

# THE BONNER'S

OF

# CHOWAN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$

A Family History by John Wesley Curry





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PART TWO Revisions Copyright 1995 (sub-titled)

The
HENRY BONNER'S
of
Chowan County, North Carolina

Including

THOMAS BONNER

of
Chowan County, North Carolina
and
Clarke County, Georgia
A
Soldier of The

### A FAMILY HISTORY

American Revolution

by
JOHN WESLEY CURRY
First Lieutenant
United States Marine Corps
(Retired)

Member SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION #142858

Member
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
through
James Allen McConniell
Private, Company A, 14th Alabama Regiment,
CSA

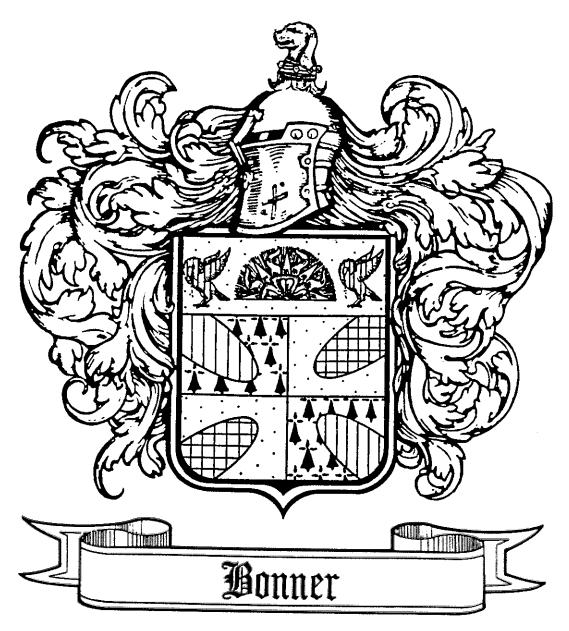


Greenville, North Carolina Part One Copyright 1995

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THE BONNER COAT OF ARMS HEREBY ILLUSTRATED IS OFFICIALLY DOCU-MENTED IN BURKE'S GENERAL ARMORY. THE ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ARMS (SHIELD) IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUARTERLY, GU. AND SA. A CROSS PATTEE QUARTERLY, ERM. AND OR, ON A CHIEF OF THE LAST A DEMI ROSE, STREAMING RAYS, BETW. TWO PELICANS VULNING THEMSELVES OF THE FIRST.

WHEN TRANSLATED THE BLAZON ALSO DESCRIBES THE ORIGINAL COLORS

OF THE BONNER ARMS AS:
"QUARTERED RED AND BLACK; A CROSS PATTEE QUARTERED ERMINE AND GOLD: ON A GOLD UPPER THIRD A HALF ROSE STREAMING RAYS BETWEEN TWO RED PELICANS VULNING THEMSELVES."

ABOVE THE SHIELD AND HELMET IS THE CREST WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS: "A SILVER HUNTING DOG'S HEAD, COLLAR BLUE, STUDS, EDGES AND RINGS GOLD."

#### **CONTENTS**

PART ONE is about Thomas Bonner (ca 1744 - 1804) and his ancestors when they lived in Chowan County, North Carolina near the present town of Edenton in a section of the county known locally as "Green Hall". Green Hall Road is on modern maps north of Edenton. Thomas moved to South Carolina between 1776 and 1779. He served in the American Revolution from South Carolina and moved to Georgia sometime between December 1785 and June 1787.

CHAPTER ONE of Part One is about Henry Bonner (ca 1620 - 1689), the great-great-grandfather of the above Thomas Bonner. Henry Bonner arrived in Jamestown, Virginia with his family prior to March 1664 and then moved to Shaftsbury Precinct of Albemarle County in the North of Carolina in what is now Chowan County, North Carolina prior to 1672. He was a member of the House of Burgess, a Lord Proprietor Deputy and was involved in the Culpepper Rebellion of 1677-79 while a member of Burgess. He died in July 1689.

CHAPTER TWO of Part One is about Henry Bonner (ca 1650 - ca 1725), a son of the above Henry Bonner. Henry was appointed a Lord Proprietor Deputy upon the death of his father in July 1689. He may have been the father of (Sheriff) Thomas Bonner of Beaufort County, North Carolina (there is no evidence). He died about 1725.

CHAPTER THREE of Part One is about Henry Bonner (ca 1679 - 1738), a son of the above Henry Bonner. Henry was a member of the Chowan County Militia, holding the ranks of Captain, Major and Colonel. He was an Attorney, appointed a Justice in 1723 and 1730 and was a member of the Lower House of Assembly in Edenton in 1725, 1726, and 1727. He was also involved in the affairs of the Episcopal Church in Edenton as a Church Warden. He held the rank of Colonel at his death in September 1738.

CHAPTER FOUR of Part One is about Henry Bonner (ca 1708 - 1766), a son of the above Henry Bonner. Henry was a Captain in the Chowan Militia. The DAR records have him listed as being a Justice. He was involved in the affairs of the Episcopal Church in Edenton as a Church Secretary at the same time his father was Church Warden. He died in 1766, probably in August.

CHAPTER FIVE of Part One is about Thomas Bonner (ca 1744 - 1804) when he lived in North Carolina. Documents showing him as a resident of South Carolina are included along with those showing the approximate date when he moved to Georgia. In the Last, Will and Testament of Henry Bonner (ca 1708 - 1766) is proof that Thomas was born between July 1745 and May 1746. He died in Clarke County, Georgia on 30 December 1804.

PART TWO is a reproduction, revised with new information, of the work of James C. Bonner's, "Migration Pattern of the Descendants of Thomas Bonner - A Family History", written in 1964. This work is about Thomas Bonner (ca 1744 - 1804) and some of his descendants after they moved to Georgia.

The purpose of this work was to establish proof that Thomas Bonner of Chowan County, North Carolina was the same Thomas Bonner who died in Clarke County, Georgia; to give the descendants of Thomas a feeling of who he was and where he came from. We owe more to him than words can ever express. He contributed to the freedom of this country and he is our connection to the past when this country was ruled by the King of England.

A section has also been included showing the origin of the Bonner clan in England. Especially of interest is the life of Reverend Edmund Bonner, a Chaplain to King Henry VIII. While acting for the King in a divorce hearing with Pope Clement VII, Reverend Bonner so infuriated the Pope that he was threatened with being boiled alive in a cauldron of molten lead.

This entire work has been written in the memory of Dr. James C. Bonner, Ph.D. (1904 - 1984) because of his research on Thomas Bonner (ca 1744 - 1804) and his family. Without his effort much information about the Bonner family would have never been published or known to the descendants of Thomas Bonner (died 1804). It would have been lost to the ages. Dr. Bonner spent more than forty years researching and traveling to old Bonner family homesites throughout the State of Georgia and gathered information from many people who are now passed away. His efforts will always be appreciated.

Thank you cousin James!

John Wesley Curry

This 4th day of July in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Four.

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#### DEDICATION

Part One of this work is dedicated to the memory of my mother, Nannie Mae Mathis Curry (1910 - 1988).

Mom was always interested in her family history, especially in her McConniell family. Over the years she retained letters and photographs which came into her possession. Of special interest to our family history are letters she saved from her grandmother. Martha Caroline Bonner McConniell, with whom there was much mutual love and respect.

On Christmas day in 1977, she and I went to her birthplace near Cooley Cross-roads in Clay County, Alabama. It was the first visit she had made to the place since she left in 1925. We found only the remains of the old stone and clay chimneys which had been located at each end of the two room house. She stood in the middle of what had been the house and pointed to where the barns, cottonfields, cornfields and orchards had been. She then pointed toward a small valley and said a path had been there leading to a small spring and that was where they got water to drink, wash clothes, etc.

I went down the valley and called to her that I had found a stream of water. She made her way through the vines, briars and other undergrowth. When she made her way to my side she made a sobbing sound and stood with tears rolling down her cheeks. It was the same spring of water. She was deeply overcome with emotions as she remembered the days of her youth. I will remember sharing that moment with her forever.

We then went to the cemetery at Cragford (Cragford had once been known as Wesobulga), where we visited the graves of my great grand-parents, Martha Caroline Bonner McConniell and James Allen McConniell (Note - He was very particular that his last name was spelled correctly, as herein). Also buried at Cragford are some of my cousins, great-uncles and great-aunts, many who held me in their arms when I was a baby.

It was truly a day to remember!

Lastly, this is dedicated to my children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, and all my Bonner family relatives because I want them to know who they are and who they have been.

A very special thank you is for my cousin, Mr. Darrell Herrington of Stonewall, Mississippi, a descendant of Jordan Bonner. Darrell furnished valuable information available from no other source concerning Thomas Bonner (born 1744) and his family. Because of him, I was able to connect the Thomas Bonner I found in Chowan County, North Carolina to be the same Thomas Bonner who died in Clarke County, Georgia.

Thank you Darrell!

May God Bless You All!

John Wesley Curry 12 July 1994

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#### THE LINEAL LIST

1. Henry Bonner (ca 1620 - July 1689)

Wife: Unknown

Children: a. Henry Bonner (ca 1650 - ca 1725)

- b. William Bonner
- c. (Thomas Bonner died 1685) ?
- 2. Henry Bonner (ca 1650 ca 1725)

Wife: Elizabeth? (born? - died 3 March 1681)

Children: a. Henry Bonner (ca 1679 - September 1738)

He might be the father of the following (there is no proof):

- b. Elizabeth Bonner (birth date missing in the records)
- c. John Bonner (born 3 March 1681 died December 1753)
- d. James Bonner (living in Chowan in 1703)
- e. William (Will) Bonner (living in Chowan in 1710's)
- f. Thomas Bonner (born ca 1690 died 7 April 1765 in Beaufort County)

Special Note: Recent conversations with descendants of (Sheriff) Thomas Bonner (born ca 1690) lead all of us to believe that a probability of about 99.99% exists that the above James, William and Thomas were sons of this Henry Bonner.

3. Henry Bonner (ca 1679 - September 1738)

Wife: 1st: Unknown

Children: a. Elizabeth Bonner (ca 1703 - ca 1742)

Wife: 2d: Deborah Whedbee (28 January 1689 - ca 1728)

Children: b. Henry Bonner (ca 1708 - July 1766)

- c. Deborah Bonner (ca 1724 1784)
- d. Mary Bonner (ca 1726 1759)
- e. Thomas Bonner (ca 1728 1784)
- 4. Henry Bonner (ca 1708 July 1766)

Wife: 1st: Sarah Luten

Children: a. Thomas Bonner (ca 1744 - 30 December 1804)

- b. William Bonner (ca 1748 1781)
- c. Henry Bonner (ca 1750 ?

Wife: 2d: Elizabeth Hardy (married 4 January 1750 or 1758 - believed to be 1758)

Children: d. Richard Bonner (ca 1759 - 1781)

5. Thomas Bonner (ca 1744 - 30 December 1804)

Wife: Margaret Jones (ca 1747 - ca 1828)

When: On 6 May 1767 in Edenton, North Carolina

Children: a. Jordan Bonner (12 December 1767 - 8 May 1841)

- b. Zadock Bonner (17 June 1769 1848)
- c. Deborah Bonner (1772 after 1850)
- d. Whitmel Bonner (ca 1775 1819)
- e. Thomas Bonner (1779 August 1860)
- f. Mary Elizabeth Bonner (1779 after 1865)
- g. Allen Bonner (1781 1828)
- h. Willis Bonner (ca 1785 -?)
- i. Josiah Bonner (5 May 1787 9 December 1851)
- j. Daniel M. Bonner (ca 1789 ? )

6. Thomas Bonner (1779 - August 1860)

Wife: Elizabeth Duke (1786 - after 1870)

Where: About 1802 in Clarke County, Georgia

Children: a. William Bonner (13 September 1803 -

- b. James Bonner (16 May 1806 ca 1865)
- c. Bidda Bonner (31 January 1808 -
- d. Nancy Bonner (16 December 1809 -
- e. Thomas Bonner (12 March 1812 -
- f. Mary Bonner (4 February 1814 -
- g. Elizabeth Bonner (9 November 1816 -
- h. Allen Bonner (11 February 1818 -
- i. Susan Bonner (9 November 1819 -
- j. Josiah Bonner (24 February 1821 -
- k. Sarah Ann Bonner (7 January 1823 before 1860)
- 1. Bennett W. Bonner (16 November 1824 -
- m. Caroline Bonner (28 July 1826 -
- 7. James Bonner (16 May 1806 ca 1865)

Wife: Nancy Telitha Applewhite (1810 - after 1870)

Where: Morgan County, Georgia on 7 August 1828

Children: a. Josiah Bonner (went to the Civil War and never returned)

- b. Benjamin Bonner
- c. Sarah Bonner
- d. Mary Bonner
- e. Harry Bonner
- f. Susannah Bonner (7 January 1838 17 April 1923)

Married Houze. She is buried in the Corinth Baptist Church Cemetery in Clay County, Alabama.

- g. Martha Caroline Bonner (20 September 1846 19 January 1933)
- h. Emily Bonner (according to Martha, Emily was the baby. She married, went to Arkansas and never returned).
- 8. Martha Caroline Bonner (20 September 1846 19 January 1933)

Husband: James Allen McConniell (12 November 1838 - 31 July 1917)

Where: Heard County, Georgia on 2 August 1866

Children: a. Julie Ann Frances Mc (1867 - 25 December 1912)

b. Nancy Telitha Mc (25 August 1869 - 22 December 1951)

Married: Richard (Hent) Jones (22 June 1869 - 6 June 1952) Both are

buried in the Cragford Cemetery Clay County, Alabama.

Children: (1) Minnie Jones

Married: Wilburn Twilley

Children: Earl Twilley

- (2) Lonie Jones
- (3) Andrew Jones
- (4) Bertha Jones
- (5) Vaudie Jones
- (6) Jake Jones
- c. John Melton Mc (? 9 July 1933)
- d. Emma Ardamisa Mc
- e. Susannah Victoria Mc (1876 19 April 1941) Buried in unmarked grave beside her parents.

f. Tullula Sadenia (Denia) Mc (14 April 1877 - 4 May 1971) Married: Daniel Cotney (24 April 1875 - 16 March 1966) Children: (1) Eulas James Cotney 14 July 1899 - 9 September 1925) Married: Vera Bolt (3 January 1901 - 9 September 1960) Both buried Cragford Cemetery, Clay County, Alabama. (2) Issac Huston Cotney (7 August 1901 - July 1955) Buried at Fort Valley, Georgia (3) Oliver Odell Cotney (28 November 1903 - 7 November 1983) Buried in Opp, Alabama (4) Lula Vasti Cotney (6 February 1906 - \_\_\_\_) Clark) Married: (5) Daniel Zero Cotney (16 April 1908 - 8 Nobember 1982) Buried in Bessemer, Alabama (6) Roxie Belle Cotney (4 January 1912 - \_\_\_\_) Married: \_\_\_\_ Clark. (7) Artford Genatious Cotney (17 July 1916 - 1 November 1974) g. Josiah Franklin Mc (7 January 1880 - 29 January 1957). His tombstone has "Joseph Franklin" and a Masonic emblem. Married: Lenora Jane Robertson (14 June 1882 - 13 May 1968) Children: (1) Zula Alza Mc (6 January 1902 - 5 March 1959. h. Lewis Monroe Mc (1881 - 22 December 1884) i. Lola Lee Mc (31 January 1884 - 2 February 1884) (Bled to death from her navel) j. "Little Buddy" Mc (Stillborn 1884) k. James Asbury Mc (27 April 1885 - 15 May 1954) Tombstome has "J.A." Married: Emily Jane Moncus (10 September 1877 - 28 April 1945) Children: Henry Jackson Mc (9 November 1911 - 28 June 1973) All are buried in the Corinth Baptist Church Cemetery in Clay County, Alabama. 1. Mattie Eula Mc (15 April 1888 - 21 October 1979). Buried in Curry family cemetery in Childersburg, Alabama beside her oldest daughter. 9. Mattie Eula McConniell (15 April 1888 - 21 October 1979) Husband: William Wesley Mathis (4 February 1845 - 4 January 1928) Where: In Clay County, Alabama on 2 September 1909 Children: a. Nannie Mae Mathis (12 July 1910 - 3 February 1988) b. Elsie Ava Lee Mathis (21 October 1916 - 27 November 1993) c. John Allen Mathis (11 December 1922 - still living in May 1995). 10. Nannie Mae Mathis (12 July 1910 - 3 February 1988) Husband: Leo Dewey Curry (11 December 1908 - 13 December 1993) Where: In Talladega County, Alabama on 1 August 1931 Children: a. John Wesley Curry (2 June 1934 b. Loyace Dean Curry (14 March 1936 c. Nannie Sue Curry (31 July 1937 d. Charles Michael Curry (Stillborn in March 1939)

e. Roderick Selton Curry (20 September 1940 -

h. Robert Allen Curry (19 July 1945 - 25 November 1975)

f. Leo Wayne Curry (9 October 1942 g. Mary Louise Curry (8 May 1944 -

i. Linda Dianne Curry (27 October 1947 -

10-1 John Wesley Curry (2 June 1934 -

Wife: Rosa Katherine Hudson (16 September 1938 - Where: In Dillon, South Carolina on 27 February 1955 Children: a. John Wesley Curry (30 September 1957 -

Married: Frances Dawn Bryan (21 May 1965 -

When: In Martin County, North Carolina on 10 December 1988

Children: Chelsea Elizabeth Curry (23 April 1991 -

b. Dempsey Diane Curry (23 May 1959 -

Married: Jerry Garland Mason (12 August 1956 -

When: In Carteret County, N. C.

Children: Joshua William Lee Mason (2 October 1992 -

c. Katherine Anne Curry (6 July 1960 -

Married: Jay Stuart Turnage (5 November 1958 - When: In Dallas, Texas on 26 February 1982 -

Children: (1) Kristina Lynelle Turnage (10 August 1984 -

(2) Ryan Edward Turnage (22 October 1987 -

(3)

d. Sandra Leigh Curry (10 August 1962 -

Married: Bryan Jeffrey Baker (22 September 1963 - When: In Carteret County, N. C. on 12 April 1986 Children: (1) Staci Knydal Baker (5 October 1986 (2) Jamie Lauren Baker (30 April 1990 -

e. Tracy Denise Curry (9 November 1963 -

Married: Joe Cephas Beam (5 March 1962 -

When: In Carteret County, N. C. on 21 September 1991

10-2 Loyace Dean Curry (14 March 1936 -

Married: (1st) Bill Williams

When: 15 June 1957

Children: a. Michael Williams

Married:

Children: (1) Brian Williams

(2) Sheena Williams

b. Cynthia Gayle Williams (13 August 1959 -

Married: Jeffrey Jones

Children: (1) Brandon Jones (9 November 1978 -

(2) Bridgett Jones (1 August 1983 -

c. Billy Lester Williams (7 July 1961 -

Married: Katie

Children: Jessica Williams (12 July 1990 -

d. Lisa Dianne Williams (20 July 1961 -

Married:

Children: Nan Kristin \_\_\_\_\_.

Married: (2d) J. W. (Bob) Johnson

Children: e. Barbara Michelle (Shell) Johnson (16 December 1968 -

10-3 Nannie Sue Curry (31 July 1937 -

Married: Robert Milton Barnette

When: In Talladega County, Alabama on 9 April 1955

Children: Suszan Faye Barnette (26 June 1957 -

Married: Danny Kevin Burnette

Children: (1) Joshua Kevin Burnette (4 July 1982 -

#### (2) Benjamin James Burnette (4 November 1983 -

10-4 Roderick Selton Curry (20 September 1940 -

Married: Linda Ann Hudgins (5 August 1948 -

When: In Newport News, Virginia on 27 August 1966

Children: a. Carolyn Ann Curry (27 July 1968 -

b. Roderick Selton Curry, Jr. (27 May 1971 - 20 April 1984)

10-5 Leo Wayne Curry (9 October 1942 -

Married: Judith Ann Hines (10 February 1941 -

When: 11 September 1969

Children: Barbara Rene Curry (18 March 1975 -

10-6 Mary Louise Curry (8 May 1944 -

Married: John Marion Synder (22 October 1944 -

When:

Children: David Wayne Snyder (17 August 1965 -

10-7 Robert Allen Curry (19 July 1945 - 25 November 1975)

Married: Susan Lynda Williamson

When: In England in 1969

Children: Jonathan Francis Allen Curry

10-8 Linda Dianne Curry (27 October 1947 -

Married: Millard Mellon Hayes

Children: Richard Todd Hayes (7 March 1966 -

Married: Beverly Paige Lee (16 October 1975 - When: In Waycross, Georgia on 26 April 1986 Children: (1) Patrick Todd Hayes (25 April 1990 - (26 September 1986))

(2) Wendi Paige Hayes (26 September 1991 -

#### FOOTNOTES:

- 1. Henry Bonner (died July 1689) was a Lord Proprietor Deputy, a Member of the Chowan House of Burgess, and was involved in the Culpepper Rebellion of 1677-79 while a member of Burgess (Burgess an elected member of the colonial legislature).
- 2. Henry Bonner (died about 1725), son of the above Henry Bonner, was elected a Lord Proprietor Deputy upon the death of his father in July 1689.
- 3. Henry Bonner (died September 1738), son of the above Henry Bonner, was appointed a Justice in 1723 and in 1730, was an Attorney-at-law, a Member of the Lower House of Assembly at Edenton in 1725, 1726 and 1727. He held the ranks of Captain, Major and Colonel in the Chowan Militia.
- 4. Henry Bonner (died July 1766), son of the above Henry Bonner, was a Captain of the Chowan Militia and appointed a Justice.
- 5. Thomas Bonner (died 30 December 1804), son of the above Henry Bonner, fought with Colonel Benjamin Roebuck's Regiment of Upper South Carolina, "After the Fall of Charleston". He probably was a member of Captain Vardrey McBee's company. He may have been captured by the British as suggested by one source.
- 6. There is no evidence that any sons of Thomas Bonner's (died 1804) served in the War of 1812.
- 7. James Allen McConniell (died 31 July 1917) served in the CSA. He enlisted as a Private in Company "A", 14th Alabama Regiment at Auburn, Alabama in July 1861. He was wounded at the Battle of Seven Pines, Virginia on 1 June 1862. He fought with the Army of Northern Virginia with General Robert E. Lee and surrendered at Appomattox, Virginia with General Robert E. Lee (1807 1870) where he took the Oath of Allegiance. He "was paroled at the same time and place" and went back to Heard County, Georgia.
  - 8. John Allen Mathis served in World War II in Europe with the U. S. Army.
- 9. John Wesley Curry was a stateside veteran of the Korean War (1953) and served two tours (1965 & 1967/68) at Danang Air Base in the Republic of South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. He served on active duty with the U. S. Marine Corps from 10 February 1953 to 1972. On 1 September 1972 he was transferred to the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve as a Master Gunnery Sergeant and retired as a First Lieutenant on 1 March 1983.
- 10. Leo Wayne Curry served two tours of duty in the Republic of South Vietnam, one at Ton Son Nhat Air Base, Saigon in the Military Police and the other in Thailand. He retired as a Technical Sergeant in 1983.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*<sub>k</sub>]<sub>t</sub>\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

THE

**BONNERS** 

of

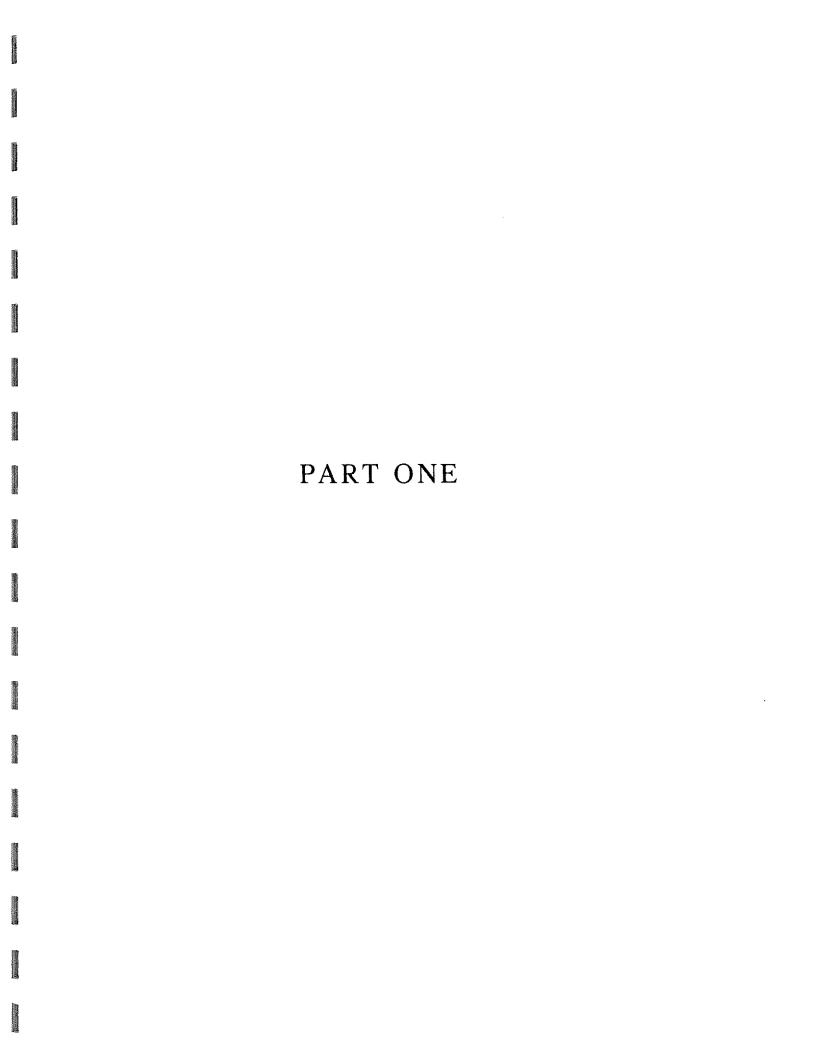
CHOWAN COUNTY,

NORTH CAROLINA

A FAMILY HISTORY

by JOHN WESLEY CURRY

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#### EDMUND BONNER

(Ref: Encyclopedia Brittanica, Ninth Edition, Printed in 1895, Page 34)

Contributed by: Nannie Sue Curry Barnette Sasser

Edmund Bonner, an English prelate, notorious for his persecution of the Protestants during the Reign of Queen Mary was born at Hanley in Worcestershire, about the end of the 15th century and generally passed for the natural son of George Savage, a priest who was the natural son of Sir John Savage, of Clifton in the same County. "Strype" in his memorials of Bishop Cramer, however, says he was positively assured that Bonner was the legitimate offspring of a poor man, who lived in a cottage long afterwards known as "Bonner's Place". About 1512, Edmund Bonner entered as a student of Broadgate Hall (now Pembroke College), Oxford; and in 1519, he was admitted as a student as Bachelor of the Canon and of Civil Law. Having been admitted into orders, he obtained some preferment in the diocese of Worchester. In 1526, he took his Degree as Doctor, and attracted the notice and patronage of Cardinal Wolsey. Bonner was with the Cardinal at Cawood when he was arrested on charges of high treason. After the death of Cardinal Wolsey, he adopted Lutheran sentiments, and insituated himself into the favor of King Henry VIII, who made him one of his Chaplains, and employed him in several embassies abroad. In 1532, he was sent to Rome with Sir Edward Carne to answer for the King who had been cited to appear in person or by proxy in regard to the divorce of Queen Catherine.

In 1533, being again dispatched to Pope Clement VII, then at Marseilles, to intimate Henry's appeal to a future general council from the sentence pronounced against his divorce, he (Bonner) threatened the Pope with so much resolution that His Holiness talked of having him burned alive or thrown into a cauldron of melted lead. Clement did not forsee that the man who he had thus menaced with the flames was destined to burn heretics in England in support to the very faith which, under Henry, he had lent his aid to overthrow.

In 1538, being then Ambassador at the Court of France, he was nominated Bishop of Hereford; but before consecration, he was translated to the See of London and was enthroned in April 1540. When Henry VIII died in 1547, Bonner was Ambassador at the Court of the Emperor, Charles V. During Henry's reign he was constantly zealous in his opposition to the Pope, and favoured the Reformation in obedience to the King, who exacted rigid compliance with all his caprices. On the accession of King Edward, [King Edward VI, (born 1537 - died 1553), King from 1547 to 1553, Son of King Henry VIII and Jane Seymour] however, Bonner refused to take the oath of supremacy, and was committed to the fleet, where he remained until he promised obedience to the laws. After his release he assented to the Reformation, but with such manifest relutance, that he was twice reprimanded by the Privy Council and in 1549, was after a long trial, committed to the Marshalsea, and deprived of his Bishopric, to which, however, he was restored on the accession of Queen Mary; [Queen Mary I (Mary Tudor) Born 1516 - died 1558, Queen of England from 1553 to 1558, daughter of King Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, wife of Philip II of Spain] and soon afterwards he was appointed, in place of Bishop Cramer, Viceregent and President of the Convocation. From this he became the chief instrument of persecution, and is said to have condemned no less than 200 Protestants to the flames in the space of three years. On the accession of Queen Elizabeth, he appeared with the rest of the Bishops at Highgate, to congratulate her, but the Queen refused to permit him to kiss her hand. Having, in the second year of her reign, refused to take the oath of

supremacy, he was again committed to the Marshalsea, where he died 5 September 1569, after a confinement of ten years. The character of Bonner was remarkable for obstinacy and inflexibility in everything save principle; yet even in this respect it exhibits some striking contrasts. In his early career he accommodated his principles to his convenience and ambition; after his return to Catholicism, he remained steadfast to the church, and when disgraced, bore his deprivation and imprisonment with apparent resignation. The charge of atheism brought against one so defiled with blood was superfluous. He was constitutionally merciless austere, fitted by nature for a persecutor, and equally capable of employing the same ardent zeal either against or in favor of any cause that he espoused. Among his works are, "Responsum et Exhortation in Lauden Sacredotiv", a preface in Gardner's treatise, "De Vera Obedientia", and several homilies.

#### Encyclopedia Brittanica - Volume VIII, Page 338

The strictly religious changes began with the promulgation of a Book of Homilies in the first year of King Edward. It marks the state of things at the time that one of these homilies, which are still to this day set forth by authority to be read in Churches, was the work of Edmund Bonner ..... The position of the prelates who clave to the old system during King Edward's reign should be carefully noticed. They neither resigned their Sees nor refused obedience to the new law. It does not appear that any bishop declined the use of the first prayer-book. Gardiner and Bonner were imprisoned and deprived of their Sees on various pretences as were several bishops later in the reign for refusal to comply with various orders, some of which certainly had no parliamentary authority.

#### Encylopedia Brittanica - Volume VIII, Page 340

In the year of Queen Mary's marriage, Cardinal Reginal Pole, came back to England as Legate, and the Lords and Commons of England, knelt to receive his absolution for the national schism. He confirmed by authority various acts done during the time of the separation, and it does not appear that the ordinations of bishops and priests which had been made during King Edward's reign were ever called in question. And, to quiet a doubt which made many minds uneasy, the actual owners of church lands were confirmed in their possession. An act of parliment followed by which the papal authority was restored as it has stood before the changes of King Henry. Gardiner and Bonner, the strenous opponents of the pope in King Henry's days, and Thirlby, who had gone a long way with the changes under Edward, were now bishops of a church in full communion with Rome ..... In 1555, the persecution began and it lasted till the end of Queen Mary's reign ..... where King Henry's victims of either faith were comparatively few and were persons of some importance, Queen Mary's victims fell mainly on victims whom King Henry would have scorned to destroy, the poor, the halt, and the lame. In three years of the persecution of Queen Mary, more victims were burned than in all the reigns before or after. Five bishops perished, of these were Ridley and Latimer - true martyrs on one side, as More (Moore) and Fisher on the other - Hooper, the professor of a straiter sect of Protestantism and the less famous Farrer of St. Davids. The Primate followed the next year. He had been lawfully condemned to death for his treason in the upsuration of Jane; Note - Jane was made Queen upon the death of King Edward VI, she was executed (beheaded) within a short period of time and Mary was made Queen] and his execution under that sentence, though it would have been a harsh measure, would have been a small matter compared with many an execution in the days of King Henry. He was spared, probably in mercy; but he was spared only to bring on Queen Mary and her government the deeper infamy of burning one who had recanted his heresies. The persecution was

throughout more the work of the council, by whom Bonner was blamed for slackness, than of the Bishops.

Cranmer: Volume VI, Page 550

The course taken by Bishop Cranmer in promoting the Reformation exposed him to the bitter hostility on the reactionary party of, "men of the old learning", of whom Bishop Gardiner and Bishop Bonner were leaders, and on two occasions, in 1543 and 1545, conspiracies were formed in the council to effect his (Cranmer's) overthrow. The King (Henry VIII) however remained true to him, and both conspiracies signally failed.

Queen Mary: Volume XV, Page 594

The cruel persecution of the Protestants which had cast so much infamy upon her reign, began about six months after her marriage (to Phillip II of Spain); and it is not difficult to see that it was greatly due to the triumph of ideas imported from the land of Inquisition. Rogers, the first of the martyers, was burned on the 4th of February 1555. Hooper, Bishop of Glocester, had been condemned six days before, and suffered the same fate on the 9th of February 1555. From this time, the persecution went on uninterrupted for more than three years, numbering among its victims; Bishops Ridley, Latimner, and Cranmer. It seemed to be most severe in the eastern and southern parts of England, and the largest number of sufferers was naturally in the diocese of Bonner, Bishop of London. From the first to last nearly 300 victims are computed to have perished at the stake.....

#### Encyclopedia Brittanica, 1973 Edition, Page 916

Bonner, Edmund - (ca 1500 - 1569), Bishop of London, has commonly been regarded as a notorious example of a persecuting Catholic Bishop in the reign of Mary Tudor. Violent abuse, however, had been directed against the Bishop before there was any Marian persecution of Protestants, by the virulent pen of John Bale, Bishop of Ossory. Another contemporary, the Protestant martyrologist, John Foxe, continued this vituperation of Bishop Bonner, so effectively indeed that Bales denunciation of his as, "Bloody Bishop Bonner", has persisted through the centuries and prejudiced most historians against him. Bonner was an outstanding Oxford lawyer who served King Henry VIII on various foreign embassies. He accepted from Henry, first, the Bishopric of Hereford, and later, Bishop of London, and promoted Henry's ecclesiastic adventures. He opposed, however, the advancing Protestantism of King Edward VI's reign and spent most of this period in prison, being deprived of his Bishoperic. Restored to his See on Queen Mary's accession. he devoted himself to the affairs of his diocese, the importance of which made him an outstanding figure in that persecution of Protestants which marked Queen Mary's reign. Bonner's reluctance to intensify the persecution in London, however, brought him a rebuke from Queen Mary's government. Again deprived of his Bishopric on his refusal to take the oath of supremacy at the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, [Queen Elizabeth I (born 1533 - died 1603), Queen of England from 1558 to 1603, daughter of King Henry VII and Anne Boleyn] he spent the last ten years of his life a prisoner in the Marshalsea and died there on 5 September 1569.

#### (Ref: My Lord of Canterbury, by Godfrey Turton - 1967)

#### Page 115 from Selected Paragraphs

Dreams end in waking up. The repercussions provoked abroad by the coronation were more violent even than we feared. Far from acquiescing in the annulment and remarriage as an accomplished fact, the Pope - in the first shock of the news - was bitterly offended and pressed on with his own investigation in the Court of Rota. His temper was not improved when King Henry sent a chaplain, Edmund Bonner, to explain our views. Later events have brought me so often into conflict with Bonner that my opinion of him possibly is warped; but even in those days I disliked his hectoring manner which despised conciliation as weakness, and I myself was inclined to despise him in turn for his likeness to a little strutting cock-pigeon, paunchy and pompous. He certainly made a deplorable impression on the Pope, who threatened in exasperation to have him boiled in a tub of molten lead. On his return home, Bonner never tired of repeating the story. flinging up his hands horror to inveigh against Papal barbarity preening himself on the courage with which he defied it. I am afraid that I chuckled as I listened very sure that the lead would be stone-cold before Pope Clement made up his mind. [Pope Clement VII born Giulio de' Medici born 1478 - died 1534) Pope from 1523 to 1534, excommunicated King Henry VIII].

#### From Title Page - Chapter 12 of My Lord of Canterbury

Queen Anne (Boleyn) hated bloodshed and had the courage to despise rather than to fear her enemies. Eyewitnesses told me (Cranmer) that she showed more amusement than annoyance when the Holy Maid interrupted her at dinner with King Henry at Canterbury and chastised her in public with pious invective. The decision of the Papal Court was a much more serious rebuff however, and she deserves the more credit for preserving a sense of proportion, refusing to vent her disappointment on the helpless.

She was in fact bitterly disappointed, as we all were, and with better reason than at first appears. In spite of the Pope's outburst of anger, his threat to boil (Bonner) in molten lead, negotiations were in progress with him which encouraged great hopes.

At Marshalsea, where he (Bishop Bonner) attended the wedding of his niece, Catherine de Medici, to the young French prince, he admitted in private to King Francis as plainly as he dared that King Henry's cause was just, and hinted that only a formal act of submission was needed to obtain a favorable judgement. King Francis [King Francis I (born 1494 - died 1547), King of France from 1515 to 1547] reported the hint to us at once through his Ambassador.......

#### From Page 258 of My Lord of Canterbury

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My advice would have carried more weigh perhaps of I had not been put to shame by an incident arising in my own department, the affairs of the church. Bonner, the ill-mannered priest whom Pope Clement threatened to stew in molten lead, and who had risen in the course of the years to become Bishop of London, was ordered to preach a sermon at Paul's Cross reaffirming the Royal supremacy, to banish any doubt of its validity during the King's minority. He failed to obey, and as he persisted in his defiance a commission was appointed over which I presided to decide whether to expel him from his See. The examintion to which we summoned him at Lambeth is an occasion painful to to recall, so ill was I able to cope with him. He relied for defence on the loudness of his voice, the

insolence of his bluster, digressing from the simple issue of loyalty to the Crown into the field of controversial doctrine, and shouting me down when I tried to keep him to the point. He behaved indeed as if he were the judge, I the offender.

At the next sitting, I swallowed my pride and asked Sir Thomas Smith, my fellow commissioner, Secretary to the Council, and a friend of Somerset's to preside in my place. He repaid Bonner in his own coin, replied to rude insult with fiercer reprimand and threat, and when the argument still dragged on, he ordered him to be arrested for contempt, committed to the Marshalsea prison. I pronounced judgement depriving Bonner of his See, and soon afterwards Nicholas Ridley was moved from Rochester and installed in London to succeed him. The outcome was satisfactory, but it was a humbling experience.

[Reverend Edmund Bonner died in Marchalsea Prison on 5 September 1569. The Marshalsea was a Bristish court of justice, abolished in 1849, under the Marshall of the Royal household].

# AN INQUIRY INTO THE ORIGIN AND AMORAL BEARING of BONNER

Bonner of Oxfordshire, Leicestershire, and the Virginia Colony

Noticing the Royal Descent of Bonner Distinguished Families with
Whom This House is Matrimonially Allied and
Some Account of Their History

Complied by:

Jerome A. Ringrose, PhD

(Author of "Ringrose's Heraldry", "Scottish Notes", etc.)

Lineage -- The family of Riddell is Norman. The surname is one of the earliest personal in Scotland. Gervase Riddell who had a chapter of Whitunes, Lillieclive, etc., in Roxburghshire, from David I for Knightly service, was succeeded by his brother Assketia Riddell the harmony of Zourche remained in abeyance and William had presented a petition resumption of the earle? but it was given Sir Cecil Bishop Barnette who presented another heiress.

There is an altar tomb with canopy surmounted by crest, on the south side of the Chancel at Hardingstone to the memory of the late Sir William Tate who left 50 pounds for that purpose. The arms are shown as Bonner's, as follows:

Paly of six or and gules on a chief azure, three lions rampart or.

Crest: A talbot's head argents collared azure studdied edge and ringed or.

\_\_\_\_\_

Motto: Semper Fidelis (Always Faithful).

This being the Bonner Coat-of-Arms.

The name of Bishop Edmond Bonner is inscribed upon a bronze plaque with other Bishops of London at St. Paul's Cathedral. The original Saint Paul's Cathedral was totally destroyed in the great fire of London.

## In Relation to Bishop Bonner (From the Golden Sayings of Epictertus)

Kings and tyrants have armed guards wherewith to chastise certain persons, though they be themselves evil. But to the cynic conscience gives this power not arms and guards. When he knows that he hath watched and labored on behalf of mankind that sleep hath found him pure, and left him purer still that his thoughts have been the thoughts of a Friend of the Gods - Of a servant, yet of one that hath a part in the government of the Supreme God; that the words are ever on his lips 'Lead me, O God, and thou, O Destiny! If this be God's will so let it be."

Remember that thou art an actor in a play, and of such sort as the Author chooses, whether long or short.

If it be his good pleasure to assign thee to the part of a beggar, a ruler, or a simple citizen, thine is to play it fitly. For thy business is to act the part assigned thee, well: To choose it, is another's.

In 1533, Bishop Bonner was deputed to appear before the Pope, at Marceille, to appeal for the excommunicated monarch to a general council. In 1540, he was made Bishop of London. His cousin, William Bonner, Clerk of the Holy Order, and his brother, Reverend Anthony Bonner, were also active in the Reformation.

Following the death of King Henry VIII, Bishop Bonner's Protestant zeal cooled, and when Queen Mary came to the throne, she restored Bonner to office. As Viceregent and President of the Concave, he became an agent against the Reformers. Following the death of Queen Mary, and the accession of Queen Elizabeth, Bonner refused to take the oath of Supremacy, and was imprisoned in the Marshalsea, where he died in 1569. Immediately following his death, his cousin, William Bonner, Clerk of the Holy Order, was fighting at the Courts in London for his interest in divers estates, some of which were by purchase from the Bishop. William Bonner was married to Alice Gorham, of Glapthorne, in 1568, and resided chiefly at 'Elmsmere', a splendid mansion in the Parish of the Blessed Mary of Bow, in Cheapward, London. This property had formerly belonged to the Monastery of Newarks, in Surrey, and had been purchased by Bishop Bonner, however, it became cause of considerable litigation at Guild Hall, London. However, William Bonner came off victorious at the Lord Mayor's Courts. He held this splendid fabric, as the youngest son of an illustrious family, until his death, when it passed to George Leonard, of St. Stratfield Say, in Hampshire, by marriage.

John Bonner, born in 1607, son of William and Alice Gorham Bonner, resided at Hinckley in Leicestershire. He married Mary Walker of the same place. They had six sons and four daughters. On 2 November 1636, John Bonner was on the passenger list, sailing from ye Port of London, after having been examined by the ministers of the Town of Gravesend, vouching his conformity to the order of discipline of the Church of England, he was on Hottens list of passengers embarked in the "Expedition" by Peter Blackler, which passed from ye Port of London to the Barbados, going later to Jamestown, Virginia.

His cousin, Richard Bonner, born in 1619 at Quinton, Gloucestershire, England, son of Reverend Anthony Bonner, sailed for America on the "Friendship" from ye Port of London, arriving at James City, Virginia in March 1636. He was a staunch patriot serving the Colony from 1636 to 1643.

There is important historical note in the above. No other document contains the information that Reverend Anthony Bonner is a brother of Reverend Edmund Bonner.

Some researchers of the Bonner family believe that the above Richard Bonner (born 1619) is a brother to the Henry Bonner who arrived in Jamestown, Virginia in 1664. It does appear that they were born in a time frame to be brothers. Another situation to consider is that the Anthony Bonner family was well off financially and well-connected politically in London, England. Since Henry Bonner of Chowan County (died July 1689), was a member of the Lord Proprietor staff, it further suggests that he may have been designated for that position before he left England because he was descended from Anthony with the rights and privileges of the stature of his father. He was involved in the Culpepper Rebellion of 1677/79 and survived without political or financial punishment. Again, another indication that he was well-connected politically.

As noted above Reverend Anthony Bonner was a brother of Reverend Edmund Bonner. It has been suggested to me that the father of Henry Bonner (born ca 1620) might have been Anthony Bonner. If true, the lineal list from Reverend Edmund Bonner would be thus:

#### Father/mother unknown:

Children: 1. (Reverend) Edmund Bonner

2. William Bonner

3. (Reverend) Anthony Bonner

Wife: Unknown

Children: (Reverend) Anthony Bonner

Wife: Unknown

Children: Anthony Bonner

Wife: Marion Vaughn

Children: a. Richard Bonner (born 1615 -

b. Thomas Bonner (born 1617 -

c. Henry Bonner (born ca 1620 - died July 1689).

d. Ellen Bonner (born 1624 -

The above Richard Bonner arrived in James City, Virginia in March 1636.

The events as listed above are an interesting set of circumstances to consider, especially if true.

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#### BONNER FAMILY IN ENGLAND, VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND

"Some Colonial and Revolutionary Families of North Carolina"

Complied by: Marilu Burch Smallwood, 1964, as furnished by the late Robert T. Bonner of Aurora, North Carolina. (Mr. Robert T. Bonner passed away in 1959).

"Dictionary of Family Names of the United Kingdom", by Mary Anthony Lower, pages 30 and 33:

BONAR: A village of Sutherlandshire and a feudal barony of which the family was possessed tempore (in the time of) William the Lion before the year 1200 A.D.

#### **BONNER COAT-OF-ARMS**

by

James A. Ringrose Oxfordshire, 1574, As Certified by Sir Richard Lee)

ARMS: Paly of Six or and gules, on a Chief Azure Three Lions Rampart, Or. CREST: A Talbot's Head Argent, Collared Azure, Studded Edged and Ringed Or.

MOTTO: Semper Fidelis (Always Faithful).

#### BONNER

The Bonner Coat-of-Arms is officially documented in, "Burke's General Armory". The original description of the Arms (Shield) is as follows: "Quarterly, Gu. and Sa. A Cross Pattee Quarterly, Erm. and Or. on a Chief of the Last a Demi Rose, Streaming Rays, between Two Pelicans Vulning Themselves of the First".

When translated the blazon also describes the original colors of the Bonner arms as follows: "Quartered Red and Black; A Cross Pattee Quartered Ermine and Gold; On a Gold Upper Third a Half Robe Streaming Rays between Two Red Pelicans Vulning Themselves". Above the shield and helmet is the crest which is described as: "A Silver Hunting Dog's Head, Collar Blue, Studs, Edges and Rings Gold".

The most remote ancestor of the Bonner family, Quentin de Riddell, ancestor of the Noble House of Buchannan-Riddell, bore the Ensign of Bonner as above described, and from whom descended the notorious Bishop Edmund Bonner. The ancestry of the Bishop is well established as from the Norman House of Riddell, commencing with Francoise Bonnaire (Francois Bonner) Edward Riddell, who flourished at Banbury, the Oxfordshire stronghold of Riddell or Bonner. Here on many local monuments was blazoned Bonner's "Paly of Six Or and Gules" in which form, and without the lions in chief the ancient house always displayed it.

To Andrew Bonner, Gentlemen, of this County, is attributed the first escutcheon displaying the entire arms (i.e., paly or gules, on a chief azure, three lions rampart or) and such was duly assigned by two learned officials of the Herald's College (Sir Richard Lee, Porticullis, and Robert Cook, Clarenceus King of Arms in the Visitation of Oxfordshire, 1574).

It is of some importance, bearing as it does the original of the surname, "Bonner", that these Heralds note the emblem to both Bonner and Riddell. Bishop Bonner, signed,

"paly of six or and gules", being the identical emblem of the ancient House of Bonner or Riddell, from which circumstances it is assured that the surname "Bonner" had its origin from the French "Boner" (meaning gratious and kind). As such it became the fixed cognomen of the younger House of Riddell, and there are several charters in the records of the House of Riddell, wherein the persons are called Riddell in the body, and Bonner (Bonnaire) in the margin, dated in the Reign of King Henry VIII, (King Henry VIII (born 1491 - died 1547) was King of England from 1509 to 1547; he broke with the Papacy in 1534 and established the Church of England), and in the absence of other light on the subject there is ample evidence to establish the origin of Bonner as from Riddell, it being accepted fact that Bonner is not an ancient appellation, nor one transplanted in England from France.

The learned antiquary Camden also tells us that "where two families bear the same arms, the younger, in all probability, will be found to descend from the elder". Horace Smith's dictum that "surnames ever go by contraried" is excellently illustrated by the Bishop (Bonner), who was disgracefully notorious for his atrocious persecution of the protestants during the cruel Reign of Queen Mary, (Queen Mary, (born 1516 - died 1558) was the Queen of England from 1553 to 1558. She was the daughter of King Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, wife of Phillip II of Spain). He (Bishop Bonner) had a withal a long and happy career, amassing a great fortune which little availed him on the accession of Queen Elizabeth, (Queen Elizabeth, (born 1553 - died 1603) was Queen of England from 1558 to 1603. Elizabeth was the daughter of King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn) when refusing and died there on 5 September 1569 after an imprisonment of ten years.

Immediately after his death we find his cousin, William Bonner, of Banbury, Oxfordshire, Clerk in Holy Orders, fighting at the courts in London for his interest in divers estates, some of which were had by purchase from the Bishop. This William Bonner married Alice Gorham of Glapthore in 1568 and was raised chiefly at "Elmshere", a splendid mansion in the Parish of the Blessed Mary of Bow, in Cheapeward, London. This property had formerly belonged to the Monastery of Newark, in Surry, and had probably been mulched from the Monks by the Bishop (Bonner) or his predecessor.

Certainly it was the cause of considerable litigation at Guild Hall, London, before both Lord Mayor Osborne in April 1584 and Lord Mayor Harte in May 1590. William Bonner came off victorious at the Lord Mayor's courts and held this splendid fabric at a time when he was the younger son of an illustrious but improverished family and it eventually passed to George Lennard, Stratsfield Say in Hampshire, by marriage.

Reverend Anthony Bonner (brother of William Bonner) had a son. Anthony, whose son, Anthony, was born at Quinton in Gloucestershire having married Marion Vaughn of the Vaughns of Gloucestershire, a family of good note and had issue: (1) Richard born at Quinton in 1615; (2) Thomas born at Quinton in 1617; (3) Ellen born at Quinton in 1624. As appears by the will of Thomas Coombe of Stratford, Warwickshire (proved 14 July 1657), Thomas apparently had no issue. Ellen married a member of the Wells family, the Honorable Edward Wells and Richard had gone abroad (to Virginia).

In the absence of other evidence it is an excellent document upon which to establish the standard of the ancestor of the Virginia house of that period. By this time most of the Bonners had embraced the Protestant faith and Thomas Coombe was a most devoted apostle of the church. He left 50 pounds to Anthony Bonner, Gloucestershire, Gentleman, (and to have been called "Gentleman" in those days signifies an ownership of house property).

