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## THE SAMS FAMILY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Compiled by

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Bonham Sams, II, the progenitor of the Sams family of South Carolina, was baptised 2 February, 1663, in St. Mary's Parish Church, North Petherton Parish, County of Somerset, England, as "Bonham Sam, son of Thomas Sam" and his wife, Mary Bagge, also of this parish. He was the third generation of his family known to have worshiped here in the faith of the Established Church of England. In St. Mary's ancient churchyard are buried his parents, also his grandparents—Bonham Samme, I, and his wife, Mary Shutte.

Bonham Sams, II, was the only one of his father's sons to leave for the New World. His brothers, Thomas, Edward, Daniel, William, and Roger, are buried in England; and from available records it appears that the male line of descent died out in England by 1735.<sup>1</sup>

### 1

BONUM SAMS, II, as the spelling has been generally adopted in South Carolina, was married about 1681. His wife, Enstis, was very probably a niece of Captain Benjamin Blake, since this name appears in the early Blake family; however, the record of their marriage has not been located. They were among the twenty-one persons arriving in the ship commanded by Captain Benjamin Blake in 1681 "whose names are recorded in the Secretary's Office in the said Province 10 May 1682 and Dated 18 March 1683."<sup>2</sup> Benjamin Blake established his settlement at "New Cut at the junction or meeting point of the Stono and Wadmalaw Rivers." On September 13, 1694, Bonum received his first warrant for 100 acres of land that "he shall make choice of on account of arrival rights for himself and his wife, Enstis. . . ."<sup>3</sup> This land, or an early grant, was on the banks of the Wadmalaw River and southeast of a

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<sup>1</sup> Research in England by George C. B. Poulter, F.S.A., M.S.G., Surrey, England.

<sup>2</sup> This *Magazine*, I(1900), 153-154; XX(1919), 162-163.

<sup>3</sup> A. S. Salley, Jr., *Warrants for Lands in South Carolina, 1692-1711* (Columbia, 1915), 49-50.

bluff later "commonly called or distinguished by name of Sames Bluff."<sup>4</sup> The earliest grant of record in his name, for 230 acres, is dated 29 March, 1700, and the last two, for 170 and 200 acres, are both dated 23 July, 1711.<sup>5</sup> A will for Bonum Sams was filed in Bundle X, 37, about 1717, but cannot be located, and the only other reference found to his will is in the Memorial of his son, Robert Sams, entered March 8, 1732.<sup>6</sup> The old index also lists inventory for a "Bonham Sams" as filed in Bundle 0,43. This is seemingly an earlier filing date than that of Bonum's will; therefore, the question has arisen: is this the inventory of another Bonum Sams, perhaps a son? No children were mentioned as arriving with Bonum and no records have been found of later Sams arrivals; therefore, without proof to the contrary, the following found of record are believed to be his children and born after his arrival:

2 I John Sams

3 II William Sams

III Mary Sams. The will of Henry Walker, who died in 1724, refers to his wife as Mary and to John Sams as "brother John Sams." Issue: John Walker.<sup>7</sup>

Bonum Sams (believed to be the immigrant) married *last* "Elizabeth."<sup>8</sup> Records definitely indicate she is the Elizabeth Brewton, daughter of immigrant Robert Bruton/Brewton who arrived in the Province July 12, 1684, with his family and, therefore, the Elizabeth *Burt* mentioned in 1743 in the will of Miles Brewton as one of his two surviving sisters who arrived with him in 1684; and also, the Elizabeth Burt mentioned in 1732 as jointly owning 180 acres on Wadmalaw Island with Robert Sams.<sup>9</sup> Elizabeth, as a widow Sam, made a Deed of Gift on June 26, 1718, witnessed by Robert Brewton, to "my beloved children Robert and Elizabeth Sam" and then on June 24, 1738, as Elizabeth Burt, made a Deed of Gift to "my beloved son Robert Sam."<sup>10</sup> The Memorial of Robert Sams, entered March 8, 1732, lists acreage "come by his Father the afore-said Bonam Sams deceased, last will and testament, bearing date —

<sup>4</sup> Renunciation of Dower Books (hereinafter called RDB), 1740-1753 (Part II), p. 451, South Carolina Archives Department, Columbia, S. C. (hereinafter called SCAD); also Memorial Vol. 5, pp. 270-271, SCAD.

<sup>5</sup> Records Book No. 38, pp. 373, 465; also No. 39, p. 108, SCAD.

