

Beaufort District. The Green family is identifiable from several documents. The 30 April 1739 will of James Green of Colleton County names sons: James, Jr., Josiah, Benjamin and Samuel. St. Helena's Parish Register shows Benjamin Green, shipwright, married 17 August 1752 Elizabeth Fripp, born 19 May 1736, daughter of John and Martha (Jenkins) Fripp, Jr. Surely she is the Elizabeth for whom Elizabeth Point was named. Their daughter, Elizabeth Green, born 17 July 1755, married on Hilton Head Island 20 November 1770 Jeremiah Sayre. (SCHM Vol. 23, p. 186) They leased land from Landgrave Bayley's heirs and were still planting here in 1783. Her father, Benjamin Green, had died intestate in 1768, his Estate Inventory appraised at \$7800/3/6 on 8 April 1768 by Dr. Edmund Ellis (the 1760 purchaser of Fish Hall Plantation from John Barnwell, Jr.), Thomas Bull, Benjamin Parmenter, Elizabeth Parmenter and Samuel Green (the 1763 purchaser of 321 acres of Fish Hall Plantation from Dr. Edmund Ellis). Samuel Green was also a brother of Benjamin Green. (Charleston Co. Inventory of Estates, Vol. X, pp. 292-294. Roll # 4378.) In 1783 Benjamin Green, Jr. was still planting his Scull Creek plantation, adjoining the Estate of William Waight, Myrtle Bank.

The obituary of the Rev. Dr. Henry Talbird, a distinguished Baptist minister, born on Hilton Head Island 7 November 1811, noted that he "died at his home in Switzerland, Florida on 14 October 1890, in the 80th year of his age". His father, known as "Yorktown Henry" Talbird, was born on the shore of Scull Creek 19 October 1781, the day Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown. He married 5 July 1810 Sarah Blakewood in Savannah and lived on Hilton Head Island until his death at age 66. In May 1888 Dr. Talbird wrote at the request of his cousin, Col. Nathaniel Henry Rhodes Dawson of Washington, DC (a brother-in-law of the late President Abraham Lincoln, since they had married Todd sisters), a remarkable

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"outline of the history of the Talbird family". Their Carolina progenitor, Henry, son of Sir John Talbot, Baronet, Lord Mayor of Dublin, had been lost as a three year old lad in London by a servant of his uncle Henry Talbot, a merchant who was rearing the boy to be his heir, young Henry's mother being deceased and Sir John's having married a wealthy young wife. The weeping, frightened child caught the attention of a kindly gentleman who, unable to locate the child's family, took him to his own wife in Plymouth whence he shipped as a sea captain. The childless couple grew to love the lad and could not bring themselves to give him up when they read newspaper stories about the missing heir. Eventually Captain Haylton retired from the sea and removed to Carolina where he became a merchant, bringing young Henry Talbot as a "grandson". Years later when Mrs. Haylton read the obituary of Sir John Talbot, she was moved to confess her perfidy to Henry and sent him to Dublin to establish his true identity. There his younger half-brother had him imprisoned as an imposter. With the help of his sister who had earlier satisfied herself as to his identity through several birth marks, he was able to return to Charleston and Beaufort where he prospered as a merchant and planter, marrying the widow of a young British subaltern, James Doherty, who had left her with two young children. Henry had a brickyard which enabled him to build Talbot's Lighthouse at Tybee, part of his payment being land on Scull Creek on Hilton Head Island, title to which a careless clerk made in the name of Henry Talbird. Being completely alienated from his Talbot half-brother in Ireland, Henry adopted the Talbird spelling. However, some years later his Talbot sister did leave him a handsome cash legacy.

Dr. Talbird's history has only one date, October 1854, when he admits all his family papers which he had carefully collected, were destroyed

in the burning of Howard College in Marion, Alabama where he was a professor. But much of his history is verifiable from other sources. The immigrant Henry, born c. 1725, married (1) 4 March 1745 Mary Hannon who apparently died in childbirth. He married (2) in 1750 Mrs. Mary Ann Doherty. Of her son, Captain James Doherty, born 19 June 1743, more later. Her daughter Mary Doherty, born 1745, married Edward Lecraft, by whom she had three sons: Captain John Lecraft, born 1762, whose story appears below, William Lecraft and Christopher Lecraft, whose legal heir was his cousin, Dr. Nathaniel Henry Rhodes (1783-1817). Henry and Mary Ann Talbird had two daughters and four sons:

