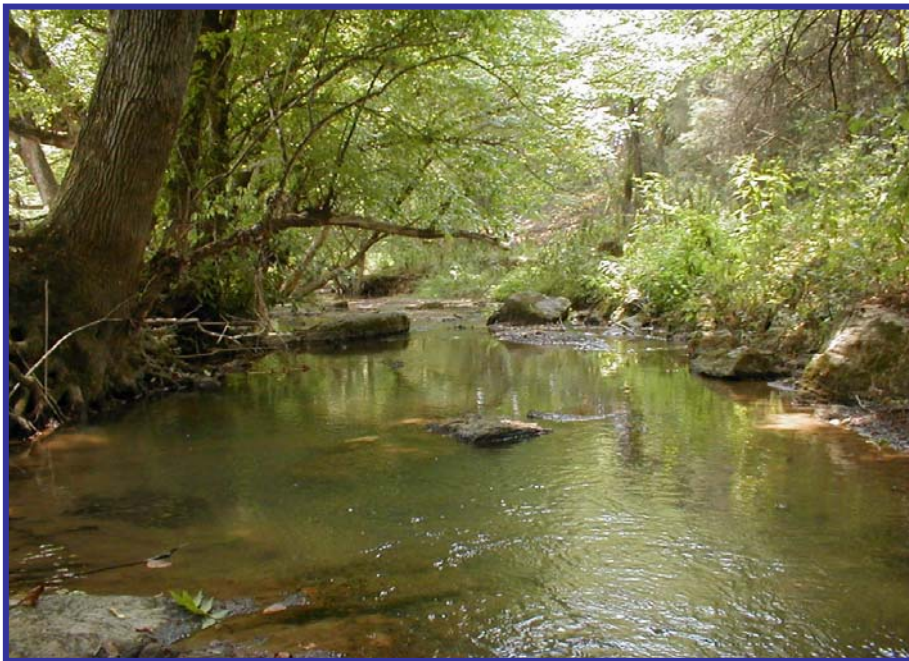


This is a Story of American Pioneers
“From Seigler to Segler”

**All about their travels from
Fairfield County, South Carolina
to Crawford County, Georgia
to Dale County, Alabama**

The Seigler Family Pioneers



Wilkinson's Creek, South Carolina

*Researched and Written by
Bob Seigler*

*Edited and produced for
publication by Sid Segler*

Associate Editor: Taylor Mattis

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American Pioneers Seigler to Segler. Fairfield County S. C. to Crawford Co. Georgia, to Dale County, Alabama.



King George II

Many years have been spent in trying to answer the age old question, *where did we come from?* As of 2014 we cannot fully answer that question. Note the spelling of the family name as we proceed through our lineage. These are not misprints. The spellings are those you will find in the actual governmental records such as census reports and court records.

In 1729 South Carolina was declared a Royal Colony and was ruled by King George until his death in 1760.

We know through family DNA tests that our family is of basic European blood. We can safely assume that our ancestors immigrated to Colonial America after 1700. It is probable that they came from German territory to Pennsylvania and traveled down what was later called “the old wagon road” into what was then called Craven County.



Carolina was split into North and South Carolina in 1729. On the east side of the Broad River is Wilkinson’s Creek, running to the northwest of Monticello, in Craven County, South Carolina. It is described as having settlers along its course as early as the 1740’s. Eventually there were about 150 headcount there.



Jurg Seigler arrived in Colonial America in 1735 on the ship Princess Elizabeth along with the Free (Fruh) family who were long-time friends. Eventually they traveled with other Germans to the “96” area and Dutch Fork, South Carolina. His son George Seigler was born in the Fairfield area of Craven County, South Carolina, in 1740.

In 1758, George Seglear petitioned the Governor of South Carolina for a Land Grant of 100 acres. The survey made for George Siglear is dated the 7th day of November 1758 for a tract of land containing 100 acres bounded on the southwest by land of Conrad Kensler.

His request to the Governor was for 100 acres that actually had Wilkinson’s creek running right through the middle of it. If George was a newcomer, it would have been a “Bounty Grant”. The fact that it was a Land Grant is proof that George had been in this country for quite a while. As part of the grant agreement, it required that the occupant clear and cultivate at least three acres of the land each year and that in March of each year the sum of three shillings sterling, or four shillings proclamation money, be paid to the auditor as “quit-rent”. Many times the payment would be waived for as much as ten years. To give you a feeling of the size of the land, according to the sketch of the survey, the property is square. If it is indeed a square, it would measure almost one mile square.

The actual grant was from George II King of England to George Seglear, a plantation containing one hundred acres. It was issued on the 20th day of February in 1760 and signed by the Governor of South Carolina, William Henry Littleton, Captain General, establishing the beginnings of the Seigler family land ownership in this country.

