

The Hiers Genealogy.
by the Hiers Research Committee

Write Wilmot C. Hiers
Box 281 Allendale S.C. 29810

JOHN JACOB HIERS FAMILY

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these, too, had interiors of heart pine. The entire structure rested on huge pine blocks, many of them three feet or more in diameter. Within a short time two more large back rooms were added, making eight in all.

In front of the house eight cedars forming a half-square were planted. These trees were named by Mrs. Smyly for their children and today are known by their names of Sarah, Sheldonye, Ellen, Carrie, Joseph, Duncan, Charles and John. For the youngest son, James, who was born in the new house there was no tree.

After Catherine Smyly died, Joseph remained single until the children were grown and then remarried. His second wife was a Miss Touchstone and of this union there were no children.

When the War Between the States came, the four older brothers joined the army and three gave their lives for the Confederacy, only Charles returning. James, the baby son, remained with his father and step-mother, for the girls had all married. Sarah married Fred Folk; Ellen was Mrs. Howell; Sheldonye had married into the Dannelly family, and Carrie's husband was Colonel Banting, a Canadian.

Upon his return from the war, Charles married Narcissa Stephens, daughter of a minister, whose family estates formerly joined the Smyly land.

The new Mrs. Smyly, who was a descendant of John Rutledge, was a highly educated and brilliant woman, a gifted musician and possessed of a lovely voice.

To Charles and Narcissa 10 children were born. Of these, three died, two in infancy and one at the age of sixteen.

After the death of his wife, Charles Smyly divided the estate among his children, many of whose descendants have built homes on their ancestral land. To his youngest daughter, the present Mrs. Matthew Jordan and the only still-surviving child, he gave the old home.

Like many others, during the intervening years, the old dwelling has been vacant for long intervals and has otherwise suffered from neglect. The rear portion of the house has been torn down, and it might be interesting to note here that former occupants have told of finding gold coins hidden in the chinks between the poles of the old rooms. Then, too, there is the purely legendary story of ghostly visitants.

That part of the house with the four original rooms, while dilapidated in some respects, is as sturdy as when it was first built.

Mrs. Jordan and her husband are having both the interior and exterior restored and somewhat modernized but retaining all the original lines and losing none of the charm and dignity which is the natural heritage of the old house.

The News and Courier, Charleston, S. C., kindly gave permission for the use of the above story which appeared in the Sunday, April 10, 1949, issue of the paper.

* JOHN HOWARD

Father of Catherine Howard, who m Jacob Heyer (Hiers), Jr.

The tradition among his Georgia descendants is that John Howard came to America from England as a young lad and was indentured to a Virginia farmer. It is thought that his parents may have died on board ship enroute to the Colonies. The farmer, known for his temper, became angry with the boy and struck him with an ear of shucked dried corn with such force that its imprint was left on his temple for life.

Young John ran away from the farmer, joined the Virginia militia and marched with "Colonel" George Washington to the Monongahela River in Pennsylvania (near present Pittsburgh) during the French and Indian War. On July 9, 1755, John Howard was standing close enough to hear Washington attempt to persuade Edward Braddock, renowned British general, to allow the Americans to fight Indian style from concealed positions behind trees, rocks and bushes. General Braddock was adamant in his refusal, and before the day ended he was mortally wounded and all of his mounted officers slain except Washington. Thus, John Howard was present at Braddock's defeat.

This story, which cannot be documented, has passed down through the families of the late John S. Howard, Sr. of Tattnall Co. and the late Daniel S. Howard of Long Co. The marker at the grave of John S. Howard, Sr. in Ebenezer Free Will Baptist Church cemetery, Tattnall Co., bears this inscription: "Great Grandson of John Howard Who Was in Braddocks Defeat".

John Howard later moved to South Carolina and settled in the south part of Orangeburgh District near the line of Colleton. He served in the S. C. Militia during the Revolutionary War and died in Barnwell District, S. C.

He married a Miss Inman, the daughter of John Inman, and by her had several children, among them were Catherine, George, Samuel, and Jacob. George Howard was born June 17, 1777, and married a daughter of Jacob Platts (or Platz), Christina, who was born Mar. 16, 1776.

Catherine Howard married (1) Jacob Hiers, Jr., who died in 1807 in St. Barthomomew's Parish in Colleton County, S. C. His widow married (2) Duncan Stewart of the same county.

In South Carolina John Howard, accumulated considerable real estate which was given to his children. In 1810 George and his brothers, Samuel and Jacob, moved to Liberty County, Ga. Samuel and Jacob later moved to Early Co., Ga., but George lived and died in Liberty County.

