

THE BIGGERS FAMILY

Will of William Robinson Biggers. Filed 11 Mar 1915, York County Probate Court, York, South Carolina.

Will of Cynthia E. Robinson. Filed 1972, York County Probate Court, York, SC.

Shannon, Betty Biggers, Compiler. *THE BIGGERS FAMILY*. Prepared for Family Reunion held 17 June 1995 at Kings Mountain Chapel United Methodist Church, York, SC. A Limited Edition of the Long Biggers Line by Betty Biggers Shannon, April, 1976.

Nichols, Sr., Larry O. *THE NICHOLS FAMILY and DILLINGHAM FAMILY OF YORK COUNTY, SC and associated families: Beatty, Blanton, Cowan, Darnall, Eaker, Fitchett, Frydag, Gilmann, Graham, Hambright, Harden, Henry, Hooper, Humper, Kolben, Memahan, McNutt, Meschow, Micheau, Neely, Perry, Pursley, Reichen, Rush, Rychen, Smith, Stanley, Steaner, Vachel, Von Kaenel, Zahler, Zaller, and Zuercher*. Privately Printed

THE BIGGERS FAMILY OF THE CAROLINA PIEDMONT

I. William James and Ann Biggers born in Ireland had:

A. James Record Biggers

(B. 1872 in Ireland – 23 Oct 1872 in SC)

married Mary Ann Robinson (29 May 1784 – 11 Mar 1851)

Both are buried at Beersheba Presbyterian Church, York, SC.

B. John Hosea Biggers.

C. William Biggers.

II. James Record and Mary Ann Robinson Biggers had these children:

A. Hosea P. Biggers.

B. Amzi Biggers.

C. Amos Clark Biggers (16 Sep 1812–15 Oct 1884).

D. Emma L. Biggers (30 Oct 1814 – 23 Mar 1880).

E. Isabella M. Biggers (3 Nov 1816 – 21 Apr 1851).

III. Amos Clark Biggers married Mary M. Faires, d/o Moses Faires. Other researchers give her maiden name as Hayes or Bingham. Further research is needed on this. They had these:

A. Cynthia Ann Biggers (27 Dec 1908 – 27 Oct 1980) m. James Simpson Wells.

B. Mary Ellen Biggers (1845-1925).

C. Margaret E. Biggers m. an unknown Smith.

D. James Robinson Biggers (11 Mar 1849–26 Aug 1849).

E. William Robinson Biggers (27 Dec 1850 – 24 Feb 1915).

F. Martha Amanda Biggers (Dec 1853 – 31 Mar 1865).

Further information on the Biggers Family may be found in the BRGS Archives vertical file.

THE BIGGERS FAMILY

In keeping with the theme of this issue of ESWAU HUPPEDAY, Biggers have played a role in government striving to make the Carolinas a better place for their families and their neighbors. Amos Clark Biggers served as Coroner of York County for several years.

Also many Biggers have lead the way by providing those small family businesses that are vital to our state's economy. Biggers Brothers is a food distribution agency and at one time was the largest in the South. There have been a number of Biggers who have served as pastors and still others who became morticians, and a goodly number who served in the helping professions. Other worked in sales and promoted various products of our region including the textile industry.

As a family, we have a rich heritage, one in which any one of us who has even a little Bigger blood is proud to claim and so as family historian, Ruth Black Biggers said in ending her history in 1957, "May we continue to grow and prosper and serve our heavenly Father." God bless America and God bless the Biggers 'kith 'n kin.

Jane Dickson Lewis
Granddaughter of Cynthia Ellen Biggers Robinson
Of York County, SC.

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Minutes of York Baptist Association Annual Conferences in 1871, 1900, and 1938 held at Catawba Baptist Church, York, SC (1871), First Baptist Church, Ft. Mill, SC (1900), and First Baptist Church of York, SC (1938). [Courtesy York Baptist Association.]

Wells, Lawrence K. "Early Members of Antioch Baptist Church", SC MAGAZINE OF ANCESTRAL RESEARCH, Vol. IX, 1981. Columbia, SC.

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THE BIGGERS FAMILY

Later, as part of my great-grandfather's will, he left the Biggers home place to son Patrick Boyce Biggers, provided he care for Victor Broadus who was developmentally delayed. Boyce was unable to continue in this capacity so he asked Cynthia and Newman Robinson to take over the responsibility of caring for Victor. Whereupon Boyce deeded the home place and accompanying land to Cynthia for \$1.00 in 1929. The Robinsons cared for Victor until his death in 1934.

When the Robinsons moved to the Biggers home place, they changed their church home to Enon. They attended Enon for a number of years and later moved to Beersheba Presbyterian Church. Cynthia later served as Superintendent of the Sunday-School at Beersheba.

