

copy -

Chaplin Genealogy Mrs W Kears  
Barhart SC

Mrs W. L. Pickard  
Tifton, Georgia

Barnwell SC

My dear Cousin:

The Chaplin family, of the seacoast of Beaufort County, S.C., have been settled there, a family as far back as 1766, and probably as far back as 1715 or 1720. That inference is drawn from facts as hereinafter stated; they have generally, and I believe always, borne good reputations as citizens and patriots.

My knowledge of their history is however, mainly based on family tradition in part; and partly on the case of Adams, et al. vs. Chaplin et al., reported in Hill's Chancery Reports, Vol. 1. page 265.

The family tradition, that the Chaplins have always been ready and active in performance of public duty, in war and in times of peace. is supported, I believe, by the historical records, but they are not available to me just now. But it is certain, that they were as patriotic in the war with the Yemassee Indians, when their power was broken in the great battle, near Yemassee S.C. as they were in that of the Revolution and in the war between the States.

I used to hear from the lips of my father Stephen G. Ellis, my uncle Thomas B. Ellis

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and my half brother Wilson E Hall who were members of the Beaufort Volunteer Artillery, that there were about a dozen Chaplins in that Company during the War of 1861-1865; and that they made good and faithful soldiers. The B.V.A. above mentioned was almost exclusively composed of persons born and raised around the old town of Beaufort, S.C. It was an organization as old, or older probably than the 19th Century.

I have, with one exception, never known personally any Chaplin by that name (of course, I have known a number with Chaplin blood being one myself). I knew Frankie Chaplin a boy of about my own age with whom I attended for three months, the school kept by a first cousin of my father, Mrs Caroline De Treville. At the end of the three months, the school was indefinitely suspended. The town was taken and everybody left for terms of indefinite length, after listening all day, of the 7th November, 1861, to the reverberation of our guns at Fort Walker and Ft Beauregard, and the much heavier guns from the fleet of Admiral Dupont, the most formidable fleet from

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up to that time that had ever assembled in  
American waters. I was a small boy, not  
yet eight years old, but, I had just previous to  
our departure, been attending the session of the  
school of my father's cousin Mrs. Caroline Deville.  
I suppose, that I had commenced about the first  
or middle of August, and had been at school about  
three months up to the fateful 7th of November,  
1861. And, at that school, older by one or two  
years, was Frankie Chaplin, of course a kind-  
-man; but how near I do not know. I suppose  
that it could not have been a nearer friendship  
than 4th or 5th cousin. But I remember  
that he was of good looks and engaging  
manners. He and his first cousin McHair  
Frapp, always came to school from the same  
house. I presume that their parents lived  
together. I do not know what ever became  
of those boys. The war and its results  
scattered and separated us widely apart.  
I think that Frankie Chaplin was probably  
nearly related to John F. Chaplin and Saxby  
Chaplin Sr. and Jr. worthy citizens of  
Beaufort and vicinity and...

Doubt

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related to us.

The record of Charleston County probably would throw some light on the Chaplin genealogy as Beaufort was in the Charleston jurisdiction in early times. But after Beaufort was established as a County or rather District (Counties in South Carolina were established after the Civil War) Recording was not done for Beaufort in Charleston any more. All the records were in the Court House at Gillisonville, the County Seat of Beaufort, at the time that Sherman's troops burnt it in 1864; and all of the records were consumed with the Court House.

I return now to the facts, as to our immediate lineal ancestry, as based on the report of the Case of Adams, et al. vs. Chaplin et al., above referred to.

Benjamin Chaplin Sr., lived on his plantation in St. Helena Parish, which is now a part of Beaufort County. The Parishes were established in Colonial times, before the Revolution, and were limited by certain boundaries; and all of the people within these boundaries were taxed to support the Church within the same, whether they were members of that Church or not. That was before the Revolutionary War. over

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Afterwards, on the establishment of our independence, Church and State were separate; the Episcopal Church was disestablished, and was supported as the churches of all other Denominations were supported, by the free and voluntary contributions of its members.

Before the Revolution, all the inhabitants of St Helena Parish were taxed for support of Saint Helena Church (Church of England) in Beaufort, S.C. where it has been located since 1712, although the church building was not erected until 1724.

Benjamin Chaplin above referred to, the grand father of our grand-mother, Mrs Martha Baynard (nee Chaplin) was taxed, of course to support that church. I do not know whether he was a member. I think that the presumptions are that he was a member of the Baptist Church. His grand daughters, our grand-mother and her two sisters were; Judge Pressley, his grand-son, was; and I think it maybe safely declared that he and his descendants were Baptists. Now, my father's people, the Ellies were members of Saint Helena Church from the time of its establishment until my grand father

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grand father

Richard Elks, married Miss Sarah Witter, the daughter of one of the deacons of old Exhaur Church (Baptist) at Grahamville S.C. To wit, Mr. Jonathan Witter.