This material was provided by Miss Mary Parker, of Ludowici, Ga., and Elmer O. Parker, Washington, D. C.

The following research on John Howard was made by Mr. Joseph E. Steadman of Batesburg, S. C.

The tradition in this branch of the Howard family is that John Howard (b ca. 1738; d ca. 1800), its founder in South Carolina, came "from near the borders of Maryland or Virginia". The time of his arrival was prior to or during 1772. He probably was the Sergeant John Howard who, as a revolutionary patriot, was a member of the 5th South Carolina Regiment of Troops in which his near neighbor Jacob Copeland (elsewhere mentioned) also served.

On 3 July, 1772, John was granted 100 acres of land in Colleton County below Edisto River and on 4 April, 1775, he was granted an additional 400 acres in the same locality. On 14 October, 1784, he was granted 100 acres of land in Orangeburgh District and on 17 January, 1786, he was granted an additional 276 acres in the same locality. All of these lands were situated in the lower part of the present Bamberg County which prior to 1776 was included in old Colleton County and afterwards was a part of old Orangeburgh District. During the late 1790's he conveyed parts of these lands to his sons and sons-in-law.

He was the father of a daughter (I) Catherine who married prior to 1790, while the 1790 census for Orangeburgh District (South Part) shows him as the head of a family consisting of four males and two females who evidently were himself, sons (II) Samuel, (III) George, and (IV) Jacob, daughter (V) (1780-1839) Mary Elizabeth, and his wife (apparently died before 1800) whose name is not known. There perhaps were other children who died in infancy or childhood.

(I) Catherine, b ca. 1762 and living in 1806, m ca. 1779, Jacob Hiers, Jr., and became the mother of ten Hiers children. At least eight of these children eventually migrated to the south central section of Georgia. On 10 December,

1796, John Howard conveyed 100 acres of land (part of a tract of 476 acres) to Jacob Hiers.

(II) Samuel, b ca. 1770, m ca. 1797 and became the father of children (names and number not known). On 10 December, 1776, his father conveyed 100 acres of land (part of a tract of 476 acres) to him. On 19 September, 1797, Samuel Howard and Christiner Howard (presumably Samuel's wife) conveyed the said 100 acres, lying on Savannah Creek in the fork of Big Saltcatcher, to his brother-in-law Jacob Folk.—(See COPELAND FAMILY for information concerning Savannah Branch, or Creek.)—On 4 November, 1805 he was granted 353 acres of land situated on Long Pond in Barnwell District and on 7 December, 1807, he was granted 853 acres situated on Willow Swamp in the same district. He is listed in the 1800 census as the head of a family in Barnwell County. His descendants have not been traced.

b. 17 June 1777 (III) George, b ca. 1774, m ca. 1798 and became the father of children (names and number not known). On 10 December, 1796, his father conveyed 100 acres of land (part of a tract of 476 acres) to him. On 19 September, 1797, George Howard and Christiner Howard (presumably George's wife) conveyed the said 100 acres, situated northeast of lands of Jacob Folk and Jacob Hiers, to his brother-in-law Jacob Folk. On 4 September, 1797, he was granted 334 acres of land situated on Pretty Creek in Orangeburgh District and on 7 November, 1803, he was granted 371 acres on Saltcatcher Creek in Barnwell District (formerly a part of Orangeburgh District). He is listed in the 1800 census as the head of a family in Barnwell County. He later moved to Liberty County, Ga. His descendants have not been traced.

(IV) Jacob, b ca. 1776, was living in 1839. He, presumably, married and had a family of children but no descendants have been traced. On 7 November, 1803, he was granted 291 acres of land on Saltcatcher Creek in Barnwell District. In 1834 he conveyed a tract of land to George Platts, and in 1839 he received a conveyance of land from Christiner Howard.—(In 1816 Christiner Howard conveyed a tract of land to David Platts. She might have been the widow of Samuel Howard, since this writer knows nothing of him after the year 1807.)

* (V) Mary Elizabeth, b 11 April, 1780, and d 18 February, 1839, in the 59th year of her age, m 1797, Jacob Folk (b 24 December, 1772, and d 10 November, 1844; son of Jacob and Catherine Epting Folk), and became the mother of twelve Folk children. The original family bible of Jacob Folk shows the dates of her birth and death as mentioned herein, but her tombstone inscription shows that she was born on 11 April, 1772, and died 18 February, 1839, aged 66 years, 10 months, and 7 days. It is believed that the tombstone inscription is in error.

Judge Folks Huxford says on page 145 of Vol. 4 that John Howard was a veteran of the French and Indian War and was present at the surrender of Fort Duquense (now Pittsburgh, Pa.) and later in Revolutionary War in S. C.