

Ancestral Line of Absalom Bishop, Senior, 1627-1926.

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1627 ----- 1926

Written by his Great Grand Daughter,

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INTRODUCTORY

A HISTORICAL SKETCH

One of the high points in English and American History is the founding of the first permanent English Settlement in America at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607.

James I was King of England, having succeeded Queen Elizabeth in 1603.

The historic emphasis in the first successful planting of this particular colony by the English, lies in the fact that it was the beginning - - the "opening wedge," so to express it, of the English Colonial Expansion in the New World, and brought to the wilds of North America the customs, habits of thought, and the developing ideals of the Anglo-Saxon race.

At this period, the wars between England and Scotland had ceased. An union between the two countries had been formed. The crown of Scotland had been united to that of England, and James Stuart, who was James VI of Scotland, came to the English throne as James I of England under the articles of this union.

The settlers in Virginia knew about these matters. They also knew that the trade relations, abroad and at home, would strengthen both countries in sea power, freight carrying -- naval expansion -- greater equipment, worships, etc.; because of this union of the two countries, under the English Crown, although Scotland still retained her parliament. Wales was already a loyal supporter of the English Monarchy, but, for centuries the Welsh Chieftains had fought English kings. At last a grandson of Owen Tudor, a Welch knight, came to the English throne as Henry VII, whose name was Henry Tudor. This was in 1485. From that time the Welsh were loyal to the English Crown.

Thus, it came about, that the three countries were under the same national government. Taken together, as a body of land, they formed the island of Great Britain.

Ireland known as the "Emerald Isle", and a large island too, lay just across the Irish Sea and its arms, to the west of Great Britain. This body of water, with its arms, bays, inlets and channels, washed the shores of Great Britain, and made it easy for the Irish and Scotch, especially, to form internal trade relations. In this way marriages often occurred between the two peoples.

The decendants of these marriages often were known as "Scotch-Irish", whereso-

ever they might choose to live. Both the Scotch and the Irish were of a strong and vigorous section or division of the Celtic-Caucasian part of the human race. So were the Welsh. Ireland was also under the government of Great Britain.

The American of today, who wishes to trace his ancestral line back to the land of his forefathers, must have little appreciation of the conditions under which his ancestors lived, if he does not seek to learn something of the "tendencies of the times" in which they "moved and had their being."

Great national and religious movements combined, were astir in the British Isles and Ireland, while the settlers in Virginia were clearing forests, building homes for shelter, erecting forts of defense against the Indians, raising corn and wheat for food, and tobacco for export, and gradually becoming a prosperous English, or Anglo-American colony. The real meaning of the contest in both its political and religious aspects, was the further rights of the people, versus the powers of the crown, mixed up with the opposition to the creed of the Established Church of England. Everyone was forced by law to worship in those churches or be fined or imprisoned. All this led to civil war in the next reign. James I was one of those rulers who called himself (as head) a king by divine right, as did the rest of the Stuarts who followed him on the English throne. He declared that "It is presumption and the high contempt in a subject to dispute what a king can do; or say a king cannot do this or that". The historian says those are his own words. But the Commons of the English Parliament differed with their Stuart kings in their views concerning the nature of government, particularly the nature of the English government. In this difference of views lay hidden the Civil War of the next reign, and all that grew out of it, --The Commonwealth, the Protectorate, and the Revolution of 1688. When James I came to the English throne, it had been nearly four hundred years since King John, (one of the Plantagenet Rulers of England), had been forced to sign the Great Charter, held sacred as the safeguard of English liberties and in which the rights and privileges of the people were clearly defined and guaranteed.

The historian says; "Considering the far reaching consequences that resulted from the granting of this Charter -- the securing of Constitutional Liberty as an inheritance of the English speaking race, in all parts of the world -- it must always be considered the most important concession ever wrung from a tyrannical sovereign."

This charter was secured by an uprising and an open revolt of the barons of the realm. The tyrant was forced to bow to the storm he had raised. He met his barons at Runnymede, a meadow on the Thames, near Windsor, and there affixed his seal to the instrument which had been prepared to receive it. This event took place in 1215.

Afterward, King John disregarded various articles of the Great Charter, *by arrogating to himself prerogatives which were forbidden in the Charter*

and so did many of his successors; but the people always clung to it as the warrant and safeguard of their liberties. Again and again they forced tyrannical kings to renew and confirm its provisions, and swear solemnly to observe all its articles.

At the death of King John his son and successor came to the English throne as Henry III.

Henry III proved to be a worse tyrant than his father. A chronicler of the times says: "The English were oppressed like as the people of Israel under Pharoah." Henry violated the provisions of the Charter to such an extent that it became open war between him and his people. A big battle was fought between the royal forces and the forces of the people, known as the battle of Lewes; the royal forces were defeated and King Henry was taken prisoner.

Earl Simon de Montfort, the leader of the people against the king, now issued, in the King's name, writs of summons to the barons, (except to the king's adherents), the bishops, and the abbots to meet in Parliament; at the same time he sent similar writs to the sheriffs of the different shires directing them "to return two knights for the body of their county, with two citizens or burghers for every city and borough contained in it." This was the first time that plain, untitled citizens, or burghers had been called to take their places with the barons, bishops and knights in the great council of the nation; to join in deliberations on the affairs of the realm.

From this gathering may be dated the birth of the House of Commons. That event took place in 1265. The formation of the House of Commons brought out the principle of representation through the ballots of the people in practical form. It was, or led to, a great change in the form of the English national assembly. The House of Commons finally grew into the controlling branch of the English Parliament.

Down the chain of the centuries, ever and anon, the English people stormed the citadels of tyranny, and compelled arrogant kings to come back to the "law and the testimony" of constitutional liberty, and their rights in voting by ballots for their representatives in the House of Commons.

James I knew the history of these English people, and of his own Scotland, and every important event which had occurred in the making of this English constitutional monarchy. He knew the spirit of the English nation, but for all that he was an Obstructor, blind to the best welfare of the most progressive nation on the globe at that period of time. He was a decided failure in his kingly capacity. He drew no lessons of wisdom from the records of the past as the head of the National Government of England.

All the time during his reign he was quarrelling with the House of Commons, imposing his tyrannical laws by proclamation and otherwise upon the people. History records that by his orders through corrupt judges who would do his bidding that some of the members of court who would not were cast into prison. He would

his demands. The representatives of the people⁴ in the House of Commons issued a written protest, called "The Great Protestation." This protest stands out in bold characters as to the civil and political and governmental status of the English people. It was another link in the chain of constitutional freedom, in the development of the English nation. Like a cable of steel, it reached back and back to the Great Charter; to the Battle of Lewes; to the formation of that House of Commons with this king was over-riding. James I was standing on the brink of a volcano when he died in 1625.

All this while the Virginia Colony had many troubles from different causes. One of them was sickness among the settlers, brought on by exposure in that land of swamps and jungles on the banks of the James. At one period deaths from this cause alone cut down the population to half, at least, of their number. Malaria poisoned the blood of the stoutest men and fevers seized them with deadly grip. Another great trouble arose. The Indians committed a terrible massacre upon the settlements outlying up and down the river. Three hundred men, women and children were killed and many homes burned. But, somehow the Indians were driven further away into the wilderness. The colony recovered and settlers from the English dominions over the sea flocked to Virginia; English, Scotch, Scotch-Irish, Irish and Welsh. People of other nationalities came also in groups. And sometimes an individual came just to look in. England was a cosmopolitan nation among the nations even then. Law and order had slowly but surely developed into her system of government; in spite of wars, privileged aristocracy, oppression of kings and titled sympathisers who supported the rulers; in spite of every obstruction, James I could not break a single link in the chain of constitutional freedoms guaranteed to her people. He could and did trample upon the rights of the people, but it only secured as a result in the end of the Stuart dynasty, a freer government for the people.

