



# COLUMNS

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## 2014 Excellence-in-Writing Competition

There's still time to enter this year's Excellence-in-Writing Competition. **The deadline for entries is 15 June 2014.** Entry forms, rules, and guidelines can be found on the ISFHWE website at <http://www.isfhwe.org> and the ISFHWE MyFamily website at [MyFamily.com](http://MyFamily.com).

## Is Your Individual ISFHWE Web Page Up to Date?

All members have an individual member page on the ISFHWE website. Have you completed yours? Have you kept it up to date? Your individual web page is a great way to publicize your writing services and accomplishments. Your individual member page is just one of the benefits of ISFHWE membership. Are you taking advantage of it? See page 29 for guidelines for updating your page.

## ISFHWE Member Publication Promotion Project

ISFHWE members who are interested in participating in the Member Publication Promotion Project at the FGS Conference in San Antonio, Texas, have until **1 August 2014** to submit their publications.

Any ISFHWE member who has written, edited, or published a book is welcome to participate in the project. Participation is not limited to books that were published within the past year, and a member may include up to three different books in any one conference. The application form is in the members' corner of the ISFHWE website (<http://www.isfhwe.org>) and in the File Cabinet on the ISFHWE MyFamily.com website, or you may contact [treasurer@isfhwe.org](mailto:treasurer@isfhwe.org) for more information.

## Calling All Bloggers

We are compiling a list of ISFHWE members who are bloggers. If you are a current ISFHWE member and write a blog, please send your name, the URL to your blog, and a 25-30 word description of the blog to [editor@isfhwe.com](mailto:editor@isfhwe.com). This annotated blogger list will be made available at the ISFHWE booth during the FGS Conference in San Antonio, Texas, in August.

**Please send your blog information no later than Thursday, 12 June 2014, to [editor@isfhwe.com](mailto:editor@isfhwe.com).** This is a great opportunity for some free advertising for you and your blog.





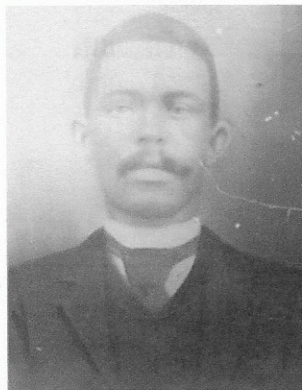
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## Searching for the Slave Owners of Isaac Garrett: Expanding Research Beyond Online Sources

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By LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson, JD\*

*Online sources can save time and reduce expenses; however, a thorough analysis requires the family historian to expand the search beyond what is available on the Internet.*



ISAAC GARRETT  
1835–8 June 1911<sup>1</sup>

When a Planter named Jesse Garrett died at his home in Laurens District, South Carolina on 27 September 1853,<sup>2</sup> he left a will that named “Isaac” among eight other slaves.<sup>3</sup> Both a report of Jesse Garrett’s death and a copy of his will can be found on the internet, but these sources are not sufficient, to answer the question whether Jesse Garrett was the slave owner of the Black man named “Isaac Garrett” who was listed as head of a household in the first census for Laurens County, South Carolina that included the names of former slaves.<sup>4</sup>

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©LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson, JD, LLM, recently retired as a tax lawyer and has now turned her attention to pursuing a genealogical education. She is the great-great-granddaughter of Isaac Garrett, and has (privately) published several editions of her family history. She has also served as the editor and principal writer of two Baptist Church histories that tell the stories of the organizers.


<sup>1</sup> This photograph, scanned from a large photograph taken probably around 1890, is in the custody of the author’s aunt [name withheld for privacy].

<sup>2</sup> Edith Greisser transcribed microfilm belonging to the Caroliniana Library of page 2 of the 7 October 1853 edition of the Laurensville Herald, including a report that Jesse Garrett, “87 years and 20 days old died at his home in Laurens District on September 27, 1853.” *Genealogy Trails*, “Laurens County, South Carolina News Laurensville Herald, 1853,” database, (<http://www.genealogytrails.com/scar/laurens> : accessed 12 June 2013).

