

Gipson Jenkins  
James Abbott  
John x Jenkins

#### THE THOMAS POWE FAMILY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

2a Thomas Powe son of Marsom Powe (wife's name unknown) b 17 May 1747 Virginia d 1817 Chesterfield County S. C. (near Cheraw) m 1st Mary? Chapman m 2nd ca. 1764-65 Rachel Allen b 16 April 1743 Virginia dau of Erasmus Withers and Sarah Allen (see related lines) m 3rd Rebecca Ford Spencer (Mrs. Calvin) b 1764 d 1843). Col Calvin Spencer b 1754 d Jan 1801.

The remains of Thomas Powe, Rebecca Spencer Powe and Colonel Calvin Spencer rest in adjoining graves in the old Spencer or Evans burying-ground about three and a half miles south east of Chesterfield Court House in Chesterfield County, S. C.

Thomas Powe was the founder of the Powe family of Cheraw, S. C. He was from Welch ancestry. Many incidents of the life of Thomas Powe has been recorded in History Of Old Cheraws by the Rev. Alexander Gregg of the Protestant Episcopal Church who was one time Rector of the famous St David's Episcopal Church in Cheraw, S. C. Bishop Gregg says that Thomas Powe came from Virginia about 1762. He first settled on Cedar Creek near the present village of Society Hill, S. C. He later moved to a place five miles west of Cheraw, where he lived and died. The old home has stood and weathered many a storm, it was built of heart pine and in a state of very good preservation. Recently Dr. Coggeshall bought the old home and used the lumber in building a home in Cheraw, S. C. Thomas Powe was a Whig soldier during the Revolution, serving as commissary in Colonel George Hick's Regiment. When South Carolina made provision for the payment for those who had rendered services or furnished supplies to the State during the Revolution, Thomas Powe received an indented certificate for one hundred and sixty four pounds, five shillings and ten pence farthing sterling for "clerk's fees of the court at Cheraw, provisions, forrage, waggon and waggon hire per account audited" 25 Jan 1785.

Thomas Powe was honored by his contemporaries with many public trusts. (History Of Old Cheraws). He was Clerk of the Circuit Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas for Cheraw District in 1778 and held that same office when in 1779 seven Tories were convicted of sedition. The records

recite that six were hung and the seventh had his right ear cut off and whipped. S. C. Historical Commission Columbia, S. C. Thomas Powe was chosen a member of the House for St David's Parish in the Legislature in 1784-85. He was re-elected in 1790 as representative from Chesterfield Co. He was a charter member of the famous St. David's Society given elsewhere in this book and held many offices too numerous to mention. He served as vestryman and warden in St David's Church in Cheraw for many years. Truly his ancestors have a great heritage in the life of Thomas Powe and should pattern their lives from this famous ancestor. The letter to his son Alexander Powe who was in the Miss. Territory in 1811 portrays his wonderful Christian faith and his respect for the Almighty.

#### Issue

- 3a William Powe (Uncle Billy) b 22 Oct 1766
- 3b Erasmus Powe b 12 Nov 1768
- 3c Mary Powe b ca 1769-70
- 3d Alexander Powe b 3 Mar 1771
- 3e Rachel Powe b ca 1774 m Allen Chapman who m 2nd Eleanor DeWitt (See Allen Chapman of John)
- 3f Nancy Powe b m John DeWitt
- 3g Thomas Powe b 1793-1866

#### Thomas Powe Will

In the name of God Amen

I Thomas Powe of Chesterfield District in the State of South Carolina being weak in Body but of sound mind and memory do make this my last will and Testament in manner and form following—

In the first place my will and desire that all my just debts be paid. Secondly I give my beloved wife Rebecca S. Powe all my lands on the south side of Thompsons Creek which I have from my son Alexd. Powe and Jenkins to be disposed of by her as she may think fit. Three feather beds and furniture thereunto belonging and all the rest of my household furniture, my desk and book case and all my books—and the use of my two malotto Boys Cyrus and Frank until they arrive at the age of twenty-four years, and then my will is that they be mancipated from slavery.

