay back all the kindness you have shown me." "Oh, my son, don't speak of what I have done for you. It has been but little compared to the great comfort you have been to me."

He kissed his mother tenderly and then turned and kissed his little sister good-bye and gave her a silver dollar. Now turning to John, who had stood looking on with a very sad face, he said, "John, do be a steady boy and apply yourself now, harder than ever to your books, and learn to study your lessons, for you will soon be a man. Then you will feel you have {not} wasted your time in foolishness and mischief." The boy looked at his big brother and said, "Well, Tom, I will try and do my best."

They then shook hands and Thomas going to old Jim gave him a silver piece shaking his withered old hand. Jim shook from head to foot and muttered in a trembling voice, "God bless you, Massa Tom."

The young man then sprang into the buggy and Robert gave old Spot a sharp crack with his whip and away they went down the well remembered lane.

Mrs. Mills watched them until there were out of sight, thinking of the years gone by how many loved ones she had watched go down that lane, and now her oldest son was gone, for she knew his home would never be here in this humble little cottage again.

We will now follow the two young men as they ride along the road leading to Chester, their nearest town to catch the stage coach about 10 miles they will have to ride.

They have ample time to talk of their future prospects. Brother Thomas, as Robert has always called his older brother, has always had the greatest confidence in his brother's judgement. They are talking very earnestly together and Thomas is advising Robert how to arrange best to get ready for his leave taking as Robert is so anxious to pursue his course in law.

Thomas encourages him in every way he can for these two elder brothers are very ambitious to rise in the world, and they realize fully that all depends now upon their own exertions to carry them on knowing and appreciating all that their dear Mother has done to secure them an education.

It is a great mortification to these brothers that John, who is naturally so bright, is so indifferent to his future. So now Thomas looks at Robert and said, "Robert, do try and persuade John while you are at home to study hard and make a man of himself." "Oh, don't talk to me about John. He cares for nothing but himself and frolicking with the girls. So I wash my hands clear of him." "Oh, you might take some interest in the boy for Mother's sake even if you feel none for the boy." Although Robert was very fond of his young brother. Still that very morning, John who had found that he could tease his brother Robert, had called him "over at{torney}," and provoked Robert in many ways, so now he still felt vexed at the boy. So he had no patience with him. "No, Thomas, I will have none of him, he is too pert and too vain of his good looks to suit me."

Robert had a cold nature where his handsome young brother was so warm-hearted and generous to a fault. Thomas found he had struck the wrong cord with Robert in asking him to look after their young brother, who was so thoughtless that it worried him more than he cared to acknowledge now that he was leaving him with no one but his Mother to keep him straight. However he found that it would do no good to say anything further to Robert on the subject, but determining in his own mind that he would soon place John under the control of some strict school that he would be obliged to obey.

So changing the subject, he and Robert chatted very pleasantly the rest of the way to Chester. Soon they came in sight of the little village of Chester and drove up to where the unpretentious little red court house was standing on the top of a high hill. Chester or rather the court house was surrounded by "seven hills," the Rome of South Carolina, like Rome was built on seven hills."

In front of the little red painted court house stood a party of men, and as (X here Mr. John Kennedy comes in) the two young men drive up, an old gentleman stepped out of the crowd to speak to them, and with a merry "Howdy do! Why Thomas, I should say, "Dr. Mills," I suppose you will excuse me; I still think of you as our Thomas. Here, too, is Robert."

Both young men shook hands most cordially with their father's old friend, Mr. John Kennedy. For it was he who always meets these sons of his old friend, John Mills, with such a cheerful welcome.

After exchanging the compliments of the day and each found out how each member of the two families were, Mr. Kennedy said, "Come drive your old Spot down to my lot." "We thank you, Mr. Kennedy, but we have a little business to attend to down at your store." "Well, here is Ned, pointing to a Negro boy who stood near, let him take your buggy on to the lot." "You can get out and take your things out when you get out at George's store."