<sup>3</sup> South Carolina, “Will Transcripts 1782-1855,” database, *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (<http://www.archives> <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/> : accessed 18 April 2013), entry for Jesse Garrett, 1853, citing series S108093, microcopy No 9.

<sup>4</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, population schedule, Laurens Post Office, p. 11 (penned), dwelling 8, family 8, Isaac Garrett household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 January 2013; citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1501).





Only one Black man named Isaac Garrett has been located in the 1870 U.S. census for Laurens County, South Carolina; however, no record has been discovered that provides a direct link between that individual and the Isaac listed in Jesse Garrett's will. It would be impossible to find support for the theory that Jesse Garrett was Isaac Garrett's slave owner without the correlation of evidence from multiple sources, not all of which have been published online. For the sake of clarity, Jesse Garrett's slave will be referred to herein as "Isaac" or "Ike," and the freed man located in the 1870 U.S. census will be referenced as "Isaac or Ike Garrett."

As observed by the author of a research guide to South Carolina: "Few black families from elsewhere sought residence in South Carolina. It is reasonable to proceed on the premise that if an African American family was in South Carolina in the 1940s or earlier; they were probably in South Carolina at the time of emancipation."<sup>5</sup> This rule of thumb is particularly likely to hold true in the case of a Black man who was living in Laurens County, South Carolina just after emancipation, because that county was known for both the "home staying proclivities" of its people and "a nationally discussed [race] riot in 1870..."<sup>6</sup> Indeed, "of the 42,094 people in the county only 37 were not native born in 1930."<sup>7</sup>

It is possible of course that Isaac Garrett was a free man of color before slavery was abolished; however, the author has not discovered any census record, deed of manumission, or other evidence of a free man by that name in Laurens County, South Carolina.<sup>8</sup> Thus, it is reasonable to operate on the premise that Isaac Garrett did not relocate to Laurens County but lived there as a slave during the antebellum period.

#### JESSE GARRETT'S ESTATE FILE

Jesse Garrett's 1847 will refers to relationships between 4 other slaves: "Sam & his Wife Hannah, Sarah & her Son Henry."<sup>9</sup> This list ends with "Elizabeth & Isaac," without specifying a relationship between the two or otherwise describing Isaac.<sup>10</sup> Additional information about Isaac can be gleaned, however, from loose papers included in the files of the Laurens County Probate Court. First, there is an 1853 appraisal of Jesse Garrett's estate that describes a "Negro" "boy" named "Ike" valued at \$1,000.<sup>11</sup> With the exception of the use of the familiar form

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<sup>5</sup> Janis Walker Gilmore, *NGS Research in the States Series: South Carolina*, (Arlington: National Genealogical Society 2011), 19.

<sup>6</sup> South Carolina Writers' Project, *South Carolina*, (Oxford University Press 1941) 383-384.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> See, e.g., Margaret Peckham Motes, *Free Blacks and Mulattos in South Carolina 1850 Census*, (Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield Company, Inc. by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 2000).

<sup>9</sup> Laurens County, South Carolina, Will Book A, Will of Jesse Garrett, dated 22 September 1847, proved 3 October 1853 page 161, Bundle 132, Pkg. 10, viewed microfilm file on 21 November 2012.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> Laurens County, South Carolina, Probate Court, Bundle 132, Pkg. 10 (1853), "Inventory and Appraise Bill of the Estate of Jesse Garrett, 24 May 1952," viewed microfilm file on 21 November 2012.





“Betsey” to refer to “Elizabeth, The other slaves named in this document match those listed in the will.<sup>12</sup> Similarly, it is reasonable to assume that the nickname “Ike” refers to Isaac. This same document refers to a “child” named Henry who was valued at \$200, a “man” named Martin, also valued at \$1,000, and another man named Sam valued at \$375. (As explained below, Sam’s valuation can be explained by his relatively advanced age in 1852.) The disparity in valuation between the child named Henry and the boy named Ike, as well as the similar values assigned to both Ike and the man named Martin, suggests that Ike may have somewhere between a “boy” and a “man.”

