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## The Freedman Richard Neely: One Family's American Beginning

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*The vast majority of African American families have ancestors who were held in bondage in the Slave South. Their progenitors may not have been immortalized in slave narratives or achieved fame, but invariably they used their newly freed status to build a foundation for future generations to reach for the American Dream.*

Laurens County, South Carolina (“Laurens”) is located in the piedmont area of South Carolina, a part of the “Carolina backcountry” that is notorious for the paucity of records.<sup>1</sup> Only one Black man\*\* named Richard Neely was located in the 1870 U.S. census for Laurens, the first U.S. census to include the names of former slaves.<sup>2</sup> “Few black families from elsewhere sought residence in South Carolina . . . at the time of emancipation.”<sup>3</sup> The “well-known Laurens Riot . . . in the fall of 1870”<sup>4</sup> made it even less likely that a Black man would move there after the Civil War. As described by the esteemed sociologist, W.E.B. DuBois: “In Edgefield and Laurens Counties, South Carolina, there were organized bands of ‘regulators’—armed men who make it their business to traverse these counties and maltreat Negroes, . . . in many instances, in the most horrible and atrocious manner.”<sup>5</sup> No census record, deed of manumission, or other evidence was discovered to suggest that Richard Neely was a free person of color before slavery was abolished.<sup>6</sup> Thus, it is reasonable to proceed on the premise that the Richard Neely enumerated as a twenty-one-year-old in the 1870 U.S. census lived in Laurens as a slave during the antebellum period.

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\* The author is the great-great-granddaughter of Richard Neely. Except as noted, websites cited herein were reviewed on 29 May 2017.

<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Problem Solving in the Problem-Riddled Carolina Backcountry,” National Genealogical Society, *Virginia: The First Frontier: Program Syllabus*, (Arlington, Virginia: NGS, 2014) 433-436. This material summarized the special problems presented by “backcountry families prior to the twentieth century, . . . especially in South Carolina.”

\*\* Descriptions of a person’s race or color are important indicators of identity; except where noted otherwise, all records cited herein relate to individuals who are described using ethnic terms applicable to African Americans (e.g., “Colored,” “Negro,” or “Black”).

<sup>2</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, p. 26 (penned), dwelling 184, family 208, Richard Neely in the Household of James Dile; NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1501.

<sup>3</sup> Janis Walker Gilmore, *NGS Research in the States Series: South Carolina*, (Arlington: National Genealogical Society 2011), 19.

<sup>4</sup> Julian Stevenson Bolick, *A Laurens County Sketchbook*, (Laurens, South Carolina: Jacobs Press, Inc., 1973), 37.

<sup>5</sup> W.E.B. DuBois, *Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880*, (New York: Antheneum, 1992), 676.

<sup>6</sup> No listing was found for Richard Neely in the following sources; he would have been one or two years old in 1850 and ten or eleven in 1860: Margaret Peckham Motes, *Free Blacks and Mulattos in South Carolina 1850 Census*, (Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield Company, Inc. by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 2000); 1850 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 855; and 1860 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1222.

## BACKGROUND

South Carolina did not require statewide registrations for births and deaths until January 1, 1915, and those records are closed for one hundred and fifty years, respectively.<sup>7</sup> The registration of marriage licenses began only four years earlier on 1 July 1911.<sup>8</sup> In addition to South Carolina's late start in recording vital statistics, researchers of African American families that came out of slavery face the obstacle of what one historian aptly called the "anonymity of American slaves."<sup>9</sup> Not only because "the business of shipping slaves" "required no gathering and recording of information about the captives as individuals," but also because few slaves had the ability to record their own histories.<sup>10</sup> Add to these difficulties the sense of some historians that "scholars have neglected . . . northwestern South Carolina and rural areas like it" "partly because cities and rich plantation areas seem more interesting and also because upstate, rural sources are more scattered and elusive."<sup>11</sup> Nevertheless, it is possible to ferret out and preserve what there is to be known about slave ancestors.

### The Freedmen Bureau in Laurens

No mention of Richard Neely has been located in the surviving records of the Field Office for the State of South Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for "Laurensville"<sup>12</sup> ("Freedmen Bureau").<sup>13</sup> These records do, however, provide insights into life in Laurens as Richard came of age in the aftermath of the American Civil War. Freedmen in Laurens were in need of various forms of protection as well as provisions. In December of 1867 when Richard would have been about eighteen, the Subassistant Commissioner of Laurensville responded to an inquiry regarding the need to continue his post by writing that: "it would be inexpedient and unwise to leave the freedmen without the protection afforded by the Bureau until at least a year has expired."<sup>14</sup>

Register entries indicate that freedmen faced economic hardship as well as capricious treatment by the planters who employed them. Moreover, it does not appear that the Freedmen Bureau had the wherewithal to provide physical protection. "[C]rop failures in 1866-67 required the agency to provide aid . . . to ward off large-scale starvation and

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<sup>7</sup> Gilmore, *NGS Research in the States Series: South Carolina*, 39.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> Annette Gordon-Reed, *The Hemings of Monticello*, (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2008) 22.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* Also, John Belton O'Neall, *The Negro Law of South Carolina*, (Columbia: John G. Bowman, 1848) 22: "sec. 41—By the Act of 1834, slaves are prohibited to be taught to read or write."

<sup>11</sup> W.J. Megginson, *African American Life in South Carolina's Upper Piedmont, 1780–1900* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2006) 6.

<sup>12</sup> "The town of Laurens [was] known as Laurensville well into the nineteenth century." *Carolan.com* ([http://www.carolana.com/SC/Counties/laurens\\_county\\_sc.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Counties/laurens_county_sc.html)).

<sup>13</sup> The Freedmen's Bureau was established in the War Department to assist former slaves, among other responsibilities. George P. Sanger, editor, "An Act to Establish a Bureau for the Relief of Freedmen and Refugees." *The Statutes at Large of the United States, vol. 13* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1866) 507; viewed on *Books.Google.com* (<http://www.books.google.com>). The author reviewed the records of the *Field Office for the State of South Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1872, Laurensville* (Subassistant Commissioner): Letters sent, vol. 1, (226) Dec. 1867–Aug. 1868; Letters sent, vol. 2 (227), July–Dec. 1868, Register of Letters Received and Endorsements sent, Dec. 1867 July–1868, ; NARA microfilm publication 1910, roll 85.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1 (Dec. 1867-Aug. 1868) p. 17 (stamped), letter no. 3., sent by John R. Edie (Sub-Assistant Commissioner, Subdistrict "Lawrenceville, S.C."), 27 December 1867.

destitution.<sup>15</sup> On 20 February 1868, for example, R.G. Fleming of Waterloo Township (where Richard eventually settled) applied to the Freedmen Bureau for “aid in behalf of freedmen on his plantation.<sup>16</sup>” On 16 March 1868, John Cunningham of Waterloo Township made a similar request for an “advance of provisions to the freedmen on his plantation.<sup>17</sup>” On 8 June 1868, freedman Benjamin Little in the Laurens town of Clinton complained that his former employers refused to employ him because he had “voted the Republican ticket.<sup>18</sup>” Finally, a 19 December 1867 letter from an agent of the Freedmen Bureau complained about his inability to collect monies owed to the U.S. Government “on account of supplies issued” “due to the absence of any military authority” in Laurens, among other reasons.<sup>19</sup>

The Freedman Bureau advanced provisions to both Black and White planter under a crop-lien system.<sup>20</sup> Regarding the difficulty that the Clerk for the Laurensville office had in collecting monies owed “on account of supplies issues,” This was due “in part . . . to the advice received from white persons who told the freedmen not to repay.”<sup>21</sup> “Some whites . . . even . . . offered these freedmen money, if they would refuse to pay.<sup>22</sup>” In the face of this type of pressure, it is noteworthy that an individual who has been identified (below) as Richard’s father-in-law was an exception to the report of planters who failed to satisfy their repayment obligations. Specifically, “Berry Dial” is mentioned in a letter dated 7 December 1868 as having repaid \$7 to the Freedmen’s bureau.<sup>23</sup> Although this person’s race is not indicated, the only individual with a similar name located in the census for 1870 is the father of Richard’s wife, identified as the former Harriet Dial.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> U.S. National Archives, *Records of the Field Offices for the State of South Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1872*, Descriptive Pamphlet, M1910, Web edition, *Archives.gov* (<http://www.archives.gov/research/microfilm/m1910.pdf>), p. 4.

<sup>16</sup> *Field Office for the State of South Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1872*, Laurensville (Subassistant Commissioner): Register of Letters Received and Endorsements sent, Dec. 1867–July 1868, p. 22 (stamped).

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 40 (stamped).

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, letter no. 49, p. 70 (stamped).

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2 (July–Dec. 1868) p. 10–11 (stamped), letter no. 17., sent by Nathaniel Freeman (Clerk, Subdistrict Laurensville, S.C.), 19 December 1867.

<sup>20</sup> *Records of the Field Offices for the State of South Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1872*, web edition, 4.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>23</sup> *Field Office for the State of South Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1872*, Laurensville, Letters sent, vol. 2, letter no. 12., sent by Nathaniel Freeman (Clerk, Subdistrict Laurensville, S.C.), 7 December 1868.

<sup>24</sup> Harriet’s maiden name is spelled differently in various documents, either phonetically or with an “s” at the end. The family’s oral tradition is consistent with the “Dial” spelling on both the delayed birth certificate for her son Calvin and the death certificate of a son who was also named Richard Neely. South Carolina Application for Certificate of Birth (1946), Calvin Neely, (sworn to by his brother, John P. Neely) and South Carolina State Board of Health, death certificate no. 1063 (1928), Richard “Nealy” [sic]; Bureau of Vital Statistics, Columbia; digital image viewed on *Familysearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org>). Dial with an “s” is on another’s son’s death certificate. South Carolina State Board of Health, death certificate no. 20225 (1938), Rev. B. F. Neely, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Columbia; digital image viewed on *Familysearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org>) (mother’s maiden name is written as “Dials”). Also, earlier census records reflect a phonetic spelling of “Dile.” 1870 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, p. 24 (penned), dwelling 168, family 191, 19-year old Harriet in the household of Berry Dile; NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1501. The 1860 U.S. census slave schedules do not however, include any “Dile” slave

## Richard's Ancestors

The 1808 ban on the American transatlantic slave trade<sup>25</sup> makes it very likely that several generations of Richard's ancestors were born on American soil. Indeed, "[m]ost Africans enslaved in mainland North America arrived prior to the War for Independence, nearly half coming between 1740 and 1780.<sup>26</sup>" An illegal transatlantic slave trade continued after 1808,<sup>27</sup> but it is unlikely that there was much of a market for such contraband in Laurens, particularly because "slavery never became the issue for Up Country people that it was in the coastal sections."<sup>28</sup> Nevertheless, between 1800 and 1840, the population of slaves in Laurens increased from 15 percent to 41 percent, primarily due to a flourishing "cotton plantation economy."<sup>29</sup>

Richard Neely's descendants have no oral tradition regarding the identity of his father. In this regard, it is worth noting the patterns reflected in the naming of Neely sons after grandparents and uncles (as detailed below). Richard named a son "John" and at least four of his children also gave a son that name (although one was the son of a daughter whose husband was named John). This practice suggests the possibility that Richard's father or other close relative might have been named John. (See also the discussion below of the 1900 census record, suggesting that Richard may have been named after his father.)

Richard's granddaughter reported his mother's name as Maria (pronounced "Mariah") Hood, and that Maria Hood had a brother who was called "Uncle Big Tom."<sup>30</sup> As explained below in the discussion of relevant census records, however, it appears that Mariah Hood was Richard's mother-in-law, and his granddaughter mistakenly identified her as Richard's mother. Rather, also as explained below, a woman named Ann Neely appears to be the prime candidate for Richard's mother. The same granddaughter also reported evidence that Richard Neely had a half brother named William Neely, as well as two half brothers named Lee and Mack who used a different (unknown) surname because they grew up on another plantation.<sup>31</sup> The latter report suggests that Richard's surname

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owners in Laurens; rather, the only slave owners with a similar name were members of the "Dial" family. 1860 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, slave schedule.

<sup>25</sup> Richard Peters, Esq., editor, "Importation of Slaves prohibited after January 1, 1808," *The Public Statutes at Large of the United States*, vol. 2 (Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1845) 426-430; viewed on *loc.gov* (<http://memory.loc.gov> : accessed 14 January 2015).

<sup>26</sup> Herbert G. Gutman, *The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, 1750-1925* (New York: Vintage Books, 1928), 169.

<sup>27</sup> Frederic Bancroft, *Slave Trading in the Old South*, (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1996), 359. "[R]umors of alleged importations from Africa . . . were frequently reported in the Southern press."

<sup>28</sup> Workers of the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of South Carolina, compiler, *South Carolina, A Guide to the Palmetto State*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1941), 47.

<sup>29</sup> Russell Burns and Richard Fowlers, editors, *Discovering Laurens County South Carolina: Pre-history through the Colonial Period*, vol. 1 (Laurens, South Carolina: The Discovery Book Project, 2014), 14.

<sup>30</sup> LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson, *The Source, The Garrett, Neely, and Sullivan Families*, (Salt Lake City: Family Heritage Publishers, 2008) 207. This is a revised (and third) edition of a privately published family history book. The information in this book was *not* documented in a manner that would meet the Genealogical Proof Standard. Board for Certification of Genealogists, *Genealogy Standards*, (Washington, D.C.: Ancestry.com, 2014) 1. Nevertheless, it is a useful collection of the oral histories of these families (as well as copies of memorabilia such as photographs taken at reunions from 1989–2006, newspaper articles, and selected official documents). It is cited sparingly herein, for information the author was unable to document otherwise,. Where cited, *the text should be viewed as re-statements of a family's oral tradition that require further research and documentation.*

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*

was attributable to his slave owner; however, no direct evidence of Richard's last slave owner has been discovered.

