

THE GREENBERRY W.-- MARTHA C. LORD FAMILY

The surname Lord is of English origin, and several of the Lord families migrated at various times from England to America during the colonial period.

The Thomas Lord family and a number of others came in the early years to the New England colonies. Thomas was an original proprietor and among the first settlers of Hartford, Connecticut, about 1636. One of his sons, Captain John Lord, fled in debt from an unhappy second marriage to Virginia about the middle of the seventeenth century, and in 1668 was living in Westmoreland County, Virginia. Some of the Southern Lords are doubtless descendants of Captain John.¹

In the eighteenth century sometime before the American Revolution, John Taylor Lord and his brother Benjamin came from England to Pennsylvania. After the war, Benjamin returned to England but John Taylor Lord remained, moved to Virginia and later to South Carolina, where his son John Taylor Lord, Jr., married Peggie Leachman of Anderson District (county). John T., Jr., and Peggie Leachman Lord moved to Georgia, settling near Nicholson in Jackson County. Their descendants now live in Jackson County, Georgia, and elsewhere.²

Greenberry William Lord's ancestry was not connected with the New England Lords, unless it was before they came to America, nor is there known to have been any connection with the Jackson County, Georgia, Lords, though it is thought probable at some point in the ancestry. There is much evidence that Greenberry Lord's early American forebear, Francis Lord, descended from ancestors who had migrated from England to Ireland, and some generations later on to America.³

Francis Lord, the great-great-great-grandfather of Greenberry, lived in the early eighteenth century in Somerset County, Maryland, in an area which was organized into Worcester County in 1742 and was later cut off by the Mason-Dixon Line and became Sussex County, Delaware.⁴ Francis Lord

1 James Savage, Genealogical Dictionary of First Settlers of New England (4 vols., Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1965), pp. 115-117; H. H. Humphries (comp.), History of the Lord Family (Jackson County, Ga.: Mimeographed pamphlet, Annual Reunion, 1st Sunday of September, Black's Creek Baptist Church), p. 13, article by Mrs. E. C. Lyons.

2 Humphries, History of the Lord Family, pp. 2, 3, 4, 8, 11, 12, articles by James Wilson Lord and Doris W. Lord.

3 Letters of David B. Lord, Jacksonville, Fla., to the author, Mar. 14, 23, 1973; David B. Lord to Joseph T. Maddox, Irwinton, Ga., Feb. 17, 1973 (hereinafter cited as Lord to Maddox).

4 Lord to Maddox, Nov. 29, 1972; Will of Francis Lord, Somerset County, Md., Maryland Hall of Records; Lard Records, Worcester County, Md., Liber A, Folio 117, June 8, 1743; Land Records, Sussex County, Del., Liber R 17, Record Book, 1793, Warrant Folio 124.

and his wife Sarah had a son, John, whose wife was also named Sarah. John and Sarah Lord were the parents of William, the great-grandfather of Greenberry Lord.⁵

William Lord was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.⁶ Sometime in the early 1780's, he and his wife Milly moved from Sussex County, Delaware, probably to North Carolina. Their son William, Jr., was born in that state about 1784.⁷ The William Lord family, however, did not remain long in North Carolina, for by 1787 they were living in Hancock County, Georgia. They continued to reside in Hancock County for at least twenty years, until 1807.⁸ In an 1805 lottery, William Lord had drawn a Wilkinson County, Georgia, land grant, and the family probably moved about 1807 to settle on it.⁹ The land was southeast of the present town of Toombsboro near the Oconee River. William Lord was one to the pioneers and founders of Wilkinson County, and this part of the county, as a militia district, was later named Lord's District.¹⁰

William and Milly Lord's son William, Jr., was the grandfather of Greenberry Lord. William, Jr., was born about 1784, as mentioned above, and was probably about three years old when his parents' family moved to Hancock County, Georgia. He went with the family when they settled in Wilkinson County about twenty years later. William, Jr., was a young man then, and may have already married. His wife was Rose Ann, probably Littleton. In his old age William's wife was Sara Ann, maiden name unknown.¹¹

5 Will of Francis Lord; Will of John Lord, Register of Wills, Liber C, Folios 233-234, Sussex County, Del., Probate Records, 1680-1800. The other children of Francis and Sarah Lord were: Randolph, Henry, Thomas, Alexander, Potter, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Mary (Will). In addition to William, the following were named as children of John and Sarah Lord: John, Adam, Isaac Thomas, Wooten, Anna, Unice and Betsy (Will of John Lord).