A second loose paper lists the sale of assets out of Jesse Garrett’s estate. This document identifies W.H. Langston as the payor of \$1,180 for “1 Negro boy Isaac,”<sup>13</sup> again suggesting the relative youth of this slave. One candidate for the identity of Isaacs’s purchaser was William H. Langston, who owned 300 acres of improved land in Laurens County, South Carolina.<sup>14</sup> Note, however, that no listing for William H. Langston has yet been found in the 1860 slave schedule of the U.S. census.

Regarding the possibility that this Isaac used the Langston surname after emancipation, no census records have been discovered for a Black man named “Isaac Langston” in Laurens County, South Carolina during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. “Slaves often retained surnames identified with early owners,<sup>15</sup>” so it is entirely possible that the slave boy named Isaac carried the Garrett surname forward. Indeed, Sam and his wife Hannah, two of the other slaves who were a part of Jesse Garrett’s household, did just that.

The same document that lists the sale of Isaac indicates that Abner Babb purchased this slave couple for a total of \$500 (again, suggesting that they were elderly or otherwise infirm). The 1870 U.S. census lists an elderly Black couple with the same first names and the Garrett surname: 84-year old Samuel Garrett headed the household that included a 79-year old woman named Hannah.<sup>16</sup> Hannah’s is identified as “mulatto;” undoubtedly, she is the same “negro or mulatto

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<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> Laurens County, South Carolina, Probate Court, Bundle 132, Pkg. 10 (1853), “Inventory and Appraise Bill of the Estate of Jesse Garrett, 24 May 1952,” viewed microfilm file on 21 November 2012.

<sup>14</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, agricultural schedule, line 30, digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 June 2013).

<sup>15</sup> Herbert G. Gutman, *The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, 1750-1925*, (New York: Vintage Books, 1976), 232.

<sup>16</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Laurens Post Office, p. 7 (penned), dwelling 60, family 63, Samuel Garrett; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 21 January 2013; citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1501).





gerral (sic) named Hannah” that Jesse Garrett purchased in 1803<sup>17</sup> and described as Sam’s wife in his 1847 will.

#### ASSOCIATION WITH THE WHITE GARRETT FAMILY

Apart from Jesse Garrett’s purchase of Hannah, it has yet to be determined whether he acquired the other slaves named in his will by purchase, inheritance, or other means. No definitive documentation for the acquisition of these slaves has yet been discovered in relevant abstracts of Laurens County deeds<sup>18</sup> or wills<sup>19</sup>. A derivative source indicates that Jesse Garrett was named as a purchaser on the 1795 sale of assets out of the estate of his father (Edward Garrett)<sup>20</sup>; however, it has not been determined whether slaves were part of that transaction. It is entirely possible that Jesse Garrett or his relatives owned Isaac and other slaves from birth.

The fact that Jesse Garrett rarely if ever sold his slaves could account for a strong sense of identification with the Garrett surname by his slaves. Also, numerous sources provide evidence that the parents of Jesse Garrett, migrated from Virginia to Laurens County, South Carolina in 1759.<sup>21</sup> This is consistent with Isaac Garrett’s “family lore” that his paternal grandfather was the son of “Virginians” and had been brought to Laurens County, South Carolina by White Garretts.<sup>22</sup> The likely parents and grandparents of Isaac Garrett were identified by Casper George (“C.G.”) Garrett in a published biographical sketch. C.G. is described as the informant for the information that his paternal grandparents were Samuel and Nancy Garrett.

Regarding information about the relationship between C.G. and Isaac Garrett, first there is C.G. Garrett’s participation in 1933 and 1934 reunions of African American Garretts in Laurens County, South Carolina.<sup>23</sup> The 1933 reunion was

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<sup>17</sup> Margaret Peckham Motes, *Blacks Found in Deeds of Laurens & Newberry Counties, SC, 1785-1827*, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 2002), 52-53. The deed of sale for Jesse Garrett’s purchase of Hannah was abstracted in this book.

