

## **GOWEN RESEARCH FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER**

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### **Lt. James Gowen Served in SC In Revolutionary Dragoons**

James Gowen, identified as a son of William Gowen and Sarah Allan Gowen, by Adeline Evans "Addie" Wynn in "Southern Lineages" was born about 1743, probably in Virginia. Sometime in the early 1750s his parents removed to Granville County, North Carolina. "James Gowen, planter of Granville," received land grants in St. John's Parish of that district in 1761 and 1762.

About 1765 James Gowen was married to Mary "Polly" Keating, believed to be age 15. The marriage apparently took place in Beaufort District in the southern tip of the state. They lived on the Combahee River at a settlement called Combahee Ferry.

John "Buck" Gowen, "brother of James Gowen," accompanied him to Beaufort District, according to the Wynn research which reports:

"The two brothers became land owners in Beaufort District. The last mention of John "Buck" Gowen in the district was in connection with a land grant he received there in November 1772.

"William W. Gowen advised that John "Buck" Gowen removed to Cheraws District before the Revolutionary War and was located on the Upper Pee Dee River."

It is believed that the two were kinsmen, but some doubt is placed on the claim that they were brothers, since James Gowen was not mentioned in the will of William Gowen written March 10, 1785 in Ninety-Six District.

On October 20, 1775 James Gowen appeared as "Third Lieutenant in Capt. Darius Dalton's Company of Volunteer Militia, First Council of Safety of Revolutionary Party, Prince William Parish, Beaufort District," according to "South Carolina Historical Magazine," Volume III, page 82:

"Prince William Parish

20th October 1775

To the Hon'ble Council of Safety  
Charles Town

We whose names are underwritten; having formed ourselves into a Company of Volunteers, either to act as Horsemen or Footmen, in defence of our Liberties & Country, who so loudly calls upon us for so doing; do with due submission--Petition the Hon'ble, the Council of Safety, to grant unto us Commissions for our Officers, which we have chosen by a

Majority of Votes, Vizt: Darius Dalton, Capt; Charles Browne, First Lieut; Joseph Aianger, Second Lieut; & James Gowen, Third Lieut, under the names of the 'Swift & Bold,' for which we shall be thankful."

Among the 54 signatories were Richard Keating and John Keating, believed to be brothers-in-law to James Gowen. The company was commissioned as a "Volunteer Company of Dragoons" October 28, 1775 by the "Council of Safety, Charles Town." Capt. Charles Browne, who apparently succeeded Darius Dalton, endorsed the commissions as company commander. The dragoons were a light cavalry unit armed with a short musket called "the dragon" and were very efficient in the guerilla warfare of South Carolina.

After the Revolutionary War James Gowen remained in Beaufort District and became a successful businessman. His wife, apparently a very liberated woman for the time, also went into business for herself as a storekeeper. James Gowen took the precaution to declare in the District's legal records that he would not be responsible "for any act or obligation" that his wife might undertake in connection with her store.

The State of South Carolina issued a stub indent to "Mr. James Gowen for 9 pounds, 5 shillings and a penny sterling for forage and rations for Continentals, State Troops and Militia in 1779, 1781 and 1782," according to the research of Mary Alice Seyle, G.R.S. of Greenville, South Carolina. "James Gowan" was qualified as a petit juror in 1783 in Beaufort District, according to "South Carolina Jury Lists, 1718-1783" by Mary Bondurant Warren.

On June 29, 1785 James Gowen and Mary "Polly" Keating Gowen "of Combahee" and Richard Keating signed a contract. For a consideration of five shillings paid to James Gowen by Richard Keating "the said James Gowen agreeing not to interfere with his wife's business, but that he, his heirs or executors shall not be liable for any debt or debts which the said Mary Gowen shall, or may hereafter, contract in carrying out her sole, separate trade." To reciprocate James Gowen gave his bond to Richard Keating "in trust to and for the said Mary Gowen in the penal sum of œ200 sterling." The agreement was witnessed by James Lunsden and Susanna Donovan, and it was acknowledged in Charleston June 19, 1785 and recorded November 18, 1785 in Charleston Mixed Record Book, page 20.

Apparently Mary Keating Gowen owned a store at New Market, South Carolina and a nearby "Haymarket Tavern." The properties were mentioned in 1804 in the estate settlement of William Gowen, son of Maj. John "Buck" Gowen of Greenville and Spartanburg Counties. William Gowen and Mary Keating Gowen owned the properties jointly.