### **A Candidate for Richard's Last Slave Owner**

Documents created by or for the last slave owner could provide genealogical information about other members of Richard's family. For example, the names of slaves can be found in deeds of gift or sale, as well as in mortgages;<sup>32</sup> however, no documentation of Richard's acquisition has been discovered.<sup>33</sup> The antebellum probate records for Laurens are also potential sources for identifying the last slave owner. In the latter regard, three Neely estates were probated after Richard's birth and before slaves were emancipated: George Neely in 1854 and his apparent daughters, Nancy Neely (1851) and Elizabeth Neely (1851).<sup>34</sup> Of the three, only Nancy Neely's estate file mentions any slaves by name but Richard's name is not among them.<sup>35</sup>

The only Neely slave owner listed in the slave schedule of the 1860 federal census for Laurens was James Neely; he owned nineteen slaves, including two seven-year-old males.<sup>36</sup> As explained below, Richard was probably born about 1851 or 1852, so he could have been enumerated as one of these seven-year-old slaves. It appears that James was a member of the same family of Neelys whose estates were probated in the period leading up to the Civil War;<sup>37</sup> however, no direct connection between Richard and James Neely has been discovered.

### **Census Records**

1870. None of the names memorialized in the family's oral history appear in the 1870 household in which Richard was enumerated as a laborer.<sup>38</sup> On 18 June 1870, Richard's age on his last birthday was listed as twenty-one.<sup>39</sup> If this record were correct, his birth year would be about 1849. Two women with the same surname were also in the household, and both were of an age to be Richard's mother: thirty-eight-year-old Ann and seventy-year-old Sisley. A woman of the age Ann Neely would have been (twenty-eight) was enumerated

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<sup>32</sup> Margaret Peckham Motes, *Blacks Found in the Deeds of Laurens & Newberry Counties, SC: 1785-1827* (Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield Company, Inc. by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 2002); digital image viewed on *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>33</sup> Laurens County, South Carolina, Direct Index to Titles to Real Estate, Clerk of Court, Laurens. The author reviewed "Nealy" and "Neely" entries from 1 December 1823 through 1 November 1859.

<sup>34</sup> *Direct Index to Probate Records*, Laurens County Probate Office.

<sup>35</sup> Laurens County, South Carolina, Nancy Neely Estate, microfilm file 112, package 1, 1851; Probate Court, Laurens County. The names of two enslaved black men appear: Arch and Sam. Also, Laurens County, South Carolina, Elizabeth Neely Estate, microfilm file 112, package 12, 1851; Probate Court, Laurens County. Also, Laurens County, South Carolina, George Neely Estate, microfilm file 120, package 2, 1854; Probate Court, Laurens County.

<sup>36</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, slave schedule, p. 56, "Jas. Neely," owner, NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1222.

<sup>37</sup> Laurens County, South Carolina, Will Book A: 213–215, George Neely; Office of the Probate Court Clerk, Laurens. Also, Laurens County, South Carolina, Will Book A: 101–102, Nancy Neely; Office of the Probate Court Clerk, Laurens. A "James Neely" is named among the sons of George Neely and among the siblings of Nancy Neely.

<sup>38</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, pop. sch., p. 26 (penned), dwell. 184, fam. 208, Richard Neely in the household of James Dile.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*

on the 1860 slave schedule for James Neely;<sup>40</sup> however, no other evidence has been discovered regarding the relationship between either of these women and Richard.

1880. In 1880 Richard lived in Waterloo Township,<sup>41</sup> a community that is located south of the county seat.<sup>42</sup> He had married (likely in 1872<sup>43</sup>), started a family, and was working as a farm laborer.<sup>44</sup> His age is listed as twenty-eight, suggesting a birth year of about 1852. His household included a twenty-eight-year-old wife named Harriet (née “Dial”<sup>45</sup>) and four children: seven-year-old John P., a son; five-year-old Mary J., a daughter; four-year-old Walter, a son; and two-year-old Franklin, a son.

Harriet was very likely the daughter of Berry and Mariah “Dile[sic].”<sup>46</sup> A woman of approximately the same age Harriet would have been appears in the 1870 household headed by fifty-four-year-old Berry Dile, with forty-seven-year-old Mariah, sixteen-year-old Berry, Jr., eleven-year-old Cyntha, and seven-year-old Samuel. Berry was a farmer who owned real estate worth \$300.<sup>47</sup> The two-year-old enumerated in Richard Neely’s 1880 household as “Franklin Neely” was actually named “Berry Franklin Neely,<sup>48</sup>” a child with the same first name as Harriet’s apparent father and brother. Berry Dial died sometime before 1880 when his wife was enumerated as a widow, heading a household that included her twenty-five year-old son named Berry and a seventeen-year-old son named Samuel.<sup>49</sup> Significantly, in 1900, a seventy-year-old widow named Mariah Dial was enumerated as a “sister” in the home of her sixty-three-year old brother, “Thomas Hood.<sup>50</sup>” Thus, contrary, to the Neely family’s oral tradition,<sup>51</sup> it seems clear that Mariah Hood was Richard’s

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<sup>40</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, slave schedule, p. 56, “Jas. Neely.”

<sup>41</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Waterloo Township, p. 42 (penned), enumeration district (ED) 106, dwelling 389, family 389, Richard Neely; NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1233.

<sup>42</sup> Mary Sherrer and Jennifer Revels, *Historic and Architectural Survey of Western Laurens County, South Carolina*, (Columbia: TRC, 2002), 11; pdf downloaded from *Nationalregister.SC.gov* (<http://nationalregister.sc.gov/SurveyReports/WesternLaurensCounty2002SM-2.pdf>). The county seat is also named Laurens.

<sup>43</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Waterloo Township, p. 315 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 61, sheet 2, dwelling 26, family 27, Richard Neely; NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1534. This record indicates that the couple had been married for 28 years in 1900.

<sup>44</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, pop. sch., p. 42 (penned), dwell. 389, fam. 389, Richard Neely.

<sup>45</sup> South Carolina Application for Certificate of Birth (1946), Calvin Neely. Also, South Carolina State Board of Health, death certificate no. 1063 (1928), Richard “Nealy” [sic]. South Carolina State Board of Health, death certificate no. 20225 (1938), Rev. B. F. Neely. Also, 1870 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, pop. sch., p. 24 (penned), dwell. 168, fam. 191, 19-year old Harriet in the household of Berry Dile.

<sup>46</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC., pop. sch., p. 24 (penned), dwell. 168, fam. 191, Berry Dile.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>48</sup> *Haily Sullivan Family Chart*, (undated), compiled and provided to the author by the late Arthuree Neely McCoy, in connection with a family reunion in 1983, in author’s file. The chart notes that it is based on census records at the National Archives in Washington, DC, but cites no specific documentation.

<sup>49</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Sullivan Township, p. 28 (penned), enumeration district (ED) 105, dwelling 259, family 259, Mariah Dial; NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1233. Marcus Roseman and his wife “Cintha” were enumerated immediately below Mariah’s residence as household 260, but his description as a son-in-law suggests that they shared the same abode.

<sup>50</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Waterloo Township, p. 320 (stamped) (penned), enumeration district (ED) 61, sheet 7, dwelling 112, family 115, Thomas Hood; NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1534.

<sup>51</sup> Garrett-Nelson, *The Source, The Garrett, Neely, and Sullivan Families*, p. 207.

mother-in-law, and Thomas Hood is the “Uncle Big Tom” remembered by Richard’s granddaughter.

1890–1900. Most of the 1890 population schedules were damaged in a fire in 1921; the South Carolina records did not survive.<sup>52</sup> Richard still resided in Waterloo Township in 1900 when his household included seven children, only one of which was enumerated in the 1880 U.S. census record for his family.<sup>53</sup> As explained above, twenty-one-year-old Berry Neely was the two-year old listed as “Franklin” in the 1880 census; his month and year of birth is listed as March 1879. The other five children were:

- nineteen-year-old Richard, a son born in May 1881 (to avoid confusion, he is referred to below as Richard “Jr.,” although no document was found that includes that suffix)
- seventeen-year-old “Carrie,” a daughter born in April 1884
- fourteen-year-old Lida, a daughter born in January 1886
- ten-year-old Lilli, a daughter born in December 1889
- eight-year-old Calvin, a son born in February 1892, and
- six-year-old “Corra,” a daughter born in May 1894

According to this record, neither Richard nor his forty-nine-year-old wife could read or write, but he owned his home and his occupation was listed as “farmer” (rather than “farm laborer” as many of his neighbors were described). Although Richard apparently owned real property, his name was not found on the 1890 Laurens tax rolls.<sup>54</sup> This record indicates that Richard was born in May of 1851 and his age at his last birthday (as of 4 June 1900) was forty-nine.

In 1900 Richard and Harriet had been married for twenty-eight years and she had borne eleven children, ten of whom were then living; this count is consistent with the enumeration of a combined total of ten children in the 1880 and 1900 census records. Note, however, that the family’s oral tradition is that there was an eleventh child named William who was born about 1891. The evidence of an eleventh child is scant, consisting only of a census record that describes William as a brother in Walter Neely’s household,<sup>55</sup> and a death certificate that names his father as Richard Neely but indicates that his mother’s name was “unknown.”<sup>56</sup> No record has been located that places a child named William in Richard and Harriet Neely’s household. It is possible, despite the twenty-year age difference, that William Neely was the half-brother remembered by Richard’s granddaughter, and that the father of these brothers was also named Richard. In the absence of additional sources to

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<sup>52</sup> United States Census Bureau, “Availability of 1890 Census” (<http://census.gov>).

<sup>53</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, pop. sch., p. 42 (penned), Waterloo, ED 61, sheet 2, dwell. 26, fam. 27, Richard Neely.

<sup>54</sup> Laurens County, South Carolina, Auditor’s Tax Duplicate 1890, FHL microfilm 1029325. As explained below, it appears that he did not begin to acquire real property until 1891.

<sup>55</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Greenville County, South Carolina, population schedule, Fairview Township, p. 230 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 13, sheet 19-A, dwelling 359, family 361, “Willie” enumerated as a brother in the household of Walter Neely; NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 1460.

<sup>56</sup> Ohio Department of Health, death certificate no. 64304 (1932), William Neely, Division of Vital Statistics, Columbus; digital image viewed on Familysearch.org (<http://familysearch.org>). William’s widow, Buena Neely, was the informant for the information that he was born in “Lawrence, S.C.” [sic], his father’s name was Richard Neely, and South Carolina was his father’s birthplace.

support the alternative view, however, William is discussed in this report as a child of Richard and Harriet Neely.

Men with the Neely surname who were close in age to two of Richard's sons were in neighboring households in 1900. Living next door was twenty-five-year-old John (born December 1874) and his twenty-five-year-old wife, Missie (born May 1875); their household included three children: Pearl, a daughter born in November 1895; Mattie, a daughter born in March 1898; and Willie V., a "son" [sic] born in November 1899.<sup>57</sup> The "son" named "Willie V" was undoubtedly John's daughter named Willie Blanch Neely.<sup>58</sup>

Twenty-two-year-old Walter Neely (born January 1878) lived one household away on the other side of Richard and Harriet's home.<sup>59</sup> Walter resided with a twenty-two-year-old wife named Etta (born July 1878) and a seventeen-month-old daughter named Hattie M (born April 1899).

1910. In 1910 Richard lived on "Hamburg Road" and was listed as fifty-eight-year-old "Dick Neely," in a household that included his fifty-five-year-old wife, Harriet. The couple had been married thirty-nine years. Richard was still described as a farmer but now rented (rather than owned) his home.<sup>60</sup> Whether he owned or rented this farm, he was distinguished from a "farm laborer," in accordance with the following instructions given to the 1910 enumerators:

152. Farm workers.—Return a person in charge of a farm as *a farmer*, whether he owns it or operates it as a tenant, renter, or cropper; . . . a person who works on a farm for some one else, but not as a manager, tenant, or cropper, should be reported as *a farm laborer*.<sup>61</sup>

The family included five children: twenty-five-year old "Carrie," a daughter; seventeen-year-old Calvin, a son; sixteen-year-old Cora, a daughter; six-year-old Sue P., listed as a daughter; and four-year-old Beonie, listed as a daughter. Harriet was enumerated as a fifty-five-year old but was probably sixty.<sup>62</sup> It is unlikely but not impossible that gave birth to Beonie at the age of fifty or fifty-five; however, it is probable that Sue P. and Beonie were

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<sup>57</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Waterloo Township, p. 42 (penned), enumeration district (ED) 61, sheet 2, dwelling 25, family 26, John Neely; NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1534.

<sup>58</sup> Willie Blanch Neely funeral program, (1985); in author's file. Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens County, South Carolina), Willie B. Neely marker; personally read, 2012. Willie's grave marker is inscribed "daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Neely."

<sup>59</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Waterloo Township, p. 42 (penned), enumeration district (ED) 61, sheet 2, dwelling 28, family 29, Walter Neely; NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 1534.

<sup>60</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Waterloo Township, [no page number], enumeration district (ED) 63, sheet 15-B, dwelling 307, family 307, Dick Neely; NARA microfilm publication T 624, roll 1464.

<sup>61</sup> Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of the Census, *Instructions to Enumerators* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1910) 34; viewed pdf on *Census.gov* (<http://www.census.gov/history/pdf/1910instructions.pdf>).

<sup>62</sup> Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens, South Carolina), Harriet Neely marker, personally read 2012. "Age 60" is inscribed on her grave marker. Also, 1870 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, pop. sch., p. 24 (penned), dwell. 168, fam. 191, Harriet was enumerated as a nineteen-year-old in the household of Berry Dile.



the daughters of Harriet and Richard's daughter Mary. Mary married John R. Neely,<sup>63</sup> and two girls with the same names and ages were also enumerated as daughters in John R. Neely's 1910 Waterloo household.<sup>64</sup> The same census taker visited both households in May 1910 but neglected to indicate the date of either visit.

