

October 3, 1990

112 Woodland Way
Abbeville, SC

Dear Jane,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute some COPE Family info for the next edition of Priester-Peebles: Lives and Ledgends. I was disappointed to have missed the earlier deadline and delighted to learn you had extended it. Here are the transcripts I have made or collected.

I began working on the COPE family at the suggestion of my distant kinsman, the Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peebles of Hilton Head Island. Dr. Peebles was aware of a Mole-Cope relationship and thought further investigation might shed some light on our shadowy Mole line. I have, therefore, been interested in Copes only as they connected with the Mole and Platts families, and, to do more with them, I will need to get further information from Wyman Jay Priester and Gerald B. Cope, Sr. I would, however, like to "do" the Cope section for the second edition if you are looking for contributors.

I am sending you what I have, mis-spellings, typos, errors, and all. Taking time to fix all that is wrong is probably a bit premature. If you think what I have is of interest, I'll go to Barnwell to fill in the holes, gather more data, and correct what I now have. I will also search the Census which I have not done systematically.

Before anything is printed, what I submit should be read again by Dr. Peebles, Wyman Jay Priester, Mr. Cope, and his son Judge Cope of Miami. They all have such good eyes for screening out camels I'm trying to swallow.

I also have some Priester information. A Nicholas Priester¹, William Priester, Sr.², Nicholas F. Priester³ (1871-1927) chart made by Mildred Wedincamp of Jesup is attached, and, if you want it, I can send references which appear to support her chart. Do you want my George and Andrew Priester notes?

I look forward to hearing from you when next you get back to the COPE family. Until then,

All best regards,

Rose Marie

COPE-BRANT-MOLE-PLATTS-BISHOP CHART

JOHANNES COPE

b. ca. 1730; immigrated from Germany to Charleston in 1756;
 rec'd grant in O'burg District, 15 August 1756;
 deed rec'd CJ 4 May 1761¹

