Part I: The Beginning

The Riley family of Orangeburgh District and later of Denmark and surrounding area is the topic of this report. We will follow one branch of the family as it expands and contracts and expands again.

As anyone involved in genealogy can attest, there is a lot of time spent in attempting to find and prove the information in a family tree. It is now much easier to use the Internet and its many resources than when my great uncle, James Alvin Riley assembled his one hundred fifty-page document on the Riley family. This document is on file at the Orangeburg County Historical Society.

James Alvin Riley also collected many photographs that passed down to his grandchildren. I was able to borrow them long enough to have them photographed with a high-density camera and the copies restored. The originals were a collection of Daguerreotypes which are on a polished silver medium, Ambrotypes which are on a glass medium and appear as a negative unless held against a black background and tintypes which are on an iron (not tin) medium.

The work of my "Uncle Alvin" as I knew him (he was "Poppa" to his children and grandchildren) was invaluable as a starting point. He was a graduate of Clemson Agricultural College where he majored in Agriculture, he then went to Michigan State University and received a master's degree in Agronomy. He spent his career working for the SC agricultural experiment stations and opened and managed the Sand Hills Station near Columbia.

The following is the introduction to his genealogy of the Riley family. This was originally typed on a manual typewriter and I have taken the liberty of correcting errors when it was converted to a digital document. Where he refers to the Scotch-Irish and the Scotch, the people of Scotland prefer to be called Scots, Scotch being their libation, the wine of the country, as I heard it called.

"The matters being recorded in this paper are for the most part for the benefit of my own family and particularly for my own children, Caroline, Alvin, Henry, Lillian, and Joanne and any who come after them who are interested in their ancestors.

In the earlier days since our forefathers came to the lands of America and settled in the then back country, there were few facilities for recording various

happenings of people, and many of the few records which were kept have now perished by war, fire, and perhaps neglect and lack of interest.

The information contained herein has been obtained from many sources and it is believed that the same is essentially correct. It contains the best information which is new available to the writer.

History records that the settlement of Georgia in 1732-34 protected the western frontier, and the interior of Carolina received many immigrants, Germans, and after Culloden many Scotch came into the middle sections, and on Braddock's defeat, refugees from Virginia and Pennsylvania followed in the Piedmont. The Orangeburg District was settled largely by German-Swiss from the highlands, the first load of Germans and Swiss coming to Orangeburg in 1735; while the Amelia District was settled by the lowlander Germans. Much of Fairfield and Chester counties were settled by the Scotch-Irish, (who were really Scotch), who came down from Pennsylvania and Virginia, The Riley family was from the Orangeburg settlement; the Yarborough family from the Edgefield, Fairfield, and Chester settlement.

The Riley family is closely connected with the Felder, Pooser, and many other families of Orangeburg and adjoining counties. The Yarborough family is connected with the James, Thompson, Hardin, Smith, and other families of Fairfield and Chester. Of course, these families have spread to many parts of the United States and countries of the world.

The first Riley of the line which is being considered here is George Riley who came to America from Germany at the age of four years in company with his mother and stepfather, John Houslighter, most probably about 1735 or shortly thereafter. This family settled in what is now Orangeburg county in what is called the Limestone community. Information indicates that the old John Houslighter place was located four or five miles west of the present location of Wesley Chapel Methodist Church. The name of George Riley appears in the United States census taken in 1790 of Orangeburg District. George Riley grew up here and married a Miss Staley (perhaps spelled Stahley). This Miss Staley had a brother who was named Lewis (or Louis) Staley (Could this have been Peter Staley in Capt. Rumph's Company?) George Riley and his wife raised a family of several children who will be more fully described later. Information is that some Boyleston descendant had examined some document or writing on which the Riley name was spelled Ryly. This information I have determined is correct. See pages 472-473 Salley's History. Roll of Capt. Jacob Rumph's Company in 1783 names among others George Ryly

(Riley) and John Housliter who fought Tories in S.C.) Whether this form of spelling was actually the form used by George Riley is not known, and even so probably has no significance since it is well known that that form is one of the many of the name now most commonly spelled Riley.

The first Wilson whose descendants were later connected by marriage with the Riley family was George Wilson who was the father of Rev. Charles Wilson. Little is known of when George Wilson came to America but it seems that he was the first of that family who came here. He was for a time an Irish linen merchant and most likely traded in the region in which he finally settled. George Wilson was married to a widow, Mrs. Buford. Mrs. Buford was before her first marriage Phalbe DeEsto. By her first marriage she had one daughter, Mary Buford, she marrying Lew Cooner. Mary Buford had no children. It is not clear whether Phalbe DeEsto's first husband died before the DeEsto family left southern France from whence they came, or whether they were married and lived in America and after a time died leaving his widow and daughter. At any rate, Phalbe DeEsto Buford became the wife of George Wilson. They lived near the present town of Bamberg in the section called Spring Town near Lemon Swamp. It is said that she was of Catholic faith.

They perhaps were a little worldly back in that sober day it is said that they even danced. Think of that! They raised a family of three children: Charles, Janie, and Ann. George and Phalbe DeEsto Wilson died and lie in unmarked graves at not a great distance from the little village Midway several miles east of Bamberg in the vicinity of the activities during life. There is in the Hunter's Chapel community a tract of land still known as the DeEsto land (usually pronounced there as though spelled Disto)

James Alvin Riley, Sr."

