

Jonathan Badger
WORKING 1746-c.1755

Either Jonathan Badger was very versatile or there were two men of the same name living in Charleston during the same period. The cabinet-maker is first made known to us in 1746 when he purchased $\frac{1}{2}$ part of a lot on the south side of Tradd Street from Ann Waight.¹ Two years later he sold a Negro girl to Joseph Vanderhorst for £125.²

However, on November 13, 1752, the following advertisement appeared in the *South Carolina Gazette*: "Just Published (neatly engraved on a fine Copper-Plate) a collection of the best Psalm and Hymn tunes, to be sold by the Subscriber at his house . . . As this is the first collection of the kind ever made in this Province, and all the choicest tunes are inserted therein, tis hoped, all Lovers of Vocal Musick, will be disposed to encourage the Compiler, the price of the book is no more than 20 Shillings. Jonathan Badger." It is rather remarkable for a cabinet-maker to be selling such an item. Three years later we find that he leased a lot on Tradd Street from Alexander Garden and at that time he is spoken of as a joiner.³ But two years later when he purchased a lot in Ansonborough he speaks of himself as "Gentleman,"⁴ the inference being that if there was only one man by that name in Charleston, he had by that time made enough money to retire from the cabinet-making business. In the same year his daughter Mary was born.⁵

In 1763 and for the next three years we find that Jonathan Badger was keeper of the Assembly, and that in 1765 he received, from that body, the sum of £100 for the "Valuation of a house pulled down in the late fire."⁶ Frequently houses were pulled down or blown up to prevent fires from becoming conflagrations and apparently the owners were reimbursed for their loss. Badger was appointed attorney for Mary Scottowe to administer on the estate of Joshua Scottowe in 1768.⁷ In April 1770 he was a member of the Grand Jury⁸ but in the next month he appointed Joseph Badger, Painter and Glazier, to be his true and lawful attorney; at that time Jonathan Badger and his wife Mary were

living at Newport, Rhode Island. In this instrument he again speaks of himself as "Gentleman."⁹ Badger must have remained at Newport, for we find that four years later Mary Scottowe had to revoke his appointment as her attorney because "the said Jonathan Badger hath since removed from Charles Town and it becomes necessary for me to appoint some other person in his stead."¹⁰

It is not known whether he returned to Charleston. However, on March 20, 1793, a Jonathan Badger was admitted to Orange Lodge No. 14 (Masonic). The late date makes it unlikely that this was the cabinet-maker; more probably it was his son or some near relative bearing the same name.

Thomas Barker

WORKING 1694

The date of Thomas Barker's arrival in Charleston is unknown but it must have been early. On February 14, 1694, Thomas Barker, Joyner, administered the estate of John Parker, mariner of Jamaica.¹ In the following year Mrs. Barker entered a caveat to the estate of June Futthy and prayed for letters of administration.² The fact that Mrs. Barker was acting in behalf of her husband leads to the suggestion that either he was not in the colony, or that he had died. The latter supposition, however, is doubtful, for on April 22, 1706, Mr. Louis Pasquereau and Company entered their caveat to the estate of Thomas Barker, deceased, as principal creditors,³ and it seems hardly likely that Pasquereau and Company would have waited a decade before entering their caveat. It is much more likely that Barker died shortly before the date of the caveat.

These legal instruments refer to Barker as a "joyner." Had he been a carpenter he would have been spoken of as a "house joyner." Hence, it may be assumed that he was actually a maker of furniture.

Charles Barksdale

-1757 WORKING 1741

An advantageous marriage probably explains why Charles Barksdale was able to