

TA-1373

**FROM ROME TO
RUCKERSVILLE—
OUR WANSLEY
HISTORY**

SECOND EDITION—ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**

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CLAUDE HILL WANSLEY
Born December 24, 1902
in Tignall, Wilkes County, Georgia

Claude is the youngest of 14 children born to Augustus (Gus) Wansley, Sr., and Fannie Dennard Wansley. Claude has been heard to say his fifth year was quite traumatic, as they weaned him, cut off his long blonde curls and started him to school. He attended school at Tignall and Athens Business College at Athens, Georgia. After he finished his business course, he worked with his brother, Gus, Jr., in Salisbury, North Carolina, who had the distributorship for Atlantic Refining Company. In the early '20's when the Florida "Boom" started, he decided that was the place to be, and he moved to Florida and began "dabbling" in real estate, where he enjoyed a degree of success until the storm in 1926 when the "Boom" really came to an end. In early 1927 he left Florida and went to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he worked with the Pittsburgh newspaper and radio stations selling advertising. He worked and studied hard, learning all phases of the newspaper business, and later worked with the St. Louis Star and Times and the Houston Chronicle; he was with the Chronicle for about five years as their special promotional manager. It was while on this job that he became interested in the oil business and began making small investments in it. In 1938 he gave up his newspaper work and devoted all his time to the oil business.

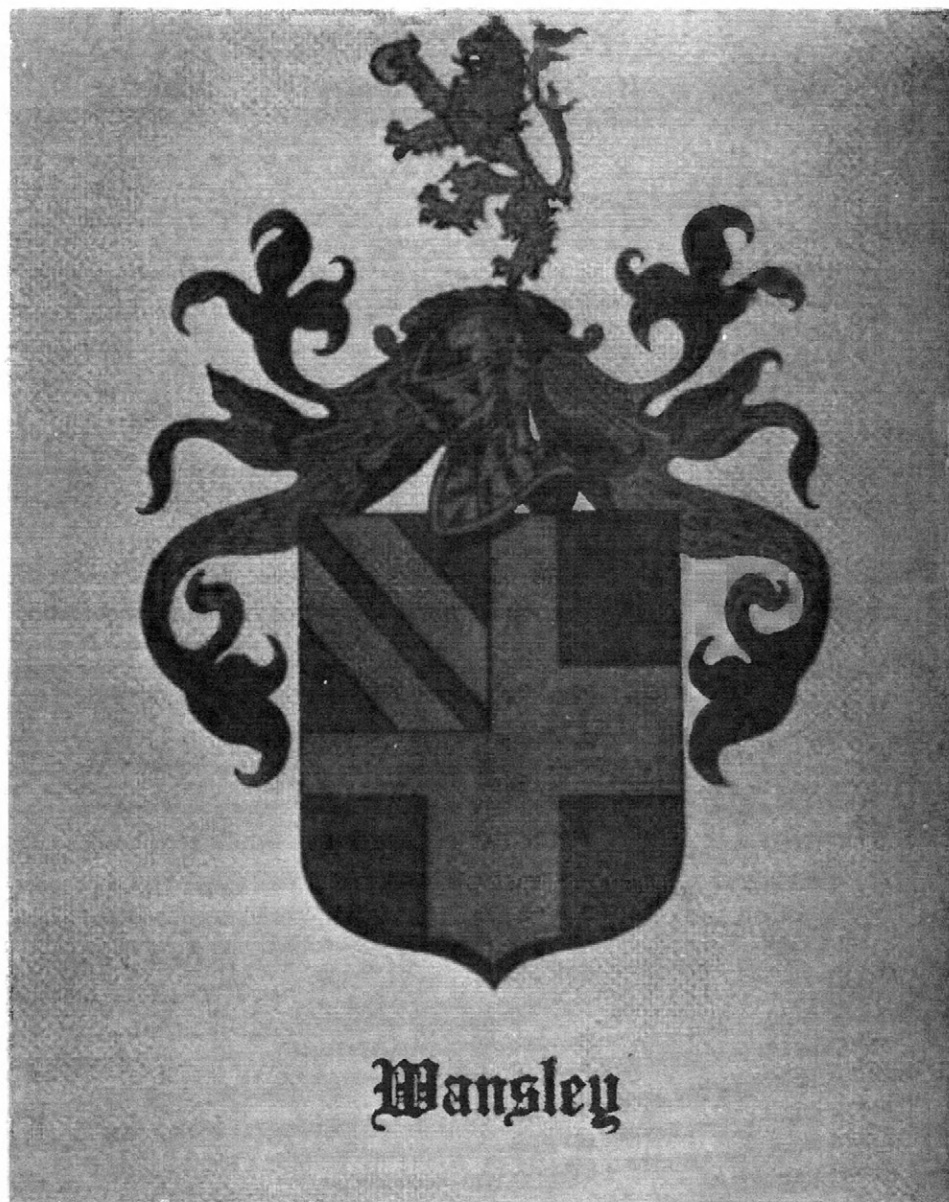
On December 27, 1938 Claude married Pearle McCann of Sarepta, Louisiana, who was working for Rohs Oil Company of Houston, Texas. They continued to live in Houston until January 1940 when they moved to Jackson, Mississippi. The first oil field in Mississippi was discovered in August 1939 and that seemed to be where the action was and the place to be.