Much of what Alvin Riley wrote has been proven although some needs to be corrected. The name of the step father who brought George Riley to South Carolina is as correct as last names can be for that period. According to ship manifests, a Johann Martyn Hausleither arrived in Philadelphia aboard the Snow Louisa (1). According to Wikipedia: The word 'snow' comes from 'snauw' which is an old Dutch word for beak; a reference to the characteristic sharp bow of the vessel. Another proof of arrival is found in "Pennsylvania German Pioneers" also listing Johann Martin Hausleither.

At the end of 1752, the ship Edinburgh arrived in Charleston with passengers it had brought from Philadelphia. Included in the list was "Martyn Houseliter … 4 children: Anna Margaret 14, Anna Maria 12, John George 6, Christiana 3" (3). There is no mention of a wife or mother of the children.

The next mention we find of this family is a petition for land. The petition as listed by Brent Holcomb is:
"The Petition of Martyn Houseliter humbly setting forth That the petitioner came Lately into this province in the ship Edinburgh from Rotterdam on the Encouragement given here to Forreign Protestants. He and his great Family are free of their Freights as appears by the Certificate annexed of Mr. John McCall, and is Desirous to Live in the province. The petitioner has four Children viz Anna Margaretta aged 14 years, Anna Maria 12, John George 6 and Christiana 3 years and never had any Land in this province, prays to layout 250 acres of Land free of Charges and that he may have his Majestys Bounty. Cha's Town, the 19th day of Feb'y 1753. John Martyn Houseleter. The prayer thereof was granted." (4)

The next reference found was in Salley's History of Orangeburg in a list of baptisms:
"(209.) On Thursday April 11th In Orageburgh (sic) Church. Hans-Emanuel, Son of John Martin and Ann Margaret Hossleiter: born March 18th 1754. Suscept= Emanuel Miller, John& Elizabeth Harrisperger. " (5)

The next references are also from the same source (6), (7):
"(333.) John Michael, Son of John Martin & Anne Margaret Hossleiter; born March 17th 1756. Suret, Johannes Wolf, Caspar & Mary Ott"

"(562.) On Sunday May 20th In Orangeb.. Church Hans Paul, Son of John Martin and Ann Margaret Hossleiter; born April 7th 1759. Suretf. Francis & Mary Koonen, & Kilian Grissert. "

Then also we have sadder news:

“56 On Friday Oct 15th died and on Saturday Oct 16th was Enterred on the plantation of John Martin Hossleiter of Orangeburgh Township the Body of Hans Emanuel son of the said John Martin and Anne Margaret Hossleiter aged 2 years 7 months. “ (8)

An entry in Salley’s History for the Hossleiter family concerns the acceptance of Christiana Hossleiter as a communicant. (9) The only child that arrived with John whose last name is mentioned is Christiana, so she may have been a child of John and his wife while the other 3 were children of the original husband.

Who was Anne Margaret Hossleiter? There is no evidence that the wife of John Hossleiter arrived later. Anne/Anna Margaret was a very popular name at the time. Many marriages of the time were more about convenience and economic necessity rather than flowers, chocolates and love. There is currently no proof that there was an Anna Margaret that was the mother of John George and there is no proof of the father of John George. Just because someone with a similar name is born does not make them related.

Joop Giesendanner in an email to the author stated no records were kept of the thousands of Germans who came to Rotterdam to immigrate to the colonies. The Netherlands was simply glad to get them on board a ship and gone. There are no records of deaths on the ships although a number of people died during the voyages and their bodies tossed overboard.

The next references to Houselighter and Riley are in the Revolutionary War in a payroll record for Captain Rumph’s militia dated 19 April 1783. (10). George Ryley is listed (right side of page at crease) with 100 days of service and pay

of 50 pounds. John Housleter is last on the list with 15 days and 7 pounds. This list is also in Salley's History of Orangeburg County page 473 and 474 (see footnote 5).

In the first official United States Census of Orangeburgh District frame 34 of 39, both John Houslighter and George Riley are listed. George Riley is listed with 2 males over the age of 16, 3 males under 16, 2 white females with no age specifications and no slaves for a total of 7 in the household. John Houslighter is shown with 1 male over 16 and 1 female for a total of 2 persons. (11)

The 1800 Census shows George Reiley of Orange, Orangeburg District, South Carolina with the following household (12):
3 Free White Persons - Males - Under 10
3 Free White Persons - Males -10 thru 15
1 Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44
1 Free White Persons - Females - Under 10
1 Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15
1 Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44
8 Number of Household Members Under 16
2 Number of Household Members Over 25
10 Number of Household Members

By my records, George and Mary had 6 children at this time for a total of 8 in the household. Since we do not have names in the census, we may have other member of the extended family living with them or perhaps 2 indentured servants or renters.

The 1820 Census shows no trace of a Houselighter living close to George Riley and normally they were no more than 6 or 8 lines apart in the census. George Riley showed a decrease in children and an increase in slaves. There was one white male in the 45 and over category, 3 in the 6 to 25 category, 1 female 16 to 25 and 9 slaves. (13) Christian and David were the 2 white males over 16 and Sarah was most likely the female over 16.

George and Mary Riley had a family consisting of Jacob Riley (1790-1857), George Riley (1793-1861), John Wesley Riley (1795-1817), Mary Ann Riley (1797-1857), Daniel Asbury Riley (1799-1878), Nancy Riley (1800-?), Sarah Riley (1801-1872), Christian Riley (1802-1851), David Riley (1804-1872).