Also I give my wife Rebecca Powe the undisturbed use of my plantation on the north side of Thompsons Creek, during her life, and all my stock of all kinds, plantation tools of any description with the machines for picking cotton. The

stock of all kinds, plantation tools, waggons and cotton machine, I give to my wife absolutely and unconditionally to be disposed by her at will.

My will and desire is that at my death my negroes be equally divided between my wife Rebecca Powe who I give a child's part with my children viz.

Mr. Chapmans children by my daughter one moiety, William Powe, Alexander Powe, Thomas Powe, my daughter Howze and my daughter Dewitt, My wish is that Sasso (Saffo) be one of the negroes my wife is to have of my estate.

And my desire is that at the death of my wife the lands on the north side of Thompsons Creek be sold and the monies arising therefrom be equally divided between my children before named, but Erasmus to have no part of it. —

And that all my children whatever they may have had, which is annexed in a schedule to my will, be understood as being a part of my estate, and is deducted out of their and each of their parts before the division — and as I have no controlling power on the property of my wife, that is on the Stock of my description on the South side of Thompsons Creek, as also at the plantation at the River, my executors will have nothing to do with it.

And whatever is made on the Plantation side on the north side of Thompsons Creek, be the property of my wife.

And lastly I nominate and appoint my wife executor my son in law John Dewitt, Mr. Enoch Handford, Mr. George R. Ford and Doctor Odiney Harvey Executors to this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have presents set my hand and affixed my seal this third day of February one thousand eight hundred and seventeen

Signed sealed published  
in the presence of  
A. M. Donald  
Ben Blakeney  
E. Mulroy  
Hugh Craig

And as my son Erasmus Powe has acted so unbecoming manner toward me, will ask that my Executors pay him one dollar and no more.

—A letter from Thomas Powe to his son Alexander Powe, Mississippi Territory, dated 18 Oct 1811.

Dear Son: We received six letters by Mr. Sumeral as also Eliza's by Mr. Birk, wherein we find you all are well, as we

and all our friends are at present.

I have been sometime past very sick occasioned by a small hurt on my right hand which in a short time turn'd to mortification: I immediately applied to Doctor McQueen and had I followed his directions I should in a very short time have gone to the grave. By divine assistance and an application of my good friend and companion I am restored to health.

We are very pleased to hear that you and your brother have purchased land and are likely to settle your selves to your satisfaction, and on healthy situation, and hope it will be greatly to your advantage as it ought to be, considering the great trouble and expense you have been at in getting there.

We have had a very great drought in the forepart of the Spring and Summer and uses have been very wet, which occasioned large swells in the creek and river which will I am afraid, use as bad, no money, as nothing will sell to bring money. Nominal price of cotton at the Hill, eight cents, but won't bring money at all; your brother Erasmus and John Ellerbee have bought out Mr. Harris, and commenced as merchants, at this time. I think very unfavorable to them, however they have a long credit, the amount about eight or nine thousand dollars. Mr. Howze continues as he was, his family also. Mr. Dench are well. Tommy's wife had the plurisy but expect she is recovered as I have not heard from them lately. There have been no deaths in our neighborhood since you went away nor any material change. Mr. Robeson is settling on his land near Taunts old place, his family well. Mr. Ford has had a very severe spell of sickness supposed to be yellow fever, but has recovered. Hawley and child are well. Samuel Spencer has lately had an increase in his family — a fine daughter.

I am sorry that William does not think it worth his notice to write to his aged parent, who makes it his daily practice in addressing the Throne of Grace for the welfare and happiness of all his children and grandchildren, and seeing it has been the will of Almighty God in preserving you all thus far, I hope that you will not be forgetful in rendering Him that homage that is due for so great a blessing and remember dear children, that every day brings you nearer to your end. And I pray you endeavor to make peace with the Almighty that you may be ready whenever He thinks proper to call you

away—think of your little children, and endeavor to bring them up in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord.

