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CALVERT AND GREENLEES FAMILIES  
(of Ireland, Alabama & Mississippi)

(Allied families - Mc Gowan, Dickson, Powell, Fortson, Townsend, Williamson, Radford and Alford)

Hugh Greenlees was born in Belfast or Lesbrum, County Down, Ireland<sup>1</sup> and married Isabel Mc Gowan, also born in County Down. They were the parents of children including John, Joseph and William Greenlees,<sup>2</sup> who came to America in the late 1820's (about 1827) and to Alabama in 1829. The Greenlees, Calverts and other Presbyterian Irish (Scotch-Irish) immigrants settled in Greene County, Alabama and later went to Sumter County when it opened to white settlers<sup>3</sup> (after 1830). John Greenlees was born in County Down in May 1796/7. He was naturalized in Greene County, Alabama in March 1830. Then the papers were transferred to Sumter County 7 November 1834. He died in Sumter County, Alabama 2 September 1855.<sup>3</sup>

John Greenlees married in Ireland, 28 November 1819/20, Isabella Dickson. She was born 21 July 1797 in County Down and died near Payneville, Sumter County, Alabama, 18 May 1859. She was the daughter of David and Margaret Dickson. The children of Isabella and John Greenlees were 1) Jane b. 1820, 2) William b. 1822, 3) Hugh b. 1826, 4) Isabella b. 1829, 5) Margaret Ann b. 1830, 6) Mary b. 6 March 1832, married George Calvert (more about this family later), 7) John b. 1833, 8) David James b. 1837, 9) Joseph Patterson b. 1838, 10) Charles b. 1839.<sup>4</sup>



George Calvert was the oldest child of William and Easter (Ester?) Calvert, born in Ireland about 1827.<sup>5</sup> Both William and Easter were born in Ireland, he about 1785 and she about 1795. Their other children were Thomas (?) b. ca. 1828 Alabama, David b. ca. 1832 Alabama, Elizabeth b. ca. 1834 Alabama, and Robert b. ca. 1839 Mississippi (?). The children's birth dates indicate that the Calverts also came to America about 1827. In the 1830 Alabama census they do not appear in Greene County with John, Joseph and William Greenlee(s),<sup>6</sup> but a William Calvert and a William P. Calvert (a son?) appear in Walker County page 269. The early Greene County land patents<sup>7</sup> do not list any Greenlees, but William Calvert was listed in 29 April 1831. On 23 August 1835 among the new members who joined the Bethel Presbyterian Church<sup>8</sup> were William and Joseph Greenlees, Mrs. Isabella Greenlees and Mrs. E. Calvert. And on 22 August 1841 Hester A. Greenlees joined the church.

These families next appear in the records of the newly formed Union Presbyterian Church in Payneville, Sumter County, Alabama in the Spring of 1838<sup>9</sup>. These were William Calvert, John Greenlees, Isabella Greenlees and William Greenlees. John was a ruling elder. In August 1839, Hugh Calvert joined the church. On 27 August 1841, Eliza Calvert was baptized and joined the church on the same date, infants John Greenlees, Robert Calvert,<sup>10</sup> son of William (Wm. J.??) and A. Calvert,<sup>11</sup> were baptized. Mary Greenlees was received into the membership on 27 September 1844. And on 6 November 1859 the church was renamed Hadden Presbyterian.

In the 1850 census of Sumter County (Family #300) William Greenlees (age 51) appears with his wife Mary and five children. Also living

in this family was bachelor James Calvert, 40, born in Ireland. A nearby family (#308) was headed by Reason Powell. Reason's granddaughter Mary Florence Powell married James Elijah Fortson (about 1896). J. E. Fortson's daughter, Mattie, married Henry D. Calvert, son of John Greenlees Calvert and grandson of George and Mary Calvert (more about Henry's family later). George Calvert married in Kemper County, Mississippi about 1855, Mary Greenlees<sup>12</sup> b. ca. 1834 Alabama, daughter of John and Isabella Greenlees. In the 1860 census (Family #473) George and Mary Calvert have three sons, John 4, Thomas 2 and David J. 1, all born in Mississippi. In the same County (Family #685) lived David Greenlees 23 b. Alabama, brother of Mary Calvert. By the 1880 census (Kemper County Family #463) the Greenlees' had added six children - Anna 18, James (?) 17, Robert 16, Lou (female) 13, Cooper 11, and Eliza 9.