So the two young men drove on down the street to Mr. George Kennedy's store. There being only about 3 stores in the village at this time. Mr. George Kennedy kept the largest amount of goods and hardware, farming implements, groceries, trunks, and course goods of all kinds suitable for the poor people; for poor people were in the majority here in the upper part of South Carolina. They had never {sume} of them had{} or their children after them, to rally from the effects of the Revolutionary War.

The other store just across from Mr. George Kennedy's was a little more {pretentious} having glass windows and a big sign hanging out on a red post in front of the store door, painted in big yellow letters, "DRUG STORE." The third little wooden building next that had a sign with "SHOE SHOP" painted in red and white letters.

Dr. Dunavant was the owner of the drug store and had a very neat inviting appearance. He was fortunate too, in having the clerk he has, for as the young men pass down the street, they are struck with the young man's appearance. He is not very tall but has such a straight dignified bearing that it makes him look taller than he really is. He has dark hair, not very dark though, and has a complexion that the girls envy him of it. He has a linen suit that fits him to perfection. As soon as he sees the Mills driving down the street, he bows to them and calls out in a clear ringing voice, "Good Morning, Gentlemen." He smiles one of the most pleasant and bewitching smiles. He has keen grey eyes than can look so kind when pleased but look fairly green when he flashes them in anger.

Driving on a little farther, they stopped at Mr. George Kennedy's store and take out the old saddle bags and then turn the buggy and horse over to Ned to be taken to the lot.

As soon as the two Mills brothers get out to go inside the store, the party in front of the court house came down to the store, as it seemed that was the custom in the Up Country village for the crowd of loafers to followup any body that any news could be gathered from. And Col. Mills' sons always drew a crowd around them whenever they came to town.

It had been rumored that Thomas Sumter Mills, now being a young M.D., was going to leave on the next stage for Beech Island. Of course every body wanted to express their interest in his welfare and as they came trooping in to the store where the young men were consulting Mr. Kennedy or rather looking at some trunks that he had for sale.

The first gentleman that came up to speak was a man of medium size and a most pleasing manner with such an air of a man who is confident of men's respect and confidence; so it seemed for as soon as he spoke the two Mills advanced to meet him. He had a very striking face neither handsome nor could you call it a plain face, piercing grey eyes and a mouth that showed great determination. When not talking, he looked

almost too stern but could smile as pleasantly as a woman when in a good humor. It seemed he was in one of these moods for a bright smile now lit up his fine face. He extended his hand to Thomas saying, "How are you, Thomas?" Then turning gracefully to Robert, shaking hands with him saying, "I am truly glad to see you both."

"Thank you, General Bradley, we are glad to see you, sir." General Bradley then said, "I hear, Thomas, you are to leave us today." On Thomas saying that he was, Gen. Bradley said, "Is it true that you expect to locate on Beech Island?" "Yes sir, I will leave for Beech Island today." "Well, Dr. Mills, I think you have made a wise selection to practice your profession. There is always a good deal of sickness in that portion of the state. Chills and fever abound, but beside that there is more wealth down there. Those planters not suffering by the war as we poor "Up County Crackers" did. "I have heard that there is a good deal of wealth down there," said Thomas very quietly for he was thinking how very much he needed wealth, but just money enough to make him feel he would not be cramped.

Gen. Bradley, a very shrewd man and generous, imagined that there was something on Thomas' mind and guessing at once that it might be some financial trouble, he motioned Thomas aside and said, "You will pardon me, but I know your circumstances almost as well as you do yourself, and now let me assist you by giving you an amount which will keep you from feeling embarrassed about those strangers."

Thomas Mills, though a poor young man, was proud and would have died almost rather than ask such a favor off of anyone. He flushed crimson and a deep look of pain came into his dark blue eyes.

Gen. Bradley noticing this said in his most bewitching tone of voice, "Why boy, you need not feel the least hesitancy in accepting a loan from me, for your father was one of my best, most confidential friends." And before Thomas could say a word, he forced a roll of money into his hand saying, "Take it, my boy, and pay it back when it suits you."