Richard Bonner, the elder, born at Quinton in 1615, had long been absent from the Gloucestershire home of the Bonners at the demise of his wealthy cousin, Thomas Coombe, for his sailing from the port of London and taking the Oath of Allegiance is duly of record. For some cause he left his home when but twenty years of age, sailing in the "Friendshippe" and arriving at James City, Virginia in March 1636. He married and had considerable issue, none of whom held any office as a civic character whatsoever at the Virginia Colony. They were withal staunch patriots who served the Colony (as did their father Richard Bonner, from 1636 to 1643) in the ranks and privates against the common foe.

It was about this period that the Bonners took lands under the Act of 17, Charles I, Chapter 33, A.C. 1642 in Ireland, the pioneer being Thomas Bonner, who acquired a considerable estate by royal grant in Ulster. He was the forerunner, though not the founder of a very considerable tribe in that kingdom, men whom the Irish listed as, "Adventurers for lands in Ireland", and whom they opposed with every means within their power.

Returning to William Bonner of Elmshire: He had a son, John Bonner, who resided at his father's death at Hinckley, in Leicestershire and who was the founder of that branch of the Bonner family. He married (at the Parish Church in Hinckley in 1607), Mary Walker of the same place and had issue. His brother, Thomas, also married at the same church to Anne Botfishe of Sheasby and had considerable issue. This John Bonner left issue, six sons and four daughters, of whom no notice of birth and marriages appear in nearby churches, except that at Howby in the same county notice of the marriages of these six sons appears, Viz: The marriage of Michael Bonner, son of John, to Alice Wilson, at the Parish Church of Howby in 1629. He had probably been away from Hinckley for some years, as the records obtainable advises us of the marriage at Hinckley of his son, Joseph Bonner, with one of the MacDonalds in that Parish, and is followed by records of the marriage in the same church of four of his daughters and two sons. One son, John (the successor of his father, Joseph) married Mary Burton at the same church in Hinckey in 1699 and had issue; twelve sons and several daughters. Of this family, one son, Richard Bonner of Hinckley, gentleman, married in 1719, Ann Taylor at the nearby Church of All Saints, Leicestershire, and the father of Captain John Bonner of the "Pink Elizabeth". Captain John Bonner went to Boston in 1678 and later settled at Cambridge about 1697. He was born ca 1642, the son of John Bonner of London. Captain John Bonner married Mary Clark (his second marriage) who died in 1697. In 1705, he sold his house in Cambridge and moved back to Boston where he died on 30 January 1725 at the age of 83 years. He is buried in the Old Granary Burying Ground in Boston and the Bonner Coat-of-Arms is on his tomb. The obituary of John Bonner, written at the time of his death, depicts him as, "A gentleman very skillful and ingenious in many arts and sciences, especially in navigation, drawing, moulding of ships, etc., one of the best acquainted of coasts of North America of any of his time, of great knowledge and judgement of marine affairs, was very much consulted, relied upon by the government as principal pilot of our marine expeditions and with diligent care and faithfulness discharged his trust."

By his second wife, who was a daughter of the famous Elder Clark of Cambridge, he had several children, but a son and a daughter only survived him. His children were: Jane who died in 1686; Jonah who died in 1687; Mary who was born in 1668 and died in 1699; and Jane who apparently was named for her older sister who died. The second Jane was born on 2 May 1691 and later went to London. Other children were: John; Sarah who was born 6 December 1693 and died 2 December 1721. She was baptized in Boston and

also went to London; Thomas who was born in Cambridge on 6 January 1695 and moved to South Carolina where he died on 3 June 1719 at age 24.

Returning to the main stem of this family, we find Anthony Bonner, the elder (before recited as the brother of William Bonner), who formed a most illustrious alliance with the Tates of de la Pre Abbey, he having married Elizabeth Tate, daughter of William Tate, who was born in 1671, at the historic North Hamptonshire mansion. She was the coheiress and direct lineal descendant of the noble House of Tate, all of which is duly recorded in a pedigree complied from a manuscript volume begun by Mawson, Portcullis and continued by Warburton, Somerset Herald, which pedigree commences with John Tate of Coventry, who held lands in Whitley during the reign of King Richard II (King Richard (born in 1637 - died in 1400), King of England from 1377 to 1399, he was the last Plantagenent King; desposed; son of Edward the Black Prince). Previous to this the Tates are recorded as having founded Tate's Chauntry in the Church of St. Michael, during the reign of King Henry III (King Henry III (born in 1207 - died in 1272); King of England from 1216 to 1272). The pedigree is interesting to the Bonners for it shows the high honors which one maternal side of the Bonner house have possessed, Viz; Sir Robert Tait (Tate), Sheriff of London and Lord Mayor of London in 1481; Sir John Tait (Tate), Sheriff of London in 1435 and Lord Mayor of London in 1496.

Sir Bartholomew Tate who received the honor of Knighthood from King Henry VIII.... His grandson, Sir William Tate of de la Pre Abbey, married in 1597, Elizabeth, the oldest daughter and heir of Edward, the eleventh and last Baron Zouche, of Haryngworth, and by her had considerable issue. The Zouche family was descended in line from the soverign Kings of Brittany, (Brittany and the Bay of Biscay, French name - Bretagne), a fact which gives the American House of Bonner a Royal Descent.

#### CHAPTER I

#### HENRY BONNER (ca 1620 - 1689)

It is this Henry Bonner whom I believe to be the "father" of the Bonners of Chowan County, North Carolina. The records do not contradict this belief. Of special interest, is the fact that the records do not show a Bonner living in what is now North Carolina until after Henry Bonner arrived in Jamestown, Virginia in 1664. This writer has wondered if the Black Plague of London which was at its height in 1664/1665 may have expedited Henry's move to the New World.

The man who received a headright in Bonner's name was Thomas Davyes in March 1664. This fact is noted in, "Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, 1623 - 1666", by Nell Marion Nugent, page 451, as follows:

"Thomas Davyes, 400 acres Upper Parish of Nansemond County, 11 March 1664, page 179 (68). Beginning by the Southern branch side adjoining land of Richard Harmon. (For) Transportation of 8 persons, Henry Bonner, twice; his wife, once; 2 children; Edward Joyner; Maid Servant; Thomas White".

The above Henry Bonner may be the same Henry Bonner named in the last will & testament of Brandon Wetherill mentioned in the below excerpt;

"Brandon Wetherill will published 1642. Probated 29 October 1659....my friends Mr. Charles Harris; Mr. Henry Bonner, Thomas Coghill, Overseers". (Ref: Virginia Settlers & English Adventurers, Noel Currer-Briggs, 1969, page 384.)

If we assume that Henry Bonner was at least 21 years of age when the above will of Brandon Wetherill was written, then we can establish Bonner's birth year as about 1620. It would be safe to assume that the children of Henry Bonner were in their pre-teen or early teen years. It also does not rule out that Henry could have had other children, who never came to America or came over on their on initiative. For instance, the Thomas Bonner who died in 1685, in Albemarle County, could have been a son of this Henry Bonner who came to America at a earlier/later date than Henry. There is some thought that Henry Bonner may have been a son of Reverend Anthony Bonner and his wife, Marion Vaughn Bonner. Only additional research can prove this premise.

As mentioned above, there was a Thomas Bonner living in Albemarle County in the 1680's his precinct of resident is not recorded. Additionally, his relationship to Henry Bonner and his family is unknown. He died in 1685 and his Will is hard to read became of old age of the paper but it can be acertained that he left a wife, Mary, who was pregnant, and a young son named Thomas. He left his plantation to his son through his wife. The will was witnessed by: Henry Bonner; William Bonner, and Samuel Warren. It was published in March 1685 and probated in November 1685. It is hard to dintinguish which Henry Bonner this person is: Henry who arrived in 1664 or his son, Henry: William is shown as attending court in the early 1680 but nothing is known of him after that. This writer has entertained the thought that the above child, Thomas Bonner, may have been the Sheriff Thomas Bonner who settled in Hyde County before he settled on his plantation at what later became the location of the City of Washington, North Carolina that was laid out by his son, James. However it is more likely that (Sheriff) Thomas Bonner was a son

of Henry Bonner, a son of this Henry Bonner, who became a Lord Proprietor Deputy in 1689.

It appears that Henry Bonner, who arrived in 1664, was well connected politically and financially before he arrived in America. From the beginning of the available records for Chowan he is mentioned in a prominent way with the leaders of the Colony. There was a Bonner (the records suggest it was this Henry Bonner) living on the Mattacomack Creek in 1672 as noted in the journal of Reverend George Foxe, a Quaker, who travelled overland from Virginia to preach in the "North of Carolina" in the latter part of 1672. The journal is interesting became it tells of the hardships of survival and travel in those early days of North Carolina. It is reproduced as follows:

(Ref: The Colonial Records of North Carolina, Volume 1 - 1662 to 1712, pages 216, 217, & 218 as it was extracted and reprinted from pages 458 and 459 of the Edition Published at Friends Store, Philadelphia.)

"Extract From the Journal of George Fox for the Year 1672"

"After this, eighth day of the ninth month (8 November 1672) our way to Carolina grew worse, being much of it plashy and pretty full of great bogs and swamps; so that we were commonly wet to the knees and abroad a-nights in the woods by a fire: saving one of the nights we got to a poor house at Sommertown (Note - Sommertown is near the present Virginia/North Carolina state lines, in Virginia, just north of present Gates County, North Carolina) and lay by the fire. The woman of the house has a sense of God upon her. The report of our travel had reached thither and drawn some that lived beyond Sommertown to that house in expection to have seen and heard us but they missed us.

Next day the twenty-first day of the ninth month (21 November 1672) having travelled hard through the woods and over many bogs and swamps, we reached <u>Bonner's Creek</u>; there we lay that night by the fire-side, the woman lending us a mat to lie on.

This was the first house we came to in Carolina: here we left our horses, overwearied with travel. From hence we went down the Creek in a canoe to Macocomocock River (actually Mattacomack Creek) and came to Hugh Smith's where people of other professions came to see us (Note - Fox states here that "no friends inhabiting that part of the country") and many of them received us gladly. Among others came Nathaniel Batts who had been Governor of Roan-Oak. He went by the name of Captain Batts and had been a rude, desperate man. He asked me about a woman in Cumberland, who, he said, he was told, had been healed by our prayers and laying on of hands after she had been long sick and given over by the physicians; he desired to know the certainty of it. I told him we did not glory in such things but many such things had been done by the power of God.

Not far from hence we had a meeting among the people and they were taken with the Truth; blessed be the Lord! Then passing down the River Maratick (now Roanoke River) in canoe we went down the Bay Connie-Oak to a Captain's who was loving to us and lent us his boat for we were much weted in the canoe, the water flashing in upon us. With this boat we went to the Governor's but the water in some places was so shallow that the boat being loaden could not swim: so that we put off our shoes and stockings and waded through the water a pretty way. The Governor, with his wife, received us lovingly; but a doctor there would need dispute with us. And truly his opposing us was of good service giving occasion to the opening of many things to the people concerning the Light and Spirit of God which he denied to be in every one; and affirmed it was not in the Indians. Whereupon I called an Indian to us and asked him, 'Whether or no, when he did

lie or do wrong to any one there was not something in him that did reprove him for it? He said, 'There was such a thing in him that did so reprove him; and he was ashamed when he had done wrong or spoken wrong'. So we shamed the doctor before the Governor and people; insomuch that the poor man ran out far at length he would not own the Scriptures. We tarried at the Governor's that night; and the next morning he very courteously walked with us himself about two miles through the woods to a place whither he had sent our boat about to meet us. Taking leave of him we entered our boat and went about thirty miles to Joseph Scott's one of the representatives of the country. There we had a sound precious meeting; the people were tender and much desired after the meeting. Wherefore at a house about four miles further we had another meeting; to which the Governor's secretary came who was Chief Secretary of the Province and had been formerly convinced.

I went from this place among the Indians and spoke to them by an interpreter, shewing them, 'That God made all things in six days and made but one woman for one man; and God did drown the world because of their wickedness. Afterwards I spoke to them concerning Christ, shewing them, that he died for all men, for their sins, as well as for others; and had enlightened them as well as others; and that if they did that which was evil he would burn them; but if they did well they should not be burned'. There was among them their young king and others of their chief men who seemed to receive kindly what I said to them.

Having visited the North part of Carolina and made a little entrance for the truth among the people there we began to return again towards Virginia having several meetings in our way wherein we had good service for the Lord, the people being generally tender and open; blessed be the Lord! We lay one night at the secretary's to which we had much ado to get; for the water being shallow we could not bring our boat to shore. But the secretary's wife seeing our strait came herself in a canoe her husband being from home and brought us to land. By next morning our boat was sunk and full of water; but we got her up and mended her, and went away in her that day about twenty-four miles, the water being rough and the winds high; but the great power of God was seen in carrying us safe in that rotten boat. In our return we had a very precious meeting at Hugh Smith's; praised be the Lord forever! The people were very tender and very good service amongst them. There was at this meeting an Indian captain who was very loving; and acknowledged it to be truth that was spoke. There was also one of the Indian Priests, whom they called Pauwaw who sat soberly among the people. The ninth of the tenth month (December 9, 1672) we got back to Bonner's Creek where we had left our horses; having spent about eighteen days in North of Carolina".

It must be remembered that Reverend George Foxe was a Quaker and was using the Quaker calendar in his journal where March is the first month of the year and February the last. This would explain why Reverend Foxe slept beside a fireplace; it was cold at night in November in North Carolina. Also if one counts the calendar days that he spent in Carolina it would appear that he spent more then eighteen days on his trip. However, Foxe was counting the days from his arrival at Bonner's Creek to the day he arrived back at Bonner's Creek since as he put it, "Bonner's place was the first house he arrived at in the North of Carolina". Of most interest is the description of his departure from Bonner's Creek. To paraphase; The Bonner's place was the first house in Carolina he came to and when he left from there to go South he went in a canoe traveling in the "Mattacomack River". In those days the Creek was probably a deep and wide body of water like a river. He may have travelled in the main body or a branch of the Creek, regardless, it places the Bonner family on the Mattacomack Creek where the family would live for more than one hundred (100) years. On modern county maps the Mattacomack

Creek is now known as "Pollack Swamp". (When this writer rode through the area in 1994, there was not enough water in the swamp to draw attention to it). Pollack Swamp follows the same general flow of the "Old Mattacomack Creek". It begins north of Edenton, snaking southwest and emptying into the Pembroke Creek which flows into Edenton Bay and Albemarle Sound.

Exactly when Henry Bonner and his family arrived in North Carolina is not recorded but when George Foxe arrived at Bonner's Creek in November 1672, Henry Bonner had been there long enough to have a house, barns, out-buildings, and horse stables built. He had room to keep George Foxe's horses for eighteen days and he allowed Foxe use of his canoe. All of these things took time to build and acquire. Henry Bonner's name is the only Bonner listed in the records during the 1670's in what was then Shaftsbury precinct. In the early 1680's William Bonner's name first appears at Court proceedings which should place his birth year close to 1660. In the absence of conflicting records, we have to assume Henry Bonner and his family were living in Chowan County before 1672. In all probably he arrived in Chowan soon after his arrival to the New World in 1664. In those days the new settlers arrived by ship from Virginia into the Albemarle Sound to the northeast section of North Carolina.

Others who had property on the Mattacomack Creek in the early days and later descriptions fit plantations owned by the Bonners include:

Anthony Slocumb, 600 acres on North Side of Mattacomack Creek and Mirey Swamp. Land granted in 1684.

Joseph Slocumb, 200 acres land on North west side Mattacomack Creek at the north of Mirey Swamp. Land granted in 1684.

John Slocumb, 400 acres land on the North side of the Creek called Poplar, granted 1684, adjoining Joseph Slocumb.

In the early days present day Chowan County was known as Shaftsbury Precinct of Albemarle County of Carolina. In 1685, Shaftsbury was renamed to Chowan Precinct. In 1732 it was changed to Chowan County.

During the period from 1677 to 1679 the Carolina Colony was involved in the Culpepper Rebellion. It was centered primarily in Shaftsbury and Perquimans precincts with George Durant of Durant's Neck in Perquimans County listed as being one of the main ringleaders. Henry Bonner of Shaftsbury, who was then a Member of the House of Burgesses, was also named as being deeply involved with the rebellion.

Ref: The North Carolina Colonial Records, Volume I, 1662 - 1712, Pages 255 to 261, as follows:

REPRESENTATION TO THE LORDS PROPRIETORS OF CAROLINA CONCERNING THE REBELLION IN THAT COUNTRY. TO BE MADE USE OF IN FURTHER EXAMINATIONS

It is humbly tendered to be the consideration of the most Illustrious and Right Honorable the Lords Proprietors of the Province of Carolina.

That the Rebellion of the Inhabitants of the County of Albemarle was not accidentall or casually arose from any present or sudden provocation given, but rather the effect of a more mature or deliberate contrivance, which I humbly conceive will so appear to your Lordships by the ensuring particulars as here circumstanced, the mane substance whereof can be clearly proved by the evidence of divers credible witnesses upon oath before any person or persons, your Honors shall think fit to empower to take cognizance of the premisses.

That the principalls and heads of this rebellion were not only prompted thereunto by ambition and envy or the private pekes and particular disgusts they had to those gentlemen your honors thought fit to entrust with the government, but also more especially those personall and particular crimes they knew themselves guilty of and accountable for whenever a governor should come.

That this was a deliberate design of no sudden growth may be proved by their generall charge wherein all their former actions seem to have a naturall tendency to this their last and horrid end. At first their severall times disturbing the courts, subverting the Government, dissolving Parliments, their industrious labor to be popular and continued making of factions and parties.

Their poysoning the peoples eares, unsetling and disquieting their minds, by diffusing and dropping abroad, by their agents false and dangerous reports tending much to the indignity of your Honors and reproach of your Government, and among divers, that your Honors intended to raise the pence and from two pence to six pence per acre. Now what they have done since is so notorious and obvious to every eye, as the imprisoning your Lordship's Deputies, putting the President who was likewise his Majesty's Collector into Irons, their general arming on the first appearance of Gilham's shipp in Pascontanke River, their seizing and carrying away the records, lastly their arrogating and assuming to themselves the supreme and sovereign power, by first dissolving then erecting Courts of Judicature, convening Parliments without Writs, and as if they had the sovereign and absolute power they put out new officers, not only in courts and other publick services of the country, but even where the King is more immediately concerned, turning out His Majesty's Collector, puting in others, clearing and discharging Ships, but last of all their most horrid treasonable and tyrannicall actings in erecting a court for tryall of life and death without the Lords Deputies or Commission of Oyer and Terminer or any other colour or pretence of Authority, either from His Sacred Majesty or your Lordships, and particularly in the cases of Mr. Thomas Miller and Mr. Timothy Biggs.

But their speciall, particular and respective crimes are here annexed to their severall names here in the margin in the order following (viz):

Captain Valentine Bird. He being by the Country to be Collector of His Majesty's Duty of the penny per pound, for all tobacco not exported for England, did without power from or the privity of consent of either my Lord High Treasurer or His Majesty's Commissioners of the Customs suffer the New England Traders to load and carry away the tobacco of the country without paying the said duties, by which meanes they are now in arreares to His Majesty one hundred and fifty thousand weight of tobacco, and finding the hazard he had run in case another Collector should be sent he with above one hundred more, most whereof were Pastotankians (residents of Pasquotank Precinct), which after led other precincts into rebellion there, with him subscribing a paper against the payment of the said duty, but after hearing by the report of Crawford (Captain William Crawford) and that Mr. Eastchurch was coming Governor and Mr. (Thomas) Miller, Collector,

(Valentine) Bird and the rest of the subscribers were the first that took armes and opposed Miller at his first landing fearing they should be questioned for what they had done so, as soone as ever Gilham arrived they again take armes and by their agents invite the other Precincts to joyne with them, and till the generall elaps of the country they were only in this defection and Bird was their leader and drew the first sword, encouraged hereunto by Captain Zackery Gilham who supplied them with many fire armes and other weapons of war, came with some of his seamen armed to Captain Crawford's house, where the President and two other of the Deputies were taken prisoners.

George Durant, hath several times before not only contemned but opposed the authority established by your Honors, and in the head of a rebell rout by force subverted the government turning out and placing in whom he and they thought fit at pleasure, and openly threatening that, if ever Mr. Thomas Eastchurch came in as Governor, he would turn Rebell. And as if these were too small crimes, he hath viciated a Record of Court by adding, razing and other wayes altering the verdict of a jury, and as foreman giving it in contrary to what the whole jury had returned upon oath, particularly in case of Mr. Thomas Miller. And in fact hath all along when at home beene one of the most violent, active and the most outrageous of all the Conspirators and Insurrectors.

Captain William Crawford, hath formerly as well as now industriously made it his business to be popular, make factions, and then head them and very subtilty through clandestinely and underhand, will be found one of the chief contrivers as well as acters in this rebellion, but his particular crime, in the imbezling and taking of the file of the records, a gratious grant of your Lordships to the country. And having formerly got the records into his custody, divers of them are since not to be found: and this he did, as may be judged; (since he could make no private advantages thereby) purposely to keep the people ignorant of your Honors good intentions to this country and might find fitter occasions thereby to insence them against your Lordships and the Government.

Captain John Willoughby. He is a person that runs himself into many errors and premuniries through his extra-judiciall and arbituary proceedings in the Courts of Judicature, and for instance in the case of Mr. Thomas Eastchurch, who by reason of their tyranny and injustice to himwards would have appealed to your Lordships, but was thus answered by Willoughby that they were the Court of Court and Jury of Juries. He is a person that through a naturall habit of pride or ambition hath been alwaies imperious amongst his equals, courteous to his inferiours, because factions and would be popular; stubborne and disobedient to superiors, evidenced by his scornfull and preemptory refusing obedience to the summons of the Palatine's Court and his beating the sworn officer that served the same: and for this and other scornes and contempts put upon the Court, and continuing still obstinate, he was outlawed: The next Parliment approving of the proceeding aginst him, set a fine on his head for his said contempt. And hereupon he disavowes your Government by addressing his complaints to the Governor and Councill of Virginia, yet he returns not homewards till he heard the country was up in armes.

Captain Thomas Cullum, frequently sells powder, shot, and fire-armes, as well to those Indian Nations that are not as those that are in amity with the English, expressly contrary to the Laws of all the English Provinces which make it death to sell either to our enemies. And on notice given to the Magistrates of Virginia, Warrants were there issued out for apprehending him, and if he had there been taken (although in another Government) he must have stood tryail for his life for the same of like fact there committed.

Lieutenant Colonel John Jenkins, being some time made Governor by the appointment of Cartwright was after for severall misdemeanours displaced and imprisoned; yet although never legally discharged, raiseth a party of riotous persons in armes, and these with some others voted him Generalissime, neither he or they pretending to any right or authority than what he derived from this Rebell Rout, these turne out the Palatines Court, dissolve the Assembly, place and displace whom he any they pleased by an arbitrary power and force. But yet although Jenkins had the title yet in fact (George) Durant governed and used Jenkins but as his property, for of all the factious persons in the country he was the most active and uncontrollable.

John Culpepper, a person never is in his element but whilst fishing in troubled waters, he was forced to fly (flee) from Ashley River for his turbulent and factious carriage there. He both here and in New England with some of the discontented traders plotted there and underhand here incouraged the hot-headed people to this rash and illadvised rebellion. Culpepper being their Secretary or Register and one of their Caball or Grand Councill in matter of advise, this being the second disturbance he hath made here besides what he hath done in Ashley River, New England and Virginia and therefore a man they much hearken to for his experience sake.

Patrick White, is one that with Willoughby applyed himself to the Governor of Virginia, that beate Mr. Miller when he landed, and an active man in this Rebellion, and hath formerly been a disturber of the Government.

Captain James Blount, although one of the Great Council or Assistant to the Deputies is one of the chief persons amongst the insurrectors, and although I wrote to him, the Speaker and the rest of the Burgesses of Chowan Precinct, yet when the Sheriffe or Chief Martiall came with my letter and endeavoured to raise Possee Comitatis for keeping the peace and securing of that your Lordships country, he the said Blount with one Captain John Verham took the Martiall and his men prisoners and raised forces against the government.

(Henry) Bonner and (Anthony) Slocum, two other of the Burgesses joyne with (Thomas) Cullen, (James) Blount and (John) Verham. So that all five Burgesses of Chowan, although contrary to their Oathes of Allegiance and Obedience, and to their proceedings in Parliment, are in this defection and by their bad example have drawn in the country people. There are besides these about eighty or an hundred which may be ranked in a second classe differing no more from the former then second rates from first. And all or most of these have been guilty of former insurrections with some of their leaders above named, especially such as live in Pascotanke (Precinct), viz: Lieutenant Wells'; Seares; Jennings; Ellis; Bonesby and his two sons; Cotes with divers others of the Precinct. Now the rest of the people may rather be reputed newtrall, for if they have complyed (as many of them have done) it is only through want of courage that they have sacrificied their faith to their fears, and for the same reason will on the first appearance of a party from your Honors although but 60 or 70 men on pardon published and exemplary justice done the Ring-Leaders who do overawe them, they will then gladly returne to their duties, their necessities also constreighning them, for they cannot subsist without planting of Corne and Tobacco, well knowing that without these two (having made them their sole dependency) they must perish by hunger or want of cloathing, unless the Chief leaders build Capers and imploy them to rob the merchants to supply their wants as they come into the Capes of Virginia which is not above 20 or 30 leagues fron this inlet; and they are apt enough to tell them, that in respect of the openess of the road, shallowness of the inlet, fastness of the country, and by reason of the woods, swamps, rivers, creeks, and runs, this country

being no waies accessible by land but to the northward from Virginia, and that but by three passes or avenues, by which meanes they may possibly be persuaded thay may be safe from His Majesty's Frigates as if they were in Sally. I mention not this to discourage your Honors, but do likewise assure you that they are as inconsiderable, as rash and disobedient: the whole number I do not say of men but Tythables that is of working hands consist of about 1400 persons, a third part whereof at least being Indians. Negros, and women, will the rest once being declared Rebells, quickly desert them and come in hope either of liberty or better usage. So that in time I can no way bring the number of rebells that may be expected in armes to amount to 100 men, and these by reason of the several rivers and creeks which run north and south, and divide the severall precincts, so that they cannot suddenly joyne. If therefore a ship from England with goods and servants which I am confident would answer the charge, two or three Sloopes prest from Virginia, all man'd with 60 or 70 men divided into two parties, one whereof might run up to Chowan up the Sound in a-night, and there I am sure they would meet with many Loyall and lusty young men, who would immediately joyne with them and on notice divers who fled to Virginia would return for Pasquimans (Perquimans), there were but 3 or 4 noted Rebells as: Jenkins; Durant; Sherrell; Greene; Pricklove, and Lininton (Lillington), most of the rest being Quakers, who stand firme in their obedience although they will fight, the archest Rebells and greatest number being in Paccotanke (Pasquotank Precinct). And although it is easy to reduce them either by the way above proposed or by those soldiers as are yet behind in Virginia or by volunteers from thence, near two hundred having promised Mr. Eastchurch to march in with him as soone as he should obteine Licence from the Governor there, but his death prevented his designe, the Governor assuring him by his messingers that nothing should be wanting on his part wherein he might serve him, they there and also in Maryland being exceeding sensible of the suddenly subdued hundreds of idle debters, theeves, Negros, Indians, and English servants will fly into them & from thence inroads and dayly incursions, whence great mischief may better be forseene and prevented than after remedied, for considering the vast coast and wild woods of the backside of Virginia they may come from Maryland & the wilderness between Virginia and Albemarle extending one hundred miles without one inhabitant they may and some already do go into them in defiance of all the care the Governor and Magistrates there take for prevention.

The above document gives an excellent first-hand knowledge of the conditions of the Carolina Colony. Interestingly, there were just 1400 people in the colony, including Indians, servants and Negroes (note that the Negroes were not called slaves although most probably were).

The below document continues with details of the Culpepper Rebellion. It can be found in the: "Colonial Records of North Carolina, Volume I, 1662 - 1712, Pages 272 to 274 and is dated 31 January 1679". (although the document is dated 1679 there is ample evidence that it should be dated 31 January 1680).

.....these instructions being given the said Foster with his Burgesses carryed this desponant a prisson along with them to one George Durant's house which was ye appointed place for all yer meetings and where aforesaid Mr. (Thomas) Miller and ye Lord Deputyes and other Officers were prissoners and where they kept this desponant under a guard of thre files of soldiers takeing violently from this desponant all the King's bond accounts and consarnes whatsoever from him and after delivered them to John Culpepper thier Collector where ye aforesaid Gillam (note - this man was called "Gilham" in the before document) was and countenancing them with his presence & furnishing them with drink nor would be open store untill he see what would be done about ye Governor

and also present when they created a Parliment consisting of: Thomas Cullen, Speaker; James Blount; Anthony Slocum; John Verham; Henry Bonner: John Jenkins; Samuel Pricklove; William Therrill; Caleb Calloway; Alexander Lillington; William Crawford; Valentine Bird (since dead); William Jennings; Thomas Jarvies; Enoch Billings; Richard Sanders; Patrick White & William Sears who was their Drummer in all about 18 of them this parliment separated five of yer members, viz: John Jenkins; William Crawford; James Blount; Patrick White and Valentine Bird to joyne with one Mr. Richard Foster their Cheef Judge to make a Court of and then this Court impanneled a Grand Jury out of ye Soldiers and Confused Rable, the foreman whereof was one Mordecay Bowden, a New England Traider, and one much indebted to ye King which foreman consulting with one John Culpepper (thier Collector aforesaid and Cheef Scribe and Counsellor) how he should bring in ye Inditement aginst ye said (Thomas) Miller the said Culpepper told him he must Indosse Billa versa..."

The above is from an affidavit of one Henry Hudson, aged about 54 years "or thereabouts" concerning the Culpepper Rebellion. This affidavit also places Henry Bonner in Chowan Precinct and as a participant in the Culpepper Rebellion by swown documentation.

"Att the courte for ye precinct of Shaftsbury, the first day of April 1680. Att Edward Smithwick's house, Present; Mr. Thomas Cullen, Judge; Mr. Joseph Chew; Mr. Josiah Gilbert; Mr. Henry Bonner; and Mr. Joseph Gilbert, Commissioners". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 4, page 613).

This Henry Bonner died in 1689, as noted below. He lived at an interesting time in the Carolina Colony. He left the security of his home land to pursue an unknown future in an unknown land, with an unknown danger of circumstance. He forged his way and established a foothold for his descendants that is well documented in the records of Chowan County.

The following document, which is the only document found so far, makes note of his death in the summer of 1689.

From: The Colonial Records of North Carolina, "Governor's Papers, 1684-1685, 1689-1690, page 385".

(CCR)

Council Order and Writ of Election 1689 July

Att the house of Thomas (torn)rne(tt). Seth Sothell, Esqr, Governor. Wm Wilkinson, Esqr; Thos Jarves; Thos Miller; John Hunt; Lord Deputies.

Ordered that Writts be Issued forth to the Inhabitants of Chowan Precinct to Chose three substantial Freeholders out of the said precinct for to meet on Tuesday next at the house of Fra. Hartley there to meet the rest of the Burgess for to act and mak such Lawes as shalbe for the peace of the County.

A true Copp per Henderson Walker, Cler.

#### Albemarle

Whereas Willm Wilkinson, Esqr., is chosen out of the Burgesses of Chowan to

fill up the Vagancy of the Proprietors Deputies and Mr. Henry Bonner and Mr. Robert West being dead and there being occasion for filling up the assembley.

These are therefore in (torn) Lord Proprietors to require you to Summon (torn) of the said precinct to the usual place ther (torn) choise of three of them in the <u>roome of the aforesaid Wm Wilkinson</u>. Wm Wilkinson, **Henry Bonner** and Robert West and **send them to the house of Francis Hartley** on Tuesday next being the 16th Instant July there **to meet the rest of the Burgesses** and you are to make Returne of this to Henderson Walker.

Given under our Hands the (blotted) July 1689.

To: Wm Woollard, Sheriff

Seth Sothell, Thomas Jarvis, Wm Wilkinson, Thom Miller, John Hunt

The above court was probably held at the home of Thomas Harnett.

\_\_\_\_\_\_

As noted above Henry Bonner (Junior) and Robert West (Junior) are replacing their respective fathers as Lord Proprietor Deputies. Since they were "Freeholders" it is proof that they had possession of plantations.

The Last Will & Testament of Henry Bonner has not been located. However, the Last Will & Testament of Robert West has been located and printed because it gives creditability to the above death announcement. It is as follows:

"Robert West, Chowan. 28 March 1689. Probated at Court 4 June 1689. Sons: Robert; Thomas; John; Richard. Brothers: John and Benjamin West. Brother-in-law, Thomas Simons. Wife: Martha, exxr. Test: James Dammerell, James Farley, Benjamin Messler. (Ref: Hathaway, Volune 1, Number 4, page 500).

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#### CHAPTER II

## HENRY BONNER (ca 1650 - ca 1725)

This Henry Bonner is the son of Henry Bonner who died, as noted in the Governor's Papers, in July 1689. Records for Chowan County during the period 1690's are scarce but there is enough evidence in the records to catalog his existence. As noted in Chapter I, this Henry Bonner was made a Lord Proprietor Deputy upon the death of his father in 1689.

The wife of this Henry Bonner is unknown. However the following entry in the records may be a clue as to whom his wife was. If the below "Bonne" was actually "Bonner" then she was the wife of this Henry Bonner. There was a Henry Bonner who married Elizabeth Taylor, widow of John Taylor, in Maryland about 1 September 1674. They could be the same couple. It should be mentioned there is no other "Bonne" family listed in the records other than the below mentioned. Also, it is possible that the "r" of Bonne was written in a weak hand by the scriber and it later faded.

The entry for the "Bonne" family is as follows:

"Elizabeth Bonne ye daughter of Elizabeth Bonne was born ye \_\_date blank\_\_." (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 3, page 364).

"John Bonne ye son of Elizabeth Bonne was borne ye 3d of March 1681".

(Ref: Idem, Volume 3, Number 3, page 364).

"Elizabeth Bonne Departed this Life this the 3d of March 1681". (Ref: Idem, Volume 3, Number 3, page 366).

As previously asked, Could the scriber have miswritten the name "Bonner" as "Bonne"? If so, there is a strong possibility that John Bonner who died in Chowan in 1753 was the above John "Bonne"! And if so, then the evidence would suggest that the above Elizabeth was probably the wife of this Henry Bonner.

In one recorded history about the founding of Washington, North Carolina it is stated that, "Thomas, James and William Bonner came to North Carolina from Maryland, that Thomas became the High Sheriff of Beaufort County (true); that James founded the City of Washington, North Carolina (not true) and William settled in a nearby county, probably Chowan (probably true)". Thomas Bonner first settled in Hyde County where he was a freeholder in 1715. Later he moved to a plantation located at the junction of the Tar River and Pamlico River which flowed into the Pamlico Sound. It was here that his son James laid out streets in the 1750s and sold lots that would become the city of Washington, North Carolina. There is no mention of James, the brother of Thomas, in the records of Beaufort County. However that was a James Bonner in Chowan County in 1703. Additionally, there was a William Bonner in Chowan County during the same period of time. There is enough circumstantial evidence in the above to suggest in the strongest terms that Thomas, James and William were sons of Henry Bonner (ca 1750 - ca 1725) and if they came from Maryland it was only after they left Chowan County and went to Maryland and came back "home".

If the above Thomas, James, and William were sons of this Henry Bonner then the family data would appear as:

Henry Bonner (ca 1650 - ca 1725)

Wife: Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_\_. (unk - 3 March 1681)

Children: 1. Elizabeth Bonner

- 2. Henry Bonner (ca 1679 September 1738)
- 3. John Bonner (3 March 1681 1753)
- 4. William "Will" Bonner (Living in Chowan in the 1705)
- 5. James Bonner (Living in Chowan in 1703)
- 6. Thomas Bonner (ca 1690 1765) (Lived/died in Beaufort County)

The following marriage is recorded in Charles City, Maryland. "Henry Bonner married Elizabeth Taylor, widow of John Taylor, before or about 1 September 1674".

Since the names match as though they were siblings then this Henry Bonner could be their father, the following is submitted for thought. Henry Bonner could be the father of: (1) Will(iam) Bonner who was living in Chowan in 1705; (2) James Bonner who was living in Chowan in 1703; and Thomas Bonner (ca 1690 - 1765) who lived and died in Beaufort County. As previously stated these three are mentioned in some publications as emigrating from the State of Maryland. However, it is more likely that they are the children of this Henry Bonner.

The records are silent as to the parentage of (Sheriff) Thomas Bonner (ca 1690 - 1765) of Beaufort County, North Carolina and of William Thomas Bonner who died in Bertie County in 1755 and also can be added John and Thomas Bonner who lived adjacent to the Henry Bonner clan in Chowan County. To skip ahead to help make the point; In 1766, Henry Bonner died and left four minor sons. He named his brother, Thomas and his "Loving" cousin Captain Thomas Bonner as trustees for the boy's estates. There are three Thomas Bonners who fit the category of being "cousin" Thomas. First, was the son of Sheriff Thomas Bonner of Beaufort County, Thomas Bonner (Junior) also of Beaufort County: second, was the son of (William) Thomas Bonner of Bertie County, Thomas Bonner; and thirdly, Thomas who was the brother of John Bonner as mentioned in his last will and testament in 1753. So from this it can be seen that either Sheriff Thomas Bonner of Beaufort County or (William) Thomas Bonner of Bertie County or Thomas Bonner, (known to be a brother of John Bonner) could have been a brother to (Colonel) Henry Bonner. I realize there is confusion in the above but in the absence of concrete information then the speculation is not out of order.

Another gathering of facts and circumstances that suggest that there is a blood relationship between the Bonners of Beaufort County and the Bonners of Chowan County is recorded in the deed records of South Carolina and Alabama. In those Deeds will be found that members of these families had plantations/property adjacent to each in South Carolina and in Alabama. Between 1776 and 1779, Thomas Bonner (born ca 1744), a grandson of (Colonel) Henry Bonner, of Chowan County moved to South Carolina. Exactly where he lived in South Carolina during the American Revolution is unknown. However, after the war, he obtained land in Upper South Carolina on Cherokee Creek near the present City of Gaffney, South Carolina. Benjamin Bonner, a grandson of Sheriff Thomas Bonner of Beaufort County, had settled on a plantation near Gaffney. Were they related or was it just coincidence that they owned property so close to each other? After the death of Thomas Bonner (died 1804 in Clarke County, Georgia) his oldest son, Jordan, moved to the western boundary of Alabama and settled on a plantation in present Choctaw County near the town of Toxey. During the time Jordan lived at Toxey, descendants of Benjamin Bonner lived on

a plantation in Choctaw County near the town of Gilbertown, about three miles from the Jordan Bonner plantation. Were these men cousins or was it just coincidence they traveled such a distance to live adjacent to each other? It suggests, in the strongest terms that Sheriff Thomas Bonner of Beaufort County and (Colonel) Henry Bonner of Chowan County were, in fact, brothers.

There was also a James Bonner who resided in Chowan during this period. He is only mentioned one time in the records, as follows:

"Matthew Adams, Chowan. Will published 9 August 1703. Probated 26 November 1708. Son, Matthew; daughter, Ellinor. Wife, Sarah named executrix. Test: Thomas Blount, James Bonner." (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 2, page 164).

The earliest records for Sheriff Thomas Bonner are dated in 1715 when he resided in Hyde Precinct. He later moved onto a plantation on what is now, Washington, North Carolina. At that time he was married with children. The earliest record for (William) Thomas Bonner is when he was living in Chowan. In 1714, he designated Captain Henry Bonner as his Attorney-at-Law. As stated in Chapter I, the Bonner family settled on the Mattacomack Creek when they arrived in the Carolina Colony. Also as previously stated, there are few records about the Bonner's during the 1680's and no records for the Bonners in the 1690's in Chowan. The first record dated in the 1700's again confirming the Bonner's living on Matacomack Creek is printed below:

Bonner to Blount

A DEED OF SALE passed from Henry Bonner to James Blount and ordered to be registered 3d April 1705.

Chowan Precinct in ye province of North Carolina. TO ALL XTAIN PEOPLE to whom these presents shall come Henry Bonner for divers good causes and consideration me moving thereunto but now more especially for ye consideration of Eighteen pounds Sterling to me in hand paid or secured to be paid by Mr. James Blount, Senior of the Precinct aforesaid wherewith I do by these presents acknowledge myself to be freely and fully satisfied contended and paid have therefore Bargained and Sold and do by these presents Bargain Sell Enseal and make over and forever confirm unto ye aforesaid Mr. James Blount, Senior all yet my Plantation and track of land situate lying and being on ye Southwest Side of Mattacomack Creek bounded by ye said Creek on ye North and North Side and on ye North West and West side by ye land of Will(iam) Bonner and on the South East Side and South Side and South West by the Great Swamp and Pecosun ye tract of land containing Four hundred forty acres. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the aforesaid tract of land and Plantation together with all Housing, Orchards, Gardens, Fruit Trees, Timber, and Timber trees thereon standing laying or being with all \_\_?\_\_ and easements profits and commodities waters and water courses...

IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto Sett my Hand and Fixt my Seall this 18th day June 1704/05 in Ye Fourth Year of Ye Reign of Our Soverign Lady Ann, Queen of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of Ye Faith.

Sealed and Delivered

in presence of: Will Windley Nathaniel Chevin HENRY BONNER (Seal)

..........

Again, concerning the founding of the City of Washington, North Carolina - it has been previously written that three Bonner brothers, James, Thomas, and William, came directly from Maryland to North Carolina. The same source has it that James founded the City of Washington, that Thomas became a Sheriff, and that William settled in a nearby county, probably Chowan. We have already written that a James Bonner was in Chowan in 1703, that a "Will" Bonner was in Chowan in 1705 and Thomas Bonner was in Hyde precinct in 1715. Modern records are explicit in their documentation that the son of Sheriff Thomas Bonner, James Bonner (born about 1719), was the founder of the City of Washington (Chartered in 1785), not the James Bonner who arrived in the early part of the century. Nothing else is known of "Will" Bonner of Chowan. As noted earlier, the records are silent about James Bonner except the single notation in the will of Matthew Adams.

In 1705, Katherine Bonner filed a lawsuit with the Clerk of Court, Nathaniel Chevin. There is no hint what the suit was about nor anything else about Katherine Bonner, before or after 1705.

"John Wheatley, Chowan. December 1706. Daughters, Elizabeth and Martha. Plantation given to me by Cotton Robinson, deceased, to Mary, eldest daughter of Susannah Williams, formerly Skittlethorpe. My five daughters. Samuel Patchett and wife, exrs. Test: Thomas Luten, **Henry Bonner**, Nathaniel Chevin. (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 4, page 509). Note: Thomas Luten died on 6 November 1709 while living in Rockyhock Swamp north of Edenton, N. C.

A family that had a very close association with the Bonner family was the Benbury family. The relationship is first recorded in the 1700's and through the years it continued until at least the 1770's.

"William Benbury, 13 July 1709. (No precinct listed but is Chowan by fact). Son-in-law James Watch (Welch); wife, Jane; Son, William; daughter, Martha; daughter, Hannah. Witnesses: **Henry Bonner**, Edward Moseley, Ann Moseley". (Ref: Idem, Volume 1, Number 1, page 34). (Note - Ann Moseley was the relict of the late Governor of the Colony, Henderson Walker, who died in 1704).

As noted above, James Welch was a son-in-law of William Benbury. The name of James' wife is never listed. James may have resided at Welch's Creek at the mouth of the Roanoke River in what was then, the South Shore of Chowan Precinct. Today the location of Welch's Creek would be in the Northern part of Washington County.

"James Welch of Bath to James Long of Chowan. 500 acres on Welch's Creek and Morattack (now known as Roanoke) River. 13 December 1701. Test: John Lillington, Humphrey Legg". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 1, page 119).

James Welch died in 1711. What makes his death notice interesting is his kinship to Henry Bonner. This Henry Bonner has to be the Henry Bonner who was made a Lord Proprietor Deputy in 1689. We know from the records that this man's son, Henry Bonner (born ca 1679), married in 1705, Deborah Whedbee. In 1711 there were three Henry Bonners in Chowan; Henry Bonner who was born ca 1650, his son Henry Bonner born ca 1679, and his grandson, Henry Bonner born ca 1708. The only Henry who could have been Welch's brother-in-law was the elder Henry, born ca 1650.

Another record that states where James Welch lived in noted in the following. (Terrapin Hill was located in the western district of Chowan precinct across the Chowan River in what is now Bertie County).

North Carolina - ss. At a Court for the precinct of Chowan at the house of William Branch, the third Tuesday in April Anno Domo 1711. Ordered Overseers appointed for the Highways for the ensuring year. Mr. Henry Bonner from Terrapin Hill to James Welch's; Thomas Hoskins from Welch's to the Lower part of the usual limits. (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 3, page 441).

"James Welch. 11 November 1711. Daughter, Mary, child in esse. Brother-in-law, Henry Bonner named executor". (Ref: Idem, Volume 1, Number 1, page 84).

The question is, Was Henry married to James Welch's sister OR was James and Henry married to Benbury sisters? Since no other member of the Welch family has been located in the records, it stands to reason that Henry and James were probably married to Benbury sisters. The marriage probably occurred after William Benbury died in 1709 since James is listed as a son-in-law and not Henry Bonner. Notice that Henry Bonner was close enough to William Benbury to be accepted by the courts as authenticating the will of the named William Benbury.

"William Benbury's Last will & testament was proved by Oath of Henry Bonner. Robert Buckner, Clerk of Court in 1712. (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 1, page 119).

As suggested earlier, this Henry Bonner is hard to identify because of the tradition of naming children after parents and grandparents. Such as in this case except where the son of Henry Bonner's militia rank is used or they are designated as Sr. or Jr. A good example is the following document:

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"Received of the following, corn for public use: Henry Bonner, 3 bushels; Captain (Henry) Bonner, 3 bushels; John Yelverton, 6; Captain Nichols Crisp, 6; Edwin Standing, 6; Thomas Hoskins, 6; Joseph Gilbert, 3; William Charlton, 6; Samuel Patchett (Padgett), 12; John Jones (Junior), 3; Richard Lewis, 3; Francis Branch, 9; Jeremiah Vail, 12; William Haughton, 6; James Benbury, 3; John Jones, 6; Edward Moseley, 18; Thomas Peterson, 9; William Yeates, 3; William Fallaugh (Fallow), 3; John Blount, 18; Captain Fred Jones, 9; Charles Wilkins, 3; John Goreham, 3; Nicholas Blackman, 3; William Tanner, 3; Smithwick Warburton, 3; William Davis, 3; John Parter, 18; John Taylor, 3; Argyle Simmons, 3; Thomas Houth, 3; George Moye, 3; John Watkins, 3; T. Johnson, 3; Conrad Eichorn, 3; Thomas Jones, 3; John Bently, 3; William Sadler, 3; William Jones, 3; Thomas Williams, 3; John Lillington, 6; Thomas Edge, 3; John Marks, 3; John Stevens, 3; Robert Warburton, 3.

A TRUE ACCOUNT of corn received by Edward Moseley for the Publick account. Attested: 29th December 1712. Signed by: Edward Moseley". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 3, page 489).

The above is a good roster of the plantation owners in 1712 in Chowan County. It is also a good record indicating that both Henry Bonner and his son, (Captain) Henry Bonner, were in good health since they were active farmers.

Sometime after 1715 the elder Henry Bonner's health began to decline. He was approxiately 65 years of age which was considered an old man in his society. Positive proof that he was in declining health is in the following court order.

"At a Court held for Chowan Precinct 15 April 1718.

Present: James Beasley; William Charlton; Thomas Luten (Junior), Esquires. JUSTICES.

Henry Bonner prays to choose his guardian. Ordered that John King be appointed his guardian, take into his custody his estate". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 1, page 153). (Note - John King was a physician).

It appears that inspite of declining health Henry Bonner continued to culivate or supervise the operation of his plantation at least until 1721. He acquired land in 1720 but he failed to culivate the land as required by law. (After three years of non-culivation the property reverted back to the "government"). By 1724, at the approxiate age of 74 years, Henry Bonner is near the end of his life.

The following is from: The North Carolina Colonial Records, Volume II, pages 522 and 523.

"North Carolina - ss

At a Council held at Edenton April the 9th Anno Dom 1724.

Present: The Honoble George Burrington, Esq. Governor.

Chris Gale

J. Lovick

Edward Moseley

Francis Foster

John Blount

Thomas Pollock

Thomas Harvey

Arthur Gosse

Equires,

Members of Council

Read the petition of **Henry Bonner (Junior)**, shewing that in the year 1720 **Henry Bonner (Senior)**, obtained a patent for 340 acres of land which is not culivated as the Law prescribes and therefore prays for a lapse Patent for the said land &c.

Ordered that a Patent Issue as prayed for.

It is obvious that the senior Bonner was alive in April 1724 since he is not shown as being "deceased". After the above document was published, only two Henry Bonners show up in the records; (Colonel) Henry Bonner and his son, Henry Bonner (born ca 1708).

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#### CHAPTER III

(SECTION ONE)

HENRY BONNER (ca 1679 - 1738)

Family Data: Henry Bonner (ca 1679 - September 1738)

Wife: (1st): Unknown

Children: 1. Elizabeth Bonner (ca 1703 - ca 1742)

Wife: (2d): Deborah Whedbee (28 January 1689 - ca 1728)

Children: 2. Henry Bonner (ca 1708 - July 1766)

- 3. Deborah Bonner (ca 1724 1784)
- 4. Mary Bonner (ca 1725 1759)
- 5. Thomas Bonner (ca 1727 1785?)

The
LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
of
HENRY BONNER

\_\_\_\_\_\_

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN! I Henry Bonner, of Chowan Precinct in the Province of North Carolina, PLANTER, calling to mind the uncertainty of this life, do make and ordain this instrument of writing to be and purport my Last Will and Testament and as to what estate it hath pleased God to bless me with here, I give and bequeath in the manner and form following, to wit:

I give and bequeath to my son, Henry Bonner, all that my plantation, tract, or seat of land lying in the precinct aforesaid, and where I now live, with the appurtenances to him and his heirs forever. I give and bequeath all that my plantation, tract or seat of land lying in Green Hall in the precinct aforesaid and the appurtenances to my son, Henry Bonner and his heirs forever.

I give and bequeath to my son, **Thomas Bonner**, all these my three plantations tracts or seats of land lying in the precinct aforesaid, commonly called and known by the names of: **Brinn's**, **Hole's and Jones' Plantations**, with their appurtenances to him and his heirs forever.

I give and bequeath all that my plantation tract or seat of land lying in the precinct aforesaid commonly called by the name of **Baye's plantation** to my grandson, Richard Lewis and his heirs forever.

I give and bequeath unto my son, Henry Bonner, all the stock of what kind soever that is now on and belonging to the aforesaid plantation in Green Hall and six negroes called, to wit: Sam, James, Maria, Priss, Kate and Bob. One new feather bed and furniture, one oval table, one brass kettle, six new peuter dishes, four peuter basons, six peuter sup plates, six peuter flat plates.

I give unto my son Thomas Bonner all and every of the stock that is now on and belonging to the aforesaid two plantations called Brinn's and Hole's and five negroe slaves called, to wit: Cush, Sue, Tom, Boy and Doll. One new feather bed and furniture, one oval table, six new pewter dishes, four pewter basons, six sup plates, six flat plates, and one mare.