### **Richard's Death**

Richard was a widower when he died on 19 March 1915.<sup>65</sup> His death certificate indicates that the names of his parents were "unknown." The informant was J.L. Donman, the same person who signed the "Medical Certificate of Death" portion of the death certificate. This informant appears to be a third party who was unlikely to have had first hand knowledge of Richard's parents. The death certificate supplies an item of information that makes it possible to connect the subject to Harriet Neely and their children: He was buried at "Hopewell." Indeed, his grave is next to that of Harriet and near their daughter Cora Estelle at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church in Laurens ("Hopewell").<sup>66</sup>

### **Likeliest Birth Year**

Existing records provide a range of birth dates for Richard. The year 1862 on Richard Neely's death certificate is the least credible: there is no evidence that the informant was a family member or close associate and no other record corroborates this item. Moreover, if 1862 were correct, Richard would have been only eight years old at the time of the 1870 federal census, making it very unlikely that he would have been enumerated as a twenty-one-year old man. The informants for the census records are unknown; however, the 1880 and 1910 census records agree in describing a birth year of about 1852. The 1851 date in the 1900 federal census and implied by the age on his grave marker is also consistent with a range of 1851-1852.

In view of Richard's family's association with Hopewell (as explained more fully below), it is fair to assume that a relative provided the year 1851 that is inscribed on the grave marker and so that source should be accorded greater weight.

### **Richard's Land Acquisitions**

In an 1891 speech in the U.S. House of Representatives, South Carolina Congressman

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<sup>63</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Waterloo Township, [no page number], enumeration district (ED) 61, sheet 3, dwelling 47, family 49, Mary Neely enumerated as the wife in the household of John Neely; NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1534. Also, *Henry Neely Family Chart*, supplied by Robert Nesbitt Neely. The chart is undated and contains no documentation, but was sketched in response to the author's request for information. The informant reported that he was the son of John R. Neely and a second wife named Ellen Sullivan Neely. Robert Nesbitt Neely funeral program, Laurens, South Carolina, citing service on 28 October 2006; in author's files. He is described as the son of the late John R. and Ellen Sullivan Neely.

<sup>64</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Waterloo Township, [no p. no], enumeration district (ED) 63, sheet 16-B, dwelling 321, family 321, John R. Neely; NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 1464.

<sup>65</sup> South Carolina State Board of Health, death certificate no. 4945 (1915), Richard Neely; Bureau of Vital Statistics, Columbia; digital image viewed on *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 17 July 2014).

<sup>66</sup> Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens Co., SC), Harriet Neely marker. Also, Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens County, South Carolina), Richard Neely marker, personally read 2014. Also, Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens County, South Carolina), Cora E. Neely marker, personally read 2014.

Thomas E. Miller is reported to have made the following observation of freedmen such as Richard Neely: “Suddenly becoming citizens, without shelter or food, they have struggled in a land where they receive little assistance from the courts and juries are systematically formed to oppress them . . . .<sup>67</sup>” While the “masses of freedmen remained propertyless,”<sup>68</sup> Richard Neely became one of the “relatively few [freedmen] landholders in the rural Lower South.”<sup>69</sup>

Richard’s name appears as one of ten grantees who paid a total of \$200 on 4 March 1891 for the purchase of fifty acres of land from J.C. McDaniel.<sup>70</sup> The acquired land was described as adjacent to that of Emilene Cooper, and R. S. C. Culbertson. No record has been found for the division or other disposition of the fifty acres purchased in March 1891. On 12 December 1891, Richard Neely made an individual purchase from John R. Weathers of about 121 acres of land located “on the water of Reedy River,” adjacent to lands of Mrs. E. Neely and others.<sup>71</sup> A subsequent purchase by Richard from Mrs. E. E. Cheek indicates one method he used to finance land acquisitions: On 7 January 1904, he agreed to pay 3,000 pounds of cotton and fifty pounds of corn in exchange for another 300 acres of land.<sup>72</sup>

Richard no longer owned his home when he was enumerated in the 1910 census. A possible explanation is suggested by a historian who wrote that Black farmers such as Richard faced “problems of drought (especially in 1893 and 1894), the disadvantages of small-scale farming, the onset of a severe depression, and after 1907, the infestation of the boll weevil, [as a result of which] some rural landowners in the Lower South were forced off the land.”<sup>73</sup> Regarding the probable impact of the boll weevil infestation on Richard Neely, “[l]ike most Piedmont farmers in South Carolina, Laurens County farmers . . . dedicated most of their acreage to upland or short staple cotton.”<sup>74</sup>

### **Allied Families**

The other grantees of the fifty-acre 1891 land purchase included Wister Lee (“Wick”) Garrett.<sup>75</sup> Similar to Richard, Wick Garrett continued to make land purchases in Hickory Tavern (Sullivan Township) such that when he died in 1928 he owned 400 acres of land.<sup>76</sup> It is not surprising that descendants of these like-minded men united in marriage. As detailed below, a child and a grandchild of Richard Neely married two children of Wick

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<sup>67</sup> Loren Schweninger, *Black Property Owners in the South, 1790–1915* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1997), 182.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*, 236.

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.* The author of the referenced text defined “Lower South” to include South Carolina.

<sup>70</sup> Laurens County, South Carolina, Deed Book 5, page 126, J.C. McDaniels to Richard Neely, *et al.*, Laurens County Clerk of Court. Note that no other man named Richard Neely was located in the 1900 and 1910 U.S. census records for Laurens.

<sup>71</sup> Laurens County, South Carolina, Deed Book 5, page 121, John R. Weathers to Richard Neely, Laurens County Clerk of Court.

<sup>72</sup> Laurens County, South Carolina, Deed Book 9, page 457 Mrs. E.E. Cheek to Richard Neely, Laurens County Clerk the Court.

<sup>73</sup> Schweninger, *Black Property Owners in the South*, 165.

<sup>74</sup> Sherrer and Revels, *Historic and Architectural Survey of Western Laurens County*, 19.

<sup>75</sup> Laurens Co., SC, Deed Book 5, 126.

<sup>76</sup> Laurens County, South Carolina, Wick L. Garrett Estate, microfilm file 532, package no. 5, “Petition to Prove Will;” Probate Court, Laurens County.

Garrett: Wicks daughter, Beulah, married Richard Jr.,<sup>77</sup> and Wick's son, Albert, married Richard's granddaughter, Mattie Neely.<sup>78</sup> Also, Wick's son Shellie and Richard's granddaughter Pearl were the parents of a daughter named Vivian.<sup>79</sup>

Wick Garrett was married to the former Frances J. Latimer.<sup>80</sup> The Garrett family's oral tradition is that Frances J. Latimer was the sister of Emma Arnold, and the two were enumerated with those surnames as granddaughters in the 1880 census record for their apparent grandparents—Robert and Clarkey Todd.<sup>81</sup> Emma had a daughter named Fannie Arnold<sup>82</sup> who married a man named Searight Sullivan.<sup>83</sup> Searight Sullivan's sister, Maggie, married Berry Franklin, Richard Neely's son.<sup>84</sup> Richard's son Walter married Searight and Maggie's first cousin, Etta Garlington (whose mother was the sister of Searight and Maggie Sullivan's father).<sup>85</sup> Thus, close family ties were fostered among future generations of cousins who were related to the Garrett, Neely, and Sullivan families.<sup>86</sup>

In the 1930s members of all three families—Garretts, Neelys, and Sullivans—migrated to the City of Tampa, in Florida.<sup>87</sup> This mass migration of related families is likely to have

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<sup>77</sup> Ibid. Beulah Neely was named as a daughter in Wick Garrett's will. Also, South Carolina death certificate no. 1063 (1928), Richard "Nealey" [sic] Jr. Beulah "Nealey" was the informant for the information that his parents were Richard Nealey and Harriet "Dial."

<sup>78</sup> Mr. Albert Elton Garrett funeral program, Hickory Tavern, South Carolina, citing services on 26 November 1985. "He was the son of the late Mr. Wister P. [sic] Garrett and Mrs. Frances Garrett." His widow was identified as Mattie Neely Garrett. Also, Laurens County, South Carolina, Marriage Register, 1911–1920, Mattie Neely-Elton Garrett, 1919, Office of the Clerk, Laurens County Probate Court, Laurens County.

<sup>79</sup> Vivian Louise Neely Sullivan funeral program, Greer, South Carolina, citing service on 28 March 2012; information provided by Albert Elton Garrett, II who holds the original.

<sup>80</sup> South Carolina State Board of Health, death certificate no. 53-016937 (1953), "Francis" [sic] J. Garrett; Bureau of Vital Statistics, Columbia; digital image viewed on *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 4 February 2015). Frances's husband name was erroneously recorded as "Whister" [sic].

<sup>81</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, p. 27 (penned), dwelling 248, family 248, Emma Arnold and Frances Latimer, granddaughters in the household of Robert Todd; NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1501. Also, apparently, the same two girls were enumerated with the surname "Arnold" in 1870. 1870 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, p. 1 (penned), dwelling 618, family 684, Henry Arnold; NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1501. Henry headed a household that included a twenty-two-year-old woman named Harriet, a thirteen-year-old boy named Rody, a five-year old girl named Francis [sic], and a three-month old girl named Emma, all with the surname "Arnold." It is likely that the twelve-year-old enumerated as a stepson in Emma Sullivan's 1900 household was named after the Henry Arnold who headed the household in which Emma and Frances were enumerated in the 1870 census. Frances's death certificate names her father as Albert Latimer, a man who apparently asserted his paternity by the time Frances was enumerated as Francis Latimer in 1880. Note also that Frances and Wick Garrett named a son "Albert," the child who married Richard's granddaughter, Mattie Neely.

<sup>82</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Waterloo Township, p. 303 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 60, sheet 16-A, dwelling 291, family 291, [Relof?] Arnold; NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1534. Nine-year old Fannie Arnold was enumerated as a stepdaughter in a household that included 12-year old Henry Arnold, also a stepchild, and Emma Sullivan, the wife of the head.

<sup>83</sup> *Searight Family Tree*, two-page (undated) genealogical summary provided to the author by the late Perry Sullivan, II, the son of "Fannie Arnold Sullivan" and Searight Sullivan.

<sup>84</sup> *Haily Sullivan Family Chart*.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> Garrett-Nelson, *The Source, The Garrett, Neely, and Sullivan Families*, 2.

<sup>87</sup> 1940 U.S. census, Hillsborough County, Florida, population schedule, Tampa City, ward 1, p. 90 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 6, sheet 10-A, household 75, Thomas Garrett; NARA microfilm

resulted from the Great Depression that began with the first bank panic in 1930, continued as the Gross National Product went into free fall, and culminated in 25 percent unemployment by 1933.<sup>88</sup> As one student of history observed: “In times of economic collapse, people from rural areas ended up leaving family ... and heading for the big cities.”<sup>89</sup>

### **Church Affiliations**

The Black Church played a significant role in the lives of many freedmen. As one Laurens historian wrote: “The greatest contribution of the black church may have been its very being. It helped give the Negro identity and community and kept alive “an indigenous black culture.”<sup>90</sup>

[B]lack Christians saw their duty as forming their own churches, and the white Christians were duty-bound to help them. Leaving the white churches was “self-inspired secession.” In the white churches the Negro had no “voice in the government of his religious organization. At first the whites opposed the negroes’ leaving, but the Baptists with their tradition of religious freedom “were the first to sanction and even encourage such separation.”<sup>91</sup>

The Neely family’s oral tradition is that Richard Neely and Wick Garrett were members of Hopewell.<sup>92</sup>, and Richard’s family has a long and enduring relationship with this church. In addition to his wife, some of his children and grandchildren are buried there.<sup>93</sup> Other descendants were active members.<sup>94</sup>

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publication T627, roll 633; image viewed on *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>). Thomas and wife Lillian lived in the same place in 1935. Thomas was a son of Wick Garrett. Laurens Co., SC, Will of Wick L. Garrett. Also, 1930 U.S. census, Hillsborough County, Florida, population schedule, Tampa City, ward 5, p. 160 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 29-41, sheet 6-B, dwelling 134, family 134, Calvin “Nely,” a cousin in the household of Early “Nely;” NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 319. Also, 1940 U.S. census, Hillsborough County, Florida, population schedule, Tampa City, ward 9, p. 128 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 70-10, sheet 1-B, household 16, Pearl Roland enumerated as the wife in George Roland’s household; NARA microfilm publication T627, roll 633; digital image viewed on *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>). Also, 1930 U.S. census, Hillsborough County, Florida, population schedule, Tampa City, ward 9, p. 118 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 29-75, sheet 6-B, dwelling 140, family 148, Fannie Sullivan, the wife in a household headed by “C. Right” [sic] Sullivan; NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 320.

<sup>88</sup> Judy Jacobson, *History for Genealogists, Using Chronological Time Lines to Find and Understand Your Ancestors*, (Printed for Clearfield Company by Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 2009), 48-49.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.* at 49.

<sup>90</sup> Gene Brooks, “Religion of the Time,” *Laurens County, SC During the Reconstruction Era*, (<http://www.oocities.org/genebrooks/laurens1.html>). Regarding the phrase in quotes, the author cited Robert Cruden, *The Negro in Reconstruction*, (Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1969), 85.

<sup>91</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>92</sup> Information provided in an (undated) interview of the late Mattie Neely Garrett.

<sup>93</sup> Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens Co., SC), Harriet Neely marker. Also, Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens Co., SC), Cora E. Neely marker. Also, Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens County, South Carolina), John P. Neely marker. Also, Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens County, South Carolina), Willie B. Neely marker. The words “daughter of Mr. & Mrs. John P. Neely” are inscribed on her marker.