Thomas knew that it would really insult this old friend of his father's if he did not accept his generous loan. So thanking him in the most grateful manner, for the money would keep him from feeling embarrassed when he got down to Beech Island where he was a perfect stranger.

Gen. Bradley then said in a louder tone, "Well, Thomas, you certainly have my best wishes for your success in your profession." And walking along side of Thomas he said in an undertone, "I will give you a letter to Hammond who is a man of great influence down there. A man owning more land than the whole of Chester County, and three or four hundred slaves, so I hope he will employ you and his influence will get you a large

practice down there among those rich planters." Thomas said, "I shall be ever so much obliged to you for the letter of introduction to Mr. Hammond and any thing else I can do for you."

Other friends now came up to speak, and Gen. Bradley turned to the young men saying, "Thomas, you and Robert must dine with us today." As the young men looked a little in doubt about accepting his invitation, he said quickly, "To be sure you are coming, I will go over to tell my wife you are coming." Without another word, he walked off with that military air that was so becoming to this manly looking old soldier.

Politics were hotly discussed now in the tavern, and on {grand} piazzas of Mr. George Kennedy, for he kept the largest tavern in addition to his store. One end of the piazzas was this store and another door led into the public house for the accommodating of travelers coming and going in the stage coaches.

There was soon to come off the election of Gov. of South Carolina, and a man by the name of "Wilson" was named as was the nominee for the Office of Gov. and Gen. Henry Bradley was now brought out by a large majority for the office of Lieutenant Gov. of South Carolina. This was in 1822 that these two men really were elected and served the term out.

So when Thomas and Robert came out on the piazza, they found many of their friends in a hot discussion over the coming election. Gen. Bradley had begged his friends not to nominate him for that office but they just flew off in an uproar and nominated him anyway, and all got drunk and made money all night over the coming election.

Gen. Bradley had been their representative in the legislature in 1816 and now they determined he should be their Lieutenant Governor.

Among the most excited were the sons of our patriotic Mrs. White, who was now with her 5 or 6 sons living on the land deeded the Whites by George the III of England. Mrs. White is a very old lady now, but her sons take a lively interest in anything that they consider will add to the good of their beloved state. Their plantation is three miles south east of Chester village and they come into town every afternoon to hear how politics are running. (Here we will say that the land given to the Whites by George the III is still in the possession of the White family, and a venerable old tree that still stands near the spring is said to have sheltered Lord Cornwallis while taking his lunch on his march through South Carolina.)

The reader must remember the writer of this story is a novice at the business and hopes to be pardoned for jumping off into lengthy details.

(Chapter 5A will be continued in the March 2016 issue of *The Bulletin*.)

The Chester Reporter - Chester, SC

LOCAL MATTERS

[Thursday, September 15, 1892]

Family Reunion held on Tuesday, September 6, 1892

Thirty and forty years ago John Simpson was a factor in whatever was done in the session and congregation of Union ARP Church, Chester County, S. C. His stalwart form and benign countenance were known and appreciated by that generation perhaps as much as any of that day.

Some one of his numerous descendants [I know not who] conceived the idea of a reunion of the family at the old homestead. The idea seemed to be popular and accordingly on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> instant, the old place seems to have put on new life; the wheels of time seemed to have rolled back fifty years. The joyous laugh and innocent mirth seemed to have displaced the cares of the present and the sorrows of the past. Troops of children, all ages and all sizes, bright faced and happy children thronged the place and looked upon the scenes upon which their parents and grandparents first opened their eyes and with which in youth they were so familiar. The girls in this class decidedly predominated. It was pleasant for the older ones to sit and look upon this picture so full of life and happiness. It carried them back fifty and sixty years when they were young and so enjoyed life.

But few families, I suppose can show a better record either as to numbers or character. Present on the ground were 67 lineal descendants of John and Sallie Wylie Simpson's children, four of the five yet living were present; Rev. J. H. Simpson was absent, neither was his family represented. With this exception all the families of the nine children were represented. Whole number of descendants, 96; grandchildren 37, great grandchildren; 50. Four children dead—three grandchildren and nine great grandchildren dead. Whole number living 80; dead 16.