I give and bequeath to my daughter, Elizabeth Lewis, one negroe woman slave called Grace, one new feather bed and furniture.

I give and bequeath to my grandson Richard Lewis, a negroe girl slave called Nan.

I give and bequeath to my daughter, Deborah Bonner, one new feather bed and

furniture and three negroe slaves called: Minge, Simon, and Phebe.

I give and bequeath to my daughter, Mary Bonner, one new feather bed and furniture and three negroe slaves called: Daniel, Dinah, and Jane.

I give and bequeath unto my grand-daughter, Sarah Lewis, one negroe slave called Joan.

I give and bequeath unto my grand-daughter, Deborah Lewis, one negroe slave called Moll.

I give and bequeath all the rest and residue of my personal estate unto my said children: Henry, Thomas, Elizabeth, Deborah and Mary, to be equally divided amongst them.

And all the rest and residue of my real estate I order and direct my executor hereafter mentioned to dispose of and the moneys arising therefrom to be laid out for the educating and maintaining my two daughters, Deborah and Mary in their minority and that they live with my daughter Elizabeth and that she have the care and management of them.

And further it is my will and pleasure that my son Henry before the negroes are divided between him and his brother Thomas do make or cause to be made upon one of the plantations herein bequeathed unto the said Thomas which he the said Thomas shall direct sixty thousand bricks for building a house thereon.

It is my will and pleasure that my son Thomas do live with my son Henry during his minority, and I appoint my friend John Benbury to take care the estate herein bequeathed to the said Thomas by not in the meantime be embeziled or wasted.

And I do hereby appoint my said son Henry Bonner to be executor of this my Last, Will and Testament revoking and annulling all former Wills by me heretofore made and pronouncing, publishing and declaring this to be my Last, Will and Testament.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal at Chowan Precinct aforesaid the Twenty-First day of September 1738.

Sealed pronounced published and declared in the presence of

and declared in the presence of; Joseph Anderson

Abraham Blackall James Potter his Henry B Bonner mark

## October ye 7th, 1738

Came before me Dr. Abraham Blackall & James Potter & made oath that they saw Col. Henry Bonner sign seal & publish ye within as his last will and testament that he was of sound & disposing mind and memory & that Mr. Joseph Anderson subscribed as a witness thereto.

At the same time Mr. Henry Bonner took ye oath appointed by law to be taken by executors.

W. Smith, Clerk

The above is on file at the Archives in Raleigh, North Carolina.

It was this Henry Bonner who married Deborah Whedbee in Prequimans Precinct (County) about 1 April 1705.

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The marriage of Henry Bonner and Deborah Whedbee is affirmed in the following court order. (Ref: The Colonial Records of North Carolina, Volume I, 1662 - 1712, Pages 619 to 621).

"At a Court (in Perquimans Precinct) held att the House of Mr. Dennis Macclendon the 10th day of Aprill 1705.

Present: The Worpll - Francis Foster; Captain James Coles; William Barcliffe; John Stepney; Dennis Macclendon, Esquires. Justices.

A new Commission being published the above members take & subscribe to the Oaths appointed by Law. Thomas Snoden, Clerk of this Court, takes and Subscribes to the Oath appointed by Law.

A conditional bond from John Norcum & Elizabeth his wife acknowledged to Henry Warren & ordered to be recorded. (Note - This Henry Warren may be the same man who was a witness, along with Henry and William Bonner, in 1685, to the will of Thomas Bonner).

.... the Marshall was comanded to cause to come twelve true & lawfull men &c to whom &c who neither &c by whom the matter may be found and there came: Mr. Archibald Holmes; Mr. Francis Beasley; Mr. Henry Warren; Mr. Edward Wilson; Mr. Joseph Sutton, Senior; Mr. Lawrence Megue; Mr. Henry Bonner; Mr. Joseph Sutton, Junior; Mr. Andrew Reed; Mr. Richard Burtenshall; Mr. John Falconer & Mr. Robert Hosea who Impannelled & sworn Say Wee of the Jury find noe case of accon. Ordered that the accon be dismist & plantiff pay costs als exo.

... and the Marshall was comanded to cause twelve true and lawful men &c to whom &c who neither &c by whom the matter may be found and there came: Mr. Archibald Holmes; Mr. Francis Beesley; Mr. Henry Warren; Mr. Edward Wilson; Mr. Joseph Sutton, Senior; Mr. Lawrence Megue; Mr. Henry Bonner; Mr. Joseph Sutton, Junior; Mr. Andrew Reed; Mr. Richard Burtenshall; Mr. John Falconer & Mr. Robert Hosea who impannelled & sworn say wee of the jury find for the plantiffe.

Upon peticon of Henry Bonner praying the estate of Deborah Whitby his now wife out of the hands of Dennis Macclendon, Guardian of the said Deborah.

Ordered Dennis Macclendon deliver unto the peticon all the estate of Deborah the peticon now wife into the hands & custody of the peticon.

In Chapter III, the reader will find that the above Dennis Macclendon was the step-father to Deborah Whedbee. After Deborah's father John died in 1700, Deborah's mother, Deborah (Austin-Sutton) Whedbee married Dennis in 1702.

As noted above Deborah is the "now" wife of Henry Bonner. This was the court's system of stating that Henry had been married before. It should be explained that the son of this Henry (Henry Bonner who died in 1766), has been listed by the Daughters of the American Revolution as being born ca 1702. (However, upon close examination of the records it appears that he was probably born about 1708). The records suggest that Elizabeth Bonner (Lewis) was probably the eldest of Henry's children as suggested by the Last Will and Testament of her father in September 1738. If true, then Henry's first wife may have died in childbirth. It is obvious, by reading the records, that the son Henry, and his sister, Elizabeth, were much older than the minor children mentioned in the Last Will and Testament of Henry Bonner in 1738. Since Henry's grand-son, Richard Lewis, did not have a trustee named for him, he was least twenty-one (21) years of age when Henry died in 1738. If so, then his birth year was about 1717, which would place Elizabeth's birth year about 1703, if she married at about thirteen years of age. Undoubtly, Deborah Whedbee Bonner became barren for a number of years since there is such an obvious gap in the birth years of Henry and Elizabeth and their siblings; or Henry and Elizabeth had siblings that

died at a very young age. In accordance with the tradition of the times, the children are listed in the will of Colonel Henry Bonner in order of birth, the three youngest being under the age of majority.

A clue to Colonel Henry Bonner's daughter Deborah's birth year is contained in the records. In 1739, she petitioned her brother-in-law and sister for permission to marry.

"Henry Bonner had daughters, Mary Bonner and Deborah Bonner md (James) Thompson, petitioned of William Lewis and wife Elizabeth - 1739". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 2, Number 3, page 469). Note - By law, Deborah could not marry under the age of thirteen and did not need permission at age sixteen, the majority age for women being sixteen. Therefore she was born between 1723 and 1726. With that fact established, it can be ascertained that Mary and Thomas were born beween 1724 and 1727. It is believed that Deborah (Whedbee) Bonner, the wife of Colonel Bonner died about 1728 since she is not mentioned in her mother's Last, Will and Testament that was published in 1728 and probated in 1732.

At this point an explanation is required about the name "Deborah" in this blood line of the Bonner family. The name does not show in the Bonner family up prior to Henry's marriage to Deborah Whedbee in 1705. It is not contained in any other branch of the Bonner family. The name originated from the mother of Deborah (Whedbee) Bonner who was Deborah Astine (Austen) before she married Nathaniel Sutton. After that marriage, the name of Deborah shows up in the Sutton family line. After Deborah married Henry Bonner, the name shows up in the Bonner family line. First was their daughter Deborah Bonner who, after she married James Thompson, had a daughter named Deborah Thompson. There was grand-daughter, Deborah Lewis, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Bonner) Lewis. Colonel Bonner's grand-son, Thomas Bonner (born ca 1744) also had a daughter named Deborah to name just a few. It should be noted that Colonel Henry Bonner named his daughters in his Last Will and Testament as being: Elizabeth, Deborah and Mary. The reader will also be aware that Thomas Bonner (born ca 1744) had daughters: Deborah and Mary Elizabeth, apparently named after his aunts.

While deciding how to put together this chapter concerning the life of Colonel Henry Bonner it became apparent that all available records had to be printed in order to fully establish his life and those associated with him. As previously stated, this Henry Bonner was hard to separate from his father because of their same names except where militia rank was used. The same holds true with this Henry Bonner and his son except where either "Sr" or "Jr", or the militia rank is used. When the Deeds of Sale are compared from one chapter to another, it can be seen that it is the same Bonner family.

Henry Bonner was a Captain in 1712; in 1725 he was a Major and in 1730 he was a Colonel and held that rank until his death in 1738, according to the records.

The following can be found in Deed Book B-1, pages 56 & 57 at the Court House in Edenton.

John Slocumb

to

A Conveyance

Henry Bonner

TO ALL XTAIN people to whom these presents shall come I John Slocumb of ye county of Bath, Planter, send greeting:

KNOW YE YET I YE said John Slocumb for & in consideration of ye sum of fifty pounds current money to me in hand paid by **Henry Bonner** of ye precinct of Chowan the receipt whereof I do by these presents acknowledge my self to be fully satisfied and do by these presents make bargain sell & assign forever all yet Plantation or tract of lands conveying two hundred acres lying situate & being on the northern branch of Mattacomack Creek as appear by a Pattent bearing date ye (\_\_\_\_not listed\_\_\_).

IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seal this 5th day of March

1714.

Signed, sealed & delivered in presence of us; Robert Heick (Hicks) Charles Wilkins John Slocumb

As stated earlier, there appears to be a family relationship between the Bonner family of Chowan County and the Bonners of Beaufort County. Another Bonner family where a blood relationship seems apparent is the Bonner family of Bertie County. The Bertie County Bonner's was headed by William Thomas Bonner. He appears as a resident in that portion of Chowan Precinct that became Bertie County in 1732. As noted previously, either the Beaufort County Bonners or the Bertie County Bonners Or both were related to the Chowan County Bonners. A document that suggests that the Bertie County Bonners were related to (Colonel) Henry Bonner is the following document. Notice that when the document was made, Thomas was a resident of Virginia. How was he aware of Henry who was a resident of Chowan? Kinship?

The below can be found in Book B-1, page 59 on file at the Register of Deeds Office at the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

"Thomas Bonner to Henry Bonner - Lre of Attorney.

Know all men by these presents yt I Thomas Bonner & Elizabeth my wife of Virginia Government in Nansemond County, doth constitute & appoint my trusty & loyall friend Captain Henry Bonner of Chowan Precinct in ye government of North Carolina to be my true & lawfull attorney to appear for me in Chowan Precinct in ye government aforesaid there to acknowledge a Deed of Sale for fifty acres of land which bears date with aforesaid Lre of Attorney.

Witness our Hands & Seal this 18th day of October 1714.

Test: Thomas Gates
John Nairne

Thomas (TB) Bonner Elizabeth (E) Bonner

The above power of attorney was to authorize Captain Henry Bonner to sell the below listed tract of land in the name of Thomas and Elizabeth Bonner. Note the dates and the fact that no funds are mentioned as compensation.

The following is from Deed Book B-1, pages 57 & 58 at the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

Thomas Bonner

to

A Conveyance

Samuel Pattachat (Padgett)

TO ALL XTAIN people to whom these presents shall come greetings. KNOW YE yt I Thomas Bonner of ye government of Virginia & in ye County of Nansemond.

Cordwinder, (note - a cordwinder was a shoemaker) with ye advice & consent of Elizabeth my now wife for & in consideration of ye sum of four pounds in hand ... unto ye said Mr. Sam'll Pattachat...for ever one messuage & tract of land situate lying & being on ye west side of Mattacomack Creek & containing fifty acres more or less known & call'd by the name of Thomas Bonner's Tract butted & bounds with ye Creek aforesaid surveyed in all rented with ye lands of ye said Mr. Sam'll Pattachat.

IN WITNESS whereof we have hereunto set our hands & fixt our seal this 18th day of October 1714.

Seal'd & Delivered in presence of us,

Thos TB Bonner Elizabeth E Bonner

his

Thos X Gates

mark

Jno Nairne

You will notice that the above Thomas had been married prior to his marriage to his "now wife", Elizabeth.

Jones to Bonner - Lre of Attorney

Be it known unto all men by these presents yet I William Jones of Pamplico Precinct in Bath County in the province of North Carolina, Planter, do hereby assign ordain authorize constitute & in my stead & place do putt appoint & depute my true & trusty & well beloved friend Captain Henry Bonner of Chowan Precinct in the province aforesaid to be my true lawfull Deputy & Attorney for me & in my name & to my own proper use benefit & behoof to ask demand and inquire Sue for recover & receive all such debts duties sum & sums of money rent & rents arreares of rents yearly payments merchandizes legancies money due & to be due open bill of exchange or all other demands whatsoever as now are or hereafter shall be due & payable belonging or to be delivered unto me by or from any person or persons whatsoever & wheresoever & to pay money for me to contract for demise & lett to farm at the accustoms rents or more all or any of my messuage lands tenements or hereditaments whatsoever whatsoever & for default of payment or delivery of any rent or rents or other sum of money or other thing or things to me due is to be due or belonging to use all lawfull ways & means for recovery thereof by actions suit arrest bill plaint attachment distress reientry or otherwise fully & amply in every respect as I my self might or could do if I were personally present & to sue implead make answer prosecute & defend in any Court or Courts of Law or equity & before any judge or any justices in any suit matter or cause with me for me or against me as the cause shall require to deal & intermedle in all actions suits affairs & business any ways touching or concerning me as my agent or factor or otherwise giving & by these presents granting unto my said attorney full whole & lawfull authority in the execution of all & singular the premises & to substitute & appoint one or more attorney or attorneys in any of the premises & the same again at his pleasure to revoak rattifying & allowing for him effectual & irrevocable all & whatsoever my said attorney shall do or cause to be done.

In witness whereof I have hereunto Sett my Hand & Seall this 27th day of December Anno Dom 1714.

Sign'd Seal'd & del'd

William I Jones (Seal)

in presence of:

Samuel Pattachet (Padgett)

Thomas Jones

The original of the above is in Book B-1, page 251, in the Chowan County Court House.

The below document is from Deed Book B-1, page 339, in the Chowan County Court house in Edenton, N. C.

Bonner

to

A SALE

Bonner

To all Xtian people to whom these presents shall come, I Henry Bonner of the precinct of Chowan in the County of Albemarle, Gentleman, send greeting Know ye yt I the said Henry Bonner for a valuable consideration to me in hand paid at & before ye ensealing and delivery hereof by William Bonner of the precinct & province aforesaid have give granted bargained sold aliened ensoff'd & confirm and by these presents do give grant bargain sell aliene ensoss & confirm unto the said William Bonner his heirs & assigns forever a certain parcell of a tract of land lying situate & being in Chowan Precinct on the North Side of Mattacomack Creek butting & bounding to the Eastward on the land of the William Bonner to the westward by a line of marked trees to the southward on Mattacomack Creek & to the northward by one other line of marked trees containing one hundred acres be the same more or less the said land being part of a larger tract purchased of John Slocumb...the said land being part of a larger tract mentioned in a Pattent bearing date of 19th January 1716...

IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto sett my hand & seal the 17th Aprill 1716.

Signed, sealed and delivered

in the presence of

Henry Bonner

John Nairne

Thomas Luten, Jr

The below document is in Deed Book B-1, page 571, in the Chowan County Court House.

\_\_\_\_\_

## Wallstone to Bonner

#### A Sale

To all to whom these presents shall come I William Wallstone of Chowan Precinct, Cooper (note - a barrel maker), sends greetings, Know ye yt I the said William Wallstone for a valuable considersation to me in hand paid by Captain Henry Bonner of ye same place the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge & of every part & parcell thereof do hereby acquaint exonorate & discharge the said Henry Bonner his heirs ... a parcell of land containing two hundred acres be the same more or less lying in Chowan Precinct on the North east side of the Tanyard Swamp in Green Hall between the lands of the said Henry Bonner and the lands of Edward Champion ...

I bind myself my heirs &c in the sum of fifty pounds current money witness my hand this 22d day of July 1718.

Signed Sealed &

Delivered in presence of.

Wm Wallstone

Robert Hicks

The above William Wallstone was granted, on 17 April 1697, 223 acres of land on Mattacomack Creek Swamp at Green Hall.

There are no records about the types of roads the settlers of Chowan had to travel, probably just what we would call a woods path. In 1717, the settlers of Green Hall decided to improve their "road". The below can be found in Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 1, page 152.

"At a Court held for Chowan Precinct 15 October 1717, at the house of William Branch.

Present: James Beasley; William Charlton; John Jordan; Thomas Garrett; John Dove; John Holbrook; Henry Speller; Thomas Luten, Jr., Esquires, Justices.

Upon the petition of the inhabitants of Green Hall, ordered that a road be cleared out from Evan's to John Jones' landing and that Richard Lewis, John Jones, Sr., Francis Branch, Thomas Jones, Henry Jones, Richard Fullinton, Orlando Champion, William Sadler, John Jones, Jr., Samuel Patchett, William Fallow and Henry Bonner be appointed a jury to lay out the same".

The above Richard Lewis was the father-in-law of Elizabeth Bonner Lewis. Elizabeth was married to William Lewis.

Their laws were based on the rules of conduct as interpreted from the Bible with a little variation created by local customs and traditions. Carrying out of decisions of the court was sometimes swift and deadly. The following was taken from the, "Colonial Records of North Carolina, Volume II, page 339 from the year 1719".

(Madalin Collar was in court charged with murder). "She was found guilty of privately delivered of a bastard child born alive and the next morning did bury the child by force against the peace and aginst the Royall Crown and dignity and against the laws and statutes". Madalin Collar pleaded guilty and was found guilty by: Henry Bonner; Henry Speller; Patrick Warde; Thomas Luten (Junior); Thomas Paris; Francis Branch; William Bonner; William Haughton; Lewis Skinner; William Haurth; John Falconer and Thomas Yates. "She is Guilty of Murder and Judged to be Hanged".

The tax list for 1721 shows that Henry Bonner paid taxes on 990 acres of land and Thomas Bonner paid taxes on 600 acres. (William) Thomas Bonner was the same Thomas Bonner who authorized (Captain) Henry Bonner as his attorney.

\_\_\_\_\_\_

The below mentioned William Bonner was probably the (William) Thomas Bonner who was married to Elizabeth as noted in the below documents. (William) Thomas Bonner was the same "Thomas" Bonner who authorized Captain Henry Bonner as his attorney.

The following documents give a better insight as to the identification of William Thomas Bonner. At the time of the below documents he was probably living in the western district of Chowan Precinct, the portion that became Bertie County in 1732. The below document can be found in Book F-1, pages 175 to 180 at the Chowan County Court House.

Thomas Bonner & Wife Elizabeth Bonner to & Power of Attorney (to) John Homes.

Know all men by these presents I Thomas Bonner of the County of Albemarle in the precinct of Chowan in the Government of North Carolina due authorize ordain & impower John Homes my lawfull Attorney to acknowledge in Court held at Queen Anne's Town (old name for Edenton) for the said precinct one parcell of land to Leonard Langston containing one hundred acres of land and to acknowledge two acres of land to Mullford Langston ... likewise Elizabeth Bonner the wife of Thomas Bonner ... doth authorize John Homes to acknowledge all rights of dower..

So witness our Hands & Seals this the 14th day of July 1721. Signed, Sealed, & Delivered in the presence of us, Josiah Bridges William Moore

Thomas Bonner Elizabeth Bonner

At a Court held for Chowan Precinct at the Court aforesaid in Edenton in Queen Anne's Creek the 18th July 1721 - The within power of Attorney from William Bonner and Elizabeth his wife to John Homes & is ordered to be recorded & is recorded.

Test: Thomas \_\_\_\_?\_\_\_. Clerk Current

Thomas Bonner & Wife Elizabeth Bonner

Mullford Langston

DEED

To all people to whom these presents shall come greeting and know ye that I Thomas Bonner of the County of Albemarle in the precinct of Chowan in the government of North Carolina on the one part & Mullford Langston of the County and Government aforesaid ... for the sum of twenty five pounds current money ... convey to Mullford Langston one parcell of land lying and being on the North side of Dotacofir Creek by estimation two hundred acres upon Dotacofir Creek on the south side of a branch commonly called the Spring Branch ... a branch commonly called the Reedy Branch to a White Oak ... being a part of a tract that Thomas Bonner hath a Pattent for in his own name dated the March 9th 1718.

To have and to hold ... Elizabeth Bonner the wife of me the said Thomas Bonner doth by these presents freely give all her rights of Dowry ...

In Witness whereof we have Sett or Hands and Fixed our Seals this fourteenth day of July & in the Seventh Year of the Reign of our Soverign Lord George of Great Britain France & Ireland, King, & in the year of our Lord God One Thousand Seven Hundred and twenty-one - 1721.

Signed, Sealed & delivered in the presence of us. Josiah Bridge William Moore

Thomas Bonner (Seal) her Elizabeth X Bonner mark

Test: John \_\_\_?\_\_\_.

Thomas Bonner & Elizabeth Bonner

Leonard Langston

DEED

To all to whom these presents shall come greetings & know ye that I William Thomas Bonner of the County of Albemarle in the Precinct of Chowan in the government of North Carolina of the one part & Leonard Langston of the other part ... for in consideration of the sum of twenty pounds ... one parcell of land lying and being in the North side of the Patacisic (Pottacasey) Creek ... being one part of this land being part of a parcell of land that the said Thomas Bonner bought of Thomas Bonner, deceased, & the other part of the said land that the said Thomas Bonner took up in his own name the Pattent being dated the Nineth of March 1718.

To Have and To Hold ... & assign affixed our Seals this 14th day of April in the Seventy year of Soverign Lord George of Great Britain, France & Ireland, King &c., in the year of our Lord God one thousand seven hundred & twenty one -1721 -

Signed Sealed and Delivered in the presence of us. Josiah Bridges William Moore

Thomas Bonner (Seal)
her
Elizabeth X Bonner
mark

Test: John \_\_\_?\_\_\_\_.

Att a Court held for Chowan Precinct at the Court House in Edenton in Queen Anne's Creek the 18th July 1721 .... Thomas Bonner & Elizabeth his wife came unto Court & acknowledge the above deed ... Which in Motion Ordered to be recorded & is recorded. Thomas Hessman, Clerk Current

There are a couple of major items about the above documents. One is how Bonner's name is listed; In one it is Thomas, in another it is William and yet in another, William Thomas Bonner. This seems to explain who the "William" Bonner and "Thomas" Bonner was in the late 1710's in Chowan. Also of some importance is the sentence that "Thomas Bonner bought land from Thomas Bonner, Deceased". (There is no hint in the records who the deceased Thomas Bonner may have been). Thomas, the husband of Elizabeth, died in 1757 in Bertie County. In the archives in Raleigh, N. C., the following can be located:

## THOMAS BONNER'S WILL

-----

North Carolina, Bertie County, Nig'l

In the name of God, Amen. I, Thomas Bonner, of the County and province aforesaid, being in my perfect Senses and Memory, I do to prevent disputes in my family after my desese, do make this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form following:

Firstly and principally, I commend my soul to the Hands of Almighty God that gave it: and my Body to be Buried in a Christian like manner.

Secondly, I give to my well beloved son, Thomas Bonner, and his heirs, one hundred acres of land, be the same more or less Lying and being bounded on the road by Hog Pen Branch and Knee Branch.

- 3'ly. I give to my well beloved daughter, Esther Moore, two hundred acres of land to her and her heirs bounded by the road and Hintons Line and Blithenhenden line.
- 4'ly. I give to my son, Henry Bonner, the sum of one shilling, Sterling Money of Great Britain.
- 5'ly. I give my daughter, Elizabeth Wheeler, the sum of one shilling, Sterling Money of Great Britain.
- 6'ly. I give my daughter, Anne Byrde, the sum of one shilling, Sterling Money of Great Britain.
- 7'ly. I give my daughter, Sarah Wharton, the sum of one shilling, Sterling Money of Great Britain.
- 8'ly. I give my daughter, Patience Byrde, the sum of one shilling, Sterling Money of Great Britain.
- 9'ly. I give to my son, Moses Bonner, the sum of one shilling, Sterling Money of Great Britain.
- 10'ly. I give to my well beloved wife, Elizabeth Bonner, all the rest of my estate, both real and personal of all kinds whatsoever, to her disposal forever; I also appoint my said wife whole and sole ex'xutrix of this my last will and testament.

In witness whereof, I have set my Hand and Seal, this Eleventh day of November, in the Year of our Lord Christ, one thousand seven hundred and fifty five.

Signed Sealed and delivered

his

in the presence of us:

Thomas X Bonner

mark

his

Moses M Bonner, Jurat.

mark

his

Edmon X Byrde

mark

Arthur Moore, Jurat.

Abraham Blithenhenden

Bertie County - ss

The before Written will was Exhibited into court and proved by the oaths of Moses Bonner and Arthur Moore two of the subscribing witnesses thereto which was ordered to be certified.

Test: Benjamin Wynns, Clerk Current

Bertie County - ss

This day personally appeared before me, Elizabeth Bonner, and was duly qualified as Executrix to the Last Will and Testament of Thomas Bonner, deceased.

Certified under my Hand this 4th day of April, anno dom 1757.

William Wynns, P. J.

Back to the main character of this section, Henry Bonner (ca 1679 - 1738.

"Christopher Gale; Edward Moseley; John Lovick, Commission of Edenton. To: Henry Bonner; William Charlton; John Alston; William Badham; John Crisp; Joseph Frasier; James Long and Joseph Blount, Justices of the Peace for the Precinct of Chowan and their successors and in behalf of the Precinct for their said use for meeting and building a Court House. Lots 58 & 59. 3d May 1723. Test: John Palin & William Badham". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 1, page 122).

The below document was extracted from the North Carolina Colonial Records, Volume II - 1713 to 1728, pages 575 and 576.

# THE JOURNAL OF THE LOWER HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY BEGUN THE 1st of NOVEMBER 1725

North Carolina - ss

Att a General Biennial Assembly held at Edenton, the 1st of November 1725.

## Present in the Lower House

Col. George Pennington; Major Henry Bonner; Col. Cullen Pollock; Capt. William Downing; Mr. Edmond Porter; Mr. Joseph Jessop; Mr. Thomas Speight; Mr. Charles Denman; Mr. Samuel Phelps; Mr. Samuel Swann; Col. Thomas Swann; Mr. Winright (Wainwright); Mr. McCory Scarboro; Mr. John Baptiste Ashe; Col. Maurice Moore; Col. William Maule; Mr. Arthur Gosse; Mr. James Castellaw; Mr. Isiah Hill; Mr. Thomas Parris.

Col. Maurice Moore is Chosen Speaker, nem: contradicente

Robert Hicks is appointed Clerk; John Falconer (is appointed) Messenger, and H. Savage (is appointed) Doorkeeper to this House ...

Adjourned till morning 10 a Clock.

# THE JOURNAL OF THE LOWER HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY MET IN APRIL 1726

North Carolina -ss

Att a General Biennial Assembly held att Edenton the 5th Aprill 1726 the following members meet at the Usuall Place at Queen Annes Creek in Chowan precinct according to Adjournment.

George Burrington, Esq; Major Henry Bonner; Col. Cullen Pollack; Capt. William Downing; Mr. Edmond Porter; Mr. Joseph Jessop; Mr. Samuel Swann; Mr. Charles Denman; Mr. McCory Scarboro; Mr. Robert Morgan; Mr. James Winwright; Mr. Gabriel Burnham; Capt. Joseph Sanderson; Mr. Richard Church; Mr. John Woodhouse; Mr. John Baptiste Ashe; Doctor Patrick Maule; Mr. Isiah Hill; Mr. James Castellaw; Mr. Thomas Parris.

Robert Route, Esquire lay'd before the House the following returns: For Chowan (precinct): George Burrington, Esquire; Edmond Porter; Cullen Pollock; William Downing; Henry Bonner.

... And upon their return sent the following Message to the Upper House. To the Honorable the Governor & Council being the Upper House of Assembly:

May it Please your Honors; This House is ready to receive Such Members of your House as shall be appointed at their Qualifications, per Order of the House, R. Hicks CDC Sent per Major Bonner & Mr. Porter.

The below is same as referenced previously above, pages 622 & 623.

Charges of the assembly including that in November last, with attendance & comings and goings from the assembly.

## IN THE LOWER HOUSE CHOWAN

	Days (Attended)	L (Paid)	s. (Paid)
George Burrington	15	7	10
Edmond Porter	15	7	10
Henry Bonner	<u>15</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>
Cullen Pollock	15	7	10
William Downing	15	7	10

See the below in, "The Colonial Records of North Carolina, Volume II, pages 687 to 689".

North Carolina - ss

"To Christopher Gale. Esquire, Cheif Justice & the Rest of the Justices of the General Court begun & held at Edenton the last Tuesday in March One Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Seven;

... (Edmond Porter) ... & also did further contemptously speak of Mr. Thomas Speight and Major Henry Bonner both Assistant Justices of the General Court & Members of the Lower House of Assembly at the last Sessions (in 1726) insinuating & declaring & declaring that they were not fitt to be chosen nor should be chosen Burgesses at another election because they had taken a Commission under the Governor ..."

\*\*\*-----

The following can be found in Deed Book C-1, pages 495 and 496 in the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

John Jones

to

A DEED

Henry Bonner

TO ALL TO WHOME these presents shall come I Jno Jones of Chowan Precinct in the County of Albemarle and province aforesaid send greeting &c.

KNOW YEE YT I the said Jno Jones for & in consideration of the sum of One Hundred pounds current money of the said province to be well & truly unto the said Jno Jones his heirs ... assigns at four severall payments to at the times hereafter mentioned, viz:

Twenty five pounds by the 25, of this instant January;

Twenty five pounds more by the 25 of December which shall be in the year of our Lord 1726;

Twenty five pounds more by the 25 of December in the year 1727 and;

Twenty five pounds more which shall be paid by the 25 of December in the year of our Lord 1728;

by Major Henry Bonner of the precinct aforesaid ... confirm unto the said Henry Bonner ... all that my Plantation or parcell of land lying on the westernmost branch of Mattacomack Creek in Chowan Precinct bounded to the eastward by a line of marked trees dividing it from the land of Thomas Jones to the westward by the land late in the possession of John Padgett to the northward by the land of the said Henry Bonner & to the southward by a branch of the said Creek containing by estimation One Hundred and Twenty Five acres be the same more or less together with all the Houses, buildings, gardains, orchards, fencing and all the other appurtenances ... Provided never the less that the said Jno Jones & Elizabeth his wife shall have the liberty of building clearing fencing tending and raising stock on the said Plantation during their natural lives & shall have one half of the benefits of the orchard and what part of the ground that is now cleared the said Jno Jones thinks fitt to fence & tend.

AND IT IS FURTHER provided yt the said Henry Bonner may have the liberty of such a part of the Barns as shall be sufficient to house what **crops of grains** & other things he shall make on the other part of the said land not fenced & tended by the said Jno Jones.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I the said Jno Jones have hereunto putt my hand and seal the 8th day of January 1726.

Signed, sealed & delivered

in presence of,

John I Jones

Robert Hicks

Elizabeth E Baker

Chowan January Court 1726

The above Deed of Sale was proved by the oath of Robert Hicks one of the evidences thereto & ordered to be registered.

Test: Robert Foster, Clerk Current

The records show that the above John Jones' will was probated in 1727. Since his wife was not listed she may have died before John. In the last will and testament of this Henry Bonner this plantation was left to his son, Thomas Bonner and called the "Jones" plantation.

The following can be found in Deed Book \_\_\_\_\_, page 492 at the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

Henry Bonner

to

A DEED

Orlando Champion

TO ALL to whom shall come I Henry Bonner of Chowan Precinct in the province aforesaid send greeting &c.

KNOW YEE YT I the said Henry Bonner for & in consideration of the sum of twenty five pounds current money of the said province to me in hand paid before the ensealing hereof by Orlando Champion of the same precinct & province the act whereof I do hereby acknowledge & myself therewith fully satisfied & contented & thereby & of every part & parcell thereof do acquitt ... forever a parcell of land lying & being in Chowan precinct on the west side of Slocumb's Creek on the southwest of a branch or swamp issuing there from commonly known & called by the name of Filburd's (Filbert's) Swamp beginning at the mouth of the said Swamp running the said line & swamp till it crosses the path which leads to the said Champion's Plantation & contains all the land between the said line & the land of the said Orlando Champion containing by estimation twenty acres...

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto sett my hand & seal this 21st day of Feb'y 1725.

Signed, sealed and delivered

Henry Bonner (seal)

in presence of,

Robert Hicks

Thomas Jones

The above written Deed having been proved by the oath of Robert Hicks. March 12th 1726.

Lett it be registered,

Christopher Gale, Chief Justice

The following can be found in Deed Book C-1, page 728 at the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

#### NORTH CAROLINA

To all to whom these presents shall come I Gabriel Cosand (sic) of Chowan Precinct in the County of Albemarle and precinct aforesaid send greeting &c.

KNOW YE YET I the Gabriel Cozand for & in consideration of the sum of Tenn pounds current money of the said province to be well & truly paid unto the said Gabriel Cozard his heirs, executors and administrators or assign bargain & sold a certain bit of land to Henry Bonner his heirs executors and administrators forever in Chowan precinct containing fifteen acres be it more or less bounded with Major (Thomas) Luten's line & Richard Lewis' line bounded by a skirt of the Bear Garden pecoson bounded by ye Hole's line and Francis Branch's line.

I THE SAID Gabriel Cozand have hereunto putt my hand and seal this 18th of December 1732.

Signed, Sealed and delivered in the presence of, Jane Phillips

Gabriel Cozand

Henry Bonner, Junior

January 1, 1734

Gabriel Cozand came this day before me & acknowledged the writ in Deed to Henry Bonner in due form of law.

W. Smith, Clerk Justice

The above Richard Lewis was the father of William Lewis, husband of Elizabeth Bonner Lewis.

"John Baye to Henry Bonner, 150 acres adjoining John Slocumb's line. 21 April 1713. Test: William Crawford & Ephraim Lewerton". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 1, page 101). In 1738, Colonel Henry Bonner willed this plantation to his grandson, Richard Lewis, the son of Elizabeth, his daughter.

The following extremely interesting Deed of Sale can be found in Deed Book W, page 280 at the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

TO ALL TO WHOM these presents shall come know ye that we James Bennett, Thomas Hoyter & Jeremiah Pushing of Chowan Precinct, Indians, for & in consideration of the sum of Eighty pounds current money of North Carolina to us in hand paid before the ensealing & delivery of these presents by Henry Bonner of ye precinct & province aforesaid, Planter, the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge & therefore do by these presents have granted bargained & sold alien ensossed (ensured) & confirm & by these presents .... unto the said Henry Bonner his heirs ... forever a certain parcel of land lying in Chowan Precinct beginning at the Miery Branch & running down the Creek Swamp in length a mile & running out in Breadth half a mile containing in the whole by estimation three hundred & twenty acres be the same more or less the said land is taken out of a larger tract formerly given to them & their heirs forever by the Honorable Governor & Council of this province.

TO HAVE & TO HOLD the said land so bounded as aforesaid unto the said Henry

Bonner ...
IN WITNESS WHEREOF we the said James Bennett, Thomas Hoyter, & Jeremiah Pushing have hereunto set our hands & seal this 15th of December 1735.

Signed, Sealed & delivered in presence of us, "At a Council held at Edenton, 16th December 1735"

(Chowan Indians)
James IB Bennett
Thomas TH Hoyter
his
Jeremiah U Pushing
mark
John I Baley
John R Robins
his
John IR Reding
mark

Read the Petition of Col Henry Bonner set forth that he had purchased of the Chowan Indians a certain tract or parcel of land lying & being in ye precinct & praying the same may be confirmed. There was produced a Deed of Sale from the said Nation to the said Bonner which was read & the Indians being interogated thereon declared they had received the consideration money therein mentioned & were therewith fully satisfied whereupon his Excellancy by & with the Advice of the Board was pleased to allow & approve of the sale to Col. Henry Bonner.

a true copy, Nathaniel Rice, Clerk Current

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH EDENTON, NORTH CAROLINA

"On April 26th, 1736. Being Easter Monday, The Vestry and Parishners having met proceeded to chuse a new Vestry agreeable to Law and by pole chose William Smith, Esq., John Montgomery, Esq., Robert Forster, Esq., J. Hodgson, Esq., Henry Bonner, Thomas Luten, Edmund Gale, Abraham Blackall, Joseph Anderson, Henry Baker, John Sumner, Sam'l Padgett. Duly qualified themselves vestrymen by taking the oaths By Law directed, and chosed Abra'm Blackall & Henry Bonner, Church Wardens for the ensuring year, then the vestry by plurality of vote chose Henry Bonner, Jr., Clerk of the Vestry who was duly qualified by taking the public oaths by law directed. Ordered that a Vestry be held this day fortnight, &c. Abraham Blackall, Warden". (Records of St. Paul's Parish, Volume I, page 75).

"Commissioners of Edenton: John Hodgson, William Smith, Edmund Gale, to: Henry Bonner, lots 31, 33, & 39. New plan of Edenton. 29 December 1736". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 1, page 126).

"Aaron Blanchard to my kinsman Abraham Blanchard, 250 acres on Indian Swamp. 22 August 1736. **Test: Henry Bonner, Senior; Henry Bonner, Junior**, George Pulley". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 1, page 129).

## **FOOTNOTES**

Colonel Henry Bonner's family consisted of the following known children:

- 1. Son, Henry Bonner, died in 1766 and is covered in chapter IV of this manuscript.
- 2. Daughter, Elizabeth Bonner, married William Lewis, son of Richard Lewis. The records suggest that Elizabeth passed away between 1739 and 1745. The records show that William Lewis was married to a daughter of William Branch in 1745.
- 3. Daughter, Deborah Bonner, married James Thompson, with permission of her brother-inlaw William Lewis and her sister Elizabeth, in 1739. Deborah died in 1784.

"Deborah Thompson. Chowan. 14th August 1784. Son, Thomas; daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Thompson; grandson, James Halsey. Son, Thomas, named executor. Test: Thomas Bonner, Mary Bonner". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 2, Number 1, page 30). The above Thomas and Mary Bonner was Deborah's brother and sister-in-law.

Deborah's husband, James, passed away in 1764.

"James Thompson. Chowan. 12th January 1764. Son, Henry; Wife, Deborah; sons, James and Thomas. Daughters, Elizabeth Halsey. My small children. Test: John Lewis, Henry Bonner". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 2, Number 1, page 29).

The above Henry Bonner was James Thompson's brother-in-law. John Lewis was also a brother-in-law and the same John Lewis who sold a slave girl to Thomas Bonner (born 1744) in 1776. John Lewis died in 1776. His will was probated on 25 June 1776.

4. Daughter, Mary Bonner, never married. Nothing is known about her; she is only mentioned in her father's will, in a land sale when her brother sold property for her education and in her own Last Will and Testament.

"Mary Bonner, Chowan. Will published 30 January 1759. Probated in July Court 1759. Sister, Deborah Thompson. My two brothers and sisters. Test: John Lewis, Sr., John Lewis, Jr." (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 2, page 183). Notice that Mary does not mention her sister, Elizabeth. Brothers, Henry and Thomas are mentioned. Her "sisters" must be her nieces with whom she lived with as a minor.

5. Son, Thomas Bonner (known in the legal records after 1766 as "Thomas Bonner, Sr.") married Mary Standing on 14 February 1752. He died in 1785.

"Thomas Bonner, Chowan. 2 February 1785. Wife, Mary. Executors, William Roberts, Richard Hoskins, and Edmund Blount. Test: Mary Badham, William Ellis". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 4, page 519). The fact that William Roberts is mentioned in this will is proof that this was Thomas Bonner (Senior). Remember that William Roberts married his sister-in-law, Elizabeth.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Sfbb\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

## CHAPTER II

## (SECTION TWO)

## DEBORAH AUSTIN (ca 1652 - 1732)

A blood line that was combined with the Bonner family in 1705 is the Austine-Sutton-Whedbee family. The grand lady of the clan was Deborah Austin. She was born about 1652 and died in the fall of 1732. She was the mother of eight children by two husbands. Her first husband, Nathaniel Sutton, was a Quaker and her second, John Whedbee, was an Episcopalian who occassionally attended church at Nags Head Chapel. Nathaniel Sutton was true to his beliefs, he attended to his business and let others worry about governing. His name will not be found in the records of Perquimans precinct court or legal papers, except for his marriage, the birth of his children and his death, otherwise only in the Quaker records of the precinct.

It is estimated that Deborah was born about 1652, (probably in Nansemond County, Virginia) since she married Nathaniel Sutton in 1668, and if we allow her to be sixteen years of age at her marriage. The parents of Deborah are not known, but the following arrived in the new world at a time that one of them could be related to or parent(s) of Deborah:

- 1. Living at James City in 1624 Robert Austine.
- 3. Arriving on the ship, "Speedwell", of London to Virginia to Virginia, 28 May 1635, Edward Austin, 26 years of age.
- 4. Arriving on the ship, "Elizabeth", from London to Virginia, 1 August 1635, John Austin, 24 years of age.
- 5. Arriving from Southhampton to New England in May 1638, Richard Auston of Bishopstroke, (Hants), a tailor 40 years of age, his wife & 2 children and a servant, Robert Knight, a carpenter.

Based on the fact that a Robert and Sarah Austin were living in Perquimans Precinct at the same time Deborah was residing there, and since the tradition of the time was to name children after parents and grandparents there is a very high probability that the Robert Austine living in James City, Virginia in 1624 was the father of Deborah and Robert of Perquimans.

In Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 3, page 427, the following is recorded: William Chelsie and Sarah Austen (daughter of Robert and wife Sarah) were married 1 April 1696 by Major Samuel Swann.

Sarah's death is noted below:

"Sarah Austen, wife of Robert died 4 February 1697". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 3, page 402).

Exactly when Deborah first arrived in Perquimans precinct is not recorded. She was married in Virginia prior to her relocating to North Carolina. Her name first appears in Perquimans when her marriage to Nathaniel Sutton is published.

"Nathaniel Suton and Deborah Astine was married by Mr. Babb, Minister of the Gospel at Nantiman (Nansemond County) in Vergenia the 12th of August 1668". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 2, page 200).

Family Status: Deborah Austin (ca 1652 - October 1732)

Husband: (1st) Nathaniel Sutton (ca 1650 - 29 December 1682)

Children: 1. George Sutton (2 March 1669 - 11 March 1699)

- 2. Joseph Sutton (6 August 1673 10 March 1723)
- 3. Rebecca Sutton (8 August 1676 after 1719)
- 4. Nathaniel Sutton (29 August 1681 1 April 1725)

## The Sutton Children

1. George Sutton (born 2 March 1669)

Wife: Rebecca \_\_?\_\_\_.

Children: a. Elizabeth Sutton (14 November 1694 -

b. Richard Sutton (12 September 1697 -

Wife: Mary \_\_?

Children: (1) William Sutton (5 March 1720 -

- (2) Richard Sutton (9 December 1722 -
- (3) Mary Sutton (23 June 1726 -
- (4) Elizabeth Sutton (2 March 1729 -
- (5) Sarah Sutton (20 December 1730 -

c. Deborah Sutton (2 January 1699 -

Husband: William Wood

When: 8 May 1718 by Dr. Urmstone, Minister of the Church of

England

Children: (1) Richard Wood (30 October 1720 -

- (2) Sarah Wood (23 October 1721 21 March 1723)
- (3) William Wood (2 September 1724 -
- (4) Deborah Wood (25 March 1726 -
- (5) Rebecca Wood (3 June 1727 -
- (6) Elizabeth Wood (18 December 1728 -

Deborah Sutton Wood (born 2 January 1699) died on 18 December 1728 from complications giving birth to her daughter, Elizabeth.

2. "Joseph Sutton (born 6 August 1673) married Parenthia Durant, daughter of George Durant, the elder and Ann Marwood, on 18 June 1695, by Mr. John Durant, Justice. (Ref: Hathway, Volume 3, Number 3, page 407). (Note - Parenthia was a daughter of the same George Durant who was involved in the Culpepper Rebellion of 1677-79. (Justice John Durant, was her brother)

Children: a. George Sutton (2 August 1696 -

- b. Elizabeth Sutton (15 September 1703 -
- c. Parthenia Sutton (8 August 1705 -

3. Rebecca Sutton (6 August 1676) married at least two times.

She married first: "Jacob Paterson (Peterson), son of Jacob; and Rebecca Sutton, daughter of Nathaniel and wife Deborah, were married 30 September 1695 by Mr. Joseph Sutton, Jr". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 3, page 406).

Rebecca's (1st) husband, Jacob passed away in 1696 (although the records are dated

1697).

"Jacob Peterson. Will probated 17 May 1697 (Note - has to be 1696). Wife, Rebecca. Test: Edward Golff, Mary Golff". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 3, page 369).

"Jacob Peterson, Perquimans (Precinct). 13 Jan'y 1697. Daughter-in-law, Rebecca Bond (Bird), late wife of my son, Jacob. Daughters: Elizabeth, Constance, Ann. Wife: Mary, executrix. (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 3, page 369).

"James Cole (son of James of Nancemum in Vergenia) and Mary Peterson (Relict of Jacob Peterson, Sr.) was married 16 July 1698. (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 3, page 408).

Rebecca married (2d) John Bird:

"John Bird and Rebecca Peterson (Relict of Jacob) were married 24 August 1697, by John Burnett, Minister". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 3, page 369).

"John Byrd & wife Rebecca Adx of the estate of Jacob Peterson, Jr, deceased, (1704)". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 4, page 612).

"John Bird, Chowan precinct. 13 September 1716. Probated October Court 1716. Named: Sons, John Bird (born 22 July 1698); Edward Bird (born 6 January 1702); William Bird; Richard Bird. Wife: Rebecca Bayard (Bird); Anne Bird; Richard and \_\_\_\_? Bayard, child in esse; Wife Rebecca Bayard and John Hardy, Exx. Test: John Crombie, Susanna Williams, Mary Pamvell". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 2, page 172).

4. Nathaniel Sutton (born 29 August 1681) may have never married. In his last will & testament he does not mention a wife or children.

"Nath'l Sutton. March 1725. Probated 2 April 1725. (Named) John Bird; Ruth Glaister; Joseph son of my brother, Joseph Sutton; Elizabeth Whedbee daughter of Richard Whedbee; Cousin, Parenthia Sutton; James Anderson, Senior; Cousin Thomas Sutton's two children (not named); Cousin George Sutton and Richard Whedbee; Rebecca Carr's children (not named); Brother, Richard Whedbee and cousin, Thomas Sutton, Executor's". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 1, page 76).

Nathaniel Sutton, the elder, was a young man when he died in 1682. He died just a few days after writing his will. The notice of his death is as follows:

"Nathaniel Sutton, Late of this County, Departed this life ye 29th of Desember 1682. (Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 3, page 366).

"Nathaniel Sutton, Perquimans. (Will published) 16th December 1682. Probated 12th March 1683. Sons: Joseph and Nathaniel; cousin, John Gosbey; son, George. Daughter, Rebekkah. Wife, exx. Test: Edward Poulter, John Kinse". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 4, page 486).

Exactly when the Sutton and Gosbey families intermarried is not known. The following is in Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 2, page 201. "Joseph Gosby, ye son of John Gosbey and Mary his wife & Hannah Nicholson, the daughter of Christopher Nicholson & Hannah his wife was Maried the 5th of July 1685".

Life for the early settlers of the Carolina Colony was not easy. Sometimes death
was literally around the next corner because of diseases, wild animals, Indian raids and
Indian wars. Crossing the creeks, rivers, and the Albemarle Sound was dangerous in the
small boats (Note - As it is even today). Sometimes the water and food was contaminated
and many times sanitation took a back seat to expediency. Therefore, many settlers became
ill and went to the nearest home for treatment and many died at a home not their own.
There are many notations in the records that "X died at his own house" or
"X died atX's house". Maybe they were visiting and became ill or had

become ill and went to the nearest home for help with a medical problem. Whatever the reason it happened. Many times the home where they died was also the same place where they were buried. The following death falls into one of the above categories.

"Thomas Foultner Departed this Life ye 12th day of November 1683 at the house of

Deborah Sutton". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 3, page 366).

Deborah (Austin) Sutton married (2d) John Whedbee. (Note - John Whedbee is covered in Section Three of this chapter).

"John Whedby ye son of Richard Whedbee and Elizabeth his wife Late of Verginia and Deborah Suton ye Relict of Nathaniel Suton were married by Mr. John Right, Minister, ye tenth of Maye 1685". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 2, page 206).

Children:

- 1. "Folke Whedby, son of John Whedby & wife Deborah was borne Jany. 6, 1686". (Ref: Idem, Volume 3, Number 2, page 213).
- 2. "Richard Whedbee, son of John Whedbee & wife Deborah was born Feb. 2, 1687". (Ref: Idem, Volume 3, Number 2, page 215).
- 3. "Joseph Whedbey, son of John Whedby & Deborah his wife Departed ye 12th of October 1688". (Idem, Volume 3, Number 3, page 363). Deborah was about six months pregnant with her daughter Deborah when Joseph died. There are no records showing his birthdate.
- 4. "Deborah Whedby, daughter of John Whedby and wife Deborah was borne Jany. 28, 1689". (Idem, Volume 3, Number 2, page 216).

"John Whedbee died on 5 April 1700. (Ref: Idem, Volume 3, Number 3, page 403).

"A General Court was held in Perquimans September 1700, before ye Honable Sam'l Swann, Sect'y of State, Mrs. Deborah Whedbee administered on ye estate of her husband, Jno Whedbee". (Ref: Idem, Volume 2, Number 2, page 302).

"John Lilly died 17 July 1701, att ye widow Whidbee's house". (Re: Idem, Volume 3, Number 3, page 403).

In 1702, the following was recorded in Court in Perquimans County.

"Francis Foster and Joseph Sutton were guardian to Richard Whedbee and Deborah Whedbee, the mother of these children married 2d (actually 3d) Dennis McClenden. John Stepney, Clerk of Court". (Ref: Idem, Volume 3, Number 2, page 256).

"Joseph Sutton, Guardian of Richard Whedbee (1702)". (Ref: Idem, Volume 1, Number 4, page 610). (Note - Joseph Sutton and Richard Whedbee were brothers).

"At a Court held at the house of James Cole (in 1702) Deborah Whedbee chose Joseph Sutton, as her Guardian". (Ref: Idem, Volume 1, Number 4, page 609). (Note - Joseph and Deborah were siblings.

"Dennis MackClenden married Mrs. Deborah Whedbe, (before July) 1702". (Ref: Idem, Volume 1, Number 4, page 609).

Perquimans - ss

Att a Court held att the House of Mrs. Deborah MacClendon the 9th Day of July Anno Dom 1706.

present: The Worpll Captain James Cole
Thomas Long
Joseph Sutton, Sr
William Long, Esquire, Justices

Ordered that Nathaniel Nicholson be one of the apprisors of the Estate of John Anderson, deceased, in the stead & room of **Dennis MacClenden**, **Deceased**.