In 1900 John G(reenlees) Calvert appears in Kemper County, Beat 3 Moscow, Mississippi (ED 6, Page 20, Line 31). He was born January 1857 in Mississippi. He had been married for 17 years to Junia Ida (Townsend), b. February 1867 Mississippi (parents both born in Alabama). Seven of her eight children were still living in 1900: David L. b. September 1883 Mississippi, William W. b. April 1887 Mississippi, Rufus A. b. October 1889 Mississippi, Kaizy T. (female) b. July 1891 Mississippi, Mary C. b. February 1894 Texas, Clinton b. 1896 Mississippi and Henry D. b. September 1898 Mississippi. A daughter Minnie died young before 1900<sup>12</sup>.

In nearby Lauderdale County were John's uncle Robert (R. E. Calvert b. September 1839 Mississippi, ED 17, Page 14, Line 31), and his

brothers Cooper (ED 23, Page 19, Line 27) and David J. (ED 18, page 1, Line 88) with their families.

Henry Dewey Calvert married Mattie Lou Fortson on 23 November 1918 in Collinsville, Lauderdale County, Mississippi. Mattie was born in Lauderdale County, Mississippi on 27 April 1903. She was one of six children of Mary Florence Powell and James Elijah Fortson. Henry and Mattie had 11 children: Henry Winston (b. 12 April 1920), Maude Arnell Talley (b. 8 October 1921), Clois Corbett "Bill" (b. 25 March 1922), Bonnie Juanita Spears (b. 27 August 1924), Bobby Jean Mathews (b. 25 March 1926), Mary Lois (Long) McMillion (b. 4 May 1929), James Wallace (b. 4 May 1931), Bertice Orell Alday (b. 13 January 1935), Malcom Russell (Russ) (B. 13 January 1936), Kenneth Rogers (b. 4 June 1938), Douglas Delano (B. 1 February 1944)<sup>12</sup>. Mary Florence Powell (1878-1936) was the daughter of F. Marion Powell and Mary Jane Williamson. F. M. Powell was the son of Reason Powell. James Elijah Fortson (1873-1951) was the son of Joseph Gale Fortson (1834-1907) and Sarah and Eliza Radford (1839-1895) (daughter of Elisha Radford, granddaughter of William Radford and great-granddaughter of Revolutionary War soldier, Reuben Radford). Joseph G. Fortson (a Civil War soldier) was the son of Samuel Higginbotham Fortson and Mary Alford, grandson of William Fortson, and great-grandson of Lt. Thomas Fortson, Jr., also in the Revolution.<sup>13</sup>

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1 February 1979

## FOOTNOTES

1. Pioneer Families of Sumter County Alabama, Vol. 1 by Nelle Jenkins, Willo Publishing Co. Tuscalousa, Alabama 1961, Page 95.
2. 1850 Census Sumter County, Alabama Page 276, Family #300.
3. Pioneer Families of Sumter County Alabama, Vol. 1.
4. 1850 Census Sumter County, Alabama Page 96.
5. 1850 Census Kemper County, Mississippi Page 144, Family #66.
6. All listed as Greenbee in the census index, listed on Page 397 southern district. A (brother?) Hugh Greenlee was in Fayette County Page 205 Southern District.
7. Greene County Alabama Records by S. M. Marshall, Willo Publishing County, Tuscalousa, Alabama, 1960 Page 102.
8. Pioneer Families of Sumter County, Alabama Page 17-21.
9. Pioneer Families of Sumter County, Alabama Page 99.
10. According to the 1850 census of Kemper County, Mississippi Robert was born in Mississippi.
11. William and Easther Calvert moved to Kemper County, Mississippi before the 1840 census (Page 15 of that census).
12. Source Mrs. Mattie Fortson Calvert of San Diego, California.
13. A Family History: Lt. Thomas Fortson (1744-1824) and some of his Descendants by John Wright Boyd 1973, Page 304-317.

CALVERT Family

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