The colonists in Virginia had met and formed the first legislative representative government in America, some years prior to the death of King James. It consisted of the governor, council and deputies or burgesses, as they were called, chosen from the various "plantations" or burroughs. Its laws had to be ratified by the proprietary company (The London Co.) in England; but, in turn, the orders from London were not binding unless ratified by the Colonial Assembly. This event took place July 30, 1619.

These privileges were afterward embodied in a written constitution, the first of the kind in America. A measure of freedom was thus granted the young colony. That occurred in 1621 and Jamestown became a nursery of liberty.

James I feared the democratic principles upheld in the House of Commons at home and their spread to the wild woods of Virginia. A goodly number

of London Company were his political opponents and he feared the influence of certain members of that company upon the colony. In 1624, King James took over the Company's charter, but before the legal provisions could be completed, his death the following year, delayed matters.

Charles I, the son of King James, succeeded his father to the throne of England. In the stir of the times, the legal aspect of the charter was not put into practical action for sometime. In the interim, Sir George Yeardly, of the London Co., took charge of matters in 1626 and served as governor of the colony until his death in the latter part of November 1627. Then Virginia became in actual fact and functioning a royal colony, and so remained until the American Revolution.

END OF THE INTRODUCTION

While Sir George Yearley was acting governor of the colony of Virginia, after the accession of Charles I to the throne of England, there was a general influx of immigration into the colony during both of the years of 1626 and 1627 in which he served.

One day during this period, in accordance with family legends, taken together with historic facts in connection therewith, a British immigrant ship, with its signal flag flying at the mast head, 'churned' its way amidst the jolly greetings of the water craft - freighters, trade-vessels, ships, etc.- and finally swung to anchorage at the landing point in the harbor.

Groups of people gathered to welcome the newcomers who were awaiting the given time when orders should be given to those on board to disembark. There was always some delays in cases of this kind. Luggage had to be identified, and any other possessions of the immigrants which had been brought over in the ship. Those were primitive times. No ocean liners then; no floating palaces; no steamers to split the waves of the stormy Atlantic -- just sailing ships; but they were of improved kind, above and beyond the shipping and naval advance of any other maritime nation on the globe. (Whatever may be said derogatory of King Henry VIII, as to his divorcement from Catherine of Aragon, and his marriage to Anne Boleyn, and his consequent fight with the Pope, he kept an eye "for keeps" on the British Navy.)

King Henry had the vision to perceive that England's defensive and offensive strength lay in her mastery of the sea. He brought to perfection the sailing war ship and gave it precedence over the oared vessel, which up to his time, had held chief place in the world's war navies.

The British Immigrant ship carried the prestige of England's progressive naval program; the confidence of its "land lubber" immigrants to America, to the effect that their ship by any means, should go down in a great storm at sea, the ship of any other nation would be dashed to pieces under far less stress of wind and weather. This spirit of confidence made the long and tedious voyages more endurable, swept aside supposed perils in the minds of the voyagers, and minimized real dangers that might be encountered on any ocean voyage, to a calm and sane viewpoint; but to resume:

The crowd at the landing grew larger-- now and then a matron trips along carefully leading a little girl or boy; another, followed by two or three older children stops beneath the branches of a huge oak looking down from an eminence which commands a good view of the crowd below and the ship with its reefed sail in the harbor. Who will dare 'fly in the face' of history and tradition, to cast a

doubt upon the entire probability that those matrons and mothers are not the -7- veritable women whose husbands paid the stipulated quantity of yellow-leaf Virginia tobacco for the privilege of claiming his bride? Those laughing-eyed youngers are native born Virginians - fruit of an economic love pact --a pact that spans oceans, bridges, streams and conquers continents. No doubt that some of those husbands had heard the story of poor old Jacob's fourteen years' servitude and thanked their stars that they lived in the forefront of the modern times -- the tobacco age, when a man could throw a few pounds at the feet of the lady of his choice, and close the deal at once.

But memories are at play among the groups near the landing. Pictures of olden days, scenes and their by-gone associations in the homeland, flash like a ray of light through the mind of many an interested member of the groups gathered at the various standpoints. Some of them are there to receive letters such as only their homefolks can write; or packages such as loved ones only know how to select, for as imigrant ship brings and carries everything in the way of mail- if such a universal transportation system maybe so termed. Others are on hand to greet a relative, friend, acquaintance who is expected to land from this ship. Others are at the landing for the sole purpose of giving a warm welcome to some one whom they have never personally met, known to them simply thru report of good character in the county or the city from which they themselves have migrated. And youths have come to various groups, curious on-lookers for the purpose of sighting the crowd, as much as to see the imigrants land. They are products of English homes having come over like fledgelings pushed from the home nest, to rise and fall according to strength of wing. There is an observant wag among them whose nod and wink behind a long face, sour-looking, skinny, old churchman in a fluttering cape; created much sly amusement among the youngsters. Not far away stands a tall, aristocratic gentleman in knee breeches and leggins. Once upon a time he had been a butler in the country house of 'mylord so-and-so' upon one of the titled estates in England. He owns a small but rather lucrative tobacco farm now and is given to sipping "port" when obtainable or some other stimulant equally "aristocratic" and effective. On occasions, he is also given to descanting upon the majesty of kings and their "divine right" of rulership over the nations of the earth. But his most emphatic points are his references to the "lower orders", the sum and substance of all of which is English Toryism upheld by James I and his supporters - followed NOW by his son Charles I, the present king. Tell it not in Oath, but the Muscle and Brawn Democracy of the settlement have labelled him "Our Cockadoo"; the parrot the repeats what his master tells him. But for all this the most interesting personality in review upon the canvas of this historical and traditional sketch is "Graybeard", a genuine six-footer in coonshin cap, leather

jacket and loose leather breeches. It is the connecting link that unites 1607 to the present period or epoch in the local annals of the colony.

"Graybeard" came over with the first settlers sent out by the London Co. under Captain Newport. He was somewhat past middle age then but fell for all he was worth to the spreading epidemic of castin anchors on the shores of North America. He hunted for the "yellow metal" with the gold seeking faddists and probably felt as keenly as any idlesome young lordling who calls him "my goodman" at the total failure to find the golden treasure.

"Graybeard" helped to fell the first trees to build the first huts for shelters in the settlement. He was at the "innings" in erecting forts of defense against the Indians; and was a match in vigor, suddenness of movement, and sheer physical strength, of the red man of the forest. In the person of "Graybeard", the Fates had co-operated with nature in creating a superior type of Anglo-Saxon manhood, in the shadow of Privilege and Caste; where the torch of justice was too often obscured, and poverty and toil and crime were hidden in the glare and splendor and power of ill-gotten wealth.

"Graybeard" knew Captain John Smith, John Rolfe and Pocahontas and Powatan. He had straved with the people in "starving time" and had suffered with swamp fever which had sent more than half the colonists to their graves. Born in the latter part of Queen Elizabeth's reign, possessing no mean acquaintance with English history, brought up in the "school of Hard Knocks", Gray from exposure rather than from age, informed, self-contained, he stands foursquare to all the winds that blow, watching the new arrivals in the harbor with eyes alert beneath his sedate coonskin cap. He is a type of the Anglo-Saxon backwoodman whom kings forgot and fame scorned, until his like conquered the wilderness and American freedom perched upon his banner.

On board the ship in the harbor the roster was called, the gangplank thrown out, and a large party of immigrants filed to the shore, amidst a roaring cheer from the people. Someone called in stentorian tones: "Welcome friends, every one of ye!"