Ordered that this Court be adjourned till the 2d Tuesday in August next ensuring to the House of James Thickpen in Perquimans River & That all process be directed thereto.

James Cole

his
Thos I Long
mark
his
Joseph I Sutten
mark
his
William W Long
mark

Deborah (Austine-Sutton-Whedbee) McClenden outlived three husbands, all her children except Richard Whedbee and saw at least two other men died at her house. She may have lived in Perquimans County her entire adult life where she passed away, probably in September, 1732. Her Last Will & Testament, on file at the State Archives in Raleigh North Carolina, under the name "Deborah Mackelenden" is as follows:

Deborah McClenden. 28 February 1729. Probated 15 October 1732.

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. I Deborah MackClendall, Widow of Perquimans Precinct, in North Carolina, going in health and perfect in Memory Praise be to God for the same & knowing the uncertainty of this Life and desirous to settle my affairs in order doe make this my last will & testament in manner and form following.

That is to say, First I command my soul to God who gave it and my Body to the Earth to be decently buried according to the direction of my Executor hereafter named as touching my worldly Estate I have as followth - viz,

I give and bequeath to my Grandson Joseph Sutton six pounds in good species to be paid by my executor.

Item - I give to my son Richard Whedbee all the remaining part of my Estate both real & personal be it what kind soever & Lastly

I do appoint my son Richard Whedbee my sole Executor to this my last will & testament revoking all former wills by me heretofore made acknowledging this to be my last will & testament as witness my Hand and Seal this twenty eighth day of February 1728/29.

Signed Sealed & prounounced in the presence of us, Charles Denman James Anderson, Senior James Anderson, Junior

her Deborah O MackClenden mark Perquimans Precinct - At a Court held October the 15th 1732, the written will was proved by oath of James Anderson, Senior and James Anderson, Junior evidences thereto who disposes they saw Charles Denman sign the same as evident the Executor being present took the Executor's Oath as the Law prescribes.

Test: Charles Denman, Clerk of Court

Since Rebecca (Sutton - Peterson) Bird, Deborah MacClenden's daughter by Nathaniel Suton and Deborah (Whedbee) Bonner, Deborah MacClenden's daughter by John Whedbee were not mentioned in their mother's will it can be surmised that they had passed away by 28 February 1729, the date the above document was published.

Deborah's son, Richard Whedbee (believed to be her last surviving child) lived a few years beyond his mother, passing away at the age of 59.

\*\*\*\*

"Richard Whedbee, Perquimans. (Probated) July Court 1746. Sons: John, Richard, and George. Daughters: Elizabeth Pratt; Deborah Wilkins; Sarah Hoskins; Ann Foster. Sons: Benjamin, and Joseph. Wife: Hannah, brothers-in-law Christian Reed and Joseph Reed, Executors. Test: Samuel Snowden, Elizabeth Reed and Catherine Davis". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 4, page 509).

Richard's wife, Sarah Durant, died on 4 April 1728. The above document gives the last name of his wife, Hannah, and he names his brothers-in-law who can only be his wife's brothers. Therefore, Richard's second wife was Hannah Reed. This is the only document showing her last name.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

## CHAPTER III

(SECTION THREE)

JOHN WHEDBEE (ca 1640 - 1700)

Family Status: John Whedbee (ca 1640 - 5 April 1700)

Wife: Deborah (Austine) Sutton

Children: 1. Folke Whedby (born 1686 - ?)

- 2. Richard Whedbee (2 February 1687 1746)
- 3. Joseph Whedbe (? 12 October 1688)
- 4. Deborah Whedbee (28 January 1689 ca 1728)

John Whedbee was a son of Richard and Elizabeth Whedbee of Virginia. The year of his birth is subject to speculation. If we allow that he lived to 60 years of age, then he was born about 1640 and probably the son of Richard Whitbey who was living in Hogg Island, Virginia in 1624 (Note - Hogg Island is across the river from Jamestown in a Southeast direction). Another indication of the blood line is the fact that John Whedbee named one of his sons, Richard, probably after his father which was in accordance with tradition. There is no hint that he was married before he married Deborah Sutton. In those days he could have been married previously and he lost his entire family to death before he moved to North Carolina. Also, there is the possibility that his marriage to Deborah was his first and only marriage. John Whedbee had a brother named George. As noted above, the man that was probably the father of John Whedbee and George Whedbee was the Richard Whedbee who was living at Hogg Island, Virginia in 1624. A census was taken in 1624 to see who was alive and who had perished in the Indian massacre of 1623. The following makes note of that census.

"16 February 1624, List of the names of the living in Virginia and of those who have died since April 1623. Living at Hogg Island, Virginia - Richard Whitby". (No age was given). (Ref: The Complete Book of Emigrants 1607 - 1660, pages 35 and 41 by Peter Wilson Coldham).

The first mention of John Whedbee in Perquimans precinct is when he married Deborah Sutton.

"John Whedbey ye son of Richard Whedby and Elizabeth his wife Late of Virginia & Deborah Suton ye Relict of Nathaniel Suton were married by Mr. John Right, Minister, ye tenth of Maye 1685". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 3, page 206).

The children of John and Deborah Whedbee were born in Perquimans County, North Carolina:

- 1. Folke Whedby son of John Whedby and wife Deborah was borne Jany. 6, 1686. (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 2, page 213). There is no mention of Folke Whedbee after the announcement of his birth. He was dead before 1697.
- 2. Richard Whedbee son of John Whedbee & wife Deborah was borne Feb. 2, 1687. (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 2, page 215).
- 3. Joseph Whedby son of John Whedby & Deborah his wife **Departed** ye 12th of Octobr. 1688. (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3. Number 3, page 363).
- 4. Deborah Whedby daughter of John Whedby & wife Deborah was borne Jany. 28, 1689. (Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 2, page 216).

## The Whedbee Children

1. Folke Whedbee died before April 1697.

2. Richard Whedbee married (1st) Sarah Durant. "Richard Whedbee and Sarah Durant, (daughter of John Durant and wife Sarah) were married Feb'y. 4, 1709". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 3, page 399).

Children: a. John Whedbee (23 April 1715 -

- b. Sarah Whedbee (23 January 1718 -
- c. George Whedbee (19 January 1721 -
- d. Ann Whedbee (18 February 1724 -
- e. Joseph Whedbee (12 March 1726 -
- f. Hezehiah Whedbee (1 April 1728 -

Sarah Durant Whedbee died on 4 April 1728 three days after giving birth to Hezehiah. Richard Whedbee then married Hannah Reed (date unknown) as noted in his last will & testament in 1746. (See Section Two of Chapter III).

3. Joseph Whedbee died an infant on 12 October 1688.

4. Deborah Whedbee married, about 1 April 1705, Henry Bonner in Perquimans County. (See Chapter 3, Section One).

"Att a court Holden \* \* \* this first Monday in February year of 1688. Present: Ralph Fletcher, Steward.

Mr. John Barrow

Mr. John Whitbe

Mr. Robert \_\_\_?\_\_.

Mr. Thomas Leppers

(Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 3, page 429).

John Whedbee was appointed a Justice as described in a warrant dated 20 May 1690 as published in the Court Records of Perquimans County. A copy as follows:

"Albemarle in the Province of North Carolina.

Wee ye Honble Coll'I Phillip Ludwell Gover'r with the rest of the Lds (Lords) Proprietor of the County & Province grant this Commission of the Peace for ye Precinct of Pequermans in ye afores'd County.

To our Trusty and well beloved Ralph Fletcher, Steward; John Whedbe; Joseph

Sutton: William Bundy.

The first three whereof to be of the Quorum, three of which beinge, Present, one of them being of the Quorum, shall compleat a Court,

Greeting - Know yee yt wee have assigned you & every of you Justices, Joyntly, & Severally to Keepe or cause to be kept their Majesties, & his Excellencie,

the Palatine & Lds Proprietors peace in ye Precinct aforesd:

To Keepe or cause to be kept all such Laws, Statues, or Orders as are made or hereafter shall be made Consonant with Loyalty to their Sacred Maj'ties & Fidellity to the Lds Proprietors, by the rules and observations (so neere as may be) to ye Foundamentalls:

To require by ye Oaths of Twelve good and lawful men of the Precinct afores'd, of all & all manner of Criminall causes whatsoever (excepting for Treason, Murther, & other offenses punishable unto death) then so proceed agst by finall determination, according to Justice & shall judge all Civill Causes whatsoever.

And in all psonal actions not exceeding the value of fifty pounds Sterlinge, with

Appeale:

And you are to Keepe or Cause to be kept ye sd Courts so often as by ye Fundamentall Constitution is prescribed;

In witness whereof Wee ye sd Honble Col'l Philip Ludwell, Gover'r with ye rest of ye Lds Proprietors Deputies have hereunto set their Hands and Affixed ye Seal of the County this Twentieth day of May Anno Domini 1690.

Perquimans County Seal Phillip Ludwell Francis Hartley Thomas Harris Thomas Harvey

Francis Tomes (Thomas)

Benjamin Laker William Wilkinson

"At a Court Holden for the Precinct of Perquimans the first Monday in January 1691 at the house of Mary Scott;

Present: Capt. Ralph Fletcher, Steward

Mr. John Whitby

Mr. William Bundy

Mr. Joseph Sutton

Mr. Robert Wilson, Justices

(Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 3, page 437).

"Edward, Mr. John Whedby's man Departed this Life on \_\_date blank\_\_\_". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 3, page 364).

John Whedbee may have began experiencing trouble with his health during the last few years of his life causing him, in April 1697, to make a Deed of Gift of his property to his children, Richard and Deborah.

The below can be found in, "The North Carolina Colonial Records Volume 1 - 1662 to 1712, pages 485 and 486".

"John Whedby of Perquimans, for: Natural love I bear my son Richard, do give to him a Plan' (plantation) on North Side of Suttons Creek - stock of Hoggs, & 3 negroes, belonging to sd plantation, 4 cows, & calves, 4 ewes, & lambs, one feather bed and boulster, & 2 blankets, one ring, 29 lbs of pewter, & one iron pott"

To dau Debro, "one woman named Sarah, 3 cows, & calves, 6 ewes, 7 lambs, one feather bed & boulster, two blankets, & one ring, 20 lbs of pewter, one iron porrage pott, & an oval table".

To sd son and dau, "two mares, & colts, & one horse, with their increase, to be divided between them when dau Debro is 16 years of age, but if they die in Minority, to sons of my **brother**, **George Whedby**". Ack' 13 April 1697.

Test: Caleb Calaway, Ralph Fletcher.

(The above can also be found in, "History of Perquimans County", by Mrs. Watson Wilson, page 47).

"John Whedby died 5 April 1700". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 3, page 403).

"A General Court was held in Perquimans September 1700 before ye Honble Sam'l Swann, Sect'y of State, Mrs. Deborah Whedbee administered on ye estate of her husband, Jno Whedbee". (Ref: Idem, Volume 2, Number 2, page 302).

"Inventory of estate of John Whedbee returned 6th June 1701". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 1, page 82).

"John Lilly died July 17, 1701, att ye widow Whidbee's house". (Ref: Idem, Volume 3, Number 3, page 403).

At a Court Holden at ye Hous of Captain James Cole ye Second Tuesday in April 1702 for the Precinct of Piquimins.

Present: Captain Ralph Fletcher Captain James Cole Mr. Francis Foster Mr. Samuell Swann

Mr. William Bartlett (Barclift)

Upon a Peticon of Richard Whedby that He Might Chuse Mr. Francis Foster His Garden ordered yet Mr. Francis Foster take into His Custodie ye Estate of ye said Richard Whedby and an Inventory to take of ye sd Estate and bring to ye Next Court held for Orfens And give Bond for ye Estate.

Upon A peticon of George Sutten and Nathaniel Sutten to Chuse thare Garden ordered that Nathaniel Nicholsen take care of George Sutten he haven Chosen Him for his Garden and that Joseph Sutten Junior take Nathaniell Sutten Into his care He haven Chosen him for his Garden.

Upon a Peticon of Debro Whedby that She may Chuse Hir Garden and Shee Chusen of Joseph Suton, Senior.

Ordered that ye Sd Sutten take ye sd Debro Into his Care and Hir Estate Also and an Inventory of Hir Estate to take and bring It to ye Next Orfens (Court) And give bond for ye Estate.

Ralph Fletcher Francis Foster James Cole Samuel Swann, Junior William Barclift

The above can be found in, "The North Carolina Colonial Records, Volume 1 1662 - 1712, pages 563 and 564".

"Dennis MackClenden married Mrs.Deborah Whedbee, 1702". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 4, page 609).

Sometime between 1702 and 10 April 1705, the guardianship of Deborah Whedbee, the child, was changed to Dennis McClenden who is now married to her mother. But there was a problem as the following Court record will show:

At a Court Holden at the House of Captain James Cole in Second Tuesday in July 1702 for the precinct of Piquimons.

Present: Captain Ralph Fletcher, Judge

Mr. Francis Foster

Mr. William Bartlett (Barclift)

Joseph Sutten, Senior Vars Denis Macklenden and Debro his wife. In a plea of ye Case for the Estate of Debro Whedby given by a Dede of Gift by her father John Whedby ye said Mackelenden is ordered to deliver ye Sd Estate in Kinde as It was given Ales Execution.

Ralph Fletcher Francis Foster William Barclift

The above can be found in, "The North Carolina Colonial Records, Volume 1 1662 - 1712, page 564").

It has already been stated that Deborah Whedbee, the daughter, was newly married to Henry Bonner on 10 April 1705. It is estimated that the marriage occurred about 1 April 1705. Deborah was sixteen years old on 29 January 1705.

\*

#### CHAPTER III

## (SECTION FOUR)

## GEORGE DURANT (1632 - 1694)

George Durant is a figurehead in the History of North Carolina. He and Samuel Pricklove are credited with establishing the first permanent white settlement in what is now North Carolina from their homesteads in Perquimans County. George Durant's old homesite is still known as Durant's Neck, North Carolina and can be found on modern day North Carolina maps.

Two of George Durant's descendants married into the Sutton-Whedbee family blood line.

First - Nathaniel Sutton and Deborah (Austine) Sutton's son, Joseph Sutton, married a daughter of George and Ann Durant, Parthenia Durant.

Second - John Whedbee and Deborah (Austine - Sutton) Whedbee's son, Richard Whedbee, married George Durant's granddaughter Sarah Durant, a daughter of John and Sarah Jooke Durant.

The marriages created an interesting set of circumstance of kinships between the two families.

In the book, "Immigrant Ancestors", page 771, the following is written:

George Durant, (born England, 1 October 1632), in March 1661, Kelcokomer, a great Indian Chief of Yeopims deeded to him for a "valuable consideration" a tract of land bearing the name of Wecameke (a peninsula now called "Durant's Neck"), this is the earliest records deed in history of North Carolina; with Samuel Pricklove established 1st permanent settlement in North Carolina at Durant's Neck in 1661; Atty General, General Council, Albemarle County 1679; resided at Durant's Neck 1691; an acknowledged leader in public affairs; with (John) Culpepper, led the Culpepper Rebellion against unjust restriction of trade; married 4 January 1658, Ann Marwood of Northumberland County, Virginia". (At least one genealogist believes that Ann Marwood's last name might be Norwood; that it had been misread from the original documents).

Family status: George Durant (1632 - 1694)

Married: Ann Marwood (unk - 1695)

When: 4 January 1658 in Northumberland County, Virginia

Children:

- 1. George Durant (24 December 1659 13 September 1671)
- 2. Elizabeth Durant (11 February 1661 -
- 3. John Durant (26 December 1662 -

Married: Sarah Jooke, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Jooke on 9 April 1684. Children: Sarah Durant

Married: Richard Whedbee, (son of John and Deborah Whedbee).

- 4. Mary Durant (11 February 1665 -
- 5. Thomas Durant (28 August 1668 -

Married: ?\_\_\_.
Children: George Durant (25 November 1698 -

6. Sarah Durant (17 January 1670 -

- 7. Martha Durant (28 August 1673 -
- 8. Parthenia Durant (1 August 1675 -

Married: Joseph Sutton (son of Nathaniel and Deborah Austin Sutton).

Children: a. George Sutton (22 August 1696 -

- b. Elizabeth Sutton (15 September 1703 -
- c. Parthenia Sutton (8 August 1705 -
- d. Sarah Sutton (10 October 1711 -
- 9. Ann Durant (1 April 1681 -

Married: William Barclift, son of William and Elizabeth Barclift, and Ann Durant, daughter of George Durant and wife Ann were married on 6 October 1698.

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John Durant (born 26 December 1662) married Sarah Jooke;

"John Durant, son of George Durant and Ann his wife, was married to Sarah Jooke, daughter of Thomas Jooke and Ann his wife the 9th of Aprill 1684". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 2, page 202). (Note - Records for a "Jooke" family have never been located. Could it have been a misspelling of "Cooke"?)

Family status: John Durant (1662 - 1699)

Marrried: Sarah Jooke, married 9 April 1684

Children:

1. George Durant (30 September 1685 -

Wife: Hagar Crisp

Children: a. John Durant (8 July 1714 - 8 October 1721)

- b. Ann Durant (13 September 1716 -
- c. Mary Durant and Sarah Durant (2 December 1718 -
- d. Elizabeth Durant (12 March 1720 -
- e. George Durant (20 August 1723 -
- 2. Ann Durant (16 February 1689 -
- 3. Elizabeth Durant (28 January 1691 -

"John Durant died 19 January 1699" (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 3, page 403).

"William Stephens and Mrs. Sarah Durant (Relict of John) were married 1st January 1704". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 3, page 410).

THE OLDEST CONVEYANCES RECORDED IN NORTH CAROLINA ENTEDATING THE FIRST CHARTER OF KING CHARLES II BY TWO YEARS.

(Original in Book A, pages 374 to 376, Register of Deeds Office at Hertford, Perquimans County, North Carolina).

"Know all men by these Presents that I Kilcocanen, King of Yeopim, have for a valuable consideration of satisfaction Received with ye Consent of My People sold and made over on Raeoke (now Albemarle) Sound and on a River called by ye name of Perquimans which Isueth out of the North side of the Aforesaid Sound which land at Present Bears ye Name of Woccomike (Indian for Durant's Neck) Beginning at a Marked Oak Tree which divides this land from ye Land I formerly sold to Samuel Pricklove and extending westerly up ye said Sound to a Point of turning of ye aforesaid Perquimans River to a Creek called by ye name of Awosrake, to wit, all ye Land Betwixt ye aforesaid Bounds of Samuel Pricklove & the Creek thence to ye head thereof. And thence through the woods to ye first Bounds -

To have and to Hold ye Quiet Possession of ye same to him & his Heirs forever with rights and Privileges thereto forever from me or any person or persons whatsoever. As witness my Hand this first day of March 1661".

Test: Thomas Weamouth
Caleb Callaway

Ye marke of Kilcocanen

This is a true Copia

by me.

Witness:

Will Lloyd

Thomas Havett (Note - probably Thomas Harvey)

Examined word by word out of ye Original (by) Edward Remington. Registered the 24th of Octr., 1716

per John Stepney, Register

"Know all men by these Presents that I Ciskitando, King of Yeopim, do sell unto George Durant a Parcell of land Bounding on Perquimans River at a Creek Issuing out of ye Same beginning at ye aforesaid Creek and running down ye aforesaid River to a Marked Poplar standing on the side of a Great Swamp which falleth into the River thence Running into the woods parallel with ye aforesaid Creek As also up the Creek to another Great Swamp which falleth into the same and thence again into the woods parallel with ye River to the Bounds proceeding from ye Marked Poplar.

To Have and to hold ye same land with all Belonging to the same to him & his Heirs forever from me or any other whatsoever warranting the same to him a Lawfull Sale

as Witness my Hand this 4th of August, 1661".

Signed & Delivered

the marke of Cuscutenew

in Presence of: Thomas Weamouth

Thomas Weamouti Caleb Callaway

Registered the 24th October 1716.

(Note - the above documents may also be found in Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 3, pages 423 and 424).

"At a Court held 25 May 1673 at the House of Francis Godfrey. Present:

Hon. Col. John Jenkins, Dept. Sup.

Captain Thomas Cullen

W. F. Crawford (William Crawford)

William Jennings

Joseph Scott

Ralph Fletcher

Mrs. Ann Durant, Attorney for Andrew Ball, petitions ye Court for Wages due to said Ball, from ye Barbo two brothers, it being made to appear from under ye Master's hand, yt shews it 10p-14s-6d, ordered that ye said Ball be paid 10p-14s-6d, out of said Barbo two brothers with costs. Alias Exen".

The above notation established the fact that Mrs. Ann Durant, wife of George Durant the elder, was the first woman in America to argue a case before the courts, thereby becoming the first woman lawyer in the United States. There is a roadside historical sign on highway US 17 outside Hertford, North Carolina marking the occasion.

As a manner of information, the above Joseph Scott was the same Joseph Scott mentioned in the journal of Reverend George Foxe in 1672.

"A Power-of-Attorney from George Durant to his wife, Ann Durant, bears date 20 May 1675; it was probably executed at the time he went to England". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 2, Number 3, page 470).

George Durant was Attorney General in 1676 and was the Speaker of House of Burgessess (in Perquimans Precinct) in 1679.

### GEORGE DURANT SPEAKER OF HOUSE OF BURGESSES IN 1679 CULPEPPER REBELLION

George Durant aged 49 years or thereabouts maketh oath in ye year 1679 ye Depot being then Speaker of an Assembly John Harvey Esqr then Governor & being very late in ye night before ye whole body if ye Acts could be perfected to be signed by ye Governor & Speaker the Governor did depart home. Ye Burgesses did deliver the Acts into my Custody for ye Governor to Signe to them the rest of ye Lord Deputies and my Self Signed the Said Acts in ye parliment before their departure & I kept ye said Acts in My custody untill ye Governor has Signed them and then delivered ye said Acts into ye Secretary's Office & further ye Depot testifyeth that these in ye 58 Art to Say (Votes in elections or any) were not interlyned whilest the said Acts were in my Custody or before ye Governor has signed wch was to ye best of ye Depot knowledge at his owne house.

George Durant

(Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 1, page 40).

In the book, "History of Perquimans County", by Mrs. Watson Winslow, page 2, the following is extracted:

".... This migration (in 1653 to the lower Chowan River of Carolina by [Reverend] Roger Green) preceded the advent of George Durant by eight years, and there can be little doubt in the mind of any one versed in the early history of Albemarle, that many settlers were well established on their own land in Perquimans Precinct before said Durant decided to come to North Carolina. Among these early settlers, no doubt can be enumerated such men as Samuel Pricklove, whose land adjoined the land sold to George Durant by Indian Chief Kilcoconewen, King of Yeopin, on 1 March 1661 and Caleb Calloway, who appears as a Witness to said deed. The land of said Samuel Pricklove lay around or just below where the town of New Hope now stands. This made him a near neighbor of Durant and they became fast friends. Pricklove was a Quaker but it did not prevent him from following Durant in the Rebellion of 1677-79 even when his associations strictly forbade one of the sect to take up arms and other Quakers followed his example being also a part of the "rabble" that helped to despose acting Governor Thomas Miller. The rebellion caused a great deal of unrest in the Colony and the county breathed easier and sat more at ease when Miller finally took passage for Virginia and later went home to England. All unwittingly George Durant struck the first note for American Independence and routed the first unjust

tax collector to appear on American soil when he with his "rabble" drove out Miller and stopped the unlawful Custom receipts in 1677-79". 

As previously stated, George Durant was born in London, England on 1 October 1632. He was of Scotch parentage and a Presbyterian by faith. During his life he was one of the most influential planters in all of Albemarle. While living in Northumberland County, Virginia in July 1658 he made a disposition that he, "came to Virginia in the ship Potomack, age 25 years". That places his arrival in Virginia in 1657. In another document he stated his occupation as a "Mariner".

"George Durant and Ann Marwood was married 4th of January 1659 by Mr. David Lindsay, Minister of the Gospel and was Licensed by Mr. George Cowbough, Magistrate in Northumberland County in Virginia". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 2, page 199).

The family Bible of George Durant, which was printed in 1659, is in possession of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. \_\_\_\_\_\_

The Last, Will & Testament of George Durant is as follows:

"George Durant. (Published) 9 October 1688. Probated 6 February 1694. Son, John; son, Thomas; brother, John Durant of London and his son, Henry; nephew George, son of brother John Durant; Wife, Ann. Daughters: Sarah, Mattya (Martha), Portemia (Parthenia), and Ann. Test: John Philpot, Francis Foster, John Cully". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 2, page 203.)

"At a Court Holden at the House of Diana Foster - The first Munday in February Anno Do 1694.

\_\_\_\_\_\_

Present: Alexander Lillingon Caleb Calloway John Barrow

Thomas Lepper, Esquires

A will of Mr. George Durant proved in Court by the Oath of Mr. John Philpott & Mr. Francis Foster and that Mr. George Muschamp, Mr. Charles Jones and Mr. John West be appraisers of said Estate.

Mrs. (Ann) Durant enters for her two Grand Children a young sorrell mare with a star in her forehead called Bonne the same mare & her increase & increases to Ann and Elizabeth Waller to them and their heires for ever".

"At a Court Holden (in Perquimans) 28 September in the afternoon 1694.

Present: Daniel Akehurst, Esquire, Secretary

Francis Tomes (Thomas) &

Benjamin Laker &

Major Samuel Swann &

Colonel Thomas Pollock, Esquires, Lords Deputies

Captain Anthony Dawson & Mr. John Durant, Assistants

Mrs. Anne Durant shewing that two of the apprisors appointed to apprise the estate of Mr. George Durant, deceased, are by departure or sickness disabled. Craves that others may be appointed in their stead.

Ordered that Mr. John West, Mr. John Whitby, Jonathan Bateman and Thomas Hassold or any three of them being sworne before Mr. John Godfrey shall apprise the said estate". (Ref: The North Carolina Colonial Records, Volume I - 1662 to 1712, pages 420 and 421).

"23 January 1695. Ann Durant, wife of George the elder, George Durant ring, etc. Isaac Rowdan's wife (Sarah Durant Rowden) her daughter, son, Thomas executor. Non Cupative will". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 1, page 41).

A note for the Reader - To be a member of Burgess was to be: "An elected member of the Colonial legislature".

### GEORGE PRICKLOVE

As previously noted, Samuel Pricklove (who with George Durant is credited with establishing the first permanent white settlement in North Carolina) joined George Durant in the Culpepper Rebellion of 1677-79. Whether Samuel's legal troubles started because he was part of the Rebellion (he was a Quaker and was not supposed to take up arms) is not known but in Court in March 1680 Samuel is in trouble.

"Att a General Court held for the County of Albemarle, March 20, 1680.

Present: The Hon. John Jenkins, Governor

Anthony Slocumb
Captain William Crawford
Major Robert Holden, Esquire
Captain James Blount
Captain John Varham, Deputies Assistants

(Captain) William Crawford, Attorney of Samuel Blogg of New York against

Samuel Pricklove. Action of Debt.

March 27, 1680. Ordered that Samuel Pricklove stand in the Pillory three hours, and loose his right ear, and be banished this county for ever, and to live in prison without bayle in yrons, or otherwise, until hee shall bee shipped for his transport, and their abroad kept in yrons, till at his place be landed with costs and fees.

Ordered, that Samuel Pricklove, deliver the patent of land possessed by John Burney, and pay costs, that is to say the old patent granted by Sir William Berkeley".

SAMUEL PRICKLOVE DIED ON 20 APRIL 1692.

PERQUIMANS IS OF INDIAN ORIGIN AND MEANS, "LAND OF FAIR WOMEN"

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*<sub>\*th</sub>\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

### CHAPTER IV

HENRY BONNER (ca 1708 - 1766)

Family Status:

Married: (1st) Sarah Luten (about 1730)

Children: 1. Thomas Bonner (ca 1744 - 1804)

2. William Bonner (ca 1748 - 1770)

3. Henry Bonner (ca 1750 - ?)

Married: (2d) Elizabeth Hardy on 4 January 1758

4. Richard Bonner (ca 1759 - 1781)

It is believed that this Henry Bonner was the first born of (Colonel) Henry and Deborah Whedbee Bonner. This belief is based on the facts contained in the last will and testament of Colonel Henry Bonner who leaves in the subject will a plantation to his grandson Richard Lewis. Richard Lewis was not assigned a trustee to look for the property as he did for his son Thomas Bonner, who was a minor. Therefore, it must be concluded that Richard Lewis was of majority age and at least twenty-one (21) years of age. With that premise it must be concluded that Richard Lewis was born about 1716 or 1717. That would place his mother's birth year at about 1703 or earlier. If she married at age thirteen then she was born in 1703 and at age sixteen, she was born in 1700. Thus it appears that Elizabeth Bonner Lewis was the first born of Colonel Henry Bonner which may explain why he was so generous to her and her children in his last will and testament. Elizabeth was probably named after her mother or grandmother.

This Henry Bonner was born between 1706 and 1710 with 1708 being the most likely year. The court records show that Henry Bonner was married to Sarah (Luten?) in the year 1732. It can only be argued that any children he fathered before the birth of his son Thomas (born about 1745) died in childhood.

Another theory that attests to the fact of his age is his marriage to Elizabeth Hardy in 1759, a woman much younger than he. By Elizabeth, he fathered his son, Richard, who died in 1781. Elizabeth's youth is noted in the last will and testament of her husband who died between 17 July and 6 November 1766. In that document he stated that one-half of his home plantation would be left to his son, Thomas, and the other half to his wife, Elizabeth, during her lifetime or widowhood. Less than eight months after his death, Elizabeth, married William Roberts in February 1767. By William, Elizabeth gave birth to six living children by 1781, as noted in the last will and testament of Richard Bonner, thus attesting to the youth of Elizabeth. In summary, it make more sense that Henry was born about 1708 (instead of ca 1702), that he married Sarah Luten about 1729 (when he would have been 21) and that babies she may have given birth to prior to 1745 died. It appears that she may have died in childbirth giving birth to her son Henry about the year 1750.

The below "Last, Will and Testament" was found in the Register of Deeds Office in Edenton, North Carolina where it was registered as a Deed of Gift and was dated 7 July 1766. It was used as a Last will and testament by the courts when property was sold by Thomas Bonner, the son. It has a different date than the Last, Will & Testament on file in the Archives in Raleigh, N. C., which has a date of 17 July 1766, is only two pages long and does not name trustees as does the Deed of Gift published below. According to the officials at the Archives in Raleigh the below document is on file in the micro film section of the Archives.

On file in Deed Book L, pages 195 to 198 at the Court House in Edenton, North Carolina is the following "Deed of Gift" document dated 7 July 1766.

Bonner to Bonner

NORTH CAROLINA - Know all men by these presents that I Henry Bonner of Chowan County ye province aforesaid, Gentleman, In Consideration of the love and Natural Regard which I have & bear into my Dearly Beloved Wife Elizabeth Bonner also for the same love esteem and personal affection and Regard which I have and bear into my Dear beloved children Thomas Bonner, William Bonner, Henry Bonner, Richard Bonner and also for other divers good causes and consideration - hereunto especially moving have given granted and confirmed, and by these presents DOTH give grant unto the said Elizabeth, Thomas, William, Henry and Richard Bonner all and singular the land hereditaments, Improvements, negroes, good chattles and implements in manner and form as shall be hereafter nominates expresses that is to say;

I give grant and confirm unto my aforesaid Loving wife during her natural Life or Widowhood the following negroes, Viz: Grace, Patte, & Solomon, also a Roan mare called Starr, one of my best beds and furniture, one square table, two cows and calves, Two ewes and lambs, One large Pott of Iron, Two large pewter dishes and six best pewter plates, all the earthen Chainey ware and Earthen do (dough) & in like manner the Bosatts? and lastey the use of my Dwelling Plantation. That is to say, the one half \_\_\_?\_\_ with the one half of the Dwelling House during her widowhood.

Now I also give unto my well Beloved son, Thomas Bonner and his and the heirs of his Body lawfull Begotten of his Body forever the one half of my Dwelling Plantation immediately to commence upon the same after my decease and the rest and all thereof after my wife aforesaid forever excepting;

Seventy acres lying on Deep Run known by the name of Old Tom's which I give as aforesaid to my son Richard.

I give grant and confirm as aforesaid unto my son William my plantation in **Green Hall** excepting what lieth beyond Maple Branch toward **Richard Hoskins**. Beginning at the three pines and running a strait line to the Maple Branch thence running up the Maple Branch to the head thence about north-north-east to **Nathaniel Howcott's** line which I give as aforesaid to my son Richard his heirs and assigns forever.

I give as aforesaid to my well beloved son Henry Bonner his heirs as assign forever my Plantation on the **Deep Run Swamp**.

I also give as aforesaid unto my Dearly Beloved Thomas Bonner my gray mare running in Green Hall.

Also aforesaid unto my son William my Bay known by the name of the Indian, I also give and grant as aforesaid unto my son William all and singular my nursery at the end of the barn of Apple trees to be delivered immediately after my death if demanded or whenever Demanded by him the said William Bonner or my trustee hereafter mentioned unto him the said William Bonner and assigns also a large box to my wife and the said Henry Bonner all and singular the goods chattles personal estate and the other Real and implements and the other the premises.

I the said Henry Bonner all and singular the real estate personal and all the other implements and premises to the aforesaid, as mentioned to their heirs executors administrators and assigns and all others whatsoever shall of and of all the persons or persons from henceforth shall warrant forever defend by these presents of all and singular real estate good chattles implements and the other the premises wherefor I the said Henry Bonner have put into Each and Every of their Hands as Full possession after my decease

this now in the ensealing & delivery of these presents.

In the name of the whole granted premises, I have hereunto set my Hand and Affix my Seal this Seventh day of July 1766.

Signed Sealed and
Delivered in presence of,
Jeremiah Halsey, jurat
Henry Thompson
William Matthews

Henry Bonner (Seal)

And all the Rest of my personal estate after my lawfull debts are paid my desire that it may be equally distributed between my four children, Thomas, William, Henry and Richard Bonner - I also nominate constitute and appoint my loving Cousin Captain Thomas Bonner also my Dear Brother Thomas Bonner, to be after my decease to be the only Trustees on my children's behalf and Execute & fully file the same to the best of there knowledge until he are they may arrive at the Lawful age to obtain there estates real & personal rattifing and confirming this and this and only this to be my will and desire.

Acknowledged and Declared,

the day & date, also in presence of us, Jeremiah Halsey Henry Thompson Henry Bonner (Seal)

### NORTH CAROLINA

Chowan County July Inferior Court, 1766

Present: His Majestys Justices

Deed of Gift from Henry Bonner to Elizabeth Bonner, Thomas Bonner, William Bonner, Henry Bonner, and Richard Bonner was duly proved in Open Court according to Law by the Oath of Mr. Jeremiah Halsey and ordered to be Registered.

Test: Thomas Jones, Clerk Current

Registered, 6 February 1767.

A careful reading of the Deed of Gift shows that Henry's brother Thomas, and his cousin, Captain Thomas Bonner, are nominated to be trustees to his four minor children. All of Henry's children are under age in July 1766. It is not known who "Cousin Captain Thomas Bonner" was. Could it be the brother of John Bonner who was named in John's will in 1753? Or the son of (Sheriff) Thomas Bonner, Thomas Bonner, Jr?; or the son of (William) Thomas Bonner of Bertie County, also named Thomas? The records are silent!

The proof that the above deceased, Henry Bonner, was married to Sarah \_\_?\_\_ (believed to be Sarah Luten) in 1732 is contained in the following document. It can be found in Deed Book C - 1, page 683, at the Register of Deeds Office at the Chowan County Court House in Edenton, N. C.

Henry Bonner to George Martin

To all to whome these presents shall come I Henry Bonner of Chowan precinct in the province aforesaid send greetings &c.

Know ye yet I the said Henry Bonner for & in consideration of the sum of four hundred and twenty pounds to me in hand paid at or before the ensealing and delivery of

these presents by George Martin of the aforesaid precinct, Gentleman, whereof I do hereby acknowledge & by myself to be therewith fully satisfied & contended & paid have given granted bargain sold aliened ensossed (ensured) conveyed & confirm assign & sett over & by these presents do for myself my heirs exers, adms, give grant bargain sell alien ensossed convey confirm assign & sett over unto the said George Martin his heirs or assigns all yet my Plantation or Tract of land lying & being in the precinct of Chowan on the North side of Mattacomack (Creek);

Beginning at the Bottom of a Little Marsh between Philburd's (Filbert's) Creek and a small Branch yet along Philburd's Creek ... through the said Philberd's Creek ... to a Red Oak standing on the East side of the Main Road so along the Main Road to a Marked Forked Red Oak standing on the said Philburd's line so along Philburd's or Rowden's line to a White Oak in Orlando Champions' line yet along Orlando Champion's line to his Corner tree yet along his said line to a Marked Red Oak near the head of a Branch yet down the West side of the said Branch to the First Station;

Containing by estimation Three Hundred & twenty acres be the same more or less together with all the Houses, outhouses, edifices, orchards, Gardens & all other appends priviliges & comoditys of what nature & kind so ever thereon being belong or in any wise appertaining ...

In witness whereof I have hereunto Sett My Hand & Seal this 6th day of April 1732.

Signed, Sealed & Delivered

in presence of:

Henry Bonner (Seal)

George Nichols

April 7th 1732.

The above Deed was acknowledged by the subscriber, Henry Bonner & also Sarah the wife of the said Henry Bonner acknowledges her right of Dower to the Lands before me.

John Palin, Clerk Justice Lett it be Registered.

As noted in the Last Will and Testament of Colonel Henry Bonner, he left instructions for his executor (son, Henry Bonner died 1766) to ensure the education of his minor daughters, Deborah and Mary. True to his obligation, Henry sold property in order to comply with his father's wishes, as noted below:

### NORTH CAROLINA

Bonner

to

Craven

This indenture made the tenth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and thirty nine;

BETWEEN Henry Bonner of Chowan County in the province aforesaid, Gentleman, executor of ye Last Will and Testament of Henry Bonner his late father, deceased, of the one part and James Craven of Chowan County aforesaid, Gentleman, of the other part.

WHEREAS the Lords and Proprietors of Carolina by their Patent bearing date ye Nineteenth day of January Anno Damo 1716 ...

...did grant unto the said Henry Bonner, the father, a tract of Land containing five hundred and twenty acres lying in Chowan Precinct on the North Side of Mattacomack Creek abutting and bounding as therein ...

And whereas the said Henry Bonner by his Last Will & Testament bearing the date

the twenty first day of September in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and thirty eight did among other things order and direct his executor thereafter mentioned to dispose of all the rest and residue of his real estate and the money arising therefrom to be laid out for the Educating and Maintaining his two daughters, Deborah and Mary, in their minority as by the said Will duly proved and recorded in the said province relation being thereto also had may more fully and at large appear and whereas the said James Craven hath agreed with the said Henry Bonner party hereto for the absolute purchase of One hundred and seventy acres of land part of ye said five hundred and twenty acres in the above recited Patent mentioned.

Now this indenture witnesseth that the said Henry Bonner party to these presents for in consideration of the sum of One hundred and fifty seven pounds Current Money of the province ... all that piece or parcell of land containing by estimation one hundred and seventy acres be the same more or less situate laying and being in the said County of Chowan being a part and parcell of the said five hundred & twenty acres in the above recited Patent mentioned adjoining on John Bonner, Abraham Blackall, & Joseph Anderson.

IN WITNESS whereof the said Henry Bonner hath hereunto set his Hand and Seal the day and year first above mentioned.

Signed, sealed and delivered

in presence of,

William Luten

James Arthaud

Henry Bonner (Seal)

Received ye day & year within of the within named James Craven the sum of one hundred and fifty seven pounds Current Bills of North Carolina being the full consideration within mentioned to be by him unto me paid, per Henry Bonner.

Witness:

William Luten

James Arthaud

### NORTH CAROLINA

Chowan County July Court, 1741

Present: His Majesty's Justices

To James Craven - These may certify that the within Deed of Sale from Henry Bonner was duly acknowledged by him in open court and motion is ordered to be Registered.

Test: James Craven, Clerk Current

Registered July the 31st 1741 (by) James Craven, Register.

The above Deed of Sale is from Deed Book A -1, pages 14 and 15 at the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

The following is noted as it pertains to the above mentioned land patent. "(To) Henry Bonner, 19 January 1716, 520 acres on North Side of Mattacomack Creek on Filbert's Creek".

\_\_\_\_\_

The subject of "who" may be the mother of Henry Bonner's (died 1766) children, Thomas, William and Henry is subject to speculation. The best clues lie in the above Deed of Sale that shows Henry's wife name as Sarah \_\_\_\_?\_\_ (in 1732). Couple that with the following from Hathaway, Volume 2, Number 3, page 470 and it may be enough evidence to show that Henry's wife was Sarah Luten. A William Bonner was also married to a Sarah Luten in 1744. As evidence that it was two different Sarah Lutens, notice that the above

Deed of Sale was written in 1732 and William Bonner's marriage to Sarah Luten was in 1744, twelve years later.

"Henderson Luten's children were: James, Ephraim, Henderson and Sarah who married Henry Bonner, and another child died before the father". (The document is without date). (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 2, Number 3, page 470).

"In Chowan County, William Bonner married Sarah Luten on 21 August 1744. Bond: William Luten; Witness: George Parris." (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 2, page 236).

"William Bonner married one of the daughters of Henderson Luten, deceased, so stated in a petition for a negro belonging to said estate. There were four heirs: William Luten one of them and executor of the estate". (This was in 1745). (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 3, pages 455 and 456).

"(In 1747) Ephraim Luten orphan of Henderson, 14 years of age placed under tuition of William Bonner, who married his sister". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 3, page 457).

In Hathaway, Volume 2, Number 2, page 266, the following division of estates is found: "Henderson Luten, 1744. Sarah, James, Ephraim and Henderson Luten, heirs of Thomas Luten". (William Bonner married Sarah, above).

In Hathaway, Volume 2, Number 3, page 469;

"William Bonner married a daughter of Henderson Luten, niece of William Luten. Henderson Luten left 5 children but one **died shortly after himself**".

All evidence points to the fact that Henry and William married different Sarah Lutens years apart, and the records are not confused enough to suggest that Henry and William are the same person marrying a same named woman. An interesting clue is that Henry Bonner married Sarah Luten whose father, Henderson Luten had a also child who died shortly before the father, Henderson Luten and William Bonner married Sarah Luten, a daughter of Henderson Luten who also had a child who died shortly after the father.

The below William Bonner was probably the son of (William) Thomas Bonner of Bertie County and may be the William Bonner who married Sarah Luten in 1744. Note that he had a daughter named Sarah. ("William Bonner married Ann Moore in Tyrrell County in 1760").

"William Bonner, (Published) 15 September 1775. (Probated) November Court 1775. Sons: William and John; Wife, Ann; Son, George; daughters, Penelope White and Sarah Billups; son, William 1/2 my lots in Edenton, N. C. also half of the land giving to my brother, Thomas Bonner. Daughters, Martha and Ann Bonner. Sons, Miles & Thomas, if child in esse; Grandson William Dorsey. Wife, James Moore and son Williams, Exrs. Test: William Matthews, Peter Yeates, John Yeates." (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 2, Number 4, page 329).

The above, "Thomas Bonner (son of William) married Elizabeth Virgin on 4 May 1802. Bond: Miles Bonner." (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 2, Number 3, page 374).

"Married in Tyrrell County on 16 July 1764, Frederick Dorsey and Penelope Bonner. (No Bondsman)" (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 1, page 107). Frederick died and Penelope remarried.

An interesting document denoting that Henry Bonner (died July 1766) was an officer (Captain) in the Chowan Militia is the following. It can be found in Deed Book A - 1, pages 244 and 245 at the Court House in Edenton.

Henry Bonner Deed to Thomas Luten

This indenture made the tenth day of September in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred forty three between Henry Bonner of Chowan County in North Carolina of the first part and Thomas Luten of the same place of the other part.

Witnesseth that the said Henry Bonner for and in consideration of the sum of Fifty pounds Current Money of Carolina to him is paid before the Ensealing and Delivery of these presents by the said Thomas Luten the receipt whereof the said Henry Bonner doth hereby acknowledge and thereof clearly acquit ... and confirm unto the said Thomas Luten ... one certain tract or parcell of land containing thirty acres be the same more or less laying and being on the North Side of the Tanyard Branch at Green Hall in Chowan County.

In Witnesseth whereof the said Henry Bonner hath hereunto sett his Hand and Seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of us, William Lewis Francis Penrich

Henry Bonner (Seal)

Rec'd the day and year above mentioned of the said Thomas Luten the sum of Fifty pounds being the consideration money above mentioned by me.

William Lewis Francis Penrich

Henry Bonner

Chowan County - April Court Anno Dom 1744

Present: His Majesties Justices

These may certifie that the within Deed of Sale of Land from Captain Henry Bonner to Thomas Luten, Esquire, was duly acknowledged in open court & on motion was ordered to be Registered.

Test: Edmund Hatch, Clerk Current

Registered May 2d 1744, James Craven, Reg.

The below document is the Deed of Sale from Henry Bonner to William Bonner selling lots to William Bonner located in Edenton. This William Bonner is the same as the above showing his last will and testament. It can be found in Deed Book C - 2, page 175 at the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

Henry Bonner

to

DEED

William Bonner

To all to whom these presents shall come greetings. Know ye that I Henry Bonner of Chowan County for and in consideration of the sum of One Hundred & Thirty Pounds Current lawfull Money of North Carolina to me in hand paid by William Bonner of the County & Province aforesaid the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge myself fully satisfied contented & paid & thereof to William Bonner his heirs ... & assign forever One Lott or half acre of Land in the Town called Edenton or two half Lots No. 37 & 38 equally

divided by a line from the main County Road across the said two Lotts together with all priviliges ...

In witness whereof I have hereunto Set my Hand and Seal this 20th day of January Anno Dominue 1743.

John Luten

Henry Bonner (Seal)

his

Nathaniel N Howcott

mark

North Carolina, Chowan County January Court 1744.

Present: His Majestys Justices

These may certify that Henry Bonner came into open court & acknowledged the written Deed & acknowledged the within Deed of Sale to William Bonner in due form of Law & on Motion is Ordered to be Registered.

Test: Richard McClure, Clerk Current

Registered: April 29th 1749, James Craven, Regt.

The following is from Deed Book H - 1, page 161 at the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

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Bonner

to

Garrett

North Carolina - To all to whom these presents shall come I Henry Bonner of Chowan County & Province aforesaid send greeting. Know yee that I Henry Bonner for & in consideration of the sum of Twenty-Five pounds Bill money of the Province aforesaid to me in hand paid at & before the ensealing & delivery of these presents by Richard Garrett of the County aforesaid the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge & myself to be herewith fully satisfied contented & paid have given & set over ... unto the said Richard Garrett ...

One tract of land containing six hundred and forty acres lying and being in Bertie County called Mehering ... beginning at a Pine in the head of Chinkepin then said 80 west 320 pole to a Pine then 80 east 380 pole to the center of Three Pines then 20 east 116 pole to a Pine on Chinkpin Swamp then up the said Swamp to the first station which said land was granted by a Patent bearing date the 6th day of August 1719 to have and to hold the said Plantation ...

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Fixed my Seal this 28th day of January 1749.

Signed Sealed & Delivered

Henry Bonner (Seal)

in presence of us, William Branch Jesse Copelia?

Acknowledged before me ye 16th October 1755. Let it be registered.

James Hassel, Clerk Justice.

Registered, 20th of June 1757 (by) George Disbrane.

The exact month and day Henry Bonner passed away is not registered. The records show that he was alive on 17 July 1766 and was dead before 6 November 1766. However if one studies the records it can be surmised that he passed away in August 1766. If he died in August, his will was probably probated in September. On 6 November, his widow was allowed 160 pounds from the government because it had executed two of her slaves. If she

filed her case against the government in late September or October, it would have been heard on 6 November 1766, as noted in the records;

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC CLAIMS, HELD AT NEW BERN, ON THURSDAY, THE 6TH OF NOVEMBER, 1766.

Present - The Honorables Lewis Henry DeRosset, John Sampson, Henry Eustace McCulloh, Esquires, Members of the Councils;

Richard Caswell, Samuel Benton, John Frohock, Edward Vail, John Barrow, William Haywood, John Bradford, John Pain, Cullen Pollock, Thomas Respress, Thomas Lloyd, Samuel Spencer; Esquires, Members of Assembly.

There is nothing in the records as to why Cato and Peter were executed. John Bonner, who died in 1755, had a slave named Cato. Could this be the same Cato?

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The lives of the children of Henry Bonner (died 1766) has little or no documentation with the exception of Thomas (born ca 1744). Henry's last will and testament lists the children in the following order; Thomas, William, Henry and Richard which, by tradition, is the order of birth. Thomas died in Clarke County, Georgia in 1804. William Bonner died between July 1769 and September 1770 in Chowan County. The death year of Henry (the son) is unknown. It is not believed that he was the Henry Bonner who died in Chowan County in 1797 although he might be. Richard died in 1781 in Chowan County. J. R. B. Hathaway's Register shows William's death as 1775, however, a Deed of Sale signed by his brother, Thomas, in the fall of 1770 shows that William had passed away before September 1770. The document is published in Chapter V.

"William Bonner, Chowan County. 1775. (No other dates are shown and this year date is not correct - see chapter V). Named: Thomas Bonner, Henry Bonner, Richard Bonner". (Hathaway, Volume 2, Number 2, page 257).

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It appears, from the way the will of Richard Bonner is written, that Elizabeth (Hardy) Bonner was his mother. She was a young woman when Henry died in 1766. She married William Roberts on 21 February 1767 and by him had least six children between 1767 and 1781.

"Richard Bonner, 1781. Brothers: Thomas Bonner, Henry Bonner. William Roberts, Sr; William Roberts, Jr; Liles Robert; Sarah Roberts; Elizabeth Roberts; Miriam and Penelope Roberts". (No witness or test). (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 2, Number 2, page 257.)

The Henry Bonner who died in 1797 was married to Leah Jordan at his death. There is no way to know if he was the son of Henry Bonner who died in 1766 or the son of (William) Thomas Bonner who died in Bertie County in 1755.

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"Henry Bonner, Chowan County. Published 24th March 1795. Probated December Court 1797. Wife, Leah Bonner. Daughters: Nancy, Elizabeth, Sarah, Fanny Satterfield (married James Satterfield on 5 March 1795). Son, John Bonner (died 1832); Son William Bonner and Miles Elliott named executors. Test: Thomas Jones, John Fife". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 4, page 519).

The father of Leah Bonner was Jacob Jordan.

"Jacob Jordan, Chowan County. 24 June 1795. Wife, Elizabeth. Daughters, Leah Bonner, Rachel Elliott, Patience Elliott. Sister-in-law, Sarah Valentine. Executors: wife, Elizabeth and Nicholas Stallings. Test: Nathan Parker, Ann Earl, Jr, Mary Stallings". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 2, Number 1, page 5).

