

Lancaster Family

**Absalom Lancaster**

Absalom Lancaster, son of Lawrence Lancaster, Sr., was born in Virginia on April 11, 1739. His mother was Mary Williams. He married Sally (Sarah) Williford. Absalom was a resident of Spartanburg County. In the *Spartanburg County, South Carolina Minutes of the County Court 1785 - 1799* compiled by Brent H. Holcomb, C.A. L. S., we find his name listed a number of times. He was evidently a man who was educated. Following are the entries made for Absalom:

- He was instructed by the court to mark off and serve as overseer in the building of a road.
- He was ordered by the court to serve as Coroner for the county for the term required by law.
- He came into court and took the necessary oath prescribed by law for the office of coroner.
- A person was charged with hog stealing on the oath of Absalom Lancaster.
- A will of a deceased was proven in open court by the oath of Absalom Lancaster.
- Ordered that Absalom Lancaster be allowed the sum of twenty-four and three pence for Summoning Inquest & Executing a Negro who was tried & burnt, to be paid out of county funds.
- Absalom Lancaster was appointed a Justice of Peace for this Spartanburg County and was duly qualified before Isham Harrison Esquire.

Absalom died on November 14, 1815. He was the father of my ancestor, Allen Lancaster, who married Elizabeth (Betsy) Barnett. In the Last Will and Testament of Absalom Lancaster, he names my great, great grandfather, Allan, as a son and one of his heirs.

"I Absalom Lancaster of the District of Spartanburg & State of South Carolina being low in health but of sound disposing

memory and understanding praised be God for the same and calling to mind I must shortly die do make this my last will and testament recommending my soul to God and my body to the dust to be decently buried at the discretion of my friends and executor hereafter mentioned, at the plantation of my son William and as for my little worldly being I desire the same should be distributed amongst my family in the following manner, Viz.

1<sup>st</sup>. I will the whole of my land to my beloved wife Sally Lancaster during her natural life or widowhood, but after her decease or marriage my will is that my son Allen have the same him and his heirs forever.

2<sup>nd</sup>. I will to my daughters, Nancy, Cynthia & Lovy one bed & furniture each which has been generally called theirs to be delivered to them at the discretion of their mother.

3<sup>rd</sup>. I will to my daughter Lovy a heifer young cow and calf which has been generally called hers.

4<sup>th</sup>. As to the rest of my children, William, John & son-in-law, Alexander Gray I have given them as much of my living as I have now to give. The rest some of whom of them hath such more of my little living than I now have to distribute to the rest.

5<sup>th</sup>. My will is that my old Negro man Sam should stay on my plantation to help support my family & after the decease or marriage of my wife, I will him to my son Allen Lancaster.

6<sup>th</sup>. All the rest of my living of whatever nature or kind \_\_\_\_\_, my desire is that after the decease or marriage of my wife, the same should be equally divided between my children viz. Thomas, Nancy, Cynthia, & Lovy.

7<sup>th</sup>. And I do hereby nominate constitute & appoint my son Allen as Executor of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking and making void all and every other will or wills at any time heretofore by me made and do declare this to be my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I the said Absalom Lancaster have hereunto  
set my hand & seal this Third day or May in the year of our  
Lord 1814.

Absalom Lancaster

Signed, Sealed, declared & published  
by the above named Absalom Lancaster  
as and for his last will & testament,  
in the presence of us, who at his  
request and in his presence, have subscribed  
our names as witnesses: thereto

A. Benson            Thos Poole  
George Thomason

Contributed by

Ann Lancaster

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

A SPECIAL LAW FOR  
NATHANIEL MITCHUM

At the April Term 1827, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Lincoln County, North Carolina, my ancestor, Nathaniel Mitchum, 1780-1838, was tried and convicted of felony misbranding, or altering the marks upon, a pig, which pig was claimed to be the property of the "prosecutor", Peter Wyont, the sole witness testifying against Nathaniel Mitchum, who also claimed the pig as his own property. Punishment was fixed by the trial Judge as payment of costs of court and "twenty lashes".

Sometime thereafter, forty-six (46) prominent citizens of the county petitioned the General Assembly of North Carolina, as follows:

**PETITION OF SUNDRYED INHABITANTS OF LINCOLN COUNTY TO  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NO. CAROLINA:**

The petition of the Subscribers, Citizens of Lincoln County, sheweth that NATHANIEL MECHUM (sic) hath been heretofore convicted and punished for marking or altering the marks of a pig alledged and charged as the property of a particular PETER WYANT, that he was convicted on the testimony of WYANT, alone; both parties claimed the pig. Your petitioners believe it extremely doubtful whether the said MECHUM (sic) was properly convicted, or in reality was Guilty, of the felony of which he was charged and convicted. Your petitioners further represent the said MECHUM (sic) a poor and industrious man; that he has a large family, Ten Sons and four daughters, all of whom are poor and industrious, and as far as your Petitioners know them, respectable. Your Petitioners therefore pray that your honorable body would restore to credit the said NATH'L MECHUM (sic) as they cannot believe the punishment that for an offence of so