James Gowen was not listed as the head of a household in the "Heads of Families, South Carolina, 1790." He was enu-

merated in the 1800 census of Beaufort District, page 100 as "James Gowen, white male over 45" living alone. Apparently he died before May 16, 1804, the date of the settlement of the estate of his nephew William Gowen, because the estate account showed that \$100 was paid on an account due to "the widow, Polly Gowen, Combahee."

"Mary Gowan" was enumerated as the head of a household, located near that of her eldest son in the 1810 of Beaufort District, page 123. The family was composed of "a white female over 45, a white female 16-26, a white female 10-16 and a white female 0-10."

A grave located in Sheldon Churchyard, Granville County, [later renamed Beaufort County] South Carolina is possibly that of Mary Keating Gowen. Engraved on the tombstone is "Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Mary Gowen who departed this life December 24, 1813, age 63 years," according to "South Carolina Historical Magazine," Volume 18. The publication places the churchyard "on the road from Port Royal Ferry to Purysburg."

Children born to them are believed to include:

William Keating Gowen	born about 1765
James Gowen, Jr.	born about 1767
Mary Gowen, Jr.	born about 1770

William Keating Gowen, son of James Gowen and Mary "Polly" Keating Gowen, was born about 1765, probably at Combahee Ferry.

About 1798 William Keating Gowen was married to Mary Harrison, a daughter of John Harrison and Elizabeth Harrison. "William Gowen" was enumerated as the head of a household in Prince Williams Parish in the 1800 census of Beaufort District. The household also included "two females, ages 25-45 and five slaves." John Harrison appeared in a consecutive entry in the census which also included the parishes of St. Peters and St. Lukes.

John Harrison died during the first decade of the 1800s, and Elizabeth Harrison, a widow, was enumerated as the head of a household in the 1810 census of Prince William Parish of Beaufort District, page 122 with 23 slaves, according to Hazel Dean Overstreet a descendant of Odum, Georgia.

William Keating Gowen appeared as the head of a household in the 1810 census with 21 slaves, page 277. White members of the family were enumerated as "Gowan, Wm. K, white male 26-45, white female 26-45, white female 10-16 and three white males 0-10."

St. Peters Parish in the 1800 census also included a James Gowen household, believed to be that of James Gowen, Jr.

In 1820 William Keating Gowen and Mary Harrison Gowen died, both on the same day! This information is revealed in a letter written by Mary A. "Mollie" Gowen Wingfield of Rome, Georgia July 29, 1941 to Adeline Evans "Addie" Wynn. Cause of death was not revealed. Perhaps the graves of William Keating Gowen and Mary Harrison Gowen can be located in the vicinity of Beaufort. Combahee Ferry is no longer on the maps of the state, but it is believed to have lain on the Combahee River near where U. S. 17 crosses the Combahee River about 20 miles north of Beaufort.

Four children were born to William Keating Gowen and Mary Harrison Gowen:

Ann Gowen	born in 1802
William W. Gowen	born in 1803
Barney B. Gowen	born in 1809
James Gowen	born about 1810

Their daughter, Ann Gowen was married to Joseph Hazel and remained in South Carolina. Their three sons removed to Georgia and were progenitors of the wide-spread Gowen family of the state.

James Gowen, son of James Gowen and Mary "Polly" Keating Gowen, was born about 1767 at Combahee Ferry in Beaufort District, South Carolina. He appeared in the 1800 census of Beaufort District as "single, white male, 26-46." He had accumulated 14 slaves. He was enumerated near the residence of William Keating Gowen and the Harrisons in Prince Williams Parish.

Mary Gowen, Jr, daughter of James Gowen and Mary Keating Gowen, was born about 1770. Of this individual nothing more is known.

### **Basil Goins Finally Won Land In Georgia's Last Lottery**

**Prepared from data researched  
By Carrie M. McGee  
Foundation Editorial Boardmember  
1303 6th Avenue, Jasper, Alabama, 35501**

Basil Goins was born in Virginia about 1780. It is believed that he was married about 1804, wife's name, Betsy. After the War of 1812, they removed to Hall County, Georgia in the hope of receiving free land. They apparently became estranged there about 1828.

"Basil Gowen" was married to Manerva Brown in Upson County, Georgia March 7, 1830. "Basdal Goin," was listed as the head of a household in the 1830 census of Hall County composed of a "white male 40-50; a white female, 15-20 and a white female 0-5."