The said Benjamin Chaplin, our (i.e. your and mine) great, great grand father, was evidently a man of substantial means for those days. His home place, on Jericho Creek, was six hundred acres, more or less, in extent. He divided the Home Place on Jericho Creek to one of his sons. But he had (4) children. He must have devised to each one, an equal portion. His landed property, therefore, was about twenty-four hundred acres in extent.

Benjamin Chaplin, the elder, aforesaid, had three sons and one daughter; Benjamin Chaplin, Jr., William Chaplin and John Chaplin and Ann Adams (nee Ann Chaplin). Benjamin Chaplin, the first died after 1766 but before 1776. He made his will, dated in 1766. There were three witnesses to his will, Martha Barnwell, "E. E." and John Barnwell. In the litigation that arose about 1832, as to the construction of that, and also the will of John Chaplin Sr -

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his son, it was developed that the witness who signed her name E. E. was Elizabeth Ellis (nee Copers), the wife of Edmund Ellis, my grand father's grand father. She was a collateral ancestress of Bishop Eleazar Copers.

William Chaplin, son of Benjamin Chaplin Sr., died previous to the year 1791 leaving no children.

John Chaplin, Sr., son of Benjamin Chaplin Sr. made his "will" in 1776, and died soon after say in 1776 or 1777. John Chaplin Sr., left one son, John Chaplin Jr., who died in 1826 unmarried.

Benjamin Chaplin, Jr., d. 175-1, Buried Epis Cem. St Helena <sup>Calif</sup>  
son of Benjamin Chaplin Sr., or the second, was the he was the father of our grand mother Mrs Martha S. Baynard of Benjamin S. Chaplin of Favinia (Chaplin Oswald) Duncan and Cécilia (Chaplin) Oswald.

Of course, you know the ramifications and branches of our grand-mother's family: her daughters, however, I would remind you were Sarah Calder Baynard, who married her father's uncle, Dr James Stoney Lorton; Juliana Dophia, who married Stephen Y. Ellis, my father; Cécilia M.; your mother; Elizabeth Martha, the mothers of

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of Mrs Phoebe Malone and others of the Willougham family, who live Chapley in Macon; Florence, who married W. J. Willougham and lives, I have been credibly informed, at Traverses, Florida. The sons were two. Thomas Stapleton Baynard, who left one daughter, Mrs Julia M. Rhodes; Rev Calder Archibald Baynard, who left no children. All have passed away of Mrs Martha Sarah Baynard's children, except Mrs W. J. Willougham. (Aunt Florie).

Leaving for the present, the line represented by the descendants of our grand-mother's father Benjamin Chaplin Jr., the second, we will return to his sister Ann Chaplin, who married Adams, sometime before the year 1791. She died sometime before the year 1826, as the plaintiffs in the case of Adams, et al, vs. Chaplin, et al, were her children. But what the names were of the children of Ann Adams (nee Chaplin) the Aunt of our grandmother Baynard, I am not sure, except as to one; that one was Jane Adams, who married Mr Pressley. Jane Adams Pressley was the mother of Benjamin Chaplin Pressley, who was <sup>married</sup> ~~70~~ years, one of the



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most eminent lawyers of the Charleston Bar, and was Judge for 10 or 15 years of the First Circuit of South Carolina. He accumulated a considerable fortune, and when he declined re-appointment as Judge, he lived in retirement at Summerville, S.C., for several years, until his death.

The family of Judge Pressley, on his father's side, the Pressleys, settled around Due West, in Abbeville County, for a number of generations; were "old light" Presbyterians of the most pronounced type; and probably Judge Pressley would have been one also, if his father had not married Jane Adams. However whether it was his mother's influence or his own independent investigation, that produced the result, Judge Pressley himself, was one of the main pillars of the First Baptist Church in Charleston, S.C. organized in 1682 - the oldest in the South. But afterwards he was a member of the Citadel Square B. Church. He wrote one or more legal text books "Pressley's Law of Magistrates" being one. He was a thoroughly upright and good man.

I am not sure what were the names of Jane Adams's brothers. On the census list of 1790, there were 5 Adams recorded for —

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for

Beaufort County. It may be that the two names John Adams and Henry Adams were her brothers. The two named David and Richard, I know were not.

David Adams and Richard Adams were the sons of David Adams, who married Elizabeth Ellis. Elizabeth Ellis Adams died in 1785; and her sons above named were collateral kinsmen of my father, but not of my mother; and, so they were not the Adams stock who were descended from Ann Adams, the Aunt of our grand-mother Baynard.

Grand mother's two sisters were Lavinia Chaplin and Cecelia Chaplin, Lavinia and Cecelia Chaplins were twins sisters, one year older than grand mother Baynard.