It was at this time, and from this ship, that an Irish mechanic by the name of Bishop, landed with his wife and children at Jamestown, Virginia. His given name is reputed to have been William and he is known to the Union County, South Carolina branch of his descendants as their original progenitor; the real Bishop personality being a smiling mechanic from Ireland from whom this particular branch of the Bishop family descended. Therefore, he is known in this chronicle as William, which, in all probability was this Irishman's given name.

About one-hundred and three years after the landing of the Irish mechanic by the name of Bishop with his wife and children at Jamestown, Virginia, in the spring of 1627, a great-great-grandson was born in the colony, who was by lineal links in the chain of his Bishop forebears, descended from William Bishop.

The name of this particular descendant was Absalom Bishop Senior. The

himself may be found in the following pages.

Absolom Bishop, Senior was born in the colony of Virginia near the close of the year 1730, and died in the vicinity of old Quaker church in Union District, South Carolina, in 1807, in the 77th year of his age.

He was third in the ancestral line of this special Bishop family bred and born in the colony of Virginia, prior to the American Revolution.

His father, Thomas Bishop, was born in the Colony in 1690, and lived in the colony to old age. He was of a mechanical turn of mind and became a co-partner with a company of Virginians engaged in the business of establishing grist mills upon a number of tributary streams of the James and Potomac. It was a lucrative business as it met the necessities of the increasing population, and the steady influx of immigrant families into the colony. Thomas Bishop accumulated considerable means, became a land owner and developed his holdings into valuable property. He married the daughter of a "mill-wright" in 1729. His wife's father was his partner in the matter of establishing mills. So, this young man fell in love with his partner's daughter and married her. Near the close of the following year, 1730, Thomas Bishop's wife presented him a son and named him Absalom in honor of one of her kinsmen. It has been said that each of his parents gave this first born son a name, and therefore, he wore a double given name. Be that as it may, the Senior attached, distinguished him from one of his sons named Absalom long afterward, who, in chronological order, became Absalom Bishop, Junior.

Thomas Bishop, the father of Absalom Bishop, Senior, was Second in the line of this Bishop progeniture, bred and born in the colony of Virginia, prior to the war of the American Revolution.

Nathaniel Bishop was the father of Thomas Bishop, and the grandfather of Absalom Bishop, Senior, and was bred and born in the Colony of Virginia. He spent his entire life within its original limits. He was known among his associates as "Nat" Bishop.

Nathaniel Bishop was born in 1662 or there about and was the youngest of a small family of children, of which he was reputed to be the only son that lived to manhood. His father was born in Ireland, and came to Jamestown, Virginia as a lad verging into early youth, with his father, mother, and a brother younger but next in age to himself. Tradition points to two others in this Bishop family group from Ireland, namely; a son and a daughter, in their childhood.

The head of this Bishop family was an Irish mechanic whose given name is reputed, through the mists of the years, to have been William Bishop; and, also, that he was known among his associates in his native Ireland as "big Bill," because of his muscular strength and tall, wiry frame.

Nathaniel Bishop's father was the elder son of William Bishop and bore the name of Sam Mack, the "Mack" being wholly or in part his mother's family name.

Nathaniel Bishop was a farmer and married the daughter of a well-to-do tobacco farmer who was one among the older settlers in the colony. It has been reputed to him that he loved the soil and made his farming operations entirely successful in both the cultivation of tobacco and of the cereals. A number of children were born to him and his wife besides their son Thomas, not all of whom survived the malarial climate.

It is not within the scope of this chronicle to follow up the branches of the Bishop Family Tree, other than that branch from which Absalom Bishop, Senior, sprang as a lineal scion of the old trunk. Nathaniel Bishop, father of Thomas Bishop, and grandfather of Absalom Bishop, Senior, was First in the direct ancestral line of this special Bishop family bred and born in the colony of Virginia, prior to the Revolutionary war between the mother country and her English colonies in America.

The lapse of time between the date of his birth and the breaking out of the war in 1775, covered a period of one-hundred and thirteen years.

William Bishop, the progenitor of the special Bishop family from whom Absalom Bishop, Sr. sprang, landed at Jamestown, Virginia, with his wife and family from a British immigrant ship in the spring of 1627.

Charles I, was King of England, having succeeded his father, James I, to the English throne in 1625.

Just before his death, King James had annulled the charter of the London Company which company had founded the colony and made it permanent by securing to the settlers the civil rights of Englishmen. The annulment placed the colony's government under royal control. King James death left the financial and transfer matters between the company and the crown incomplete.

Charles I, like his father held to the policy that kings rule by "divine right". Curious to record, that he was too busy in London trying out his policy of divine-right-rulership to take up the juncture which had occurred in the affairs of far away Virginia. He seemed to forget it.

In this interim, the London Co. sent over one of its ablest and most experienced men in the person of Sir George Yeardley, who a stockholder also, for the purpose of winding up all necessary matters between the company and the crown.

Yeardley became acting governor of the colony during the years 1626 and 1627 until his death in the latter part of November, 1627. This statement is explicit because Yeardley had been governor of the colony in 1616 and 1619 under the London Company's charter. It would be easy to say that William Bishop landed with his family while Yeardley was governor without specifying the date. It was while he

was acting governor under the reign of Charles I that the Bishop family came to Virginia, spring of 1627.

The union of church and state was the governmental policy of all the nations at that period. Religious persecution and political power was the great combined force that dictated religious greeds and drove them upon the consciences of men. Two great powers were contending for both spiritual and interial dominion, namely: Roman Catholicism and Protestantism. The Roman Catholic's creed is union of church and state. England though Protestan adopted the union of church and state. Entrench- ed Catholiciam fought to uproot the growing spreading Protestant religion. Ireland was Catholic by a large majority and Roman Catholic churches dotted her landscape. Protestant England held Catholic Ireland under her National government. James I had indused and vigorously encouraged English and Scotch people to plant settlements during his reign, in Ireland hoping to convert the Catholics to Protestantism.

By the time William had reached mature years, English churches had been built in these settlements and English clergy under the auspices of the Established Protestant Church of England manned the pulpits. Then Catholic Ecclesiasties sprang to the rescue. While the majority of the Irish were Catholic, hundreds re- jected the creed of their established church and numbers of these also rejected the creed of the established church of England. William Bishop was one of these, He refused to align himself with either church party. "The fly in the ointment" was the union of church and state. A deep conviction - a half hidden under current of thought and feeling, stronger than creeds - crept into the soul of many a man and whispered "It's a poor relègion sustained by force."

Turmoil in various sections of Ireland broke out, riots occurred in a village here and there. At such times public tension was high in the given terri- tory. St. Patrick was in the saddle! There was no doubt that William Bishop, known as "Big Bill" saw the injustice of the English invasion upon St. Patrick's territory and would not have raised a finger to aid the invaders! Equally so, he could not stultify his honest convictions to accept the creed of the Catholic church. He rejected both creeds. Meantime, insurrection flashed up. Public economies suffer- ed. "Big Bill" a skilled mechanic began to feel the reduction of his means of sup- port. All departments of industry and labor suffered; the outlook held little pro- mise of better times. William Bishop pulled stakes and with his family migrated to Jamestown, Virginia; anti union of church and state to the bone.

He found the "trade" of the colony flourishing. English merchant ships plied regularly between the colony and the mother country. Immigrants flocked in numbers to the different settlements springing up in the colony. Great plantations of tobacco lined both banks of the James for many miles. Wealthy planters employed many men of the poorer classes to till their lands. Negro slavery had already be-

gun' but was in its infancy as yet. Men of craftsmanship were in demand, the call was insistent. William Bishop's knowledge and practical ability in his line of applied mechanics such as the uses of the wheel and axle, the pulley, the lever, the fulcrum, and inclined plane as understood by men of his vocation in those times made him one of the colony's valuable assets in the industrial life of its people. His work was in much demand and well paid.

