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Hall County history

Eberhardt family of great antiquity

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Members of the Eberhardt clan were in this section of Georgia in the late 1700s. According to the Rev. Groves H. Cartledge, a Presbyterian minister, in the book "Threads of Ancestors," the Eberhardts came from Pennsylvania about 1788 and settled in what is now Madison County, Ga.

W.H. Manning Jr. and Edna Anderson Manning state in "Our Kin" that an Eberhardt officiated as Bishop of Constance in 1266 and that the family was of the ruling clan for 443 years in Bavaria. They founded the Province of Wirtenberg and the first members of the family to come to America came from Germany in 1745 seeking religious freedom.

Madison County was not created until 1811; therefore, the earliest records concerning the Eberhardt family are found in the courthouse at Elberton, Elbert County. The will of Jacob Eberhard is recorded in that county. He died Jan. 4, 1811. He names his wife "Caty," three sons: David, Jacob Jr. and George. Two daughters are also named: Catherine Patton and Christina McElwrath.

Other records reveal that the children married into several

families later to be found in Hall County. David E. Eberhardt, born about 1766, married Susannah Griffith Jacob Eberhardt Jr., born about 1770, married Matilda Simmons. Catherine Eberhardt, born about 1775, married Samuel Patton (will is recorded in Madison county). George Eberhardt, born about 1774, married Margaret Patton. Christina Eberhardt, married McElwrath. It is believed that there may have been another daughter not named in the father's will, which occasionally is the case if the child has already received his or her share of the estate. Sarah Eberhardt Davis married David Griffith, a brother of Susannah Griffith, wife of David E. Eberhardt. This could have been the second marriage for Sarah Eberhardt.

At least two sons of David E. and Susannah Eberhardt came to Hall County. John Eberhardt, born Sept. 7, 1783, married Catherine Wood, daughter of Samuel Wood whose will, dated 25 Dec. 1820, is recorded in Hall County. John and Catherine were married about 1803 and John died around 1829. His will was probated 13 July 1832, Hall County. P. 206, minutes 1819-1839.

"I appoint my beloved wife, executrix, and Jacob Eberhardt, my brother, and David G. Eberhart, my son, executors to manage my wordly business. Any of my property they think advisable to be sold to pay debts. The balance of property, land and Negroes, with my household and kitchen furniture to remain in hands of beloved wife Catherine Eberhart to dispose as she thinks proper." Witnessed to will were David H. McCleskey, Jno. M. McAfee and Joseph W. Cain.

Children of John and Catherine Eberhardt and their marriages: (1) Susannah, born about 1810, married Isaiah Dunagan; (2) David Griffith, born June 11, 1811, married Elizabeth Dunaban; (3) Samuel Patton, born Oct. 12, 1814, married Mahala Saye. (4) Elizabeth, born 1816, married James Saye Jr.; (5) Juliana, born 1820, married James L. Waters; (6) James W., born 1823, married Elizabeth Cooper.

Jacob Eberhardt, born Oct. 26, 1785, second son of David E. and Susannah Eberhardt married Margaret Wood, daughter of Samuel Wood. John and Jacob Eberhardt married sisters and it is believed that the father, Samuel Wood, along with sons and sons-in-law came to Hall County from Madison County. Samuel Wood is said to have come from Pennsylvania probably in the same group with the Eberhardt family.

The Eberhart family burial plot is located about a mile north of Gaines Mill Road on the Landers farm. Some of the tombstone inscriptions are as follows:

Jacob Eberhart, born Oct. 26, 1786, died April 10, 1870

Marget Eberhart, wife of Jacob Eberhart, born April 4, 1791, died Aug. 9, 1841

David G. Eberhart, born June 11, 1811, died June 11, 1882, "aged 71 yrs"

Elizabeth C. Eberhart, wife of David G., born March 11, 1816, died Nov. 15, 1907, "aged 91 yrs"

Elizabeth, wife of J. Saye, born 1814, died 1845.