The Simpsons are certainly not a migratory tribe, as is evident from the fact the whole number present came from their respective homes that morning, and returned the same evening. How many families in this day of busy strife after wealth can number so many still in striking distance of the

old homestead, and down to the third generation worship in the same church in which their ancestors worshipped. In all this number there is not now, and never has been, a single drunkard; the history of the Rechabites repeated—Jeremiah 35. All who were eligible voted for prohibition in the recent election. They go into the church [the church of their fathers] early in life; and as a family they are noted for their consistent walk and conversation. The office of elder seems to be hereditary in the family. Two sons and one grandson have been called to this office. The father left his children a legacy—not in this world's goods but pious training and a godly example and his descendants have not squandered their inheritance.

As the hour for dinner approached the same old horn that used to call the boys [now old men] home from the field was blown. Then a sumptuous picnic dinner was spread under the venerable oak that stands in the yard. After the blessing this was dispatched with a relish. As the time approached to return home, the company was assembled for family worship. The 128<sup>th</sup> Psalm was sung and 103<sup>rd</sup> Psalm read, followed by a few remarks, recounting the past and pointing with hope to the future, and closed with prayer.

Thus ended the day, a happy, and it is hoped not an unprofitable day. As the hand shaking went on and the good-byes were passed, we could not suppress a feeling of sadness. These will all hardly ever meet again. I know not that another reunion is contemplated, but should there be another, some present at this will be absent from the next. But this is our consolation, and it is no small comfort that at the final reunion in heaven, by the grace of God, we will all be present. ~ C. B. Betts

#### Children of Sallie Wylie and John Simpson Jr.

1. JOHN SIMPSON<sup>3</sup> JR. (JOHN SIMPSON<sup>2</sup> SR., ? SIMPSON<sup>1</sup>) was born Feb 09, 1803 in Chester County, South Carolina, and died Jul 12, 1884 in Chester County, South Carolina. He married (1) SARAH WYLIE 1823 in South Carolina, daughter of JOHN WYLIE and MARTHA FERGUSON. She was born 1803 in South Carolina, and died May 15, 1866 in Chester County, South Carolina. He married (2) NANCY LATHAN Jul 10, 1874 in South Carolina.



Children of JOHN JR. and SARAH WYLIE are:

- i. THOMAS ELIHU<sup>4</sup> SIMPSON\*, b. Mar 02, 1824, Fishing Creek, Chester County, South Carolina; d. Sep 21, 1874, Chester County, South Carolina; m. MARGARET JANE BIGHAM, Mar 02, 1853, Chester County, South Carolina; b. Jan 12, 1831, WELLRIDGE, Chester County, South Carolina; d. Jun 28, 1913, Chester County, South Carolina.
- ii. MARTHA SIMPSON\* b. Mar 20, 1826, Chester County, South Carolina; d. May 15, 1827, South Carolina.
- iii. MARY JANE SIMPSON, b. Jun 12, 1827, Chester County, South Carolina; d. Nov 01, 1901, Richburg, Chester County, South Carolina; m. WILLIAM ANDREW BURNS, Abt. 1845, Chester County, South Carolina; b. Feb 12, 1822; d. Apr 12, 1860, Richburg, Chester County, South Carolina.
- iv. MARGARET ELIZABETH SIMPSON\*, b. Sep 14, 1829, Chester County, South Carolina; d. Oct 01, 1862, South Carolina; m. CALVIN MOFFATT, South Carolina.
- v. WILLIAM BLACKSTOCK SIMPSON, b. Jul 09, 1831, Chester County, South Carolina; d. Jan 05, 1901, Rodman, Chester County, South Carolina; m. MARGARET ELIZABETH MILLEN, 1858, Chester County, South Carolina; b. Jul 26, 1837; d. Oct 13, 1901.
- vi. JOHN HEMPHILL SIMPSON, b. Aug 03, 1834, Chester County, South Carolina; d. Jul 09, 1914, South Carolina; m. MARY ELIZABETH MOFFATT, May 08, 1867, HAZELWOOD, South Carolina; b. Dec 19, 1839, Chester County, South Carolina; d. Aug 27, 1894, Chester County, South Carolina.
- vii. SARAH SIMPSON, b. Dec 25, 1836, Chester County, South Carolina; d. Apr 15, 1913, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, NC; m. JOHN WILSON BAIRD, Aug 19, 1858, South Carolina; b. Feb 1830; d. Oct 1862, South Carolina.
- viii. ISAIAH SIMPSON, b. Oct 14, 1838, Chester County, South Carolina; d. Dec 14, 1911, South Carolina; m. SARAH EMMA PATTON, Jun 06, 1867, South Carolina; b. Mar 02, 1838, York County, South Carolina; d. Nov 05, 1921, South Carolina.
- ix. HENRY CALVIN SIMPSON\*, b. 1841, Chester County, South Carolina; d. Nov 05, 1846, South Carolina.

