

## HABERSHAM

James Habersham, b. England 1712, d. 8/28/1775 Savannah, Ga., embarked from England 1/3/1738, arriving at Savannah 5/7/1738, Methodist, Schoolmaster at Savannah, m. a sister of Robert Bolton.

James Habersham's name is prominent in many Colonial papers, acting as attorney, businessman, and Governor of Ga. 1769-1772. He and Francis Harris owned a mercantile house called Harris & Habersham, and in this connection was involved in a tedious lawsuit with the Bosomworths. Francis Harris' brother, William Harris of Frederica, also owned a lumber and mercantile business, shipping lumber and goods to S. C., having business with the above firm. James Habersham was commissioned to promote the silk industry in Ga. in 1750, and raised the first cotton in the colony. In 1754 he was Secretary of the Province and Council, having his hand in many affairs of the colony. In Colonial DB O, P. 47, James Habersham of Ga. deeds to Mordecai Sheftall, Merchant, making bond dtd 4/20/1763, "If said Habersham's sons, James, Jr., Joseph, and John, now minors (for whom the elder Habersham is guardian) shall make deeds of confirmation to said Sheftall as they severally become of age, for Lot 8, Heathcote tything, in Savannah...."

Chatham Co. DB IC, P. 255, Hon. John Habersham and Sarah Ann, his wife, to Francis Courvoisie of Savannah, 5/11/1785, land in Ellis Square in Savannah, deeded by Henry Ellis to James Habersham 10/29/1760, decd father of said John Habersham and devised by his Will to son, John.

The LWT of James Habersham dtd 5/8/1775, pvd 11/23/1775 Savannah, Ga., bequeaths his son, James, his plantation called "Silk Hope", containing 500 acres, also 3423 acres in Christ Church Parish and 1800 acres in St. George's Parish. To son, Joseph, he leaves 2172 acres in Christ Church Parish, and over 1000 acres in St. Philip's Parish. To his son, John, he bequeaths the plantation "Dean Forest", comprising 500 acres, as well as 2160 acres in St. Mary's Parish, and 500 acres in Christ Church Parish. To Joseph Clay, son of his nephew, Joseph Clay, he left lot 35 in Brunswick, and to James Clay, son of Joseph Clay, lot 85 in Brunswick. To his sister, Mary Bagwith of Yorkshire of Great Britain, 50 pds. To his brother-in-law, Robert Bolton, 10 pds. To granddaughters, Mary and grandson, Alexander, children of his son, James, bequests.

Issue follows:

I. James Habersham, Jr., b. 1745 Savannah, Ga., d. 7/2/1799 Savannah, Ga. Georgia Gazette dtd 7/4/1799: "Died in Savannah last Tues., 2nd, inst., James Habersham in his 54th year. Georgia Gazette dtd 10/31/1808: "Died Mrs. Hester Habersham in her 59th year, on 25th ult., at Beaufort, S. C. She was widow of Hon. James Habersham and native of Ireland and had lived in Georgia 40 years." Chatham DB 1A, P. 104, James Habersham of Savannah and his wife, Hester, to Aaron Moore, Vinter, 5/3/1784, land which was sold to said James Habersham 7/5/1774. Chatham Co. DB G, P. 916, James and Hester Habersham to Donald McLeod, 5/5/1791, lot 16, on bluff of Vernon River, etc.

II. Joseph Habersham, b. 7/28/1751 Savannah, Ga., d. 1815, Member of  
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Council of Safety during the War; Lt. Continental Army; delegate to the Continental Congress; Speaker, State Assn in 1785 and 1790; Postmaster General under Washington, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Chatham Co. DB K, P. 106, Joseph Habersham and his wife, Isabella, to George Houstoun, 10/1/1785.

III. John Habersham m. Sarah Ann, b. 1765, d. 3/1802 Savannah, Ga. Georgia Gazette dtd 3/11/1802: "Died last Tues., Sarah Ann, the widow of Major John Habersham, age 37 years." Chatham Co. DB 10, P. 333, John Habersham and his wife, Ann, of Chatham Co. to John Bricker, 3/1/1787. Issue follows:

1. Robert Habersham, b. 1784 Savannah, Ga., Merchant and Planter. The Columbian Museum & Savannah Daily Advertiser dtd 11/30/1809: "Married on 22nd inst. at Beaufort, S. C., Robert Habersham of Savannah to Mary O'Brien of Beaufort." 7/29/1817, same paper. "Died at Savannah on 25th inst. in her 22nd year, Mrs. Elizabeth Matilda Habersham, wife of Robert Habersham, and daughter of William Neyle of Savannah." His wife in 1860 was Mary B., b. 1795. Issue follows:

- a. Isabella C. Habersham, b. 1820 Savannah, Ga., unmd in 1860.
- b. John R. Habersham, b. 1823 Savannah, Ga., Planter, unmd.
- c. Alexander T. Habersham, b. 1830 Savannah, Ga., Merchant.
- d. Robert R. Habersham, b. 1832 Savannah, Ga.
- e. Mary Habersham, b. 1812 Savannah, Ga. m. Mr. Elliott, decd in 1860, and had Robert H. Elliott, atty, b. 1832.

f. William N. Habersham, b. 1817 Savannah, Ga. m. Josephine C. Habersham 6/23/1840 Chatham Co. Ga., b. 1823, having issue: Joseph C., b. 1841; William Neyle, b. 1844; Robert B., b. 1846; and Ann W., b. 1846, all Chatham Co., Ga.; Elizabeth D., b. 1852 and Mary J., b. 1854.

## **New Additions by Jeannette Holland Austin**

James Habersham was born in Beverly, Yorkshire, England and was married to Mary Bolton on 12/26/1740 in Chatham Co. James was the son of James Habersham 1687-1712 of Beverly, Yorkshire, England and his wife, Eizabeth Sisson (1690-1722).

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