<sup>94</sup> Inona Neely McRae funeral program, Brooklyn, New York, citing service on 24 December 1992; in author’s file. Inona’s obituary includes the statement that “[w]hile in South Carolina, she was an active member of the Hopewell Baptist Church.” Also, George Quincy Neely funeral program, Laurens County,

Wick Garrett and his Neely in-laws left Hopewell after Wick and his wife donated the land in Hickory Tavern (Sullivan Township) on which Bethel Hall Baptist Church (“Bethel Hall”) was built around 1910.<sup>95</sup> Richard’s family members who married into Wick Garrett’s family are buried at Bethel Hall.<sup>96</sup> “Bethel Hall. . . built a two-room schoolhouse across the street from the church. The school educated children through the 1950s . . . .<sup>97</sup> Many of Richard’s Neely descendants attended what was then the only school in this area for African American Children.<sup>98</sup> Sullivan Township’s southern border is contiguous with the northern border of Waterloo where Hopewell is located.

### **Richard’s Progeny**

“While the white population in Laurens County continued to increase from 1900–1950, between 1920 and 1930 the black population declined by 20 percent.<sup>99</sup>” As detailed below, many of Richard Neely’s children and grandchildren were part of this black exodus. Wherever they chose to reside, Richard’s children were so inspired by him that four of his five sons named a son after him. Who could have imagined that the freedman Richard Neely would be the progenitor of a family that can boast of a bevy of educators,<sup>100</sup> including a granddaughter who was honored in a concurrent resolution by the South Carolina legislature as one of Sumter County’s Outstanding Women;<sup>101</sup> a grandson who composed popular music;<sup>102</sup> a great-granddaughter who served in the only Black Women’s Army Corp (“WAC”) battalion to be deployed overseas during World War II;<sup>103</sup> a published

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South Carolina, citing service on 6 February 1988; in author’s files. George was a member of Hopewell for 70 years.

<sup>95</sup> Laurens Co., South Carolina, Deed Book 32, page 131, W.L. Garrett to the Trustees of Bethel Hall Baptist Church, 16 November 1911, Clerk of Court, Laurens County.

<sup>96</sup> South Carolina death certificate no. 1063 (1928), Richard “Nealey” [sic]. Richard Jr. was buried at “Betholhol” [sic] Church. Bethel Hall Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens County, South Carolina), Mattie Neely Garrett marker, personally read 2015. As explained above, Richard Jr. was married to Wick Garrett’s daughter and Mattie was married to Wick Garrett’s son.

<sup>97</sup> Sherrer and Revels, *Historic and Architectural Survey of Western Laurens County*, 18.

<sup>98</sup> Libby C. Rhodes “Bethel Hall Holds Fond Memories of a Country School,” *The Laurens County Advertiser*, 6 May 2009, p. 1B, full page. The article includes an interview of Thomas Weldon Garrett Sr., Richard’s great-grandson.

<sup>99</sup> Sherrer and Revels, *Historic and Architectural Survey of Western Laurens County*, 26; citing U. S. Department of Commerce, *Fourteenth Census of the United States, State Compendium, South Carolina* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1924) 14; U. S. Department of Commerce, *Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930, Population, Vol. III, Part 2* (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1932), 809.

<sup>100</sup> Beonia Pearl Jeter funeral program, Baltimore, Maryland, citing service on 22 March 2013, in author’s file. As just one example, Beonia’s obituary notes that she earned a degree in elementary education and worked for the Baltimore City Public Schools for over 28 years. Beonia was the daughter of Beonie (née Neely) Jeter.

<sup>101</sup> South Carolina General Assembly, 114th Session, 2001-2002, Journal of the House of Representatives, April 3, 2001; concurrent resolution recognizing Mrs. Ethel Neely Price (Statewide Session) ([http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess114\\_2001-2002/hj01/20010403.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess114_2001-2002/hj01/20010403.htm)). Ethel was a daughter of Berry Franklin<sup>2</sup> Neely.

<sup>102</sup> John Walter Neely, “Johnny You’re Such a Lover” (Words and Music) (Nordyke Music Publication © 11 July 1948). John Walter was a son of Richard<sup>2</sup> Neely Jr.

<sup>103</sup> Mattie E. Tucker funeral program, St. Albans, New York, citing service on 3 September 1998; in author’s file. Mattie was a daughter of Mattie<sup>3</sup> (née Neely) Garrett.

poet;<sup>104</sup> a tax lawyer who helped to rewrite the U.S. Internal Revenue Code in 1986;<sup>105</sup> a Pastor who was honored by the White House in 2014 for his anti-gun violence activism;<sup>106</sup> and scores of other Americans who have made meaningful contributions to the country in which their common ancestor was held in slavery.

## GENEAOLOGICAL SUMMARY

### Generation One

1. **Richard<sup>1</sup> Neely** was born about 1851 in Laurens; he died there on 19 March 1915.<sup>107</sup> He married **Harriett Dial** (died 1 August 1910 at age 60<sup>108</sup>), the daughter of Berry Dial (born about 1816) and Mariah (née Hood, born about 1823).<sup>109</sup> Given this couple's continuous presence in Laurens, it is fair to assume that all of their children were born there.

Identified children of Richard<sup>1</sup> Neely and Harriet Dial were:

- + 2    i. JOHN PINCKNEY<sup>2</sup>NEELY, born 25 December 1871, Laurens; died 6 October 1959.<sup>110</sup> He married Missie Pinson.<sup>111</sup>
- + 3    ii. MARY J. NEELY, born May 1875, Laurens;<sup>112</sup> died before 1910.<sup>113</sup> She

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<sup>104</sup> "Catalog Card Arranger Expresses Creativity in Verse," *LC Information Bulletin*, 6 June 1988, 229–230. This article profiles Myrtle Taylor, daughter of Maude (née Neely) Taylor, and includes the statement that one of "her 17 published poems, . . . appeared in *The American Poetry Anthology*, vol. VII, no. 4, edited by John Frost (Santa Cruz, Calif.: American Poetry Association, 1987)." Maude was the daughter of Richard<sup>2</sup> Neely Jr.

<sup>105</sup> "Team makes politics, long hours count," USA TODAY, 24 June 1986, cover story, pp. 1, 2, col. 3. A photograph appears in an article about the work of LaBrenda Garrett Stodghill [the author's previous married surname] on the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation of the U.S. Congress. LaBrenda is a granddaughter of Mattie<sup>3</sup> (née Neely) Garrett

<sup>106</sup> "The White House honors the Rev. Glenn Grayson for fighting violence," post-gazette.com (<http://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2014/03/31/The-White-House-honors-the-Rev-Glenn-Grayson-for-fighting-violence/stories/201403310153>). "Rev. Glenn G[arrett] Grayson of the . . . Wesley Center AME Zion Church said he was honored Monday night to be recognized by the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh. That award was a precursor to national recognition in Washington for him and eight others working to reduce gun violence in their communities." Rev. Grayson is a grandson of Mattie<sup>3</sup> (née Neely) Garrett.

<sup>107</sup> South Carolina standard certificate of death, State file no. 4945, (1915) Richard Neely.

<sup>108</sup> Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens Co., SC), Harriet Neely marker.

<sup>109</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, pop. sch., p. 24 (penned), dwell. 168, fam. 191, Berry Dile. Also, 1900 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, pop. sch., Waterloo, p. 320 (stamped), ED 61, sheet 7, dwell. 112, fam. 115, Mariah Dile enumerated as a sister in the household of Thomas Hood.

<sup>110</sup> Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens, South Carolina), John P. Neely marker personally read 2012.

<sup>111</sup> Mattie Neely Garrett funeral program, Laurens County, South Carolina, citing service on 3 December 1986; in author's files. Missie's maiden name is noted in the funeral program of this daughter. Also, Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens County, South Carolina), Missie Pinson grave marker, personally read 21 August 2012. Missie's grave marker is connected to her husband's by a separate marker on which "Neely" is inscribed, and the words "his wife" are inscribed on her marker.

<sup>112</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, pop. sch., Waterloo, no p. no., ED 61, sheet 3, dwell. 47, fam. 49, Mary Neely enumerated as the wife in the household headed by John Neely.

<sup>113</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, pop. sch., Waterloo, p. 6651 (written), ED 63, sheet 16-B, dwell. 321, fam. 321, John R. Neely was enumerated as a widower.

- married John R. Neely in 1899.<sup>114</sup>
- + 4   iii. WALTER NEELY, born 18 January 1877, Laurens;<sup>115</sup> died on 13 October 1940 Simpsonville, Greenville County, South Carolina. <sup>116</sup> In 1899 he married Etta Garlington.<sup>117</sup>
  - + 5   iv. BERRY FRANKLIN NEELY, born 31 March 1879, Laurens;<sup>118</sup> died 6 December 1938.<sup>119</sup> He married Maggie Florence Sullivan.<sup>120</sup>
  - + 6   v. RICHARD NEELY, JR., born 16 August 1882, Laurens;<sup>121</sup> died 24 January 1928.<sup>122</sup> He married Beulah Garrett.<sup>123</sup>
  - + 7   ix. CORRIE NEELY, born about May 1884, Laurens;<sup>124</sup> date of death is unknown. She married James Cleveland<sup>125</sup>
  - 8   vii. LILLI NEELY, born December 1889, Laurens;<sup>126</sup> no further information.

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<sup>114</sup> *Henry Neely Family Chart*. 1900 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, pop. sch., ED 61, sheet 3, dwell. 47, fam. 49, Mary Neely enumerated as the wife in a household headed by John Neely. As of 6 June 1900 the couple had been married for one year.

<sup>115</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, ED 61, sheet 2, dwelling 28, family 29, Walter Neely. Also, “United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918,” digital image viewed on *Familysearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org>), card for Walter Neely, serial number 605, Local Board for division 3 for the County of Greenville, State of South Carolina; citing National Archives and Records Administration. M1509. Etta Neely is identified as his nearest relative.

<sup>116</sup> South Carolina State Board of Health, death certificate no. 19259, (1940), Walter Neely; Bureau of Vital Statistics, Columbia; digital image viewed on *Familysearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org>). Etta was the informant for the information that his father’s name was Richard Neely and the mother’s maiden name was Harriet “Dowls” [sic].

<sup>117</sup> *Haily Sullivan Family Chart*.

1900 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, ED 61, sheet 2, dwell. 28, fam. 29, Etta enumerated as the wife in the household of Walter Neely.

<sup>118</sup> Berry’s death certificate cites 1884 as his birth year. South Carolina State Board of Health, standard certificate of death no. 20225 (1938), B F Neely, copy provided by Linda McCoy Kumi of Sumter, South Carolina. This date is inconsistent with his grave marker that cites 1880. Walker Cemetery Sumter County, South Carolina), Berry Franklin Neely marker; photographed by Linda McCoy Kumi on 28 July 2014. Moreover, he was enumerated as a two-year old in June 1880 census and as a 21-year old in 1900 where a March 1879 birth date was noted. Because there is evidence that his older brother, Walter, was born about 1878, 1879 is the likeliest date.

<sup>119</sup> South Carolina certificate of death no. 20225 (1938), Rev B F Neely.

<sup>120</sup> *Haily Sullivan Family Chart*.

<sup>121</sup> Bethel Hall Missionary Baptist Church (Laurens, South Carolina), Richard Neely marker personally read 2011. Also, South Carolina death certificate no. 1063 (1928), Richard “Nealey” [sic]. Father’s name is given as Richard “Nealey” [sic] and mother’s maiden name as Harriet “Dial.”

<sup>122</sup> South Carolina death certificate no. 1063 (1928), Richard “Nealy” [sic]. Also, Will of Wick L. Garrett. Beulah Neely was named as a daughter.

<sup>123</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>124</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, Waterloo Township, ED 61, sheet 2, dwell. 26, fam. 27, “Corra,” a daughter in the household of Richard Neely.

<sup>125</sup> *Corrie Neely Cleveland Biography*, one-page biographical sketch (typed on onion paper) dated 1 August 1980, provided by Cora Cleveland Mason, the daughter of Corrie Neely Cleveland; in author’s file.

<sup>126</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, pop. sch., p. 42 (penned), dwell. 26, fam. 389, Lilli Neely in the household headed by Richard Neely.

- + 9 vi. LIDANEELY, born about 1890 in Laurens; died 16 December 1935.<sup>127</sup>  
She married Cade T. Sullivan.<sup>128</sup>
- + 10 vii. WILLIAM NEELY, born about 1891, Laurens;<sup>129</sup> died 13 November 1932  
in Columbus Ohio.<sup>130</sup> He married Buena (“Essie”) Shaw.<sup>131</sup>
- + 11 viii CALVIN NEELY, born 25 November 1892, Laurens<sup>132</sup>; died September 1964.<sup>133</sup>  
He married 18-year old Ollie Cleveland on 2 October 1914;<sup>134</sup>
- 12 x. CORA ESTELLE NEELY, born 20 May 1894, South Carolina;<sup>135</sup> died 7 January  
1977.<sup>136</sup> She received a bachelor of science degree in elementary education  
from Morris College,<sup>137</sup> an historically black, coeducational, liberal arts  
college operated by the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of  
South Carolina in Sumter County, South Carolina.<sup>138</sup> She never married and  
taught in the Laurens and Greenville Co. schools for 40 years.<sup>139</sup> At least four  
of her nieces followed in her footsteps by attending Morris College and

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<sup>127</sup> South Carolina State Board of Health, death certificate 20068 (1935), “Lydia” Sullivan; Bureau of Vital Statistics, Columbia; digital image viewed on *Ancestry.com* (<http://ancestry.com>). Cade Sullivan, her son, was the informant for the information that her parents were Richard and Harriet Neely.

<sup>128</sup> Handwritten (undated) note provided to author circa 1986 in response to a request by the late Leroy Sullivan. The note outlines information about Cade Sullivan, his children, their spouses, and the number and sex of their children. Also, Flora Harris Obituary viewed on *Greenvilleonline.com* (<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/greenvilleonline/obituary.aspx?pid=169114042#sthash.gNCJZMIH.dpuf>; accessed 21 July 2014); full obituary could not be accessed on 10 February 2015.