6 Fern Ivey Lord, "History of the Family Line of Fern Ivey Lord of Lord's District," 1935; Lord to the Author, Mar. 23, 1973; Grant Book, Muscogee (County), District 13-14, p. 29, District 23-24, p. 122, Surveyor General's Department, Atlanta, Ga.

7 United States Census, Ga., Wilkinson County, 1850 (Washington: National Archives, Record Group 29, Records of the Bureau of the Census), Vol. 14, p. 345. William and Milly Lord had at least five other sons: John, Stephen, Thomas, Samuel and Joseph Barnet. There was a daughter, Sarah (Lord, "History of the Family Line of Fern Ivey Lord;" Victor Davidson, History of Wilkinson County [Macon, Ga.: John Ball Chapter, D A R, J. W. Burke Co. Press, 1930], p. 299).

8 Powelton Baptist Church (Hancock County, Ga.) membership roll.

9 Registration for Wilkinson County, Ga., lands, 1805, Lottery Ticket No. 447, in Ga. State Department of Archives and History, Atlanta.

10 Lord to Maddox, Mar. 4, 1969, Sept. 19, 1972; Lord to Mrs. Charles E. Hammer, Charlottesville, Va., Nov. 21, 1972; Lord to the author, Apr. 22, 1973, with map enclosure; Lord, "History of the Family Line of Fern Ivey Lord."

11 Davidson, History of Wilkinson County, p. 380; Lord to Maddox, Sept. 19, 1972, attached note; Maddox to Lord, Dec. 1, 1972; Joseph T. Maddox, Wilkinson County, Georgia, Historical Collections (Irwinton, Ga.: The Author, 1973), pp. 334, 335; Will of William Lord, Sr., in Maddox, Wilkinson County, Georgia, Wills, With Genealogical Information (Irwinton; The Author, 1971), p. 174; U. S. Census, Ga., Wilkinson County, 1850, Vol. 14, p. 345, 1860, Vol. 15, p. 974.

William and Rose Ann Lord had five sons and three daughters. Their son James M. (probably Minton), born in 1814, was the father of Greenberry Lord.¹²

In December, 1832, James M. Lord married Evaline Sanders, about a year older than he. Greenberry William was their second child, born in August, 1837. His first name was often shortened to Green. The other children, Greenberry's brothers and sisters, in the order of birth were: William J., Littleton E., Elizabeth, Stephen Minton (Mintie), and Rose Ann.¹³ Sometime in the early 1860's after Greenberry had married, the James M. Lord family moved to southeast Alabama.¹⁴

William Lord, Sr., had been prominent in the early development of Wilkinson County. In 1808, he was appointed a commissioner of Wilkinson County Academy; in 1811-12, one of the commissioners to select a county seat and to build the county courthouse; and in 1813, he was appointed justice of the Inferior Court.¹⁵ William, Sr., died in 1825, and his son William Lord, Jr., later assumed the title of "Senior." He was seventy-eight or seventy-nine when he expired in September, 1862.¹⁶

The Lords from Francis down to James M. and beyond were substantial landowners, the two Williams, Sr. and Jr., and James M. Lord being relatively large landholders in Wilkinson County and also possessors of considerable other property.¹⁷ The sale of William Lord, Sr.'s property in 1825 included five Negroes. In 1850 William Lord, Jr., had eighteen slaves and in 1860, thirteen. He gave altogether twenty-two Negroes to members of his family, three of them to his son James M. Those apparently were the only slaves James M. Lord had, unless the one he owned in 1860 was in addition to those given to him by his father.¹⁸

12 Will of William Lord, Sr.; Maddox, Wilkinson County Historical Collections, p. 335. The other children of William and Rose Ann Lord were: George W., John, Stephen, Jesse, Nancy, Elizabeth and Milly (Will of William Lord, Sr.).