To place more perspective of the country at that time, George Washington was 26, James Madison was 7, John Adams was 23, Thomas Jefferson was 15, Benjamin Franklin was 52, Daniel Boone was 24, and Johnny Appleseed was not even born.

The area was in the hunting grounds of four Indian tribes that frequently came to hunt and fish. This was mainly Cherokee tribal lands, but also contained the Catawba, Wateree, and Sioux tribes. Negotiating treaties that were not honored was a continuing thing. At one time the Cherokees agree to cede the land to the Eswaw Huppetau. That was the Indian name for the Broad River. Failing to make a lasting deal, it was decided to push all the native Indians westward to Oklahoma. The French-Indian war was on and did not end until 1761.

There was never a worry for food. The wildlife was abundant and easy to trap or kill. The creek yielded fish, eel and turtle. Deer, buffalo, elk, wild hogs, bears, beaver, panthers and the like provided for food and clothing. Small animals such as rabbits, possums, and raccoons also provided for food and fur. There was bird life including: geese, pheasant, wild turkey, dove, quail, pheasant, and various small birds available.

The native growth was replete with wild berries, oak, pine, sweet gum, hickory, chinquapin hickory, myrtle, black walnuts and other types of trees. George worked hard cutting down and clearing of trees by piling and burning the cut branches. Often it took many days to burn out the stumps that were almost impossible to dig out of the ground. Even without help, it was possible to clear and cultivate the three acres required in the Land Grant agreement.

Trimmed tree logs would be rolled by pries and fulcrums and hoisted into place for building a primitive cabin. Oil and tar from the sweet gum and pine was good for "chinking" between the logs to seal against cold and wind. It is highly probable that George learned how to catch and tame buffalo to be used as oxen to pull logs and timber around and perhaps used to plow some of the land. As time progressed, George would hand-split rails with an ax to build enclosure fencing for the animals.

The first preparation to live on the land was to find a spring for easy access to drinking water and washing clothes. George found a gently flowing stream of water flowing into Wilkinson creek that would be nice for his water source. He named it Seigler's Branch. He soon found a "hollow out" in the location for a "fire pit". A fire was started and always kept burning. This was for cooking, warding off wild animals and light at night for necessary personal requirements. Using tree branches upright on each side of the fire and a pole between was used to hang cooking pots or roasting spits over the open fire. This would allow roasting meats and fish and a pot kept replenished with porridge and new ingredients to be added daily. The heat from the fire sealed buildup on the pots so washing was not a daily necessity.

Since glass windows were not available the structure was made of logs or hand-hewn timbers and the window openings would be covered with wood shutters both for weather and marauder protection. We can rest assured that George was married or other relatives and friends came with him and may have lived with him in this new pioneering venture.

George must have been surprised when occasionally the beaver would steal some of the logs to use in damming a creek to make their home but also to make a great fishing hole.

George discovered that bees loved the sweet gum trees and would find an opening in the bark and proceed to drain it out, making a hive in the stump. George became so proficient in developing the hives and honey that years later some of his hives were sold at his estate sale upon his death and auctioned off the personal effects per his will. George learned how to kill and skin animals for food and cover. The soft deer skin was comfortable and warm for light outerwear. Bear skin and buffalo skin were good for heavy winter coats. The art of tanning leather was part of his growing up. Learning to strip the hide into narrow strings made good boot laces and sewing with hide strings was a normal part of living. It was a prize when families could obtain the awls (punches), lasts (shapers) pliers, stretchers and burnishes to make and finish the leather and shine their shoes. George did have a weaving loom to make cloth from sheep wool.

For hauling and other work, George and family, or friends and neighbors, would build their own small buckboards and wagons. All material was cut from the hardwoods and even the wheel spokes were made of wood. There was always someone who knew enough about blacksmithing to flatten steel thin enough to make the rims. That, also using horses and/or mules were the transportation system. Supplies were available at the cross-road store and money was generally the use of bartering skins, meats, fruits and berries found on the land. George knew the location of the "cross-road store" which was needed for obtaining supplies. This was possibly at the community of Jenkinsville, where one could buy merchandise constantly being brought down from Virginia and North Carolina. It is not known just what kind of a farmer George became nor the crops he grew. We can be sure that corn, cane and cotton were a part of the growing crop. Rice and Indigo became important crops but were not likely grown by George. As the plantation was more developed he began raising sheep, cows, chickens, turkey and guineas. He also obtained horses.

Although the Church of England was the established church by the King, Catholics were not allowed to own property. Lutheran, Quakers, Dunkers and Church of the Brethren were also established. Since George was not from a wealthy family he never learned to read and write so family notes and history were not available for many years. It is possible there are church records but we have not found them as yet. Meeting places were used for various church group meetings. The nearest being Gibson's meeting place. Different denominations or other functions use such places.