<sup>129</sup> Ohio death certificate no. 64304 (1932) William Neely. Also, 1930 U.S. census, Franklin County, Ohio, population schedule, Columbus City, ward 6, p. 206 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 25-53, sheet 7-A, dwelling 119, family 194, William Neely, NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 1801.)

<sup>130</sup> Ohio death certificate no. 64304 (1932), William Neely.

<sup>131</sup> Laurens County, South Carolina, Marriage License Register, 1911-1920, Wm Neely-Buena Shaw, 1914, Office of the Clerk, Laurens County Probate Court. This register erroneously lists the race of this couple as “white.” Unlike other SC counties, Laurens did not maintain separate registers for Whites and Blacks, but the single register includes a column for “color” and notes whether the parties are white or “col.” (presumably for “colored”).

<sup>132</sup> South Carolina Delayed Births, 1766-1900 (1946), Calvin Neely. Calvin’s month and year of birth are noted as March 1892 when he was enumerated in the 1900 census, which may be a more likely date given the March 1899 date in the same record noted for his sister, Lillie. 1900 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, pop. sch., p. 42 (penned), dwell. 26, fam. 389, Lilli Neely in the household headed by Richard Neely.

<sup>133</sup> “U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014,” database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>), entry for Calvin Neely, 1964, SS no. 403-05-5890.

<sup>134</sup> Laurens County, South Carolina, Marriage License Register, 1911-1920, Ollie Cleveland-Calvin Neely, 1914, Office of the Clerk, Laurens County Probate Court. Laurens County.

<sup>135</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, ED 61, sheet 2, dwelling 26, family 27, Cora E in household of Richard Neely.

<sup>136</sup> Cora Estelle Neely funeral Program, Greenville, SC, citing service on 12 January 1977, in author’s file. Cora’s grave marker has a birth date of 20 September 1907, contrary to the month and year in the 1900 census record. Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church (Laurens CO., SC), Cora E. Neely marker, photographed by the author. It is very unlikely that the 1907 date is correct as that would mean that Harriet Neely gave birth at the age of about 57. Further, the 1894 date also appears in the Social Security Death Index. “United States Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014,” database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>), entry for Cora Neely, 1977, SS no. 248-24-1373.

<sup>137</sup> Cora Estelle Neely funeral program, 1977; in author’s files.

<sup>138</sup> *Morris College* (<http://morris.edu>).

<sup>139</sup> Cora Estelle Neely funeral program, 1977; in author’s files.



becoming teachers.<sup>140</sup>

## Generation Two

**2. John Pinckney<sup>2</sup> Neely** (Richard<sup>1</sup>), born 25 December 1871, Laurens; He died 6 October 1959.<sup>141</sup> In 1896<sup>142</sup> he married **Missie Pinson** (born 10 July 1873; died 25 August 1953<sup>143</sup>), the daughter of Peter and Pam Pinson.<sup>144</sup> He was a farmer.<sup>145</sup> In 1900 he lived next door to his father with Missie and his three oldest daughters: Pearl, Mattie, and Willie (the latter was erroneously enumerated as a “son”).<sup>146</sup> In 1920 John and Missie Neely resided on Hamburg Road in Waterloo Township.<sup>147</sup> In 1930, they lived on Hickory Tavern Road in Waterloo Township, and his household included two granddaughters: nine-year old “Vivian Garrett” and five-year old “Moselle” Neely.<sup>148</sup> By 1940 he had relocated to neighboring Greenville County and his household still included the same two granddaughters.<sup>149</sup> It appears that all of John’s children were born in Laurens, where he and his wife resided at least until 1930.

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<sup>140</sup> Willie Blanch Neely funeral program, citing service on 18 June 1985, Laurens County, South Carolina; in author’s files. Also, Inona Neely McRae funeral program, Brooklyn, New York, citing service on 24 December 1992; in author’s files. Also, *Ethel Neely Price Biography* provided by Erina Tandy. This is a single (undated) page of what appears to be a page in a printed program for an event in which she was named one of Sumter County’s outstanding women at a rose planting and dedication at the Sumter County Exhibition Center. Also, Arthuree McCoy, letter to Neely, Sullivan, Garrett Cousins, 1980; copy in author’s files.

<sup>141</sup> Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens Co., SC), John P. Neely marker. Also, 1880 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, pop. sch., p. 42 (penned), dwell. 389, fam. 389, John P. Neely enumerated as a son in the household of Richard Neely. This record confirms that John was born in South Carolina, likely in Laurens.

<sup>142</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, Waterloo, p. 315 (stamped), pop. sch., ED 61, sheet 2, dwell. 25, fam. 26, John Neely.

<sup>143</sup> Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens Co., SC), Missie Pinson marker.

<sup>144</sup> South Carolina State Board of Health, death certificate no. 53-016715 (1953), Missie Neely, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Columbia; digital image viewed on *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>). The informant was daughter, Willie B. Neely; the names of parents are given as Peter and “Pamp” Pinson, and husband’s name as John P. Neely. Also, 1870 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, p. 78 (penned), dwelling 549, family 602, Peter Pinson; NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1501. Twenty-two-year-old Peter lived with twenty-one-year-old woman named Pamley, two-year old Cora, and seven-month-old Emma. This record is consistent with the family’s oral history as related by Mattie Neely Garrett that Missie had two sisters named Emma and Cora, among other siblings.

<sup>145</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, Waterloo, p. 315, pop. sch., (stamped), ED 61, sheet 2, dwell. 25, fam. 26, John Neely.

<sup>146</sup> *Ibid.*, Richard Neely resided in dwelling 26 and his family was designated as number 27.

<sup>147</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Waterloo Township, p. 200 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 70, sheet 16-A, dwelling 298, family 298, John Neely; NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 1700.

<sup>148</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, Waterloo Township, p. 51 (written), enumeration district (ED) 30-37, sheet 1-B, dwelling 15, family 15, John Neely; NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 2203.

<sup>149</sup> 1940 U. S. Census, Greenville County, South Carolina, population schedule, Grove Township, enumeration district (ED) 23-91, page 1604 (stamped), sheet 3-A, household 34, John P. Neely; NARA microfilm publication T627, roll 3814; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed February 2015). “U.S. Highway 25” is written along the left margin of the form.



John and Missie Neely<sup>150</sup>

The known children of John Pinckney<sup>2</sup> Neely and the former Missie Pinson were:<sup>151</sup>

- + 13 ii. PEARL<sup>3</sup> NEELY, born 1 November 1896, Laurens; died 30 January 1970.<sup>152</sup> She married George E. Roland.
- + 14 i. MATTIE NEELY, born 17 March 1898, Laurens; died 30 November 1986, Laurens.<sup>153</sup> She married Albert Elton Garrett on 22 December 1919.<sup>154</sup>
- 15. iii. WILLIE BLANCH NEELY, born 25 November 1899, Laurens; died 13 June 1985. She never married, received an A.B. in elementary education from Morris College, and taught in the Greenville County and Laurens schools for 44 years.<sup>155</sup>
- 16 iv. JOHN LEE NEELY, born 6 March 1903, Laurens; died 10 June 1966.<sup>156</sup> He married Georgia Mae Smith.<sup>157</sup>
- 17 v. INONA NEELY, born 22 January 1905, Laurens; died 21 December 1992, Brooklyn, New York. She married Osie McRae, and obtained a B.S. degree from Morris College in Sumter Co., South Carolina where she

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<sup>150</sup> This undated photograph of John and Missie Neely was found among the effects of their daughter, Mattie Neely Garrett; in author's file.

<sup>151</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, Waterloo, p. 200 (stamped), ED 70, sheet 16-A, dwell. 298, fam. 298, John Neely. South Carolina is listed as the birthplace of all nine children enumerated in this census: "Pulee" [sic], Mattie B, "Johnie L," Quincy, Cora, Inona, Calvin C, Elmer, and Benjamin G.

<sup>152</sup> Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens County, South Carolina), Pearl L. Roland marker; personally read 2014. 1898 is inscribed as the birth year on Pearl's grave marker; if this were correct, daughter Mattie would have been born just 8 months before Pearl's birth. Census records consistently recorded Pearl as the oldest child and about two years older than Mattie, supporting a birth year of about 1896. 1920 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, Waterloo, p. 200 (stamped), ED 70, sheet 16-A, dwell. 298, fam. 298, Pearl enumerated as a twenty-two-year-old daughter in household of John Neely. 1900 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, Waterloo, p. 315 (stamped), pop. sch., ED 61, sheet 2, dwell. 25, fam. 26, Pearl enumerated as a four-year-old daughter in household of John Neely.

<sup>153</sup> Mrs. Mattie Neely Garrett funeral program, 1986, author's file.

<sup>154</sup> Laurens Co., SC, Marriage Register, 1911–1920, Mattie Neely-Elton Garrett, 1919.

<sup>155</sup> Willie Blanch Neely funeral program, 1985, in author's file.

Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens County, SC), Willie B. Neely grave marker.

<sup>156</sup> Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens, South Carolina), John L. Neely grave marker, personally read 2012.

<sup>157</sup> Garrett-Nelson, *The Source*, 234.

taught school for five years before moving to New York.<sup>158</sup>

- 18 vi. CALVIN C. NEELY, born about 1909, Laurens; date of death is unknown. He was given the same name as his father's brother. In 1930, 21-year old Calvin was enumerated as a "cousin in a Tampa, Florida household headed by Early Neely."<sup>159</sup>
- + 19 vii. ELMER NEELY, born 7 June 1914, Laurens; died 17 December 1987. He married Katie Lovett on 3 March 1946.<sup>160</sup>
- + 20 viii BENJAMIN GRANT NEELY, born 11 January 1916, Laurens; died 23 October 2012 in Brooklyn, New York. He married Willie Mae Coleman on 23 October 1937.<sup>161</sup>

John P. Neely and Nellie Durham Neely<sup>162</sup> were the parents of:

- 21 ix. GEORGE QUINCY NEELY born 1895, Laurens;<sup>163</sup> died 2 February 1988; He was a veteran of World War 1, married the former Mary Jane Todd, and was the father of a daughter. He was a member of Hopewell for seventy years.<sup>164</sup> In 1930 he lived two households away from his father.<sup>165</sup>

**3. Mary J.<sup>2</sup> Neely** (Richard<sup>1</sup>), born in May 1875 in South Carolina.<sup>166</sup> In 1899 she married **John Robert Neely**<sup>167</sup> (born in January 1876, the son of Henry Neely<sup>168</sup>). She died sometime before May of 1910 when John R Neely was enumerated as a widower in a household that included the following four children: nine-year-old Early, seven-year-old John E., six-year-old Sue P. and four-year-old Beonie.<sup>169</sup>

The known children of Mary J.<sup>2</sup> and John R. Neely were as follows:

- 22 i. EARLE<sup>3</sup> NEELY was born 28 October 1900, Laurens; died 25 November

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<sup>158</sup> Inona Neely McRae funeral program, (1992), in author's file.

<sup>159</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Hillsborough Co., Florida, pop. sch., Tampa City, ward 5, p. 9630 (inked), ED 29-41, sheet 6-B, dwelling 134, family 134, Calvin "Nely" [sic], a cousin in the household of Early "Nely" [sic].

<sup>160</sup> Elmer Neely funeral program, Brooklyn, New York, citing service without a date, copy provided to author by Elmer Neely's daughter, Regina Neely of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

<sup>161</sup> Benjamin G. Neely funeral program, Brooklyn, New York, citing service on 23 October 2012; in author's file.

<sup>162</sup> George Quincy Neely funeral program, 1988; author's file.

<sup>163</sup> United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/KZ63-JNQ>), card for George Quincy Neely, serial no. 4; citing Laurens County, South Carolina, United States, NARA microfilm publication M1509, (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration).

<sup>164</sup> George Quincy Neely funeral program, 1988, author's file. Also, "United States Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>), entry for George Q. Neely, 1988, SS no. 249-36-4620. The database cites the date of death as 22 July 1988.

<sup>165</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, Waterloo Township, p. 51 (written), enumeration district (ED) 30-37, sheet 1-B, dwelling 17, family 17, George Q. Neely.

<sup>166</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, pop. sch., ED 61, sheet 3, dwell. 47, fam. 49, Mary Neely in the household headed by John Neely.

<sup>167</sup> *Ibid.*, Mary Neely enumerated as the wife of John Neely.

<sup>168</sup> *Henry Neely Family Chart*.

<sup>169</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Waterloo Township, p. 6651 (written), enumeration district (ED) 63, sheet 16-B, dwelling 321, family 321, John R. Neely; NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1464.

1982. She married Floyd Rogers<sup>170</sup> and they had one son.<sup>171</sup>

- 23 ii. HATTIE OR MATTIE NEELY born about 1902, South Carolina;<sup>172</sup> date of death is unknown.



Three daughters of Mary J. Neely and their first cousins (three sons of John P. Neely): Seated are Calvin Neely, Earle Rogers, and John Lee Neely; standing are Beonia Jeter, her husband Major Jeter, Sue Pearl (née Neely) Franklin, and Elmer Neely<sup>173</sup>

- 24 iii. JOHN EARL NEELY, born about 1903, South Carolina;<sup>174</sup> date of death is unknown.

- 25 iii. SUE PEARL NEELY was born about 1906, South Carolina;<sup>175</sup> date of death is unknown. She married James Franklin,<sup>176</sup> and the couple had a son and two daughters [names withheld for privacy]<sup>177</sup>.

- + 26 v. BEONIA NEELY, born 7 September 1907, Laurens; died 22 April 1988 in Baltimore, Maryland. She married Major James Jeter on 7 August 1927 in Tampa Florida.<sup>178</sup>

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<sup>170</sup> Telephone interview of Thelma Lee Jeter (the daughter of Beonia Neely Jeter) 16 December 2015.

<sup>171</sup> Earlye Neely Rogers funeral program, Laurens County, South Carolina, citing service on 28 November copy provided by Linda McCoy Kumi of Sumter, SC.

