

THE RISER FAMILY

BY

Henry G. Riser

(Council Journal 18 (2) p. 287: petition of George Reison (Reiser/Riser) "had the misfortunate to come with Capt. Crawford who landed him with the rest at Cape Fear, NC". Petition dated 3 Sept 1751. He was granted 50 acres 22 Aug 1752 on Crims Creek (Plat Bk 5 p. 255)
 Born c. 1732 he m. Francina, daughter of John Counts; their daughter: MARY Riser (1781-1860) m. 1797 Jacob Copeland; Revolutionary War soldier, Jacob Copeland, Sr. was father of Jacob, Jr. (1776-3 Nov. 1853), husband of Mary Riser.
 George Riser died in Edgefield District, SC 1821, his Will dated 21 March 1821.

From the book, "The American Lutheran Church" by Dr. Hazelius, one learns that the original German settlers in upper South Carolina, and especially in what is now Newberry County, were generally from near the Rhine, Baden, and Wurtenburg in Germany. Williamson in his, "History of North Carolina," speaks of the Palatines being from Heidelberg and its vicinity on the Rhine. Many German settlers, besides the Palatines, received grants of land, or bounty warrants, from the King—100 acres for the head of the house, and 50 acres for each child.

The Dutch Fork Section of Newberry County, South Carolina, was settled by a Colony of Palatine Germans in the 1740's. These Palatine Germans were from the lower Rhine River area in Germany. They came to America to escape religious persecution in Germany. They were granted permission by England to establish a colony between the Saluda and Broad Rivers in what is now South Carolina.

In the Library of Congress is a book, "Die Deutschen Familiennamen" by Dr. Paul Gascorbi, in which one finds the spelling of the family as "Rieser." Another writer gives "Roiser" as the original spelling. One must take into consideration the nationality of the official taking the name of the settlers. Quite likely, if they entered the country at Charleston it was an Englishman, not understanding the pronunciation he spelled it phonetically. Genealogist trace families by the way they spell their name.

George Roiser (Riser) was the pioneer to America before the Revolutionary War. Coming in 1776 from the Rhineland of Germany, he never learned to write English (from the book, "O'Neill's Annals of Newberry County, S. C."—Page No. 651). He settled in lower section of Newberry County, S. C. He had five sons which were named: Adam, Martin, John, George, Jr., and Jacob—and three daughters, one married a Sease, and another a Copeland—all the daughters along with their brother John moved to Barnell County, S. C. Adam and Jacob moved to Mississippi—and later Adam moved on to Louisiana locating in Winn Parish in the 1830's, out on the East side of Ward Three. He was the first pioneer settler in that area. Around his place developed an agricultural community that was called Goodwater, and a postoffice established there August 2, 1854, with Adam Riser, the postmaster. Goodwater was the first postoffice established in Winn Parish east of Dugdemona bayou.

All the sons of George Riser, Sr. left Newberry County, S. C., except Martin Riser, Sr.—he stayed, reared his families, and died there—leaving a "Will" in 1844.

Martin Riser, Sr. remained in Newberry County, S.C., and married three times. He first married a Miss Sease, and they had the following children: John, Martin, Jr., Chirstina, Eva, and Elizabeth. His second wife was Christena Rikard and they had the following children: Adam, George,

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The Riser Family



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Jacob, Mary, Harriet, Sallie, and Susan. Adam moved to Louisiana locating just south of Ruston in what is now known as the Riser Community. Adam Riser farmed for a while, then opened a store where he conducted a \$50,000.00 business per year, and later established a postoffice and it was known as Bonner, Louisiana. In 1854, when the first preliminary survey for the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Railroad (now the Illinois Central) was made, one Henry Bonner (from whom Bonner, La. was named after) came with the surveyors and proposed the route of the new railroad to pass near Adam Riser's store. Had the survey materialized into the railroad that they expected, the town for this section would have been Bonner. Fate decreed that Ruston should be the town and that nothing should remain of Bonner but a fading memory and the Riser Cemetery. Adam Riser was born Dec. 16, 1809 in Newberry County, S. C. and in 1892 was 83-years old and wrote to his nephew Judge Jacob B. Fellows of Newberry County, S. C. the following letter on April 23, 1892. "Ruston, Louisiana—April 23, 1892. I work my garden and Irish potatoes and keep my orchard trim and my grape vines."—he wrote a very steady hand. He died Oct. 20, 1898—and was buried beside his wife in the Riser Cemetery near where old Bonner, Louisiana used to be. Martin Riser, Sr.'s third wife was a widow Summers and they had no children. According to records in Newberry County, S.C., Martin Riser, Sr. died there on Sept. 23, 1844, and was buried in the family cemetery at Newberry County, S.C.

From family data left at Newberry County, S. C. by George Riser, Sr., one finds that Adam Riser, who located at Goodwater Community in the vicinity of Winnfield, La. was the son of George Riser, Sr. first Riser to come to America . . . and that Adam Riser who located just south of Ruston in what is now the Riser Community, was the son of Martin Riser, Sr. and a nephew of Adam Riser at Winnfield, La.

John Riser son of Martin Riser, Sr. married Barbara Ann Zeigler and they had ten children: William, John, Hartwell, George, Adam, James A., Elizabeth, Annie, and Lavinia. His son married Elizabeth Rikard, and one of their nine children was the Rev. Sidney T. Riser who died in Staunton, Va. while a young man, being a minister in the Lutheran Church. Another son George married a Miss Reaster, and was killed in North Carolina in the last battle of the War Between the States. His daughter Lavinia married Belton Kibler who was killed in the War between the States.