<sup>6</sup> Memorial Vol. 5, p. 157, SCAD.

<sup>7</sup> Wills, Vol. 2(1724-1725), p. 55, SCAD.

<sup>8</sup> Old Sams Bibles.

<sup>9</sup> A. S. Salley, Jr., "Col. Miles Brewton and Some of His Descendants," this *Magazine*, II(1901), 129; also Memorial Vol. 3, p. 320, SCAD.

<sup>10</sup> Miscellaneous Records, Vol. 51(1716-1721), pp. 83-84, Charleston Probate Court, Charleston, S. C. (hereinafter called CPC); also Miscellaneous Records, Vol. 69-A(1736-1740), p. 134, Charleston County Library.

day of — one thousand seven hundred.”<sup>11</sup> On this same day Elizabeth Burt, as guardian and trustee, established a Memorial to register land for Sarah Burt, daughter of James Burt, deceased.<sup>12</sup> Bonum Sams was living in January 1716, as he was chosen a member of the Assembly on that date and listed in the records of the Journal of the Commons as qualifying by taking the Oath of Allegiance.<sup>13</sup> Elizabeth was living in 1743, fifty-nine years after her arrival. Her age upon arrival is not known; however, her brother Miles was nine and sister Susannah eight. Issue by last marriage:

4 IV Robert Sams

V Elizabeth Sams, born before 1718, married Dr. William McGillivray, whose will dated January 21, 1739, and recorded in 1741, mentions children: Robert; Alexander (whose will of October 5, 1756, mentions “uncle Robert Sams” and a son William); Susannah (married her cousin Joseph Sams and is probably the Susannah Livingston who witnessed will of Alexander McGillivray, 1756); Elizabeth; Lucrecia; Mary (married Patrick Norris); Sophia (baptised April 29, 1739, and is probably the Sophia Tucker who witnessed the will of Joseph Sams, 1755).<sup>14</sup>

2

JOHN SAMS (1) is believed to be the son of Bonum and his *first* wife, Enstis. On May 17, 1714, he purchased 200 acres on Wadmalaw Island, bounded east on Bonum Sams and north on Wadmalaw River, “commonly called and distinguished by name of Sames Bluff,” and on March 26, 1721, purchased 15 additional acres.<sup>15</sup> He is listed as one of the petitioners to the Crown against the Proprietors in 1716-1717. He was married by December 12, 1718, to Hannah Hamilton, daughter of John Hamilton and his wife, Dorothy (who married later Thomas Ogle).<sup>16</sup> John and Hannah Sams conveyed March 13, 1733, 200 acres on Wadmalaw Island to Arthur Hall, apparently the same 200 acres granted Bonum Sams July 23, 1711.<sup>17</sup> John purchased from Thomas Grimball 30 acres and 16 chains on Edisto Island September 27, 1731, and entered this acreage in his Memorial May 19, 1733. Also, May 7, 1733, he entered

<sup>11</sup> See Note 6.

<sup>12</sup> Memorial Vol. 3, p. 42, SCAD.

<sup>13</sup> Commons House Journal, Vol. 5, pp. 2-3, SCAD.

<sup>14</sup> Wills, Vol. 5(1740-1747), p. 18, SCAD.

<sup>15</sup> See Note 4.

<sup>16</sup> Deed Book Z, p. 123, CPC.

<sup>17</sup> RDB, 1733-1739, p. 7, SCAD; also Records Book No. 39, p. 108, SCAD.

in his Memorial 100 acres on Edisto which he had purchased from Ichabod Winborn.<sup>18</sup> John was deceased by March 2, 1748, leaving only two daughters, and it appears they had by 1759 conveyed all his land to others.<sup>19</sup> Inventory (believed to be his) is listed for a John Sams as filed in Bundle 3 N-6. Issue:

