



# Fairfield Genealogical Society

# NEWSLETTER

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Due to the rising cost of printing, postage and materials we have reduced the size of the newsletter.

## Writing The Family History



This issue of the Newsletter has a variety of offerings, but please make a special note of the story "The McCrorey Family." This is an excellent short story on that family and it would be a real find for anyone who was researching the McCroreys and allied lines because it contains so much good family history. It also gives a few good family tales to help put some flesh on the genealogical bones. Let this article serve as inspiration for you to write about your family. You too can write a family history for the Newsletter. Just as this writer did, you should pick a branch of your family and write it up. That is, give the names and dates along with some family stories that you know. Unless you publish a book, a short history of your family published here in the Newsletter may be the only time you get a history of your family published. The article can be short or long—anywhere from a page to four pages. The guide should be to include as many names and dates as you have documentation for and noting as "family" history those things which have been passed down in the family as good stories, but which haven't been, or which can not be, documented. So take this opportunity to "get in print" and do our future generations a favor too by leaving a written trail that someone in the future can follow.

## The McCrorey Family

The McCrorey family of Fairfield had as its progenitor in Scotland, Allen MacRaurie, who married into the Clan Ronald McDonald, and became chief, and taking the part of "Bonnie Prince Charlie" after the battle of Culloden, fled to North Ireland, County Antrim. From there, members of the McCrorey, Turner, Adger, and Law families came to Fairfield County, S.C.

William McCrorey (1745-1838) was the first of his name in Fairfield. He came there in 1790, having previously married in Ireland, Margaret Adger (1747-1805). They brought three minor children with them: John, who married Mary Margaret "Molly Peggy" Turner; James, who married Jane Crawford; and Susan, who married William Adger.

John McCrorey (1773-1849) by his wife, Molly Peggy Turner, had seven children: James A., (1802-1893) who married Sarah Lunday Thorn; Thomas, who married Miss Peydon; Martha, who married Dr. William Thorn; Susan, married Daniel McCullough; Elizabeth "Betty", who married Mr. Matthews; Agnes, married John Richmond; Margaret Miller, who married James Adger.

The foregoing reared families, who are mostly buried at Mt Olivet Presbyterian Church.

James McCrorey, who married Jane Crawford, had two sons; James, who married Lucretia Mobley; and John, who married Dorcas Mobley. Both had large families. Susan McCrorey, who married William Adger, had a

number of children also. Some lived in Fairfield, and others in Charleston. The Smyth family of Charleston are some of their descendants.

James A. McCrory, (son of Moly Peggy Turner McCrorey), who married Sarah Lunday Thorn, lived to be nearly 92 years of age. He was one of the most highly respected men of his day, and had a most kindly disposition. When past four score, he would ride horseback to Winnsboro, and then back home. It is told that his Great Grandfather Adger of Ireland, owned a linen mill, and his stamp on a bolt of linen caused acceptance without measurement. Capt. Ellison A Smyth, now of Flat Rock, N. C. has that stamp.

In the Confederate War, James A. McCrory, had three sons to serve; James Law, William Turner, and John McCrorey. James Law McCrorey was imprisoned at Fort Delaware, N. J., where he died. He kept a diary, a copy of which has been deposited in the Library at the University of South Carolina. It is a classic, and gives an intimate picture of prison life.

James left a widow, Mrs. Mary Adger McCrorey and four children; Adger, Mary E. (Mrs. James Ragsdale), John Turner, and William Adger McCrorey.

William Adger McCrorey was one of the bodyguards who conducted President Jefferson Davis as far as Charlotte, N. C.

Two other children of James A. and Sarah Lunday Thorn McCrorey were; Sarah, who married Capt. James Beaty, of Winnsboro; William Turner (1834-1921), married Miss Mattie Hawthorne, who had nine children; Minnie E., married Mose H. Mobley; Emma A., second wife of Mose H. Mobley; Martha, married Thomas Woodward Starnes; James Law, married Maude Edwards; Lou, married J.F. Kellar; Sue, married T. T. Farr; and Hawthorn, who married Eulalie Ragsdale.

Note; The above Family History appeared in a Winnsboro newspaper around 1942.

## SOUTH CAROLINA LOYALIST TRANSCRIPT of JOHN HUTCHINSON

To the commissioners appointed by an act of Parliament for inquiring into the losses & services of the American Loyalists. The memorial for John Hutchinson late of Charles Town South Carolina sheweth:

That your memorialist was an inhabitant of Camden District, Tryon County South Carolina where he occupied a valuable plantation, his own property. When the unhappy disputes between Great Britain and America first took place he used every effort in his favor to support the British Government and refusing to give the least assistance to the Enemy exposed him to many personal injuries and insults. Hostilities having commenced, repeated offers were made him to join the Enemy accompanied by threats, neither of which could shake his Loyalty or prevail with him to unite with the Enemy of his lawful Sovereign. The duty he owed to his king induced him to join with Col. Turnbull and Col. Ferguson in protecting the friends of Government from the violent and oppressive hands of the Enemy.

