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**DATE:** 20 June 2012  
**REPORT TO:** Dr. Robert Harper; 303 Arkansas Street, Ruston, LA 71270  
**REPORT NO:** 5  
**SUBJECT:** Harper of Colleton County, South Carolina

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### BACKGROUND

This project represents the fifth phase of South Carolina work to reconstruct the life and lineage of Solomon Harper of Colleton District, South Carolina. Among other accomplishments, our previous projects have:

- Provided strong evidence that the Solomon Harpers of old Craven, Beaufort, and Colleton Counties, 1764–1801, were the same man.
- Precisely located his numerous residences in the three counties and identified a core group of intimate associates.
- Separated him from his son, Solomon Jr., and began correcting the confusion created by earlier researchers.
- Largely reconstructed Solomon's life in South Carolina, bringing clarity to his movements, land activities, and relationships.

Solomon Harper serves as a model for reconstructing lives in the face of daunting obstacles. Piecing together sporadic remnants of data and accurately interpreting ancestral actions are challenging. He lived during a time of extreme day-to-day difficulties. The harsh living conditions and lack of infrastructure thwarted adherence to legal mandates. Few colonists had the time, means, or inclination to endure the arduous and expensive journey to Charleston to record transactions. Marriage licenses and birth and death records were not required until the twentieth century, and few manuscripts, church minutes, or courthouse records have survived the ravages of time and war. In short, the resources most commonly used to document genealogical events are lacking for his time and community.

Client's commitment to a methodical approach and thorough analysis of a wide range of evidence, incorporating the vital role of historical context, is making it possible to circumvent these obstacles. The story of his life is emerging—built on a strong base of documentation and sound reasoning. Equally important, the research has now laid a route to follow him deeper into the Colonial Period.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This project brings South Carolina research near completion by consulting remaining off-site resources impacting Solomon Harper in coastal South Carolina.<sup>1</sup> The findings are significant. Aside from uncovering additional information on Solomon himself, we have uncovered two previously unknown Harpers who are excellent candidates for his brothers or close kinsmen.

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

We will begin this discussion with the new evidence on Solomon, then proceed to introduce the new Harpers.

#### *Private Papers*

Private historical papers are valuable research tools when working communities with extensive county-level record destruction. The ten collections cited in the list of sources concern families in Craven, Charleston, Colleton, and Beaufort Counties. They offer insight into Solomon's contemporaries and their lives, even though they did not provide specific mention of him or other Harpers.

#### *Craven County Land*

Most of the surviving land records for the study area, primarily surveys and pre-1785 deeds, had been previously consulted. The remaining statewide resources contained a single entry for a Solomon Harper:

4 January 1771

Charleston

A Memorial exhibited by **Solomon Harper**, to be registered in the Auditor's Office of a tract of land containing 250 acres, stated in Craven County; "Bounding Southwardly on said Creek, E<sup>rdly</sup> on Thomas Richardson's land, W<sup>rdly</sup> on Edward Bryant's and vacant land, and N<sup>rdly</sup> on vacant land; survey certified the 2<sup>d</sup> of Oct<sup>r</sup> 1770 and granted the 3<sup>d</sup> day of Nov<sup>r</sup> 1770 to the Memorialist; at the quit rent of 3/ster or 4/ Proc Money pr 100 acres, to commence two years from the date." Signed Aaron Levercock and Jn<sup>o</sup> Wade, D. S.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Unstudied material remains in Charleston and Savannah that will require onsite consultation.

<sup>2</sup> *Carolina Department of Archives and History*, database and images (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/>); citing Series: S111011 (Memorial Books, Copy Series), col. 0010; page: 00301; item: 003.

This land will be investigated in a separate project because Craven County is outside the scope of this installment.

### *Solomon's Colleton County Land*

A survey was run of all South Carolina periodicals at the Tennessee States Archives, not only for Solomon and family members, but for historical and genealogical context. The individuals with whom he first associated and the neighborhoods in which he first lived were also included. A number of pertinent items emerged that propelled investigation in other records. The most important items concern Solomon's Colleton County land and his connection to newly discovered Harpers.