It was this family that confused James C. Bonner when he wrote about the wives of Jordan Bonner in his manuscript noting that one was named Leah and the other Rachel.

It is highly probable that Jordan Bonner, the eldest son of Thomas Bonner (died 1804) was named after the above Jordan family. It also adds fuel to the thought that the above Henry Bonner (died 1795) was probably the brother of Thomas Bonner (died 1804).

It is of historical interest that Elizabeth (Hardy-Bonner) Roberts, Mary Bonner (wife of Thomas Bonner, Senior), and Lydia Bonner (Elizabeth's niece and daughter of Mary and Thomas (Senior) attended the Edenton Tea Party on 25th October 1774, to protest the high taxes on British tea.

It is this Henry Bonner (died 1766) that some publications show as being born ca 1702.

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### OTHER BONNER'S OF CHOWAN COUNTY

A man whom almost nothing is known about is John Bonner of Chowan County. He lived adjacent to the Henry Bonner family in Green Hall. John and his brother Thomas may have been sons of William Bonner who is listed the records as "Will Bonner" in the 1700's. Will Bonner was probably the reason William Thomas Bonner, who is listed in some records as "William" and in others as "Thomas" became legally known as "Thomas" in later records. Two William Bonners in one county would have been very confusing in the legal documents in those days without no other means of identification. Because of that premise the following is produced as showing where William or "Will" Bonner lived as a manner of information.

The following is in Deed Book B -1, page 437 at the Court House in Edenton, North Carolina.

Fallow to William Bonner assignment of a Sale of 50 acres of land purchased of David Lee called Wallowing Root.

Know all men by these presents yt I William Fallaw of the Precinct of Chowan & province of North Carolina for and in consideration of the sum of seven pounds & ten shillings to me in hand paid by William Bonner of the same place do by these presents for me my heirs executors & administrators & assigns over all my right title & interest of in & unto the lands mentioned in the Deed of Sale unto William Bonner his heirs and assigns forever as witness my hand yt 21st of February 1716.

Seal'd & del'd in presence of,

William W Fallaw

Robert Heicks (Hicks)

John Howcott

The following is from Deed Book B - 1, page 451 at the Court House in Edenton, North Carolina.

Whitmarsh

tΩ

A BOND

Bonner

Know all men by these presents yt John Whitmarsh of Colleton County in South Carolina, Merchant, am held & firmly bound unto William Bonner of Albemarle County in the Province of North Carolina, Cooper, in ye full & just sum of Thirty pounds current money of ye said province which said sum I bind my self my heirs executors administrators firmly by these presents to payments ye said William Bonner his heirs executors, administrators or assigns seal'd with my Seal & Date this 3d day of June 1716.

The condition of the above obligation is such yt if the above John Whitmarsh shall well & truly deliver at the dwelling house of Colonel Edward Moseley in Chowan Precinct in North Carolina aforesaid, One Indian boy about the age of eight or nine years to & for the only proper use benefit & behoof of the said William Bonner on or about the last of October next ensuring the date hereof then this obligation to be void else to remain in full force & ventue.

Seal'd & Del'd in presence of. Richard Albans Robert Hicks

John Whitmarsh

The records are silent as to when above William Bonner passed away. Since John Bonner is not listed as an heir in the records of the Henry Bonner families, it must be assumed that he was a son of William Bonner, probably the eldest son. It appears that William Bonner, the father, was dead before 1740.

The following is from Deed Book E -1, pages 123 to 125 at the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

John Bonner

to

Thomas Bonner

To all to whome these presents shall come I John Bonner do send greetings. Know ye that I the said John Bonner of the County of Chowan and province of North Carolina, Planter, for and in consideration of love good will and affection which I have and do bear towards my loving brother Thomas Bonner of the county and province aforesaid have given and granted and by these presents do freely clearly and absolutely give and grant unto the said Thomas Bonner his heirs executors administrators or assign forever one mesuage or tract of land situate lying being in the province aforesaid on the Wallowing Root Swamp in Green Hall by estimation one hundred and thirty acres be the same more or less situate and bounded as followeth, viz;

Beginning at a Red Oak standing on the Wallow Root Swamp no 17 west 56 poles to a maple then no 17 west 10 poles to a Red Oak (at) Henry Bonner's Corner then along his line no 40 west 260 poles to a poppler (at) Henry Bonner's Corner then no 5 east 76 poles to a Gum standing on Wallowing Root Swamp then up the various courses of the said Swamp to the first station ...

I the said John Bonner for myself my heirs executors and administrators do convenant and ingage the above described premises to him the said Thomas Bonner his heirs and assigns against the unlawful claim and demands of any person or persons whatsoever.

In witness whereof I the said Jno Bonner have hereunto sett my Hand and Seal this 18th day of April 1740.

Signed Seal and delivered in the presence of us, William Hoskins James Wooden

Jno Bonner (Seal)

North Carolina -ss

Chowan County - April Court Anno Dom 1746

Present: His Majestys Justices

This may certify that the within Deed from John Bonner to Thomas Bonner was acknowledged in open court in due form of law and on motion was ordered to be registered.

Test: James Craven, Clerk Current

Registered: May the 10th 1746, by James Craven,

The above tract of land was sold by Thomas Bonner to Nathaniel Howcott in 1760. What makes it interesting that Nathaniel Howcott became a neighbor of Henry Bonner (died 1766) and was a witness to the marriage of Henry's widow Elizabeth to William Roberts in February 1767. Notice the description of the property as described below.

The below deed can be found in Deed Book K-1, pages 216 and 217 at the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

Bonner

to

Howcott

This indenture made 28th day of August 1760 between Thomas Bonner of Chowan County in North Carolina of the one part and Nathaniel Howcott of the county aforesaid of the other part:

Witnesseth that the said Thomas Bonner for and in consideration of the sum of Thirty pounds proclamation money to him is paid before the ensealing and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof the said Thomas Bonner doth hereby acknowledge & thereof & of every part & parcel thereof doth clearly acquit exconerate & discharge to said Nathaniel Howcott ...

A certain tract or parcel of land situate lying and being in the province aforesaid on the Wallowing Root Swamp in Green Hall containing by estimation one hundred & thirty acres be the same more or less butted and bounded as follows, viz;

At a Red Oak standing on the Wallowing Root, (then) to a Maple, then to a Red Oak (on) Henry Bonner's corner, then along his line to a Popplar (at) Henry Bonner's corner, then to a Gum on the Wallowing Root Swamp, then up various courses of the said Swamp to the first station ...

In witness whereof the said Thomas Bonner have hereunto set my Hand & Seal the day & year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered

Thomas Bonner (Seal)

in the presence of, Thomas Hoskins Thomas Eggleston

North Carolina

Chowan County October Inferior Court 1761

Present: His Majestys Justices

Deed of Sale from Thomas Bonner, Esquire to Mr. Nathaniel Howcott was duly proved in Open Court according to law & ordered to registered.

Test: Thomas Jones, Clerk Current

Registered: 4 September 1762.

The above Thomas Eggleston was John Bonner's godson as mentioned in the Last Will and Testament of John Bonner.

The following is from Deed Book A-1, pages 111 and 112 at the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

Craven

to

Bonner

North Carolina - To all people to whome these presents shall come I James Craven of Edenton in the province aforesaid, Gentleman, sendth greetings know ye that I the James Craven for & in consideration of the sum of two hundred pounds before the ensealing &

delivery hereof to me well truly paid by John Bonner of Chowan County aforesaid, Planter, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have given grant ... unto the said John Bonner his heirs ... one tract piece or parcel of land situate lying & being in the County of Chowan containing by estimation fifty six acres be the same more or less being one third part of a larger tract of one hundred seventy acres of land purchased of Henry Bonner to be divided equally between the John Bonner, Joseph Anderson and Abraham Blackall as each of them have an equal width on the main road and as back in proportion to the shape or form of the aforesaid tract of one hundred seventy acres and this John Bonner his part ...

In witness whereof I the said James Craven have hereunto set his hand and seal the third day of June Anno Domo 1742.

Signed sealed and delivered

in presence of,

William Hoskins

Miles Gale

July Court 1742

Present: His Majestys Justices

These may certify that the within Deed was then and there Duly acknowledged in due form of law and on motion was ordered to be registered.

Test: James Craven, Clerk Current

Registered August the 10th 1742 (by) James Craven, Regr.

The following can be found in Deed Book F - 1, pages 231 and 232 in the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

James Craven

to

DEED

John Bonner

This indenture made the fourth day of March one thousand seven hundred & forty nine between James Craven of Edenton in North Carolina, Gentleman, of the one part and John Bonner of Chowan County in the said province, Planter, of the other part. Witnesseth that the said James Craven for and in consideration of the sum of twenty shillings to him in hand paid by the said John Bonner the receipt whereof the said James Craven hath granted ... unto the ye said John Bonner his heirs and assigns forever all that mesuage in tenement he bought of William Arkill as appears by Deed dated the nineteenth day of October last, situate lying and bounded as followeth, viz;

Beginning at the \_\_?\_\_ tree joining upon William Hoskins land and the land that was formerly Nicholas Crisp running thence as to include one acre of ground or land and also all trees woods common of pastures profits ...

In witness whereof the said James Craven hath to these presents set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed sealed and delivered

James Craven (Seal)

James Craven (Seal)

in the presence of us,

Edmund Hatch

Thomas Bonner

Received the day and year first above written of the within named John Bonner the consideration money mentioned - L1:00:00

Witness:

Edmund Hatch Thomas Bonner James Craven

North Carolina

Chowan County at a Court begun opened and held for the County at the Court House in Edenton on the third Thursday in April Anno Domo 1750.

Present: His Majestys Justices

These may certify that the within Deed of Sale of one acre of land lying and being in the said County from James Craven, Gentleman, to John Bonner, Planter, was then proved in open court in due form of law by the oath of Thomas Bonner one of the subscribers evidences thereto and on motion was ordered to be registered.

Test: Will Mears, Clerk Current

Registered the 4th May 1750 per James Craven, Registering Clerk.

The above and below mentioned witness, Thomas Bonner, was a brother of John Bonner.

The below deed in from Deed Book F - 1, pages 229 and 230 at the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

James Craven

to

DEED

John Bonner

This indenture made the tenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and forty nine between James Craven of Edenton in the province of North Carolina, Gentleman, of the one part and John Bonner of Chowan County in the province aforesaid of the other part.

Witnesseth that the said James Craven for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and twelve pounds ten shillings current money of the Colony of Virginia to him in hand ... (A certain) plantation or tract of land containing fifty acres be the same more or less situate lying and being in Chowan County in the province aforesaid commonly called or known by the name of Arkills Plantation except the Burial place thirty square reserved for the wife of William Branch's family being the plantation I bought of William Arkill adjoining to Edenton, George Liles and the said John Bonner and Joseph Anderson, Esquire as by Deed of Lease and \_\_? \_\_ from William Arkill to the said James Craven having dates eighteenth and nineteenth day of October last duly registered in the Register Office of Chowan County ...

In witness whereof the said James Craven hath to these presents set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed sealed and delivered

James Craven

in the presence of us,

Edmund Hatch

Thomas Bonner, jurat

Received the day and year first within mentioned of the within named John Bonner the sum of one hundred and twelve pounds ten shillings current money of the Colony of

Virginia the full consideration money within mentioned to be paid by him unto me, L112:10:00.

Witness:

Edmund Hatch Thomas Bonner

James Craven

North Carolina

Chowan County at a court begun opened and held for the said County at the Court House in Edenton on the third Thursday in April 1750.

Present: His Majestys Justices

These may certify that the within Deed of Sale of fifty acres of land in said County commonly known and distinguished by the name of Arkills Plantation from James Craven, Gentleman, to John Bonner, Planter, was then and there proved in open court in due form of law by the oath of Thomas Bonner one of the subscribing evidences thereto and on motion was ordered to be registered.

Test: Will Mearns, Clerk Current

Registered May the 4th 1750 per: James Craven, Regr.

### JOHN BONNER'S WILL (Published 11 November 1753)

In the name of God, Amen. The eleventh day of November and the year of our Lord God, one thousand seven hundred and fifty three.

I, John Bonner of Chowan County, in the province of North Carolina, Planter, being very sick and weak in body, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto to God for it, therefore calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this my last will and testament,

That is to say, principally and first of all I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it; and my body I recommend to the earth, to be buried in decent Christian Burial at the discretion of my executors nothing doubting but at the general Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty Power of God: and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this Life, I give, demise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form;

Imprimis, I give and bequeath unto my godson, Thomas Eccleston (also spelled Eggleston), two negroe boys, Jack and Cato, six cows and calves & my riding horse to be deliver'd him when he comes of age, and he should die without heir lawfully begotten of his body, the same to return to my brother, Thomas Bonner.

Item. I give and bequeath to my cousin, William Howcott, one negroe boy named. Bob and if should die without heir, the said negroe boy to be divided between his two sisters, Elizabeth and Mary Howcott.

Item. I give and bequeath to my cousin Edward Howcott one negroe girl named, Grace and if he should die without heir, the said girl to be divided between the aforesaid Elizabeth and Mary Howcott.

Item. I give and bequeath to my sister Sarah Howcott, one gold ring.

Item. I give and bequeath to my sister, Martha Howcott, one gold ring.

Item. I give and bequeath to my brother, Thomas Bonner, my plantation whereon I now live and all the land that I have now in my possession, likewise all the rest and residue of my worldly estate. (Except such as is herein before mentioned.)

I likewise constitute and appoint the aforesaid Thomas Bonner, my sole executor of this Last Will and Testament; I likewise leave John Benbury and Henry Bonner as Trustees to see that my will is fulfilled according to my desire. And I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke, disannul all and every other former testaments, will, legacies and bequests and executors by me in any ways before named, willed and bequeathed; ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal, the day and year above written.

John Bonner (Seal)

NB - The above word (my) was interlined before the signing & sealing of this will.

Signed, sealed and declared by the said John Bonner as his last will and testament in the presence of us,

Jeremiah Michener
John Smith x
George Liles, jurat
Thomas Bonner, qualified

North Carolina

Chowan County -ss January Court, 1754

These may certify that George Liles appeared in open court and made oath that he saw John Bonner, sign seal publish and declare the within to be and contain his last will & testament and that he was then and at that time of sound & disposing mind and memory and that he also saw John Smith & Jeremiah Mitchener, sign there names thereto at the same time. Then appeared Thomas Bonner, Exr., to the within will and was duly qualified by taking the oath by law appointed.

Ordered that the Secretary of said province have notice that letters testamentary issue thereon as the law directs.

Test: Will Halsey, Clerk Current

Note - NB means "Nota Bene" which means "look carefully" or "beware".

The above Henry Bonner was the son of Colonel Henry Bonner and the above John Benbury was the same man who was a trustee to the estate of Henry's brother, Thomas, who was a minor when Colonel Bonner died in 1738.

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#### OTHER BONNER DOCUMENTS

The below Deed is on file in Deed Book Q, pages 165 to 167 at the Court House in Edenton, North Carolina.

Thomas Bonner, Esquire

to

**DEED** 

Thomas MacKnight, Esquire

This indenture made the twenty second day of December in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and seventy four, between Thomas Bonner, Esquire, Late Sheriff of Chowan County in the province of North Carolina on the one part and Thomas MacKnight, Esquire, of Pasquotank County within the province aforesaid of the other part.

Whereas, in virtue of a Writ of our Lord the King duly issuing out of the Superior Court for the District of Edenton bearing date the twenty fifth day of October in the Eighth Year of the Reign of our Lord the King directed to the Sheriff of Chowan County aforesaid commanding him that the goods and chattles, lands, & tenements of Francis Brown in this Baliwick he should cavets be made, two hundred and eighty one pounds, eight shillings being the ballance of the damages which Thomas MacKnight lately of that court recovered against him and also one pound nineteen shillings taxed and adjudged to the said Thomas MacKnight as well for detention of his said damages as far as his costs and charges in his suit in that behalf expended as by the said Writ remaining filed and of record in the court may more fully and at large appear and also in virtue and pursurance of an Act of the British parliment passed in the Fifth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King George the Second entitled, "An Act for the More Easy Recovery of Debts in His Majestys Plantations and Colonies in America", on which the said Writ is founded the said Thomas Bonner then Sheriff on the twentieth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine did enter open and take possession of the water grist mill and lands thereto belonging of the said Francis Brown lying on the Yeokim Creek in then the County of Chowan aforesaid and after due and legal notice the said Thomas Bonner set up the same at vendue or public sale and the said Thomas MacKnight did then and there bid and offer for the said water grist mill and lands thereto belonging the sum of forty seven pounds proclamation money which was then the best or largest sum that \_\_\_?\_\_ of offered by any person for the said water grist mill and lands thereto belonging.

Now this indenture witnesseth that the said Thomas Bonner for and in consideration of the said sum of forty seven pounds proclamation money to him in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged ...

In witness whereof the said Thomas Bonner hath hereunto set his Hand and Seal the day and year first within written.

Signed, sealed & delivered in the presence of, Lydia Bonner Alexander Gellatly, jurant

Thomas Bonner (Seal)

Received 22 December 1774 of the within named Thomas MacKnight the sum of forty seven pounds proclamation money being the full consideration money within mentioned to be paid by him to me.

Witness: Alexander Gellatly

Thomas Bonner

North Carolina

Chowan County December Inferior Court of Pleas & Quarter Session 1774

Present: His Majestys Justices

Deed of Sale from Thomas Bonner, Esquire, Late Sheriff of this County to Thomas MacKnight, esquire, was duly proved in Open Court by the Oath of Alexander Gellatly one of the subscribing evidences thereto; and Ordered to be Registered.

Test: Thomas Jones, Clerk Current

Registered 5th January 1775 (by) Alexander Gellatly, Regr.

It is interesting to note that the Chowan and Perquimans County line was moved sometime between March 1769 and December 1774.

The below deed, based on the description of the property, strongly suggests that Colonel Thomas Bonner was probably the son of Colonel Henry Bonner. The below deed is on file in Deed Book Q, pages 104 to 107 at the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

James Jones to Thomas Jones

This indenture Quadripartite made the thirteenth day of February in the Fifteenth year of the Reign of our Soverign Lord George the Third, King of Great Britain, France & Ireland & in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & seventy five, between James Jones of Chowan County in the province of North Carolina, Planter, of the first part, Thomas Benbury of Chowan County within the Province of North Carolina, Esquire, of the second part, Alexander Gellatly of Edenton within the province of North Carolina of the third part and Thomas Jones of Edenton in the province of North Carolina, Attorney-at-Law, of the fourth part,

Witnesseth, that for and in consideration of the sum of ten pounds Sterling money of Great Britain by the said Thomas Jones and five Shillings of like lawfull money by the said Thomas Benbury to the said James Jones, in hand paid at or before the sealing & delivery of these presents the receipts hereof or of which said several sums of ten pounds and five shillings to the James Jones doth hereby acknowledge ... unto the said Thomas Benbury his heirs and assigns all that tract or parcel of land, lying and being in the County of Chowan in the Province of North Carolina aforesaid on the West side of the said James Jones land which his father, William Jones, of Chowan County in the province of North Carolina, bought of John Hodgson, Esquire;

Beginning at a Gum at the side of the old field commonly called **Old Toms** then running a south east course to **Colonel Thomas Bonner's** land, then along the old line between the said Thomas Bonner and the said James Jones and the said Thomas Jones and the said James Jones to the first station and also lying on the east side of the said James Jones land which his father the aforesaid William Jones, deceased, bought of aforesaid John Hodgson, beginning at the wast corner of the said James Jones plantation and running south west, or west course **to Colonel Thomas Bonner's land** then along the old line between the said James Jones and William Badham, then along **the Deep Run** to the first station, containing in the whole one hundred acres ...

In witness whereof the said parties to these presents have hereunto interchangeably set their hands and affixed their seals, the day and year herein before mentioned and expressed; being the thirteenth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy five.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of; Thomas Bonner James Flood Nathaniel Bonner

Be it remembered that the above named James Jones, at the time of the execution of the above or within deed did enter into and upon the premisses comprised in the said deed or some part thereof in the name of the whole and after seisen and possession thereof by him had and taken did give and deliver the like seisen and possession thereof by him had and taken did give and deliver the like seisen and possession thereof, or part thereof in the name of the whole unto the above named Thomas Benbury, to be held to him the said Thomas Benbury his heirs and assigns according to be true intent and meaning of the said deed.

In the presence of; Thomas Bonner, jurat James Flood Nathaniel Bonner

James Jones (Seal) Thomas Benbury (Seal) Alexander Gellatly (Seal)

North Carolina

Chowan County March Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions 1775

Present: His Majestys Justices

Deed of Quadripartite from James Jones to Thomas Jones was proved in open court by the oath of Thomas Bonner, Esquire, one of the subscribing witnesses thereto and ordered to be registered.

Test: Thomas Jones, Clerk Current

The above Nathaniel Bonner is an unknown. He is probably a son of the above mentioned Thomas Bonner who is probably Colonel Thomas Bonner. There is no other information about Nathaniel before or after the above deed. He was probably named after Nathaniel Howcott.

The below Deed of Sale is in Book Q, page 198 and 199 at the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

Thomas Jones

to

DEED

Thomas Bonner

This indenture made the fourteenth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy five, between, Thomas Jones, Esquire of Edenton, in the Province of North Carolina, Attorney-at-law of the one part and **Thomas Bonner**, Senior of the County of Chowan in the province of North Carolina, Esquire, of the other part;

Witnesseth, that the said Thomas Jones for and in consideration of the sum of five pounds proclamation money to him in hand paid by the said Thomas Bonner at and before the ensealing and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged hath granted bargained sold ...

Fifty acres of land lying in the East side of James Jones' land which William Jones, father of the said James Jones bought of John Hodgson, Esquire;

Beginning at the East corner of the said James Jones Plantation and running Southwest or west course to the said Thomas Bonner's land then along the old line between the said James Jones and William Badham then along the Deep Run to the first station.

Witnesseth whereof the said Thomas Jones hath hereunto set his Hand and Seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed & delivered

Thomas Jones (Seal)

in the presence of;
Alexander Gellatly
Thomas Benbury
James Jones

Received 14th February 1775 of the within named Thomas Bonner the sum of five pounds proclamation money being the full consideration money within mentioned to be paid by him to me. I say received by me, Thomas Jones.

Witness:

Thomas Benbury Alexander Gellatly James Jones

North Carolina

Chowan County March Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarters Sessions 1775

Present: His Majestys Justices

Deed of Sale of land from Thomas Jones to Thomas Bonner, Senior was duly acknowledged in open court and ordered to be registered.

Test: Thomas Jones, Clerk Current

Registered 29th March 1775 (by) Alexander Gellatly, Regr.

As I read into the land deeds of sale and through other documents of Chowan, Bertie and Perquimans Counties I was struck by the number of times a certain family name would appear with a blood connection to the Bonners. If one traced the families it would be found that many times individuals married their cousins from a distant family branch. The same trait could be seen in the social life of the colonist. The Bonners of Chowan were acquainted with many of whom are listed in the history books of North Carolina as people who were responsible for the laying of the legal and moral foundations of civilization that is now North Carolina.

Such is the case of Reverend Clement Hall. He was the first Rector of St Paul's Church in Edenton and the plantation he lived on was sold to him by Thomas Bonner (Senior).

Richard Hoskins (born 1740) was the son of William and Sarah (Whedbee) Hoskins. Mrs. Sarah (Whedbee) Hoskins was born 13 February 1717, the daughter of Richard Whedbee (brother of Deborah (Whedbee) Bonner). Richard Whedbee's children included Ann Whedbee who married Francis Foster, Clerk of Chowan Precinct and later Clerk of Bertie County. Francis and Ann (Whedbee) Foster had a daughter, Frances Foster, who on 19 July 1742 married Clement Hall, an Attorney-at-law, who shortly after his marriage went to England and received orders in the Church of England and on his return (to Chowan County) was called in 1745 as the 1st Rector of Saint Paul's Parish, Edenton, North Carolina. It was his only Parish, he died in 1758 on his plantation located about three (3) miles North of Edenton. (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 3, Number 1, page 116).

The above is interesting because it gives another direction as to where the Bonner lands were in relationship to and distance from Edenton. I thought it interesting that someone as prominent as Reverend Clement Hall would own a plantation that the Bonners had developed and lived on.

The below Deed of Sale is located in Deed Book H - 1, pages 271 to 273 at the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

Bonner

to

Hall

North Carolina - This indenture made the nineth day of September in the Thirty-First year of the Reign of Our Soverign Lord King George the Second & in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & fifty-seven between Thomas Bonner of Perquimans County in the province of North Carolina, Planter, & Mary his wife of the one part & Clement Hall, Rector of St. John Parish in Chowan County & province aforesaid of the other part;

Witnesseth: that the said Thomas Bonner for and in consideration of the sum of Ninety five pounds proclamation money to him in hand paid by the said Clement Hall at or before & delivery of these presents the receipt whereof he doth hereby acknowledge & there by & every part & parcel thereof doth acquit & discharge the said Clement Hall his heirs ... All that tract or parcel of land containing by estimation one hundred twenty five acres be the same more or less situate lying and being in Chowan County aforesaid butting and bounding on outermost Branch of Mattacomack Creek & on Robinson's, Bonner's, Blackall's & Hall's lines also all houses, buildings, woods, water courses, profits, commodities & involvement to the said tract of one hundred twenty five acres ... the said Clement Hall his heirs & assigns forever and lastly the said Mary Bonner doth by her becoming party to these presents...

In witness whereof the parties have hereunto set their Hands & Seals the day & year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered

in presence of;

Timothy Truelove

Thomas Freeman

Angline Freeman

Thomas Bonner (Seal)
Mary Bonner (Seal)

North Carolina

Chowan County April Court 1758

Present: His Majestys Justices

Deed of Sale from Thomas Bonner and Mary his wife was duly acknowledged in open court according to law and at the same time Mary Bonner was privately examined & renounced her right of Dower to the said land.

Test: Thomas Jones, Clerk Current

Registered 11th of May 1758 by, George Disbanes, Regr.

The above Lydia Bonner was married to Joseph Blount, Jr., on 15 July 1775.

It is believed that the above Thomas Bonner was actually "Thomas Bonner, Sr." Remember that Thomas Bonner, Jr., sold a tract of land that he and Margaret owned that was located in Perquimans County and had been purchased by Thomas Bonner in 1752. Since the above Thomas and Mary Bonner were located in Perquimans County, it stands to reason they are the same family.

Thomas Bonner, the son of William Thomas Bonner of Bertie County, died in Granville County, North Carolina about 1828.

It is believed that the below Thomas Bonner was the son of Colonel Henry Bonner (died 1738) and married Mary Standing on 14 February 1752.

"Thomas Bonner, Chowan. 2 February 1785. Wife: Mary. Executors: William Roberts, Richard Hoskins and Edmund Blount. Test: Mary Badham, William Ellis". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1, Number 4, page 519). (The afore mentioned William Roberts was the "brother"-in-law of the deceased Thomas Bonner. Lydia Bonner Blount is not mentioned because she had passed away before 1780.

"Mary Bonner, Chowan. 2 August 1789. Grandson, John Blount; granddaughter, Mary Blount. William Litlejohn and Samuel Dickinson, trustees. Brother, Jonathan Roberts; my deceased husband's brother, William Bonner; John Brickell, son of my sister Mourning Brickell; Joseph Littlejohn, son of William Littlejohn; Ann Littlejohn, daughter of said William; sister, Lydia Shepard, William Littlejohn and Samuel Dickinson, Executors. Test: John Little; Elizabeth Little; William Bateman". (Ref: Hathaway, Volume 1 Number 4, page 519).

The records are totally silent as to whom the above Mary Bonner was married. It appears that her husband might have been Thomas, the brother of John but remember John's will does not mention a brother, William.

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### CHAPTER V

### THOMAS BONNER (ca 1744 - 1804)

Family Data: Thomas Bonner (ca 1744 - 30 December 1804)

Wife: Margaret Jones (ca 1748 - ca 1828)

Where: Edenton, North Carolina on 6 May 1767

Children: 1. Jordan Bonner (12 December 1767 - 8 May 1841)

- 2. Zadock Bonner (17 June 1769 1848)
- 3. Deborah Bonner (1772 after 1860)
- 4. Whitmel Bonner (ca 1775 1819)
- 5. Thomas Bonner (1779 August 1860)
- 6. Mary Elizabeth Bonner (1779 after 1865)
- 7. Allen Bonner (1781 1828)
- 8. Willis Bonner (ca 1785 ?)
- 9. Josiah Bonner (5 May 1787 9 December 1851)
- 10. Daniel M. Bonner (ca 1789 ?)

### **FOREWORD**

It is this Thomas Bonner that James C. Bonner, PhD of Milledgeville, Georgia wrote about in his manuscript, "The Travels of Thomas Bonner - A Family History".

Dr. Bonner researched and wrote about Thomas Bonner and his family after they moved to Georgia from South Carolina. Being interested in the ancestors of Thomas Bonner and finding that he had lived in Chowan County, North Carolina, I decided to search the records for his family.

When I first went to Edenton and looked through the marriage bond book and found the names of Thomas Bonner and Margaret Jones, I found his name as, "Thomas Bonner, Jr." I began to search for a Thomas Bonner, Sr. I found a Thomas Sr., but he did not fit the profile to be the father of Thomas, Jr. (As it turns out Thomas Bonner, Sr., was his uncle). Almost three years later I found a single line in a genealogical magazine that a Thomas Bonner, Jr., was in court in 1769 about his father, Henry Bonner, deceased, I went back to Edenton and while searching through the records in the Register of Deeds Office in the Deeds of Sale for the period I found evidence that Thomas Bonner, Jr., was a son of Henry Bonner. Then I found the document that proved the Thomas Bonner who lived in Chowan County, North Carolina was the same Thomas Bonner who died in Clarke County, Georgia in 1804, the proof being a Deed of Sale from John Lewis to Deborah Bonner, daughter of Thomas Bonner, Jr., dated in 1776. At the time I did not realize the importance of the document because I did not have the name of Thomas' daughter that married Richard Vanderford. As it turned out it was Deborah who had married Richard. That information was furnished by a descendant of Jordan Bonner who now lives in Stonewall, Mississippi who had access to a letter written in 1900 by a daughter of Jordan Bonner. In that letter was the name of the unknown, unnamed, daughter married to Richard Vandiford, it being Deborah Bonner. When I had the name of Deborah Bonner, I was then able to connect the Clarke County, Georgia Bonners to the Chowan County, North Carolina Bonners. A copy of that document is also included in this chapter.

Thomas Bonner, Jr., was the eldest son of Henry Bonner (died 1766). Henry Bonner (died 1766) was the eldest son of Colonel Henry Bonner (died 1738). When the Colonel

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died he left a minor son, Thomas, who was designated to live with his brother, Henry, until he became of age. So when the younger Thomas was born (about 1744) he became known as "junior" and the minor son of Colonel Henry Bonner (Thomas, born about 1828) became known as Thomas "senior". Additionally, when Henry died in 1766 he designated his brother to be one of the trustees for his son's estates "for as long as they need his help". The records show that Thomas (Sr), kept his word to his brother.

In the Register of Deeds Office in the Court House in Edenton, North Carolina in the marriage bond book can be found the following entry:

## CHOWAN COUNTY MARRIAGE BONDS BOOK (See Page 17)

"The act which authorizes the marriage bonds was passed in 1741 and it remained the law until 1868 when the present form of marriage license was authorized".

Groom Bride Date of Bond Bondsman & Witness (B) Thomas Carroll (W) Thomas Jones

The below is from a copy of the Thomas Bonner and Margaret Jones marriage bond that is on file in the Archives in Raleigh, N. C.

### MARRIAGE BOND

North Carolina, Chowan County

Know ye all men by these presents that we, Thomas Bonner and Margaret Jones, all of the County and Province aforesaid, are held and firmly bound unto our Soverign Lord the King, in the penal sum of Five Hundred Pounds, to the which payment well and truly to be made we bind ourselves, our heirs, Exrs., Admrs., and assigns, jointly and severally firmly by these presents.

Sealed with our Seals and dated this 6th day of May, 1767.

Whereas Thomas Bonner hath applied for a License, pursant to an Act of Assembly of this Province entitled, "An Act for Preventing Clandestine and Unlawfull Marriages", to be joined together in the Holy Estate of Matrimony with Margaret Jones of the County aforesaid.

Now the condition of this obligation is such, that if there appears no lawful cause to obstruct for which the aforesaid license was desired pursuant to the true interest and meaning of the aforecited act, then the above obligation to be void, else to be and remain in full force and virture.

Thomas Bonner (Seal) Margaret Jones (Seal)

Surety: Thomas Carroll

In the manuscript written by James C. Bonner, he made the premise that Margaret Jones was the daughter of Nathan and Elizabeth Slaughter Jones. That premise is false. The below is from the Bible of Ezekiel Slaughter:

Ezekiel Slaughter (ca 1724 - 1792). He was born in Virginia and married his cousin, Sarah Butler Slaughter.

### Children:

- 1. Mary (born 15 October 1748) married Edward Worsham.
- 2. John (born 9 May 1750) married Mary Hendrick.
- 3. Sarah (born 10 June 1751) married Peter Roberts.
- 4. Elizabeth (born 11 June 1753) married Nathan Jones.
- 5. Judeth (Judea) (born 17 October 1754) married Daniel Gill.
- 6. Ezekiel (born 30 April 1756).
- 7. Samuel (born 3 April 1758 married Frances Gill.
- 8. Nancy Ann (born 5 July 1760) married Stillwell.
- 9. Susannah (born 14 January 1762) married Samuel Hawkins.
- 10. Patty (born 23 July 1764) married John Gill.
- 11. Reuben (born 4 November 1766) married (1st) Ann \_?\_\_, (2d) Mary Lawson.
- 12. Lucy (born 30 April 1769) married Wiley Clark.

From the above, one can see that Elizabeth was too young to be the mother of Margaret Jones.

The Thomas Bonner family were close neighbors to the Slaughters. Thomas and his son Jordan witnessed the Last Will and Testament of Ezekiel Slaughter.

"Last Will & Testament of Ezekiel Slaughter, Greene County, Georgia. To my daughters, Mary Worsham; my son, John Slaughter; my daughter, Salley (Sarah) Roberts; my daughter Bettey (Elizabeth) Jones; my daughter Judea (Judith) Gill; my son, Samuel Slaughter, tract of land on Banister River. My daughter Ann Stillwell; my daughter Susannah Hawkins; my daughter Patty Gill, one hundred acres on Powell's Creek. My son Reuben Slaughter; grandson Ezekiel Slaughter; daughter Lucy Slaughter; my wife Sarah Slaughter; three grandchildren, Ezekiel Gill, Ezekiel Hawkins, Ezekiel Slaughter. Appoint my loving wife Sarah (Butler) Slaughter, Reuben Slaughter, Samuel Slaughter, Executors. Ezekiel Slaughter (Seal). Witness: Thomas Bonner, Jordan Bonner, Richard Parker. Dated: 20 June 1792. Proven 21 August 1792. Recorded: 23 August 1792". (Note: That part of Greene County became Clarke County in 1802).

A question that may never be answered is the parentage of Margaret Jones. There is a possibility that she is an unknown daughter of the Jones family who lived adjacent to the Bonners in Chowan County who were probably descended from Peter Jones of Perquimans County. At first glance it appears that Margaret Jones Bonner was a daughter of Peter Jones, Sr., as indicated below. However, when the below Mary Jones died in 1758, she named in her Will her sister, Margaret Newby, thereby proving that Margaret Jones Bonner was not a daughter of Peter Jones, Sr. The below Will of Peter Jones, Sr., is published for informational purposes only.

"Peter Jones, Sr., Perquimans County. Published 15 May 1751. Probated April Court 1752. Son, John (Plantation I now live on); Son, William (170 acres of land); Peter, (Plantation whereon he now lives). Daughters, Margaret Jones; Mary Jones; Hannah Jones; Sarah Sutton (married Christopher Sutton on 2 July 1745). Grandson, Thomas Sherwood. Executors: Mac Scarborough; Elizabeth Scarborough; William Reed. Clerk of Court, Edmund Hatch". (Ref: Abstract of North Carolina Wills, 1690 - 1760, pages 196 and 198).

"William Jones, Chowan County. Published 15 July 1773. Probated at Court on 16 March 1774. (Wife - None Listed). Daughters: Charity Walker; Rachel Luten; Ester

Johnson; Sarah Jones; Ann Jones; Edah Jones. Son, James (My plantation). Executors: Thomas Bonner; John Lewis; Son, James Jones. Witness: John Musrow, Dancy Trotman. Proven before John Martin". (Ref: Abstract of North Carolina Wills). (Note - Since it appears that William named all his daughters and did not mention Margaret Bonner it is safe to assume that Margaret was not his daughter. There is a possibility that Margaret Jones Bonner was a daughter of Thomas Jones, the Clerk of Court of Chowan County).

There are no documents about Thomas Bonner (died 1804) prior to his father's death in 1766. The first document is of his marriage to Margaret Jones in 1767. The last document about him is dated in May 1776. During the period between 1776 and 1779, Thomas and Margaret with their children, Jordan, Zadock, Deborah and Whitmel moved to South Carolina. There were well established in South Carolina by 1779 since in the 1860 Georgia census, Thomas, (jr) and his sister, Mary Elizabeth, stated they were born in South Carolina in 1779.

The below document is listed because the plantation became the property of Thomas and Margaret Bonner and it was the last property they sold prior to their move to South Carolina. The Deed Book from where it came is not listed because when it was found it was not thought to be important or apply to the Bonners of Chowan County. It is on file at the Register of Deeds Office in Perquimans County Court House in Hertford, N. C.

Luten Bonner

North Carolina - This indenture made this eighteenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & fifty two between James Luten of Edenton in the Province aforesaid of the one part & Thomas Bonner of Chowan County in the province

aforesaid of the other part.

Witnesseth that the James Luten for & in consideration of the sum of One Hundred pounds current money of the Colony of Virginia to him in hand by the said Thomas Bonner the receipt whereof the said James Luten Doth hereby ... (sell) unto the said Thomas Bonner his heirs & assigns forever all that tract plantation & parcell of land lying on the North side of Yeopins River in Perqimans County being the land which the said James Luten purchased of Henry Warren as by Deed bearing date the 7th of December, one thousand seven hundred & fifty ... containing by estimation three hundred acres be the same more or less & also all houses, trees, woods, underwoods, commons of pastures ...

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day & year

above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered

in the presence of,

Thomas Bonner

James Luten

Edmund Hatch

Received the day & year within mentioned of the within Thomas Bonner the sum of one hundred pounds current money of the Colony of Virginia being the full consideration money within mentioned as witness my hand.

Witness: Edmund Hatch

Thomas Bonner

James Luten

Perquimans County, April Court Anno Domo 1753

Present: His Majestys Justices

These may certify that the above Deed of Sale of land & the above receipt from

James Luten to Thomas Bonner was duly proved in open court by the oath of Edmund Hatch as evidences thereto & on motion is ordered to be Registered.

Test: Edmund Hatch, Clerk Current

Registered in the Register's Office of Perquimans County this 19th day of April A. D. 1753.

Test: John Harvey, Regr.

Soon after the death of his father, Thomas Bonner (died 1804), began to dispose of the lands he inherited. No records have been located showing that he purchased lands to increase his holdings. It can be speculated that as early as 1768 he was planning to move to the lands south of North Carolina.

The below is on file in Deed Book N - 1, pages 215 and 216 at the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

Thomas Bonner, Junior

to

Thomas Jones

This indenture made the first day of June in the year of Our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight between Thomas Bonner, Junior of Chowan County in the Province of North Carolina, Gentleman, of the one part and Thomas Jones, Attorney-at-law, of the same county and province of the other part,

Witnesseth, that the said Thomas Bonner for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds to him in hand paid by the said Thomas Jones at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents and the receipt whereof the said Thomas Bonner doth hereby acknowledge the said Thomas Bonner hath granted bargained and sold aliened and confirmed and by these presents, doth grant bargain sell ...

One moiety of a certain plantation lying and being in Chowan County containing six hundred and forty acres of land it being the said plantation which was devised to the said Thomas Bonner, Junior, by his father, Henry Bonner, deceased, by his Last, Will and Testament, bearing the date seventh day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty six in fee simple.

In witness whereof the said Thomas Bonner hath hereunto set his Hand and Seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered

Thomas Bonner, Junior (Seal)

in the presence of,
Samuel Dunscomb
John Norcum

Thomas Bonner

Be it remembered that on the fourth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty eight it was agreed by and between the said Thomas Bonner, Junior and the said Thomas Jones that a partition line should began so as to dintinguish the respective tracts of land that is to say to run a line through the tract of land containing six hundred and forty acres which was done by a line of Marked Trees running in the following manner to wit;

From a Gum standing at Thomas Jones' corner formerly Clement Hall's, near the Deep Ponds from therein north eighteen degrees west three hundred & twelve poles to a Red Oak at the head of Poplar Branch and it was likewise agreed by the said Thomas Bonner, Junior should take the land containing three hundred and twenty acres lying to the westward of the said line and the said Thomas Jones should take the land lying to the

eastward of the said line of Marked Trees.

In witnesseth whereof the said Thomas Bonner, Junior and the said Thomas Jones have hereunto set their Hands and Seals the day and year first within written.

Witness: Samuel Duncomb

John Norcom Thomas Bonner Thomas Bonner, Junior (Seal)
Thomas Jones (Seal)

Received the fourth day of June one thousand seven hundred and sixty eight of Thomas Jones the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds proclamation money being the full consideration money within mentioned.

Witness: Samuel Duncomb

Thomas Bonner, Junior

John Norcom Thomas Bonner

North Carolina, October 2d, 1768. The within Deed of Bargain Sale of land from Thomas Bonner, junior to Thomas Jones was proved according to the Oath of Captain Samuel Dunscomb.

Registered, 20 March 1769 (by) Frederick Blount, Regr.

The above witness, Thomas Bonner (aka Thomas Bonner, Sr.), was the brother of Henry Bonner (died 1766). He was being watchful of his nephew, Thomas Bonner (Jr.) as his brother requested in his last will and testament.

For reasons not known to this writer Thomas Bonner (Jr.) deeded to his brother, William Bonner, a tract of land in 1768. It might be that William Bonner came of age in 1768 (making his birth year as 1747) and was granted a tract of land in accordance with the provisions of the Last Will and Testament of their father. (It needs to be noted that on 25th July 1769 William Bonner is alive and there is a document dated September 1770 that shows him as passed away).

The below Deed of Gift can be found in Book N - 1, pages 209 and 210 at the Chowan County Court House in Edenton, North Carolina.

Bonner

to

Bonner

North Carolina - Know all men by these presents that I Thomas Bonner of Chowan County in the province aforesaid for divers good causes and consideration me moving thereunto but more especially for the love and natural affection I bear unto my brother William Bonner his heirs and assign forever all my plantation tract or parcel of land commonly known by the name of Turkey Neck lying on the south-side of the Wallowing Root Swamp in Chowan County bounded on one side on Richard Hoskins' land and John Luten's land and Nathaniel Howcott's land together with all the profit commodity & hereditaments to the same belonging or anywise appertaining.

To have and to hold the said land and plantation and all and singular the appurts belonging unto the said William Bonner and his heirs & assigns forever full and ample manner as I myself could or might have done and for a certainty of this being my act and deed I have hereunto put my Hand and Seal this 14th day of December 1768.

Signed, sealed and acknowledged

in the presence of;

Thomas Bonner, junior (Seal)

Jeremiah Halsey

Jacob Boyce Elizabeth Halsey

North Carolina

Chowan County, December Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1768.

Deed of Gift from Thomas Bonner, junior to William Bonner was duly acknowledged in Open Court according to law by Thomas Bonner and ordered to be Registered.

Test: Thomas Jones, Clerk Current

Registered 25th July 1769 (by) Alexander Gellatly, Reg.

The above Elizabeth Halsey was Elizabeth Thompson, daughter of James and Deborah Bonner Thompson. Deborah being the daughter of Colonel Henry Bonner. Elizabeth Thompson Halsey was the wife of the above Jeremiah Halsey. Note the Last Will and Testament of Deborah Bonner Thompson.

The following can be found in Deed Book O - 1, pages 104 to 108 at the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

Thomas Bonner, Junior and Margaret his wife to

Thomas Jones

DEED

This indenture made the nineth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty nine between Thomas Bonner, junior, Planter, and Margaret his wife of Chowan County in the province of North Carolina of the one part and Thomas Jones of Edenton in the province of North Carolina Attorney at Law of the other part;

Whereas Henry Bonner late of Chowan County within the province of North Carolina, Planter, in and by his last will and testament bearing date the seventh day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty six duly caveted and attended; Did thereby give and devise to the said Thomas Bonner and his heirs of his body lawfully begotten of body forever;

The one half of his dwelling Plantation, situate lying and being in Saint Paul's Parish in Chowan County within the province of North Carolina, the one half of which said dwelling plantation contains by estimation three hundred and twenty acres be the same more or less bounded in the following manner;

THAT IS TO SAY, beginning at a Red Oak on Poplar Branch, joining the land commonly called Cleland's, now in the possession of James Luten's heirs then down the said Poplar Branch to Mattacomack Creek, then down the various courses of the said Creek to John Henley's line so up his line to Thomas Jones (formerly Clement Hall's) line to a corner Gum, so along the partition between Thomas Bonner and Thomas Jones to the first station:

It being that part of the said Henry Bonner's Plantation whereon he the said Henry Bonner lived.

AND whereas His Majesties Writ in Nature of an Ad Quid Damnum hath issued out from the Secretary's Office of the province of North Carolina aforesaid for the Docking of the Estate Tail, simited to the said Thomas Bonner by the will of the said Henry Bonner.

Whereby the Sheriff of Chowan County in pursurant of the Directions of the Act of the General Assembly in that case made and provided in the Twenty Second year of the Reign of our Late Soverign Lord George the Second, King of Great Britian an act intitled,

"An Act, Directing the Method for Cutting or Docking Intails of Small Estates", was commanded that by good and lawful men of the County of Chowan aforesaid, he should diligently inquire if it might be to the damage or prejudice of our said said Lord the King or others, if the aforesaid of our said Lord the King or others, if the aforesaid Thomas Bonner, should sell the aforesaid three hundred and twenty acres of land, situate, lying and being in Saint Paul's Parish in the County of Chowan within the province of North Carolina aforesaid, whereof the said Thomas Bonner was seized as Tenant in Eutail, by the Last Will & Testament of the aforesaid Henry Bonner, deceased, and if to the damage or prejudice and to what prejuduces or damage of others, and of what value the said land with the improvements thereon made is in good lawful money of the Kingdom of Great Britain and whether the same be parcel or contiguious to other lands whereof the said Thomas Bonner or seized as tenant infutail and that the said Sheriff of Chowan should send the Inquisition thereof, distinctly and firmly made into the Secretary's Office of the province of North Carolina under the said Sheriff's Hand and Seal and the hands and seals of those whom the said Sheriff should made such Inquisition without delay.

AND WHEREAS in pursuance of the writ in nature of, Ad Quod Damnam aforesaid and of the Act of Assembly aforesaid an inquisition hath been made on the plantation of the

said Thomas Bonner, Junior.

AND, Samuel McGuire, Moses Blanchard, Thomas Bauhus, Joseph Rodgers, William Simpson, Thomas Ellis, Charles Jordan, John Simpson, Micajah Chappel, Thomas Gooding, Martin Hurdle, Zebulon Mansfield, William Spivey, William Munns, and John Padgett having been duly summoned, returned and qualified according to the direction of the Act of Assembly, aforesaid did value the said land in the writ, in the nature of ad quod damnum aforesaid mentioned to the sum of Forty five pounds Sterling money of Great Britian and likewise did further on their oaths say, that the said land was not contiguous to other intailed lands as by the said last will and testament of the said Henry Bonner, Writ in Nature of an Ad quod damnum and inquisition so made in consequence thereof, none remaining of record in the Secretary's Office of the province aforesaid relation thereto being had more fully at large the same may and doth appear.

Now this indenture witnesseth that the said Thomas Bonner, junior and Margaret his wife in pursurance of the act aforesaid, impowering the said Thomas Bonner, junior to dock the estate tail aforesaid and of the below recited proceeding directed and injoyned by the aforesaid acts and also for and in consideration of the sum of Forty five pounds lawful money of Great Britain to him the said Thomas Bonner, junior and Margaret his wife in hand well and truly paid by the said Thomas Jones at and before the ensealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof the said Thomas Bonner, junior and Margaret his wife do hereby acknowledge and consess and thereof & therefrom do acquit exonerate and discharge the said Thomas Jones his heirs executors and administrators forever by these presents have granted bargained sold aliened and confirmed and by these presents do grant bargain sell alien and confirm unto the said Thomas Jones his heirs and assigns forever; all that before mentioned Three Hundred and twenty acres of land situate lying and being in Saint Paul's Parish in Chowan County as aforesaid be the same more or less and bounded as aforesaid with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appurtaining.

To have and to hold the aforesaid Three Hundred and twenty acres of land with all and singular the appurtenances thereunto belonging unto the said Thomas Jones his heirs and assigns forever unto the only proper use and behoof (behalf) of the said Thomas Jones

his heirs and assigns forever.

In witness whereof the said Thomas Bonner, junior and Margaret his wife have hereunto Set their Hands and Seals the day and year first within mentioned.

Signed, Sealed and delivered in the presence of us - Thomas Bonner

Thomas (Seal) Bonner, junior

Jimmy Walton Thomas Benbury Henry Thompson

Received the Nineth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty nine the full and just sum of Forty five pounds good and lawfull money of Great Britain being the full consideration money within mentioned.

Witness:

Thomas Bonner Jimmy Walton Thomas Benbury Henry Thompson

Thomas Bonner, Junior

Chowan County

I John Hodgson, Esquire, one of the Members of the Inferior Court of the said County being appointed by the said Court privily to examine the written named Margaret, the wife of Thomas Bonner, junior whether she the said Margaret doth fully acknowledge the within Deed and voluntarily assent thereto;

Do Certify that upon such examination taken agreeable to the Direction of the severall acts of assembly, in such case made the said Margaret did declare that she did freely acknowledge the same and voluntarily assented thereto.

Given under my Hand and Seal the twenty third day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy.

John Hodgson (Seal)

North Carolina

Chowan County - March Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions 1770 Present: His Majestys Justices

Deed of Bargain and Sale under the Act of Assembly of the province of North Carolina for Docking Futails of Small Estates from Thomas Bonner, junior and Margaret his wife to Thomas Jones was duly acknowledged by the said Thomas Bonner, junior and Margaret his wife to be their Act and Deed in Open Court and ordered to be Registered.

Test: Thomas Jones, Clerk Current

Joseph Hewes Cullen Pollock Thomas Bonner William Boyd

Registered 7th April 1770 (by) Alexander Gellatly, Regr.

The following Deed is on file in Book O - 1, page 217 and 218 at the Court House in Edenton,  $N.\ C.$ 

Thomas Bonner Junior and Margaret his wife

to

DEED

Thomas Jones

North Carolina - This indenture made the Nineth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty nine between Thomas Bonner, Junior, Planter, and Margaret his wife of the Parish of Saint Paul in the County of Chowan within the province of North Carolina of the one part and Thomas Jones of Edenton in the Province of North Carolina Attorney-at-law of the other part.

