

Seventh Generation (4th Great-Grandparents)

<u>William Thomas Griffin, Sr. Parents</u> Esq. John Thomas Griffin, Sr. Mary Ann Andrews	<u>Joseph N. Belcher Parents</u> William Belcher Jemima Smith
<u>Mary Booker Barnett Parents</u> John Franklin Barnett Caroline Fleming Tindall	<u>Martha Louisa UNKNOWN Parents</u> ? ?
<u>Joseph Atkins Parents</u> Robert Yeldell Atkins Jane Barnett	<u>Joshua A. Milner Parents</u> John Milner Susannah McNEES
<u>Margaret Adams Parents</u> David Adams Phoebe Yeldell	<u>Mary Ann Alls Parents</u> William Alls Rosanna Kunkle

JOHN THOMAS GRIFFIN, Sr.
MARY ANN ANDREWS

Esq. John Thomas GRIFFIN, Sr., son of **David GRIFFIN, Sr.** and **Mary DEARRIN**, was born on 3 Sep 1740 in Powhatan County, VA and died in Feb 1819 in Oglethorpe County, GA at age 78. He was buried on his original homestead in Oglethorpe County.

John was also known with the title 'Esquire'

1. A title of dignity, office, or courtesy ranking below that of 'knight'. In the United States, the title is given specially to lawyers and justices of the peace, but occasionally to any man as a mark of respect.
2. In England, a landed proprietor; squire

Mary Ann ANDREWS, daughter of **Dr. Marcus Jacob [Mark] ANDREWS** and **Avey (Avis) GARNETT**, was born on 14 Feb 1754 in Essex County, VA and died on 31 Jan 1814 in Oglethorpe County, GA at age 59. She was buried on the original homestead in Oglethorpe County.

Before starting the chronological history of John and Mary, I would like to give you a glimpse of this mother and father and the times in which they lived as they are described by their own son. John and Mary had a son, Thomas, who would later become a Methodist Missionary to the southeast and the Louisiana territory. It is from his day book and journal that I bring you the following excerpts with language as it was written. The numbers in bold parenthesis are the original page numbers of the journal.

Daybook and Journal

Thomas Griffin

Son of John Thomas and Mary Ann Griffin

Interpreted by Silas Griffin, Arizona

(25) I was born Sept. 24, 1787 in the county of Cumberland, State of Virginia. I am the youngest but one of eight children raised by marriage between John Griffin & Mary Andrews, both Virginians. My father's family was of Welch descent, my mother's I have been informed was English. During thirty years observation and treading on

the soil of 18 states and becoming acquainted with many of the names, all I have met with trace their origins to Wales. Heere I will attempt to give a faint description of the Griffins that I have met with, admitting some exceptions, medium in libertys, quick irritable temper by nature. Hard to be driven but can

be led, warm friends and warm faces and I am informed that in early years and gone by ages, the old stock if insulted, they instantly avenged themselves according to accurate usages by hard gloves, with the fist, etc. They inherit something of the national character, Wales is now a component part of Great Britain and it is also said the English had much trouble in subjugating or amalgamating them with the nation.

(26) My grandfather David Griffin as far as I know had only two brothers. One of them was an early adventure to Kentucky and it is said had a family. The other brother removed in an early part of his life to the Carolinas and had a family though I know nothing of either of their families. My father, when a man grown, went into the world as I oft heard him say, with nothing but a horse and saddle. He commenced the management of business for the large property lottery of Virginia and I suppose conducted himself with fidelity as the last ten years he resided on an Estate of Col. Henry or Horry Pflieswith and on leaving the Estate, he was enabled to commence on a farm and open lands for himself. This ten years residence on an absentee estate is conclusive evidence to my mind he was indefatigable in his efforts as the Col. gave him up with reluctance at the separation. But in the revolution of human events, he did not live long on his farm. Experience that tests all theories soon developed the fact the plowshares of iron & time had operated on the soil until some of which scarcely clothe itself with a coat of sedge. The action of the rain & washing were grooving the surface deeper & deeper every year- The stock of timber too, (27) already too short, was growing more so every year and the period that I am now treating. It was no part of Virginia policy to improve land but cut down and look to the millions of fresh acres yet to be subdued

led them to show the ancient forest no mercy. My father soon came to the conclusion that a sinking or declining farm an increasing family rendered it necessary to look for a new country where there was a probability his children could yet obtain homes and settle about him. Accordingly, about the year I would judge 1792 or 3, Himself, Joseph Hubbert & Robert Smith set out for Georgia.

A tremendous undertaking for those days. A-W-A-Y to Georgia, 4 or 5 hundred miles, a frontier state of the U States and scattered around with the savage Indians. My father purchased a track of land on the Big Creek, 4 miles from the Oconee River now lying in the county of Oglethorpe, 10 miles from Lexington. He was charmed with Georgia, soft and mild was the climate, high and elevated, good water and fresh soil- an inexhaustible stand of timber according to the terms then in use: "Not a stick amiss." The inhabitants plain and utterly friendly to a proverb, making every effort to invite settlers to come in. The Creek Indians though formidable from skill and numbers, were on the best terms of friendship. He returned to Virginia, sold out, wound up his affairs and the (28) next year removed to Georgia! But alas! How was the scene changed. A rupture had taken place between the Whites and Indians. The Whites had fled and fortified themselves in forts, their crops destroyed & wasted, scarcity was showing itself and on my father's arrival, he found the country in the midst of troubles such as scarcity and the horrors of a savage war in which neither age nor sects could draw pity from the bosom of the savage redman. To cap the climax of his troubles, his land lay an mile from Capt. Reids Fort and not a house outside of it. He asserted he had as leave die by the sword as the famine as such. The younger branches of the family and mother wast left in the

settlement. Himself, 2 sons, a young man, and a few servants commenced on his land. He built a strong, hewed log house, chinked and daubed the cracks, leaving places for port holes so this new residence was- residence, block house & fort an hall hold all, and he held his ground and made bread that year and not a house there west of him, strange to tell that within my recollection, Oglethorpe County should be the outside settlement and my father's house the outside house and it, the terror of the warlike Redman and now at this day, not an Indian from there to the Sabine River.

The white(s) settled and solidly passed of the county for 800 or 1000 miles to the west of that place. In the course of that fall or winter, he collected all together and there was a suspension of hostilities. As I am not a statesman and have no access to the archives of the nation, (29) I know not wither it was the result of army or negotiation though I am induced to think it was only a suspension for the next year. There was much troubles such as stealing horses and the family of Wm. Thrasher was killed near the Scull Shoals after father brought us from the old settlement to Big Creek. That year, as well as I recollect, the trouble subsided, the result of army & negotiation I think. The country began to settle up rapidly, log houses was building in every direction, the fields began to be opened and looking back to those gone by days, the most of the people were poor, ignorant, unambitious, rather lazy and contented. There was but few slaves there then. The people done their own work or it was left undone. The young people was gay according to their notions of gayety, they were buoyant of spirit. They had light heads, light hearts, light pockets- and give them a good fidler, they could give you light trips and shuffles over the flores.

The old men, with some exceptions, would drink the jovial glass and till they were to pass advanced for the feats of the flesh but would amaze us with what they had been when they were young. Say from twenty to thirty years in advance of the time that we were then acting. (30) The county being freed from the terrors of their Red Neighbors and peace and tranquility enjoyed by all, they began to make some efforts to educate their children. I will, in the fear of God, let truth and candor guide every stroke of my pen in giving a faint description of the education we were in the habit of rearing in the frontier of Georgia 40 years ago. Say Oglethorpe was to look at the noble Athens where the arts and science are so well taught and how many young Georgians are now rising as pillars of strength, distinguishing themselves as statesmen & orators, the lightnings of their genius and thunders of their eloquence falling like music on the ears of the legislators. As rousing a country by their spirit, stirring appeals deeply impressing of a Judge, the high trust reposed in him the fearful responsibility of distributing justice to all. A reader would believe my statements are neither more nor less than fiction and romance. Never the less, the old Georgians will know how far I am from the truth. Academis, Coledges & University, we heard of like kings and crowns but we saw them not. Now for the best in book teachers, and what was taught. A round log house, the poles without splitting or hughing, some times a plank floor, some times dirt or the logs split into a rough puncheon and hughed a little constituted the floor. Dillworth was the common book and as to grammar, we were taught to believe that Dillworth Grammar (31) was all the grammar to be learned. To wit all- every one Ails to be trained as to a grammar, a geography, a map, a globe, - there was no such a thing with us. The Teachers

scarcely were taught a ___ and as to the true theory of the Earth, neither parents nor teachers knew much about it or it was looked upon as a task too arduous to be undertaken to impart it to children as a science unnecessary to those to learn who was to be cultivators of the soil.

One circumstance confirm me in the belief, the most of the people believed in the Platonick system or rather they had no system for they had never heard or known anything about Plato or his views. I believe it was a topic that the imagination soared on. Conjecture's trembling wing and doubt & uncertainty was the result of their thoughts. As the common mass looked on the globe on which they resided, a huge mass whose size and shape was unknown to man.

One circumstance confirms me in this belief. The Rev. Jessie Mercer, an eminent Baptist Clergyman, preached a sermon in which he one day in setting fourth the wisdom and power of the Almighty (and though he was deservedly looked on as the Oracle of the Order) he portray the globe and its diurnal (32) and annual motions. I well remember that it was called in question and Joshua's command to the sun- "Stand still!" was brought in conflict with eloquent, learned and truly pious divine. Heare in the midst of such a state of society where the mental energies of the mind was cramped and almost butchered, I grew up and where I had received my slender education. I was ignorant of my mother tounge- geography - defective in my Arithmetical calculations and as to the higher branches, they had as well been in Arabic as English for all the good they done me.

My father had an aversion to the learned pursuits and if his circumstances would have justified it, I believe he would have made us all planters and as he had no fortune to give us externally, he would give us one internally, as

such- he learned us to work- and work hard. I continued with my father and worked on the farm until I was 25 years of age.

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The period between the 18 or 19 year of my life, the impression made on my mind by my Mother's example and up to the occurrence that led me to hear the Methodists fully in the 25 year of my age. My mother had her strong partiality for the Methodist people, as the most of her relatives were of that order. She was not connected with them, I have thought because of my father cooling off to that order. She was a regular hearer of the Baptist and occasionally the Baptist Clergy would visit my father- no doubt on my mother's account- for which I sincerely am thankful to that order. To sum it up, my mother was a regular reader of the Holy Scriptures, oft did I see her in her private devotions and oft did I turn away and shed tears and vow to the Almighty that I would serve Him at an oportune period. I fully believe she would have been eminently pious could she have been aided with all the means of Grace- for many years, (40) from my earliest recollection after the business of the house was over, she used to read in her Testament and close by kneeling at her bed side- the efforts of the day. The truth I believe was this- her attachments were to the Methodist people & my father's to the Baptist, the house was divided and as she could not of the order she preferred without anticipated opposition, she remained out of a visible church but under God done more to impress my mind with a deep sense of the obligations due to my Maker than any human being on the earth- and little did she ever dream that she was raising and advising sons to serve God through Jesus Christ, that was to travel as many thousand miles by land & water as I have done to propagate that Religion she

so ardently was impressing on my mind. Shall it be my lot to rescue her name from oblivion?

She has long since sunk into the grasp of death- Gone to the narrow confines of the tomb, mingled with the pale nation of the dead and her remains mingled with the common elements of the globe. Yet do I most sincerely believe, that the cross she bore on earth has borne her through the gloom of death to that rest remaining for the pious of every age and time and place. Oft in the midst of trials and troubles, when my hopes have been sinking, repeatedly has contemplation **(end of page 40 in original text) (41)** soared up to the havens of rest and figured in my imagination. A mother bending from the lofty abode above, looking to this world of sorrow that she once dwelt in and had to struggle through and witness how I resist and waged a warfare with those things that impeded my progress. The reflection has armed my mind for the conflict and I have urged on. If what I am penning should ever meet the eyes of a mother, let me exhort them never to be discouraged. A mother exercises an influence that a father does not, the one governs by fear or terror, the other governs by love.

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Then I would begin to reason, can these people be the servants of the most-high God? I am now young and have come of a hardy, healthy stock of people, my grand Father dying at 84 and my mother on the verge of 70 and vigorous.

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So, on my return home I asked my Mother if I was baptized when young, "She told me I had not, she often thought of having it done in Virginia but it was neglected and when my father moved to Georgia, it was a wild new country - and so it rested." So I got Benjamin Blanton

to baptize me at Pope's Chapel in the **Winter of 1810.**

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Before I ask of you my children to follow me from my father's fyer side into a stormy world, I will give you an account once or two that transpired from a delicate quarter soon after I embraced Religion. I thought of the family, we had rose up and and lay down & nothing of God as family worship. I thought of having family worship but my father stood aloof from that and it was a worse conflict. At last, I got family prayers introduced at his own request. I got up the cross on my shoulders, I told **what few servants my mother had**- I should hold prayers early and if they were around to attend they could do so **(67)** I should not force them. The old father through the medium of mother gave me to understand I detained the servants too long from work so I rose earlier. I saw he had got tired of it and I thought he concluded I would soon give it up. At last some hints a little more plain but he would always set up until prayer. In the fall, I went to a camp meeting, my horse left me and ran off home. Sunday evening I returned and asked the boy if my horse had come- had he brought the saddle. As soon as the boy gave the answer, the old father observed he was not partial to those meetings and I knew it and if I was to stay home and not attend them, there would be no lost horses nor saddles and in angry tone those sentiments were delivered and off he went to bed having drank a dram or two more than usual. I thought to prepare him for the work of giving me a hint after supper, mother was in trouble and I supposed she thought I would strike my colors and turn Jesus Christ out of doors. That night she asked me in a soft whisper if I was going to have prayer that night. "Have prayers?" I exclaimed, "to be sure, I will."