Lavinia Chaplin married, first Robert Oswald, and secondly Rev. Handford Dale Duncan. The children of her first marriage (there were none of the second) were, so far as I know, Caroline, Adelaide and Anna, daughters and one son Robert Oswald. What I know of "Aunt Duncan", as she was known to us, is not much. As a child living in Beaufort, I used to hear mother and grand mother Baynard speak of

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Aunt Duncan living at Barrwell Court House,  
Grandmother, having two married daughters,  
(Willingham) living at that time in Barrwell  
County, about 22 and 27 miles from the Court  
House, used to make one or two protracted  
visits each year to the "up-country," as her visits  
to Barrwell were called. I remember the im-  
pression made on my mind by that phrase  
the "up-country". My idea was that the journey  
involved the climbing of a steep dangerous  
and almost perpendicular grade. none of  
us had made that visit except Aunt Florrie,  
My eldest sister, Julia and my younger sister  
Martha, next to me, and named for Grandmother.  
And when Martha at that time 4 or 5 years  
of age, returned safe and sound, I consid-  
ered her as a sort of heroine returned from  
a wonderful and dangerous journey, like  
the perilous journeys of Livingston into the  
heart of "darkest Africa."

After our family refuged to the up country  
we were with relatives at Lawtonville for  
a few days, say from November 8th to about  
next

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About November 15<sup>th</sup> (the relatives at Sawtoville were the family of our mother's first cousin, Mrs Mary (ne Conard) Holcombe and her most excellent husband, who was a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin of my father; and the family of Cousin Mary Holcombe's brother John S. Conard). Then your father and mother would have us to sojourn with them at the Syrna Plantation, near Syrna Church (a few miles from Allendale S.C.) until our settlement could be had in a rented house. We stayed at Syrna until about Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 1862, about 6 or 7 weeks, when we succeeded in renting a house at Sawtoville, where we stayed during 1862. We moved to what is now known as Martins S.C. or in that neighborhood, about 12 miles above Allendale S.C. and resided there during 1863; and were back in Sawtoville for the most of the year 1864, we refuged again, ahead of Sherman's Army, to the same neighborhood, near the present Martins S.C. where we have been since. This relation of the movements of my immediate family during the Civil War, I have stated mainly to furnish a peg upon which to hang -

a few incidents concerning Aunt Lavinia  
Duncan and others. When we were in the  
vicinity of the Place of Station now called  
Martins, S.C., in 1863 grandmother Baynard  
took mother and sister Julia to Barrowell  
to see Aunt Duncan. Grandmother, during  
the period, visited her <sup>every</sup> once in a while; but I  
think that, that was <sup>the</sup> only time during the war,  
or afterwards that mother saw Aunt Duncan.  
During the war, grandmother kept a carriage  
and horses; but we being stripped refugees  
our means of transportation were limited.  
But in 1867 in the spring, I, myself, went with  
grandmother on my first visit to Barrowell.  
We spent two (2) nights at Aunt Duncan's.  
It seems that she had written to grand-  
mother that there would be a sort of a  
reception at her house on the night of our  
arrival. I think that perhaps it was in honor  
of Cousin Anna Sans' recent marriage to Mr  
Thomas B. Hagood. I know that he and she  
were there that night, a recent bridal couple.  
I was a boy of 12 years of age.  
I pass over any detailed statement of the  
persons in attendance there that evening

Epitaphic

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at left to say, that I remember Capt Wm. A. Martin and wife, Judge A. P. Aldrich and others;

including also quite a number of young people, among the latter Rev. Mr. Parker, and that the conversation among the older ones

touching on the recent death of Professor Edwards, a Turnman Turnwell, and the great

loss to the Institution; Miss Duncan, his son much interested in Turnman, leading

the conversation in that direction. I do not gather myself that the impressions

of a boy of 12 years are of much value; but nevertheless, I will state them. Capt

Duncan, for one of her age was strikingly like General Cassin's son, her daughter;

one afternoon first near Cambridge, S.C. much more so than to Grandmother Howard

although the general contour of her figure and features were sufficiently similar

to Grandmother; for a younger & dark complexion than others. Their general

of the Martha Washington type. She was of very gentle demeanor, and her feet

men of a more and more delicate build.

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I remember, that Grandmother in anticipation of going to Barnwell, and in order to contribute towards Aunt Duncan's entertainment had commandeered the services of your mother's old cook in slavery times (my recollection may be defective but was not her name Rebecca Jenkins? Her husband's name was Ben Jenkins a good colored man. Cousin Maggie Wood, no doubt, remembers) who was superb in her art, and the beautiful cakes elicited Uncle and Aunt Duncan's unstinted praise; it seems that at that time a good cook was difficult to get in Barnwell; and as she said to Grandmother "when Mr Duncan was lamenting, that the prospect of good entertainment for our expected guests was not bright, I told him that the Lord would provide; and sure enough ~~he~~ has" Her husband Rev. Hansford Dade Duncan was a venerable looking gentleman. His conversation was genial and delightful, even to a boy of 12 yrs. When after two <sup>fruits</sup> years and a day Grandmother and I bade them farewell

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he gave me a book, which I preserved for several years.