In June of 1943 the Eucutta Field in Wayne County, Mississippi was discovered, and they moved to Laurel, Mississippi to be closer to the action; therefore, was on the ground when the first sand was cored in the Heidelberg Field in Jasper County, Mississippi. Claude worked hard to learn all phases of the oil business and is now enjoying the results of his work--as he has enjoyed some success in his Mississippi and Alabama investments.

Claude is an avid reader, and enjoys all phases of sports, especially fishing, and dove and quail hunting. He and Pearle both enjoy a good horse race, and have been regular visitors to the Kentucky Derby for a number of years. He also enjoys a good gin rummy game with his buddies. He is a member of the Patio Club and the Capitol City Petroleum Club. They have lived in Jackson since 1953 and are members of the First Christian Church.



Note: Claude H. Wansley is underwriting the finances for printing this book, From Rome to Ruckersville - Our Wansley History, by Frank N. Wansley (1975).



HERALDIC DESCRIPTION WANSLEY COAT-OF-ARMS

Origin - English. Arms - Gules, the Cross of Saint George, or, on a dexter quarter of the field, two bandlets in the second. Crest - A lion rampant, holding in the dexter paw, a hurt. Saint George, who "slew the dragon" in the second century, is a patron saint of England, a painting of him, on a plunging white horse, spearing the dragon, by the famous painter, Raphael, hangs in the Mellon Collection in the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. The Order of The Garter, England's highest order of Knighthood, was founded by King Edward III, he formally instituted it on Saint Georges Day, April 23, 1350, in honor of the Holy Trinity, the Virgin Mary, Saint Edward the Confessor, and Saint George. The last named, the patron Saint of England, is the especial patron of the Order, and from him it takes its alternative title, "The Order of Saint George", which is not so commonly used, the motto of the Order is: Honi soit qui mal y pense" (Shame on him who thinks evil of it).

One of America's leading genealogists told me due to our Coat-of-Arms being the Cross of Saint George, we are entitled to membership in this Order. As a "descendant", I received a written invitation to join the Friends of Saint George's Chapel and Descendants of The Knights of The Garter - Windsor Castle. Naturally, I declined this invitation, knowing I would feel like a hog in Sunday School.



PRIVATE IN MAJOR FREEMAN'S CAVALRY, GA-MILITIA-WAR OF 1812
 MONUMENT AT ENTRANCE OF WANSLEY FAMILY ANCESTRAL BURIAL PLOT
 ON WEST SIDE OF GEORGIA STATE ROUTE 368,
 NEAR COLDWATER CREEK BRIDGE, ELBERT COUNTY, GEORGIA



LOCATED IN WANSLEY FAMILY ANCESTRAL BURIAL PLOT
 ERECTED BY THEIR ROWZEE DESCENDANTS OF DECATUR, MISS. 1973

Cemetary, Elbert County, Georgia. His widow, Sara Wansley Beck, moved to Murray County where she died at the age of 93 and was buried in the Beck's cemetary in this county. She was a remarkable and unusual woman judging from all the stories that are told about her. She was very small in stature, so much so that she was called "The Little Grandmother." I presume it is true that on the day she was 90 years of age she ordered her horse saddled and rode two miles to have her birthday dinner with her favorite grandson, John Beck.

Her son, Major William Beck, was born in the year 1800 and died November 14, 1877 in this county. He was married to Ann Lucas Welch. One of their daughters, Lucy, was married to John W. Evans prior to the Civil War, he at the time being an attorney at Bainbridge, Georgia. He entered the Civil War in March 1861 as Captain of Company C, first Georgia Infantry and was commissioned as Colonel of the 64th Georgia Regiment in 1863, and was killed in the battle of the Crater, July 1864, at Petersburg, Virginia. He left one son and five daughters whose mother had died between the time he entered the army and the time he was killed.

One of his daughters, Sara Evans, married Captain William R. Davis and became the mother of my wife. Captain Davis was a successful businessman and died in this county in 1908. His widow who is 83 years of age is a typical old Southern Aristocratic woman and worthy to be a descendant of her Revolutionary ancestors. She now lives at Eton, Georgia (deceased 1974, F.N.W.).