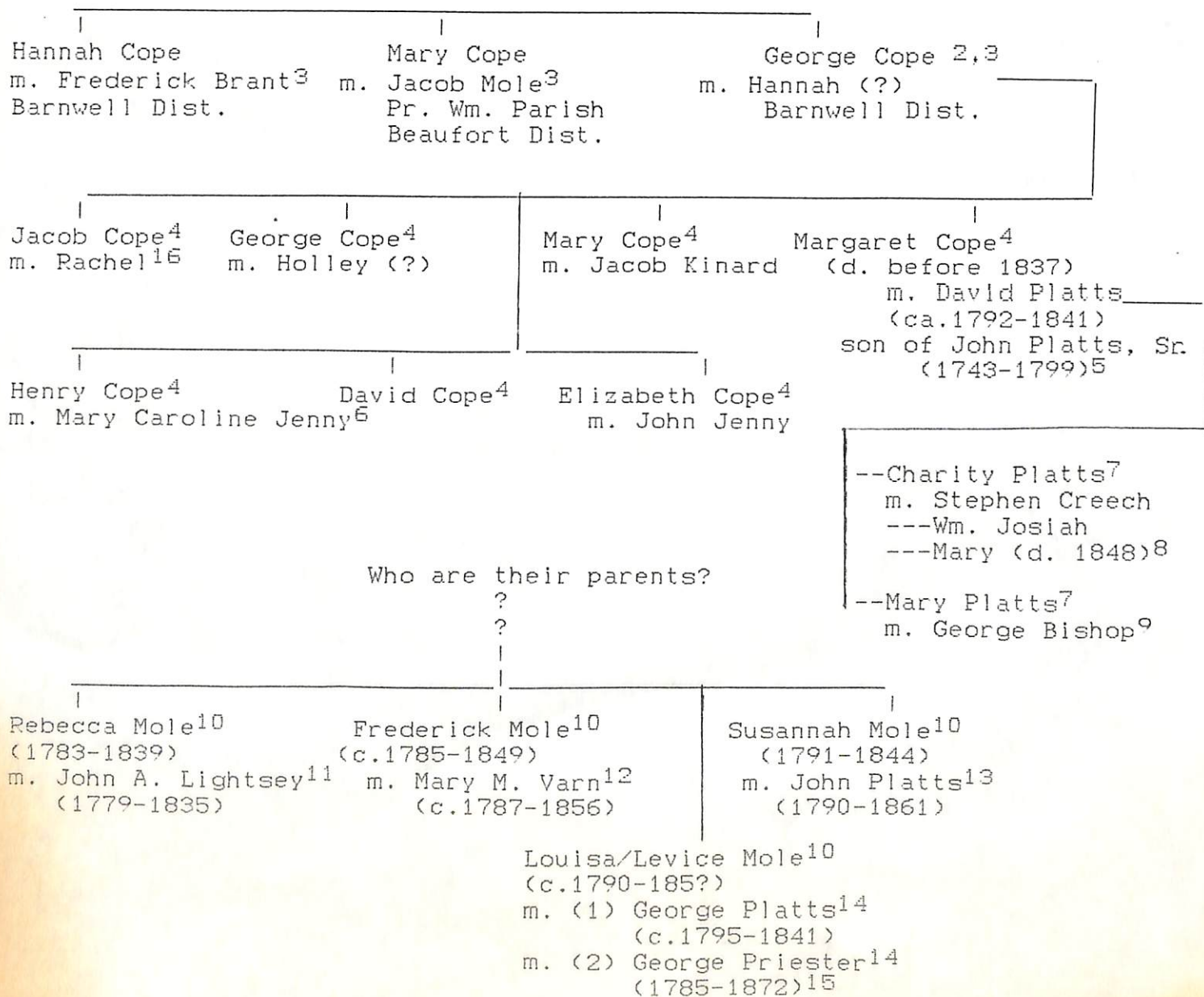
GEORGE COPE

1790 Census Orangeburg Dist., (South Part), p. 101:
 2 males 16/up; 3 males under 16; 1 female (note 2 males 16/up)

JACOB COPE

6 August 1797, 133 acre grant Horsepen Bay, Barnwell
 23 August 1797, bought adjoining 200 acres
 from Conrad Augley whose wife Rachel signed dower.

JACOB COPE deceased by 19 March 1814³



COPE-BRANT-MOLE-PLATTS-BISHOP

- 1 Jane Priester Hawkins. Priester-Peebles: Lives and Legends. Athens, Georgia: The Print Shop, 1987. Chapter XVI, "Early Cope History," pp. 97-98, traces the Cope line. Hawkins claims that GEORGE and JACOB COPE were sons of JOHANNES COPE.
- 2 1800 Barnwell Dist. p. 55, George Kope: 2m under 10; 2m 10-16; 2m 16-26; 2f under 10; 1f 26-45. Source, Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peebles, letter, 4 February 1987.
- 3 Barnwell Deed Book I, pp.51-56, 19 March 1814. Dr. Peebles was the source for this information. Helon Day found, on page 57, a copy of a State Land Grant, dated 19 February 1791 to Jacob Cope.

N.B. Earlier versions of this chart showed Hannah Cope Brant, Mary Cope Mole, and George Cope m. Hannah (?) to be the children of the Jacob Cope who Hawkins identified as the son of Johannes Cope and who would have been born ca. 1758. Dr. Peebles points out that this "doesn't fit at all" as "Mary Cope had to have m. Jacob Mole by c. 1785 since they had 2 ch. by 1790 Census." Both Dr. Peebles and Wyman Jay Priester have wondered if this Jacob Cope might be the brother of Hannah, Mary, and George, rather than their father.
- 4 Barnwell Probate, Bundle 38, Pkg. 2, Estate of George Kope; Barnwell Deed Books O, pp. 444-447, 10 April 1824, and U, pp. 183-184, 25 June 1835.
- 5 Barnwell Probate, Bundle 26, Pkg. 3, Estate of John Platts, Sr.
- 6 Barnwell Deed Book S, pp. 220-228, 6 January 1832.
- 7 Barnwell Deed Book X, pp. 274-275, 29 March 1841; Barnwell Probate, Bundle 80, Pkg. 7, Estate of David Platts.
- 8 Barnwell Probate, Bundle 97, Pkg. 7, Estate of Mary M. Creech.
- 9 Bishop, Charles Lawrence, The Bishop Family: 1785-1985, privately published, 1986, ISBN 0-9616120-0-2.
- 10 Barnwell Plat Book 4, p. 245, 4 August 1824.
- 11 Bible of Henry Joel Harter whose first wife was Elizabeth Lightsey: Elizabeth was the daughter of John A. Lightsey, b. 8 April 1779, d. 22/24 June 1835, married 1 October 1801 to Rebecca Mole, b. 15 April 1783/1785, d. 21/24 June 1839. This Bible is now in the possession of Harter's granddaughter Virginia Platts (Mrs. William) Hodge. Willie Rivers (Mrs. George) Young, greatgranddaughter of Rebecca Mole and John A. Lightsey provided similar information to Emma Lightsey, prior to March of 1962 from the Bible of her father, a son of Anna Suzanna Lightsey and David Rivers. The latter information was furnished by Miss Julia Youmans of Brunson.
- 12 Extant Markers, Mole Family Cemetery, behind Hickory Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, near intersection of Hampton County Roads 13 and 43, collected by Kermit and Louise Barnes, Carl Platts, Jerry Scott, and Rose-Marie Williams, 1 March 1986: Mary M. Mole/Died/April 17, 1856/Age 69; Fredrick Mole/Died/April 14, 1849/Age 64. According to Joseph Pascal and Betty Hughes Miley, The Family of John and Martha (Breeland) Miley, July, 1972, no publisher, p. 20, Mary M. Mole, wife of Fredrick Mole was the daughter of John G. Varn and Anna Baker Varn.