Jacob Riley and his associated children's families moved to Georgia and their history is well document in two reports: "Memoirs of Georgia" (14), and "Research into the Riley, Frederick, Marshburn and Related Families of Houston County, Georgia" (15).

John Wesley Riley married Susannah Singletary. They had 2 sons before the early death of John Wesley.

Mary Ann Riley married Jacob Zimmerman having 2 daughters and 4 sons. She is buried in Duncan, Spartanburg, SC.

Daniel and David Asbury Riley

The information below is taken from the obituary of the Mary Inabnit who was married to both David and Daniel.

Daniel Asbury Riley, Sr. married Kasiah in Orangeburg, South Carolina about 1823. They had 7 children. Mary Elizabeth Riley, Ann Riley, Rachel Irene Riley, John E. Riley, George W. Riley, Maria L. Riley, and Daniel Asbury Riley, Jr.

David Riley married Mary Inabnit (born November 4, 1811) in 1830, They had 4 children. David died about 1840.

Kasiah passed away 1840 in Orangeburg, South Carolina. After Kasiah passed away, Daniel married Mary Inabnit 13 May 1841 in Orangeburg, South Carolina. They had three children. Caroline or Carrie E. Riley, Jacob Rhett Riley, the third child passed away at birth (birth year and gender are unknown at this time).

Mary and Daniel had Daniel and Kasiah's children living with them. They also had Mary and David Riley's children living with them (Mary's 1st husband). Lastly, Mary and Daniel had their 2 children living with them.

The census records are confusing because there are children from 3 different marriages living with Daniel and Mary.

Daniel Asbury Riley, Sr. remained in the Orangeburg area as did many of his children. One of his sons, Daniel Asbury Riley, Jr, move to Coahoma, Texas and his children kept moving with generations eventually living in Montana and on the west coast. Daniel died January 2, 1878. Mary Inabnit Riley died at the home of her daughter Mrs. George Boylston in Barnwell County, August 6, 1896.
(Mary Inabinet Riley obit published 29 Oct 1896 in Southern Christian Advocate)

Almost nothing is known of Nancy Riley.

Sarah Riley married the Reverend Daniel S. Herlong. They had 16 children and moved to Alabama, with their children moving to Tennessee, Alabama, and Louisiana.

Little is known of Christian Riley.

Part II: George Riley

I had skipped over George Riley because his is the line upon which we will concentrate for the remainder of this document. George was born on 20 June 1793.

Apparently, land was running short in the Orangeburg vicinity, so George, eventually moved to the area of where the future town of Denmark, SC would be built. David Felder, son of Captain Henry Felder, also had moved to the same area earlier and acquired a lot of land. David was prominent in the area and George Riley also became prominent. David Felder was apparently in that area as early as 1804, his first wife, Esther Addison, is buried in the David Felder cemetery on the south side of US 321 approximately 1 mile north of the Denmark city limit.

George Riley met the daughter of his neighbor David Felder, as a result, Drucilla Felder and George Riley were married on February 1st, 1825. (16)

George Riley bought 325.5 acres of land on September 15, 1825. (17)

The first child, Jacob Riley was born on 12 Jun 1829 and lived only a few weeks, dying on 7 July 1829.

The 1830 Census for Barnwell District, page 181, has George Rily or Rely at the top of the page with 3 males under 5 years of age, 1 male between 30 and 40 which would be George and 1 female between 20 and 30 which would be Drucilla Felder Riley (18). The 3 males under 5 would have been David Andrew Riley, born 19 April 1826; James G. Riley, born 1 October 1827; and George S. Riley, born 2 July 1830. The name of David Felder is not separated by many lines from George Riley, likewise, Henry Holman who married Priscilla Felder (and later sold land to George Riley) is also listed close to George Riley. Both Henry Holman and Priscilla Felder are buried in the David Felder Cemetery.

In the 1840 Census, the number of children in the Riley household had increased with 2 males under 5, 2 between 5 and 10, 2 between 10 and 15, 1 between 30 and 40 and 1 between 40 and 50. There is 1 female listed under 5 and 1 between 30 and 40. The young female was most certainly Elizabeth Ann Riley born 24 October 1837. The only other daughter of George and Drucilla was Rachel Olivia Riley who died as a child living from 21 February 1846 thru 2 July 1849. The male children under 5 would have been Daniel Riley born 4 October 1835 and John Fletcher Riley born 16 June 1839. The males between 5 and 10 would have been George Samuel Riley (2 July 1830) and Darley Benjamin Riley (10 November 1832). The 10 to 15 year old males would be David Andrew and James G. Riley. (19)

The 1850 Census lists those in the 1840 list, but, for the first time, lists individuals by name. There are 2 additions, Joseph at 8 years and Eli Christian at 6 years. (20)

In 1852 David Andrew Riley died at age 26 on 23 May 1852. He never married.

James G. Riley married Caroline Elizabeth Moss on 3 October 1855. They had one child, Caroline (Carrie) Elizabeth Moss who married George McNab. James G. Riley died on the 9th of September 1857 and is buried in the Norway,

SC Cemetery. Caroline Elizabeth Moss Riley lived until 29 November 1914 and is buried alongside her husband.

