

## Hall County history

*Corn family settled in several area counties*

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Special to The Times

Many descendants of the Corn family of Virginia and descendants of allied families migrated southward to Northeast Georgia. These descendants settled in Rabun, Union, Habersham, Lumpkin, Forsyth and Hall Counties.

John Peter Corn was the son of Matthew and Molly Corn. He was born March 15, 1752, in Albermarle County, Va., and died Oct. 14, 1843, in Henderson County, N.C. He was married May 24, 1781, Henry County, Va., to Hannah Elizabeth Parr who was born June 14, 1764, Henry County, Va., and died March 16, 1853, Henderson County, N.C.

Matthew and Molly Corn, John Peter Corn's parents, along with three other Corn brothers: Jesse, George and Samuel, came to America in 1700's. The family is of German and Irish descent. At the time of their arrival in the new country, Virginia was a colony of Great Britain.

John Peter Corn enlisted in Washington's Army in the

Revolutionary War, Feb. 8, 1776, and served for a term of two years along with his brother Jesse. The Corn brothers went from Gloucester Courthouse, Va., to Pennsylvania where John

Peter Corn was wounded in a skirmish near Philadelphia. Afterwards he went to Valley Forge Camp to take up winter quarters where he suffered from exposure and near starvation in 1777.

While in the army, John Peter Corn was detailed by General Washington to gather provisions for the Army. While gathering apples in Virginia he met his future wife, Hannah Elizabeth Parr. When the war ended John Peter Corn returned to Virginia to woo and marry Hannah E. Parr.

The couple reared a family of 15 children:

Adam Corn, born May 2, 1783, died Sept. 19, 1871, or 1874.

William Corn, born Feb. 5, 1785.

Samuel Corn, born Feb. 6, 1787, died Oct. 5, 1838.

John Corn, born Dec. 20, 1789.

Sarah Corn, born Oct. 5, 1790, died Oct. 21, or 25, 1874.

Peter Corn, born Sept. 18, 1792, died Feb. 26, 1869.

Arthur Corn, born June 27, 1794, died Feb. 5, 1847.

Jesse Corn, born July 27, 1796.

Elizabeth Corn, born Aug. 5,

1798, or 1799.

Mariam Corn, born May 7, 1800, died Feb. 14, 1902.

Noah P. Corn, born Jan. 25, 1802, died Oct. 9, 1874.

Silas Corn, born Sept. 18, 1803, died June 8, 1884.

Mathew D. Corn, born Oct. 5, 1805, died Jan. 3, 1892.

Mary Ann Corn, born Oct. 18, 1807, died Feb. 14, 1890.

Adah Corn, born Oct. 3, 1811, died Feb. 12, 1891.

Sometime around 1794, John Peter Corn moved his family from Virginia to Surry County, N.C. Later they moved to Wilkes County, N.C. and from there to Henderson County where the younger children were born.

John Peter Corn died at the

age of 92 years, and his funeral was conducted under army regulations with both the cavalry and infantry taking part. A grandson who attended the funeral at the age of five years gave the following account of the occasion. "It was one of the most sacred and touching funerals that had ever been witnessed by the people of that time. The two companies seemed to have been rather in the background while the religious services were being carried out. They then stepped forward — the drum, fife and bugle sounded and the infantry marched by the grave, half on one side and half on the other, each firing blank cartridges

into the grave. Then the cavalry in double file, quick time, marched by, the same as the infantry, firing their pieces into the grave. The like had never been seen before. Some of people started shouting, some prayed, a few fainted. . ."

It has been said that this family of John Peter Corn furnished western North Carolina with more pioneer Baptist preachers than any other known in the annals of that denomination.

Many members of the Corn family did outstanding work among the Cherokee Indians, traveling by foot and horseback over the rough and rugged mountains of western North

Carolina and North Georgia. Adam Corn, son of John Peter and Hannah Elizabeth Corn, helped establish the Union Baptist Church near Brasstown, now Young Harris, Ga. Adam Corn was a Baptist minister and preached throughout Northeast Georgia. He married Hannah Heatherly, and they became parents of seven children: John, Alfred E., Silas Andrew, Jesse, Jane, Posey and Jacob.

Several allied families through intermarriages with members of Corn Clan: Carter, Dillard, Berrong, Ritchie (founder of Rabun Gap School), Baker, Kimsey, Collier, Conway, Telford, Smith, Bryson, Stonecypher and many others.