- 13 Extant Markers, Old St. Nicholas Cemetery (also known as Brant Cemetery), near intersection of SC 641 and Allendale County Road 48, on land belonging to Fred Wilson (Pete) Manuel: Susannah Platts "departed this life on the 25th day of April 1844/Aged 52 years, 7 months, 29 days. She lived a married life of 33 years and 18 days, was the mother of 3 sons and 6 (sic) daughters and grandmother of 16 children. Sacred to the memory of John Platts/Was born May 27 1790/And died January 26, 1861/"His pilgrimage was 71 years 2 months and 23 days. He was the father of 10 children and grandfather of 24, a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, worshipped at St. Nicholas Church, Barnwell District, SC."
- 14 Barnwell Probate, Bundle 80, Pkg. 6, Estate of George Platts. Louisa/Levice Mole appears to have had children by neither husband.
- 15 Hawkins, p. 17.
- 16 From Hawkins, unpublished records compiled by Mary Alice Manuel Strum, and correspondence from Gerald B. Cope, Sr., and Wyman Jay Priester, it appears that John/Jacob Cope (b. 15 April 1787, d. 30 November 1868) and his wife Rachel (?) had seven children: Mary M. Cope (1821-1900) m. George W. Brant; Rebecca Jane Cope (1822-1905) m. John Fred Brant; Martin (1824-?); Riley (1831-?); Elizabeth Martha Cope (1833-?) m. Miles Priester; Harriett Cope (1835-?) m. William Brant; and Amanda (1840-?). I will appreciate all corrections necessary to these assumptions.

George W. Brant, John Fred Brant, and William Brant were sons of John Frederick Brant and his wife Hannah Cope, above (see Barnwell Deed Book AA, pp. 76-82). Other children of John Frederick and Hannah Cope Brant were Richard Brant, Susannah Brant Jenny, and Henry Brant who predeceased John Frederick Brant, leaving "my granddaughter Anna Brant." Anna Brant m. Hezekiah Bishop, brother to George William Bishop who m. Mary Platts, above, daughter of David and Margaret Cope Platts. Anna Brant Bishop's mother was Catherine Platts, sister to John, David, and George Platts (and [Martin] Platts who died before 1816), Christine Platts Howard, Elizabeth Platts All Ulmer, Hannah Platts Cone, Margaret Platts Harter Warren, Nancy Platts Hiers, Miley Platts Kinard. Catherine Platts Brant m. (2) Washington K. Weekley. I believe that Catherine Platts Brant Weekley was also the mother of Dr. John Martin Weekley (1837-1932).

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D R A F T
(not for publication)

COPE-BRANT-MOLE-PLATTS-BISHOP

Sources in Chronological Order

(All spellings, capitalization, and punctuation are transcribed as written in the documents except that abbreviations originally written in superscript are spelled out.)

15 August 1756 100 acres in the lower part of Orangeburg Township to Johannes Cope, recorded Council Journal, 4 May 1761 (Jane Hawkins, p. 97).

