

1999 Cemetery Committee Report

Dear Ariail Family Members,

During the 1998 Ariail Family Reunion, support was again given for the efforts to upgrade and restore some of the Ariail grave sites. The projects that were proposed were as follows: (1) A stone for the graves of The Rev. John Harvey Ariail and his wife Perthenia Blassingame Ariail at the Ariail Cemetery in Easley, S.C., and a stone for the graves of John Alvin and Mary Brown Ariail at the Ariail burial plot in the Rose Hill Cemetery in Piedmont, S.C.

These two obligations were handled in the following manner. The restoration for the stones of The Rev. John Harvey Ariail must be handled through the Hendricks family. They are the caretakers of the Ariail Cemetery located on the old homeplace of The Rev. John Harvey Ariail. Their long range plans were already to replace the stones for these graves and we were told that a donation from the Ariail Family Reunion Association would be appropriate. We therefore forwarded \$200.00 to assist them in the restoration of these two graves. In fulfilling our second commitment, we contacted some descendants of Lillie Beatrice Ariail in order to verify our thoughts as to who was buried at Piedmont in the various unmarked graves. We were told that Lillie Beatrice Ariail's son, Ralph Styron, is resting in one of the graves and that they don't know who is in the other one. We were also informed that Mrs. Beatrice Clampett has the family Bible and we have determined that we want to look at this document as well as do some more research prior to actually putting markers over the unmarked graves at Piedmont. Since the Ariail grave plot at Piedmont was in such bad shape, the committee decided that we would restore the entire plot, without additional markers, until a more accurate identification could be presented. There is no doubt but that Mary Brown Ariail is resting in one of the plots, Ralph Styron in another and perhaps even John Alvin Ariail and Martha Fields Ariail in other unmarked plots there. We therefore expended \$750.00 to put coping and crushed stone around 7 of the Ariail graves at this cemetery. Additionally, the grave sites were leveled, stones taken up and aligned, reset in concrete and repaired as required. Vandals had toppled one stone and it had to be put back together. The job was beautifully accomplished by the Easley Granite Company. In addition to the above expenditure, Mr. Keith Ariail donated materials, i.e., cement and plastic, at a cost of between \$50.00 & \$100.00 to help us accomplish this project as our funds were not sufficient to cover the expense. We thank him so much for his generosity and total commitment to this project.

A collection was taken at the Reunion and \$482.00 was received to accomplish the two projects mentioned above. The remainder of the cost has been satisfied through private donations from other family members. The \$482.00 is somewhat lower than the \$569.00 collected during the previous year. Hopefully, everyone will come prepared to give generously during our times of prosperity so we can continue to accomplish work in the cemeteries and complete our work within the next few years. We still have several projects to accomplish and we wish to thank those who participated so very much as the work being accomplished means so very much to many members of our family.

The total accomplishments realized this year were impressive. In addition to the above two major projects that we agreed to do at the Reunion, the following projects were undertaken by consent of private donations:

1. Work on the grave sites of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Ariail at Nails Creek Baptist Church. Cost \$790.00.
2. Restoration of stone for Julius Fellows Ariail I at Episcopal Church, Pineville, Louisiana. Cost \$250.00.
3. Restoration and cleaning of stone for Catherine Bellamy at Pineville, Louisiana. Cost \$250.00.

4. Perpetual care cost of grave sites of Mr. and Mrs. Manna Rich Ariail, St. Martinsville, Louisiana. Cost \$800.00. Note: This project could not be delayed because the graves were considered abandoned and the stone were to be removed and plots sold to anyone who wanted them to bury in again. Unfortunately, this is the way the people who control this cemetery at the Catholic Church in St. Martinsville handle the cemetery.

5. Cleaning Patterson Cemetery, near Nails Creek, four times during the year. This cemetery is in bad need of repair and will be gradually brought back up to acceptable standards when the stumps, etc., rot. Labor for cutting brush and cleaning area free. Cost of materials was \$13.28.

A total of \$3,053.28 was spent to accomplish grave work last year. From all sources, a total of \$917.00 was donated by different family members. Total money owed: None. Total money on hand: None.

Note: As with previous years, some family members donated money for a complete project. This exemplary action on their part must be commended and it is hoped that others will become compelled to assist in a like manner. Again, I have an accounting for all monies received and expended, with names of contributors, but do not feel it would be appropriate to publish the list here. Any individual wanting to see this list of contributors should contact LtCol Doyce Ariail, President of the Reunion Association, and we will be happy to arrange for you to see the list of donors.

As a project for this coming year, there are two suggestions to be placed upon the table for consideration:

(1) A stone for Joseph Dallas Ariail, died July 28, 1980. Buried in an unmarked grave in Potters field in Chester, S.C. Mrs. R.L. Ariail of Irmo, S.C. has identified where this grave is located in Chester, S.C.

(2) William Oscar Ariail and his wife Lenora Brown Ariail who died Jan 22, 1943 and Aug 19, 1936 respectfully. They are buried in unmarked graves in Baxter Memorial Gardens, Newberry, S.C. Mr. Leonard Ariail Auton will most likely be able to identify the location of these two graves.