I have seen for some time father has become tired of it but I commenced at his own request, I shall take no winks, nods, nor blind signs, I will not understand them. He shall toe the mark like a man and tell me to quit and then I will never pray in his house any more." He was laying a few feet of

us and awake. I spoke in a strong tone, then read, sang and prayed and (68) retired and left him a prey to his reflections. It had I think the proper effect, he made never so no more. I could detail many little family incidents but I throw the veil over them as unworthy of relation.

1749 – **Cumberland County, VA** was formed from Goochland County.

1772 – **John Thomas GRIFFIN** and **Mary Ann ANDREWS** were married on November 19 in Cumberland County, VA.

Another source, www.wardjc.com, shows Mary marrying a William Baldwin first and then John Thomas Griffin. I can find no supporting data for this marriage and Mary would have had to have been very, very young since she was only 18 years of age when she married John. I do find a Mary Ann Griffin that married a William A. Baldwin on 13 April 1826 in Columbia County, GA.

1774 - The First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia from Sept. 5 to Oct. 26, 1774, to protest the Intolerable Acts. Representatives attended from all the colonies except Georgia. The leaders included Samuel Adams and John Adams of Massachusetts and George Washington and Patrick Henry of Virginia. The Congress voted to cut off colonial trade with Great Britain unless Parliament abolished the Intolerable Acts. It approved resolutions advising the colonies to begin training their citizens for war. They also attempted to define America's rights, place limits on Parliament's power, and agree on tactics for resisting the aggressive acts of the English Government. It also set up the Continental Association to enforce an embargo against England. By the time the first meeting of the Continental Congress ended, hostilities had begun between Britain and the colonies.

1773 - September 11 – Into this troubled land and times comes a newborn daughter to John and Mary Ann, one they would name **Susannah GRIFFIN**. Susan was probably born in Cumberland County, VA.

1775 – The Revolutionary War begins in these rag tag states that have the audacity to rebuff the mighty nation of Great Britain.

1776 - June 20 – A second daughter, **Ave Garnett GRIFFIN** is born. Most references show her being born in Powhatan County but it was not formed until a year later. Powhatan was formed from Cumberland and Chesterfield Counties, therefore it looks like John and his family and farm remained put but changed addresses. Ave died on 4 Apr 1851 in Henry County, GA.

1776 – July 4 – The DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE is signed by representatives from all thirteen original colonies, now to become states as part of the new United States of America.

1777 – **Powhatan County, VA** was formed from Chesterfield and Cumberland Counties.

1778 - February 14 – As America becomes embroiled in a long and bloody campaign of war with England, a set of twin boys is born to this couple.

Jesse Andrews GRIFFIN, [Twin] - Born in Powhatan County, VA and died in Oct 1813 in Bashi Creek, MS Territory (Now Alabama).

David Andrews GRIFFIN, [Twin] - Born in Powhatan County, VA and died in Oct 1813 in Bashi Creek, MS Territory (Now Alabama).

Because of their unusual story, I am including some of it here to give us a little of the picture our early ancestors faced.

**Halbert & Ball: THE CREEK WAR of 1813 and 1814
(Kindly contributed by William C. Bell)**

<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~cmamcrk4/hb12to17.html#anchor2291271>

**Chapter XV
THE BASHI SKIRMISH**

A steed comes at morning; no rider is there;
But its bridle is red with the sign of despair.
--Lochzel's Warning.

It is not certain when the events bearing this name took place. An intelligent citizen of Clarke County says, before Fort Easeley was evacuated. Pickett says early in October. The inmates of Fort Easeley and of Turner's Fort came for greater security to Fort St. Stephens, probably early in September, and from this neighborhood Colonel William McGrew, with some twenty-five mounted men, had gone up the river, into the Wood's Bluff neighborhood, to look after the Indians who among the various tenantless and exposed plantations were committing depredations.

Before this small band of horsemen had reached a little stream called Bashi that flows into the Tombigbee a mile or two north of Wood's Bluff, they suddenly found themselves among concealed Creek warriors. They were ambushed. A turkey tail was raised above a log by one of the concealed Indians, and this was the signal for attack. The Indians who had guns, instantly fired from their places of concealment and the white leader, who had taken part in the Burnt Corn engagement, fell from his horse. Edmund Miles was also killed, and **Jesse Griffin** severely wounded. Colonel McGrew's men returned the fire of the Indians, but without much effect. The Indians from their places of ambush had largely the advantage of the mounted men, and these found it needful to make good their retreat.

Besides the commanding officer, three of the men were missing: Edmund Miles, **Jesse Griffin**, and **David Griffin**. These two Griffins were twins. One of them on the morning of that fatal day seemed to expect some calamity, and they agreed to stand by each other, the one not to leave the other in case of danger. They came into the world together, and they proposed, if need should be, to stand or fall side by side, and go out of the world together. According to the best information **Jesse Griffin** was shot through the thigh and, being unable to retreat with the others, his brother **David**, according to their agreement, staid by him while life remained. It is one tradition that the two kept up a fire upon the Indians, as fast as they could load their guns, until seven of the Indians were killed; but, however that may be, it is very sure that among the few whites and the Indians slain the body of **David Griffin** was not found. His son, William Griffin, born at Wood's Bluff in 1812, and at this time with his mother either in Fort Easeley or at St. Stephens, a resident at Bashi in 1879, states, as the account that was given to him, that the last sight which his comrades had of his father, as the Indians were still firing upon them in their retreat, showed him in the act of loading his gun, himself then with a broken limb, but resolute in appearance, as determined to fight to the last moment of his life. William Griffin was informed by those who hold a right to know that **the body of his**

father was surely never found. All that was found as a trace of him on that skirmish field was the breach of his gun. The barrel was not there. His body, like the body or person of the young Kimbell boy, disappeared, how, none of his friends ever knew.

Colonel McGrew's horse, like the dark gray charger of Mamilius in Macaulay's Lays of Ancient Rome, started for his home. Says Alexander Carleton, Esq., of Clarke County: "On the next morning after the battle, the Colonel's horse was at St. Stephens, thirty miles distant, with signs of blood on the saddle, and only one pistol in his holster."

Some days afterwards, General Claiborne crossed the river from St. Stephens, and advanced into this Wood's Bluff and Bashi region. The bodies of Colonel McGrew, of Edmund Miles, and of **Jesse Griffin** were found and were buried with military honors. These men fell "about five miles east of Wood's Bluff, near the present Linden and Coffeenville road, and about a half mile south-west of the Bashi Bridge."*

* One frosty morning I passed this spot alone on horseback and the road was lonely enough then for Indians to have easily ambushed a traveller. A "frail memorial" had been erected there but it was decayed and no longer of use. T. II. B.

General Claiborne spent a few days scouring this wild region. He found some Indians. Several of his men were wounded in the skirmish engagements. Among those severely wounded was Captain William Bradberry, another of those officers who had fought at Burnt Corn. Says Hon. E. S. Thornton of West Bend, he was shot "about two miles above the Lewis Mitchell place, and five miles above West Bend, on the old Coffeenville and

Wood's Bluff river road." His wound proved to be fatal. Claiborne and his men returned to Jackson below St. Stephens, on the east side of the river, then commonly called Pine Level, and there for a time they camped, hoping to receive orders or permission from General Flournoy to cross the Alabama and proceed into the Creek country.

From the Day Book and Journal of Rev. Thomas Griffin

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(76) In the month of June I think 1812, the United States declared war against Great Britain. The Creeks were soon drawn in as allies and among the depredations and skirmishing warfare on the waters of the "Beckbee", my two brothers were twins and fell Sixfeet in the same day. One of them was found on the Battle Ground, horridly mangled - a victim of savage warfare. The other was never found, the Indians say he was killed several miles from the ground & I suppose killed by Indians, devoured by wolves - picked by the buzzards and his bones are bleaching some spot on the soil of the Tombeckee River.

Page 94-95

We had a Conference this year though the Bishop did not attend, we held it in the house of Rev. Newett Vick- I will as near as I can recollect, give the names of the Preachers who attended Conference. Samuel Sellers, Miles Harper, William Winans, Lewis Hobbs, John I. E. Byrd, Richmond Nolley, John Shrock, John Phillips and myself. This was the supply for two states. We done the little business, attended the camp meeting. While hear, I learned my brothers on the Beckbee-(Tombeckee or Tombigbee River) was killed.

(95) After the Conference, I went to Beckbie to see what had become of my Brother's families. The county was in the midst of

troubles, my brothers dead and

their family distressed.

1779 – December 6 – Child number 5, **John GRIFFIN**, is born. I can find no information on this John but he is listed in the Andrews-Barnett-Griffin Bible. There is another name also listed in the Bible for the year 1790 that is noted it is too dim to read. I have another John, John Thomas, Jr. born in 1790. I believe there may have been a child born in 1779, named John, and died early in life before 1790, at which time John and Mary named another child John also.

1781 - September 11 – A daughter, **Mary Polly GRIFFIN** is born. Some sources show the birth in Essex County, St. Ann's Parish, VA but this is not in keeping with John's residence – unless Mary has gone to visit and stay with some of her relatives while the war is raging all about them. Mary died before 1809 in Green County, GA.

1783 – December – A son, **Robert GRIFFIN** is born in Powhatan County, VA. Robert died before 1816.

1784 – The Revolutionary War is finally brought to a close and a new country is born with its own independence.

According to the "Daughters of American Revolution" association in an inquiry I made, John served as a Captain during the Revolutionary War. There was never a petition for a pension by him, his wife, or any of his children.

1785 - August 15 – A son, **William Thomas GRIFFIN, Sr.** (SEE GENERATION SIX) is born in Powhatan County, VA and died before 1870 in Henry County, GA.

1787 - September 24 – Another son, **Thomas GRIFFIN, Sr.** is born in Powhatan County. Thomas died in 1851 in Madison County, Mississippi.

Thomas became a Methodist Missionary to the territory of Louisiana in 1810 and sometime later, he wrote a day journal of his travels. I am thankful to Silas Griffin, who has a copy of the journal and is painstakingly interpreting it. He has about half of it completed and was kind enough to furnish me with a copy of the completion.

Because of the life of Rev. Thomas Griffin, I am including much of his story here. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

Original copy was donated May 18, 2000 to the MS Dept. of Archives & History
Jackson, MS

Transcribed by Robert Silas Griffin
(Griffin Writing Project)
June 24, 2003 Douglas, AZ

The original Thomas Griffin Day Book and Journal has 354 pages, 1–19 are receipts and the text runs from page 20 to 354. A 19-page essay written by Bishop Charles B. Galloway in 1903 summarizes the life and ministry of Rev. Thomas Griffin. The essay entitled: "Thomas Griffin; A

Boanerges of the Early Southwest" was published by the Mississippi Historical Society in Vol. VII, pp. 153 to 170. Bishop Galloway refers to Rev. Thomas Griffin's handwritten Journal / manuscript and frequently quotes directly from it.

The writer of this commenced in the fifty-third year of his life, to write a short account of his life and would just ask himself what he has done to make himself known and with propriety would reply- nothing, and yet I conscientiously believe I have traveled and suffered more than George Washington did to accomplish the Revolution. After thirty years of toil and trouble, I have acquired but little fortune or fame. I shall bequeath this humble effort and sketch of my life to my children in manuscript and if the publick should ever derive any advantage from it, they will pay for the transformation (22) from manuscript to print. But alas! How badly qualified I am for such an undertaking. My defective education, roving life, I have kept not one line of a journal. I have preserved scarcely any of my letters. I shall write from memory intirely. Dates will not be very correct and should the curiosity of the reader urge him on, he will have to learn my birth, humble parentage, mental butchery in the frontier of Georgia 40 years ago, then the toils of the field or farm until I was twenty and my conversion. The agonies of my mind when I believed I was impressed to address mankind. The parting sorrows at leaving my parents in 1810 - my labors in N. & S. Carolina, attending the Conference in Camden, appointed to Ouachitta in Louisiana, the state of society thirty years ago, then my travel of Natchez and Mississippi. Perhaps I shall describe the mighty changes I have witnessed in seeing the ancient forest delivered to the flames and the plowshares driven through its ashes. Towns, villages and farms are now standing where I once roamed along almost through the pathless woods and a deathlike silence pervaded many tracts of land and nothing broke the silence but the howling of the wolf, the scream of the tiger or the yell of the savage Redman. Where Vicksburg

now stands, I rode through and threw the cane out (23) of my face and not a human was there. Everything that was to be seen was Turnbull's Plantation in the valley north of the place. I shall be able to trace the purchase and removal of the large tribes of Indian- Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek & Cherokee. Noting the stream of population going west with many of the trouble and trial I have passed through in the rise and progress of religion in Mississippi and Louisiana.

The past ages groped in darkness compared to the advantages of the present age. My prayer to God is that moral principle may keep pace with the present in prominent and our America may shun what a traveler said of the polished French- "Farewell to France, the land of science & sin." In my ruff, rude way, I will write the transactions of my life and though the tale may be badly told, it will stand the light of Scrutiny and Time making the allowance for a man who will write from memory. If any satisfaction should result, my children or any human being, to the Great Author of all good be the praise for ever & ever, Amen & Amen.

