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HUGH MIDDLETON WOODHAM

(Middleton, "Mid")

-- 1830

14 Aug., 1899

Hugh Middleton ("Mid", Middleton) Woodham was born in 1830 in the Stokes Bridge Community of Old Darlington District, now part of Lee County, South Carolina. He was a son of Asa Woodham and Elaine Elizabeth Dubose and a grandson of Aris Woodham Senior.

Mid lived in the Stokes Bridge area and later moved to the Alcot Community where he lived until his death in 1899. He married first sometime in the 1850's to Charity Ann Kelly, daughter of James Kelly. They had no surviving children. Charity died in 1871 and was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery.

Mid married second to Mary Hill, sometime in the 1870's. Mary died in 1882 and was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery. They had no surviving children.

Mid married his third wife Sarah Elizabeth Peoples on 9 Jan., 1883 in Darlington County. Sarah was the widow of Israel McKenzie. Mid and Sarah had no surviving children. Sarah had two children by her first marriage.

Mid and his three wives had no children of their own. However, he raised Jehu Middleton ("Jede", "John") Woodham, son of Johnathan Edward Woodham and Sarah Martin Bruce. Jede was Mid's nephew. Jede became a physician who practiced medicine in Lancaster County, Clio and Lee County, South Carolina.

He was a farmer all his life. Mid's newspaper obituary published in the *Darlington News* described him as "a good farmer, a most exemplary christian citizen and the community in which he lived deeply mourns his death."

Mid died 14 Aug., 1899 and was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery.



Hugh Middleton Woodham

WOODHAM.—The following resolutions were adopted by the Quarterly Conference of Darlington Circuit:

Whereas, our Heavenly Father has taken from us our brother, H. Middleton Woodham, for years a member of Hebron Church, and also of this body; a man who sincerely loved the church and was greatly beloved by the church; a man whose life and service were of great value to the church; therefore, be it

Resolved, 1. That while we question not the wisdom of Him who doeth all things well, and bow submissively to His will, yet we can but, and do hereby, express our sorrow that he has been taken from us, and that to feel the grasp of his brotherly hand and to listen to the cheery tones of his voice are privileges no longer ours.

Resolved 2. That these resolutions be recorded in our Quarterly Conference journal, and that a copy of them be furnished the widow of the deceased, The County Messenger and The Southern Christian Advocate.

George W. Davis,
J. C. Clements.

Southern Christian Advocate
9 November, 1899
South Carolina

Woodham
Family Cemetery

Lee County,
South Carolina



Compiled by

Robert Earl Woodham
Woodham Family Association

1997

This book is an official publication of the

Woodham Family Association,

a national, non-profit family club for all descendants of the Woodham family in America. The Association was founded in 1979: its main purpose is to help reunite our scattered family and to gather and preserve our family heritage. The main goals are to gather every type of record and information on all descendants of the Woodham family in America and our English homeland; preserve these records and make them available to all our family; preserve and protect historic Woodham sites, such as the two Woodham Family Cemeteries, family Bibles and old homesteads, etc.; mark the resting place of all known Woodham burials; publish a family newsletter so our living relatives can learn more about themselves and their family; and other projects.

This book is published in the hopes the information contained herein shall not be lost in the memories of our family.

Robert Earl Woodham

Woodham Family Historian,
President

Woodham Family Association

1997

1130 Celia Drive

Columbus, Georgia 31907

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Dedication :

This book is dedicated to :

my father,
Rufus Woodham

and my ancestor,
Edward Woodham Junior

Two American patriots -- one helped
found our nation; the other gave his life
defending it against the Nazi and
Jap tyranny

by the author,
Robert Earl Woodham
The Woodham Family Historian

About the Author

Robert Earl Woodham was born near Iron City, Seminole County, Georgia 24 Sept., 1939, son of Norma Turnage and RUFUS WOODHAM. He is a grandson of John Wesley Woodham and Lillie Mae Sanders, both natives of Southeast Alabama, and a great grandson of Ira Edward Woodham and Millie Ann Enfinger.

Robert Earl attended schools at Iron City, Donalsonville and Camilla, Georgia and graduated from Bainbridge High School in 1957. He attended West Georgia State University, Carrollton, Georgia for three years and Georgia State University of Atlanta for one year. He also attended Woodrow Wilson College of Law in Atlanta for a year to help understand law.

He wrote his first newspaper article for the *Donalsonville News* while in the ninth grade. He became news editor and later editor of *The West Georgian*, his college newspaper. He began working for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, the largest newspapers in the South, while he was still in college. He later became City Editor of the *Cordele Daily Dispatch*, Cordele, Georgia and then City Editor of the *Thomasville Times-Enterprise*, Thomasville, Georgia. He then became the southwest Georgia correspondent for several newspapers at the same time: the *Albany Herald*, Albany, Georgia, *Florida Times-Union* of Jacksonville and the *Tallahassee Democrat* as well as United Press International news service. At the same time, he became Information Officer for the Southwest Georgia Planning and Development Commission, a public planning agency for 13 counties and their cities. While with the Sowega Commission, he initiated and prepared a development plan for a major state park composed of three caverns and two waterfalls. He also prepared a tourist development plan for the 13-county region. In 1967, he became Information Officer for the Georgia State Planning Bureau of the Governor's office.

In 1972, Robert Earl became Assistant Editor of *Industrial Development Magazine*, *Travel Development Magazine*, *Site Selection Handbook* and other publications for an Atlanta publishing and airport planning company; these magazines are circulated internationally. He also helped write and edit books such as the *Weather Handbook* and prepared an airport development plan for a Pennsylvania city for this company. In 1974, he became Assistant Editor of the *Independent Sentinel*, a north Atlanta newspaper which became the largest weekly newspaper in Georgia.

Robert Earl founded the Woodham Family National Reunion and held the first reunion at Eufaula, Alabama Memorial Day weekend, 1979. About 1,600 relatives from at least 22 states showed up. He also founded the Woodham Family Association, a national, non-profit family club at the same time and was elected its president.

Robert Earl has been doing family history research as a hobby since he was about 12 years old, for almost 45 years now. His daddy Rufus was killed in the Army during World War II and his granddaddy a couple of years later, so he grew up without knowing either of them. His family history hobby developed because of a yearning to know them and other relatives.

His journalism career and law studies gave him a good background for his family research hobby and he became as skillful in tracing deeds as many lawyers. During the 1970's, he finally decided to write a book on the Woodham family's history, for by that time, he already had gathered enough information and records to fill such a book. When the federal government released the 1900 US Census, he decided to gather information on *every* Woodham who had ever lived in America up to that time and on as many others as he could learn about. By the late 1970's, he discovered he was spending most of his spare time and money on his hobby. In 1978, two friends couldn't believe one of his telephone bills: \$250 for long-distance calls in one month or almost half his month's salary at the time. They told him he needed to "slow down" spending so much on his hobby.

Up to that point, he had never accepted any donations or help but he finally concluded that he could never gather information and records on all the Woodham family without help. That was when he decided to found the Woodham Family Association as a way of not only uniting all the scattered relatives but also to provide a family club that could sponsor the family research, a national reunion, a family newsletter so relatives could keep in touch with each other, to restore and preserve our two family cemeteries and many other family projects.

After founding the Association, he practically gave up any kind of personal life and began spending every spare moment on family research. The increased demands made upon his time by his life-long hobby caused Robert Earl to give up his journalism career. He had always devoted himself whole-heartedly to his writing, often spending a great deal of his own time and money to write news articles which would help his community--but he finally realized that if he was going to write any books on his family, he must have more time to do it, without the distraction of a full-time journalism career. The six-day work weeks left no time for visiting courthouses across the South.

The author has had a diverse life with a wide variety of interests and hobbies over the years in addition to family history. He has always been absorbed with history as well as archaeology and anthropology. He was born on a farm so growing things has always come naturally for him and he continues to enjoy growing plants. He was an avid cave explorer in caverns in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky; he was a member of the National Speleological Society and an Atlanta caving club during the 1960's and 1970's. He has enjoyed fishing since he was a child and often went fishing twice a day. He also did a lot of camping and hiking in the past.

He has been active throughout his life in community development and promoting his region.

Robert Earl was a member of the Bainbridge Jaycees, Oak City Development Council and founded the National Inland Port Festival at Bainbridge, Ga. He was also a founding member of the Optimist's Club and a member of the Rose Festival Committee at Thomasville, one of Georgia's largest parades and festivals. He spent a great deal of his own time and funds to try and establish major state parks on Lake Seminole near Donalsonville and at caves in Grady County and Climax, Ga. He prepared a development plan for the proposed cave parks which was published and promoted by the area planning and development commission. He also prepared a regional tourism development plan for the commission which called for development of a state park and historic reconstruction of the Seminole Indians village on public land where they had their first "capitol" before they moved into Florida. Robert Earl helped write and edit the Georgia State Master Plan for future tourism and recreation development in 1967 while working for the Georgia State Planning Bureau.

While a Jaycee in Bainbridge during the 1960's, he began a campaign to establish a state college there. At his own expense, he researched and prepared a college development plan for a State Representative. He was the first person to urge funding construction of the college with a liquor tax which was approved by voters. Bainbridge State College eventually became a reality. Robert Earl donated four pickup truck loads of books to the new college library which he had been collecting for years.

Over the years, he has gathered about 3,000 notebooks full of information and copies of historic records on his family, numerous boxes of documents, hundreds of photographs as well as computer files. Several newspapers, including the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, the *Dothan Eagle* (Ala.), *Hartford Herald* (Ala.), *Geneva County Reaper* and others have written feature articles about his family history work over the years. According to many long-time historians, his collection of records is one of the largest in the southeast outside a public library. He has done research at state archives/libraries and local courthouses and libraries in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, South Carolina, Mississippi, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, Louisiana, California and Washington, DC.

His collection of information, records and copies of historic documents on the Woodham family became the Woodham Family National Library during the 1970's. It is the largest collection on our family in the world and includes records and documents on relatives from the 1400's up to the present. Robert Earl has tried to gather and preserve every type of record on all descendants of Woodhams, including copies of deeds, marriages, census records, cemetery tomb inscriptions, wills, newspaper and magazine articles, old letters, obituaries, military records, estate, probate, church and school records--just to name a few. To date, he has spent thousands of hours on family research. He assumed the role of Woodham Family Historian in the 1970's as the only person in the nation at the time who had made a real effort to gather and preserve history of all Woodhams. Upon his death, this will be donated to either the Houston Public Library in Dothan, Ala. or the Alabama State Archives in Montgomery.

In 1978, a group of Woodham relatives asked Robert Earl to help them organize a reunion of their branch of the family at Lifsey Springs, Ga., near where their ancestor lived in the 1840's. They began telling him he needed to get other kinfolks active to help gather and preserve our family history. He started thinking of organizing a national family club and a national family reunion: that Christmas, he sent out a few cards asking relatives what they thought of the idea. Cards, letters and telephone calls flooded in. That spring, he held the first Woodham Family National Reunion.

In 1985, at the urging of relatives, he published the *Woodham Family Index*. Robert Earl developed this unique index in the 1960's. He started with a list of all known Woodhams which he hoped would become an index for a book. However, he found he needed more information to identify who was who: there have been dozens of people in our family over the years named Robert, Edward, John, James, William, etc. He started by listing the year they were born but in 1974, he contacted a Jack Woodham in Opelika, Ala. that he had previously listed as dead. It turned out there were two different Jack Woodhams, both born in Opp, Ala. in the same year. He kept adding information to the index until it was able to trace the direct ancestry of living Woodhams back to the 1600's. He also published the *Woodham Family Photo Album, Volume I* the same year.

This book is being published simultaneously with another book on the Woodham Family Cemetery in Dale County, Alabama. Copies of this book are being given to all relatives who donate significantly toward restoration and preservation of the Woodham Family Cemetery in the Stokes Bridge Community of Lee County, South Carolina.

Robert Earl continues to serve as the President of the Woodham Family Association (without pay) and volunteers his time to be the family historian.



Introduction

This book is being printed as part of the effort to restore and preserve our Woodham Family Cemetery located in the Stokes Bridge Community of Lee County, South Carolina. This is one of two such books on our family cemeteries: a companion book is also being printed on our Woodham Family Cemetery in Newton, Dale County, Alabama. The Dale County family cemetery was restored between 1987 and 1990 after years of neglect and is now a beautiful source of pride for all our family.

This book was prepared by the author as a gift to all relatives who contribute significantly toward the Cemetery's restoration. Copies will also be donated to several libraries so the information may be preserved for future generations.

The Woodham Family Cemetery is owned by the entire Woodham family and all its descendants. It is the responsibility of *every* descendant of our family to preserve these graves of our ancestors. They are the mothers and fathers of **ALL** our family. Regardless of where you were born or live today, you are a descendant of the Woodhams buried here.

More than 99 per cent of all the Woodhams with roots in the South are descended from these ancestors. Only one other branch of our family exists today who are not descendants of these couples: another Edward Woodham was born in Virginia about the same time as our ancestor Edward Jr. That Edward eventually settled in Greene County, Georgia. Unfortunately, the male line of Woodhams in that branch has almost died out and with it, the family name. There are literally thousands of descendants of this branch but they now carry other family names.

During the last two centuries, our family has spread from South Carolina throughout the United States and even to several foreign countries. In the winter of 1832-1833, several members of the family joined a mass migration of people from Old Darlington District (which included the present Lee County), who moved to the frontier of southeast Alabama--a region still occupied by Creek and Seminole Indians.

With this move also came a great division of the family, for after three decades, the family in South Carolina lost most contact with their relatives in Alabama. After more than one and a half centuries, only a handful of people knew anything about their roots in Lee County, South Carolina. Outside of the state, not a single relative had any idea of the existence of our family burial grounds there.

The number of male Woodhams remaining in the Lee County area has not been as prolific as those who moved elsewhere. As a result, the number of relatives with the Woodham name who still live in the area today is relatively small compared to southeast Alabama, which has the largest concentration of Woodhams and descendants in America now. There are many descendants of our family in the Lee County area today but most have no idea of their Woodham roots.

The land surrounding our Woodham Family Cemetery has been handed down in our family for about 200 years. I have not as yet done a title trace on the land and do not know all of its direct ownership. However, the land was owned at one time by Aris Woodham Senior. It may be the very land which he bought from his father, Edward Woodham Jr.

By the 1950's, the surrounding land was owned by Charles B. ("Charlie") Woodham, a son of W. Braggwell ("Bragg") Woodham. Sometime in the 1950's, the Cemetery was desecrated when hogs were turned into the grounds. Later, most of the tombstones were ripped up and thrown into the ditch along the county road in front of the graveyard or simply dumped nearby.

This act enraged many Woodham relatives and some even met at a nearby church and discussed the problem. However, no action was ever taken. To this day, relatives still living will not openly talk about this scandalous incident.

This destruction of the Cemetery and the animosity it created has been one of the biggest stumbling blocks thus far to restoration of our Cemetery. As several relatives have told me, it is simply a matter of fear.

The restoration is being sponsored by the Woodham Family Association, a national, non-profit family club for all descendants of the Woodham family in America.

With our family becoming so scattered for so many years, it is little wonder that our relatives today have no knowledge of their ancestors 200 years ago. In our modern space age, folks are too busy trying to earn more money to spend on cars, boats and vacations and just don't have time to worry about the graves of our parents, much less our grandparents or earlier generations.

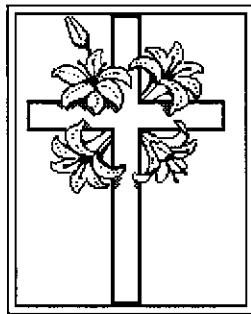
You wouldn't believe the number of kinfolks who refused to help restore our family cemeteries with the comment "I don't know those folks and I just don't care."

With that kind of attitude, God help them. If there is a Heaven after life on earth, you won't find these people there.

Hopefully, there will be enough of us with pride in our family heritage and concern for "family values" to get our historic cemetery restored. And hopefully, there will be enough of our descendants in the future to keep it in decent condition. Perhaps if future generations begin burying relatives there once again, interest in maintaining the site will not die off a second time.

Your ancestral mothers and fathers who lie here don't deserve to be plowed over like animals. They earned our respect with the hard and difficult lives they had during pioneer days.

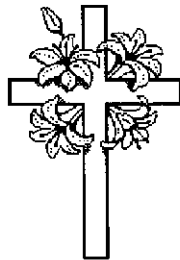
Our ancestors deserve to rest in peace and dignity.



Location

Woodham Family Cemetery

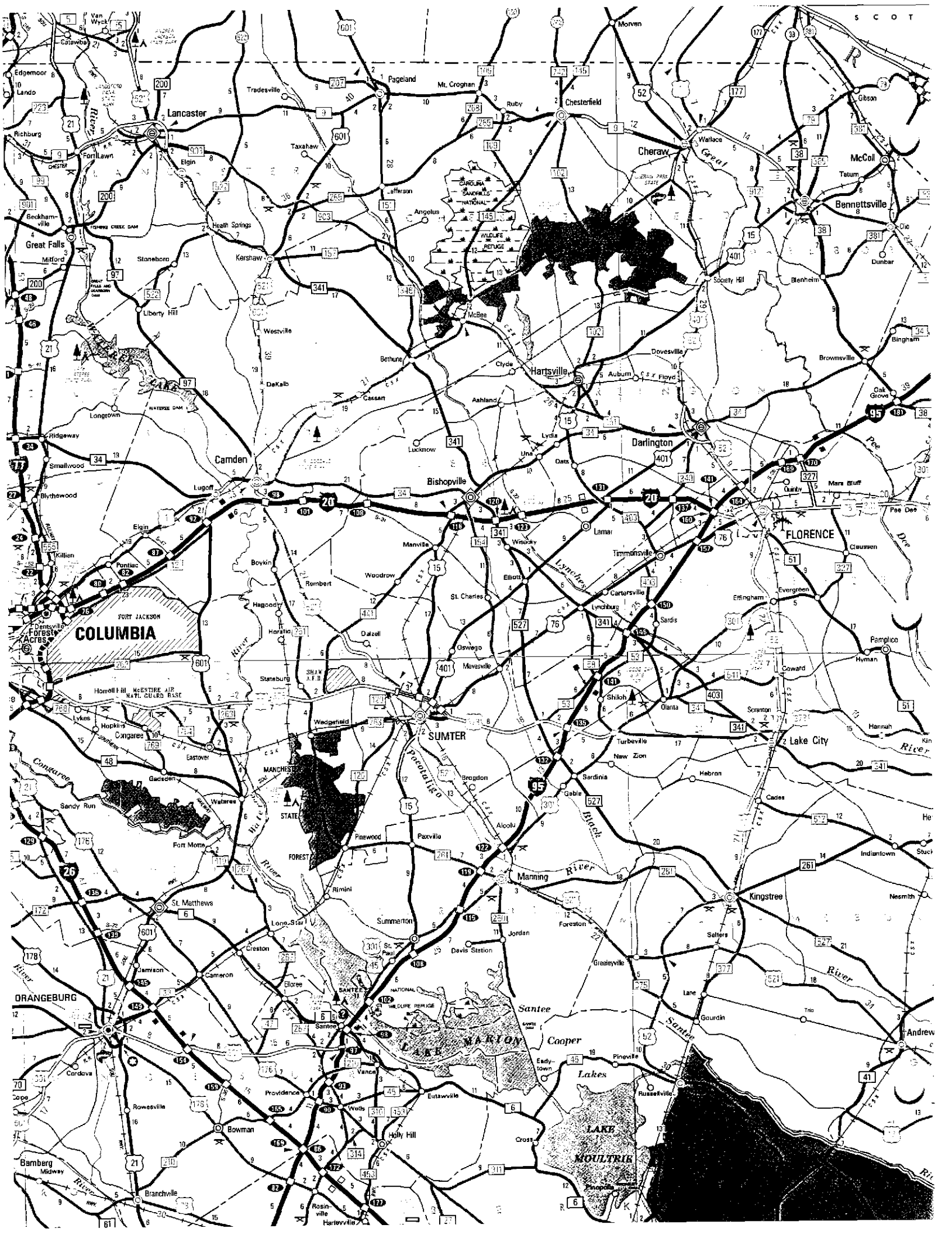
Stokes Bridge Community
Lee County, South Carolina



Area Map

This is a section from the official South Carolina highway map.

It shows the location of Bishopville
in relation to the surrounding region.



Location Of Woodham Family Cemetery

The Woodham Family Cemetery is located in Stokes Bridge Community in northeastern Lee County, South Carolina, about a ten minute drive from Bishopville, the county capitol.

Bishopville is located 54 miles east of Columbia, the capitol of South Carolina and 34 miles west of Florence, on Interstate Highway 20 and US Hwy. 15.

Our Cemetery is located on a dirt road which is a Lee County public road, that dead ends into Woodham Road, a Lee County paved highway, next to the home of Charles Ray Woodham. This was formerly the home of his father, Charles B. Woodham. From the paved highway next to this Woodham home, the dirt road runs north, past the old and now abandoned homeplace of W. Braggwell ("Bragg") Woodham. A few hundred yards north of this old homeplace, the road makes a 90 degree turn to the right and runs straight for some distance until it dead ends into the Hebron Church Road, another Lee County paved highway.

Tococobe Farms is located at the point where the dirt road intersects Hebron Church Road. There are several barns and storage sheds at the intersection. Just north of the intersection is the home of Harris Middleton ("Jack") Woodham, who died in 1988. As of 1995, his widow, Ruth, still lives at this home which was built in the 1800's.

The Woodham Family Cemetery is located south of this public dirt road several hundred yards west of the Hebron Church Road and within sight of the Tococobe Farms barns and sheds.

To reach the Cemetery from Bishopville, travel northeast on US Highway 15 to Lynch's River. Just past the bridge over Lynch's River, US Hwy. 15 intersects with Lynch's River Road, a paved Lee County highway. Turn left and go north about one mile to the first paved highway on the right. This is **Woodham Road**. Turn right onto Woodham Road and travel about two miles to Hebron Church Road, a paved county road which dead ends into Woodham Road on the left.

Turn left onto Hebron Church Road and travel north about one mile to the dirt road which dead ends into Hebron Church Road on the left at a point in front of the Tococobe Farms barns and sheds.

Go left on this dirt road for several hundred yards until you reach an old barn on the right. The center of Woodham Family Cemetery is located 330 feet southeast of this barn, in a direct line that would intersect with the intersection of Hebron Church Road and Woodham Road.

For those who wish to visit the sight before it is restored and precisely marked, I suggest you contact Mrs. H. M. (Ruth) Woodham at Tococobe Farms who can show you the exact spot.

In her absence, contact Pelzer W. ("Pete") Beasley Jr., Mrs. Ruth's son-in-law, who lives a few hundred yards north of her home and the dirt road on which the Cemetery is located.

Aerial Photo Map Of Woodham Family Cemetery

The following is a portion of an aerial photo map made in 1954 by the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service (ASCS) of the United States Department of Agriculture.

This aerial photo map shows the site of the Woodham Family Cemetery in the Stokes Bridge Community of Lee County, South Carolina. Using the photo (because of archaeological techniques which have been learned over the last several decades), graves can be identified in the front of the cemetery next to the road, around the clump of trees and at the rear of the cemetery near an old fence row.

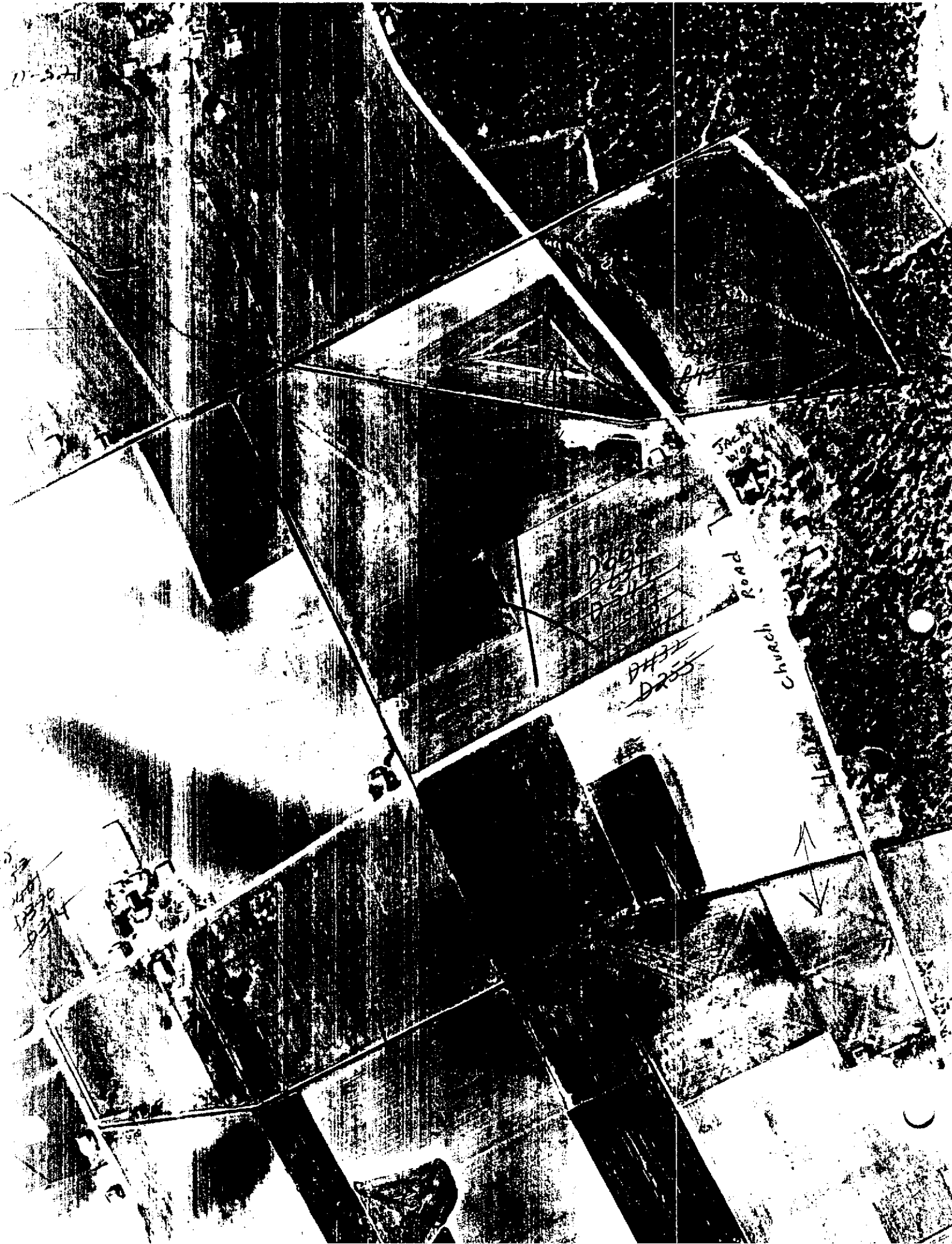
According to family relatives, the clump of trees were near (but just to the left of) the center of the Cemetery. These trees are located five chains, or 330 feet, from the front of the old barn located just across the adjoining county dirt road. The old homestead shown in the photo next to and to the right of the barn no longer existed in 1979. The barn was still standing in 1988. The center of the Cemetery would be in a straight line between the front peak of the barn and the junction of the Woodham Road and Hebron Church Road to the southeast.

The only remaining copy of this photo was obtained from the Lee County ASCS office in Bishopville, South Carolina in 1988, by Robert Earl Woodham.

The ASCS official stated a blow-up of the Cemetery could be obtained from the ASCS map office in Colorado for \$18. However, an identification number on the photo map had to be included with a request for the blow-up or additional copies.

Robert Earl showed the photo to Marion Woodham of Bishopville immediately after getting it. Marion stated he would order the blow-up and extra copies and pay for them himself and then turn them over to Robert Earl and the Woodham Family Association. However, as of 1996, after repeated letters to Marion, no word has yet been received from him nor has the original photo been returned.

11-32



B-12

JACK
WOOD

D-99
D-100
D-101

Road

D-102
D-103

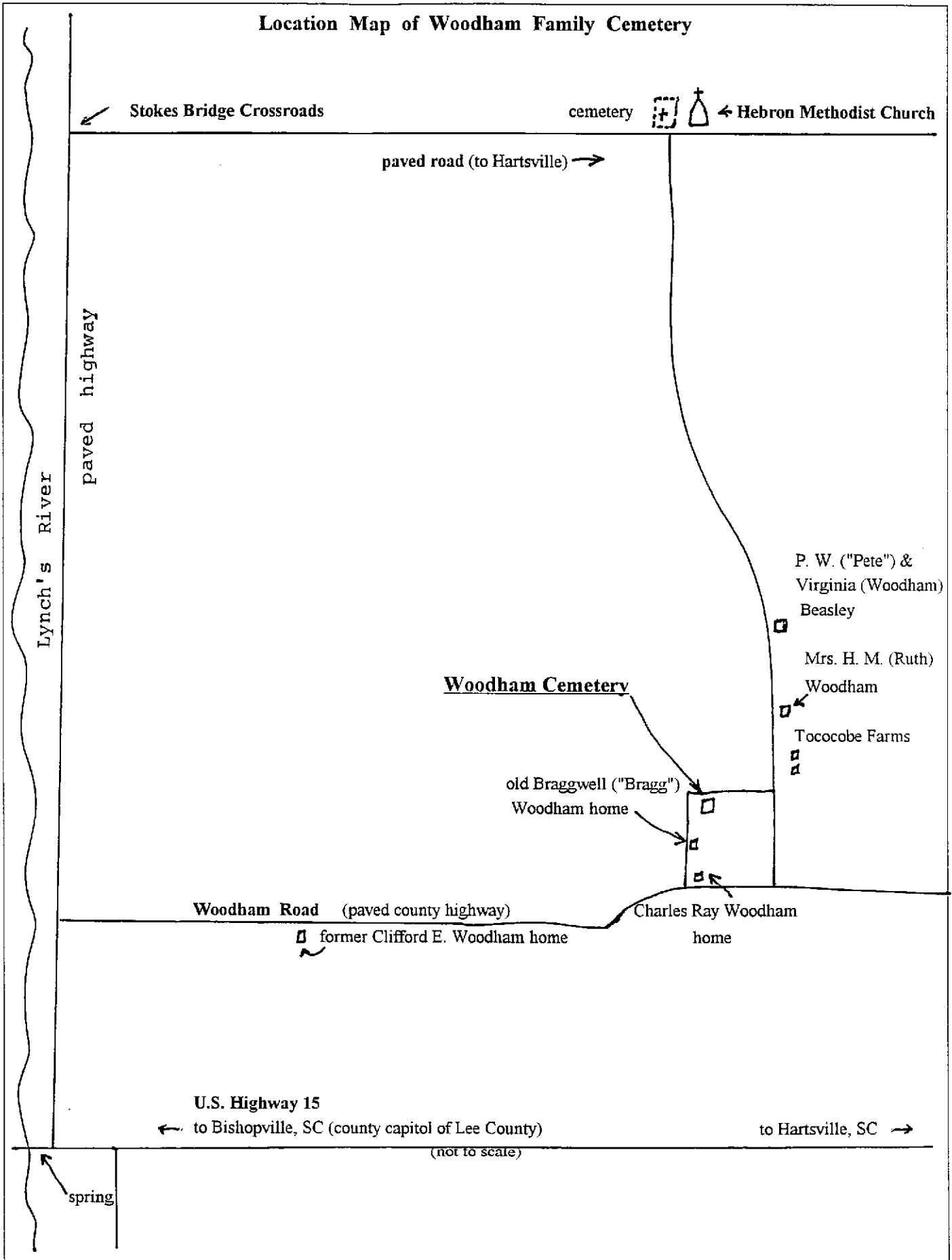
Camp

HILLMAN

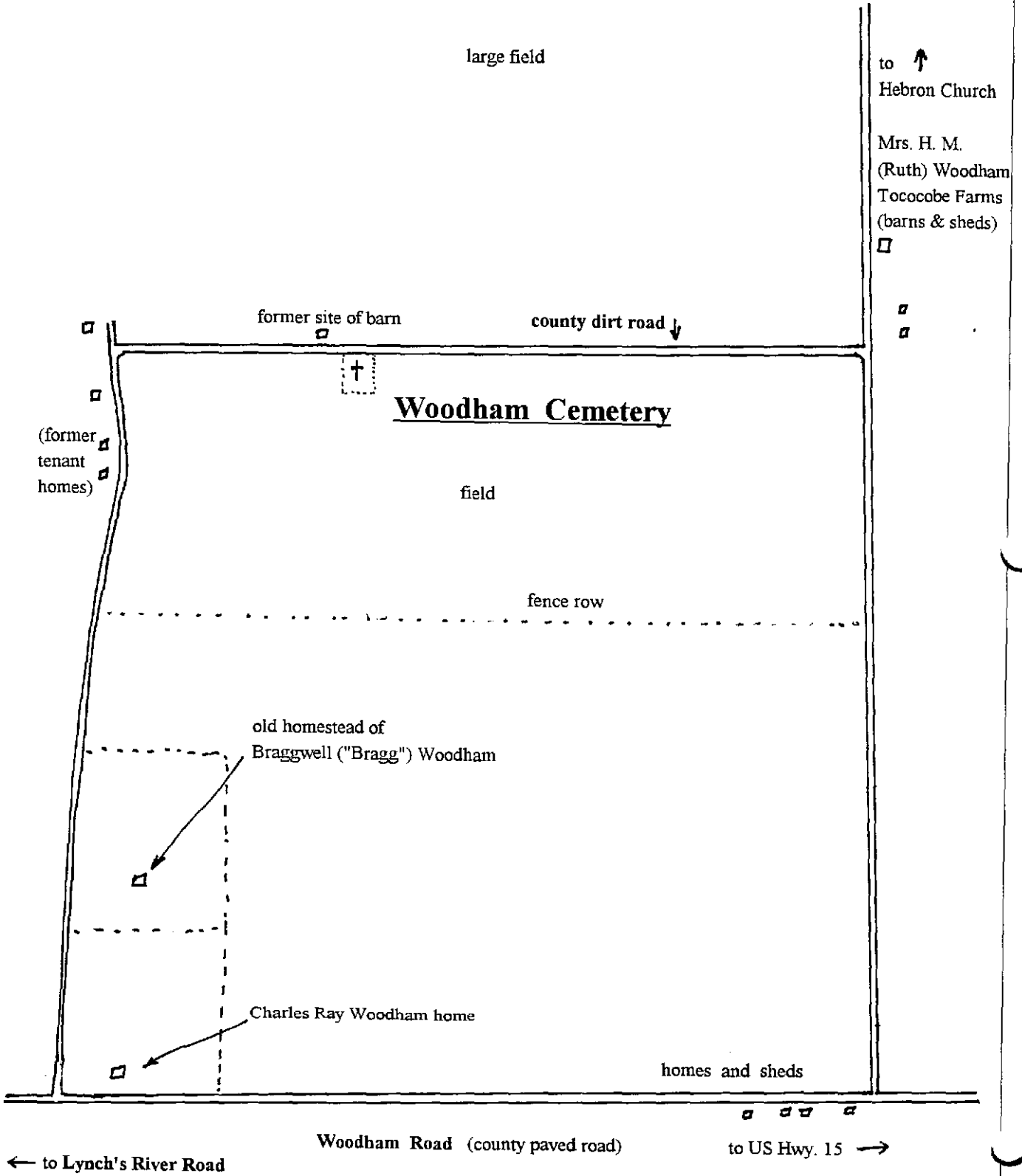


1330
1334

Location Map of Woodham Family Cemetery



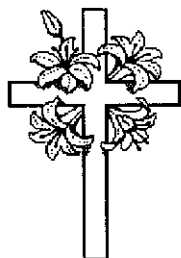
Woodham Family Cemetery Location Map



History

Woodham Family Cemetery

Stokes Bridge Community
Lee County, South Carolina



1820 Map

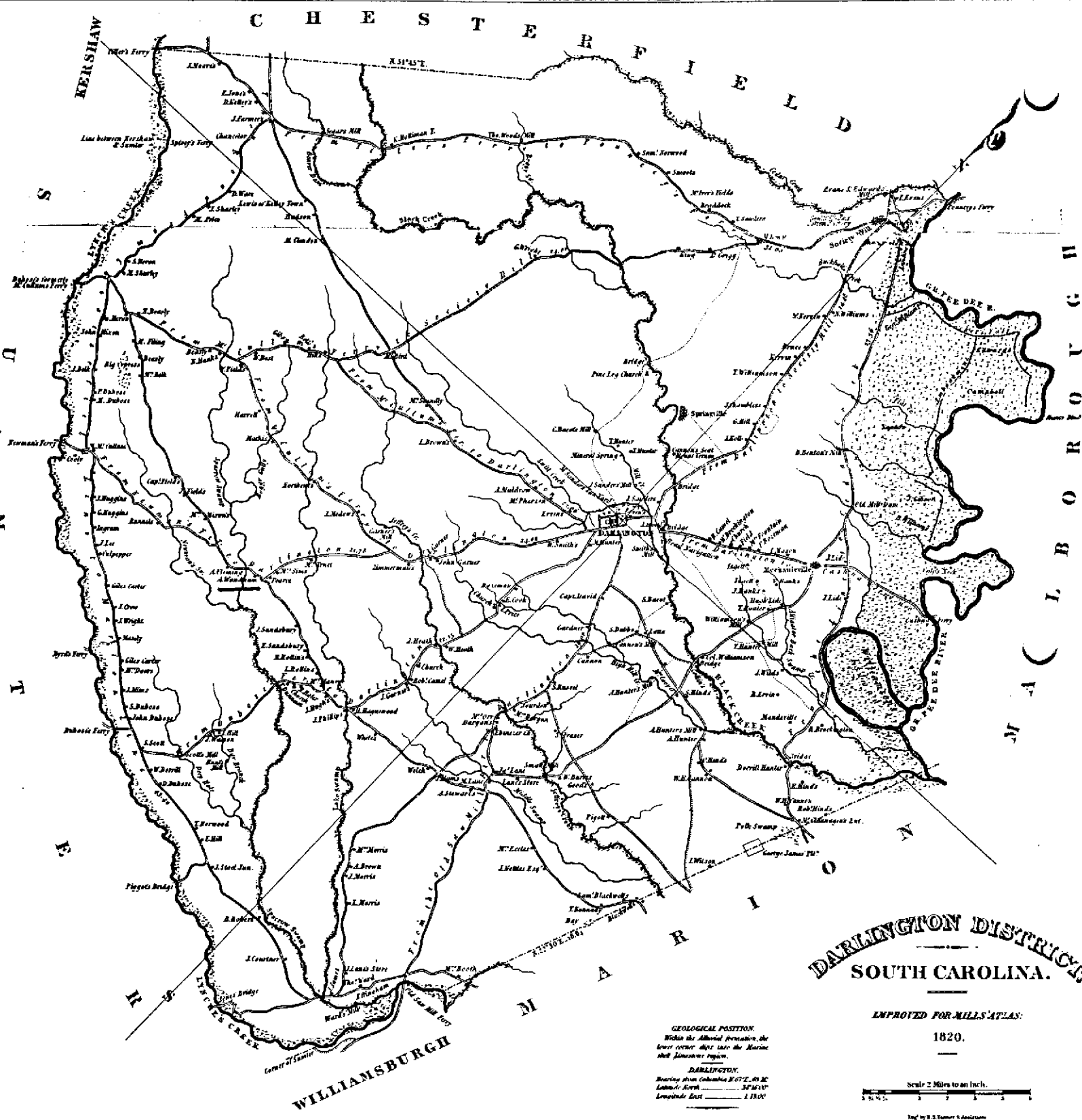
Darlington District, South Carolina

This is a copy of the 1820 map of old Darlington District that was published in Mill's Atlas. Part of the western area of this old court district became part of Lee County when it was formed in 1902. It shows the names of major land owners along Lynch's River in what became known as the Stokes Bridge Community.