After Newman's death in 1994, Jesse Black, Susie Robinson's husband, built Cynthia a cottage near the Jesse Black home on Templeton Road. Cynthia lived in the little cottage until six months before her death at age 91.

Cynthia Robinson was a disciplined, giving person. She began every day with prayer and ended each night on her knees in prayer. She kept a very tidy home surrounded by her beautiful flowers and garden. She always had a tremendous harvest from her garden and we all benefitted from her strawberry patch, damson plums and peach trees.

She loved to quilt and before her death she designed every child and grandchild a quilt of his or her very own. She never let a scrap of cloth be wasted and if she ever heard of excess cloth being available she was the first to put in her claim so she could use them for her quilting projects.

My grandmother had a very winning way and many people would visit her. There was always someone stopping in to share a tale or seek her advice. She was a direct woman of few words but those words were always meaningful. She offered little advice but had a real ear for listening. She was a devoted mother and stood by her children until the day she died on 24 September 1971.

In conclusion, the Biggers family came to this country to find a better life. Through hard times, bad times, sad times, and glad times, they survived. They held family dear and have been fiercely loyal to one another. Most of the Biggers I have known have had a decent sense of humor.

The chief occupations of the family have revolved around farming, food production, food distribution and food management. They have also taken a leadership role in education serving in York, SC, Cleveland, Gaston, and Mecklenburg, NC counties as teachers and on the school board. James Ervin Biggers served as Chairman of the School Board for the Santiago District of Western York County for about 36 years.

THE BIGGERS FAMILY

Biggers; (2) James Ervin Biggers; (3) Robert Lee Biggers; and (4) Patrick Boyce Biggers.

The Biggers family has multiplied and flourished over the years. My descendants follow the line of Amos Biggers' child William Robinson Biggers. William Robinson married Harriette Elvira Nichols. Harriette is the child of Daniel A. Nichols and Lucinda Micheau also of York County, SC.

William and Harriette Biggers made their home on Biggers Road not far from Enon Church, just off Highway 55. The home still stands to this day. It is a two story farmhouse, white frame dwelling proudly standing on a hill. - Today the home is owned by the Grove family of Gastonia, NC.

William and Harriette had the following children:

- (1). James Ervin Biggers married Annie Louella White.
- (2). William Newman Biggers m. Zulia Patience McAfee.
- (3). Minor Randolph Biggers m. Lochie Christine Hamerick.
- (4). Mary Lucy Jane Biggers (died as a child of diphtheria).
- (5). Daniel A. Biggers (died as a child of diphtheria).
- (6). Cynthia Ellen Biggers [twin] m. Newman Foster Robinson.
- (7). Martha Belle Biggers [twin] m. Robert Glenn Turner.
- (8). John Alonzo Biggers m. Lula Neal.
- (9). Infant son died 1887.
- (10). Victor Broadus Biggers [developmentally delayed].
- (11). Patrick Boyce Biggers m. Susie Wilma Wallace.

My grandmother was Cynthia Ellen Biggers. Cynthia was a most resilient woman. Together she and her husband Newman Foster Robinson reared nine fine children:

- (1). Frank Caldwell Robinson m. Lottie Belle Neil.
- (2). George Mason Robinson m. Jenny Lind Bolin.
- (3). Harriette Eula Robinson m. James Alexander Dickson.
- (4). Lindsay Brice Robinson m. Mary McCarter.
- (5). Reola Isabelle Robinson never married.
- (6). Margaret Susie Robinson m. Jesse Black.
- (7). Mary Elva Robinson m. Ralph Orville Putnam.
- (8). Lucy Nell Robinson m. Thomas Strickland.
- (9). Eunice Ann Robinson never married.

My grandparents sharecropped various farms in western York County. To do this they lived and worked in several locations. While they lived in the Filbert area, they lived in my cousin Eugene Black's present home on Templeton Road. While living here, they attended Kings Mountain Chapel United Methodist Church of York, SC.

All of a sudden we had two A C Parkers in our midst, so the nicknames came in mighty handy. Cousin Buddy and Tom were often confused in adulthood until my Dad started adding the "Tom" to his business accounts. Cousins Mary, Betty, Billy got to use their given names since Dad's siblings already had nicknames.

With my family it's pretty easy to understand how some nicknames came into being, but it doesn't answer the question of why we genealogists we find so many ladies name Mary who are called Polly, or Martha's who were called Patty. Even worse in some families can be the lack of nicknames. It doesn't narrow the field of 48 William Greens much by stating that Joseph was his father if you have 27 of them. What was his mother's name? Mary. Oh my, such a common name among my ancestors. I've come to love odd names. Wonder if one of my nieces could be talked into naming her son Diogenes, or how about Didamia for her daughter? After all we have future genealogists to think about.