<sup>18</sup> Larry Vehorn, *Laurens County South Carolina Deed Abstracts, Books E-F, 1793-1800*,

<sup>19</sup> Colleen Elliot, *Laurens County, South Carolina Wills, 1784-1840*, (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, Inc. 1988)


<sup>20</sup> *Id.*, p. 11.

<sup>21</sup> “The Scrapbook: A Compilation of Historical Facts About Places and Events of Laurens County, South Carolina, (1982 Laurens County Historical Society and Laurens Arts Council) page 189 (biographical note on Edward and Elizabeth Garrett, the parents of Edward, II). See also Corinne Putnam Mehringer, *Ancestors and Descendents of Edward Garrett (1733-94) Laurens County South Carolina* (Privately printed, 1955); viewed by the author in the Laurens County Library sometime before 2000. “Descendants of Edward Garrett,” [www.oocities.org/heartland/bluffs/9857/2-page-2](http://www.oocities.org/heartland/bluffs/9857/2-page-2) (2 January 2003); accessed : 20 January 2012.

<sup>22</sup> Arthur Bunyan Caldwell, editor, “Gaspar George Garrett,” *History of the American Negro and his Institutions* (A.B. Caldwell Publishing Co., Atlanta, Georgia 1919) 316-319, 316; viewed digital image, Google Books (<http://www.books.google.co> : accessed 21 January 2013).

<sup>23</sup> “Reunion of the Dublin Clan, including the Mills, Garretts, and Hunter Families, Bethel Hall Baptist Church, August 13, 1933” (found among loose papers in the Dublin Hunter file), Laurens County, South Carolina (one-page reunion program, an original of which was discovered in the files of Flat Ruff Baptist church in Laurens County, South Carolina by [name withheld for privacy] and donated to the Laurens County Library. “Reunion of the Dublin Clan, Including the Mills, Garretts, and Hunter Families, Flat Ruff Baptist Church, August 15, 1934” (copy made in 1987 by the author





held at a church built on land that was donated by Isaac's son, Wister Lee Garrett.<sup>24</sup> Moreover, C.G. and Isaac were identified as cousins by C.G.'s grandchildren.<sup>25</sup> Also, several of Isaac's grandsons participated in the 1933 and 1934 reunions with other close kin (including Wister's sons, John W. Garrett, and Fletcher Mills (F.M.) Garrett).<sup>26</sup> C.G. Garrett was born in 1866, and the informant for his death certificate identified his father as "Sam Garrett."<sup>27</sup> The evidence thus points to Samuel and Nancy Garrett as the parents of both C.G.'s father and Isaac Garrett.

Note that the 1870 U.S. census provides evidence that "Sam and his wife Hannah" lived in the dwelling next door to a Black family headed by Samuel and Nancy Garrett,<sup>28</sup> a couple with the same names as those attributed to Isaac Garrett's parents. This presents the distinct possibility that this elderly couple were the parents of the Samuel Garrett that was identified as Isaac Garrett's father. This possibility presents yet another potential connection to the slave boy named Isaac.

#### ISAAC GARRETT'S GRAVE MARKER

Isaac Garrett's tombstone includes the information that he "Died June 8, 1911 Age 76 years."<sup>29</sup> This source suggests a birth year of around 1835, so he would have been a 17-year old youth at the time of the 1853 appraisal of Jesse Garrett's estate. This age range is consistent with the description of a "boy" named Ike who was not full grown but was viewed as being as valuable as the "man" Martin.

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from the original that was in the possession of C.G.'s granddaughter, the late Ruth Simons Nicholson, Washington, DC).

