

(draft)

12. Thomas Barksdale, second son of John Barksdale and his wife Sarah (Palmer) Barksdale, was the only son of the immigrant, John Barksdale, to leave descendants.

Born ^{c.} about 1684/5 in London, Thomas was about ten years old when his family arrived in Charleston in 1694. Thomas was one of the three brothers (the other two being Charles and John) ^{who} signed the indenture tripart, drawn up in 17]0 when his father was about to remarry.

In 1716 Thomas Barksdale received 220 acres from his father, John Barksdale, "for natural love and affection." Thomas Barksdale's lands (and rapidly expanding plantations) fell in Christ Church Parish, Berkeley County, South Carolina where he was, "a man of considerable means, a landowner, and a planter." In 1721 Thomas was commissioned Justice of the Peace for Berkeley County and later served as a commissioner for the Christ Church Parish highroad.

^{c.} About 1713, Thomas Barksdale married Miss Sarah Legare, daughter of Solomon Legare, a Huguenot silversmith and the founders of one of South Carolina's leading families.

Solomon Legare was born ^{c.} about 1674 in France, son of Francois Legare, a jeweller. Like many French protestants, the Legares left France and in 1681/2 the family was in London where Francis, his wife, and sons Francis Solomon, Daniel James, and Stephen were naturalized

In 1691 Frances Legare and two of his sons received permission to settled in the Massachusetts colony and shortly afterwards they were established in Braintree, Massachusetts.

Francis Solomon Legare (who appears to have dropped "Francis" early in life) was obviously a man of independent character and was not the dutiful son expected by the elder Legare/ When Francis Legare wrote his will in 1710, at Braintree, Massachusetts, he had this to say of his son, Solomon,

My will is That my son Solomon now at Carolina shall have Twenty Shillings paid to him out of my estate wch I give to him, to cutt him off from any further part or portion thereof, and that for this Reason viz His deserting my Service and going wholly from me, contrary to my mind Some years before he was of age, and Marrying utterly against my Will and consent.

After arriving in Charleston, Solomon Legare described himself as a goldsmith and silversmith. He obviously prospered because by 1720 he was able to purchase a small island, known as Solomon Legare Island.

Solomon Legare's independent personality is dramatically revealed in the following story about him: Legare, who insisted on conducting his life according to a rigidly maintained schedule, became very annoyed when the pastor of the Circular (Congregational) Church, the Reverend Mr. Stobo, began preaching longer sermons, which ran over into the hour which Legare had designated for his family dinner hour. Solomon Legare tactfully suggested that the clergyman divide the sermon in half, given the congregation a "break" in the middle, during which time the Legares could observe their customary dinner hour. The Reverend Mr. Stobo ignored Legare's suggestion and continued to preach his lengthy sermons. It was at this point that Legare proved his determination:

The next Sunday as the town clock struck twelve, Mr. Legare got up in the middle of the sermon and left the pew, followed by his wife and children and several other family members. After observing the usual family dinner hour, Mr. Legare, followed by his family, returned and marched noiselessly down the aisle, to the Legare pews directly in front of the pulpit and listened to the remainder of the sermon as if nothing unusual had transpired. Rev. Stobo had learned his lesson. Next Sunday the clergyman divided his sermon in two parts, leaving the Legare dinner hour intact.

Solomon Legare died in 1760 leaving an estate valued at over £18,000. The inventory of his estate list 68 ounces of old silver and 16 dwt of gold, suggesting that silversmithing remained Legare's profession all his life.

Thomas Barksdale and his wife, Sarah (Legare) Barksdale, lived in Christ Church Parish where it is presumed that all of their children were born.

Thomas Barksdale was ~~obviously~~ a man of standing in his community, as reflected in the frequency with which he was requested by neighbors to serve as executor~~s~~ of their estates. In 1749, Thomas Barksdale, his brother-in-law, Joseph and Daniel Legare, were appointed executors of the estate of William Hendricks. Hendricks, who died shortly after making his will, mentions his brother-in-law, Joseph and Arnoldus Vanderhorst. On January 5, 1749/50, Hendricks' will was proved by Thomas Barksdale and William Vanderhorst. When Joseph Vanderhorst (probably married to Thomas's sister, Mary Barksdale) wrote his will in 1749, he appointed Thomas Barksdale executor. These three families; ~~the~~ Vanderhorst, Legare~~s~~, and Barksdale, each representing a different national origin, reflect the social history of the colony of South Carolina.

No will or estate inventory has been located for Thomas Barksdale, although it is known that he died sometime after 1765.

There is some confusion surrounding the death date of Sarah (Legare) Barksdale. Captain John A. Barksdale in his Barksdale family history states that she died in 1727 and was buried on August 28, 1727 in Christ Church Parish. This writer has never been able to find reference to this burial, and all other facts point to the conclusion that Mrs. Barksdale lived until at the the mid 1730's. Hannah Barksdale was born in 1732, according to her obituary and another daughter, Elizabeth Barksdale, "daughter of Thomas and Sarah Barksdale" was baptized on October 20, 1734 at the Independent (Circular) Church in Charleston. Neither of these daughters are recorded in Captain Barksdale's history, but there can be no doubt as to their existence. It is possible that Sarah (Isaak) Barksdale, the second wife of the immigrant died in 1727, and that the two contemporary women were confused by Captain Barksdale. Further research is necessary to clarify this point.

Records prove that Thomas and Sarah (Legare) Barksdale had at least six children:

121. Sarah Barksdale was born ^{c.} ~~about~~ 1714 or 1715. Captain Barksdale in his history states that she was born on August 28, 1717, but this is not possible, since Sarah, daughter of Thomas Barksdale, was named in the will of her grandfather, John Barksdale, dated 1716. It is possible that this Sarah died shortly after John Barksdale's will was made and that the parents used the name again in 1717. In either case, Sarah Barksdale apparently died young and has been located in no other South Carolina records.
122. Charles Barksdale ^{was born July 3, 1715. More} ~~about whom later~~
information will follow.

123. Thomas Barksdale was born ^{c.} ~~about~~ 1719 and served in several official capacities in Berekeley County, S.C. In 1752 Thomas Barksdale Jr. purchased 500 acres of land from John and Mary (Barksdale?) Vanderhorst Jeffords (). Thomas Barksdale died unmarried in 1755 when "20 slaves formerly in the possession of Thomas Barksdale, Junr., Dec'd" were conveyed by his father, Thomas Barksdale to his brother, Charles Barksdele.
- 124.. George Barksdale was born ^{c.} ~~about~~ 1721/2. More information will follow.
125. Hannah Barksdale was born in 1732. More information will follow.
125. Elizabeth Barksdale was baptized October 20, 1734 at the Independent (Circular) Church in Charleston. In the register she was listed as a "daughter of Thomas and Sarah Barksdale". Since there is no further record of this child, it appears that she died in infancy or early childhood.