

FOREWORD

This work is not presented as a complete history of the Hardy-Hardee Family. Such a task would not be practicable, but this is a skeleton work that will enable those families, not brought up-to-date, to explore their own genealogy for a few generations and connect with some of the main lines that have been developed. Blank pages are provided for this purpose.

This is the result of 53 years of work as a part-time hobby and in answer to a challenge. One of the great accomplishments in life is to meet every challenge. In 1922 while on a restful army leave of absence, and awaiting my wedding day, I accompanied my father to his old home place at Hardee Cross Roads in Johnston County, N. C., in search of his grandfather's family Bible. We learned that this Bible, containing the family record back to England, had in the last few years been lost. The challenge to build around this lost material constituted a real task since many records had been destroyed by household and courthouse fires.

I began work at once gathering family data and traditions. En route to Texas in 1924, a couple of days were profitably spent with Mrs. Peter W. ("Cousin Carrie") Godfrey, where we combined results of my studies with her files. Continued research in the library at San Antonio, Texas, enabled me to produce a short typed story of the family, full of errors and some guess work. It was filed in the DAR Library, Continental Hall, Washington, D. C., and many inquiries came to me from interested relatives.

Again, between 1934 ^{and} 1941, while stationed in my home state of North Carolina, I resumed the part-time personal hobby task, visiting old homesites, relatives, courthouses and cemeteries. The second typed booklet was substituted for the first and aroused more interest, since it involved more people.

Now that I have retired, except for attention to personal affairs and the pursuit of hobbies, many hours have been devoted to filling in the gaps, discovering new families, and enlarging the original materials. It is still incomplete with many family lines undeveloped, and a number of connections not made. To illustrate, in my own family there is a lack of data from the Revolutionary War to my great-grandfather, and some of the Hardee's of Halifax County, N. C., have not been connected to the main line. A former governor of Florida has not been connected, and there are other breaks in the connections of several other families. However, ~~it is~~ ^I believed ~~to be~~ ^{it is} best to publish what has been accomplished, and let others use it later as a base for carrying on their genealogical work, than to let it die unpublished. The size of the task is realized when we calculate that a couple living in Colonial days, with five children, would today have over 10,000 descendants.

Many people, like myself, before I became interested in this work, do not know of their origin beyond their grandparents, are uninterested, and do not answer correspondence. This attitude adds to the problems of the researcher. It has been aptly said that the genealogist has to have

continued determination, the patience of Job, the instincts of a detective, and the ^{tenacity} ~~tenacity~~ of a bulldog to achieve final reward. Those who fill ~~out~~ their family gaps, and further pursue their family genealogy, take heart, begin and keep working!

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Most used abbreviations:

d. died; b. born; m. married; d.i.c. died in childhood;
d.u.m. died unmarried; n.o.c. no children; dau., daughter;
abt., about.

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Elizabeth Hardy Jones (deceased)
Haverford, Conn.