19 March 1779
31 March 1779 Jacob Cope rec'd pay for service in the Revolutionary War (Hawkins, p. 97).

March 1787 State Land Grant of 158 acres in the Orangeburg District to George Kope (Hawkins, p. 97),

3 Feb
2000

5 February 1789 George Cope as member of Winton County Jury, Thomas Shield and Sarah his wife vs John Gill, Frances Barrett, et al. (Holcomb, Winton County Records, p. 71); see page 103 of Winton County Minutes and Will Book I, 1785-1791 for Jacob Kope.

14 December 1791 State Land Grant of 195 acres in the Orangeburg District on the west side of the Big Saltketcher to Jacob Kope (Hawkins, p. 97).

19 February 1791 State Land Grant from South Carolina by his excellency James R. Richardson, Esquire, Governor, at Columbia, South Carolina, 133 acres surveyed for him [Jacob Cope] this 24th day of August 1797 in Orangeburg on West side of Big Saltketcher River, bounded by line running SE by land granted to Conrad Augley and all other sides vacant; represented by plat annexed. s/James B. Richardson. Recorded 17 May 1803, Barnwell Deed Book I, p. 57. (Helon Day found this grant.)

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19 August 1797 To George Howard 334 acres on Pretty Creek waters of Big Saltketchers bounded by a line NW NE on John Platts, NW on Jacop Copes and John Frederick Brants, all other sides vacant. s/ James Thurston, DS, 19 August 1797. Recorded 22 August 1797 Plat Book 5, p. 225.

COPE-BRANT-MOLE-PLATTS-BISHOP SOURCES

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23 August 1797 Indenture made between Conrad Augley, Orangeburg, planter, and Jacob Cope. . . . sold to Jacob Cope for 10 £ sterling, 200 acres situate in the district aforesaid on Horsepen Bay being part of 467 [465?] acres granted to Conrad Augley. Wit: James Thurston and John Brant. Recorded 6 March 1815, Barnwell Deed Book I, pp. 53. (Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples was the source for this deed and the following plats as well as for the 1814 conveyances.)

23 August 1797 At the request of Conrad Augley I have laid out a tract of land containing 200 acres for Jacob Cope being part of a tract of 465 acres granted to the said Conrad Augley 7 March 1796 and hath such form and marks as the above plat represents. Surveyed 23 August 1797. s/James Thurston DS. Dower rights relinquished by Rachel Augley, 10 February 1796 [?]. Proven before Wm Buford by John Brant 20 September 1797. Recorded 6 March 1815, Barnwell County Deed Book I, page 54. (A plat is shown of this tract.)

24 August 1797 Certify for Jacob Cope 133 acres surveyed 24 August 1797. s/James Thurston, DS. Recorded 6 March 1815, Barnwell County Deed Book I, pp. 55-56. (A plat is shown for this tract.)

2 October 1809 Surveyed for Jacob Harter 400 acres on Pretty Creek, NW on George Howard, SE on Jacob and George Koup, SW on Jacob Harter. s/James Thurston, DS. Recorded 4 October 1809, Book [8], p. 539.

2 May 1812 Jacob Harter, Planter, to George, Andrew, Absolom, and John Jacob Harter. 400 acres on Pretty Creek, NW on George Howard, SE on Jacob and George Koup, SW on Jacob Harter, surveyed 2 October 1809. Wit. Wm. Weekeley and Owen Halford. s/ Jacob Harter, 2 May 1812. Recorded 5 June 1812, Deed Book F., p. 222. (Abstracted from Bert Harter, The Harter Family History.)

19 March 1814 Frederich Brant of Barnwell and Jacob Mole of Beaufort to George Kope of Barnwell for \$120, 222 acres "being our part or moyeties of two tracts of land the [el]state of Jacob Koope deceast the one being their parts or two thirds of a tract deeded to the said Jacob Koope by Conrade Airlgley [Conrad Augley] on 23 August 1797. The other being a tract of 133 acres granted to Jacob Koope 6 Aug 1797 lying on Horsepen Bay binding [sic] on lands surveyed for Coonerad Augley in Barnwell District." s/ Jacob [x] Mole and Frederick Brant. Wit.: Jacob Harter and Nicholas Priester. Dowers relinquished by Mary [x] Mole and Hannah [x] Brant. Recorded 6 March 1815, Barnwell Deed Book

I, pp. 51-52. (Helon Day has located several other surveys on Horsepen Bay, half in Barnwell and half in Beaufort, in Plat Book 8, pp. 554, 556, 565; also see Book 7, p. 210.)

