

Thomasson House Built About 1830

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Hutchison Family Linked With Early History Of House

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By Elizabeth Reed

Tom Thomasson built this old house standing midway between the India Hook and the Ebenezer communities well before the War Between The States. The house and lands now belong to W. B. Wilson, Rock Hill attorney.

Sam Hutchison and Banks Hutchison, cousins, who live in the India Hook community and who have passed their "three score years and ten" know much of the early history of the old home, but they do not know just when it was built, they think probably about 1830.

Of a quaint early American type, the old house stands two stories in height with a sturdy chimney at one end. Where the weatherboarding has been torn away, the mud-daubed logs, fully 20 inches squared, can be seen. The house is remarkably well preserved for one of its age. Living in the house when visited by the Herald reporter were Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Burgess and their seven children ranging in age from a tiny infant to a sturdy nine year old.

The upstairs and the down stairs have two rooms each. Horizontally placed wide pine boards form the walls. The partitions are of vertically arranged wide boards. The original floors are there and the smaller than average windows probably date from 1830 or before.

Tom Thomasson built the house with slave labor and in his old age faithful slaves lived in the house with him to care for him.

About 1873 Capt. James Porter Hutchison bought the house and land. When Mr. Thomasson died a year later Capt. Hutchison moved into the house with his wife, Mrs. Precious Catherine Hill Hutchison.

Children

When they moved into the old home they had four children. Etta Hutchison who married Ed Steele and became the mother of Joe Steele and Mrs. Aline Steele of Ebenezer; Alice who died at age 2; Susie who died in infancy; and Sam who is now 75 and lives at India Hook church. After they moved into the house their youngest child Lonnie was born. Lonnie Hutchison died in 1908.

After Capt. Hutchison's wife died in 1895 the house and land passed to his daughter Mrs. Steele. Capt. Hutchison went to live with his son, Sam. He also spent much time with his brother, S. J. Hutchison who lived five a mile away.

The house and land later was owned by the Friedheim family. Since 1900 it has been owned by Mr. Wilson.

Sam and Banks Hutchison remember how the house looked when as little boys they played there. They recall Tom and Cynthia Mitchem who lived in the one-time cook house in the yard. They remember the gin and the loom house where materials for the family clothes had been woven.

Capt James Porter Hutchison and S. J. Hutchison, and the Rev. John Wesley Hutchison were brothers. James Porter and S. J. Hutchison both fought in the War Between The States. One of them was wounded, the other was kept a prisoner. Capt. J. P. Hutchison had a big hand in the construction of 70 year old India Hook Methodist church which grew out of the Ebenezer congregation.



OLD THOMASSON HOME—This quaint house, built in the style of a by-gone day, stands off a little frequented road about five miles from Rock Hill and midway between the India Hook and Ebenezer communities. It is well preserved for its age, which is believed to be well over a century. (Herald Staff Photo).

His brother, S. J. Hutchison was educated at the old Ebenezer Academy and taught school in the section for many years. He and his wife, Rebecca Jane McCully Hutchison had five children, W. S., Banks P., C. S., John and Jessie Mae, of these only Banks and Clyde S., who teaches now in Columbia, are left.

The first Hutchisons came from Antrim county Ireland to Charleston and from there to the up-country.

An interesting tradition in the Hutchison family concerns their relations with the Catawbas. An early Hutchison by the name of Alfred was on very friendly terms with the Catawbas who in those early days believed strongly in dreams.

One day Catawba brave John Foxx came to Alfred Hutchison and told he had dreamed that Alfred had given him his best horse and his gun. It was fall of the year and Hutchison had no particular use of the horse during the winter. So to humor the red skin he lent his horse and gun to him. Foxx rode the horse and hunted all winter.

When spring came and Hutchison needed his horse again he went to see the Indian and told him a dream. He had dreamed that he went fishing and the fish would not bite. In another dream he dreamed that the Catawba had given him all the land he could encircle by a tremendously long grapevine. Having faith in dreams John Foxx gave Hutchison an immense tract of land, part of which belongs to this day in the family.

Sam Hutchison lived in the old house from the time he was about a year old until 1897 when he was married.

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