

*Donnell
family*

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Donnell

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



The Donnell Family

In the two books, *History of Buffalo Presbyterian Church and Her People*,ⁱ and *Life and Labors of Reverend Robert Donnell*ⁱⁱ dated 1867; I found most of the information about our Donnell family. At times, I will be quoting directly from these two books as I found the writings to be very descriptive of the period and gave me a wonderful insight into my ancestors and the time in which they lived. Some of the wording used may sound different from the way we express ourselves today, however this is why I found the books so charming.

There were four Donnell families that came to America on or about the same time. It was very difficult to know who was of which family. While in Lebanon, Tennessee struggling to sort it all out, Donna Ferrell came to my rescue. We are from the same Donnell, and Moxley families, which made her a distant relative. Her help was invaluable in locating my Donnell family line.

The earliest I have been able to go back was to Robert Donnell, the second. My Donnell family line is as follows:

Robert Donnell, the second, (1728-1816) died at age 88. His wife **Mary** (1730-1771) died at age 41.ⁱⁱⁱ (My 5th great grandparents)

Their son, **William Donnell** (1749-1798) died at age 49, and wife **Mary Bell** (1751-1828) died at age 77. (My 4th great grandparents)

Their son, **William S. Donnell "Cedar Bill"** (1778-1847) died at age 69, and wife **Margaret (Peggy) Sherrill** (1784-1866) died at age 82. (My 3rd great grandparents)

Their son, **Robert Bell Donnell** (1815-1884) died at age 69, and wife **Annis Lea** (1813-1900) died at age 85. (My 2nd great-grandparents)

Their daughter, **Margaret (Arti) Artemesia Donnell** (1851-1922) died at age 71. Married **Joseph Pitts Moxley** (1839-1923) died at age 84. (My great grandparents)

Their daughter, **Margaret (Maggie) Moxley** (1884 – 1922) died at age 38. Married **William Rufus Armstrong** (1881 – 1937) died at age 56. (My grandparents)

We shall start with **Robert Donnell, the second**, born in 1728 in County Ulsterⁱⁱⁱ, Ireland. The parents of **Robert Donnell** were of Scotch Descent, but his ancestors had settled in Northern Ireland, previous to the year 1688, because of religious persecution in Scotland.

In 1673 the Test Act was passed, stating that anyone holding public office must declare complete allegiance to the king and must receive communion according to the Church of England (this act was repealed but not until 1828).^{iv}

Under the rule of James I, England and Scotland were united under one ruler. James believed in the divine rights of kings. He tried to make all Englishmen join the Church of England, and persecuted Catholics and Protestant dissenters. James II restored the Roman Catholic religion to England. Anyone desiring to hold public office had to declare his allegiance to the "papacy". In 1688 rebellion broke out in England and Scotland against the Roman Catholic King. James II was forced to give up his throne to flee the country.^v Many of the dissenters from England and Scotland settled in the province of **Ulster, Ireland**, this being the birthplace of **Robert Donnell, the second**.

