

RHODES GENEALOGY

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 land for their services, according to Froissart. In the Domesday Book is recorded the grant of the "Moiety of Rode" to William and Hugh near Macclesfield in the present County of Cheshire, England. Hugh apparently returned to Normandy as Hugh I, Comte de Rhodéz, founder of the Rhodéz family and the town of Rodez which is presently the capital of the Department of Aveyran in Southern France.

In his "Antiquities of Shropshire" Vol. 1, 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, NICHOLS in 1199 and 1202 when he had been "amerced for dissoisin" by Geoffrey Fitz Piers, Chief Justice of England. ALBINUS occur in 1221 and towards the middle of the century he attest 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 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 Alnodestreu. Norman Earle Roger de Montgomery was chief tenant palatine" in capite "in 1086".

In 1709, the congregation of Bridgnorth's Stoneway Chapel built its first meeting house on Stoneway Steps on land bought from Thomas Wellstone. 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 were Mr. Thomas Rhodes, Mrs. Nathaniel Rhodes, Miss Rhodes, Miss Henrietta Rhodes and Mr. George Rhodes. Family records and Chapel records indicate that:

THOMAS RHODES of Bridgnorth, Shropshire, married Nov. 11, 1772 in the church of St. Mary Magdelene (called the low church), Bridgnorth, Miss Elizabeth (Betsy) Bache of Weykin. Miss Betsy Bache had been admitted to membership in Stoneway Chapel on March 8, 1772. Among their children baptised therein by the Rev. William Maurice (see the No. 2 Shropshire Non Parochial Register 1765-1798) were:

THOMAS RHODES, born Sept. 22, 1773, Charlotte, born July 4, 1776 and Nathaniel, born Jan. 13, 1779.

JOHN RHODES born in Bridgnorth, Shropshire, Feb. 2, 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 June 11, 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 Doherty. Henry Talbird was the son of Sir John Talbot of Dublin 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 brick yard 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 March 26, 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 tells of Lt. Rhodes' being stationed at Page's Point opposite Rupell's Ferry and conferring with Brigade Major Paul Hamilton of the First Regiment prior to an

action in which was successful in capturing a sergeants 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, 1817, all of which were held in Charleston. His wife, Mary Talbird Rhodes, having borne him five children, died Oct. 19, 1811 and was buried in Whale Branch Plantation Cemetery. John Rhodes was buried by Rev. Edward Neufville at W. B. Plantation Cemetery, Oct. 5, 1827. Their five children were:

1. John Rhodes, born Jan. 3, 1777, died young.
2. Harriet Rhodes, born 1780
3. Dr. Nathaniel Henry Rhodes, born Feb. 2, 1783
4. Henrietta Rhodes, born June 24, 1790, died March 26, 1852. She married (1) May 30, 1809 Paul Hamilton M. D. died Oct. 5, 1817, son of Hon. Paul Hamilton, Governor of South Carolina. 1804-1806, later Secretary of the U. S. Navy and his wife, Mary Wilkinson, daughter of Edward Wilkinson, planter of St. Pauls Parish, died 1771 and his wife, Ann, daughter of John Ninian
5. Mary Rhodes, born 28 January 1793

THOMAS RHODES, born April 22, 1775 in Bridgnorth, Shropshire, England; Baptized May 14, 1775 in Bridgnorth 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) Mary Wright, daughter of John Wright of Charleston, on July 10, 1795 in St. Phillips Church in Charleston. Mary Wright Rhodes bore two children, Thomas Wright Rhodes and Sarah Rhodes, and died in 1799.

THOMAS RHODES MARRIED (2) MARY ELIZABETH CATER, born June 25, 1776 died Feb. 25, 1823, daughter of Thomas Cater, Born 1751, planter of Cater Hall Plantation, Captain in Revolutionary War, son of Thomas Cater and his wife Susannah (April 6, 1731 - Jan. 8, 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 Parrish, son of Edmund Bohun Esq., First Chief Justice of S. C. and Nicholas' wife, Margaret, daughter of First Landgrave Edmund Bellinger of Tomotley Barony, Surveyor General of Carolina. The mother of Mary Elizabeth Cater was Rachel Miles (1755-1802) grand daughter 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 Feb. 1733 and protected the settlers until all was well established. Her father was Capt. Silas Miles of Poplar Springs Plantation, St. Pauls Parish, who died Dec. 1766. Thomas Rhodes died at his plantation on Calliwassi Island on Broad River, Beaufort District, April 25, 1809. He and Mary E. Cater Rhodes were the parents of three children:

GEORGE RHODES, born Jan. 11, 1802

Mary Cater Rhodes, born c. 1804, m. Ulysses Maner Robert

Nathaniel Henry Rhodes, born c. 1806, m. c. 1830 Sarah Julia Haygood.

Mary E. Cater Rhodes, widow of Thomas Rhodes, married second Rev. Winborn Asa Lawton, when she was 34 and he only 17. Their four children were:

1. Winborn Benjamin Lawton (1812-1884) married Sarah Mathews, their daughter Mary born June 30, 1843, m. Dr. Charles P. McCall of Screven County, Georgia.
2. Mary Cater Lawton (1813-1820)
3. Alexander Robert Lawton (1815-1821)
4. Narcissa Melissa Lawton (1817-1883) who m. her cousin Alexander Benjamin Lawton, Capt. CSA.