Your sister Nancy is now at home very unwell but not dangerous. Capt. McKersall intends coming soon. You may see my writing that I can scarcely hold my pen. My wife begs you'll excuse her not writing but intends it the next opportunity. She joins me in our best wishes for the health and happiness of both you and the dear little children and remain

Your affectionate father  
Thomas Powe

P.S. Give my love to William and all his family and inform him I think it hard he has not written me. Give my complements to Mr. Hay and family and Mr. Strong.



## WILLIAM AND ALEXANDER POWE

To Mississippi Territory -- 1811

Early Times in Wayne County by Wilkins page 267 in Publications Of Miss. Historical Society by Franklin Riley.

The following permit was issued to the older brother of Mr Alexander Powe, who removed to Mississippi in the territorial period and whose descendants are among the most prominent of Wayne County today.

"State of Georgia"

"By his Excellency David B. Mitchell, Governor and Commander-in-chief of the army and navy of this State and the militia thereof.

"To all to whom these presents shall come, or whom the same may concern, Greeting:

"Know ye, that the bearer hereof, Mr William Powe, with his wife, eleven children and forty six Negroes, from Chesterfield district South Carolina, may have permission to travel through the Creek Nation, they taking special care to conduct themselves peaceably toward the Indians and agreeably to the laws of the United States.

"In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the State to be affixed thereto.

"Done at the Statehouse in Milledgeville, the 12th day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and

eleven and the Independence of the United States of America the thirty fifth.

"By the Governor,  
Anthony Porter,  
"Secretary"

Mr William Powe settled about one mile north of the present town of Buckatunna and his brother Alexander, settled three miles higher up the Chickaswhay river, two miles south of old Winchester. On their way to Mississippi these immigrants when they reached the Chattahoochie river had to abandon their wagons, as the Creek Indians would not allow any trees to be cut in their territory. Rolling hogsheads were constructed out of oak staves. They were packed full of the effects of the pioneers and rolled through the Indian country, mules or pairs of mules being hitched to them by means of staves or poles. It is said that one of the Powe brothers having a considerable amount of silver, carelessly packed it in a hogshead filled with bacon. When he reached Wayne County he found his bacon ground to "hash" and the silver coins worn beyond recognition.

The Creek Indians were a constant source of apprehension to the early settlers. After the beginning of the war in 1813 Pattons Fort was erected at Winchester. The settlers lived in this Fort for several weeks. They then adopted a plan for their own protection. After the duties of the day were over, they would repair to some designated house in the community, around which sentinnels would be posted for the night. They also organized a scouting service. In this manner the Buckatunna farmers enjoyed the freedom of country life and kept up their farm work.

Pushmataha was a frequent visitor in the home of Alexander Powe a successful planter, who lived near Winchester. Mr. Powe had a large number of slaves, and like all Indians, Pushmataha had a great antipathy against the Negro. To please his guest, Mr Powe required one of the Negro men to stand beside Pushmataha's chair and fan him while he ate. The Negro had a towel or napkin with which to wipe the distinguished guest's mouth when it became greasy. This marked attention pleased the old warrior very much as it emphasized his superiority over the Negro—whom he hated.

"The settlement of Wayne Co. began in 1805. By 1812 there were 62 looms in the county and 16,585 yards of cloth were made that year. Winchester, the county seat was the social and business center of the county. The Powes, McRaes,

Pattons, Falconers and Chapmans and others lived on plantations in the northern and central parts. Every home was made of hewn logs, pinned together with wooden pins, most of them were two story with open hallways, and ceiled with 12 inch plank, planed by hand. The windows were small and had wooden shutters. The doors decorated with fancy nail patterns. The kitchens were always built a little distance from the house. They also built store houses, smokehouses and fowlhouses. By 1820 the romance of the west had touched every part of the nation. Stories of fabulous riches transformed this wild land into a mecca upon which all the eyes of the nation were turned."