Colleton's published tax records from 1783 to 1786 contain a single entry for Solomon:

1783<sup>3</sup>

Colleton County

Return of Peter Youngblood, dated 24 June 1784, for the year 1783:

Will. Clay Snipes	William Gibbes	Thos. Robertson
est. Doc <sup>r</sup> Jas Reid	Dancel(?) Draudy	est. Edw'd Wood
William Huston	est. Joshua Williams	Jacob Crosby
John North	John Smiley	William Ponds
Jas Perry & est. of Perry	Jas. Clayton	Henry Wilson
Edw'd Harden & Mrs. White	Sam'l Griffis	William Bridge
Mary Harden	est. Hugh Ferguson	Thos. Kelly
Sarah Sanders	William Sleigh	Jacob Hires
John Sanders	Joshua Jones	Simon Rentz
John Hext	Gabriel Ironmonger	John Phender
William Fishburn	Martha Store	Isaac Willingham
Charles Harden	Thos. Miller	Jacob Besinger
William Mills	Will. McCulloch	John Smith
est. Thomas Ford	Anthony Canniday	Aron, free negro
est. Isham Clayton	Paul Johnston	Lewis Box
est. Hugh Sleigh	Charity Clothing [ <i>sic</i> ]	<b>Sollomon Harper 100</b>
Joseph Markess	Henry Touchstone	George Warren
Joseph Kogir	Sylvanus Cooper	Jacob Carter
John Studler	David Miller	George Carter
Christian Sheperd	Sollomon Gray	Jeremiah Chaney
Benjamin Strain	Joseph Griffis	Joel Pagget
Sarah Altman	Christopher Langley	Alexander Thompson
John Tucker	Theophilus Hill	Jacob Platts
George Bruton	William Scott	James Sharp
William Gordon	John Cannon	Peter Youngblood
David Rumph	est. John Curtis	
[proceed to next column]	[proceed to next column]	

<sup>3</sup> "1783 Tax Returns," *The South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research* 2 (Fall 1974): 171-78. Thirty-six districts returned tax lists in this year. Of these, six represent the Colleton/Granville area: St. Paul's, Beech Hill, St. Bartholomew's, St. Bartholomew's Upper District, Combachee & Chehaw, and Prince William.

Solomon is not on the 1784, 1785, or 1786 returns for this district.<sup>4</sup> He next appears in 1787:

9 August 1787<sup>5</sup>

Colleton County

Return of tax list of upper St. Bartholomew district taken by Adam Ulmer, Esquire:

**Solomon Harper** 100 acres (75 pine & 25 oak)

[start of list]

Isham Walker

Berry Walker

William Patchett

**Solomon Harper**

Anthony Pouncy

Charity Cothrin

Thomas Dobbins

Joseph Dobbins

Jeremiah Chaney

Frethrick Pope

Jacob Crosby

Joel Patchett

Barthw. Gartman

Mark Nettles

William Pouncy

Anthony Canady

Jessy Floyd

John Smiley

Moses Bailey

[proceed to next column]

Jacob Carter

Jacob Hire

Philip Hern

Thomas Walker

Adam Ruth

Jacob Lermen[?]

David Collins

Jacob Platts

Cunrod Laugan

John Crews Junr.

Michael Hire

Owen Bunton

John Bunton

David Walker

Christian Sheperd

George Warren

William Mills

Levi Colton

Charles Ferguson

[34 to end of list]

Why Solomon is absent between 1784 and 1786, when the neighborhoods appear fully represented, is unclear. One possibility is that he moved between those years, disposing of one tract before acquiring the other. If so, record of it has not been found.

As detailed in Report 4, Solomon did not immediately occupy the Dunn tract he had purchased in 1769. Rather, he moved frequently during his first decade in Colleton, living variously in upper St. Bartholomew's Parish in the Saltcatcher region and in adjoining Beaufort County near Pocotaligo. Evidence of his residence wanes after 1774, when he was on James Stobo's plantation. The timing of his settlement on his own land had not been determined. One cannot assume he moved onto the Dunn tract upon leaving Stobo's plantation, particularly since Solomon sold the Dunn tract in 1797.

<sup>4</sup> Solomon's neighborhood does not appear in the published 1785 list. However, it was represented *twice in 1786*: the return of Paul Hamilton for Mr. Wm Hudson, dec'd, and the return of William Mills. Likely, the author of the published lists confused the dates and one of the two was actually the missing 1785 compilation.

<sup>5</sup> Photocopy provided by client, citing "Comptroller General, Tax Lists, 1787 St. Bartholomew Upper District, ST689."