Betsy Goin was also listed as the head of a household in the 1830 census of Hall County, composed of a "white female 40-50, a white male 30-40, two white males 15-20, a white male 15-20 and a white male 10-15," according to "Index to 1830 Georgia Census," page 117.

Nearby were enumerated two Goin households, believed to be those of her sons, "John Goin, white male, age 20-30 page 92," and "William Goin, white male, age 20-30, page 104."

"Basil Going, William Going and the orphans of Sherwood Going" were successful in the Georgia gold land lottery of 1832 which was the final lottery held in the state. Basil Goins finally had good fortune on the last chance.

Georgia had used its land since 1784 as an inducement for settlers. In 1803 legislation provided for the lottery to continue to be used in distributing free land to its 162,000 citizens.

White male inhabitants of the state who had reached the age of 21 and who were citizens of the United States and residents of Georgia were entitled to one draw. A man with wife and children was entitled to two draws, as well as widows who were heads of households. The lottery system was used to distribute more than 30,000,000 acres west of the Oconee River. More than 100,000 fortunate individuals and families benefited from the seven lotteries held between 1803 and 1832. By that time, the state's population had quadrupled; a tremendous buffer against the Indians had been created.

Children born to Basil Goins and Betsy Goins include:

Albert Goins	born about 1805
William Goins	born about 1806
John Goins	born about 1808
J. Bazzil Goins	born about 1810
Washington Joshua Goins	born August 13, 1813
Jefferson Goins	born August 13, 1813

**By Fredrick M. Tucker**  
**Foundation Editorial Boardmember**  
**Box 214, Duncan, SC, 29334**

Descendants of Thomas Baxter Going [1806-1896] gathered recently to dedicate a grave marker to his memory. He, a Union County, South Carolina native, removed to Alabama in 1870. He became, quite late in life, an itinerant preacher and a teacher in a private school near Walnut Grove, Alabama.

Almost 95 years after his death, these descendants assembled for a graveside ceremony, dedicating the newly purchased grave marker for him and his unmarried daughter, Eunice. They never had a marker in all those years. The dedication

took place at Harmony Missionary Baptist Church, Blount County.

As with all families, Baxter's grandchildren's descendants had grown apart, so most of these people were meeting for the very first time. Furthermore, their distant cousins, namely my parents and I from South Carolina, also attended, but are not pictured because we are descended from Baxter's brother William George Washington [1824-1915.] This was the first time these two brothers' lines had met in 100 years.

Thomas Baxter Going, son of Isaac Going and Rebecca Palmer Going, was born May 13, 1806 in Union District, South Carolina.. He was married February 20, 1825 to Elizabeth Vinson. She was born February 4, 1804 in Union District. "Baxter Goings, teacher and farmer" was listed as the head of a household in the 1840 census of Union County, page 211, adjoining his brother "Drury Goings" and near "Nancy Goings," "John Goings" and his father "Isaac Goings, Esquire."

In 1855 Thomas Baxter Going was "acting deacon and clerk" of the Baptist Church, according to a letter written by his father. "Baxter Going" was enumerated as the head of a household in the 1860 census of Union County, page 226.

Elizabeth Vinson Going died there July 18, 1865, and he removed to Alabama. Thomas Baxter Going wrote a letter to his brother, William George Washington Going March 16, 1879:

"Walnut Grove, Etowah County, Ala.

March 16, 1879

Dear Brother,

By the Divine Providence of God, I am again permitted to write to you in answer of yours and also to send your request. We are today enjoying common health and also Dabbs and Inman are well as far as I know. We have had a very cold, wet winter with heavy freezes, but little snow. Gentle spring has come in with mild and pleasant weather. The farmers are busy engaged in preparing for another crop. There will be more guano used this year than has been any year previous.

According to your request, I with pleasure send you a true list of ages as recorded in Father's Bible. I will begin with father and mother's. Isaac Going was born 28th day of April, 1775. Mother, Rebecca Palmer was born 1st day of February 1789 and was married the 21st day of August 1804. Father was baptized in the May meeting of the Pacolet Church in 1803, and also the same year joined the Masonic fraternity.

The death of Father and Mother stands recorded thus----  
Rebecca Going departed this life the first day of August 1855,

aged 66 years and 6 months. Isaac Going departed this life the 27th day of January 1861, aged 85 years and 9 months and one day.