King George III

King George II died in 1760. He was followed in his position as King of England by his Grandson named King George III. As part of an effort to defray the burgeoning expense of running the empire, Parliament passed the Stamp Act in March 1765.

The act provided for granting and applying certain stamp duties, and other duties in the British colonies. The Townshend Acts were a series of laws passed beginning in 1767 by the Parliament of Great Britain relating to the British colonies in North America.

The Boston Tea Party was the response of the patriots in Boston to the British attempt to impose a tax on tea in the colonies.

George learned the value of freedom and the ownership of land which made him almost self-sufficient to exist and thrive in this new territory. He applied for and acquired an additional land grant for the adjoining 100 acres on the north and obtained it in 1772. As he was clearing and cultivating, other families were moving into the area. George had been a friend of the Free family and soon had neighbors, among whom were the Winns, Strothers, Owens, Mathews, Shirers, Hollingsheads, and several others. George worked so diligently to increase the size of his plantation, he acquired an additional 145 acres that had been granted to Jeb Owens.

On the 3rd day of March 1772 there was a survey completed for George Seigler. It included a tract of land containing one hundred acres on Seigler's Branch of Wilkenson Creek which was a tributary of Broad River, and it was started on the N. W. of Seigler's land in Craven County, South Carolina.

The actual Land Grant was from George III, King of England, to George Seigler was expressed as a plantation containing one hundred acres, It was dated on the 26th day of September 1772, signed by His Excellency, the Right Honorable Lord Charles Montagu, Captain General, Governor of South Carolina.

Historically this country was in the process of emerging from British Rule to the establishment of the United States. At the time the war with Indians in the Carolina Colonies was over.

The Declaration of Independence was formally adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. If you were to read it today, you would realize that not much has changed.



George Washington Crossing the Delaware December 25, 1776
(Winning the ensuing battle was the turning point in the war for Independence.)

Roads had been widened and by 1779 the big Conestoga wagons could bring in as much as ten tons per wagon. More and better supplies could be transported from the upper colonies. The members of the Constitutional Convention signed the United States Constitution on September 17, 1787 in Philadelphia Pennsylvania.

The State of South Carolina ratified the Constitution on May 23, 1788, the eighth state to do so. The Constitution was ratified by enough states so that it became effective in 1789 and the United States of America became a reality.



At this time, we do not know whether George was married once or more. He possibly could have raised two families. Records do show that he had at least one son, George Seigler Jr, and two daughters, Priscilla and Judith. There may have been more. We find no record of the name or names of any wife of George Sr.

George Washington was inaugurated as our first President in New York on April, 30, 1789.

Records of the 1790 census have not been found. We do know that Minor Seigler, the son of Priscilla Seigler was the first born child in the Seigler Family in the United states after the ratification of the constitution.

According to the 1800 census, George Seigler, Sr. was named with seven other family members in his household and George Seigler Jr. was named with three other members in his household.



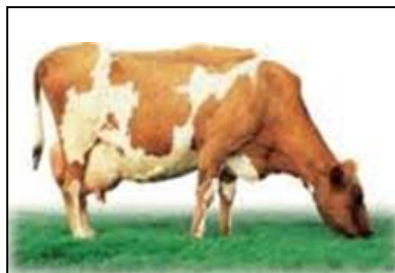
South Carolina Flag

By 1800, George Seigler Sr. had accumulated 545 acres in his plantation. He sold 200 acres to his neighbor, Herman Kinsler. George Sr. wrote his will in 1803. Apparently, his wife had already died at some unknown time. George Sr. died in 1808. In compliance with that 1803 will, his son George Jr. received 100 acres; his daughter Priscilla received 145 acres in a life estate (to be hers for her lifetime) and upon her death, possession of that 145 acres would pass to her son, Minor (George Sr.'s grandson) for taking care of Minor's siblings; George Sr.'s daughter, Judith, received 100 acres.

Priscilla received a sorrel mare, two cows and two calves. Judith received a sorrel gelding, one red pied cow, and one horned yearling cow. Minor received one black cow and calf, one brown cow and calf and one black cow and white heifer.



Sorrel mare



Red Pied Cow



Sorrel gelding

At George's death there were twenty-four sheep, two horses, eight cows, five calves, two bulls, and eight geese. At the estate sale auction all the children and many neighbors came and bought articles and animals. For instance, John Pearson bought two bulls. Jonathon Davis bought twelve sheep. Thomas Owen bought four geese. George Seigler Jr. bought four sheep. Minor bought eight sheep, an iron wedge, four reaper hooks and some shoemaker tools. Other items sold at the auction were seven bee gums, a flax spinning wheel and one loom. Many other items were sold. We have the records of all the people and all the items.

Judith married James Free and began her own family tree. A copy has been obtained from a direct descendent in Texas.