<sup>24</sup> Wister Lee Garrett, death certificate no. 22848 (1928), South Carolina Bureau of Vital Statistics, Columbia; digital image, "South Carolina Deaths, 1915-1943," Family Search.org (<https://www.familysearch.org>, accessed : 29 April 2011). Wister's father's name is given as Isaac Garrett and his mother as Hannah; 1870 U.S. census, Laurens Co., Laurens Township, p. 11 (penned), dwell. 8, fam. 8, Isaac Garrett. "Wick" is listed in Isaac's household. Laurens County, South Carolina, Deed Book 32, page131, W.L. Garrett to the Trustees of Bethel Hall Baptist Church, 16 November 1911.

<sup>25</sup> For example, the late Ruth Simons Nicholson, C.G. Garrett's granddaughter, compiled research in support of this conclusion; these files are now in the custody of her son [name withheld for privacy].

<sup>26</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, Sullivan Township, population schedule, enumeration district 61, p. 153 (stamped), sheet 9A (penned), dwelling 164, family 164, Wister Garrett, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 January 2013; citing NARA microfilm publication T624, [undisclosed] roll. John W. Garrett was included in this household.

<sup>27</sup> Casper G. Garrett, death certificate no. 17049 (1948), South Carolina Bureau of Vital Statistics, Columbia; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 January 2013).

<sup>28</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, pop. sch., Laurens Post Office, p. 7 (penned), dwell. 59, fam. 62, Samuel Garrett; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 21 January 2013; citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1501; 1870 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, pop. sch., Laurens Post Office, p. 7 (penned), dwell. 60, fam. 63, Samuel Garrett; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 21 January 2013; citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1501. 53-year old Samuel Garrett with 56-yr old Nancy Garrett were living next door to 84-year old Samuel Garrett and 79-year old Hannah, all African Americans.

<sup>29</sup> New Grove Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens, South Carolina), Isaac Garrett marker, photographed by the author, February 2013.





## U.S. CENSUS RECORDS

The U.S. census records for 1870 and 1880<sup>30</sup> suggest an age for Isaac Garrett in the range of 15-17 years old when Jesse Garrett's estate was inventoried in 1853. In the 1870 census record Isaac Garrett's age was given as 32 years old, which would have made him about 15 years old in 1853. Consistent with the information on his tombstone, the 1880 U.S. census records Isaac Garrett's age as 44 years, making him 17 in 1853. In either case, Isaac Garrett would have been young enough to be described as a "boy" in the 1853 inventory.

Isaac Garrett is described as a "farmer" in the 1870 U.S. census,<sup>31</sup> but the census record does not include an entry for the value of any real estate and no record of his having owned land has come to light. The 1880 U.S. census describes him as a "farm laborer,"<sup>32</sup> suggesting that he farmed land owned by someone else. In both 1870 and 1880 He lived in Laurens Township.

A 59-year Isaac Garrett also appears in the U.S. census for 1900, although his first name is scored through and nearly illegible.<sup>33</sup> He is again described as a farmer, a distinguishing characteristic because many other Blacks are described as farm laborers. Based on the information on his tombstone, Isaac Garrett would have been about 65 years old in 1900. Also, the wife named in this record is "Kansas;" however, that difference can be explained by his first wife's death in 1888.<sup>34</sup> Another line of inquiry that warrants attention is the presence of three children in Isaac Garrett's 1910 household. All have the surname "Henry," including seven-year old "Claud," and are described as grandchildren. It is possible that these were children of Ike Garrett's stepchild.

The 1911 year of death on Isaac Garrett's grave marker means that he should have appeared in the 1910 U.S. census; however, no such record was discovered. There is a U.S. census record for a 73-year old Black man named "Ike Garrett," who was a farmer with a wife named "Cavass."<sup>35</sup> This is probably a reference to Isaac, who would have been about 75 years old in 1910. In addition to the possible

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<sup>30</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Laurens Co., Laurens Township, p. 11 (penned), dwell. 8, fam. 8, Isaac Garrett; 1880 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Laurens Township, p. 61 (penned), enumeration district (ED) 99, Sheet 39-A, dwelling [illegible], family [illegible], Isaac Garrett; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 January 2013; citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1233).