That farewell was the last for me. I never saw them again. The house in which we were entertained is still standing; it is only two doors from me, across the street.

Aunt Demean is buried in the old Baptist Cemetery, about two hundred and fifty yards from where I am writing. The inscription on her tombstone is as follows:

"Mother

Wife of Rev. H. D. Demean

Died April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1868

Age 64 years

That shows, that she ~~was~~<sup>was</sup> her twin sister, Cecelia more born in 1804 Grand mother Baynard was born in 1804.

The stone is very much surrounded by briars and brambles. The above was on the only observation of the upright stone that I could get.

The family tradition is, that Aunt Lavinia's and her sister Cecelia married two brothers, Oswalds. Aunt Lavinia's first husband's name was Robert Oswald; and her sister's husband's



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name was Benjamin Oswald. Later, I expect to make inquiry, as I can and furnish the information obtained.

Aunt Duncan's children of her first marriage (there were none; of her last marriage) were according to the best of my knowledge, Robert, Caroline Ann, and Adelaide Oswald. Robert married Miss Anna Lawton, a daughter of Col Robert Lawton of Scriven County, Ga. They had several children; among them were Robert and Wade Oswald. Cousin Caroline married Mr Miles Brewton Samms, Her children were Robert, Lewis Marion, R. Henry, Deaneau, Emma, Anna, Adelaide Brewton and Caroline Samms. The two last named died in early life. Cousin Robert Samms, a "grand old man" past eighty, lives in Gaffney, S.C. He has a number of children. I think he married three times, next Messrs Roberts - his last wife still living. He has a number of children and grand children. Lewis Marion married Miss Porter of Orangeburg S.C. who died and he married again. But he has passed away, leaving a number of children,

of haplin

leaving a number of <sup>18</sup> children, one of whom  
is a Methodist preacher; R. Henry Sams married  
Mrs Manie Maner, an excellent woman. She  
died leaving several children, who are all married.  
Henry lives in Spartanburg, S.C.

Duncan Sams married Mrs Carrie Lawton,  
daughter of Dr Benjamin W. Lawton, and a niece  
of Rev Joseph A. Lawton, she died leaving  
three daughters. Only one of them survives.  
The surviving daughter recently married and  
is now living in Greensboro, N.C. Duncan  
Sams her father, lives some times on his farm  
at Erwinton, and some times in North Carolina.

Cousin Emma Sams never married. She  
is nearly 80 years of age. She lives about  
among her relatives. She is a splendid woman.

Cousin Anna Sams married Thomas Hagood,  
she is the one I referred to, as a recent bride  
above. Her husband is dead; he was a first  
cousin of General Johnson Hagood of the Con-  
federate States Army and afterwards Governor  
of South Carolina; and a first cousin once re-  
moved, of Johnson Hagood, the present Major  
General of the regular U.S. Army. Cousin Anna

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Coy Anna Hagood is still living among her children, but chiefly with her daughter Mrs Annice Bostick, at Sinterland, on the R. R. from Charleston S.C. to Savannah, Georgia. She had four children, one of whom Laida, married J. Porter Clarke, but is now deceased; her son Miles Brewton Hagood, is a prominent and successful merchant and farmer at this place; and one son Lewis Sams Hagood, married and is living in the Eastern part of State (S.C.)

Cousin Addie Sams married Soule Lawton, a son of Mr Maner Lawton, whose plantation was about 7 or 8 miles south of Lawtonville S.C. towards Robertville. She has several children; one of them is a Methodist minister, Rev. Robert Oswald Lawton, a professor in Lauder Female College at Greenwood S.C. a Methodist Institution. The Maner family were all "dyed in the wool" Methodist. Only one was a Baptist. Thos. C., who married your Aunt Manice Willingham. Soule Lawton, however, was not particularly pious, although a very good man indeed. He was telling Alfred Aldrich, another working, a familiar

friend of his (that used to be in his lifetime, a precedent here) about what a promising son he had in his boy. Robert O. Lawton. Aldrich remarked "that he was not surprised at it, when he considered what a woman the boy had for his mother." Soule replied "yes, but you must remember, that his Daddy is no slouch!"

Aunt Duncan's daughter, Adelaide, sister to Cousin Caroline Deane, married Mr Henry Chovin. They lived near Sawtonville during the war. Cousin Adelaide Chovin was a noble woman. Our family (I mean my mother's family) should never forget her kindness to us when we arrived in the up country, as refugees from Beaufort. I remember that when we were returning from Martin, S.C. to Sawtonville, in the early part of January 1864, she very hospitably entertained us for several days, until we could be comfortably settled in our rented house. After we left her house, it was not but a short time when three members of the family had passed away - herself, her small son Robbie and her nephew Brew Sams, who with the other members of -

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of the Davis family were also refugees so-journing temporarily with the Chovins. I remember, that although a small boy at the time, how shocked I was when the sad news was received. Cousin Adelaide left several children; one was Fatho, and another was Duncan Chovin (also Caroline) I have not kept in touch with them. Duncan, however married a daughter of Capt. William M. Bostick.