<sup>172</sup> The Henry Neely Family Chart lists a “Hattie” but the only possibly relevant census record lists a daughter named “Mattie E.” who was born about 1902. 1920 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Waterloo Township, p. 199 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 70, sheet 15-A, dwelling 273, family 273, “Mattie E.” enumerated as a daughter in the household of John R. Neely; NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 1700.

<sup>173</sup> The original of this (undated) photograph is in the possession of Thelma Jeter of East Orange, New Jersey, who provided a copy to the author 15 December 2015; she did not know the date on which the image was created but was able to identify the individuals in the photograph.

<sup>174</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, pop. sch., Waterloo Township, p. 199 (stamped), ED 70, sheet 15-A, dwell. 273, fam. 273, John E. enumerated as a son in the household of John R. Neely.

<sup>175</sup> Ibid. Sue P. enumerated as a daughter.

<sup>176</sup> Telephone interview of Thelma Jeter on 16 December 2015.

<sup>177</sup> Garrett-Nelson, *The Source*, 221.

<sup>178</sup> Beonia Neely Jeter funeral program, Laurens County, South Carolina, citing service on 26 April 1988, copy provided by Linda McCoy Kumi.

27 vi. PRINCE NEELY, no further information.<sup>179</sup>

**4. Walter<sup>2</sup> Neely** (Richard<sup>1</sup>), born 18 January 1877,<sup>180</sup> South Carolina.<sup>181</sup> He died in Simpsonville, in Greenville County, South Carolina on 13 October 1940.<sup>182</sup> In 1899 he married **Etta Garlington**,<sup>183</sup> the daughter of Lue (née Sullivan, born 1855) and Smith Garlington (born 1853).<sup>184</sup> Etta was a first cousin of the former Maggie Florence Sullivan, the wife of Walter's brother, Berry Franklin Neely.<sup>185</sup> In 1930 53-year old Walter headed a household in Greenville County, South Carolina.<sup>186</sup> He rented his home but farmed for his own account; the household included his wife, Etta, and seven children: twenty-one-year-old Alphonzo; eighteen-year-old "Bertie D;," sixteen-year-old "Etta;" a fifteen-year-old son named R.B.; a fourteen-year-old son named Smith; and a twelve-year-old daughter named Helen.<sup>187</sup>

The known children of Walter<sup>2</sup> Neely and Etta Garlington were:

- 28 i. HATTIE M,<sup>3</sup> born April 1899;<sup>188</sup> no further information.
- 29 ii. CARRIE [OR CORRIE?] C. NEELY,<sup>189</sup> born about 1904, South Carolina;<sup>190</sup> died 8 July 1923.<sup>191</sup>
- 30 iii. ZETTIE NEELY, born about 1906, South Carolina;<sup>192</sup> no further information.

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<sup>179</sup> Henry Neely Family Chart.

<sup>180</sup> "United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918," digital image viewed on *Familysearch.org*, card for Walter Neely, serial number 605, Local Board for division 3 for the County of Greenville, SC.

<sup>181</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, ED 61, sheet 2, dwelling 28, family 29, Walter Neely.

<sup>182</sup> South Carolina State Board of Health, death certificate no. 19259, (1940), Walter Neely.

<sup>183</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, ED 61, sheet 2, dwell. 28, fam. 29, Walter Neely.

<sup>184</sup> *Haily Sullivan Family Chart*.

<sup>185</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>186</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Greenville County, South Carolina, Grove Township, p. 247 (stamped), Enumeration District (ED) 23-65, sheet 4-B, dwelling 65, family 68, Walter "Nealy," NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 2199.

<sup>187</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>188</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, ED 61, sheet 2, dwell. 28, fam. 29, Walter Neely. This individual appears as the only child in their 1900 household but does not appear in the *Haily Sullivan Family Chart* or other census records; it is possible that this child died before reaching adulthood and was not known to the creator of the family chart.

<sup>189</sup> *Haily Sullivan Family Chart*.

<sup>190</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Greenville Co., SC, pop. sch., Fairview, p. 230 (stamped), ED 13, sheet 19-A, dwell. 359, fam. 361, Corrie enumerated as a daughter in the household of Walter Neely; NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 1460.

<sup>191</sup> South Carolina Department of health, death certificate no. 11254, Carrie C. Neely, (1923); Bureau of Vital Statistics, Columbia; digital image viewed on *Familysearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org>). Walter Neely was the informant and he and Etta (née Garlington) are named as parents.

<sup>192</sup> *Ibid.* Four-year old "Zeddie" [sic] was enumerated as a daughter. Also, *Haily Sullivan Family Chart*.



Walter and Etta Neely with daughters Corrie and Zetti.<sup>193</sup>

- 31 iv. ALPHONZO NEELY, born about 1909,<sup>194</sup> married Beatrice LaBoon; <sup>195</sup>they were the parents of five children.
- 32 v. DEBERTIE NEELY; born about 1912, South Carolina;<sup>196</sup> died sometime before 4 August 1989.<sup>197</sup> She married Gerian Marshall Moore; They were the parents of two sons, both of whom earned doctorate degrees, DR. ELLINGTON CORTEZ MOORE, ED.D. (born 9 December 1932, Columbia, SC; died 10 June 1992. He received his Ed.D. from the University of Massachusetts.) and [NAME WITHHELD FOR PRIVACY.]<sup>198</sup>
- 33 vi. RICHARD NEELY, born about 1914, South Carolina;<sup>199</sup> no further information.
- + 34 vii SMITH W. NEELY, born 21 November 1915, South Carolina; died 3 November 1979.<sup>200</sup> He married Leola Gladden.<sup>201</sup>
- 35 viii Helen Neely, born about 1918, South Carolina;<sup>202</sup> no further information.

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<sup>193</sup> Linda McCoy Kumi, provided a copy of this (undated) photo to the author and also identified the children.

<sup>194</sup> Ibid., Alphonzo “Nealy” [sic] in the household of Walter “Nealy” [sic].

<sup>195</sup> 1940 U.S. census, Greenville County, South Carolina, Greenville, ED 23-54, sheet 17-A, p. 917 (stamped), household 436, Beatrice enumerated as the wife in household of Alfonso “Nealey;” NARA microfilm publication T627, roll 3812; viewed on *Familysearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org>).

<sup>196</sup> Ibid., “Bertie D.” in household of Walter “Nealey” [sic].

<sup>197</sup> *The Garrett, Neely Sullivan Fourth Family Reunion, August 4,-5-6, 1989* program, Debirdie Neely Moore listed on “In Loving Memory” page, in author’s file.

<sup>198</sup> Dr. Ellington Cortez Moore funeral program, Orangeburg, South Carolina, citing service on 13 June 1992 copy, provided by Linda McCoy Kumi.

<sup>199</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Greenville Co., SC, Grove Township, ED 23-65, p. 247 (stamped), dwell. 65, fam. 68, “R.B. Nealy” in the household of Walter “Nealy.” T626, roll 2199. Also, *Haily Sullivan Family Chart*.

<sup>200</sup> Smith W. Neely funeral program, Piedmont, South Carolina, citing service on 12 May 1991, copy provided by Linda McCoy Kumi. Also, *Haily Sullivan Family Chart*.

<sup>201</sup> Sandra Lee “Neeley [sic]” Smith funeral program, copy provided by Linda McCoy Kumi.

<sup>202</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Greenville Co., SC, Grove Township, ED 23-65, p. 247 (stamped), dwell. 65, fam. 68, Helen in the household of Walter “Nealy.” *Haily Sullivan Family Chart*.

**5. Berry Franklin<sup>2</sup> Neely** (Richard<sup>1</sup>), born 31 March about 1879, Laurens; died in Sumter County, South Carolina 6 December 1938.<sup>203</sup> He was a “Preacher”<sup>204</sup> and a building contractor.<sup>205</sup> He married the former **Maggie Florence Sullivan** (born 26 December 1879; died 17 December 1958), the daughter of Harriet (née Young) and Perry Sullivan.<sup>206</sup> On 3 February 1914, before Berry’s move to Sumter County, he entered into a 10-year lease of 25 acres of land from J.G. Sullivan, in exchange for 800 pounds of cotton.<sup>207</sup> He moved his family to Sumter Co., SC in 1916.<sup>208</sup>



Berry and Maggie Neely.<sup>209</sup>

The known children of Berry Franklin<sup>2</sup> Neely and the former Maggie Florence Sullivan were as follows:<sup>210</sup>

- 36. i. CELESTE<sup>3</sup> TERRELL NEELY, born 5 May 1905 in Laurens; died 4 October 1925 in Sumter, SC.<sup>211</sup>
- 37. ii. MARY LOU NEELY, born 6 December 1906; died 19 September 2003.<sup>212</sup> She

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<sup>203</sup> Compare South Carolina death certificate no. 20225 (1938), B F Neely; with Walker Cemetery (Sumter County, South Carolina), Berry Franklin Neely grave marker; photographed by Linda McCoy Kumi on 28 July 2014. Berry’s death certificate cites the 1884 year and his grave marker cites 1880; however, he was enumerated as a two-year old in June 1880 census and as a 21-year old in 1900 where a March 1879 birth date was noted.

<sup>204</sup> South Carolina death certificate no. 20225 (1938), B F Neely.

<sup>205</sup> Handwritten notes of the late Arthuree McCoy, provided to the author in connection with the 1980 reunion of the Neely, Sullivan, and Garrett Cousins, 1980, original in author’s file (“*Arthuree McCoy Notes.*”).

<sup>206</sup> Maggie Florence Sullivan Neely funeral program, Piedmont, South Carolina, citing service on 20 December 1958, copy provided by Linda McCoy Kumi of Sumter, SC. Also, Walker Cemetery (Sumter County, South Carolina), Maggie Florence Neely marker; photographed by Linda McCoy Kumi on 28 July 2014. Maggie’s funeral program cites 26 December but 27 December is on her gravestone.

<sup>207</sup> Laurens Co., South Carolina, Deed Book 17, page 599, J. G. Sullivan to Berry F. Neely, Laurens County Clerk of the Court.

<sup>208</sup> *Arthuree McCoy Notes.*

<sup>209</sup> A copy of this (undated) photo was provided to the author by Linda McCoy Kumi.

<sup>210</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Sumter County, South Carolina, population schedule, Sumter Township, page 59 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 147, sheet 7-A, dwelling 177, family 141, Berry Neely; NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 1713. This record lists all of the children listed above except Arthuree; also Mary Lou is believed to be listed as “Emma L.”

<sup>211</sup> South Carolina State Board of Health, death certificate no. 17887, (1925), Celeste Neely; Bureau of Vital Statistics, Columbia; digital image viewed on *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>).

<sup>212</sup> Walker Cemetery (Sumter County, South Carolina), Mary Lou Neely Whinen marker; photographed by Linda McCoy Kumi on 28 July 2014.

- married [?] Whinen.<sup>213</sup>
38. iii. ETHEL B. NEELY; born 23 September 1908; died 22 October 2004. <sup>214</sup>On 12 March 1947 married John Ollie Price (son of William and Clattie Edwards Price, born in Siler City, North Carolina on 15 November 1908).<sup>215</sup> She earned a B.S. from Morris College and an M.A. from North Carolina; she was the principal of a school and retired from teaching in 1975.<sup>216</sup> She was the mother of one son named James Oliver Price (born 22 October 1950; married [name withheld for privacy], fathered a son, and died 22 January 1980<sup>217</sup>). The South Carolina Legislature honored her in 2001 when the “Senate returned to the House with concurrence H. 3829, a concurrent resolution “honoring Mrs. Ethel Neely Price upon The occasion of recently being recognized as one of Sumter County’s Outstanding Women and the addition of her name to the ‘2001 Women’s Honor Roll of Sumter County’ for her lifelong commitment and dedication to Sumter County and the Palmetto State.”<sup>218</sup>
- 39 iv. HATTIE BELLE NEELY, born 22 July 1912, Laurens; died 3 August 1999.<sup>219</sup> She married Milton Pratt on 21 December 1941. She was a fashion dressmaker in the garment district of New York City until she retired and returned to live in Sumter County, SC.<sup>220</sup>
- 40 v. FOSALEE MAGGIE NEELY married [?] Williams; no further information.
- 41 vi. RICHARD PERRY NEELY married Henrietta Chisom; died in 1943; the couple had one son named Richard Juan Neely (born 29 May 1942 in Sumter, SC; married Ethel J. [surname withheld for privacy], the mother of his two children; died 6 February 1992).<sup>221</sup>

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<sup>213</sup> Ibid.

<sup>214</sup> Ethel Neely Price funeral program, Sumter County, South Carolina, citing service on 27 October 2004.

<sup>215</sup> John Ollie Price funeral program, Sumter County, South Carolina, citing service on 11 October 1956, copy provided by Linda McCoy Kumi of Sumter County, South Carolina.

<sup>216</sup> “Ethel Neely Price,” This is a single (undated) page of what appears to be a printed program for an event in which she was named one of Sumter County’s outstanding women at a rose planting and dedication at the Sumter County Exhibition Center; provided by Erina Tandy.

<sup>217</sup> James Oliver Price, Sr., funeral program, Sumter, South Carolina, citing service on 29 January 1980, copy provided by Linda McCoy Kumi of Sumter, SC.

<sup>218</sup> South Carolina General Assembly, 114th Session, 2001-2002, Journal of the House of Representatives, April 3, 2001; recognizing (Statewide Session) ([http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess114\\_2001-2002/hj01/20010403.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess114_2001-2002/hj01/20010403.htm)).

<sup>219</sup> South Carolina State Board of Health, death certificate, no number is visible, (1999), Hattie Belle Neely Pratt; Bureau of Vital Statistics, Columbia; image of a certified copy was emailed to the author by the holder of the original, Linda McCoy Kumi (who was also the informant for the document). According to her funeral program, however, she was born in 1910. Mrs. Hattie Bell Neely Pratt funeral program, Sumter, South Carolina, citing service on 7 August 1999, in author’s file.

