

John L. Barber Family
Maternal Grandfather of Nathaniel Barber Hall

By Ricky Smith

John L. Barber Family

The mother of Dr. Nathaniel Barber Hall was Mary (Mollie) Barber. Mollie married John “Jacky” Hall, Jr., who was the son of John and Martha (Gladden) Hall. According to the *Hall Family Hystory* (written by Dr. Hall), his mother "was an Irish girl, who belonged to the Colony of Irish Patriots from Antrim County, North Ireland that came to South Carolina in 1797." (According to John Barber’s tombstone, he came to Fairfield County, South Carolina in 1791.)

Mary Barber's father was John L. Barber, who was born in 1770 in Glenderry, Antrim County, Northern Ireland. The Barbers were originally from Scotland but moved to Northern Ireland, where they were reported to be linen makers.

John L. Barber married Sarah Carmichael in 1790 and immigrated to South Carolina in 1791. Sarah died in South Carolina.

John L. and Sarah Carmichael had seven children: John, Mary “Mollie” (mother of Nathaniel Barber Hall), Nathaniel Carmichael, Sarah Elizabeth, James Alexander, Jane, and William Thomas Barber.

John moved to Chambers County, Alabama in 1839. In the early 1830s, his son, Nathaniel Carmichael Barber, had been involved in the surveying of lands associated with the Indian removal. Nathaniel persuaded his father and brothers to move to Alabama.

Prior to moving to Alabama, John had at least 5 tracts of land containing 364 acres on the Wateree River, six miles from Winnsboro, South Carolina. He lived in South Carolina for about 47 years.

He was said to have been an educated man and owned books written in Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and French.

The house John built in Alabama was known for years as “Barber’s Sweet Home,” which is pictured in the book, *Pine Log and Greek Revival*, by William Davidson. The community around his home eventually became known as “Barber’s Sweet Home.”

John L. Barber's second wife was Margaret (last name unknown).

Jo Ann Barber, a descendant of Nathaniel Carmichael Barber, grew up in Chambers County, Alabama and is familiar with the family history. The following is an excerpt from one of her emails:

My Dad's aunt Simmie [Allurah Simmie Ann Barber, granddaughter of Nathaniel C. Barber] was the family historian and I have her trunk. Inside the trunk were lots of papers, deeds, and letters. Some of them were dated as far back as 1819 and all handwritten on parchment paper. I just donated the biggest portion of these papers to the Cobb Memorial Archives in Valley, Alabama, which is in Chambers Co. So they have a Barber Family papers collection there. I did this because I didn't know how to best preserve this valuable family history that was just deteriorating away, and they promised to archive and preserve them so they would be there for everyone to see.

John L. Barber donated land for the Sweet Home Methodist Church and Cemetery in Chambers County. Jo Ann also said in the email:

Emory Chapel was about 3 miles (less as the crow flies) from Sweet Home and one of the first ministers to preach there was Nathaniel C. Barber. The Barber family was big supporters of this church as well as Sweet Home UMC. John L. and his wife, Margaret [his second wife] went 2 miles up the road from Sweet Home and were founding members of Lebanon Presbyterian Church. (I think the Barbers were Presbyterian in Ireland.) Both Sweet Home and Lebanon are still open and have regular services, but Emory Chapel burned down some years ago. My dad says he remembers going to services at Emory Chapel in the back of a wagon.

John died on July 3, 1848, and is buried at Sweet Home Methodist Church Cemetery, Chambers County, Alabama. The inscription on his tombstone reads:

Sacred to the memory of John Barber, who was born in Glenwherry, Antrim County, Ireland, A.D. 1770; and he married Sarah Carmichal, in 1790; and immigrated to Fairfield district S. C. in 1791; whence he removed to this State in 1839 and died on the 3rd of July 1848, aged 78 years.

John L. Barber was a half-brother to James Barber, who was the father of Eliza (Barber) Richmond Wilmore Brown, and great-grandfather of Nancy Ann (Boulware) Hall.