George Riser, Sr. made a "Will" which was located in Box-25, Package-896 in Edgefield, S. C., and this "Will" was recorded in Volume-1, A-book, Page-105, in the Department of Archives of South Carolina in Columbia. This "Will" was dated March 21, 1821. From the date of this "Will" of George Riser, Sr. (1821) and date of his Revolutionary War Claims paid (1783), it is evident that George Riser, Sr. was a Revolutionary War patriot.

In Deed "H" Page-262 dated 1804—it was stated that "George Riser, Sr., father of Martin Riser, Sr." had been the grantee of 350 acres of land ~~to the Revolutionary War effort~~, between the Broad and Saluda Rivers in Newberry County, S. C., on Dec-26th and 27th, 1763—
 22 Aug. 1752
 which was 58 years before said George Riser, Sr. made his "will" and 39-years since he signed as patriot by furnishing supplies during Revolutionary War.

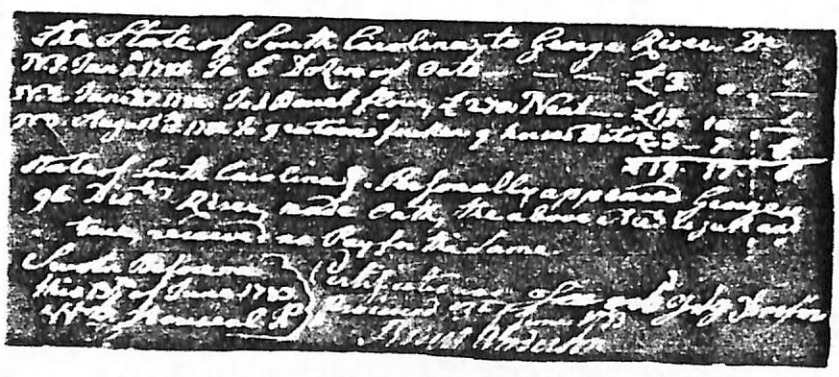
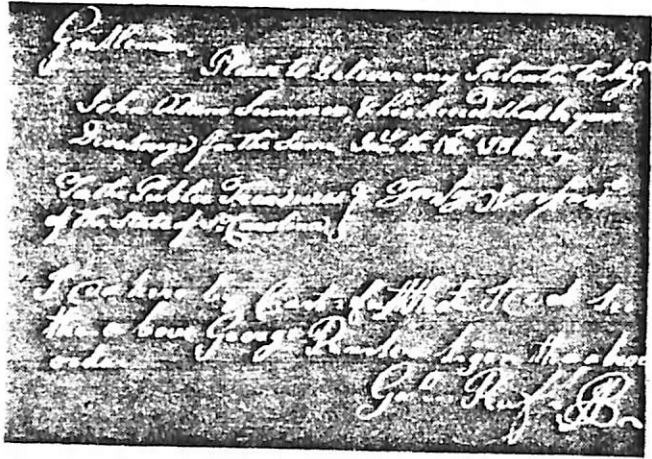
Revolutionary War records in Newberry County, S. C. show that George Riser, Sr. rendered service to the American Army in 1781 and 1782 by furnishing supplies—"and said George Riser, Sr.'s request to the Public Treasurer of the State of South Carolina to deliver my Indents to Major Adam Summer (of Newberry County, S. C.) and his Receipt shall

George Riser left Stuttgart in Wuertemberg, Germany in 1750, arrived in Cape Fear, N.C. "from whence I came in 1751 to South Carolina at the first opportunity", he stated in petitioning the S.C. authorities 18 Aug. 1751 for a 50-acre headright grant "in the park between Broad and Saludy Rivers". Born c. 1732, he served as Pvt. in Rev. army, deserted to the Loyalist cause in 1779 but rejoined the American cause in 1781. He and his wife Francis were parents of MARY RISER (1781-1860) who married in 1797 Jacob Copeland, Jr. (1776-3 Nov. 1853), son of Rev. War soldier Jacob Copeland, Sr.

be your Discharge for same Jan. 18, 1786." George Riser, Sr. signed his name in German script "George Ruff J.P."

From the above mentioned record of Revolutionary War service it is assumed that George Riser, Sr., was too old for active participation in the war as a soldier.

In the State Archives in Columbia, South Carolina, one can find vouchers for pay for Revolutionary War service to George Riser, Sr. Below are photostatic copies of two of these vouchers:



In 1804 George Riser, Sr., sold 200 acres of land in Newberry County District, S. C. which he had acquired in March 22, 1788—and his wife Francena Riser signed her dower release to this said land. This deed "H" (Page No. 264 of Recorders Deed Book in Newberry County Court House, S. C.)—when George Riser, Sr. was a resident of Orangeburg District (then in "1788" Newberry County was part of the Orangeburg District).

In 1806 (Deed "H" Page No. 264)—Francena Riser was the wife of George Riser, Sr.—Francena was his first wife.

In 1821 ("Will" of George Riser, Sr., Edgefield County, S. C.) Elizabeth Riser was the wife of George Riser, Sr.—Elizabeth was his second wife.

George Riser, Sr. owned lands in Newberry County, S. C. in 1788 and in 1804 sold paid lands— and in 1819 he acquired land in Edgefield District, S. C. where George Riser, Sr. died in 1821 and left wife (2nd) Elizabeth.