In 1858, George Riley purchased 2 parcels of land. Both of these parcels were land that had belonged to David Felder who had died in 1849. On the 8th of February 1858, George Riley purchased from Henry and Priscilla Felder Holman 200 acres. (21) On the 5th day of April 1858, George Riley purchased 455 acres from John Wesley Raiford Felder. A note written down the side of the both contracts states they were delivered to George S. Riley on 3 May 1858. (22) Whether that means the property was purchased by George S Riley or not, it is difficult to say. Since the magistrate on the first deed was Ira Felder who was the brother of Priscilla Felder Holman and Drucilla Felder Riley, he would have known George and George S. Riley and should not have made a mistake of confusing the father and son.

The 1860 Census lists George as 67 with land valued at $14,000 and personal wealth of $32,800. In the column with the heading of "Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper or convict" George was listed as "dumb". So at this point he could not speak. Asking about medical conditions that may cause this, the three answers I received were throat cancer, stroke or nervous disorder. (23)

In the same census, George S. Riley was listed as a wheel wright which was a very good skill since most everything moved by wagon. His brother David was an overseer and John Fletcher was a school teacher. Joseph, 19, and Eli, 16, were both marked as having attended school within the last year. With the exception of George Riley's medical condition, all others seemed to be doing well. This was the last year that held true.

Part III: The Civil War

With the opening of the Civil War, a new era came to the United States, the South and to the Riley family. It was not to be a good period for the Riley family.

Joseph Asbury Riley enlisted in the Confederate Army and was stationed in Orangeburg. He was sent home with typhoid fever to be nursed back to health by his family. With little understanding of the disease, he died on 13 July 1961.

His obituary was found by James Alvin Riley and transcribed into his history of the Riley family. Here is the wording of that obituary:

“OBITUARY

Copied from Printed Obituary as Found in the Case of the Daguerreotype of Joseph A. Riley

Joseph A. Riley, son of Mr. George Riley, died or typhoid fever In Barnwell Dist., on 13th July, 1861.

He was an acceptable member of the M. E. Church for several years before his death, and although he made no open declaration or conversion up to the time the fever seized upon him, yet his life was consistent with the doctrines he professed; and doubtless his death, though a sad bereavement to his family, was to him "eternal gain." At the secession or his State, being away at school, he hurried home, entered the ranks, and marched boldly on for defense. As a soldier, he had no superior for bravery and. true devotion to the cause of the South. Often has the writer heard him say, while together in the tented field, that, did the good of his State demand it, he would lay down his life without a murmur. The summons came. He heard the tattoo of death, which closed the day of his soldier life, without a murmur. His spirit winged its flight to the spirit-land. and his body now rests in the grave.

J. E. R.”

Unfortunately, by sending ill soldiers home, the Confederate army only increased the spread of the disease. Drusilla Riley apparently contracted typhoid fever while caring for her son.

“OBITUARY
Copied from printed obituary as found in the Daguerreotype picture case.

Mrs. Drusilla Riley, died Aug. 20th, 1861, of typhoid fever, in Barnwell District, S. C., in her 57th year.
She was the daughter of Father David Felder (who is now in glory) who trained his children “In the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” She joined the M. E. Church in early life, and was made the subject of converting grace, the evidence of which was manifest in her meek. gentle and quiet deportment in every relation of life, public and private. As a wife she was devoted and assiduous; as a mother tender, affectionate and patient in instruction; as mistress kind and. indulgent; as a Christian a model. None knew but to love and admire her for the grace of God she exhibited, so unobtrusive that the casual observer could not discern the depth of her piety, yet it leavened the whole household. She had a double portion of affliction, first in the peculiar

disease of her husband, (Bro. George Riley, who unconsciously survives her) and secondly the loss of two dutiful and pious sons. By her assiduous nursing of one of them, (who in camp was seized with typhoid fever and preceded her but a few weeks,) she contracted the disease that terminated her earthly career, which separates her from her husband, five sons and a daughter. She

died as she lived in the Lord.

W. W. Graham “

John Wesley Raiford Felder, brother of Drucilla Felder Riley also contracted the disease and was buried in the David Felder Cemetery.

“John W. R. Felder departed this life on the night of the 9th of September l861. He was buried In the David Felder burial grounds. On his tombstone is "J. W. Felder - who died in the service or his country the 9th day of September 1861 of typhoid. fever- Age 38 years 10 months 10 days.”

A newspaper clipping “Brief History of Denmark” says:
“John W. Felder besides contributing largely toward building the Methodist Church at Graham's (i.e. Graham’s Turnout), built a large schoolhouse at his own expense. The school was burned by an incendiary soon after the war (i.e. ”

War Between the States} and later rebuilt.

“********** OBITUARY

(Copied from printed obituary found in case in which his daguerreotype is held)

John W. R. Felder died in Barnwell, on the 9th September, 1861, in his 37th year. Below is his obituary.

He had been for several months in the volunteer service of the State, in the 1st S. C. Reg’t. when he was compelled to return home on a sick furlough. His disease soon developed itself as typhoid fever, and after a protracted illness, he died peacefully in the midst of many sympathizing friends. He was a useful member of society at Graham's Turn Out. Ever ready to cooperate in every good work for his community, and true to the interests of his country, he was among the first to offer his services for the defense of the State. He turned away cheerfully from a prosperous business to share the fortunes of the South in its struggle for freedom. In this he was faithful, as long as his health sustained him. Though he fell not on the field of battle, his life was offered on the altar of his country. and his memory will be cherished by those who knew

and appreciated his patriotism. In the communion of his church he loved without reproach and in his last hours leaned with simple confidence on Christ as his Savior. Thus in the midst of active service for the church and the State, he fell in the prime of manhood, and leaves a place unfilled in the hearts of many friends, and a memory dear in the communion of Christians."

