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POWE, THOMAS (Sr.) (1747-1817).

Grandfather of THOMAS ELLERBE POWE (1800-1879);  
father-in-law of JOHN DEWITT, JR. (b. 1765?).

Thomas Powe, son of Marsom Powe, was born 17 May 1747 in Virginia.

He came to South Carolina in the early 1760s, settling in Cheraw District.

Residing first on Cedar Creek, he later moved to the Great Pee Dee River near Cheraw.

Between 1771 and 1802, he obtained grants for 9,805 acres, including 640 acres on Thompsons Creek, 6,700 acres on Westfield Creek, and 275 acres on Lynches Creek.

Furthermore, he and WILLIAM DEWITT (d. 1813) together were granted 1,000 acres along the Pee Dee (1804).

According to the 1810 federal census, he owned 100 slaves.

Public service for Powe began during the American Revolution. In 1775 he was named a member of the committee of observation for St. David Parish and was commissioned a first lieutenant in the militia. Subsequently, he served as commissary of Colonel George Hicks' (1730?-1793) Regiment (1779).

After the war, St. David elected him to the House for the Fifth (1783-1784) and Sixth (1785-1786) General Assemblies. The newly established election district of Chesterfield chose him for the Ninth General Assembly (1791), but he declined to serve in the House.

Elected to the state Senate in a special election, Powe qualified 30 April 1794 to represent Marlboro, Chesterfield, & Darlington election district in the Tenth General Assembly (1792-1794) and continued service in the Eleventh General Assembly (1794-1795).

Following another special election for the Senate and qualification on 25 November 1801, he served Marlboro, Chesterfield, & Darlington in the Fourteenth General Assembly (1800-1801).

Other offices he held included vestryman (1776-1778, 1780-1781, 1785-1786) and churchwarden (1783-1784) for St. David; tax inquirer and collector for St. David (1778, 1779); clerk of the Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas in Cheraw District (1778-1779); commissioner, for auditing public accounts in Cheraw District (1783); commissioner, for dividing Cheraw District into counties (1783); commissioner, for clearing the Great Pee Dee (1784) and the Great and Little Pee Dee (1785); commissioner of location for Cheraw District (1784); justice of the peace and county court justice for Chesterfield County (1785, 1791); commissioner, to build and repair the courthouse and jail of Chesterfield County (1799); and commissioner, to receive fines collected for obstructing navigation of Thompsons Creek (1813). He was a charter member of the St. David's Society (1777).

Prior to 22 October 1766 when their first child was born, Powe married Rachel Allen, daughter of Sarah and Erasmus Withers Allen of Virginia.

Seven children were born to them:

William, Erasmus (1768-1831), Mary (m. 1st William Falconer [d. 1805], 2d James Howze, 3d John Clark),

Alexander,

Rachel (m. Allen Chapman),

Nancy (m. John Dewitt, Jr.), and

Thomas (1793-1866).

His second wife was Rebecca Ford, daughter of George Ford (d. 1776) and widow of Calvin Spencer (d. 1801). No issue resulted from their union.

Survived by his wife and children, Thomas Powe died sometime in 1817 and was buried in Chesterfield County.

Tenth General Assembly Marlboro, Chesterfield, & Darlington 1794\*  
Eleventh General Assembly Marlboro, Chesterfield, & Darlington 1794-1795  
Fourteenth General Assembly Marlboro, Chesterfield, & Darlington 1801

SOURCES: Aud. Accts., 6079. Biographical Directory of the House, I: 196, 205, 229; 3: 579-81. Census, 1790, 49. Census, 1800, Chesterfield Co., 105. Census, 1810, Chesterfield Dist., 297. Darlingtoniana, pp. 29, 262. Elsie Chapman Edmonds, John Chapman of Spotsylvania County, Virginia, Thomas Powe of Cheraw, South Carolina and Related Families (n.p., 1971), pp. 53, 56-57, 222-24, 226-29, 286, 321, 331, 360, 382, 387. Eligibility Lists, p. 29. Sam J. Ervin, jr., "The Powe Family of Cheraw, South Carolina," ms. on file in office. Grand jury Lists, 1778, 1783. Gregg, pp. 102-3, 237, 415, 430, 432, 433, 451-52, 453, 460. Misc. Recs., 2U: 7, 77, 278. Moore, Wills, 3: 279. Petit jury Lists, 1778, 1783. Reynolds & Faunt. Royal Grants, 24: 494; 26: 603; 29: 107; 31: 366. S1. David's journal, pp. 40, 41, 45, 49, 54. SC Counties. SCHM, 2: 265; 18: 96n; 26: 152. SC Statutes, 4: 417, 490, 561, 649; 7: 532, 538; 9: 468. Senate Journals, 1794 (Special Session), 178; 1801, 34. State Grants, 9: 125, 126, 127; 13: 205, 684; 14: 7; 22: 160; 49: 175, 176, 177; 51: 178.

POWE, THOMAS ELLERBE (1800-1879). Grandson of Thomas Powe (1747-1817);  
grandfather of Edward McIver (1858-1922);  
brother-in-law of John Ellerbe (1787-1854) and James Robert Ervin (1788-1836).

Thomas Ellerbe Powe, son of Erasmus Powe (1768-1831) and Esther Ellerbe, was born in late February 1800 near Cheraw.

He attended the University of Pennsylvania from which he received a medical degree in 1823.

Returning to South Carolina, he settled as a physician in Chesterfield District. A planter also, he owned Homestead plantation.

According to the 1860 federal census, his real and personal estates were valued at \$35,000 and \$110,850 respectively; slave schedules for that year listed 136 slaves as his property. [did not copy remainder]