John Barber Comes to America

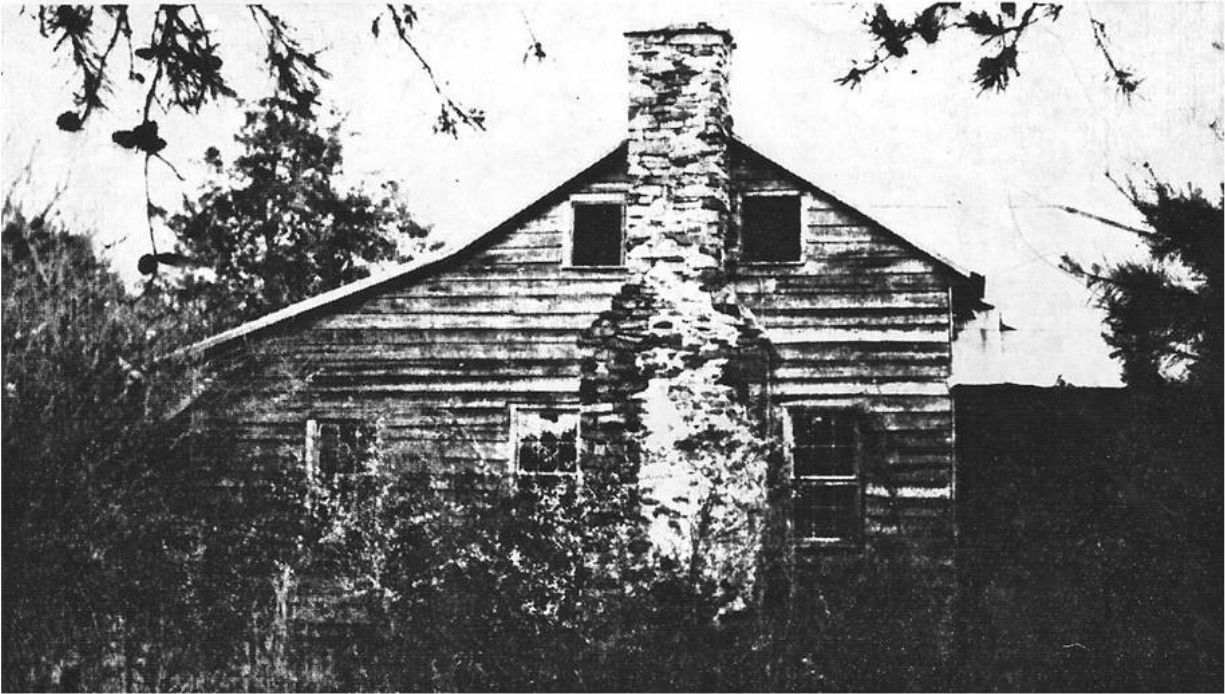
sutley198 added this on 26 Dec 2008 (Ancestry.com). This person is a descendant of John Barber's son, William Thomas Barber.

“John L Barber came to America with his brother, James, prior to 1790 [according to John Barber's tombstone, he came in 1791]. They had two brothers already here; those brothers were probably Nathaniel and William, as two families by those lived nearby according to census and other records, including the fact that John L. named his second son Nathaniel and his seventh child was William Thomas. The family first settled in Chester, South Carolina then moved to Fairfield District, S C. In 1839 they [John Barber's family] moved on to Chambers County, Alabama. . . . They were in Scotland for a time and in Ireland for a while. In England they were linen makers. John L. was taught the trade but never followed it. . . . He was the youngest of a large family. Here are two stories about why the Barbers left Ireland. One is that the older brothers were involved in the Irish Rebellion, found themselves on the losing side and left Ireland to save their heads. The other story is that the father was a hard taskmaster and paid his sons as he did all of the other workers. They confronted the father and demanded a share of the profits. The story goes that he went to his trunk and brought out a hat full of gold. Placing it on the table, he told his sons to divide it among themselves and leave home. This was their ‘full inheritance.’ . . . They [John and James] remained in Ireland for a few more years before leaving. Another tells of a thirteen year old orphan girl was on the ship to America with them and later one of Barber brothers married her.

“Another story is that John spent his last money for a keg of brew to celebrate with his shipmates at their arrival. Apparently, he expected his older brother to help him once they had arrived in America.