When the British Army under the command of Lord Cornwallis came to Winsburg your memorialist joined him as a volunteer from whom he received a commission and was ordered by his Lordship that he and Col. Philips should guard Col. Tarleton's wounded men after the engagement at Cowpens and convey them to garrison. In performing this service they were attacked by a large body of the Enemy. After an obstinate resistance were taken prisoners and carried to North Carolina where they were treated in the most cruel manner. Every means was tried, if possible to form a charge against him in order to put an end to his life. But fortunately no act could be found to criminate him and justify their proceedings. Having been in close confinement two months he was exchanged.

Your memorialist then went to his own habitation to see his family which consisted of

his Wife and four children whom he found they had suffered much during his absence. The Enemy was so inveterate against him on account of the active part he had taken. Being well informed that a plan was laid to take his life he was obliged to make his escape in the night and took protection in Congaree Fort which was soon after taken by the Enemy. The Garrison sent prisoners to Charles Town where they remained some time. When he was exchanged he went to join Lord Rawdon at Orangburg.

After the return of the Army from Ninety Six he received a commission in the Independent Company of South Carolina Volunteers (as appointed by the commission itself hereunto annexed) In marching from Orangburg to the Uttaws, he with three Companies in the rear guard were taken prisoners. He fortunately made his escape with the loss of his horses, regimentals, etc. and went to the British camp at Caldwell's. From thence he marched to Uttaws and returned to Charles Town where he continued doing duty and acting as the service required till the evacuation of that place in December 1782.

As no security for his person could be obtained nor no restitution of his property, which was confiscated and made plunder of by the Enemy, could be procured he went to Jamaica in hopes the evacuation of South Carolina was only for a time and that a reinforcement would be sent. The War being ended he embarked for England where he arrived last week.

The attachment of your memorialist to the Royal Cause and the active part he took in its support occasioned the loss of all his property and has reduced him from a state of affluence to poverty and distress.

Having no friends to assist him and destitute of money and what adds to his affliction -His wife and children being in America totally destitute -Your memorialist could not get to their relief neither would the Enemy suffer them to come to him. Your memorialist with due humility and respect throws himself upon your humanity and humbly entreats to take his distressed case into consideration and grant him

that relief which his destitute situation, his sufferings, and service may be found to deserve. February 15 1784.

Inventory of the Estate both Real and Personal belonging to the Memorialist -

750 acres of land with a flour and grist mill and out offices	
The land at 20 per acre and the mill at (\$?#) 120	870
6 negroes at 10 each	340
14 horses at 12 each	168
30 head of black cattle	63
goats, hogs, and small stocks	30
household furniture and plantation tools	80
crop of wheat	<u>20</u>
Sterling(has pound sign)	1471

25 November 1786 -Evidence on the foregoing memorial of J. Hutchinson. The claimant sworn, memorial read and sworn to, and certificates of Loyalty f-om: Lord Rawdon, Lord Cornwallis, Col Zach Gibbs, and Col. William Fortune.

A native of Ireland, went to America about the year 1769. He went to Philadelphia and set up a Hop Shop there and married there. In the year of 1774 he was settled in Charles Town in the same business.

He joined Col. Turnbull when he first went to Camden. Says he signed the first Association. Never took any oath to the Americans. After he joined Col. Turnbull he continued with the British till the evacuation. In 1781 he was appointed by Lord Rawdon, Captain of an Independent Company of South Carolina Volunteers. He has tried for half pay but did not succeed. Has been in England about two years. Don't intend to return to America. Has an allowance of 30 (pounds) per annum from the treasury.

Property -750 acres of land with a house and grist mill title. They consist of 3 tracts lying near to each other on Jackson's Creek near Winnsborough which is a small village of about 20 houses and 300 negro huts about 135 miles distant from Charles Town. He has no deeds. He was made a prisoner coming down to the Eutaws and plundered of every thing and amongst the rest of his papers.

The first tract was 100 acres. These he bought just at the breaking out of Troubles of one Myers, a millwright, for 2 negroes (which were the consideration for the millwork) and horses, cattle, and hogs valued at 100 (pounds) which was the consideration for the land. On this tract stood the Mills and Buildings which cost him 200 (pounds) more after the purchase. 70 acres were cleared when he bought the tract and he cleared about 10 acres more. He had signed the Association before he made the purchase which he was induced to make as it privileged him from taking any active part -Millers, Ferryman, Doctors, and Ministers being privileged.

Another tract was 200 acres. He bought a warrant of one McCulloch before the war for 17 (pounds) Sterling and obtained a Grant for this tract in his own name.

The third tract was 400 acres. These he bought of Robert Ellison in 1774 and gave him horses and linen cloth valued at 70 (pounds) .

