

WILLIAM and HUGH de RHODES, hereditary Knights of Flanders, came into England with the Earl of Flanders to assist William the Conqueror in 1066 and received grants of lands for their services, according to Froissart. In the Domesday Book is recorded the grant of the "Moiety of Rode" to William and Hugh. Hugh apparently returned to Normandy as Hugh I, Comte de Rodez, founder of the Rodez family and of the town of Rodez which is presently the capital of the Department of Aveyron in Southern France.

In his "Antiquities of Shropshire", Vol. I, p.54, Eyton says:

"Rhodes, Rode or Road was another member of the berwick of Astley which belonged to the Abbot of Salop and gave its name to a family who held therein under Salop Abbey. Of this family ALBINUS and WILLIAM occur in 1180, NICHOLAS in 1199 and 1202 when he had been amerced for disseisin by Geoffrey Fitz Piers, Chief Justice of England. ALBINUS occurs in 1221 and towards the middle of the century he attests one deed as "Dominus Albinus" which indicates that he was at least a knight. RICHARD, WILLIAM AND SIMON also attest deeds relating to Astley or are named therein.

"Rhodes was apparently one of the villages or hamlets which comprised the Berwick of Astley in Membrefelde (Morville) Manor in the center of the Hundred of Alncestreu. Norman Earl Roger de Montgomery was the chief tenant palatine "in capite" in 1086."

In 1709 the congregation of Bridgenorth's Stoneway Chapel built its first meeting house on Stoneway Steps on land bought from Thomas Wollastone. It was a double-gabled structure, built like Matthew Henry's Chapel at Chester, the roof being supported by two large pillars rising from the middle of the Chapel; it stood for 120 years. Among its members in 1767 were Mr. Thomas Rhodes, Mrs. Nathaniel Rhodes, Miss

Rhodes, Miss Henrietta Rhodes and Mr. George Rhodes. Family

records and Chapel records indicate that

1. THOMAS RHODES of Bridgenorth, Shropshire, died Oct. 1769, was

the father of:

2. NATHANIEL RHODES of Bridgenorth, Shropshire, married HARRIET

GEORGE; their four-known children were: George,³ John,⁴ Henrietta and Frances.

3. GEORGE RHODES of Bridgenorth, Salop, married 11 Nov. 1772 in the

Church of St. Mary Magdalene (called "the Low Church"), Bridgenorth,

Miss Elizabeth ("Betsy") BACHE of Weykin. Miss Betsy Bache had been

admitted to membership in Stoneway Chapel on 8 March 1772. Among

their children baptized therein by the Rev. William Maurice (see

the No. 2 Shropshire Non-Parochial Register 1765-1798) were:

Thomas⁵ Rhodes, born 22 Sept. 1773, a son born Saturday, 22 April

1775 at Bridgenorth, Charlotte, born 4 July 1776 and Nathaniel,

born 13 Jan. 1779.

JOHN RHODES, born in Bridgenorth, Shropshire 2 February 1747, son

of Nathaniel Rhodes and his wife, Harriett George, emigrated to

South Carolina in 1758, a mere boy, and grew up to become a promi-

nent merchant and planter in Charleston and Beaufort. On 11 June

1774 John was married by the Rev. Mr. Moreau, Rector of St. Helena's

Church, Beaufort, to Mary Talbird, daughter of Henry Talbird and

his wife Mary Ann, widow of James Dhherty. Henry Talbird was the son

of Sir John Talbot of Dublin, Ireland but changed his name to Talbird

to conform to the spelling on a large grant which he had received

in part payment for his building the first Tybee Island Lighthouse

with bricks manufactured in his own brickyard near Beaufort, and

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Thomas⁵ Rhodes, ^{died} born 22 Sept. 1773, a ^{Thomas} son born Saturday, 22 April 1775 at Bridgenorth, Charlotte, born 4 July 1776 and Nathaniel, born 13 Jan. 1779.