In that time period, George Seigler Jr. and Mary Seigler had three daughters. The name of their oldest daughter is unknown but it is believed that she and John Free, who was the oldest brother of William Free, were married and later she died. In the years prior to 1820 apparently he was courting his deceased wife's sister, Nancy Seigler.



Crawford County Courthouse

In 1812 Minor Seigler was 21 years old. He proceeded to buy a six acre plat of land in preparation for his future in starting his family. The property was adjacent to the original George Seigler Plantation at Wilkinson Creek, just east of the Broad River.



Fairfield County Courthouse
Built in 1823

Minor and Rebecca Seigler were married in Fairfield County, South Carolina, in about 1816. Between 1816 and 1819, they had a daughter (name unknown) and their first son, Charles, in 1818

Their second son, Edward, was born in 1824. Between 1824 and Jan 5, 1828, Minor and Rebecca sold the property they had received from George Seigler, Sr. in Fairfield County, South Carolina. Minor followed the Georgia Land Lottery to Crawford County, Georgia.

Even though Conestoga Wagons were in wide use at the time, that was not a wagon that Minor and Rebecca owned. Minor built a sturdy, homemade covered wagon similar to the ones pictured below.



He loaded his wife and kids and all his belongings for a long trip. It was approximately 250 miles from Wilkinson Creek, South Carolina to Crawford County, Georgia. The wagons were pulled by oxen or mules and it would take over two weeks to make the trip. They were genuine pioneers of the first degree. Thomas F., their third son, was born in Crawford County, Georgia, in 1828.

The 1830 census record for Crawford County shows Minor, his wife Rebecca and the aforementioned three sons. His daughter was not mentioned, so we assume that she had passed away at an early age.

Minor purchased 102 1/2 acres of land in Crawford County in 1827. On February 16, 1835, Minor placed a mortgage of \$195.00 on the property. Minor passed away in December, 1837. Minor's last son, Silas, was born shortly after his father's death in February 1838. The holder of the mortgage went to court to collect the debt. Rebecca fought it in the Crawford County court and lost. She then sued for her dower rights to keep the home. She was denied, then sued again to separate it from the rest of the property. In 1840 she lost that case also and was told to "Quit and vacate the property". She eventually did that.

Records filed by the administrator of this estate shows that all bills were paid, including \$4.00 for Minor's coffin. Single lots in Paulding County and Talbot County were also sold. The proceeds from the estate paid to his widow, Rebecca, were the sum of \$36.50.

In 1836 Texas gained Independence from Mexico and we lost the battle of the Alamo. On December 29, 1845, Texas was admitted into the United States. Florida was also admitted in 1845. The Mexican-American war began and was fought from April, 1846 to February, 1848.



U. S. Flag – 33 States



Georgia Flag

Edward C. Seigler married Frances Gill in 1845. They had a daughter, Matilda, born in 1848. In the federal census of 1850 we find Rebecca living next door to them in Coweta County, Georgia with her sons Thomas F. and Silas K. Seigler.

By 1860, Rebecca, Thomas F., Silas, and the daughter of Edward, had moved to Barbour County, Alabama. Soon thereafter, Edward C. and his new wife, and Charles B. and his family had all moved to Alabama.



Alabama Flag

Charles B. Seigler and Levina were married in Crawford County, Georgia, in about 1840. They had their first child, Mary Rebecca Seigler, (who was named after her grandmother Rebecca) in 1841. Their second daughter, Sarah, was born in 1846. Their third child was Minor W. Seigler (named after his grandfather Minor Seigler). He was born in 1852.

The family continued to live in Crawford County, Georgia, until 1863 when Charles went into the Confederate Army of Georgia. They moved to Barbour County, Alabama, in 1864 and Charles entered the Confederate Army of Alabama. Eventually the daughters and son were all married in Barbour County, Alabama. Charles and Levina moved to Coffee County, Alabama where Levina died in 1888 and Charles died in 1896.

Shortly after his mother's death Minor W. Seigler and his family started on a trek heading West. They made a stop in Louisiana where their son Grady was born in 1893. On the move again, they headed for Texas where they lived in Red River County. Their son, Mack W., was born in 1897. They then moved to Ada, Oklahoma.

The Tree of Minor W. Seigler

Minor W. SEIGLER (b.1852-Crawford County, GA; d.192X-Kay, OK)

Sp: Eugenia Lydia Houston SEGLER (b. 1858; d. 193X-Kay, OK)

Their children were:

Richard Calvin SEGLER (b. Aug 1879-AL; d. 1967)

sp: Minnie Catherine Hankins SEGLER (m. 16 Jun 1902)

Charles A. SEGLER (b. Sep 1883-AL)

William Thomas SEGLER (b. 3 Feb 1882-AL; d. 14 Jul 1949-Kay, OK)

sp: Effie Odessa Goble SEGLER (b. 16 May 1896-IN; d. 17 Aug 1983-Orange, CA)