<sup>220</sup> Mrs. Hattie Bell Neely Pratt funeral program (1999), in author’s file.

<sup>221</sup> Richard Juan Neely funeral program, Hempstead, New York, citing service on 11 February 1992, copy provided by Linda McCoy Kumi of Sumter, SC.





The family of Richard Perry Neely<sup>222</sup>

- 42 vii. JOHN BROOKS NEELY, born in 1919; died at the age of 4 on 16 September 1923.<sup>223</sup>
- + 43 viii. ARTHUREE ALBERTA NEELY, born 7 October 1921, Sumter County, South Carolina;<sup>224</sup> died 3 April 1988. She married Raleigh McCoy on 26 May 1943.<sup>225</sup>

**6. Richard<sup>2</sup> Neely Jr.** (Richard<sup>1</sup>), born 16 August 1882,<sup>226</sup> Laurens; died in Laurens on 24 January 1928.<sup>227</sup> SC. He married the former **Beulah Garrett**, born 9 May 1887, the daughter of Frances (née Latimer, born 2 April 1865; died 30 December 1953, the daughter of Albert Latimer<sup>228</sup>) and Wick Garrett (the son of Isaac Garrett and the former Hannah Cunningham, born 16 August 1863; died 2 December 1928).<sup>229</sup> According to Richard Jr.'s

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<sup>222</sup> Copy of photograph provided by Lind McCoy Kumi of Sumter, SC.

<sup>223</sup> Linda McCoy Kumi, Sumter, South Carolina to LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson, e-mail, 27 July 2014; South Carolina death certificate no. 15132 (1923), John B Neely; digital image viewed on *Familysearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org>). Neely is spelled "Nelly" on the death certificate, but other information makes the identity of John Brooks Neely clear, including that he was buried in Walker Cemetery, where his parents and other members of his immediate family are buried, his mother's first name of Maggie, and his father's initials of B.F.

<sup>224</sup> South Carolina birth certificate no. 39347 (1921), Arthuree Alberta Neeley [sic], image copy was emailed to the author by the holder of the original, Linda McCoy Kumi of Sumter County, SC.

<sup>225</sup> Sumter County, South Carolina, Raleigh McCoy and Arthuree Neely, 26 May 1943, certified marriage license and minister's certificate (with original signatures), an image copy was emailed to the author by the holder of the original, Linda McCoy Kumi of Sumter County, SC.

<sup>226</sup> Bethel Hall Missionary Baptist Church (Laurens, South Carolina), Richard Neely grave marker; photographed by author on 1 September 2011.

<sup>227</sup> South Carolina death certificate no. 1063 (1928), Richard "Nealey" [sic].

<sup>228</sup> Bethel Hall Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery (Laurens, South Carolina), Frances J, Garrett maker; personally read 2014. South Carolina death certificate no. 53-016937 (1953) Francis [sic] J. Garrett. The words "wife of Wister" are inscribed on her grave marker. The 30 December 1953 date is on her death certificate but the date on her grave marker is 31 December 1953. The death certificate indicates that her mother's name was unknown.

<sup>229</sup> South Carolina State Board of Health, death certificate no. 22848 (1928), Wister Lee Garrett, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Columbia; digital image viewed on *Familysearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 6 February 2015). Also, Beulah Cora Cleveland (née Garrett) funeral program, Washington, District of Columbia, citing service on 31 March 1962, in author's file. Also, Will of Wick L. Garrett. Real property was devised to daughter, Beulah Neely.

1918 WWI draft registration card, his father-in-law, Wick L. Garrett, employed him.<sup>230</sup> He was buried at “Bethelhol” [sic], a church that stands on land that was donated by his wife’s parents.<sup>231</sup> Sadly, his widow’s father died in December of the same year as Richard’s death,<sup>232</sup> as a result, Beulah Neely inherited 36.38 acres of land in Sullivan Township in Laurens.<sup>233</sup> Beulah continued living in Laurens until at least 1940, when she was enumerated in Sullivan Township in a home that she owned. Beulah was the informant for the information that she lived with the following four children and one grandchild:<sup>234</sup>

eighteen-year-old son, Homer  
sixteen-year-old daughter, Mary Lee  
fourteen-year-old daughter “L Celeste”  
twelve-year-old son John W and  
five-year-old granddaughter, Frances (who was given the same name as Beulah’s mother).<sup>235</sup>

Richard Jr.’s widow and their children lived in the midst of her Garrett family; on one side, she was next door to her brother, Albert Elton Garrett, who married Beulah’s late husband’s niece, Mattie Neely.<sup>236</sup> Next door to Elton was brother, Shellie D. Garrett.<sup>237</sup> On the other side was her brother John W. Garrett,<sup>238</sup> and next to John was her mother, Frances Garrett<sup>239</sup>. In view of Beulah’s continuous residence in Laurens up until 1940, it is fair to assume that all of her children were born there.

Children of Richard<sup>2</sup> Neely Jr. and Beulah (née Garrett) were<sup>240</sup>:

+ 44 i. EDGENORA<sup>3</sup> NEELY, born about 1911, Laurens; died in 1980. She married

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<sup>230</sup> “United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918,” database, *Ancestry.com*, card for Richard Neely, serial no. 1543, Local Board for the County of Laurens, South Carolina, citing NARA M1509, roll 1877672.

<sup>231</sup> Laurens Co., South Carolina, Deed Book 32, page 131, W.L. Garrett to the Trustees of Bethel Hall Baptist Church, 16 November 1911, Clerk of Court, Laurens County.

<sup>232</sup> South Carolina death certificate no. 22848 (1928), Wister Lee Garrett.

<sup>233</sup> Laurens Co., South Carolina, Deed Book 57, page 428, Ex. of Will of W.L. Garrett to Beulah Garrett Neely, 14 January 1931, Clerk of Court, Laurens County.

<sup>234</sup> 1940 U.S. census, Laurens County, population schedule, Sullivan Township, p. 499 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 30-36, sheet 11-A, household 175, “Beulah” G. Neely; NARA microfilm publication T627, roll 3821.

<sup>235</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>236</sup> 1940 U.S. census, Laurens County, population schedule, Sullivan Township, p. 499 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 30-36, sheet 11-A, household 176, Elton Garrett; NARA microfilm publication T627, roll 3821.

<sup>237</sup> 1940 U.S. census, Laurens County, population schedule, Sullivan Township, p. 499 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 30-36, sheet 11-A, household 177, Shellie D Garrett; NARA microfilm publication T627, roll 3821.

<sup>238</sup> 1940 U.S. census, Laurens County, population schedule, Sullivan Township, p. 499 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 30-36, sheet 11-A, household 174, John W. Garrett; NARA microfilm publication, roll 3821; *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>).

<sup>239</sup> 1940 U.S. census, Laurens County, population schedule, Sullivan Township, p. 499 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 30-36, sheet 11-A, household 173, Frances Garrett; NARA microfilm publication T627, roll 3821; *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>).

<sup>240</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Sullivan Township, no page number, enumeration district (ED) 30–33, sheet 1-B, dwelling 12, family 12, Beulah Neely; NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 2203. Also, Beulah Cora Cleveland funeral program, 1962.

- Furman Herron.<sup>241</sup>
- 45 ii. RUTH NEELY born about 1913;<sup>242</sup> married Samuel Davenport<sup>243</sup>
- + 46 iii. MAUDE NEELY, born 13 March 1914, Laurens; died 3 January 1982. She married Moses Taylor.<sup>244</sup>
- 47 iv. GARRETT NEELY, born about 1926; no further information.
- 48 v. RICHARD HUESTON NEELY, born 20 August 1919, Laurens; died 23 May 1987 in Teaneck, New Jersey married Willie Gene Coleman.<sup>245</sup>
- 49 vi. FONZEL NEELY, born 10 December 1919; died 8 May 1991 in New Jersey. He married Victoria (the sister of his brother Hueston's wife, Willie Gene<sup>246</sup>); He served in the U.S. Navy.<sup>247</sup>
- 50 vii HOMER NEELY born about 1922;<sup>248</sup> died 1997. He married Myrtle K., and they had two sons and a daughter.<sup>249</sup>
- 51 viii MARY LEE NEELY, born 18 January 1923, Laurens; died 14 October 1973. She married Chester Henderson,<sup>250</sup> the father of her two children: Otis Chester Henderson (died 30 June 2008<sup>251</sup>) and Lydia (née Henderson) Gibson Riddick (the mother of four children; died).
- 52 ix [NAME WITHHELD FOR PRIVACY] NEELY, born 16 November 1925, Laurens.<sup>252</sup> She married the late Rev. Edward Harris, Sr., the couple had a son and two daughters.<sup>253</sup>
- 53 x JOHN WALTER ("JAKE") NEELY; born about 1928; date of death is unknown. He married Clara; he was a composer of popular music and the father of two daughters.<sup>254</sup> Following is a copy of original sheet music for one of

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<sup>241</sup> *Descendants of Furman Herron*, undated chart supplied by Kenneth Crosson.

<sup>242</sup> 1940 U.S. census, Laurens Co., pop. sch., Sullivan, p. 499 (stamped), ED 30-36, sheet 11-A, house 175, Ruth Neely in the household of "Beulah" G. Neely.

<sup>243</sup> Beulah Cora Cleveland (née Garrett) funeral program.

<sup>244</sup> Maude H. Taylor funeral program, Washington, District of Columbia, citing service on 9 January 1982, in author's file.

<sup>245</sup> Richard Hueston Neely, Jr. funeral program, Jersey City, New Jersey, citing service on 27 May 1987, in author's file, copy provided by Linda McCoy Kumi.

<sup>246</sup> Source: Thomas Weldon Garrett of Laurens, South Carolina.

<sup>247</sup> Fonzel Neeley [sic] funeral program, Jersey City, New Jersey, citing service on 11 May 1991, original provided by Linda McCoy Kumi.

<sup>248</sup> 1940 U.S. census, Laurens Co., pop. sch., Sullivan, p. 499 (stamped), ED 30-36, sheet 11-A, house. 175, Homer Neely enumerated as an 18-year-old in the household of "Beulah" G. Neely.

<sup>249</sup> Beulah Cora Cleveland (née Garrett) funeral program, 1962. Myrtle is named as a daughter-in-law. Garrett-Nelson, *The Source*, 234.

<sup>250</sup> Garrett-Nelson, *The Source*, 212, citing "Mary Lee Henderson's obituary" without other identifying information.

<sup>251</sup> LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson, *The Source: The Garrett, Neely, and Sullivan Families, 2010 Supplement* (Salt Lake City: Family Heritage Publishers 2010) 37.

<sup>252</sup> *Ibid.*, 231.

<sup>253</sup> Source: Bessie Herron Crosson of Washington, DC. "In Remembrance," *GNS Family Newsletter* 1(August 1998) 3. Edward Harris is listed on this page.

<sup>254</sup> Source: Bessie Herron Crosson.

John Walter Neely's songs.<sup>255</sup>



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**7. Corrie<sup>2</sup> Neely** (Richard<sup>1</sup>), born May 1884, South Carolina; date of death is unknown. She married **James Cleveland**. By 1920 two of her children had been born and her family lived on “Laurens Madden Road” in Laurens.<sup>257</sup> James farmed for his own account, although their home was rented. Corrie was not employed. By 1940 the family was living in neighboring Greenville County, at 112B Parker Street; Corrie’s sister Cora was enumerated as a head of household at the same address.<sup>258</sup> In 1940 James was employed as a laborer in the road construction industry; Irene was not listed but two additional children (a second son and a second daughter) resided in the home.<sup>259</sup>

The children of Corrie<sup>2</sup> (née Neely) and James Cleveland were:<sup>260</sup>

- 54 i. THEODORE<sup>3</sup> CLEVELAND, born about 1917, South Carolina;<sup>261</sup> date of death is unknown.
- 55 ii. IRENE CLEVELAND, born about 1919, South Carolina;<sup>262</sup> died February

<sup>255</sup> Provided by Bessie Herron Crosson.

<sup>256</sup> John Walter Neely, “Johnny You’re Such a Lover” (Words and Music) (Nordyke Music Publication © 11 July 1948).

<sup>257</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Laurens Township, p. no. 45 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 60, sheet 21-B, dwelling 49, family 49, Cora Cleveland enumerated as the wife of Jim Cleveland; NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 1700.

<sup>258</sup> 1940 U.S. census, Greenville County, South Carolina, population schedule, Greenville Township, p. 620 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 23-37, sheet 10-A, household 209, Corrie Cleveland enumerated as the wife of James Cleveland; NARA microfilm publication T627, roll 3812; digital image viewed on Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>). Cora Neely was enumerated as a teacher heading her own household, at the same house number.

<sup>259</sup> Ibid.

<sup>260</sup> *Corrie Neely Cleveland Biography*.

<sup>261</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Laurens Co., SC, pop. sch., Laurens, p. 45 (stamped), ED 60, sheet 21-B, dwell. 49, fam. 49, entry for “Thedo” [sic] (age 3).

<sup>262</sup> Ibid. entry for “Irela” [sic] (age 1).

1974; she married Cleophus Johns.<sup>263</sup>

- 56 iii. RUDOLPH CLEVELAND, born about 1924, South Carolina;<sup>264</sup> date of death is unknown.
- + 57 iv. CORA CLEVELAND, born 31 May 1926; died 15 December 2004. She married Erman J. Mason (Died 12 May 1986), and they had six children.<sup>265</sup>

**9. Lida<sup>2</sup> Neely** (Richard<sup>1</sup>), born about 1890, Laurens; died 16 December 1935 at the age of 45.<sup>266</sup> She married **Cade T. Sullivan**, a farmer<sup>267</sup> (the son of Cade L. Sullivan, born about 1864, South Carolina<sup>268</sup>).

The children of Lida<sup>2</sup> (née Neely) and Cade T. Sullivan were:

- 58 i. CADE<sup>3</sup> THOMAS SULLIVAN, JR, born about 1914,<sup>269</sup> South Carolina; no further information.



