

John Howard (c. 1738 - c. 1800)

With his parents he emigrated from England to Virginia. According to family tradition his parents died en route and he was apprenticed to a farmer noted for his temper who when angry struck the boy with an ear of shucked dried corn with such force that its imprint was left on his temple for life. John ran away, joined the Virginia militia and marched with Col. George Washington to the Monongahela River during the French-Indian Wars. He was present at Braddock's Defeat on 9 July 1755, a story he retold often to his grandchildren. One great-grandson had this inscription carved on his tombstone in Ebenezer Church Cemetery, Tallmadge Co., Georgia: "Great Grandson of John Howard Who Was In Braddock's Defeat."

John Howard married a daughter of John Inman and moved to South Carolina c. 1770; he had a royal grant dated 3 July 1772 for 100 acres in upper Colleton Co. below Edisto River. An additional grant of 400 acres in the same locality was dated 4 April 1775. During the Revolutionary War he served as a Sergeant in the 5th S.C. Regiment of Troops. On 14 October 1784 he had a grant of 100 acres in Orangeburgh District and another 276 acres on 17 January 1786. All these lands were in the lower part of present Bamberg Co. which prior to 1776 was included in old Colleton Co., afterwards was part of Orangeburgh District, then Barnwell District. John and his Inman wife had 5 known children:

1. Catherine Howard, born c. 1762, married c. 1779 Jacob Hiers, Jr. and had ten children, eight of whom eventually migrated to Georgia. On 10 Dec. 1796 John Howard deeded 100 acres to Jacob Hiers; he died 1807 in Colleton Co. and Catherine married (2) Duncan Stewart of the same county.

2. Samuel Howard, born c. 1770; his father deeded 100 acres to him 10 Dec. 1796. Samuel and Christina Howard deeded said 100 acres lying on Swannah Creek in the fork of Big Saltcatcher to his brother-in-law Jacob Folk. On 4 Nov. 1805 he was granted 353 acres on Long Pond in Barnwell District and 853 acres on Willow Swamp in the same district on 7 Dec. 1807. He appears in Barnwell Co. 1800 Census.

3. George Howard, born 17 June 1777; on 10 Dec. 1796 his father deeded 100 acres to him. He married Christina Platta, born 16 March 1776, daughter of Jacob Platta; on 14 Sept. 1797 George and Christina deeded said 100 acres, situated northeast of lands of Jacob Folk and Jacob Hiers, to his brother-in-law, Jacob Folk. On 4 Sept. 1797 he had a grant of 334 acres on Pretty Creek in Orangeburgh Dist. and on 7 Nov. 1803 371 acres on Saltcatcher Creek in Barnwell Dist. (formerly part of Orangeburgh Dist.). He appears in Barnwell Co. 1800 Census and later moved to Liberty County, Georgia where he left many descendants.

4. Jacob Howard, born c. 1778; he had a grant of 291 acres on Saltcatcher Creek, Barnwell Dist. on 7 Nov. 1803. In 1834 he deeded land to George Platta and in 1839 had a deed from Christina Howard, possibly widow of Samuel Howard, who also deeded land to David Platta in 1816.

5. Mary Elizabeth Howard, born 11 April 1780, died 13 February 1839, married 1797 Jacob Folk, born 24 Dec. 1772 and died 10 Nov. 1845, son of Jacob and Catherine (daughter of Captain John Adam Epling) Folk; they had twelve children. The family Bible of Jacob Folk, a founder and faithful member of Wesley Chapel, shows these dates for Jacob and Mary Elizabeth (Howard) Folk but her tombstone in Wesley Chapel Cemetery shows her date of birth as 1772 which is an error.