

OBITUARY OF JOHN STONEY.

This is a copy of the Obituary of John Stoney from "The City Gazette" of Charleston, S.C. October 19, 1821, now in the possession of Mrs. S. G. Stoney, 129 Tradd Street, Charleston, South Carolina. I copied it from a print made on silk, and framed, April 21, 1925, and copy it again into this paper on this Wednesday afternoon, February 24th, 1932.

"Died, on the 12th inst. at his residence on Hilton Head Island, John Stoney, sen., in the 73rd year of his age, a native of oppressed Ireland, whence he emigrated in 1774. He found in Carolina atmosphere more congenial to his active and enterprising genius, and when just embarked in a successful career, his prospects of wealth were wrecked by the storm of the Revolution; but it was such firm, intrepid, and persevering spirits as himself, that could best sustain the patriotic cause in South Carolina.

"He fought with the little faithful band which maintained a resistance in spite of ruin and threatened death. When peace and liberty came at length to smile upon the country he would call his own, he betook himself with his accustomed energy to the business of a planter. Prosperity attended his exertions, and the evening of his days saw him in the enjoyment of well earned riches, and of affectionate and grateful friends, whom he had endeared by a sincerity and liberal generosity, that knew no bounds - a patriot and philanthropist, a pattern of industry, he had the disposition and ability to be useful and benevolent. His charities are recorded in the hearts that felt them; and though the place that once knew him, shall know him no more - his deeds of benevolence are still his own, and shall live forever!"

Note: Mrs. S. G. Stoney thinks that "the little faithful band" was Francis Marion's army. I am sure I agree, though I have not established it as a fact. D.A.R. records in the Municipal Library in Jacksonville, Florida, refer to John Stoney as a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

Mar. 30/32

Presented by Mr. Wm. S. Stoney

ORIGIN OF THE STONEY FAMILY

Mother aroused my interest in the family traditions and history with tales of the Shannons and McWillies and Cunninghams. A wealth of romance is bound up in most of the lives of these forgotten people of simple manners and quiet ways. A few of them have been outstanding in their contribution to the life of the south. One played his part in the destiny of the Nation, a small part to be sure. He was Governor McWillie of Mississippi, at whose home, "Kirkwood", in Madison County, Jefferson Davis and others used to gather before the Civil War.

The purpose of this paper is to bequeath to Martha Washington and Billy the story of the family as I have gathered it. The job of getting the bits of information together has been confined to off-hours and vacations. But it has been great fun. I will be quite pleased to make corrections if anyone finds mistakes.

The Stoneys originated in Yorkshire, England, in one of the west Ridings, Yorkshire being divided into "Ridings" for more convenient government. The first name appears as Stanehow, I think. Then it was Stanie and Staney, and finally Stoney. It is quite likely that it is Danish.

I will give dates of birth on the left of the names and dates of death on the right where I have been able to secure them. Roman numbers will indicate the generation back from my children. For instance my son Billy will have "(I)" by his name. I will have "(II)" by mine, as will Martha, my wife. Our parents will have "(III)" and our grandparents "(IV)", and so on back.

We start with George Stoney (X) who was born in Kittlewell, Yorkshire, England, in 1650. He married Mary Morehouse, an heiress of Rilston on January 6th, 1675, and moved from Yorkshire in 1692 to Knockshegowna County, Tipperary, Ireland. He is buried there. Their children were Thoman, John, James (who carries our line), Robert, and Leonard; all IXth Generation back.

Mary Morehouse was the daughter of Thomas Morehouse, who was born in 1613, married Abigail Winole in 1651, and died in 1657. Thomas's father was Richard Morehouse (XII), and his grandfather was Thomas Morehouse (XIII) who was born in 1576, married Maria Hoyston in 1609 and died in 1658. He is mentioned in Burke's "Landed Gentry of Ireland". Sam Stoney thinks that the family of Stoney was too obscure before that time to have left many records. The Morehouse family gave prominence to George.

George Stoney, whom I mentioned above, carried his thirteen year old son, James, to Ireland where the family lived for a few generations. James had a son named John, and John had a son named John (VII) who was born in 1748, was married to Elizabeth Caulfield, and moved to America in 1774, settling on Hilton Head Island, near Bluffton and Beaufort, South Carolina.