\* four children dead

## The Yorkville Enquirer - Yorkville, SC

[Friday, October 9, 1908]

### Nunnery ~ Thomasson Wedding

Chester Reporter: The parlor of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. McCullough's home on Columbia Street was the scene of a quiet, but pretty wedding Tuesday afternoon, when Miss Mayme Nunnery became the bride of Mr. H. C. Thomasson of Yorkville. Promptly at 3:30 o'clock to the strains of Mendelssohn's wedding march, rendered by Miss Lizzie Hardin on the piano, the bridal pair entered the room unaccompanied and took their places before the officiating minister, Rev. J. Q. Adams of Charlotte, N. C., pastor of the Harmony Baptist church, who in a few beautiful and well chosen words pronounced them man and wife. After congratulations from those present, the party repaired to the hospitable dining room, where frappe, cake and other light refreshments were served. The parlor, hall and dining room were befittingly decorated for this glad event, a profusion of beautiful ferns and flowers that harmonized with the occasion shedding their beauty and their benediction on the scene. Little Misses Mary McCullough and Hulda McLarnon, tastefully attired in white and carrying pink roses, met the guests and ushered them into the parlor. A number of beautiful and serviceable presents from friends and relatives attested a sincere regard for the two who were thus entering upon a new life. Mr. and Mrs. Thomasson left on the 4:15 train for Yorkville, where they will make their future home, the groom being engaged in business in that town. Mrs. Thomasson is a daughter of Mrs. Carrie Nunnery of Lando, but has made her home in this city for the past several years, where by her many womanly qualities of heart and mind she has greatly endeared herself to all with whom she has been associated. For the last eighteen months she has held a position as compositor in the Reporter office, and by her attention to duty and many fine qualities has won the lasting regard of the owners of the paper, who with all of her numerous other friends will wish for her and her husband the best that life can give.

## **Obituaries from the *Chester News* Chester, S. C.**

### **R. S. Poag Dies Saturday, Final Rites Sunday**

May 8, 1950 – Robert Samuel Poag, 80, prominent citizen of Rock Hill died Saturday morning at the York County hospital. He had been ill for several weeks.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Sunday in the chapel of Bass Funeral Home. The Rev. W. C. Cooper, pastor of the Ebenezer Presbyterian church, and the Rev. Fred Poag of Columbia, conducted the services. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Mr. Poag was born and reared in Chester county, the son of the late LeRoy D. Poag of Chester county and Mrs. Martha Steele Poag of York county. He came to Rock Hill as a young man and was overseer of the farms and dairy of the Mt. Gallant dairies. Later he was overseer for the Carhartt farms.

In recent years following his retirement from active work, he has been associated with R. T. Fewell and company. He was a member and elder of the Ebenezer Presbyterian church. His wife, Mrs. Ida Harshaw Poag, died a number of years ago.

He is survived by four sisters, Mrs. B. F. Massey, Mrs. T. B. McFadden and Miss Carrie Belle Poag all of Rock Hill and by Mrs. Cloud Hicklin of Asheville.