The printer misspelled the name of Aris Woodham Senior as

" A. Wandham "

He is shown on the map living on the road from Newman's Ferry to Darlington near Sparrow Swamp.



C H E S T E R F I E L D

KERSHAW

M A R I O N

WILLIAMSBURGH

DARLINGTON DISTRICT
SOUTH CAROLINA.

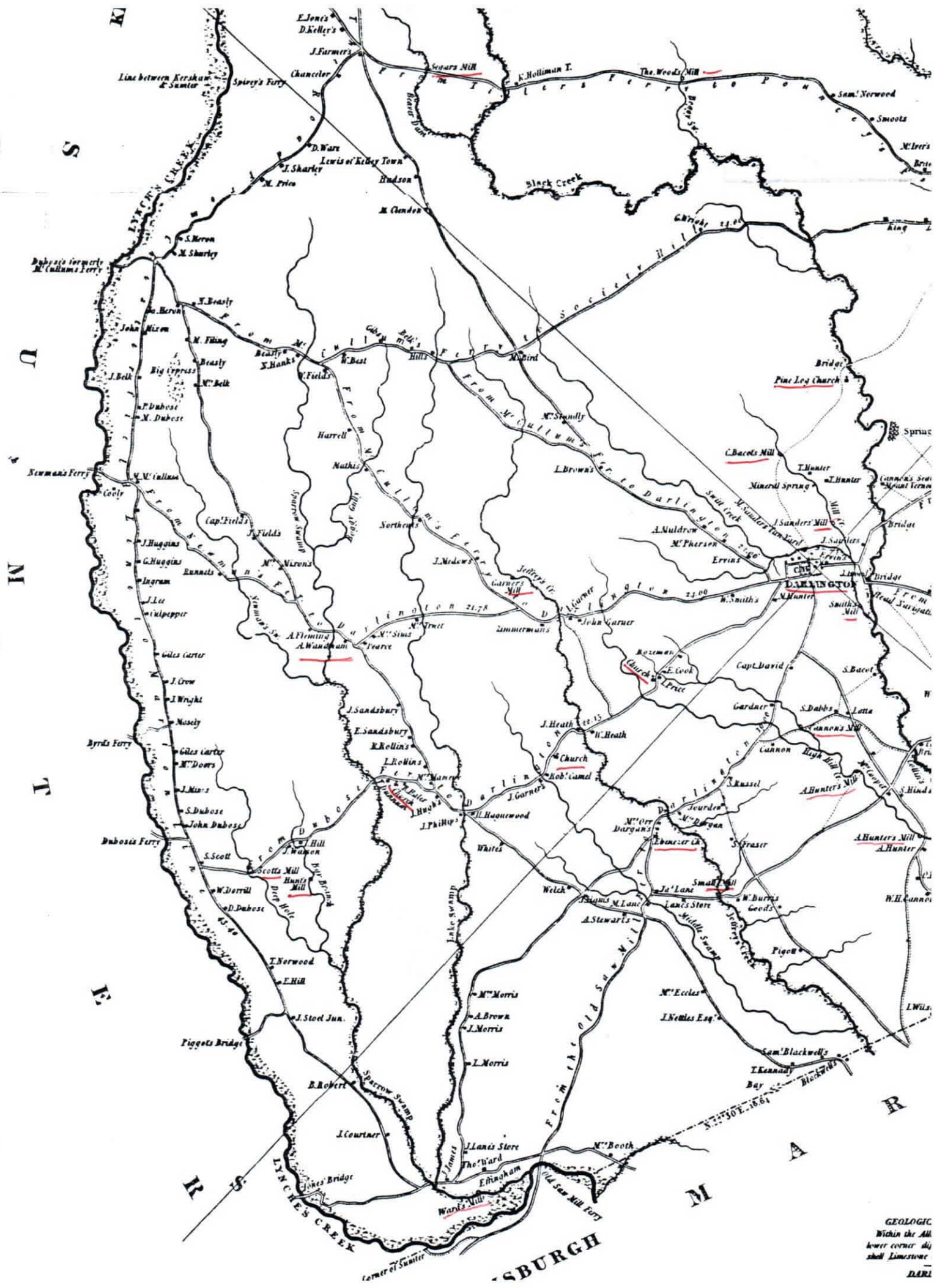
IMPROVED FOR MILLS' ATLAS:
1820.

Scale 2 Miles to an Inch.

GEOLOGICAL POSITION.
Within the Atlantic formation the lower section dips into the Marine and Limestone region.

DARLINGTON.
Bearing from Columbia N 67° E, 60 M.
Latitude North 34° 14' N.
Longitude East 79° 13' W.

Map by G. S. Taylor & Associates



GEOLOGIC
 Within the *Alt*
 lower corner of
 shell limestone
 DARI

History of the Woodham Family Cemetery

The Woodham Family Cemetery was established on the farm of Edward Woodham Junior. The farm has been in the Woodham family since Edward bought it in the 1780's. Exactly when the Cemetery was established is not known. There are no records nor tombstones that tell us when the first burial actually took place. When our family cemetery was founded, there was no known church cemetery in the immediate area. Throughout the United States, it was customary in early times to bury relatives in family graveyards on their farm and usually (when there was no hill as in this case) near the home. Hundreds of such family burial grounds were established all over the South and most of them have been "lost" over time mainly because tombstones were never installed to mark the sites but even this does not protect a cemetery from those who wish to destroy them or covet the land.

It would appear the Cemetery was founded in 1798 or at least by 1800. Edward Junior's son, Aris Woodham Senior had a son named John who was born 14 Apr., 1798 according to the family Bible. This is the only record known of John. The Bible does not record his death and he is not mentioned in Aris' will written in 1818 nor does he appear on any other record. John apparently died as an infant in 1798 or a very young child soon after that year.

The death rate of infants and children was extremely high in this period. A high school graduate of modern times has more medical knowledge than what few doctors there were in those pioneer times. Many childhood diseases which are almost unheard of today were deadly then. An unimaginable number of children died before the age of one.

Relatives have reported there were many infants and small children buried in the Woodham Cemetery over the years. Most of these infant burials were in unmarked graves, they stated. However, a large number were marked with wooden crosses or stakes, bricks and rocks, which have since disappeared because of several years of plowing over the graveyard.

So, in addition to this one child of Aris Sr. that we know of, there very likely were other infants of the daughters of Edward Woodham Jr. as well as of his other son, Edward Harley Woodham Sr. who were buried in the Cemetery.

Eleanor Woodham Among First Buried In Cemetery

Edward Junior's mother, Mrs. Eleanor Woodham, widow of Edward Woodham Senior, died about 1805 (sometime between 1800 and 1810). She may have been the first adult buried in the Cemetery. The United States Census records for 1800 shows two females in Edward's home over the age of 45: this would be his mother, Eleanor and his wife Mary. The next census in 1810 shows only one female: his wife. This indicates Eleanor died between 1800 and 1810.

A child of Edward Harley Woodham Sr. (son of Edward Jr.), Emberry Woodham, was probably the next burial. Emberry was born 9 Apr., 1808 and died about 1815 (sometime between 1810 and 1820).

Edward Jr. bought several tracts of land in the Stokes Bridge Community. At that time, Lynch's River was the boundary between old Darlington District and Sumter District. This was before county governments had been organized in South Carolina and local government operated on a district court system. Edward Jr. had first settled on the east (sometime called the north) side of Lynch's River which was also called Lynch's Creek.

He later bought a farm from a Dr. Miller (perhaps Gideon Miller) on the west side of the river and moved there. This move put him in Sumter District. All of this area on both sides of the river later became part of Lee County when it was created in 1902, one of the last counties to be created in South Carolina. After moving across the river, Edward Jr. sold his old homeplace to his son Aris Sr. on 1 Feb., 1808. Thereafter, Aris Sr. lived there with his family until he died.

The first confirmed date of an adult burial is that of Aris Woodham Senior, who died 11 June, 1818 at the age of 46. Relatives stated in the 1970's and 1980's that there was once a tombstone over the graves of Aris Woodham Sr. and his wife, among others, in the Cemetery but these tombstones were among those destroyed or lost. The dates of his birth and death are known from his family Bible.

Aris Woodham : One Of America's First Methodist Ministers

Aris Woodham Senior was one of the most hard-working, progressive and admirable members of our family in history. He became the owner of several small plantations in Stokes Bridge Community. He bought his father's original homeplace in 1808, as well as several other tracts of land. Aris also acquired several slaves—a sign of prosperity.

In addition to his farming operations, Aris was also a blacksmith. Until this century, a blacksmith was an absolute necessity for every community. Blacksmiths not only made horseshoes and shod horses and mules but they also made farm tools, axes, wagon wheels and wagon tongues and many other vital tools for the community. It was a hard but very lucrative profession in pioneer days.

Aris also became one of the first Methodist ministers in America. He preached his first sermon one summer night in 1802 during an all-night "arbor meeting", an old-time camp meeting held outdoors under the trees, presided over by the first Methodist bishop of South Carolina. Rev. James Jenkins visited Aris on several occasions and ordained him as a minister. Aris became a very prominent citizen of the community, a man trusted and admired by his neighbors—an ancestor we can all be very proud of. He was buried at Woodham Cemetery in 1818.

★ ★ Edward Woodham Jr. : An American Hero ★ ★

The next exact date of burial was that of Edward Woodham Junior who died in August, 1820. His burial there established the graveyard as a truly historic site, for Edward Jr. was a veteran of the Revolutionary War for American Independence—a *real* American hero. Records preserved in the North Carolina State Archives show he served as a soldier in both the North Carolina State Militia and in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War (1775-1783).

Most of the known graves of all the veterans of this war which won our nation's independence have been declared national historic sites. An effort is being made to have our Woodham Family Cemetery declared a historic site also.



Edward bought several small plantations after he settled in Stokes Bridge Community about 1784 or 1785. He was among a very large number of people from old Dobbs County (the area which is today part of Lenoir County), North Carolina who moved to old Darlington District during the 1780's. Much of the district was very sparsely populated then and the land they settled on was mostly virgin land and full of undrained, swampy regions.

At that time, Lynch's River was the boundary between old Darlington District and Sumter District. This was also before county governments had been organized in South Carolina and local government operated on a district court system. Edward Jr. had first settled on the east (sometime called the north) side of Lynch's River.

He later bought a farm from a Dr. Miller (Gideon Miller ?) just across the west side of the river and moved there. This move put him in Sumter District. All of this area on both sides of the river later became part of Lee County when it was created in 1902. After moving across the river, Edward sold his old homeplace to his son, Aris Sr. on 1 Feb., 1808. Thereafter, Aris lived in the homeplace until he died in 1818.

It is not known if there was ever a tombstone on Edward's grave.

Another child of Edward Harley Woodham Sr., Ephriam, was born 26 June, 1815 and died in childhood about 1825 (between 1820 and 1830). Ephriam was killed by a team of runaway horses as a small child. The family Bible of Edward H. Sr. recorded the births of his two sons buried here but not the dates of their deaths.

Edward Woodham Jr.'s wife Mary died about 1828, or sometime between 1826 and 1829 but the exact date of her death is unknown. She made a deed in 1820 in which she gave her one-third interest in a slave and the rest of her possessions to one of her daughters, Mary ("Polly") who married John Alexander. In 1826, she made another deed, to Mills Kelly.

The 1826 deed is the last record I have found on Mary. No elderly lady appears in the households of known relatives in the 1830 US Census records, which indicates Mary died between 1826 and 1829. Her grave probably never had a tombstone to mark it.

Rachel Richardson Descendants Number In Thousands

Rachel Richardson was born about 1801, probably in what is now Lee County, South Carolina. She was the daughter of Joseph Richardson. Rachel married Aris Woodham Junior about 1818.

Rachel and Aris Jr. had at least six children, including a son whose name is unknown and is believed to be the same Woodham who was killed in a knife fight over politics during the 1840 US presidential election; and a daughter whose name is unknown. Their other children were Joseph Reddick Woodham; Edward Christopher ("Chris"; "C. C.") Woodham; Elemiah A. C. Woodham, who married Lewis Bowden and died young in childbirth; and Prudence Jane Woodham, who married John Wilson Dean and moved to Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana.

Rachel may have died in childbirth of her last child, the unknown daughter. She is the "mother" of several thousand descendants living today who are concentrated in Alabama, Florida and Georgia. Her grave was probably never marked.

After the death of Rachel, Aris Jr. married Caron H. Riley in 1831 and they then moved to southeast Alabama the following year and later settled in Dale County. They are both buried in the Woodham Cemetery at Newton, Dale County, Alabama.

Louisa Dupree Woodham, a daughter of Aris Sr., died in 1834 at the age of 17 and was buried in the Cemetery. She was never married.

Mahalia ("Mahaley") Woodham, daughter of Asa Woodham and wife of Christopher Columbus Mixon, died after childbirth on 6 July, 1837 at age 16 and was buried in the Family Cemetery. Her child also died and was buried three beside her. A tombstone was erected on her grave. This tombstone was broken into numerous pieces but most of the pieces have been saved by Pelzr W. ("Pete") Beasley Jr., husband of Ruth Virginia (Virginia) Woodham. The tombstone pieces were being stored in a warehouse/shelter owned by Tococobe Farms (a Woodham--Beasley operation) in the 1980's.



The period from the 1830's to the 1880's was the most active for burials in our Woodham Family Cemetery and most of these were apparently those of infants and children. One of the few that we know the names of was Jehu Woodham, a teenaged son of Asa Woodham and Elaine Elizabeth ("Laney") Dubose. Jehu was born in 1837 and died sometime during the 1850's.

Rachel Beasley Woodham Mothered Two Families

Rachel Beasley Woodham was a daughter of John Beasley Jr. and Margaret Smith, whose descendants today are spread all over the South. She and Aris Woodham Sr. were the parents of at least 11 children. Aris died in 1818. Rachel became the matriarch of the family after her husband's parents died in the 1820's.

One of their sons, Edward, married a girl named Clarissa whose maiden name is unknown. Edward and Clarissa moved to the frontier and settled in Washington County, Georgia about 1818 or before. Other relatives and neighbors also moved there briefly before moving on to southeast Alabama. Edward died very young there about 1821, leaving three (or four) orphans. His young widow brought the children back to South Carolina and left them with Rachel. She remarried and left the area, never to be heard from again.

Rachel, along with the help of her other children and her brother-in-law Edward H. Woodham Sr., raised the children to adulthood. Two of the orphans, Piety and Aris (and perhaps Georgiana), left home about 1839 and settled in Upson County, Georgia. Another son, William Edward ("Bill"), remained in the Stokes Bridge Community until about 1854, when he moved to Dale County, Alabama and joined his uncles and great uncle there. One of his sons, John Edward ("Alabama John") Woodham, later moved back home to Lee County and is buried at Hebron Methodist Church Cemetery.

Rachel's husband became one of the first Methodist ministers in America and after his death, she continued his religious work. She witnessed the will of Moses Sanders in 1838 in which Sanders gave \$8,000 to the Methodist Church at Darlington, a huge sum of money at that time. She was a member of Cypress Methodist Church, one of the first Methodist churches in the area and organized before the nearby Hebron Methodist Church.

Rachel was probably one of the founding members of Cypress Church. I do not know where this church was located but it may have been the one shown on an 1821 map of Sumter District, located at a crossroads just south of Lynch's River. An 1840 membership list includes Rachel and her son Stephen.

Her son Asa was one of the founding members of Hebron Methodist Church, the first known church established in the Stokes Bridge Community. This was much nearer to the Woodham neighborhood and quickly became the dominant church for those living in the community.

Rachel lived to be 88 years old when she died in 1861. She was buried at the Woodham Family Cemetery beside her husband. According to relatives, Rachel's grave at one time had a tombstone but it was removed during the desecration of the grounds.

Confederate Veterans Buried At Woodham Cemetery

At least two veterans of the Confederate States Army who served with honor in defense of the South during the War for Southern Independence (War Between the States), 1861-1865, are buried in the Family Cemetery.

Simpson Skinner, the husband of Pheriba Jane ("Feriba"; Pherebe) Woodham, died in March, 1862 as a Confederate soldier and is buried at the Woodham Cemetery. Pheriba Jane later married William R. S. Lawson. She died in 1880 and was buried beside Simpson in the Family Cemetery.

Jared W. (Jarrett, Jarrott, Jaret) Woodham became ill in 1864 and was sent home on sick leave. He died while at home on sick furlough from chronic diarrhea, caused by the poor diet Southern soldiers survived on. Southern boys often went days with only a handful of corn to eat. Thousands died from this ailment and other diseases during the war.

Jared was the father of one son who became a minister and is buried in Donalsonville, Georgia in a cemetery two blocks from where the author lived as a teenager. Jared was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery.

Asa Woodham Inherited Old Homeplace

Asa Woodham was named in his father Aris Woodham Senior's will, along with his mother, as the heir to the old Woodham homeplace. The Woodham Family Cemetery, which from an aerial photograph, appears to contain approximately one and a half to two acres, was established on this homeplace.

Asa married Elaine Elizabeth ("Laney; Lannie") Dubose, daughter of Peter Dubose Jr. and Elaine Worthington. They had at least nine (9) children. In a deed dated 1838, Asa was referred to as a Trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church. This was about the period when the Hebron Methodist Church was established.

The oldest known membership list for Hebron is that of 1840 and it includes Asa, his wife Laney and their son Jared. Asa's name has the initials "C. L." beside it and this may indicate "Congregational Leader".

Asa was also a Trustee of the Lynch's Creek Academy, a school in the neighborhood. Until the 1880's, there were very few public schools in the South. Most schools were private academies, supported by tuition and donations from prosperous citizens. Asa was named as a Trustee in a deed dated 1849.

Asa left no will. A deed dated 1 Feb., 1869 and filed in old Darlington District court indicates Asa had recently died and his estate was divided equally among his heirs. The deed names all of his children and the widow of his son Jared and her orphan son; it also named the daughters and their husbands.

Since this deed was made on the first day of 1869, in all likelihood, Asa died in December, 1868 (or earlier) or the first few days of January, 1869.

Asa was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery. Relatives state the grave of Asa once had a tombstone. Unfortunately, it was destroyed or disappeared along with the rest.

His widow Laney died in 1880 and was buried at Woodham Cemetery. At least five of their children are also buried in the grounds.

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Asa was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery. Relatives state the grave of Asa once had a tombstone. Unfortunately, it was destroyed or disappeared along with the rest.

His widow Laney died in 1880 and was buried there also. At least five of their children are also buried in the grounds. Apparently their son Johnathan Edward (John Ed) obtained the land surrounding the Cemetery after Asa died.

I have been told that one of Asa's daughter Harriett S. ("Hattie") Woodham and her husband William E. Hearon lived in a home across the road from the Cemetery. She died in 1910. This home still existed in the early 1950's, according to an aerial photograph. However, I have not been able to research whether she owned that land. Her daughter Harriett R. ("Hattie") Hearon and her husband Josey D. Large had a home nearby on Hebron Church Road. Harris Middleton ("Jack") Woodham later bought this home and lived there until his death in 1988. His widow Ruth now lives there.

It is not known who obtained the land surrounding the Woodham Family Cemetery after the death of Asa. It was later acquired by John Wesley Woodham, son of Stephen Woodham.

Pheriba Jane Woodham was the next known adult to be buried in the graveyard. She died in 1880, the same year her mother died.

Hugh Middleton ("Mid") Woodham, a son of Asa, was married three times. He and his first two wives are buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery. He never had any children but raised Jehu Middleton ("Jede"; "John") Woodham, his nephew and a son of Johnathan Edward Woodham. Jede became a medical doctor, the first in our family to enter this profession.

Mid was a farmer all his life. He married first to Charity Ann Kelly. Charity died in 1871 at age 34. She was buried at the Woodham Family Cemetery. He then married Mary Hill. Mary died in 1882 and was also buried at the Family Cemetery. Both Charity and Mary helped in raising Jede Woodham.

After Mary died, Mid then married Sarah Elizabeth Peoples, the widow of Israel McKenzie. Sarah was buried at Hebron Methodist Church when she died.

Mid died in 1899 and was buried at Woodham Family Cemetery. Mrs. Annie Laura Beasley Woodham stated that her mother, Aurella Woodham, attended the funeral and burial of Hugh Middleton in the Family Cemetery.



Cemetery Begins Decline In 1900's

Hugh Middleton Woodham was the last known adult to be buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery. By the time of his death in 1899, two church cemeteries had become well established in the Stokes Bridge community at nearby Hebron Methodist Church and at Savannah Advent Christian Church not far away. Members of the Woodham family were instrumental in the founding of both these churches. Asa Woodham was one of those founding Hebron Church. His brother Stephen, who was a Methodist for most of early life, later was one of the founders of Savannah Church.

Doubtless, there were in-laws of our family and friends and neighbors who were probably buried in the Cemetery. Thus far however, I have not been able to research who else may be buried here. Without tombstones, we are at a total loss for knowledge of other families buried here. Further research of family history records at the Darlington County Historical Society and the Darlington County Archives may help provide information on additional burials here.

The vast majority of people buried at Hebron Methodist Church Cemetery are either direct descendants or related to our family. Half of the memorial stained glass windows at Hebron were paid for and dedicated to the memory of Woodhams and some of the remaining windows are spouses or descendants of our family. The same is true of Savannah Church: a very large portion of the folks buried there are Woodhams and their descendants.

These "new" graveyards gradually but surely took the place of family burial grounds in the area, as church and city-owned cemeteries did all over the South. In rural areas, churches became the center of community and social life. A public school was erected next to Hebron Church and the two institutions drew the neighborhood together. New generations of our family began to bury their dead in cemeteries at these two churches.

As the family spread to nearby towns, burials of relatives became more common in those towns--especially Bishopville, Hartsville and Darlington. Eventually, all the relatives who could personally remember those buried at Woodham Family Cemetery themselves died off. Without any personal relationship with people, it is

hard to have any "love" for people--even your own ancestors. New generations are involved with themselves and their own immediate concerns. They find little time to remember long-ago relatives whom they never knew, much less to take care of their graves. As family values have been cast aside, so too, have the tombstones of our ancestors.

Braggwell ("Bragg") Woodham owned the land around the Cemetery for several years. After he died in 1925, the Woodham Family Cemetery began a steady decline. His son Charles B. Woodham obtained the land next to the Woodham Cemetery after his father's death. I have not heard a single report of regular cleanings or any care after the end of World War II in 1945.

Sacred Burial Ground Becomes Hog Pen

According to various family reports, Charles turned hogs loose in the Woodham Family Cemetery. This probably took place in the late 1940's or early 1950's. Eventually, the tombstones were overturned and many broken. It is not known by the author how long the Woodham Family Cemetery was used as a hog pen. At some later time, most of the tombstones were thrown into the ditch beside the public road which runs beside the Cemetery.

In 1963, Horace F. Rudisill, now the Darlington County Historian, made an attempt to visit the Woodham Cemetery so he could copy tombstone inscriptions. He was unable to locate the Cemetery and later learned it had been destroyed. Rudisill is now director of the official Darlington County Archives where the county's oldest public records are preserved. He has privately gathered information and records on many families in the Old Darlington District area. He very kindly gave the author copies of several Woodham newspaper obituaries which helped confirm some of the burials at our Woodham Family Cemetery.

During the 1970's, Pelzer W. ("Pete") Beasley Jr., husband of Ruth Virginia (Virginia) Woodham, gathered up the broken pieces of two tombstones and has been preserving these pieces in a shed at Tococobe Farms. One of these is that of Mahalia Woodham, wife of Christopher C. Mixon. Mahalia died in 1837 after childbirth: her infant also died and she had no descendants. Children took some other intact tombstones and used them for "decoration" during a Halloween party. They were later placed in a driveway ditch at the home of Pete and Virginia.

From Hog Pen To Plowed Field

From a pen for hogs, the Woodham Family Cemetery ended up as a plowed field. At some time during either the late 1950's or 1960's, the fences around the Woodham Family Cemetery were torn down and the sacred burial ground was plowed over.

All evidence of individual graves has been wiped out by continued plowing with heavy farm equipment. Most of the graves had been marked with only rocks, bricks or carved wooden stakes. Nothing remains today to show exactly where they are.

It continues to be plowed over every year up to today. As of 1996, row crops (cotton, corn, etc.) are still being planted there every year over the graves of the people who are the ancestors of ALL the Woodhams from the South (whose descendants now live throughout the entire United States).

Desecration Is Violation of Law

As manager of his daughters' lands during their minority, Charles Ray Woodham wrongfully treated the one and a half acres to two acres of land that is the Woodham Family Cemetery as part of the estate--or private property--and rented or leased the cemetery land out to other farmers for about two decades or more.

This is in direct violation of English Common Law, by which we are still governed today in all the thirteen original States, including South Carolina. It is also a direct violation of South Carolina statutory law as passed by the South Carolina State Legislature. The South Carolina criminal code expressly forbids the desecration of a grave or cemetery and provides stiff criminal penalties for such crimes.

The Woodham Family Cemetery is owned by the ALL the descendants of Edward Woodham Junior. It is *not* the "private property" of any one member of our family and never has been. When the Cemetery was founded in 1798, English Common Law was the rule of law and that still takes precedence today. It is "common" ground for all of Edward Junior's heirs. No one member of his family has any legal right to rent or lease out this land, much less plow over the graves.

Cemetery Forgotten Until
Woodham Family Association Founded in 1979

When Robert Earl Woodham founded the Woodham Family Association in 1979 he also founded the Woodham National Reunion that spring as well as the South Carolina Woodham Reunion that summer. The Association is a national, non-profit family club for all descendants of the Woodham family in America. Its stated purpose is to gather and preserve our family's heritage and to help reunite our scattered and divided family.

Robert Earl announced at both these reunions that one of the most important goals for our Family Association would be the restoration of both our two historic Woodham Family Cemeteries at Stokes Bridge and at Newton, Dale County, Alabama. This remains one of our foremost goals.

Our Woodham Family Cemetery at Stokes Bridge was all but forgotten for several decades until Robert Earl, the family Historian, called for its restoration. Only a handful of relatives were even aware of its existence and even fewer knew of its importance as the resting place of the ancestors of all our family.

Col. Albert S. Lisenby, an attorney in Panama City, Fla. and native of the Dothan, Alabama area who was a great grandson of Jane Woodham, did extensive family research during the 1950's and early 1960's. He was one of the first family historians that recognized the importance of the site as the resting place of Edward Woodham Junior. Lisenby helped instill into Robert Earl a desire to get the burial grounds restored and preserved.

The Cemetery is in "limbo" as of today and will remain so until actual work on its restoration begins. Our mothers and fathers buried here do not deserve to have their graves plowed over. Treating their graves in such a manner is a sacrilege and a blaspheme to their memory. This can no longer be tolerated.

The graves of our mothers and fathers here deserve to be treated with *dignity* and *respect*. Our goal is to give them back this respect, with our love,

The next step is restoration of our Woodham Family Cemetery.



Burials

Woodham Family Cemetery

Stokes Bridge Community
Lee County, South Carolina



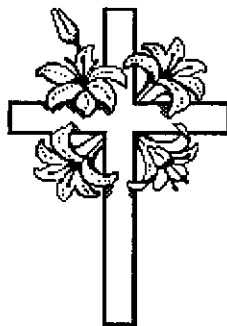
Woodham Family Cemetery

WOODHAM,	Edward	Junior	1746	Aug., 1820
			[Revolutionary War Soldier]	
"	Mary		about 1750	about 1828
			[wife of Edward Woodham Junior]	
WOODHAM,	Eleanor		about 1720	about 1805
			[wife of Edward Woodham Senior]	
WOODHAM,	Aris	Senior	3 July, 1771	11 June, 1818
"	Rachel	Beasley	22 Mar., 1773	7 Apr., 1861
			[wife of Aris Woodham Sr.]	
WOODHAM,	Asa		3 July, 1795	Dec., 1868
"	Elaine	E. Dubose	1803	1880
			[wife of Asa Woodham]	
WOODHAM,	Jehu		1837	about 1855
			[son of Asa Woodham]	
WOODHAM,	Jared		1825	1 Oct., 1864
			[Jarrett, Jaret, Jarrott]	
			[son of Asa Woodham]	
			[Confederate States Army Soldier]	
WOODHAM,	Pheriba	Jane	1824	16 Apr., 1880
			[daughter of Asa Woodham; wife of Simpson Skinner]	
SKINNER,	Simpson		1825	Mar., 1862
			[husband of Pheriba Jane Woodham]	
			[Confederate States Army Soldier]	
WOODHAM,	Hugh	Middleton	1830	14 Aug., 1899
			["Mid"] [son of Asa Woodham]	
"	Charity A.	Kelly	24 Sept., 1837	29 Oct., 1871
			[first wife of Hugh Middleton Woodham]	
"	Mary	Hill	21 June, 1846	12 May, 1882
			[second wife of Hugh Middleton Woodham]	



Woodham Family Cemetery, continued...

WOODHAM,	Rachel	Richardson	about 1801	1830
	[first wife of Aris Woodham Junior]			
WOODHAM,	Louisa	Dupree	29 July, 1816	24 Jan., 1834
	[daughter of Aris Woodham Sr. and Rachel Beasley]			
WOODHAM,	John		14 Apr., 1798	1798
	[son of Aris Woodham Sr. and Rachel Beasley]			
MIXON,	Mahaley	[Mahalia]	14 Jan., 1821	6 July, 1837
	[Mahalia Woodham, daughter of Asa Woodham; wife of Christopher C. Mixon]			
MIXON,	Infant		1837	1837
	[infant of Mahalia Woodham and C C. Mixon]			
WOODHAM,	Ephriam		26 June, 1815	about 1825
	[son of Edward Harley Woodham Sr.; grandson of Edward Woodham Jr.]			
WOODHAM,	Emberry		9 Apr., 1808	about 1815
	[son of Edward Harley Woodham Sr.; grandson of Edward Woodham Jr.]			



continued...

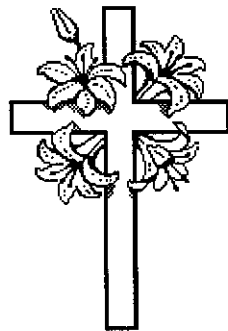
Woodham Family Cemetery, continued...

Relatives have stated that many infants and young children have been buried in the Cemetery over the years. Some relatives were asked to try and recall about how many infant burials there were in the Cemetery: "A dozen?" "Much more than that"; "Two dozen?" "Even more than that," each one answered, indicating a minimum of 25 unmarked infant or small children burials here. Most of these were buried in unmarked graves; however, a number were marked simply with carved wooden crosses or stakes, bricks and rocks which have since been removed.

Relatives also report graves are scattered throughout the grounds. Several tombstones were concentrated around trees growing near the center of the graveyard, relatives said. The Woodham Family Cemetery was once marked off and protected by a fence. A photo made in 1954 shows fence rows on the east, west and south sides of the Cemetery still remained at that time.

The 1954 photo showed the trees still growing. They were later cut down and removed, along with all the tombstones, rocks and carved crosses and stakes.

No signs remain today of any of the graves in Woodham Family Cemetery.





American Revolutionary War for Independence



Edward Woodham Junior

Edward Woodham Junior served in the American Revolutionary War for Independence [1775-1783]. He served in both the North Carolina Militia and the federal Continental Army.

When the war began, the thirteen Colonies were part of the British Empire and ruled by the English Crown. Within a short time, each of the Colonies declared themselves to be independent republics or commonwealths. Each of the colonies remained independent nations until they came together several years later and ratified the United States Constitution, giving up their independence to form a single united nation.

Each of the Colonies already had their own Colonial Militias when the war broke out. These were citizen armies made up of most able-bodied men who were called up in time of emergencies. They had little actual military training and even less combat experience. They had to provide their own arms and often their own munitions as well. These were mostly primitive muskets and flintlocks. After they declared their independence, these volunteer military units became State or Commonwealth Militias. Each new State had their own army and several had their own Navy.

In North Carolina and many other states, each county had at least one militia company. In most Southern states, it was a rule of thumb that an area must have enough men of age to form a regiment (usually four companies) in order to establish a new county. Dobbs County, where Edward Woodham Jr. lived, had a full regiment. The Dobbs County Regiment of Militia was initially commanded by a neighbor of the Woodham family, Richard Caswell. Caswell later became the first American governor of the newly independent Republic of North Carolina. He also became a General of the North Carolina State Militia and then in the federal Continental Army. Caswell was an attorney and large plantation owner. He prepared the will (now lost) and filed the probate for the estate of John Woodham in 1766.

Edward Woodham Junior was born about 1746 in Prince George County, Virginia. His father, Edward Woodham Senior, moved soon afterward to the Tar River in what was then Granville County and later became part of Edgecombe County, NC. Sometime in the 1750's, the family set-

★ **Edward Woodham Junior, Revolutionary Soldier** ★

bled in that part of Johnston County which later became part of Dobbs County. The area then became part of Glasgow County, which later split into Lenoir County and Greene County. The Woodhams lived in the Falling Creek community, near the present Institute community and LaGrange, in modern Lenoir County.

Very few records were written on the militia companies of North Carolina, simply because of the extreme scarcity of paper. The source of paper from Europe was almost totally cut off by the British after the war began. Many records which were written later became lost or destroyed. These were county or State records and those which have survived to the present are owned by the North Carolina state government and preserved in the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh.

Edward Jr. was probably a member of the Dobbs County Regiment of Militia before fighting started. When the American Revolutionary War began in 1775, Edward Jr. became a living participant in one of the world's most dramatic periods. It was an event which shook the very foundations of society throughout the world. American independence and the new laws they established changed the way people think about their government.

Never before in the history of mankind had people enjoyed such freedoms as those which Americans gained for themselves.

Two pay receipts, dated 22 Feb., 1777 and 25 April, 1781, show Edward Woodham Junior served on active duty as a soldier during the war. These pay receipts are preserved at the State Archives. They show Edward Jr. was paid for military service in the State Militia. The 1777 pay receipt is signed by the paymaster, Richard Caswell. Caswell was a neighbor and apparently friend of the Woodham family.

One of the few remaining muster rolls for the Dobbs County Regiment is from the late 1770's which includes both Edward Woodham Jr. and his father, Edward Woodham Sr. Edward Sr. is listed among those who were "Too old or infirm" for active military duty.

In 1781, Edward Jr. became one of the few men to serve in the Continental Army, the "national" army of the united thirteen states, commanded by General George Washington. The Continental Army was the forerunner of our United States Army, established after the United States was formed later. It is not known how long Edward Jr. served in the Continental Army.