Porter H. SEGLER (b. Aug 1885-AL; d. 1908)

Bert Lively SEGLER (b. 6 Aug 1887-Selma, AL; d. 14 Jan 1964-Laredo,TX)

Grady Allie SEGLER (b. Aug 1893-LA)

sp: Fay G. Rochelle SEGLER (b. 1895-TX)

Mack W. SEGLER (b. 1897-Red River, TX)

sp: Ruth SEGLER (b. 1904-Kansas City, MO)

Edward C. Seigler and his second wife, Mary J. Lewis Seigler, age 23, were married on February 14, 1853. Edward and Mary moved to Alabama where they had a son, Benjamin, in 1861 and a daughter, Bobbie I., in 1875. Edward joined the Alabama Confederate Army in 1863.



Barbour County Courthouse, 1854

Benjamin and Bobbie both died before 1900 and we find no records of marriage or any descendants. Mary Seigler died in Barbour County in 1911 and Edward C. Seigler died in Barbour County in 1913.

From 1830 to 1840, new settlers from the east, along with other settlers from the north, came down what was known as "Cooley's Trail", a road which passed through an area of Dale County, Alabama. The Barnes family settled at the cross roads - hence the name Barnes' Cross Roads. During the period from about 1845 to 1860, other settlers began arriving in the area. They bought land, erected log cabins, and started the task of taming the frontier and creating a new community. By 1860, most of the section along the ridge surrounding the Center Ridge Baptist Church site had been settled. Many of our ancestors lived in the area and are buried there at Center Ridge Cemetery.

In the U. S. Census of 1860 in Barbour County, Alabama we find T. F. Seigler as head of household. There is also his brother Silas K.; his mother, Rebecca; Matilda (daughter of Edward C.); and John and Henry (last names unknown).

Within three months of Lincoln's election, seven states had seceded from the Union. Just as Springfield, Illinois celebrated the election of its favorite son to the presidency on November 7 as did Charleston, South Carolina, which did not cast a single vote for him. South Carolina knew that the election meant the formation of a new nation. The Charleston Mercury newspaper said: "The tea has been thrown overboard, the revolution of 1860 has been initiated."

While the battle between the North and South began and roared on, Lincoln began his campaign for reelection in 1864. During the course of the war when thousands were killed, the President gave his now famous "Gettysburg" address. Many laughed and newspapers refused to publish it. Lincoln won his reelection and the speech is now one of the most famous in history.

The Tree of Doctor Thomas F. Segler

Doctor Thomas F. Segler (b. 28 Jun 1828 –Georgia; d. 12 Aug 1885-Ariton, Dale Co. AL)

Sp: Rachael Barnes Segler (Jun 2, 1833; d. Aug 3, 1881; m. 1861)

David J. L. SEGLER (b. Nov 1862; d. Nov 1862)

Mack Moten SEGLER (b. 15 Jun 1866; d. 15 Apr 1920-Ariton, Dale Co. AL)

sp: Mary Ella (Polly) Wilcoxon SEGLER (b. 14 Oct 1865-Pike County, AL; m. 1885;
d. 23 Dec 1946-Moody Hospital, Dothan AL)

Thomas Malcolm SEGLER (b. 22 May 1868; d.16 Jan 1912)

sp: Eudora SEGLER (b.1888)

sp: Ada Margaret Barnes SEGLER (b. 28 Mar 1868; d. 25 Nov 1954)

Albert Burt SEGLER (b. 6 Feb 1870; d. 26 Sep 1907)

sp: Ada Margaret Barnes SEGLER (b. 28 Mar 1868; d. 25 Nov 1954)

Nancy (Nannie) Barbara Segler DIXON (b. 23 Feb 1872-AL; d. 29 Jun 1949-DC,AL)

sp: James Frank DIXON (b. 21 Mar 1855; m. 13 Apr 1887; d. 14 Nov 1940-DC,AL)

Mack Moten and his wife "Polly" raised their thirteen children on their plantation near Ariton, Alabama. It became family known as "The Old Home Place". A one room, one teacher school was built on their property. It was called "The Segler School" and was open to all children of that area. Some of their children moved on to the Dothan, Alabama area and some ended up in Florida. The property is still owned by descendents of Mack and Polly who live just north of Center Ridge Church.



"The Old Home Place" near Barnes Crossroads, Dale County, AL. (Photos taken in 2006)

Albert Burt Segler was a co-founder of the Center Ridge Baptist Church and his son, Edgar, was also very active in that church. The Center Ridge Cemetery located just across the highway from the church, was created by its members

Silas K. Seigler married Eveline Strickland in 1861 and stayed in Barnes Cross Roads caring for his mother Rebecca, his wife, and their son Ben L. and Matilda, (the daughter of Edward C.)