### **Mrs. Anna Hicklin Dies At Home Of Son In Asheville**

August 29, 1951 – Mrs. Anna Poag Hicklin, widow of W. Cloud Hicklin of Rodman and Rock Hill, died Sunday night in Asheville, N. C., at the home of her son following an illness of several months.

Funeral services are to be held at Fishing Creek Presbyterian church near Rodman tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. The pastor, the Rev. J. T. Dendy, will officiate assisted by the Rev. Fred Poag of Columbia, nephew of Mrs. Hicklin.

The body will be brought from Asheville directly to the church.

Mrs. Hicklin is a native of Rodman, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Poag. She and the late W. D. Knox, former superintendent of education for Chester county, were the first teachers at the school which is now Oakley Hall school. Mr. Hicklin died in 1917.

Survivors include: one son, W. Cloud Hicklin of Asheville; three step sons, Harry E. Hicklin and Frank Hicklin of Richburg and J. W. Hicklin of Richmond, Va.; and two sisters, Mrs. Frank Massey and Miss Carrie Belle Poag of Rock Hill.

Mrs. Hicklin was an active member of the Rock Hill First Presbyterian church. She was formerly president of the Rock Hill United Daughters of the Confederacy and was formerly regent of the Ridge district of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

### **Mrs. John Polk Passed Away**

September 18, 1951 – Mrs. Katherine Aaron Polk, 36, wife of John Melton Polk died suddenly at 1:50 Friday morning at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Aaron on York street. She was to have been taken to Duke hospital at Durham, N. C., on the morning of her death.

Mrs. Polk was graduated from the Chester high school and later attended Queens college in Charlotte. Following this she worked in the office of her father, owner of the Chester Plumbing and Heating company, and later joined the American Red Cross and was located in Germany following the World War II. She returned home and soon again entered the service of the American Red Cross and was sent to Tokyo.

After completion of work in Japan, she returned home and accepted a position with the Chester district office of the state highway department.

She was born in Shelby, N. C., April 19, 1915. At that time her parents were living in Charlotte. The family moved to Chester in April, 1916.

Mrs. Polk was a member of Bethel Methodist church.

She is survived by her husband, parents, a daughter, Katherine Carson Aaron Polk, and a sister, Miss Adelaide Aaron, all of Chester,

Funeral services were conducted at 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon from the home of her parents by her pastor, the Rev. J. Henry Kohler, assisted by Dr. R. A. Lummus. Interment was in Evergreen cemetery.

Active pallbearers were White Brice, Stinson White, William Cauthen, Leon McCrorey, William Wallace, Phelps Brooks, Tom Nichols, and Ross Davis.

Honorary pallbearers were W. A. Corkill, L. C. Horner, W. H. W. Baker, Sr., G. B. Heath, John Elliott, Mayor E. B. Bagby, J. L. Britton, C. J. Wilson, Fred J. Powell, A. E. Vaughn, Dr. W. R. Wallace, H. Robert Woods. Dr. R. E. Abell, H. C. Sellers, J. Boyce Bankhead, W. T. Betts, N. W. Rice, Joe H. Giltner, Lucius Pressley, M. Henry White, Robert Gage, B. Clyde Carter, Rodgers Reid, Betts Reid, W. T. Wrenn, A. T. Allen, J. M. Lathan, M. L. Banks, Ed Porter, E. K. Hardin, C. W. Huggins, J. H. Lee, D. H. Burris, D. L. McCain, Harry Heath, Shaw Simpson, Gill Simpson, Fred Hicklin, Sam Hicklin, J. L. Mize, W.C. Gladden, and Senator Wilbur G. Grant.

Also, John J. Weeks, Charlotte; Hugh Clendenning, Charlotte; Stewart Melton, Richburg; O. A. Seborg, Charlotte; L. C. Mayfield, Charlotte; and A. Z. Price, Charlotte.

### **W. I. Pressley Died Monday**

December 28, 1951 – William Ira Pressley, 47, 104 Ella Street, died at 11:20 a. m. Monday of a stroke.