Lida (née Neely) Sullivan

- + 59 ii. FLORA SULLIVAN, born about 1916, Laurens; died 12 January

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<sup>263</sup> *Corrie Neely Cleveland Bio.*

<sup>264</sup> A second son was enumerated as “Pim” in 1940; the author believes this is a reference to Rudolph, the only other son identified. 1940 U.S. census, Greenville Co., SC, pop. sch., Greenville, p. 620 (stamped), ED 23-37, sheet 10-A, household 209, “Pim” [?] Cleveland enumerated as a son in James Cleveland’ household.

<sup>265</sup> Erma Mason to author, Facebook messenger, 6 February 2015.

<sup>266</sup> South Carolina State Board of Health, death certificate no. 20068 (1935), “Lydia” Sullivan; Bureau of Vital Statistics, Columbia; digital image viewed on *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>). Cade Sullivan, her son, was the informant for the information that her parents were Richard and Harriet Neely.

<sup>267</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Greenville County, SC, Fairview Township, p. 18 (stamped), ED 23-20, sheet 5-B, dwell. 71, fam. 76, Lida Sullivan enumerated as the wife in the household of Cade Sullivan; NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 2198. Also, Flora Harris Obituary viewed on *Greenvilleonline.com*.

<sup>268</sup> 1940 U.S. census, Greenville County, South Carolina, Fairview Township, p. 435 (stamped), enumeration (ED) 23-26, sheet 7-B, house 129, 76, Cade L. Sullivan enumerated as the 76-year-old father of the head in the household of Cade Sullivan; NARA microfilm publication T627, roll 3811; digital image viewed on *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>).

<sup>269</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Greenville Co., SC, Fairview, p. 18 (stamped), ED 23-20, sheet 1-B, dwell. 71, fam. 76, “Thomas C.” [sic] Sullivan enumerated as a 16-year-old son in the household of Cade Sullivan.

- 2014 at the age of 97.<sup>270</sup> She married Rev. Clifton Brown on 21 February 1986, after being widowed by Zeno Brown.<sup>271</sup>
- 60 iii. HATTIE L. SULLIVAN, born about 1919;<sup>272</sup> married Mark Allen Shell, the father of her five sons and a daughter.<sup>273</sup>
- + 61 iv. LEROY SULLIVAN, born about 1922, South Carolina;<sup>274</sup> died April 1998.<sup>275</sup> He married Ethel [surname withheld for privacy].
- 62 v. EDDIE PEARL SULLIVAN, born about 1923, South Carolina;<sup>276</sup> she had three sons and a daughter.<sup>277</sup>
- + 63 vi. JESSIE MAE SULLIVAN, born about 1926,<sup>278</sup> South Carolina; married Ezell Byrd
- 64 vii. PLUMMER SULLIVAN, born about 1929, South Carolina.<sup>279</sup> He married [name withheld for privacy]. and they had a daughter and three sons.
- 65 viii. HOMER SULLIVAN, born about 1933, Greenville County, South Carolina;<sup>280</sup> married Shirley and had one daughter

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<sup>270</sup> Ibid., Flora L Sullivan enumerated as a fourteen-year-old daughter in the household of Cade Sullivan. Also, Flora Sullivan Harris Obituary; viewed on *Findagrave.com* (<http://www.findagrave.com>). Also, Flora Harris Obituary.

<sup>271</sup> Precious Garrett, ed., “Flora Harris interview,” *The Source: The Garrett, Neely, and Sullivan Families, 2012 Family Reunion Elder*.

<sup>272</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Greenville Co., SC, Fairview, p. 18 (stamped), ED 23-20, sheet 1-B, dwell. 71, fam. 76, Hattie L Sullivan enumerated as an 11-year-old daughter in the household of Cade Sullivan.

<sup>273</sup> Garrett-Nelson, *The Source*, 248.

<sup>274</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Greenville Co., SC, Fairview, p. 18 (stamped), ED 23-20, sheet 1-B, dwell. 71, fam. 76, Leroy Sullivan enumerated as an eight-year-old son in the household of Cade Sullivan.

<sup>275</sup> “In Remembrance,” 3. Lee Roy Sullivan is listed on this page.

<sup>276</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Greenville Co., SC, Fairview, p. 18 (stamped), ED 23-20, sheet 1-B, dwell. 71, fam. 76, Eddie P. Sullivan enumerated as a six-year-old daughter in the household of Cade Sullivan.

<sup>277</sup> Garrett-Nelson, *The Source*, 2489.

<sup>278</sup> Ibid., Jesse M. Sullivan enumerated as a four-year old daughter in the Household of Cade Sullivan.

<sup>279</sup> Ibid., “Plumer” [sic] Sullivan enumerated as a one-year-old son in the Household of Cade Sullivan.

<sup>280</sup> 1940 U.S. census, Greenville Co., SC, Fairview, p. 435 (stamped), ED 23-26, sheet 7-B, dwell. 71, fam. 76, Homer Sullivan enumerated as a 7-year-old “brother” in the household of Cade Sullivan. The enumerator listed all of the children enumerated in 1930 as sisters or brothers rather than as sons and daughters.



William Neely

**10. William Neely**<sup>2</sup> (Richard<sup>1</sup>) was born about 1890; died 13 November 1932 in Columbus Ohio.<sup>281</sup> In 1910 he was enumerated in the household of his older brother, Walter.<sup>282</sup> He married **Buena (“Essie”) Shaw** on 15 January 1914 in Laurens.<sup>283</sup> He was enumerated in Laurens on Waterloo Road in 1920.<sup>284</sup> By 1930, he had relocated to Columbus, Ohio, where he worked “on his own account” as a real estate broker and owned a home that he shared with his wife, Buena, and two children.<sup>285</sup> The following (undated) photo of William Neely presents the picture of a prosperous businessman.<sup>286</sup>

The known children of William<sup>2</sup> Neely and Buena (née Shaw) were:

- 66 i. JAMES WILLIAM<sup>3</sup> NEELY, born about 1914, Laurens;<sup>287</sup> died 1 November 1952, Franklin, Ohio. He was a probation officer.<sup>288</sup>
- 67 ii. MURRAY LEE NEELY, born 28 February 1917, Laurens<sup>289</sup>; died 18 August 1987. He married the former Elnora Odessa Speed;

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<sup>281</sup> Ohio Department of Health, death certificate 64304 (1932), William Neely.

<sup>282</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Greenville Co., SC, pop. sch., Fairview, p. 230 (stamped), ED 13, sheet 19-A, dwell. 359, fam. 361, “Willie” enumerated as a brother in the household of Walter Neely.

<sup>283</sup> Laurens County, South Carolina, Marriage License (1914), Shaw-Neely, Office of the Clerk, Laurens County Probate Court.

<sup>284</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Laurens, South Carolina, population schedule, Laurens Township, p. 19-B, ward 6, enumeration district (ED) 60, sheet 7-A, dwelling 9, family 9, Will Neely; NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 1700. Waterloo Road is written along the side margin of the census record.

<sup>285</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Franklin Co., OH, Columbus City, ward 6, enumeration district (ED) 25-153, sheet 7-A, dwelling 119, family 194, William Neely.

<sup>286</sup> This photo was provided to the author by Linda McCoy Kumi.

<sup>287</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Franklin Co., OH, Columbus City, ward 6, ED 25-153, sheet 7-A, dwell. 119, fam. 194, William Neely. James W. Neely was listed as a son in this household.

<sup>288</sup> Ohio Department of Health, death certificate no. 70384 (1952), James William Neely, Division of Vital Statistics, Columbus; digital image viewed on Familysearch.org (<http://www.familysearch.org>). Parents named were William Neely and Essie (née Shaw).

<sup>289</sup> Murray Lee Neely funeral program, in author’s file; a photocopy of two inside pages provide, with no information regarding the place and date of service. Also, North Carolina, Deaths, 1931-1994," index, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/FGC6-2QR>; no image available), Murray Lee Neely, 18 Aug 1987; citing Greensboro, Guilford, North Carolina, v 34A cn 34220, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh

earned a B.S. from Florida, A&M and an M.A. from Ohio State University; his lifelong career was in coaching and education; North Carolina A&T University's "Murray Neely Pre-Penn Relay Invitational Meet" was named in his honor.<sup>290</sup>

**11. Calvin<sup>2</sup> Neely** (Richard<sup>1</sup>), born 25 November 1889, Laurens, according to his delayed birth certificate;<sup>291</sup> however, census and draft registration records suggest that he was born about 1893.<sup>292</sup> He died in September 1964. He married the former **Ollie Cleveland** in 1914<sup>293</sup>. In 1930 Calvin's family was enumerated in Kentucky and he worked as a miner.<sup>294</sup> 39-year old Calvin headed a household that included his 35-year old wife, Ollie, and the following children: fifteen-year-old son, Richard, thirteen-year-old daughter, Lula, eleven-year-old daughter, Ollie M., ten-year-old son, Mitchell, eight-year-old daughter, Ethel, and an unrelated boarder. Everyone in the household was born in South Carolina.<sup>295</sup> By 1940 Calvin had moved his family to Wise County, Virginia, where his household included Ollie, Richard, Mitchell, Ethel, and a one-year old grandson.<sup>296</sup> Calvin registered for the "Old Man's draft" in Derby Township, Wise County, Virginia, where he was also employed by a mining company called Conega Coke and Coal Company.<sup>297</sup>

The known children of Calvin<sup>2</sup> Neely and Ollie (née Cleveland) were:<sup>298</sup>

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<sup>290</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Franklin Co., OH, Columbus City, ward 6, ED 25-153, sheet 7-A, dwell. 119, fam. 194, William Neely. Murray L. Neely was listed as a son in this household. Murray Lee Neely funeral program, citing service on 22 August 1987, Greensboro, North Carolina; supplied by Linda McCoy Kumi. See *Athletic.net* ([www.athletic.net/TrackAndField/MeetResults.aspx?Meet=88604](http://www.athletic.net/TrackAndField/MeetResults.aspx?Meet=88604)).

<sup>291</sup> South Carolina Delayed Births, 1766-1900 (1946), Calvin Neely, (sworn to by his brother, John P. Neely); digital image viewed on *Ancestry.com*. (<http://www.ancestry.com>).

<sup>292</sup> "United States World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942: Fourth Draft; 'Old Man's Registration'," images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>), card for Calvin Neely, serial no. U471, Local Draft Board, Derby, Wise County, Virginia; the source cited for these images is "The National Archives at St. Louis; St. Louis, Missouri; State Headquarters: *Virginia*." 1893 is given as the year of birth.

1920 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Dials Township, p. 200 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 52, sheet 11-B, dwelling 207, family 211, Calvin Neely; NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 1699. Calvin's age on his last birthday before 21 January 1920 is listed as 26, suggesting a birth year of about 1893. Also, U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 database, images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>), card for Calvin Neely. 1893 is also given as the year of death on this record.

<sup>293</sup> Laurens Co., SC, Marriage License Register, Cleveland-Neely, 1914.

<sup>294</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Harlan County, Kentucky, population schedule, Kitts Precinct, p. 109 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 48-5, sheet 33-A, dwelling 61, family 601, Calvin Neely; NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 748. "County Road Golden Ash Camp" is written along the side margin of the census record.

<sup>295</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>296</sup> 1940 U. S. Census, Wise County, Virginia, population schedule, Grove Township, enumeration district (ED) 98-28, page 544 (stamped), sheet 22A, household 331, Calvin Neely; NARA microfilm T627, roll 4302.

<sup>297</sup> "United States World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942: Fourth Draft; 'Old Man's Registration,'" images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 16 January 2015), card for Calvin Neely, serial no. U471, Local Draft Board, Derby, Wise County, Virginia; the source cited for these images is "The National Archives at St. Louis; St. Louis, Missouri; State Headquarters: *Virginia*."

<sup>298</sup> Chart of the Descendants of Calvin Neely and Ollie Cleveland Neely, supplied by Norma Green; in author's file ("*Descendants of Calvin Neely*"). The chart is undated and cites no specific documentation, but the information is consistent with the 1920 and 1930 U.S. census for the household headed by Calvin Neely. 1920 U.S. census, Laurens County, South Carolina, population schedule, Dials Township, p. 200 (stamped),



- 68 i RICHARD<sup>3</sup> C. NEELY; married Ruth Horton,<sup>299</sup> the mother of his two sons and two daughters [names withheld for privacy].<sup>300</sup>
- 69 ii. HATTIE LULA<sup>3</sup> NEELY married David Hood, the father of her three sons.
- 70 iii. OLLIE NEELY, married Booker T. Yarbrough, the father of her seven children. She made her home in Cleveland, Ohio.<sup>301</sup>
- 71 iv. MITCHELL NEELY, married Luida Davis, the mother of his son; died.<sup>302</sup>
- 72 v. DEE ETHEL NEELY, the only family lore about this information is that she was the mother of three children.<sup>303</sup>

### **Conclusion**

Nothing in the historical record distinguishes Richard Neely from the millions of other African Americans who were freed from enslavement as the result of the Civil War: census records indicate that both he and his wife were illiterate, and his 1870 enumeration as a farm laborer did not suggest any special skill. Nevertheless, he managed to become a landowner, and to send one of his daughters to college where she obtained a B.S. degree, becoming the first of generations of college and professional school graduates among his descendants.

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enumeration district (ED) 52, sheet 11-B, dwelling 207, family 211, Calvin Neely; NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 1699.

<sup>299</sup> Ibid.

<sup>300</sup> Garrett-Nelson, *The Source*, 236.

<sup>301</sup> *Descendants of Calvin Neely*. Also, Garrett-Nelson, *The Source*, 255.

<sup>302</sup> *Descendants of Calvin Neely*. Also, Garrett-Nelson, *The Source*, 235.

<sup>303</sup> Garrett-Nelson, *The Source*, 233.