4. JOHN RHODES, born in Bridgenorth, Shropshire 2 February 1747, son of Nathaniel Rhodes and his wife, Harriett George, emigrated to South Carolina in 1758, a mere boy, and grew up to become a prominent merchant and planter in Charleston and Beaufort. On 11 June 1774 John was married by the Rev. Mr. Moreau, Rector of St. Helena's Church, Beaufort, to Mary Talbird, daughter of Henry Talbird and his wife Mary Ann, widow of James Dherty. Henry Talbird was the son of Sir John Talbot of Dublin, Ireland but changed his name to Talbird to conform to the spelling on a large grant which he had received in part payment for his building the first Tybee Island Lighthouse with bricks manufactured in his own brickyard near Beaufort, and because of the ill treatment he received from his brother in Dublin

when he reappeared after having been lost to his family for many years because of an unfortunate accident. Henry Talbird gave his 1217-acre Whale Branch Plantation to his daughter, Mary Rhodes; both Henry and his wife are buried in the Plantation Cemetery.

On 26 March 1776 John Rhodes was appointed Sheriff of Beaufort District by President John Rutledge. During the Revolutionary War he held a Commission as Lieutenant. In his Anecdotes of the American Revolution Garden tell of Lt. Rhodes' being stationed at Page's Point opposite Mupell's Ferry and conferring with Brigade Major Paul Hamilton of the First Regiment prior to an action in which he was successful in capturing a sergeant's guard of British soldiers.

John Rhodes was a member of the House of Representatives from St. Helena's Parish 1800-1804. He was a Vestryman of St. Helena's Church for many years and represented the Parish in the Diocesan Conventions of 1805, 1812, 1813, 1814 and 1817, all of which were held in Charleston. His wife, Mary Talbird Rhodes, having borne him five children, died 19 October 1811 and was buried in Whale Branch Plantation Cemetery. John Rhodes was buried by Rev. Edward Neufville at Whale Branch Plantation Cemetery 5 Oct. 1827. Their five children were:

1. John Rhodes, born 3 Jan. 1777, died young;
2. Harriett Rhodes, born 1780;
3. Nathaniel Henry Rhodes⁶, born 2 Feb. 1783; Henrietta Rhodes, born 24 June 1790, died 26 March 1852; she m. (1) 30 May 1809 Paul Hamilton, M.D., died 5 Oct. 1817, son of the Hon. Paul Hamilton, Governor of S. C. 1804-1806, later Secretary of the U. S. Navy, and his wife Mary Wilkinson, daughter of Edward Wilkinson, planter of St. Paul's Parish, died 1771, and his wife Ann, daughter of John Ninian. Their two children were: Col. Paul Hamilton who m. 13 Sept. 1837 Catherine Campbell and left issue; and Mary Rhodes Hamilton, born

13 Jan. 1811, baptized at St. Helena's Ch. 21 July 1811.

Henrietta Rhodes Hamilton m. (2) June 1830 Rev. William Taylor Potter, Rector of St. Helena's Church who died 8 March 1879 and is buried in the Churchyard. Their daughter, Henrietta Rhodes Potter, died 11 Feb. 1834 an infant. 5. Mary Rhodes, born 28 Jan. 1793, died young.

5. THOMAS RHODES, born 22 Sept. 1775 in Bridgenorth, Shropshire, baptized 14 May 1775 in Bridgenorth Stoneway Chapel, son of George Rhodes and his wife Elizabeth Bache, emigrated to South Carolina after 1790 where he had been preceded by his uncle, John Rhodes of Beaufort, in 1758. Thomas married (1) 10 July 1795 in St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Charleston, S. C. Miss Mary Wright, daughter of "the late John Wright of Charleston". Mary Wright Rhodes bore her husband two children and died c. 1799: 1. Thomas Wright Rhodes⁷ and Sarah Rhodes who married a Fripp of Beaufort.