Meanwhile, Sam Mack Bishop, his elder son, grew in age and lusty strength and joined the builders craft. Afterwards he was followed by his brother next in age to himself. These two brothers together with men engaged in similar work, erected dwellings for the spreading population, constructed warehouses for the storage of tobacco, assisted in the work of making barges to float domestic products in community traffic to various landings. Also, these boys were among the workmen in renewing and repairing old forts where threatened by Indian attacks.

After a few years, their father, William Bishop, owned a large tract of land and employed tenants to cultivate farms upon his holdings. His vocation brought him in contact with various classes of men from the wealthy planter to the needy immigrant and no one, perhaps, knew the local annals of the colony better than William Bishop.

Affairs in Ireland grew worse. The people flocked to English settlements in America from England and the British Isles generally. They fled from religious persecution and political tyranny in their home lands. Many a harrowing story was told by those that fled to Virginia: of imprisonment in filthy jails, of half starvation of bitter bread and impure water, and so on. William's sympathies kept him with the muscle-a-brawn democracy of the colony.

Two political parties were registered on the "bulletin board" of the House of Burgesses. Sam Mack and his father cast their votes for the representatives of their district that held their own political views.

William Bishop accumulated an independent competency and left his heirs large holdings in valuable lands. His death occurred a short time, according to tradition, before the trial and execution of King Charles I.

Sam Mack Bishop became a purchaser in his own right as well as by an inherited share of his father's lands. He married the daughter of a middle class planter. Only a small family of children were born to him by this union. The youngest was his son, Nathaniel, said to have been the only son that grew to manhood.

Sam Mack's brother, just younger than he, joined a company of Virginians made up of various industrial callings and migrated South through the wilderness. This company of which Sam Mack's brother was a member pushed through great stretches of forest and undergrowth and planted a settlement in the Albemarle section

of North Carolina near the Virginia line. This was the first permanent settlement made in what is now the State of North Carolina. Historians differ as to the exact date but according to the logic of events in connection with the traditions of the Bishop family, that settlement was made not later than 16 .

This brother fought in the war against the Indians that followed the Indian Massacre of 1644. There was dissatisfaction among the private men as to payment for their services. They did the fighting and the officers reaped the reward being one source of complaints. Another cause of dissatisfaction was the neglect of the authorities to prepare measures in due time to meet the cruel and wily Indian on his own ground. Also the massacre itself influenced some of the men to join the immigration South. A number of workers also went with them. The fact of the settlement is given here because a member of William Bishop's family was part of the settlement.

Absalom Bishop, Senior, grew up on his father's plantation into vigorous and active young manhood. His boyhood and youth was spent in such activities as usually fell to the lot of the sons of well-to-do farmers and middle class planters in those days. This plantation comprized some three thousand acres, more or less, and had been acquired by Thomas Bishop, Absalom's father through close application to business and good management in the use of means to given ends. The exact location of this tract is not certainly known at this late date. It has been absorbed into other land holdings long ago. The most that is known is that it was far south of Richmond, on a tributary of the James River. The great fact remains that Absalom lived there during his boyhood, youth and young manhood. There is a strong probability that it was on the lower waters of the Appomatox.

Going back to that day and time, labor was plentiful. The "titled rich" owning great plantations, employed both white and negro labor to cultivate their extensive tobacco plantations. Manual labor was regarded by them as unfit employment to engage the labor of people of rank. This class of Virginians engaged managers of overseers to attend to all the necessary business connected with their agricultural operations. Sometimes there was a manager of a lower rank employed who had come over to restore a lost fortune or broken patrimony by the "work which his own" order had despised until financial necessity sought a new avenue.

Thomas Bishop equipped his place with all the necessary stock required; horses, cattle and hogs, farm utensils, implements and so on. He employed renters, croppers and hired men as laborers. On this place there were fields of corn and wheat; also large fields of tobacco. There was a capacious grist mill where wheat and corn were ground into flour and meal to supply the entire population on the plantation. Also there was considerable outside patronage of the mill by farmers of the countryside.

In his boyhood and youth, Absalom was given "a tobacco patch" to cultivate on his own account and later a field of corn. He could use the crops as he desired. Absalom was partial to animals on the place and liked to lend a helping hand at "feed time" during the years of his boyhood and youth. He was fond of horses and dogs and became an expert horseman before he had reached legal age. He was noted among his associates as a good shot.

Fox hunting was common because of the great numbers of that animal made destructive of poultry and of the young of other valuable animals bred on the farms and plantations. Absalom was often with the fox hunters in the chase. Some times he joined the hunters who were out for big game prowling in the forests and in the jungles along streams such as the panther, bear, etc. Deer hunting was common. Fishing and swimming was also a part of the life of every boy and youth in season.

With the eagerness of boyhood, youth and young manhood, Absalom partook of various phases of his environment and with them he absorbed the spirit of the new Virginia. At his majority, his parents gave him a valuable tract of land consisting of woodland and open field. This transaction lifted him at once into a legal citizen of the colony -- a freeholder, voter and tax payer.

It is enough to say that he entered into the vocation of farming on his own responsibility with the vigor and energy of the youth that he was. Success crowned his efforts. He was happy in his choice of the men whom he employed to help in cultivating his land. It seemed he had the faculty of discrimination of character. He employed men and their families of sober habits and industrious in their pursuits.

In spirit, Absalom himself was a part of what may be termed "the muscle and brawn democracy" of the new colony; and the men he employed to cultivate his land were naturally a part and parcel of that division of the colony's population. In short, the owner of the land and his farm laborers were in sympathy with each other upon the issues of the times -- politically, morally and socially -- as against the unjust privileges incorporated in the laws of the English Monarchy which made class legislation a process of infringements upon the civil rights of the people. Absalom prospered and added a valuable tract of land to his holdings in addition to the tract of land his parents had given him, this lifted his economic rating into that of a middle class planter..

Then the French and Indian War broke out. He registered in the Home Guard of his District. The guard was made up largely of young men for local defense. There is no statement in the annals of this particular Bishop family that the Home Guard of which he was a member was called out to accompany Washington upon General Braddock's unfortunate expedition in 1755. Absalom was just twenty-five years of age at or near the close of that year. His Home Guard was employed as scouting patrols on the nearer frontiers of the colony, to attack parties of Indians sent out by

the French into the forests' on missions of savage destruction. In these attacks some of the guard lost their lives; more Indians bit the dust. Absalom developed a rare trait of quality during these days of quick action; he never seemed surprised at any sudden or unlooked for turn in "affairs" with the Indians. This quality gave him much control of his muscles and nerves. He never registered fear nor fright on any occasion and the tradition of his immediate descendants mark him as one of the Red Man's most dangerous antagonists.

The French and Indian War in America involved all the English colonies. England won but it was not until 1763 that a treaty of peace was signed by France, Spain and England in Paris, France. The wars had important effects upon the colonies. During this time the men were trained in warfare, were brought in closer contact with one another making it easier for them to unite in times of danger and strengthened them. The wars put Great Britain heavily in debt. The colonial assemblies had previously decided the amount of taxes that should be levied to support the colonial government. For years many in Great Britain had opposed this and now the ministers of George III decided to levy the tax on the colonies. They were aroused and vigorously protested.

At the close of the fighting in 1759, Absalom had returned to his home and resumed his farming operations. His absence had brought losses. Some of the farmers who had cultivated his land had been engaged in the war, others left for places in another community, some of the farms were not cultivated. But there was a number still under cultivation and this enabled him to start to rectify matters and begin to build up the place.

