

AN INTERESTING FAMILY CONNECTION OF OLD ST. PAUL'S PARISH.

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by Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples .

In her scholarly account of the Ward family of Charleston and St. Paul's Parish, Colleton Co.¹ the late Slann Legaré Clement Simmons noted that John Ward, born 14 Feb 1767, eldest son of Joshua Ward (1736-1802), Charleston Attorney, married Mary Somersall and named their two daughters: Sarah Hartley Ward and Mary Ward. The family connection of Mary Somersall centered around her wealthy and much-beloved grandmother, born Margaret Miles, baptized 4 Apr 1722 in St. Andrew's Parish,² daughter of Thomas Miles of Poplar Springs Plantation, St. Paul's Parish, who left her a legacy as "my daughter Margaret Hartley" in the 21 Feb 1756 codicil to his 1751 will,³ for she had long been happily married to James Hartley, planter of Hyde Park Plantation. In his 24 Dec 1757 will,⁴ with codicil of 27 Apr 1758, James Hartley left "my beloved wife Margaret" a life interest in his profitable Hyde Park Plantation, left his 1700-acre Combahee Plantation to be divided between their two daughters: Mary Philip and Sarah Hartley, left his Buck Hall Plantation to their son Thomas Hartley who was to have Hyde Park also, after his mother's life interest, left their daughter Mary "the slaves formerly left her by her grandmother Mary Miles" and named his son-in-law Robert Philip, Charleston merchant and planter, his Executor. James Hartley died 1759. His estate appraisors, including Margaret's brother Captain Silas Miles (1724-1766), valued his Hyde Park Plantation @ £11,824, his Green Point Plantation, Prince William Parish @ £14,291, his Buck Hall Plantation @ £17,342, his Charles Town house @ £5,143, plus notes owed by such worthies as Gideon Dupont and William Fox, for a total of £54,804/6/8 with the eminent Attorney James Parsons, husband of Margaret's cousin, Susannah Miles, handling his affairs. Their three children were:

1. Thomas Hartley, planter of Buck Hall Plantation, who married Mary Roberts, daughter of John Roberts, deceased. He made his will 13 Dec 1771,

proved 19 Mar 1773,⁵ for he died 27 Feb 1773,⁶ leaving four children: 2.

- a. Dr. James Hartley, physician and planter of Snake Island Plantation (formerly the western part of Buck Hall), married (1) 10 Mar 1785 Sarah Perry and (2) 24 Apr 1788 at Stone, Miss Eliza Ladson. His tomb is in Holy Cross Churchyard, Stateburg. His daughter Eliza Hartley married William H. Joyner and died 10 Oct 1815 in her 18th year.
- b. Margaret Hartley received half-interest in Hyde Park Plantation, plus a town lot in Savannah, Ga., in her father's 1771 will, married 3 Oct 1784 John Farr, Esq. of St. Paul's Parish.⁷
- c. Mary Hartley received Buck Hall Plantation fronting on New Church Road "where I now live" in her father's 1771 will.
- d. Ann Hartley received half-interest in Hyde Park Plantation in her father's will, married July 1786 Captain William Hext,⁸ planter of St. Paul's Parish, whose 29 May 1790 will, proved 17 Dec 1790, left "my wife Ann all the property I shall be entitled to at the decease of her grandmother Mrs. Margaret (Miles Hartley) Williams", their son James Hartley Hext "all my landed estate" and their daughter Eliza Hext. Mary (Roberts) Hartley married (2) 9 Dec 1773 Joseph Stanyarne of St. Paul's Parish.⁹

2. Mary Hartley married 10 Apr 1758 Robert Philip,¹⁰ prominent Charles Town merchant and planter, a loyalist whose estate was listed for confiscation by the State of South Carolina,¹¹ whose 25 Sep 1781 will, proved 26 Jun 1784,¹² named their daughter Margaret Philip. Mary (Hartley) Philip made her will 26 Feb 1785, proved 13 Jun 1785,¹³ naming her mother Margaret (Miles Hartley) Williams, her nephew Dr. James Hartley and her nieces Margaret (Hartley) Farr and Mary Somersall. Their daughter:

- a. Margaret Philip married Captain Archibald ("Mad Archie") Campbell of the British Army and had died before 26 Feb 1785 when her mother's will declared: "my mother (Mrs. Margaret Miles Hartley Williams) shall have custody of my granddaughter Margaret Philip Campbell until she

is of age or married". In a 2 Apr 1785 codicil Mary (Hartley)

Philip refers to "my late husband" and names Edward Rutledge among the guardians of her granddaughter.

3. Sarah Hartley married (1) Mr. Crostwaite of Prince William Parish and as his widow married (2) Jan 1774 William Somersall,¹⁴ Charles Town merchant from St. Christopher's, West Indies, who had married 11 Dec. 1766 Sarah Legaré,¹⁵ Charles Town spinster, born 2 Apr 1749,¹⁶ died 17 Jul 1771,¹⁷ buried in Circular Congregational Churchyard, by whom he had two sons: Thomas Anthony Somersall and Stafford Somersall.¹⁸ William Somersall, died 1788, and Sarah (Hartley) Somersall had an only daughter:

a. Mary Somersall, born 1775, died 29 Jan 1813,¹⁹ married Col. John Ward, born 14 Feb 1767; their two daughters: Sarah Hartley Ward married Captain Edward Armstrong and Mary Ward married Gouverneur Morris Wilkins.