- I Martha Sams. On December 21, 1732, a Martha Sams married William Green of Wadmalaw Island (Register of St. Philip's Parish). She is thought to be the same Martha Sams, daughter of John, who married James Mitchell of Edisto, for on April 24, 1734, John Sams and Hannah made a Deed of Gift to "my well beloved son, James Mitchell and his wife, Martha. . . ." <sup>20</sup> John Mitchell died 1743, and Martha married *third* John Hanahan of Wadmalaw Island, and March 12, 1747, joined with her husband as Martha Hanahan in a sale of the same 100-acre tract which she had received from her father as Martha Mitchell in 1734.<sup>21</sup> After her sister, Batsheba, conveyed her undivided half interest to her, Martha conveyed to John Seabrook the 200 acres on Edisto, which John and Hannah Sams had received from Dorothy Ogle, and the 30 acres 16 chains, which John Sams had purchased from Thomas Grimbald.<sup>22</sup> Martha died about 1759, for John Hanahan had married Sarah and was legally separated by October 16, 1760. By one of her three marriages Martha left a daughter Ann, who married Joseph Parmenter, Sr., and by her marriage to John Hanahan left three sons: John, William, and Samuel Hanahan.
- II John Sams. "John Samms, a child buried Nov. 10, 1723" (Register of St. Philip's Parish)—probably John Sams, Jr.
- III Mary Sams. February 29, 1734, a Mary Sams married William Risby (Register of St. Philip's Parish)—seemingly a daughter of John.
- IV Batsheba Sams married James Chambers of Wadmalaw Island. On May 18, 1751, she conveyed to Alexander Rantowle 214 acres "formerly of John Sams, father of Batsheba."<sup>23</sup> This is obviously the same 200 acres on Wadmalaw that John Sams purchased May 17, 1714, together with the 15 acres March

<sup>18</sup> See Note 4.

<sup>19</sup> RDB, 1740-1753 (Part I), p. 279; also RDB, 1757-1761, p. 134, SCAD.

<sup>20</sup> Deed Book T, p. 380, SCAD.

<sup>21</sup> RDB, 1740-1753 (Part I), p. 238, SCAD.

<sup>22</sup> See Note 19.

<sup>23</sup> See Notes 4 and 19.



26 1721. On March 2, 1748, Batsheba conveyed to John and Martha Hanahan her interest in the undivided estate which John Sams had left to her.<sup>24</sup>

## 3

WILLIAM SAMS (1), believed to be the son of Bonum and his *first* wife, Enstis, was evidently born by 1685 and died after 1738.<sup>25</sup> He was listed as a petitioner to the Crown against the Proprietors in 1716-1717. The original will of Jeremiah Clarke mentions his "son-in-law, William Sames" and his granddaughter, Elizabeth Sams.<sup>26</sup> This refers either to William Sams, Senior, or Junior. On April 25, 1733, William Sams registered in his Memorial land originally granted by the Proprietors to Bonum Sams May 5, 1704.<sup>27</sup> He also registered 200 acres, part of an original 400-acre warrant in 1710 to Mrs. Dorothy Ogle.<sup>28</sup> Lawton family records indicate William Sams, Sr., married a Susannah Harrison, and their daughter Mary, married *first* Paul Grimball (as his third wife) and had issue. Inventory for a William Sams (believed to be his) is listed as filed in Bundle 3S-20. Known issue, mother unknown:

I William Sams, Jr., was deeded by his father November 3, 1738, the same 200 acres on Edisto registered by William Sams, Sr., in his Memorial, and this same 200-acre tract was listed in 1759 records as land of William Maxwell. It seems probable that there was a family connection.<sup>29</sup> A William Sams, *Junior*, witnessed the will of Robert Wyatt June 9, 1722; hence, if the above William Sams, Jr., he was born by 1706, and it is possible he was the "son-in-law" of Jeremiah Clark and the father of his granddaughter, Elizabeth Sames, mentioned in his will.

II Joseph Sams was deeded by his father November 3, 1738, the same 250 acres on Wadmalaw registered by William Sams, Sr., in his Memorial.<sup>30</sup> Joseph married Susannah McGillivray, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Sams) McGillivray. She was not married in 1739, the date of her father's will. Joseph, in his will dated December 27, 1755, proved January 30, 1756,

<sup>24</sup> See Note 19.

<sup>25</sup> Deed Book S, pp. 411,412,413, SCAD.

<sup>26</sup> Miscellaneous Records Book, 1727-1729, p. 204, SCAD: also Bundle NN, No. 9, CPC.

<sup>27</sup> Memorial Vol. 2(Part I), p. 118, SCAD.

<sup>28</sup> Salley, *Warrants*, 231.

<sup>29</sup> See Notes 25 and 27; also RDB, 1757 1761, p. 134, SCAD.

