

# THE SOUTH CAROLINA RUTLEDGE FAMILY - THEIR KITH AND KIN

## FOREWORD

During my senior year at Greenville Senior High School in 1939, for the first time the school offered a course in South Carolina History. I've always appreciated history and harbored deeply and resolutely facts gleaned from chronicles and from my elders. J. Mauldin Lesesne, later to become President of Erskine College at Due West, S.C., was the instructor in this course and he was eminently qualified.

Prof. Lesesne encouraged us to work on our family trees and when he spied RUTLEDGE among my antecedents, he was elated. I owe him a great debt gratitude. Before the school year ended, with his help, I had traced my Rutledge line through nine generations. Being a native of the South Carolina low-country he knew personally many of the Rutledge family members and as a result of my insistence renewed a boyhood friendship with Archibald Rutledge, at that time living in Pennsylvania. I introduced my teacher to my own family, including my great-grandmother, Sarah (Rutledge) Cooksey and to other up-country S.C., Flat Rock and Buncombe County, N.C. Rutledges.

World War II interrupted my education and after the War, there was more school and then I became involved in earning a livelihood. In 1976, I seriously took up my Rutledge Family again. Many persons in the Rutledge family have assisted me in my efforts to trace all the descendants of Dr. John and Sarah (Hext) Rutledge. Previous articles have made gross omissions which have been left unrefined. The family became so large, til it's no wonder to me that not every present day family member knows about every other family.

I have made a thorough search of libraries and historical societies. Many private documents have been supplemented by abundant public records in the South Carolina Archives Department.