13 Lord to Maddox, Mar. 4, 1969; U. S. Census, Ga., Wilkinson County, 1850, Vol. 14, p. 354, 1860, Vol. 15, p. 983; Texas, Sabine County, [July 6], 1860, Vol. 9, p. 333; List of births and deaths; Maddox, Wilkinson County Historical Collections, pp. 180, 335. Nancy Minton had been the wife of John Lord, a brother of William, Jr., and thereafter—at least down through the family of James M. Lord, "Minton" as a middle name continued to appear among the Lords (Lord, "History of the Family Line of Fern Ivey Lord").

14 Lord to Maddox, Mar. 4, 1969; Lord to the author, Mar. 14, 23, 1973.

15 Lord, "History of the Family Line of Fern Ivey Lord;" Davidson, History of Wilkinson County, pp. 156, 169, 286; Maddox, Wilkinson County Historical Collections, pp. 7, 115.

16 Lord to the author, Mar. 23, 1973, with inventory of William Lord's property, 1825; Mrs. Willie Mae Weaver, Shreveport, La., to the author, June 18, 1974, enclosure of lineage chart; Maddox, Wilkinson County Wills, pp. 174, 176.

17 Land records Worcester County, Md., and Sussex County, Del.; Wills of Francis and John Lord, see footnotes 4 and 5 above; Georgia Department of Archives and History: Microfilm, Hancock County, Roll 106-146; Lord to Maddox, Mar. 4, 1969, Sept. 19, 1972; Lord to the author, Mar. 23, April 22, 1973; Maddox, Wilkinson County Wills, 174-176; Inventory of property of William Lord, sold Dec. 28, 29, 1825.

18 U. S. Census, Ga., Wilkinson County, 1850, Slave Schedule, Vol. 9, p. 891, 1860, Slave Schedule, Vol. 6, p. 529; Maddox, Wilkinson County Wills, pp. 174-176; Inventory of William Lord property sale.

Throughout their years in Hancock County, William Lord, Sr., and his wife Milly were members of the Powelton Baptist Church, and their son William, Jr., was a "transient" member. In Wilkinson County, William Lord, Sr. and Jr., were early members of Mount Nebo Baptist Church, organized in 1808, the first church in the county.¹⁹ William Lord, Sr., was in 1812 one of the founders of the Myrtle Springs Baptist Church near the present town of Toombsboro. His sons William, John and Samuel were members, and his grandson James M. Lord was very active in that church which after 1837 was Primitive Baptist. James M. Lord served as moderator (presiding officer) of Myrtle Springs Church for a number of periods.²⁰

There was some American Indian blood in the Lord family, whether recent or remote or in what proportion is unknown, but Greenberry Lord's features and those of others indicated it. He was dark complected with high cheek bones and a little above medium size.²¹ In 1857 or '58, at about the age of twenty or twenty-one, Greenberry and Martha, a daughter of Allen Chambers, were engaged to marry. Martha Chambers was about six months older than Greenberry Lord, having been born in February, 1837.²²

The Chambers family was of Scotch-Irish ancestry. Some of them migrated to Maine in the colonial period and possibly from there to Pennsylvania.²³ Others of the family emigrated directly from north Ireland to Pennsylvania, two according to tradition about 1720, and four brothers arriving about 1726.²⁴

From Pennsylvania, some of the Chamberses moved south into Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia. William Chambers, the grandfather of Allen and great-grandfather of Martha, was probably born in Virginia or North Carolina.²⁵ William was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. He was living in Warren County, Georgia, by 1794, and received land grants in that county in 1797 and 1801 totaling 400 acres.²⁶ Sometime before

19 Powelton Baptist Church membership roll; Davidson, History of Wilkinson County, p. 380.

20 Lord, "History of the Family Line of Fern Ivey Lord;" Lord to Maddox, Sept. 19, 1972; Maddox, Wilkinson County Historical Collections, pp. 37, 38.