Funeral services were conducted at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Barron's Funeral Home with Rev. Raleigh Moore Engle in charge assisted by Rev. J. Henry Rohler. The interment was in Evergreen Cemetery.

He was born in the New Hope section, October 17, 1904, son of Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Frazier Pressley, both deceased.

Mr. Pressley is survived by his widow, the former Miss Mary Neal of Fairfield County, and one daughter, Bennie Lou, both of Chester; six sister, Mrs. Marshall Baston of Evans, Ga.; Miss Nora Pressley of Columbia; Mrs. C. P. Hicklin of Richburg; Miss Lula Pressley of Hartsville; Mrs. Vance Linker of Charlotte; and Mrs. W. J. Myrick of Columbia.

Active pallbearers were Lucius Pressley, O. K. Pressley, Thomas Pressley, Brenton Pressley, Pressley Minter, and William Wise.

Honorary pallbearers were employees of the Chester Ice and Fuel Company.

### **Passed Away in Rock Hill**

July 3, 1952 – Mrs. Mary Jane Adams Westbrook, 98, died at 9 p. m. June 25 at her home in Rock Hill.

She was born in Chester county Jan. 10, 1854, a daughter of the late Abram and Mary Fudge Adams of Chester county. Mrs. Westbrook came to Rock Hill 30 years ago. In 1878, she was married to the late James Alexander Westbrook.

She was a member of Harmony Baptist Church, where she attended services regularly until ill health prevented. She had been in declining health for the past three years.

Survivors include three daughters, Miss J. H. Westbrook, Miss Kate Westbrook and Mrs. J. B. Caldwell, all of Rock Hill; three sons, Ed Westbrook and S. H. Westbrook, both of Rock Hill, and W. A. Westbrook of Edgemoor; 16 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at 5 o'clock last Thursday afternoon from the residence by the Rev. Pierce Cook and the Rev. Bill Jones. Interment followed in Leevy's Creek cemetery.

### **Sterling**

October 31, 1956 – Mrs. Elizabeth (Bessie) Jane Weir Sterling, 78, widow of Robert Calvin Sterling of Blackstock, Route 2, died at the Chester County Hospital at 10:25 Sunday night following a critical illness of about a week and declining health for three years.

A native of Fairfield County, Mrs. Sterling was a daughter of the late William J. Weir and Margaret Thompson Weir. She was born January 11, 1878. She was educated in the local schools and at Due West Female College.

Mrs. Weir was a lifelong member of the New Hope Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and this year was given a life membership in the Ladies Missionary Society of the church. She was a former president of the society. She was formerly active in the work on the United Daughters of the Confederacy of the Woodward chapter.

Her husband died in 1942.

Survivors include one son, Robert Grier Sterling of Blackstock, Route 2; three daughters, Mrs. John A. Shirley of Chester; Mrs. George W. Swearingen of Blackstock, and Mrs. James R. Swearingen of Winnsboro; nine grandchildren; two great grandchildren, and an only sister, Mrs. Maymie W. Stevenson of Winnsboro.

Funeral services were conducted at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Hopewell A. R. P. Church, with Dr. W. A. Kennedy, of Blackstock, pastor of the church, officiating, assisted by Dr. Arthur Murray Rogers, pastor of the Chester A. R. P. Church. Interment was in the church cemetery.

The active pallbearers were Ephraim Weir, Coleman Weir, Andrew Sterling, John Sterling, Marion Stevenson and William Stevenson.

### **Mrs. Nunnery Died Tuesday**

July 30, 1957 – Mrs. Clara McCullough Nunnery, 66, widow of John Edgar Nunnery died at the Chester County Hospital Tuesday morning following a period of declining health and a critical illness of several days.

Funeral services were held at 11 o'clock Wednesday morning at the chapel of Barron's Funeral Home, with her pastor, the Rev. William R. Bussey, in charge. He will be assisted by the Rev. John S. Banks, pastor of Union, Oak Grove and Edgemoor Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Curtis Fennell, Dean Jordan, Johnny Elliott, Don Murray, Van Richardson, and Fred Nunnery.