<sup>30</sup> See Notes 25 and 27.

calls Alexander McGillivray his wife's brother, and it seems he was the Joseph Sams buried January 6, 1756, according to the Register of St. Philip's.<sup>31</sup> He is believed to be the Joseph Sams listed in 1754 as being on the Vestry of the Colonial Church of St. John's Parish.

## 4

ROBERT SAMS (1) was the son of Bonum Sams and his *last* wife, Elizabeth Brewton. He was born on Wadmalaw Island, and was not of age in 1718,<sup>32</sup> but undoubtedly was in March, 1730, when he purchased 150 acres of land from Thomas Stanyarne and wife Dorothy. He established his Memorial March 8, 1732, and registered this 150 acres and also two deeds for 230 and 170 acres, which he stated were "granted to his father, Bonum Sams, March 29, 1700, and July 23, 1711."<sup>33</sup> On the same date he also entered 500 acres on Hilton Head Island, acquired by him by reason of his "marriage with the *present* wife Bridget," daughter of John Barnwell and his wife, Elizabeth Ann Berners. This 500 acres was the first land grant issued for acreage on Hilton Head Island.<sup>34</sup> Robert Sams's Memorial proves that he married Bridget Barnwell by 1732, and also suggests that he may have married previously, as he registered land "come by his Father's last will bearing date of — day —, 1700" and as Bridget was not sixteen in 1724, when her father made his will.<sup>35</sup> Alexander Sams, therefore, whose inventory was filed in Bundle 3S-31, and cannot be located, may have been Robert Sams's son. In 1736 Robert witnessed deeds made by his brother-in-law, William McGillivray.<sup>36</sup> In 1738 he witnessed the deeds from William Sams, Sr., to his sons. He is called "brother-in-law" in the will of Paul Grimball, who married (as his second wife) Mary Barnwell, sister to Bridget.<sup>37</sup> On June 24, 1738, he received a Deed of Gift from his mother, Elizabeth Burt.<sup>38</sup> Robert Sams was a planter on Wadmalaw Island, and both old and current maps show a "Captain Sams Creek" on what is now Seabrook Island. From 1734 through 1759 he is listed as being on the Vestry, or as a Church Warden, of the Colonial Church of St. John's Parish. He is listed

<sup>31</sup> Wills, Vol. 7(1752-1756), p. 428, SCAD.

<sup>32</sup> See note 10.

<sup>33</sup> See note 6.

<sup>34</sup> Virginia C. Holmgren, *Hilton Head—A Sea Island Chronicle* (Hilton Head Island, 1959), 46.

<sup>35</sup> Wills, Vol. 1(1722-1724), p. 94, SCAD.

<sup>36</sup> Deed Book Q, pp. 23-26, CPC.

<sup>37</sup> This *Magazine*, XXIII(1922), 42.

<sup>38</sup> See Note 10.



as "Captain R. Sams—Pew No. 6," and also named among the collectors of a tax to care for the poor of the Parish.<sup>39</sup> His will is dated January 31 1760. He added a Codicil February 6, 1760, probated October 17, 1760. It is registered in the Old Index, CPC, as filed in Bundle 6T-37, and his inventory as in Bundle 6V-40.<sup>40</sup> His estate was appraised December 19, 1760. It is believed Bridget died in 1741. Issue:

I Robert Sams, Jr., called "my eldest son" in his father's will, received the 500 acres on Hilton Head Island as eldest son and heir of his mother, Bridget (Barnwell) Sams, as proved in Deed of Sale.<sup>41</sup> He died in 1760, shortly before his father. He left his estate to his own sister and brothers, not mentioning his half brother and sister.<sup>42</sup> He also appears on the Vestry List of the Colonial Church of St. John's Parish.

II Elizabeth Sams, called "my eldest dau." and referred to as a widow, may have been the eldest child. She was a widow of William Singleton by March 25, 1735 (date of William's will), and had married Robert Godfrey before 1756, undoubtedly a son of Amelia (Hext) Godfrey.<sup>43</sup> In a Deed of Gift Elizabeth (Sams) Godfrey refers to her first daughter as Amelia Godfrey and to her second daughter as Bridget Godfrey.<sup>44</sup> These daughters were evidently named for Amelia Hext and Bridget Barnwell, their grandmothers. Elizabeth Godfrey also had a son, Robert, buried September 20, 1757, in the churchyard of St. Helena's Parish Church. Her daughter Bridget, born November 1, 1756, entered into a marriage contract with John Gregg April 27, 1789.<sup>45</sup>

5 III John Sams

6 IV William Sams

Robert Sams, Sr., married *last* Mary Stanyarne, daughter of John Stanyarne, Sr., of John's Island and his wife, Mrs. Mary (Whitmarsh) Seabrook.<sup>46</sup> She had previously married on November 1, 1740, Arthur Mow-

<sup>39</sup> Sophia Seabrook Jenkins and the Rev. Robert N. MacCallum, *Commemorative History of St. John's Parish* (Charleston, 1934), pp. 24,26,27.