There is only one left to be mentioned of the children of Aunt Duncan (nee Chapline) afterwards. Mrs Robert Oswald, and then Mrs Thomas Duncan wife of Rev. Hansford Pade Duncan.)

That one of her daughters (Aunt Duncan) that I now refer to was Mrs Ann Oswald. She married Mr. Richard Reynolds, a gifted and polished gentleman, who I heard father say was one of the most interesting and instructive conversationalists that he ever met. He was a gentleman of considerable wealth. Unfortunately, he and his wife both died about the commencement of the Civil War; and the negroes being swept away (by the capture of the town and Island, freed) and the lands confiscated, 7th November, 1861, the children

Of Cousin Ann Reynolds, were left orphans, dependent on their relatives. There were three girls and one young man, Richard Reynolds Jr.

Their ages, at the commencement of the war were approximately: Richard 13; Carol 11; Addie 9; Livia 7 years.

When I went into Grandmother to Aunt Duncan's at Barrwell in the spring of 1866. I found them all there except one, Richard. She the grandmother, had taken the place of the mother, six years, of course, had passed and they were correspondingly older. I remember Cousin Addie, who was about my age, got me to assist her in working her sewing.

They were amiable and friendly girls. I used to see a good deal of them in Beaufort, as small children; our families visiting each other from time to time. But I never met them after our parting at Aunt Duncan's.

I can however recount a few particulars concerning them, derived from hearsay. Carroll married a first cousin of your father.

Ned Peeples. She is not living now, nor her husband; but she left some children, who I presume are living in Estill S.C. or in its -

written about 1924      Chapline

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Vicinity.

Cousin Addie married Mr Judson Lawton, son of Rev. Winborn Cesa Lawton, Pastor of the old Lawtonville Church for about 40 or 50 yrs.

I suppose she is still living in Beaufort and has a number of daughters. Some four or 5 = (6 dau) But her husband died 2 or 3 yrs ago.

Cousin Livie married Milton Buchner, she is a widow with 12 or 13 children. She resided, I understand in Savannah, Ga. She had a hard time after the death of her husband. But I think that she is now faring well. her children, most of them being grown and self supporting.

There are now left three children of Benjamin Chapline, Jr. Benjamin Chapline 2<sup>nd</sup> who might be called Benjamin 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mrs Cecelia Oswald and grand mother Baynard a brother and two sisters. Aunt Livina Duncan (Livina Chapline - Oswald - Duncan) being the fourth. When their Adams cousins brought suit against the four just mentioned, the brother Benjamin S. Chapline, disclaimed any interest in the Jericho tract, so that the judgement

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in favor of the defendants, rendered about the year 1832, inured to the benefit of the three sisters alone, Mrs Lavinia Oswald (afterwards Duncan) Mrs Cecelia Oswald, mother of Cousin John Oswald, Cousin Ben Oswald and Cousin Mary Holcombe. The reason for their brother Benjamin S. Chaplin's disclaimer was that in 1815 - after the interests of John Chaplin, the younger, who died unmarried in 1826, to the Jericho plantation had been in 1806 sold under judgement and execution against him, the said John's older brother, Benjamin, father of the aforesaid Benjamin S. who had bought in the property at Sheriff's sale, deeded the property in trust to the benefit of his three daughters, sisters of Benjamin S., who were afterwards the two Mrs Oswalds and Mrs Martha S. Paynard. It speaks well for our grand mother's father, Benjamin Chaplin, that, after buying in the property in 1806, he permitted his bachelor brother, John, to remain in possession for 20 yrs afterwards, until John died in 1826. It was after John's death, that the Adams brought for one half interest in the Jericho plantation. But the Adams lost out.



lost out

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I have heard that afterward the state of feeling was not so cordial between our grand-mother's immediate family and their first cousins, the Adams family.

Having disposed as best I can of Aunt Duncanson's family, I now turn to the family and descendants of Aunt Cecelia Arnold, mother of Cousin John S. Arnold. And will take up first, Cousin John; - his mother, Aunt Cecelia Arnold, died before I can remember; and her death must have occurred before 1858. Cousin John married a first cousin of your father's, Miss Phoebe Peeples, and after his marriage, he and his wife settled at Sawtenville, near her father, and were there where we (my father's family) refuged from Beaufort to Sawtenville in 1861. They treated us with hospitality and kindness. His business at that time was farming and merchandising.

