

Virginia was known as one of the Southern Colonies and the largest in Northern America. It was an English colony that existed from 1607 until 1776 when it joined the other twelve colonies in rebellion against Great Britain and became the U.S. State of Virginia. The agriculture in Virginia was rich with tobacco, cotton, livestock, fruit, and grain. Virginia became the largest and most lived in the colony in North America. Many emigrates came here for freedoms and liberties, in the new world.

An Englishman, born in 1775, named James Hodges Sr., of Welsh descendant, came to Tidewater Virginia, with his brother; they left Wales to rebel against the British Monarchy. They were Ship Merchants in Cardiff, Wales; and were disowned by their father because of their rebellion and refusal to return to Wales and run the family business.

The company functioned for one hundred years after James Hodges Sr. had passed away. Queen Victoria wrote many letters to his son Thomas Hodges for him to return to Wales to collect profits and to run the family business. Unfortunately, no one from the Hodges family ever returned to Wales. And after living in Virginia for several years James Hodges Sr., left Tidewater, Virginia, and arrived in Tipton Tennessee around 1832, and while there he formed a town called Portersville, Tennessee. Today the town is known as Atoka Tennessee.

James Hodges started his journey to Gonzales, Texas by 1835, he moved his family, silver, servants, cattle, and a medicine cabinet by a covered wagon to Texas. After he reached Gonzales, he obtained four leagues of land, along with the San Marcus and Guadalupe River from Jose Maria Salinas. Salinas would not accept payment with silver, so they traveled to New Orleans to trade the silver into gold, which was chaperoned back to Gonzales, Texas by armed guards. Unfortunately, after Salinas sold the leagues, he died and hide the gold in San Antonio where it was never found.

To avoid being attacked by Indians and the Mexican Soldiers the Hodges family and crew would hide in the blockhouses for safeguard against the Indians and Mexican Soldiers. They also gathered food and water, while traveling by canoe across the Guadalupe and San Marcus River.

James Hodges Sr. was one of the Six Delegates of Texas, and he provided ammunition to the Texas Army to fight against the Mexican Soldiers. He owned many acres of land in Gonzales County, and he served as the Land Commissioner of Gonzales, Texas.

During the Texas Revolution in 1836, Sam Houston gave orders for his army to burn down Gonzales so that Santa Anna could not use the town. "The Runaway Scape." James Hodges took his family and servants and moved to LaGrange, Texas where they lived for one year and a half. After returning to Gonzales, Texas Hodges and his crew started their new life and they helped with the rebuilding of the town. They were the lucky ones to be able to return after one year; many families did not return until 1846.

James Hodges was a generous provider, and he took diligent care of his family and crew, he owned several servants and one of his favorite servants was Mary Hodges. Mary had four children: Kelsey, Garrett, Leslie, and Sarah Hodges. Sarah was the oldest sibling of the four. James Hodges Sr. was generous to Mary and her four children. He left her and her kids' one-hundred head of cattle, two yoke and oxen, one yoke and staple, one mare and colt, a silver watch, a feathered bed, and bed clothing, a plough, one smoothing iron, two chopping axes, old wagon irons, a bell, knives and forks, fire irons, one wash pan, a saddle and bridle, two milk pans, one oven, and one scholar of historical land. Mary and her children and a number of his servants were left in appreciation for their services throughout the years.

Mary's oldest daughter Sarah Hodges was a pioneer and a matriarch like her mother Mary. She married Anthony Price and they had eleven children, Anderson Price was the couple's oldest child, he and his father were registered voters in 1867, during the Reconstruction Era in Texas. Anderson Price was a farmer and head of household at twenty years old. he and his three brothers Anthony, Moses, and Upson Price formed the first Black Masonic lodge in Waelder, Texas in 1886.