My Mom's family is descended from the Quakers and is very no-nonsense about their names. Joyce is Joyce; Hazel is Hazel; Thomas Luther, Calvin, Caldwell, Mitchell, Patsy, June and Gaynell are all known by their given names. If the family assigned a nickname it was usually a shortened version of the original. My Grandpa was William Thomas, called Tommy by his family. Mom had an ancestor named Aberilla. Her Great-Grandmother carried a derivative of the name, Maryann Arilla. Amanda Elizabeth was "Aunt Mandy".

Mom's name is *Joyce*, which comes from the (masculine) medieval name Josse, which was derived from the earlier Joceus or Jodocus, Latinized forms of the Breton name Jodoc meaning "lord". The name belonged to a 7th-century Breton saint. My brother's first name is *Larry Gene*. Larry is a shortened form of Lawrence from the Roman cognomen Laurentius, which meant "of Laurentum". Laurentum was a city in ancient Italy, its name probably deriving from Latin laurus "laurel". Saint Laurence was a 3rd-century deacon and martyr from Rome. According to tradition he was roasted alive on a gridiron because, when ordered to hand over the church's treasures, he presented the sick and poor. Gene is the shortened form of Eugene from the Greek name Eugenios which was derived from the Greek word eugenēs meaning "well born", composed of the elements eu "good, well" and genes "born". This was the name of several saints and four popes. A heart of gold, describes my baby brother perfectly.

My husband's mother stated she named him *Gary Dean* after two actors, James Dean and Gary Cooper. Gary is probably a form of Gareth or else from a surname which was derived from various first names beginning with the Germanic element ger, gar meaning "spear". While Dean come from a surname meaning either "valley" from Old English denu or else "dean" from Middle English deen (ultimately from Latin decanus meaning "chief of ten"). Looked up to by a houseful of siblings & a truckload of nieces and nephews he certainly can qualify as the spearhead of the family.

All this rambling to state I believe subconsciously my Mom wanted me named after her Great-Great-Great-Grandmother Judith Ballew Gosnell.

What's your name?

Submitted by Judith Parker-Proctor

(Sources: Sunday afternoon research on the internet; and family history)

Biggers
family*THE BIGGERS FAMILY**contributed by Jane Dickson Lewis*

1785. It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. Ann Biggers, matriarch of the Biggers Family was living in Ireland in a community called Balleymony close to the town of Belfast. Ann has suffered the recent death of her husband, William James Biggers. Ann followed the family custom of burying his body in their yard. This did not meet the approval of church officials. Ann was censured for this act.

To escape further difficulty, she decided to make a new start with her three sons, (James Record, William and Hosea). With encouragement from her husband's family, she decided to take the boys and set sail for America.

America had much promise for a new life. The family traveled to the Carolinas coast where they made their way to the South Carolina Up-country. They settled in an area near Clover, SC, where Scotch-Irish settlement was already in place.

The family faced many challenges, but there were many positives; virgin forests, temperate climate, good growing seasons, plentiful wild game, fertile soil, and an established Scotch-Irish presence in the area. The family progressed and established their home in York County.

Census records indicate Ann's existence as head of household in the 1810 census. Further records imply that she was making her home with her son James and wife Mary Ann Robinson in later censuses. The burial site of Ann is unknown but James and Mary Biggers are buried at Beersheba Presbyterian Church, York, South Carolina. It is assumed that they followed the Presbyterian faith because of the grave sites and the land of their Scotch Irish heritage.. After Ann's death, the younger sons migrated further west to Mississippi near the town of Corinth. Their descendants still reside in Mississippi.

James Record and Mary Ann Biggers had the following children: Amos Clark Biggers, Amzi, Hosea, Minnie, and Isabella. From records at Antioch Baptist Church, the Biggers of that generation followed the Baptist faith. Also collateral families such as the Dovers, Wells, McAfees, Whites and Micheaux were also in attendance at Antioch.

In 1853 Amos and Amzi Biggers and their friends, Allen White, William P. McAfee, Robert Gaston, James Wright, and Joshua Homes, asked for a dismissal from Antioch to form a new church—Enon, in the western York County area near Smyrna. The Biggers family donated land for Enon and became charter members.

Enon Baptist Church has served the faithful since that time except for a short period from 1929-1934 when the church closed. There are still descendants of Amos Biggers worshipping at the church to this day. The following Biggers have served as clerks of the church: (1) Amos