A comparison of the 1783 and 1788 tax lists with the 1790 census shows Solomon was in the same community in all three years, apparently the Buckhead Swamp tract that Client originally noted.<sup>6</sup> Clearly, he was permanently established on his own property before 1783. Presumably, he lived there until his death. However, he owned three tracts in this region, and the one on which he actually lived was never established.

As Client will recall, Solomon had two additional tracts surveyed in Buckhead twenty years after the Dunn purchase:

1 February 1769  
Colleton County  
Mary Dunn to **Solomon Harper**: 100 acres on the Little Saltcatcher.<sup>7</sup>

8 October 1792  
Colleton County  
Survey for **Solomon Harper** of 100 acres on the northeast side of Little Saltcatcher adjoining Joseph Glover, Robert's Barony, and **Solomon Harper**.  
Certified 21 January 1793.<sup>8</sup>

23 October 1793  
Colleton County  
Survey for **Solomon Harper** for 565 acres between Buckhead and Little Saltcatchers.<sup>9</sup>

1798  
Solomon taxed on 700 or 750 acres.<sup>10</sup>

The only land he is known to have still owned in 1783 (after selling the Henry Hyrne tract in the Round O region (defined in Report No. 4), was the Mary Dunn tract he purchased in 1769. Still, one should not assume he actually lived on that tract: he could have lived on either of the two surveys even though he legally acquired them much later in time. A common practice during this period was to live on, and improve a tract of land—enough to test its productivity—before beginning the legal process of ownership. Evidence exists that Solomon did just that:

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<sup>6</sup> George Warren, listed next to Solomon on the 1783 assessment, owned land in Buckhead Swamp. No other land has been documented for him. Further, Solomon signed a 1791 petition (provided by Client, citation missing) concerning a road "*the fork between Buck Head & the little Saltketcher.*" It was signed by many of his 1783, 1787, and 1790 neighbors.

<sup>7</sup> The deed for this sale has not survived. Rather, the transaction is noted in a 1797 deed between Solomon and James Harper to Solomon's son-in-law Richard Bryan, noting the Dunn deed had been recorded in Deed Book EEE: 142. For the Bryan purchase, see Charleston Co. Deed Book W-6: 13-14.

<sup>8</sup> Photocopy supplied by Client citing "South Carolina State Plats," vol. 30: 123.

<sup>9</sup> SCDAH; citing Series S213190 (State Plat Books, Charleston Series), Volume: 30; Page: 188.

<sup>10</sup> Photocopy provided by Client, citing "SCDAH Comptroller General Tax Lists, 1798 St. Bartholomew Parish, p.286 ST 689," dist. no. 3. The acreage amount is difficult to read. It appears to be either 700 or 750. Neither amount matches Solomon's known holdings at that time, being the 100 acres surveyed in 1793 and the 565 acres surveyed in 1793.

- The Dunn land was raw (unimproved) when he purchased it. According to the 1788 tax assessment, it was still wooded with pine and oak. If he intended to farm, the land would have need clearing and dramatic improvements—a difficult task for a man without grown sons or slaves.
- He is known to have lived elsewhere from at least 1768 to 1775.
- He sold the Dunn tract after legally acquiring the other two tracts.

At this point, there is no evidence that Solomon immediately settled on the first land he purchased in Colleton County—just as he did not settle on the second tract he purchased (in the Round O). Rather, he apparently lived on (and perhaps worked) land of other individuals during his first decade in Colleton—perhaps longer—until apparently moving onto one of the two adjoining Buckhead tracts. There, he died.

The story of Solomon's landholdings and activities is now largely complete, insofar as known and available resources are concerned—with the exception of the materials mentioned in note 1.

### *Robert Harper*

A *direct link* between Solomon and another Harper emerged during the study of digitized Charleston probate records. As highlighted in Figure 1, Solomon was among three men who appraised an estate in 1773. Included in the inventory is another Harper.

**FIGURE 1<sup>11</sup>**

### **James Smiley Estate, ca.1773**

Solomon Harper and William Mills and Hugh Harper	
April 20 <sup>th</sup> 1773. A Just List of the Cash and book Accounts of the Estate of James Smiley's deceased. Certified by the Hovesaid Appraisers	
To one fifty pound bill	50 -- --
Thos. Ridgey Debtor to James Smiley	11 10 --
To Saml. Cause D <sup>o</sup> 22 1773	3 12 6
Capt. Robert Harper Debtor by balance	8 1 6
Edward Williams Debtor	5 3 --
George Warren Debtor	5 18 --

<sup>11</sup> "South Carolina Estate Inventories and Bills of Sale, 1732-1872," database with images, *Fold3* (<http://www.fold3.com/image/#267661338>); citing Charleston District, Inventories, Estates and Sales Bills, Book CC: 315-16. The last digit of the year is smudged.