May 22, 1841 Thomas Griffin

A tremendous undertaking for those days. A-W-A-Y to Georgia, 4 or 5 hundred miles, a frontier state of the U States and scattered around with the savage Indians. My father purchased a track of land on the Big Creek, 4 miles from the Oconee River now lying in the county of Oglethorpe, 10 miles from Lexington. He was charmed with Georgia, soft and mild was the climate, high and elevated, good water and fresh soil- an inexhaustible stand of timber according to the terms then in use: "Not a stick amiss." The inhabitants plain and utterly friendly to a proverb, making every effort to invite settlers to come

in. The Creek Indians though formidable from skill and numbers, were on the best terms of friendship. He returned to Virginia, sold out, wound up his affairs and the (28) next year removed to Georgia! But alas! How was the scene changed. A rupture had taken place between the Whites and Indians. The Whites had fled and fortified themselves in forts, their crops destroyed & wasted, scarcity was showing itself and on my father's arrival, he found the country in the midst of troubles such as scarcity and the horrors of a savage war in which neither age nor sects could draw pity from the bosom of the savage redman. To cap the climax of his troubles, his land lay an mile from Capt. Reids Fort and not a house outside of it. He asserted he had as leave die by the sword as the famine as such. The younger branches of the family and mother was left in the settlement. Himself, 2 sons, a young man, and a few servants commenced on his land. He built a strong, hewed log house, chinked and daubed the cracks, leaving places for port holes so this new residence was- residence, block house & fort an hall hold all, and he held his ground and made bread that year and not a house there west of him, strange to tell that within my recollection, Oglethorpe County should be the outside settlement and my father's house the outside house and it, the terror of the warlike Redman and now at this day, not an Indian from there to the Sabine River.

The white(s) settled and solidly passed of the county for 800 or 1000 miles to the west of that place. In the course of that fall or winter, he collected all together and there was a suspension of hostilities. As I am not a statesman and have no access to the archives of the nation, (29) I know not wither it was the result of army or negotiation though I am induced to think it was only a suspension for the next year. There

was much troubles such as stealing horses and the family of Wm. Thrasher was killed near the Scull Shoals after father brought us from the old settlement to Big Creek.

=>

I thought of Christ, my case was like one deeply sank in a consumption beyond medicine. I thought God was Just and could not look on sin with allowance and my dilemma arose from how God could be Just and let me escape that punishment. Oft then would I think if I had only turned to God when I was young I might have found mercy but now I was too late. It was on the Wednesday following, up stairs in my Father's house about 12 o'clock, I was pressed beyond measure. I made a kind of unconditional surrender and the language of my soul was- Save Lord! Or I perish! I rose from my knees and fell down on a bed- lay lost in the deepest thought and contemplation. I felt like clay in the hand of the potter. Like was before the flames - thy will be done I thought. I was willing to lay at the foot stool of mercy and beg hard on the remnant of my life. In this situation there appeared to be a powerful appeal or address to my soul- Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, he was the mediator between God and man, he had died for our sins and rose for our Justification. My mind appeared to grasp and I believed it. (50) There was a strange peace came into a bosom that had been the seat of anguish for more than two weeks. I loved God- I loved his people- I loved enemies. What I had thought the human heart was incapable of - to love an enemy. Reader, I thought I clearly saw the plan of man's redemption by Jesus Christ. Man deeply sank in sin, in prison, fallen, faded, degraded, and disgraced. Jesus Christ Co__ing God with man that he may raise man from the ruins of the fall. He is a Prophet to teach our ignorance, A Priest to atone for our sins and from the cross as an high altar,

the blood flowed to wash away the sin of the world. The claiming of Justice was satisfied, the prison doors opened, the Light of his grace to enlighten and heal the maladies of the soul- inflicted on it by sin and to infuse new life. The life of God in the poor sinful soul, there to be a king to govern the soul and lead it up to Heaven. I thought I understood the saying of St. Peter- "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation- old things are passed away and behold, all things had become new."

Reader, now in the **fifty-third year of my life**, I may in the language of Charles the Fifth of Germany, when surrendering his crown to Philip his son, "I have grown old before my time", my dim eye, the little portion of flesh I carry on my bones, the deep furrows in my face- the marks of the plowshare of time, a frame that has bent after heat and as after cooled here in the damp atmosphere of Mississippi & Louisiana. Long records in some easy hand? For I have layed off in the woods in camps, in huts, of houses with Indians, I have traversed the almost pathless woods for miles, of how I rolled a few old logs in the bryars, tied them with vines, carried over my saddle & saddle bags and then rode on by horse while he swam through with me and **28 years I have spent in the lowlands**.

In the month of June, I was taken sick at the house of Judge McLaughlin with the common acclimating fever. It was a kind family but I hastened out to the high Pine Hills west of Ouachitta Post to the house of Thomas B. Franklin where I lay something like three weeks. This Gentleman nor family professed no religion but their acts of kindness has laid me under obligations to them I have never paid but in good wishes and prayers to Almighty God for their peace and prosperity hear & hereafter. I was relieved from the

fever for a short time but it returned and I had an afflicting year of it. The end of the year found me almost a walking skeleton, a large spleen in the side, my ankles & leggs badly swollen. Hear I had ample time while in Ouachitta sick to ask myself many questions and think on my situation. Far from every earthly relation or acquaintance, sick and almost without money, unable to work, and hear I have followed or obeyed directions until I am almost 1000 miles from friends & home. At times I was gloomy and low spirited but at times I bore up with fervency. I never saw the face of a preacher this year but Powell & the local Preacher which was a great consolation to me. I received \$1.50 (one dollar & fifty cents) from an old man who lived with George Hook named James Brown, gave me that. I thought that was a blank year in my life but since, I believe my humble efforts was of use to a few.

To night your health was nearly gone and this night will finish you, your money is very low, you had out all you brought from Ga. 18 months ago, but two pair pantaloons, one of these is in ribbons, and you and one old thread can pass more and you are out. Your Religion has brought you to a low ebb in 4 years. Look back what you were, 3 years ago- young, healthy, hearty, vigorous, of a sound stock of people, you have wandered off and all is lost. I had the horrors for a few moments but a consciousness of I am mad at what was right sustained me - the Light came and I crawled up the bank- wett, ragged, muddy, exhausted mortified, I had all the appearance of a poor fellow - faded, degraded and disgraced wretch. I followed on in my need, rags and saddlebags on my shoulders. As this effort of my pen is for you, my children, I arrived at the house of Mr. Micaijah Pickett, his good lady had seen in advance how bad I was getting and had made me a new pair.

There is no language can tell what a change in my feeling. Instead of getting out old threadbare from the saddlebags, she presented me a new pair so I arrived safe and fulfilled my appointments but I received great injury by cold.

Night came on and we were in high spirits, thought we were over the water. Banister divided with us, we had a ___ meal and a biscuit a piece for the next morning. After supper, Banister walked out and returned and said we were on an island in the overflow- our prospects were much beclouded. So dreadful was the mosquitoes there was no sleep. If I covered up with the saddle blanket, my breath would make me so hot I could not stand it and if I put out my nose for a little fresh air, they would be sure to find it. I had but one worse night in my life and that was in Catahola Parish- I had a fever at a certain house, the mosquitoes soon assailed me, there was no bar around the bed so hot as I was, I thought I draw the blanket over me and endure it but soon the bedbugs attacked me, I was intolerable situated, fever on me, attacked without by the mosquitoes and within by the bugs-I fled out to gallery and fought and scratched all night. I got clean of the army of bugs by flight.

Early in the morning, we eat our biscuit apiece. I boiled the bone and gnawed what I could off of it. We saddled up, took our leave of the island and commenced the overflow.

Elected in the fall of 1819 to attend the General Conference of the MEC, Reverends- Thomas Griffin & John Lowe left LA on horse back in February of 1820 headed for VA & MD. This intro and address was delivered by Rev. Thomas Griffin before the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Baltimore, MD in May, 1820.

(Numbers in parenthesis are the page numbers as found in the

original Rev. Thomas Griffin- Day Book & Journal)

(122) "We had not been long in session before there was a resolution introduced to prohibit any slaveholder in future to hold any official position in the Methodist Church..... As soon as the subject came up for discussion, the delegation from the free states or those opposed to slavery, came out in round terms and it looked as if there was no other crime on the face of the earth but slavery- dealers in souls, soul drivers, tyrants, blood stained hands, " and a thousand terms I had never heard of before. It came down upon us like a tornado, a tempest that was like to sweep us away. William Capers of South Carolina gave us a fine pathetic speech. I had no idea of making a speech when I went there. I thought I was another of two to represent the interests of a location of people that would be torn up root and branch by such a revolution. So I concluded to bear my testimony against the resolution. I got up under a great emotion of mind and I well remember I was resolved if I only got out a half dozen words, it should be like an old case knife whetted on a brick- it should be enough edge and if I only could break the skin, I would leave a wound, ragged and hard to cure."

Bishop Roberts was in the chair. "Mr. President- That I have lived longer than I have lived to purpose is a fact that I am ready to concede. I have lived long enough to notice a few things and among those things I have noticed- Northern people, both laymen and clergy coming to the South- (123) Sir, when they first come among us, they are ready to see us all damned & double damned, rammed, jammed, crammed, in a forty-six pounder and blown into the fiery vaults of a deep damnation. Their pious zeal will not stop there, they are ready to get on their knees and invoke the thunderbolts of a sin avenging

God to beat our heaven clearing and hell deserving souls into the deepest hell. But in less than 12 months, they become very smooth on that subject and if they contemplate making a permanent stay with us, if they have either worth, merit, talent or intrigue, they never fail to form connections in those families that are slave-holders. We have young ladies in the South entirely disconnected with slavery but Northern gentlemen can always see peculiar charms in those young ladies whose parents have the most slave property. I do not rise to justify slavery in the abstract, it is not in accordance with our political creed, but from the vast numbers and their untutored situation, the people of the South in self-justification are compelled to hold their institutions as they found them and have held them. I ask- who were the first importers and owners of slave? Northern people! They kept them until they had cut down and sold most of their country (forests). Much of their soil would scarcely clothe itself with a coat of sedge and with that sagacity and peculiar (124) foresight that marks Northern policy, they handed them to our forefathers and obtained value received and we are to be condemned without a mention of mercy for holding the property held by you and your forefathers. If a stranger was in the gallery and was to hear the debates, he would be led to believe the Southerners were cannibals and eat their slaves. We have heard much about blood stained hands, I have been looking around among the men of the South, I have seen none of what we have heard so much about. But that venerable man whose remains ly under that pulpit (Bishop Francis Asbury) and Dr. Coke supposed the period had arrived years ago when something must be done and done immediately. I ask- what did their efforts accomplish? It accomplished much. It aroused the property holders and closed every medium of access to

the farms of VA, the rice fields of South Carolina, and the planters of Georgia. The laws of the South have been framed to meet any exigency that may arise and the Minister could not move in the slightest degree without coming in collision with the laws of the land and one of the laws of the Church is to be obedient to the laws of the nation where we labor. I ask what those very zealous people have accomplished. I answer- nothing.

Laws of the respective states that have done any thing in the matter, have moved in advance and removed every obstruction from the owner. Quite different in the Southern states, required of us to go security for the laborers and that (125) we must be the security that the slaves behave well and they are not to be a charge in old age. Many who would connect themselves with us would connect themselves with others. If accounts can be credited, there are a number of people who are waiting to see the result of this Conference and if such a change in law, many will soon take their leave of us. By way of conclusion, I would just state, I see there is strength in the house to pass what you please and if the resolve becomes law, prepare yourself Sir- to send around a ship load of Preachers to execute this law for I think it a duty save to you and the 1/4 vote here in my place, I will execute no such rule and before I take my seat, I would just suggest- such men who would come to the South to meddle with the subject, will find themselves in a delicate situation."

"Strange how every one looked as if they thought I was somewhat insane. Brother James Norton came to me after Conference and told me-1 looked as if I was mad. I told him I thought they had no respect for our feelings and we are men as well as they. We represented the interests of people as good as any they had and I would not be galloped over rough shod by them."

1790 - January 29 – Another John is born to this family, **[Jack] John Thomas GRIFFIN, Jr.** John died in Texas.

Per "REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS IN GEORGIA", **John & Mary Ann** first moved to N.C. where he served in the Revolutionary War. There is no mention of where they resided in NC. He moved on to Green/Wilkes County where he received bounty land of 300 acres.

Source: genforum.genealogy.com/griffin/messages/2887.html

NOTE! This information does not fit with the fact that John bought the land in Greene County – it was not awarded to him.

The War seems to have sent many away from Virginia, most of the vets fighting in NC and later getting land in SC and Georgia.

Source: genforum.genealogy.com/griffin/messages/2944.html

1791 - Greene County, GA. September, 1791 - John purchased land on Big Creek from Wiley Pope. Attached is a retype of that purchase.

Big Creek Deed From Wiley Pope to John Griffin

Book F, page 13

(6) M.N. -- State of Georgia

This Indenture made the second day of September in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-One and in the sixteenth year of the Independence of the United States of America. Between Wiley Pope of the county of Wilkes and state aforesaid of the one part and Jno. Griffin of the state of Virginia & Cumberland County planter of the other part, witnesseth that the said Wiley Pope for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred pounds lawful money of the said state, to him in hand well and paid by the said John Griffin at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents the receipt thereof is hereby acknowledged hath granted bargained sold released and confirmed and by these presents do grant bargain sell release and confirm unto the said John Griffin and to his heirs and assigns all that tract of land containing two hundred eighty seven & half acres situate lying and being in the County of Greene and originals granted to John Coleman this said grant bearing date the 5th? September One Thousand Seven Hundred & Eighty Four & "lying on the waters of Big Creek beginning at a red oak corner running North fifty three chains 64? links to hickory corner thence West fifty three chains 6? Links to hickory corner thence South fifty three chains 62 links to hickory corner, thence to the beginning corner red oak" & this same was delivered to the said Wiley Pope by the said John Coleman the 21st? day of June One Thousand Seven Hundred & Eighty Six - Together with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances thereof whatsoever to the said tract of land belonging or in any wise appertaining and the remainder revisions rents and rights thereof and of every part thereof, unto the said John Griffin his heirs and assigns, to the only proper use benefit and behoof of the said Jno. Griffin his heirs and assigns forever, and the said Wiley Pope and his heirs the tract of land and premises aforesaid and every part thereof, unto the said John Griffin his heirs and assigns against him the said Wiley pope and his heirs and all and every other person and persons whatsoever shall and will warrant and forever defend by these. I witness whereof the said Wiley Pope hath hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Sealed and delivered in presence of Suncock, Cannon

Wiley Pope (Seal)

Holman, Freeman (&) Registered 9th of July 1793

1791 - Cumberland County, VA. The deed transaction between John and Wylie Pope referred to John as being from Cumberland County VA. Another source, the Journal of Thomas Griffin, indicates John bought the land in 1791, returned to VA for his family and then moved to Greene County, GA in 1792.