21 Statements of Dock C. Lord; David Lord to the author, Mar. 23, 1973; Recollections of the author.

22 Statements of D. C. Lord; List of births and deaths; U. S. Census, Ga., Wilkinson County, 1850, Vol. 14, p. 340; Texas, Sabine County [July 6], 1860, Vol. 9, p. 333.

23 Virginia (Virgie) Collier Speights, Hemphill, Texas, to the author, Oct. 16, 1972, reference to United States Census, Maine, 1790.

24 Theodore Chambers, Early Germans of New Jersey (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969), pp. 290-291; Wayland F. Dunnaway, The Scotch Irish of Colonial Pennsylvania (Chapel Hill, N. C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1944), pp. 61-62.

25 Virgie Speights to the author, Jan. 24, 1974; George Edward Pankey, John Pankey of Manakin Town, Virginia, and His Descendants (Ruston, La.: The Author, 1969), Vol. I, p. 47; U. S. Census, North Carolina, 1790, Heads of Families, p. 83, Caswell County, Hillsborough District and Wilkes County, Morgan District, pp. 121-124.

26 Virgie Speights to the author, Oct. 16, 1972, Apr. 29, 1973; Warren County, Ga., 1794 Tax List; Georgia Surveyor General's Dept., Office of Secretary of State, Atlanta, Land Grant Book 4-Z, p. 541, Book 5-D, p. 466.

the United States census of 1820, William Chambers moved to Wilkinson County, Georgia. His wife's name is not known but William had at least two sons, Joel and Henry. So far as is known, Joel Chambers never lived in Wilkinson County. He died earlier than his father. William Chambers expired between 1836 and 1840.²⁷

Henry Chambers, son of William, father of Allen and grandfather of Martha, was born in 1780 or earlier. Henry's wife was Martha, surname unknown, and she was variously reported as having been born about 1794 and 1800. Henry and Martha Chambers moved to Wilkinson County sometime between 1820 and 1830. Their son Allen and some other children were born before they settled in the county.²⁸ Henry Chambers died in 1840, but his wife Martha lived until 1873.²⁹

Allen Chambers, son of Henry and Martha, was born in Georgia October 1, 1813. Sometime in his boyhood, the family moved to Wilkinson County, and on December 18, 1834, at about the age of twenty-one, Allen married Mary (Polly) Dixon, soon to be eighteen years old. She was born in Georgia on February 20, 1817. Allen and Polly Chambers were the parents of Martha, the bride-to-be of Greenberry William Lord. There were twelve other children, brothers and sisters of Martha: Thomas, Henry, William, Dora Ellen, Mary, Susan, George R., Frances E., Levi (Lee), Winnie, Nathaniel Berrian (Nathan, Nath), and John D. (Jack).³⁰

Simon Peter Chambers and family moved to Wilkinson County between 1830 and 1840, but are not known to have been related to the William Chambers line.³¹

The Chambers families owned considerable property in land and slaves, though not large holders. William Chambers in his latter years had at

27 U. S. Census, Ga., Wilkinson County, 1820, Vol. 7, p. 142, 1830, Vol. 20, pp. 190-214, 1840, Vol. 9, pp. 286-318; Will of William Chambers, Oct. 27, 1836, in Maddox, Wilkinson County Wills, pp. 53-54.

28 U. S. Census, Ga., Wilkinson County, 1820, Vol. 7, p. 142, 1830, Vol. 20, p. 190, 1840, Vol. 9, p. 316, 1850, Vol. 14, p. 340, 1860, Vol. 15, p. 985. The other children of Henry and Martha were: Berrian, John B., Aplin T., Henry Greenfield, Elizabeth Ann, Martha, and probably Bryant and Wilson (Will of Henry Greenfield Chambers, in Maddox, Wilkinson County Wills, p. 52; Maddox, Wilkinson County Historical Collections, pp. 150, 254; Davidson, History of Wilkinson County, p. 297; U. S. Census, Ga., Wilkinson County, 1850, Vol. 14, p. 340; Sale of property of Henry Chambers)

29 Sale of property of Henry Chambers, "first Tuesday in 1840" (probably January, 1941); U. S. Census, Ga., Wilkinson County, 1840, Vol. 9, pp. 286-318; Maddox to the author, Jan. 10, 1974.

