

SUPPLEMENT TO THE JOHNS FAMILY HISTORY

Since the Johns family ancestral land tracts lay in Colleton County, SC, and since all Colleton County court records were burned in 1865 by the Union Army, I concluded that I had reached the end of the trail in pursuing any further information about the Jacob Johns family's land acquisitions in colonial South Carolina. After all, we had almost miraculously found the Jacob Johns deed only because the purchaser, Frederick Shupard, lived in neighboring Barnwell County and because their records survived the Civil War. It was only by sheer accident that a Johns researcher, Vera Mallon of Lakeland, found the deed there while researching another line.

Nevertheless, yesterday I decided to browse through the early SC Land Tract plat records, and to my complete surprise I found not only Jacob's survey but at least six more by his sons. The job is not finished yet, but the major ones are included here - they are just too rare to keep to myself any longer.

These documents completely authenticate the genealogy recorded on the Jacob Johns deed abstract that I included in the Johns Family History, first edition. A careful examination of these surveys reveals that Isaac, the second oldest son, not Jacob the father, was the first Johns to survey land in the forks of the Great Salkehatchie River in Charleston District (now Colleton County) on 5 Aug 1793, a 94 acre tract. Jacob, as we already know, did not have his land surveyed until 28 Jan 1797, some three and a half years later, possibly on his son's recommendation. We also learned that John T. Johns, the eldest son, had already gone further inland to the Rives Branch of the Edisto River in the Orangeburg District having his land surveyed on 9 Mar 1789. Nothing further is known about John at this time.

These surveys also show that William Johns, our direct ancestor, sold his land, 183 acres, in the forks of the Salkehatchie River to his brother, Levi, 19 Feb 1800, which is when he went south to Camden County, Ga. We know that his son, William Jr., was born there in 1801, that he was on the tax rolls for 1809, as was Levi, who evidently decided to follow his brother again.

A summary of these surveys provides the following chronology:

John T. Johns survey - 9 Mar 1789 - 260 a. Orangeburg District
Isaac Johns survey - 5 Aug 1793 - 94 a. on forks of Salkehatchie
Isaac Johns survey - 24 Nov 1796, 207 a. Sedare Br. "
Jacob Johns survey - 28 Jan 1797, 346 a. great fork of "
Isaac Johns survey - 31 Jan 1797, 246 a. forks of S. at Cross Swamp
Wm. Johns survey - 19 Feb 1800, 183 a. forks of Big&Little S.
Wm. Johns survey - 20 Apr 1811, 300a. on Great PeeDee River, Marlborough District. (Doesn't fit the migratory pattern. But this is the same William who travelled through Indian lands to the Mississippi Territory in 1803 and again in 1804).