Witnesseth that the said Thomas Bonner for and in consideration of the sum of

Forty five pounds good and lawfull money of the Kingdom of Great Britain to him in hand paid by the said Thomas Jones at and before the ensealing and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof the said Thomas Bonner hath granted ... unto the said Thomas Jones his heirs and assigns forever all that tract or parcell of land situate lying and being in the Parish of Saint Paul in the County of Chowan within the province of North Carolina;

Beginning at a Red Oak on Poplar Branch joining the land commonly known as Cleland's now in the possession of James Luten's heirs then down the said Poplar Branch to Mattacomack Creek then down the various courses of the said Creek to John Henley's line, so up his line to Thomas Jones (formerly Clement Hall's) line to a corner Gum, so along the partition between Thomas Bonner and Thomas Jones to the first station, being the land his father, Mr. Henry Bonner lived on during on during his lifetime, containing by estimation Three Hundred and Twenty acres of land ...

In witness whereof the said Thomas Bonner, junior and the said Margaret have hereunto Sett their Hands & Seals, the day and year first written within.

Signed, sealed and delivered

in the presence of us, Thomas Bonner Jimmy Walton Thomas Benbury

Henry Thompson

Thomas (Seal) Bonner Margaret (Seal) Bonner

Received the Nineth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty nine the full and just sum of Forty Five pounds good and lawfull money of Great Britain being the full consideration money within mentioned.

Witness: Thomas Bonner

Jimmy Walton

Thomas Bonner, Junior

Thomas Benbury

Chowan County - I John Hodgson, Esquire, one of the Members of the Inferior Court of the said County, being appointed by the said Court privily to examine the within named Margaret, wife of Thomas Bonner, Junior whether she the said Margaret doth freely acknowledge the within Deed and voluntarily apert thereto;

Do certify that upon examination taken agreeable to the divations of the several acts of assembly in such case made the said Margaret did declare that she did fully acknowledge the same voluntarily assigned thereto.

Given under my Hand & Seal the twenty third day of March in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy.

John Hodgson (Seal)

North Carolina

Chowan County March Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Session 1770.

Present: His Majestys Justices

Deed of Bargain & Sale from Thomas Bonner, Junior and Margaret his wife to Thomas Jones was duly acknowledged by the said Thomas Bonner, Junior and Margaret his wife to be their act and deed, in open court and ordered to be registered.

Witness: Joseph Hewes

Cullen Pollock Thomas Bonner William Boyd

Test: Thomas Jones, Clerk Current

Registered: 21st May 1770, Alexander Gellatly, Regr.

The below Deed is on file in Deed Book P - 1, pages 7 and 8 at the Chowan County Court House in Edenton, N. C.

Thomas Bonner, Junior & Others to Joseph Blount

DEED

North Carolina -

This indenture made the twenty first day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy between Thomas Bonner, Junior and Margaret his wife, and William Roberts and Elizabeth his wife, of Chowan County of the part of the first part and Joseph Blount of Edenton in the County aforesaid of the other part.

Witnesseth that the said Thomas Bonner, Junior and Margaret his wife and William Roberts and Elizabeth his wife for and in consideration of the sum of four hundred pounds proclamation money to the said Thomas Bonner, Junior doth hereby acknowledge and thereof in hand paid before the ensealing and delivery of the presents by the said Joseph Blount as the receipt whereof the said Thomas Bonner, Junior acknowledges and thereof and of every part and parcel thereof doth hereby acquitt, esonate, and discharge the said Joseph Blount his heirs executors and administrators and assign and every one of them by these presents forever hath given grant bargain \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_, empowers, \_\_\_\_, by these presents doth give grant bargain \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_, unto the said Joseph Blount his heirs and assigns forever all that tract or parcel of land containing eight hundred thirty acres more or less the said Thomas Bonner, Junior now dwells situate and being in Green Hall and known by the name of Turkey Neck being all the land that was given to William Bonner, brother of the said Thomas Bonner by their father, Henry Bonner's will bearing the date the Seventh day of July one thousand seven hundred and sixty-six may more fully appear which said land fell to the said Thomas Bonner, Junior as Heir-at-Law by the death of the said William Bonner, the said Joseph Blount to have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land and singular the \_?\_\_ hereby bargain and sold with their appurtenance to him and the said Joseph Blount his heirs and assigns forever the said Thomas Bonner, Junior and Margaret his wife and William Roberts and Elizabeth his wife doth hereby grant for themselves and their heirs that they the said Thomas Bonner, Junior and Margaret his wife and William Roberts and Elizabeth his wife the said tract or parcel of land above bargained and sold and all and singular the appurtenances unto the said Joseph Blount his heirs and assigns against them the said Thomas Bonner, Junior and Margaret his wife, and William Roberts and Elizabeth his wife and their heirs and assigns and against all and every person or persons whatsoever shall and will warrant and forever defense by these presents and that the said tract of land is Free and clear of all encumberances whatsoever quitt rents excepted.

In witness whereof the said Thomas Bonner, Junior and Margaret his wife, and William Roberts and Elizabeth his wife, have hereunto set their Hands and Seals the day and year first above written.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of; Henry Thompson John Payton, jurist

Thomas Bonner, Junior (Seal)
Margaret Bonner (Seal)
William Roberts (Seal)
her
Elizabeth X Roberts
mark

Test: Rob Hardy, Clerk of Court Received the twenty first day of September 1770 from Joseph Blount the sum of four hundred pounds proclamation money being the consideration money within mentioned; by me, Thomas Bonner, junior.

Witness: Henry Thompson John Payton Rob Hardy

Chowan County - I, Robert Hardy, Esquire, one of the members of the Inferior Court of the said County being appointed by the Court privately to examine Elizabeth Roberts within named the wife of William Roberts doth fully acknowledged the within deed and voluntarily assents thereto; Do Certify that upon such examination \_?\_\_ agreeable to the several Acts of Assembly in such canonade, the said Elizabeth did declare that she did fully acknowledge the same and voluntarily asserts thereto.

Given under my Hand and Seal the twenty first day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy.

### Rob Hardy

Edenton - 29th October 1771, Margaret Bonner one of the within subscribers being in open court appeared and acknowledged the within is a true account to be her Act and Deed she being privately examined according to law. Let it be Registered.

Test: M. Howard, Clerk Current Registered, 3 December 1771 (by) Alexander Gellatly, Regr.

The above document was published on 21 September 1770 and it mentions the death of William Bonner, a brother of Thomas Bonner (Junior). However just fourteen months earlier William Bonner was given possession of the same plantation that Thomas Bonner is now listed as living on. Remember that Elizabeth Roberts was the widow of Henry Bonner (died summer of 1766). It would be interesting to know if the above Joseph Blount was the same man who married Lydia Bonner, daughter of Thomas Bonner, Sr., in 1775.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The following document can be found in the Register of Deeds Office at the Perquimans County Court House in Hertford, North Carolina. The deed book number is not listed because when this document was located it was not thought to be significant to the history of Thomas Bonner (Jr.). As it turns out it was probably the last real estate Deed of Sale signed by Thomas and Margaret Bonner prior to their move to South Carolina. It was the same plantation that his uncle, Thomas Bonner (Senior) had purchased in 1752. As previously stated it is not known what year Thomas and Margaret Bonner took possession of the plantation.

Bonner to Branch

This indenture made this twenty fourth of April one thousand seven hundred and seventy five between Thomas Bonner, Junior of the County of Chowan and Julius Branch of Perquimans County and province aforesaid of the other part.

Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of two hundred and forty five pounds proclamation money ... Sell unto the said Julius Branch his heirs and assigns all that mesuage tract of land lying and being in the County of Perquimans aforesaid on the North Side of Yeopin River bounded, as follows;

Beginning at a Red Oak by the River thence No twenty one degrees East one hundred and fifty poles to a Pine Tree thence South twenty one degrees West three hundred and twenty eight poles to a Gum by the Swamp of the River thence to the first station containing by estimation three hundred acres be the same more or less ....

Thereunto belonging or anyways appertaining together with all buildings, house, orchards, meadows, pastures, ponds, and springs of water ...

In testimony, I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal the day and the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered

in the presence of,

Thomas Bonner, Junior (Seal)

Josiah White

Nazareth bunch

Solomon Bunch

Margaret Bonner the wife of Thomas Bonner doth by these presents freely and willingly give, yielded up and surrenders all her rights of Dowry and forever of thirds and to the above devised premises unto him the said Julius Branch.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Affixed my Seal this 15th day of June 1775.

Witness:

Margaret Bonner (Seal)

Josiah White Nazareth Bunch

Solomon Bunch

Perquimans County, July Inferior Court 1775

Present: His Majestys Justices

This certifies that the within Deed of Sale of land from Thomas and Margaret Bonner to Julius Branch was proved in Court by the affirmation of Josiah White and on motion ordered to be registered.

Test: Miles Harvey, Clerk Inferior Court

Registered in the Registering Office of Perquimans the 1st day of June 1776.

Test: Thomas Harvey, Regr.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I thought it ironic that the last document I found in Chowan County about the Thomas Bonner family would be the one that made the legal connection that he was the same Thomas Bonner of Clarke County, Georgia. I was in possession of the document for over two years and could not figure out how it fit into the family. It was only after I located a distant cousin, who lives in Stonewall, Mississippi, a descendant of Jordan Bonner, and corresponded with him about Thomas Bonner (died 1804) did the name of the unknown Bonner girl who married Richard Vanderford become known. When that name was known the below document became priceless. God only knows what caused Thomas Bonner to buy a slave girl for his daughter Deborah (she was under the age of six) but he did and because of that sale the family connection was made.

The below document can be found in the Register of Deeds Office in the Chowan County Court House in Edenton, North Carolina in Deed Book Q, page 243.

John Lewis to Deborah Bonner

### **DEED OF SALE**

NORTH CAROLINA - Know all men by these presents that I, John Lewis of Chowan County and Province aforesaid, Planter, for and in consideration of the sum of Thirty Pounds proclamation money to me in hand paid by Deborah Bonner, daughter of Thomas Bonner, Junior, of the County and province aforesaid, Planter, whereof I do hereby acknowledge the receipt and myself therewith satisfied, have bargained and sold and delivered unto the said Deborah Bonner, she, her heirs, executors, admins, or assigns One Negroe girl called Rose and I the said John Lewis for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assign against all and all manner of persons shall warrant and forever defend by these presents.

IN WITNESS where I have hereunto set my Hand & Seal this 20th day of March 1776.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of us, (No names listed)

John Lewis (Seal)

Received the day and date within mentioned the sum of Thirty Pounds proclamation money in full for a Negroe girl called Rose, witness my hand.

John Lewis

NORTH CAROLINA

Chowan County, March Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Session 1776.

Present: His Majestys Justices

Deed of Sale of a Negroe Girl from John Lewis to Deborah Bonner, daughter of Thomas Bonner, Junior was acknowledged in open court according to law; Ordered to be Registered.

Test: Thomas Jones, Clerk Current

Registered 30th May 1776 (by) Alexander Gellalty, Regr.

Exactly when Thomas Bonner moved his family to South Carolina is not documented. However, it stands to reason that they were in South Carolina and established on a plantation, or living with a relative by 1778. It does not made sense that they would purposely travel with Margaret with child. It is well documented that two of their children (Thomas and Mary Elizabeth, probably twins) were born in South Carolina in 1779. It has been suggested that the Bonners lived in Upper South Carolina in the Spartanburg District. (So far there is no evidence as to exactly where they lived or with whom in South Carolina).

That premise was made because Thomas Bonner served in Colonel Benjamin Roebuck's Regiment during the Revolution. The regiment that was formed primarily in Upper South Carolina. The evidence suggests that Thomas may have moved to Upper South Carolina may be true because it a fact that a grandson of (Sheriff) Thomas Bonner of Beaufort County, North Carolina, Benjamin Bonner, lived on a plantation near the present Town of Gaffney, South Carolina. When Thomas Bonner (died 1804) received bounty land in 1785, his land was located on the Cherokee Creek and Broad River just north of the present Town of Gaffney, S. C. This fact coupled with the fact that when Jordan Bonner,

the elder son of Thomas Bonner (died 1804) settled in western Alabama near Toxey, grandsons of Benjamin Bonner (of Gaffney, S. C.) settled in Gilbertown, Alabama just three miles from Toxey. Was it coincidence they settled so close to each other or was it kinship?

Remainder of page left blank for notes:

Thomas Bonner (died 1804) served in the American Revolutionary War while a resident of South Carolina. The following can be found in the Archives in Columbia, South Carolina.

"On 18 July 178\_, (blurred but thought to be 1784). Thomas Bonner, for Militia duty, since the Fall of Charleston in Roebuck's Regiment of Anderson's Return". At the top of the document is "no. 11 A", and "#3369".

It has been suggested that he may have been captured during the Fall of Charleston by the British. If so, he may have been a member of another unit and joined Roebuck's after he was released by or escaped from the British.

For rendering patriotic service to his country Thomas Bonner was granted bounty in the northeastern section of South Carolina north of the present City of Spartanburg just below the North Carolina state line. From the State Archives of South Carolina is the following:

"On 4th September 1784, Thomas Bonner was granted 140 acres of land in the district of Ninety-Six east of the Old Boundary on both sides of Cherokee Creek of Broad River."

"On 4th September 1784, Thomas Bonner was granted (for 3 pounds 10 shillings) a tract of 150 acres of land situate in the District of Ninety-Six on both sides of a branch of Cherokee Creek on waters of Broad River".

In (Deed Book B, pages 3 & 7), as published in, "Spartanburg County/District of South Carolina, Deed Abstracts", on page 13, by Pruitt, the following is found:

"4 December 1785, Thomas Bonner (Spartanburg) to Vardrey McBee; Power-of-Attorney to convey 2 tracts of land to William Tate, Esq., in fee simple; first tract 150 acres and second tract 144 acres; land is on Cherokee Creek and South side of Broad River; both were granted to Thomas Bonner. Witness: William Tate, Sr.; Thomas Camp; and William Tate. Signed: Thomas Bonner".

In the same reference as shown above is the following:

"16 June 1787. Thomas Bonner (formerly of South Carolina now Georgia) to William Tate, Senior, Esquire (Spartanburg); for 100 pounds Sterling sold 150 acres on both sides Cherokee Creek waters of Broad River. Granted 1 May 1786. Witness: Ola Trimmer and J. Thomson. Signed: Thomas Bonner by Attorney Vardrey McBee".

In the same reference as shown above is the following:

"16 June 1787. Thomas Bonner (formerly of South Carolina now Georgia) to William Tate, Senior, Esquire (Spartanburg); for 60 pounds Sterling sold 143 acres on both sides of Cherokee Creek waters of Broad River; granted 1 May 1786. Witness: Ola Trimmer and J. Thomson. Signed: Thomas Bonner by Attorney Vardrey McBee".

Vardrey McBee was a Captain in Roebuck's Regiment. He probably was a Company Commander and Thomas Bonner, a soldier, was probably in Captain Vardrey's unit.

The above documents show that by June 1787 Thomas Bonner was calling Georgia his home.

In the publication, "Some Georgia County Records, Volume 2, extracted from Greene County, Georgia, Deed Book 1, page 233", can be found the following:

"15 October 1789. Robert Flournoy of Wilkes County to **Thomas Bonner of Greene County** for 500 pounds, 200 acres in Washington County now Greene on the South side of Powell's Creek bounded South by Benjamin Gilbert & said Flournoy, West by Hardwick, North by said Bonner and partially by Robert Flournoy. Signed: R. Flournoy. Witness: Leaven Maddux; **Zadock Bonner**; **Juedan Bonner**. Proved by Jurdan Bonner 18 March 1791 before Michael Rogers, J. P. Registered: 20 July 1792".

Thomas Bonner, who was born at Green Hall in Chowan County, North Carolian died in Clarke County, Georgia on 30 December 1804. He died without a Last, Will and Testament which makes one believe that he thought he was in good health. He died very much in debt and if he thought his health was bad he would have made arrangements to dispose of his estate in the event of his death. Remember that he came from a family of attorneys.

The following four documents can be found in the State Archives in Atlanta, Georgia.

STATE OF GEORGIA Clarke County

Know all men by these presents that we, Jordan Bonner, Zadock Bonner, Phillip Allen, G. (Gabriel) Hubert are held & firmly bound unto their Honors the Judges of the Court of Ordinary for the said County & their successors in office in the just & full sum of <u>Fifteen Thousand and None Dollars</u> for the payment of which sum the said Judges & their successors in office we bind ourselves our Heirs, Executors, and Administrators in the whole & for the whole sum jointly & severaly firmly by these presents sealed with our Seals and dated this fifteenth day of February 1805.

THE CONDITION of the above obligation is such that if the above bound Jordan Bonner & Zadock Bonner Administrators of the goods Chattals & Credits of Thomas Bonner - late of this County, deceased, do make a true & perfect inventory of all & singular chattals & credits of said deceased which have or shall come to the hands possessions of said Jordan & Zadock or into the hands possession of any other person or persons for ? & the same so made do ecibet into the said Court of Ordinary when they shall be thereunto required & such goods & chattals do well & truly administer according to law & do make a just account of their acting & doing therein when they shall be thereunto required by the said Court of Ordinary for said County & all the rest of the goods chattals & credits which shall be found remaining upon account of the said Administration the same being first allowed of by the said court shall deliver & pay to such person or persons respectfully as are in(s)tilled to the same by law & if it shall hereafter appear that any Last Will & Testament was made by the deceased & the same proved before the Court & the Executors obtain certificate of the probate thereof & the said Jordan Bonner & Zadock Bonner do in case if required ? deliver up the said Letters of Administration then this obligation to be null & void.

Signed, sealed & acknowledged in Open Court.

Registered: C. Smith, CCO

Jordan Bonner Zadock Bonner Phillip Allen G. Hubert

The above G. Hubert was Gabriel Hubert, who would later become the father-in-law of Josiah Bonner. 

GEORGIA Clarke County

We the undersigned Heirs and distributors of Thomas Bonner, late of this County, deceased, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that we are willing & desirous that the Honorable Inferior Court should make an order for the sales of, at public auction, one of the following tracts of land to wit; one containing one hundred and twenty three & a half acres on the waters of the Appalachia River and one tract containing fifty acres having a grist mill thereon -- both tracts granted to David Meriwether; according to the provisions of the act in such case made and provided, for the benefit of the heirs and creditors of the said deceased.

Signed: Jurden Bonner, Admr. Zadock Bonner, Admr. Edmund Duke, Jr. Thomas Bonner Richard Vanderford Whitmel Bonner Allen Bonner

The other sons of Thomas Bonner, deceased, Josiah, Willis and Daniel are not listed because they were under the age of majority.

**GEORGIA** Clarke County

To the Honorable the Justices of the Inferior Clarke County Court;

The petition of Jordan Bonner and Zadock Bonner, rightfully showeth that they were duly appointed Administrators of the goods & chattals rights and credits which were of Thomas Bonner, late of this county, deceased, was considerably in debt, and that your petitioners have not been able or yet to make enough out of the personal estate to discharge the said debt; that your petitioners concur it would be advantageous to all interested in the said estate, to have the lands property sold according to the provisions of the act in such case made & provided, that they have preparatory and with a view to this application already advertised a notice for nine months in one of the publick Gazattes of this State; that all the heirs and distributors of the said Thomas, deceased, as aforesaid, who have arrived at the year of manhood, have signified their assent and which is herewith presented to the Honorable Court & therefore your petitioners pray that your Honors will made an order enabling us the Administrators to dispose of the lands described in the said Advertisement, to wit; One hundred and twenty three and a half acres lying on the waters of the Applachia granted to David Meriwether adjoining Zadock Bonner & Thomas Bonner; and fifty acres of land on the River Appalachia having a grist mill thereon, adjoining Allen Bonner & others at Publick auction for the benefits of the heirs and creditors of the said deceased. And your petitioners are in duty bound with ever pray, &c.

(Signed)

Jordan & Zadock Bonner

GEORGIA
Clarke County - Inferior Court

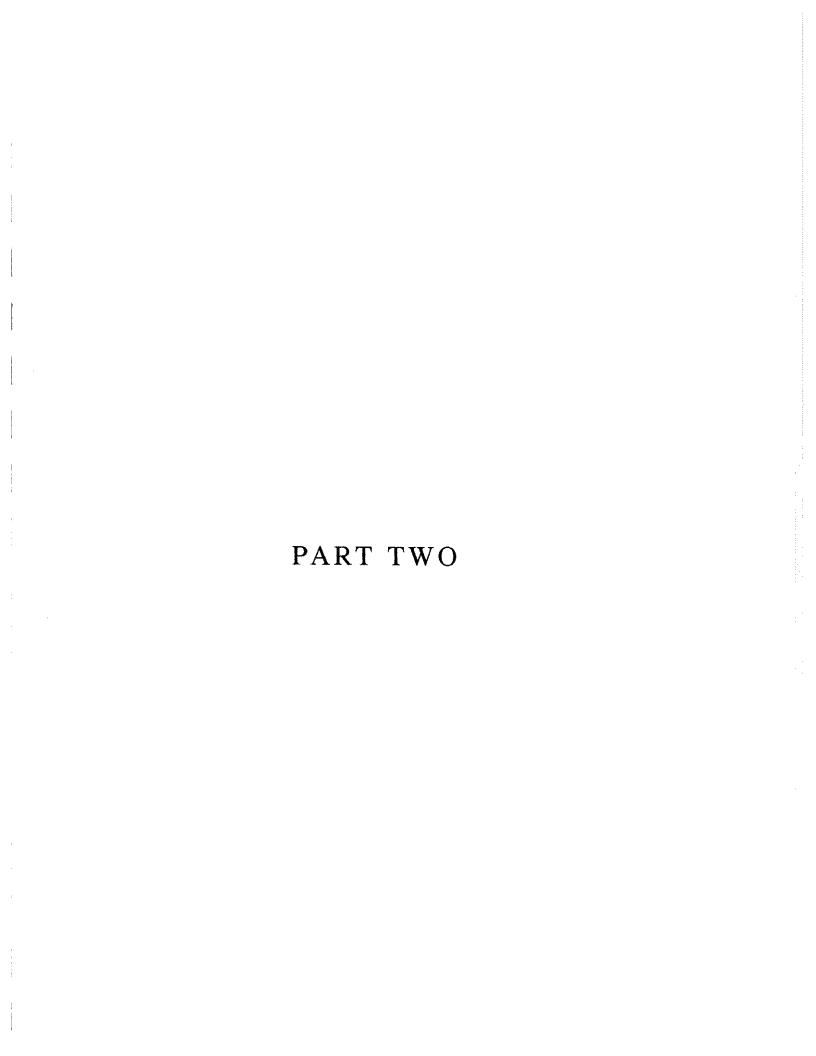
On the petition of Jordan Bonner and Zadock Bonner, Administrators of good &c of Thomas Bonner, deceased, stating that it would be advantageous to the Heirs & Creditors of the said deceased, to dispose of by publick auction two tracts of land belonging to the said estate, to wit; One tract containing one hundred and twenty three and a half acres lying and being on the waters of the River Appalachia, also one tract containing fifty acres having a grist mill thereon on the said River, both tracts granted to David Meriwether and as appearing to the court from the assent of the major part of the Heirs and Representatives and their \_\_?\_\_ exhibitors that such sale would be beneficial for the Heirs & Creditors of the said deceased.

It is ordered that the said tracts of land above mentioned be by the said Administrators sold at publick auction, for the benefits of the Heirs & Creditors, according to the Provisions & terms of the Act in such case made and provided.

William Strong, Inferior Justice John Floyd

Note - At public auction on 10 September 1806 Jordan Bonner purchased the above 123-1/2 acres of land for \$340.00. Richard Vanderford purchased the 50 acre tract with the grist mill for \$1,010.00 on 12 months credit.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*jlb\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*



# MIGRATION PATTERN OF THE DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS BONNER

### A FAMILY HISTORY

by JAMES C. BONNER

THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE OF GEORGIA
(Now)
GEORGIA COLLEGE
MILLEDGEVILLE, GEORGIA

Copyright, 1964

(Revisions of this work Copyrighted, 1995 by JOHN WESLEY CURRY First Lieutenant United States Marine Corps (Retired) This study began more then forty years before it appeared in its present form. At that time the only purpose was to satisfy my own curiousty about who these people were and where they came from. My principal source of information consisted of oral and written communications from older people that I had known.

Beginning about 1935 I began a serious study of history and subsequently acquired two graduate degrees in this field of knowledge. The research necessary for writing several historical books and monographs gave me a more mature concept of family history than I would have acquired otherwise. I tended to agree with Thomas Carlyle's statement that "history is the essence of innumerable biographies". While the biographies given here are only thumbnail sketches and they generally do not go beyond the nineteenth century, their total impact on the imagination transcends mere personal and local interest.

Historical research has taken me to dozens of libraries throughout the Southeast and sent me delving into numerous archival holdings where I continued to collect notes on family history, but often in a somewhat desultory manner, to be sure. In the meantime I acquired the unofficial status of family historian. This entailed a responsibility to answer as graciously as possible many queries which came to my desk. To conserve my time for more productive pursuits, I decided to assemble the principal substance of my data in this form for distribution. I have found it necessary to make a small charge to cover the cost of production. Only 150 copies of this brochure have been produced, of which this is Copy Number 62.

James C. Bonner
Professor of History
Women's College of Georgia
Milledgeville, Georgia
June, 1964

(Note - James C. Bonner, Ph.D. was born in 1904 and passed away in 1984)

### CHAPTER I

### BACKGROUND AND EARLY MIGRATIONS, 1066 - 1776

The family name of Bonner is of Norman-English origin. The original bearers of the name probably came to Britain during the Norman Conquest in the eleventh century. The name appears in France as Bonheur and Bonnaire, the former word meaning "good hour" and the latter meaning "of good manners" or "good disposition". The stem of the word, Bon, is from the latin "bonus" which means good, gratitous, or kind. The word is quite common throughout western Europe. Bonn, which is the present capital of the West German Republic, is one of many examples. The name Bonner is frequently found in English history and literature. Representatives of the family are numerous today in France, Germany, England, and Northern Ireland as well as in America and the British Dominions.

An English geneologist, Jerome A. Ringrose, has given what is perhaps a reliable history of the Bonner name in England. According to this authority, the most remote ancestor of the English Bonners was Quentin de Riddell, ancestor of the noble house of Buchanan-Riddell. It was Quentin de Riddell who first bore the ensign of Bonner and from whom descended the noted Bishop Edmund Bonner of the Middle Tudor period.

There are several charters in the house of Riddell dated in the Reign of Henry VIII wherein the same persons are called Riddell in the body of the document and Bonnaire (Bonner) in the margin. When two families bear the same coat-of-arms as was the case of Riddell and Bonner, the younger family (which in this case was Bonner) in all probability, descended from the older. Immediately after the death of Bishop Bonner, we find his cousin, William Bonner, of Banbury, Oxfordshire, Clerk in Holy Orders, fighting in the courts for his interest in certain estates acquired by purchase from the bishop. This William Bonner married Alice Gorham of Glapthorne (1568) and resided chiefly at "Elmsmere", a splendid mansion in the Parish of the Blessed Mary of Bow, in Cheapeward, London. William Bonner came off victorious at the Lord Mayor's courts and held this splendid estate at a time when he was the younger son of an illustrious but impoverished family, and the property eventually passed by marriage to George Lennard, of Stratfield Bay, in Hampshire.

Reverend Anthony Bonner, brother of William, bore a son, Anthony, whose son Anthony was born at Quinton in Gloucestershire, having married Marian Vaughan. Their children were Richard (born in 1615); Thomas (born in 1617); and Ellen (born in 1624). Thomas apparently had no children and Ellen married Honorable Edward Wells. By this time, most of the Bonners renounced Catholicism and had embraced the Protestant faith.

Richard Bonner, the elder son of Anthony and Marian (Vaughn) Bonner who was born at Quinton in 1615 had long been absent from the Gloucestershire home of the Bonners at the death of his wealthy cousin, Thomas Coombe for Richard had left England for Virginia at the age of 20 and arrived in James City in March 1636. He married there and had considerable issue.

William Bonner of Elmsmere had a son, John Bonner who resided at Kinckley, in Leicesters, at the time of his father's death. He married Mary Walker at the Parish Church of Hinckley in 1607 and he left six sons and four daughters. One of these, Michael Bonner, married Alice Wilson, at Howby in 1629. Joseph Bonner, another son married one of the MacDonalds of Hinckley. John's brother, Thomas Bonner, also married at Hinckley, Anne Botfish of Sheasley and they had several children.

Joseph's eldest son, John, married Mary Burton at Hinckley in 1699 and they had 12 sons and several daughters. Of this issue one son, "Richard Bonner of Hinckley, Gentleman, was married in 1719 to Anne Taylor at the near-by Church of All-Saints, Leicestershire, and he was the father of Captain John Bonner.

Returning again to the main stem of the family, we find that Anthony Bonner, the elder (mentioned above as brother of William Bonner), had a brother who formed a most illustrious alliance with the Tates of De la Pre Abbey, he having married Elizabeth (daughter of William Tate) who was born in 1671 at this historic Northhamptonshire Mansion. She was then a co-heiress and direct descendant of the noble house of Tate.

Sir Bartholomew Tate who received the honor of knighthood from Henry VIII was the original purchaser of the monastery lands of De la Pre Abbey in the County of Northampton. His grandson, Sir William, married in 1597 Elizabeth the eldest daughter and heiress of Edward, the eleventh and last Baron Zouche of Haryngworth. The Zouche family was descended in the whole line fron the Sovereign Princes of Brittany, a fact which gives the American House of Bonner, a royal descent. On the south side of the chancel at Hardingstone there today is an altar tomb probably in memory of the late Sir William Tate, who is known to have left fifty pounds for the creation of such a structure. This tomb has a canopy surmounted by a crest. The arms are now almost obliterated, but are unmistakably that of Bonner.

The Bonners arrived early on the American continent. One of the better known of the early immigrants came to Boston in 1678 and later settled at Cambridge, about 1697. He was Captain John Bonner (born 1642), the son of John Bonner of London. Captain John Bonner married Mary Clark (second marriage) who died in 1697. In 1705, he sold his house in Cambridge and moved back to Boston where he died on January 30, 1725 at the age of 83 years. He is buried in the Old Granary Burying Ground in Boston and the coat-of-arms found on his tomb bears the following description:

Quarterly gules and sable, a cross pattee quarterly ermine and ox. On a chief of the last a demi-rose streaming rays between two pelicans vulning themselves of the first. Crest - A talbot's head argent, collared azure. Studded edged and ringed or.

Motto: Semper Fidelis (Ever Faithful).

The obituary of John Bonner, written at the time of his death, depicts him as "A gentleman very skillful and ingenious in many arts and sciences, especially in navigation, drawing, moulding of ships, etc., one of the best acquainted of coasts of North America of any of his time, of great knowledge and judgement of marine affairs, was very much consulted, relied upon by the governments as principal pilot of our marine expeditions and with diligent care and faithfullness discharged his trust". By his second wife, who was a daughter of the famous Elder Clark of Cambridge, he had several children, but a son and a daughter only survived him. His children were: Jane (died 1686); Jonah (died 1687); Mary (1668 - 1699) and Jane apparently named for her older sister who had died. The second Jane was born May 2, 1691 and later went to London. Other children were: John, born December 6, 1693 who was baptisted in Boston but also went to London. Sarah (died December 2, 1721) and Thomas born in Cambridge on January 6, 1695 and was buried in South Carolina where he died June 3, 1719, at age 24.

The presence of members of the Bonner family in various other American colonies prior to the to the Revolution is evidenced by numerous records. One of these is an Old English document, dated March 1636, which mentions Richard Bonner, "belonging unto the

Friendshippe of London att Ankere in the Themes bound for Vergenia". Again, in 1623, James Bonner, aged 20, arrived in "Charles Cittie" in the Truelove. On the passenger list of the port of London for the year 1635 is the name of John Bonner, age 18, as among those bound for the Barbados in the Expedition. The record further states that "The men have taken the oaths of allegeance and supremacie, and have been examined by the Minister of the Towns of Gravesend touching their Conformity to the Orders of Discipline of the Church of England". This may be the same John Bonner whose arrival in Virginia was mentioned is another document, dated 1638. Others arriving at various times were Thomas (in 1638); Henry Bonner, his wife and two children (in 1664) and another Richard Bonner who arrived in 1643.

There is a legend concerning the Bonner family in America which traces the American branch to three brothers - James, Richard and Robert - who arrived early in the 17th century. They were said to have established a home on the banks of the James River where Robert, according to the legend, was drowned within a year or two of his arrival when a boat loaded with salt capsized in a storm on the river. Richard and James married and left issue. This "three brothers" tradition, so common in American genealogy, is completely without historical validity. All documentary evidence indicates that the original imigrants of this name were quite numerous; they settled in more than one of the colonies, and they arrived in America at various periods throughout the first two centuries of its history.

After the Revolutionary War, which officially ended in 1783, there was a marked decrease in the number of representatives of this family who arrived in America from England. In keeping with the general pattern of American immigration, many of the post-Revolution Bonner emigrants came from countries other than England. One of these was Robert Bonner who was born at Rambleton near Londonderry in North Ireland on April 28, 1824, son of Andrew and Marian Russell Bonner of Scotch-Irish descent. He came to the United States in 1839 and settled at Hartford, Connecticut following an uncle who had arrived earlier. He later moved to New York in 1844 where he owned and published the New York Ledger and became the owner of famous racing horses. One of the organizers of the Scotch-Irish Society in America. Robert Bonner died in 1899. He had three sons, Robert E., Frederick, and Allen. This family is said to be related to the Bonners who migrated to America at an earlier date. Robert Bonner, the editor was host to some of the Carroll County, Georgia, Bonners who visited him in New York in the latter half of the nineteenth century. However, no documentary evidence has been found to establish the exact kinship between these two branches of the family.

The fact that Robert Bonner was a nationally known figure in the period before and immediately following the Civil War and that he was known to have come to America from Ulster in the North of Ireland has given force to a strong tradition that the Bonners of Carroll County are of Irish or Scotch-Irish origin. However, the facts indicate that the family is by and large of English and Norman descent, including those who came to America directly from North Ireland. The presence of the Bonners in North Ireland can be traced from the middle of the 17th century when Thomas Bonner, an Englishman, acquired by Royal grant a considerable estate in Ulster (under the Act of 17 Charles I, Chapter 33, A.D. 1642). This Thomas Bonner was the forerunner of a very considerable clan in the north of Ireland, men whom the native Irish looked upon as interlopers and exploiters and whom they opposed by every means within their power.

The so-called Scotch-Irish were lowland Scotch who were encouraged to settle in Ulster, in addition to a few Welshmen and Englishmen. Those who came to America of

English extraction often were younger sons of noblemen. The term "Scotch-Irish" did not come into general use until around 1820 when it was used to distinguish this group from the Catholic Irish who were of Celtic origin. After 1820 the latter began to arrive in America in large numbers from southern Ireland. Up to this time the Scots, Welsh, and English living in Ireland called themselves Irish. These facts help to explain the confusion which ofter has arisen concerning the national origin of many American families among which is the Bonner family.

All of the families in the United States by the name of Bonner are perhaps distantly related, with the possible exception of members of the Pennsylvania branch who appear to be of German origin. For example, among the list of German passengers on the Loyal Judith arriving in the Pennsylvania colony on November 25, 1740, is the name "Casspar Boner, age 20 from the Palatine". Elsewhere the name was written possibly by an English speaking clerk as Jasper Bonner, thus illustrating an early anglicizing of the German spelling. Rudolph Bonner, also from the German Palatinate, arrived in Philadelphia in 1732 on board the Johnson Galley. Adam Bonner, age 40, was among the German Protestants arriving in South Carolina in 1765. Arriving at approximately the same time was William Bonner, age 42; his wife Mary 57; John, James, and Rebecca, ages 16, 14, and 4, respectively. On the first census of Pennsylvania (in 1790) there were 30 families by the name Benner, nine whose name was spelled Boner, and eight who spelled it in the traditional English fashion, Bonner. However, it should be noted that uniformity in the spelling of a name is by no means a reliable index to a family relationship. Ignorant and careless recording officials and illiteracy on the part of others have given origin to a wide variety of renditions of the same name. This writer has seen records of the same person written on various occasions as Boner, Benner, Bonner and Bonney.

Before the Revolution the name of Bonner was found in all of the American colonies with the exception of New York which was settled by the Dutch and taken by the British about the middle of the 17th century. Even in 1790 there were no persons by this name listed on the census for New York state. Virginia had the largest concentration of families by this name. The great majority of those living in the Carolinas and Georgia in 1790 deem to have migrated southward from the older colonies of Virginia and Maryland.

Early in the 18th century, for example, three came from the Chesapeake region to North Carolina. Their names were Thomas, James, and William Bonner. James, who died single, founded the Town of Washington in eastern North Carolina (Rev 1995 - see below). William settled in another county some distance away, probably Chowan. Thomas settled one mile north of Washington on what he called Bonner Hill and is buried near the site of his old dwelling. The engraving on his tombstone indicates that he died on April 7, 1765 at the age of 75 years. (Rev 1995 - - Thomas's remains have been moved to the churchyard of the Episcopal Church in downtown Washington, N. C. Beside him is his son, James, who founded the City of Washington). He had been Sheriff of Beaufort County, a member of the North Carolina Colonial Assembly and a Colonel in the Militia. His wife Abigail bore him seven (Rev 1995 - actually eight): Henry; Thomas; Elizabeth; Sarah; Abigail; Mary; Ann; and James. Of these, Thomas and his brother James were Colonels in the Revolutionary War. Most of the Bonners in eastern North Carolina are descended from one of these brothers. The family bears an excellent reputation in that part of the state. For the most part they were substantial planters and hard-working farmers. Among them are physicians, lawyers, judges, professors and a member of the United States Congress, Herbert Bonner. (Rev 1995 - A bridge connecting the outer bank islands of Pea Island and Bodie Island is named the "Herbert C. Bonner" bridge. Congressman Bonner passed away in the 1960's and is buried at the site of the old Bonner (Bonner's Hill) plantation north of Washington, N. C. which has been converted to a city cemetery).

In every southern state and in most of the middle and far western states are members of this family who trace their forebears from the Virginia seed-bed. Early in the 19th century, for example, John and Thomas Bonner migrated from Virginia to Tennessee, settling in Madison and Wilson counties, respectively. John had served in the Virginia militia during the Revolution, but Thomas, who was born in 1769, was too young for Revolutionary service. The will of their father, John Bonner, Sr is recorded in Surrey County, Virginia under the date, 1804. This particular family apparently is descended from the Richard Bonner who arrived in James City, Virginia on The Friendshippe, in March, 1636. A century after the arrival in Tennessee of this branch of the family James Allen Bonner, representing another branch of the family which in 1828 had begun to settle in Carroll County, Georgia moved with his brother William and other relatives to Tennessee where they acquired a large uncleared tract of land and founded the settlement of Bonnertown, in Lawrence County, just north of the Alabama line.

In the early part of the 19th century, Henry Bonner, junior, grandson of John Bonner (born 1699) left Surrey County, Virginia for Illinois when that region was still a territory. Having married a Quaker, Polly Vaughn, they are said to have left the South to avoid a slaveholding society. There are dozens of families in the Middle West who are descendants of this branch. This name appears among the Illinois companies which fought in the Mexican War. They were among General William T. Sherman's legions who devastated Georgia in 1864. Some marched past the graves of their Virginia ancestors as they maneuvered with Grant in the campaigns around Richmond.

Several migrations of Georgia Bonners to California are known. An old newspaper account relates the story of Col. Seymour B. Bonner of Georgia, who commanded a wagon train to the California goldfields in 1849. One of the most unusual stories of the era of the California gold rush tells of a self-styled, "Judge Bonner", who meted out justice to outlaws with an iron hand. Representing himself as a legal court official, he took a sizeable fee from the communities who employed him. This writer has speculated on the possibility that William Bonney, the teen-age western outlaw known as "Billy The Kid" may have been a distant kinsman of this spurious judge. (Rev 1995 - "William Bonney" was an alias of Billy the Kid). It is unlikely that a family so numerous as this did not have it thieves and others who at times may have operated on the shady side of the law.

Various branches of the Bonner family are known to have migrated to Georgia directly from the Old Dominion. William Bonner who died in Prince George County, Virginia, in 1796 had three sons who settled in Hancock County, Georgia not far from the present site of Milledgeville. Though a Power-of-Attorney given in Hancock County on December 26, 1796, Robert Hicks Bonner and Hubert Bonner appointed their brother, James, "To sell land for them in Prince George County, Virginia, formerly property of their father, William Bonner". From 1798 to 1813, no less than thirteen family heads by the name of Bonner appear on the records of Hancock County alone. They are: James, Jordan, Richard, Jeremiah, Hubbard, Hubert, Chappel, Robert H., Thomas M., Pleasant, Hamilton, Alexander and Henry. These thirteen men all of whom were landholders in Hancock County, are known to represent three separate branches of the family and even in 1800 these three were probably no more related than second cousins.

Jordan was the son of Thomas Bonner (1744 - 1804) who migrated from South Carolina to Greene County soon after the Revolution. Hamilton Bonner and his wife came

to Georgia from North Carolina in 1803. He was the son of Jeremiah Bonner of Prince George, County and his wife was Mary Boisseau of French Huguenot descent. John Bonner, the son of Hamilton, was among the early progressive planters in Hancock County where his father settled and is buried at "Bonner Hill" near White Plains. Still another branch of the family prominent in Hancock County was that of Captain Richard Bonner (1754 - January 7, 1813). Born in Dinwiddie County, Virginia and a veteran of the Revolution, he arrived in Hancock in 1784 and engaged in a wagon train business. Richard was the son of Henry Bonner (born 1724) [Rev 1995 - he died in 1822 at 98 years of age] and Nancy Cate Bonner. Nancy Cate was the only child of Richard and Sarah Wyatt and she was a descendant of the Reverend Hant Wyatt, who came to Jamestown with his brother, Sir Francis Wyatt, at the time the latter became Governor of the Colony in 1621. Captain Richard Bonner's grandfather, according to tradition, was John Bonner (born 1700) of Martin Brandon in Surrey County, Virginia, whose father in turn was also named John.

Another William Bonner (1781 - 1852) moved from Virginia to Wilkes County, Georgia some time after the Revolution. The son of Joseph and Susan Bonner, he was married on April 27, 1809 to Nancy Chappel (1791 - 1852) daughter of John and Sarah Chappel of Washington County. They later moved to Troup County in western Georgia and are buried in the Thomas Harris Cemetery near Standing Rock, in Chambers County, Alabama. They were the parents of seventeen children, thirteen of whom survived them.

The Bonner - Chappel relationship is apparent in still another branch of the Georgia family which is known to have originated in Dinwiddie County, Virginia. Thomas S. Bonner was born in Dinwiddie County in 1793, the son of Chappel Heath Bonner and his wife, Priscilla. Chappel Bonner came to Hancock County, Georgia in 1802 and died there in 1806, at which time Robert H. Bonner was appointed guardian of Thomas, James, and Polly P., "orphans of Chappel Bonner". Robert H. appears to have been an uncle of these children, as were Hubert and James Bonner. If this surmise is correct, Chappel Bonner was the son of William Bonner of Prince George County, Virginia. William's father in turn probably was John Bonner. (A land deed of Prince George County in 1827 transferred title from John "to my son William").

### This Section Revised 1995:

There is confusion in the above data about Chappel Bonner and Chappel Heath Bonner who were, in fact, uncle and nephew. Chappel was a brother to Chappel Heath Bonner's father, Frederick Bonner of Dinwiddie County, Virginia. Chappel Bonner was born ca. 1766 in Dinwiddie County, Virginia and was married there on 13 August 1787 to Pricilla Smith. Chappel Heath Bonner born 23 June 1786 - was born in Dinwiddie County and believed to have passed away in Georgia. He was married to Nancy Pelham probably about 1807.

The below Thomas Bonner, born ca 1753, may have been a brother to, or son of, Henry Bonner (1724 - 1822) of Sussex County, Virginia. Henry was a Colonel in the Revolution and died in Warren County, Georgia.

The following is from the records of various counties as noted pieced together and presented here.

#### THOMAS BONNER

(ca 1735 - before 19 July 1793 in Dinwiddie County, Virginia)

First Wife: Unk

Children: 1. Frederick Bonner (4 November 1758 - 23 March 1830) married Elizabeth Smith.

- 2. Chappel Bonner (ca 1760 1806) married Pricilla Smith.
- 3. Susannah Bonner married Samuel Lee
- 4. Joan Bonner married Hicks Bonner.

Second Wife: Jane \_\_\_\_\_

- 5. Elizabeth Bonner married Thomas Bonner (son of John of Sussex County.
- 6. Rebecca Bonner married Haitable Peebles.
- 7. Jane Bonner married Epps Reeves.

#### FREDERICK BONNER

(1758 - 1830 in Dinwiddie County, Virginia)

Wife: Elizabeth Smith (23 April 1756 - 23 July 1818)

Married on: 28 September 1779

Children: 1. David Smith Bonner born 20 October 1780 married Elizabeth Reynolds.

- 2. Nancy Bonner born 21 October 1782 married Reverend John Sale about 1804.
- 3. Mary Bonner born 23 June 1784 died before adulthood.
- 4. Chappel Heath Bonner (23 June 1786 unk) married Nancy Pelham.
- 5. Martha Bonner born 7 July 1780 married Samuel Pelham.
- 6. Stith Bonner born 21 November 1790 married Marie Mercer June 1819.
- 7. Elizabeth Bonner born 29 April 1793 married John Taylor.
- 8. Frederick Bonner born 11 November 1796 married Elizabeth Mercer.

### CHAPPEL BONNER

(ca 1760 - before 15 December 1804)

Wife: Pricilla Smith

Married on: 13 August 1787 in Sussex County, Virginia

Children: 1. Thomas Bonner

- 2. James Bonner
- 3. Polly P. Bonner

Chappel was born in Dinwiddie County, Virginia and died in Hancock County, Georgia before 15 December 1804.

"15 December 1804 - Pricilla Bonner, Admnx of Chappel Bonner, dec'd".

"Richard P. Brown, gdn for Polley P. Bonner, 7 April 1806".

"Hubert Reynolds, gdn for Thomas Bonner, 1 December 1806".

"Robert H. Bonner, gdn for Thomas Bonner and Jarrus (James?) Bonner, 7 April 1806."

"John Herbert and Hubard Reynolds adms of Robert H. Bonner, dec'd, 1 December 1806".

### SUSANNAH BONNER (about 1770 - unk)

Husband: Samuel Lee (born about 1759, son of Thomas Lee)

When: Before 1790

Children: 1. Thomas Lee born 1791

2. Chappel Lee3. Ludowick Lee

4. Richard Lee

Note: Samuel Lee had been married previously.

Wife: Unk

Children: 1. Littleberry Lee born about 1780

2. Mary Lee married Jeremiah Clements

### JOAN BONNER (ca 1777 - unk)

Husband: Hicks Bonner (son of John Bonner of Sussex County, Virginia)

When: about 1794

(Hicks Bonner was a son of John Bonner of Sussex County. It is believed that Hicks and Thomas, who married Joan's sister, Elizabeth, were brothers).

(The above comes from various records located in Virginia and from some records of Hancock County, Georgia).

The below mentiopned, Thomas S. Bonner's middle may have been "Smith", his mother's maiden name. Notice that Thomas had a son, William "Smith" Bonner. In 1814, Thomas Bonner, son of Thomas Bonner (died 1804) was also residing in Morgan County. This probably denotes a kinship between the two families.

### Back to the original text of James C. Bonner:

Thomas S. (Smith?) Bonner was married to Patsy Cleveland in Morgan County in 1814. A deed record of that year shows that he moved to Morgan from Jasper County in the same year of his marriage and acquired lots 246 and 247 in the Fifteenth District which was just north of Little River not far from the homestead of Thomas Bonner (born 1779) described in a subsequent chapter. Thomas S. Bonner represented Morgan County in the Lower Branch of the State Legislature in 1821 and was a senator from that county in 1823. In the meantime one of his sisters, Mary Pleasant Bonner (1791 - 1854) had married Joseph Stovall of Milledgeville where they lived in an elegant house near the Governor's Mansion. They owned an extensive plantation in Baldwin and Wilkinson Counties and thirty-nine slaves.

Thomas S. Bonner's will was probated in Morgan County in 1869. His children were: Thomas, James, Benjamin, William Smith, Leonidas, Franklin, Pleasant Stovall, Marcus Aurelius, and Judson. Most of the above children remained in Georgia. However, William Smith (9 February 1821 - 6 March 1907) married Mary Elizabeth Durden in Morgan County in 1851 and a little later, with his brother, Marcus Aurelius, he moved to

Northern Louisiana, settling near Homer in Claiborne Parish. Among William Smith Bonner's descendants in 1963 is Judge William N. Bonner of Houston, Texas.

It is significant to note that this writer has never found a record indicating that a single member of the Bonner family came to Georgia directly from England or from any other country. All appear to have arrived from one of the older colonies or states. They came from largely from Virginia by way of the Carolinas where some remained permanently and others for only a generation or two. Several of the latter group arrived in Georgia before the 1780's. This was a pattern of the early western migration which followed the expansion of the plantation system. The magnet which attracted them was the presence of cheap and abundant land in a virgin wilderness. There were six of the names on Georgia's roster of the American Revolution, all of whom apparently had moved into the lands around Augusta ceded by the Indians in the cessions of 1763 and 1773. These are: Captain Robert Bonner, George, Henry, Joseph, Richard, Sherwood, and William. Some of these doubtless were brothers and cousins of Thomas who fought in Roebuck's South Carolina Regiment, and about whom detailed information is recorded in the following chapter. (Rev 1995 - The records show that Thomas Bonner (died 1804) had three brothers and no sisters. His brothers were: William, Henry and Richard. William died about 1770 and Richard died in 1781. Henry may have died in 1797. In the census of Chowan County in 1790 there were no Bonners listed as "Heads of Household").

(Special note - Rev 1995. The reader will notice that some of the information contained in the past few pages is a repeat of the information found in Part One of this manuscript. This writer has referenced the data except in those portions that was furnished without reference by correspondence from relatives).