[abstract]

20 April 1774<sup>12</sup>

Charleston District

Solomon Harper and William Mills and Hugh Masson appraise the estate of James Smiley, including a "list of the cash and book Accounts of the Estate of James Smiley's deceased, Certified by the Aforesaid Appraisers":

Thos. Crozby, debtor to James Smiley	£11.10.0
To Saml. Cruze D[ecembe]r 28. 1774	£3.12.6
<b>Sept<sup>r</sup> 5 Robert Harper Debtor by ballance</b>	<b>£0.1.6</b>
Edward Williams Debtor	£5.3.0
George Warren Debtor	£5.13.0

Client is already aware of Solomon's connection to the Smiley and Mills families. This document shows those relationships were deeper and earlier than previously known. However, the most significant portion of the Smiley document concerns the Robert Harper who owed money to the estate.

The document does not identify the county in which these men lived. However, all of the involved individuals (except Masson) are documented members of Solomon's Saltcatcher community. William Mills, for example, was a justice of the peace who purchased a slave from Solomon in 1778 and certified a power of attorney for him a decade later.<sup>13</sup> One of the debtors, George Warren, was listed next to Solomon on the 1783 tax list, above. We may therefore suspect that Robert Harper was also in that community. Because he was an adult in 1774, and all of Solomon's known children were still minors, we may further suspect that Robert was 1) of Solomon's generation and therefore a possible brother or cousin, or 2) he was an older son of whom Harper descendants were unaware.

### *Barachia/Bacharias Harper*

Barachia Harper has, at this point, only indirect ties to Solomon, but they are nevertheless important. He appears in five documents dated to Solomon's residence in the area:

1 November 1774

Colleton County

Will of John Connor of St. Paul's Parish, being sick and weak in body. To beloved wife Catherine and to her heirs: one moiety or half part of all estate, real and personal. To daughter Hannah and her heirs: the other moiety or half part of estate. To be paid to her by executors when she reaches the age of 21 or marries. If she dies, the moiety is to go to "my brothers and Sisters in the Province of New Jersey, to wit Joseph, Isaac, Hannah, Rachel and Rhoda." Executors are to sell

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Client was aware of the slave sale that Mills recorded in Camden County, South Carolina, in 1793. For that record, see Camden Deed Book A: 130. Client recently provided a copy of the power of attorney.

within three months all of the stock, household furniture and moveable estate to make an equal division between wife and child. Appraisal is to be made by any three men "in the Neighbourhood." Wife Catherine and friend Mr. John Berkeley appointed executors. Witnesses: Samuel Miley and **Barachius Harper**.<sup>14</sup>

6 January 1775<sup>15</sup>  
Colleton County

**Barrachius Harper** appeared in court to prove the will of John Connor Jr.; Catherine Connor qualified as executor.

1775[?]<sup>16</sup>

Colleton

"A List of the Names of the Men Who had Publick arms on the Examination made ye 25<sup>th</sup> Jany" includes Capt. Ozburne's Company, with this cluster of men:

Thos. Steel	Wm Swinton
Henry Fletcher	Thos Harvey
Ja <sup>s</sup> Donnal	<b>Barachia Harper</b>
Jo <sup>s</sup> Williams	

1786<sup>17</sup>

St. Bartholomew Parish

Tax list of Paul Walter: **Bachariah Harper** 328 acres 0 slaves

*Community Cluster:*

James Perry	Thomas Gough & Co.	John Croll
est. Josiah Perry	Herbert Hodson	Mary Smith
Richard Singelton	Pamelus May	Montague & Saul Simons
est. John Singelton	John Mercy	Winifred Peters
est. George Norman	est. James Miller	est. William Davidson
est. Benjamin Coachman	Hilman Huthins	Samuel Davidson
Rebekah Akerman	John & Thomas Hoof	Ruth Jacob & Wm Hogg
John Sanders	John Bruber	Margaret Cunningham
William Sanders	John Peak	John Logan
Henry Bell	John Casken	est. John Logan
Hawkins Martin	<i>Jos., Thos., &amp; Mary McCants</i>	Robert Addison
Sarah Sanders	est. Hugh Campbell	Charles Glover
est. Charles Sanders	Geo. Backle	John Duffel
est. Thomas Ladson	Debra & est. Wm Pinckney	est. Thomas Roberts

<sup>14</sup> For a typescript, see "South Carolina Probate Records, Bound Volumes, 1671-1977," digital images, *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org>); citing Charleston Co. Will Book 16: 279.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-1-19424-17980-54?cc=1919417&wc=9385918>); citing Charleston Inventories 95: 205.

