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Genealogy Notes - Hans George Hamrick (Hamerick)

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HANS GEORGE HAMRICK (Hamerick)

Hans George Hamerick (or Heinrich), founder of the Hamrick family in America, was a native of the Lower Palatinate, which with the Upper Palatinate comprised an area of some 2,000 sq. miles on the River Rhine, Germany. Originally, this was a feudal district whose ruler, the Count Palatinate, was virtually vested with the authority of a king. The Counts Palatinate derived their appointments from the German Emperor. In 1563 Frederick III introduced Calvinism to the Palatinate, making it the established religion, and extending his protection to Protestant refugees of every sect. Macaulay, English historian, says the Palatinates were "honest, laborious men who had once been thriving burghers at Mannheim or Heidelberg. Their ingenuity and their diligence could not fail to enrich any land which should afford them an asylum."

Hamerick

Hans George Hamrick was one of a shipload of immigrants that landed in Philadelphia, Pa. in 1731 from Rotterdam, driven from his homeland by religious persecution and the scourge of war. French armies had laid waste the region with fire and sword, and the inhabitants, especially the Protestant element, suffered frightful horrors and deprivations which caused them to flee to Holland for temporary shelter and succor. While in the Netherlands they gladly accepted a general invitation to settle in the English colonies, and arrangements were perfected for their transportation to America. In due course, the exiles landed in Philadelphia, the principal port of the Colonies, whence they gradually scattered and drifted through Pennsylvania, and the Valley of Virginia and on to the Yadkin Valley of North Carolina.

Hans George Hamerick had little means at his command, but his objectives were clear and defined; he adjusted himself to his new surroundings and went about in good faith and zeal to establish a home and build a fortune in a new country totally different from his homeland. Little is known of his movements for a number of years subsequent to his landing at Philadelphia, but the fact is established that he married and reared a family of children living first in Pennsylvania, then in Virginia.

Several years prior to the War for Independence, three brothers, Charles, Benjamin, and George, sons of Hans George Hamrick, migrated to North Carolina and settled in what is now known as Cleveland County. It was then Tryon County which was dissolved in 1779, the dissolution resulting in the formation of Rutherford and Lincoln Counties. From them Cleveland County was subsequently formed.

The three brothers settled in the Piedmont in full sight of the Blue Ridge Mountains, an eternal background of God's handiwork that has given strength and inspiration from generation to generation to such as have followed the example of the Psalmist and looked to the hills "from whence cometh my help." The three brothers were typical industrious, hard working

farmers. Their lot was a stubborn, relentless struggle with the soil in which they perforce were compelled to use primitive, crude, and frequently handmade tools and implements. Their learning consisted in reading the Bible and writing their names. They were honest and substantial citizens of their generation.

Like most frontier men they received their military training from boyhood. The settlers lived in constant dread of tomahawks and Indian scalping knives, and it was necessary for everyone to know the use of weapons. During the War for Independence, Rutherford County (or Tryon) was invaded by the British enemy, Colonel Patrick Ferguson; he invited all who would to join forces of King George. But there were too many Whigs in that county for it to be healthy for the Tories, and a band of mountaineers was organized to give battle to the invaders.

The three brothers were frequently called Hambricks, a "b" taking the place of the original "e". To this day, it is not uncommon for persons unfamiliar with the name to pronounce or spell it "Hambrick". Changes in spelling continued to be made until we have the present spelling, "Hamrick".

It is safe to venture that the host of Hamricks to be found in Cleveland and Rutherford Counties today, as well as those who have shifted elsewhere, are descendants of one or another of these three brothers, whose father was Hans George Hamerick.

(Taken from Dr. W. C. Hamrick's, of Gaffney, S. C., book.)

(See also "Thirty Thousand Names of Immigrants" by Rupp, page 67 - George Heinrick (Hamrick) came to Pa. in 1731.)

(See Collis Jones' "History of the Hamricks", page 169 and 76.)

1. George Hamrick married Nancy Cook.
2. His son, George Hamrick, married Susanna Blanton.
3. Their daughter, Rebecca Hamrick, married James Bridges.
4. Their daughter, Phoebe Margaret Bridges married Burwell Blanton.
5. Their son, George Blanton, married Priscilla Harrill.
6. Their daughter, Priscilla Jane Blanton, married Rev. Geo. Melton Webb.
7. Their son, Judge James L. Webb, married Kansas Love Andrews.
8. Their daughter, Fay Lamar Webb, married O. Max Gardner.