#### CHAPTER II

### THOMAS BONNER (ca 1744 - 1804)

It is this Thomas Bonner who, with his numerous descendants, is described in some detail below. The Bonners identified largely with the history of Carroll County, Georgia, are known to have descended from him. This Thomas Bonner, who was born, probably in 1744 came to Greene County, Georgia from South Carolina in 1788 [Rev 1995 - actually before 16 June 1787]. There is a court record reproduced in the appendix of this paper, which shows that he was married to Margaret Jones in Chowan County, North Carolina on 6 May 1767 [Rev 1995 - See the document in Chapter V, Part One of this manuscriptl. A reminiscence of his great-grandson, George A. Bonner, largely substantiates this conclusion. [Rev 1995 - The previously noted reminiscence from George A. Bonner coupled with the document that shows that Thomas Bonner purchased a slave for his daughter, Deborah, is sufficient evidence to prove that the Thomas Bonner of Chowan County, North Carolina is the same Thomas Bonner of Clarke County, Georgia. Additionally, Thomas's son Josiah Bonner had a son named Thomas Jones Bonner]. Margaret Jones probably was a daughter of Nathan Jones who died in Green County in 1798. Nathan wife's Elizabeth was the daughter of Ezekiel Slaughter, a Quaker whose death occurred some time earlier [Rev 1995 - See the Bible page of the Slaughter family in Chapter V, Part One of this manuscript which disputes this premise]. The Bonner, Slaughter and Jones lands in Greene County were contiguous as were the Jones and Bonner lands later in Clarke County. Nathan Jones and his brother Jonathan are listed as heirs of John Jones (who lived in the Wrightboro township north of Augusta) in a will probated on 1 January 1783. At that time the Jones family had land in South Carolina as well as in Georgia.

The date of Thomas Bonner's birth has been determined from known facts concerning his marriage, the birth of his oldest son and the age which his children reached maturity. [Rev 1995 - Thomas Bonner's birth was actually between July 1745 and May 1746 according to a Deed of Gift published 17 July 1766 by his father].

As already indicated Thomas Bonner served during the Revolution in Roebuck's South Carolina regiment which was recruited in and around Newberry County. This was in the Old Ninety-Six District in what was then the western frontier of that state. In 1784, just after the close of the Revolution, he was granted two plots of land in Ninety-Six District, one for 150 acres on the "East side of the Old Boundary on both sides of a branch of Cherokee Creek, Waters of Broad River surveyed 5 September 1784", and one covering 143 acres with the same location and description. This land was on the state's extreme frontier, just above the "Ninety-Nine Islands" and four miles north of Gilky's Mountain. It was near the later site of Spartanburg. [Rev 1995 - A more exact location of the property of Thomas Bonner is just north of the present Town of Gaffney, South Carolina not too far from the North Carolina state line]. Since this was military bounty land it is not likely that Thomas ever actually settled on it. He held it only a short time. In 1785 he granted one Vardrey McBee a power of attorney to sell both tracts. In June 1787 both tracts were sold to William Tate for a total of 160 pounds Sterling. The deed record fixes this as the date at which Thomas Bonner must have arrived in Georgia, for it identifies him as "formerly of the State of South Carolina, now of the State of Georgia".

In his trek to Georgia. Thomas and his family evidently following a well-traveled route of migration which finally brought them to rest in approximately the same latitude.

as his old home in South Carolina, some 25 miles north of the fall line, in what was then Greene County, Georgia. The earliest record in Georgia of Thomas Bonner is that of a land warrant dated 13 November 1788 and executed in February of the following year in which Henry Graybill granted to him "181 acres of Oak and Hickory land" on Powell's Creek, near where that stream flows into the Ogeechee River. This land lay in the extreme southern part of what later became Taliferro County, which was created out of territory of the original County of Greene in 1825. His farm lay just three miles north of Powellton and the Hancock County line. On 15 October 1789, through a deed executed by Robert Flournoy of Wilkes County and recorded in the Greene County Courthouse 20 July 1792, Thomas acquired an additional 200 acres adjoining his original tract. The consideration was "five hundred pound lawfull money" of the State of Georgia and the land acquired lay "in Washington now Greene County on the South fork of Powell's Creek".

The tax returns of returns of Greene County indicate that Thomas Bonner paid a tax in 1788 on "30 pounds of property in Captain Cain's District." The tax, also given in English denomination, came to "Eight shillings and nine D". His returns were the same for 1789. In 1793, however, he returned for taxes "359 acres No. three Oak and hickory land adjoining James Alford on the Ogeechee". By 1796, he had apparently sold this land, and for the next four years he paid only a poll tax. During the time that he lived in Greene County, from 1788 to 1800, his three oldest sons and two of his daughters reached maturity, for the names of Zadock, "Jurdan" and Whitmal appear on the tax books during the latter part of the period.

On 20 December 1801, Thomas Bonner was a witness to a warranty deed (made by David Meriwether of Wilkes County) transferring to his oldest son, "Zadock Bonner of Jackson County" [Rev 1995 -Information found in 1994 show that Jordan was the oldest son, not Zadock] title to 650 acres in that county, "on the waters of the Applachee, bounded Southeasterly by said Applachee and on all other sides by vacant land when surveyed in 1785". Jackson County was created from the southern part of Franklin County in 1796. Franklin, an original county created in Northeastern Georgia in 1784, was one of the principal recipients of Revolutionary war veterans. A military reservation in the southern part, later embraced by Jackson County, was set up between the Oconee and Appalachee Rivers. It was in this area that the Bonners finally settled.

In an act of 1801, Clarke County was created from the territory lying in the southern part of Jackson County. The Appalachee River at that time not only was the western boundary of the new County of Clarke but it also marked the western limits of the white settlement. The Appalachee River was not confirmed as the western boundary of the ceded lands until 1790, after which date the Creek Indians ended their warfare on the white settlers along the Appalachee-Oconee frontier. This so-called "Oconee War" at its height in 1786-88, was one in which the Bonners must have been deeply involved. The Indians frequently crossed the river, drove off cattle, burned houses and plundered the countryside. On a visit to the Dove's Creek community in 1952, this writer talked to some of the older inhabitants who remembered many old "fort houses" which stood along the east bank of the Appalachee, one of which was standing as late as the visit in 1952. It was probably in such a house that Thomas Bonner and his neighbors lived in the early part of the preceeding century.

Zadock Bonner's tract of 650 acres on the Appalachee became the land on which his father Thomas, his brothers, and perhaps his two brothers-in-law finally settled. While no record has been found of the transfer of title from Zadock to other members of the family, the original tax book of Clarke County (in 1802) shows 297-1/2 acres acres of no.

three land originally granted to Manuathes adjoining land of Absalom Otrey (Autry) on the Appalachee River. The following year the tax return was the same except that the name Meriwether is substituted for Manuathes. The latter appears to be the name of an Okfuskee Chief to whom this land may have once been pre-empted. Thomas Bonner's 297-1/2 acres is also described as adjoining 229 acres "originally granted to Meriwether", belonging to his son Allen Bonner; 100 acres "granted to Bonner" belonging to his son Whitmal; and 246-1/2 acres "originally granted to Meriwether" belonging to his son-in-law Richard Vanderford.

[Rev 1995 - The following was printed in, "Some Georgia County Records, Volume 2, page 233". From Greene County records, original Deed Book D, pages 708 and 709: "15 October 1789. Robert Flournoy of Wilkes County to Thomas Bonner of Greene for 500 pounds. 200 acres in Washington County now Greene on the south fork of Powells Creek bounded South by Benjamin Gilbert & said Flournoy, West by Hardwick, North by said Bonner and partially by Robert Flournoy. Signed: R. Flourney. Witness: Leavin Maddux, Zadock Bonner, Jeudan Bonner. Proved by Jurdan Bonner 18 March 1791, before Michael Rogers, J. P." (Plat drawn at end of Deed). Registered: 20 July 1792].

In fact, five of Thomas' sons who were old enough to have their names on the tax books, as well as his two sons-in-law, Edmund Duke and Richard Vanderford, who were close neighbors on the Appalachee at this time. It appears likely that Thomas acquired his land as did his sons largely from the 650 acre purchase from David Meriwether (the original grantee), made by Zadock Bonner in 1801. The original Meriwether grant on file in the office of the Secretary of State embraced several thousand acres in Upper Georgia.

From other sources and through records of subsequent returns, the Bonner lands have been more accurately described as "lying on Dove's Creek" which runs into the Appalachee just North of and in the vicinity of what later became Hebron Church. This tract in 1963 can be more accurately described as lying in Oconee County (created from Clarke in 1875) just North of [US] Highway number 78 as it crosses the Appalachee River, from Monroe to Athens, Georgia. Here Thomas Bonner operated a corn [grist] mill in connection with other activities, within a stone's throw of the Indian boundary. Members of his family dwelt in this community for almost 30 years. By 1825 all of them except Allen had departed for the newer counties farther westward, which were opened to settlement by the various land lotteries held in Georgia between 1803 and 1835.

It was here in the Dove's Creek settlement, that the elder Thomas Bonner died just after Christmas of 1804 [Rev 1995 - actually 30 December 1804], at the approximate age of 60 years. Here also died his wife, Margaret Jones Bonner (ca 1750 - ca 1828); his daughter-in-law, Rachel, wife of Jordan Bonner; his son Allen, whose death occurred there in 1827, and perhaps others. No Bonner cemetery has been located in this vicinity. It is possible that after they were interred in a common family plot which after 1830 became lost to the memory of any person in the community. Such family cemeteries in this area often succumbed to the encroachment of cotton fields during the period of expansion of plantation economy, from 1800 to 1860. Also following the contraction of cotton-growing in the area after 1930 and the wholesale abandonment of arable farms, many such plots have reverted to wilderness.

One of the earliest records on file in the Clarke County Courthouse involves the administration of the estate of Thomas Bonner who died just three years after the county was crested. His olders sons, Jordan and Zadock, were joint administrators and gave bond for \$15,000.00. [Rev 1995 - Copies of the documents may be found in Chapter V of Part

One of this manuscript]. They were dismissed at the May term of Court, in 1819, at which time it is assumed the youngest child and heir had reached maturity. The record of Administration of this estate, provides some insight into the economics status of Thomas Bonner at the time of his death. Among his personal property were: 4 horses, 5 oxen, 13 cows, 15 head of sheep, 25 hogs, and 3 litters of pigs. In addition he possessed goats, geese, ducks, and beehives. The productions of his farm included cotten, wool, flax, corn, tobacco, wheat, and potatoes. Among his possessions were three saddles and one cart. Only three books were listed among the goods and chattles sold at auction in March 1805. His land alone sold for \$1,350 including the grist mill on the Appalachee. His personal property brought an additional \$1,600.00 although there is no record of his owning slaves at the time of his death.

There were at least ten children in the family. Since Thomas died intestate, those who had reached maturity at the time of his death in 1805 [Rev 1995 - Actually December 30, 1804] can be easily identified from existing administration records. Those who signed the petition to have his land sold and listed as "Heirs and distributors" of his estate were: Jordan, Zadock, Thomas, Whitmal (also spelled Whitmel, Whitnel, and Whitmil) and Allen. Also included were: Edmund Duke, Jr and Richard Vanderford (also spelled Vandever in a few places) as sons-in-law, were also listed as "Heirs and distributors". This was consistent with Georgia law at the time.

The petition stated that there were heirs who had not yet "arrived at the years of manhood". Further evidence of minor children is found in the accounts against his estate among which was a doctor's bill, dated 24 September 1804 for attendance upon his wife and son. A careful study of all the records available in the county indicates that there were three minor children in the family in 1805, all of whom either were his sons, or minor children of a deceased older son. [Rev 1995 - The minor children were, in fact, the elder Thomas' sons]. Their names were: Willis, Josiah, and Daniel. On the tax books, these names always appear next to those of the Bonner brothers who were administrators of their father's estate and hence there is little doubt of their the minor heirs mentioned in the petition of 1805. Josiah is known to have been born 5 May 1787 and the fact that Willis appeared on the tax books first in 1808 would indicate that he was perhaps a year or two older than Josiah. Daniel appeared as the payer of a head tax in 1810, thus placing his birth at 1789. It is possible that only Daniel was born after his parents moved to Georgia. It was not until 1850 that census records listed the state of one's birth.

Not much is known of the younger brothers, Willis and Daniel, after about 1820 when their names disappeared from the records of Clarke County. Neither was an extensive landowner there, nor is there a record of their marriage in Clarke County. However, these names are very prominent in the land records of Old West Florida, which lay in the southern part of the present states of Alabama and Mississippi. In all probability these brothers joined the migration to more fertile lands in the Southwest, which had assumed gigantic proportions by 1820. The name Daniel M. Bonner appears on the Clay County, Georgia census for 1860 as owner of 1,700 acres of land. It is possible that an investigation of the other records of this county would identify him as the younger brother of the Clarke County Clan.

Very little is known about the two girls who married in Clarke County. The Dukes had left the settlement on the Appalachee by 1823. The Vanderfords were still there at the middle of the century when Richard Vanderford [Rev 1995 - Richard had married Deborah (Nancy) Bonner, probably around 1790] died in 1847. The Dukes and Vanderfords had accompanied the Bonners from Greene County to Clarke; the Duke and Vanderford

families appear to have come to Georgia from Anson County, North Carolina. The latter name is common to many parts of North Carolina at the middle of the twentieth century. The Clarke County records carry the name both as Vanderford and Vandiver.

On the Carroll County census records for 1860 appear the names of "Ed Duke" and his wife, Mary. [Rev 1995 - Mary's full name was Mary Elizabeth Bonner. She was a twin to her brother, Thomas]. It is significant to note that Ed (Edmond? Edmund?) was then 79 years old and his wife was 81, and the place of the latter's birth was South Carolina. (Rev 1995: as was her brother Thomas's birth year and state of birth according to the 1860 Georgia census). The long geographic proximity of the Duke and Bonner families, which began in the Carolina and continued across Georgia to the Southwest, is typical of the migration pattern which prevailed in the Lower South in the century which preceded the Civil War. Thus "Ed Duke" (born 1781) who resided in Carroll County in 1860 is the same "Edmund Duke" who appeared on the Clarke records at the beginning of the century and later on the Morgan County records. His wife, Mary (born 1779) was the daughter of Thomas Bonner who died at Dove's Creek settlement in 1804. Because of the close relationship between the Duke and Bonner families, a short sketch of the family is included in this work.

Edmund Duke was the only member of his family whose name appeared on the early Greene County platbooks. It is assumed that he is the father of Edmond Duke who was born in 1781 and married Mary [Elizabeth] Bonner about the beginning of the nineteenth century. Other Greene County records show the marriage of: Robert Duke to Patty Holloway in February 1800; Isham Duke to Elizabeth Sherrell in October 1806; and Green Duke to Ann Robinson in August 1800. These appear to have been the older brothers of Edmond Duke, junior.

As early as 1802 William and David Duke were neighbors of the Bonners on Dove's and Barber's creek in Clarke County. Later in 1812, Henry and Edmund Duke (born 1781) appeared on the tax books in the same district (Funderburk's) the latter being listed just above the name of Willis Bonner. The Dukes appear to have been among the early emigrants from North Carolina to Wilkes County between 1763 and 1780.

The will of Henry Duke was probated in Wilkes County in April 1780, wherein Thomas Duke and James Duke are listed as his brothers and Charles, Thomas, Henry and Mary are given as his children. Henry Duke, Senior must have been relatively young at the time of his death in 1780 for his parents were still living at that time, although their names are not recorded. [Rev 1995 - Records show that Henry Duke was a Revolutionary Soldier and was captured by the British in 1780 at Augusta, Georgia at a meeting place called, "The White House". "HE WAS HANGED IN THE STAIRWELL"]. James Duke of Wilkes County died in 1789 and Edmund Duke, Senior was one one the heirs, having sold at that time his legacy consisting of 287-1/2 acres on Richard Creek in Washington County.

Edmund Duke, junior (born 1781), who became the husband of Mary [Elizabeth] Bonner (born 1779), lived in Clarke County from about 1800 to 1820 when he moved to Morgan County. [Rev 1995 - They probably moved to Morgan County to be near her twin brother, Thomas who had married, Elizabeth Duke who is believed to have been a sister of Edmund Duke, Jr.] Here in 1830 he (Edmund Duke, junior) was administrator of the estate of John P. Duke. Legates of John P. Duke were: John, Henry, Thomas, David, and Nancy Duke, the last having married Greenberg Darnell in January 1829. Thomas Duke had married Nancy Morgan in Jackson County in 1808. Henry Duke had married Polly

Norris in 1806 and David B. Duke had married Sally Tallant in 1810. All of these marriages occurred in Jackson County, the original county from which Clarke was crested.

About 1841 Edmund Duke, junior left Morgan County and seems to have sojourned for a brief period in Troup County before coming to Carroll County where he acquired land in the Tenth District (near the present site of Bethesda Church) and owned one family of slaves. He died about 1866 on lot no. eleven.

Coming to Carroll County along with Edmund Duke some time before the Civil War were his kinsmen: Thomas Duke (1800 - 1866) who is buried on lot no. 143 in the Fifth District; James H. Duke (3 December 1808 - 19 February 1879) who is buried at Old Camp Church; William Duke (son of Edmund and Mary, born 1812). William Duke had twin sons (born about 1837) whose names were Albert and Alfred. The former (Albert) who became the father of Henry Duke who died in Carroll County in 1926. The census of 1860 for Carroll County lists a total of ten Duke men who were over 21 years of age. The oldest of these was Edmund Duke, then 79 years old. The others were: Thomas Duke (1800 - 1866) and his sons **Washington Duke** (born 1821); William Duke (born 1812); Zebulon Pike Duke (born 1835); A. H. (Alfred) Duke and A. J. P. (Albert) Duke; James H. Duke (born 1809; Ward Duke (born 1822) and Thomas F. Duke (born 1838). All of these were farmers except Washington Duke who was a blacksmith. The elder Thomas Duke was also a Primitive Baptist clergyman.

An interesting aspect of the Carroll County Dukes is an unsuccessful attempt by one of the descendants, Thomas Duke (born 1800) in 1927 to share in the \$2,000,000 legacy made by James B. Duke of Durham, North Carolina to be divided among the heirs of Taylor and Dicey Jones Duke. The latter two were the parents of the tobacco tycoon, Washington Duke, for whose family, DUKE UNIVERSITY was named.

In subsequent chapters the families of each of the sons of Thomas Bonner (ca 1744 - 1804) will be discussed.

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### CHAPTER III

## JORDAN BONNER 12 December 1767 - 8 May 1841)

[Rev 1995 - In the original manuscript by James C. Bonner, this was chapter IV, due to new information it has been found that Jordan Bonner was the eldest son of Thomas Bonner (ca 1744). The chapter number on Jordan Bonner has been changed to coincide with his status as the eldest son].

Relatively little is known by this writer about Jordan Bonner, the [eldest] son of Thomas (ca 1744 - 1804). The name Jordan is seldom found among the descendants of his father's other sons and daughters. It is probably is a family name belonging originally to a Quaker family which frequently occurs in the Colonial records of Chowan County, North Carolina and other communities in the region around Albemarle Sound in the Northeastern part of North Carolina.

Old Carolina records reveal the fact that the Bonners and Jordans were intermarried. There were close personal and economic relations among the families of Bonner, Jordan, Luten, Standing, Jones and Blount of Eastern North Carolina. Jacob Jordan who died in Chowan County in 1795 had sons named: Jacob, Josiah, Joseph and Jonathan, and daughters named Rachel, Leah, Patience and Sarah. Quaker church records of the Perquimans (County) monthly meeting in 1783 show that Leah Jordan, because she had married one Bonner who was not a Quaker, was excommunicated from the brotherhood. [Rev 1995 - Leah married Henry Bonner who died in Chowan in 1797. He may have been a son of Thomas Bonner who died in Bertie County in 1753]. However, a later record, 1798, concerning a land sale by Jordan Bonner in Georgia gives his wife name as Rachel.

[Rev 1995 - Jordan's wife was Rachel Moon, his second wife, whom he married while living in Georgia. His first wife (\_\_\_\_\_ Martin) and a child died in a house fire while living in Clarke County, Georgia, probably during an Indian raid].

On 14 February 1748, William Bonner was witness to a marriage in Chowan County between Thomas Luten, junior and Catherine Jones. On 14 February 1752, one Thomas Bonner married Mary Standing which was witnessed by William Luten. [Rev 1995 - This Thomas Bonner was the son of Colonel Henry Bonner]. On 21 August 1774 one William Bonner married Sarah Luten in Chowan County. In 1775, Joseph Blount, junior married Lydia Bonner at which time Thomas Jones provided his surety. [Rev 1995 - Lydia Bonner was a daughter of Thomas Bonner and Mary Standing Bonner]. On 25 August 1792, William Bonner witnessed the marriage of John Hall and Hannah Jones. The will of William Jones of Chowan County was probated on 16 March 1774 and his legatees were: Charity Walker, Esther Johnston; Rachel Luten, and James Jones. Thomas Bonner [Rev 1995 - This Thomas Bonner was married to Margaret Jones] was one of the executors of his estate.

The relationship of the Bonner family to the Quaker community is further evidenced in the records of Greene County, Georgia. There on 20 June 1792, Jordan Bonner and his father, Thomas, witnessed the Will of Ezekiel Slaughter, a Quaker, who had left Halifax County, Virginia in 1788 and had arrived in the Powells' Creek Community of Greene County (later Taliferro County) along with the Bonners. [Rev 1995 - the Ezekiel Slaughter will has been reproduced in Chapter V of Part One].

About the time that Jordan Bonner appeared first as a taxpayer (in 1793) he acquired "for 100 pounds Sterling" one Hundred acres on Shoulderbone Creek in Hancock County, just south of his father's place on Powell's Creek below the Hancock-Greene County lines. On 18 January 1798, he sold this tract to Suzanna Moon for \$500.00. It was this deed of transfer to which his wife also attested (by making her mark) as "Rachel Bonner". [Rev 1995 - As previous stated Rachel's maiden name was Moon. Susannah Moon was Rachels' mother].

Jordan moved to Clarke (then Jackson) County with his father and brothers and was joint administrator of his father's estate in [March] 1805. In 1800 he bought of "Hugh Ector and his wife Eleanor of Oglethorpe County" 700 acres "on the middle fork of the Oconee" which was Barber's Creek, which is a few miles north of the Dove's Creek community. At about the same time he acquired additional land from John Cobb. His wife Rachel apparently died sometime before 1810, for Jordan married Polly [Mary] Adams in October of the following year [Rev 1995 - The marriage occurred on 3 October 1811]. At this time he owned 1,700 acres of land and one family of slaves. He began disposing of his land in 1809 during which year a total of 1,519 acres was sold for \$4,538.00 in seven different sales. The largest of these was 865 acres which lay between Barber's Creek and the Appalachee which was sold to David Meriwether for \$400.00. Another tract of only 150 acres sold for just \$4.00. No record of Jordan's activities in Georgia has been found subsequent to this period. It is highly probable that he joined the early tide of migration to Alabama and Mississippi whose public lands were first opened for sale in 1803. A search of the early records of those and other states in the Southwest might prove rewarding to one seeking more data on this family.

[Rev 1995 - Jordan Bonner was the first born of Thomas and Margaret Jones Bonner. He was born 12 December 1767 at the family plantation approximately four miles north of the present Town of Edenton at Green Hall in Chowan County, North Carolina. He probably married almost immediately after he first arrived in Georgia; information passed down through his descendants state that his first wife was "\_\_\_\_?\_\_\_" Martin. She and their first child died in a house fire, probably during an Indian Raid about the year of 1793. In 1796 he married Rachel Moon and had children:

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- 1. Hiriam Bonner (born 1798 -
- 2. Onnie Bonner (born 1801 died 1867) married Jonathan Brown.

Rachel Moon was a daughter of Richard and Susannah Moon. Richard died in Hancock County, Georgia in 1795. His Last Will and Testament reads:

Will of Richard Moon of Hancock Co., Planter, beq to my son Simon, one shilling; to my son Richard, one shilling; to my oldest daughter Mary, one shilling; to my daughter Lowry shilling; to my daughter Susey one shilling; to my daughter Hannor one shilling; to my daughter Narget one shilling; to my daughter Rachel one bay horse, one speckled cow and yearling, a bed and furniture, pot, plates, dish and basin which I give to well beloved daughter Rachel. I beq to my beloved wife, Susan Moon, my plantation I now live on, 125 acres of land in Guilford County, North Carolina, Appoint my wife Susannah Extrxx. Dated 15 January 1795. Probated 27 February 1795.

The Moon family probably came from Guilford County, North Carolina. Research in North Carolina may shed more light on this family.

Rachel (Moon) Bonner died in 1809 and after Rachel died, Jordan went to the Mississippi territory for a short period of time. After arriving back to Clarke County,

Georgia, he married, on 3 October 1811. Mary (Polly) Adams (born 19 October 1791 - died 24 March 1869). When they married, Polly was 20 years old and Jordan 44 years old. Shortly after he married, Jordan and his family moved back to the Mississippi territory and settled on a plantation in what is now the western edge of Alabama in Choctaw County.

Jordan and Polly had children:

- 1. Mahaly Bonner (born 1813 died 1879) married John Parker Jenkins (born 1803 died 1850's).
- 2. Wilmoth Almira Bonner (born 1826 died <u>1924</u>). (It was a letter that Wilmoth wrote about her father in 1900 that identified her grandfather's family, including their daughter, Deborah, who married Richard Vanderford). There may be other children of Jordan Bonner.

Jordan and Polly settled at Boiling Springs about 2-1/2 miles west of the present Town of Toxey, Alabama. At that time it was in Washington (now Choctaw) County. Jordan Bonner died on 8 May 1841. He and some members of his family are buried in the "Bonner Family Cemetery" on the old Jordan Bonner plantation. Tombstones mark their final resting place.

An interesting sideline about Jordan concerns the family of Benjamin Bonner who was a grandson of Sheriff Thomas Bonner of Beaufort County, North Carolina. When Jordan's father, Thomas, received bounty land in Upper South Carolina for service in the Revolutionary war, the land was just a short distance from the plantation of Benjamin Bonner, grandson of Sheriff Thomas Bonner of Beaufort County, North Carolina (as previously stated, believed to be a brother of Colonel Henry Bonner of Chowan County), which was located near the present site of Gaffney, South Carolina. While Jordan was living in "Choctaw" County, Alabama, descendants of Benjamin were living in Gilbertown, Alabama located just about three miles from the Town of Toxey. The question is; Did they choose to live near each other because they were related or was it just an accident? Is this further evidence that Colonel Henry Bonner of Chowan County, North Carolina and Sheriff Thomas Bonner of Beaufort County, North Carolina were brothers? The records are silent!

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### CHAPTER IV

### ZADOCK BONNER (1769 - 1848)

[Rev - 1995 In the original work of James C. Bonner, this was Chapter III because he thought Zadock was the eldest son of Thomas Bonner. Since it has been found that is not the case, Zadock has been moved to Chapter IV in order to show his status as the second oldest son].

Zadock, the [second] oldest son, was listed with his brother, Jordan, as a chain-bearer in the survey of Thomas Bonner's original plat in Greene County in 1788. Zadock paid a poll tax of four shillings in Greene County in 1789, at which time he was twenty years old, having been born on 17 June 1769. In August, 1794 he appeared on the rolls of Captain Whitfield's Militia Company of Hancock County as an Ensign. It was probably while he lived at the Bonner farm on Powell's Creek that he married Susan Johnson (daughter of Colonel Bigby Johnson), for his oldest son, Smith Bonner (born 1798 - died 1832) was born there on 13 April 1798.

Like many Georgians of that day, Zadock was a speculator in wild lands lying in the southern and western parts of the state. In 1811, for example, he owned nearly 2,000 acres in Clarke, Wilkinson and Wayne Counties. By 1820, his holdings consisted of more than 3,500 acres. His home place in Clarke County consisted of 248 acres and there were holdings of 490 acres each in Wayne and Irwin Counties, 980 acres in Appling, 500 acres in Early, 202 acres in Pulaski and 606 acres in Wilkinson County. While his sons and most of his brothers became relatively large slaveowners, Zadock invested his money almost entirely in land. In 1825, he was married to Lucy Jackson of Clarke County. He died in Carroll County in 1848 and was among the first to be buried in the Churchyard of Old Camp Methodist Church a few miles west of Carrollton, Georgia. [Rev 1995 - on the evening of 2 August 1821, Lucy B. Ridgeway was married to Drury W. Jackson in Clarke County. On 28 December 1825, she married Zadock Bonner in Clarke County].

At least five of Zadock's children moved to Carroll County with him in 1829 shortly after that county was opened for settlement. In all likelihood, this was his entire family. Zadock's name does not appear on the Clarke County records after 1825. This family seems to have sojourned for a few years in Henry and Fayette Counties before moving to Carroll, for it was in Henry County that his oldest son, Smith Bonner, was married and where his wife, Frances, and their four children returned from Carroll County after Smith's death in 1832. Smith's children were: John, Susan, Thomas, and Zadock. Some of these are buried in the cemetery near the White House in Henry County.

The first Bonner settlement in Carroll County was made near the Chattahochee River a half dozen miles from Acorn Bluff, the home of the Creek Chief, William McIntosh. The Bonner occupied lots 106, 143, and 148 in District Four. They were among the original settlers of Carroll County, arriving in the County while the Creek Indians still hunted on the banks of the Chattahochee River.

Carroll County was organized in 1826. Two years later, on 28 June 1828, Smith Bonner was given the contract to build the first county jail at Carrollton. One of the oldest monuments in the county is the monolith near the later site of Liberty Church erected by Zadock Bonner to mark Smith's grave. It bears the date of 1832. According to tradition Smith was killed in a scuffle with one of his brothers who struck him a blow in the groin

from which he never recovered.

Abigail Bonner (born 1809 - died 1890), apparently the oldest daughter of the elder Zadock was married in 1826 to James Freeborn Garrison (born 1802 - died 1860) whose family had moved from North Carolina by way of Clarke and Fayette Counties, Georgia. They settled in Carroll County on land just South of what later became the campus of West Georgia Campus. The house, located on a bluff overlooking Buffalo Creek, was still standing in 1963 and known locally as the Hay's Mill Place. During the time that the Garrisons occupied this house, the place was known as "The Fullwood Springs". The Garrisons moved to Texas immediately after the Civil War, settling North of Nacodoches. near the site of what later became the Town of Garrison. The children of Abigail and James F. Garrison were: Zadock B. (born 20 April 1829; Sarah Ann (born 27 May 1831); Susan Mandeville (born 8 June 1833); John H. (born 14 July 1835); Thomas Smith (born 17 May 1837); James Freeborn (born 25 July 1839); Margaret Mariah (born 4 October 1841); Ruth Eliza (born 15 February 1844); and William Barnett Moss (born 8 May 1847). The Carroll County Times of 14 June 1878 noted that James Garrison "whose family moved to Henderson, Texas", came by Carrollton on his way home from the University of Virginia where he had studied law.

By 1840, Zadock Bonner, Senior (born 1769 - died 1848) and his three surviving sons: Zadock, junior (born 1804 - died 1891); Thomas (born 1807 - 1881) and John (born 1817 - 1893) as well as his daughter, Abigail Garrison, had moved to that part of Carroll County just west of Carrollton where they reared their families. The younger Zadock, like his father, had a penchant for speculation in land. He became perhaps the wealthiest citizen of the county in the decade following his father's death in 1848. In 1847, he returned for taxes a total of 4,730 acres, of which only 1,500 acres was in Carroll County. The latter consisted of lots: 93, 94, 95, 98, 99, 100, 122, 126, and 127 in the Eleventh District. It was his proud boast that no man could settle within two miles of his house on lot no. 99 without his consent. His additional land was held for speculation in various sections of Georgia including Appling, Irwing, Wilkinson, Wayne, Floyd, Dade, Murray and Cherokee Counties. Being the third largest slaveowner in the county, he grew extensive cotton crops on his Carroll County plantations. Near his homesite was found valuable gold desposits the working of which yielded him approximately three-quarters of a million dollars before the Civil War. [Rev 1995 - In 1994 dollars, the gold would sell for approximately \$380,000,000.00. The atlas of Carroll County for the 1860's shows two Bonner gold mines]. Known as "Bonner's Bonanza" the mine was worked simply with unskilled plantation labor. After the Civil War the land was leased and stamp mills were erected on the site.

Zadock (born 1804) was married on 28 December 1825 to Lucy Ridgeway Jackson (born 1806 - died 1872), a widow and the daughter of Drury Ridgeway, an old settler who came to Georgia from South Carolina who subsequently moved to Columbus, Georgia. [Rev 1995 - the records show that Drury Ridgeway was Lucy's first husband]. She was born in Elbert County on 1 June 1806 and moved to Clarke County settling at Bald Springs Church. According to the census enumeration for 1850, the children of Zadock and Lucy bonner were: Emily C. (born 1829) who married Dr. George Gamble; Octavia (born 1834) who married John B. Gamble; Caroline (born 1837) who married Captain James Tumlin; Martha (born 1839) who married Mr. Whitmal Sterling; Susan who married William Freeman Bonner; Georgia (born 1843) who married Captain John A. Terrell; and George A. (born 1845) who married in 1872, Martha McGuire. Zadock Alexander (born 1842) died in infancy. The old residence at the Bonner's Mine remained in the family until about 1940. It was still standing as late as 1963.

On the census records for 1860 appears the name of William F. Bonner, age 38, the husband of Susan who was listed as 29 years of age. Being a descendant of Whitmal Bonner, William Freeman was his wife's cousin. Their children in 1860 were: Eliza, Lucy, and Carrie, ages eight, five and four, respectively. Later additions to the family were: Zadock, Charles and Georgia. The family lived in the Laurel Hill Community near the Bonner mine. Freeman Bonner enlisted in Company "C", 26th Battalion of Georgia Volunteers during the Civil War and was promoted to Lieutenant. In 1860 he owned 250 acres of land and 14 slaves. He moved to Texas in the 1870's.

Thomas Bonner (born 1807 - died 1881) the third son of the elder Zadock, built his house on lot no. 99 in District Ten, probably in 1840. This house, as well as much of his 700 acre plantation became part of the campus of West Georgia College. The house which is a two-story structure with a Greek revival facade, has been moved some 200 from its original location in front of the new women's dormitory. In 1963 it was being used as a faculty residence in a wooded area east of the college buildings. In its original location it sat on a slight elevation on the north side of the Carrollton - Bowden road. On the south side of the road opposite the dwelling was a plantation, gin, and other farm buildings, all signs of which have long since disappeared. The burial ground for Negro slaves was the plot on which the west wing of Melson Hall was constructed. This plantation was raided by Federal soldiers under General Stoneman in 1864.

Thomas Bonner (born 1807) married Lucinda Ridgeway (born 1808). Their children were: Susan (born 1830) who married Alex Steed; Thomas (born 1832) who married Mattie Underwood and who became a Captain of Calvary in the Confederate Army. Harriet (born 1833); Sarah Jane (born 1835) who never married; William Smith (born 1836) who married Frances Rosens Gamble and who became a Captain commanding a wagon train in the Confederate Army; Sanders (born 1838) who died as a result of a knife wound incurred in a fight with Pat Mandeville in 1865; Larkin (born 1842) who died unmarried in Alabama in 1879; Carolyn who married Mike Sanders; and Ann, who married Dr. B. S. Smoot of Alabama on 2 October 1860.

In May 1836. Thomas Bonner (born 1807) raised a volunteer Company to participate in the Creek War of that year of which he was Captain and his brother, Zadock, was First Lieutenant. In offering the services of the company to Governor William Schley, he requested that they be sent to the Alabama line, just west of Carroll County. Ironically enough, the Creek uprising had begun with the murder by the Indians in Alabama of George Bonner, the Sheriff of Macon County (Alabama) who was a first cousin of Thomas and Zadock.

Thomas (born 1807) was an early sheriff of Carroll County. In 1847, he returned 1,900 acres for taxes in the county, which included lots 68, 94, and 99 in the Tenth District; lots 36, 115, and 133 in the Ninth District; lots 209 and 310 in the Eighth District; lot 47 in the Seventh District in addition to two-160 acre lots in Murray County. The 1860 census lists him as owning 24 slaves, being the fourth largest slaveholder in the county. Soon after the Civil War, Thomas Bonner removed with his family to Alabama, settling near Ashland in Clay County, where he is buried and in which vicinity many of his descendants were living in 1963. Among his descendants were Pete and Herbert Bonner who were football players at Auburn University. [Rev 1995 - In the Clay County, Alabama Cemetery book, Thomas is not listed but his daughter, Jane (3 February 1835 - 25 September 1925), is listed as being buried in the "Sardis Cemetery"].

The youngest of the elder Zadock's sons was John, born in Fayette County, Georgia on 17 February 1817. He was married on 13 November 1835 to Martha M. Gillispie who died two years later. On 3 September 1857 he married Martha Ann Upchurch who is listed on the 1860 census as the same age as himself. She was the daughter of Gay and Pathie Upchurch and was born in May 1833. She died on 13 January 1881 of pneumonia. Finally, on 7 August 1881, he married Lucy J. Wood who survived him. He had a total of twenty-three children, seventeen of who survived him. His death occurred on 25 August 1893 and he is buried at Old Camp Cemetery West of Carrollton along with many other members of his family.

John Bonner (born 1817 - died 1893) was regarded after the Civil War as one of Carroll County's most successful farmers. In 1880 he owned 1,200 acres of land, a mill and ginnery some two miles east of Bonner's Mine. His farm was highly diversified. He was frequently elected to the Board of County Commissioners as he represented the county in the legislature in 1882-83. He was also a Methodist minister with which church most of the Carroll County Bonners were affiliated. His residence, built before the Civil War, was standing in 1963, though unoccupied.

The census of 1860 lists his children living with him at that time as: Frances M. (born 1837); Susan (born 1840); Martha J. (born 1844); Thomas J. (born 1855); Margaret (born 1845); James S. (born 1853); John Milton (born 1841); Jacob (born 1859); William; Fayette; Zadock; Charles; Love; Robert; Jerusha; Josephine; Georgia; Ella; Mellie; and Allie. John Milton Bonner, the oldest of these sons, was among the ex-confederate calvarymen who fought in the Unior Army against the Indians on the western frontier during the last year of the Civil War. He enlisted in Company "E", First Georgia Calvary Regiment, on 21 March 1862. Captured in Tennessee and exchanged, he was later recaptured and sent to Rock Island, Illinois where he joined the Union Army on 6 October 1864. He was a member of Company "E", Second Regiment, U. S. Volunteers, which served on the western frontier. He was discharged at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas on 7 November 1865. He married in January 1867, Nancy Miles (born 1847). Their oldest son, Charles A., was born in 1869.

In addition to his four sons described above, the elder Zadock had six daughters. Abigail, the oldest of these, has already been discussed. Others were Jerusha, who married Jesse Clements; Betsy, who married a McCarty; Pauline, who married a Bloodworth; Mahala, who married Lovic P. Clements; and Susan, who married Jesse Robertson.

Not much is known of these families. The records of Jessie and Lovic P. Clements have been located in the 1860 census of Cass County, Texas where they were living at the beginning of the Civil War, not far distant from where the family of Abigail Garrison later settled. These records show that Mahala was then 40 years old and her husband fifty-three. Of their ten children the oldest, a son, was born in Alabama in 1840, as were the next five children. Thomas, age 10, and three of the remaining younger children were born in Texas. This pattern indicates that Mehala and Lovic P. Clements were married about 1838 soon after which they moved to Alabama and migrated to Texas about 1850.

Jessie Clements who married Jerusha Bonner was a brother of Lovic. They were sons of Judson Clements who died in Georgia. The Cass County, Texas census for 1860 indicates that Jerusha was 36 years old at that time and her husband was forty-eight. They apparently were the first of three Bonner girls to migrate to Texas, for their oldest child, a daughter, was born there in 1839. All eleven of her younger children also were born in the Lone State State.

[Rev 1995: Because Zadock Bonner, Jr., was such a figurehead in Carroll County, Georgia, the following is reproduced from an addendum published in the original work of James C. Bonner].

JUDGE ZADOCK BONNER
(1804 - 1891)
From
THE CARROLL COUNTY TIMES
May 23, 1873

The Eleventh District in this county is considered one of the best farming districts in it. Here also are located the well known Bonner Gold Mines and Bonner's Store, both owned by Judge Zadock Bonner. These mines are situated nine miles southeast of Carrollton on the road to Franklin. [Note: This is on US Highway 27, near Roopville, Georgia near the Heard County Line]. The country between here and there is better than ordinary and is dotted with some of the neatest and smuggest farms and farm houses we have seen in the county. Those of Mr. John Bonner and W. G. Marchman are especially worthy of note. [Note - John Bonner was Zadock's son].

The Editor of this paper made a visit on last Friday to Judge Bonner, at his home. The liberality and hospitality of Judge Bonner in entertaining his friends and visitors has become so well known throughout this county, that we deem it unnecessary to state that we were treated in the most magnificent style. The judge is one of those hosts who can never do enough for his guests. His hospitality is that of the old time kind and indeed the judge is a fine specimen of the gentleman of the old school. Judge Bonner is, we assume, one of the oldest settlers of Carroll County. He has been living at his present place of residence some thirty odd years. It is here that he has accumulated, and that principally by mining too, the valuable property which he is still the processor of, not withstanding that he had over two hundred negroes freed by the late war. He owns altogether some fourteen hundred acres of land here, of course immensely valuable, on account of the gold mines on it. It was made for the purpose of looking at these mines that our visit was principally made. Not much is being done at present in them, there being only three or four miners on the place who are principally engaged at this time in "Sluicing". In company with several gentlemen and one of these miners, we shown around the "diggings". Through the courtesy of the young miner, Mr. Hilton, who acted as chaperon for the party, we were shown the modus operandi of "panning", the simplest of all processes for getting the precious dust, the filthy lucre, out of old mother earth. The first pan full panned out by Mr. Hilton yielded about 14 grams of the "pure stuff", the second only about four ... making about 75 cents worth [Note - In 1994 dollars the 18 grams would be worth about \$380.00]. The panning was done in about 15 minutes. The dust was got at different places, where heretofore a deal of mining has been done .... The mere fact that Judge Bonner, by the simplest of processes had made a great deal of money out of them, is sufficient evidence that a fortune is in store for someone who will work them with improved methods .... Judge Bonner, it is true, is able to work his mining with improved methods, but he is now getting old, and does not care to undertake such a job in his old age.

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#### CHAPTER V

# DEBORAH (NANCY) BONNER (1772 - after 1860)

(Rev 1995 - This entire chapter about Deborah Bonner is new to this work. It was not a part of the original work of Bonner because he probably did not have her name. Otherwise, I feel sure she would have been included. It was in 1994 that I became knowledgeable of how she fit into the Bonner family).

Deborah was the eldest daughter of Thomas and Margaret Jones Bonner. She was born on the family plantation at Green Hall in Chowan County, North Carolina. As a child in North Carolina she was known as "Deborah" according to court records. (As an adult in Georgia, in the 1850 census of Jackson County, she is listed as "Nancy" Vanderford being 78 years of age and was born in North Carolina). Yet other records show her as "Deborah" wife of Richard Vanderford.

Just before the family moved from North Carolina to South Carolina a slave girl, named Rose, was purchased in Deborah's name by her father. That Deed of Sale is reproduced below. It can be found in Deed Book Q, page 243 at the Court House in Edenton. North Carolina.

John Lewis

to

DEED OF SALE

Deborah Bonner

# NORTH CAROLINA

Know all men by these presents that I, John Lewis of Chowan County and province aforesaid, Planter, for and in consideration of the sum of Thirty Pounds proclamation money to me in land paid by Deborah Bonner, daughter of Thomas Bonner, junior, of the County and Province aforesaid. Planter, whereof I do hereby acknowledge the receipt and myself therewith satisfied, have bargained and sold and delivered unto the said Deborah Bonner, she, her heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, One Negroe girl, called Rose, and I the said John Lewis for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns against all and all manner of persons shall warrant and forever defend by these presents.

IN WITNESS whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand & Seal this 20th day of March 1776.

Signed, sealed & delivered

John Lewis (Seal)

in presence of, (No names listed)

Received the day and date within mentioned the sum of thirty pounds proclamation money in full for a Negroe girl called Rose, witness my hand.

John Lewis

NORTH CAROLINA

Chowan County March Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Session 1776.

Present: His Majestys Justices

DEED OF SALE of a negroe girl from John Lewis to Deborah Bonner, daughter of

Thomas Bonner, junior, was acknowledged in open court according to law.

Test: Thomas Jones, Clerk Current Registered (by) Alexander Gellalty, Regr.

The above document was the last found concerning Thomas Bonner and his family before their move to South Carolina.

Judging from the year of Deborah's birth, she was married, probably in Greene County, Georgia about 1789 to Richard Vanderford.

Deborah outlived her husband, Richard, who died in 1845 in Clarke County, Georgia.

Approved at court on 5 January 1807, was the purchase of the 50 acres of land with a Grist mill for \$1,010.00 by Richard Vanderford which was sold on credit for 12 months. (The mill was the property of Deborah's deceased father, Thomas Bonner (ca 1744 - 1804) and was sold at auction to settle his debts). The grist mill stayed in Bonner family line.

In January 1995, I received the following information from Mrs. Louise Vanderford McDonald of Texas. She is a descendent of Richard Vanderford and his wife whom she has carried in her family line as Nancy Bonner (born 1772 - died after 1850). In 1850 Nancy (Deborah) Bonner Vanderford was living in Walton County, Georgia with her son, William and his family.

#### Lineal Line of Louise Vanderford McDonald

1. Thomas Bonner (born ca 1744 - 30 December 1804)

Married: Margaret Jones

When: 6 May 1767 in Edenton, North Carolina

2. Richard Vanderford (born ca 1768 - 1845)

Married: Nancy (Deborah) Bonner (born 1772 - died after 1850)

When: Probably about 1789

3. Barzillai Vanderford (born 1799/1800 - died 24 July 1876)

Married: Milbery Taylor (born 1802/1804 -

When: 22 February 1826

4. John Daniel Vanderford (born 27 September 1828 - died 17 July 1893) Married: Mary Holland Jobe (born 28 July 1838 - 24 November 1912) When: 22 February 1855

- 5. John Fletcher Vanderford (born 21 February 1866 died 23 October 1925)
  Married: Melissia Elizabeth Byrum (born 31 March 1872 died 22 April 1951)
  When: 1 December 1889
- 6. John Daniel Vanderford (born 8 October 1897 died 25 February 1985)
  Married: Jessie Grace Goodman (born 9 November 1896 died 18 August 1991)
  When: 12 November 1921

7. Frank G. McDonald (born 9 April 1916 -

Married: Artie Louise Vanderford (born 31 December 1924 -

When: 22 December 1948

8. Dalbert Ray Thiele (born 13 May 1957 -

Married: LuAnn Leonese McDonald (born 15 January 1957 -

When: 22 March 1979

9. Lindsay Leonese Thiele (born 25 March 1991 -

Lineal List from Nancy (Deborah) Bonner

\_\_\_\_\_

Married: Richard Vanderford Children: 1. Minta Vanderford

2. John Vanderford (ca 1796 - ca 1875 in Mississippi)

married: (1) Mary \_\_\_\_

(2) Mary Catherine Weaver

3. Thomas Vanderford (ca 1798 -

- 4. Barzillai Vanderford (ca 1800 24 July 1876 in Alcorn Co, Miss) married: Milbery Taylor
- 5. William Vanderford (born 22 July 1801 in Jackson Co, Ga -
- Charlotte Vanderford married: Noah Strickland
- 7. Josiah Vanderford
- 8. Louisa Vanderford
- 9. Augustus Vanderford
- 10. Allen C. Vanderford

1797 - Richard Vanderford was living in Greene County, Ga.

1799 - Richard was in Jackson County (now Clarke County), Ga.

1800 - February 3 - Richard purchased 200 ac of land on Beaverdam Creek in Greene County, Ga., from William Reddock, Sr.

1801 - Richard was in Lloyd District, Jackson County (now Clarke County).

1802 - October 25 - Richard's son, Howard, signed an affidavit in Clarke County, Georgia backing Jordan Bonner's claim that in 1801 Creek Indians stole two horses valued at \$200.00 total.

1802 and 1805 - Richard was in Greer District, Clarke County, Ga.

1805 - Richard drew two blanks in the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery.

1809 - Richard was in Funderburk District, Clarke County, Ga.

1813 - August 7 - Richard received 37-1/2 acres inheritance (worth \$46.07) on Cedar Creek, Chatham County, North Carolina.

1815 - Richard was in Funderburk District, Clarke County, Ga.

1820 - Richard was in Athens Township, Clarke County, Ga., with his wife, 5 sons and 2 daughters.

1830 - Richard was in Clarke County with his wife, 2 sons and a daughter.

1837 - July 8 - Richard and Lewis Arthur sold to Allen C. Vanderford land on the Apalachee River adjoining the lands of Vanderford & Brooks for \$1000.

1837 - October 14 - Richard sold 180 acres on the Apalachee River adjoining the lands of Vanderford, Brown and Wallis to Lewis Arthur for \$1000.

(Note - Other documents show that Richard Vanderford died in 1847, probably in Clarke County, Georgia).

1850 - Richard's widow,  $\underline{Nancy},$  was living with her daughter Charlotte Strickland and family in Jackson County, Georgia.

1860 - Richard's widow, Nancy, was living with her son, William, and his family in Walton County, Georgia.

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### CHAPTER VI

# WHITMAL BONNER (ca 1775 - [before March 1819])

Whitmal Bonner appears first on the tax books of Greene County in 1796 at which time he owned 65 acres on Shoulderbone Creek and one slave. He was enrolled in "Captain Kimbrough's District, Lower Battalion of Greene County" which was near his father's place on Powell's Creek. He remained in this community three or four years after which time his taxable property had increased to approximately 300 acres and four slaves. He appeared on the Appalachee River in 1803 where he returned land for taxes in Clarke County. In 1808 he appears in Morgan County where he began to purchase land in the adjacent county of Jasper. In 1817 he bought from Issac Newton lot number 97 in the Sixteenth District. This lot of 200 acres lies on Shoal Creek within six miles of the Courthouse in Monticello, on the road leading to Shady Dale, Ga. Since this apparently was a highly developed farm it is believed that it became his place of residence. A two-story house of hewn logs probably dating to this period was standing in 1963 on this lot. A less likely location of Whitmal's residence is on lot number 224 in the Thirteenth District, acquired from William Keener in 1815. This lot lies South of Monticello on Wolf Creek. (Earlier, he had bought a fractional part of this lot from Phoebe Gibbs). Still a third location might be lot number 15 lying also on Wolf Creek, in the Fourteenth District which had been drawn by John Pearce in the land lottery of 1806. Apparently this purchase made of John Pearce in 1808 for \$550.00 was the first land purchase made by Whitmal in Jasper County.

Whitmal died intestate in 1821, [Rev 1995 Note - actually before March 1819] by which time he had acquired a relatively large estate. The records of the administration of this estate indicate that his wife at this time was Alice (Allie) Selman, daughter of Colonel John Selman who lived on Freeman's Creek in Clarke County. Whitmal was the father of fifteen children ten of whom were minors. In the division of his property each legatee received from one to three negro slaves.

His oldest son, Jonathan, had married Elizabeth Freeman on 23 May 1815. It was their son, William Freeman Bonner, who has already been referred to as marrying his second sousin, Susan Bonner of Carroll County. Jonathan was living in Pike County in 1823 from whence he later removed to Chambers County, Alabama. His oldest surviving daughter, Edna, was married in 1852, to William J. Scott, Methodist Minister, author, and editor of Scott's Magazine which he published in Atlanta after the Civil War. In writing of his wife's father he referred to him as "a large and properous planter..." who was related by consanguinity to many of the best and foremost people of Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Texas and was by descent the great-great grandson of one of the Signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration."