<sup>31</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, Laurens Township, p. 11 (stamped), dwell. 8, fam. 8, Isaac Garrett.

<sup>32</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, Laurens Township, p. 61 (penned), Isaac Garrett.

<sup>33</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Laurens Township, p. 194A (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 55, Sheet 19, dwelling 324, family 324, Isaac Garrett; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 March 2013).

<sup>34</sup> New Grove Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens, South Carolina), Hannah Garrett marker, photographed by the author, February 2013. Hannah Garrett's tombstone is next to Isaac Garrett's, and bears the inscription "wife of Isaac Garrett." Her age is given as 54, with a date of death of 2 March 1888.

<sup>35</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 55, p. 39B (stamped), Laurens Township, dwelling 613, family 613, Ike Garrett; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 March 2013; citing NARA microfilm publication T624, [undisclosed] roll)





misspelling of the name of Ike Garrett's spouse, the 1900 and 1910 census records contradict each other regarding the number of years Ike Garrett was married to Kansas or Cavass. The 1900 record indicates that he had been married to Kansas for 30 years, but the 1910 entry for the marriage to Cavass is 24 years. If, as seems likely, Ike Garrett was the same person as Isaac Garrett, it is possible that the informant simply guessed at the term of the marriage and the spelling of his second wife's name. Finally, a 14-year old named Claude is listed as a "son," but it is certainly possible that he was one of the same boys listed as a grandchild in 1900.

### *Genealogical Summary*

1. **ISAAC<sup>1</sup> GARRETT**, born say 1835 and died 8 June 1911<sup>36</sup> in Laurens County, South Carolina. He married Hannah Cunningham<sup>37</sup> whose parents have not been identified. Children of Isaac and Hannah Garrett were as follows<sup>38</sup>:

2. i. JEFFERSON GARRETT, born say 1858; married Margaret Wadsworth<sup>39</sup>
3. ii. DICY GARRETT, born say 1860; married Mack Johnson and then Lee Irby.<sup>40</sup>
4. iii. WISTER LEE ("WICK")<sup>2</sup> GARRETT born 16 August 1863, Laurens County, South Carolina; married Frances J. Latimer, the daughter of Albert Latimer;<sup>41</sup> died 2 December 1928, Laurens County, South Carolina.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> New Grove Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens, South Carolina), Isaac Garrett marker. South Carolina Bureau of Vital Statistics, Certificate of Death, file no. 22848, Wister Lee Garrett; South Carolina State Board of Health, Columbia, South Carolina; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 17 January 2013). The name of Wister Lee Garrett's father is given as Isaac Garrett with a birthplace in Laurens, South Carolina.

<sup>37</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, Laurens Township, p. 61 (penned). Hannah is listed as Isaac Garrett's wife in the 1880 U.S. census. South Carolina Bureau of Vital Statistics, Certificate of Death, file no. 22848, Wister Lee Garrett (the decedent's parents are given as the former Hannah Cunningham and Isaac Garrett).

<sup>38</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, Laurens Township, p. 11 (penned), dwell. 8, fam. 8, Isaac Garrett. In addition to the 9 children listed in this summary, 12 other young people ranging in age from 4 months to 21 years old were included in this household; however, 5 of them are too old to have been born to Hannah Garrett and none of them appear in the 1880 U.S. census for Isaac and Hannah Garrett's household;

<sup>39</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Hunter Township, p. 70 (penned), enumeration district (ED) 102. Sheet -, dwelling 638, family 638, Willie Wadsworth; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 January 2013; citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1233. 23-year old Jeff Garrett is described as a son-in-law in this household.

<sup>40</sup> Information was provided to the author by Dicy's great-granddaughter [name withheld for privacy].

<sup>41</sup> Wister Otto Garrett, death certificate no. 16951 (1919), South Carolina Bureau of Vital Statistics, Columbia. Wister Otto Garretts' father's name is given as Wister Lee Garrett and the maiden name of his mother as Frances J. Latimer. Frances J. Garrett death certificate no. 53-016937 (1954), South Carolina Division of Vital Statistics

<sup>42</sup> Wister Lee Garrett, death certificate no. 22848 (1928), South Carolina Bureau of Vital Statistics, Columbia.





