

GAITHER FAMILY

DR. HENRY GAITHER (Medical Doctor) Born 8 Aug. 1801 Died 27 Jan. 1891.

Wife Sara Ann Cole Gaither Born 15 Nov. 1810 Died 13 Oct. 1871.
(According to the 1850 Federal Census of Newton County, Ga. her
maiden name was Cole)

Children: Hulbert B. Gaither, AM. Born 6 Aug. 1836 Died 15 Jan. 1861.
(Medical Apprentice)

Ella M. Gaither Hargrove, Born 10 Jan 1851 Died 1 Mar. 1897.
(wife of Capt. J. S. Hargrove)

Brice T. Gaither, Born 13 Apr. 1828 Died 21 Sep 1853.
(Student Physician, married Elizabeth Jarrett 27 Nov. 1851
according to Putnam County marriage records page 33)

Alexander Means Gaither, Born 29 Mar. 1842 Died 1854.

Mary H. Gaither, Born 30 Apr. 1849 Died 7 May 1854.

The above births and deaths recorded from the headstones in the Oxford
Historical Cemetery, Oxford, Ga.

Sara A. E. Gaither Griffin, Born 1838

Augustus L. Gaither, Born 1844

The above two births concluded from their ages given in the 1850 Federal
Census of Newton County, Ga. Their dates of death not known. It is known
that Augustus married and that he moved to Milledgeville, Ga. in his later
years.

The following is recorded in the Gaither Family Bible inscribed:

"Presented to William H. and Cecelia B. Gaither by their father,
Dr. H. Gaither, April 20th 1856".

William Hulbert Gaither, Born 5 Mar. 1832 Died 18 July 1890.

Married 6 Dec. 1855 to Cecelia Billups Wood, Born 18 July 1838
Died 27 Dec. 1916.

Children: Sara Clara Gaither, Born 12 Sept. 1856 Died 21 Nov.
1865.

Mary Jane Stokes Gaither, Born 19 Mar. 1860 Died 28
Aug. 1887. Married 9 Dec. 1879 to Emmett A. Heard.
They had one child who lived named Edwin Anthony
Heard who was born 13 May 1885.

Henry Gaither, Born 10 Dec. 1865. Date of death
not known.

William Hulbert Gaither, Born 10 Dec. 1868 Died
27 April 1934. Married 1 Feb. 1893 to Mary Lelia
Biggers, born 23 July 1875 Died 17 July 1957. She
was the daughter of Leroy Theodore Biggers, Born
1845 died 1936. His wife, Perlina Lunsford was born
1857 and died in 1930. They were married in 1873.

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Children of William Hulbert and Mary Lelia Biggers Gaither.

Janie Heard Gaither, Born 22 Oct. 1893 Died 3 Nov. 1985. Married John Arthur Arnold, 21 June 1917.

Children: Rosemary Arnold, Born 16 Sept. 1919, married 24 Dec. 1938 to Robert Gillman Williams.
Hulbert Gaither Arnold Born 9 Jan. 1921.
John Arthur Arnold, Born 5 May 1922.
William Edward Arnold, Born 2 April 1924. Deceased.
Janie Elizabeth Arnold Ryan, Born 30 June 1926.
Genevieve Arnold Alpert, Born 27 May 1928.

Willie Lee Gaither, Born 11 July 1897 Died 9 Feb. 1953. Married Elsie Terry.
One child, Maurice Gaither, Born 2 May 1930 Died 24 June 1985.

Married 5 May 1956 to Shirley Ann Graham, Born 29 July 1935.

Children:

Judith Ann Gaither Long, Born 18 July 1959, married 22 Aug. 1985 to Bryan Keith Long.

Kimberly Joan Gaither, Born 5 May 1969.

Annie Laurie Gaither, Born 27 April 1899. Married 9 Nov. 1921 to David Coleman Butler, Born 11 Dec. 1896 Died 13 Sept. 1976.

Children: Mary Lucy Butler, Born 26 May 1923. Married 26 Mar. 1943 to John Lamar Callaway, Jr., Born 26 Oct. 1918.

