

horn to the stocking of a cannon. At one time he made in his shop flour, meal, lumber, horse shoes, wagons, plows, pipes, bowie-knives, cradles, looms and wheels, "Arkansas toothpicks" and wooden stirrups. He was a master-mechanic, owner and manager of many shops; not a practical workman himself, he hired skilled men to manufacture for him. He made eight hundred Bowie-knives for the Indians, with whom he had a large trade.

He owned several slaves, and in August, 1863, he took his wife and slaves to Bonham, Texas, where they stayed until the close of the war. They returned to Fort Smith in the summer of 1865 "flat broke as a founder," and again went to milling and manufacturing and continued that business until 1869. After that time he built the Kannady block in

Fort Smith, then retired from business.

During the latter part of the war he was in the employ of the Confederate Government erecting public buildings.

In 1889 Mrs. Kannady had an oil painting of Fort Smith as a garrison, which was said to be the only one in existence and was valued at \$700.00.

Sources:

*Goodspeed History of Northwest Ark.*, pg. 1332.

*Fort Smith Women During War Between the States*, by Mrs. George Lyman. *The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society*, Volume IV, Number 1, April, 1980.

*The Encyclopedia of the New West*, pps. 102-104.

## Martha A. (Dillard) Bomford

By Amelia Martin

Mrs. Martha A. (Dillard) Bomford was born in Arkansas in 1832, the daughter of John Penn and Sallie Price (Moore) Dillard, both of whom were born in Virginia. They came from Virginia to Arkansas by water, landing at the mouth of the Arkansas River, and from there went to Moore's Rock on ponies and pack horses, reaching Moore's Rock in 1822.

While in Virginia they followed merchandising, but after coming to Arkansas engaged in farming.

From 1833 to 1840 they kept a large boarding house for officers at Fort Gibson, Chickasaw Nation. The father represented his county in the State Legislature.

His union with Miss Moore was blessed in the birth of twelve children, four of whom were still living in 1889: Mrs. Elizabeth G. Rosser, Mrs. Solomon F. Clark, Mrs. M.A. Bomford and Mrs. Sarah P. Bossert.

Maj. Dillard, formerly of Fort Smith, was a brother of Mrs. Bomford and served through the Mexican War as captain under Col. Yell, and as major in the Civil War, Confederate States Army, in Gen. Fagan's brigade.

John and Lucy (Penn) Dillard were the grandparents of Mrs. Bomford. Mrs. Dillard descended from a branch of the family of the famous William Penn. The Maternal grandparents, Maj. Benjamin and Polly (Price) Moore, were Virginians who moved to Arkansas in 1818. Maj. Moore sent out the first bale of cotton from this part of the state and raised the first tobacco.

Mrs. Bomford spent her early life in Sebastian County and attended school in Van Buren and Fort Smith.

In 1850 she was married to Dr. George Erving Bomford, who was born March 31, 1820 in Washington, D.C., the son of Col. George and Clara (Baldwin) Bomford. Col. Bomford was chief of ordnance at Washington. Clara Baldwin was a sister of Abraham Baldwin, senator from Georgia and a signer of the constitution of the United States, as well as the sister-in-law of Joel Barlow, an author.

Dr. Bomford was reared and educated in Washington, D.C., read medicine under a Dr. Wilson, and attended lectures at Boston and Philadelphia where he received his diploma. He practiced medicine several years in Washington, then began his practice of medicine in Fort Smith, Arkansas in 1848.

He was post surgeon of Fort Smith before and during the Civil War, and was a Royal Arch Mason, a Democrat, and a member of the Episcopal Church. He also participated in a Pike's Peak gold expedition.

Dr. and Mrs. Bomford had three sons: George D. of St. Louis, MO; Erving, a druggist of Fort Smith, and Henry, a plumber, building contractor, and real estate developer in Fort Smith, Arkansas and Tampa, Florida.

Sources:

*Goodspeed History of Northwest Ark.*, pg. 1291.

Edwin Bearss Manuscript.

Family history contributed by Wright Bomford, Jr., Great-grandson.

*Physicians and Medicine*, pg. 244 by Amelia W. Martin.

Dilliard Family

# Sophia Barling Kannady

By Amelia Martin

Sophia Barling Kannady was born in Fort Gibson, Cherokee Nation, August 16, 1826, the daughter of Aaron and Rebecca Barling. She grew up in Sebastian County from the age of two-and-a-half years, and was educated at St. Louis, Missouri.

Aaron Barling was born in London, England, June 4, 1792. His father, Moses Barling, born April 29, 1767, sailed for America August 31, 1798, landed in America November 5 of the same year and lived in Baltimore the rest of his life. He was married in England to Miss Mary Cooper, March 7, 1787. She died in Baltimore at the age of twenty-six.

Aaron Barling was one of five children born to his parents and was by trade a sail-maker. Because he was orphaned at an early age, he was reared by an aunt. While still young, he went to sea and followed a seafaring life for twelve years. During this time he married Miss Rebecca Tucker, a native of Maryland who was born October 14, 1781. He continued to follow the sea until he joined the United States Army and came to Arkansas in 1817 with the first troops to come to Fort Smith. He was in the Federal Service for about five years. With the rank of sergeant he finally received his discharge.

His family had previously joined him at Fort Gibson, and of the six children born to Aaron and Rebecca, three were still living in 1889: Sophia, Henry and Robert.

After resigning his position in the army, Mr. Barling bought a farm in what is now Sebastian County, where he raised his family. The town of Barling was named in his honor.

About 1835 Aaron Barling was employed by the Government to issue supplies to the Seminole Indians, and in the spring of 1841 moved back to his farm. In 1853 he moved his family to Fort Smith where Mrs. Barling died on July 27 of the same year. On March 23, 1854, Mr. Barling also died.

On May 19, 1847, Sophia Barling married Jeremiah R. Kannady. Their marriage was the first one published in the first newspaper of Fort Smith and they were married by the first Episcopal minister in Fort Smith. The Kannadys had no children of their own, but loved all children. They continually kept "open house" and cared for many children of other people, so money never remained long with this lovable couple. They were affectionately called "Aunt Sophy" and "Uncle Jerre" by everyone.



Sophia Barling Kannady  
Courtesy Old Fort Museum and Fadjo Cravens, Jr.

Sophia's sister, Sarah Ann "Kate" Barling married Cornelius P. Pryor. The Pryor's are the great-great-grandparents of Kate Sparks Bemis (Mrs. Fadjo, Jr.) Cravens.

Jeremiah R. Kannady was born at Beaver, Pennsylvania, on February 11, 1817, the son of Laughlin Kannady and grandson of Dennis Kannady who came from Ireland and settled at Beaver, Pennsylvania. He died in 1883 in Fort Smith. The family moved to Newark, Ohio, in 1819 and to Hebron, Ohio, in 1828. His father died when he was fifteen, and Jeremiah and the rest of his family came to Fort Smith with his uncle, Capt. John Rogers, the founder of Fort Smith. They reached Fort Smith March 1, 1836. He worked in Capt. Rogers store until he established a mercantile store and other businesses for himself. Col. Kannady's mother died in 1856 at Fort Smith. Her maiden name was Rebecca Rogers, the daughter of Jeremiah Rogers, a native of Pennsylvania. Her mother was a Kersley. She married Capt. Nathaniel Gookin at Fort Smith in 1837. Capt. Gookin served as mayor of Fort Smith in 1841.

At the time of Kannady's marriage he was sutler for the United States troops at Fort Smith. During the Civil War he manufactured different kinds of implements, everything from a powder-