The Tree of Silas K. Seigler

Silas K. Seigler

Sp: Eveline Louisa Strickland Seigler (b. 1845 – NC)

Benjamin Lewis SEIGLER (b. 11 Sep 1863-Ozark, AL; d. 2 Feb 1946-Freeport, FL)

sp: Mary Fanny Clark SEIGLER (b. 18 Jan 1862-SC; m. 14 Dec 1882; d. 6 Nov 1898)

sp: Falzie Lee Norris SEIGLER (b. 25 Oct 1876; m. 13 Apr 1900; d. 14 Feb 1967)

Laura F. Seigler (Segler) BROWN (b. 1865-AL)

sp: Jinks BROWN

Charley Monroe SEGLER (b. 17 Jan 1867; d. 23 Jun 1946)

sp: Elzie L. Miller SEGLER (b. 15 Dec 1865; m. 14 Mar 1889; d. 8 Dec 1946)

Silas Warren SEIGLER (b. 27 Apr 1870-AL; d. 21 Dec 1942-Tampa,FL)

sp: Mary Annie McIntosh SEIGLER (b. 1867; m. 1896; d. 1896)

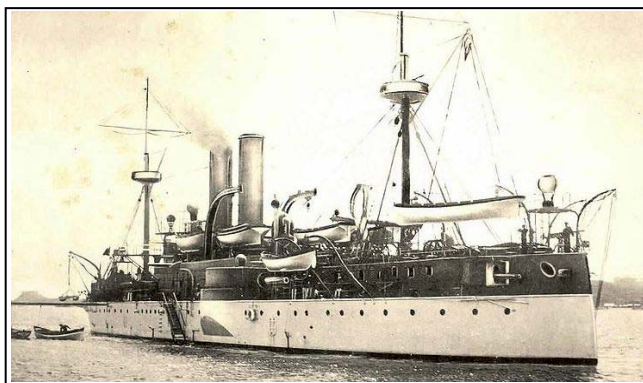
sp: Nancy SEIGLER (b. 1876; m. 1899)

Rebecca M. (Minnie) Seigler SCOTT (b. 1870-AL)

sp: Jack SCOTT

In 1884, Ben Louis Seigler obtained a land grant of 84 acres in Dale County, Alabama, and began raising his family there. He moved to the Geneva area and eventually into Holmes County, Defuniak Springs, and finally to the Orlando and Apopka areas of Florida. He raised a family of 18 children.

Mr. Ben Louis Seigler, 82 years, 4 months and 9 days old passed away on February 2, 1946, in the home of his daughter Mrs. D. W. Miller. He was confined to his home from December 23, 1944 until his death. He was laid to rest in Euchee Valley Cemetery. Surviving him were his wife; Mrs. Falzie Seigler; five daughters: Mrs. W. F. Butler, Mrs. Anna Bell Beck, Mrs. J. O. Williams, Mrs. D. W. Miller and Mrs. A. D. Miller; six sons: Marvin, Lummie, Coe, Jack, Ben Lee and Sanford; one grandson, James Louis Seigler.



Battleship Maine

After the mysterious sinking of the American battleship Maine in Havana harbor, political pressures from the Democratic Party and certain industrialists pushed the administration of Republican President William McKinley into a war he had wished to avoid.

The result was the 1898 Treaty of Paris, negotiated on terms favorable to the United States, which allowed temporary American control of Cuba, and ceded indefinite colonial authority over Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippine Islands from Spain. The defeat and collapse of the Spanish Empire was a profound shock to Spain's national psyche, and provoked a thoroughgoing philosophical and artistic reevaluation of Spanish society known as the Generation of '98. The United States gained several island possessions spanning the globe and a rancorous new debate over the wisdom of expansionism.

Charles Monroe Segler and his wife, Elsie, raised their kids in Enterprise, Alabama and Dale County. After his family was grown and married, he and Elsie moved to Tennille, Alabama, near their daughter, Nora Bowden.

On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson went before a joint session of Congress to request a declaration of war against Germany. Wilson cited Germany's violation of its pledge to suspend unrestricted submarine warfare in the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean, and its attempts to entice Mexico into an alliance against the United States, as his reasons for declaring war.

On April 16, 1917, the United States declared war on Germany. On June 26, 1917, the first 14,000 United States infantry troops landed in France to begin training for combat. After four years of bloody stalemate along the western front, the entrance of America's well-supplied forces into the conflict was a major turning point in the war. By the time the war finally ended on November 11, 1918, more than 2 million American soldiers had served on the battlefields of Western Europe, and some 50,000 of these men had lost their lives.

In 1932, amidst the crumbling of the U.S. economy, Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected President. He closed the banks and removed the country from the gold standard. He implemented many Social Programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) which was a public work relief program that operated from 1933 to 1942 in the United States for unemployed, unmarried men of relief families, ages 18–25 as part of the New Deal. Also, he created the Work Progress Administration (WPA) which was the largest and most ambitious New Deal Agency. Its name was changed in 1939 to Work Projects Administration. Its purpose was to create jobs and hire millions of unemployed people (mostly unskilled men) to carry out public works projects, including the construction of public buildings and roads. The WPA employed musicians, artists, writers, actors and directors in large arts, drama, media, and literacy projects.