Darley Benjamin Riley, even though not living at home, also contracted the disease dying on 26 November 1861 and being buried in the Norway, SC cemetery.

The Norway Cemetery is located approximately 9 miles from Denmark, SC. At the intersection of US321 and route 332 in Norway, turn west on 332 and drive approximately .7 miles (about 3700 feet). When you pass the volunteer fire department, the cemetery is immediately past it on your left. There is a dirt road that circles around the cemetery, the graves of two Riley brothers are in the back, look for the low iron fence.

John Fletcher Riley died of typhoid fever on 6 December 1861.

"A copy or an obituary as found in the case of the Daguerreotype of John F. Riley.

John Riley, a son of George and Drusilla Riley, died in his 23rd year. Being religiously trained, he attached himself to the M. E. Church, at the age of 18 years, and exhibited qualities of head and heart unusual for his age. The Christian graces characterized him in his intercourse with his associates at school, at home, abroad, as well as in the class-room. Meekness and humility were conspicuous among the graces, and preferring others to himself, ready, with a listening ear and retentive memory, to receive instruction from any source, and treasure it up to profit. A most dutiful son and affectionate brother, with punctuality and pleasure obeying the behests of parents and accommodating his brothers and sisters, his whole character, moral, social and. religious, was a model. He lived and died without a blemish on either that was discernable - leaving indubitable testimony of his having a home among the blessed."

On the 30th of December, 1861, George Riley passed away of unknown causes. Here is the obituary found in his Daguerreotype.

“OBITUARY

Copied from printed obituary as found in case of daguerreotype.

Father George Riley died 30th Dec., 1861, in Barnwell Dist., in his 78th year.

Father Riley was awakened and joined the M. E. Church under the ministry of the late Rev. R. Pierce, when Methodism was a by-word and reproach. Soon thereafter he was soundly converted, evidence of which was manifest for half a century in his walk and conversation as well as the Influence exercised over his household and class. There was no mistaking in him the shadow or the substance; his whole nature was brought under subjection by the indwelling spirit; his meat and drink was to do his Father's will. Being confident of his acceptance he was joyful in praises. He lived beloved, and died lamented without an enemy. As a leader, which office he held to the Church for over 30 years, he was punctual - faithfully performing the duties incident thereto with more than ordinary zeal, patience and success; now affectionately encouraging, then plainly, yet kindly rebuking, as he had need, reclaiming the wayward, assisting the weak, and strengthening the hopeful. After his mind was seriously impaired on other subjects, it was clear on salvation by faith in Jesus. Religion was a principle as well as a practice, for when disqualified by disease for any duty, still. he was anxious to work in the Lord's vineyard as formerly, frequently remarking, “he would sacrifice has life for the cause of Christ." As a husband, he was. tender and affectionate, as a father, firm without sternness. affectionate, without needless Indulgence, his positiveness commanding obedience with constraint. Nor did he neglect to train his children in the admonition of the Lord, but instilled in them the necessity of a change at heart, as the basis of present and future happiness. Nor were his labors in vain. He enjoyed its fruits in the conversion of all, and the happy deaths of some of his children. As a master, he maintained 0his authority without severity, by the justice of his demands rather than by the rod. And as a neighbor and friend, he was obliging and conciliatory turning none away empty,(if in his power} who sought his aid and counsel. His happy spirit is freed from the body, and joined with hers, his excellent consort, and their departed children in the land of spirit.

from "STRAY LEAVES” ---By Rev. L. Bellinger. pages 209-1O.

While speaking of such men as Brothers Holman and Felder, I thought I would be doing wrong to say nothing of my much-respected friend George Riley- the just, the upright, and the Christian hero- the man without blemish and reproach. As far as I know, he led a blameless life before heaven and earth. He was devoted and thorough going, fully bound for heaven. And he was a true

friend of the preachers or the Barnwell circuit. When I stood up to preach, I was glad to see him in the congregation; for then I knew there was one present who would pray for me, and who was a host within himself. He was a man of few words, but well-spoken, and always in the right place. He was: serious and grave but seldom cast down; a man among men, and a hero of heroes; a true knight of the cross,
whom heaven loved, and hell respected. I have often enjoyed myself nn hls company. It was a pleasure to him and his pious wife for the preachers to go to see them; and they were treated so kindly, that no doubt the heralds of the cross loved to go to that home of the preachers - Brother Riley's house.

But the good man has gone to the rest which remains for- the people of God. Farewell! to three old heroes of Barnwell circuit and Binnakers campground. No wonder that the holy place has seen its best days - that its glory has departed; for the three strongest members have passed away, and there are none to take their places. O, ye departed friends or my soul, I bid you all hail! and I hope you think of me sometimes, while walking the golden streets of the Jerusalem above. I can never forget you. I have seen much of the sorrow and trouble- since you left me; but my savior has often comforted and strengthened me while toiling on through this unfriendly world. Amazing grace has saved me thus far, and i hope will save me to the end of life's pilgrimage, when I hope to meet all the departed loved ones on the banks of eternal deliverance, to part no more; and, O! what a time of rejoicing it will be, when the friends who have loved on earth shall meet in glory, to be separated no more. Happy, thrice happy, dead! you are now forever freed from the cares and troubles of life, which often press so heavily upon your friends left behind. You were taken home to rest. You were removed from the evil to come. You were spared the sad sight of your ruined country, and its departed glory, You are now saved in heaven, and are rejoicing for evermore. When done with the sorrows of earth, I hope to praise the Lord with you in endless days."

