

Henry Gragg
By Derric Scott

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Henry Gragg was born in the Fairfield District of South Carolina in May 1763. He died after 1840 in Shelby County, Alabama.

Revolutionary War

Henry Gragg signed up for Revolutionary War service with the South Carolina troops in June of 1778 for a 6 month tour. Early on he was engaged in skirmishes with Native Americans (who were fighting for the British). He returned to service in 1779 as a one month substitute for his brother John. In 1781 he again served, this time as a Lieutenant in Capt. John Bell's Company. He scouted against the Tories for 5 months. After that tour he once again served as a substitute.

For 20 to 30 years after the Revolutionary War was over Henry Gragg continued to live in South Carolina and then Georgia (Elbert, Jackson, and Twiggs Counties). By the time Alabama was admitted as a state in 1819, Henry Gragg had moved to Bibb County where he was noted in 1819 as being the "overseer of the poor" for Bibb County.

Religious Ties

Gragg was a founding member of Mulberry Baptist Church (ca 1818). T. E. Wyatt in *Chilton County and Her People* said "Rev. Henry Gragg" was a very early pastor at Mulberry Church. However, the histories of Mulberry Church don't list him as a pastor there but they do note him as a pastor and it was said that he started a church called Mt. Gilead with his son-in-law Leonard Whatley. (Only one other reference to Mt. Gilead has been found and that was decades later when Rev. S. M. Adams listed churches he had served in and Mt. Gilead was one of those). Gragg was a representative to the organizational meeting of the Mulberry Baptist Association in 1828.

Property

Henry Gragg moved to Bibb County, Alabama before 1819. By 1830 he owned property directly adjacent to Old Maplesville, in fact, part of the town was on the western side of his property (the SW ¼ of S7 T12 R13). In 1839 he obtained more land from the U. S. Government, this time just north of the old Mt. Zion Church in Jumbo in the northeast part of the county (but it was Shelby County at this time, the SE ¼ of the NW ¼ of S17 T23 R15). This move was very similar to another old soldier's path, Jonathan Clower – they each started out at Old Maplesville ca 1820 and then moved northeast in the 1830s.

On April 26, 1836 Henry signed up for a pension. In the 1840 Federal Census Henry Gragg is listed as a veteran, aged 79, residing in Shelby County.

After Henry's death his son Vincent Jones Gragg bought the Jumbo property from Henry's estate. Henry's grandson, Dr. Vincent Jones Gragg, II, grew up there and was educated in the Mullins Academy. Dr. V. J. Gragg, II, obtained his medical degree and was an influential citizen of the county and Clanton in the 20th Century. The "Gragg-Wade" airport is named after him. He was also the main driver of building the first hospital in Clanton – the Central Alabama Hospital.

Burial

Henry Gragg's burial location is not known; perhaps there was a family cemetery at a presently unknown location or perhaps he was buried in the nearby old Mt. Zion Cemetery (which is now destroyed/lost), or perhaps he is buried at the enigmatic Mt. Gilead?

Family Ties

There is one other interesting connection involving Henry Gragg. His son was named "Vincent Jones Gragg" and one of our other Revolutionary War Veterans was named "Vincent Jones." Some investigation reveals that this is not a coincidence – Henry Gragg married Elizabeth Jones the sister of Vincent! Elizabeth was born 1763 in SC and died in 1832 in Shelby Co., AL. Vincent Jones will be the subject of another document!

Appendix I

Property Search of ...

Property Ownership of.

From	Ref	Owner(s)	Note