Margaret (Miles) Hartley of Hyde Park Plantation married (2) Robert Williams,²⁰ planter of St. Paul's Parish. He was of Bristol, England 30 Apr 1733 when he had a 500-acre grant in Georgia of Tweedside Plantation between John Williams and Dr. Patrick Tailfer. With John and Cornelius Sandiford of St. Kitts and Bristol, he organized Robert Williams & Co. to import molasses, salt and rum into Georgia and export timber. By 1739 he was there selling rum and organizing horse races, which surely brought him into contact with the fashionable horse-loving McPhersons of Prince William Parish. In 1742 he was established as a merchant at Port Royal, S.C. and invested in several Beaufort town lots. By 1764 when Mary Miles, widow of Thomas Miles of Poplar Springs Plantation, made her will, proved 18 Mar 1765,²¹ she left a bequest to her daughter Margaret "wife of Robert Williams". Robert and Margaret (Miles Hartley) Williams made an indenture 8 May 1770 with Robert Philip, Charles Town planter, noting that according to their marriage agreement, Margaret was to receive from Robert one-half the net proceeds annually of her Hyde Park Plantation

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profits, with some of which she had purchased 29 slaves which she was^{4.} then giving to Robert Philip as trustee for her daughter Mary (Hartley) Philip and her grandchildren James Hartley and Margaret Hartley.

Robert Williams made his will 3 Oct 1771, proved 1776,²² leaving to "my beloved wife Margaret her Hyde Park Plantation" and slaves valued @ £2,000 to his son Robert Williams, Charles Town Attorney, who had married Ann Roper, daughter of wealthy William Roper and his wife Grace Hext, daughter of David and Ann Hext, and a Beaufort town lot to each of these grandchildren, Robert Williams and Elizabeth Grace Williams. To his daughter Mary, wife of James Edward Powell, Esq. of Savannah, Ga., he gave £3,000 to be put at interest and the income paid to her. James Edward Powell had settled in 1748 on John Williams' 500-acre grant, entered the lumber trade and was elected to the Georgia Legislature. Their son Robert Williams Powell was left a Beaufort town lot by his grandfather; their daughters were Elizabeth and Mary Powell.

In 1787 the American artist, Henry Benbridge (1743-1812) was in Charleston and painted "The Hartley Family", one of his acknowledged masterpieces. The central figure of this conversation piece is Margaret Miles Hartley Williams. It includes her daughter, Sarah Hartley Somersall, wife of William Somersall, her granddaughter, Mary Somersall Ward (1775-1813), wife of Col. John Ward, and her great-granddaughter and ward, Margaret Philip Campbell, daughter of Archibald and Margaret (Philip) Campbell.

In the 1790 Census of St. Paul's Parish, Charleston District, Margaret (Miles Hartley) Williams was residing at her Hyde Park Plantation with several members of her family, a grandame with 77 servants at her beck and call. Her great-grandson James McPherson Hartley (1791-1793) is buried in Poplar Springs Plantation Cemetery beside her parents.

1. Transactions No. 88 (1983) p.80.
2. South Carolina Historical Magazine, Vol. XIII, p. 22.
3. Charleston Probate Court, Will Bk 7 (1752-1756) p. 480.
4. CPC Will Bk 1757-1760, p. 198.
5. CPC Will Bk 1771-1774, p. 333.
6. SCHM, Vol. X, p. 169.
7. Ibid, Vol. XIX, p. 108.
8. S.C. Gazette, 10 Jul 1786.
9. Ibid, 13 Dec 1773.
10. St. Philip's Parish Register, 1754-1810, p. 153.
11. SCHM, Vol. XXXIV, p. 196.
12. CPC Will Bk 1783-1786, pp. 420-423.
13. CPC Will Bk A 1783-1786, p. 528.
14. SCHM, Vol. XI, p. 102.
15. SCHM, Vol. XI, pp. 31-32.
16. Ibid, Vol. XXIX, p. 311.
17. Ibid, Vol. XXXIV, p. 150.
18. Will of Catherine Joor, Charles Town widow, 2 Oct 1772, proved 10 Sep 1773, names her son John deceased, her daughter Sarah Baker, 6 children of her son Samuel Legare deceased and her great-grandsons: Thomas and Stafford Somersall. William Somersall (died 1788) also had a son William residing in Charleston in 1790 who was a Director of the Bank of S.C. in 1793. SCHM, Vol. XXXII, p. 73.
19. SCHM, Vol. XXXVIII, p. 67.
20. Savannah River Plantations, pp. 164-183.
21. CPC Will Bk 10 (1760-1767), p. 625.
22. CPC Will Bk 1774-1779, p. 307.