Thomas Rhodes m. (2) c. 1800 Mary Elizabeth Cater, born 25 June 1776, died 25 Feb. 1823, daughter of Thomas Cater, born 1751, planter of Cater Hall Plantation, Captain in the Revolutionary War, son of Thomas Cater and his wife Susannah Baker (6 Apr. 1731 - 8 Jan. 1752, daughter of Richard Baker, Esq. of Archdale Hall and his wife Mary Bohun, 1700-1736, daughter of Nicholas Bohun, planter of St. Paul's Parish, son of Edmund Bohun, Esq., 1st Chief Justice of Carolina, and Nicholas' wife, Margaret, daughter of the 1st Landgrave Edmund Bellinger of Tomotley Barony, Surveyor General of Carolina. The mother of Mary Elizabeth Cater was Rachel Miles (1755-1802), granddaughter of the famous Indian Fighter, Capt. James McPherson of the S. C. Rangers who escorted Gen. James Oglethorpe from Beaufort to establish the settlement of Savannah and the colony of Georgia

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Thomas Rhodes m. (2) c. 1800 Mary Elizabeth Cater, born 25 June 1776, died 25 Feb. 1823, daughter of Thomas Cater, born 1751, planter of Cater Hall Plantation, Captain in the Revolutionary War, son of Thomas Cater and his wife Susannah Baker (6 Apr. 1731 - 8 Jan. 1752, daughter of Richard Baker, Esq. of Archdale Hall and his wife Mary Bohun, 1700-1736, daughter of Nicholas Bohun, planter of St. Paul's Parish, son of Edmund Bohun, Esq., 1st Chief Justice of Carolina, and Nicholas' wife, Margaret, daughter of the 1st Landgrave Edmund Bellinger of Tomotley Barony, Surveyor General of Carolina. The mother of Mary Elizabeth Cater was Rachel Miles (1756-1802), granddaughter of the famous Indian Fighter, Capt. James McPherson of the S. C. Rangers who escorted Gen. James Oglethorpe from Beaufort to establish the settlement of Savannah and the colony of Georgia

in February 1733 and protected the settlers until all was well-established. Her father was Capt. Silas Miles of Poplar Springs Plantation, St. Paul's Parish, who died in December 1766.

Thomas Rhodes died at his plantation on Calliwassi Island on Broad River, Beaufort District on 25 April 1809; he and Mary Elizabeth Cater Rhodes were parents of three children:

1. George Rhodes⁸, born 11 Jan. 1802
2. Rachel Cater Rhodes m. Ulysses Maner Robert, born c. 1804, son of William Henry Robert and his wife Mary Maner; they settled in Georgia and were parents of seven children: a. Ulysses Maner Robert, Jr. m. Gussie Harris, niece of Gov. Harris of Tennessee; b. Campbell Robert M. Mary McGee, dau. of Gov. McGee of Florida, issue; c. Sarah Crawford Robert m. James Carroll Brooks on 20 Nov. 1843; one of their 7 children was Gen. Ulysses Robert Brooks, b. 27 Oct. 1846; d. Emmie Robert m. Mr. Bemis of Massachusetts; their dau. Ida Bemis d.s.p.; their younger daughter, Rossie Bemis M. Neal Coyle of Thomasville, Ga., issue; e. William Robert m. Eugenia Winkler, issue; Edwin Robert, d.s.p.; g. John Robert, d.s.p. (William, Edwin & John were triplets.)

3. Nathaniel Henry Rhodes⁹

Mary Elizabeth Cater Rhodes, widow of Thomas Rhodes, m. (2) c. 1810 *Census St. Peter's Parish, widow with 28 slaves.*

1811 (when she was 34 yrs old and he only 17 yrs old) Rev. Winborn Asa Lawton, born 23 June 1793, died 23 Feb. 1878; their 4 children:

1. Winborn Benjamin Lawton, b. 1 Aug. 1812, died 1884, m. Dec. 1835 Sarah L. Mathews, b. 18151 their dau. Mary, b. 30 June 1843 m. 1866 Dr. Charles P. McCall of Screven Co., Ga.
2. Mary Cater Lawton, born Robertville 12 Nov. 1813, d. 16 Sept. 1820.
3. Alexander Robert Lawton, born Robertville 22 June 1815, d. 14 Aug. 1821, buried in the Robert Cemetery with his sister and mother.

4. Narcissa Melissa Lawton m. her cousin, Alexander B. Lawton,
 born 23 Sept. 1809, died 23 May 1861, son of Benjamin Themistocles
 D'Ion Lawton and his wife Jane, dau. of Dr. George Mosse; they
 resided at 6000-acre "Summer Oaks" Plantation, Thomasville, Ga.
 and were parents of six children.