In or about the year 1863 he purchased a plantation in Barnwell County, near Johnson's Landing. He lived there nearly all the rest of his life. Shortly before his death my impression is that he was living (with his wife) in

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Allendale with his children. His wife survived him several years. She died about the year 1910. He died in or about the twenties of the last century, to be more exact, about the year 1901.

I have not kept up with the history of his surviving family closely. His son Edward H. Oswald, is President of the Allendale Bank and owns a good deal of the stock. Willie B. Oswald is also living in Allendale, and is fairly well-to-do. James L. Oswald, another son, it is said to be one of the wealthiest men there, and there are other descendants, Joe Oswald, and the children of a deceased son, John S. Oswald Jr. and several daughters. One daughter Lotie or Charlotte, married E. Manning Kirk; one married a Mr. Lightsey; one married Ashley Bush; and she is now a widow with children. Edward H. supra married 1st Miss Lockland; 2nd Miss Dunbar; and he is now a widower with children, one or more. James L. Oswald married 1st Miss Wilson; 2nd Miss Bryan; and he has children married and otherwise.

The only other son of Aunt Ceseba, nee Chaplin, sister of grandmoller Paynard, and Aunt Duncan, was Ben Oswald. About him

about him centers a story, adventurous, singular and with a tinge of romance. In some respects he was "the prodical son" of the family. About the ~~time~~<sup>year</sup> 1855, he left South Carolina for the Western country; at that time it was in truth the "wild and woolly" West. He was unmarried when he went away; he continued to write to the members of his family for one or two years, and then his letters ceased; his family never heard of him and concluded he was numbered with the dead. The Confederate War came and passed; the events of Reconstruction were a part of history; his younger brother, Cousin John Oswald, was a gray-headed man, and was living at his home between Johnson's Landing and Martin's Station on Port Royal Railroad. His sons above referred to Ed and Jim Oswald were in business and living in Allendale. Thirty-seven years from the time he left South Carolina, there landed from a vessel that touched at Port Royal, an old man. He had all the characteristic marks of the tramp. He was unkempt and ragged; he walked the cross-roads from Port Royal to Allendale; arrived at Allendale, he inquired whether any Oswalds were living there; he was directed to Jim-

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Jim  
Oswald's store, he there told his amazing story that he was Jim's Uncle Ben, who had not been heard from for about 37 years. The word of the wanderer was not at first believed; but on being questioned his answers dissipated all doubt. Jim first took him to a barber and having renovated him thoroughly and provided him with entire outfit of clothing, put him on the train for Martins Station, where his brother John lived, the father of Ed. and Jim Oswald. The feeling of Cousin John can be better imagined than described when he welcomed to his home, the long lost prodigal. He told some wonderful tales of adventure; how for instance, he was within hearing of the sounds of the battle of "Wounded Knee" when Custer and his entire command were exterminated (with the exception, I believe of one or two, who escaped.) In about 3 months, he became restless; and wanted to be moving on. He said, that during the time of his absence, he had married, that his wife had died, but that he had a <sup>married</sup> daughter living in Florida; and that he must go and see her.

to Father  
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Cornell John told him, that at the time of  
life it was necessary to be moving about

with no settled home; that he must stay there  
with him; he would furnish him a horse as  
long as he lived. Nothing would satisfy him  
however, and on being told, that Cornell John  
would not send him to the station, he started  
out of govt. Cornell John then carried him to  
the station, bought a ticket for him to the  
point that he said he desired to go to, and  
said that time will now he has been a  
completely lost to his relations as he no longer  
He never been heard from or of again.

besides the two sons, John and Rose, there  
were six daughters of Aunt Leola Cornell, some  
many Heskeths and Margaret Starn, the  
former married Gustavus Hesketh, an eminent  
teacher of his day, and a most excellent gent-

leman. He has in charge of the Heskeths  
Academy upon me (my mother, father, brother and  
myself) arrived at Heskethsville on November 7th 1861. We took a horse  
in Heskethsville and headed there during 1863.

Our social interchange with the Heskeths

Holcombes

were most pleasant. He made himself delight-  
fully attractive, even to the small boy of eight  
years, that I was. I never saw him again  
after 1862. He left to settle elsewhere as a  
teacher. He had three daughters and two  
sons. Cousin Telie married Mr. Goode while  
they were in Lawtonville. My impression  
of Mr. Goode from what little I saw of him  
was that he was a refined and intelligent  
gentleman. Cousin Telie was left a widow  
with one or two children. She and her children  
came to South Carolina on a visit 6 or 7 years  
after the war. I have no information as to  
her subsequent history. Her sister Lizzie  
Holcombe was a handsome woman. She mar-  
ried. I <sup>have</sup> never heard the name of her hus-  
band, but have forgotten it; and the same  
might be said about Cousin Maggie, the third  
daughter. The two sons were Henry and  
Robert Holcombe; "Bobbie" as he was called by  
the family, and friends. When we were in Lawton-  
ville in 1862, Henry Holcombe was in the service  
of the Confederate States. Bobbie was not old enough  
in 1862, but he joined in 1863 or 1864. Bobbie -