In 1760 he was at work repairing and restoring his plantation, employing laborers and working out practical plans to carry forward his agricultural business. He had no thought that events were converging towards another war; least of all with the mother country. At that time all classes were loyal to Great Britain. In Absalom's case he was not less loyal than other citizens but there were memories of his Bishop forebears handed down thru the generation and the opposition to unjust and oppressive laws.

As a scout patrol he had widened his acquaintanceship with men and made a considerable number of friends. Among these he found a number whose plans had been to remove to the Albemarle county of North Carolina. The War in Virginia had prevented this. Their objective was to carry out these plans as soon as possible. The great fertility of that division of the colony and the interior adjacent and inland from the alluvial coast lands of Albemarle Sound had become generally known. Immigrants from various parts of the world and from other colonies had flocked to the region and opened up prosperous settlements. It had become a leading region in tobacco cultivation. Indian corn, raising cattle, swine and

sheep were also important. Parties of immigrants had often left Virginia and settled in this area and Absalom had heard about his great-grand uncle who had accompanied the party making the first settlement in North Carolina. There were possibly other reasons for considering a move, such as laws upon the working and industrial classes of Virginia and problems of changing land titles due to new charters and succeeding kings.

While Absalom was engaged at his work at farming, the tobacco crop all over the colony failed. Virginia was doing all she could to meet her rightful expenditures but the wars had drained her in men and money. All debts in this colony were paid in tobacco by the pound and the price, because of the failures in the crop, had greatly increased. The assembly allowed the people to pay all public dues at the rate of two-pence for a pound of tobacco. Since church assessments were public dues, the clergy objected and brought suit to recover salary. The king vetoed the law. Other taxes were added including the stamp act in 1765.

Absalom, Sr. disposed of his land at sufficient valuation to enable him to emigrate to North Carolina and the fall of 1765, his party left Virginia and made their way by successive marches and encampments into N.C. During their encampments, the men discussed the taxes and the majority of the men agreed that they were join with those North Carolinians who would resist the taxes when they had located their new home.

There was a man by the name of Nathan Greene who had been a friend of Thomas Bishop, Absalom's father. Absalom remembered there were youngsters in the family, the baby being a two-year old girl when the Greene family moved to N.C. Nathan Greene had settled in one of Albemarle counties that bordered on the Roanoke River. When Nathan Greene learned of the arrival of this party with the son of his old friend, he set about to help them secure homes for as many as chose to remain in the area. Absalom secured a tract of hundreds of acres and supplied a number of the working men who came with him with homes and plenty of work by which to make a living. In a few years, Absalom's farming operations expanded into big fields of Indian corn and great stretches of tobacco and small grains. His pastures soon were dotted with herds of cattle and he kept as abundance of swine. As for horses, he kept them for all purposes demanded by his location and environment.

Though Absalom was busy with his farm, he met the Greene family occasionally as their home was some miles away. He soon learned that the Greens family were of Quaker affiliation and of Quaker origin and that Nathan was utterly opposed to the British tax and had a bitter prejudice against the tyranny of Kings. Absalom also learned that Martha Rebecca had grown into a bouncing maiden of fifteen. Martha was often seen on horse back galloping along the roadways of her father's plantation with a brother. She had learned the use of firearms and tradition says ~~that~~

she practiced shooting at a target. That Absalom in the prime of his manhood and bachelorhood fell in love with Martha Greene is one of the outstanding facts of his life. Absalom and Martha, with the consent of her parents, were united in marriage in 1767, when she was seventeen years of age.

That same year marked another mile-stone in the approach of the Revolution. The British Parliament requested the king to have all persons in active opposition to the laws, arrested and brought to England to be tried for treason. Probably no one thing incensed the colonies more than this. Men and women who had been lukewarm now regarded the king as little if any better than the Devil. It became known that the governors of Va. and N.C. had secret agents circulating among a class of the people that were either ignorant or uninformed of the true causes of the quarrel with England. This was probably about the year 1770, none of the colonies had suggested withdrawing from the homeland but there were little private meetings being held among the patriots in Halifax county and in fact through out the colonies.

Perhaps the first pitched battle of the Revolution was fought on the Alamance, one of the head streams of the Cape Fear River, on the 16th of May, 1771. This was between settlers from the uplands of N.C. who had formed a body called "Regulators" and Gov. Tryon militia. The uplanders had been oppressed for many years by excessive taxes, attorney's fees and lawsuits which caused many to lose property rightfully acquired. Tryon's troop won this battle but again it led to more bitterest. A body of men, seventy in number, came to New Bern in August 1774. They declared that the people of their colony would not pay the taxes laid upon them by the British Parliament. They named Hooper, Hower and Caswell to attend the meeting in Philadelphia in Sept. 1774. In April, 1775, the men again went to New Bern. They said they intended to look after the welfare of the colony but the new Governor, Martin was not pleased to see them and told them to go home. Their business completed, they left but the Governor was afraid and boarded a British warship in the Cape Fear River.

Absalom was now a family man. One or two children had died but in the fall of 1772, a son was born and named Absalom after his father. It was mentioned earlier that Absalom, Senior was given two names and that the chronicler did not know that name. It may be that he at some time had used that name is why the matter was referred to.

After the second meeting was held in New Bern, the tories of all sections began to appear in the open. The old scout instincts of Absalom were again needed to unearth tory meeting places, check on their movements, learn the names of their neighborhood leaders and report his findings to the Whigs of Halifax county. A number of the men who had agreed to adhere to the American cause on their way to N.C. were living with him and they often rode together on night searches against tory raiders. They used horses from his plantation and his private weapons. They were

often in hot pursuit of Tory raiders who would capture cattle and horses from the farmers.

It was on May 20th, 1775 that men from Mecklenburg county met at Charlotte and declared the people of that county free and independent of Great Britain. Soon afterward, the same body met and appointed officers to rule the county. This news spread like wild fire and Absalom is reported to have said "Som'thin' had to be done, Marthy!"

A third convention was held, this one of Hillsboro, in August, 1775. 184 delegates from all parts of N.C. were present. Absalom and Nathan Greene cast their votes for the patriots. At this convention, a committee was formed to prepare a form of government for the whole province and a large number of rifleman were enlisted to be ready at a minute's notice. This action aroused the Tory division of the surrounding country to new activities. In N.C. there were many Scotch Highlanders loyal to the king. With other Tories they gathered fifteen hundred men at Cross Creek (Fayetteville) to march to Wilmington to enter the King's service. Colonels Caswell and Lillington led a thousand rifleman up the creek to meet them and the two groups camped at a bridge at Moore's creek over night. When the Tories rushed to cross the creek very early the next morning they fell in the water as the floor of the bridge had been removed. Many Tories were killed and more than seven-hundred taken prisoners. The British had planned to join the men but sailed to the south.

In April, 1776, N.C. called another convention, this one at Halifax. Absalom mounted his best horse and with a number of other whigs galloped to Halifax to attend the convention. The members sent a message to N.C. delegation in Philadelphia to "Concur with the delegates from the other colonies in declaring independence."

It had been decided by local authorities in North Carolina that the raising of crops for food for man and beast should continue whenever possible as the call for enlisted men would drain many from the farms. Besides local militia and other arms of the service had to be kept for the purpose of local defense. Absalom, Sr. with a number of his neighboring farmers entered into the business of producing crops of corn and wheat and in curing grasses for hay. For the next three years they produced good crops and took care of the families of the enlisted men who had entered their services in the American army, some of whom had farmed on Absalom's place and others on lands owned by his neighbors. All surplus was stored where it could not be readily found.