Archives Of Jackson, Mississippi. History Of Wayne Co. Miss. Collected by W. P. A.

3a William Powe son of Thomas and Rachel Allen Powe b 22 Oct 1766 Cheraw District, S.C. d Wayne County, Miss (date unknown) m 10 Jan 1788 Harriet Elizabeth Marcia Pegues b 15 Aug 1770 S.C. dau of William and Elizabeth Sanders Pegues. Historical Research Project 1936 Assignment No 15 Wayne County, Miss (Jackson Archives)

William Powe moved from South Carolina to Wayne County in 1811. He secured land from the government and built a three story house not far from Bucatunna, Wayne County Miss. The house was built by Farris a carpenter by trade. The planks were hand sawed by slaves, and planed. Molding for the house was done by hand also. The mantle in the parlor is a beautiful diagonal design that reaches the ceiling, and the dining room is done in like manner. The second floor has two bed rooms as well as the third floor. They had no well, they used water from two springs. The lawn is covered with beautiful oak and cedar trees with hanging moss everywhere. Crepe myrtle is very pretty in the summer. Under these trees the Powe brothers smoked the pipe of peace with their friends the Choctaw Indians.

Before William Powe died he asked the family to bury him in a plot behind the house and he wanted no tomb at his grave. He asked that a lightwood knot be placed at his head. Until a few years ago one remained there. No tomb is found for any of the very early settlers in this cemetery. The original home is still in very good repair.

#### Issue

- 4a William Powe b 10 May 1790 d young
- 4b Harriet Pegues Powe b 8 Aug 1791
- 4c Thomas Powe b 12 Dec 1793
- 4d Claudius Powe b 27 Aug 1895
- 4e Alexander Craig Powe b 17 May 1797
- 4f William Henry Pegues Powe b 27 April 1799
- 4g Calvin Powe b 8 Feb 1801
- 4h Edwin Powe b 5 Oct 1802
- 4i Rufus B. Powe b 27 Sept 1804
- 4j Caroline E. Powe b 27 May 1806
- 4k Maria Powe b 13 Dec 1807
- 4l Elizabeth Powe b 12 Nov 1809
- 4m Erasmus W. Powe b 14 April 1813

4b Harriet Pegues Powe dau of William and Harriet or Elizabeth Marcia Pegues Powe b 8 Aug 1791 Chesterfield District, S.C. d 30 Sept 1845 m 1st Major John McRae b 1780 d 1824 son of Daniel and Elizabeth McKenzie McRae. He was b 1753 in Scotland d 27 July 1829 Wayne County, Miss. Buried in the William Powe Cemetery. Passport 30 Jan 1810. Harriet Pegues Powe McRae m 2nd 25 July 1826 William Godfrey b 17 July 1784 d 22 Jan 1854 son of William and Sarah Britton Godfrey Sr.

#### Issue 1st m

- 5a Sallie McRae m 1st Mr Myers Issue 6a son who m Laura Chapman. Sallie m 2nd Mr. Hunter
- 5b Margaret McRae m Philips
- 5c Elizabeth Caroline McRae b 8 Jan 1817
- 5d Dr. William Powe McRae m 14 Oct 1847 Mary or Marie Hunter

#### Issue 2nd m of Harriet Pegues Powe McRae Godfrey

- 5a Amelia Ann Godfrey b 29 May 1828
- 5b Olivia Ellen Godfrey b 16 May 1830 m William Underwood
- 5c James Myers Godfrey b 7 Sept 1832
- 5d Elizabeth McIntosh Godfrey b 29 May 1834 d 9 Feb 1907 m William Baker
- 5e Elizabeth Caroline McRae dau of Major John and Harriet Pegues Powe McRae b 8 Jan 1817 d 21 July 1885 m 20 Feb 1833 Jehu Oscar Everitt b 12 July 1809 d 23 May 1878 son of Enoch and Margaret Byrd Everitt.