1792 - January 27 – John started his slow move from Cumberland County, VA to Greene County, GA

Notes from the Andrews/Barnett/Griffin Bible:

I, John Griffin, started to Georgia on January 27, 1792. I landed in Green County on Big Creek with my family.

ALSO my letter of inquiry to a GA source

July 25, 2003
Douglas, AZ

Dear Chattahoochee---Oconee National Forest Administration and To Whom it May Concern:

I am researching the life of my fourth great-grandfather- John Griffin (born 1740 in Powhatan County, VA and died about 1819 in Oglethorpe County, GA) who was a soldier in the American Revolution. He came to claim a 300-acre bounty land grant in Greene County, Georgia in 1792 and established himself and family on Big Creek. According to the never published 1840 personal Journal of Rev. Thomas Griffin, one of John's sons, Quote: "Accordingly, about the year I would judge 1792 or 3, Himself, Joseph Hubbert & Robert Smith set out for Georgia. A tremendous undertaking for those days. A-W-A-Y to Georgia, 4 or 5 hundred miles, a frontier state of the U States and scattered around with the savage Indians. My father purchased a track of land on the Big Creek, 4 miles from the Oconee River now lying in the county of Oglethorpe, 10 miles from Lexington.

.....his land lay an mile from Capt. Reids Fort and not a house outside of it.

Himself, 2 sons, a young man, and a few servants commenced on his land. He built a strong, hewed log house, chinked and daubed the cracks, leaving places for port holes so this new residence was- residence, block house & fort an hall hold all, and he held his ground and made bread that year and not a house there west of him, strange to tell that within my recollection, Oglethorpe County should be the outside settlement and my father's house the outside house... There was much troubles such as stealing horses and the family of Wm. Thrasher was killed near the Scull Shoals after father brought us from the old settlement to Big Creek."

John Griffin's Last Will and Testament, sealed May 25, 1815 and recorded in Oglethorpe County, GA March 3, 1819, (Book B. pages- 168, 169) on file with the records in Oglethorpe County Probate Judge's office states: "I give &

bequeath to my son John Griffin, Junr. The tract of land whereon I now live containing three hundred acres, more or less..."

Rev. Thomas Griffin states in his Journal that on his way to attend the General Conference of the Methodist Church in Baltimore, MD in May 1820, he stopped over in Oglethorpe County, GA to visit his sister Ave G. Garnett at Scull Shoals and then visited his brother- John Griffin, Junr. And- "visited the graves, in the Evening, of my parents and indulged in such thoughts and feelings such a scene is calculated to inspire."

According to these first-hand statements, the original property of John Griffin consisted of about three hundred acres located on Big Creek in Greene County, GA, 4 miles from the Oconee River, 10 miles from Lexington, GA, in Oglethorpe County as of 1820. Thomas Griffin does not say if his parents were buried in a cemetery but the record of his visit in 1820- gives the feeling that he visited their graves- very likely on the Griffin property. I am ordering some maps of the Oconee Forest and also am contacting the Oglethorpe County Records Clerk to request land and tax records in the hopes that we may find the exact area of where the Griffins lived in NE Georgia. It is possible that the original land or a portion thereof may lie within the present Oconee Forest boundaries and very likely in Oglethorpe County. It is our current impression that the graves of John Griffin (1740—1819) and his wife Mary Andrews Griffin (1754—1814) are on their original homestead. It is also a possibility that they were buried in a cemetery near where they originally lived. We are very interested in finding the graves of John and Mary Griffin. There is a possibility that the D. A. R. had marked the grave of John Griffin as a Revolutionary War soldier. We don't know if this actually ever happened. We are requesting that if the Oconee Natl. Forest database has any information regarding the Griffin homestead or where they may be buried IF they are buried in an area lying within the boundaries of the Oconee Natl. Forest.

We would really appreciate if you could let us know or provide leads as to where we can find the above data. We would like to get some basic information on the Oconee Natl. Forest, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Greene and Wilkes

Counties before we plan a summer vacation trip to the area in order to conduct some closer research on the matter. Perhaps the Oconee National Forest database, or a local archeological or historical society have some relevant information on the homestead / gravesites of John and Mary Griffin.

I am enclosing an article written about another relative who was also a soldier from the American Revolution and who was buried in the vicinity of the Griffin homestead. Other Griffins and Barnetts lived at Scull Shoals so we have some historical roots in that region. We are very interested in knowing if the developer of

Barnett's Bluff Subdivision indeed fenced in the Barnett Cemetery and we are concerned as to what condition the cemetery is in. Are there any cemeteries or pioneer gravesites near the Big Creek area that perhaps lie within the Oconee Natl. Forest boundary or even outside the boundary?

Sincerely,
SCV, Camp 1710 Chaplain, Silas Griffin
921 Madrid Street
Douglas, AZ 85607
(520)- 364- 4895
griffinrs@hotmail.com

1792 - July 7 – To celebrate their move Mary presented John with their eleventh child, **James GRIFFIN** in Greene County. James died before 1816.

1793 - Parts of Greene and Wilkes Counties were used to form Oglethorpe County, GA. The John Griffin family now lived in the new county of Oglethorpe.

1793 - September 21 – A son, **Wiat Andrews GRIFFIN** is born in Greene County, GA. Wiat died before 1816.

1797 – February 11 – Now 43 years old, Mary Ann gives birth to their thirteenth and final child, a boy, **George Washington GRIFFIN** in Greene County, GA. George died on 3 Oct 1799.

1798 – Taxes: Paid. Oglethorpe County, GA. -- Georgia Tax Index, 1789-99 shows John Griffin in Oglethorpe County, Waters District on this tax index.

1799 - October 3 – **George Washington GRIFFIN** passed from this life. **John and Mary Ann** appears to have had their share of problems as they raised their family. Without having specific dates for the deaths of all their children, it is hard to tell if this is the first child to die or just one of many they had to bury.

1800 – Census, Federal, Oglethorpe County, GA. John is listed on the Oglethorpe County census as follows:

3 Free White Males	10-15 [William Thomas, Garnett Thomas, John Thomas, Jr.]
1 Free White Males	16-25 [Robert]
1 Free White Male	45+ [John Thomas, Sr.]
1 Free White Females	16-25 [Mary Polly]
1 Free White Females	45+ [Mary Ann Andrews Griffin]
0 Other Freepersons	
9 Slaves	

1803 – John's father, **David GRIFFIN, Sr.** dies in Oglethorpe County, Georgia.

1805 - Administrator Bond Posted: Edmond, John's brother, died intestate in 1805. John Griffin and John Collier posted administrators bond of \$2000 on his estate on May 7, 1805. On January 21, 1806, John Griffin, Stephen Gra??, and Garnett Andrews posted administrators bond of \$3000 on Edmond's estate. In the estate papers only two sons were named, Ezekial and David. Ezekial received his inheritance on September 12, 1815. David received his share on December 23, 1817. Since the third son was not mentioned as an heir, it is assumed that he died before or about the same time as his father. John Griffin, Jr. assumed the duties of administrator of Edmond's estate for his father, John Griffin, Sr., by December 23, 1817, when David received his share.

1806 - Administrator Bond Posted: \$3000.00. On January 21, 1806, John Griffin, Stephen Gra??, and Garnett Andrews posted administrators bond of \$3000 on Edmond's estate.

1809 – Before this year - Death of Child (#6): **Mary Polly GRIFFIN** in Greene County, GA.

1812 – June 18 – The United States declares war with Great Britain and the WAR OF 1812 begins.

The War of 1812 is one of the forgotten wars of the United States. The war lasted for over two years, and while it ended much like it started; in stalemate; it was in fact a war that once and for all confirmed American Independence. The offensive actions of the United States failed in every attempt to capture Canada. On the other hand, the British army was successfully stopped when it attempted to capture Baltimore and New Orleans.

1813 – October - Death of Child (#4): **David Andrews GRIFFIN, [Twin]** (1778-1813). In Bashi Creek, Mississippi Territory, Now Alabama

1813 – October - Death of Child (#3): **Jesse Andrews GRIFFIN, [Twin]** (1778-1813). In Bashi Creek, Mississippi Territory, Now Alabama

1814 - January 31 - Death of **Mary Ann ANDREWS** (1754-1814) in Oglethorpe County, GA.

@Other sources show Mary's death date as November 1814.

@WWW.wardjc.com shows Mary's death year as 1819.

1814 – March - Andrew Jackson defeated the Creek Indians at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, Mississippi Territory.

This victory was too little, too late for the Griffin Twins and others who died in the Indian skirmishes during the WAR OF 1812.

Bef 1816 - Death of Child (#11): **James Griffin** (1792-Bef 1816).

Bef 1816 - Death of Child (#7): **Robert Griffin** (1783-Bef 1816).

Bef 1816 - Death of Child (#12): **Wiat Andrews Griffin** (1793-Bef 1816).

1819 – February – **John Thomas GRIFFIN** joins his children and his faithful wife in death in Oglethorpe County, GA. John and Mary Ann are reportedly both buried on the original homestead in Oglethorpe County, GA.

John's 1813 LWT is on file at: Oglethorpe County Probate Judge P.O. Box 70, Lexington, Ga. 30648 - Will book B pp. 168-169. The will was recorded March 3, 1819. It also lists his children.

Source:

genforum.genealogy/griffin/messages/2887.html

genforum.genealogy/griffin/messages/4686.html

@— Source: KDBarnett@aol.com

E-mail to Silas Griffin 24 April 2003

I wish I had more information on Thomas and William Griffin to share with you. I have concentrated on Ave Griffin Barnett. I thought you might be interested to know that Ave named both of her boys Griffin. John Griffin Barnett, my great-great-grandfather named two of his sons Thomas Griffin Barnett and John Griffin Barnett, Jr. Thomas Griffin, my Great-grandfather named his son Jonathan Griffin Barnett. Thomas Griffin Barnett named his only daughter Thomas Ann. Thomas Ann named her son Griffin. I can remember Griffin. He loved to tell stories about the old days. I was too young to remember the stories but I do remember the telling.

I may be able to shed a little light on where John Griffin is buried. John Barnett received a very large land grant on the Oconee River in Franklin then Jackson then Clarke then Oconee County, Ga. after the Rev. War. The community of Barnett Shoals is located there today. I understand that a large housing development has now been built on this property. Just down the Oconee River a few miles is where

Oglethorpe, Greene, and Oconee counties meet. John Griffin landed there in 1792 on Big Creek. I know there is a cemetery in the area named Oconee. It is very near this area. I have no record of John Griffin leaving this area.

Nathan Barnett, husband of Ave G. Barnett died on property located on Sandy Creek which is just down stream from Big Creek. I visited the area in about 1993. The extinct community of Scull Shoals is located there. This area is now in the Oconee National Forest. I was not aware of the cemeteries in the area when I was there so I did not investigate them. It is only later that I received a map of the area listing the cemeteries. If John Griffin did not relocate in his later years to be near some of his children, I feel like he is buried in the area. --- Keith

Children from the marriage of John and Mary Ann were:

Susannah GRIFFIN was born on 11 Sep 1773.29 Susannah married **Bennett HUBBARD** on 7 Nov 1796.

Ave Garnett GRIFFIN was born on 20 Jun 1776 in Powhatan County, VA and died on 4 Apr 1851 in Henry County, GA at age 74. Ave married **Nathan BARNETT, III** on 1 Feb 1797 in Oglethorpe County, GA. Ave's daughter, Lucy Webb Barnett married Jesse Johnson and it is through this line we have Lyndon Baines Johnson, one of our presidents. According to Mr. Silas Griffin, Lady Bird used the John Griffin Family Bible records to verify LBJ's lineage.

Jesse Andrews GRIFFIN, [Twin] was born on 14 Feb 1778 in Powhatan County, VA and died in Oct 1813 in Bashi Creek, MS Territory, Now Alabama at age 35, and was buried in Clarke County, AL. The cause of his death was killed in Indian ambush. Jesse married **Patsy, [Mrs. Jesse Andrews Griffin]**.

David Andrews GRIFFIN, [Twin] was born on 14 Feb 1778 in Powhatan County, VA and died in Oct 1813 in Bashi Creek, MS Territory., Now Alabama at age 35, and was buried in Clarke County, AL. The cause of his death was killed in Indian ambush. David married **Susannah, [Mrs David Andrews Griffin]**.

John GRIFFIN was born on 6 Dec 1779.

Mary Polly GRIFFIN was born on 11 Sep 1781 in Essex County; St. Ann's Parish, VA and died before 1809 in Green County, GA 31. Mary married **William FEARS** on 25 Jan 1802 in Oglethorpe County, GA.

Robert GRIFFIN was born in Dec 1783 in Powhatan County, VA and died before 1816.

William Thomas GRIFFIN, Sr. William married **Mary Booker BARNETT** on 21 Jan 1816 in GA.

Rev. Thomas GRIFFIN, Sr. was born on 24 Sep 1787 in Cumberland County, VA and died in 1851 in Madison County, Mississippi at age 64. Thomas married **Ann FORD** on 8 Aug 1820 in Marion County, MS.

[Jack] John Thomas GRIFFIN, Jr. was born on Jan 1790 in Powhatan County, VA and died in Texas. Another name for John was JACK. John married **[Sally] Sarah Caroline BARNETT** on 24 Sep 1814.

James GRIFFIN was born on 7 Jul 1792 in Greene County, GA and died before 1816.

Wiat Andrews GRIFFIN was born on 21 Sep 1793 in Greene County, GA and died before 1816.

George Washington GRIFFIN was born on 11 Feb 1797 in Greene County, GA and died on 3 Oct 1799 at age 2.