30 Edna McDaniel White & Blanche Findley Toole, Sabine County Historical Sketches and Genealogical Records (Beaumont, Texas: Labelle Printing Co., 1972), pp. 7-8 Genealogical Records; U. S. Census, Texas Sabine County, 1860, Vol. 9, p. 331.

31 U. S. Census, Ga. Wilkinson County, 1840, Vol. 9, p. 286, 1850, Vol. 14, p. 382; Maddox to the author, Sept. 15, 1973.

least 355 acres of land in Wilkinson County, and his son Henry apparently owned somewhat more. William had nine slaves, and Henry eight. Allen Chambers bought a Negro man in the sale of his father's property in 1841 and he had only one in 1850. He had no slaves in 1860.³²

The Henry and Allen Chambers families apparently lived in the same area of Wilkinson County as the Lords. Henry and Martha Chambers, along with William Lord, Jr., and his brothers John and Samuel, were members of Myrtle Springs Baptist Church, and in the next generation Allen Chambers and James M. Lord were commissioners of the slave patrol in Lord's District.³³ Members of both the Chambers and Lord families aspired to public office. Henry Chambers in 1834, like William Lord, Sr., in 1813, was elected to a term as justice of the Inferior Court, and various offices were held by the Chamberses and Lords in the century following.³⁴

At least one Lord-Chambers marriage had occurred before that of Greenberry Lord and Martha Chambers. Greenberry's uncle, George W. Lord, and America (Elizabeth), daughter of Henry Chambers, had married in 1840 or 1841.³⁵ Greenberry and Martha probably married in 1858. The Allen Chambers family was then planning to move to Texas, and it was agreed that the newly-weds also would go. The move however, was postponed until after the birth of their first child, a son named James, born about the first of September, 1859.³⁶

It is thought the Chambers-Lord family group travelled by wagon to some Gulf coast port and thence by boat either up the Mississippi and Red Rivers to some point, or up the Sabine River directly to Sabine County, Texas. They arrived in the northeastern area of the county, in the locality later known as Armstreet Community, shortly before the first of January, 1860, and on January 1st occupied a tract of land about two and a half to three miles from Sabine River. The Allen Chambers home site was south-southwest of Patroon Bayou and about six miles north of the village of Milam (see map).³⁷

32 William Chambers Will, Oct. 27, 1836, in Maddox, Wilkinson County Wills, pp. 53-54; Sale of property of Henry Chambers. Henry's slaves sold at prices ranging from \$110 up to \$1,270 for a "boy" (man) and \$1,291 for a girl and her child, totaling \$4,942.50. The total from the sale of his land was \$1,212.25. Allen Chambers was the purchaser of the "boy" for \$1,270, (Sale of property).

33 Maddox, Wilkinson County Historical Collections, pp. 37, 38; Davidson, History of Wilkinson County, p. 210. Patrolmen were posted on roads and byways to intercept runaway slaves.

34 Maddox, Wilkinson County Historical Collections, pp. 114, 115, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121.

35 Maddox, Wilkinson County Historical Collections, pp. 150, 180; Maddox to the author, Jan. 10, 1974.

36 Statements of D. C. Lord; Maddox to the author, Feb. 12, 1974; U. S. Census, Texas, Sabine County, 1860, Vol. 9, p. 333.

37 Interview with Ira Chambers, Natchitoches, La., Aug. 12, 1966; Affidavit of Lee Chambers Re Wm. M. Speights Survey, Mar. 4, 1922, in Conveyance Records, Sabine County, Hemphill, Texas, Vol. 21, pp. 60-61, Robert Emmett Bennett Affidavit in Re John C. Hammock & Ransom Slaughter Surveys of Land, Conveyance Records, Vol. 20, p. 608.