The year 1861 closed with the deaths of Joseph Asbury Riley, Drucilla Felder Riley, Darley Benjamin Riley, John Fletcher Riley, George Riley and Drucilla's brother John Wesley Raiford Felder.

In 1862, Daniel Ira Riley died at the battle of Secessionville on 16 June and was buried in a mass grave with his fallen comrades. (24)

In 1862-1863 school year. Eli Christian Riley attended the South Carolina Military Academy, later renamed as the Citadel. (25)

On July 1,1863, Eli enlisted as a private in Company I, 2nd Reg't, S. C. Art'y. (26)

In 1864, George S. Riley was admitted to the Jackson Hospital with chronic diarrhea on October 12th and was returned to his unit on November 15th. In 1865, George S. Riley died on January 29th in the Confederate Hospital in Richmond, Virginia of chronic diarrhea. His body was transferred to the SC hospital in Columbia, SC where it was received on 6 February 1865. There is no further record of his body nor where it may have been buried. Of the 9 sons born to George and Drucilla Riley only Eli was left. (27) Note: He may have been buried in one of the unmarked graves in the David Felder cemetery.

Many of these Rileys were buried in unmarked graves or marked with wooden markers that rotted away in the heat and humidity. So many of the family died that almost no one was left to take care of funeral arrangements. The David Riley cemetery has 6 graves marked with tombstones and approximately 12 more that are simply sunken areas in the ground, evenly spaced and about the length of those that are marked. Tombstones had been imported to Charleston and then sent by train to Orangeburg. Much of this was interrupted by the war. Those who were sent home from Confederate Army camps with typhoid fever in 1861 were sent home after such a short time that there are no official records in Fold3.com to support their being in the Confederate Army. For this reason, we are very happy to have James Alvin Riley's research and writing.

Part IV: After the Civil War – the Eli Riley Years

Eli Christian Riley was paroled in Greensboro, NC as part of Company I, Elliott's Brigade, 2nd SC Volunteer Army on April 26, 1865. (28)

The distance from the surrender in Greensboro, NC to Denmark, SC, by modern highways, is approximately 240 miles. Eli most likely had to walk the entire distance to return home. Walking at about 4mph, 10 hours per day, would have taken him 6 days to return to what was left of the family farm. This was an area thru which Sherman and his army marched and became the example for the future of total warfare. A cousin still farming family land said that after the war, there was only one milk cow in the area and the milk was

shared with families with small children. Life for the residents who remained was difficult. On top of the destruction of buildings and theft of livestock, 1866 was a year of drought further lengthening the period of scarcity.

Eli returned to find his immediate family consisted of his sister Elizabeth Ann Riley who lived until 1893 but never married. Perhaps the reason she never married was that she was 24 when the war began and after the war, there was a severe shortage of men. Many families left the area, some moving to Florida which had not been devastated.

In 1870, the Reverend Charles Wilson was assigned to a church in the Bamberg area and Eli met his daughter, Julia. They married on December 4, 1870. Reverend Wilson and his wife are buried in the churchyard at the White House Methodist Church near Orangeburg which was his last assignment as a preacher.

Eli and Julia set about to repopulate the family after the devastation of the last generation. The following information is derived from Alvin Riley's history of the Riley family with updates.

Eli Christian Riley lived from 15 August 1843 through 3 December 1900. Eli's wife Julia Ann Wilson Riley lived from 5 January 1850 through 1 July 1901. Both Eli and Julia are buried in the Old Bethel Memorial Cemetery located on a farm at the intersection of Ghent's Branch Road and US 78 between Denmark and Blackville, approximately 2.4 miles from the intersection of US321 and US 78 in Denmark, SC. Three of their children are also buried there: Star of Heaven (Infant Daughter), Elizabeth Ann Riley, Drucilla Felder Riley and Charles Wilson Riley.

The children and grandchildren of Eli and Julia Riley

Eli and Julia had a total of 14 children. In order by birth they were:

Catherine Olivia "Kate" Riley (03 October 1871 – 02 April 1950)
Charles Wilson Riley (20 December 1872 – 20 June 1886)
Drucilla Felder Riley (12 April 1874 – 17 September 1877)
George Riley (5 October 1875 – 12 May 1961)
Mary Caroline Riley (23 September 1877 – 16 January 1971)
William Lewis Riley (15 October 1878 – 17 March 1936)

Sarah Eliza Riley (14 May 1880 – 29 June 1959)
Annie Elizabeth Riley (27 December 1881 -4 March 1973)
Julia Christine Riley (22 October 1883 – 2 August 1972)
Martha Darley Riley (1 July 1885 – 18 June 1982)
"Star of Heaven" Riley (25 January 1887 – 11 February 1887)
Gertrude Wilson Riley (30 April 1889 – 3 May 1979)
James Alvin Riley (6 March 1891 – 11 December 1972)
Marion Edith Riley (9 June 1893 – 23 December 1961)

Catherine Olivia "Kate" Riley
Kate married James Moss Holman of St Matthews on 31 March 1987. They had no children and semi-adopted Moss Holman's nephew, Hugh Perrow. Kate wanted Hugh to be part of the family and arranged for him to meet the daughter of her sister Annie. The daughter was Helen Turner and she and Hugh were married. Their first son was named Moss Perrow in honor of what Moss Holman had done for Hugh.