<sup>40</sup> Wills, Vol. 8(1757-1760), p. 531, SCAD.

<sup>41</sup> MCO, Vol. WW, p. 530, CPC.

<sup>42</sup> Wills, Vol. 8(1757-1760), p. 524, SCAD.

<sup>43</sup> Miscellaneous Records Book EE (1741-1743), pp. 244-5, SCAD; also A. S. Salley, Jr., "Hugh Hext and Some of His Descendants," this *Magazine*, VI(1905), 29.

<sup>44</sup> MCO, Book 1758-1763, p. 360, CPC; also this *Magazine*, XXIII(1922), 107.

<sup>45</sup> Marriage Settlement Book I, p. 467, SCAD.

<sup>46</sup> Wills, Vol. 15(1771-1774), p. 369, SCAD.

bray, whose will mentions a minor son, Thomas.<sup>47</sup> Mary witnessed the will of Francis Hext, Jr., in 1746 as "Mary Mowbray." She married last a McGillivray and had a son, Alexander.<sup>48</sup> Issue by last wife:

V Charles Sams, called "my fourth son," was in the First Council of Safety, 1775, but was deceased by 1785, when a dispute arose over the estate he had received from his grandfather, John Stanyarne, Sr.<sup>49</sup> His will, listed in old Index Book as Bundle 10,Z-40, cannot be located.

VI Sarah Sams, called "my second dau." is the granddaughter referred to as Sarah Matthews in the will of John Stanyarne, Sr., in 1772. She married Benjamin Matthews March 16, 1770. Issue: an only daughter.<sup>50</sup>

## 5

JOHN SAMS (4.1) was the second son of Robert Sams, Sr., and his wife, Bridget Barnwell. He was not of age on February 6, 1760 (the date of a Codicil to his father's will), therefore, born after February 6, 1739. He established his Memorials April 25, 1761, and March 4, 1762, registering 562 and 150 acres. He sold April 21, 1770, 545 acres which had descended to him by his father's will.<sup>51</sup> In 1770 Mathias Brickett was substituted for him on the Vestry of St. John's Colonial Church. He married Mary Ann Norton, spinster, June 13, 1761.<sup>52</sup> She was born October 21, 1740, daughter of John Norton and his wife, Mary Ann Chaplin.<sup>53</sup> In an old Guardianship Book Susannah Sams is named as "daughter of John Sams," designated as a minor, and a guardian appointed for her April 15, 1784.<sup>54</sup> John Sams was definitely deceased by this date, and his wife had married *second* Patrick Dougherty by 1791. Issue:

I Ann (Ana) Sams, Spinster, of Datha Island, who married John Palmer, bachelor, of Lady's Island September 15, 1785, is believed to be their daughter.<sup>55</sup> A chart of the Chaplin family contains a John Sams Palmer Chaplin.

<sup>47</sup> Wills, Vol. 5(1740-1747), p. 547, SCAD.

<sup>48</sup> See Note 46.

<sup>49</sup> *DeSaussure Ct. Equity*, Vol. 1, p. 127, CPC.

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>51</sup> Memorial Vol. 7, p. 361, and Vol. 14, pp. 173,195, SCAD; also this *Magazine*, XX(1919), 223.

<sup>52</sup> D. E. Huger Smith and A. S. Salley, Jr., *Register of St. Philip's Parish, Charles Town, S. C., 1754-1810*, (Charleston, 1927), 280.

<sup>53</sup> This *Magazine*, XXIII(1922), 141.

<sup>54</sup> Old Guardianship Book (no number), p. 8, Ordinary's Office, CPC.

<sup>55</sup> This *Magazine*, XXIII(1922), 150,187.

