

MATTHIAS VAUGHT, SENIOR, born May 31, 1750, died November 13, 1833, was born at sea while his parents John Vaught Senior and his wife were in route to America from Hanover Germany. He was ten days old when his parents landed at Charlestown, South Carolina. Matthias Vaught, Senior married about the year 1771 to Miss Mary Mercy Todd, (Called by John D. Bellamy Mary Elizabeth) daughter of Captain Charles Todd. Mary Mercy Todd had brothers Richard, Soloman and Joseph and I am sure there were others. In the following letter, you will note that Matthias Vaught served in the Revolutionary War. This letter was written by John Dilliard Bellamy of Wilmington, N. C.

" My father who was eighty years old when he died and I am now seventy nine (1933) told me that Matthias Vaught came directly to the Horry Section from Hanover Germany and his wife was named Mary Elizabeth Vaught. He was the father of Colonel Peter Vaught and Colonel Peter Vaught was a brother of my fathers mother. I have often heard my father say that Colonel Vaught was a man of wealth and considerable influence, and while himself not a lawyer that he wrote all the deeds and conveyances in the Conway section, and owned a large plantation with a large number of negroes and that many of the old negro quarters, constructed of brick were existing in his day. Matthias Vaught who was my ancestor, was a patriot, and he was a member of Marion's Light Horse and fought in the Revolutionary War with Francis Marion at the Battle of Swpens and got into a hand to hand conflict as a cavalryman with a member of Tarlton's English C Cavalry, and Matthias Vaught lost his leg and wore a wooden leg up to the time of his death, my father telling me that he frequently was with his grandfather and saw the wooden leg, and heard him marrate details of the conflict. If you will consult the records of South Carolina, you will see that the State granted him a pension for his part in the Revolutionary War. I do not know if he was a private or an officer in Marions light horse. Colonel Peter Vaught was a much richer man than his father Matthias. My father was himself an enormous slave holder and when he moved from the Horry Section of South Carolina and came to Wilmington in 1835, he brought seven Hundred and fifty negroes and when the Civil War Broke out he was casily the richest man in North Carolina. I merely mention this as you seem to know nothing about the Vaughts and possibly it may be of some sinterest to you."

Yours truly,
John D. Bellamy