Charles Wilson Riley
Charles died at the age of 13 (20 Dec 1872 – 20 Jun 1886). He is buried in the Old Bethel Memorial Cemetery which is located on a farm at the intersection of Ghent's Branch Road and US 78 not far from Denmark, SC.

Drucilla Felder Riley
Drucilla died at the age of 3 years and 5 months (12 Apr 1874 – 17 Sep 1877). Like her brother Charles Wilson Riley, she is buried at the Old Bethel Memorial Cemetery.

George Riley
George married Sarah LaFils Sturgis. They had 2 daughters, Sarah Vivian Riley (26 October 1910 – 15 October 2000) and Julia LaFils Riley (5 December 1913 – 15 October 2000). Sarah married Dr. Harry A. Wasden ; Julia married John Friedrich Marschalk. George is buried in the Harlem Memorial Cemetery, Harlem, Georgia.

Mary Caroline "Carrie" Riley
Carrie Riley married Edward Newhall Brodie on 8 April 1922. They had no children and lived in Denmark, SC. They are buried in the Denmark Cemetery. Edward Brodie died 10 September 1944.

William Lewis Riley
William Lewis Riley was the farmer in the family, a prominent businessman and a state representative belonging to the Democratic Party. He married Anna Esther Elwell. They had seven daughters of whom five lived to maturity: Julia Margaret Riley (8 Mar 1903 – 4 Apr 1972 married Herman Claude McCain), Dorothy Wilson Riley (4 Oct 1905 – 28 Apr 1975 married Urban Glenn Milhouse, Jr), Elizabeth Riley died at age 2 years and 7 months (12 Aug 1908 – 11 Mar 1911), Esther Marion Riley (13 Nov 1910 – 12 May 2010 married Lucian Owens) , Miriam Elwell Riley (19 Apr 1915 – 20 Feb 1967 married Wade Faust Finch) , Rosalind T Riley died at age 5 years and 9 months (17 Nov 1916 – 2 Aug 1922), Sarah Christine Riley (26 Jun 1919 – 6 Jan 2004 married Hiram Philip Troy, Jr).

Sara Eliza Riley
Sara never married and returned to Denmark, SC to live with her widowed sister Carrie. She is buried in the Denmark Cemetery alongside her sister Carrie and her brother-in-law.

Annie Elizabeth Riley
Annie married John Cuthbert Turner on 20 April 1904. They had 2 children. Helen L Turner married Hugh Perrow (detailed above in Kate Riley's writeup). Helen and Hugh are buried across from the family farm on Old Number Six Highway at the St Matthews Lutheran Church. Although they did not attend this church, it is close to their farm and they feel that they are at home here. This church descends directly from the church established by John Giessendanner. The other child was John Ashby Turner who had one son and three daughters.

Julia Christine Riley
Christine, known as "Teenie" married a widower with 2 children, Clarence Ovid Robinson of Saint Matthews. She never had children of her own. They are both buried in the West End Cemetery in Saint Matthews, SC.

Martha Darley Riley
"Mot" married Fredrick Jennings Turner on May 1st, 1912. Fred was the brother of John Turner who married Annie Riley, making the children of these two couples double first cousins. Martha and Fred had 4 children: Catherine Holman Turner (named for her Aunt Kate), Frederick Riley Turner who died

after a month, George Wilson Turner and William Lewis Turner (named for his uncle William Lewis Riley). Catherine married Harold Henriksen and their first child was the author of this history, Harold Eugene "Gene" Henriksen, jr, his sister is Phalbe Henriksen and brother Frederick Michael Henriksen. Neither George nor Lewis had children of their own. George married Grace Agnes Logan. Lewis graduated from Wofford in 1940, volunteered for the US Navy and went to officer's school, the 5th such class held at Annapolis. He was the captain of two different minesweepers and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. After returning from the war he married Helen Elizabeth Utsey. They adopted a son named James Everett Turner. Martha Riley and Fred Turner are buried in the Turner plot of the Denmark Cemetery along with Lewis and Helen Turner and their adopted son James "Jay" Turner. Catherine Turner is buried next to her husband Harold Henriksen in Greenlawn Memorial Cemetery, Wilmington, NC. George and Grace Turner are also buried in Greenlawn Memorial Cemetery, Wilmington, NC.

"Star of Heaven" Riley
The name "Star of Heaven" was given by James Alvin Riley. She had died before she was named. The small headstone reads simply "INFANT DAU. OF E.C. AND J. A. RILEY" with the dates. Alvin Riley thought she deserved a name. She is buried in the Old Bethel Memorial Cemetery

Gertrude Wilson Riley
Gertrude Wilson Riley was born 30 April 1889. She never married and died on 3 May 1979. She is buried in the cemetery at the St Matthews Lutheran Church on Old Number Six Highway between St Matthews and Cameron, SC., across the road from the farm that belonged to Hugh and Helen Turner Perrow. Helen was her niece. There is a marker with her name at the Old Bethel Memorial Cemetery.

