

The Chaplins of Beaufort, S.C.

Copied from a letter to Mrs. W. L. Pickard, Tifton, Ga.

The Chaplin family of the Seacoast of Beaufort County, S.C., have been settled there, certainly as far back as 1766, and probably as far back as 1715 or 1720. They have always borne good reputations as citizens and patriots.

My knowledge of their history is based mainly on family traditions and in part on the case of Adams et al. vs. Chaplin et al. reported in Hill's Chancery Reports, Vol. 1, page 265.

The Chaplins have always been active in performance of public duty. It is certain that they were as patriotic in the war with the Yemassee Indians when their power was broken in the great battle near Yemassee, S.C., as they were in that of the Revolution and in the war between the states.

There were about a dozen Chaplins in the Beaufort Volunteer Artillery during the war of 1861-5, and they made good and faithful soldiers.

I knew Frankie Chaplin, a boy of about my own age, with whom I attended for three months, the school kept by a first cousin of my father, Miss. Caroline De Treville. The town was taken and everybody left for terms of indefinite length, after listening all day of the seventh of November 1861, to the reverberation of our guns at Forts Walker and Beauregard and the much heavier guns for the fleet of Admiral Du Pont, the most formidable fleet, up to that time, that has ever assembled in American waters.

Frankie Chaplin was about nine or ten. He and his first cousin, McNair Fripp, always came to school from the same house. I do not know what ever became of these boys (Refer to James Peto Chaplin for reference to McNair Fripp). I think that Frankie Chaplin was probably nearly related to John F. Chaplin and Saxby Chaplin Sr., and Jr., and without doubt related to us. The record of Charleston County would probably throw some light on the Chaplin genealogy, as Beaufort was in the Charleston jurisdiction in early times. All these records were in the Court House at Gillisonville, the county seat of Beaufort, at the time that SHERMAN'S troops burnt it in 1864 and were destroyed with the Court House.

I return now to the ancestry as based on the case above referred to. Benjamin Chaplin Sr. lived on his plantation on St. Helena Parish, (S.C.) which is now a part of Beaufort County. Before the Revolution all the inhabitants of St. Helena Parish were taxed for support of St. Helena Church (The Church of England) in Beaufort, S.C., where it had been located since 1712, although the church building was not erected until 1724. Although he was taxed to support that church, we think that he was a member of the Baptist Church.

The said Benjamin Chaplin, our great, great grand father, was evidently a man of substantial means for those days. His home place, on Jericho Creek, was about 600 acres in extent, this he gave to one of his sons, as he had four children and must have given to each an equal portion, his landed property, therefore was about twenty four hundred acres in extent.

Benjamin Chaplin Sr., has three sons and one daughter: Benjamin Chaplin Jr., William W. Chaplin, John Chaplin and Ann Adams (nee Chaplin). He made his will in 1766 and died before 1776. There were three witnesses to his will: Martha Barnwell; E. E., and John Barnwell. In the litigation that arose about 1832, as to the construction of that and also the will of John Chaplin Sr., his son, it was developed that the witness who signed her name "E. E.", was Elizabeth Ellis (nee Capers) the wife of Edmund Ellis,

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my grandfather's grandfather. She was a collateral ancestress of Bishop Ellison Capers.

William Chaplin, son of Benjamin Chaplin Jr., died previous to the year 1791, leaving no children.