- II Susannah Sams, a minor in 1784 when a guardian was appointed for her, mentions in her will, recorded 1791, an estate received from her father, and refers to her mother as "Mrs. Ann Dougherty, wife of Patrick Dougherty." She mentions a sister, Mary Greenage, as "daughter of my mother."<sup>56</sup>
- III Sarah Lassiter Sams, spinster, who entered into a marriage settlement with George Carlton, both of Charleston District, May 10, 1796, is possibly a daughter of John Sams.

## 6

WILLIAM SAMS (4,1) was the third son of Robert Sams, Sr., and his wife, Bridget Barnwell. He was born April 18, 1741, and married February 5, 1761, Elizabeth Hext, only child of Francis Hext, Jr., and his wife, Elizabeth Stanyarne. She was born January 2, 1746.<sup>57</sup> William Sams established his Memorial June 18, 1765, registering 490 acres on Wadmalaw Island; there is no mention of land elsewhere.<sup>58</sup> He is also listed in the records of the Colonial Church of St. John's Parish until 1779. On May 13, 1783, he purchased from his cousins, Robert and Sarah (Reeve) Gibbes, the 12,000-acre Island of Datha in old Granville County, where he became a wealthy planter.<sup>59</sup> On 26th of February, 1782, William Sams's estate was amerced in a fine of 12 per cent ad valorem by an act of the General Assembly. In a Petition to the State Senate, dated 2-th of January, 1783, he states that he is late of John's Island, but now of St. Helena, planter; that he has lost 40 slaves and a considerable part of his personal property by the British; that he has a large family: a wife, four children, and three orphans; and that he has never taken the Oath of Office or Allegiance to the King of Great Britain.<sup>60</sup> In the U. S. Census of 1790 he is listed with six sons, three over 16, and two females over 16 in his household—undoubtedly his wife and one of the orphans. Copies of his will have been preserved only in family records. He died January 16, 1798, and Elizabeth on November 8, 1813. Both are buried in the Sams private cemetery on Datha, which is adjacent to the ruins of an Episcopal Chapel built largely for the religious training of the many slaves on the island.<sup>61</sup> Issue: <sup>62</sup>

<sup>56</sup> Wills, Book B (1786-1793), p. 601, CPC.

<sup>57</sup> This *Magazine*, VI(1905), 29; also family Bible records.

<sup>58</sup> Memorial Vol. 6, p. 450, SCAD.

<sup>59</sup> MCO, Vol. W.5, p. 234, CPC.

<sup>60</sup> This *Magazine*, XXXIV(1933), 199; Confiscated Estate Records, SCAD.

<sup>61</sup> This *Magazine*, XXXIV(1933), 114-115.

<sup>62</sup> Bible references and cemetery markers.

- I Robert Sams, born February 25, 1764, deceased by the 1790 Census, unmarried.
- II William Sams, Jr., born March 7, 1766, died unmarried April 3, 1817, buried on Datha.
- 7 III John Sams
- IV Francis Sams, born July 31, 1772. The 1820 Census lists him as a planter in McIntosh County, Georgia, but he died unmarried January 15, 1827, in the old plantation home on Datha and is buried in the private cemetery.
- 8 V Lewis Reeve Sams
- 9 VI Berners Barnwell Sams
- 10 VII Edward Hext Sams

## 7

JOHN SAMS (6,4,1) was the son of William Sams, Sr., and his wife, Elizabeth Hext. He was born May 1, 1769, married March 15, 1792, Catherine B. DeVeaux, third daughter of Jacob DeVeaux and his wife, Elizabeth Barnwell of Charleston.<sup>63</sup> He is the John Sams of City of Charleston, with wife Catherine Bridget Sams, mentioned in Deed of Lease and Release of 940 acres at Goose Creek on January 9, 1795.<sup>64</sup> Issue (family records):

- I Arianna Sams, d.s.
- II Elizabeth Sams, d.s.
- 11 III William Sams

## 8

LEWIS REEVE SAMS (6,4,1) was the son of William Sams and his wife, Elizabeth Hext. He was born July 23, 1784, on Datha Island, South Carolina, died December 21, 1856, in Beaufort, and buried in the churchyard of the Beaufort Baptist Church.<sup>65</sup> He married *first* Sarah Fripp, daughter of Thomas Fripp and his wife, Martha Hann, and a sister of Elizabeth Fripp, wife of his brother Berners Barnwell Sams (family records). Sarah Fripp was born December 26, 1789, and died August 12, 1825, in Beaufort. She is buried in the Sams private cemetery on Datha Island. Lewis Reeve Sams inherited half of Datha Island. His plantation home was on the island, overlooking the Morgan River, and his town house was the "Hext House" in old Beaufort Town, which his

<sup>63</sup> This *Magazine*, XXI(1920), 123; also Marriage Settlement Book, Vol. 2, p. 387, SCAD.