<sup>16</sup> Catherine Osborne, widow's pension application W9217, service of Thomas Osborne (capt., South Carolina Militia); "Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files," database with images, *Fold3* (<http://www.fold3.com>).

<sup>17</sup> "1786 Tax Return, cont'd," *South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research* 10 (Winter 1992): 19-21.



Artemas & Hugh Ferguson	Casper Elisha	est. Mrs. Levingston
George Smith	Robert Brown	est. Joseph Chambers
Charles Lownes	Casper Husey	John Watts
James Culliatt	Ann Butler	John Walter
est. Rachel Hamilton	Patrick Fitzpatrick	est. John Walter, Jr.
Martha Sanders	<b>Bachariah Harper</b>	James Thompson
<i>William McCants</i>	Nathaniel Monrough	Mary Harvey
est. Zach. Ladson	John Nealan	Joseph Landall
Benjamin Postell	John Herman	est. Isaac Hayne
est. James Postell	John Riley	est. David Culiatt
Est. William Baker	John Croskey	Samuel Jones
<i>Richard Bryan</i>	Mary Mahoney	James Wallace
Richard Woodcraft	est. Saml. Singleton	est. Benjamin Fuller
Richard Rodgers	John Cox	est. William Oswald
Thomas Gough	John Sullivant	Margaret Gegleman
Andrew Cunningham	John Croll	John Elliott
[proceed to next column]	[proceed to next column]	est. Adam Culliat

1790 [1791]<sup>18</sup>

Beaufort County

**Barakias Harper**

1 male 16+    2 females    0 slaves  
2 males -16

The first four documents place Barachia in the same Round O community in which Solomon Harper briefly owned land in 1773. Barachia was sufficiently established there to have witnessed the Connor will in November 1774. Logically, he could have been in that community at precisely the same time that Solomon bought and sold the Hyrne tract—just a year earlier. Indeed, his presence could well explain Solomon’s puzzling land activity in that neighborhood.

The census household can be interpreted in several ways:

- If Barachia had been married for a long period and his wife was at the upper end of her years of fertility, the census children were likely in the 13–18 range. In this case, we would normally expect to find other young-adult Harpers in his neighborhood.
- If he were newly married, those children might be the wife’s by a prior marriage.
- If he had married about 1785–86, he could have three young children by 1790–91. Or, he might have a blended family, with one or two children being theirs and one or two being hers by a prior marriage.

The possibility that Solomon and Barachias were kinsmen—perhaps brothers—must be strongly considered. They are connected to the same neighborhood during the same

<sup>18</sup> 1790 U. S. census, Beaufort Co., South Carolina, p. 496, col. 3, ln. 21. The list is rendered semi-alphabetically.

time period, they and were the only Harpers yet found there. Indeed, not only was Barachia living in this critical neighborhood, but so was Richard Bryan, Solomon's future son-in-law.

Consider a brief summary of evidence gathered and documented in this and previous installments connecting these men together:

- Sep. 1773 Solomon purchases land in the Round O near Burnt Church and Jacksonboro (lower St. Bartholomew Parish) from Henry Hyrne, while living in the Pocotaligo community (Prince William Parish), some thirty-five miles away.
- Oct. 1773 Still living at Pocotaligo, Solomon sells the Round O tract to Hannah McCants, a longtime resident of the community.
- Jan. 1774 Solomon has left Pocotaligo and is living on James Stobo's plantation at the forks of the Saltcatcher (upper St. Bartholomew's Parish), some thirty from the Hyrne-Harper-McCants tract.
- Nov. 1774 Barachia witnesses the will of John Connor, who lived near the Hyrne-Harper-McCants tract.
- 1783 Solomon has moved to Buckhead Swamp, a few miles from the Stobo Plantation. Barachia does not appear on the land tax roll.
- 1784 Solomon's daughter Eliza marries Richard Bryan.
- 1786 Barachia has acquired land in the Round O community—land he may well have acquired through marriage. He and Richard Bryan appear on the tax list in the same neighborhood.
- 1790 Solomon and the Bryans are all in the Buckhead community while Barachia has moved to Beaufort, location unknown.