WICK GARRETT

16 August 1863–2 December 1928<sup>43</sup>

5. iv. CORA GARRETT born say 1864, Laurens County, South Carolina; married Cub Evans.<sup>44</sup>
6. v. MARY GARRETT born say 1866; married a Mr. Irby.<sup>45</sup>
7. vi. LELA GARRETT born December 1870, died 13 January 1919; married Enoch Beeks.<sup>46</sup>
8. vii HATTIE GARRETT born say 1873; married Mr. Milan.<sup>47</sup>
9. viii EARLY GARRETT born say 1875, Laurens County, South Carolina; married Crockett Beasley.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> The photograph was identified by the author's paternal grandmother, the late Mattie Neely Garrett, as a photograph of Wister circa 1891.

<sup>44</sup> Nora Irby, death certificate no. 17884 (1941), South Carolina Bureau of Vital Statistics, Columbia; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 21 January 2013 (the decedent's father name is given as Cub Evans and her mother's is given as Cora Garrett with Laurens County, South Carolina as a birth place).

<sup>45</sup> This information was provided to the author by Dicy's great-granddaughter [name withheld for privacy].

<sup>46</sup> Lela Beeks, death certificate no. 1880 (1919), South Carolina Bureau of Vital Statistics, Columbia; digital image, *Familysearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 3 February 2013 The decedent's father's name is given as Isaac Garrett and her mother's name is given as Hannah with no maiden name. Prospect Baptist Church (Laurens, South Carolina), grave markers of Lela Beeks and Enoch Beeks; viewed by the author in 2008. Information was related to the author by Lela's great-granddaughter, [name withheld for privacy].

<sup>47</sup> Information was provided to the author by Dicy's great-granddaughter [name withheld for privacy].

<sup>48</sup> Funeral Program for Willie Jackson Beasley (1967). A biographical sketch lists his parents as the late Early Garrett Beasley and Crockett Beasley. The author made a copy in 2008 of an original copy found among the effects of the author's paternal grandmother, Mattie Neely Garrett, and now in the possession of a granddaughter [name withheld for privacy].





EARLY GARRETT BEASELY & FAMILY MEMBERS<sup>49</sup>

10. ix. ISSAC GARRETT, Jr. born say March 22, 1877<sup>50</sup> in South Carolina; married Rachel Brown in 1897. Isaac Jr. left Laurens County and was never heard from again. Apparently, Isaac moved about 90 miles away to Gaffney, South Carolina.<sup>51</sup>

## CONCLUSION

There is a vast amount of information that has yet to be digitized for posting on the Internet. This means that the careful researcher will need to consult multiple sources beyond the information that may be available online. The search for the slave owner of Isaac Garrett illustrates the need to correlate information located on the internet with other evidence found in off-line sources such as cemeteries, estate files, and oral histories.

<sup>49</sup> The photograph of Early Garrett Beasley with her husband, son, and daughter-in-law is in the custody of Early's great-granddaughter [name withheld for privacy].

<sup>50</sup> "United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918." Image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 21 January 2013, card for Levi Isaac Garrett, serial no. 1123, Local Board, County of Cherokee, Gaffney, South Carolina. Levi Isaac Garrett's great-granddaughter [name withheld for privacy] was informed that Levi's name at birth was Isaac and that he was born in Laurens, South Carolina; this informant could find only one African American Isaac in this age range in the census records of that county, viz., the child of Isaac Garrett that appears in the 1880 U.S. census.

<sup>51</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Cherokee County, South Carolina, population schedule, Gowdeysville Township, p. 80 (stamped), enumeration district 4, sheet 9A, dwell. 153, fam. 153, Levi Garrett; digital image viewed on *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 21 January 2013; citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll \_\_\_\_.