Lopaflice  
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Holcombe, after the war, within a few months after its close, was killed accidentally in some saw-mill work in which he was engaged. Neither of them married. Henry Holcombe was in business for several years about Lawtonville after the war; and then went to Florida. I do not know of his subsequent career any thing at all. He was a recklessly brave man, as the following will show. A few miles out from Lawtonville there was a family of "old issue" free negroes, named Russell. By "old issue," I mean the class of negroes that had been in some way, or by some process free for generations before Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863. The "old issue" negroes as a class were good, harmless people. Occasionally, there would be an exception, and Sol. Russell of the family above referred to, was an exception to the rule; he was a great burly giant, an outlaw, and was constantly stealing livestock and committing other outrages. However, there was a warrant issued for his arrest for one of his lawless acts and the warrant was placed in the Constable's hands for service. The Constable followed him, a retinue of curiosity seekers, went

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went out to Sol Russell's place; but when they arrived, Russell was in his front door, some distance from the front fence, with a gun in his hands, threatening to fire on any one coming within the enclosure. The crowd stayed outside, the Constable as well as the rest, none venturing within. Such was the situation, when Henry Holcombe happened to pass. There was a mass of low shrubbery, stunted oak bushes, between the gate and the front door of the building. As soon as Holcombe saw that Russell was defying the "posse" and that matters had reached an "impasse" he crossed the fence where Russell could not see him, went his way through the low growth of underbrush and emerging at the door jumped on the door sill suddenly before Russell knew what was happening. Holcombe hid him grasped around the waist, and they fell together out of the door on the ground. Russell was on top. Russell's son a boy of about 15-yrs. at the command of his father, was seeking to strike him with an axe; but Russell being of gigantic -



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proportions, and Halcombe a man of much smaller size, he could not well do so without striking his father. At that critical moment, rode up Gohagan, who had been a noted Confederate scout in the then recent war.

He saw the tense struggle of the two men, and the boy endeavoring to strike. He leaped from his horse and shouted a volley of reproaches to the crowd for not going to Halcombe's assistance, as he passed on towards the struggling man. Just before he reached them, Halcombe had managed to draw his pistol, and he shot Russell just before Gohagan reached him. And Sol Russell was no more. While we are on this line of the tragic, let us return to Richard Reynolds a grandson of Aunt Duncans. I said something above of his sisters, the Reynolds girls, and mentioned his name merely; but nothing further. I write now of his early and tragic end. He was a high spirited boy, and having in his blood the patriotic Chapline strain, as soon as he was 16 or 17 years old he would not be persuaded to remain at home, until he was

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Reynolds-

of the age to enter service. but left home for the military encampment of Beaufort Volunteers Artillery. He had not yet, I understood, been accepted as a member of the Company. The authorities hesitating on account of his youthful age. While waiting for enrollment one morning, he was passing along the street between the rows of tents, when Henry D. Elliott, from opposite side of the street, accosted him. The latter was older than he perhaps. by two or three years, but they knew each other well, having grown up in Beaufort together.

Elliott had a pistol in his hands, that he thought was empty. His idea was to have some fun, and he presented the pistol cocked, saying "Look out Dykes" (a nick name among his boy companions in Beaufort) "I am going to shoot you" at the same time pulling the trigger. At the explosion Richard Reynolds staggered a step or two and fell dead. I well remember my mother's expression of horror when my half brother Wilson Ednal Hall coming home on furlough in the Spring of 1863

narrated the circumstances, which had occurred only a few days before. Henry D Elliot belonged to one of the best families of Beaufort. Although he survived the war many years afterwards being Sheriff of Beaufort County, he never got over the shock of it entirely to his dying day.

I now return to the last one of the children of Aunt Oswald (nee Chaplin) sister of grandmother (except one, the brother Benjamin S. Chaplin). The said remaining sister of cousins, John Oswald and Mary Holcombe, was Mrs Margaret Garvin, whose husband, William W. Garvin, seems to have been very much of a drunken desperado. She was his second wife, and it is said to have died of a broken heart from his cruel treatment, after one or two years of married life. Garvin was wealthy and well connected. She complained about his treatment of her, to her relatives when she had the opportunity of visiting them. They advised her to leave him. She replied that if she did, such was his vindictive disposition, she felt certain that he would kill her. I have seen her tombstone, which is or was some years ago visible from the highway

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in Allendale County near Mathews Bluff; it was  
the old Garvin Plantation. She was probably  
married to W. W. Garvin, widower with several  
children about 1848 or 1850; and died probably  
about 1851 or 1852. If he caused her death by  
cruelty, it was not long before Nemesis was  
on his path. Some time in the fifties, having  
a grudge against one Cooper Cone at a public  
gathering, under the influence of liquor, no  
doubt he presented a pistol close to the breast  
of Cone. Who grasping it, had turned it in the  
reverse direction, at the moment that it was  
discharged. At the inquest and before the  
Grand Jury, it was claimed for Cone that  
it was Garvin's on hand that pulled the trigger.  
No bill seems to have been found against him.