Absalom, being an expert horseman, scoured his part of the country, sometimes with neighbors, as a precaution against marauders who might seek to capture farm livestock which were raised on a number of plantations in that part of the country. Absalom, himself, had taken advantage of the resources from the start. He raised colts, bought and sold horses and brood mares. He kept swine and supplied

his place with an abundance of pork. He excelled in the large number of cattle he kept and beef was one of the standard dishes upon his dining table and also for the men who cultivated the land. Wild fowl infested the swamps of the Roanoke and its tributary streams and fish and turtle were abundant, from the tide waters all the way up to and far beyond the Falls in the uplands. -19-

But after all said in praise of the fine and fertile country, it required long and arduous labor to build up valuable tracts of land for farming purposes. As compared with present development in agriculture, it was primitive. There were many undrained swamp lands for a number of miles along streams above the alluvial regions. Infant mortality, as had been the case in the colony of Virginia, took heavy toll among the many families. Absalom and Martha lost a number of infants. Sometimes during the year of 1778, their son, Thomas, was born and survived; vigorous from birth and nearly six years younger than the first born, Absalom, Jr. He was named after his grandfather, who did not leave Virginia. In 1780, Martha presented Absalom another son that survived and he was named Nathan after her father. The boy lived, grew strong and full of lusty life.

Looking back from this year of 1780, to the call for volunteers to support Washington, we find Absalom Bishop, Sr. together with his patriot neighbors supporting every movement of the Whig cause in their part of the country, each according to his means. Absalom contributed several horses to volunteer troops who were unable to supply their own; numbers of beef cattle to the local commissary; corn, roughage, hay, cured pork in the way or middlings, hams and shoulders, and several hundred pounds of tobacco from his warehouse. These contributions were made along the passing years as the conditions of the Whig cause required.

Not all the people in Halifax and surrounding counties were in favor of the American Cause. Numbers of them were Tories and supported the British Tory Government. On both sides of the river, an unknown number of them had sprung up and they spied upon the movements of the patriots and committed crimes in the name of and under the auspices of Britain's military forces in America. Some of them were bitter personal enemies against patriots whom they had known prior to the war. However the conduct of the British troops through North and South Carolina; destroying property and taking food and possessions for troops as well as the patriots caused many of the tories to join the cause of the colonies.

After the Battle of Guilford Court House Cornwallis marched North through Halifax on his way to Virginia. Absalom, Sr. with the other patriot farmers drove their live stock into hidden swamps and removed food stuffs where the British foraging parties could not readily secure it. Food for man and beast was scarce and money was scarcer. In all that highly productive region South of the Roanoke the former days of prosperity had been swallowed up into the destructive war. The old men and

boys too young to serve in the army, banded together in little groups in ambush. Absalom was involved in this and family tradition has it that the old scout slept neither night nor day until the British were over the line into Virginia.

The War was over but Absalom Bishop, Sr. found his environment on the Roanoke very dissatisfactory. He found it impossible to carry on his farming operations successfully. What labor he could secure was for the most part not reliable. Numbers of people were milling around aimlessly and doing odd jobs for meals.

Old Nathan Greene died after the surrender of Cornwallis and Absalom, Sr. joined the little Quaker organization held occasionally at the Greens residence.

In the fall of 1779, Absalom, Sr. with a number of his friends in that part of N.C. agreed to migrate as soon as possible to South Carolina. They were seeking the upland section of that state. The party gathered together, some from over the line in Virginia, some from around Edenton and elsewhere. They were Quakers, Baptists and various religious beliefs. There a kinsman of Absalom, Sr., bearing the name of Bishop who joined the party. He was a descendant of "Big Bill" but not of Thomas Bishop but might have descended from the grant-gained uncle who was part of that early settlement in N.C.

In 1782, the party journeyed to S.C. Now and then a group stopped at inviting localities and settled. Absalom, Sr. with his family and a number of his friends settled on Tyger River in Union District, South Carolina. Some of the party journeyed further on. This was late in the fall of 1782. Absalom, Sr. again began to build anew for the third time. Union District was largely a stretch of territory in the foothills of the state included in the term "back country".

Absalom, Sr. took up several hundred acres of land, secured laborers to aid him in clearing forest lands and in cultivating fields of corn and wheat. Land was cheap because the population was thin and the great need for settlers to develop the unsettled portions of the Districts. That was one of the times that the Old Scout Patrol hit the nail on the head for he succeeded wonderfully in planting a large and self sustaining farm. The first grist mill on Tyger River within the present limits of Union County was built and owned by Absalom Bishop, Senior.

Great canebrakes bordered the river and its tributaries for many miles. Wild geese and wild ducks in large flocks came from colder climates to spend the winters. Flock in abundance were found in all the waters. The wild turkey roamed the country. The grey squirrel by the thousand commanded the woods where groves of hickory spread their branches. The opossum and the raccoon laughed at the hunters and their dogs on moonlight nights, so numerous were they. From the wooded hill-slopes the whirring wings of the hoot owl and the night hawk fanned the air and swept inot poultry perches for murder and spoils. The fox saw them and barked his most cunning and defiant bark. Far and near, the whippoorwill called its demand to

"whip poor will" insistently with the dramatic accents of a trained elocutionist. The acoustics of the hills and vales through the criss-cross currents of night air gave nature a wonderful orchestra for the benefit of the settlers who cared to remain long enough to listen. It was a stretch of country to grip the heart of the pioneer settlers: fertile soil, springs of pure water bursting through granite rocks at the base of the hills, and a climate not surpassed in equable temperature anywhere.

Many settlements had been made in Union District long before Absalom Bishop, Sr. and his party had come to the Tyger River section. These settlements were of real pioneer origin or originally settled prior to the Revolution which had just closed. In the District settlements were separated by forests and were more or less distant from each other at the time Absalom arrived. Bridges were few and rivers had to be crossed by fording on horseback or in little batteaus and canoes as the case might require. Swimming was common and in case of necessity it was not surprising for a man to plunge into a stream and swim across.

Absalom, Sr. was in his "natural element". He seemed like a man from whom a great burden had been lifted. A new attitude of mind took hold of him and Martha, the mother of his boys. It was a kind of mental renaissance or rebound from the burdens of the war days into the blessings of peace. No one thought of him as growing old, least of all his Martha.

Adjacent to the Tyger River settlement, a number of Quaker and Baptist families had located. At or near the site of the present Methodist Church, still known as "Quaker Church", the Quakers built a "meeting House" as a permanent place of worship. Absalom, Sr. having espoused the Quaker faith helped to build it. It stood upon a knoll in a grove of oak and hickory trees and fronted the throughfare now known as the Buncombe Road. This crude Quaker "meeting House" overlooked a little stream in the distance beyond the road by the name of Fagette Creek.

The Baptists selected a site near the head waters of the same creek to build their church and called it Fagett's Creek Church. It stood opposite the same Buncombe Road a few miles above the Quaker "meeting house". Just below this church building another public road joined the Buncombe road which had wound its way from the crossing at a ford on Tyger River. Down the river from this ford, some few miles as the crow flies was the location of the settlement made by Absalom, Sr. and his friends.

Both the Quaker "meeting house" and Fagett's Creek Church were built in 1784 - 85. After a lapse of some years Quaker leaders built a more commodious "meeting house" near the former site. Their members were increasing.

Absalom Bishop, Sr. was 55 years old at or near the close of the year 1785 and Martha Greene Bishop had entered her 36th year a few months prior to that date.

They often present at the meetings held at the Quaker "Meeting House".

The Quaker organization employed no preachers and gave any of its members the privilege of giving his or her testimony as to the salvation of God through the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The leaders of the group were opposed to the spread of negro slavery in the "back Country". In fact this opposition extended wherever a Quaker "meeting house" was planted.