JOHN FRANKLIN BARNETT, Sr.
CAROLINE FLEMING TINDALL

John Franklin BARNETT, Sr., son of **Nathan BARNETT, Sr.** and **Lucy WEBB**, was born on 7 Jun 1762 in St. Peter's Parish, New Kent County, VA and died on 10 Mar 1814 in Barnett's Shoal, Clarke County, Georgia at age 51.

@- One source shows a 1759 birth year

@- One source, Patsy Hughes - hughesp@worldnet.att.net shows John Byrd Barnett

Caroline Fleming TINDALL, daughter of **William TINDALL** and **Elizabeth "Betsy" Ann BOOKER**, was born in Sep 1762 in Richmond County, GA and died in Aug 1842 in Barnett's Shoal, Clarke County, Georgia at age 79.

@- Parents of Caroline have not been verified 4/8/2004

1768 – Nathan, John's Father, moved to Georgia after receiving a "bounty grant" of land. This grant must have been for fighting or service rendered during the French and Indian wars. A short history of this is attached:

French and Indian Wars

<http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/E/7yearswar/fiw01.htm>

The war that raged in North America through the late 1750's and early 1760's was but one part of the larger struggle between England and France for dominance in world trade and naval power.

The British victory in that struggle, known in Europe as the Seven Years' War, ended the long struggle among the three principal powers in northeastern North America: The English, the French, and the Iroquois Confederacy, it confirmed England's commercial supremacy and cemented its control of the settled regions of North America.

The French and the English had coexisted relatively peacefully in North America for nearly a century. But by the 1750's, as both English and French settlements expanded, religious and commercial tensions began to produce new frictions and new conflicts. The French had explored and claimed a vast region of the continental interior, ranging from Louisiana in the South to the Great Lakes in the North. To secure their hold on these enormous claims, they founded a whole string of communities, missions, trading posts, and fortresses. The region was enclosed by the four major cities: Montreal, Detroit, New Orleans, and Quebec, the center of the French empire in North America.

The English, meanwhile, were preparing for the great population leap across the Appalachians into Ohio and beyond. In 1749 a group of Virginian businessmen secured a grant of 500,000 acres of Ohio valley land for settlement purposes. They were not impressed by Joseph Celeron who in the same year had claimed that region for France. This prompted the French, in an effort to keep the English from expansion into French lands, to construct new fortresses in the Ohio valley. This, in turn, caused the English, interpreting the French activity as a threat to their western settlements, to begin making military preparations and building fortresses of their own.

For the next five years, tensions between the English and the French increased, until in the summer of 1754 the governor of Virginia sent a militia force (under the command of an inexperienced young colonel named George Washington) into the Ohio valley to challenge French expansion. Washington built a crude stockade (Fort Necessity) and staged an unsuccessful attack on a French detachment. The French countered with an assault on Fort Necessity, trapping Washington and his soldiers inside. After a third of them died in the fighting, Washington surrendered. This clash marked the beginning of the French and Indian War.

Evidently Nathan was living in GA when the Revolutionary War began and he and four of his five sons were participants over the years of the war. Those participating were Nathan, Nathan Jr., Mial, John F., and Claiborne].

1775 – The Revolutionary War begins in these rag tag states that have the audacity to rebuff the mighty nation of Great Britain.

1776 – DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE signed by representatives of the thirteen original colonies, now states of the new county, United States of America.

1783 – July 13 - John married **Caroline** in Columbia County, GA according to records in the database: 'Georgia Marriages to 1850'.

1784 – The Revolutionary War is finally brought to a close and a new country is born with its own independence.

1784 – December 16 – During this turbulent time of treachery from those loyal to the King and England and the war going on all around them, John and Caroline became parents of a boy, **Nathan Byrd BARNETT** in Wilkes County, (the part that is now Clarke County, GA).

1788 – July 12 – A second son, **William Booker BARNETT** is born in Wilkes County (the part that is now Clarke County, GA).

1790 – December 15 – A daughter, **Lucy Greene BARNETT** is born in Wilkes County (the part that is now Clarke County, GA).

1793 – February 14 - A son, **John Franklin BARNETT** is born in Wilkes County (the part that is now Clarke County, GA).

1795 – January 14 – A daughter, **Mary Booker BARNETT** is born in Wilkes County (the part that is now Clarke County, GA). [See Generation Six]

1797 – May 5 – A daughter, **Sarah Caroline BARNETT** is born in Wilkes County (the part that is now Clarke County, GA).

1812 – June 18 – The United States declares war with Great Britain and the WAR OF 1812 begins.

1814 – March 10 – 52 year old **John Franklin BARNETT** dies in Barnett's Shoal, Clarke County, Georgia and is buried in the Barnett Shoals Cemetery.

John was a very wealthy plantation owner in Georgia. [Source: Ancestry World Tree Project -- Lmagee@Lvcm.com] It appears that after his marriage in Richmond County, GA in 1793, John and Caroline moved to Wilkes County (later to give land to form Clarke County) and purchased land or was given a grant, possibly for his service in the Revolutionary War.

Abstract of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots

Name: John Barnett

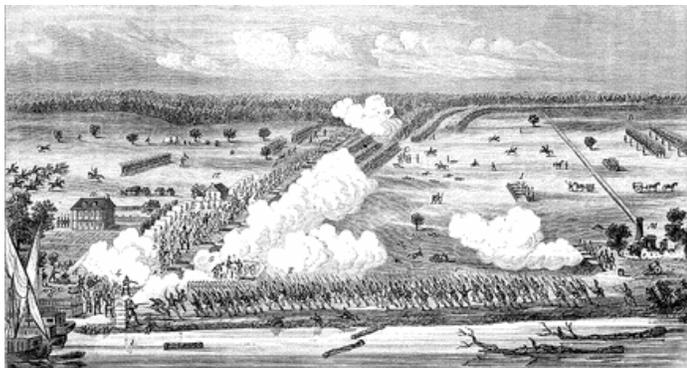
Cemetery: Barnett Shoals -- Location: Clarke County, GA

Reference: Abstract of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots,

Vol.1, p. Serial: 10772; Volume: 8

1814 – March - Andrew Jackson defeated the Creek Indians at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, Mississippi Territory.

1815 – January 8 – The Battle Of New Orleans, American forces, under General Jackson, decisively defeat the British forces trying to capture New Orleans. The battle, which takes place after the Treaty of Ghent has been signed, is the most decisive American victory of the war.



1830 - Federal Census - Clarke County, GA Roll 16 Page 312
Caroline Barnett, aged 60-70, is listed as HOH, living two doors away from her son John F. Jr. It is hard to read the census to determine if others are living with her.

1840 - Federal Census - Clarke County, GA Roll 39 Page 209
Caroline Barnett, aged 80-90, is listed as HOH, alone in the house. The 80-90 age range is evidently a mistake. Born in 1762, Caroline is 78 at this time and the 1830 census had shown 60-70 years old.

1842 – August – Caroline Fleming Tindall BARNETT dies at the age of 80 in Clarke County, GA. She is buried in the Barnett Shoals Cemetery.

The following info was sent in an e-mail from KDBarnett@aol.com to Silas Griffin on 24 April 2003.

I wish I had more information on Thomas and William Griffin to share with you. I have concentrated on Ave Griffin Barnett. I thought you might be interested to know that Ave named both of her boys Griffin. John Griffin Barnett, my great-great-grandfather named two of his sons Thomas Griffin Barnett and John Griffin Barnett, Jr. Thomas Griffin, my Great-grandfather named his son Jonathan Griffin Barnett. Thomas Griffin Barnett named his only daughter Thomas Ann. Thomas Ann named her son Griffin. I can remember Griffin. He loved to tell stories about the old days. I was too young to remember the stories but I do remember the telling.

I may be able to shed a little light on where John Griffin is buried. John Barnett received a very large land grant on the Oconee River in Franklin then Jackson then Clarke then Oconee County, GA after the Revolutionary War. The community of Barnett Shoals is

located there today. I understand that a large housing development has now been built on this property. Just down the Oconee River a few miles is where Oglethorpe, Greene, and Oconee counties meet. John Griffin landed there in 1792 on Big Creek. I know there is a cemetery in the area named Oconee. It is very near this area. I have no record of John Griffin leaving this area.

Nathan Barnett, husband of Ave Griffin Barnett died on the property located on Sandy Creek which is just down stream from Big Creek. I visited the area in about 1993. The extinct community of Scull Shoals is located there. This area is now in the Oconee National Forest. I was not aware of the cemeteries in the area when I was there so I did not investigate them. It is only later that I received a map of the area listing the cemeteries. If John Griffin did not relocate in his later years to be near some of his children, I feel like he is buried in the area.
--- Keith Barnett

River of time

Search for grave, frontier fort traces the Oconee

By Wayne Ford

Oconee Editor

On a forested bluff overlooking the Oconee River is a small cemetery that, if not for the attention of people who appreciate history, likely would have been lost in the erosion of time. Here is the final resting place of John Barnett, a man who fought in the Revolutionary War as a private under two of the war's most famous generals, Elijah Clarke of Georgia and Francis "The Swamp Fox" Marion in South Carolina.

On a recent July morning, Dayna Gunter made her way through the forest to visit the final resting place of a family whose namesake is familiar to folks in eastern Oconee County.

The morning was cool, a pleasant respite from the intense heat of the previous week that had baked the land dry. Rains had softened the dead, crisp leaves of the forest floor and lent a humid feel to the air. The cloudy sky held back the sun, drawing deeper the shadows of the hardwood canopy. Gunter went directly to a flat section of the ridge, where the ground was covered in a blanket of dark green plants that thrived in the constant shade.

Here among this lush vegetation was an old family cemetery. The old rocks used for cemetery markers were pocked and covered in moss. Among these weathered stones was a granite tombstone scripted with John Barnett's name. He was born June 7, 1762, in Virginia and died on March 10, 1814.

The marker was erected in September 1941 by the Elijah Clarke chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Nearly 60 years ago, this group of women ensured the grave would be visible for at least a few generations. In the near future, homes will be erected along this picturesque ridge as an extension of Barnett Bluff subdivision. Gunter said the developer plans to erect a fence around the graves.

The name of Barnett is historical to this area. There is still Barnett Shoals Road, but once there was a thriving community of more than 150 homes called Barnett Shoals that was located near the Georgia Power Co. dam site farther south on the river. It had a school, church

and mill. It has long since disappeared. Gunter found Barnett's, grave last summer atop this ridge that suddenly plunges sharply to the river floor below. She, her husband, Russ, and son, Ruston, had spent an afternoon hiking the area in pursuit of the site. She knew it was somewhere along the corridor of the Oconee River; she just didn't know where. But she felt driven to find it. And why?

"It's hard to put into words," she said, adding that it was an almost comforting feeling to find the cemetery.

A resident of Oconee County for the past 15 years, this daughter of a Florida forest ranger has lived in Barnett's Bluff for four years. Gunter always has been interested in history. As a young girl exploring the backwoods of Florida she found an early 1800s graveyard. She remembered the stone over a child's grave saying the cause of death was smallpox.

"It had an impact on me," she recalled. "I remember wanting to know more about those people. People from the past shouldn't be lost. We live our lives today in a fast pace, but we shouldn't forget where we came from."

Today she is a senior in history education at the University of Georgia with plans to teach high school history. She took four history courses at Truett-McConnell College under Kathryn Gray-White, a history professor she considers her mentor. Gunter wants to instill a sense of curiosity in history in young people. And it was with this sense of wonder that she researched John Barnett. She wanted to find his grave and to know more about the man and the people who lived around him.

Her quest resulted in a vast amount of information about Barnett and about the forts that lined the Oconee River in the late 1700s. These forts, established to fight the Indians, are of strong interest to Gunter.

While she found Barnett's grave, the site of Fort Mathews, the first fort along the Oconee, is uncertain.

A 1970 report on Georgia Forts by the state Department of Archives and History says of Fort Mathews: "The earliest mention of its existence was made in 1792, but it could have been built as early as 1791. Fort Mathews was probably the first of the group of forts which became known as the 'Oconee Forts' all of which were built between 1791 and 1796."

She believes it is in an area near the present Georgia Power Co. dam in Oconee County. Gunter has found old shards of pottery, and her belief that this is likely the site falls in line with a proposal set forth by the late R.N. Fickett III of Athens, who researched the location of Fort Mathews for seven years. Fickett was a member of the Athens Historical Society, who had a reputation as a "meticulous investigator."

In May 1971 Fickett sent a letter to the state archives in Atlanta explaining his conclusion. He noted in his letter, the discovery of a circular ditch which he said could be the base of a stockyard wall that was 215 feet by 195 feet.

In addition, the site is on a flat ridge, which drops fast and is a good defensive position. At the site Fickett uncovered a spoon handle, the pattern which was dated at 1790.

Gunter said she investigated the same area and agrees with Fickett. She presented her findings to another person whom she trusts as a reliable historian, but this person disagrees with the conclusion.

Located south of Fort Mathews were several forts along the Oconee River corridor, including two called Barnett's Station. One of these outposts was located near what is called the old Wire Bridge site.

The archives report notes that as Georgia settlers moved more aggressively westward into Indian lands, the Oconee forts lost their significance as outposts for protection. The military units simply moved to other areas.

And it concludes: "Fort Mathews was evacuated in December 1794 and left to decay."

And decay it did, but that doesn't stop some people, like Gunter, from searching and trying to find the places that helped establish American history.

Family:

Born in 1759 in Virginia, John Barnett was the son of Nathan and Lucy Webb Barnett. The elder Nathan Barnett was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

The couple had five sons, four of whom also fought in the war. [Nathan Jr., Mail, John F., Claiborne].

John moved to Georgia in 1768 after receiving a "bounty grant" of land.

John Barnett married Caroline Fleming Tindall. They had three sons Nathan, William and John and three daughters Lucy, Mary and Sarah.