★ ★ War For Southern Independence ★ ★

(War Between the States)

1861 -- 1865

Confederate States Army

Veterans buried at

Woodham Family Cemetery

Woodham,

Hugh Middleton

Hugh Middleton Woodham enlisted as a private on 14 Jan., 1862 at Darlington Courthouse in Company H, 21st Regiment of South Carolina Infantry, Confederate States Army. Hugh was later promoted to the rank of Corporal. He remained in the Army until the end of the war.

Woodham,

Jared

Jared Woodham enlisted 20 Sept., 1862 at James Island near Charleston, SC in Company A, 7th Battalion of South Carolina Infantry, Confederate States Army. He is listed on various Company muster rolls as Jared, Jaret W. or J. W. Jared contracted chronic diarrhea and was sent to an Army hospital. He later was sent home on sick leave, where he died 1 Oct., 1864.

Skinner,

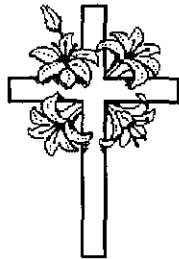
Simpson



Restoration

Woodham Family Cemetery

Stokes Bridge Community
Lee County, South Carolina



Restoration Of Our Woodham Family Cemetery

Our Woodham Family Cemetery in the Stokes Bridge Community of Lee County, South Carolina was desecrated and all the tombstones removed sometime in the 1950's. Family members have differed as to who was responsible for this criminal and immoral act. When first questioned about the matter in 1979, some relatives reported it had been done by a man who had leased the land around the Cemetery. Later, it was reported to have been a relative whose father had owned the land around the site. Then in the 1980's, several relatives stated that Charles Woodham was the person who had turned the Cemetery into a hog pen and finally threw most of the tombstones into the ditch along the road in front of the Cemetery and broke most of them.

Placing blame is no longer of any consequence. What is important now is to get our historic family Cemetery restored and insure that it will be preserved for all time.

Restoration of the Woodham Family Cemetery was first called for in 1979 by Robert Earl Woodham, founder and President of the Woodham Family Association. Robert Earl is also the Woodham family historian whose hobby since childhood has been his family history. He founded the Family Association and the Woodham National Reunion in 1979 and has served as its President since then. The Woodham Family Association is a national, non-profit family club for all descendants of the Woodham family in America.

Split Causes Delay In Restoration

At the first Woodham National Reunion in Eufaula, Alabama, Robert Earl stated one of the primary goals of the Association would be to restore both of our family cemeteries in Lee County, SC and Dale County, Alabama.

However, a split in the Association erupted in 1980, led by the Association secretary. The secretary had no interest in family history (after she had gotten all of hers from Robert Earl) and did not want any Association funds spent on family

history or restoration of the cemeteries. She wanted all the club's funds spent on the family newsletter and the National Reunion.

She also wanted to be editor of and control the family newsletter--which Robert Earl had established, telling him he could concentrate on "family history and all that stuff--and I'll run the Association." When asked how he was expected to finance research on all the family, she replied that Robert Earl should start charging relatives money to give them information and records on their family.

Through a very subtle but devious maneuver in 1981, the secretary got an OK from the board of directors that give her the power to approve all expenditures of funds from the family club's treasury. At the time, this raised no eyebrows, for she had not shown her hand as yet: but during the next year, she made excuse after excuse to deny the elected President Robert Earl even so much as a roll of postage stamps. He was unable to publish the family newsletter without any funds. She claimed for several months that a check was "in the mail" to pay for printing and mailing an issue of the newsletter.

In the meantime, she started her own "official" newsletter, bought postage and spent other funds from the Association without the President's knowledge or approval. This caused the family club to split into two groups at the 1981 reunion. The secretary soon lost interest and her organization died out after three years.

This split in our family disillusioned a lot of our relatives. The Association has never recovered from this unfortunate mess. Our membership during our first year in 1979 reached about 320: it has never been close to that number since then.

Since 1982, Robert Earl's foremost concern has been a long and very hard struggle to rebuild our membership. Any hope for restoring our two family cemeteries rested upon having a strong organization that could accomplish such a major task. The family historian decided to give up his journalism career and devote every ounce of his energy to his family. He decided that if nothing else, he would at least gather all the history of the family that he could and preserve it for future generations. Robert Earl gave up all consideration for himself. He cut down to just one meal a day to save his own money to spend on Association expenses. At the time of his first heart attack in 1991, his doctor said that eating only two bologna sandwiches a day was one of the major causes of his condition.

Restoration of the two family cemeteries was simply shunted aside as the historian concentrated on trying to complete books on the family so all the records he had gathered over the years would not be lost again.

Crisis With Alabama Cemetery Spurs Restoration

In 1988, the Woodham Family Cemetery at Newton, Dale County, Alabama faced an unexpected threat from an Ozark developer who wrote Robert Earl and claimed he had bought the Cemetery with the land around it. He sent a survey of the site which claimed the Cemetery was only one-third of an acre of land. The Cemetery actually contains almost one and a third acres. The developer wanted \$10,000 for the "one-third acre" Cemetery, or \$1,500 a year for us to lease it.

Robert Earl wrote a story in the family newsletter about the danger to the Cemetery and issued a call for a Cemetery Committee to be organized and begin immediate restoration. This threat to the burying grounds of our ancestors caused a great deal of anger and alarm among many relatives. A small local group of dedicated kinfolks formed a permanent Cemetery Committee and began restoration the week they received their newsletters.

At one cleaning, the oldest person working was about 86 years old and his wife of 82 was there working hard also, dressed in her old-fashioned bonnet and apron. The Committee members wrote letters, made many telephone calls and personally talked to dozens of relatives to raise funds for the Cemetery.

In the meantime, the developer began work on his land adjoining the Cemetery. He brought in heavy equipment and bulldozed a road through part of the Cemetery, which cut down several feet deep into the Cemetery. All this was unknown to Robert Earl but he felt "a strange feeling there was some real danger to the Cemetery" as he told cousin Mrs. Adrian Hundley Roper. She offered to take him to Ozark so he could do research in the county courthouse records to prove the developer did not own our Family Cemetery. Several other relatives had already tried this and even hired an attorney to "find something" but failed.

Dale County's courthouse burned in 1884 and all public records before then, including deeds, were destroyed. Luckily, a deed was found dated 1890 which

that all the land "excepting the grave yard" had been sold.

When James Ople ("Jim") Woodham showed Robert Earl the site and he saw where the road had been bulldozed through the Cemetery, Robert Earl called the developer and demanded a meeting that night with him. The meeting was held at the restaurant owned by Jim in sight of the Cemetery. By the time the developer got there, the place was full of relatives--all very angry. Robert Earl showed him the deeds proving our family Cemetery had never been "sold" and that he had violated the law by bulldozing a road through it.

The Cemetery Committee raised funds to buy a chain-link fence for about \$2,000; descendants of another family buried there volunteered to donate their labor to erect it. They paid about \$750 for a beautiful wrought iron gateway arch over the entrance with large letters stating "Woodham Cemetery, Est. 1848". Several new tombstones have been erected. By 1990, all the major work to restore the Woodham Cemetery at Newton, Alabama had been completed. The only work remaining to be done there now is erection of tombstones for many unmarked graves.

Original Plan Called For Restoration Of South Carolina Cemetery First

Originally, Robert Earl intended to concentrate upon restoring the Woodham Family Cemetery at Stokes Bridge first because it contains the ancestors of ALL our family. The danger posed to the Alabama cemetery by the unscrupulous land developer overturned these plans and made the Alabama site an urgent top priority.

However, the Association President stated at the time that a complete restoration of both the family's cemeteries was to be our family's ultimate goal.

During the 1992 South Carolina Woodham Reunion at Hebron Church near Bishopville, Robert Earl asked Alvah Leslie Woodham Jr., a native of Lee County and resident of Columbia, to become chairman of a Cemetery Committee for the Woodham Family Cemetery at Stokes Bridge. He asked Alvah to help with an effort to get volunteers to join the committee and assume the task of raising funds for a fence and other projects. That was the last time the President has heard from Alvah.

Local Volunteers Lacking

Although the relative who destroyed the site has been dead for many years, his son has been the operator of the adjoining farm, which his three daughters inherited. Relatives stated very frankly that they did not want to "tangle with him". The daughter who inherited the land immediately next to the Woodham Family Cemetery was asked a few years ago by Robert Earl if she would donate one acre of land across the road from the Cemetery to be used as a park, where picnic tables and parking space and perhaps a picnic shelter such as that built at the Alabama cemetery, could be developed.

She very emphatically turned down this request, stating only that this "is Woodham land and will always be Woodham land" and that she would never sell it. So far, neither she nor her father have offered any help to restore the Family Cemetery.

Our Family Cemetery Will Be Restored

Despite these or any other obstacles, our Family Cemetery will be restored regardless of the consequences. We will begin as soon as we have collected enough funds to erect a fence. In 1993, the Association began a fund drive to collect money for projects at the Cemetery which are absolutely necessary, such as a chain-link fence surrounding it.

A fence around our Family Cemetery is the most urgent need and the first thing we must do. This is vital to let people know this is a "protected site". For more than 30 years, the graves of our ancestors have been plowed over and crops planted on them every year. After being used as a hog pen for years, all the tombstones were broken up or thrown into a ditch and the fences torn down. Then the graveyard was treated by the adjoining landowner as his personal property and used to grow crops such as cotton corn, etc.

Later, the adjacent landowner began leasing out acreage, including the Woodham Family Cemetery--just as if there were no Cemetery there! When he leased his surrounding land, he also included the Woodham Family Cemetery, as if he actually owned this "farm land". This of course, is not only immoral but illegal.

Fencing Is First Priority

No single person "owns" our Woodham Family Cemetery. It is a *family* cemetery and according to old English common law handed down for hundreds of years--it is owned by ALL the descendants of those buried there. This means the restoration costs must be shared by *all* of our family.

Plowing and growing crops on our family graves will probably not stop until we get a fence erected. Fencing the 1 1/2 to 2 acres contained within the Cemetery will probably cost \$3,000 to \$4,000 or more for a permanent chain-link fence and at least \$2,000 for labor to erect it. A gateway arch similar to that at the Alabama Cemetery will cost \$800 to \$1,000, including installation.

Copies of old aerial photos will have to be studied to determine the precise boundaries of the Cemetery before we can determine its exact size. It appears however, from copies made of one such photo from 1954, that the site contains between 1 1/2 and 2 acres of land.

Once it is fenced, no one will desecrate this holy site again--upon pain of the law! After the fence goes up, anyone who violates the Cemetery will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the criminal law, as well as sued for damages.

When fencing is completed, other work will be done as funds become available. Among the first things which must be done is to erect tombstones for *all* those known to be buried in the Cemetery. We will try to buy at least two double tombstones or more at a time. The Alabama Cemetery Committee did this and obtained a discount, saving considerably. The two double stones they purchased cost a total of about \$1,500 and are very handsome.

We will start with the oldest graves, including those for: Mrs. Eleanor Woodham, wife of Edward Woodham Senior; their son, Edward Woodham Junior (Revolutionary War Soldier) and his wife Mary; Edward Junior's son Aris Woodham Senior and his wife Rachel Beasley; their son Asa Woodham and his wife Elaine Elizabeth Dubose; and Mrs. Rachel Woodham, first wife of Aris Woodham Junior. Other graves will be marked as funds become available.



Founders of Our Family Buried Here

One mother and her son and his wife buried here are the ancestors of more than 99 per cent of all the Woodhams from the South (another small branch of our family settled in Greene County, Georgia in the 1780's but today has only a small number of kinfolk who still bear the family name of Woodham). The blood of these ancestors courses through the veins of upwards of 30,000 or more living descendants today.

Edward Woodham Jr. and his wife Mary are truly the founding "father and mother" of our family. They gave our entire family today life. Edward and Mary endured all the hardships of frontier America. They worked hard and overcame these adversities to provide a better life for themselves and their children. They, our own blood ancestors--not some just some history book characters--made it possible for us to live in and enjoy the benefits of the greatest nation in the world. Though long dead, we should still honor and cherish their memory and their deeds.

This means that if you are a descendant of the Woodham family from the South, your ancestors are buried at the Woodham Family Cemetery in Stokes Bridge. That includes *every* Woodham whose folks came from South Carolina, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas or Texas as well as most of those from the rest of the South, can trace their roots to these ancestors buried here.

Descendants Scattered All Over The Nation

Today, our family has become scattered throughout the nation but unfortunately, most of those in the rest of the country have lost contact with their ancestral roots and have no idea that we came originally from Lee County, South Carolina. Yet despite this lack of knowledge about their family roots, when you find a Woodham or grandchild of a Woodham way off in Texas, Louisiana or booming Florida, you will find another blood cousin. They, like you, are direct descendants of our ancestors buried in this Cemetery.

All this means that a Woodham born and raised in Texas still has his roots in little Stokes Bridge Community and blood ties to our ancestors buried here. With these ties comes a duty and responsibility to preserve and protect these graves.

★ ★ ★ A Real American Hero Buried Here ★ ★ ★

The body of a *Real Hero* --a true Son of America--rests here in our woodham Family Cemetery. Edward Woodham Junior was one of those brave souls who took up arms against great odds to win American independence and changed the course of World history.

He was a soldier in both the North Carolina State Militia and in the federal Continental Army, commanded by General George Washington, during the Revolutionary War for Independence (1775-1783).

Every American owes Edward and those others who won our nation's independence a tremendous debt of gratitude. He not only fought to win American independence but the nation he helped found brought a new freedom and democracy the world had never seen before. The democratic form of government established by the United States spread like wildfire throughout the world and brought freedom to peoples who had never before known what it was like to elect their own leaders nor to live as free people. Faraway exotic lands such as India with its giant population, to tiny island nations scattered across the globe, now have their democratic governments with freedom and democracy today--thanks to men like Edward Woodham Jr. and his fellow American pioneer soldiers.

Yet his own descendants have defiled his and our other ancestor's graves and continue plowing over them every year. Edward and Mary deserve better from their own kin.

With your help, we will stop this humiliating sacrilege of the Woodham Family Cemetery and restore it to the dignity and respect it should have. It will take hard work and money.



Our Family Cemetery Is A Historic Site

Our Woodham Family Cemetery is a historic site: not just for Lee County but important historically for the entire state of South Carolina and the South. This is the burial place of a **Revolutionary War Soldier**—that automatically makes it a historical site. We will register Edward Woodham Junior's grave as the final resting place of a soldier of the Revolutionary War for Independence with the State of South Carolina, the National Trust for Historic Sites, United States Department of the Interior and the national headquarters of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Washington, all of which will further enhance the importance of the graveyard and help ensure its protection.

It is also important as the site of the grave of Reverend Aris Woodham Sr., one of the first Methodist ministers in the United States.

Woodham Family Cemetery is also one of the oldest known cemeteries in Lee County and this region. This alone makes the graveyard an important historic place.

We will also work to have a state historical marker erected at the Cemetery proclaiming that the Woodham Family Cemetery is a *historic* site. We will try to convince a local relative to go before the Lee County Council and request the public county dirt road in front of the Cemetery be named "Woodham Cemetery Road". If this is accomplished, we will try to get the county government to put up a road sign at its intersection with the Hebron Church Road and on the other end, with Woodham Road. This will help relatives locate the Cemetery in the future so they can visit the grounds and pay respects to our ancestors.

We also hope to establish an annual Homecoming and Decoration Day similar to that held now in Alabama at the Woodham Cemetery there. In Alabama, flowers are placed on the graves to honor our ancestors and a picnic and gathering is held. Perhaps this could be done in conjunction with the annual South Carolina Woodham Reunion held every August.



Cemetery Restoration Fund

The campaign to restore our historic Woodham Family Cemetery in Stokes Bridge Community of Lee County, South Carolina began in 1988. This is the resting place of the mother and father of up to 30,000 or more descendants living today.

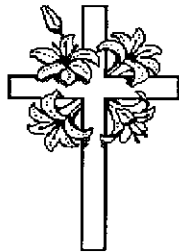
Yet despite the huge number of relatives living today descended from those buried here, these kinfolks have managed to donate only \$718 to restore their graves to dignity. See copies of the family newsletters printed in this book for those descendants who have made contributions for restoration as of the writing of this book.

The Woodham Family Association still has a long way to go before we have enough money to pay for a chain link fence for the cemetery. This is the first and most important thing that must be installed in the restoration effort.

Once a protective and permanent fence is erected, we must install tombstones for the oldest persons buried here.

All descendants of the Woodham family are urged to take part in this restoration. It is **YOUR** family cemetery. It is not the responsibility of the county government or anyone else to take care of and preserve this graveyard--this is *your* responsibility. If you turn your face and shirk your duty, you will not be able to hold your head up with dignity.

If you are a descendant of the Woodham family but do not know how you are related to your ancestors buried here, please contact the Woodham Family Association and we will tell you.



508 S. Coit St.
Florence, S. C.
May 10, 1963

Dr. J. C. Hind:
414 Second Avenue
Albany, Georgia.

Dear Sir:

Please pardon my delay in answering yours of Jan. 30th last; about that time I was engaged in an historical project--- gathering together 12 valuable church minute books of Darlington County to be microfilmed....subsequently I received permission to keep the books in my home for several weeks to read and extract historical and genealogical data. This has thrown me many weeks behind in my regular schedule but it was fully worth it!

I am gathering material for a history of the early Methodists of Darlington District, S. C. and for a history of the early civic and religious leaders of the district; the only Woodham information I have access to is that in the Darlington Courthouse here, which dates back to 1806 only, having been burned in that year; plus a few notes from a Mr. Lizenby of Panama City, Fla., who was interested in the same ancestor Frederick.

The oldest record in Darlington County as you perhaps know, is the Aris Woodham who died in 1818....he is the Methodist "Local Preacher" (not a member of the S.C.Conference). All I know about him is that he was probably the son of Frederick (from Mr. Lizenby) and that he died during 1818, age unknown...which is very little to base a biographical sketch.

Last Sunday afternoon I went out on Lynches Creek in the Woodham neighborhood to try to find the old Woodham family burying ground; I had conflicting reports: one, that it was still there; two that it has been plowed over. The latter may be true, but I am going to make one more visit to that area again soon.

Have you or Mrs. Hind contacted anyone...or do you have in your own possession....any type of old family papers that refer to early Darlington or to any of the Woodhams of Darlington? I ask this question of everyone who writes from afar to Darlington....and have acquired copies of interested letters, Bible Records, etc., for our Darlington County Historical Society.

I shall report to you if the Woodham cemetery contains any data pertinent to your line...but such is very doubtful; meanwhile, if you can direct me to any interesting relics for our Society, same will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

H.F.Rudisill

Woodham Family Club of America

Robert Earl Woodham
President and
Woodham Family Historian

P.O. Box 7446
Atlanta, Georgia 30357

8 Feb., 1988

Sponsors of:
Woodham National Reunion
Woodham National Library
The Woodham Journal

Dear Charles Ray,

For some time now, I have dreamed of getting started on restoring our Woodham Family Cemetery on your farm. The longer we put this off, the more relatives will die who could help us locate the exact gravesites and "identify" the relatives buried there.

The crisis we just went through with our family's other Woodham Cemetery in Dale County, Alabama really "brought home" the danger a family cemetery can face. We almost lost that one too. Fortunately, I made a trip down there and spent the day going through deeds at the courthouse, all the way back to 1890. I finally found a deed reservation for the cemetery--proving this developer did not "own" our family cemetery. (see the story in the last family newsletter I am sending along).

A cousin who took me down and I left the courthouse that day when it closed and drove out to the cemetery. I was shocked to find that Keller had just the day before had bulldozed a road through part of the cemetery! !

We called him and had him to come out to James Woodham's new restaurant next to the cemetery. James called a lot of Woodham kinfolks and in minutes, there was standing room only. I showed Keller the deeds I had found and proved to him he did not own our cemetery. I told him there will be no more bulldozing in the cemetery and he was never to "touch" the cemetery again.

That was a happy crowd of Woodhams who left there that night. I have never felt so much relief!

They have formed a permanent Cemetery Committee of relatives in that area to make sure it will always be cleaned and maintained. They have already raised about \$3,200 to pay for a fence around the cemetery and its maintenance. I talked to them about making those funds part of a joint fund to be used on both Woodham cemeteries.

I hope that we can form another Cemetery Committee soon in Lee County. These two committees would supply the actual labor to get the regular cleaning, maintenance and so forth done on the cemeteries. They would also raise funds to pay for fences, signs, to restore tombstones as they deteriorate and erect new tombstones on unmarked graves.

In the case of the Lee County Woodham Cemetery, we must start all over with tombstones, since as you know, all the tombstones have been removed from the cemetery. That will be our most expensive item.

Unfortunately, I don't have a reliable car to make the trip to Bishopville to have a chance to talk to you in person about all this. I have a 1978 used car and the engine is really messed up. The mechanic told me Saturday it must have a major overhaul (several hundred dollars worth). I can't afford that now so I won't have a way of traveling for quite a while.

The main thing I wanted to talk to you about is to get you to have about four posts set up temporarily marking off the acre for the cemetery; and string a line around it to make sure no one plows over it again until we can get a fence put up. I will write to some others in the area to get them to help you put up these temporary posts (how about Jack and his son Skeet, Pete Beasley and perhaps Andrew D. Jr.?). All we need to do right away is to "mark it off" with posts and a piece of wire or twine (?) with perhaps plastic flags just to keep it from being plowed over any more.

As soon as we get a Cemetery Committee organized in Lee County, then we can start working on a permanent and nice fence (maybe a chain-link fence?) and signs (one at the cemetery and one out on the highway).

A lot of us have also talked about the idea of a "Woodham Park" next to both cemeteries. This would be an area adjoining both cemeteries for parking and would have a permanent picnic table and benches. We would landscape them with flowers and trees to make it a real beautiful spot. This would provide a quite, peaceful spot where for generations to come, kinfolks from all over the nation could come and visit the graves of our ancestors; they could even bring a picnic basket (especially if they have come a long way) or just sit there and contemplate in a peaceful and beautiful park, paying respects to their ancestors.

Next, to make sure that nothing ever happens to our family cemetery again, we need once and for all time to have a legal document stating that the cemetery either "owns" itself or that it is in the name of the entire Woodham family and is never to be "sold" again. You could solve this by preparing a formal deed setting aside the one-acre cemetery. We also ask you to please donate an acre adjoining the cemetery for use as the Woodham Park.

Please consider the idea of giving an acre for the Park across the road from the cemetery--where the old Woodham home stands (if it is still standing). I would like to consider the idea of restoring the old home (or perhaps another very old Woodham home in the area) as a type of museum to show future generations how our ancestors lived. It would be something that is a part of our heritage that kinfolks could come and actually see. This would be a wonderful tribute to our ancestors as well as a fitting legacy to our children to come.

On a separate page, I have shown what I am talking about, with marking the cemetery and the proposal for the Woodham Park.

I wish you and Curlen and your whole immediate family could come to

Eufaula, Alabama on Memorial Day weekend for the 10th Anniversary Woodham Family National Reunion. The two Woodham Cemeteries--at your place and in Alabama--will be one of the main topics this year. If you could come, you could talk to all the family in person (and also tell everyone some of the "history" of the cemetery or anything you know about it). I think you would really have a good time meeting kinfolks from all over the country. And it is a great place for a weekend vacation (right on big Lake Eufaula, with beaches, cottages, a lodge with indoor pool, lounge, etc; riding stables, outdoor pool, golf, tennis, boat marina (you can rent boats to go riding or fishing), and one of the largest freshwater fish aquariums in the nation.

My mother has been in the hospital now for four weeks and is down to just 70 pounds. Her health has been going downhill for several months so the family convinced me to move from Atlanta down to Columbus, Ga. to be near her. I will stay here for several months to come. I may not be able to get to see you before the National Reunion in May at least. I can't afford a telephone yet so please write me about all this as soon as you can; and take care of yourselves until I can see you all.

Your cousin,

Robert Earl

Robert Earl Woodham

temporary address:

Robert EARl Woodham
5044 Morris Ave.
Columbus, Ga. 31904

News Articles From The
Woodham Family Journal

The following pages are news articles on the Woodham Family Cemetery which have appeared in the *Woodham Family Journal*, the official publication/newsletter of the Woodham Family Association.

The Woodham Cousins

Vol. 1, No. 1

News of the Woodham Family

Jan., 1981

Woodhams Meet For Second National Reunion

The Woodham Family wrote a new chapter in its history Memorial Day weekend when they met for the second Woodham National Reunion. The reunion became a permanent annual event when the Family voted to make Eufaula, Ala. the site of the National Reunion for the next five years and tentatively for the next ten. The reunion will be centered around facilities at Lakepoint State Park every Memorial Day weekend.

The reunion is now truly a national event, with Woodhams and their descendants from 17 states attending this year. They came from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, North Carolina, Arkansas, Ohio, Virginia, Michigan, Tennessee, Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma, Iowa, Maryland, Nebraska. Alabama was the best represented, with cousins from at least 31 cities. Estimated attendance was between 400 and 600. Some 367 registered but names of everyone were not included. (continued on page 5)

Woodham Cousins Begins Publication

A new magazine has begun for the Woodham Family. THE WOODHAM COUSINS will be filled with articles on current news, social events and history of the Woodhams.

THE WOODHAM COUSINS is an official publication of the American Family History Institute. Robert Earl Woodham, founder and President of the Woodham Family Association, is editor of THE COUSINS. A subscription is \$10 annually. This will help pay the cost of this newsletter and help us gather more research on the Woodham family. See page 7.

American Family History Institute Will Be National Center of History

We are proud to announce plans for the American Family History Institute, the first known organization of its kind in the United States. The Institute is devoted to gathering and preserving historical material on every American family.

The primary goal of the Institute is to become a major national center of family history. Our most important programs will include a national library and archives of family history, research, publications and preservation. We also hope to develop many social programs such as organizing national and regional family reunions, help people trace and preserve their family heritage and educational projects on history.

No such nationwide organization is known to exist now. Many genealogical societies, private clubs, churches, etc. have history programs but their efforts are limited and usually aimed at their membership. The Institute will be the first devoted to the entire U. S.

The Institute will be operated by the American Family History Foundation, a non-

profit Georgia corporation devoted to historical research and preservation. The Foundation was established by Robert Earl Woodham, a writer and editor with more than 25 years experience in family history research.

The Institute is a way to preserve our precious family records and historical documents for years to come. It will eventually provide one central archives where these records can be stored, preserved and open to the public. Anyone in the nation can then come here and research their own family or ask the Institute to do it for them.

The Institute is foreseen as a cooperative project supported by individuals, family associations, genealogical societies and other groups. Financial aid will also come from sale of our publications, research grants and donations. Our new organization has a long way to go before we can even "get started." Our most urgent need is a headquarters for the library and archives. (Cont. on page 5)

Woodham Heritage ...

Aris Woodham Left His Mark

Aris Woodham Senior was a remarkable man not only for the fact he is the ancestor of many thousands of Americans but also because he left his children and descendants a proud legacy as an upstanding pioneer citizen. In spite of not having any first-hand knowledge about Aris, we are still able to paint a fairly accurate picture of one of the Woodham family's most illustrious leaders.

Aris, born about 1764 in Dobbs County (now Lenoir), N. C., was named after an early Christian leader by his parents, Edward Woodham Junior and Mary. In the 1780's, he moved with his parents to Darlington Co., S. C. and settled in the area of Stokes Bridge and Ashland Communities, in what is today Lee County.

Aris married about 1790 to Rachel Richardson, born in 1773 and daughter of Joseph Richardson, a Revolutionary War veteran. Aris and Rachel had ten known children. Their descendants include most of the Woodhams in north Alabama, S. C., Barbour, Henry and Covington Counties, Ala., as well as many others in Ala., Ga., Fla., Miss., Ark. and other states.

Few people have had a more diversified career than Aris. He became one of the most successful men in his community as a planter, businessman, skilled craftsman and minister. Starting with a small farm, he gradually acquired several small plantations totaling several hundred acres, along with several slaves. In addition to farming, he became a blacksmith, which meant he not only provided shoes for the area's horses but also made hand tools and farm equipment. Blacksmithing was a very important and profitable business in this period. Aris later bought a grist mill and one of the region's first cotton gins from his father. These were vital businesses the community could not do without. The cotton gin helped change the region's economy, for with it, the area was able to produce a new money crop.

The financial success of Aris may be measured by the considerable fortune in money, property, land and slaves he left his wife and children when he died in 1818. This indicates Aris was a very hard-working man. Aris apparently was also very dedicated to God. His spiritual life was manifested not only by his service as a minister but in his family life as shown by the Biblical names of his children.

Aris left us all a proud heritage. His life was an example we can still respect and emulate today.

The children of Aris and Rachel were: Athanasius ("Atha"), Asa, Edward, Margaret (Mrs. Samuel Andrews), Louisa Dupree (Mrs. William Skinner Jr.), Aris Junior, Pheriba ("Fereby") (Mrs. Jehu Mixon Jr.), Rachel (Mrs. Asa Skinner), Stephen and Ira.

South Carolina's Woodham Cemetery

BISHOPVILLE, S.C. - The oldest known Woodham burial ground may be restored if negotiations to acquire the site are successful. The cemetery was destroyed a few years ago.

The Woodham Cemetery is located in Stokes Bridge Community, Lee County, about a mile from Hebron Church. It is on a farm believed to have been in the Woodham family since the early 1800's.

Among those believed to be buried there are Aris Woodham and his wife Rachel, ancestors of all the Family in South Carolina and more than half the rest of the Woodhams across the nation. Also known to be buried there are Asa Woodham and his wife Elaine Elizabeth ("Laney") Dubose.

Two tombstones from the cemetery were found recently and a search for others will continue. The tombstones were from the graves of Mahalia Woodham, dau. of Asa, and wife of Christopher C. Mixon; and Charity Ann Kelly, wife of Hugh M. Woodham.

Family Sheets Needed

If information on your family is to be included in the Index we must have it within the next two weeks. If you have never filled out a sheet for us, do so now. Send us info on all members of your family: full name, when and where born and died and same on parents, spouse, children. Please help us make the Woodham Family Index as complete as possible, so it can become an accurate record of our family for years to come. If you know of a family who hasn't sent info in, send it in for them.

Woodham Family Journal

Vol. 9 No. 2

Official Publication of the Woodham Family Association

Oct., 1987

10th Birthday Party

Next May, we will celebrate our 10th annual Woodham Family National Reunion. We hope this memorable occasion will be one of our biggest and best reunions ever. We urge you all to attend and bring the kids!

Plans are underway now for a full two days of activities, to be held at Eufaula, Alabama on Memorial Day weekend. Our National Reunion is always held on the Saturday and Sunday preceding the national Memorial Day in May. Eufaula was the site of our first reunion in 1979 and has become our traditional gathering place.

Our first Woodham National Reunion attracted hundreds of relatives from every state in the South as well as from such distant areas as Nebraska, Michigan, California, Texas, Iowa, Connecticut, New Jersey, Indiana, Oklahoma and Maryland.

We want to make the 10th anniversary celebration a very special one and just as big as our first. Many have said that was the "first time since Mama and Daddy died" that all their brothers, sisters and children had gotten together.

It is sad that so many of us don't see each other except at funerals. We have lost many relatives since 1979 and even more of us living now won't be around in another 10 years for our next big anniversary. No one should have to remind you that your family comes first. Love of family must take precedence above all else--there are no "excuses" which come before family.

We want to fill two whole days with fun and excitement during our 10th reunion. We hope a lot of folks will get enthusiastic and become personally involved with the reunion. It is YOUR reunion--YOU need to take part in it.

All day activities Saturday will be at Lakepoint State Park. We will shift night activities to our headquarters, Eufaula Inn (formerly

Holiday Inn) in downtown Eufaula.

We want to have swimming parties at Lakepoint's beach Saturday for children and teens; a teen weiner roast, poolside party/dance Saturday night at Eufaula Inn.

We will have a cookout Saturday at noon in Lakepoint's picnic area, followed by an afternoon of entertainment, singing, games, etc. We will eat Saturday night at Eufaula Inn and have a program of entertainment afterwards. We will cap the night with fireworks at the amphitheater overlooking Lake Eufaula (be sure and bring a lot of fireworks! We will "pool" them for a big show).

We are proposing a lot of events; if you don't participate or volunteer to help, obviously there won't be any such activities. We need you to volunteer; we need you to serve as chaperones for children's or teen parties; to help round up entertainment; coordinate cookouts; obtain reservations for the picnic area and motel meeting room; register relatives and more.

We need volunteers to help entertain; if you play an instrument, are in a private band or singing group and can get them to play for us, please do! If you know of a group who will sing or play for us Saturday night, try to get them (sorry, we can't afford to pay--it will have to be for the fun of it); if you have any kind of act (magic, comedy, etc.), we want you to perform at the reunion!

If you can work on such activities or can volunteer to entertain, please contact us soon so this anniversary reunion can be a wonderful, successful and memorable occasion.

Above all, BE THERE! And bring the kids, parents other kinfolks.

Neglected Old Cemetery

A time to ask if we are a people of 'good will'

The oldest known Woodham family cemetery has already been destroyed. Now, the only other Woodham cemetery is in mortal danger. We received a letter in August from Wade Keller of Ozark, Ala. stating he had bought a tract of 72 acres in Dale County. This land adjoins the old Hunt Army Airfield within the city limits of Newton.

His brief letter said only:

"Dear Mr. Woodham,

Enclosed is a survey of a plot containing a Woodham Cemetery. The cemetery is in considerable disrepair in that the woods have taken over. However the tombstones appear to be intact. Most of the graves are around the turn of the century.

I had the cemetery surveyed out from the 72 acres I purchased in hopes of transferring it to a responsible organization that would maintain it.

If you are interested or can direct me to a responsible group that might be interested, I would be glad to entertain a reasonable offer."

The letter implies that Keller now claims to "own" the Woodham Cemetery and wants to "sell" it. I have worried about "ownership" of the cemetery for several years and dreaded the possibility some unscrupulous developer would acquire the surrounding land and lay claim to the cemetery. That possibility is now closer than I had imagined.

It is against the law in most states to disturb, damage or remove a cemetery. However, I do not know the specific laws on cemeteries in Alabama (in Georgia, it is a felony). I do know that in this day and age of profiteering, it is common for developers and builders to bulldoze over graves. By the time relatives discover the desecration, it is too late--there may be a tract of houses or a shopping center built over the graves. The builder can pay a small fine and write it off on expenses. He is glad to "get rid of it" for such a small price!

This cemetery was established about the mid-1800's. It contains several marked graves, most dating from the late 1800's. However, there may be as many as 50 or more unmarked graves there, including several outside the present fence, according to older relatives.

Apparently Keller wants to "sell" the Woodham Cemetery. It is a sad day when we reach the point our relatives' and friends' graves can be bought and sold like cattle. We must not allow our family's burial grounds to be owned by other people, by strangers who don't know and could care less about the people buried there.

I firmly believe the cemetery was "set aside" in a deed during the 1880's. If we cannot prove this, then our only alternative is to raise funds and "buy" our family cemetery back from Keller.

The cemetery must be restored, cleaned and a new fence and marker erected. A permanent committee of local relatives must also be established to ensure good maintenance and frequent cleaning.

We need volunteers who live within 50 miles of Newton. We should not have to beg for such help. The only excuse not to take care of your relatives graves is that you are too feeble to walk. Let it not be said that the Woodhams are too sorry to take care of their kinfolks' graves!

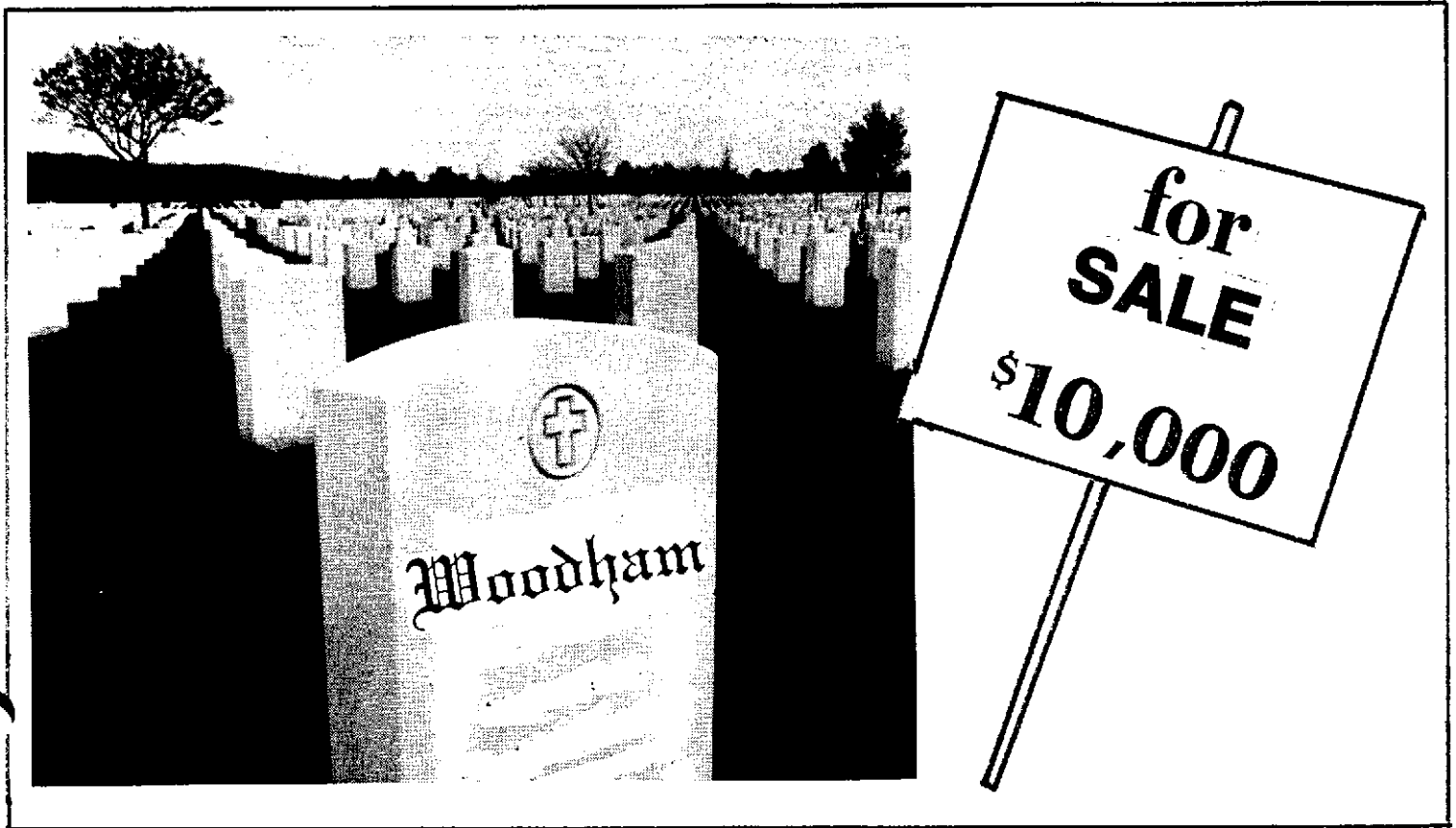
The time has come for the Woodham family to either stand up and be counted or to hang our heads in disgrace! Please contact us about this effort.