There are also other needs to be met should additional money be available, or should family members make specific donations. These are as follows:

1. Carving name and dates on tomb for recently discovered grave of Manna Rich Ariail in Firemans Cyprus Grove Cemetery, New Orleans, La. This is the tomb of Joseph Hoy and the only other person buried in the tomb is the body of Julia Bowles. This is more specifically, with marginal degree for error, the body of his mother-in-law, Julia Jones Bronaugh Bowles.

2. Luke Ariail, d. May 17, 1842, unmarked grave in Bellamy Cemetery, Bethlehem, Connecticut.

3. Manna Goodwin Ariail, d. Jun 21, 1856, unmarked grave, Town Cemetery, Stockbridge, Mass.

4. Placing new marker on grave of Thomas Blassingame Ariail, Ariail Cemetery, Easley S.C.

5. Placing new marker on grave of Margaret Ariail Reid, Ariail Cemetery, Easley, S.C.

6. Long range plans: Place coping and chipped stone on long row of Ariail graves at Nails Creek, including James Leland Ariail and across to the Wiley graves, which was husband and sons of Climelia Ariail. This project would be quite expensive and hopefully someone within the Ariail family will make a large donation to help with this project.

We again sincerely thank those who so very generously gave. If you desire to help this year, please come prepared to give generously during the Reunion Meeting so that we can accomplish the goals that we have set. If you cannot give at the Reunion and wish to make a commitment, give us your name, address, and phone number so we can keep in touch with you at a later date. It should be remembered that the collection taken at the reunion for the cost of conducting the Reunion is completely separate from the Cemetery donations. All contributions for the cemetery fund should be deposited in the appropriate collection vehicle. Again, the entire Cemetery Committee, as well as all Family members, thank you so much. We continue to meet and make lasting friends for the family from the efforts that have been made.

Committee:

Lorraine Patterson, Secretary

James Patterson, Chairman

Trenton Patterson, Member

Keith Ariail, Member

1999 Historical Report.

We continue to learn so much about the early Ariail family that it is almost unbelievable!!! We told you in last years historical report that we were going to England, Scotland and Wales. Well that trip fell through and we were stuck with plane tickets we could not use, so guess what we did. We went to France. Space is limited as to how much I can tell you here in this report as we must keep it within this one page for the sake of mailing, however, if you will come to the Reunion, this is some of the things that you will hear this year.

1. Where in France Lorraine and I went and what we found out.
2. Pictures of the village where the Ariail Family lived back in the 1600-1700, including actual buildings which are that old.
3. Pictures of churches where the Ariail family attended in different villages.
4. Pictures of the grave sites of recently departed Ariail family members.
5. Pictures of Ariail family members who are still living in the same parish and church locale that Jean Baptiste Ariail, his sister, and his parents attended back in the early 1700's.
6. Historical records of the different ways the Ariail family spelled their name. The name is spelled several different ways for the very same person in the same record.
7. Historical records of dozens of different Ariail family members in France.
8. Family lore as to just how many Ariail men originally came to North American and what happened to them. This was told to me by a 93 year old lady who is the wife of a descendent of one of these Ariail men. We will also be honored to have these family members as part of our gathering this year.
9. A book that has been developed that contains all the documents that are mentioned above. Everyone is welcome to stay as long as they wish and look through all the books and documents that we have amassed. We will stay as long as anyone likes and they may even come to our home and continue their research and fellowship if they so desire. There are approximately 30 books now in the Ariail Archives and the amount of data available is absolutely fascinating.
10. The original Ariail Family Bible, listing the birth of the first Ariail children of John Ariail will be on display. This document not only lists their birth, but also the days of the week and hour of the day they were born. No doubt that it is an original document.
11. We have documents listing exactly when and how John and Chloe Ariail came from Connecticut to South Carolina.
12. What John Ariail did for a living after coming from Connecticut and documents specifying exactly where he lived.
13. John Ariail's social status in Connecticut.
14. Many documents pertaining the the family of Manna Rich Ariail in Louisiana.

15. Information pertaining to a town called "RIAILLE" in France. Also a town called Les Railleres. Ariail family members still live in Les Railleres and the place is so small it doesn't even have a store or church. We have picture of this town.

16. You will also be able to see the document about the railroad station "ARIAIL" that once existed just above Easley, S.C.

We continue to meet newly discovered cousins all the time. From California to Texas and everywhere else that you can imagine, we have been privileged to talk with cousins that we never knew before. What a rewarding experience to feel the excitement such encounters generates and to know that the person you are talking with feels the same way. At the reunion this year we expect to have people that are our cousins but we have as yet been unable to establish the exact ancestral designations. Mrs. Arial, the 93 year old lady from South Carolina, that I previously referred to, along with her daughter, were thrilled to talk with me and at this time they fully expect to attend the Reunion this year. Everyone should come and hear what they have to say about the ancient Ariail family.

I am out of space. May God bless you all and hope that everyone can come to the Reunion this year.

James W. Patterson, Historian

Son of Lillie Blanche Ariail