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VOL. XIV, NO. 1-4 JANUARY,
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MABEL LOUISE WEBBER

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EDITED BY
MABEL LOUISE WEBBER

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The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine.

VOL. XIV.

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No. 1

AN ACCOUNT OF
THE TATTNALL AND FENWICK FAMILIES
IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

By D. E. HUGER SMITH.

Strolling through the hospital at Greenwich in England, I once found myself in what was called the "Painted Hall," a gallery filled with portraits of Naval Commanders and pictures of sea-fights.

Although the only visitor, I was not alone. An ancient mariner in his seaman's dress stood at attention and volunteered no information, but answered courteously my few questions. When passing out of the Hall, I stopped to thank him, and I noticed that his breast was covered with service-medals and clasps. He carried there as many of bronze as Field-Marshal Roberts might show of gold.

This easy way of rewarding a veteran has always amused me, and I asked what war or battle each one represented. The old man's "bosom swelled with pride" as he answered.

One, he said, had been gained at the fight with the Peiho Forts.

"The Peiho?" said I.

"Yes! don't you know that it was there that the American Commodore said, 'Blood is thicker than water!,' when he towed our boats into action?" Thereupon the old sailor

went on with a full narrative of the event, and I learned how Commodore Tattnall had been ordered to take no part in the attack; how the British Admiral changed his flag four times, from ship to ship, as each was disabled; how he lay badly wounded on the deck of his third flag-ship; how his reserve force in boats could not stem the tide to reach him; how an officer from these boats visited the American Commodore, who cried out, "Well! blood is thicker than water!" and towed the boats up the river.

All of this I have since read more at large, but the account by Lieutenant Johnston [see Jones' Life of Tattnall] has never displaced from my memory the unpolished narrative of the old British Tar, and his pleasure in telling of the timely use of the old proverb that "blood is thicker than water."

THE TATTNALL FAMILY.

Commodore Tattnall's family connections in South Carolina were of the best. We find under date of the "13th day of the 11th month of 1687" that James Beamer devised to his step-son Joseph Tattnall certain property to be delivered to him at the age of twenty-one, and we are left in doubt whether M^r. Beamer's first husband ever came to this country.

Joseph Tattnall married Martha Patey, the daughter of Edward Patey by his wife Elizabeth Gibbes. This Elizabeth Gibbes was the daughter of Thomas Gibbes, an elder brother of Robert Gibbes, Governor of Carolina, 1709-1712. [See McCrady's Proprietary Government.]

Edward Patey was the son of Theophilus Patey, and one of his sisters, Sarah, had married Robert Fenwick. Another, Elizabeth, was the wife of Major John Boone, of whom there are many descendants.

Martha Patey was certainly unmarried on 4th February, 1706, for on that date a grant of land on James Island was made to her under her maiden name. This land was conveyed on 10th October, 1709, to William Rivers by her husband, Joseph Tattnall, and herself, and we can thus fix an approximate date for their marriage.

We cannot fix the date of his death, but in 1727 we find his widow, Martha, bearing the name of a third husband, Hext, while acting as administratrix of the estate of her second husband, Michael Beresford.

All of this is confirmed by the will of M^{rs}. Sarah Fenwick (widow of Robert Fenwick) dated 26th January, 1726/7. She makes bequests to Thomas Tattnall, son of her niece, Martha Hext, and to Michael Beresford, of whom the survivor was to inherit from the other. This Michael Beresford was the half-brother of Thomas Tattnall, who speaks in his will, dated 20th March, 1743, of a bequest to his son by that son's uncle, Michael Beresford.

No opinion can be given as to the correct spelling of the name. It is written Tatnell or Tatnall in the earlier wills and deeds. In the will of Thomas *Tatnell*, recorded in Charles Town in 1746, it is spelled as given. After the removal of his son Josiah to Georgia, it is generally spelled *Tattnall*.

This son, Josiah, seems to have grown up in what is now called Beaufort County, among his mother's relations. She was Elizabeth Barnwell, a daughter of Col. John Barnwell, who settled in South Carolina about 1701, and left a name metaphorically written across the history of that colony until his death in 1724. [See South Carolina Hist. & Gen. Magazine, Vol. II, p. 47.]

St. Andrew's Parish Register gives the marriage of Thomas Tatnell and Elizabeth Barnwell on 25th April, 1734.

The compiler of St. Helena's Register has given us 8th Feb., 1740, as the date of birth of Josiah, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Tattnell of Stono. The same birth is given in St. Philip's Register as on 1st Feb., 1739/40, and this is probably the correct date, as his baptism on 27th Feb., 1739/40, is there recorded. In this he is called "Josias." In St. Helena's Register his marriage to Mary Mullryne is given, as well as the birth of a son, John Mullryne Tattnell.

This Mary Mullryne was born 19th October, 1741, [St. Helena's Register] and was the daughter of Col. John Mullryne and of Claudia, his wife. John Mullryne had some time before 1735 come to Carolina from Montserrat, one of the Windward Islands; for on 23rd October, 1735,