Woodham Family Journal

Vol. 9 No.3

Official Publication of the Woodham Family Association

Feb., 1988



Only quick support can save Woodham Cemetery

For Sale: one used family cemetery.
Price: \$10,000.

Sound like a weird story from one of those supermarket magazines? Not really; no matter how bizaare the idea, it's all true. In those dumb stories, the crazy things always happen to people no one ever heard of. This time, the horrible reality has come home to haunt our own family.

Land around the Woodham Family Cemetery near Newton, Dale County, Alabama was recently sold by the Crooks family who had owned it for many years. The buyer is Wade Keller, an Ozark accountant.

We received a letter from Keller which appeared to offer the Cemetery for sale. We sent a four page letter to him asking for clarification and more information. To date, we have not had a reply.

We published a story about this in our last newsletter. The day after she got her newsletter, Mrs. Ruby Woodham Knight of Ozark called Keller to talk about the cemetery. Keller asked Ruby if she wanted to buy the Cemetery.

"What is your asking price?" Ruby asked him. "Well, I haven't set a price but James Woodham bought some land in the area...I think I did make him a price of \$10,000," cont. on pg 2

CEMETERY... continued from page 1

Keller answered.

"TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS!", Ruby said unbelievably. "Yes", Keller replied.

(see excerpt from Ruby's letter on page 3)

We are now confronted with a person unrelated to our family who claims to "own" the sacred burial ground of our Woodham mothers and fathers. He is openly and actively trying to "sell" the Cemetery. His opening asking price (to Ruby) is \$10,000.

The next thing is: what do we as a family do?

The first steps have already been taken; a committee of local relatives was formed in November at a meeting of descendants of people buried at Woodham Cemetery. The second meeting on 19 Nov. brought together 32 people. The third meeting in December attracted only 14 people.

The committee decided upon an immediate cleanup of the Cemetery. According to J. B. Daughtry of Dothan, about 25 men, women and children met on 5 Dec. and began work on cleaning the site. (MANY THANKS!)

However, we cannot stop our efforts with a cleanup. Much more must be done to preserve our family's cemetery; we must act now to make sure our family graveyard will be safe for generations to come.

James Crooks and his sister, Mrs. Gaynell Crooks Dildy, whose father bought the 130 acres surrounding the cemetery many years ago, stated their father never believed he "owned" the cemetery. They told Ruby they did not believe they owned it either and had not intended for it to be included in the deed.

We will hold discussions at the Woodham National Reunion in Eufaula on Memorial Day weekend on this problem, both Saturday and Sunday.

We will consider such questions as permanent ownership of the Dale County Woodham Cemetery, acquisition and restoration of the South Carolina Woodham Cemetery and a permanent maintenance fund for both cemeteries. Please try to attend these talks on the cemeteries.

Woodhams Organize

A call to arms to save our Woodham Family Cemetery has proudly reaped its first reward: a group of concerned descendants has begun an intensive effort to clean the graveyard of grass, underbrush and small trees that had overtaken the area.

According to cousin J. B. Daughtry, the "point man" who got things going is James O. Woodham. He was elected chairman of the group. There are two James O. Woodhams in the area, so we don't know yet which one he is.

Mrs. Ben H. (Juanita Carroll) Woodham was elected secretary-treasurer and Edsel Woodham was named co-chairman. Juanita is the daughter of the late Ada Elizabeth Woodham.

Woodham Cemetery includes several burials of other families who may or may not be related to Woodhams. They include Enfinger, Stevens, Bagwell, Brackin, Baldree, Glover and others.

Several of these may have been just friends and neighbors--not actually related to us. Several descendants of the Bagwell and Stevens families have participated in the meetings and cleanings. Strong support has come from descendants of Nellie Woodham and her husband Major Holland ("Fox") Daughtry, both buried here.

Descendants at the last two meetings have come from Midland City, Hartford, Ozark, Dothan, Enterprise and nearby communities to show their support.

The committee has voted to erect a new fence around the cemetery. According to Mrs. Florence ("Hettie") Woodham Andrews, the present fence was built several decades ago. The builder was unaware at that time of several graves not marked with tombstones and when putting up the fence, left these graves outside the enclosed area. Hettie recalled "a mother and her two babies" and others who are buried north of the present fence.

If you are a Woodham descendant, it is your responsibility to help maintain this cemetery. You should not have to be asked.

For further info on committee efforts, call Juanita Woodham at Midland City, 795-6156; James O. Woodham at Ozark, 299-6361; or Edsel Woodham at Ozark, 774-9508.

EDITORIAL

The Woodham family now faces one of its toughest crises ever. One Woodham family cemetery has already been destroyed and the remaining family cemetery now faces a similar danger.

The Woodham Family Cemetery in Dale County, Alabama is in the midst of a controversy because Wade Keller (not a relative) has bought land around the cemetery and now claims to "own" the cemetery itself. He is trying to sell the cemetery to the highest bidder and has asked for \$10,000. This shyster is out to make a sleazy profit from the resting bodies of our relatives.

This family cemetery was founded well over 100 years ago. The Woodham Family Cemetery in Lee County, South Carolina was founded more than 175 years ago. Both these cemeteries were founded by Woodhams on Woodham farm land as private, family burying grounds.

The South Carolina cemetery was founded just before or just after 1800, on the farm of Edward Woodham Junior (father of about 95 per cent of our family). Edward sold the farm to his son, Aris Woodham Senior who died in 1818 and was buried in the cemetery. Edward was laid to rest there in 1820; both their wives also lie there. The land has been in the Woodham ever since and is today owned by a daughter of Charles Ray Woodham. Burials were held there for more than 100 years.

We printed a story about this crisis in our last newsletter. At that time, we had less than 20 members (with current dues paid) of the family club and an almost empty treasury. In spite of that, copies of that newsletter were sent to 800 families (that is all I could afford to print and mail) all over America. We asked relatives to please contact us about the cemetery.

Only three people wrote us and one other tried to telephone us so far about this urgent problem. There have been three local meetings on the cemetery. We have reports on the last two: only 32 people turned out for the second gathering and just 14 for the last one. Almost half those were from the Stevens and Bagwell families--not the Woodhams.

That leaves a heck of a lot of Woodham relatives who found some kind of excuse not to take part. What kind of excuse can hide the shame and disgrace of anyone who will not stand and fight for their mother's and father's graves? There is nothing more sacred to us as a whole family than the burial sites of our ancestors and relatives. Since the beginning of civilization, the living have held these holy grounds as a sacred trust for the next generation, preserving and protecting them. Until now.

This is a new age, an age of greed, lust for money and quest for power. No longer does "family" come first. Today, a new car, expensive vacation or anything else is more important than family. Once, Americans looked forward to family gatherings with happiness and cherished memories of those reunions with warm joy. Now, people would rather go to the beach or use any kind of excuse ("I can't spoil my attendance at church.") rather than attend a family reunion.

If we can't find love among us for our living relatives, we sure aren't going to find any love for them when they are long dead. I had expected Woodham relatives to really unite for the first time and stand together; to make a holler heard across the country against such a shameful threat to a burying ground.

It is a crying shame when a family cannot unite and stand together at least in times of crisis. Make no bones about it; this is a crisis and there is a threat. This character wants to sell the cemetery. You can better believe it: if a wealthy Arab or Japanese (or American) developer wanted the land for any reason--our family's cemetery could "accidentally" disappear overnight.

(continued on next page)

It can't happen, you say? Hogwash, it happens every day. In fact, in growing areas (such as Atlanta), it happens several times a day! The small fines they might have to pay means nothing compared to the big fast bucks "developers" can make by getting rid of a cemetery.

We have already witnessed the total destruction of the Woodham Family Cemetery in our ancestral home in South Carolina. This sacred site was used as a hog pen! The tombstones were ripped up and thrown away. Only two tombstones survive--broken into small pieces. It can't happen? It HAS happened. The site was plowed over and is still being plowed over, with crops grown on the graves of our relatives.

This sacrilege must not be allowed to happen in Dale County and it must be stopped in South Carolina!

WHAT CAN WE DO ?

We must acquire a clear and permanent title to both Woodham cemeteries; we must establish a permanent fund for their maintenance; local committees must take active roles in keeping both cemeteries cleaned and maintained; tombstones should be restored and new ones for unmarked graves erected. The South Carolina cemetery should be fully restored, with tombstones to replace those destroyed.

Local authorities (tax assessor and Probate Office) must be notified of the existance of these cemeteries. This will officially register them as legally protected sites and remove them from taxation.

If you have any of that old-fashioned Woodham grit and gut left, now is the time to stand up and show it. Let's unite as one family and stand together and show the world we still have some of that pioneer family spirit.

A new series of books

We are now working on the first comprehensive history ever written on our Woodham family. It will be the first of several history books we hope to print. It will be printed as soon as we have enough orders to pay printing costs. This book will deal with our family's earliest history in America, as well as a brief section on our family's beginnings in England. It will cover the period from the 1650's into the 1800's.

We will reproduce copies of many historic documents from the 1600's, 1700's and 1800's, including deeds, wills, estate records, homesteads and land grants, etc. It will have copies of the oldest known Woodham Bible records; the oldest known Woodham letter; military records from the Revolutionary War; Colonial deeds and land grants from North Carolina and Virginia.

The prices below are for members of the Woodham Family Association. For non-members, please add \$10 for each book. Send your orders for books to:

"WOODHAM FAMILY HISTORY, Volume I"	\$20 plus \$1 postage
"WOODHAM FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM, Volume II"	\$10 plus \$1 postage

WOODHAM FAMILY HISTORY

WOODHAM FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM

Woodham Family Association, PO Box 7446, Atlanta, Georgia 30357

Woodham Family Journal

Vol. 9 No. 4

Official Publication of the Woodham Family Association

Apr., 1988

Historic Landmark Escapes Destruction

Our Woodham Family Cemetery in Dale County, Alabama came very close to serious damage recently at the hands of a developer who wanted to make a big profit off the graves of our relatives.

This nightmare began last fall when Wade Keller (an Ozark CPA and developer) bought the land around the cemetery from James Crooks. Keller wrote to Robert Earl, claiming he "owned" the Woodham Cemetery and wanted to "sell" it back to the Woodham family. He made an offer of \$10,000 for what he claimed was only about one-half an acre--it is actually larger than an acre.

Adrian Roper of Columbus, Ga. (daughter of the late Tessie Inez Woodham Hundley) dropped by Robert Earl's apartment in early February and found him worried and nervous about the cemetery. "I have one of those gut feelings of mine that the cemetery is in real danger," he told Adrian. He was agonizing over the fact his old car would not make the trip to Alabama to see about the danger. Adrian volunteered to take him down. The two spent most of the day at the Dale County courthouse in Ozark. Robert Earl did a title trace on the land around the cemetery and tracked down each sale of the land since 1986 when it was sold to Keller, all the way back to 1890.

He bought xerox copies of each deed when it was sold during those 96 years. The Dale County courthouse burned in 1884 and all public records were destroyed, so no deeds exist on this land prior to 1890.

Thank God that 1890 deed contained a "deed reservation" stating all the land was being sold "...except the one acre belonging to the Grave Yard."

That clause was all we needed. Robert Earl then went to the Tax Assessor's Office to make sure the cemetery was registered as a tax-exempt site. It was but their records were wrong. They had used an aerial photo to plot the cemetery onto a tax map and mistook a nearby 50 foot by 50 foot fish camp shed for the cemetery. When he showed them the 1890 deed, Tax Official David Rogers said "You're right, it is one acre; maybe more." He corrected it on an official tax map.

Adrian and Robert Earl left and went straight to James Ople ("Jim") Woodham's store-restaurant on US 231 near the cemetery. Jim took Robert Earl down to the cemetery and they discovered Keller had just bulldozed a road through part of the cemetery.

The northern half of the graveyard has no tombstones but once had rocks and bricks marking many graves. Keller bulldozed this area clean and made the first "cut" of a road through this part. He planned to come back and deepen the cut to a gradual slope. The cut was about 1½ feet deep.

The gut feeling of danger turned out to be very real!

We called Keller immediately. At first, he did not want to meet with Robert Earl, saying he had too many appointments that night. However Robert Earl said he would wait until midnight if necessary. Jim called a few relatives and told them "Robert Earl is here and he's found something on the cemetery." That was all it took; by the time Keller arrived, the place was full of kinfolks.

Robert Earl laid out the copies of deeds in front of Keller, along with a large tax map and aerial photo from the Tax Assessor's Office.

"You do not own our family cemetery,"
(continued on page 2)

Robert Earl told Keller, adding "It has never been sold to anyone." Keller finally admitted he did not own the cemetery after seeing such overwhelming evidence.

As if this were not enough of a shock for a greedy developer, Robert Earl gave Keller another big shock. Keller had widened a narrow dirt lane on one side of the cemetery into a full-sized road. He had completed foundation work, put in ditches and was ready to pave the road leading into land he is going to sell of as lots.

Keller was dumbfounded when Robert Earl announced "This road isn't your private property. You are about to pave a public road. This is and always has been a public road." Robert Earl also informed Keller "You have committed a crime by bulldozing a road through this cemetery. Do not bring a bulldozer onto this property again," he warned.

Some relatives had visited the courthouse in hopes of finding any possible records to prove Keller did not own our cemetery. Some even hired some lawyers. No one was able to locate anything however, until Robert Earl discovered the 1890 deed and others.

"All it took was for the top man to be here and set things right," said Jim Woodham.

Sometimes it takes a crisis such as this to get folks to do something. A growing number of kinfolks have certainly rallied to face this danger. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to those who have labored to clean up the site and to those who have donated funds for its restoration.

This cemetery crisis is the best example for why we need a national family club; there is a strong possibility we could have lost our cemetery if it were not for the Woodham Family Association.

None of us acting alone can accomplish very much for our family. But we can do mighty things if we act together as a family.

When the Association was formed, we got off track and became divided before we had a chance to create a real family club. For nine years,

a handful of us have worked very hard to build a strong organization for all of us to rally around.

Now, for the first time in many years (since our first and second National Reunions), we are experiencing a new unity among our relatives and a real feeling of FAMILY. This was a primary goal of the Association when it was founded. We have planted the seed of family unity once again. This time, we must ensure that it grows stronger.

Woodham National Reunion

The crisis we faced with our Woodham Family Cemetery has had a surprising but wonderful side effect in creating renewed interest in our Woodham National Reunion. It couldn't have come at a better time: this year, we celebrate our 10th Anniversary reunion.

We are planning two days of activities, beginning with a cookout at noon in Lakepoint State Park's picnic area on Saturday, 28 May. The rest of the day we will meet at Eufaula Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn) in downtown. We will eat together at the Inn Saturday night and have a gathering at the amphitheater next to the motel overlooking the lake. We hope some of you will volunteer to provide entertainment that night. Bring your fireworks for our own fireworks display, to make this a real celebration.

We will have a lot of the Woodham family records on display at the motel Saturday afternoon. Throughout the reunion, we will have our own copying machine on hand, so please bring family Bibles, old letters, high school diplomas, birth and death certificates and other records for us to copy. Bring your pictures and photo albums to display.

On Sunday, 29 May, all activities will take place at the picnic area of Lakepoint State Park. Bring a picnic basket and spread together at noon.

Our family colors are red and white and our family symbol is the white rose. Please wear red and white all weekend. On Sunday, if your Woodham ancestor is living, wear a red rose; if they are dead, wear a white rose. Please try to bring bouquets of red and white roses to use for decoration. **SHOW YOUR COLORS!**

Woodham Family

Robert Earl Woodham announced in 1979 when he founded the Woodham Family Association that one of our primary goals would be to restore and preserve our Woodham family cemeteries near Bishopville, South Carolina and Ozark, Alabama. The recent crisis over the Woodham Family Cemetery at Ozark has forced us to treat this project with more urgency.

The hard lessons we have learned from what happened to both cemeteries has taught us we cannot sit idly and wait for someone else to do something. Our historic South Carolina Woodham Cemetery, site of the oldest marked Woodham graves in America and resting place of the "father" and "mother" of 99 per cent of the Woodhams in America, has been completely destroyed and plowed over.

After we provide "protection" for both these cemeteries, the next most important task must be to identify all the people who are buried in each one. It will be even harder for the South Carolina cemetery since that graveyard is so old and all the tombstones have disappeared. There are several dozen relatives (including infants) buried at the Dale County, Ala. cemetery in graves without tombstones. It will take a lot of effort to identify these relatives before we can begin to erect tombstones for them.

There are now only a few relatives still living who can point out the unmarked graves and tell us who they are. We have already interviewed some elderly people in the area and hope to talk to more this summer.

In addition to personal interviews with living people, we will see information from obituaries in old newspapers and from death certificates to identify others who might be buried in both cemeteries. I have been looking for obituaries of people buried in the Alabama cemetery for years. I was told a long time ago that Perry Caswell ("Cas") Woodham and his wife Amanda Jane were buried here but had no proof. I have searched old Dale County newspapers at Alabama State Archives in Montgomery; I have looked for proof on Cas for more than 20 years. In March, I finally discovered an unlabeled volume of old newspapers in the courthouse at Ozark. I found his obituary and a front-page story about his son, Eustice Houston Woodham and his Wife May and May's sister all being killed in a car wreck on their way to attend Cas' funeral. I hope to be able to Montgomery this summer and search more old papers to look for other burials.

This cemetery was founded as a family graveyard probably in the 1840's on land owned by Edward Harley Woodham Senior. I have put together a notebook full of records on the cemetery containing everything I can find on both cemeteries.

I have prepared a map showing land owned by Woodhams and relatives for several miles around the cemetery, for the period from 1836 to about 1900. This property map has helped tremendously to show who lived near the cemetery and who are likely buried there. I have also prepared a detailed map of the cemetery itself, showing all identifiable graves and showing the names of the known burials.

I have prepared a list of all people known to be buried here and also a list of those believed to be buried here but for whom we have no positive proof as yet. I have worked on this list of burials for many years. In 1986, we printed a list of tombstone inscriptions from the Alabama Cemetery. These inscriptions represent one of three categories: burials with tombstones; known burials which have no tombstones; and people believed to be buried here but for whom no positive proof has been found yet.

If you know of burials at the cemetery, we urge your help in identifying their graves.

Cemetery

By ROBERT EARL WOODHAM
Editor

Starting this summer, we will begin marking every known grave in the cemetery with cement slabs. These will be "temporary" until we can afford nicer marble or granite tombstones.



These are the known burials in the Dale County Woodham Cemetery whose graves have no tombstones:

WOODHAM FAMILY CEMETERY, Dale County, Alabama

Edward Harley Woodham Sr (1785-1865)
and his wife Sarah

Aris Woodham Junior (1801-1880)
and his 2nd wife Caron Riley

Steven Moses Woodham (1834-1908)
and his wife Sarah Galloway

Perry Caswell ("Cas")
Woodham (1868-1932)
and his wife Amanda Jane Corley'

Perthenia (1817-185-)
1st wife of Presley N. Woodham

Nancy Adkins (1823-19--)
2nd wife of Presley N. Woodham

Rachel Woodham (1823-18--)
dau. of Edward H. Woodham Sr.
wife of J. B. Daughtry

William H. Stevens

J. T. Cannon

Richard E. L. Woodham (1830-186-)
and his two daughters

Richard Ira Woodham (1821-1848)

Frederick Woodham (1806-1854)
and his wife, Mary Ann

Hillary Hopewell Woodham (1832-18--)
and his wife, I. Beniter'

UNCONFIRMED BURIALS:

Uriah Daniel Woodham
and his wife Sarah Frances Woodham
five infants and children of Uriah

three infants of Daniel W. Woodham

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS for restora-
tion to: Mrs. Juanita Woodham, Rt. 1
Box 231, Midland City, Alabama
36350

Historic site : join move for restoration

We still have not heard from Charles Ray Woodham about our Woodham Family Cemetery in Lee County, South Carolina. Charles Ray's immediate family owns the land around the cemetery; he inherited the farm from his father, Charlie Woodham.

We were told several years ago that Charles Ray had deeded part of the farm to each of his three daughters; which one now actually owns the land around the cemetery, we do not know. We assume Charles Ray still runs it.

The historic Woodham Family Cemetery in Lee County is the site of the oldest known Woodham burials in America. It was founded by our Woodham family on a farm owned by Edward Woodham Jr. He later sold it to his son Aris Woodham Senior. Edward Woodham Jr. is the "father" of about 99 per cent of all the Woodhams in the United States today.

A list of people buried here reads like a history book: Edward Jr., his mother Eleanor, his wife Mary; his son Aris Woodham Sr. and wife Rachel Beasley; Aris' son Asa and wife Elaine Elizabeth Dubose; Asa's children Mahalia, Jarrett, Pheriba Jane, Hugh Middleton, Harriett and Jehu; many other Woodhams and their relatives are buried in these sacred grounds. Aris Sr. died in 1818, the oldest confirmed burial here. His father Edward Jr. was buried here in 1820. There were several other burials here in the 1820's.

This ancient graveyard was completely destroyed several years ago. All but two tombstones have disappeared; only the broken pieces of two tombstones survive. For more than a decade at least, the cemetery has been plowed over and crops planted on top of the graves.

We wrote Charles Ray more than three months ago and asked him to set up posts to mark off the one acre graveyard and string wire or twine around it temporarily. We want to get the cemetery marked off as quickly as we can to prevent any further plowing in the cemetery until a permanent fence can be built. It is a crime in every state to desecrate, damage or destroy a cemetery: it is also a violation of everything we deem holy to disturb a grave.

We also told Charles Ray the Association will help organize a Cemetery Committee in Lee County soon which will be responsible for the restoration and maintenance of the Cemetery.

We can no longer delay this project. Since the Association was founded in 1979, we have already lost several elderly relatives who knew a great deal about the people buried at Woodham Family Cemetery, including Charles Ray's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Woodham. These relatives could have pointed out exact locations of graves so they could be marked again. Further delay will only mean more relatives will die and the information dies with them.

The personal knowledge these living relatives have is desperately needed to identify every relative's grave. We have worked on a list of burials here for several years but exact location of their graves is needed to replace their destroyed tombstones.

As soon as we get a Cemetery Committee formed in South Carolina, we will begin efforts to put up a chain-link fence as we are doing in Alabama. It will surround the cemetery for protection. We have asked Charles Ray to donate one acre of land next to the cemetery for use as a Woodham Park. An old Woodham home was located across the public road from the cemetery; if it is still standing, we hope to restore it as a museum and make it the focal point of the park that will include a parking area, picnic tables and benches.

Beginning this summer, we will start landscaping the cemetery and plant azaleas, roses, japonicas, dogwoods, redbuds, crepe myrtles and other shrubs and flowers. We also want to plant oak trees and shrubs along the county road leading from the paved highway to the cemetery. We hope to turn our family's sacred resting place into a beautiful garden spot we can all be proud of. We also hope to erect a South Carolina historical marker on the site and have the cemetery declared a historical site by the state.

continued on next page

Robert Earl hopes to visit Bishopville in June. We will hold the first meeting of the Lee County Cemetery Committee at that time. We urge you to make plans to attend this gathering and support this project to restore our beloved ancestor's graves.

Public roads in Dale County, Ala. and Lee County, SC may be named in honor of Woodhams this year if county governments agree.

The Woodham Family Cemeteries near Ozark and Bishopville join county public roads; in both cases, the roads were narrow dirt lanes. A developer who bought land around the Dale County site believed he "owned" the road and recently widened and graded it as part of his development project. It is now ready for paving.

The land surrounding both roads has been owned by the Woodham family at one time. The land in Dale County was owned by the cemetery's founder, Edward Harley Woodham Sr. and later by his son, Presley Nelson Woodham. Both are buried here. The land in Lee County has been in the Woodham family for generations.

The Woodham Family Association will officially request the Dale County Commission name the road "EDWARD H. WOODHAM SR. ROAD". We will ask the Lee County Council to name that road the "EDWARD WOODHAM JR. ROAD". We will ask both county governments to erect official road signs on both roads.

We will also make an official request that Dale County name (or rename) the section of Dale Co. Highway 20 from Bagwell's Crossroads to County Hwy. 59 as the "ARIS WOODHAM JR. ROAD". Aris was one of the first settlers in the area and owned most of the land along this road at one time during the 1800's. Woodhams still own land along it. Woodham Bridge on this road crosses the West Fork of Choctawhatchee River.

In addition, we will request the county name an intersection of two Dale County roads as "WOODHAM CROSSROADS". This is an intersection of U.S. Highway 231 (the Dothan-Montgomery four-lane highway) and Dale Co. Hwy. 18 (the

Newton-Echo Road). This intersection is just south of Bagwell's Crossroads. As far as we know, this crossroads is not named at present. James Ople Woodham has a restaurant-convenience store on one corner. The Woodham Family Cemetery is about 300 yards from Jim's restaurant. Stop in and sample some good food while you get directions to the cemetery.

A property map we have prepared shows Woodhams owned all the land at this intersection at one time. The Bagwell's for whom Bagwell Crossroads nearby is named bought the land from Woodhams.

We know of several city streets and rural roads around the country named for our family. There are streets or roads named "Woodham" in Dothan, Opp and Napier Field, Ala. There is a Woodham Road in Lee County, SC and Marshall County, Ala. and "Anna L. Peacock Woodham Road" in Dale County.

County Commissioner Edsel Woodham represents the district of Dale County which includes the two proposed Woodham Roads and Woodham Crossroads.

MORE NEWS...

COLUMBUS, Ga.--Mr. & Mrs. George H. ("Woody") Woodill Jr. announce the birth of a son, Benjamin Carson Woodill, born 19 Jan. at the Medical Center of Columbus, Ga. He is the grandson of Maureen Woodham and G. H. Woodill Sr. and great grandson of Mrs. Vera Woodham and the late William Dorsey Woodham.

SLOCUMB, Ala.--William Arthur Woodham graduated from Dothan's Wallace Community College with a technical diploma in small engine repair on 25 Mar.

BISHOPVILLE, SC--Thomas Hearl Odom ("Tommy") Woodham has announced his candidacy for election to the Lee County Council, District 2. South Carolina's county councils are governing bodies for counties (called county commissions in Georgia and Alabama). Tommy is the step-son of Alston Wesley Woodham II.

Restoration Project

A few months ago, you could hardly find the Woodham Family Cemetery. The site had become overgrown with small trees, vines and weeds.

Thanks to the Cemetery Committee formed in November, our cemetery is becoming a place of beauty and a source of family pride. A huge pile of small trees and brush has been cleared, stumps removed and an overall cleanup accomplished. Grading is being done along the banks in preparation for planting grass and flowers.

The cleaning was begun in November by brothers James Ople ("Jim") and Rex Woodham. Jim and Rex were quickly joined by THomas Latrel ("Tom") Woodham; they became the nucleus of the Committee. Jim was elected chairman at the first meeting 7 Nov. Several meetings have been held since then. So far, 32 people has been the largest number to attend a Cemetery Committee meeting. This is a very disappointingly small crowd compared to the hundreds of Woodham descendants who live within 50 miles of the cemetery. It is a shame that greed for material wealth in this "Me" generation has become so much more important than love and respect for our ancestors and relatives.

Probably 80 per cent of all the Woodhams whose roots are from southeast Alabama have ancestors buried at this Woodham Cemetery. In fact, well over half the Woodhams in America are descendants of just two men buried here. All the other Woodhams in America are at least related to them and others buried in the graveyard.

This means the restoration and protection of the Woodham Cemetery is the duty and responsibility of us all. Each of us should take part in actually working on the cemetery or at least contribute to the cemetery fund.

In spite of their small number, the Committee has already put in a lot of hard work and raised a fund for fencing and restoration. One of the first decisions made by the Committee was to erect a permanent chain-link fence around the cemetery. The fence will serve a multiple purpose: it will define the boundaries of the graveyard and establish a visual warning for developers, bulldozers and others to "stay out". It will let people know for years to come this is sacred, protected land.

We want to place cement slabs on each known grave in the cemetery and eventually erect tombstones for all known relatives buried there. We have already taken steps to order veteran's tombstones for several relatives. At present, some graves are not marked at all. Others are marked with only a rock or brick--not very much to remember our relatives by.

Tom and Robert Earl have discussed plans to beautify the cemetery with azaleas, japonicas, camellias, dogwood, roses, bulbs, shrubs and other flowers. This fall and next spring, we will ask relatives in the area to donate flowers and shrubs from your own yards to help beautify the cemetery. We hope to turn our family burying grounds into a garden spot we can all be proud of. When enough donations have been made, the Committee will also erect an arch over the entrance gate with a metal sign reading "Woodham Cemetery". We also plan to establish a parking area with benches and picnic tables. At its last meeting, the Committee voted to have an annual gathering at the cemetery. This will be a "decoration day" when we honor our relatives by placing wreaths and flowers on all graves there. It will also include a family picnic. Such an annual occasion will give living rel-

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atives a chance to honor our ancestors and keep their memory alive.

Please join us and do your share. If you live in the Wiregrass area, go to the Cemetery Committee meetings *regularly*. Help with the cost of restoration by sending your donations to:

Mrs. Juanita Woodham, Rt. 1, Box 231, Midland City, Alabama 36350.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ENTERTAIN

We need volunteers to help entertain at the 10th Anniversary Woodham National Reunion. If you can sing, play an instrument or get a laugh, we want you! We'll even take tap dancers and yodelers! Hopefully, we will have some kind of entertainment for you at the downtown Eufaula amphitheater on Saturday afternoon and night. We will gather there about 2 PM after a picnic in Lakepoint Park.

We will have a big fireworks display at the amphitheater Saturday night. Bring as many aerial fireworks as you can and give these to Rex Woodham, our entertainment chairman. If you can entertain, please contact Rex at Rt. 1, Box 244, Midland City, Ala. 36350 or call him at (205) 795 6126.

We salute . . .

You never realize how dependent you can be on something until you have to do without. Such is the case with our copying machine.

Robert Earl and Adrian Roper took the copier to Geneva, Ala. on a research trip. It would cost about \$2,000 to buy xerox copies of all the family records in Geneva County alone. They hoped to use our own copier to get all these records at a reasonable cost. Unfortunately, the copier blew up on the first copy. A repair shop in Columbus gave an estimate of \$479.64, plus about \$30 for a reflector plate plus tax, or a total of about \$536 in repair costs.

We urgently needed the copier to print newsletters for our upcoming 10th Anniversary reunion but had funds for such a huge repair bill. At a meeting 7 Apr., several people on the Cemetery Committee donated a total of \$390 to repair the copier. We want to thank all you kind folks so very much for your generous help: Thomas L. and Claudia Woodham, James O. and Elowise Woodham, J. B. and Bessie Daughtry, Ben H. and Juanita Woodham, Mrs. W. S. Eubanks, Glenn Stevens and Mrs. Carol Rice. Bless you all!

We will try to print newsletters more frequently from now on.

Woodham Family Journal

P.O. Box 7446
Atlanta, Georgia 30357

Woodham Family Journal

Vol. 9 No. 5

Official Publication of Woodham Family Association

May, 1988

10TH ANNIVERSARY

Woodham National Reunion

Fun and excitement as well as a chance to renew family ties--that is what we are planning for you when we gather 28 & 29 May for our 10th anniversary Woodham National Reunion.

We are going to mark this special occasion with a bangup celebration, complete with our own fireworks display. You will find a variety of things to see and do all weekend, including a fishing contest, family history, swim party for teenagers and children, a giant family picnic, memorial for deceased relatives, teen party and weiner roast, lecture on

family history and much more.

The reunion will start with a cook-out at noon Saturday in Lakepoint State Park's picnic area. Bring extra grills and your own cookins. There will be a teen and children's swim party about 2 PM at the park's beach. Lifeguards are on duty. We'll have a fishing contest (you are on your own) with prizes for the biggest fish and largest total catch.

A gathering will be held the rest of Saturday at the amphitheater next to the bridge and Eufaula Inn downtown. The Eufaula Inn is our weekend headquarters. Robert Earl will be staying in a green motorhome at Lakepoint.

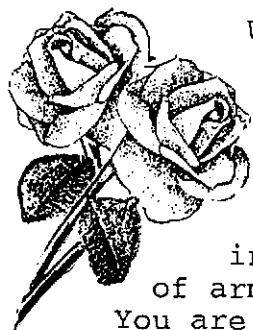
We may have some entertainment for you Saturday at the amphitheater. But for sure, we will ave a lot of good fellowship and great kinfolks to see.

There will be a big fireworks display at the amphitheater at 9:30 PM. Please bring all the aerial fireworks you can for the show; the more the merrier! Rex Woodham is in charge of entertainment--bring your fireworks to him.

There will be a teen party and weiner roast at Eufaula Inn's poolside Saturday night. Please bring grills, weiners and charcoal for this event; along with a record player, records and or tapes for your entertainment. Adults will eat at the Inn's resturant at 7:30 PM.

All Sunday activities will be held at the second picnic pavillion in Lakepoint's picnic area. Registration begins at 9 AM. The family picnic will be spread at n-on. A special memorial program will begin about 1 PM (see page 3). A progress report on our (cont. on page 2)

WEAR THE RED & WHITE



The Woodham family colors are red and white and our family symbol is the white "Woodham rose", according to our family coat of arms.

You are urged to wear red and white clothing throughout the weekend to "show your colors". Dresses, skirts, pants, shirts, caps--it doesn't matter; just wear something of either or both colors.

On Sunday, we want everyone to show up wearing a rose: if your Woodham parent or ancestor (if you are a grandchild of a Woodham for instance) is living, wear a red rose; white rose if deceased. Let's do this in memory of or to honor our relatives.

You are also urged to bring large bouquets of red and white (mixed red and white or single color) roses to decorate with Sunday.

A Matter Of Grave Concern

Restoration of our Woodham Family Cemetery in Dale County, Alabama is well underway and a chain link fence has been erected surrounding the site.

A small group of relatives have done a wonderful job on this major effort. This is the biggest and most expensive project the family has undertaken since the Woodham Family Association was founded.

James Ople ("Jim") Woodham is chairman of the Cemetery Committee. Mrs. Juanita Woodham is treasurer. Jim and his Brother Rex have done a lot of back-breaking work to clean up the cemetery. The group has been holding monthly and special meetings since November. They have already raised enough funds to pay for the chain link fence but a lot more work still remains to be done that will require more money.

We will discuss plans for the Dale County cemetery and for the 200 year old Woodham Cemetery at Bishopville, SC during the reunion. A second Cemetery Committee will be organized in Lee County in June. Each

committee will be in charge of future maintenance in their area. However, restoration and fundraising will be a project of the entire family.

Some of our plans include:

- pouring cement slabs on each identifiable grave; these slabs will be "temporary" until we can afford nicer tombstones.
- landscape both cemeteries with trees shrubs and flowers; we will spray weed killer chemicals this summer so this will delay planting until fall or next spring. We plan to turn each cemetery into a real "show place".
- erect signs with the name "Woodham Cemetery" and start efforts to have historical markers installed.
- restore all existing tombstones.
- erect tombstones for veterans in both cemeteries, including one for Edward Woodham Jr., a veteran of the Revolutionary War (1775-1783). He was the "father" of all Woodhams from the South. We will also erect tombstones for veterans of Indian Wars and the War Between the States. These tombstones are provided free by the federal government to all veterans.

Memorial Service Slated

A special Memorial Service will be held to honor all Woodhams, their husbands and wives and Woodham descendants who have died during the last ten years since our first National Reunion. The memorial will be part of the activities Sunday afternoon, 29 May, during the reunion.

We will literally "Speak their name, that they shall be remembered."