1. Mary Talbird (21 Sep 1751-19 Oct 1811) married 11 June 1774 at St. Helena's Church, John Rhodes, Esq., born 2 Feb 1747 at Bridgnorth, Shropshire, England, arrived SC 1758, merchant of Charleston and Beaufort, appointed Sheriff of Beaufort District 26 Mar. 1776 by President John Rutledge. Mary Talbird Rhodes was given by her father his 1217-acre Whale Branch Plantation, important because there many of the Talbird-Rhodes-Doherty-Lecraft family are buried. Her son, Dr. Nathaniel Henry Rhodes, married in 1806 Mary Hamilton, daughter of Paul Hamilton, Governor of South Carolina 1804-1806 and later Secretary of the U.S. Navy, whose handsome epitaph still stands in Whale Branch (now called Clarendon) Cemetery. Her daughter, Henrietta Rhodes, married (1) 1809 Dr. Paul Hamilton, Jr. and after his 1817 death, married (2) 1830 the Rev. William Taylor Potter, Rector of St. Helena's Parish. Her granddaughter, Mary Wilkinson Rhodes, married in 1826 Lawrence Edward Dawson of Charleston; they were parents of Col. Nathaniel Henry Rhodes Dawson (1829-1895) noted above.

2. William Talbird, born 23 July 1753, whose crippled condition made him the only Talbird brother who did not fight as a patriot in the Revolution. He was the father of one son and has many descendants.

3. Captain Thomas Talbird, born 12 June 1755, fought valiantly in the Revolution and was thereafter known as Col. Talbird; he married 29 June 1780 Christine Crawford. Their daughter Anne married her cousin, Thomas Talbird, son of Captain John Talbird. Their son, Dr. Thomas Talbird, was killed when thrown from a carriage with a runaway horse on Lady's Island; he was unmarried. All buried in St. Helena's.

4. Anne Talbird, born 2 March 1758, married Mr. Bush; they were not living in Beaufort District in 1790.

5. Captain John Talbird (1760-1825) of Hilton Head Island, whose story appears below.

6. PVT. Richard Talbird, born 1762, was killed in the Battle of Port Royal Island 3 Feb. 1779, unmarried.

The story of Captain James Doherty of Scull Creek and Bear Island Plantation is intertwined with those of his Talbird half-brothers and his nephews: John, William and Edward Lecraft. His father, British subaltern James Doherty, left him a Scull Creek plantation when he died as a young officer c. 1748. But James, only five, was raised after 1750 at his step-father's Whale Branch Plantation. After he began planting his Scull Creek property, he became much involved in the struggle to win American independence and in March 1776 was elected captain in Col. Stephen Bull's regiment. Joseph Johnson in his Traditions And Reminiscences of the American Revolution records that "in one of his excursions, Doherty attacked a British galley anchored in Savannah River. His well-directed fire killed several, and cleared the decks, but he had no boats, or any means of cutting the cable and warping her ashore. On the retreat of his party, the British fired their cannon with grape shot in the works, but without injury. When the men had retired far enough, they were halted and seated on a tree to rest. A random shot from the galley now struck a sapling close to them, cut

it off and struck one of the men on his body, but being spent, it fell harmlessly at his feet."

His brothers Thomas, John and Richard came often to the Island to visit him and talk over military strategy. But John Talbird's patriotism was temporarily diverted upon his meeting the daughter of neighboring planter John Ladson. Ladson had purchased a Scull Creek plantation in the late 1750s and married Mary Ann Conyers whose father owned the adjoining plantation. Conyers claimed descent from Sir John Conyers, Commander of the Tower of London under Charles I, who imprudently supported Cromwell and fell into obscurity after the 1660 Restoration, the last of the family emigrating to Carolina. Conyers and Ladson jointed the business venture of buying a cargo of African slaves on a ship sent to South Carolina from Boston and with their profits bought their Hilton Head Island property. Conyers enjoyed fishing during his retirement and accidentally drowned in Scull Creek, the spot long pointed out as Conyer's Hole and carefully avoided. Ladson's wife inherited her father's property. She and John Ladson had two daughters: Elizabeth, born 1762 and Mary Ann, born 1764. It was the latter who caught John Talbird's eye and since it was "love at first sight", they were married in December 1778 just as Savannah fell to the British. Henry Talbird gave his son his Scull Creek plantation as a wedding present and John built his home there. In the reorganization of the Granville County militia John was commissioned Lt. in the company of his brother, Capt. Thomas Talbird.