28 September 1821 Letters of Administration for "the Estate of my deceased father, George Kope," by Jacob Kope, Admor.; Surety Bond s/ Jacob Kope, Charles [x] Gray, and John Young. Warrant for Appraisal to Jacob Deer, Mily Hoover, John Platts, George Platts, and Nicholas Priester. Appraisal attested to by Jacob Deer, John M. Hoover and John Platts before Killis Hallfod 28 November 1821. Notice published at Saltketcher Meeting House 23 September 1821, s/Jonathan Loper. Distribution made by Jacob Cope to widow Hannah Kope and six other children: Henry Kope, George Kope, Elizabeth Kope (m. John Jenny before final distribution), David Kope, Jacob Kinard [m. Mary Kope], and David Platts [m. Margaret Kope]. Estate discharged 30 January 1826. Barnwell Probate, Bundle 38, Pkg. 2.

10 April 1824 Jacob Kope, David Kope, Henry Kope, David Platts, Margaret Platts, Elizabeth Kope, Jacob Kinard and Mary Kinard, Heirs to the Estate of George Kope, deceased, to George Kope for \$947.50 for 150 acres on S side of GreatSaltketcher, bounded on the N and W by Frederick Brant, S by Jacob Kope, E by Harter. s/ Jacob Kope, David Kope, Henry Kope, David Platts, Margaret Platts, Elizabeth [x] Kope, George [x] Kinard [this is evidently an error; should be Jacob Kinard; must be checked], Mary [x] Kinard. Wit: Hanner [x] Kope and Nancy [x] Kope. Proven 10 April 1824. Recorded Barnwell Deed Book O, pp. 444-445, n.d.

10 April 1824 David Kope, Henry Kope, David Platts, Margaret Platts, George Kope, Elizabeth Kope, Jacob Kinard and Mary Kinard, Heirs to the Estate of George Kope, Senr, to Jacob Kope for \$947.50 for 195 acres on S side of GreatSaltketcher, bounded on the N by George Kope, W by Frederick Brant, S by Geo Howard, E by Harter. s/David Kope, Henry Kope, David Platts, Margaret Platts, George [x] Kope, Elizabeth [x] Kope, Jacob [x] Kinard, Mary [x] Kinard. Wit: Hanner [x] Kope and Nancy [x] Jones. Proven 10 April 1824. Recorded Barnwell Deed Book O, p. 446, n.d.

10 April 1824 Jacob Kope, David Kope, Henry Kope, David Platts, Margaret Platts, George Kope, Elizabeth Kope, Heirs to the Estate of George Kope, deceased, to Jacob Kinard for \$947.50 for 171 acres on S side of GreatSaltketcher, bounded on the N by Frederick Brant, W by Henry Kope, S by Deer, E by James Harrison. s/Jacob Kope, David Kope, Henry Kope, David Platts, Margaret Platts, George [x] Kope, Elizabeth [x] Kope. Wit: Hanner [x] Kope and Nancy [x] Jones. Proven 10 April 1824. Recorded Barnwell Deed Book O, p. 447, 14 May 182?.

Abstract from

4 January 1822 Heirs of John Varn, deceased, Planter of Beaufort District, Prince Williams Parish, to David Rivers a tract of one hundred and seven acres on the waters of the 'Great Salteatchers.' s/William Varn, Fredrick Mole (husband of Mary M. Varn), Fredrick Varn, Josiah Murdaugh (husband of Ursula Varn), and David Miley, (husband of Anna Varn). Witnessing the conveyance were Aaron Varn and John Beard. David Rivers, the grantee, was the husband of Margaret Varn. Joseph Pascal and Betty Hughes Miley, The Family of John and Martha (Breeland) Miley, July, 1972, no publisher, p. 20.

4 August 1824 Plat for John Platts, George Platts, Frederick Mole, and John A. Lightsey, 191 acres on waters of Great Saltcatcher, surveyed by Benjamin Allen. The property is bounded on the NE by Henry Brant, SE by John Brant, SW by Frederick Brant, and W by George Howard. Recorded 6 September 1824, Barnwell Plat Book 4, p. 245. A similar plat (but not identical) was recorded in Plat Book 7, p. 212, 6 September 1824 and marked GEORGE Platts, et al.