Everyone who has lost a loved one during this time is urged to be present so you can personally memorialize them. You will be asked to announce the full name of the deceased, when they were born, when they died and their parent's names. Members of their immediate families should do this.

This memorial program will be filmed and tape recorded; copies will be preserved in our Family Library for future generations.

If you have obituaries on these relatives, please bring them with you.

Hopefully, the memorial program will become a traditional part of our annual reunions.

NOTES...

IRON CITY, Ga.--We are sorry to hear of a disastrous fire that destroyed Iron City Mini Mall, owned by Billy Joe Woodham. The mall included a restaurant, service station, antique shop, laundrymat and grocery store.

The fire was discovered at 4:30 AM and resulted in a total loss of the mall.

Billy is a former Commissioner of Seminole County and son of the late John Wesley & Lillie Sanders Woodham. We hope the business will make a quick and successful return.

BISHOPVILLE, SC--Woodham & Sons Insurance and Real Estate Agency has moved to new headquarters after 50 years in a former bank building. The business, headed by Andrew Dowling Woodham Sr., is now 70 years old.

Woodham Family Journal

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Nov., 1988

Woodham National Reunion

EUFULA, Ala.--If you missed the 10th anniversary celebration of the Woodham National Reunion, you missed a lot of fun!

We didn't plan it that way but the Eufaula Chamber of Commerce put on a tremendous show the same weekend: the "Lake Eufaula Expo 88", a major exposition which attracted thousands of people.

The event was held at Lakepoint State Resort Park, where we always gather on the Sunday before Memorial Day. There were numerous exhibits, an arts and crafts fair and entertainment ranging from church choirs, square dancing teams, rock and roll bands, singing groups, beauty queens (including Miss Alabama), handbell choirs, gospel singers, high school bands and choirs, Indian dancing, world champion turkey calling, fishing tournament, gymnastics, water skiing and the famous singing group "Alabama", just to name a few. It also had demonstrations of fishing skills, quilting, weight lifting, Scout groups, wildlife, the U. S. Army and other groups.

Visitors were treated to face painting, free prizes and gifts, free food, balloons, fireworks and a great festive atmosphere. It was a perfect event for a wonderful family reunion!

Apparently, this is being planned as an annual event for Eufaula so we will have this to look forward to again at future family reunions. Let's hope so!

Relatives from such places as Dothan, Headland, Montgomery, Abbeville, Ozark, Midland City, Clayton, Eufaula, Enterprise in Alabama; and Columbus, Iron City, Albany, LaGrange, Marietta and At-

lanta, Georgia; Moody, Tex.; Orlando, Panama City, Lynn Haven, Chipley and Tallahassee, Fla. were represented at this year's National Reunion.

Progress on restoring our Woodham Family Cemetery at Newton, Alabama was discussed. Mrs. Juanita Carroll Woodham, wife of Ben H. Woodham and daughter of Ada Elizabeth Woodham, gave a preliminary financial report of the Cemetery Committee. To date, the Committee has raised more than \$3,000 from donations to pay for a chain link fence surrounding the slightly more than one acre cemetery, construction and erection of a metal archway over the gate and other expenses. The archway has metal letters reading: "Woodham Cemetery, Founded 1848". (see the separate story on cemetery)

Plans for the first complete book ever written on our Woodham family history were announced by our historian, Robert Earl Woodham. We announced this book last fall and so far, the Association has received less than 20 orders for it. (see story on book)

As always happens, some folks turned up without making plans or reservations for motel rooms and couldn't find one. A group from Orlando, Fla. came Saturday and discovered every room in town full up and returned home that day, very disappointed. We warn every year that Eufaula is a resort town and motels fill up on holiday weekends.

We always hold our Woodham National Reunion at Eufaula every Memorial Day weekend, so you should plan on this site and date every year. This is permanent: same time and place every year so that we don't have to wonder when and where. You should make your room or camping reservations well ahead of time. Since you know the same time & place every year--don't make conflicting plans for other events.

Cemeteries should be treasure . . . not shame

Cemetery fund set up

Thanks to a lot of hard work and generous donations by a small group of Woodham descendants, the sacred burial grounds of our mothers and fathers has been removed from the "forgotten" list and restored to a place of dignity and pride.

The Woodham Cemetery near Newton and Ozark, in Dale County, Ala. had become such an overgrown jungle that many graves could not be seen. Now, weeds, brush and vines are gone. Azaleas, japonicas and other flowers will soon take their place as relatives strive to turn it into a garden spot of beauty.

The latest word from the Cemetery Committee is that the archway over the gate has been installed. It announces the name "Woodham Cemetery, founded 1848." The chain link fence which surrounds most of the land and the archway have been the biggest expenses of the committee thus far.

Our next major expense will be for marking graves of as many relatives buried there who we can identify. We will install cement slabs on a temporary basis until we can afford nicer marble or granite tombstones.

Mrs. Adrian Roper of Columbus, Ga. has already begun an effort to raise funds for a tombstone on the grave of her great great grandfather, Edward Harley Woodham Sr. and his wife, Sarah Dowling. We have asked Adrian to head a fund-raising campaign for both the family cemeteries. She was responsible for the campaign to buy our own copying machine.

The Association will sponsor several fund-raising projects in the future to help pay for improvements at the cemeteries. Next spring, we plan to hold yard sales at Newton and Bishopville. Kinfolks will be asked to donate saleable items (clean out your attics, barns & closets); ladies will be asked to give baked goods. We will welcome all types of handcrafts, tools, paintings, quilts, potted plants, etc.

This will not be a one-time event; we hope to have several such sales. We also hope to turn them into real

HELP NEEDED

extravaganza's as a combined crafts fair, yard sale, bake sale and perhaps with entertainment also.

We will have a raffle for a hand-made quilt. Adrian sewed a very beautiful quilt and sold tickets for it to raise funds for our copier. She will do the same for the cemetery fund. (see story on raffle)

The Dale County Cemetery Committee has discussed purchase of additional land beside the cemetery for use as a park area. They propose building a picnic shelter where annual gatherings can be held during a "decoration day". Fresh flowers would be placed on each grave to commemorate our deceased relatives. If this is done, we would seriously consider holding our Woodham National Reunion at the park from now on.

We have done a wonderful job at the Alabama cemetery so far. Now, the same effort must be made to restore and preserve the oldest known Woodham burial site in America. The Woodham Cemetery at Stokes Bridge in Lee Co. was founded probably in the late 1790's. If you are a Woodham or descendant of a Woodham, then your ancestors are buried here: Edward Woodham Jr. and his wife Mary are the Mother and Father of almost all the Woodhams from the South.

Our most important task in Lee Co. must be to erect a chain link fence as we have done in Alabama. As soon as the cotton crop on the site is harvested, we will take steps to put up a temporary barricade around the cemetery until funds have been raised for the fence.

Robert Earl has done a tremendous amount of research this year to try and identify every person buried at the cemeteries. He has also tried to identify all the veterans so we can order tombstones for them from the federal government. These are your ancestors: YOU should help preserve and protect them.

Send your donations (and make your checks to) Mrs. Adrian Roper, 5044 Morris Ave., Columbus, Ga. 31904. Spread the word about this project!

A literal gold mine of "new" information has been discovered on our family, bringing to light many facts previously unknown to us. The new information includes numerous obituaries (dating from the 1870's to the present), newspaper articles, court records, family data, cemetery records and more.

Thanks to one of those obituaries, published more than 115 years ago, we now have a better understanding of the family of Aris Woodham Junior. Aris Jr. was the son of Aris Woodham Senior and Rachel Beasley. He was born at Stokes Bridge in Darlington County (now part of Lee County), South Carolina on 2 June, 1801. Aris Jr. married first about 1818 to Rachel Richardson, daughter of Joseph Richardson.

Aris Jr. and Rachel had at least six children, according to census and other records. Their known children were Joseph Reddick, who died as a soldier during the War Between the States at Pensacola, Fla.; Edward Christopher ("Chris", "C.C."); Elemiah; Prudence Jane and a daughter reported to be Martha.

Rachel died about 1830. She was still living when the 1830 census was taken and that census shows she and Aris had six children living.

Aris married Caron H. ("Carrie", "Karen") Riley on 25 Dec., 1831. Carrie was born 1810 in Darlington Co., daughter of John and Mary Riley. Sometime during the fall of 1833, the big migration of Woodhams and many relatives and neighbors began, which took them to Southeast Alabama.

Carrie had at least 10 children: John Alexander was born in South Carolina, the rest in Alabama. Asa Edward apparently died as a child; the only other child I cannot find information on is a daughter, Ellen. All seven of Aris Junior's sons served as soldiers during the War Between the States (1861-65). Aris also had grandsons who served as soldiers. Ira Aris was never married; he died as a young man in the Confederate Army. John Alexander had one son before he went off to war and died.

Carrie died 16 March, 1873 in Dale County, Alabama. She was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery near their home. Aris married about 1875 to a widow, Clarissa Elizabeth, whose maiden name is unknown. Aris had more than 70 grandchildren, including infants who died young. Aris Jr. died in 1880 and is buried at the Woodham Cemetery. He was a farmer throughout his life.

His descendants today are so numerous they could populate a small county. His oldest known son, Joseph Reddick, married Candice Riley. Candice was the niece of Caron. They had 11 known children: Aris, Pheriba, Martha Elizabeth, Reddick, Mary, Needham W., John Edward, Nancy Winifred ("Winnie") Nellie Josephine, Elizabeth Ann ("Betsy") and Sarah Ann.

Edward Christopher ("Chris") married first to Joanna Riley, a sister of Caron. They had 10 known children: Cynthia, John Wesley, Moses ("Mode"), William, Ira Edward, Thomas Latrell, Joseph Christopher, Uriah Daniel, Jasper Richard and Carrie Elizabeth. He married second to Louesta Kennedy and reportedly had two more sons.

Elemiah married Lewis Bowden in 1837 and died about 1843. No children are known of hers as yet.

Prudence Jane married John Wilson Dean in 1845 and moved to Tangipahoa Parisha, Louisiana. She had 11 known children: Krisie, Jaisia or Gincey, William A., Matilda, Andrew, Mary, Charles F., Pascal W., Elizabeth, Minerva Chalnesy and Uriah Dean.

I cannot confirm the report of a daughter, Martha who married a Bagwell.

John Alexander married Rebecca Barnes and had one son, John Webster.

Stephen Moses ("Mode") married Sarah Amanda Jane Galloway in 1856 and had at least five children; only John Wesley and Perry Caswell Sr. lived to adulthood. Stephen Moses' wife Sarah Amanda was the daughter of Elizabeth Woodham, a daughter of Athanasius Woodham.

Stephen Moses, Sarah Amanda and their son Perry Caswell Sr. ("Cas") and his wife are all buried in the Woodham Cemetery.

Mary married first to Joseph Maund and after his death, to William J. Dossett. I have no info on any of her children yet.

Nelly (Nellie) married Major Holland ("Fox") Daughtry and had 10 known children: Cynthia Almedia Ann, Mary H. ("Tissy"), Sarah Jane, Martin J., Albert O., Samuel Hilburn, James Wilburn, Ida, Cordelia ("Delie") and Pheribe Daughtry. Nelly and Fox are also buried at the Woodham Cemetery.

Cynthia married R. A. A. Wright and moved to Escambia County, Florida. We don't have any information on her family yet.

Uriah married Elizabeth Jane Graham and moved to Walton County, Florida. He had no children.

Daniel William married Martha Ann Enfinger in 1869. They had at least 10 children, including five infants who died very young. The five who reached adulthood were Walter Lewis, Bartow E., Marvin Bishop, Mattie and William Robertson.

Aris Jr. obtained a federal homestead in Barbour County when he first settled in Alabama. His brother Athanasius received a homestead in nearby Henry County and their uncle Edward Harley Woodham Sr. homesteaded near the forks of the Choctawhatchee River in Dale County. Aris later sold his homestead in Barbour County and moved near his uncle. His home was in the forks of the river along what is today "Woodham Road" near Bagwell's Crossroads. You can see his farmland from U.S. Highway 231 southeast of Ozark. He homesteaded several tracts and bought several others also from private individuals. He amassed land holdings totaling at least 1,500 and possibly more than 2,000 acres.

The recently discovered obituary of Caron was printed in the "*Southern Christian Advocate*", the official publication of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. It states she had been a faithful member of the Methodist Church throughout her life except for a few years when she attended a Missionary Baptist Church when no Methodist church was located nearby.

The obituary also states Caron and Aris Jr. moved from South Carolina in 1833 to Henry County, Alabama. However, this does not match with the fact Aris Jr. acquired his homestead in Barbour County. It further states they moved in 1834 to Dale County.

One personal item included in the obituary was a very tender agreement Aris Jr. and Caron made with each other five years before she died. They developed a signal for the first one who died to use. In the event they could not speak, the signal would show that "all was well" with them. As she lay dying, Caron gave Aris the signal and then passed on.

It isn't often that we can discover such intimate knowledge of our ancestors, especially those who died more than 100 years ago. That makes this particular obituary a real family treasure.

When funds become available, we hope some day to acquire other Woodham family obituaries which have been printed in such church publications as printed by the Baptist and Methodist churches. Very likely, an obituary was printed on Aris Jr. when he died in 1880. If we can find one, this will give us a precise date of his death.

The graves of Aris Jr. and Caron at the Woodham Cemetery do not have tombstones. One of our major goals in restoration of the two Woodham Cemeteries is to erect a tombstone on Aris Jr. and Caron's graves. This obituary will give us dates to inscribe on it, which we did not have before. Their graves are marked with rocks and iron rods. Mrs. Mellona Woodham recalls helping Powell A. Woodham of Newton, Mississippi place the iron rods at the graves during the 1930's, when she was still a teenager.

We would like to locate the exact burial site of Aris Junior's son Stephen Moses and his wife Sarah Amanda. I believe they are the graves surrounded by bricks on the same row as Aris and Caron but I have no proof of this.

Woodham Family Journal

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Oct., 1989

Pull together as partners

In the last newsletter we reported our membership had hit rock bottom due to a miserable turnout at this year's National Reunion--when most kinfolk renew their memberships. The poor attendance in turn was because we were unable to send out newsletters about the reunion.

The Association's year begins at each National Reunion on Memorial Day weekend at the end of May. We started off our new year with only four members. The membership dues weren't even enough to buy a decent supply of typewriter ribbons, much less pay the repair bill on the torn up typewriter.

Since mailing the last newsletter however, we have had responses from some of our regular supporters as well as three new memberships from relatives who have never joined before. As of this writing, we now have 30 members who have paid their dues for the current 1989-90 year.

That is still a pitiful showing for a family our size. We recently had to borrow money to repair the typewriter (which still has not been repaid) and then borrow again to buy office supplies. We ran out completely of typing paper, copying machine powder, typewriter ribbons, copier paper and scotch tape (to name a few).

Without membership dues every year and donations, the Association can't accomplish much for the Woodham family. There are still hundreds of relatives who have never even heard of the Association nor have an idea we sponsor a Woodham National Reunion every year. There are several thousand relatives whom we have never contacted simply because we don't have the money to write that many folks.

If you haven't renewed your memberships in several years, please

do so.

If we all go our separate ways and fail to support our family organization, we become crippled as a family. If we work together, we strengthen our Family: united, we can move mountains!

Remember

We would like to hear from all of you about Thanksgivings past spent among your Woodham relatives.

For many of us, Thanksgivings and Christmas were the happiest moments of our lives. When you ponder why this is true, you realize it was because you spent those times with the people you were closest to and loved the most.

Few of us today can look back upon those wonderful holidays without the knowledge some of those loved ones are no longer with us.

Isn't it funny that when travel was slow and hard how folks found it easier to be together during those special holidays but now that cross-continent travel is so fast and easy, we find it harder to get together any more.

For some of us, the fondest memories of Thanksgiving were those we spent at our grandparent's home. When I was a child, all the children and grandchildren gathered at Granny's for both holidays. The aroma of good cooking was enough to drive a hungry kid nuts! My mouth still waters at the memory of Aunt Florence's ambrosia. Each aunt brought her specialty and we had a royal feast.

We would like to preserve some of these special moments. Write us a long letter telling about your memories of Thanksgivings and Christmas past. We will print some of these in our next issue for the holidays.

Woodham Family Cemetery

We can take a lot of pride in the restoration work done thus far on the Woodham Cemetery near Newton (Dale County), Alabama. But our family pride is dimmed by the fact the oldest Woodham Family Cemetery near Bishopville (Lee County) South Carolina is still being plowed over.

A lot of work is yet to be done on the South Carolina cemetery before it can once again even be recognized as a cemetery. The condition of our two family cemeteries is a tragedy that should never have happened. But it did. The cemetery near Newton became an abandoned jungle. As memory waned of our loved ones buried there, cleaning and upkeep became less and less frequent. All signs of the Lee County cemetery were destroyed when it was plowed over many years ago. Relatives there continue to plow it.

This outrage will not stop until we erect a fence around the cemetery and restore the site.

We have heard a lot of folks say such things as "Well, I don't know any of the people buried there," or "My folks are from Georgia; we're not kin to any Woodham's from South Carolina (or Alabama)." One relative couldn't understand why anyone would want to restore the cemetery. "All the tombstones are gone; you don't even know where those people are buried." That same person inherited land free that "those people" sweated and labored for so they could hand it down to her. But does it matter? You can plow over the graves of our ancestors for a thousand years but they will still be buried there and it will still be the Woodham Cemetery!

If you are a Woodham or descendant of a Woodham, your ancestors are buried at the Lee County Woodham Cemetery. This is the resting place of Edward Woodham Junior and his wife Mary. They are the "mother and father" of more than 99 per cent of all Woodham descendants today. So none of us can say we are not related to those buried there. Edward Jr. was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and fought for American Independence. He owned the land where the cemetery is located. He is an ancestor we can all be proud of.

Edward's son Aris Woodham Sr. and his wife Rachel Beasley are also buried there. They are the "mother and father" of about 60-70 per cent of all Woodham descendants, including all the family in South Carolina. He later bought his father's farm and is the first one known to be buried in the Woodham Cemetery, on his own farm.

Restoring our family cemeteries is the responsibility of every Woodham descendant. If we cease to obey the Ten Commandments (to honor our fathers and mothers) and the numerous Biblical demands to honor them and keep their memory, then we cease to be a "family". The name WOODHAM no longer has any meaning and might as well be a number.

As long as these graves remain in this disgraceful condition, we must all hang our heads. Those who whine any excuse must bear this shame the rest of their lives and especially in the next life when they meet their maker and their ancestors.

Are we a bunch of spineless, uncaring wimps or are we a FAMILY to be proud of? Is it to be family pride or family shame?

The expense is going to be high. First, we need a permanent chain link fence. We spent more than \$2,000 on the fence at Newton but the labor of putting it up was free, since relatives did all the work. Next, we need funds to purchase tombstones for all the unmarked graves in both cemeteries, starting with the oldest ancestors. These are the most important tasks; when they are completed, we need to set up permanent trusts for future care and maintenance. (see also article on page 5)

Send your Cemetery Fund donations to: Adrian Roper, 5044 Morris Avenue, Columbus, Georgia 31904.

Woodham Family Journal

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Nov., 1990

Don't let family memories die

For many of us, a walk through a cemetery is full of memories, of Mama and Daddy and grandmothers and grandfathers. A visit to their graves brings back fond memories of granny in the kitchen cooking our favorite food; of Mama always there to take care of us; Daddy ready when we needed a shoulder (or money or the car); those fishing trips and tall tales with granddaddy. Yes, for those who still love, the tombstones are not just stones and slabs but the resting place of our loved ones.

Sadly, our grandchildren have no memory of our grandparents. Nor will their grandchildren have any memory of us. For them, the graves won't even be "real" people--just names on stones (IF there are stones!). As the sense of "family" dims in this high-tech age, each new generation cares less for their relatives and ancestors while family values, like our ancestors, are becoming a thing of the past.

Unfortunately, too many people today are more concerned about trips to the beach, a new car or boat than about whether their grandparents have a simple tombstone to mark their resting place. Even less concern is shown for ancestors we never knew--the parents of our grandparents--without whom we wouldn't be here.

For those who have worked so hard to restore and preserve the Woodham Family Cemetery near Newton, Alabama, these ugly truths are all too real. Dozens of people in the Wiregrass area of Alabama, Florida and Georgia have been contacted personally or otherwise to inform them of the restoration work on THEIR family cemetery and seek their help. All too often, a feeble promise is the only response.

However, for a handful of black sheep, there is even an outright rejection. One reputed Woodham (a well-to-do owner of a Dothan plumbing company) stated flatly "I don't know any of those people and I don't really care. I'm not interested." Another Woodham (who drives a Cadillac) said she would rather spend money on the living rather than repair her grandparent's graves. Some kinfolks who "aren't interested" show up in church every Sunday--pillars of their church. When reminded of God's Law given to Moses to "Honor thy father(s) and thy mother(s)" and numerous Biblical commandments to "know thy fathers and honor their memory", one such relative quickly stated "That's from the Old Testament. The coming of Christ made it all irrelevant." I had never thought of God like a human being who changed his mind from day to day. If there is no love of family in the heart of a person, no amount of effort will persuade them to take care of their own family graves--not even the Bible.

Being part of a family carries with it certain responsibilities: a father and mother have obligations for their children. Likewise, children have responsibilities for their parents; brother for brother and sister; grandchildren for grandparents. Those of us who still cling to old-fashioned family values don't have to be asked for help when it comes time to tend our ancestor's graves. Those who shirk this family duty don't deserve the right to bear the family name.

May God have mercy on their heartless souls and may their mothers and fathers of generations past forgive them. (continued on page 2)

Whether these mothers and fathers have been dead 100 years or more, we still must respect their memory--and their resting places.

The Woodham Cemetery at Newton, Alabama is the resting place of three couples (among many others) who just happen to be the Founding "Mothers" and "Fathers" of ALL the Woodham descendants from South Alabama (including all Woodham relatives from Houston, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Barbour, Coffee and Covington counties), panhandle Florida and Southwest Georgia. If your ancestors are from this area, one of these three couples are your ancestors.

The couples, Edward Harley Woodham Sr. and his wife Sarah Dowling; Aris Woodham Jr. and his second wife Caron Riley; and Athanasius Woodham and his second wife, are the founders of our family in this region. Few Woodham descendants today are even aware they existed, much less that we share their blood and enjoy life as a result of their labor and love.

Even more importantly, the Woodham Cemetery near Bishopville, South Carolina contain the graves of Edward Woodham Junior and his wife Mary. Edward Jr. and Mary are the Founding Father and Mother of some 99 per cent of the Woodham family from the South, including hundreds of kinfolks living up north and out west whose parents or grandparents were born in the South.

This pioneer hero and his wife no longer have a tombstone on their graves. Not only are their graves unmarked but their graves and those of other relatives at the cemetery near Bishopville are being desecrated. The cemetery is plowed over and crops grown there every year.

It is sad enough to believe the founders of such a large family could be forgotten, yet they haven't so much as a simple gravestone to memorialize them. Our whole family must bear this awful shame. No descendant of the Woodham family can hold their head high until this humiliating disgrace has been ended.

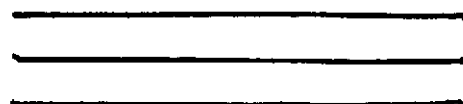
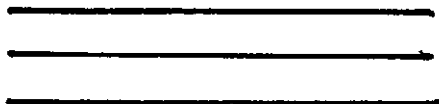
The Woodham Cemetery at Newton now has a chain link fence for protection; it has been thoroughly cleaned and a nice grass lawn now grows; a handsome sign has been placed over the gate. A water well is being added so we can plant flowers and shrubs; before long it will be a garden paradise we can all be proud of!

Our attention now must focus upon putting forth equal efforts to restore and preserve our Woodham Cemetery at Bishopville. Even more of an effort will be required here than at Newton, for almost all the tombstones at the cemetery have disappeared. These must be replaced. We must erect a chain link fence for protection also. This will be more costly than at Newton because we won't have relatives to put up the fence for us, meaning the cost will be several hundred dollars more. The fence alone could cost \$3,000 or more. Two tombstones, for Edward Jr. and Mary and for Aris Sr. and his wife Rachel, will probably cost \$1,500 or more.

What does the future hold for the Woodham family? Is the love of family lost for us--only to be replaced by lust for money? Are the blood ties of family to be replaced by computer numbers? Is this our destiny? Only you can decide this. Would you rather be a WOODHAM or a number?

We ceased to be a "family" long ago when our relatives drifted apart and lost knowledge that we are all part of one family. We were given another chance in 1979 when we came together for a National Reunion--the first in our history--after being scattered apart for more than 300 years.

Let us not lose this second chance to be a real Family. Stand up with dignity; take pride in the fact your are part of the Woodham Family and honor it!



Woodham Heritage...

Edward Woodham Jr. ...

by

Robert Earl Woodham
Woodham Family Historian

Revolutionary War Soldier

If you find a Woodham today whose roots are in the South, the chances are they will be a descendant of Edward Woodham Junior and his wife Mary. This is fantastically mind-boggling when you consider there are literally thousands of Woodhams and Woodham descendants today scattered throughout the United States and many foreign countries.

About 99 per cent of all Woodhams in America today are descendants of Edward Jr., including ALL the Woodhams in Alabama, South Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and most of those in Georgia and Florida as well as hundreds more scattered from Connecticut to California. Excluded are a handful of others, descendants of Woodhams who came to America much later than our ancestor and who settled in Illinois and other northern states; and the Woodhams's (with an "S" on the end) who settled in Michigan.

Since we are all descended from this couple, it makes us all part of one family--hard to believe when you look at the sheer numbers just in the Wiregrass region alone (Alabama-Georgia-Florida). This area is full of Woodhams, Woodham women and their descendants.

Edward Woodham Junior was no ordinary man. He was something very special--one of the rare breed of men who occasionally change the destiny of the world. He was one of those special men who actually made the United States an independent nation. School kids learn about George Washington and his efforts to win American independence but it was the pioneer patriots like Edward Jr. who fought on the front lines, giving their blood and sweat to create the world's first true democracy.

We honor the memory of George Washington as the Founding Father of our nation. Sadly, very few Woodham relatives even know who Edward Woodham Jr. was--much less honor his memory as the Founding Father of our family.

Edward Woodham Jr. was born 1746 in Prince George County, Virginia along the historic James River near Richmond. This county was formerly part of Charles City County. Our first Woodham ancestor in America settled in the area during the mid-1600's. Edward Jr. was the son of Edward Woodham Senior and Eleanor (Lockett ?).

Edward Senior moved his family from Virginia to the frontier of North Carolina and settled first on the Tar River during the 1740's. By the 1750's, he had settled in what was then part of Dobbs County. Where he lived is today part of Lenoir County, near LaGrange, NC.

As he reached manhood, Edward Jr. acquired a land grant in 1766 from the Royal Colonial government; his grant was near his father's farm on Falling Creek near LaGrange and Institute.

When the Revolutionary War for Independence broke out in 1775, Edward Jr. was a living participant in one of our nation's most dramatic historical periods. He became a member of the Dobbs County Regiment of the North Carolina Militia. In 1781, Edward Jr. became one of the handful of men who served in the Continental Army--our nation's first "national" army, commanded by General George Washington.

After the Revolutionary War and after the death of his father, Edward Jr. moved his family and mother to the sparsely settled frontier region of Darlington County, South Carolina. Today, this area is part of the Stokes Bridge Community of Lee County near Bishopville. It took years of hard work to clear the virgin forests and drain swamps for crop land.

Unfortunately, most of the early public records of old Darlington County were destroyed, including the earliest deeds. However, a list

of deeds recorded in 1794 shows that Edward Jr. bought and sold land in 1793. In 1797, he sold 100 acres to his son-in-law John Alexander who married his daughter Mary. Numerous other deeds recorded show Edward Jr. owned several small plantations and slaves. Edward became prominent in the business life of the community as well as a leading farmer when he built a grist mill on a small stream on one of his farms. Grist mills were vital then so people could grind corn and other grain for meal and flour.

Very little is known of Edward's wife Mary: so far, I have been unable to discover who her parents were nor even her maiden name. Nor do we know all the children of Edward Jr. and Mary. The first census of the US taken in 1790 listed only names of heads of households. The census showed two males over age 16, two males under age 16 and seven females as well as 8 slaves in the household of Edward.

Only two sons are known: Aris Woodham Senior and Edward Harley Woodham Senior. Only three daughters are known: Louisa, Mary ("Polly") and Eleanor. The census therefore indicates at least two daughters, possibly three, and perhaps one son who have not yet been identified. The name Edward has been in our family ever since the 1600's. When Edward H. reached manhood, his father was often called Edward "Senior" and Edward H. sometime listed as "Junior", creating some confusion.

Aris Sr. was apparently the oldest child of Edward Jr. and Mary. He was also probably the first to marry (1791). Louisa married first to Andrew Caten (Cotton, Cawton, etc.) and after his death to a Wiggins. Mary ("Polly") married John Alexander about 1795; she had several children, including some who moved to Wiregrass Alabama. Eleanor moved with her husband Daniel Hearon to Louisiana and died there.

Edward bought a plantation across Lynches River in 1807 and moved there. He then sold three small plantations to his son Aris Sr. in 1808, including his homeplace and grist mill. Both his original homeplace and his new farm were located in present Lee County. He lived there until his death.

Edward gave several of his grandchildren property and slaves to get them started in life, including children of Aris and Mary. Edward Senior and his wife Eleanor (Lockett ?) had a daughter Mary, born 7 May, 1741 in Virginia. This may very well be Mary Wiggins to whom Edward Jr. gave a slave in his will dated 1820. Mary Wiggins was a widow at the time and lived near Edward. However, she died not long after Edward and the slave was subsequently returned to his estate as per his will. Mary had one son, Daniel Wiggins who moved to Alabama with the Woodhams.

Aris Sr. had 11 children: Louisa Dupree died young and nothing is known yet of John. Asa, Stephen and Margaret remained at Stokes Bridge Community and have many descendants there today. Edward (Aris' third son) was the first to leave home and moved to Washington County, Ga. where he died young leaving three or four orphans. His descendants settled in Georgia, north Alabama and Arkansas. Ira and Pheriba ("Fereby") settled in Conecuh County, Ala. Rachel moved to Butler County, Ala. Athanasius and Aris Junior moved to Southeast Alabama (the Wiregrass) with their uncle, Edward H. Sr. and other relatives: surprisingly, the vast majority of people with the Woodham name today are descended from these two brothers and their uncle who settled near Dothan, Alabama. This region has the largest concentration of Woodhams in the nation today.

Edward Junior's mother Eleanor was probably the first member of the family to be buried at the Woodham Family Cemetery, established on his farm between 1800 and 1810. His son Aris Sr. died in 1818 and was buried there also. Edward Jr. was buried there in 1820 and his wife Mary sometime between 1826 and 1830.

HUSBAND'S NAME EDWARD WOODHAM Junior (later Senior) Date October, 1990

When Born 1746 Where Prince George County, Virginia Compiler Robert Earl Woodham

When Died August, 1820 Where Sumter (now Lee) County, S.C. Address PO Box 1321

When Buried _____ Where Woodham Cemetery, Lee County, SC City Dothan State Ala 36302

When Married circa 1760's Where Dobbs (now Lenoir) County, N.C. This information obtained from

Other Wives Number 1,2, etc. _____

His Father EDWARD WOODHAM Senior His Mother's Maiden Name ELEANOR (LOCKETT ?) North Carolina Military Records

His Grandfather _____ His Grandmother _____ N.C. Land Grant records

WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME MARY ("Polly") Darlington Co., SC Estate Records

When Born 174- Where _____ will of Edward, 1820

When Died (after 1826) 1826- 1830 Where Sumter County, South Carolina Darlington Co., SC Deed records

When Buried _____ Where Woodham Cemetery, Lee Co., SC Sumter Co., SC Deed Records

Other Husbands Number 1,2, etc. _____ 1790, 1800 Darlington Co. SC

Her Father _____ Her Mother's Maiden Name _____ 1810, 1820 Sumter Co. SC (census)

Her Grandfather _____ Her Grandmother _____

Male or Female	CHILDREN (in order of birth)	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN		State or Country	WHEN DIED			MARRIED	
		Day	Month	Year	City	County		Day	Month	Year	Who	When
M	1 ARIS WOODHAM Sr.	3	July	1771	Dobbs	N.C.	11	June	1818	Who	RACHEL BEASLEY	
F	2 LOUISA WOODHAM			177-	(now part of	"			18	Who	(1) ANDREW CATEN (CAWTON)	
F	3 WOODHAM			177-	Lenoir Co.)	"			18	Who	(2) WIGGINS	
F	4 WOODHAM			177-	"	"				Who	(JOSEPH STEPHENS Sr?)	
F	5 MARY WOODHAM			1777	"	"			1856	Who	JOHN ALEXANDER	
F	6 WOODHAM			177-	"	"				Who	circa 1795	
M	7 (?) WOODHAM			178-	"	"				Who		
M	8 EDWARD HARLEY WOODHAM Sr.	26	June	1785	Darlington	S.C.	18	Oct	1865	Who	SARAH DOWLING	
	9				(now Lee)					Who	circa 1805	

*Recd. 22^d. Feby 1777 of Rich. Caswell
 Com. " money for going c. up from Dobbs
 Cornwallis Va. 40 shillings
 Edward Woodham*

Revolutionary War Pay Receipt issued to EDWARD WOODHAM (Junior) on 22 Feb., 1777 for his services as a soldier in the Dobbs County, North Carolina Regiment of Militia, for 40 shillings. It is signed by his next-door neighbor, Richard Caswell, who became a General in the American Army and the first American Governor of North Carolina. Original on file at the North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.



Remember your loved ones with a timeless memorial

IN lieu of flowers, donations may be made to..." This request is being heard more and more often today as many people find a lasting tribute to the memory of their loved ones preferable to wilting floral wreaths.

When our relatives die, most of us don't want their memory to fade; we want our own mothers and fathers to be remembered and loved by our own grandchildren.

Every day you can read newspaper obituaries that request relatives and friends to make donations to a specific public service, church or favorite charity--in lieu of or rather than, flower wreaths for the funeral. In recent months, obituaries of Woodham relatives have been seen which call for donations to such organizations as the American Red Cross, Arthritis Foundation, Michigan Humane Society, retirement homes, American Heart Association, building funds, church and private cemeteries, local rescue squads and many others.

NOT ONE have ever requested donations for our very own Woodham Family Cemetery!

Why should dogs and cats in Michigan, a building fund, health society or any other organization be more important than the holy burial grounds where our ancestral mothers and fathers rest?

There are millions of other people in America who make donations for dogs and cats, the Red Cross, churches, etc. but only Woodham relatives can be expected to take care of their own family cemeteries. No stranger nor any other family is going to do it for us. FAMILY is supposed to come first before anything but that is no longer true in an age when greed has replaced family love.

All these organizations are fine and worthy of attention. But none are more important than your own family.

Both the Dale County Woodham Cemetery at Newton, Alabama and the Woodham Cemetery near Bishopville, South Carolina became all but forgotten because no recent burials have been held at either one. As a result, even most of the grandchildren of those buried there have died and thus relatives today no longer remember these ancestors. The Dale County Woodham Cemetery became overgrown while the South Carolina Woodham Cemetery was plowed over.

continued on page 2

Restoration work began in Nov., 1987 on the Alabama cemetery which was founded in the 1840's or earlier by the Woodham family on Woodham land. A permanent Cemetery Committee was formed to sponsor restoration and provide future maintenance.

Restoring the cemetery was not easy. A small but devoted group of Woodham relatives and descendants of friends and neighbors buried here worked very hard, donating their labor and funds.

Among the accomplishments so far:

Cleanup. Numerous organized cleanings were held with up to 30 or 40 people (some as old as 91) taking up tools to chop down undergrowth, weeds and vines that choked the site. Although some graves were surrounded by bricks, they could not be seen because of years of accumulated dead leaves and vines.

Fence. A chain link fence was erected around the cemetery with all labor donated by descendants of folks buried here. Cost: about \$2,000.

Sign. A beautiful wrought metal sign was manufactured at a cost of \$750. It states "Woodham Cemetery, Founded 1847". This forms an arch over the gateway entrance.

Water well. A water well was drilled and a pump installed to provide water for the lawn and flowers as well as drinking water.

Picnic shed. A picnic pavillion was constructed this spring so that gatherings of the family and friends can be held on the site. It was completed just in time for the second Decoration Day. This is an annual event now, sponsored by the Cemetery Committee to honor our relatives buried here; graves are marked with flowers and an old-fashioned picnic is held. The picnic shed has a cement foundation and was constructed by relatives with their donated labor.

Rest rooms. Two rest rooms and a septic tank were installed. They are part of the picnic shed and help make public gatherings such as Decoration Day possible and help accommodate out of town vis-

itors.

Tombstones. Ten new tombstones have been erected on graves which had none. Three of these mark the graves of Aris Woodham Jr., Athanasius Woodham and their uncle, Edward H. Woodham Sr. Every Woodham descendant with ties to south Alabama is a descendant of one of these three men. Unknown graves have been marked temporarily with painted cement blocks.

Landscaping. A nice grass lawn has replaced the jungle of weeds and vines. It took three plantings due to drought and a flood. Fifty azaleas and numerous other shrubs and ornamental trees have been planted. Many more are planned now that water is available.