Both the last tracts were uncultivated. The first tract he purchased in 1775 says he laid out 200 (pounds) Sterling on the mills. Values the 100 acres and mills at 500 (pounds) Sterling. Values the 250 acres at 250 and the 400 at 400 (pounds) currency.

Says he had 6 negroes, three women and three were men taken out of the Fort at Congrees by the Rebels. Values them at 40 (pounds) Sterling each. He had 4 head of horses taken by the Rebels valued at 12 (pounds) Sterling each, 30 head of black cattle worth 63, and goats, hogs, and small stock taken by the Rebels valued at 30. Household furniture and plantation tools valued at 80. A crop of wheat in the ground worth 20. A horse, pistols, and apparel taken by the Rebels worth 45.

In October of 1781 he built a small house at Charles Town on property that had been sequestered. The house cost him 65 (pounds) Sterling. He has no proof of confiscation of his property when he left Charles Town. A Captain Smith, a Rebel, was in possession of his house and 100 acres of land. No mortgage or incumbrances on any part of his property In

consequence of an application made to me by Captain John Hutchinson, late of Camden District South Carolina, I do certify and make oath -I was personally acquainted with him and have been in actual service with him as a Loyal Subject to British Government -and although I never was on his plantation, I have just reason to think he was possessed of a handsome property consisting of well cultivated lands and a good water mill and some valuable slaves, stock, etc. I am convinced he was obliged to abandon the same on account of his activity and adherence to his Majesty 's Government.

Zachariah Gibbs, late Col. R. Militia  
96 District South Carolina

July 12th 1786 -Sworn before the commissioners of American Claims at their office -Lincoln's Inn Fields, July 19th 1786.

Richard Lee, Clerk

I do hereby certify that I was personally acquainted with Captain John Hutchinson in South Carolina on actual service in support of his Majesty's Government and I have reasons to believe from report that he possessed a good property with lands, slaves, and a good grist mill, William Cunningham, late Major, L. Dragoons Sworn before the commissioners of American Claims at their office, Lincoln's Inn Fields, July 19th 1786

Richard Lee, Clerk

The several articles charged in this schedule have been sworn to by George Rogers as just and true.

January 13th 1787 -James Carey sworn -Knows John Hutchinson. Believes his wife and family to be still in America, is ignorant whether she is upon the property. He was an active zealous man in favor of Great Britain, and resided in Camden District.

Copied in it's entirety from S. C. Loyalist Transcripts, Vol 55, p. 272-282, Box 1. SC Department of Archives and History.

## Where Did It Come From!

**W** Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades.' To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't playing with a full deck.

## Genealogy Terms

**b.** (abbreviation)

born.

**B** (abbreviation)

black, indicating race.

**banns**

public announcement of an intended marriage, generally made in church.

**bapt.** (abbreviation)

baptized.

**base-born**

a base-born individual was an illegitimate child.

**bastard**

a bastard is an illegitimate child.

**birth records**

a birth record contains information about the birth of an individual. On a birth record, you can usually find the mother's full maiden name and the father's full name, the name of the baby, the date of the birth, and county where the birth took place. Many birth records include other information, such as the birthplaces of the baby's parents, the addresses of the parents, the number of children that the parents have, and the race of the parents, and the parents' occupations.

**bef.** (abbreviation)

before.

**bequeath**

term appearing in a will meaning to leave or give property as specified therein to another person or organization.

**bet.** (abbreviation)

between

**bond**

written, binding agreement to perform as specified. Many types of bonds have existed for centuries and appear in marriage, land and court records of used by genealogists. Historically, laws required administrators and executors of estates, grooms alone or with others, and guardians of minors to post bonds. It is not unusual to discover that a bondsman was related to someone involved in the action before the court. If a bondsman failed to perform, the court may have demanded payment of a specified sum as a penalty.

## Here's Helpful Form

**H** On the next page is a useful form.

All of us have family pieces of furniture or books or jewelry or other items passed down from generation to generation. And just as we have learned that we must label all of our family pictures on the back or the people pictured will soon be forgotten, we should also make a photographic and written description of our heirlooms and either attach them to the heirloom, or place the write-up in our genealogical papers. Just think, don't you wish someone had done that to that piece of furniture you have? Then you would know whose piece it was and where it came from. As with all of our forms, just make a few copies on any good copier and make use of them.

**FAMILY HEIRLOOM REGISTER**

Page Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Object: \_\_\_\_\_

First Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Later Owners: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Owners' locality: \_\_\_\_\_

Place Photograph  
of item here

Object's present location: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Value In memories: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Age of item: \_\_\_\_\_

Person who will Inherit item: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this included specifically in a will? \_\_\_\_\_

Special care needed: \_\_\_\_\_

Restoration applied: \_\_\_\_\_

History of object: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person filling this page: \_\_\_\_\_