[Susannah Mole is known to have married John Platts (extant markers and Bible record) and Rebecca Mole is known to have married John A. Lightsey (Bible record); therefore, this plat suggests that Susannah and Rebecca Mole, Frederick Mole, and Levice (who was married first to George Platts and later to George Priester) were siblings and this 191 acres was an undivided portion of their father's estate.]

6 January 1832 Christener Jenny et al to Elizabeth Jenny for \$115, 115 acres on Cowpen Branch. s/Christiner [x] Jenny, John Jenny, George Jenny, Henry Kope, Rebeca [x] Jenny. Wit: E. J. Platts and David Rivers, Jr. Renunciation of dowers by Elizabeth Jenny, wife of John Jenny, and Ann Jenny, wife of George Jenny and Mary Caroline Kope, wife of Henry Kope, before Wm. R. Halford, 30 March 1832. Sworn to by E. J. Platts, 13 January 1832. Recorded 2 April 1832, Barnwell Deed Book 5, pp. 220-222.

25 June 1835 Renunciation of dowers for deed recorded in Book O, p. 447. Frederick Young certified that Rachel Kope, Caroline Kope and Holley Kope, wives of Jacob Kope, Henry Kope, and George Kope freely relinquished their rights to Jacob Kinard. s/Rachel [x] Kope, Caroline [x] Kope, Holley [x] Kope. Recorded 7 September 1835, Barnwell Deed Book U, pp. 184-184.

[Jacob Kope et al to
Jacob Kinard,
10 April 1834]

22 February 1836 Henry J. Harter and W. G. Harter to Jacob Kope, 132 acres adj to Jacob Kope, Absolom Harter, and George Kope. Wit. David Platts and Henry Carter. Dower

rights renounced 9 April 1836. Recorded Deed Book U, p. 368. *Date recorded?*

2 January 1841 David Platts to Charity Creech, Mary Platts, Sarah Platts and children: to my daughter Charity Creech present wife of Stephen Creech 200 acres, part of a tract belonging to Charles Harrison to be cut off by a line running East from a cypress to a post oak and a Negro woman Else; to my daughter Mary Platts, 2 Negro Children Frank and Dice and other property in stock cattle and horses to be equal to [Charity's share], Mary's share to come to her when of age or married and may remain on the place where I now live as long as she remains unmarried; if she dies without heirs [of her body] her part 1/2 to Charity and her children and 1/2 to my wife and other children; to my present wife Sarah Platts and to her and my children all my other property of land, Negroes and stock for her natural life and to my children at her death; appoint John Platts my executor, 2 January 1841, s/David [x] Platts. Wit: Wm. G. Harter and Allen Harter; attested to by Wm. G. Harter before Fredrick Young, QU. Recorded Barnwell Deed Book X, pp. 274-275, 29 March 1841.

3 April 1841 George Jenny to Levica Platts for \$222, 222 acres being the SW end of a tract of land granted to the said Jenny 18 December 1838 for 750 acres on the S. side of the Saltcatcher River; SW by Benjamin Warren, NW by George Platts Estate, NE by George Jenny, N by Saltkacha River. s/George Jenny, 3 April 1841. Wit. by John Platts and Frederick Young. Attested to by John Platts before

~~(Add this part)~~

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Frederick Young, 13 August 1841. Nancy Jenny, wife of George Jenny, released her dower before Frederick Young, QU, 13 August 1841. Nancy [x] Jenny. Recorded 1 November 1841, Book X, pp 360-361. For an 1838 plat of Jenny's 755 acres, see George Jenny, Plat Book 7, p. 575.

NB: Not included in the above are several deeds and plats dated after 1841 whereby George Priester acquired land or was shown as owner of land formerly belonging to George Platts. I also have George and Andrew Priester as neighbors to John Platts' land in Beaufort County in 1823; Andrew Priester as a witness to a deed in 1827; and Andrew Priester owning land on Jackson Branch in 1841.

COMPILED BY ROSE-MARIE WILLIAMS, April, 1989, and updated September, 1990. The Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peebles (8 Moon Shell Road, Hilton Head Island, SC, 29928) suggested the Mole-Cope connection be explored and has corrected many errors in the several versions of the conclusions I have drawn from this information. Holbrook Platts of Hampton and Carl Platts of Brunson abstracted many of the deeds and plats. However, I take full responsibility for all mistakes and will appreciate comments and corrections addressed to me at 112 Woodland Way, Abbeville, SC, 29620.