Revolutionary War:

John Barnett served as a private in Georgia troops under Gen. Elijah Clarke and in South Carolina under Gen. Francis Marion, one of the war's legendary figures. He was later a captain in the Georgia Militia and received 575 acres of land at Marshall's Creek and the Oconee River. At the time of his death in 1814 he left behind a sizable estate, which included 25 slaves, livestock, wagons, and numerous other household and farming items used on his large plantation.

DAR:

The Elijah Clarke chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution put a new marker on the John Barnett grave in September 1941. Julia Brackett of Athens was a member of the DAR at that time and probably the only member alive from that time. She doesn't recall attending the dedication, but she fondly remembers the clubs regent, Mrs. Boyce Grier. Brackett still owns a "dinner bell" that Grier gave her as a wedding gift in 1934. The current regent, Robin Towns of Oconee County said February will mark the 100th anniversary of the chapter. The marking of graves is a major undertaking of the club and has been since its founding, Towns said.

Children from this marriage were:

Nathan Byrd BARNETT was born on 16 Dec 1784 in Clarke County, GA.

William Booker BARNETT was born on 2 Jun 1788 in Clarke County, GA.

Lucy Greene BARNETT was born on 15 Dec 1790 in Wilkes County, Georgia - Now Clarke County.

John Franklin BARNETT, Jr. was born on 14 Feb 1793 in Wilkes County, Georgia - Now Clarke County.

Mary Booker BARNETT. [SEE GENERATION SIX] Mary married **William Thomas GRIFFIN, Sr.** on 21 Jan 1816 in GA.

[Sally] Sarah Caroline BARNETT was born on 5 May 1797 in Wilkes County, Georgia - Now Clarke County. Sarah married **[Jack] John Thomas GRIFFIN, Jr.** on 24 Sep 1814.

ROBERT YELDELL ATKINS
JANE BARNETT

Robert Yeldell ATKINS, son of **Francis ATKINS, III** and **Jane YELDELL**, was born on 13 Jul 1772 in Prosperity, Newberry District, SC and died on 8 May 1816 in Abbeville District, Smithville Township, S.C. at age 43.

Jane BARNETT was born on 28 Jul 1776 in NC and died on 12 Dec 1853 in Abbeville County, SC at age 77.

1775 – The Revolutionary War begins in these rag tag states that have the audacity to rebuff the mighty nation of Great Britain.

1776 – DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE signed by representatives of the thirteen original colonies, now states of the new county, United States of America.

1784 – The Revolutionary War is finally brought to a close and a new country is born with its own independence.

Prior to 1785 there were no counties in the SC backcountry. In that year Spartanburg, Union, Laurens, Newberry, Abbeville and Edgefield counties were formed out of the Old Ninety-Six judicial district. Another area, in the northwest part of Ninety-Six, had been conquered from the Cherokees during the Revolution. This area remained unorganized until 1786 when Greenville County was formed out of the eastern part. The western part of the unorganized land was formed into Pendleton County in 1789. The area west and north of Pendleton (land now in the States of GA and TN) was still part of the Cherokee Nation at that time.

1785 – Edgefield County formed - The origin of the name Edgefield is not clear, although it is usually described as "fanciful." The county was formed in 1785 as part of Ninety Six District; parts of Edgefield later went to form Aiken (1871), Saluda (1895), Greenwood (1897), and McCormick (1916) counties. The county seat is the town of Edgefield. This part of the upcountry, settled in the late eighteenth century, was the site of several Revolutionary War skirmishes. Although primarily agricultural, Edgefield County developed a thriving pottery industry in the nineteenth century; the old alkaline-glazed Edgefield pottery is highly sought after today. The larger Edgefield County was the home of ten South Carolina governors, including Francis W. Pickens (1805-1869), Benjamin R. Tillman (1847-1918), and Strom Thurmond. Confederate general Martin Witherspoon Gary (1831-1881) was also a resident of Edgefield County.

1793 – September 19 - Robert married **Jane BARNETT** in Prosperity, Newberry District, SC.

Children from this marriage were:

1794 – April 21 - **Rachel ATKINS** was in Edgefield County, SC.

1795 – December 4 - **John ATKINS** was born in Edgefield County, SC.

1797 – June 6 - **James ATKINS** was born in Edgefield County, SC.

1799 – March 10 - **Mahaletth ATKINS** was born in Edgefield District, SC and died on 8 Feb 1853 in Henry County, GA at age 53. She was buried in Adams-Atkins Family Cemetery. Mahaletth married **John ADAMS**, the brother of Margaret ADAMS who married Mahaletth's brother Joseph ATKINS.

1801- February 2 - **Jane ATKINS** was born in Edgefield County, SC.

1802 – August 16 - **Francis ATKINS** was born in Edgefield County, SC.

1804 – August 19 - **Joseph ATKINS**. [SEE GENERATION SIX] Joseph married **Margaret ADAMS** on 1 Jan 1824 in Edgefield County, SC.

1806 – March 21 - **Thomas ATKINS** was born in Edgefield County, SC.

1808 – July 13 - **David ATKINS** was born in Edgefield County, SC.

1808 – 1810 – It appears Robert and Jane moved from Edgefield County into Abbeville County between these years according to places of their children's birth.

Both the county and its county seat, the town of Abbeville, were named for the French town of the same name. Originally part of Ninety-Six District, the area was designated as **Abbeville County in 1785**. Parts of Abbeville later went to form Greenwood (1897) and McCormick (1916) counties. The county was settled primarily by Scotch-Irish and French Huguenot farmers in the mid-eighteenth century. A historic treaty with the Cherokee Indians was signed at Dewitt's Corner (now Due West) in 1777. Abbeville was known as a hotbed of secession, and at the end of the Civil War the last Confederate council of war was held there. Abbeville's most famous native son was John C. Calhoun (1782-1850), United States vice president, secretary of war and of state, and senator.

1810 – February 27 - **Theresa ATKINS** was born in Abbeville County, SC.

1810 – Federal Census – Abbeville County, SC

Robert and family are listed on Roll M252_60 Page 107. See the picture at right for specific location in the county.

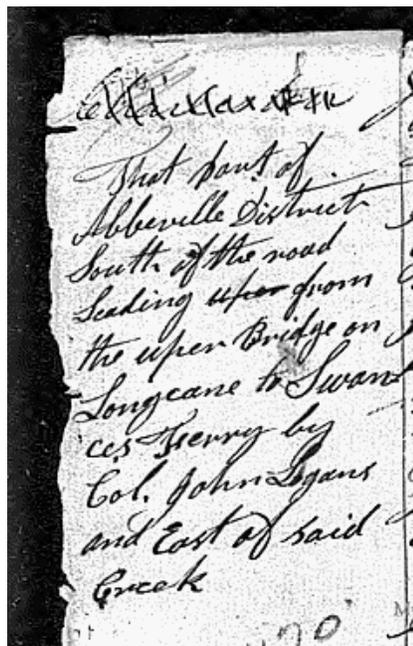
1812 – January 20 - **Robert ATKINS** was born in Abbeville County, SC.

1812 – June 18 – The United States declares war with Great Britain and the WAR OF 1812 begins.

1813 – November 28 **Ravenna W. ATKINS** was born in Abbeville County, SC.

1814 – March - Andrew Jackson defeated the Creek Indians at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, Mississippi Territory.

1815 – January 8 – The Battle Of New Orleans, American forces, under General Jackson, decisively defeat the British forces trying to capture New Orleans. The battle, which takes place after the Treaty of Ghent has been signed, is the most decisive American victory of the war.



1816 – January 3 - **Phoebe ATKINS** was born in Abbeville County, SC. Jane is now 40 years old and in this short span of years given birth to thirteen children.

1816 – May 8 – Robert Yeldell ATKINS dies after a short illness in Abbeville, SC. He was buried in the family burying ground on his home place near Curtail Creek, Smithville Township No.7 of Abbeville District, South Carolina.

1820 - With the death of Robert in 1816, **Jane ATKINS** is now listed as HOH [12110011010]. Jane also has 1 male and 1 female slave.

Jane is living next door to her daughter and son-in-law, Jane and Abraham Lites. Two doors in the other direction is James Atkins, probably her son, and his family.

1820 – Date Unknown – With a house full of young children, **Jane BARNETT ATKINS** remarries in Abbeville County, SC. Her new husband is **John DONALD**. John and Jane have no children from their marriage.

1830 – Abbeville, SC, Federal Census - John Donald [60-69], the new husband of Jane Barnett Atkins [50-59], is the HOH for this census on Roll 169, Page 29. Included in this household is a female [20-29] and two females [0-5]. It appears a daughter of one or the other has moved back home with two young children.

1830 - 1840 – Date Unknown – Once again Jane is faced with the death of a husband when **John DONALD** dies. I can find no information on his death and burial but Jane is once again alone on the 1840 census in Charleston, SC.

1840 – Charleston, SC, Federal Census - 64 year old Jane [60-70] is listed as HOH and is living next door to A. Light [Abraham Lites] her son-in-law. It appears her second husband, John has passed away during this ten year span between census'.

1850 – October 30 - Abbeville SC, Federal Census - Saluda Regiment, M432_842, Page 106 -- Jane Donald is listed alone in residence 1639/1639 as 77 years old and her property is valued at \$500. She is living between her son-in-law, Abraham Lites and her son Francis Atkins. The 1850 census indicates Jane was born in NC.

1853 – Residence – Jane is living in her own home near the residence of her son-in-law, Abraham Lites and his wife, Jane Atkins Lites.

1853 – December 12 – **Jane BARNETT ATKINS** passed away in Abbeville County, SC. She was laid to rest beside her first husband, Robert, in the family cemetery.

**General Notes:
Atkins - Luckie Family Tree**

Entries: 3007 Updated: Tue Dec 2 19:47:01 2003
Contact: Cynthia A. Luckie [QBess1@knology.net]

ID: I493
Name: **Robert Yeldell ATKINS**
Sex: M
Birth: 13 JUL 1772 in Ninety-Six Dist., SC
Death: 8 MAY 1816 in Abbeville, SC

Note: 3 "He died after a short illness on May 8, 1816, and his remains buried in the family burying ground on his home place near Curltail Creek, Smithville Township No.7, Abbeville District, South Carolina, awaiting those of his wife, who long survived him.

After his marriage he removed from Newberry District and settled and lived in Edgefield District, S.C.

He removed thence to Abbeville District about the close of the year 1808.

His tendency, like his fathers, to corpulence of person was restrained by his ceaseless activity. He had blue eyes, a ruddy complexion, darkish hair, sanguine temperament, boundless energy, fixedness of purpose, and great persistence. His stature was a little less than six feet. He possessed a well-balanced mind of healthy action and precise of movement. He was encumbered by a large family, yet he grew in worldly possessions so as to bid fair to be of the wealthy men of his section of the state. His indomitable energy, good health, bounding spirit, and genial disposition created for him a distinct personal place and orbit among men with an atmosphere all his own; so that his sudden

death, at the flood tide of his manly career, in the fullness and strength of his marked individuality, left a void in the community where he dwelt that did not cease to be felt and considered until long after his once familiar, inspiring presence disappeared among his fellows.

Robert's widow, **Jane Barnett ATKINS**, who had been to him a loving, faithful, helpful wife of twenty-two years and over nine months, was born July 28, 1776, twenty four days after the Declaration of Independence, and subsequently in the time of the Revolutionary War. She was not quite forty years of age when her first husband died. She married as her second husband, John Donald, about the year 1820, but after seven to ten years was again left a widow upon the death of Donald. She had no children by the second marriage. She is said to be of Irish descent, although nothing of the kind could be discerned about her by an ordinary observer; also to have been born in North Carolina. Nothing is known of her early life, nor of her family.

"The writer of these pages visited his relatives in Abbeville District, South Carolina in the fall of the year 1853, and then and there saw his grandmother, this Jane Donald for the first time, then living in a house of her own, near the residence of her son-in-law **Abraham Lites** and his wife, **Jane Atkins Lites**, the fifth child of Jane Donald. The dear grandmother had then completed her seventy years of age, yet lived alone with her colored slaves, who lived in their own houses in the same yard, and thus kept watch over her feeble goings and comings, constantly and faithfully. The writer hereof was greatly interested in the dear venerable lady, as he sat spell bound in her presence and heard her, as if she had been a vision in some strange dream, talking in weird words from the rear platform of a phantom train, as it fast but noiselessly glided into the deepening shadows of the still valley through which had gone before her the vast procession of the ages past.

He forgot then to ask her about her place of birth, her early history, her parents, her remote ancestors, her brothers and sisters; he was too intent on listening to her words full of loving interest in himself, in the dear ones, in the living present; nor did it occur to him really that the clear headed self-reliant, intelligent, wide awake spirit form was indeed gliding away into the

unknowable beyond, no more to be seen among the living. Nevertheless her end was at hand for she indeed breathed her last during the writers stay among his relatives. The occasion can never be forgotten by the writer.

He, with his companion on this memorial visit, **Dr. Robert Adams**, who was also a grandson of the dear departing one, was of the afternoon of Dec. 11, 1853, at the house of another grandson, sixteen miles away from the residence of his grandmother, when, Sunday as it was, a colored messenger on horseback arrived with a request for the writer and Dr. Robert Adams to hasten to the bedside of their dying grandmother. Without hesitation or delay, the two grandsons mounted horses which were quickly ready for their use and rapidly rode over the intervening space so as to reach the home of the dying about the middle of the night. They could well not be more surprised than they were when, upon entering the house; they saw the venerable grandmother sitting in a chair in the circle of assembled friends, evidently observant of what was passing about her. Her cup of joy seemed to be full to the brim at the midnight arrivals. She gave directions to her servants about the care of the two horses just arrived, and to others, near her, how her two newly arrived grandsons should be bestowed for the night. Indeed, it was difficult to suppress a rising suspicion that some sort of practical joke had been perpetrated at the expense of the two strangers just arrived.