Absalom, Sr. went about his varied duties with the same quiet, observant methods of old. Nothing seemed to escape his oversight. His business expanded, better buildings were erected, more additions for conveniences to dwellings were made and new farms were opened up. Horses, cattle, swine and sheep increased. The old "scout patrol" had become a successful farmer in his habitat in Union District which was half hidden by wooded hillslopes in that great flourishing "back country".

Sometimes between the years of 1788 and 1793 Martha presented her husband two daughters. The elder of the two was named Martha as a tribute to her gracious mother and the younger one by two years more or less was given the name Rebecca because of family connection with the past.

Through the advancing years the three sons grew to youth and young manhood and the daughters developed into happy healthful maidenhood. Absalom, Jr. became his father's foreman and confidential aid in business matters connected with the farm and accumulated considerable landed property in his own name after his majority.

Absalom Bishop, Sr. hated the practice of double dealing prevalent among a certain class of men in those days. His hired men, croppers, renters or any laborer in his employ received his full measure on "settlement day". This is a part of the reputation of the man as handed down from his immediate descendants. Again, his devotion to his wife whom he called Marthy permeated the atmosphere of his home and influenced the lives of his three sons and two daughters long after his departure from earth. Kindly, self poised, unafraid of man or beast, serpent or devil, this courageous "old scout patrol" was no man's servant.

The names of the sons and daughters born to Absalom Bishop, Sr. by his wife Martha Greene Bishop together with dates of births, marriages and other material in the later annals of this special family of lineal descendants.

1. Absalom Junior, oldest son born in North Carolina in the fall of 1772, was a farmer all his life. He accumulated much landed estate. He married Miss Rebecca Mildred Hopkins in the spring of 1799. His wife was a native of Union District and was some years younger than Absalom, Jr. A number of children were born to this union but only four survived. John, born in 1800, the first year of the nineteenth century. Absalom, Sr., still active and spry in his seventieth year, rejoiced at the birth of this boy, his first grand child, and with Marthy went to Absalom's home to bestow his blessings upon the child.

2. Thomas, born in N.C. about the year 1776 was named for his grand father, Thomas Bishop of Virginia. He followed the carpenters trade and became a locally noted -23- builder of the best residences in the progress of his day and time. He married Miss Mary Burns, a native of Union District about the year 1806. A large family of boys and girls was the results of this marriage. The first child was a son named Benjamin Thomas, whose birth occurred in 1807 or thereabout. Two noted events also took place: Absalom, Senior, who had fought a good fight, was called this year by a higher power to leave his 'beat' and 'come up higher and rest.' The other the birth of future Gov. William M. Gist.

3. Nathan, the youngest son who was born in 1780 in N.C. He became an expert judge of horses and bought and sold them as a business. (By the year 1816 the Quaker group throughout the slave holding sections of the country had been notified by their leaders that Negro slavery could not be uprooted at that time. Numbers of the Quakers of Union district sold their lands, meeting house, burial grounds and numbers of them migrated North of the Mason -Dixon Line. The Methodist Conference bought the Quaker Meeting House opposite the Buncombe Road, which had been later built at the former site and established a Methodist Church at the same spot.) Nathan Bishop married a Quaker girl and migrated with a party of Quaker members to Ohio. (Absalom, Jr. also prepared to go as did his brother Thomas. But at this time a malignant fever began to spread among the inhabitants of that section and struck down numbers of the youthful population. The family of Absalom, Jr. paid such heavy toll that numbers of his children died. All thought of following the rest of the Quakers to Ohio was given up. The family of Thomas, not yet as numerous as Absalom's escaped the fever. He went to his brother and secured him that he would not leave him and stay he did and raised a large family of boys and girls in Union District.)

4. Martha was born in Union District, S.C. in the vicinity of Old Quaker Meeting House; the exact date of her birth is not known to this chronicler. Martha Bishop married Jesse Gray of Laurens District. A numerous family of boys and girls was born to them. One of their sons was named Walter. One daughter married Mr. Pyles, another married Mr. Peterson, one daughter named Carolina married Jonas Swink of Union District and another named Emily married Mr. Little. Jesse Gray and wife Martha became well to-do and with their means promoted and contributed to the betterment of church and progressive citizenship in their district. In the course of time Jesse Gray became one of the most prominent laymen of the M.E. Church, South in the up country.

5. Rebecca, born in the vicinity of Old Quaker Meeting House in Union District, S.C. again the exact date is not known to writer was the younger of Absalom and Martha's daughters. She married Mr. Zedekiah Barnett. He was familiarly known among the relatives as "Zed" Barnett. One of the most numerous families in Union District, was

the results of this marriage. Among the sons born to them were Thomas, Abel, Allen, Garry, Marion, etc. One of the daughters was named Miranda. "Zed Barnett owned a homestead and a valuable tract of farming land attached there to located between Union Court House and Tyger River."

The names of Absalom Bishop, Jr.'s sons and daughters with additional facts:

1. John was born in 1800 and married Miss Vashti Prince in 1823 and accumulated a handsome estate.

2. Patsey (real name Martha) married Baird ("Bird") Jackson, removed to middle Georgia. The most of their children were bred and born in the "Cracker State."

3. Sarah, born about 1820, married William Wilbanks a through going farmer. They removed to Mississippi in 1854 or 1855. The greater number of their children were born in the neighborhood of the Quaker church prior to their removal to Mississippi. Among them were a son, Absalom, a daughter named Angelene, another daughter named Caroline. Those three married in Mississippi. The Wilbanks cotton market was Memphis, Tenn.

4. Elmore T. Bishop youngest child of Absalom, Jr. and Rebecca Bishop was born Aug. 1st, 1822 and married Miss Mary Caroline Davis 1847. She was the daughter of Peter Davis of Goshen Hill, S.C. A number of children were born to this marriage.

1. A daughter, named Allie, born July 3rd 1848. Allie is the chronicler of this Bishop ancestral line. She married James F. Duffie, M.D. of Chester County, S.C. She had no children and was a widow at the time of writing, 1926.

2. A daughter named Rebecca Mildred born in the early '50's and married Marion C. Lee, son of Jonathan Lee by his wife Elizabeth Sparks Lee. Sons and Daughters:

1. Hiran Fitzbugh, married Miss Laura Dillard

2. Eugenie, married Rev. D.A. Swindler of the Baptist Church, now a widow resides at Landrum, S.C.

3. Roland Linwood, married Miss Ethel Willis, daughter of Prof. R.H. Willis of Williston, S.C. Roland Linwood Lee is a business man of Landrum, S.C. and his mother living there is a widow.

4. Arthur Judson married Miss Dorothy Whitman, Daughter of Rev. Whitman of the M.E. church who now resides with his family near Macon, Ga.

5. Ethel Onivia, married Carroll W. Downey, M.D. of S.C. removed to Tallapoosa, Ga. She was the mother of a large family of children and very recently departed this life.

3. Sarah Virginia, born to Elmore T. Bishop by his wife Mary Caroline in 1853 or 1854. She married Ervin D. Allison of Brevard, N.C. and removed to Spartanburg. They bought and established a home near New Prospect of that county. Of the children born to them three survived, namely:

(1) Thomas married a Greenville county girl and resides with his family at Landrum, S.C.

(2) Elisha Elmore and (3) Allison, a farmer, both unmarried.

(3) Allie Eveline, married William O. Scott of Edgefield county, S.C., resides at Spartanburg, where he is a successful business man.

4. Benjamine Thomas, born Marck 1st, 1857. He married Miss Emma Bailey, daughter of Thomas Bailey and wife Amanda Gibbs Bailey. Seven sons and three daughters were born to this marriage.