A few kinfolks have said they were not interested in taking part in restoring the Woodham cemeteries. Most of these used the feeble excuse they did not know the people buried there. Sadly, there are a lot of Woodham relatives who don't know who their ancestors were--and don't give a hoot. If they don't give a confound who their great grandparents were, they certainly don't care whether their graves are kept decent.

The next time a Woodham relative dies, remember the FAMILY first and memorialize their memory with a donation to the two Woodham cemeteries.

No work has been done yet on the Woodham Cemetery near Bishopville, SC. A chain link fence will be needed, tombstones for all graves, including the "mother" and "father" of all the Woodhams from the South, signs, flowers and other basic necessities to get the site restored.

There are only a small number of Woodhams left in Lee County: they cannot do this job alone. If you are a descendant of a Woodham, this is YOUR family cemetery. We need your help to make this a respectable cemetery once again.

The Alabama Woodham Cemetery Committee is now headed by Thomas Letrel Woodham. Donations for this cemetery can be made direct to him at: Route 2, Box 213, Midland City, Ala. 36350.

Donations for the South Carolina cemetery where our founding fathers and mothers are buried can be made to the Woodham Family Association, PO Box 1321, Dothan, Alabama 36302.

Woodham Family Journal

News of the Woodham Family of America

Vol. 15, No. 1

Official Publication of the Woodham Family Association

May, 1993

Woodham Cemetery Committee Formed

200 Year Old Cemetery Will Be Restored & Preserved

BISHOPVILLE, SC—After many years of hope and a lot of talk, a Cemetery Committee has finally been established to restore and preserve the historic Woodham Family Cemetery located in the Stokes Bridge Community of Lee County, South Carolina.

This is the site of the graves of the "father" and "mother" of more than 95 per cent of all the Woodham descendants from the South. The "father" buried there is Edward Woodham Junior who served as a soldier who fought for the independence of our nation during the Revolutionary War in the 1770's.

The cemetery was destroyed several years ago, including all but two tombstones—which are broken into many pieces. Since then, the site has been plowed over despite state laws and Christian tradition forbidding such desecration.

The primary purpose of the Cemetery Committee will be to fence the site, purchase new tombstones and provide future maintenance. The Committee will coordinate all these activities but the entire Woodham family will have to share the responsibility.

Committee Chairman Named

Alva Leslie Woodham Jr. of Columbia, SC has been named as temporary chairman of the Committee. Alva is a native of the area and a great great great grandson of Reverend Aris Woodham Senior and his wife Rachel Beasley who are buried at the Woodham Family Cemetery. Aris Senior lies near his parents, Edward Woodham Junior and his wife Mary.

The first step—and the most important task—in restoring our family cemetery will be to raise money. Comparing the cost of restoration for the Woodham Family Cemetery near Newton in Dale County, Alabama, we will need at least \$5,000. The chain-link fence there cost \$3,000. Volunteers who are descendants of people buried there donated their labor to erect the fence, saving a great deal in labor expense. We don't know anyone in South Carolina who can do this which will increase our cost on the fence at least \$1,000 for labor.

The Cemetery Committee in Dale County purchased two double tombstones for about \$1,600. We should start with two double stones in Lee County, for Edward Jr. and Mary and for Aris



Sr. and Rachel. All of us are descended from Edward Jr. All the family in South Carolina and about 75 per cent of the rest of the family from the South are descended from Aris Jr.

The jails of the nation are full of white trash but there are a lot more sitting in their comfortable homes—especially those who turn their backs on their ancestors who put us on earth. Family values have been distorted or totally lost by the "me generation": it is time to return to the basic family values of our ancestors—including the decency to keep their graves sacred.

Organize Fund Raisers

Each of us can help by organizing fund raisers in our local communities. Hold garage sales, bake sales, raffles, etc. Hold family get-togethers and sell quilts, handcrafts, cakes and pics to each other. Sew a quilt and sell raffle tickets for it. Contact brothers, sisters, grandchildren, and other relatives and personally ask them to send donations for the cemetery restoration. Stress importance of their own responsibility. This is OUR family cemetery—strangers aren't going to take care of it for us.

You can send donations for the cemetery to either Alva L. Woodham Jr. at 100 Running Fox Rd., Columbia, SC 29223 or to the Woodham Family Association, PO Box 1321, Dothan, Ala. 1321.

Be proud of your Woodham blood! Keep the memory of our ancestors sacred and their graves holy—help preserve them!

Memorials Should Remember Family First

Your Own Family Cemetery Deserves To Be Remembered In Memorials

An Editorial...

When a relative dies, who do you remember--the Cancer society, a church, flower club, the dog pound or some other worthwhile organization? How many times have you seen a newspaper obituary that calls for donations to be made to such charitable groups in lieu of flowers?

Many obituaries of Woodham kinfolks in the last 50 years have asked donations be made to a church cemetery rather than sending flowers for the funeral. But there has **NEVER** been a single obit asking for donations to our own two Woodham Family Cemeteries!

This really tells you something about what has happened to family values in America. When the "me generation" took over, family values went down the drain. Today we buy status in churches with donations; we look for honor from fellow members with donations to our flower club. There are members of our family who buy Cadillacs or fancy fishing boats and take vacations in Hawaii but who refuse to spend \$10 on their ancestor's graves.

When Mama and Daddy die they are soon forgotten; putting forth a little effort to care for their graves is the last thing we think of. Needless to say, the next generation could care less.

What Ever Happened To Family Duty?

What ever happened to love of family and the sense of family duty and responsibility? All my life, I have believed that the FAMILY comes first. I will never forget my college Georgia government class in which a yankee professor tried to tell us there was no such thing as being a "citizen" of a state or county. He questioned my American loyalty when I said I was a citizen of my state (under the state Constitution). I informed him that I was *first* a citizen of my home community and then of my state and only after that was I a citizen of the nation. I also informed him that my loyalty was first and foremost to my family, next to my neighborhood, then to my community, then to the section of my state and then to my state. Next my loyalty was to the South and finally to the nation. I am a Woodham first and next an Alabamian--then an American.

There is an old Arab proverb in part which relates that "the enemy of my enemy is my friend and the

friend of my enemy is my enemy; my cousin before my friend and my brother before my cousin".

I have been reading newspaper obituaries since I was in the second grade and collecting copies of Woodham family obits now for more than 35 years. Not *once* in my life have I ever seen any mention of either of our Woodham family cemeteries. This is hard to understand, especially since memorial for relatives don't cost the immediate family anything out of their own pockets. In other words, it doesn't really cost anything for us to remember our own family first!

A Shame Upon Our Family

What happened to our two Woodham Family Cemeteries during the last several decades is a crying shame. In the case of the cemetery at Newton, Dale County, Alabama, it became an overgrown jungle. Most people in the area did not even know a cemetery was there, despite it being right next to a paved highway and 200 yards from a busy four-lane. The Woodham Cemetery in Stokes Bridge Community of Lee County, South Carolina was vandalized and destroyed by a Woodham who owned the surrounding land. Relatives discussed the horror at a church gathering but were too scared to do anything about it.

For those of us who believe in a hereafter or claim to be Christians, there can be no excuse for such a hideous neglect of our ancestors' graves. The Bible is full of admonitions for us to respect our ancestors.

"Honor thy father(s) and thy mother(s)..."

The Ten Commandments

"Remove not the landmarks thy grandfathers have set"

Proverbs

We could quote a lot of verses from the Bible and Christian tradition but all the verses in the Bible won't mean a hill of beans to some kinfolks such as the Woodham who flatly stated he "wasn't interested". That black mark will surely be remembered when he gets to the pearly gates.

The next one of your family dies, recall that you owe a debt of responsibility to those ancestors who put us here. Think of them and *your* family cemeteries when you mention memorial donations.

Let's restore family pride in America--starting with *our* family first!

Help restore *your* family cemetery in South Carolina and preserve our cemetery in Alabama.

Woodham Family Journal

News of the Woodham Family of America

Vol. 15, No. 2

Official Publication of the Woodham Family Association

July, 1993

Woodham Family Cemetery Restoration Nears As Memorial Donations Come In

Restoration of our Woodham Family Cemetery in Lee County, South Carolina is a few steps closer to reality as word spreads about our efforts to restore and protect the site where the ancestors of every Woodham from the South.

Several kinfolks have made memorial donations since we announced the campaign to raise funds to put up a fence for protection and restore the historic 200 year old graveyard. Our April newsletter also announced that a Cemetery Committee is being formed to head up restoration efforts. Alva Leslie Woodham Jr. of Columbia, SC has been named temporary chairman of the Committee. Relatives who live in the area should contact Alva at 100 Running Fox Road, Columbia, SC 29206 to serve on the Committee or volunteer to work.

The Cemetery Committee will oversee restoration and act as a permanent organization to provide future maintenance.

If you are a Woodham or descendant of a Woodham, then this is *YOUR* family cemetery. It doesn't matter whether you know who your ancestors were or not. What does matter is that they *are* your ancestors and that makes it *your* responsibility to take care of their graves--not some stranger, the county or anyone else. This is a family duty that we can't dump on just any guy who comes along.

A meeting of the Cemetery Committee will be held 8 August at Hebron Methodist Church following the 15th annual South Carolina Woodham Reunion. All relatives are invited to attend and participate. We need volunteers.

Association Will Seek Status As National Historic Site For Woodham Family Cemetery

The Woodham Family Association will petition the National Historic Trust, an agency of the federal government, to designate the Woodham Family Cemetery located in Stokes Bridge Community of Lee County, South Carolina as a National Historic Site.

The 200 year old family cemetery is historically important because of its age and due to the fact a veteran of the Revolutionary War for Independence is buried there.

If the cemetery is declared a National Historic Site,

it will not alter its status as a private family graveyard. Many different types of sites have been designated as historic sites, including old private homes, churches, public buildings, forts, battlefields, etc.

Such sites do not become federal property. However, federal law does provide protection for such a site against destruction.

Our family cemetery is very important because it is the burial site of Edward Woodham Junior the ancestor of almost all our family.

Remember Your Family With A Memorial

Your Own Family Cemetery Deserves To Come First

We are proud to announce that Woodham relatives have begun making memorial donations to help restore and preserve our Woodham Family Cemetery in the Stokes Bridge Community of Lee County, South Carolina.

This is where the "mothers and fathers" of our family are buried. Two couples interred here, Edward Woodham Junior and his wife Mary and their son Aris Woodham Senior and his wife Rachel Beasley, are the direct ancestors of 99 per cent of the Woodham family from the South. Their descendants today number in the thousands and live in almost every state and several foreign countries. Edward Jr. was a soldier in both the North Carolina Militia and the federal Continental Army during the Revolutionary War (1775-83). His son Aris Sr. was one of the first Methodist Church ministers in America and was ordained by the first Methodist Bishop of South Carolina.

Alabama Woodham Cemetery Restored

This is one of only two known Woodham Family Cemeteries in America: the other is near Newton in Dale County, Alabama. The Alabama cemetery was abandoned and overgrown when it became endangered. It has been restored through the efforts of members of the Woodham family as well as descendants of other families buried there. It took a lot of hard work to clear the underbrush, thorny vines and debris that was so thick it had completely hidden numerous graves for several years. A chain-link fence has been put up at a cost of about \$2,000. Relatives of people buried here erected the fence themselves, saving more than \$1,000 in labor costs. A very nice archway over the gate with the name of the cemetery was erected at a cost of about \$750. A water well was dug and water lines have been run to provide water for flowers and the bathrooms. A picnic shed with two bathrooms was built, thanks to a generous contribution from Alto Junior Orr, son of Alto Woodham. Numerous flowers, shrubs and flowering trees have already been planted with more planned.

New Tombstones Now Mark Graves

James Burch ("J.B.") Daughtry, a grandson of Nellie Woodham and Major Holland ("Fox") Daughtry, started the drive that has dramatically increased the number of tombstones in the cemetery. J.B. personally donated the funds for a very nice double-wide tombstone for his great grandparents, Aris Woodham Junior and his second wife, Caron H. Riley. She died in 1872 and he in 1880. During the years since their deaths, their graves were marked only with rocks and iron rods. J. B. also donated a sizeable

portion of the cost of a double-wide tombstone for the graves of Edward Harley Woodham Senior and his wife, Sarah Dowling, uncle of Aris Woodham Jr. Veterans tombstones have been placed on several graves, including Athanasius Woodham (brother of Aris Jr. and nephew of Edward H. Sr.). Several other new tombstones have been erected, most of these for relatives who died in the 1800's.

Books On Both Woodham Cemeteries

Our Woodham Family Historian, Robert Earl Woodham, has written books on both our Woodham Family Cemeteries. These provide information about their location, history of the cemeteries and the land around the sites and description of the cemeteries and their current condition. Each book has at least one or more pages on every known person buried there, giving information and history of each person. Robert Earl prepared the books on our new computer, so they look very nice and will be a valuable addition to the home of every Woodham descendant--something you will be proud to hand down to your children and grandchildren.

A copy of the book on the Lee County Cemetery will be given to every relative who makes a donation of at least \$100 for its restoration. Relatives who have ancestors buried at both cemeteries will receive copies of both the Woodham Family Cemetery in Lee County, SC and the Woodham Family Cemetery in Dale County, Ala. We will start mailing your copies of the books in August.

Restoration Will Help Erase Family Shame

The restoration and preservation of our Woodham Family Cemetery in Lee County, SC will help erase the shame of its destruction. It is something that should never have happened. The fact it has been plowed over for several years does not mean we can simply forget our ancestors buried there nor ignore the sanctity of their graves. The desecration of our family graves is no less than if a church cemetery down the road were to be destroyed and plowed over.

The Woodham Family Cemetery *must* be restored along with the memory of our mothers and fathers buried there. Their souls cry in shame for their children who have deserted them.

They gave us life and much more. They were honorable people who lived their lives with dignity, loved by their friends, neighbors and children.

It is time to restore their dignity. It is time to restore their graves.

Remember your Woodham ancestors with a memorial donation.

Memorial Donations

Memorial Donations For Restoration Of Our Woodham Family Cemetery

If you are a Woodham or descendant of a Woodham, you are urged to support the restoration of our Woodham Family Cemetery located in the Stokes Bridge Community of Lee County, South Carolina. **Your** ancestors are buried here. We need funds for a chain-link fence around the cemetery and tombstones for Edward Woodham Junior and his wife Mary and their son Reverend Aris Woodham Senior and his wife Rachel Beasley. The fence and tombstones are the most important things needed to start with and will be the first part of our restoration efforts. Once these have been installed, we will concentrate upon adding a nice sign with the name of the cemetery, the addition of other tombstones for the remaining relatives buried here, landscaping the site with flowers and trees, installing benches for visitors and erection of a historic site marker. Memorials can be made for either deceased loved ones or in honor of living relatives.

The following relatives have made contributions for the restoration of our Woodham Family Cemetery:

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------|
| Brockington Graham ("Woody") Woodham Jr. | Tryon, North Carolina | \$100 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my father, Brockington Graham Woodham Sr., son of Stephen Middleton Woodham (John Wesley Woodham, Stephen Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr.) | | |
| Mary E. Wilson | Pasadena, California | \$25 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my great grandmother, Sarah Ann R. Woodham, daughter of Aris Woodham and Rebecca Smith, Athanasius Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr.) | | |
| E. Jerome Woodham | Marietta, Georgia | \$100 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my mother, Mrs. Ora Lee Smith Woodham, wife of William Allen Woodham of LaGrange, Ga. (Hessie Joshua Woodham Sr., William Hartwell Woodham, Aris Woodham, Edward Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr.) | | |
| Rosemary Woodham Bonifay | Pensacola, Florida | \$18 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my father, Grady Cecil Woodham of Geneva County, Ala.(John Talbot Woodham, Johnathan Robert Woodham, Edward Harley Woodham Sr., Edward Woodham Junior) | | |
| Frederick Sidney ("Fred") Woodham | Brooks, Georgia | \$100 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my father, Owen Frederick Woodham of Darlington County, SC (Thomas Emberry Woodham, Johnathan Edward Woodham Sr., Asa Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr.) | | |

Send your donations to either: Woodham Family Association, PO Box 1321, Dothan, Ala. or Alva L. Woodham, 100 Running Fox Rd., Columbia, SC 29223.

Woodham Family Journal

News of the Woodham Family of America

Vol. 15, No. 3

Official Publication of the Woodham Family Association

Oct., 1993

Woodham Named Alabama Judge

ABBEVILLE, Ala.--Alabama Governor Jim Folsom Jr. announced the appointment of Charles Winchell Woodham Senior as Henry County District Court Judge 1 October.

Charles received the appointment from the governor following the recent death of District Judge Joseph Jerome ("Jerry") Masters who died 13 Sept. Charles' appointment was effective as of 4 Oct.

Charles, 51, is a son of the late Judge William Luther ("Bill") Woodham of Henry County who served for many years as Henry County Probate Judge, Chairman of the County Commission and Judge of Juvenile Court. Bill retired in 1977 and died in 1991.

Charles has been an attorney in Abbeville, Alabama since 1971. Since 1988, he has been a partner in the

law firm of Woodham & Gunter.

Charles, born 14 Feb., 1942 in Dothan, Ala., graduated from the University of Alabama with a bachelor of arts degree in 1964. He is a grandson of William Fletcher Woodham and Pearl Creel; a great grandson of William Jackson Woodham and Mary Wright; a great great grandson of James Woodham Senior and his wife Nina; great great great grandson of Athanasius Woodham and Mary Kelly; fourth great grandson of Aris Woodham Sr. and Rachel Beasley; and fifth great grandson of Edward Woodham Jr. and Mary.

He entered the US Army in 1965 and during boot camp, was a bunk mate with cousin James Thomas ("Tom") Woodham of Bishopville, SC. He served as an air defense missile commander and reached the rank

Continued on page 12...

Contact Us If You Want To Know Your Family History

If you are a Woodham or descendant of a Woodham and want to know something about our family history, you are invited to contact the Woodham Family Association.

If you have already tried to discover your Woodham heritage and haven't been able to go very far, then perhaps we can help. This is what the Woodham Family Association is all about. Gathering and preserving our family heritage is one of the main reasons why the Association was founded and one of our most important goals.

The Association is a national, non-profit family club for all descendants of the Woodham family. We announced in 1979 when it was founded that we want to gather and preserve every type of record and information on every Woodham descendant. Our collection of records now make up the Woodham Family National Library.

When writing for information, *please* send us a stamped self-addressed long envelope. Sorry, we just can't afford more postage costs than we already have on our small budget.

We also urge you to send us information to preserve in our Family Library on your immediate family.

The best times to reach us by telephone are Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Do not call on other days because Robert Earl works nights Tuesday through Saturday and sleeps those days.

Write to us at:

**Woodham Family Association
PO Box 1321
Dothan, Alabama 36302**

Telephone:
(205) 794-8785

Memorial Donations

Memorial Donations For Restoration Of Our Woodham Family Cemetery

If you are a Woodham or descendant of a Woodham, you are urged to support restoration of your Woodham Family Cemetery located in the Stokes Bridge Community of Lee County, South Carolina. Your ancestors are buried here. We need funds for a chain-link fence around the cemetery and tombstones for Edward Woodham and his wife Mary and their son Reverend Aris Woodham Senior and his wife Rachel Beasley to start with. Memorials can be made for either deceased loved ones or in honor of living relatives.

The following relatives have made contributions for restoration of our Woodham Family Cemetery.

Brockington Graham ("Woody") Woodham Jr.	Tryon, North Carolina	\$100
<i>In Memory of:</i> my father, Brockington G. Woodham Sr., son of Stephen Middleton Woodham (son of John Wesley Woodham, Stephen Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr.)		
Mary E. Wilson	Pasadena, California	\$25
<i>In Memory of:</i> my great grandmother, Sarah Ann R. Woodham, daughter of Aris Woodham and Rebecca Smith (Athanasius Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr.)		
E. Jerome Woodham	Marietta, Georgia	\$100
<i>In Memory of:</i> my mother, Mrs. Ora Lee Smith Woodham, wife of William Allen Woodham of LaGrange, Georgia (Hessie Joshua Woodham Sr., William Hartwell Woodham, Aris Woodham, Edward Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr.)		
Rosemary Woodham Bonifay	Pensacola, Florida	\$18
<i>In Memory of:</i> my father, Grady Cecil Woodham of Geneva County, Ala. (John Talbot Woodham Johnathan Robert Woodham, Edward Harley Woodham Sr., Edward Woodham Junior)		
Frederick Sidney ("Fred") Woodham	Brooks, Georgia	\$100
<i>In Memory of:</i> my father, Owen Frederick Woodham of Darlington County, SC (Thomas Emberry Woodham, Johnathan Edward Woodham Sr., Asa Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr.)		
Ica Ida Woodham Lovett	Mayflower, Arkansas	\$10
<i>In Memory of:</i> my father, Oscar Lee Woodham (Francis Marion Woodham, John Nelson Woodham, Ira Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr.)		
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Dowling Woodham Sr.	Bishopville, South Carolina	\$25
<i>In Memory of:</i> Robert Earl Woodham's mother, Mrs. Norma Turnage Woodham Parrish (widow of Rufus Woodham) (John Wesley Woodham, Ira Edward Woodham, Edward Christopher "Chris" Woodham, Aris Woodham Jr., Aris Woodham Sr.)		
Mrs. Ella Perry Foster Zarr	Bay Minette, Alabama	\$100
<i>In Memory of:</i> my great grandmother, Icy Sophronia Skinner, daughter of Rachel Woodham (daughter of Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Woodham Junior)		

Send your donations to either: Woodham Family Association, PO Box 1321, Dothan, Ala. 36302, or to Alva L. Woodham Jr., 100 Running Fox Road, Columbia, SC 29223.

Woodham Family Journal

News of the Woodham Family

Vol. 16, No. 1

Official Publication of the Woodham Family Association

Feb 1994

Cemetery Fund Makes Some Progress

Slowly--but surely--donations are coming in to restore our historic Woodham Family Cemetery in Lee County, South Carolina. This is where the ancestors of 99 per cent of *all* the Woodhams are buried (whose roots are in the South).

If you are a Woodham or descendant of a Woodham, this is *your* family cemetery! It doesn't belong to the Smith family, the Rockefellers or Jones families; it is not a publicly-owned cemetery nor a church burial grounds--it is *your* family cemetery. It was established by our Woodham ancestors as a family burial grounds: that means it is **YOUR** responsibility to maintain and preserve it--not anyone else's.

Ancestors Deserve Better

At present, the cemetery is being plowed over and crops grown there. All but two of the tombstones have been lost and these two are broken into small pieces. Our ancestors were good folks and don't deserve such treatment.

Your ancestors buried in the family cemetery were decent, honest and hard-working people. One of them, Edward Woodham Junior, was a true American hero, a soldier who fought for the independence of America in the Revolutionary War (1775-1783)--whose memory should be honored by the entire nation --while another, Aris Woodham Senior, was one of the first ministers of the Methodist Church in the South. Each of these men loved their children and provided well for them all. They helped their children and even grandchildren get started in life with land, money and slaves. The land these pioneers worked so hard to obtain and then clear has been handed down in the Woodham family to this day. Their lives set an example we should all try to emulate today.

They were the kind of ancestors we can all be proud of. Certainly, they don't deserve to have their tombstones destroyed and their graves plowed over!

There are literally hundreds of descendants of these ancestors living today, scattered all over the United States--more than enough relatives to be able to finance restoration of our cemetery--*if* we all do our part. Only extreme poverty can excuse any Woodham descendant from donating their share to restore and maintain our family cemetery. Those of you who refuse to face your responsibility will not only have to live with your shame in this life but will have to face your ancestor's in the next life.

Make Donations As Memorials

You can make donations to the Cemetery Fund as memorials to a departed loved one or in tribute to a living relative. Each donation will be recognized in our family newsletter.

When a relative dies, put a request for memorial donations to the Cemetery in their obituary. The next time *you* make a donation--**remember your family first!!** (see page 2)

Contact Us If You Want To Know Your Family History

For information on the Woodham Family
or to learn about your family history,
write to us at:

Woodham Family Association
PO Box 1321

Dothan, Alabama 36302

or call us at:

(205) 794-8785



Memorial Donations



Memorial Donations For Restoration Of Our Woodham Family Cemetery

If you are a Woodham or descendant of a Woodham, you are urged to support restoration of your Woodham Family Cemetery located in the Stokes Bridge Community, Lee County, South Carolina. Your ancestors are buried here. We need funds for a chain-link fence to protect the site and tombstones.

The following relatives have made contributions (listed with their ancestry):

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------|
| Brockington Graham Woodham Jr. | Tryon, North Carolina | \$100 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my father, Brockington G. Woodham Sr., son of Stephen Middleton Woodham (son of John Wesley Woodham, Stephen Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr.) | | |
| Mary E. Wilson | Pasadena, California | \$25 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my great grandmother, Sarah Ann R. Woodham, daughter of Aris Woodham and Rebecca Smith (Athanasius Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr.) | | |
| E. Jerome Woodham | Marietta, Georgia | \$100 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my mother, Mrs. Ora Lee Smith Woodham, wife of William Allen Woodham of LaGrange, Georgia (Hessie Joshua Woodham Sr., William Hartwell Woodham, Aris Woodham, Edward Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr.) | | |
| Rosemary Woodham Bonifay | Pensacola, Florida | \$18 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my father, Grady Cecil Woodham of Geneva County, Ala. (John Talbot Woodham, Johnathan Robert Woodham, Edward Harley Woodham Sr., Edward Woodham Junior) | | |
| Frederick Sidney ("Fred") Woodham | Brooks, Georgia | \$100 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my father, Owen Frederick Woodham of Darlington County, SC (Thomas Emberry Woodham, Johnathan Edward Woodham Sr., Asa Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr.) | | |
| Ica Ida Woodham Lovett | Mayflower, Arkansas | \$10 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my father, Oscar Lee Woodham (Francis Marion Woodham, John Nelson Woodham, Ira Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr.) | | |
| Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Dowling Woodham Sr. | Bishopville, South Carolina | \$25 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> Robert Earl Woodham's mother, Mrs. Norma Turnage Woodham Parrish (widow of Rufus Woodham) (John Wesley Woodham, Ira Edward Woodham, Edward Christopher ("C.C.", "Chris") Woodham, Aris Woodham Jr., Aris Woodham Sr.) | | |
| Mrs. Ella Perry Foster Zarr | Bay Minette, Alabama | \$100 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my great grandmother, Icy Sophronia Skinner, daughter of Rachel Woodham (daughter of Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Woodham Jr.) | | |
| Mrs. Ruth Woodham | Bishopville, South Carolina | \$20 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my husband, Harris Middleton ("Jack") Woodham (Ernest Edward Woodham, Johnathan Edward Woodham, Asa Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr.) | | |

continued on next page...



Memorial Donations



Teresa Ann Wallace

Madison, Georgia

\$100

In Memory of: my great great grandmother, Harriett S. Woodham and her husband, William E. Hearon (Dorothy Ann Jenkins, Nancy Harriett Hearon, William Woodham Hearon, Harriett S. Woodham, Asa Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr.)

Mrs. Delene Woodham

Pensacola, Florida

\$40

In Honor of: my husband, William Jesse Woodham Jr. (school principal, county school superintendent, college professor) (W. J. Woodham Sr., Aaron Thomas Woodham, John Wesley Woodham, Athanasius Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr.)

Mrs. Jack Woodham

Tavares, Florida

\$50

In Memory of: my husband, Jack Howard Woodham (Hilliary Hopewell Woodham, Joseph John Woodham, Reddick Woodham, Athanasius Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr.) **Editor's Note:** in a letter to us, Minnie stated she had made a contribution for the South Carolina Woodham Cemetery. She sent this to the chairman of the Woodham Cemetery Committee in Dale County, Alabama and it was mistakenly used on that cemetery.)

South Carolina Woodham Reunion

Bishopville, South Carolina

\$30

In Memory of: Robert Earl Woodham's mother, Mrs. Norma Woodham Parrish

Send your memorial donations for the Cemetery Restoration Fund to:

Woodham Family Association

PO Box 1321

Dothan, Alabama

Books On Two Woodham Family Cemeteries Will Be Printed

As a thank-you for those folks who are considerate enough to make at least a \$50 donation toward restoration of our Woodham Family Cemetery in Lee County, South Carolina, our President and Family Historian Robert Earl Woodham will present such donors with a copy of books which he has prepared on each cemetery.

Robert Earl has devoted a great deal of research and effort to this project. He has interviewed numerous living relatives of people buried at the cemeteries, pored through old newspapers for obituaries and searched old deeds and mountains of other records to identify every person buried at both cemeteries.

Each book will have one or more pages on every person buried at the cemetery. It will contain a brief history of the per-

son, their ancestry and such personal information as occupation, church membership, etc. that may be known.

If the exact location of their grave is known, this will be described. For persons with a tombstone, the location of the grave, along with the tombstone inscription will be included.

The books will also include a general history of the cemeteries, detailed location information with maps and more. In the case of the Dale County Woodham Cemetery, that book will include a history of the cemetery's restoration and the activities of the Cemetery Committee.

The books will be soft-cover and spiral bound. The books are already complete and ready for distribution as soon as we can get the covers printed. Copies will be deposited in several local libraries and the state archives in Alabama and South Carolina.

Interested persons other than donators may purchase copies at \$20 each plus \$2 postage.

Woodham Family Journal

News of the Woodham Family

Official Publication of the Woodham Family Association

July, 1994

Vol. 16, No 2

Woodhams In Alabama, South Carolina Win Primary Re-elections For Judge, County Council

The first Woodham in history, to our knowledge, ever to serve as a district court judge of any type has won the Alabama Democratic primary to become the Democratic candidate for re-election to a full term.

Charles Winchell Woodham Sr., 52, was appointed on 4 Oct., 1993 by Governor Jim Folsom to fill the unexpired term of J. J. Masters who died. Charles is now seeking his first full term as District Judge.

Unfortunately, we don't have information on the election's outcome and have no vote details. It is also not known if Charles will face opposition in the general election.

Charles is a graduate of the Univ. of Alabama. He served in the Army as a missile commander from 1965 to 1968. He has practiced law in Henry County for 22 years before his appointment as Judge.

He has as attorney for the Henry County Board of Education, the Henry County Hospital Board and the City of Abbeville. Charles was a member of the American, Alabama and Henry County Bar Associations.

In Lee County, SC, Thomas Hearl Odom, who has adopted the Woodham name of his step-father, Alston Wesley Woodham II, won the Democratic primary, 421 to 350 for re-election to the Lee County Council (called the County Commission, Board of Supervisors, etc. in other states).

Tommy, 38, is married to Terri Northcutt. He has three daughters and a son. He owns and operates a landscaping firm. He was instrumental in bringing a state prison to Lee County which will bring many new jobs to the area.

Woodham Cemetery Decoration Day Held At Newton, Alabama

Descendants of those buried at the Woodham Family Cemetery in Dale County, Ala. gathered at the cemetery 9 April for the fifth annual Decoration Day. The occasion was founded in 1990 by the Cemetery Committee as a way to remember our ancestors and renew family ties at the same time.

A picnic is held on the site every year. The Committee erected a very nice picnic shelter three years ago which includes two restrooms and built-in benches.

A number of people from several surrounding counties attended this years Decoration Day. James O. Woodham of Pensacola, Fla., former Committee Chairman, traveled the furthest. Mrs. Carol

Daughtry Rice of Enterprise, Ala., descendant of Nellie Woodham and Major H. Daughtry, was re-elected Chairman of the Cemetery Committee.

Help Needed To Buy Old English Records For Woodham History Book

We need your financial help to purchase a number of old records from England on our Woodham ancestors dating from the 1500's and 1600's. We want to print copies of these in the first history book ever written on our family. We need about \$160 for records from one county and about \$100 for those from two other counties. These are a bare minimum of the records which should be printed in our first family history. These will include wills, estate records and other documents we have learned of so far. Your donations will be greatly appreciated. The book will be finished as soon as we get these copies from England.



Memorial Donations



Memorial Donations To Restore Our Woodham Family Cemetery

If you are a Woodham or descendant of a Woodham, you are urged to support restoration of your Woodham Family Cemetery located in the Stokes Bridge Community, Lee County, South Carolina. This historic Woodham burying ground was founded about 1799 or 1800 by your ancestors. It is the resting place of Edward Woodham Jr., who served as a soldier in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War--a real American hero. We need funds for a chain-link fence, tombstones and restoration work.

The following relatives have made contributions (listed with their ancestry).

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------|
| <u>Brockington Graham Woodham Jr.</u> | Tryon, North Carolina | \$100 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my father, Brockington G. Woodham Sr., son of Stephen Middleton Woodham (son of John Wesley Woodham, Stephen Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.) | | |
| <u>Mary E. Wilson</u> | Pasadena, California | \$25 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my great grandmother, Sarah Ann R. Woodham, daughter of Aris Woodham and Rebecca Smith (Athanasius Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.) | | |
| <u>E. Jerome Woodham</u> | Marietta, Georgia | \$100 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my mother, Mrs. Ora Lee SmithWoodham, wife of William Allen Woodham of La-Grange, Georgia (Hessie Joshua Woodham Sr., William Hartwell Woodham, Aris Woodham, Edward Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.) | | |
| <u>Rosemary Woodham Bonifay</u> | Pensacola, Florida | \$18 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my father, Grady Cecil Woodham of Geneva County, Ala. (John Talbot Woodham, John Robert Woodham, Edward Hartwell Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.) | | |
| <u>Frederick Sidney ("Fred") Woodham</u> | Brooks, Georgia | \$100 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my father, Owen Frederick Woodham of Darlington County, SC (Thomas Emberry Woodham, Johnathan Edward Woodham Sr., Asa Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr. Edward Sr.) | | |
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| <u>Mrs. Ella Perry Foster Zarr</u> | Bay Minette, Alabama | \$100 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my great grandmother, Icy Sophronia Skinner, daughter of Rachel Woodham (daughter of Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.) | | |
| <u>Mrs. Ruth Woodham</u> | Bishopville, Alabama | \$20 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my husband, Harris Middleton ("Jack") Woodham (Ernest Edward Woodham, Johnathan Edward Woodham, Asa Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.) | | |



Memorial Donations



Help Restore Your Historic Woodham Family Cemetery

Teresa Ann Wallace

Madison, Georgia

\$100

In Memory of: my great great grandmother, Harriett S. Woodham and her husband, William E. Hearon (Dorothy Ann Jenkins, Nancy Harriett Hearon, William Woodham Hearon, Harriett S. Woodham, Asa Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.)

Mrs. Delene Woodham

Pensacola, Florida

\$40

In Honor of: my husband, William Jessee Woodham Jr. (school principal, county school superintendent, college professor) (W. J. Woodham Sr., Aaron Thomas Woodham, John Wesley Woodham, Athanasius Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.)

Mrs. Jack Woodham

Tavares, Florida

\$50

In Memory of: my husband, Jack Howard Woodham (Hillary Hopewell Woodham, Joseph John Woodham, Reddick Woodham, Athanasius Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.)
(Editor's note: in a letter to us, Minnie stated she had made a contribution for the South Carolina Woodham Cemetery and sent this to the chairman of the Woodham Cemetery Committee in Dale County, Ala. It was mistakenly used on the Alabama cemetery.)

South Carolina Woodham Reunion

Bishopville, South Carolina

\$30

In Memory of: Robert Earl Woodham's mother, Mrs. Norma T. Woodham Parrish.

Send your memorial donations for the Cemetery Restoration Fund to:

Woodham Family Association

PO Box 1321

Dothan, Alabama 36302

Books On Two Woodham Family Cemeteries Will Be Given Donars

As a thank-you for those kinfolks who are considerate enough to make at least a \$50 donation toward restoration of our Woodham Family Cemetery in Lee County, South Carolina, our President and Family Historian Robert Earl Woodham will present such donars with a copy of books which he has prepared on each of our two Family Cemeteries in Dale County, Alabama and Lee County, SC.

Robert Earl has devoted a great deal of research and effort to this project. He has intervied numerous living relatives of people buried at the cemeteries, pored through old newspapers and obituaries and searched old deeds and mountains of other records to identify every person buried at both cemeteries. Each

book will have one or more pages on every person buried at the cemetery. It will contain a brief history of the person, their ancestry and such personal information as we have learned. If the exact location of their grave is know, this will be included. For persons with tombstones, the location of the grave, along with the inscription.

The books will also include a general history of the cemeteries, detailed location information with maps and more. In the case of the Dale County Woodham Cemetery, that book will include a history of the cemetery's restoration and activities of the Cemetery Committee.

The books will be soft-cover and spiral-bound. We will not issue these books until we have sufficient funds to begin restoration. Interested persons other than donars may purchase copies at \$20 each plus \$2 postage.

Woodham Family Journal

News of the Woodham Family of America

Vol. 19, No. 1

Official Publication of the Woodham Family Association

Feb., 1997

Books Completed Which Tells Story Of Our Historic Woodham Family Cemeteries

Two new books have just been completed which tell the story of our historic Woodham Family Cemeteries near Newton, Dale County, Alabama and in the Stokes Bridge Community of Lee County, South Carolina.

Our Woodham Family Cemetery in Dale County was restored between 1987 and 1990 by relatives who formed a Cemetery Committee and raised funds to install a fence, picnic shed, restrooms, water well, several new tombstones for the oldest ancestors buried there and much more.

We are working now to raise funds to restore the Family Cemetery in Lee County, SC where the ancestors of ALL our Southern Woodham family are buried.