Charles's son, Thomas Malcolm, moved to Miami, Dade County, Florida, in 1937 taking six of his kids with him. His daughter, Beatrice, stayed in Alabama with her husband Colie Dunnivant, but soon moved on to Miami, also. Later the entire remainder of the family moved to Sanford, Florida.



Dade County Courthouse, 1928



Georgia Flag

Charles's son, C. Alvin Segler, moved to Thomasville, Georgia where he and his wife, Rosa, died, leaving their daughter Myrtle living there until she also passed away.

After Roosevelt's re-election in 1936, Adolph Hitler began the bombing and pounding to defeat England. The U. S. was sending ships loaded with armaments and ammunition to help England. Hitler's ships and submarines were attacking and sinking American Ships. Roosevelt continued to assure us that we would not become involved in the war. As early as 1938, our Congress passed a new military conscription law requiring all men over 18 years of age to register for the draft. Many American Men volunteered for service in Canada and England.

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese assaulted Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The U. S. declared war on Japan and Germany and WWII officially began. Thousands of volunteers and draftees were killed in that War. We defeated the Germans and Japanese and several years of peace and prosperity ensued.

Charles's son, Ralph Segler, and his wife, Lila, worked in the cotton mill in Ozark, Alabama and lived in the mill village and raising their kids there.

Silas Warren Segler lived in Alabama until about 1905 when he moved to Tampa, Florida. That is where he raised a family, but eventually passed away on December 21, 1942.

As far as can be determined, only Ben L. Segler (brother of Charles Monroe Segler) and Thomas Malcolm Segler (son of Charles Monroe) continued to use the Segler spelling.

So...if you are in the tree and spell your name differently from other relatives, now you know why. To give you some more confusion, we found one legal document in the court records of Crawford County, Georgia, where Minor Segler's name is spelled four different ways. Just be proud of your heritage and name, however you spell it!

All of the previous information has been verified through various records such as census reports, land grants, birth certificates, gravestones and other official sources. The facts are backed up with copies of these records in our family archives presently held by Robert E. Segler in Sanford, Florida.



And now, this is sort of a fun part! There are many stories, myths and fables about our family which have been passed down through the ages. Here are a few of them with which we have been enlightened while researching all kinds of sources for facts:

In the Ben Lewis Segler family tree there is a statement that there was a much earlier dispute in Alabama about the spelling of the family name. In about 1920 Ben's family was convinced that Segler was correct. But from George Sr. to Silas K., they all signed their names with an X. The peculiar thing is, however, that on Edward C's 1913 gravestone in Barbour County, Alabama, his name is spelled Seigler.

In the family tree of Judith Segler Free, there is an assertion that George Segler came over with the Free family on a ship, the Princess Elizabeth in 1735. He is not on that ship's passenger log.

In the Ben Lewis Segler family they believed that Silas and Eveline were married on a ship which landed in Tampa. The ship's name is not known nor can be found.

In the Charles Monroe Segler family, there were tales of his grandparents coming on a ship from Liverpool, getting married on board and landing in Charleston, South Carolina. In one U. S. census, his father was from England. In a later census, both he and his father were from England.

The family of Thomas F. Segler was told that he stowed away on a ship in Hamburg, Germany, which landed in New York City. An American family there took Thomas in and raised him. He eventually attended a medical school at government expense since the government needed new doctors in remote, rural areas. On finishing, his repayment for the education and training was that he was sent to Dale County, Alabama, to serve as its first physician.

As shown in census reports and many other documents, these are all family legends which just cannot be proven to be true.

For many of you this may be the first fully researched story that answers the question “*where did we come from?*” The answer is, we don’t know for sure before 1758, but we do know that we have been here ever since then. Stories such as the ones above have no basis of facts but are neat things to read.

And...just so you’ll know... there are approximately 1500 people on our Seigler-Segler Family Tree!