John Chaplin Sr., son of Benjamin Chaplin Sr., made his will in 1776, and died soon after, say in the year 1776 or 1777. John Chaplin Sr., left one son, John Chaplin Jr., married Miss Bailey and he was the father of our grandmother, Mrs. Martha S. ~~XXXXXX~~ Baynard, of Benjamin S. Chaplin, of Lavinia (Chaplin-Oswald) Duncan and Ceilia Chaplin Onswald. Lavinia and Cecilia were twin sisters, born in 1804 and our grandmother, Martha Chaplin, was born 1805 at St Helena, Of course you know the ramifications and branches of grandmother's family, Her daughter, I would remind you, were Sarah Colder Baynard who married our fathers Uncle, Dr James Stoncy Lawton Julian Sophia who married Stephen G. Ellis, my father; Cecilia N., your Mothe Elizabeth Martha, the mother of Mrs. Phebe Malone and others of the ~~XXXXX~~ Willingham family who lived chiefly in Macon. Florence who married W.J. Willingham lives, I believe at Tavarea, Fla. There were two sons: Thomas Stapleton Baynard who left one daughter, Mrs. Julia M. Rodes; and Rev Calder Archibald Baynard, who left no children. All have passed away of Mrs. Martha Sarah Baynards' children excepting Mrs. W.J. Willingham; (Aunt Florrie)

Ann Chaplin, sister of Benjamin Chaplin Jr. married Mrs. A. Adams, some time before the year 1791. she died sometime before the year 1826 as the plaintiffa in the case of Adams et al vs. Chaplin et al. were her children, what their names were I do not know except one. that one was Jane Adams who married Mr. Pressley. Their son Benjamin Chaplin Pressley, was for many years one of the most eminent lawyers of the Charleston Bar and for ten or fifteen years Judge of the first Circuit of South Carolina. He accumulated a considerable fortune and when he declined re-appointment as Judge lived in retirement at Summerville, S.C., The family of Judge Pressley on his fathers side had settled around Due est, S.C., in Abbeville County, and for a number of generations were "auld licht" Presbyterians of the most pronounced type. Probably Judge Pressley would have been one also if his father had not married Jane Adams, Judge Pressley himself was one of the main pillars in the First Baptist Church in Charleston, S.C. which was organized in 1682, the oldest Baptist Church in the South.

Grandmother's two sisters were Levinia Chaplin and Cecilia Chaplin. Levinia Chaplin, married (first) Robert Oswald and Second Rev Mansford Dode Duncan, The children of her first marriage (there were none by the second marriage): Caroline, Adelaide and Anna and one son, Robert Onward. As a child living in Beaufort, I used to here mother and grandmother Barnard speak of Aunt Duncan living at Barnwell Courty House, Grandmother having two married daughterd (Willingman) living at thv thim in Barnwell County, about 28 miles from the Court House, used to make one or two protracted visits to the up-country, as her visits to Barnwell were called

You and I are of the fifth generation from Benjamin Chaplin, who made his will in 1766. There are several of the fifth generation still living but I have purposed refrained from going into details concerning them.

Wilson Hall, my half-brother, was born in 1845; His father was Rev Wilson Hall, The grand-son of Captain William Hall, who commanded the flotilla of two or three mentioned in McCrady's history of South Carolina. He captured several British vessels after the sea battle just outside of Charleston Harbor. Several of the Halls were sent to St Augustine as prisoners during the revolution. Wilson Hall was entitled, as the descendant of an officer of the Revolution, to enrollment in the ranks of the Cincinnati. Wilson Hall, with the patriote blood of the Halls and Chaplins

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insisted on joining the Beaufort Volunteers Artillery, before he was 16 years old. My mother did what she could to hold him at home but as he was nearly 16 and so determined to go, she yielded, He participated in all the engagements of that company, during the four years of the war: Bay - Point, Pocotaligo, Honey Hill and others until the company went to North Carolina to join Joseph E. Johnsons army, opposing Shermans At Averysboro his foot was shot of. He lost so much blood before the amputation that his system was permanently weakened and when he was attacked by tuberculosis he died in the fall of 1873. He went to Southwest Georgia after the war and married Tillie Roberts, daughter of Dr. Lawrence Roberts, who was of the Robert family of Robertvill, S.C., His wifes mother was a Miss. Polhill, a Sister of Mrs (Dr) Benj W. Lawton, They had only one child at the time of their death, reared by her Aunt, Mrs Jennie Robert Stewart, became Mrs. Tillie Lagerquist, She had several children. Her son: Fredrick Lagerquist, some mounths ago was elected president of the Junoir Chamber of Commerce in Macon, Ga.

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