The two books contain information on every known person buried at each of our Family Cemeteries: at least one page is devoted to each person. It includes a great deal of information on family history (names of parents, spouse, children, etc.), occupation, religion, obituaries, military records and other data.

The books were prepared by the Woodham Family Historian, Robert Earl Woodham, to be presented free to all relatives who contribute significant amounts toward the restoration of our Woodham Family Cemetery at Stokes Bridge. He has spent a great deal of time and effort to interview dozens of our oldest living relatives; researched old courthouse records, deeds, newspapers and church records to learn as much as possible about our ancestors buried at these two family burying grounds.

The book on the Woodham Family Cemetery in Dale County, Alabama contains 338 pages and that on the Cemetery in Lee County, SC contains 182 pages.

As part of his contribution for the restoration effort, Robert Earl is giving the books to every relative who makes a minimum contribution of at least \$50 for restoration of the Cemetery. So this valuable information on our ancestors will not be lost to future generations, copies of the books will also be given to several local libraries and the State Archives in Alabama and South Carolina.

EVERY descendant of the Woodham family is urged to help restore *Your* Woodham Family Cemetery. If you are a Woodham or descendant of a Woodham, these are your ancestors buried here. They include Edward Woodham Jr., who served as a soldier in the American Revolutionary War for Independence (1775-1783).

If you would like to know how you are descended from your relatives buried in Woodham Family Cemetery, please contact our family historian by mail or telephone (Saturday or Sunday nights is best to call).

New Address

We Have A New Address:

Due to the heart attacks suffered by our president and family historian, Robert Earl, he decided to move permanently to Columbus, Ga. to be closer to his sister and brother. Help us spread the word. Our new mailing address until we get a post office box will be:

Woodham Family Association

1130 Celia Drive

Columbus, Georgia 31907

Telephone:

(706) 660-8530



Memorial Donations



Memorial Donations To Restore Your Woodham Family Cemetery

If you are a Woodham or descendant of a Woodham, you are urged to support restoration of your Woodham Family Cemetery located in the Stokes Bridge Community, Lee County, South Carolina. This historic Woodham burying ground was founded about 1799 or 1800 by your ancestors. It is the resting place of Edward Woodham Jr., who served as a soldier in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War—a real American hero and his wife Rachel Beasley--the "mother and father" of our Woodham family. We need funds for a chain-link fence, tombstones and restoration work.

The following relatives have made contributions (listed with their ancestry).

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------|
| <u>Brockington Graham Woodham Jr.</u> | Tryon, North Carolina | \$100 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my father, Brockington G. Woodham Sr., son of Stephen Middleton Woodham (son of John Wesley Woodham, Stephen Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.) | | |
| <u>Mary E. Wilson</u> | Pasadena, California | \$25 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my great grandmother, Sarah Ann R. Woodham, daughter of Aris Woodham and Rebecca Smith (Athanasius Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.) | | |
| <u>E. Jerome Woodham</u> | Marietta, Georgia | \$100 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my mother, Mrs. Ora Lee Smith Woodham, wife of William Allen Woodham of La-Grange, Georgia (Hessie Joshua Woodham Sr., William Hartwell Woodham, Aris Woodham, Edward Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.) | | |
| <u>Rosemary Woodham Bonifay</u> | Pensacola, Florida | \$50 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my father, Grady Cecil Woodham of Geneva County, Ala. (John Talbot Woodham, John Robert Woodham, Edward Hartwell Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.) (two donations) | | |
| <u>Frederick Sidney ("Fred") Woodham</u> | Brooks, Georgia | \$100 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my father, Owen Frederick Woodham of Darlington County, SC (Thomas Emberry Woodham, Johnathan Edward Woodham Sr., Asa Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr. Edward Sr.) | | |
| <u>Ica Ida Woodham Lovett</u> | Mayflower, Arkansas | \$10 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my father Oscar Lee Woodham (Francis Marion Woodham, John Nelson Woodham, Ira Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.) | | |
| <u>Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Dowling Woodham</u> | Bishopville, South Carolina | \$25 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> Robert Earl Woodham's mother, Mrs. Norma Turnage Woodham Parrish (widow of Rufus Woodham) (John Wesley Woodham, Ira Edward Woodham, Edward Christopher Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.) | | |
| <u>Mrs. Ella Perry Foster Zarr</u> | Bay Minette, Alabama | \$100 |
| <i>In Memory of:</i> my great grandmother, Icy Sophronia Skinner, daughter of Rachel Woodham (daughter of Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.) | | |





Memorial Donations



Help Restore Your Historic Woodham Family Cemetery

Mrs. Ruth Woodham Bishopville, South Carolina \$20
In Memory of: my husband, Harris Middleton ("Jack") Woodham, son of Ernest Edward Woodham (Johnathan Edward Woodham, Asa Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.)

Teresa Ann Wallace Madison, Georgia \$100
In Memory of: my great great grandmother, Harriett S. Woodham and her husband, William E. Hearon (Dorothy Ann Jenkins, Nancy Harriett Hearon, William Woodham Hearon, Harriett S. Woodham, Asa Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.)

Mrs. Delene Woodham Pensacola, Florida \$40
In Honor of: my husband, William Jesse Woodham Jr. (school principal, county school superintendent, college professor) (W. J. Woodham Sr., Aaron Thomas Woodham, John Wesley Woodham, Athanasius Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.)

Mrs. Jack Woodham Tavares, Florida \$50
In Memory of: my husband, Jack Howard Woodham (Hillary Hopewell Woodham, Joseph John Woodham, Reddick Woodham, Athanasius Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr., Edward Jr., Edward Sr.)
 (Editor's note: in a letter to us, Minnie stated she had made a contribution for the South Carolina Woodham Cemetery and sent this to the chairman of the Woodham Cemetery Committee in Dale County, Ala. It was mistakenly used on the Alabama cemetery.)

South Carolina Woodham Reunion Bishopville, South Carolina \$30
In Memory of: Robert Earl Woodham's mother, Mrs. Norma T. Woodham Parrish.

Mrs. Grady C. (Zenobia) Woodham Pensacola, Florida \$70
In Memory of: my husband, Grady Cecil Woodham (John Talbot Woodham, Johnathan Robert Woodham, Edward Harley Woodham Sr., Edward Woodham Jr. Edward Woodham Sr.) (Zenobia sent in \$100 and asked that it be divided between dues, a donation to buy English records and the cemetery)

Everett Wade Woodham Jr. Bartlesville, Oklahoma \$50
In Memory of: my father, Everett Wade ("Monk") Woodham Sr. (Levin Oscar Woodham, Athanasius Jehu Woodham Jr., Athanasius J. Woodham Sr., Athanasius Woodham, Aris Woodham Sr. Edward Woodham Jr. Edward Woodham Sr.)

Send Memorial Donations to restore your

Woodham Family Cemetery

to:

Woodham Family Association

1130 Celia Drive

Columbus, Georgia 31907

Weddings

Woodham -- Thomas

DOTHAN, Ala.—David Lynn Woodham and Teresa Ann Thomas Haas were married here 15 Mar., 1996.

David is the son of the late John David (David) Woodham and Bonita Mae Trawick. He is a grandson of John Henry Woodham and Mary Lucille Kirkland.

Teresa is the daughter of Robert H. Thomas and Nina Sue Rogers.

Family Tree

- Edward Woodham Sr. -- Eleanor
- Edward Woodham Jr. -- Mary
- Edward H. Woodham Sr. -- Sarah Dowling
- Frederick Woodham Mary Ann Pollard
- Andrew Jackson Woodham -- Eliza Ann Richardson
- John Edward ("Ed") Woodham -- Penetta J. Bolton
- John Henry Woodham -- Mary Lucille Kirkland
- John David Woodham -- Bonita Trawick
- David Lynn Woodham -- Teresa Ann Thomas

Woodham -- Baxley

DOTHAN, Ala.— Ronald Foy Woodham Jr. and Kimberly Ann Baxley were married at Camp Springs Baptist Church in Columbia, Ala. 7 Sept., 1996.

Ronald is the son of Ronald Foy Woodham Sr. and Janice Faye ("Jane") Nolin of Dothan. He is a grandson of Travis Foy (Foy) Woodham and Isophine Green of Dothan.

He is employed with Big 10 Tires of Dothan as assistant manager.

Kimberly Ann is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Roger Baxley of Headland. She is a granddaughter of Mrs. Nell Ward of Abbeville and the late Robert Ward and Mrs. Ruby Baxley of Headland.

She is a 1991 graduate of Dale County High School in Midland City. Kimberly is employed as a dental hygienist with Dr. Jeff Beasley in Dothan.



Family Tree

- Edward Woodham Sr. -- Eleanor
- Edward Woodham Jr. -- Mary
- Aris Woodham Sr. -- Rachel Beasley
- Athanasius Woodham -- Mary Ann Kelly
- Reddick Woodham -- Clarissa Goff
- James Travis Woodham -- Harriett Brewer
- Wiley Eveatus Woodham -- Mary Leanora Fuller
- Travis Foy Woodham -- Isophine Green
- Ronald Foy Woodham Sr. -- Janice Faye Nolin
- Ronald Foy Woodham Jr. -- Kimberly Ann Baxley

Woodham -- Hall

DOTHAN, Ala.—Rickey Lynn Woodham and Sarah Jane Hall were married at Sulligent, Ala. 20 Apr., 1995.

Rickey is the son of James Edward Woodham of Dothan and Mrs. Roslyn Green Cooper. He is the grandson of the late Henry Malcolm Woodham and Virginia Goodman.

Sarah is the daughter of Donzell B. Hall and Elizabeth R. Ray.

It was the second marriage for Rickey. It was the third marriage for Sarah. The couple was residing in Dothan.

Family Tree

- Edward Woodham Sr. -- Eleanor
- Edward Woodham Jr. -- Mary
- Aris Woodham Sr. -- Rachel Richardson
- Athanasius Woodham -- Mary Ann Kelly
- Reddick Woodham -- Clarissa Goff
- Joseph J. Woodham -- Epsy Truitt
- Henry Malcolm Woodham -- Virginia Goodman
- James Edward Woodham -- Roslyn Green
- Rickey Lynn Woodham -- Sarah Jane Hall

NOTE:

When you hear of a marriage in our family, PLEASE write and tell us the details. If you see a wedding or engagement article in your local newspaper, please clip it out, along with the name and date of the paper from the top of the page and send to us to preserve in our Family Library and to print in the family newsletter.

Letters :

The next several pages are copies of *some* of the letters sent in by relatives who have made contributions toward the restoration of our Woodham Family Cemetery.

June 3rd 1993

Dear Earl,

Thank you for all you do for the Woodham Family Association. I'm enclosing a check for 15⁰⁰ toward the Cemetery of Stokes Bridge in Bishopville. My Parents were buried there. Gregg & Colene Woodham.

Sincerely,

Juanita Woodham Cettino
2538 Lake Capin Dr.
Dithonia, Ga. 30058

NITA CUTTINO
2538 LAKE CAPRI DRIVE
LITHONIA, GA 30058



Woodham Family Association
P.O. Box 1321
Gotham,
Ala. 36302

MEMO FROM
Woody Woodham

6/3/93

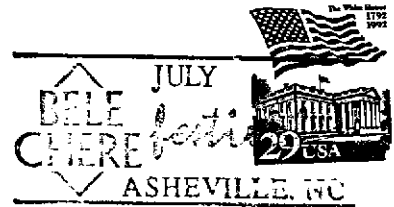
Robert Earl -

Attached is my check for \$10⁰⁰ for Woodham Family Assoc Dues and \$100⁰⁰ for the Cemetery Restoration fund. Hope you can get the necessary support for the Committee.

also was delighted to see that Woodham Family History Vol I is going to be ready this summer. according to my records I sent you a check back in July of 87 for Vol I. Looking forward to receiving my copy.

Have you considered getting a non-profit status from IRS. It might help you get contributions if they were tax deductible. There must be a Woodham Lawyer who could do this for you. Keep up the good work! Why don't you publicize a map in the News Letter of the Cemetery location for the out of town Woodham's

Mr & Mrs. B. G. Woodham Jr
204 Marion Street
Tryon, NC 28782



WOODHAM Family Assoc.
P.O. Box 1321
DOTHAN ALA ~~36024~~ 36302

8-27-93

P.O. Box 574

MAYFLOWER, AR.

Td 106

Enclosed is my check for
\$10.00. for the restoration of
the cemetery.

Also enclosed is information
on the death of my brother
Wesley Woodham.

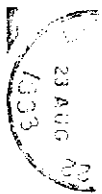
He was retired from Texaco
Corp. in Steel Rock, Ar. He
served in WW II.

He lived in Mayflower Ar.
and was buried in Mayflower
Cemetery.

Ica Woodham Lovett

ICRA Lovett
P.O. Box 574
MAYPOURSE, AK.
99500

Woodham Family Association
P.O. Box 1321
Dothan, Ala.
36302



Dear Robert Soble;

I enclose a check as a memorial for your Mother to be used for the cemetery restoration or some purpose that you think would please her. Again, our deepest sympathy goes out to you.

You were missed at the Woodham reunion & enclose a substitute cup of the event.



Mr. Robert Earle Woodham
 Woodham Family Ass.
 P.O. Box 1321
 Dothan Alabama 36302

We enjoyed the
 Woodham Family Journal.
 You and your assistants
 do a superb job getting
 out the news of the
 Woodhams. Thanks.
 I enclose check
 for annual member-
 ship to the journal.
 Love,
 Mary Ann
 Sept. 2,
 1993

Mrs. Andrew Dowling Woodham SR.
 Bishopville, SC

PPFG Insurance & Financial Services
245 North Main Street Suite A ▲ Post Office Box 566, Bishopville, South Carolina 29010-0566
(803) 484-5330 FAX (803) 484-9226



September 22, 1993

Marion W. Woodham, President
Representing Your Security

Robert Earl Woodham
P.O. Box 1321
Dothan, AL 36302

Dear Robert,

I am writing to you on behalf of the entire Woodham family. Our reunion on August 8 was a wonderful success, but the entire family was sorry that you could not attend this year's reunion.

On behalf of the Woodham family, I would like to express my condolences on the loss of your mother. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you go through this time of sorrow.

Enclosed with my letter is a check for \$30.00. The reunion committee suggested I send it to you as a contribution to the cemetery fund. Please know we are all thinking about you during this most difficult time.

Robert, if you are ever in Lee County, by all means stop by my office or give me a call. The number at my office is 484-5330, and my home phone number is 669-4455, you can call me collect. I would really enjoy hearing from you.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marion Woodham". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the typed name.

Marion Woodham



Independent Insurance Agents of South Carolina
The National Association of Life Underwriters
National Association of Health Underwriters

Teresa Wallace
P. O. Box 655
Madison, Georgia 30650

November 16, 1993

Dear Cousin Robert,

Please forgive me for being so long in getting back with you. What can I say but that life has been spinning since July.

Thank you very much for your reply to my letter and for all the information that you sent.

Enclosed please find my check for \$132.00 to be used as follows:

\$10.00	membership Woodham Family Association
\$22.00	Woodham Family History, Vol. I
\$100.00	Restoration of the Woodham Family Cemetery

I hope the enclosed information will be of some help to you.

Thank you for all you do to perserve our family heritage.

Your cousin,

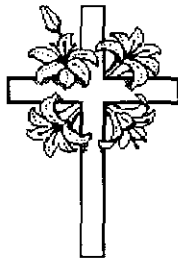


Teresa Wallace

Our Ancestors

Woodham Family Cemetery

Stokes Bridge Community
Lee County, South Carolina



Our Ancestors Buried At Woodham Cemetery

The information on persons buried at our Woodham Family Cemetery was obtained from a wide variety of sources. These sources include the Aris Woodham Sr. Family Bible, wills, estate records, newspaper obituaries, newspaper articles, surviving tombstones from the Cemetery, United States Census records, deeds, marriage records, published history books, and other types of information.

In addition, the author also personally interviewed a large number of living relatives to obtain knowledge of who is buried at the Cemetery and information about them. Among these were Bettie Kelley Jackson, daughter of Elaine Elizabeth ("Lannie") Woodham; Judy Virginia Woodham Price; Annie Laura Beasley Woodham, daughter of Aurelia Woodham and Annie's husband, Clifford Edward Woodham; Harris Middleton ("Jack") Woodham and his wife Ruth; Tessie Elizabeth Woodham Segars; Theo Elizabeth Woodham Lang; Mrs. Charles Woodham; Guthrie W. Woodham Sr.; Gedelle Skinner Culpepper, granddaughter of Elizabeth Elaine ("Lannie") Woodham and John Creighton Skinner, who was also the son of Pheriba Jane Woodham (Gedelle was the owner at the time of the Aris Woodham Sr. Family Bible--the oldest known Woodham family bible); Benjamin Tillman Woodham Sr.; Gary Woodham; Tracy Skinner, son of Henry Eva ("Hennie") Woodham and Hugh M. Skinner who was a grandson of Pheriba Jane Woodham; and many others.

Many other relatives have provided information by correspondence.

The Darlington County Historian and director of the Darlington County Archives, H. F. Rudisell, has also been helpful in providing information. Several of the newspaper obituaries came from his collection at the Darlington County Archives.



ARIS WOODHAM Senior

3 July, 1771

11 June, 1818

*Farmer, Businessman, Blacksmith and
One of America's First Methodist Ministers*

Aris Woodham Senior was born 3 July, 1771 in what was then part of Dobbs County, North Carolina, in the Falling Creek community near Institute and La-Grange--now part of Lenoir County. He was the son of Edward Woodham Junior and his wife Mary. His name was taken from early "saints" of the Christian church and has been handed down in the Woodham family to the 1990's.

Aris Senior moved about 1784 with his parents to Old Darlington District and settled in the Stokes Bridge Community of what is today part of Lee County, South Carolina. He remained there for the rest of his life.

He married Rachel Beasley on 14 Feb., 1791 in old Darlington District. She was the daughter of John Beasley Senior and his wife Margaret Smith. They had eleven (11) children: Athanasius ("Atha") Woodham who married (1) Mary Ann Kelly and (2) Nancy Elizabeth Barfield; Asa Woodham who married Elaine Elizabeth ("Laney") Dubose; Edward Woodham who married Clarissa; John Woodham; Aris Woodham Junior who married (1) Rachel Richardson and (2) Caron H. Riley; Margaret Woodham who married Samuel Andrews; Pheriba ("Fereba", "Feriba") Woodham who married Jehu Mixon Junior; Rachel Woodham who married Asa Skinner; Stephen Woodham who married Permelia Moore; Ira Woodham who married Amelia Ann Stuckey; and Louisa Dupree Woodham who died young.

Aris became a blacksmith and manufactured farm tools and implements for people in the area. Blacksmiths provided a vital industry to their communities for thou-
continued...

ARIS WOODHAM Senior, continued...

Aris was a fairly wealthy man for his time and neighborhood. He accumulated ownership of far more than the average amount of land and had an additionally very good income from his blacksmithing profession and milling and ginning businesses. He was apparently highly respected by the community as attested by the fact he witnessed numerous documents and deeds during his lifetime for friends and neighbors--a sure sign of trust.

Aris Became One of America's First Methodist Ministers

Although he was very conscious of providing well for his family, Aris was also deeply aware of man's spiritual needs and for faith in his God. Aris' faith left its mark upon his family for generations to come.

After the Revolutionary War and the Colonies gained their independence, Americans began leaving the old established Church of England (Anglican Church), which had been the state religion of the mother country, England and of our ancestors. With American independence, almost everything English was frowned upon, including the Anglican religious denomination.

A wave of religious revival swept the new nation starting in the late 1790's and early 1800's. This was the age when Methodism was born in the South. Francis Asbury, who organized the Methodist Church in America and became the first Bishop of the Methodist Church in the United States, visited Aris Woodham's home on several of his annual tours of the South.

Bishop Asbury ordained James Jenkins as the first Superintendent of the Methodist Church in South Carolina. Reverend Jenkins helped establish numerous Methodist churches and societies in South Carolina during this period. He became a frequent visitor to Aris Woodham's home. Jenkins kept a diary and later published it as a book. It is the first major history of Methodism in the South, written by the man who actually founded it.

Reverend Jenkins recorded a visit he made to the area now known as the Stokes Bridge Community in 1802. This was for one of the first camp meetings ever held in America--a unique type of religious gathering, held at Boggy Gully, a small branch that joined with Sparrow Swamp, another branch, in the center of the Com-

ARIS WOODHAM Senior, continued...

munity. Gully Meeting House (Methodist Church) was erected on this site. People of all faiths for miles around would gather at these camp meetings.

Reverend Jenkins described the night when he was preaching, became worn out and retired while Reverend Shaw took over the pulpit. Sometime that night, Aris accepted Jesus as his saviour and was converted. Reverend Jenkins later ordained Aris as a Methodist minister, probably the following year in 1803. Aris remained a Methodist minister until his death.

"He was one of the most industrious and untiring preachers"

"He was one of the most industrious and untiring local preachers I ever saw; he might be depended on to meet his appointments at any season of the year: he frequently worked hard all day, and then held one or two night meetings through the week. Jenkins said of Aris. These very warm words from a very great church leader gives us a wonderful insight into the character of our ancestor. Aris must have been a very admirable and marvelous man!

Jenkins wrote that Aris "...always acknowledged me to be his spiritual father." They apparently became close friends and Jenkins was a frequent visitor to the Woodham home.

Bishop Asbury was also welcomed to the Woodham home frequently and mentioned some of these visits in his published diary, including one on 14 Jan., 1807 when he had dinner with the Woodham family during his annual Southern tour.

During one of the camp meetings, Aris assumed the pulpit and preached all night long. This was customary at the time: several ministers would attend and when one tired, another would take over and services went on practically non-stop except for meals.



✚ ARIS WOODHAM Senior, continued... 📖

The camp meeting at Gully Meeting House was organized by Reverend Jenkins following a highly successful one he and other ministers held in June, 1802 at Hanging Rock, SC--the first such gathering held in South Carolina. The meeting at Gully was the second such ever held in the state. Gully Meeting House later became Wesley Chapel Methodist Church.

Jenkins later ordained Aris as a Methodist minister. Two of Aris' brothers-in-law, Stephen Thompson and Lewis Pipkin, also became Methodist ministers during this period. All three men married sisters, daughters of John Beasley Sr. and Margaret Smith.

Aris continued his service to Christianity throughout the remainder of his life. In the first surviving list of ministers for the Lynches Creek Circuit of the Methodist Church, published in the Quarterly Conference Minutes in 1817 [the year he died], Aris is one of the 11 local ministers named for the 24 societies in the conference. Most of these societies at the time were small groups of neighbors meeting in the homes of each other or at the minister's home. Several later consolidated to form churches and built permanent church buildings.

The 1817 document is the oldest record of the Methodist Church for the Lynches Creek Circuit. No local church records exist before then. As a result, I am unable to determine what church or society Aris served as a minister. Very likely, he served more than one group. He held Bible classes two or three nights a week as well as regular services on Sundays.

His service as a minister including performing many early marriages in the area. One such ceremony was the wedding of Noah Galloway and Angeline Truett on 28 Sept., 1815. Continuing a long tradition in the Christian church, Aris also "published" citations on various public documents--or read them from his pulpit before local congregations. This tradition went back centuries in our English homeland, where such documents as deeds, wills and probate records were the responsibility of the Church; they were "published", or read by a minister in the churches [long before newspapers existed].



✠ ARIS WOODHAM Senior, continued... 📖

In addition to Gully Meeting House [later to be called Wesley Chapel], Aris was probably responsible for helping found several other Methodist churches in old Darlington District in the area which is now Darlington County and Lee County. He may have helped found Cypress Methodist Church. However, I do not know as yet *when* this church was established. His widow Rachel and one of his sons, Stephen, were active in this church. As with most of the churches in the area, there are very few records from their earliest period and their complete histories are sorely lacking in records. The oldest church membership list for Cypress is from the year 1840 and names Rachel and Stephen as members.

From the time that Reverend Jenkins ordained Aris as a Methodist minister, Aris continued to serve his community as a preacher until his death in 1818. One of the documents in his estate records refers to him as "Reverend Ariss Woodham" [Revd.], indicating he was still active in the ministry.

Aris showed his great love for his wife and children by providing generously for them in his will, dated in 1818 just before his death. He left each of his children land, slaves or money, making sure each had a fair share of his property. He had already provided farms for some of his older sons before this. Part of his land is still in the Woodham family to this day, including the original "home" place surrounding the Woodham Family Cemetery.

Aris Woodham Senior died 11 June, 1818 and was buried at the Woodham Family Cemetery on one of his plantations. Reverend Jenkins preached his funeral. His wife Rachel and parents were later buried with him.

The tombstone which was erected over his grave has been lost. It was removed along with others from the Woodham Family Cemetery when the graveyard was destroyed several years ago. Very likely, there were probably many others already buried at Woodham Family Cemetery before Aris, including his grandmother Eleanor and especially infants and children. However, his burial is the first *known* burial that we have an exact date for.





RACHEL BEASLEY

(Mrs. ARIS WOODHAM Senior)

22 Mar., 1773

7 Apr., 1861

Rachel Beasley was born 22 March, 1773 in North Carolina. She was the daughter of John Beasley Senior and Margaret Smith.

Rachel was one of at least ten (10) children of John and Margaret. Her father was a veteran of the Revolutionary War, having served as a soldier in the North Carolina Militia during the war for American Independence. She moved with her parents to Old Darlington District, settling in the area which is now part of Stokes Bridge Community of Lee County, South Carolina sometime in the late 1700's.

Rachel married Aris Woodham Senior on 13 Feb., 1791 in Darlington District. They had eleven (11) children. Rachel and Aris lived in Stokes Bridge for the remainder of their lives. They owned several different small plantations. In addition to being a planter, Aris was also a blacksmith and bought a cotton gin and grist mill from his father, Edward Woodham Junior. The cotton gin was one of the first commercial cotton gins in the world. Her husband also became one of the first Methodist ministers in the United States.

Aris Senior died in 1818, leaving Rachel with several minor children to raise. Their son Edward Woodham moved to Washington County, Georgia and had at least three children (possibly four). Edward died about 1821 in Georgia. His widow Clarissa brought the three known orphans back to South Carolina and left them in the care of their grandmother Rachel. Clarissa remarried and left the area, never to be heard from again. No one knows what happened to her. Rachel raised these three grandchildren, with the help of her brother-in-law Edward H. Woodham Sr. and her own older sons and daughters.

Continued...

RACHEL BEASLEY, continued...

After her husband's death, Rachel remained active in Methodist Church affairs. She is listed in 1840 as a member of the Cypress Methodist Church. Rachel witnessed the will of Moses Sanders on 7 Nov., 1838 when he willed a gift of \$8,000 (a very large sum at the time) to the Methodist Church "at Darlington Court House & preachers of said circuit & Pee Dee Mission."

The Stokes Bridge community, which covers a large area of present Lee County on the north side of Lynch's River, has only two churches that I know of, Hebron Methodist Church and Savannah Advent Christian Church. Both have their origins with the Woodham family and both continue to be citadels of our family to this day. The oldest known membership list of Hebron Methodist Church is for 1840. This is probably two years after the church was formed; the membership included Rachel's son Asa, his wife and their son. Rachel very likely joined Hebron after it was founded since it was much closer to her home than Cypress Methodist Church. However, the scant few membership lists available do not list her.

In her later years, Rachel lived with her son Asa, who inherited the homeplace and "home" farm from his father. Rachel prepared her will in 1859 and named each of her children in it, including the children of her deceased children Athanasius, Edward, Margaret and Ira. The only children not named were John and Louisa Dupree, both of whom had already died young without marrying.

Rachel died 7 Apr., 1861 and was buried beside her husband Aris Senior in the Woodham Family Cemetery in Stokes Bridge Community which had been established on their home farm. Her grave was marked with a tombstone at one time according to relatives but this stone was lost when the Woodham Family Cemetery was destroyed.



HUSBAND'S NAME ARIS (Ariss, Arias, etc.) WOODHAM Senior Date _____

When Born 3 July, 1771 Where Lenoir County, North Carolina Compiler ROBERT EARL WOODHAM

When Died 11 June, 1818 Where Lee County, South Carolina Address _____

When Buried _____ Where Woodham Cemetery, Lee Co., SC City _____ State _____

When Married 14 February, 1791 Where Darlington (Lee) County, SC _____

Other Wives Number 1,2, etc. _____

His Father EDWARD WOODHAM Junior His Mother's Maiden Name MARY _____

His Grandfather EDWARD WOODHAM Senior His Grandmother ELEANOR _____

WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME RACHEL BEASLEY

When Born 22 March, 1773 Where North Carolina _____

When Died 7 April, 1861 Where Lee County, South Carolina _____

When Buried _____ Where Woodham Cemetery, Lee Co., SC _____

Other Husbands Number 1,2, etc. _____

Her Father JOHN BEASLEY Senior Her Mother's Maiden Name MARGARET SMITH _____

Her Grandfather _____ Her Grandmother _____

_____ Aris Woodham Family Bible
 _____ will of Aris Woodham Sr.,
 _____ Darlington Co., SC
 _____ estate records of Aris Sr.,
 _____ Darlington Co., SC
 _____ will of Mrs. Rachel Woodham
 _____ will of Edward Woodham Jr.
 _____ 1800, 1810, 1850, 1860 US
 _____ Census records

Male or Female	CHILDREN (In order of birth)	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN		State or Country	WHEN DIED			MARRIED	
		Day	Month	Year	City	County		Day	Month	Year	Who	When
M	1 ATHANASIUS ("Atha")	10	Jan	1792	Darlington		S. C.			1856	Who	(1) MARY ANN KELLY
M	2 ASA WOODHAM	3	July	1795	(area now		"			Dec 1869	Who	(2) NANCY E. BARFIELD
M	3 EDWARD WOODHAM	6	Feb.	1796	part of Lee)		"			ca 1821	Who	ELAINE ("Laney") DuBose
M	4 JOHN WOODHAM	14	Apr.	1798			"				Who	ca 1820
M	5 ARIS WOODHAM Jr.	27	June	1801			"			1880	Who	CLARISSA
F	6 MARGARET WOODHAM	14	Sept	1803			"			ca 1849	Who	
F	7 PHERIBA ("Fereby, Feriba")	13	Apr.	1805			"			1878	Who	(1) RACHEL RICHARDSON
F	8 RACHEL WOODHAM	3	May	1808			"			31 Jan 1895	Who	(2) CARON H. RILEY
M	9 STEPHEN WOODHAM	27	May	1811			"			12 May 1892	Who	SAMUEL ANDREWS
M	10 IRA WOODHAM	2	Feb.	1814			"			ca 1838	Who	JEHU MIXON Jr.
F	11 LOUISA DUPREE WOODHAM	29	July	1816			"			24 Jan 1834	Who	ca 1820
	12										Who	ASA SKINNER
	13										Who	6 July, 1826
	14										Who	PERMELIA MOORE
											Who	13 February, 1834
											Who	AMELIA ANN STUCKEY
											Who	never married ?
											Who	
											Who	
											Who	



RACHEL RICHARDSON

(Mrs. ARIS WOODHAM Junior)

about 1801

1830

Rachel Richardson was born about 1801 in the Stokes Bridge community of Old Darlington District, now part of Lee County, South Carolina. She was the daughter of Joseph Richardson.

Rachel married Aris Woodham Junior about 1818. He was the son of Reverend Aris Woodham Sr. and Rachel Beasley and a grandson of Edward Woodham Jr. and his wife Mary. Rachel Richardson and Aris Jr. had at least six children--only four of whom are known. A son and a daughter may have died as small children *or* these may have been two of the orphans of Aris' brother Edward Woodham who died young in Georgia. Edward's three (or four) children were brought back to South Carolina and raised by their grandmother, uncles and great uncle and stayed at various times in the households of all these relatives.

Their known children were Joseph Reddick Woodham; Edward Christopher ("Chris"; "C. C.") Woodham; Elemiah A. C. Woodham (who married Lewis Bowden); and Prudence Jane Woodham (who married John Wilson Dean).

Rachel and Aris Jr. lived in the Stokes Bridge Community for the rest of her life. They lived near his father. They were a farming family.

She was given a slave by her father Joseph Richardson in 1820 and another slave in 1821. Her father stated in the deeds that he was giving her the slave "for the Love, goodwill and natural affection" he had for his "beloved daughter"; Joseph also named Rachel as the wife of Aris Woodham in the deeds of gift.

Continued...

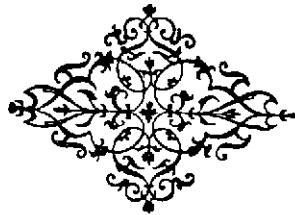
RACHEL RICHARDSON, continued...

Rachel died in 1830. She was buried in her husband's family cemetery, the only known cemetery in the immediate area at the time. Considering the date of death and the fact that few burials in the South at that time were marked because of a lack of native stone, it is doubtful that her grave ever had a tombstone.

Aris Junior married Caron H. Riley on 25 Dec., 1831 at Stokes Bridge. In 1832, he began a long trek westward to the frontier of southeast Alabama, at that time still part of the Creek Indian nation. Aris Jr. and his children were accompanied on this move by his brother Athanasius Woodham and his children and their families and their uncle, Edward Harley Woodham Sr. with his children's families plus several children of their aunt, Mary Woodham Alexander as well as many neighbors. Aris Jr. died in 1880 and is buried at the Woodham Family Cemetery near Newton, Dale County, Alabama.

Descendants of these relatives who made the move to Alabama now constitute the largest branch of our Woodham family. They and the descendants of Rachel are concentrated in Dale, Houston, Geneva and Henry counties of the "Wiregrass" region of southeast Alabama with the largest number living in or near Dothan, Alabama.

None of Rachel's children or descendants remained in South Carolina, so her grave has remained virtually forgotten since the 1830's.



HUSBAND'S NAME ARIS (Ariss, Arius, etc.) WOODHAM Junior

When Born 2 June, 1801 Where Darlington (Lee) County, S.C.

When Died 1880 Where Dale County, Alabama

When Buried _____ Where Woodham Cemetery, Dale Co., Ala.

When Married (1) about 1818 Where Stokes Bridge, Lee County, SC

Other Wives Number 1,2,etc. (2) CARON H. RILEY (3) CLARISSA E. CLARK

His Father ARIS WOODHAM Senior His Mother's Maiden Name RACHEL BEASLEY

His Grandfather EDWARD WOODHAM Junior His Grandmother MARY

Date _____

Compiler ROBERT EARL WOODHAM

Address _____

City _____ State _____

This information obtained from _____

Aris Woodham Sr. Family Bible
Darlington Co., SC Deed records,
deed of gift from Joseph
Richardson to his daughter
Darlington Co., SC Estate recs.
Dale Co., Ala. deed records
Florence Hester Woodham
Lon Woodham
1820, 1830 Darlington Co.,
SC Census records

WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME (1) RACHEL RICHARDSON

When Born circa 1801 Where Darlington (Lee) County, S.C.

When Died 1830 Where Stokes Bridge, Lee County, S.C.

When Buried _____ Where Woodham Cemetery, Lee Co., S.C.

Other Husbands Number 1,2,etc. _____

Her Father JOSEPH RICHARDSON Her Mother's Maiden Name _____

Her Grandfather _____ Her Grandmother _____

Male or Female	CHILDREN (In order of birth)	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN			State or Country	WHEN DIED			MARRIED	
		Day	Month	Year	City	County	Day		Month	Year	Who	When	
M	1 WOODHAM	ca		1819	Darlington		S. C.			1840	Who	nm; killed in knife	
M	2 JOSEPH REDDICK WOODHAM			1820	(area now		"	20	Oct.	1864	Who	fight over politics	
M	3 EDWARD CHRISTOPHER ("Chris" "C.C.")			1824	of Lee Co.)		"	(aft		1907)	Who	CANDICE RILEY	
F	4 ELEMIAH A. C. WOODHAM	ca		1825			"	ca		1843	Who	(1) JOANNA RILEY	
F	5 PRUDENCE JANE WOODHAM	11	Oct.,	1827			"	21	Nov.	1891	Who	(2) LOUESTIA KENNEDY	
F	6 WOODHAM	ca		1829			"				Who	LEWIS BOWDEN	
	7										Who	3 July, 1837	
	8										Who	JOHN WILSON DEAN	
	9										Who	15 January, 1845	
	10										Who		
	11										Who		
	12										Who		
	13										Who		
	14										Who		

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ASA WOODHAM

3 July, 1795

Dec., 1868

Asa Woodham was born 3 July, 1795 in the Stokes Bridge Community of Old Darlington District in that part which is today now part of Lee County, South Carolina. He was a son of Reverend Aris Woodham Senior and Rachel Beasley and a grandson of Edward Woodham Junior and his wife Mary.

As a young man before his marriage, Asa was given slaves by his grandfather, Edward Woodham Junior, to get him started in life. Asa inherited land from his father Aris Sr. in 1818, including the "home plantation and house, which Aris had bought from his father Edward Junior. This is the plantation where the Woodham Family Cemetery was established as a family burial ground.