Children:

Lucy Catharine Callaway, R.D., Born 9 Dec. 1946. Married 4 Oct. 1970 to Michael Barron Sigman, DVM. Born 7 Sept. 1946.
Children: Michael Barron Sigman, Jr. Born 13 Dec. 1973;
Mary Bess Sigman, Born 5 July 1978.

Major John Lamar Callaway, III, Born 3 Nov. 1950, married 30 June 1973 to Sara Lee Thompson, Born 26 Jan. 1952.
Children: John Kristian Callaway, Born 27 Dec. 1975; Amy Lee Callaway, Born 20 Oct. 1979.

Roy Ezell Callaway, Pharmacist, Born 22 Mar. 1953, married 9 June 1978 to Mary Ann Barton, Born 15 Apr. 1957. Children:
Mary Elizabeth Callaway, Born 18 Nov. 1980; John Barton Callaway, Born 10 Jan. 1986.

David Coleman Butler, Jr. Born 29 Apr. 1926. Married 11 Sep. 1949 to Mary Hays Blackwell.

Children:

David Coleman Butler, III, Born 14 Jan. 1951.
James Blackwell Butler, Born 15 July 1952.
George Butler, Born 22 Nov. 1954 Deceased.
Polly Butler, Born 13 Oct. 1956.

Pauline Butler, Born 11 Apr. 1929. Married 12 Nov. 1949 to Herbert Royce Frost, MD, Born 8 Nov. 1928 Died 1983.

Children:

Annie Laurie Frost Roberson Berry, Born 23 June 1950.
Mary Lucy Frost Moore, Born 6 Dec. 1954
Henry E. Frost, Born 9 Nov. 1958.

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Pauline Billips Gaither, Born 11 Sept. 1901 Died 1986. Married 16 Aug. 1927 to Frank Arden Perkins, Deceased.

Children: Frank Arden Perkins, Jr., Born 17 Dec. 1929. Married 3 June 1951 to Flora Nell Adkins.

Children:

Paul Andrew Perkins, Born 7 Feb. 1954.

David Mitchell Perkins, Born 18 Feb. 1957.

George Gaither Perkins, Born 18 June 1935. While serving with the Navy, George met and married an Australian girl. They have two girls. Names and births not known. George and his family make their home in Australia.

Edwin Hulbert Gaither, Born 29 Aug. 1908 is deceased. 31 Aug. 1940 to Margaret Turner from Gay, Ga, Margaret is deceased also. They had no children.

Mary Wood Gaither: Born 18 June 1911. Married 9 Dec. 1932 to Hardy Gregory from Vienna, Ga. is deceased.

Children: Edwin Alton Gregory, Born Sept. 1933.

Hardy Gregory, Jr. Born 12 Aug. 1936, now a Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Charles Gaither Gregory, Born 19 Apr. 1939.

William Hulbert Gregory, Born 6 May 1940.

The Gaither family of Newton County, Georgia descends from Dr. Henry Gaither, a medical doctor, born 8 Aug. 1808 in Hancock County, Georgia. He came to Oxford, Georgia around 1827, approximately the same time his friend, Dr. Alexander Means, one of the great names of Emory College's and Oxford's first decade, began his medical practice in Covington, Georgia. They were apparently good friends as Dr. Gaither named one of his sons for Dr. Means and as Dr. Means later became a licensed Methodist minister, he officiated at the marriage of Dr. Gaither's son, William Hulbert Gaither to Cecelia Billups Wood, a daughter of Cary Wood, pioneer of Newton County.

Dr. Gaither's eight children were born in Oxford, Newton County, Georgia and his sons were educated at Emory College. Dr. Gaither's children, Sara A.E. Gaither Griffin (Mrs. W. B. "Walt" Griffin), Ella M. Gaither Hargrove (Mrs. J. S. Hargrove), Augustus L. Gaither and William Hulbert Gaither, owned and lived on so much land in the southeastern part of Newton County that it became known as Gaithers District.