“The 1820 census of Fairfield County, SC listed a John Barber, SR and his wife who was over 45, two sons and two daughters who were between 16 and 18, a son who was between 16 and 18, and a younger son between 10 and 16. Our William Thomas Barber would have been eleven in 1820. There would have been older children who were probably not at home, including Mary [who married John “Jacky” Hall – parents of Nathaniel Barber Hall] who was already married as she would be a grandmother in 1848.”

John Barber House, Chambers County, Alabama



John Barber built this house in 1839. John died in 1848. His son Nathaniel C. Barber and his wife, Elizabeth, raised a family of ten children in the house. Nathaniel's son, Imlah Erastus Barber, and his wife, Martha Ellen Whitlow, raised their family there also. Imlah's two single daughters lived there in the 1940's when family visited them. The land was sold in the 1950's to a lumber Co. and the place was deserted. Photo from the book, *Pine Log and Greek Revival*, by William Davidson.



Chambers County, Alabama— Church signs in Buffalo, Alabama. There is an old closed store & a few other buildings, plus one home (that we saw) in Buffalo.

John Barber's Grave
Sweet Home Methodist Church Cemetery
Chambers County, Alabama



Inscription: "Sacred to the memory of John Barber, who was born in Glenwherry, Antrim County, Ireland, A.D. 1770; and he married Sarah Carmichal, in 1790; and immigrated to Fairfield district S. C. in 1791; whence he removed to this State in 1839 and died on the 3rd of July 1848, aged 78 years."

Allurah Simmie Ann Barber (1873-1958)

Simmie was the daughter of Imlah Barber and family historian. Simmie graduated from a nursing school in the early 1900s. She and her sister, Mary E (Mamie), lived in the old Barber house until the 1950s. After the deaths of one of their brothers and his wife, Simmie & Mamie raised three of their nephews. Photo provided by Jo Ann Barber.





Sweet Home United Methodist Church
Chambers County, Alabama
John Barber donated land for Church & Cemetery



Sue standing behind John Barber's grave in Sweet Home Cemetery (May 2008)



John Barber's gravestone

John Barber's Citizenship Application (1809)

COUNTY RECORDS

Fairfield

Petition of David Wilson, born Ireland, aged 51 years...19 April 1809.

Petition of Alexander Harvey, born Ireland, aged 50 years...18 April 1809.

Petition of James Harvey, born Ireland, aged 45 years..18 April 1809.

Petition of John Barber, born Ireland, aged 38 years...18 April 1809.

Petition of James Linn, born Ireland, aged 55...18 April 1809.

Petition of William Kiernaghan, born Ireland, aged 45...19 April 1809.

Petition of Christopher Plunkett, born Ireland...19 April 1809.

Petition of David Patton, born Ireland, aged 33...20 April 1809.

Petition of Hugh Penny, born Ireland, aged 46...19 April 1809.

Petition of John Kirkpatrick, born Ireland, aged 30...19 April 1809.

Petition of James Perry, born Ireland...18 April 1809.

Petition of James Rogers, born Ireland, aged 37...18 April 1809.

Petition of Samuel Bones, born Ireland...14 April 1802.

Petition of Robt. Boyd, born Ireland...17 April 1809.

Petition of James McGill, born Ireland, aged 35...19 April 1809.

Petition of Robert Thompson, born Ireland, aged 24...19 April 1809.

Petition of Gan Thompson, born Ireland, aged 51...19 April 1809.

Petition of James Brice, born Ireland, aged 35...19 April 1809.

Petition of James Caldwell, born Ireland, aged 69...16 April 1809.

Petition of Gan Curry, born Ireland, aged 55...18 April 1809.

Petition of Robert Caldwell, born Ireland...19 April 1809.

Petition of Patrick Gladney, born Ireland, aged 45...19 April 1809.

Petition of Michael Moore, born Ireland, aged 55...22 April 1809.

Petition of John Brice, born Ireland...16 November 1809.

Petition of Samuel Caldwell, born Ireland...14 November 1809.

Petition of James Murdock, born Ireland...14 November 1809.

Petition of David Wilson, born County of Antrim, Ireland, aged 35...18 April 1810.

Petition of Alexander Thompson, born County of Antrim, Ireland, aged about 32 years...18 April 1810.