The Seigler and Segler Family Coat of Arms



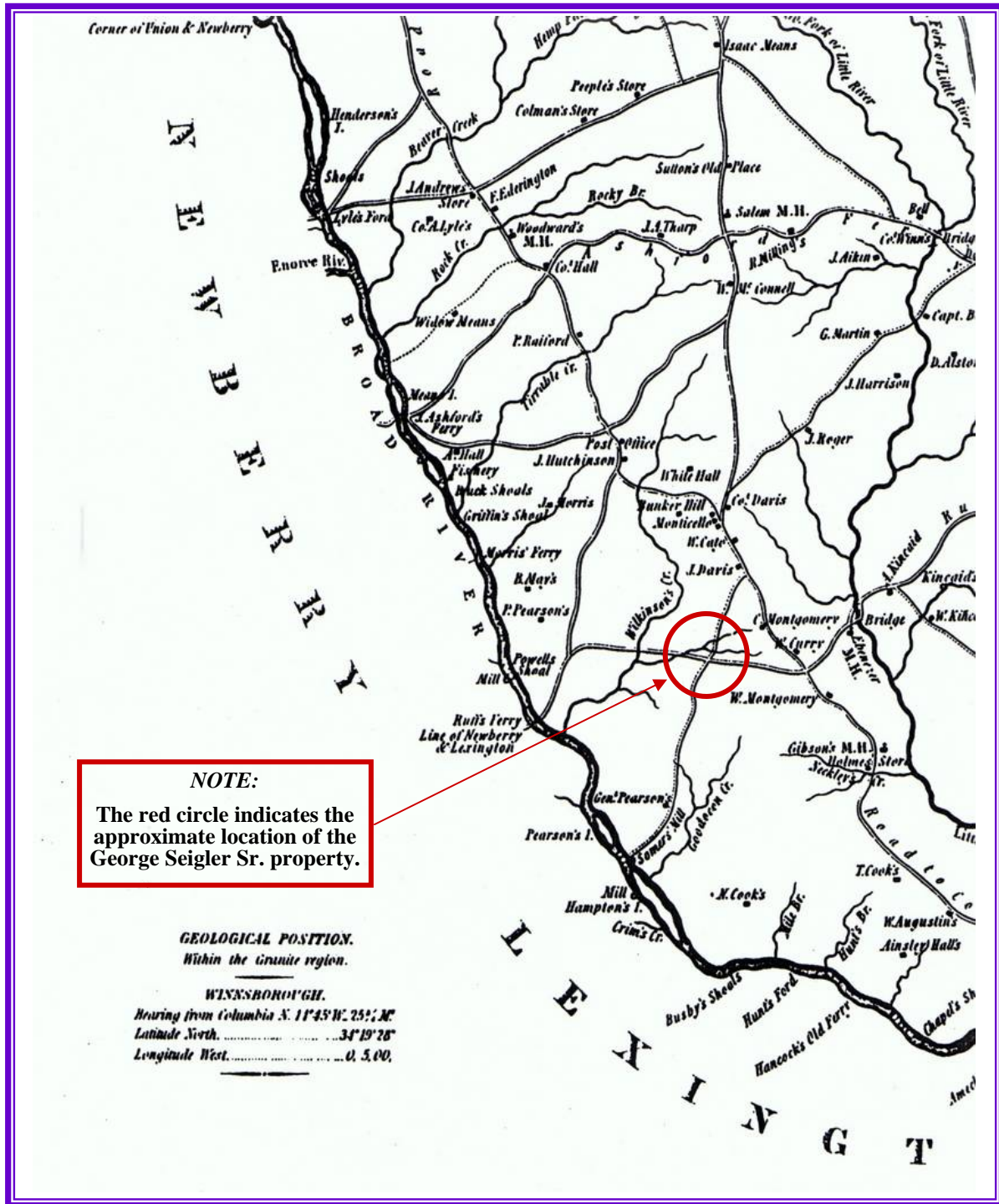
Our Coat of Arms is based on the Bavarian Royal background of the 1700s from which our ancestors migrated. The “ship” on top of the four emblems indicates that they came here by boat. In place of the crowns on the head of the lions are the words Laus and Deos, meaning Praise (be) to God. (You can find those same words on the Washington Monument as well.)

To the right of and below the symbol of the 13 colonies are the emblems of South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama where Rebecca and her sons settled. Underneath that, you will see “The Pen is Mightier than the Sword.” And in the fold directly to the right is the Masonic symbol out of respect for so many of our family. Above and on top is the American Flag and the American Eagle.

Note: The design and collaboration to create the Seigler-Segler Family Coat of Arms was done by Bob Seigler, Donna Blue, Theresa Seigler and Sid Segler.

In Europe, a Coat of Arms is a registered family Heraldry Symbol requiring special permission for its use. In our country, no registration is required. Family members may feel free to use our Coat of Arms in any way desired. The Coat of Arms is available with the name Seigler or Segler on the Segler Family Website. (www.seglerfamily.com)

BELOW IS AN EARLY, PARTIAL MAP OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA



A SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

The early settlers in the mid-1700's brought cotton to the county, and it remained the main crop until depletion of the soil and the boll weevil halted the industry in the 1920's. Granite deposits in the county led to the early development of its quarrying industry. Winnsboro blue granite, "The Silk of the Trade," is used worldwide in buildings and monuments. The excellent hunting and fishing that the Indians enjoyed still exist today. Fairfield County, with an abundance of deer and wild turkeys, is a focal point for sportsmen.