<sup>64</sup> Deed Book Vol. M 6, p. 193, SCAD.

<sup>65</sup> This *Magazine*, XXXV(1934), 120, 121.

mother had inherited and which is still standing on Hancock Street. Later he built, or remodeled, a home on the corner of Bay and New Streets in Beaufort, which is now known as the "Waterhouse" place. On his Datha plantation he cultivated rice, indigo, cotton, and oranges (believed to be the first grown in the United States for commercial purposes). Lewis Reeve Sams received his formal education at Brown University. Records there show he was graduated in the class of 1806, with the A.B. degree. Issue by first marriage:

12 I Lewis Reeve Sams, Jr.

13 II Miles Brewton Sams

III Angerona Hext Sams, born February 26, 1813, died February 22, 1818, buried on Datha.

IV Caroline Edings Sams, born December 23, 1815, died February 18, 1897, married April 8, 1835, James Fripp, son of Isaac Perry Fripp and his wife, Mary Pope. He was born December 20, 1811, died June 27, 1880. Both are buried in the churchyard of the Beaufort Baptist Church. An only child, Mary S. Fripp, married Clarence W. Chaplin October 29, 1870. Children: Clarence Augustus, married Nancy Patterson Burkett; Caroline, married Hill Cory.<sup>66</sup>

V Robert Barnwell Sams, born June 15, 1817, died September 29, 1817, buried on Datha.

VI Stanhope Augustus Sams, born March 12, 1820, died unmarried November 10, 1899, and buried in the old Decatur, Georgia, cemetery, "CSA." He was a graduate of the South Carolina College in 1839.

14 VII Marion Washington Sams

VIII Sarah Emily Sams, born September 1, 1823, died unmarried September 8, 1855, and buried in the churchyard of the Beaufort Baptist Church.

About ten years after the death of his first wife, Lewis Reeve Sams, Sr., married *second* Frances Yonge Fuller, daughter of Thomas Fuller, Jr., of Beaufort and his wife, Elizabeth Middleton. She was born April 9, 1800, died June 15, 1857, and buried in the churchyard of the Beaufort Baptist Church. Copies of Lewis Reeve Sams's will are preserved only in family records. His two sons by his second marriage inherited his plantation on Datha Island. Issue by second marriage: <sup>67</sup>

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*; also Marriage Settlement Book 20, p. 248, SCAD; also Clarence Chaplin Bible.

<sup>67</sup> Family records and cemetery markers.

IX Elizabeth Fuller Sams, born November 17, 1836, died in 1919, married January 15, 1857, James Hemory Nash and later moved to Atlanta. Children: Frances Elizabeth, born November 23, 1857, married Lemuel Bartholomew and had issue; William Henry, born June 27, 1859, married Anna Jane Knight and had issue; Richard Reeve, born November 8, 1860, married Rosa Speights and had issue; Mary Fuller, born May 8, 1866, married Francis Joyner Merriam and had issue; Emma Charlotte, born January 31, 1869, married Adolph L. Adorholm; Francis Marion, born May 8, 1872, married Kate Emery and had issue; James Lewis, born April 27, 1875, married Emmie Dimon and had issue.

15 X Richard Fuller Sams

XI Thomas Fuller Sams, born in Beaufort November 27, 1842, died unmarried July 1, 1881, buried Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta.

XII Charlotte Catherine Sams, born 1841, d.y.

## 9

BERNERS BARNWELL SAMS (6,4,1) was the son of William Sams and his wife, Elizabeth Hext. He was born May 26, 1787, on Datha Island, died March 15, 1855, and is buried in Datha Island cemetery. He married *first*, November 5, 1812, Elizabeth Fripp, daughter of Thomas Fripp and his wife, Martha Hann. She was born August 11, 1795, died March 16, 1831, and is also buried on Datha. There is a letter in family records, written by her youngest child, stating that Thomas and Martha Hann Fripp were her grandparents. Berners Barnwell Sams inherited half of Datha, including the old Sams home site. He added a wing to each side of the original structure, making it in effect three separate houses. He also owned a home in Beaufort, which is still standing, but now known as the Crofut home. Berners Barnwell Sams was a physician and also a successful planter. Issue by first marriage (family Bibles and 1850 Census):

16 I Berners Bainbridge Sams

17 II Melvin Melius Sams

III William Washington Sams, born May 8, 1817, d.y.