Adverting now to Benjamin S. Chaplin, brother  
to the three (3) Chaplin sisters, not much is  
known by the present generation. In the  
suit that was brought by the Adams against  
him and his sisters he disclaimed any right  
to the Jericho Tract in dispute. He was  
living when that suit was commenced, which

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that is about 1832, but as his grand-nephew, our  
cousin Robert A. Sams, who was born September  
the 14th, 1841, writes me that he does not re-  
member ever having ever seen him, he probably  
died comparatively young; and probably unmarried,  
for there is no record or remembrance of his  
descendants. See Appendix on page 116 the year  
1832. My mother was seven years old in  
the year 1832 if he had lived much beyond  
that period. I think I would have heard her  
speak of him. I have no recollections that I  
ever did.

You and I are the 5th generation from  
Benjamin Chaplin who made his will in  
1766. There are quite a number of the 5th gen-  
eration still living. I have purposely refrain-  
ed from going into details concerning the members  
of the 5th generation; or ever mentioning the  
names of the 6th, 7th, and 8th generation.  
It would make this writing too voluminous;  
and, besides, I know next to nothing of them  
beyond the 5th generation. But there was  
one of the 5th generation whom I would -

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commemorate in this record; and who being my half brother might seem to be having undue partiality over the others of the 5th generation. So so, I beg pardon. Let it be ascribed to the glamour of passionate love and hero-worship into which I always, as a child, regarded him. He was possibly more attentive and partial to me as child than to the others of my brothers and sisters. He was born in the Fall of 1845; his father was Rev. Wilson Hall, the great grandson of Capt William Hall, who commanded the flotilla of 2 or 3 vessels mentioned in Mc Grady's History of South Carolina. He captured several British vessels after a sea battle, just outside of Charleston Harbor. Several of the Hall's were sent to St Augustine as prisoners during the Revolution. and Wilson Hall my half brother, was entitled as the descendant of an officer of the Revolution to the enrollment in the ranks of the Cincinnati - Wilson Hall, with the patriotic blood of the Hall's and Chaplins, insisted on joining the Braught Volunteer Artillery, before he was 15 years old.

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my mother did what she could to hold him at home but as he was nearly 16 years of age and she saw that he was determined to go, she yielded; he participated in all the engagements of that Company during the four years of the war. Bay Point, Pocolago, and a number of others, including Honey Hill until the Company went to North Carolina, and joined Joseph E. Johnston's Army opposing William Tecumseh Sherman. At Averypboro, he was ordered to place his gun in position up the road towards the front. His drum and comrade, Harper Bagood, told me that as he started up the road, in a gallop, his parting words were substantially, "Harper we are going to give them Halifax today!" It was not many minutes before his foot was taken off by a shot or shell, and he lay where he fell for several hours. When the Federals reached him, he was taken to the nearest hospital and amputations performed. But he lost so much blood, that his system was permanently weakened; and when he

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he was attacked by tuberculosis he was not able to resist the attack which carried him away in the Fall of 1873. He went to South-West Georgia soon after the war and married there, Mrs Tillie Robert, daughter of Dr. Lawrence Robert, was of the Robert family of Robertville S.C. His wife's mother was a Miss Polhill, sister of Mrs Dr. Benj. W. Lawton. They had only one child, at the time of their deaths (the wife followed the husband in a few months. Their child was taken in hand and reared by her aunt, Mrs Jennie Robert Stewart; the child grew up, became Mrs Tillie Lagerquist, she has several children. Her son Frederick Lagerquist, some months ago, was elected President of the "Macon, Georgia" Junior Chamber of Commerce. Our cousin Robert O. Sams has furnished me some of the facts herein above recited; and he stated one thing brought back to my mind, what I had heard my mother say in 1863, that one of the Chaplin blood, and a relation of ours, had married a Robert of Robertville or in the vicinity. Cousin Robbie stated another thing that was new to me, and I was glad to learn



learn it, that my mother, who had been for four years the widow of Rev. Wilson Hall, had married my father, Stephen G. Ellis in and from the home of his mother Cousine Caroline, wife of that pure and good gentleman Mr Miles Brewster Sams.

I shall here close; I would add something in relation to your immediate family, the Willinghams, but you are better qualified than I to do that; and, if you do, kindly favor me with a copy.

Your affectionate cousin  
Richard A. Ellis.

Appendix

As to our great-grand-uncle Benjamin S. Chaplin, I have been informed by Cousine Emma Sams, that he married and had several children; but an estrangement arose between him and his wife and they separated. He went West, and returned once or more than once to see his children. He probably died out West but no one seems to know when or where.