

# Greer family from Scotland

By SYBIL McRAY

Special to The Times

The family name of Greer has many variations in spelling. The name is often spelled Grier, Greir or Greire. The family was originally from Scotland where the name was spelled McGreer. After coming to the United States the "Mc" was eventually dropped and the variations in spelling came into being.

According to information furnished by Mr. W. Greer, Warner Robins, there is a family tradition that two brothers by the name of McGreer came to America from Scotland and they became the forefathers of the Greer, or Greir families throughout southeastern United States. Greer in South Carolina received its name from this family.

One Greer brother settled in Laurens District, S.C., between Greenville District and Spartanburg Districts. This place of settlement received its name from him. The other brother settled in Virginia.

William J. Stewart in the publication *Gone To Georgia*, suggests that the Greer families migrated to America via Ireland and that possibly they joined the great migration of Scotch-Irish emigrants who settled the eastern seaboard of the United States.

"Pioneer Families of Franklin County, Virginia" states that William and Mary Ann (Finch) Greer, who were married in Ireland, came to America about 1735 and settled in Anne Arundel County, Md. Of their children, William, James, Shadrack and John were born in Ireland. During the Revolutionary War, three of the brothers remained neutral and one brother, Shadrack, fought with the British army and was thus disowned by a younger brother. Other children of William and Mary Ann Greer were Aquilla, Benjamin F., Walter, Moses and Rebecca, who married a Mr. Divers, all believed to have been born in Maryland.

Moses Greer, born June 2, 1744, married Nancy, daughter of Thomas Bailey of Prince County, Md., and settled in Franklin County, Va. Aquilla and John Greer were listed in the 1805 Jackson County, Ga., land lottery. An Aquilla Greer was living in Surry County, N.C., in 1771, which could possibly be the same man by that name enumerated in the 1800 Census of Oconee County, S.C., and who later came to Jackson County, Ga. John and Solomon Greer were enumerated in 1790 Census of Pendleton District, S.C.

The Hall County Greers, or Griers, came from South Carolina to this area sometime between 1825 and 1830. Joseph Grier Jr., a brother Benjamin, and a twin sister to Joseph, Margaret, were the early Griers of this section. Benjamin migrated to the Atlanta area and Joseph settled on the Gillisville Road just south of Timberidge Church. It is believed that Joseph, Margaret and Benjamin were children of Joseph Grier Sr.

Joseph Grier Jr., married Cassie Dean of South Carolina and they became parents of four sons: Andy, Alvin, Lemuel and Benjamin. Benjamin Grier moved to Alabama; Lemuel

Benjamin, Julia, Cassie and Mandy.

Joseph Grier Jr., and wife, Cassie, later relocated in the upper part of Hall County on Mud Creek. There, according to descendants, he built a two room log house which later became known as the Van Grier homestead. Van was a grandson of Joseph and lived in the house for some years. The log house was built around 1850 and was still standing until a few years ago. A family burial plot is located near where the old homestead stood; however, the six graves are only marked with

field stones. Information was forthcoming that the six graves are those of Joseph Grier Jr., his wife, Cassie; Harriett, daughter of Joseph and Cassie; Julia, Cassie, and Mandy, daughters of Andy, and granddaughters of Joseph Grier Jr.

Margaret Grier, twin sister to Joseph Grier Jr., married Neverson Cook in South Carolina. The Cook family settled around Lula and Neverson and Margaret Cook are buried in the old Lula Cemetery. Neverson Cook left a will recorded in Hall County Courthouse which is dated: 28 March 1856.

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The Hall County Greers, or Griers, came from South Carolina to this area sometime between 1828 and 1830. Joseph Grier Jr., a brother Benjamin, and a twin sister to Joseph, Margaret, were the early Griers of this section. Benjamin migrated to the Atlanta area and Joseph settled on the Gillisville Road just south of Timber-ridge Church. It is believed that Joseph, Margaret and Benjamin were children of Joseph Grier Sr.

Joseph Grier Jr., married Cassie Dean of South Carolina and they became parents of four sons: Andy, Alvin, Lemuel and Benjamin. Benjamin Grier moved to Alabama; Lemuel was killed in the Civil War while fighting in Virginia and Andy and Alvin Grier continued to live in Hall and Habersham Counties. Joseph and Cassie Grier had at least two daughters named Artie and Harriett.

Andy Grier, son of Joseph Grier Jr., married Harriett Martin. Their children were: Joseph, Jonathan, Robert,

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