The suspicion, however could not abide more than a moment, for the inexpressible sadness of all the countenances in the house was unmistakable; and it was but a moment until the two had just joined the mourners around the loved one, were also oppressed with the deep feeling that brooded over that assemblage, and felt how long and painful a short half of one night can be in the presence of a departing soul. The imagination peopled the surrounding space with shadowy specters, and chilled the morning air by the presence of cold death and filled the mind with indescribable forebodings. At last as the murky vapors of the sorrow laden night began to exhale in the golden beams of the rising sun in the cloudless sky, the pure spirit of the beloved one took its silent departure in the midst of sorrowing watchers. To those who survived the bright sunshine failed to impart its wanted light; but to her who had passed during the night 'through the valley of the shadow of death,' it no

doubt became a glorious reality that -- 'There is a day of sunny rest, for every dark and troubled night.' "

Thus passed from earth, at sunrise on the morning of Monday, 12th day of December A.D. 1853, the spirit of life of **Jane Donald**, to whom and to her first husband, **Robert Atkins**, who had preceded her to the grave by over thirty-seven and one-half years, there had been born thirteen children."

Sources:

Type: Book

Title: Yeldell and Hartsfield Families of Colonial Philadelphia, the Carolinas, and Alabama, and

the Weaver Family of Butler and Wilcox Counties, Alabama

Author: Oliver C. Weaver, Jr.

Date: 1993

Text: Atkins Family History

Type: Book

Title: The Genealogical Record and History of the Descendants of Francis Atkins

Author: Mrs. George S. Buchanan

Date: ca 1941

General Notes: Info from: "The Genealogical Record and History of the Descendants of Francis Atkins by: Mrs. George S. Buchanan
Provided by: Lucy Lowrie -- lowrie@glade.net

DAVID ADAMS
PHOEBE YELDELL

David ADAMS, son of **David ADAMS, I** and **Nelly HOOD**, was born on 25 Sep 1759 in Abbeville District, SC, and died in Nov 1833 in Henry County, GA at age 74. David was buried in Adams-Atkins Family Cemetery.

Phoebe YELDELL, daughter of **Robert YELDELL, Sr.** and **Phoebe**, was born in 1762 in VA and died in Oct 1835 in Henry County, GA at age 73. Phoebe was buried in Adams-Atkins Family Cemetery.

1775 – The Revolutionary War begins in these rag tag states that have the audacity to rebuff the mighty nation of Great Britain.

David would have been of the right age to join in the war. I can find no records to indicate his service but it would have been hard not to have been drawn into this fight for freedom. South Carolina was very active in the war because of the English stronghold in Charleston, SC. It was from here that General Cornwallis made his foray into the southland trying to stamp out the rebellion.

Without supposing too much, it could have been the presence of the war and David's involvement that resulted in a late marriage to Phoebe in 1793. I am still not convinced this was their only marriage or that this was their actual marriage date. There are just too many questions unanswered that may never be answered here in this life.

1776 – DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE signed by representatives of the thirteen original colonies, now states of the new county, United States of America.

1784 – The Revolutionary War is finally brought to a close and a new country is born with its own independence.

1793 – David ADAMS married **Phoebe YELDELL** in SC according to "The Genealogical Record and History of the Descendants of Francis Atkins" by Mrs. George S. Buchanan.

Children and events in their lives are as follows from the information I have available.

1797 – A son, **John ADAMS** is born in Abbeville, SC. John married **Mahaleth ATKINS** who was born 10 March 1799 in Edgefield County, SC.

1799 – About this time, a daughter, **Elizabeth ADAMS** was born. No other information is available at this time.

1800 – Federal Census, Abbeville, SC – I find a David Adams listed as follows:

2 males	0-9	[John is 3 years old - b. 1797] [Unknown - unless Jesse was born prior to the 1800 census]
1 male	16-25	[UNKNOWN born between 1775 and 1784]
1 male	26-44	[David is 41 years old - b. 1759]
1 female	0-9	[Elizabeth is 1 year old - b. 1799]
1 female	26-44	[Phoebe is 38 years old - b. 1762]

1801 – About this time, a son, **Jesse ADAMS** was born. No other information is available at this time.



1802 – Another daughter, **Sarah ADAMS** is born in Abbeville, SC. No other information is known at this time.

1805 – June 19 – A daughter, **Margaret ADAMS** is born in Abbeville County, SC. Margaret married **Joseph ATKINS**, brother of Mahaleth ATKINS, who married Margaret's brother. For more details on Margaret, see GENERATION SIX.

1810 Federal Census - I can not determine a census record for David in 1810. There are five David's in SC - Charleston, Chester, Pendleton, Union, and Marion Counties and it is impossible to determine by sexes and ages listed.

There is no census records available for GA in 1810.

I know David moved to Georgia in the early 1800's but I can not find out exactly when.

1812 – June 18 – The United States declares war with Great Britain and the WAR OF 1812 begins.

1814 – March - Andrew Jackson defeated the Creek Indians at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, Mississippi Territory.

1815 – January 8 – The Battle Of New Orleans, American forces, under General Jackson, decisively defeat the British forces trying to capture New Orleans. The battle, which takes place after the Treaty of Ghent has been signed, is the most decisive American victory of the war.

1820 – Federal Census – Once again, I can not determine which David listed in SC or GA, may or may not be this David.

1826 - Joseph Atkins and John Adams came from the Edge-field and Abbeville Districts of South Carolina in 1826. They were successful planters and prosperous men. [Source: The book, "Henry County Georgia-the Mother of All Counties"]

John Adams came from the Edgefield District of S.C. along with Joseph Atkins. They moved into Henry County, Ga. and settled in the region from Hampton Locust Grove Rd. south to the Spalding County line.

John purchased this land from Jesse Johnson, the great grandfather of Lyndon Baines Johnson who later became President of the United States. John would rename the land "Oaklawn Plantation."
[SOURCE: Adams Atkins Cemetery Inscriptions Henry County, GA
<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/ga/henry/cemeteries/cemetery1/a3520003.txt>]

It is very likely that David and Phoebe made this move with their son John and their son-in-law Joseph Atkins since David appears on an 1830 census for Henry County and is eventually buried in the family cemetery on the plantation.

1830 – Federal Census, Henry County, GA - I find a census report for David Adams as follows:

1 female 60 - 70 [This fits Phoebe – 68 years old]
1 male 60 - 70 [This fits closely to David – 71 years old]
1 male 20 - 30 [Unknown]
1 male 10 - 15 [Unknown]

The two younger males can not be identified positively.

1833 – November – David ADAMS passes away and is buried in the Adams-Atkins Family Cemetery on Oaklawn Plantation in Henry County, GA.

1835 – October – Phoebe Yeldell ADAMS passes away and is laid to rest beside her husband David in the Adams-Atkins Family Cemetery on Oaklawn Plantation in Henry County, GA.

WILLIAM BELCHER
JEMIMA SMITH

William BELCHER, son of **Andrew BELCHER** and **UNKNOWN**, was born in 1796.

Jemima SMITH, daughter of **William SMITH** and **Mary POWELL**, was born in 1790 in NC and died in 1852 at age 62.

General Notes:

- I have three census records for William Belcher in 1820 in the state of GA. Two are on the same page in Morgan County and one is in Laurens County. I can not positively identify one or the other as this William but one of the listings in Morgan County is very close, depending on children.
 - Due to another William Belcher in Jasper County who married Sarah Smith in 1821, I can not say with surety that the 1830 census I have for William in Jasper County, GA is this William either but I can not find him anywhere else.
 - I have an 1840 Jasper County, GA, William Belcher with wife and three children. The ages fit William and Jemima, Joseph, and Francis Marion. There is a female (20-30) that could be Eliza, who married in 1842.
-

1809 – October 30 – **William BELCHER** married **Jemima SMITH** in Oglethorpe County, GA.

1810 – A daughter, **Harriett BELCHER** is born. Harriett married **George CREEL**, her first cousin in 1835. Harriett is buried in Carroll County, GA.

1812 – The War of 1812 began

1812 - April 19 – A son, **Archibald Seals BELCHER** is born. Archibald and his family are living in Newton County, GA at the time of the 1860 Federal Census.

1814 – About this time, a son, **William S. BELCHER** is born.

1815 – The of War of 1812 finally ends

1816 – About this time, a daughter **Martha BELCHER** is born.

1819 August 26 – A son, **Joseph Newton BELCHER** is born in GA. [SEE GENERATION SIX] for more information on Joseph N. Joseph died on 27 Feb 1907 in Henry County, GA.

1820 - Residence: William was living in Henry County, GA when daughter Eliza Ann was born.

1820 – A daughter, **Eliza Ann BELCHER** was born in GA in Henry County. Eliza married **Hamilton K. MOORE** on 24 Feb 1842 in Fayette County, GA. Sources show “Hamp” Moore died in Lamar Community, Randolph County, AL on September 2, 1909, but I can find no record for Eliza.

1822 – A son, **Francis Marion BELCHER** was born in GA. Francis died in Milledgeville, GA.

1850 - August 14 – Federal Census, Newton County, GA - 54 year old William is listed with 60 year old Jemima, his wife, and 28 year old F. M. (Francis Marion). William is listed as a carpenter and the census indicates William could also read and write.

@- There is an Elisha Smith living next door to Jemima in the 1850 census. Could this be a brother? There is also an Abner McDaniel living two doors away - maybe more kinfolks.

1852 – William has to face the death of his wife, **Jemima SMITH**. I have no information on where she died or where she is buried (Probably Newton County, Georgia).

@- Jemima's death information received from Jennie Zuccarini, a cousin and researcher.

1856- August 14 - It appears that after Jemima died in 1852, William remarried in 1856. Georgia marriages database shows William marrying **Malinda P. SIMMS** in Newton County, GA.

I have no information on where and when William passed away. I have searched the 1860 census extensively for William and Malinda but to no avail.

JOHN MILNER
SUSANNAH McNEES

John MILNER was born in 1774 in Mecklenburg County Virginia and died in 1850, either in Fayette County, GA or Tallapoosa County, Alabama at age 76. He was the son of **Richard MILNER** (1751-1813) and **MarthaElizabeth UNKNOWN** (About 1755-). His last will and testament was written in 1848 in Fayette County, GA and was filed in November of 1850 but the info I have did not specify which county and state.

Susannah McNEES was born in 1779 in Laurens County, SC and died in 1851 in Tallapoosa County, Alabama at age 72. She was the daughter of **Robert McLaglan McNEES** and **Mary HENDERSON**.

John married **Susannah McNEES** in 1803 in Laurens County, SC.

Children and noted events in the lives of John and Susannah were:

1804 – April 13 Daughter number 1, **Nancy MILNER**, was born in Laurens County, SC. She married **Drury T. Shell** on 28 December 1820 in Laurens County, SC. Nancy next married **Joseph W. SIMMONS** and raised a family.

1806 – September 14 - A second daughter, **Martha (Patsy) MILNER**, was born in Laurens County, SC. She married **Drury GRAYDON** on 15 February 1825 in Tallapoosa County, AL and raised a family.

1808 – May 23 - A son, **William H MILNER** was born in Laurens County, SC. No marriage information is available for William. The only information I can find is that he was on the 1850 census living in the house with his mother. That census along with the last will and testament of his father indicated that William was insane.

1809 - October 1 – A second son, **Robert Madison MILNER** was born in Laurens County, SC. He married **Martha Amanda MILNER** (a cousin) on 31 December 1839. Next, he married **Carolyn TINSLEY**. He is listed on the 1850 census in Tallapoosa County, AL next door to his mother Susanna and brother, William. Robert died in 1869 in AL [Per Joni Milner Harrell, Atlanta, GA]

1811 – August 23 – Child # 5, another son, **Jackson Richard MILNER** is born in Laurens County, SC. Jackson may have married **Sarah H. KNOWLES** on 12 October 1843 in Tallapoosa County, AL.

1812 – April 6 – Another child, #6, a son, **John M. MILNER, II** is born in Laurens County, SC. John married **Amelia Anne COTTON** on 24 July 1842 in Dudleyville, Tallapoosa County, AL. John died on 11 May 1879 in Mineola, Wood County, TX and is buried in the Mineola City Cemetery.

1812 – June 18 – The United States declares war with Great Britain and the WAR OF 1812 begins.

General Notes: @— I find two John Milner soldiers for the War of 1812.
John Milner/Nash's Regiment, South Carolina Vols. / 2 Major / 2 Major
John B. Milner/4 Regiment (Booth's), Georgia Militia / Private / Private
I do not know if either of these is this John Milner but it may be possible.

1813 - Jun 9 – John's father, **Richard MILNER** dies in Laurens County, SC.

1814 – February 11 – Child # 7, a son, **Jefferson Samuel MILNER** is born in Laurens County, SC.

1814 – March - Andrew Jackson defeated the Creek Indians at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, Mississippi Territory.

1815 – January 8 – The Battle Of New Orleans, American forces, under General Jackson, decisively defeat the British forces trying to capture New Orleans. The battle, which takes place after the Treaty of Ghent has been signed, is the most decisive American victory of the war.

NOTE: After the war and the Indians were resettled, many soldiers were given land that was ceded by the Indians as recompense for their service. One of the areas that opened up in 1821 was the Henry County, GA area. John moved into the Henry County area sometime later.

1815 - Nov 23 – A son, child # 8, **Joshua A. MILNER** is born in Laurens County, SC. [SEE GENERATION SIX]

1818 - Feb 2 – A daughter, **Susannah MILNER** is born in Laurens County, SC. Susan married **Robert CADE** on 7 JUL 1836 in Henry County, Georgia. Susan and Robert had 5 children before her death in 1846:

Children -- Thomas Cade, b: 1837 // Nancy Ann Cade b: 23 JAN 1840 in Meriwether County, Georgia // Robert Cade, Jr., b: 10 MAR 1842 in Georgia // Drury Bud Cade, b: 1844 and Bedford Cade, b: 1846.

I have no information to indicate that Susan died in childbirth but she did die in 1846, the same year Bedford was born.