Our Grandfather, Drury Going departed this life the 22nd day of February 1796 in the 47th year of his age. He died on the road coming home from Charleston with his wagon and team. He lacked 3 days drive of reaching home when he died. He was hauled home and buried at home. Grandmother Sarah Going departed this life 22nd day of April 1820 in the 69th year of her age.

In looking over I find the date of Elisha P. Going's death as 16th day of July 1864 by a cannon ball near Fussels Mill in the New Market fight, Henry County, Va. Now, dear brother, you can record the dates I have given you in your large family Bible so that your children and grandchildren may hand down their fore father's posterity. The Going is of Irish, [and Palmer] on Mother's side English and Dutch.

I was pleased to hear of the well doing of your children. I have not heard a word about Eva. Is she dead? Eunice sent her likeness to her. Eunice says she would like to enjoy Eva's company again. I am getting old and feeble near 73 years old. I have not had good health since last July. When I feel able, I go out and work a little. I feel better with exercise. I gain, but the least cold throws me back.

I am what is called a Licentiate Preacher. I don't go about much, but if it is the Lord's will, when the weather becomes warm I wish to visit the churches around. Religion is at a very low ebb at this time owing to so many divisions of profession--three kinds of Baptists, Missionary, Primitive or commonly called Hard Shells. Two years ago they divided and called it The Church of Christ being wonderfully opposed to all benevolent institutions of the day, especially the Masonic fraternity and Sabbath Schools. Their chief doctrine is that of Election and reprobation and non-fellowship with all who do not coincide with their Views. There are two kinds of Methodists--North and South. They divided during the war--they have no fellowship with each other. Then there are the Seventh Day Adventists and Soul Sleeping Baptists. I could not give a full history of their doctrines in the space I have to write. They make proselytes owing to the unlearned and unread of many of the people. I hope you and all the boys that have grown up have made to rejoice in Jesus Christ the Savior. Let us pray for each other as all are dead of father's family that if we never meet again, we will try to meet together with our friends in Heaven.

Farewell,  
Thomas B. Going

To W.G.W. Going and children

Pictured at right are descendants of Thomas Baxter Going. Kneeling, left to right: Elizabeth Greene, Earlene Taylor and Bandaline Wood. Standing: Marion Shelton, Etrulia Pritchett, Ruth Pankey, Talmadge Hambey, Edna Earl Hambey, Travis Hambey, Irene Pate, J. B. Going, Ruth Wooten, Essie Oswald, Ervin Joiner and Terry Jackson.

Photo courtesy of Fredrick M. Tucker.

## DEAR COUSINS LETTER COLUMN

News of the Foundation's Research Conference and Family Reunion at the Doubletree Hotel in Houston May 30-31, 1994 in Houston certainly is exciting news! This is long overdue for our family. I certainly plan to be there!

It will be fun to meet in person all those family members we have corresponded with for years. Houston sounds like a great convention town with all of the fun things they have lined up for us. Donna Gowin Johnston, 1513 Westridge Terrace, Casper, Wyoming, 82604.

==Dear Cousins==

Many thanks to you for a great family newsletter. If not for the Newsletter, I may never have met Ruth Johnson and John and Evelyn Orr. I will never forget the day I spent with them on Newman's Ridge, tracking all those Melungeons. Evelyn is to be commended for the great job she is doing as head of the Melungeon Research Team. I sure hope I have not seen the last of these Melungeons; they are the finest people I have ever met. Thanks again, Jack Goins, Route 2, Rogersville, TN, 37857.

==Dear Cousins==

I found the address of the Foundation in "Genealogical Helper." I am searching for the parents and siblings of Hannah Gowen who was married in 1806 at Wilmington, MA to John Stiles, Jr. He was born in 1786 in Lyndeborough, NH. His family originally came from Boxford, MA. He died in 1845 in Winhall or Brattleboro, VT. I have no dates of birth or death for Hannah Gowen Stiles. Can anyone help me? Cheryl Koopman, 2639 Ome Ave, Dayton, OH, 45414.

### **Your Participation is Invited . . .**

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If you wish to participate in the Foundation, you may clip or reproduce the membership form below. Indicate the type of membership you prefer and Linda McNeil, Foundation Secretary, will issue your membership card. As a Bonus for your Membership, the back issues of the Newsletter missing from your files, will be sent at no charge, as long as supplies last.

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Gowen Research Foundation Newsletter  
Arlee Gowen, Editor  
Linda McNeil, Circulation

**Membership Application**

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