

## LOVE FAMILY HISTORY

DESCENDANTS OF BERRY, PETER AND HARRY LOVE (Researched by Samuel Darius Love and historical comments added by Gail Love McMillian)

Three young brothers born in a west african village were kidnapped, shackled and brought to this country. [They were boys maybe 6 to 14 years old]. They traveled by way of the Caribbean and were sold on a slave auction block in Jackson, Mississippi. [In 1808 it was illegal to import slaves into the United States; however, slaves were illegally imported well into the 1850's for over 40 years.] They were sold to the Falls family, who were from Amite County, in the mid 1850's. [Amite County was on the southern border of Mississippi near Louisiana.]

The Falls family sold the three young boys to Andrew Love of Gaston County North Carolina. It is believed William Love of Mississippi was instrumental in the purchasing of the three young brothers from the Falls family. William Love was a distant cousin of Andrew Love. Andrew Love gave the young slaves to his sons. Berry was given to John Love, Harry was given to Calib Love and Peter was given to Andrew Love Jr.

It was stated in Andrew's will the estate would pass down to his son Robert Calvin Greir Love upon the death of the other sons. Robert Calvin Greir and Berry were about the same age. Berry was born in 1844 and Greir was born in 1841. Berry and Peter traveled with Greir to and from York and Chester, South Carolina. They also accompanied him on trips to Lincolnton and Charlotte, North Carolina to carry wheat, corn, cotton, cured bacon and other farm products. Peter also worked on the farm as did Harry.

[The Emancipation was signed in 1863 and Juneteenth was in 1865, when all Negroes were notified they were free from slavery], Upon being set free, Berry worked as a butcher in a slaughter pen at Boyd's Market until his health failed him. Peter worked with Greir Love in land surveying in Gaston County. Harry became a sharecropper in the Crowders Mountain section until he moved to McConnellville, South Carolina. Berry and Peter helped Greir Love to build the Loray Cotton Mill which later became Firestone Mill in Gastonia.

Although our great grandfathers were slaves they had dreams of better days which they instilled within their children. The Love's were very religious young men.

Berry was a member in St. Stephens A.M.E. Zion Church in Gastonia. He was a trustee and Sunday school teacher for the church.

Peter became a minister in the A.M.E. Zion Church. He was a staunch member of Trinity Church of Crowders Creek section. [Peter is buried at Trinity Church in Gastonia, N.C. which is now known as Trinity Unity AME Zion Church after Trinity and Unity AME Zion Church congregations merged].

Harry was also a member of Trinity Church in Gastonia, N.C. until he moved to McConnellville, S.C.

All three of the brothers married. Berry first married Margaret Wilson and then Rebecca Knox, affectionately known as Aunt Becky. Nine children were produced from the two marriages.

Peter married Margaret Adams and they had six to eight children.

Harry had three families and was first married to Harriet Chambers, then Mary Margaret McGill and then Jane Williams. A total of nine children were born.

Berry, Peter, Harry and their spouses were pleased in the way God had blessed them and kept them through the years. We the descendants of Berry, Peter and Harry Love give thanks unto God.