(1) Thomas Elomore, married Miss Lottie Hennison of Slocum, Texas.

(2) Edwin, died in promising young manhood.

(3) "Will", married a lady of Palestine, Texas

(4) Clarence, married a lady of Slocum, Texas

(5) Ethele, married Leon Vickery of RFD Slocum, Texas. All these families live in Tex.

(6) David L. married Miss Minnie Blackwell of Spartanburg county and resides with his family in Spartanburg where he is engaged in business.

(7) Duffie, residence unknown

(8) Irene, married W. Greff Alverson, near Campebelle, N.C. She had five children.

(9) John Bailey, youngest, is unmarried and engaged at work in Detroit, Mich.

~~5th~~ Elizabeth Johnston, (Bessie) youngest child of Elmore Bishop was born August 8th 1862, married her cousin William Walter Bishop. There were eight sons and five daughters born to this marriage.

(1) Will, unmarried

(2) Victor married

(3) Raymond

(4) Conn

(5) Arthur

(6) Russell

(7) Alfred

(8) Luther, married

(9) Lula married Laurens Martin a successful artist and resides at Asheville, N.C.

(10) Coline, married Mr. Alverson, a farmer

(11) Lillian a graduate nurse of Grady Hospital at Atlant, Ga.

(12) Gladys, School teacher

(13) Marie, just out of high school

The entire thirteen are still living and each doing his or her "bit". Their mother departed this life a few years ago. Elmore Bishop, father and grandfather of the above named joined the 18th Regt. S.C.V. in 1863, was killed at the Battle of the Crater, Petersburg, Va. July 30th, 1864.

Names of the children of John Bishop and his wife Vashtie Prince Bishop:

1. Elizabeth, never married

2. Lyles Gordon, married his cousin Miss Margaret Barnett. They had eight sons (and a daughter)

- (1) William Walter, married cousin, Bessie Bishop, given in above's family above.
- (2) Clarence, married Miss Salley Bishop and was a farmer. They had two sons and two daughters: Maggie married C.A. Grainger; Robert Clarence, unmarried; Mary married John Faucett, Bennie married Eva Wells.
- (3) John, married the widow of John Greer and had a son, Hermon and daughter, Louise.
- (4) Charles, married Miss Mattie Greer, sister of Sallie Greer. They had two sons Charles, Jr. and Joe; two daughters Vera and Sally
- (5) Callis, Married Salley Rogers
- (6) Lawrence married a Miss Lula Sparks, daughter of Barham Sparks
- (7) Eugene went to Birmingham, Ala. and then to Texas
- (8) Monte went to Birmingham, Ala. and then to Texa

Lyles Gordon Bishop served in the 18th Regt. S.C.V. from 1861 to 1865.

3. John Jr. was killed at the Battle of The Wilderness, May 31th 1862 was Volunteer 5 Reg't S.C.V.

4. Nancy Penelope, married William Bobo of Cross Keys, S.C. a successful farmer.

Among the children born to them; first a son named Lyles who married Miss ---dora Edson; now owner of the Wm. Bobo homestead; second, Cornelia who married Adalpus Estes and they had four children: Will, Fannie, Arthur and Ethel all of whom married. Cornelia later married a second time to Dan Mangus, a progressive business man of Enoree, S.C. and they are two children, Maggie (Mrs Blackwell of Greenwood, S.C. and Dan, Jr. Nancy's third child was Addie who married Thomas Cooper of Enoree, S.C. Among the sons born to them are Clarence, Joe Franklin, L. Fred, and Edgar. All are married. Fourth, Monroe married Miss Sallie Clifton, daughter of Robert Clifton who served in a reg't of S.C.V. Fifth, Minter William who attended the schools of the neighbor and developed executive ability, entered mercantile business at Union, his native county seat and also established a modern Undertaking business there. He married Miss Anna Farar of Cross Anchor, S.C. and removed to Spartanburg, S.C. Three daughters and a son were born to them: Lucille, Helen Minter Francinie (all "grads" of Converse College) and Minter William, Jr who finished at Wofford. Wm. Bobo is prominent in Spartanburg through business connections and also as one of the leaders in his territory of Woodmen of The World. Sixth, Nancy known as Nannie married ----- and they had a large family and were engaged in farming and industry.

Names of the sons and daughters born to Thomas Bishop by his wife Mary Burns Bishop with additional pointers, etc.

1. Benjamin Thomas born about 1807, married Miss Leanna Bassie by whom were born to him James Thomas, Amanda, Clough, Clinton W, Rufus and Leanna. James Thomas married Miss Sallie McGraw of Newberry County; Clough married Marie Ilburn near Cross Keys; Amanda married James Meredith of -elena, S.C.; Clinton W. married Christian Meredith, sister of Amanda's husband; Rufus married Miss Sallie Robinson of Laurens. Leanna married William Johnson of Quaker Church neighborhood. Leanna Bassie Bishop died when Leanna was a baby and Benjamin Thomas married again, to Miss Margaret Cliften; they had three sons, Frank, Leo and Metz.

2. Sam married a Miss Williams and removed to Alabama and one of his daughters married a Mr. Wheeler and moved to Southern Ill.

3. Jeannette, a school teacher went to Alabama.

4. Jesse married a Miss Williams by whom he had two daughters and a son. The son, a young private in a Co. of S.C.V.S. was killed in the war. Medora married Ben Rockwell and Martha married "Dy" Whitlock. Jesse lost his first wife and married Miss Elizabeth Campbell whose parents were Presbyterians from Scotland. They had five children. Thomas, had one children named Will. Margaret married her cousin Jesse Swink, son of Jonah Swink. John went to Florida, married and with his family resides in that state. Lena married a Mr. Witlock and is now a widow. Jesse's second wife died and he married her sister, Miss Caroline Campbell. They had a daughter named Kate who married a Methodist minister.

5. Martin married Miss Elizabeth Gentry. Elliot their first daughter married a Mr. Smith of Gaffney, S.C. They had two sons. Julia married a Mr. Jenkins. Robert married a young lady of the vicinity of Gaffney.

Martha Bishop Gray's daughter Carolina and husband Jonas Swink had several children. Jesse married Margaret, daughter of Jesse Bishop and they had a number of sons and one daughter, Mary Kate. She married Rev. Wilkins. The sons are engaged in various lines of work in different parts of the Piedmont area. Emma married her cousin Walter Gray and had several children, among them Walter and Jonas F. Emma was a devoted member of the M.E. Church and since her death, the Emma Gray Memorial Church has been dedicated. Jonas, Jr. married Miss Theresa McChopaul of Union, S.C. and settled at Woodruff, S.C. He became a successful Business man and owner of a large plantation. A number of children were born to this marriage. Lulu married a Mr. Jones of Laurens, S.C.

Names of a few of the sons of "Zed" Barnett and Rebecca Bishop Barnett are: Thomas, who married Miss Elise Gray, distant relative of Jesse Gray and also a lineal descendant of the Burdette family. This Thomas Barnett was the father of Margaret Barnett Bishop, wife of Lyles Gordon. The family given early in report. Giles married Miss Polly Sparks. The descendants of "Zed" and Rebecca are so many that

this chronicler hereby passes in her official commission as historian of this special ancestral line.

Note that the basis chronicle for every bonified descendant of Absalom Bishop, Sr. by his wife Martha Green Bishop is herein recorded to the best of her memory as handed down by the immediate descendants of the "Old Scout Patrol" Absalom Bishop, SR. Each and every person, of what ever name who is a bonified descendant in a son or daughter of the American Revolution.

Signed --Allie Bishop Duffie