

ABSBRACK from an address given by Robert Oswald Sams, grandson of Lewis Reeve Sams, Senior, at a reunion of The Sams Family at Mars Hill, North Carolina, August 10, 1929.

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"William Sams, Senior, owned the entire island of Datha, beautiful for situation, secure in its isolation, a treasure within itself. Fish and fowl abounded the year around. Here was planted the first orange grove for commercial purposes. Here he built a magnificent home; here, with his wife, Elizabeth Hext Sams, he reared his seven sons; here in the enjoyment of every luxury known to man he folded his arms in death.

"Lewis Reeve Sams and Berners Barnwell Sams inherited this treasured spot. When their children grew to school age they moved to the town of Beaufort where educational facilities were excellent. Building fine residences they lived here lives of ease and comfort. On my grandfather's large premises were many servants (negroes) - each child was supposed to have one to be at every beck and call; there were also seamstresses, chambermaids, laundresses, coachman, fisherman, gardner for vegetables and one for flowers. Life was a joy. It was too easy - it could not last. Berners Barnwell, the younger of the two brothers died March 15, 1855; Lewis Reeve died December 21, 1856.

"On December 20, 1860 South Carolina, claiming her power as a sovereign and independent state, passed the ordinance of Secession, withdrawing from the Union. In the early morning of January 9, 1861, the Citadel cadets, commanded by Governor F. W. Pickens, fired the first shot of the War Between the States. The confederate forces tried to protect Beaufort and surrounding islands by erecting two forts at the entrance - one on Bay Point, one on Hilton Head - Forts Beauregard and Ripley. In 1861 the U. S. Navy steamed through this entrance, firing broadside after broadside until every gun in these forts was silenced. Beaufort was deserted - every white citizen with their families left homes abundantly furnished and were scattered to the four winds. Few there were who ever returned."

COPIED FROM "THE SAMS LOT"  
IN THE OLD DECATUR CEMETERY

Decatur, Georgia

LOT NO. 91

(This lot purchased February 7, 1886 by H. D. D. Sams, Sr.)

DOUBLE MARKER

FATHER

Rev. M. W. Sams

Died

Aug. 2, 1889

(C.S.A.)

Ages

77 yrs.

MOTHER

M. L. Sams

Died

Nov. 6, 1902

On Christ the Solid Rock we Stand  
All other Ground is Sinking Sand.

S A M S

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Inscriptions from BAPTIST CHURCH YARD BEAUFORT,  
S. C. - 1934.

Lewis Reeve Sams A Deacon of the Beaufort Baptist Church, who  
was born 23 A.D. 1784 and Died Dec. 21st A.D. 1856, aged 72  
years 4 months and 28 days (TEXT)

Sarah Emily Sams - age 35

NOTE: Lewis Reeve Sams first married Sarah Fripp, who was a  
member of the Baptist Church and who is buried on Datha  
Island in the SAMS CEMETERY. His family were Episcopa-  
lians; however, about ten years after the death of his  
first wife, Sarah Fripp, Lewis Reeve Sams married Frances  
Fuller and soon thereafter became a member of the Baptist  
Church. He is buried in the BAPTIST CHURCH YARD CEMETERY,  
Beaufort, S. C. Frances Fuller was a daughter of the *sister*  
famous Baptist Minister, Richard Fuller, and a descendant  
of the "Mayflower Fullers" - there were several children  
by his second marriage.