George W. Bonner, the second son of Whitmal, also moved to Macon County, Alabama where as Sheriff of that county he was among the first victims of the Creek Indian uprising in 1836. This Indian uprising, the last to occur east of the Mississippi, was the prelude to the final disappearance of the Creek Indians from Alabama.

About Josiah M. Bonner, the third son, and Whitmal Jones Bonner, Bedford Bonner, and William S. Bonner, the three minor sons, nothing is known by this writer. Some information exists concerning Whitmal's ten girls however. Lorena (sometimes spelled Laurania) was born on 4 July 1807. Some time after her father's death she married Thomas Buttrill and moved to that part of western Georgia which later became Heard

County where they raised a family. One of their sons, James Buttrill (born 1831) moved to Hogansville, Georgia in 1893. One of the older daughters of Whitmal, Bethany (sometimes spelled Bethene) was married to Wiley J. Sterling on 28 January 1816. This family moved to Troup County where they had several children. One of these, Dr. Whitmal Sterling, married his cousin, Martha Bonner of Carroll County, a daughter of Zadock Bonner, junior (born 1804 - died 1891). Caroline Bonner, another daughter of Whitmal, about 1828 met and married Henry Faver of Wilkes County while visiting her sister Bethany Sterling in La Grange, Georgia. The Favers moved to Meriwether County where the following children were born: John Randolph; Henry; James; Whitmal; Belle; Mary; Frances, and Josephine. When their oldest child, John Randolph Faver was eighteen years old, about 1839, the family moved with a large contigent of slaves to northeast Texas where they cleared land, planted cotton and built a large white-columned house in the traditional fashion of Middle Georgia.

One of Whitmal's oldest daughters, whose name is unknown, married James M. Hubbard. Hubbard together with Wiley J. Sterling was listed as one of the legatees in 1820. Colonel John Selman was made guardian of Mary J. Bonner; Caroline Bonner; Matilda Bonner; Lorena Bonner; Mattie Mae Bonner and Polly Bonner. (A younger daughter, Betsy Bonner, was also listed in the Selman guardianship). Since Selman, their grandfather, lived in Clarke County it is likely that these girls reached maturity and married in eastern Georgia. There are admittedly some contradictions in the records of the administration of Whitmal's estate. One item mentions the sale of 20 slaves totaling \$6,760 and that each legatee's share of this sale was \$564.80. According to this there would be only twelve legatees instead of sixteen (including his widow and fifteen children).

None of Whitmal's children can be identified on the census records of Jasper County in 1830, a fact which suggests that the older children had migrated to western Georgia or to the newer States west of the Chattahoochee by that time. Since the name "Whitmal" is an unusual one and likely to be repeated in succeeding generations, it should be relatively easy for descendants to identify their relationship to this family.

Rev 1995 Up-date: In the book, "Some Georgia County Records, Volume 2", the following is found:

"In the March Term Court 1819. Letters of administration and warrant of appraisal granted to Ally Bonner and Jonathan Bonner on estate of Whitmal Bonner. Christopher Hobson and Alsea Holefield entered themselves security for \$20,000.

Also in the same book the following is noted: "In court on 6 September 1819, Whitmel Bonner, Late of this County, etc."

In court in January Term 1821, "On application of Bedford Bonner, Lemorah Bonner, Matilda Bonner, William S. Bonner, Mary J. Bonner and Whitmel J. Bonner to have guardians appointed for them. Ordered that Colonel John Selmers be appointed. Court Adjourned."

The above is proof that Whitmal Bonner was dead before March 1819, not sometime in 1820 or 1821.

# SIGNERS OF THE MECKLENBURG ADDRESS 20 May 1775

#### **Officers**

Abraham Alexander John McKnight Alexander

# **Delegates**

Colonel Thomas Polk Ephriam Brevard Hezekiah J. Balch John Phifer James Harris William Kennon John Ford Richard Barry Henry Down Ezra Alexander William Graham John Quarry Hezekiah Alexander Adam Alexander Charles Alexander Senator Zacheus Wilson Waightsill Avery Benjamin Patton MatthewMcClure Neil Morrison Robert Irwin John Flennikan (Flanagan) Senator Richard Harris

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#### CHAPTER VII

#### THOMAS BONNER (1779 - 1860)

Thomas Bonner was one of the younger sons of the elder Thomas Bonner (1744 - 1804) and about whom there is considerable information in the County archives of Georgia. Fortunately for this study, the census enumerator visited his house in August 1860, a few days before his death, and these records reveal the information that he was born in South Carolina in 1779. His wife, Elizabeth Duke, who survived him was born in Georgia in 1786, She probably was the sister of Edmund Duke, Jr. and the daughter of William Duke, Sr.

In 1860, Thomas Bonner (born 1779) was living on the Little River in Morgan County within a few hundred yards of Sewell's Methodist Church. This is in the southwest corner of the county near where it joins both Walton and Newton Counties. Living with him at this time was one family of slaves and an overseer, Robert Crowley, age 25. The census enumerator recorded the fact of his being blind which condition dated back to 1848. It was in that year that he began to divide his land and slaves among his children, and in these deed of transfer his mark appears in the place of his former signature. His will is recorded at the end of this chapter and mentions six sons, seven daughters and ten grandchildren. Of his thirteen children only Sarah Ann (born 7 January 1823) had died. She had married William Winfrey who survived her. The executor of the Will, which was proved on 20 August 1860, was his "trusty friend Alexander Pharr of Newton County". Pharr died before the administration was completed and he was replaced by William T. Elliott in 1867. At the time of his death in 1860 his real estate was valued at \$1,000 and his personal property at \$8,000. In addition to slaves his personal property included such items as 9 heads of cattle; 2 horses; an ox-cart; "old buggy and harness"; a wheat fan; fodder; corn; bacon, and miscellaneous household goods which were to remain in possession of his wife.

Thomas Bonner (born 1779) appeared on the Clarke County tax books in 1802 in Captain Lloyd's District on the Appalachee River. His tax of 31 cents was the minimum figure, and it indicates that he owned no land and no slaves at this time. In 1830, the census enumerator of Morgan County listed a total of ten children and seven slaves. Nine years later a record of his landholdings reveals the same pattern of land speculation as that of his brothers, although his land deals were on a smaller scale. His homeplace on Little River where he died contained 433-1/2 acres and in addition there were 233-1/2 acres in the Nineteenth District of Morgan County and lots of 202-1/2 acres in Heard; 202-1/2 acres in Harris; 202-1/2 acres in Lee, and 202-1/2 acres in Henry Counties, making a total of approximately 1,500 acres.

Deed records of Morgan and surrounding Counties suggest liberal gifts of land to his sons and daughters most of whom lived on neighboring farms. In 1848, for example, he granted to his son, Bennett W. Bonner, lot number 67 and parts of lot number 66 in the Nineteeth District of Morgan County containing 202-1/2 acres "worth \$1,000" but retained the right of himself and wife to continue living on the place. In August of 1849, Bennett conveyed the same tract back to his father for \$1,000. In July 1855, a son Josiah sold Henry Henderson, a brother-in-law living in Jasper County, the northeast portion of lot number 92, "said lot adjoining Thomas Bonner, Senior, William R. Hawkins, Henry Cooper (sons-in-law) and Thomas Bonner, Jr". Josiah died at Oakland, Mississippi on 28 March 1892.

His Bible is in possession of Gordon Josiah Bonner of Tallahatchee County where many of his of his descendants were living in 1965. The Last, Will and Testament of Thomas Bonner (born 1779) reflects further evidence of liberal dowries to his daughters as well as gifts to his sons. Apparently he had lived most of his adult life at the house where he died on lot number number 67 which in 1860 was in the Adsborough District and his post office was Ebinezer. The house disappeared about 1940. This writer visited it in 1931 and found it to be a story-and-a-half frame structure fronted by two rows of elm trees. The road in front of his house was closed about 1935. Thomas Bonner was buried at Sewell's Church about a quarter of a mile distant from his house. In 1965 the base of the chimney and the old spring were the only signs remaining of this home-site.

The family Bible of Thomas and Elizabeth Duke Bonner is in the possession of Judge James William Bonner of Blakely, Georgia, a great grandson. [Rev 1995 Note - Judge Bonner had passed away some years ago. The Bible is now in the possession of the Judge's daughter, Jane, who is married and living in Atlanta, Georgia. She mailed a certified copy of the Bible information listed in this chapter. The Bible pages cannot be machine copied because the Bible is too fragile to handle. However, a certified typewritten (also enclosed in this chapter) copy is on file at the Sons of the Revolution Headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky under national number 142858].

The Bible list his children as follows: William Bonner born 13 September 1803; James Bonner born 16 May 1806 (who married Nancy [Telitha] Applewhite on 7 August 1828); Bidda Bonner born 31 January 1808 (who married James Green on 15 June 1827); Nancy Bonner born 16 December 1809 (who married James Spence on 15 January 1827); Thomas Bonner born 12 March 1812 (who married Nancy P. Davis); Mary Bonner born 4 February 1814 (who married William R. Hawkins in April 1830); Elizabeth Bonner born 9 November 1816 (who married Noah Cooper on 28 August 1833); Allen Bonner born 11 February 1818 (whose second marriage was to Elizabeth Ann Ivey of Walton County which occurred on 29 December 1846 - His third wife was Elizabeth Prince); Susan Bonner born 9 November 1819 (married Henry W. Henderson of Jasper County); Josiah Bonner born 24 February 1821 (who married Sinah Burks on 23 September 1841); Sarah Ann born 7 January 1823 (married William Winfrey); Bennett W. Bonner born 16 November 1824; Caroline Bonner born 28 July 1826 (who married James Welborn).

The descendants of Thomas Bonner (born 1779) became widely scattered. The oldest son, William, was in Henry County in 1830 but his subsequent career is unknown. His sons-in-law, Noah Cooper and James Welborn apparently were in the Sewell's Church community until well after the Civil War since a number of these two families and one member of the Hawkins family are buried there. Henry Cooper who died in 1886 is among these. In the same lot are Reuben Hill Cooper (born 1847 - died 1931); Sim Cooper (born 1884 - died 1939); Sarah M. Cooper (born 1838 - died 1924); Janie D. Cooper (born 1850 - died 1908); Josiah T. Welborn; Lubie E. Welborn (born 1881 - died 1883) son of Josiah; and Mrs. E. A. Hawkins (nee Harper) born 1879 - died 1901).

Of Thomas Bonner's thirteen children only the history of the four youngest sons, Josiah, Allen, Thomas and Bennett are known. Thomas went to Alabama where he died some time after the Civil War. His oldest son, James Thomas, died at Rock Island, Illinois during the Civil War as a Confederate prisoner. He had enlisted from Fayette County, Alabama.

Josiah began to dispose of his land in Morgan County as early as 1849 when he sold his brother, Allen, the last half of lot number 66. Six years later he sold to his

brother-in-law, Henry M. Henderson, of Jasper County part of lot 92. After the Civil War, in 1869, he started with his family to Texas. Arriving at the Mississippi River he found that stream swollen and was forced to stop in Mississippi where he remained, settling near his double cousin, Thomas Duke, who had arrived earlier from Middle Georgia. Josiah Bonner died at Oakland on 28 March 1892. His Bible is in possession of Gordon Josiah Bonner of Tallahatchee County where many of his descendants are living in 1965.

Josiah's ten children were: Sarah Elizabeth (11 July 1842 - 20 November 1936); Susan Ann (1 December 1844 - 29 May 1908); Carolina F. (1 July 1846 - 6 April 1852); Allen Thomas (born 24 September 1847 and died in Confederate service at Andersonville, Georgia on 20 June 1864); Elisha Henry (8 February 1848 - 28 March 1932) who married Mattie Shores; Josiah Trust (4 June 1850 - 29 June 1927); James W. (17 February 1852 - 19 June 1907) who married Ida Andrew Thomas; Alexander R. (25 May 1953 - 5 January 1927) who married Lucy Hudson; Sophronia Abigail (18 May 1856 - 20 November 1936); William Bennett (14 December 1857 - 6 December 1929) who married Mattie Adams; John F. (15 May 1859 - June 1943) who married Elizabeth Rushing; Samuel Jesse (18 September 1863 - 12 November 1909) who married "\_\_?\_\_" Fowler.

Allen Bonner (born 1818) moved from Morgan County to Henry County and finally to Clayton County, where at the beginning of the Civil War, he was operating a modest farm and a grist mill near Jonesboro on lot 44 in the Twelfth District. Being exempt from military service under the Confederate draft law, he became a Captain in Governor Joe Brown's militia where he acquired a reputation as an effective drill-master. Being in the direct path of Sherman's invading army in 1864, Allen Bonner left Jonesboro before the end of the war and moved to Carroll County. He settled near Roopville, on lot 36 in the Eleventh District. Sometime later he moved to another farm on the Upper Bowden - Carrollton Road a few miles west of the Little Tallapoosa River. Here he died on 23 July 1901, and is buried in the Bonner lot along with four generations of his family at Old Camp Cemetery. His wife Elizabeth died on 17 May 1907.

Allen Bonner had eleven children. Sarah Euphemia, the only child of his first marriage, was born 3 August 1842. Sarah's first husband was killed in the Civil War and she later married Thomas Burkes. They moved to Cherokee County, Alabama and died there. Four sons were born to Allen and Elizabeth Ivey Bonner. They were: Francis Marion (born 25 September 1847); George Thomas (1 May 1849 - 17 October 1933); Jasper Andrew (born 14 September 1850) and John Iverson (21 January 1852 - September 1925). The children of his third marriage were: Florida Jane (born 21 January 1857); James Allen (born 18 February 1860); William Luther (born 6 October 1861); Mary Ann (born 29 July 1863) and Martha Elivira (or Ella) born 8 September 1865 who married Watt Copeland. They moved to Texas and died there. As already related, James Allen and William Luther moved to Tennessee where they founded the community of Bonnertown and died there during the first third of the twentieth century.

Bennett William (born 1824) was a close associate of his brother, Allen. The two lived as neighbors in Henry and Clayton counties and removed together to Carroll County where they continued a close relationship. Bennett became surveyor and once served as the official surveyor of Carroll County. He died on 4 November 1898 and is buried with his brother Allen at the Old Camp Methodist Church. His wife Frances (born 27 June 1827) died on 23 October 1916.

The remainder of this chapter was revised in 1995. -

James Bonner married Nancy Telitha Applewhite, gg grandparents of this writer: \_\_\_\_\_\_

The following document is on file in the records of Morgan County, Georgia:

"Georgia - Morgan County

To any Minister of the Gospel Judge Justice of the Inferior Court or Justice of the Peace you are hereby authorized to join James Bonner and Miss Nancy Applewhite in the Holy state of matrimony acording to the Constitution and Laws of this State and for so doing this shall be your sufficient license.

Given under My Hand and Seal this 7th day of August 1828.

John W. Porter, CCO

In Boddie's 17th Century Isle of Wight, Virginia - "Humphrey Marshall died in Isle of Wight County, Virginia, in 1711, leaving a will in which no sons but some daughters are mentioned. Ann Marshall who married Captain Henry Applewhite (born ca 1695 - died 1739) and daughter Mary, who married Thomas Hill".

Children of Henry Applewhite and Ann Marshall Applewhite:

1. Thomas Applewhite (born ca 1733 in Isle of Wight County, Va - died ca 1803 in Halifax, NC).

Wife: unknown:

Children: a. Thomas Applewhite (? - died 11 April 1828 in Halifax, N. C.).

b. Henry Applewhite

- c. Robert Applewhite (born 12 February 1771 in Halifax, NC died 18 September 1839 in Stewart County, Ga).
- d. John Applewhite
- e. Mary Applewhite

James Bonner (born 16 May 1806) married in Morgan County, Georgia on 7 August 1828, Nancy Telitha Applewhite (born 1810 probably in Morgan County, Ga). 

Nancy Telitha Applewhite Bonner was a daughter of Elizabeth Barnes Applewhite, born 16 August 1782 - died 31 August 1842 (probably in Stewart County, Georgia).

Elizabeth Barnes Applewhite was the daughter of Dempsey Barnes, born ca 1747 died 25 March 1807 in Edgecombe County, N. C., and Sarah "\_\_?\_\_". 

The following is from the Bible of Jesse Applewhite, brother of Nancy Applewhite:

Nancy Telitha Applewhite Bonner was a daughter of Robert Applewhite, born 12 February 1771 in Halifax County, N. C. - died 18 September 1839 in Stewart County, Georgia).

Children of Robert and Elizabeth Barnes Applewhite:

1. Thomas B. Applewhite (born 1799 in Halifax, County, N. C. - died 25 March 1857 in Webster County, Georgia) married Nancy Davis.

- 2. Sarah Applewhite (born 1803) married 12 October 1826 in Stewart County, Georgia to Job Glover.
- 3. John Applewhite (born 1804 in Morgan County, Georgia) married 3 December 1824 in Morgan County, Georgia to Hannah Jones.
  - 4. Robert Applewhite, Jr. (born 1806 in Morgan County, Georgia unk).
- 5. Nancy Applewhite (born 1810 in Morgan County, Georgia died after 1870 in Stewart County, Georgia) married James Bonner in Morgan County, Georgia on 7 August 1828.
- 6. Elizabeth Applewhite (born 1812 in Morgan County, Georgia) married 12 October 1836 to Bray Warren in Stewart County, Georgia.
- 7. Jesse Applewhite (born 1814 in Morgan County, Georgia died 27 October 1872 in Thomas County, Georgia) married Mary Magdalene Hill on 2 February 1837 in Stewart County, Georgia.
- 8. Susannah Applewhite (born 1816 in Morgan County, Georgia) married 6 December 1839 in Stewart County, Georgia to Lewis A. Britt.
- 9. General Washington Applewhite (born 1813 in Morgan County, Georgia) married 30 November 1836 in Stewart County, Georgia to Rachel R. Brunson.
- 10. Martha Ann Applewhite (born 16 October 1819 in Morgan County, Georgia died May 1880 in Coffee County, Alabama) married 4 December 1836 in Stewart County, Georgia to John William Harper.
- 11. James J. Applewhite (born 1821 died 4 March 1844 in Stewart County, Georgia).
- 12. Louisa (Elizer) Applewhite (born 1824) married on 30 December 1847 in Stewart County, Georgia to Bright Holland.
- 13. Clementine Applewhite (born 1827) married (1st) on 25 May 1845 to C. W. Allen. (2d) on 28 January 1847 to Benjamin Jackson.

The above birth records were copied from a copy of the family Bible owned by Jesse Applewhite's descendants of Thomasville, Georgia.

Children of James Bonner and Nancy Telitha Applewhite Bonner:

- 1. Josiah Bonner (Went to Civil War and never returned time and place of death is unknown)
  - 2. Benjamin Bonner
  - 3. Sarah Bonner
  - 4. Mary Bonner
  - 5. Harry Bonner
- 6. Susannah Bonner (born 7 January 1838 died 17 April 1923). She married Houze. She is buried in the Wesabulga (Cragford) Cemetery at Cragford, Clay County, Alabama.

- 7. Martha Caroline Bonner (born 20 September 1846 probably in Stewart County, Georgia died 19 January 1933 in Clay County, Alabama) was married on 2 August 1866 in Heard County, Georgia to James Allen McConniell [born 12 November 1838 in Anderson District, South Carolina died 31 July 1917 in Clay County, Alabama. (James Allen McConniell served in the Civil War as a Private with "A" Company, 14th Alabama Regiment enlisting in Auburn, Alabama in July 1861. He fought with the Army of Northern Virginia (with General Robert E. Lee); was wounded on 1 June 1862 at the Battle of Seven Pines, Virginia. He was at Appomattox, Virginia on 9 April 1865 for the Surrender; took the Oath of Allegiance; was paroled and released]. Martha C. Bonner McConniell and James Allen McConniell are buried at Cragford Cemetery in Clay County, Alabama.
- 8. Emily Bonner, married and moved to Arkansas. (Note According to Martha Caroline, Emily was the baby of the family).

The LAST WILL and TESTAMENT of THOMAS BONNER (1779 - 1860)

GEORGIA Morgan County

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. I, Thomas Bonner, Sr., of the County and State aforesaid, being advanced in life but sound of mind and memory do.

Item 1st. It is my desire that my body be buried in a decent Christian-like manner, and my soul to GOD who gave it.

- Item 2. It is my wish that my just debts be paid.
- Item 3. It is my will that what property, lands, negroes and every species of property I may be possessed of shall be held and enjoyed by my wife for and during her lifetime, with the exception of my household goods which goods and furniture I give to my wife in fee simple for her to do with as she pleases and at her death the property thus willed to her for life to be sold and the proceeds from the sale to be distributed among each of my children and grandchildren as hereinafter directed.
- Item 4. Having heretofore given my son William Bonner, money and property which I consider to be an equal portion of my estate I give him forty dollars more in addition to what he has had, and to my son James Bonner, in addition to what he had heretofore received from me, eighty dollars. Having heretofore given to my son-in-law James Green, money and property I will him nothing more from my estate, I give to my nine grandchildren and the children of my daughter, Biddy Green, to wit: Joe, Tabitha, Martha, James, Nancy, Sarah A., Mary, Noah and Pleasant Green, each one hundred dollars. Having heretofore given to my son-in-law James Spence land and other property which I consider to be his full share of my estate I give him nothing more from my estate. Having heretofore given to my son, Thomas Bonner, Jr., land and stock, I further will him four hundred dollars more. Having heretofore given to my son-in-law William K. Hawkins lands and other property I will and desire that nothing more from my estate shall go into his hands.

Item 5. It is my will and desire that my Executor hereinafter named when he shall have sold and collected the proceeds of my estate that he pay into the hands of my daughter, Mary Hawkins, four hundred dollars for her sole and separate use of herself and her daughters, free from the debts or control of her husband. Having heretofore given to my son-in-law Noah Cooper lands and other property I further will him eight dollars. Having heretofore given to my son, Allen Bonner lands and other property, I further give him eighty dollars. Having heretofore given to my son, Bennett Bonner property and money to an amount which I consider to be more than an equal share of my estate, it is my will that he have nothing more from my estate. Having heretofore given to my son-in-law William Winfrey, lands and other property as much as I desire to give him, I will him nothing more.

Item 6. I will and bequeath to my grandson Allen H. Winfrey son of my daughter Sarah Winfrey, deceased, one hundred dollars. Having heretofore given to my son-in-law Henry W. Henderson property to an account which I consider his full share I give him nothing more. Having given to my son, Josiah Bonner heretofore lands and other property, I further will to him the sum of four hundred dollars more. Having heretofore given to my son-in-law James Wellborne negroes and other property as much as I wish to control, I give him nothing more.

Item 7. It is my will and desire that my executor when the proceeds of my estate shall have been collected that he pay into the hands of **my daughter**, **Caroline** wife of James Wellborne the sum of four hundred dollars for her sole and separate use of herself and her children free from the debts and control of her present or any future husband.

Item 8. It is my will in case of death of Negroes or depreciation in the value of property that my legatees under this will shall receive a deficit in proportion to the respective amounts...or in case of an increase in the value of the property...a surplus.

Item 9. My trusty friend Alexander Pharr of the County of Newton (is named) Executor.

Thomas Bonner (Proved) 20 August 1860.

The above Will is on file in the State Archives in Atlanta, Georgia.

Note: In the 1782 census of the State of Virginia the following is found:

Heads of Household: Elizabeth Applewhaite in Isle of Wight County.

Four (4) whites and eight blacks;

also: Henry Applwhite
Sarah Applewhite
Martha Applewhite
Sally Applewhite

The below is an exact copy of the Bible page from the Family Bible that was the property of Thomas and Elizabeth Duke Bonner. Unfortunately the names of the parents of Elizabeth are not listed. There is much confusion as to whom the parents of Elizabeth and Edmund Duke were. It is believed that Elizabeth and Edmund were siblings.

"I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE BELOW INFORMATION WAS BEEN TAKEN FROM THE BIBLE OF THOMAS BONNER AND HIS WIFE, ELIZABETH DUKE BONNER".

The Bible being too fragile to copy by machine, the following is hereby furnished;

HOLY BIBLE
CONTAINING
OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS
TRANSLATED OUT OF THE ORIGINAL TONGUES
AND WITH THE FORMER
TRANSLATIONS DILIGENTLY COMPARED AND REVISED
WITH CANNES MARGINAL REFERENCES

By Hervey Wilbur, A.M.
The Bible was published by White, Gallaher & White, 1829, New York
FAMILY REGISTER

(Ages of Thomas and Elizabeth Bonner's children)

William Bonner was born September 13th, 1803

James Bonner was born May 16th, 1806

Bidda Bonner was born January 31st, 1808

Nancy Bonner was born December 16th, 1809

Thomas Bonner was born March 12th, 1812

Sarah Ann Bonner was born January 7th, 1823

Caroline Bonner was born July 28th, 1826 Mary Bonner was born February 4th, 1814

Elizabeth Bonner was born November 9th, 1816

Allen Bonner was born February 11th, 1818

Susan Bonner was born November 9th, 1819

Josiah Bonner was born February 24th, 1821

Bennett W. Bonner was born November 16th, 1824

I hereby certify that I have correctly reproduced the Family Register pages, spelling and spacing, and that other information concerning the Bible in my possession is correct. The Bible came into my possession through my father, Judge James William Bonner, who is buried in Blakely, Georgia.

(Signed) Jane Bonner Peacock November 13, 1993

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### OTHER DESCENDANTS OF JAMES AND NANCY APPLEWHITE BONNER:

Martha Caroline Bonner married James Allen McConniel who was born in the Anderson District of South Carolina. James and Martha had 12 children:

- 1. Julie Anne Francis McConniell whose exact birthdate is unknown (probably in 1867) died 12 December 1921. She was married to Asa LaCurtis Kirkland on 12 May 1881. Their children: James Benjamin Kirkland born in 1885; Rena Kirkland born in 1887; Mattie Elizabeth Kirkland birth year unknown. (This writer is in possession of an old family photo that is entitled "The Kirkland Kids Rolf, Francis and Rosie". It appears the photo was taken in the mid 1920's).
- 2. Nancy (Nancie) Telitha McConniell (25 August 1869 22 December 1951). She married Richard (Hent) Jones (22 June 1869 6 June 1952) on 7 September 1893. They had the following children: Minnie Jones; Lona or Lonnie Jones; Andrew Jones; Bertha Jones; Vodie Jones; Francis Jones and James William Jones.
- 3. John Melton McConniell (ca 1871 9 July 1933). He married Lizzie L. Waldrop on 22 January 1896. They had seven children; Arizona McConniell was burn to death as a small child and is buried in the Cragford Cemetery; Myrtle McConniell (15 February 1898 11 March 1901). She is buried in the Cragford Cemetery and her tombstone is marked "Myrtle, daughter of J.M & L. L. McConniell"; Rosie Mae McConniell died in 1914 of typhoid fever and is buried in Heard County, Georgia; Marshall McConniell was still living in the mid 1980's in Heard County, Georgia; Gulema, Floyd and Rastus are buried in Heard County, Georgia and Margaret McConniell was still living in the mid 1980's in the state of Virginia.
- 4. Emma Ardamisa McConniell (ca 1873 11 July 1903 of Cancer). She married William Henry Burdette on 28 January 1895. They had a child, Ludia Burdette.
- 5. Susannah Victoria McConniell. (5 April 1875 19 April 1941). She never married and is buried in an unmarked grave next to her parents at Cragford Cemetery. In 1989 a bush was growing at the head of her grave. a recent source of information has it that she may be buried in Anniston, Alabama near her son, Arthur McConniell and daughter-in-law, Dessie. Arthur was a preacher and lived in Oxford, Alabama in the 1950's.
- 6. Tullula Sadenia (Denia) McConniell (14 April 1877 4 May 1971). She married Daniel Jackson Cotney (24 April 1875 16 March 1966). They had seven children: Eulas James William Cotney (14 July 1899 9 September 1925) who married Vera Bolt (3 January 1901 9 September 1960). They are buried in the Cragford Cemetery; Issac Huston Cotney (7 August 1901 July 1955) and is buried at Fort Valley, Georgia; Oliver Odell Cotney (28 November 1903 7 November 1983) and is buried at Opp, Alabama; Lula Vasti Cotney Clark born 6 February 1905; Daniel Zero Cotney Cotney (16 April 1908 8 November 1982) and is buried in Bessemer, Alabama; Roxie Bell Cotney Clark born 4 January 1912; Artford Genatious Cotney (17 July 1916 1 November 1974 and is buried in Montgomery, Alabama.
- 7. Josiah Franklin McConniell (7 January 1880 29 January 1957). [In the letters we have from Martha Caroline Bonner McConniell to my mother, Nannie Mae Mathis Curry, this man's name is "Josiah". However his tombstone has "Joseph"]. He was a Master Mason and has a Masonic Square and Compass on his tombstone. He married

Lenora Jane Robertson (14 June 1882 - 13 May 1968) on 28 December 1899 at the home of her father, P. Y. Robertson (Oct 1843 - 30 March 1913) by the Reverend John Leake Joiner. [The best man was Sims Childs (W. S. Childs: 10 August 1881 - 9 July 1965) and the bridesmaid was Sims finance, Tempa Carter (Martha Tempie Carter: 19 July 1883 -24 October 1960]. Josiah and Lenora had six children: Zula Alza McConniell (6 January 1902 - 7 March 1959). She never married and is buried beside her parents in the Corinth Baptist Church Cemetery in Clay County, Alabama; Emory Gordon McConniell (27 April 1904 - 7 June 1933) married Lucille Smith (born 24 February 1904) on 23 December 1929. They had no children. Emory was a foreman on a road construction job in Chattanooga, Tennessee and in the process of removing a tractor left unattended by one of the workers, the tractor overturned and caught fire. Emory was penned beneath the machine and burned to death. Emory is buried at the Shiloh Cemetery near Lineville, Clay County, Alabama. In 1987, there is a tombstone that shows Emory and Lucille's names on the same stone. Lucille was probably still living then; Verdis Ruth McConniell born 17 November 1907 and still living in 1983. She married James Homer Walker (2 October 1901 - 26 October 1972 buried in Lineville City Cemetery) on 25 February 1923 at the home of Reverend Lee Jordan in the Corinth Community of Clay County. They had five children: Gordan Walker (6 January 1924 - 9 June 1950 buried in Lineville City Cemetery). [Gordan fought in World War II holding the rank of Sergeant. He was severely wounded and died of his wounds in 1950]; Nolon Walker; Clyde Walker; Opal Walker; Docia (Dot) Walker who married \_\_?\_ Nelson. They had three children. (One child, Ben Nelson, is living in Childersburg, Alabama in 1995 and is friends with his distant Curry cousins); Annie Beatrice Walker (29 November 1910 - 6 January 1980) married John Willis Denny at the home of her parents in September 1936 by Reverend Tom Preston. They had three children: James W. Denny, Wilda Sue Denny, and Nelda R. Denny: Zodus Edward Walker born 22 October 1916 married Pauline Pitts in June 1939. They had four children: Jane Walker, Joe Walker, Ricky Walker and Carol Walker. In the mid 1980's Zodus and Pauline were living in LaGrange, Georgia; Georgia Ree Walker (19 September 1918 married Durward Henry Hines on 17 June 1939 in LaGrange, Georgia by Reverend T. W. Flowers. In the late 1980's they were living in Deltona, Florida. They had two children: Frank Hines and Edmond Hines.

- 8. Lewis Monroe McConniell (1881 22 December 1884).
- 9. "Little Buddy" McConniell (stillborn on 20 April 1882).
- 10. Lolar Lee McConniell (31 January 1884 2 February 1884).
- 11. James Asbury McConniell (27 April 1885 15 May 1954) married Emily Jane Moncus (10 September 1887 28 April 1945) on 4 October 1903. They are buried in the Corinth Baptist Church Cemetery in Clay County, Alabama. They had seven children: Allen Winchester McConniell (3 August 1904 23 September 1975); Maggie Vestula McConniell (3 October 1906 August 1908); Frankie Joeanna McConniell born 27 February 1910 married \_\_\_\_\_ Smith; Henry Jackson McConniell (9 November 1911 28 June 1973) who is buried beside his parents; Price Durell McConniell (2 July 1916 26 November 1964); James Gary McConniell born 15 August 1919 and Stanley Owens McConniell born 19 July 1921.
- 12. Mattie Eula McConniell (15 April 1888 21 October 1979). She married William Wesley Mathis (4 February 1845 4 January 1928) on 2 September 1909 at the home of her parents in Clay County, Alabama by Reverend A. C. Johnston.

#### CHAPTER VIII

## MARY ELIZABETH BONNER (1779 - After 1870)

(Rev 1995 - This entire chapter is new to this work. It was not part of the original work of Bonner).

Mary Elizabeth Bonner was probably a twin to Thomas Bonner, also born in 1779 in South Carolina (there is a possibility they were born in the same year and not be twins but highly unlikely). Mary's full name came to light after corresponding with descendants of this Bonner family in 1993 and 1994. Not too much has been found out about her. Her husband, Edmund Duke, Jr., may have been a brother to, Elizabeth Duke, wife of Thomas Bonner (born 1779). Elizabeth Duke was was born in 1786 and Edmund in 1781 so the ages are right for them to be siblings.

A profile of a family that fits the pattern to be their father is that of John Taylor Duke, Sr., who had a son, Thomas Duke who died in Morgan County, Georgia in 1828.

The lives of Mary Bonner Duke and Edmund Duke are covered elsewhere in this manuscript.

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#### CHAPTER IX

### ALLEN BONNER (1781 - 1827)

The fourth son of Thomas Bonner (1744 - 1805) was Allen, whose year of birth was approximately 1781. His name appeared first on the tax books of Clarke County in 1802 at which time he returned 247 acres adjacent to land owned by his father and brothers "on the waters of the Appalachia" in the Dove's Creek settlement. Since he appeared first as a landowner at this time it is possible that the year of his birth may have been earlier than 1781. All records concerning him indicate an early and persistent talent for acquiring property in both land and slaves, and the ownership of land at the age of twenty-one was the rule rather than the exception among his family associates. By 1808, he had acquired a total of 800 acres, mostly in Wilkinson and Baldwin counties, and he had begun to invest in slave labor. Six years later, in 1814, he had acquired land in Randolph (now Jasper) and Jackson counties, and had increased his holdings in the Dove's Creek settlement to 400 acres. He also owned nine slaves. In 1820 his tax return included twenty slaves, approximately 2,000 acres of land and on a "four wheel carriage" the latter being the object of one of Georgia's earliest form of a luxury tax. In 1825, which is the last year in which his name appears on the Clarke County tax books, he listed what appeared to have been his homeplace of 243 acres at Dove's Creek, approximately 1,200 additional acres "on the Appalachee" (probably also in Clarke County), one 202-1/2 acre lot each in Baldwin and Jasper counties, and approximately 1,000 acres west of the Appalachee in Walton County. His personal property alone consisted largely of slaves, amounted in value to nine thousand dollars. He died in 1827 at the approximate age of forty-six years. A total of twenty-one slaves were sold in the settlement of the estate, ranging in price from \$150 to \$400 each. Sold in a period of depression in Middle Georgia, they brought only \$5,150.00. The names of these slaves are listed in the records.

It appears that Allen Bonner still lived at Dove's Creek on the Appalachee at the time of his death, and he was the last of the Bonners to reside in this settlement. James Meriwether was the administrator of his estate, the records of which are numerous and scattered, being found in the archives of various Middle Georgia counties. These records not only help to substantiate his birth date as 1781 but also identify his wife and children.

Allen Bonner married Lucy Awtrey, the second daughter of Absalom and Mary Lucy Awtry of Clarke County. Absalom Awtrey was born in 1751 in Lincoln County, North Carolina and served in the Revolutionary War. He and his descendants followed the same path of migration across the middle of Georgia as did the family of Thomas Bonner (1744 - 1804). Like the Bonners, the Awtreys intermarried with such well-known Middle Georgia families as the Treadwells, Hills, and Strawns.

Several minor children of Allen and Lucy Awtrey Bonner are known to have survived their father. William A. Drake, in 1837 married Allen's daughter, Mahala, who ten years earlier had been the wife of Colonel Hill of Walton County. William Drake became the guardian of Allen, Jr. and Frances Emily, described as "orphans of Allen Bonner, deceased." Among the older surviving children of Allen, Sr., were Lucy Ann and Jerusha. The former married John T. Marrow of Heard County and Jerusha married Richard Simms of Newton County. Henry L. Reese was also listed as one of the legatees in 1828, indicating that he [Allen Bonner] was the father of a still a sixth child whose name is unknown.

Allen Bonner's wife, Lucy Awtrey, survived him. She is known to have been living in Walton County in the 1830's. Since that county lies immediately west of the Appalachee River, it is quite possible that her residence was near if not actually at the site of the old Bonner homestead at Dove's Creek. Lucy apparaently died shortly before 1837, for in that year the six heirs sold to Richard Vanderford and Lewis Arthur for \$1,500 a tract of "331 acres known as the dower of Mrs. Lucy Ann Bonner late widow and relict of the said Allen Bonner, deceased". Each of the heirs was entitled to a sixth part of the dower which was sold at auction. It is not known what became of the two minor children surviving their mother in 1837, whose names were Allen, Jr. and Frances E. Bonner.

Rev 1995 Up-date: Lucy Awtrey Bonner (relict of Allen) married Henry Green before 1835.

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#### CHAPTER X

#### JOSIAH BONNER (1787 - 1851)

Josiah Bonner was born, probably in Georgia, on 5 May 1787, and he was one of his father's three minor children at the time of the latter's death in 1804. His name appeared first on the Clarke County tax books in 1809, being listed in "Funderburg's (Funderburk's) District along with his brothers. He was married 2 February 1810, to Nancy Williams Hubert (born 1791) the daughter of Gabriel Hubert and Elizabeth Bonner Hubert.

Gabriel Hubert was born in North Carolina in 1769, the son of Benjamin Hubert. He moved to Greene County, Georgia in 1786 and settled near Powell's Creek where, in 1790, he married Elizabeth Bonner who was born in North Carolina in 1767. The exact relationship between Josiah Bonner and his mother-in-law is unknown, but all indications point to a double kinship between the two families. This point is further emphasized by the fact that a son of Gabriel Hubert, James Nevel Hubert (born 1793) was married to Anne Bonner, whose parentage is unknown to this writer. Hubert moved with his family from Greene to Clarke County along with the Bonners. On 4 June 1804, he proved his headright to 600 acres of land and was granted that amount in the general area of the Dove's Creek settlement. In addition to Nancy, Gabriel Hubert had five other children, all of whom were sons. One of these, John Rutherford Hubert (born 1801) went with Mirabeau B. Lamar to Texas where he practiced law, held the office of District Attorney at Houston, and later served as associate land commissioner at Nacogdoches.

Gabriel Hubert must have died in Clarke County in 1812, for in that year Josiah Bonner was appointed guardian for "James Hubert, orphan of Gabriel Hubert, deceased." [Rev 1995 Update - In the book, "Some Georgia County Records, Volume 2, page 21, by Silas Lucas, Jr., the following is found: "Administration bond dated 25 June 1811. Elizabeth Hubert and James Meriwether, Administrators of Gabriel Hubert. Sureties: David Meriwether and Josiah Bonner"]. By this time Josiah had acquired 85 acres of land on the Appalachee and one slave. It was soon after this that he moved away from Dove's Creek, and his name is not included on the Clarke County tax books after 1813. He appears next in Pike County, Mississippi near where his brother, Willis, had a land claim in 1818. From there he later moved to Madison County and finally to Carroll (later West Carroll) Parish, Louisiana, where he died near Forest, Louisiana on 9 December 1851.

Josiah and Nancy Hubert Bonner were the parents of eleven children. Gabriel H., the oldest, was born 20 December 1810 and died on 4 November 1861. The others were: James Lucien (27 August 1812 - 13 September 1853); Elizabeth Ann (6 June 1816 - 14 January 1852; Thomas Jones (8 June 1818 - 30 April 1843); Hiram Runnels (22 October 1820 - 13 November 1853); Seleta Caroline (4 May 1823 - 7 May 1849); Cecilia Catherine and Lavenia Emmeline (each born 14 November 1825 - the former died on 12 May 1904 and the latter on 17 July 1849); Mary Latham (14 January 1829 - 30 September 1835); Josiah Fletcher (28 November 1829 - 20 September 1857) and Martha Ann (2 January 1833 - 18 April 1851).

All of Josiah's eleven children, with one exception, were relatively short-lived. For over fifty years Cecilia Catherine remained the only surviving child of her father. The others had died between the ages of nine and fifty-one, the average age at the time of their death being just under thirty years. Since longevity is a fairly consistent trait of the

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descendants of Thomas Bonner (1744 - 1804), the death record of Josiah's family is a matter for interesting speculation. Eli H. Baxter of Hancock County noted in 1845 that the lands of the Southwest were "but painted sepulchres", full of disease and death. "Their children that survive infancy", he affirmed, "are delicate, sickly and rickety from the cradle to the grave". About the same time another Middle Georgian wrote: "Within the last fifteen years between forty and fifty families have moved from this county and settled in...New Alabama. More than half of these have died. None have improved their estates".

While these statements were made largely to discourage the heavy out-migration of Georgia farmers to the newer lands of the Southwest, there was always considerable risk to those who moved onto new lands, particularly in regions to which they were unacclimated. The pattern of migration of the Bonners was noted and described by the prominent British geologist, Sir Charles Lyell, in the period before the Civil War. "They who go southward from Virginia to North Carolina or South Carolina, and thence to Georgia and Alabama, follow, as if by instinct the corresponding zones of country", he wrote. "The inhabitants of the red soil of the granite region keep to their oak and hickory, the crackers of the tertiary pine barrens to their lightwood, and they of the newest geological formations in the sea islands to their fish and oysters". With two or three exceptions, Josiah being one, the Bonners kept to "their oak and hickory" and even Josiah did not long remain in "the tertiary pine barrens".

Members of the clan invariable moved southward from Virginia and the Carolinas into Georgia and then westward in a belt some seventy miles wide which stretched along the fall line from Augusta to a point near or just south of Dallas, Texas. This was the most common route of family migration in early southern History. This pattern was followed by the ancestors of President Lyndon Johnson who forebears are found in Georgia, Alabama and Texas, in the same communities where the Bonners sojourned.

This region along the fall line is sometimes known as the Old Piedmont cotton belt. It was in this belt of mixed farms and great plantations that the history of the Bonner family was made. Here they were born, reared their children, and were buried. Some reached that affluence characteristic of the plantation master, others were small farmers, and a few were even less noteworthy in their econonmic achievement. Hard work was the common lot of all of them. Those who became affluent were often blessed by gifts of perseverance and better luck than most. Zadock Bonner once reminisced about his youth in Middle Georgia. He told how he often waited between his plow handles early on a spring morning for enough daylight to enable him to plow a straight furrow. Hard work, good management, and a little luck placed him among the foremost men of his County in the two decades preceeding the Civil War.

The remainder of this chapter was not part of the original work of Bonner. It is part of the revised work of 1995.

The following data was published in Texas about the Landfair family. It was mailed to me with the title sheet missing. My apologies!

Eliza (Ann) Bonner, consort of Robert Landfair. Born 6 June 1816. Died 14 January 1852. Buried in the Old Forrest Cemetery, Forrest, Louisiana. Her father was Josiah Bonner, born 4 May 1787 and died 9 December 1851 (son of Thomas Bonner (died 1804).

On page 287 of the same book, the following is found;

"Louisiana Tombstone Inscriptions of East and West Carroll Parishes. Copied and Published by the Louisiana Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Volume 6, pages 112 and 135".

Nicholas D. Ingram married Lavinia Emaline Bonner, sister of Eliza Bonner Landfair on 23 December 1839 in Madison County, Mississippi. Book F, page 84.

1850 Census, Carroll Parish, Louisiana 349, 349 James L. Bonner, born 1812 in Georgia.

1850 Census, Carroll Parish, Louisiana, 115, 115. Josiah Bonner born 1790 in Georgia. (This would be Josiah born 4 May 1787). Elizabeth M. Bonner born in 1816 in Mississippi. Sample Bonner born in 1849 in Louisiana.

1860 Census, Carroll Parish, Louisiana, Ward 5, Oak Grove 764, 734. Gabriel H. Bonner born 1811 in Georgia.

Margaret E. Bonner born 1812 in South Carolina.

Wilbur F. Bonner born in 1842 in Mississippi.

James J. Bonner born in 1848 in Mississippi.

Mary E. Bonner born in 1850 in Mississippi.

Nancy Williams Hubert (wife of Josiah Bonner who was a son of Thomas Bonner (ca 1744 - 1804), mother of Eliza Ann Bonner (Mrs. Robert C. Landfair), was a first cousin of the Honorable Hiram G. Runnels who was elected Governor of Mississippi in 1833 and of his brother, Hardin Dudley Runnels, whose son, Hardin Richard Runnels, served as Speaker, Texas House of Representatives in 1853 and 1855. Governor Runnels of Mississippi and Hardin Dudley Runnels were the sons of Colonel Harmon Runnels who served in the Mississippi Constitutional Convention of 1817 and his wife, Hester Hubert, born in 1762 in North Carolina, the sister of Gabriel Hubert and the aunt of his daughter, Nancy Williams Hubert. Gabriel and Hester Hubert were two of the children of Benjamin B. Hubert, a Freanch Huguenot who married Mrs. Mary Williams, widow of Paul Williams, of Frederick County, Virginia in 1748. From Virginia the Huberts moved to Caswell County, North Carolina, and in 1785 or 1786 they moved to Warren County (then part of Wilkes County), Georgia. The Will of Benjamin B. Hubert was signed 26 July 1793 and was the first recorded in Warren County, Georgia.

Genealogy of the Family of Benjamin B. Hubert, A Huguenot, by Miss Sarah Donelson Hubert of Barnett, Warren County, Georgia, published in 1897 by the Franklin Printing and Publishing Company of Atlanta, Georgia. This booklet was loaned to the author (Sarah Hubert) by Mr. Robert Lamar Landfair of Jackson, Mississippi.

Mr. Robert Lamar Landfair sent this list of the children of Thomas Bonner and Margaret Jones:

- 1. Jourdan Bonner who married Polly Adams on 3 October 1811.
- 2. Zadock Bonner who married Lucy Ridgeway.
- 3. Thomas Bonner.
- 4. Whitmal Bonner.
  5. William Bonner born in 1775. (Note This the only document that states that Thomas had a son named William. If true, he died before 1804).

- 6. Willis Bonner
- 7. Josiah Bonner born 5 May 1787 and married Nancy Williams Hubert and died on 9 December 1851.
  - 8. Deborah Bonner who married Richard Vanderford.

9. Elizabeth Bonner.

(Note that Daniel M. Bonner is not listed).

Mr. Robert Lamar Landfair sent this information on Josiah Bonner and Nancy William Hubert.

Josiah Bonner was born 5 May 1787 in Greene County, Georgia and died on 9 December 1851 in Carroll Parish, Louisiana. He married Nancy Williams Hubert on 2 February 1810, in Clarke County, Georgia.

Nancy Williams Hubert was born 20 October 1791 in Georgia and died in Madison County, Mississippi in 1834 or 1835.

Josiah Bonner and Nancy Williams Hubert were the parents of the following children.

- 1. Gabriel Hubert Bonner (born 20 December 1810 in Clarke County, Georgia and died 4 November 1861) married Margaret E. Brown on 28 May 1831.
- 2. James Lucien Bonner (born 29 August 1812 in Clarke County, Georgia and died on 13 September 1858 in West Carroll Parish, Louisiana) married Sarah Ann L. Reid on 30 October 1851.
- 3. Eliza Ann Bonner (born 6 June 1816 in Clarke County, Georgia and died on 14 January 1852 in West Carroll Parish, Louisiana) married Robert C. Landfair in 1830/31.
- 4. Thomas **Jones** Bonner (born 8 June 1818 in Clarke County, Georgia and died on 30 April 1843). (Note This is additional proof that Josiah's mother was **Margaret Jones Bonner!**)
- 5. Hiram Runnels Bonner (born 22 October 1820 in Lawrence County, Mississippi and died on 13 November 1853 in West Carroll Parish, Mississippi).
- 6. Seleta Caroline Bonner (born 4 May 1823 in Lawrence County, Mississippi and died on 7 May 1849 in West Carroll Parish, Louisiana) married John Wayles Eppes on 9 February 1837.
- 7. Lavinia Emaline Bonner (born 14 November 1825 17 July 1843 in Carroll Parish, Louisiana) married Nicholas D. Ingram on 23 December 1839.
- 8. Cecilia Catherine Bonner (born 14 November 1825 12 May 1904) married Benjamin C. Sample on 10 November 1841.
- 9. Mary Latham Bonner (born 14 January 1828 in Madison County, Mississippi and died there on 30 September 1835).
- 10. Josiah Fletcher Bonner (born 28 November 1829 in Madison County, Mississippi and died on 20 September 1852).

11. Mary Ann Norwood Bonner (born 2 January 1833 in Madison County, Mississippi and died on 18 March 1851 in West Carroll Parish, Louisiana) married John M. Key on 7 March 1850).

After the death of Nancy Williams Hubert, Josiah Bonner married, Second; Sarah K. Eppes;

Thirdly, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Scanland on 24 August 1848, with Elizabeth M. Scanland, Josiah Bonner fathered the following children:

- 1. Sample Bonner (born 2 November 1849 in Carroll Parish, Louisiana and died there on 4 August 1852).
- 2. Josiah Bonner (born 27 September 1851 in Carroll Parish, Louisiana and died there on 27 January 1852).
- Mr. Robert Lamar Landfair, a descendant of Robert Landfair and Eliza Ann Bonner sent the Bonner Revolutionary Record, which he reports, has been established with the Daughters of the American Revolution. The father of Eliza Ann Bonner (Mrs. Robert Landfair) was Josiah Bonner. His father, Thomas Bonner, junior was born about 1744 in Chowan County, North Carolina. He enlisted in Roebuck's Regiment at Spartanburg, South Carolina and fought in the American Revolution. Thomas and his wife died in Clarke County, Georgia.

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#### THE LAST WORD

This work is the result of about four years of extensive travel, reading of old documents, research, analyzing and putting information together seemingly without end. It has been typed and retyped many, many times, each time adding information I did not have before. In truth, there is no end.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Wesley Curry was born 2 June 1934 in Talladega County, Alabama, the son of Leo Dewey Curry (1908 - 1993) and Nannie Mae Mathis Curry (1910 - 1988). After at least one round trip from Alabama, in 1935, to North Carolina and back again to Alabama, in 1936, the family moved to North Carolina, settling in Greene County, in 1939. The family lived in Hopewell, Virginia during World War II and moved back to North Carolina in 1948, this time settling in Pitt County.

In 1953, while living in Newport News, Virginia, John joined the U. S. Marine Corps on 10 February and served on active until 1 September 1972 when he was transferred to the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve. He was transferred to the retired list on 1 March 1983 as a First Lieutenant. He is a veteran of the Korean War (stateside duty) and served two tours of duty at the Danang Air Base, Danang, South Vietnam.

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