Sara Wansley Beck was the daughter, niece and widow of Revolutionary soldiers. It is said the Governor John Milledge Chapter of the D.A.R. placed a Revolutionary Patriot's marker over her grave, an honor accorded very few women. This marker, with all the other marked graves in the Beck Family cemetary, near Eton, Murray County, Georgia, has been completely destroyed by vandals.

At the time of his death in 1824, John Beck had 1500 acres of land in Elbert County, Georgia, in what is now Ruckersville Militia District, described in Elbert County deed records as bounded on the North by Little Vans Creek and on the South by Beaverdam Creek.

After his death it was purchased by Gardner and Arnold, of Elberton, Georgia.

The home of their son, Reuben C. Beck, probably on this 1500 acre tract, was called Woodlawn, the schoolhouse and church nearby, now abandoned, got its name from the Beck home. This home burned several years ago. The property is now owned by Mrs. J. Hal Rucker.

A Beck descendant, Mrs. J. M. Yoakum, of 1712 Argentia, Apt. C., Dallas, Texas, gives her line as follows:

John Wansley - Amelia Barber
 Sarah Wansley - John Beck
 William Andrew Beck - Ann Lucas Welch
 Reuben Thomas Beck - Adeline Virginia Stanford
 James Henry Beck - Lula Edna Beck

This will of Patrick Barber, father of Amelia Barber Wansley, is recorded in Ulster County, New York Probate Records. Note: No mention is made of daughter, Amelia, or any Wansley grandchildren.

Page 254.—BARBER, PATRICK, of Montgomery.

Will dated Sept. 22, 1791.

"To my beloved wife *Jane Barber* £10 yearly," "with the use of a Bed Room wherein is a small Fire place and convenient firewood, with sufficient meat and Drink during her natural Life. Also the Best Bed and Furniture for the same Also the best Horse, and all the Woollen and Linens unmade up and likewise any other Furniture that she shall choose" "a corner Cupboard, Loom, Franklins Stove and a wheat Mill excepted, which I bequeath to my son *John Barber*" he "shall have the use, possession and benefit of the Farm whereon I now live during my Wifes natural life, he paying the above mentioned sum of £10 yearly."—"To my son

Joseph Barber the Monies arising from four Bonds that is now in my possession, Viz. two against *James McClaughry*, Conditioned for £36.12 each, one against *Samuel Miller* conditioned for £40 and one Note against *Col. John Nicholson* conditioned for £50 with the interest thereon."—"To my Daughter *Margaret Davidson* the money arising from a Bond I have against *Henry Neely* conditioned for £20."—"My Negro man named *York* (to) be set free the first day of May after my decease, and that my Executors give him a Suit of my every day Clothes. The Residue of my wearing apparel, I will and order my Wife to dispose of as she shall think proper." Residue to be sold "at publick Vendue." 1/3 thereof to wife, the other 2/3 divided in five shares, of which to" *Margaret John, William and Joseph Barber* 1/5 each; the other fifth "to the Children of my deceased son *Francis Barber*. "At death of wife "the Farm that I now live on to my son *John Barber* with all the Right Title and appurtenances" "he first paying to *Margaret Davidson* or her Children" "£60 one year after decease of my wife Clear of Interest. Also the sum of £60 to the Children of my son *Francis Barber* deceased, at the end of two years after my Wifes decease", "£60 to my son *Joseph Barber*" after three years," "£60 to my son *William Barber*" after four years," "£60 to be retained in his (my said son *John Barbers*) Hands for the use of his Children."—"If my son *John* should happen to die before my wife, the Estate shall be sold, and the money divided.

The sons appointed executors. Signed by the testator.

JOSEPH BURROUGH
JAMES HOUSTEN JUNR.
SAMUEL HOUSTON

(Oct. 24, 1791, *Joseph Burrough*, blacksmith, appeared before the Surrogate, proving the will, and signatures of the other witnesses.—Adm. granted to *John and William Barber*, executors.)

Original will in box 3; red seal with impression of a 'wyborn.'

County. His former neighbors from Virginia hauled cotton across the Savannah River from South Carolina to his gin via Zachariah Bowman's Ferry. John McGowan also had a ferry here in 1820.

The 1818 Elbert Superior Court records show at the April term John Beck was presented to the Grand Jury for "keeping his door open on the Sabbath day for the purpose of trading with Negroes."

By 1799, John and Sara Beck had "gotten rich" to the extent of earning her father's forgiveness, also enough to persuade him to come to Elbert County, all the other children coming with him. The following "deed" shows him selling out to settle on Big Coldwater Creek. His relation to Nathaniel Wansley, the grantee of this deed is unknown. It is interesting to note the name is spelled Wansley ten times in this conveyance:

Amelia Barber's aunt, Elizabeth Barber, married Lord John Egerton, of Tatton Park, Chester, Cheshire, England. Legend says their ship went down on a return voyage to England.