In late January 1779 Captain Doherty was placed in command of Fort Lyttleton on Beaufort River with fifty men, as Col. William Harden left the area to join Gen. Marion. As British forces from Savannah approached, he had the unenviable duty of spiking the fort's guns and making the fort useless to the enemy. In the ensuing Battle of Port

Royal Island his brother Richard Talbird was killed. The British withdrew to Savannah. But when Continental Army commander Gen. Benjamin Lincoln dispatched Gen. John Ashe across Savannah River, he was completely routed at Brier Creek in early March. Talbird's company, with Gen. Moultrie at his Black Swamp Headquarters, was forced to withdraw to Coosawhatchie when the British landed 2,000 regulars at Purrysburg. The attempt to deny them a crossing of Coosawhatchie resulted in another grievous American defeat and the first general invasion of Beaufort District by plundering British regulars, Tories and royal militia, plus dreaded Indian savages whose constant practise was to murder all women and children after scalping them. Panic gripped the Lowcountry. Many militiamen were forced to return to their plantations to defend their families. Some sought and accepted British protection. Not the Talbirds.

Captain Thomas Talbird's company continued to contest the British advance, retreating to hastily-constructed defenses before Charlestown itself. The timely arrival of President John Rutledge from Orangeburg with a newly-recruited army and the tardy approach of Gen. Lincoln from Black Swamp induced the British to withdraw to James Island. Capt. Talbird's company and other units of the Beaufort Regiment camped on Johns Island. One historian's account claims the British surprised an out-sentinel from whom they extorted the countersign. Another source bluntly insists that Barnwell relative Thomas Fenwick actually betrayed the Americans. The result was a devastating surprise massacre in which Lt. John Talbird was wounded and captured, his very life saved by a sympathetic British soldier. Captains James Doherty and Thomas Talbird escaped.

Lt. John Talbird continued a prisoner of war until after the May 1780 surrender of Charlestown when he was paroled and returned to his Scull Creek home. There he had the joy of meeting his son John, born in

late 1779. But British naval power continued to dominate the islands. He was pressed to join a British military unit to fight his own countrymen, a course impossible for him. He made his way inland to join Col. Harden's regiment under the command of Gen. Marion. But in the changing fortunes of war he was again taken prisoner.

Meanwhile, Captain Doherty returned to his Bear Creek Plantation (on the mainland north of present Moss Creek) for supplies. With him were his brother, Capt. Thomas Talbird, and his nephews John, William and Christopher Lecraft. While there he received word from a widow lady (would that history had preserved her name!) that Royal Militia Captain Richard Pendarvis would attack him that very evening. The patriots confidently planned to set an ambush but were themselves surprised as they moved to augment their scheme.

"Are you Captain Doherty?", a voice demanded.

Instantly Doherty turned to his relatives, "Fly, we are too late!" He then acknowledged his identity and was gunned down as John Lecraft and Thomas Talbird escaped. Doherty lay with his gun in hand and invited his assassins to come and shake hands with him before he died, hoping to retaliate on some of them. But there was a fire in the yard and they saw where he lay, fired a second volley and killed him.

William Lecraft, a boy of fifteen, caught while attempting flight, was repeatedly hanged by the neck to torture him into revealing the whereabouts of his uncle and brothers. Although half-dead, he steadfastly answered that if he knew, he would not tell them. Finally they desisted. Captain Doherty's body was buried at Whale Branch Plantation. His Hilton Head Island plantation, still shown on Dr. George Mosse's 1783 survey as "James Doherty's Estate", was inherited by his Lecraft nephews. In April 1781 when the British-held Fort Balfour at Pocoligo

surrendered to Col. Harden, Captain John Lecraft, newly-commissioned by Continental Army Gen. Nathaniel Green (Garden, p. 250), with a detachment of fellow-Islander Nathaniel Gamble and Pvts. Blakewood and Bettison, rode to Captain "Tory Dick" Pendarvis' Stephenville Plantation (now called Palmetto Bluff) on South May River and executed him, along with his Lt. William Patterson, as they were preparing to seek safety in flight to St. Augustine. Captain James Doherty was avenged.

The Royal Militia on Daufuskie were infuriated. Under orders from Savannah they were instructed to burn the residences of all known or suspected patriots between Savannah and Beaufort. In mid-October a servant of Mrs. Mary Ann (Ladson) Talbird ran up from their Scull Creek dock, crying, "Soldiers, Missus! Coming ashore!"