Barachia's connections to Solomon Harper's Round O community and to Solomon's son-law are important discoveries. Not only was Barachia the only other Harper identified there, but he was undoubtedly there at the same time as Solomon.

Tracking Barachia is difficult for the same reasons that apply to Solomon. His acquisition and disposal of the land on which he was taxed in 1786 could not be documented. His absence on the land-tax returns of 1783, 1784, 1785, and 1787 suggests that he sold that 328-acre tract soon after acquiring it—or that he paid tax on it that one year only as, say, guardian or agent for another. He does not appear in the digitized or published Charleston District probate records, newspapers, or deeds. However, he moved over into Beaufort County between the 1786 tax assessment and the 1790 census. He does not appear on subsequent South Carolina censuses and the 1790 enumeration is rendered semi-alphabetically.

One additional clue was found, however:

4 July 1796

Savannah, Georgia

Died. In this city, 3rd inst., **Mr. Barakias Harper**, aged 70 years.<sup>19</sup>

Given the rarity of this name, the odds are good this is the Colleton and Beaufort man. Because his birth can be dated to 1726, he is of the age to be Solomon's brother. As such, Barachia emerges as a key to identifying their parents and origins and should be pursued in the surviving records of Savannah (many of which are available online as digital images).

### *Stobo Family*

The following item shows that the important Stobo family had connections to Solomon's first documented neighborhood, Pocotaligo:

#### Excerpt from "The Heyward Family of South Carolina:"

Thomas Heyward, son of Thomas and Hester, was born January 1723. He spent his early life on James Island but later moved to Granville County and developed large plantations on the Pocotaligo and Tulfenny Rivers. He married 1) March 1746 **Ann Stobo**, by whom he had one son who died in infancy; 2) Anne Miles, 14 February 1748.<sup>20</sup>

Ann was a widow at the time of her marriage to Heyward.<sup>21</sup> Neither she nor her Stobo husband have been identified. However, Thomas Heyward was still living on James Island, near Charleston, when he married her. He moved to the Pocotaligo region a decade later and owned several large rice plantations by the time Solomon arrived in 1768.<sup>22</sup> He was a wealthy and prominent member of that community. As such, Heyward's connection to the Stobos perhaps facilitated Solomon's association with James Stobo so soon after his arrival.

### *Elinor, wife of Solomon Harper*

Client recently provided a photocopy of the *modern* tombstone placed on the grave of Richard Bryan, Solomon's son-in-law, which reads, in part:

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<sup>19</sup> William Alford Bishop, "Marriages and Deaths in the Georgia Colony," *The Genealogical Quarterly Magazine* 5 (Apr. 1904), 21; cites *The Columbian Museum &/or Savannah Advertiser*.

<sup>20</sup> James B. Heyward, "The Heyward Family of South Carolina," *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 59 (Jul. 1958): 150.

<sup>21</sup> Mabel L. Weber, "Register of St. Andrews Parish, Berkeley County, South Carolina, 1719-1774," *The South Carolina Historical Magazine* 14 (Jan. 1913): 30.

<sup>22</sup> For more details, see the entire article by James B. Heyward cited in fn. 20. Also, Lawrence Sanders Rowland et al, *The History of Beaufort County, South Carolina*, vol. 1, 1514-1861 (Columbia, S. C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1996), 199-200, and 378. William F. Hamilton, trans., "Life of Nathaniel Heyward," *Heyward Genealogy* (<http://www.heywardgenealogy.org/histories/lifeofnathanielheyward.pdf>); citing unpublished manuscript of Gabriel Edward Manigault.

"Married Elizabeth (Eliza) Harper  
27 December 1784  
Daughter of Solomon and Elinor Thompson Harper"<sup>23</sup>

Client is interested in this assertion of Elinor's maiden name and the possibility that she belonged to the family who gave their name to Thom[p]son Creek, where Solomon lived before relocating to Colleton. However, this does not appear to be the case.