Amelia Wansley is supposed to have died before John Wansley, Sr. left Albemarle County, Virginia. She is probably buried there. No mention is made of a wife in John Wansley's will. Many of Amelia's family are buried in Goodwill Churchyard, Montgomery, Orange County, New York.

John Wansley, Sr. Line

John Wansley, Sr., eloped with Amelia Barber, of Princeton, New Jersey, circa 1763.

Sara Wansley married John Beck in Albemarle County, Virginia, June 5, 1784 (oldest child)

Nancy Wansley married first, John Perry Patterson, second -- Young.

Elizabeth Wansley married Abraham Elliot, August 28, 1790.

Nathan Wansley married first, Suzanna Watts, second, Elizabeth Cleveland.

John Wansley, Jr., married Sally Greenway, Elbert County, Georgia, March 14, 1810 - divorced

Reuben Wansley married Elizabeth Cunningham (my great-great grandparents, F.N.W.).

Millie Wansley married Samuel Jenkins, Elbert County, Georgia.

Larkin Wansley never married.

Patsy (Martha) Wansley married Benjamin Davis, Jr., Elbert County, Georgia, May 10, 1810.

Thomas Jefferson Wansley married Jemima Means, Elbert County, Georgia, April 15, 1810. (Youngest child)

A daughter, Matilda, is said to have married Major Luke Holder of Kentucky.

Thus far, no descendants of Nancy Young, Elizabeth Elliot and John Wansley, Jr., have been found. John Wansley, Jr. divorced his wife, Sally Greenway. It is known they had children.

Ruby Jewel Beck - William Edwin Krueger
 Shirley Joan Krueger - James Milton Yoakum.

Other Beck descendants: Mrs. John Field Simons, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Drs. W. F., Earl, and Garnet Quillian, Atlanta, Georgia; Dr. Lee Henry, dentist, Augusta, Georgia; Judge John B. Gamble, Athens, Georgia, Kimbroughs of Griffin, Georgia; Mobleys and Williams; Mrs. Marjorie McCauley, Decatur, Georgia.

John and Sara Wansley Beck Line

The following data on the Beck Line was furnished me by a Beck descendant, Mrs. A. K. (Eva Furr) Gregory, wife of Dr. A. K. Gregory, retired dentist, of Dalton, Georgia. Much Beck data were also furnished by Mrs. Wray (Doris Steed) Smith, of Sparta, Georgia, a descendant of William Andrew and Ann Lucas Welch Beck. Mrs. Olaf (Katherine Wansley Wilson) Otto, of Savannah, Georgia, a descendant of Benjamin, Jr., and Martha Wansley Davis also furnished much Davis and Beck data. A Gargantuan "thank you" to all of them.

John Beck, 9th Virginia Regiment, Continental Line, Woods History of Albemarle County, Virginia, page 357 - John Beck, ensign, 31, October 1778, 9th Virginia Regiment; Col. Wm. H. Powell, Heitman, page 24. Officers entitled to half pay, Item page 414. John Beck, Ensign in detached service, promoted to Lieutenant, March 1, 1780, Col. John Gibson. Detachment Western Department, January 1, 1780, to December 6, 1871, when he surrendered the command to Brig. Gen. Wm. Irvine. (Note: John Beck was promoted to Captain before discharge) F.N.W.

Wansley

See page 294, Virginia Militia in the Revolution, by McAlister.

John Wansley aged 97 in 1835, born 1738.

John Beck married Sara Wansley in Albemarle County, Virginia, June 5, 1784. (This was recorded in their family Bible) F.N.W.

Children, page 127

William Andrew, born 1800, married Ann Lucas Welch, May 30, 1820.

Reuben C., born

Mildred Whitten, married first Beverly Allen, Jr., second Frederick Gray.

Matilda married John Henderson, January 29, 1805, died September 11, 1820.

Matilda married second William Whitfield, June 9, 1822. Matilda was born February 23, 1790.

Nancy married Benjamin Henry, August 11, 1816.

Lucy married William Henry, June 7, 1821.

Mary A. Henderson married Thomas J. Shepherd, December 31, 1830.

(Georgia collection 279, page 311R. 284 vol. 3, 299.

William Andrew and Ann Lucas Welch children

John Welch Beck, born September 6, 1822, married Margery Linda Stuart, November 24, 1827.

William married Jane McEntire.

Henry died in Virginia during the War

Eugenia, born 1821, married Charles Napoleon Bonaparte Carter.

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