



James Hollis, Sr.

1730 – 1801

South Carolina

James Hollis, Sr. was born in Fairfax County, Colony of Virginia in 1730. He was the fifth son born to John Hollis, Sr. and Eleanor Canterbury-Hollis. The Hollises operated an Inn and Tavern along the Old Mountain Road from Fairfax to Winchester, Virginia. They held a Virginia Ordinary License, so they distilled spirits. Also, like all of their neighbors, they raised about 200 acres of tobacco.

At the age of eighteen years, James took Sarah Hall for his wife. She was the sister to John Hall and the daughter of Thomas Hall all of Fairfax County, Virginia. The year was 1746. James' older brother, Edward the cooper or barrel maker, seems to be the first to leave home. In about 1754, Edward acquires a grant of land from the King of England. This grant was along the border of Fairfield County, South Carolina where it joins Richland County, South Carolina.

James, Sr. and Sarah appear in northeast Fairfield County, South Carolina shortly after 1768. It appears they purchased about 200 acres of land along the Wateree River where Fairfield County joins Chester County and Kershaw County.

The 1770's brought the American rebellion against England into South Carolina and the Hollises into service to the Patriot cause. Edward Hollis left many receipts and records indicating he provided supplies to the Patriots, most likely barrels. His brother Moses, Sr. left records of supplies given to the Patriots, service in the colonial government as a constable and surveyor of roads. Moses, Sr. had an Ordinary License, so he may have supplies distilled spirits. Moses' oldest son was a militiaman in the French and Indian War and now a distinguished leader among the Patriots. This nephew of James Hollis, Sr. rose to the rank of Captain, was twice wounded, lost a rifle and two horses. He fought in numerous Patriot / Tory conflicts and saw action at King's Mountain. Later, this same Captain John Hollis would swear to congress that his

Uncle James Hollis, Sr. and cousins James Hollis, Jr. and William Hollis were soldiers in the Fairfield County Militia.

James Hollis, Sr. served in the militia under General Francis Marion "The Swamp Fox." James claimed the loss of one horse and a rifle. Most men who lost horses and rifles were presumed to have been in combat. Due to the nearness of Camden, South Carolina it is reasoned that this loss occurred when Colonel Cornwallis' British forces routed Patriot General Gages' force at the battle for Camden.

James returned to farming life after the war and resided at his plantation along the Wateree River in South Carolina. He died at the age of 71 on 28 December 1801. His widow, Sarah Hall-Hollis survived him but was deceased by 13 December 1814. A 100 acre portion of the original plantation went to daughter Elizabeth as a wedding gift when she married John Dunlap and the other 100 acre portion was inherited by son Littleton Hollis.