In 1875, a church building was constructed on a part of Augustus Gaither's land. In 1878, the Rev. Sam P. Jones was assigned to the Newborn Methodist Circuit in Newton County. Gaithers Church had only four members at that time, therefore, Rev. Jones determined he would have to have a quorum of

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members before he could get down to business. On a Saturday before the fifth Sunday in March he went to the home of W. H. Gaither, one of the best farmers and a graduate of Emory College, explaining more members were needed for Gaithers Church and he wanted Mr. Gaither to join the church the next day. Mr. Gaither replied he never would until he got religion. Rev. Jones tried to convince him he was needed and should join, but felt he had failed. The next day, much to the surprise of Rev. Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Gaither came and joined the church. Mrs. Gaither, being a devout christian, had apparently persuaded him to join. Later, while walking over the fields one evening to the church with Rev. Jones, Mr. Gaither discovered he really had "got religion". Mr. Gaither's brother Augustus, his wife and sisters Ella and Sara with their husbands, J. S. Hargrove and W. B. Griffin also joined. In 1878, Augustus L. Gaither deeded one acre of land, on which the church building stood, to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Gaithers District. Until 1884, the church building was also used as a public elementary school. As of this publication, Gaithers United Methodist Church is still a thriving on-going church, an important part of Newton County.

W. H. Gaither's plantation consisted of eight hundred seventy-five acres more or less and lying and being mostly in Newton County, but for a few acres being in the county of Jasper. On 21 May 1881, he deeded his plantation to his wife, Cecelia B. Wood Gaither, "for and in consideration of the great love and affection, which he bears towards his wife, Cecelia B. Gaither, as well as for and in consideration of the sum of ten dollars to him in hand paid by the said C. B. Gaither".

Several events contributed to the financial reverses which beset the Gaither family beginning with the "War Between the States". In 1888, the tragedy of W. H. Gaither's son, Henry, killing a tenant farmer on the adjoining land of W. B. Griffin. In an altercation with tenant farmer, George Smith, over a brush fire started by George Smith, which consequently destroyed the nests of Henry Gaither's turkeys, Henry struck George a blow on the head with a stick which killed him. Due to the fact there was a warrant for his arrest for murder, Henry had to flee from Newton County never to return. The death of W. H. Gaither in 1890 and early in nineteen hundred the boll weevil wiped out the cotton crop.

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About 1906, W. H. Gaither, Jr., his wife, Lelia, his mother, Cecelia B., and his children moved from the plantation to their two story house on Conyers Street across the street from Academy Springs in Covington. There they raised their family and lived the rest of their lives. Cecelia B. Gaither, as most ladies of that period, had no knowledge of business, so she depended on her son W.H., Jr. and her sisters husband, General Robert J. Henderson to manage her business affairs. They, being discouraged with the hopelessness of the times, were of little help to her. Sometime around 1921 she had to file for bankruptcy, the Gaither plantation was gone.

W. H. Gaither, Jr. had no talent for business, but was much loved by the young people of Covington who called him "Uncle Hub". Many happy house-parties at the old farm house were enjoyed by the Gaither children and their friends. Those still living recall, with pleasure, the happy times they had at Gaither's farm. Thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Ferdinand Seigfried for purchasing and restoring the Gaither plantation house. The Seigfrieds have named it "Myrtle Creek Farms".

Descendants of the Gaither family still making their homes in Covington are: Mrs. Brian Keith Long, Miss Kimberly Joan Gaither, Mrs. Michael B. Sigman and Mrs. John Lamar Callaway.

Recorded by Mrs. Lamar Callaway great-great-grand-daughter of Dr. Henry Gaither from information gathered from the Gaither Family Bible, Gaither family burial lot on the original Gaithers Plantation, the Old Oxford Historical Cemetery, Oxford, Ga., Old Covington Cemetery, wills and deeds recorded at the Newton County Courthouse and old copy of newspaper, a history of Gaithers United Methodist Church and the 1850 Federal Census of Newton County, Georgia in the Newton County Library, Covington, Georgia.