Her husband, who died in 1949, was superintendent of education for Chester County for 21 years. Mrs. Nunnery was a native of Chester, a daughter of the late William Felder McCullough and Mollie Whitworth McCullough. She was born June 13, 1891, and was a graduate of Chester High School. She attended Winthrop College for two years.

She was a member of the Chester First Baptist Church and of Chester Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy. She was active in both church and civic affairs until her health failed.

Survivors are three sons, John Edgar Nunnery of the U. S. Navy, stationed in Jacksonville, Fla.; M. Sgt. William J. Nunnery, stationed in Korea, and Hall (Pete) Ferguson Nunnery of Chester; one daughter, Mrs. Sam Hicklin of Richburg; five grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. W. A. Latimer of Chester and Ms. V. V. Richardson of Columbia and one aunt, Mrs. Ola Ferguson of Chester.

## QUERIES

**Millers** – Brenda Baumert, 301 Jordan Drive, DeSoto, TX 75115

E-mail: ub4meib4u@att.net

Interested in any Millers of Chester and their associated families. Also seeking any DNA test of Miller descendants. Please email. I am willing to share data.

**Ferguson** – Sandra Brown, 4240 Mt. Gallant Road, Rock Hill, SC 29732

E-mail: boston96@comporium.net

My 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandmother, Martha Manerva Ellen Ferguson Thomas, was born in Chester. Her mother, I believe is Elizabeth Ferguson, buried in Armenia Church Cemetery. Her death certificate and five of her children all state she was a Ferguson from Chester, SC. I would like to find proof on her parents.

**Sanders – Gaston** – Anne Thomas Carr, 8936 Big Horn Trail, Pike Road, AL 36064

E-mail: atccarr@yahoo.com

Need proof that Mary R. Sanders, 1854-1935, is the daughter of Charles William Sanders, b. 1834 Chester County, SC, d. 1864 in Civil War in Virginia, and also Lorena Gaston, 1834-1894 Chester County, SC. Who were Charles William Sanders' parents?

**Key – Backstrom – Marion** – Roxann Yarborough James, 3007 Steele Village Road, Rock Hill, SC 29730

E-mail: egjames@truvista.net

Interested in any info pertaining to Daniel and Winnie Key; J. G. Backstrom; J. A. Marion House at 2314 Old Richburg Road.

**Jackson – Colvin** – Bessie K. McCarty, PO Box 1284, Ennis, TX 75120

E-mail: noniemc2004@yahoo.com

Searching for information on Bluett Jackson who married a John Colvin.

**Boyd** – CDR Pamela Boyd Shields (Ret), 10 Frecort Lane, Little Rock, AR 72223

E-mail: boydshield@aol.com

I am looking for any information on David Boyd (c. 1819-c. 1864); Peter Boyd (c. 1780-c. 1828); and David Boyd (c. 1737- May 11, 1815). I am only sure the David who died in 1815 had a will. Need the wife and family of Peter. when he died, and where he is buried. And the burial place of the 2<sup>nd</sup> David who died c. 1864. He may have served in the Civil War. Our Boyd family is from York County and the Fishing Creek area.

**Hamilton – Greer** – Nancy A. Sicotte, 2047 Byron Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301

E-mail: nansicotte@aol.com

Looking for parents of John Hamilton (c. 1770/75-1812) and his wife, Martha Greer (c. 1775-1872). Children: Susannah, William, Ann, Nancy, David, and Margaret. Allied names: **Reid, Blair, Taylor, Morton, and Wyatt**. Lived Chester Co., SC? York Co., SC? and Lincoln Co., TN.

**O'Briant – Wilson** - Terry O. Wilson, 116 Lexington Lane, Washington, MO 63090

E-mail: commish1950@charter.net

I have probates for George O'Briant and William Wilson. George d. 1799, Chester Co., and William d. 1789, Chester Co. Need burial places for both. The Wilson family moved to KY about 1806. Need marriages for their children.

**Chester District Genealogical Society  
Surname Book 2015**

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