IV Arianna Adeline Sams, born December 29, 1818, d.y.

18 V Donald Decatur Sams

VI Evelina Edings Sams, born February 4, 1822, married September 25, 1838, James E. Lawrence Fripp. She died March, 1861, buried in Datha cemetery with several infant children.

VII Franklin Fripp Sams, born February 24, 1824, died unmarried November 6, 1885, buried in Sams lot St. Helena's Parish Church, Beaufort.<sup>68</sup> He was a graduate of South Carolina College in 1843.

19 VIII James Julius Sams

20 IX Robert Randolph Sams

21 X Horace Hann Sams

XI Elizabeth Exima Sams, called "Aunt Bet," was born March 16, 1831, died unmarried December 3, 1906, and buried in churchyard of St. Helena's, Beaufort.

Berners Barnwell Sams married *second* November 30, 1831, Mrs. Martha (Edwards) Fripp, daughter of James Edwards and his wife, Rebecca Fripp. Family records state she had previously married a Fripp cousin who was a brother of Elizabeth Hann Fripp, the *first* wife of Berners Barnwell Sams. Martha Edwards was born June 23, 1799, died February 23, 1857. She is buried in Datha Island cemetery. Issue by second marriage:

XII Adelaide Arianna Sams born September 16, 1832, at Beaufort, married March 20, 1865, Laurent Daniel Hallonquist, son of David Daniel Hallonquist and his wife, Marian Hatton, emigrants from London *c.* 1812. She died March 1909, at Cocoa, Florida, and is buried in St. Luke's Churchyard. He died May 13, 1819, and is buried in old Montgomery, Alabama, cemetery. Children: Marian Hatton, born May 29, 1866, married John Julius LaRoche, and had issue; Frederick Francis, born March 27, 1868; Francis Arthur, born October 8, 1869; Elizabeth Sams, born June 25, 1870, married Robert Boone LaRoche and had issue; Martha, born October 19, 1874, married *first* Richard Jenkins LaRoche and had issue, married *second*, as a widow, her cousin, Horace Hann Sams (see No. 25).

22 XIII Barnwell Bonum Sams

XIV Charles Clement Sams, born February 16, 1837, died unmarried May 13, 1865.

XV Sarah Stanyarne Sams, born July 5, 1840, married her cousin, John Hanahan Sams, son of William Sams and his wife, Sarah Adams Reynolds (See No. 25).

<sup>68</sup> This *Magazine*, XXXII(1931), 227.



## 10

EDWARD HEXT SAMS (6,4,1) was the youngest son of William Sams and his wife, Elizabeth Hext. He was born January 1, 1790, on Datha Island, and married October 27, 1814, by Rev. Matthews, Rector of St. Philip's, to Sarah Emily Fripp, daughter of Paul Fripp and his wife, Amelia Reynolds. She was born March 2, 1794, and died 1837. Edward Hext Sams moved first into Georgia, near Darien. He is listed in the 1820 Census of McIntosh County, Georgia, as a planter; however, the first Florida Census of 1830 lists him in Duvall County, where he and his wife are buried. Issue: <sup>69</sup>

23 I Francis William Sams

II Elizabeth Emily Sams, born April 1, 1817, married Dr. John Williams Jenkins, son of Richard Jenkins of John's Island and his wife, Phoebe Waight Jenkins, daughter of John Jenkins. Children: Isabella Maria, born May 2, 1842, Ann Eliza Marceline, born December 23, 1846. Several children d.y.<sup>70</sup>

34.

III Angeline Hext Sams, born January 10, 1819, d.y.

IV Edward Hext Sams, Jr., born November 7, 1921, d.y.

24 V Angelon Barnwell Sams, born September 20, 1823.<sup>71</sup>

VI Angeline Cornelia Sams, born July 18, 1825.

<sup>69</sup> Family Bible owned by Augustine Sams, Atlanta, Ga.; also records of descendants in Florida, owned by Mrs. S. J. Sweett of New Smyrna Beach.

<sup>70</sup> Family Bible records; also this *Magazine*, XX(1919), 241, and XXXV(1934),

34.

<sup>71</sup> Family Bible records.

*(To be continued)*