"Get the others and hide in the woods until I call you", she replied, hurrying to her front piazza with young John held firmly by the hand. She was pregnant, ready to be delivered. To her astonishment, she was faced by her own sister's fiance who was in charge of the detail. Shamefaced, he told her that his orders required him to burn the house. But since nothing was said about furnishings, he ordered his men to move everything out and pile it under a large Live Oak 150 yards from the house. He burned her house and carried off all the slaves he could find. After his departure Mrs. Talbird called her remaining servants and put them to work building cabins roofed with palmetto fronds. In one such she gave birth to her second son, named Henry for his grandfather, on 19 October 1781, afterwards known as "Yorktown Henry" since his birthday turned out to be the very day on which Lord Cornwallis, harried and exhausted by South Carolina's three great guerilla generals who were commissioned and commanded by South Carolina's Governor John Rutledge, lamely surrendered at Yorktown.

The war still had not ended in South Carolina, for the British held

both Savannah and Charleston. On 22 October 1781 a detachment from Daufuskie Island's Royal Militia ambushed Pvt. Charles Davant at Big Gate on Hilton Head Island as he was returning home from militia duty. As he died in his wife's arms at their Two Oaks Plantation, he managed, "Martinangele...get Martinangele..."

Captain John Lecraft, holding the only Continental Line commission on the Island, gathered the militia and in Christmastide 1781 led the Bloody Legion to Daufuskie where Captain Phillip Martinangele ~~and his brother, Pvt. Abraham Martinangele~~ of the British Royal Militia ~~were~~ was executed. One historian of the Revolution wrote, "After the peace John Lecraft retired to his plantation on Hilton Head Island and lived many years, but he left no family." Actually, he married and was a prosperous planter with no less than 33 slaves recorded in the 1790 Census. Another historian recorded the fact that he raised his Uncle John's son, "Yorktown Henry" who lived his entire life of 65 years on the shore of Scull Creek. The Charleston Courier on 27 August 1806 reported: "Departed this transitory life at his plantation on Hilton Head Island, on the 15th instant, John Leacraft, Esq. after a tedious illness."

His Uncle John Talbird also prospered. In 1790 he was planting with the help of 27 slaves and had an additional son, Thomas, who later married his cousin, Anne, daughter of Col. Thomas Talbird, and a daughter Ann who later married c. 1808 Dr. Samuel Fyler, born 11 Feb. 1782 in Terringford, Conn., son of Ulysses and Abigail Fyler. He came south to Hilton Head Island to begin his practise of medicine, married Ann, built a home on Talbird property and planted to augment his income. Their daughter, Mary Ann Fyler, born August 1810, died 7 Feb. 1815 and was buried beside her younger sister, Aurelia A. Fyler, born July 1812, died 31 Oct. 1813, just east of Indian Springs on Scull Creek. Dr. Fyler

himself died 11 Oct. 1821 and was buried beside his daughters, their graves marked with stones seen as recently as 1970 still in good condition. After Dr. Fyler's death his widow removed from the Island to Connecticut with their surviving child, John Samuel Fyler, born on Scull Creek 22 July 1814. The widow married Dr. Luman Wakefield of Winchester, Conn.; her son returned south to Beaufort as a merchant-planter and married still another Ann Talbird, daughter of his Uncle Thomas and Ann (Talbird) Talbird. With the 1825 death of old Captain John Talbird, followed in 1829 by that of his widow, Mary Ann (Ladson) Talbird, the family turned its interest towards Beaufort, their Island holdings not being sufficiently large to take advantage of the economics of size. Another family was ready to invest more extensively.

The Barksdale family is one of the first families of South Carolina, John Barksdale, Esq. of London having arrived with his party of ten, family and servants, before June 1695. Shortly thereafter he was seated on 2660 acres in Christ Church Parish on Auendaw River with a town house in Charlestown. His son Thomas married c. 1713 Sarah Legaré, daughter of the noted Huguenot silversmith, Solomon Legaré. By the time their son George Barksdale died in 1781, he had long been seated on nearby Spring Island in St. Helena's Parish. It was his son George, born on Spring Island 1761, who, after the 1786 death of his first wife, married (2) Ann Agnes Bona, daughter of planter Lewis Bona, member of the 1781 Bloody Legion, who is shown on Dr. Mosse's 1783 survey as leasing from Landgrave Bayley's heirs lands that eventually became Folly Field and Sand Hill Plantations. Lewis Bona was planting with 18 slaves in 1790, having married in 1774 the widow Sarah Parmenter. His son-in-law, George Barksdale, apparently bought the Scull Creek lands of Benjamin Green, Jr. shortly after 1786 and was planting there in 1790