1820 – August 11 – Child # 10, a daughter, **Mary Anne MILNER** is born in Laurens County, SC. Mary Anne married **John B. KNOWLES** on 21 January 1840 in Henry County, GA. Mary died about 1896 in Chattooga County, GA.

1820 – Federal Census - Laurens County, SC, M33_121, Page 44:

John appears with the following:

- male < 10 = 4 (Joshua, John, Thomas, and Jefferson)
- male 10-16 = 2 (Robert 10 and William 13)
- male > 45 = 1 (John)
- female < 10 = 2 (Susan and Mary)
- female 10-16 = 1 (Nancy or Martha)
- female 16-26 = 1 (Nancy or Martha)
- female 26-45 = 1 (Susannah)
- 3 male slaves
- 3 female slaves

They are living next door to James Henderson who may or may not be kin to Susannah since her mother was Mary Henderson.

1824 – October 24 – A son, child # 11, **Thomas J. MILNER** is born in Laurens County, SC. Thomas married **Sarah A. UNKNOWN**.

1830 – Federal Census - Laurens County, SC. John is listed as follows:

- 1 male 5-9
- 1 male 10-14
- 3 male 15-19
- 2 male 20-29
- 1 male 50-59
- 1 female 5-9
- 1 female 10-14
- 1 female 20-29
- 1 female 40-49

Between 1830 and 1840, John moved from South Carolina to Georgia. He is in Laurens County in 1830 and in Henry County, GA in 1840.

1840 – Federal Census - Henry County, GA -- District 486, Roll 43, page 354 as follows:

John is listed:

Males:

- 1 5-9
- 1 15-19
- 1 30-39
- 1 60-69

Females:

- 2 5-9
- 1 20-29
- 1 50-59

I can not reconcile the three children less than 10 years of age. John and Susannah were up in years now (Susannah is 61 in 1840) and I do not believe these three children belong to them. They are not listed on the Last Will and Testament of John in 1848. I feel these are grandchildren and probably belong to the female that is listed as 20-29. This is pure speculation on my part.

1846 - Death of Child (#9): **Susan MILNER** (1818-1846). I have no details of her death.

1848 – John must have felt the years pressing in on him because in March, 1848, he made his last will and testament. Attached is a recopy of that will from internet sources:

AL.Tallapoosa County AI Archives Wills.....

Milner, John March 28, 1848

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<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/al/alfiles.htm>

File contributed for use in USGenWeb Archives by:Beverly Giles Loffler

beverly@jloffler.com March 28, 2005, 11:51 pm

Source: Tallapoosa Co., AI Will RecordWritten: March 28, 1848 -----

Recorded: April 1, 1851Transcribed by Beverly Giles Loffler -- beverly@jloffler.comTallapoosa Co. AL

Will Record Vol. 1 1838-1907Pages 63, 64 and 65LDS Microfilm Number 1304546Salt Lake City UT

WILL OF JOHN MILNER 1851

STATE OF GEORGIA

FAYETTE COUNTY

In the name of God, AmenI, John Milner of said State and County being of advanced age and knowing that I must depart this life, deem it right and proper both as regards my family and myself that I should make a disposition of the property with which a kind providence has blessed me, do therefore make this my last will and testament hereby revoking all others heretofore made by me.

First, I give and bequeath to my daughter Nancy Simmons three negroes to wit; a woman by the name of One and her two girl children.

2nd I give and bequeath to my daughter Martha Graden on negro woman by the name of Harriet.

3rd I give and bequeath to my daughter Susan Cade the sum of two dollars together with what she had received from me at the time of her marriage.

4th I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary Knowles two negroes to wit; Lucy, a woman and her son Henry.

5th I give and bequeath to my son Robert Milner one hundred and sixty five acres of land in Henry County, adjoining James Campbell leasor, he last had possession of this land for some time.

Item 6 I give and bequeath to my son John M. Milner one negro man by the name of Cob and two hundred and a half acres of land in Henry County, adjoining Henry Couch, he has had possession of this land for some time.

7th I give and bequeath to my son Joshua Milner two hundred, two and a half acres of land in DeKalb County near Decatur and adjoining James Kirkpatrick and two negroes one a boy by the name Jim, the other a girl by the name of Eliza, all now in his possession.

8th I give and bequeath to my son Thomas Milner one negro man by the name of Adam, now in his possession. Remarks and Explanation. The property willed above is in their possession or have been for some time, I have given it to them and forever quit claim to the same.

9th Now at my death and after the death of my beloved wife Susan, I give and bequeath to my son [blank] as before named and my son Jefferson Milner and my son Jackson Milner and my son William Milner the following property to wit; One negro man named Nelson, one negro man named George and one negro woman named Betsy, one hundred and fifty two acres land in the County of Fayette and fifth district, being part of lot No. 41 forty one, one square of land Two hundred two and a half acres in 12 district of Henry County adjoining Washington Morris, and all my stock of horses, mules, cattle and hogs, my wagon and carriage and all my household and kitchen furniture, and all the money due me, or that may be obtained in suit or that may be collected from any suit in law after my death and the death of my beloved wife Susan this is to be equally divided between my sons Jefferson, Jackson and William as above named, but if either Jefferson, Jackson or William should die before the come in possession of their share the surviving ones as above named shall be entitled to his share of said property willed by me.

10th Now in as much as three of these my sons to wit; Jefferson, Jackson and William are at this time mentally deranged, I do desire that my son R. M. Milner should provide for the feeding and clothing of them and in between take care of their share of the above named property, and not give them the control of it unless they or either of them should become sane and in their right mind and capable of taking care of it themselves.

11th I hereby constitute and appoint my sons R. M. Milner and John Milner my executors of this my last will and testament this 28th day of March 1848.

John Milner-his seal

Signed Sealed Delivered and published by John Milner as his last will and testament in the presence of said testator at his special instance and request.

Test.

T. D. King

G. C. King

M. J. Murphy

The foregoing will was filed in office November the 30th 1850 and was on the 21st day of March 1851 admitted to probate as to the personal Estate by Depositions and ordered to be recorded.

And duly recorded April the 1st 1851.M. C. Lane, Judge of Probate

By Simeon Goolsby, ClerkFile at:

<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/al/tallapoosa/wills/milner21nwl.txt>

NOTE: John's LWT was written March 28, 1848 in Fayette County, GA and filed on November 30, 1850. The will was admitted to probate on March 21, 1851 and duly recorded April 1, 1851. I can not determine if the will was probated in Fayette County, GA or Tallapoosa County, AL.

1850 – Death of **John MILNER** - Fayette County, GA. John is not listed on the 1850 census with Susannah in Tallapoosa County, AL. Since his will was filed in November, 1850, it is likely that John died in the year 1850 prior to November.

1850 – Federal Census – Tallapoosa County, AL

Susanna and her son William are listed alone in their household. William is listed as “insane”. They are living next door to her son Robert, who had been charged in his father’s will with their wellbeing.

1851 – Death of Susannah McNees MILNER in Tallapoosa County, AL. I can find no validation of this year except by internet sources.

WILLIAM ALLS
ROSANNA "ROSIE" KUNKLE

William ALLS was born on 22 June 1799 in either the Barnwell or Lexington District of SC. Internet research is inconclusive with some claiming Barnwell and some claiming Lexington. I find a William Alls on the Lexington County census for 1830 and the family fits all the children. I tend to believe this William was part of the Alls of Lexington. William died on 17 Dec 1880 in Lovejoy, Henry County, GA at age 82. One of the researchers I have contacted has actually seen the graves for William and Rosanna and also the Last Will and Testament for William.

- The family claimed to be German Dutch [SOURCE: Sally Alls - Ancestry Message Board - AHL]
- In 1822, William's name on a church document was spelled "Ahl" but when he came to GA, every document was "All" or "Alls".

If William is part of the Lexington group, his parents are probably **George AULS** and Mary **Margaret MINICK**. I can find these two on census records that would match the families. Additional information received from Alls researchers confirms this to be true.

Rosanna "Rosie" KUNKLE was born on 2 Mar 1802 in S. C. and died on 3 Jan 1887 in Lovejoy, Henry County, GA at age 82.

- On the 1880 Census, Rosanna's father is shown born in Germany

1812 – June 18 – The United States declares war with Great Britain and the WAR OF 1812 begins.

1814 – March - Andrew Jackson defeated the Creek Indians at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, Mississippi Territory.

1815 – January 8 – The Battle of New Orleans, American forces, under General Jackson, decisively defeat the British forces trying to capture New Orleans. The battle, which takes place after the Treaty of Ghent has been signed, is the most decisive American victory of the war.

About 1821 - **William ALLS** married **Rosanna "Rosie" KUNKLE**, probably in Lexington County, South Carolina according to the census dates and location of births of children.

1822 - January 1 - Daughter born (#1): **Christina 'Tener' ALLS** in Lexington, Lexington County, SC. Christina married **Fredrick Vaughan** in 1844 in Henry County, GA and raised a family.

About 1824 - Son born (#2): **William ALLS, Jr.** in SC. William married Emily F. and started a family. According to an Alls descendant and researcher, William died during the Civil War (1861-1865) of illness and was buried in NY.

About 1826 - Daughter born (#3): **Christine ALLS** in SC. It appears this daughter never married.

1827 - Daughter born (#4): **Mary Ann ALLS** in SC and died on 9 Mar 1919 in Henry County, GA. [SEE GENERATION SIX]

1830 – Federal Census - Lexington County, SC - Lexington District - Page 349 - Roll 171

Awl, William, HOH is listed as follows:

- [2 males under 5]
- [1 male of 30 under 40]
- [2 females under 5]
- [1 female of 5 and under 10]
- [1 female of twenty under thirty]

This household is next door to Margaret Awl HOH aged of 60 under 70

- [1 female of 10 under 15]

- [1 female of 15 under 20]
- [1 female of 60 under 70] -- Could this be the mother of William?

About 1830 - Son born (#5): **A. ALLS** in SC. I can find no other information for this child that was listed on the 1850 census in Henry County, GA.

About 1834 - Daughter born (#6): **M. ALLS** in SC.

1835 - Son born (#7): **George Adam ALLS** in SC. George married and raised a family.

1836 – This young republic is once again fighting for someone’s freedom, this time in Texas, at a place called the ALAMO.

1840 – Federal Census - Henry County, GA. 486th District, Roll 43, Page 356

William All, of 40 under 50 is listed as follows:

- [1 male under 5]
- [1 male of 5 under 10]
- [1 male of 15 under 20]
- [1 male of 40 under 50]
- [1 female of 5 under 10]
- [1 female of 10 under 15]
- [2 females of 15 under 20]
- [1 female of 40 under 50]

1850 – November – Federal Census - Henry County, GA. Residence # 1360 - District 42, page 282, M432_73

W. Alls, aged 50, Farmer, Real Estate Value 1500, born in SC, could read and write, is listed with family as shown:

- [R. aged 48 f born SC]
- [W. aged 26 m (real estate valued at 500) born SC]
- [C. aged 24 f born SC]
- [M. aged 21 f born SC]
- [A. aged 20 m born SC]
- [M. aged 16 f born SC]
- [G. aged 13 m born SC]

1860 - June 30 – Federal Census - Henry County, GA. Mt. Carmel Post Office area - Page 845, Roll M653_127 -- Residence # 423

William All, age 61, M, Farmer, Real Estate Value \$1000, Personal Property Value 1630, born SC, could R&W

- Susanna, age 57, F, born SC, could R&W
- Catherine, age 31, F, born SC, could R&W
- George A., age 22, M, Real Estate Value \$1400, Personal property value \$75, born SC, does not show he could R&W

They are living next door to William All, Jr. and his wife Emily F. and children

1861 – April – The Civil War begins at Fort Sumter, SC.

A new war has engulfed this young republic. This one was not with a foreign country though; this one was within its own borders. Many think it was about slavery and to some degree it was but there were deeper issues involved. The fight was really about keeping the country together. For the wealthy with slaves though, it threatened their livelihood and therefore with their power they influenced the secession of many of the southern states. After they got it stirred up and started though, it became a poor man’s war – the common man with no slaves but who found himself face to face with a war he knew little about.

Henry County, GA did not escape this war – they were in the direct path of General Sherman as he made his march to the sea at Savannah. I do not know how this time affected the Alls family but I am sure they were involved. Like many families in this war between brothers and countrymen, the Alls paid a dear price.

Before 1865 - Death of Child (#2): **William ALLS, Jr.** became ill during the war and died in NY. He was buried there, leaving behind a family in Georgia consisting of a wife and children. By his presence in NY, it appears William Jr. had become a prisoner of war and may have been transported to NY after capture.

1870 - August 29 – Federal Census - Henry County, GA - Georgia Militia District 486, Bear Creek Post Office, Roll M593_157, Page 409, Residence # 1008

[William All, aged 71, Farmer, 600, 300, born SC, could R&W, and was a Male Citizen of the United States 21 and upward]

- [Rosannah, aged 68, Keeping House, born SC, could R&W]
- [Cathrine, aged 44, House Keeper, born SC, could R&W]

Two farm hands are also listed in the household in 1870, one 43 years old and one 17 years old, both males, both black

1880 - June 24 – Federal Census - Henry County, GA - District 486, Roll 79_152, Page 98A

[All, William, 80, married, farmer, born SC, Father born SC, Mother born SC]

- [Rosannah, 77, wife, married, keeping house, born SC, Father born Germany, Mother born SC]
- [Cathrine, aged 54, daughter, single, born SC]

1880 - December 17 – Death knocked on the door of the Alls home again and this time, **William ALLS, Sr.** answered. He is buried in Lovejoy, Henry County, GA.

- General Notes: William left a will in Henry County, GA [SOURCE: Sally Alls - Ancestry Message Board – AHL]

1887 January 3 – **Rosanna “Rosie” KUNKLE ALLS** joins her husband in death and is buried beside him in Lovejoy, Henry County, GA