The only evidence yet found to an Eleanor who married a Harper in South Carolina during this time period was the wife of one Andrew Thompson. Descendants claim this man died in York County, Pennsylvania, in 1761 and his widow, Eleanor (last name unknown) remarried an unknown Harper. She had moved to Union District, South Carolina, before the reported 1780 death of her son, John Thompson.<sup>24</sup> John's will identified his mother as "Elinor Harper."<sup>25</sup> The identity of Eleanor's Harper husband could not be established. However, she appears in several Union District records:

22 December 1783

Union District

Sale of estate of Joseph Park Jr., deceased. Buyers: **Wm. Thomson, Andw. Thompson, Eleanor Harper**, Daniel Jackson, Jas. Crawford, Thos. & Margaret Park, Andw. Mayes, Daniel McBride, Hugh Means & Geo. Storey.<sup>26</sup>

Joseph Park Jr. lived along Fairforest Creek, near the Spartanburg border.<sup>27</sup> He allegedly married Eleanor's daughter, Ann Harper. Of the above purchasers, Means, Jackson, and Park, lived in Union while Andrew and William Thomson and George Storey lived in Spartanburg.

4 February 1795

Union District, South Carolina

Rev. William Williamson, pastor of Fairforest Presbyterian Church, visited "**Mrs. Ellener Harper - son Natan Harper**" at their home.<sup>28</sup>

Rev. Williamson visited six other families that day. The following list shows the order in which he recorded (and presumably encountered) them:<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> A photograph of the tombstone was provided by Client.

<sup>24</sup> Janice Mauldin Castleman, "Re: THOMSON, Andrew fl 1778 SC on Revd TATE land," *Thompson Family Genealogy Forum* (<http://genforum.genealogy.com/thompson/messages/23381.html>). No sources provided.

<sup>25</sup> Janice Mauldin Castleman, "Re: Andrew Thomson b Scotland d York/Adams Pa," *Thompson Family Genealogy Forum* (<http://genforum.genealogy.com/thomson/messages/140.html>); also unsourced.

<sup>26</sup> Kaye Park Hinckley, "[PARKS] Park-PA to Fairforest, SC," *Parks-L Archives* (<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/PARKS/2001-05/0989779497>); cites Union County Probate Box 75, Pack 1828. Park reportedly married Eleanor's daughter, Ann Harper.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Robert J. Stevens, "Rev. Mr. William Williamson's Home Visitation Records, Fairforest Presbyterian Church, Union County, South Carolina," *Ancestral Research* 34 (Winter 2006): 4.

Mrs. Catherine Shaw and children Graice, Rebecca and Mary.

Mrs. Mary Barren and children Mary, Sarah, Robert, and Thos.

**Ellener Harper** and son Natan.

**Mr. Rich<sup>d</sup> Thomson** and Jane [?] his wife and child Margaret

**And<sup>w</sup> Thompson**, wife Mary, and children John, Daniel, Robt., John Thomson and bro.

**Ephraim Thompson** with lodger Miss Nancy Young

Mrs. Nancy Means and children John & Nancy;

Mrs. Davas Faris and children Peggy, Sibby, Rachel, Darky, and Betsey.

The order in which these visits were recorded suggests Rev. Williams went from Ellenor's home to the homes of Richard and Andrew Thomson, the latter of whom had a brother Ephraim. This combination of names suggest the possibility that the three Thompsons were brothers, the children of John Thomson—the son of Elinor Thomson Harper who had died in Spartanburg in 1780. The inclusion of “Ellener Harper” and her son Nat[h]an with this cluster suggests she was indeed Elinor, widow of Andrew Thomson, who had purchased property from the Park estate a decade earlier.

Clearly, this woman cannot be the wife of Solomon who was living contemporaneously in Colleton District. This segment of research has yielded no other candidate for Eleanor Thomson Harper and no evidence supporting the identification of Solomon's wife as Elinor *Thomson*.

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR CONTINUED RESEARCH

The most important findings of this report concern the newly identified Harpers. As possible brothers, they must be included in all upcoming research. The extensive South Carolina work thus far has not produced anything on Robert or Barachia. However, clues did emerge for their pursuit. Client may wish to pursue these to establish their possible relationship to Solomon, and to seek clues to their origins. Any such clue that is missing from Solomon's documents could well emerge in those of either of the other men. A project of roughly thirty hours would be required.

If the work on Robert and Barachia yields no contradictory evidence, Client may consider turning attention to North Carolina. This phase would incorporate a survey of published and electronic materials as well as initial investigation of microfilmed county-level records.

Rachal Mills Lennon, CG

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<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

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