James Alvin Riley
James Alvin Riley, known as Papa to his children and grandchildren graduated from Clemson Agricultural College with a degree in agriculture and then went to the University of Wisconsin where he received a Master of Science in Agronomy in 1914. He married Joanna Smith Yarborough and they had 5 children, 2 sons and 3 daughters: Julia Caroline Riley, James Alvin Riley Jr, Henry Yarborough Riley, Lillian Harden Riley, and Joanne Riley.He is buried in Crescent Hill Memorial Cemetery, Columbia, SC.

Marion Edith Riley
Marion married William Dowling Mayfield (30 August 1892-27 June 1938). Marion and William had seven daughters and one son. Mary Caroline Mayfield (6 Nov 1914 – 17 Oct 1994, married Guy Allston Proctor), Christabell Kennerly Mayfield (19 May 1916 – 4 Jun 1970, married James Harold Zorn), Gertrude Wilson Mayfield (28 Feb 1922 – 13 Nov 1923), William Dowling Mayfield Jr (6 April 1925 – 7 May 1926), Kathryn Olivia Mayfield (12 May 1930 – 2 Jul 2014 married William Henry Scannell), Joyce Mayfield (11 Jul 1932 – 21 Jul 1932) and Wilma Dowling Mayfield (13 Sep 1934 – 7 May 2013 married James Severne Bagwell).

This document only records the Rileys through the 5th generation. Generations beyond that are still alive and some will not respond to requests for information and others want it kept private. In the event I can add more to this in the future, I will do so.

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(1) Donna Speer Ristenbatt Genealogy/The Snow Louisa https://www.trailofourancestors.com/shplst30.htm

(2) "Pennsylvania German Pioneers", Pages 506-507, Strassburger, Ralph Beaver and Hinke, William John. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. Baltimore, Md 1980.

(3) Old Newberry District Quarterly Fall 1994 Vol. 3 Num. 3. Page 9.

(4) PETITIONS FOR LAND FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL JOURNALS VOLUME 111:1752-1753 BY BRENT H. HOLCOMB Page 186.

(5) "The History of Orangeburg County South Carolina From Its First Settlement to the Close of the Revolutionary War" by A. S. Salley Jr. Page 145

(6) Ibid. Page 162

(7) Ibid. Page 185

(8) Ibid. Page 203

(9) Ibid. Page 215

(10) "United States Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783," database with images, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2DG-W9H3 : 9 March 2018), George Ryley, 19 Apr 1783; citing 19 Apr 1783, South Carolina, United States, citing NARA microfilm publication M246. Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Services, 1980. FHL microfilm 830,368.

(11) Year: 1790; Census Place: Orangeburg, South Carolina; Series: M637; Roll: 11; Page: 414; Image: 249; Family History Library Film: 0568151

(12) Year: 1800; Census Place: Orange, Orangeburg District, South Carolina; Series: M32; Roll: 49; Page: 535; Image: 134; Family History Library Film: 181424

(13) 1820 U S Census; Census Place: Orangeburg, Orangeburg, South Carolina; Page: 368; NARA Roll: M33_118; Image: 334

(14) Ancestry.com. Georgia Memoirs [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2003.
Original data: Memoirs of Georgia. Vol. I-II. Atlanta, GA, USA: The Southern Historical Association, 1895.

(15) RESEARCH INTO THE RILEY, Frederick, Marshburn AND RELATED FAMILIES OF HOUSTON COUNTY, GEORGIA by Robert S. Davis, Jr. and Kathy Best Copyright 1991Queries should be sent to Howard W. Riley, Jr., 233 Binnacle Point, Vero Beach, FL 32983. (note: Howard W. Riley Jr is deceased and his family gave me permission to include their document in a history of the Riley family, Gene Henriksen)

(16) The Joss Felder Heinrich Felder Bernhard Felder Family's

Who Lived In Switzerland and the Ursula Zuber - Hans Heinrich Felder family who migrated from Ebnat-Kappel, St. Gallen, Switzerland to Orangeburgh, South Carolina

By Charlie (Charles) Howard Felder page

(17) Barnwell County, Recordings Book P, transfer of 352.5 acres land to George Riley p 329-331 1825 15 Sep

(18) 1830; Census Place: Barnwell, South Carolina; Series: M19; Roll: 169; Page: 181; Family History Library Film: 0022503

(19) Year: 1840; Census Place: Barnwell, South Carolina; Page: 187

(20) Year: 1850; Census Place: Barnwell, South Carolina; Roll: M432_849; Page: 335A; Image: 24

(21) Barnwell County Recordings Book KK, land transfer from Henry Holman to George Riley

(22) Barnwell County Recordings Book LL, sale of land from JWR Felder to George Riley

(23) Year: 1860; Census Place: Barnwell, South Carolina; Roll: M653_1213; Page: 378; Family History Library Film: 805213

(24) https://www.fold3.com/image/68330991

(25) https://citadeldigitalarchives.omeka.net/items/show/235 see line number 45 E.C. Riley

(26) www.fold3.com/image/66031376?xid=1945

(27) https://www.fold3.com/image/20/77881251 and following pages for George S. Riley

(28) This is shown on page 136 of "Steadfast to the Last" by Randolph W. Kirkland, Jr also in https://www.fold3.com/image/66031376?xid=1945

(29)

(30)