Asa married Elaine Elizabeth ("Laney", "Laine") Dubose about 1820. They had at least nine (9) children: Mahalia ("Mahaley") Woodham who married Christopher Columbus Mixon; Jared (Jarret, Jarot) Woodham; Pheriba Jane ("Fereba", "Ferebie") Woodham who married Simpson Skinner and second to William Lawson; Emberry Woodham; Mary Ann Woodham who married R. A. Mixon; Hugh Middleton ("Mid") Woodham; Johnathan Edward Woodham; Harriett S. Woodham who married William E. Hearon; and Jehu Woodham

In addition to the land he inherited from his father, Asa bought and sometime sold several other tracts of land during his lifetime. He eventually owned a considerable estate of land. In 1828, he acquired 396 acres, four tracts of 400 acres in 1833, 110 acres in 1854 and made other land dealings over the years.

He was a farmer all his life as well as a businessman. Asa also inherited his father's cotton gin and grist mill. It is not known whatever happened to these two industries, which were apparently the only two commercial operations in the area for a considerable time in the early 1800's.

Asa was active in the Methodist Church throughout his life. His father Aris Senior had been one of the first Methodist ministers in America. Asa was listed as a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church in a deed dated 1838. This may have been the occasion upon which Hebron Methodist Church was established. Prior to this, the family had worshipped at Cypress Methodist Church, which was located across Lynch's River.

ASA WOODHAM continued...

The oldest known membership list of Hebron Methodist Church in the Stokes Bridge Community, dated 1840, names Asa, his wife and a son as members. Asa was therefore probably a founding member of Hebron Church. To this day, Hebron has numerous Woodham descendants as members.

After the death of Aris Senior, Rachel lived in the old homeplace, which had been reserved to her for life. Asa and his family also lived in the home with Rachel. Asa took care of Rachel in her old age. She died in 1861.

Asa died in either December, 1868 or January, 1869. His estate was probated in February, 1869 by the administrator of his estate, Hugh Middleton Woodham, one of Asa's sons.

Asa was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery on the homeplace. His grave was marked with a tombstone but the marker was lost when the cemetery was destroyed. His wife was later buried beside him.





ELAINE ELIZABETH DUBOSE

("Laney"; "Laine")

(Mrs. ASA WOODHAM)

1803

1880

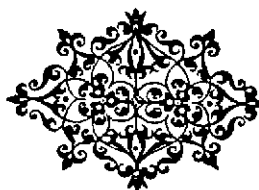
Elaine Elizabeth ("Laney"; "Laine") Dubose was born in 1803 in Old Darlington Districe (now part of Lee County), South Carolina. She was the daughter of Peter Dubose Junior and Elaine Worthington.

Laney married Asa Woodham about 1830. They had at least nine (9) children.

Laney and her husband were apparently founding members of Hebron Methodist Church. She , her husband and their son are listed as members on the oldest known church membership list, dated 1840.

She and Asa lived in the old Woodham homeplace which Asa inherited from his father Aris Woodham Sr. in 1818. They lived on this farm until their deaths. Laney survived her husband by ten years.

Laney died in 1880 and was buried beside her husband Asa. Her tombstone was lost when the Woodham Cemetery was destroyed.



HUSBAND'S NAME ASA WOODHAM Date _____

When Born 3 July, 1795 Where Darlington (now Lee) County, SC Compiler ROBERT EARL WOODHAM

When Died Dec. 1868 or Jan 1869 Where Stokes Bridge, Lee County, SC Address _____

When Buried _____ Where Woodham Cemetery, Lee County, SC City _____ State _____

When Married ca 1820 Where Darlington District, SC _____

Other Wives Number 1,2, etc. _____

His Father ARIS WOODHAM Senior His Mother's Maiden Name RACHEL BEASLEY Aris Woodham Sr. Family Bible

His Grandfather EDWARD WOODHAM Junior His Grandmother Mary Darlington Co., SC Deed records

WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME ELAINE ELIZABETH ("Laney"; "Laine") DUBOSE will of Aris Woodham Sr. 1818

When Born _____ 1803 Where Darlington (now Lee) County, SC "Dubose Genealogy"

When Died _____ 1880 Where Stokes Bridge, Lee County, SC estate deeds, Darlington Co.

When Buried _____ Where Woodham Cemetery, Lee Co., SC _____

Other Husbands Number 1,2, etc. _____

Her Father PETER DUBOSE Junior Her Mother's Maiden Name ELAINE WORTHINGTON Darlington Co., SC 1820 thru

Her Grandfather PETER DUBOSE Senior Her Grandmother _____ 1870 Census records

Male or Female	CHILDREN (In order of birth)	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN		State or Country	WHEN DIED			MARRIED
		Day	Month	Year	City	County		Day	Month	Year	
F	1 MAHALIA WOODHAM	15	Jan	1821	Darlington		S.C.	6	Jul	1837	Who <u>CHRISTOPHER C. MIXON</u> When <u>ca 1835</u>
M	2 JARED (Jarrett) WOODHAM			1823	(now part of		"	1	Oct.	1864	Who <u>ARGENT ELIZABETH KELLY</u> When <u>ca 1848</u>
F	3 PHERIBA JANE (Fereba)			1825	Lee County)		"	16	Apr.	1880	Who <u>SIMPSON SKINNER</u> When <u>(2) WILLIAM LAWSON</u>
M	4 EMBERRY WOODHAM	28	Sep.	1826	"		"	13	Aug	1878	Who <u>MAGERON ETHEL SKINNER</u> When <u>ca 1860</u>
F	5 MARY ANN WOODHAM	ca		1827	"		"				Who <u>R. A. MIXON</u> When _____
M	6 HUGH MIDDLETON ("Mid-") WOODHAM			1830	"		"	14	Aug	1899	Who <u>(1) CHARITY KELLY (2)</u> When <u>MARY HILL (3) SARAH P.</u>
M	7 JOHNATHAN EDWARD WOODHAM	11	Nov.	1832	"		"	22	Feb	1893	Who <u>SARAH MARTIN BRUCE</u> When <u>ca 1855</u>
F	8 HARRIETT S. WOODHAM	8	Apr.	1835	"		"	31	Oct	1910	Who <u>WILLIAM E. HEARON</u> When <u>ca 1855</u>
M	9 JEHU WOODHAM			1837	"		"			185-	Who _____ When _____
	10										Who _____ When _____
	11										Who _____ When _____
	12										Who _____ When _____
	13										Who _____ When _____
	14										Who _____ When _____

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Mrs. ELEANOR WOODHAM

(Mrs. EDWARD WOODHAM Senior)

Circa 1720

Circa 1805

Eleanor, whose maiden name is unknown as yet, was born probably in Prince George County, Virginia sometime in the 1720's.

Very little is known about Eleanor ("Elender"). To date, the names of her parents have not been discovered. With so precious few records available today on ordinary folks who lived in the Colonies during the 1700's, our historian has been able to find only *two* records naming Eleanor.

The "*Albemarle Parish Register*", a register of births, christenings, marriages and deaths for Anglican churches (Church of England) lists the christening of a daughter of Eleanor and her husband Edward Woodham (Senior, II). The child, Mary Woodham, was christened on 2 May, 1741. The Church of England was the "official" or state church of England and her colonies. These official national churches were required by law to record the births, christenings and marriages of members of the church, or parishoners. The Albemarle Parish included Prince George County where the Woodham family lived in the 1600's and 1700's.

It was customary to christen a child within a year or so after their birth and usually celebrated in the early spring after birth and almost always on a "high" holy day of the Church. Thus, this child, Mary Woodham, was probably born during the winter of 1740-41 or early spring of 1741.

Eleanor married Edward Woodham Senior sometime in the 1730's in Virginia but their marriage record has not been found. Unfortunately, many of the early public and church records of Virginia were destroyed by the British during the War of 1812 and especially by yankees during the War Between the States (1861-1865). Except for two court record books and a handful of other items, all the Prince George County, Virginia records were destroyed by yankees when they burned the county courthouse during the War.

Continued...

Mrs. ELEANOR WOODHAM, continued...

Only three children of Eleanor and Edward Senior's are known: Mary, Edward Junior and Frederick. However, there may have been others. It is not known whether Frederick ever married; he had no known surviving children. Mary apparently married a Wiggins.

Eleanor and Edward Sr. moved from the Colony of Virginia to the Colony of North Carolina sometime in the 1740's. They settled on the Tar River in what was then part of Granville County. This area may later have become part of Edgecombe County. Edward Sr. owned a farm on the Tar River during the 1740's. He served in the North Carolina Colonial Militia in Edgecombe County in the 1750's during the French and Indian War (1754-1763), known in Europe as the Seven Years War.

Edward Woodham Senior obtained a Colonial land grant in 1757 in what was then Dobbs County. The family moved to this area and lived there until Edward Sr. died in the early 1780's. Their farm was located in the fork of Falling Creek in the Institute Community near the town of LaGrange in what is today part of Lenoir County.

Their farm adjoined that of Richard Caswell, a prominent man who served as the first Governor of the new State of North Carolina after the American colonies declared their independence in 1776. Caswell also became a general of the North Carolina Militia and the American Continental Army (the federal army), in the American's fight against the British for freedom. Edward Senior served in the Dobbs County Militia with Caswell. However, by the time of the Revolution, he was listed as "too old or infirm" to serve on active military duty.

His son, Edward Woodham Junior did serve actively in the Dobbs County Militia with his neighbor Caswell, as well as in the Continental Army. The Woodham family were both neighbors and friends of Caswell who was named as administrator of the estate of John Woodham in 1767. The name Caswell still is used as a given name in the Woodham family to this day.

Edward Senior died between 1781 and 1784. Eleanor was named Administratrix of his estate. Dobbs County was later split into two counties, including Lenoir County. The Lenoir county courthouse burned in the 1870's and all the records of old Dobbs County were destroyed. The only remaining records of Dobbs County are a handful of state records, including a list of deeds registered during the 1780's, not the original deed records themselves. This list shows Eleanor ("Elender") sold their farm as Administratrix about 1784 and the deed was registered in 1785. This was when Eleanor and her son Edward Woodham Junior, his wife and children and several families of neighbors moved to Old Darlington District, South Carolina.

Continued...

Mrs. ELEANOR WOODHAM, continued...

Eleanor and her son settled in the Stokes Bridge Community of Old Darlington, where the Woodham family still lives to this day. Eleanor stayed with her son the rest of her life. This is apparent by the 1790 and 1800 US Census records which show an elderly female in Edward Junior's household. The 1810 US Census does not show such an elderly female, indicating Eleanor died some time between 1800 and 1810.

At that time, there were no church burial grounds in the area; in fact, there were no churches at all nearby. It was natural to bury relatives in family graveyards on your own land at that time. Eleanor was apparently the first adult buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery.

Her grave was probably never marked with a tombstone. During that period, stone grave markers had to be imported from out of state, since none was available in the settled coastal region of South Carolina. The cost for such imported items was too prohibitive for ordinary pioneer farm families.





EDWARD WOODHAM Junior

★ ★ ★ Revolutionary War Soldier, ★ ★ ★
Farmer, Mill Owner

1746

1820

Edward Woodham Junior was born in 1746, probably in Prince George County, Virginia. He was the son of Edward Woodham Senior and Eleanor (maiden name unknown).

Edward's father moved to the Granville District of what became Edgecombe County, in the Colony of North Carolina about 1747.

Edward Junior and his father later moved to that part of Johnston County which then became part of Dobbs County and still later part of Lenoir County, North Carolina. The area where they settled was in the forks of Falling Creek, near the Institute Community and the town of LaGrange, in northwest Lenoir County. Edward Junior obtained a land grant from the Royal Colony of North Carolina in 1766. This was for a tract of land near Falling Creek and near his father's farm in the forks of the creek. He and his father both appear on the 1769 Dobbs County Tax list.

It was about this time that he married. No marriage records from this period for this county survive today nor any other county records for old Dobbs County due to a courthouse fire in the 1870's which destroyed all the Dobbs County public records. As a result, the maiden name of Edward Junior's wife Mary is unknown. US Census records for 1790 and 1800 indicate Edward Jr. and Mary had at least eight (8) children. However, the names of only five children are positively known: Aris Woodham Senior; Louisa Woodham who married Andrew Cotton (Caten, Cawton, etc.) and after his death married a Wiggins; Mary Woodham who married John Alexander; Eleanor Woodham who married Daniel Hearon; and Edward Harley Woodham Sr. The names of three other daughters are not known as yet but one may have been the wife of Joseph Stephens Senior. The census also indicates there may have been one other son.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

EDWARD WOODHAM Junior continued...

Edward Junior was a neighbor and apparently a good friend of Richard Caswell. Both men became active in the movement for independence of the American colonies from Britain during the 1770's. Edward Jr. became a member of the Dobbs County Regiment of the North Carolina Militia and served throughout the Revolutionary War for Independence (1775-1785). He served under Caswell, who became a General in the North Carolina Militia and in the American Continental Army, the federal army of all the united colonies under the Continental Congress. Caswell also became the first governor of the newly independent State of North Carolina.

In 1781, Edward Jr. was among a few men from Dobbs County who enlisted in the Continental Army, the national army of the new nation of the United States. The vast majority of men who served in the American military forces during the Revolutionary War for Independence did so as members of the various State Militias. Only a relative few served in the Continental Army which was commanded by General George Washington.

His father died between 1781 and 1784. His mother, Eleanor, acting as administratrix of her husband's estate, sold their farm about 1784 or earlier. Soon afterwards, Edward Jr., his wife and children, his mother Eleanor and many neighbors (and possibly other relatives) moved to Old Darlington District, South Carolina and settled in the Stokes Bridge Community of what later became part of Lee County. Edward Jr. lived in the area until his death.

Edward Jr. acquired several tracts of land and bought several slaves. He became prosperous and a prominent citizen of the community. He constructed a grist mill on a small stream which ran through one of his farms. This was a vital industry at that time: people grew their own grain for corn meal and flour. In those pioneer days, there were no stores to buy such goods: it was absolutely necessary for rural people to grow their own food and to have a mill for grinding the grain--or else they had to grind it by hand, a very hard and time-consuming task.

Edward also established one of the first commercial cotton gins in the world. The cotton gin was invented in 1793 but largescale manufacturing of the machines did not begin for several more years. Edward Jr. bought his gin soon after 1800, thus becoming one of the first such businessmen in the world. Agriculture in the South was revolutionized by the cotton gin and Edward Jr. showed positive and progressive thinking by purchasing such a machine in its infancy. Edward sold the cotton gin, grist mill and several plantations to his son Aris Woodham Senior in 1808.



EDWARD WOODHAM Junior continued...

Edward Jr. bought a farm from Doctor Miller in 1808 which was located just across Lynch's River. At that time, the river was the boundary between Darlington District and Sumter District (now counties). All this area is today part of Lee County. He lived on this farm until his death a few years later.

The Woodham Family Cemetery was established on land which was part of Edward Junior's home plantation and which he later sold to his son Aris Senior. This cemetery was probably begun with burials of infants or children because the rate of infant mortality at that time was very high, with up to half the children dying before the age of five. Edward Jr.'s mother Eleanor was probably the first adult buried there, sometime between 1800 and 1810. His son Aris Sr. died in 1818 and was buried there.

Edward Jr. died in August, 1820 and was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery. It is not known if his grave was ever marked with a tombstone.

His wife Mary died sometime after 1826 and before 1830 and was buried beside him.





Mrs. MARY WOODHAM

("Polly")

(Mrs. EDWARD WOODHAM Junior)

about 1748

about 1828

Mary (maiden name unknown) was born about 1748 (1740's or early 1750's). Her husband was born in 1746. Her place of birth is unknown. Mary's maiden name has not been found thus far, nor has the names of her parents.

She married Edward Woodham Junior during the 1760's in what was then Dobbs County, North Carolina. All records of old Dobbs County were destroyed in a courthouse fire so their marriage record and any other public records on them there have been lost. The area where they lived is today part of Lenoir County, NC.

Mary and Edward Jr. had at least seven (7) and possibly eight children, including two (possibly three) unidentified daughters and one unidentified son. Their known children were Aris Woodham Senior; Louisa [married (1) Andrew Caten (Cawton, Cotton, Cawton, etc.) and (2) --Wiggins; Mary [married John Alexander]; Eleanor [married Daniel Hearon]; and Edward Harley Woodham Senior.

She and Edward Jr. moved with their family, his mother and many neighbors from Dobbs County to old Darlington District and settled in what is now part of Lee County, South Carolina about 1784. They lived in the Stokes Bridge Community until 1808, when they bought a farm from Doctor [Gideon] Miller just across Lynch's River and moved there.



Mrs. MARY WOODHAM

Edward Junior died in 1820 and was buried at Woodham Family Cemetery on his former farm, which he had sold to his son Aris Sr. in 1808.

Soon after Edward Jr. died in 1820, Mary issued a deed of gift to her daughter, Mary Woodham Alexander, wife of John Alexander, in which Mary gave all her interest in her late husband's estate to her daughter in consideration of "parental love". Mary may have lived with her daughter after Edward's death.

Mary was still living in 1826: in that year, she made a deed to Mills Kelly. That is the last record I have found on her. She died before the 1830 US Census was taken, for none of the households of her children show an elderly woman living with any of them.





EMBERRY WOODHAM

("Embia", "Emby", "Embla")

9 Apr., 1808

about 1818

Emberry ("Embia", "Emby", "Embla") Woodham was born 9 Apr., 1808 in the Stokes Bridge Community, old Darlington District, today part of Lee County, South Carolina. He was the son of Edward Harley Woodham Sr. and Sarah Dowling. He was a grandson of Edward Woodham Junior and his wife Mary.

Emberry apparently died sometime between 1810 and 1820. A child of this age is shown in the household of Edward H. Woodham Sr. in the 1810 US Census of Darlington District but not on the 1820 census.

The only written record of this child is from a family Bible record. The original source of this Bible record is unknown. The information was supplied to the author in the 1960's by Powell Armstead Woodham of Newton, Mississippi. Powell listed the name as "Embla", an apparent corruption, since no name of any such spelling can be found. This name may be a corruption of an original name of "M. Berry" which is itself a corruption of several names, including Middlebury, Marbury, etc. However, the name Emberry is today a generally used name, both a family name and a given name.

Asa Woodham, a nephew of Edward H. Sr., had a son born in 1825 which he also named Emberry. It is believed he named his son after the dead child. This child died before 1820 and was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery before his father and family made their move to southeast Alabama in 1832, according to descendants of Edward H. Sr.



EPHRIAM WOODHAM

26 June, 1815

--

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Ephriam Woodham was born 26 June, 1815 in Old Darlington District, now part of the Stokes Bridge Community of Lee County, South Carolina. He was the son of Edward Harley Woodham Senior and Sarah Dowling. He was a grandson of Edward Woodham Junior and his wife Mary.

Ephriam was killed as a child in an accident by a runaway team of horses, sometime after 1820.

A family Bible records his birth but not his death.

He was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery. His grave may not have been marked with a tombstone.



HUGH MIDDLETON WOODHAM

(Middleton, "Mid")

-- 1830

14 Aug., 1899

Hugh Middleton ("Mid") Woodham was born in 1830 in the Stokes Bridge Community of old Darlington District, now part of Lee County, South Carolina. He was a son of Asa Woodham and Elaine Elizabeth Dubose and a grandson of Aris Woodham Senior.

Mid lived in the Stokes Bridge area and later moved to the Alcot Community where he lived until his death in 1899. He married first sometime in the 1850's to Charity Ann Kelly, daughter of James Kelly. They had no surviving children. Charity died in 1871 and was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery. Mid married second to Mary Hill, sometime in the 1870's. Mary died in 1882 and was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery. They had no surviving children. Mid married his third wife Sarah Elizabeth Peoples on 9 Jan., 1883 in Darlington County. Sarah was the widow of Israel McKenzie. Mid and Sarah had no children; Sarah had two children by her first marriage. Although Mid and his three wives had no children of their own, they raised Jehu Middleton ("Jede"; "John") Woodham, his nephew and a son of Johnathan Edward Woodham and Sarah Martin Bruce. Jede became a physician who practiced medicine in Lancaster County, Clio and Lee County, South Carolina.

Mid was an active member of Hebron Methodist Church, where he served as a Steward for many years. He represented Hebron Church at several Darlington Circuit meetings. He is mentioned often in church and Circuit records from the 1870's until his death.

He was a farmer all his life. Mid's newspaper obituary published in the Darlington News described him as "a good farmer, a most exemplary christian and the community in which he lived deeply mourns his death." Mid died 14 Aug., 1899 and was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery.



Hugh Middleton Woodham

WOODHAM.—The following resolutions were adopted by the Quarterly Conference of Darlington Circuit:

Whereas, our Heavenly Father has taken from us our brother, H. Middleton Woodham, for years a member of Hebron Church, and also of this body; a man who sincerely loved the church and was greatly beloved by the church; a man whose life and service were of great value to the church; therefore, be it

Resolved, 1, That while we question not the wisdom of Him who doeth all things well, and bow submissively to His will, yet we can but, and do hereby, express our sorrow that he has been taken from us, and that to feel the grasp of his brotherly hand and to listen to the cheery tones of his voice are privileges no longer ours.

Resolved 2, That these resolutions be recorded in our Quarterly Conference Journal, and that a copy of them be furnished the widow of the deceased, The County Messenger and The Southern Christian Advocate.

George W. Davis,
J. C. Clements.

Southern Christian Advocate

9 November, 1899

South Carolina

Mrs. Hugh Middleton Woodham
(Mary Hill)

Newspaper obituary
This obituary appeared in the

Southern Christian Advocate
29 July, 1882
(official publication of the Methodist Church in the South)

Mrs. Hugh Middleton Woodham
(Mary Hill)

WOODHAM.—Mrs. Mary Woodham wife of H. Middleton Woodham of the Darlington Circuit, and daughter of Ed. and Catherine Hill, was born June 21, 1834 and died in the comforts of redeeming grace May 12, 1882. She professed religion and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, South in early life, from which time until death she lived a consistent and devoted life to the cause of Christ. Her Christian character was pure and her life a blessing to the community, the church and the world.

She possessed many beautiful traits of character, but perhaps none shone more brightly than that "meek and quiet spirit" with which she adorned herself. She gave abundant evidence of an abiding faith in Christ, not only by her devotion to His cause in health, but also by her extraordinary endurance of suffering in affliction. She loved her Church and its means of grace were to her above price. And when by affliction she was prevented from going to the house of God, she would read her Bible at home and pray for the utterance of His word.

Her sympathies were ever ready to be drawn out for her fellow-Christians. She loved them all, but delighted to see and minister to them for her Master's sake.

She suffered much and long, having been confined to her bed three months; during which time she often expressed a deep longing to be with Christ, yet she never murmured or murmured against her affliction.

Seeing her husband and her mother weep, she begged them not to grieve, assuring them that she would soon be released from suffering, that all was well with her, and that they would be justified when they saw her in the next best place. D.



(Jarrett; "Jarrott"; Jaret)

--

1823

1 Oct., 1864

Jared (Jarrett, Jaret, Jarrott, Jarot, etc.) Woodham was born in 1823 in the Stokes Bridge Community of old Darlington District, now part of Lee County, South Carolina.

Jared was a farmer all his life in the Stokes Bridge Community. He married Argent Elizabeth Kelly (O'Kelly) about 1850. Argent was the daughter of John O. Kelly and Lenora Barrett. Lenora was the great neice of John Marshall, who was Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court and who established the Supreme Court as one of the three equal branches of our national government.

Argent and Jaret had one known child, Asa Flinn Wilson Q. Beasley (known as "Beaty" W.) Woodham, born 25 Oct., 1862, almost a month after the death of Jared. Beaty lived in the Stokes Bridge Community during his early life but after the death of six infants and his first wife, he married again and moved to south Georgia, where he eventually settled near Donalsonville, Georgia and became a Church of God minister and a farmer.

Jared joined the Confederate States Army during the War for Southern Independence (War Between the States). He died as a soldier on 1 Oct., 1864, while at home on sick leave. He was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery. It is not known if his grave was ever marked with a tombstone. After Jared died, Argent later married Jacob Smith and they had one son. She was buried at Hebron Church.





LOUISA WOODHAM

about 1773

after 1820

Louisa ("Luicy") Woodham was born during the 1770's or possibly the early 1780's, in the Falling Creek Community near the Institute Community and the town of LaGrange, in what is today part of Lenoir County, North Carolina. She was the daughter of Edward Woodham Junior and his wife Mary.

Louisa moved with her parents to the Stokes Bridge Community of old Darlington District, an area that is today part of Lee County, South Carolina, during the early 1780's.

She married sometime after 1800 to Andrew Caten/Cotton (spelled variously as Catten, Caton, Caten, Cawten, Cawton or Cotton). They had one known child, a son, Robert, born after 1810.

Andrew Caten/Cotton died about 1820. Louisa is named as an heir in her father Edward Woodham Junior's will dated 1820, along with her husband, Andrew. In the estate records filed with the Sumter County, SC court later, Louisa is named as Louisa Wiggins, indicating her first husband had died and that she had remarried.

The full name of Louisa's second husband is unknown as yet. It is not known whether she had any children by her second marriage. The date of Louisa's death is also unknown to the author. It is believed she was buried in her family's graveyard, the Woodham Family Cemetery, along with her first husband.





ANDREW CATEN/COTTON

(Catten, Cawten, Cawton, Coton, Cotton, etc.)
(Husband of LOUISA WOODHAM)

about 1775

about 1820

Andrew Caten/Cawten/Cawton/Cotton was probably born about 1775 (in the 1770's). The place of his birth is unknown to the author.

Very little is known as yet about Andrew; his date of birth and who his parents were is not known. More research may shed new information on Andrew.

He married Louisa Woodham sometime between 1810 and 1820. She was a daughter of Edward Woodham Junior and his wife Mary. Andrew and Louisa had one known child, a son, Robert Caten.

Andrew died sometime in 1820. He died sometime between the date in 1820 when Edward Woodham Jr. wrote his will, naming Louisa and her husband Andrew and when his daughter signed estate records as an heir of her father after he died that year. She signed the estate records as Louisa Wiggins, indicating Andrew had died and that Louisa had remarried. The first name of her second husband is unknown.

It is believed by family relatives that Andrew was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery in an unmarked grave.



MAHALIA WOODHAM

("Mahaley")

15 Jan., 1821

6 July, 1837

Mahalia ("Mahaley") Woodham was born 15 Jan., 1821 in Stokes Bridge Community of what today is part of Lee County, South Carolina. She was the eldest child of Asa Woodham and Elaine Elizabeth Dubose and a granddaughter of Reverend Aris Woodham Senior.

Mahalia married Christopher Columbus ("C. C.") Mixon about 1835 or 1836.

She died 6 July, 1837, probably in childbirth. She had no surviving children. After her death, her husband married again.

Mahalia was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery. Her grave was marked with a white marble tombstone. When the Woodham Cemetery was destroyed, the tombstone was broken into many pieces. Most of the pieces of her tombstone were recovered by and have been preserved by Pelzer W. ("Pete") Beasley Jr., husband of Ruth Virginia Woodham.



MAHALIA WOODHAM

Departed this life 5 July 1837, consort of Christopher Mixon, and
eldest daughter of Asa and Laney Woodbury [sic] of this District.
Sister Mixon embraced religion at a camp meeting in 1834.

Joseph h. Wheeler,
Darlington, Sept. 20, 1837

Southern Christian Advocate
30 Sept., 1837

[EDITOR'S NOTE: this obituary has a typographical error in the spelling of Mahalia's parent's name as "Woodbury": it should be Woodham. She was the granddaughter of Aris Woodham Sr. and wife of Christopher Columbus Mixon; she died in childbirth and was buried in Woodham Family Cemetery in present Lee County, South Carolina. Her tombstone was broken into pieces when the Cemetery was destroyed in the 1950's. The tombstone pieces of her were found and preserved by Pelzer W. ("Pete") Beasley Jr., husband of Ruth Virginia Woodham] [not a verbatim copy]



MARGARET WOODHAM

14 Sept., 1803

about 1849

Margaret Woodham was born 14 Sept., 1803 in the Stokes Bridge Community of old Darlington District, now part of Lee County, South Carolina. She was the daughter of Aris Woodham Senior and Rachel Beasley and the granddaughter of Edward Woodham Junior.

Margaret married about 1820 to Samuel Andrews, son of Thomas Andrews Junior and his wife Zilpha. they had at least twelve (12) children: Aris Andrews; Stephen D. Andrews; Pheriba ("Pheraba") Andrews who married Benjamin W. Martin; Elias B. Andrews; Thomas Seborn Andrews; Elizabeth Andrews who married Robert Sammons; Joseph Andrews; Redden E. Andrews; Hannah M. Andrews who married Elias Elmore; Harriet Andrews who married Robert Vaughn; Helen Andrews who married David Smith; and Mary Jane Andrews who married George Campbell.

Margaret died in 1849, following the birth of her youngest child. Her descendants say she was buried at the Woodham Family Cemetery with her parents.

After her death, her husband Samuel married again and had two more children.



SAMUEL ANDREWS

-- 179-

1 Jan., 1853

Samuel Andrews was born in the 1790's (his birth year is listed variously) in Old Darlington District, now part of Lee County, South Carolina. He was the son of Thomas Andrews Junior and his wife Zilpha.

Samuel married Margaret Woodham about 1820. They had at least twelve (12) children.

Samuel was a farmer.

Margaret died in 1849 after birth of their youngest child. She was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery.

Samuel then married about 1850 to Rutha Thomas. They had two twin sons, born in Oct., 1850.

Samuel died 1 Jan., 1853. His descendants say he was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery with his first wife.



HUSBAND'S NAME SAMUEL ANDREWS Date 1988
 When Born 179- Where Darlington County, South Carolina Compiler ROBERT EARL WOODHAM
 When Died 1 January, 1853 Where present Lee County, South Carolina Address _____
 When Buried _____ Where _____ City _____ State _____
 When Married (1) ca 1820 Where Darlington County, South Carolina This information obtained from _____
 Other Wives Number 1,2, etc. (2) RUTHA THOMAS

His Father THOMAS ANDREWS Junior His Mother's Maiden Name ZILPHA Mrs. Aris Woodham Family Bible
 His Grandfather THOMAS ANDREWS Senior His Grandmother ELIZABETH John Lennel Andrews Jr., 1988
 Mrs. Melva Yates Whitehead

WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME MARGARET WOODHAM
 When Born 14 September, 1803 Where present Lee County, S.C. Darlington Co., SC Will Records,
 When Died ca 1849 Where present Lee County, South Carolina will of Aris Woodham Sr.
 When Buried _____ Where Woodham Cemetery (?) Lee Co., SC Sumter Co., SC Will Records,
 Other Husbands Number 1,2, etc. _____ will of Edward Woodham Jr.
 Her Father ARIS WOODHAM Senior Her Mother's Maiden Name RACHEL BEASLEY 1830, 1840 Darlington Co., SC
 Her Grandfather EDWARD WOODHAM Junior Her Grandmother MARY

Male or Female	CHILDREN (In order of birth)	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN		State or Country	WHEN DIED			MARRIED
		Day	Month	Year	City	County		Day	Month	Year	
<i>CSP</i> M	1 ARIS <i>21st SC val.</i> ANDREWS	ca		1822	Darlington		S.C.	after			Who nm;
<i>CSP</i> M	2 STEPHEN <i>B. Co A (Assoc)</i> ANDREWS	ca		1823	District		"				Who JULIA LEONA SMITH
F	3 PHERIBA ("Phabra, Pheraba)	28 July		1828	(now part of		"	13 Sept	1900		Who BENJAMIN W. MARTIN
M	4 ELIAS B. ANDREWS			1829	Lee County)		"				Who RUTHA M. KNOTTS
M	5 THOMAS SEBORN ANDREWS	23 Oct.		1830	"		"	4 July	1891		Who SARAH PERNICE GARNER
F	6 ELIZABETH ANDREWS	ca		1832	"		"				Who ROBERT SAMMONS
M	7 JOSEPH ANDREWS			18	"		"	(before	1853)		Who nm ?
M	8 REDDEN <i>Elisha</i> ANDREWS	ca		1835	"		"	11 Dec	1863		Who NANCY
F	9 HANNAH M. ANDREWS	24 Aug.		1838	"		"	21 Jan	1906		Who ELIAS ELMORE
F	10 HARRIETT ANDREWS	ca		1845	"		"				Who ROBERT VAUGHN
F	11 HELEN ANDREWS			184	"		"	(before	1880		Who DAVID SMITH
F	12 MARY JANE ANDREWS	ca		1849	"		"		1911		Who GEORGE CAMPBELL
	13										Who
	14										Who



JOSEPH ANDREWS

about 1833

before 1850

Joseph Andrews was born in the Stokes Bridge Community, probably in the 1820's or 1830's. He was a son of Margaret Woodham and Samuel Andrews and a grandson of Reverend Aris Woodham Senior and Rachel Beasley.

Joseph died as a child or teenager sometime before 1853. The exact dates of his birth and death are unknown to the author.

At the time of his birth and death, there were no church cemeteries in this community. As a result, it is believed he is buried at the Woodham Family Cemetery, the graveyard of his mother and her parents.





PHERIBA JANE WOODHAM

("Fereba", "Feraby", "Fereby", "Feriby", "Phereby", etc.)

-- 1825

16 Apr., 1880

Pheriba Jane ("Fereba", "Fereby", "Fereby", "Feriby", etc.) Woodham was born in Stokes Bridge Community of what is today part of Lee County, South Carolina. She was the daughter of Asa Woodham and Elaine Elizabeth Dubose and a granddaughter of Reverend Aris Woodham Senior.

Pheriba married about 1843 to Simpson Skinner. They had seven (7) known children: Sophronia who married James S. Monroe Smith; Thomas C. Skinner, William James W. Skinner, Harriett E. Skinner; Asa Edward ("Edward A.") Skinner who married first Elizabeth Elaine ("Laney") Woodham; Argent Amanda Skinner who married Joseph B. Stokes; and Nicey Jane Skinner who married J. Edward Wingate.

Simpson Skinner died in March, 1862 while serving as a soldier in the Confederate States of America Army and was buried in her family graveyard, the Woodham Family Cemetery.

Following his death, Pheriba married again to William R. S. Lawson on 14 Nov., 1873. She had no children by her second marriage.

Pheriba died 16 Apr., 1880 and was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery.





SIMPSON SKINNER

(Husband of Pheriba Jane Woodham)

-- 1824

Mar., 1862

Simpson Skinner was born in the Stokes Bridge Community, Old Darlington District, of what is today part of Lee County, South Carolina, in 1824.

He married about 1843 to Pheriba Jane Woodham, daughter of Asa Woodham and Elaine Elizabeth ("Lannie") Dubose and a granddaughter of Reverend Aris Woodham Senior.

Simpson was a farmer all his life in the Stokes Bridge Community.

Simpson joined the Confederate States Army during the War for Southern Independence (War Between the States). He died as a soldier in March, 1862. He was buried in the Woodham Family Cemetery. It is not known if his grave was ever marked with a tombstone.

After her death, Simpson's wife Pheriba was buried beside him.



HUSBAND'S NAME (1) SIMPSON SKINNER Date _____
 When Born 1824 Where Darlington District, South Carolina Compiler ROBERT EARL WOODHAM
 When Died March, 1862 Where _____ Address _____
 When Buried _____ Where _____ City _____ State _____
 When Married ca 1843 Where Darlington Dist., South Carolina
 Other Wives Number 1,2,etc. _____
 His Father _____ His Mother's Maiden Name _____
 His Grandfather _____ His Grandmother _____

_____ This information obtained from _____
 _____ Darlington Co., SC Estate
 _____ Records of Simpson Skinner
 _____ Tracy Skinner, 1981
 _____ Horace F. Rudisell, 1988
 _____ 1850 Darlington Co., SC
 _____ (US Census)

WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME PHERIBA JANE ("Fereby, Fereba, Feriby") WOODHAM
 When Born 1825 Where Darlington Dist. (Lee) S.C.
 When Died 16 April, 1880 Where present Lee County, S.C.
 When Buried _____ Where Woodham Cemetery, Lee Co., SC
 Other Husbands Number 1,2,etc. (2) W. R. S. LAWSON
 Her Father ASA WOODHAM Her Mother's Maiden Name ELAINE E. DUBOSE
 Her Grandfather ARIS WOODHAM Senior Her Grandmother RACHEL BEASLEY

Male or Female	CHILDREN (In order of birth)		WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN		State or Country	WHEN DIED			MARRIED	
			Day	Month	Year	City	County		Day	Month	Year		
F	1	SOPHRONIA SKINNER			1844	Darlington		S.C.				Who	JAMES S. MONROE SMITH
												When	ca 1860
M	2	THOMAS C. SKINNER	3	June	1846	(area now		"	19	Oct	1926	Who	CHARITY MIXON
						part of Lee		"			1933	Who	SARAH FRANCES KELLEY
						County)		"				Who	
								"				When	
M	5	ASA (Edward; E.A.) senior EDWARD SKINNER	24	May	1852			"	9	Mar.	1927	Who	ELIZABETH ELAINE WOODHAM
								"				When	(2) LELAND MOORE
F	6	ARGENT AMANDA SKINNER	13	Feb.	1854			"	2	May	1880	Who	JOSEPH B. STOKES
								"				When	
F	7	NICEY JANE SKINNER			1861			"	5	Oct	1880	Who	J. EDWARD WINGATE
								"				When	
	8											Who	
												When	
	9											Who	
												When	
	10											Who	
												When	
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												When	
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												When	

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 " "
 " "
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 " "
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