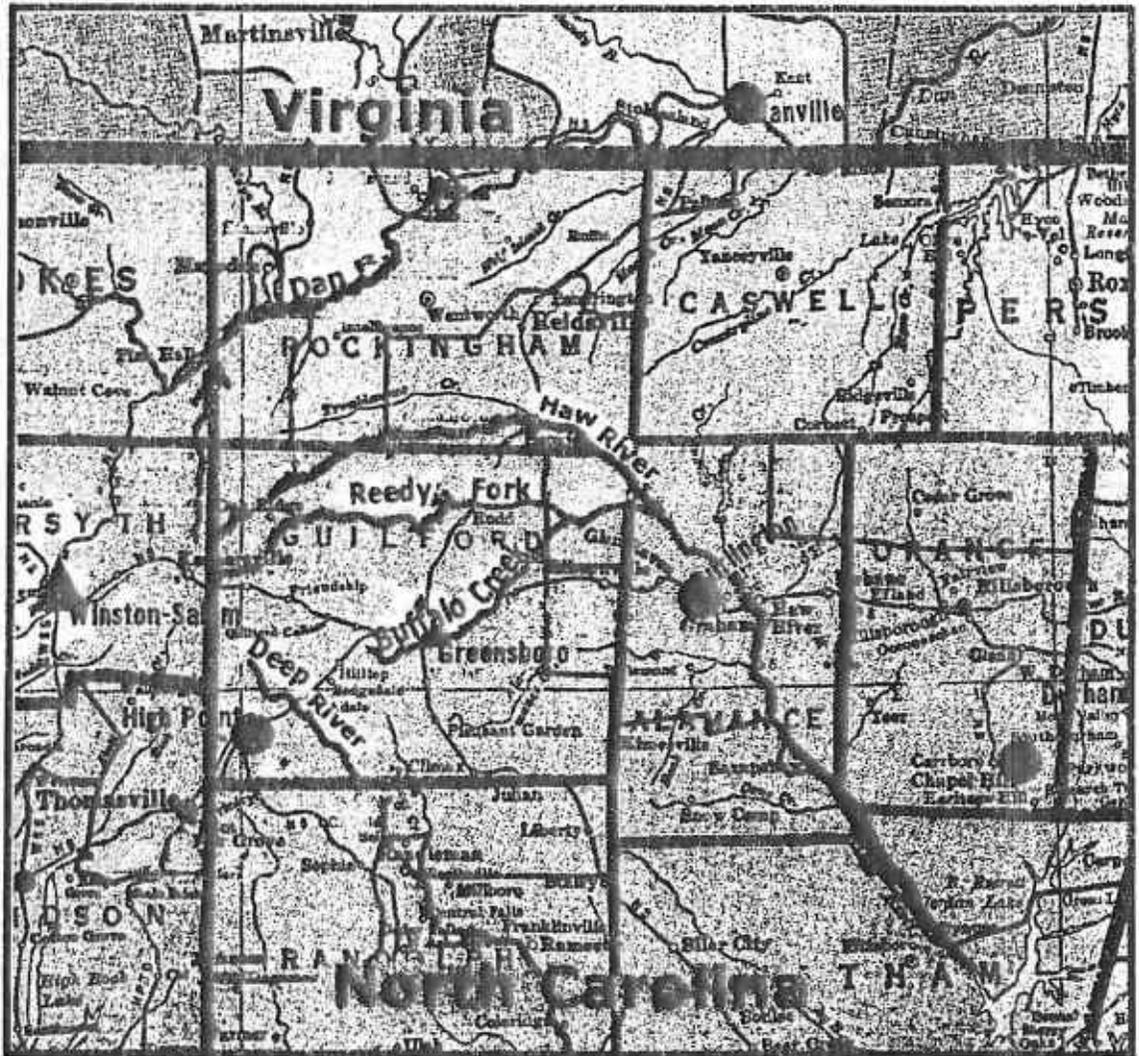
In Ireland, there are three religious classes. One class descends from the ancient Irish, and is generally Roman Catholic. Another class descends from an English ancestry, which is mostly Episcopalian, and finally the Presbyterians of Ireland claim Scotch ancestry.ⁱⁱ

Those who were born, educated, and raised in Scotland and hence emigrated directly from Scotland to the colonies, should be known as "Scotch immigrants", not "Scotch-Irish". The Scots that left Scotland for Ulster, Ireland before coming to the American colonies, are the Scotch-Irish sometimes referred to as "Ulstermen". The Ulster immigrants and their descendents played a tremendous part in the Revolutionary War. Many of the Scotch immigrants remained loyal to the British Crown and are referred to as "Loyalists" as this was their country of origin.^{vii} Political tyranny drove the Donnells out of Ireland, which was under English rule and therefore subjected to the laws of the English parliament. This rule deprived them of their civil and religious liberties.

The reason I have explained briefly this part of history was to show why the Donnells left Scotland for Ireland and eventually migrated to America; they were staunch Presbyterians and wanted to be allowed to worship God according to the dictates of their own principles.

Robert Donnell, the second, first went to York County, Pennsylvania in 1720. Leaving York County Robert and Mary moved to Cecil, County, Maryland. They may have taken a boat down the Susquehanna River and landed somewhere in Cecil County where their children were born. In 1771 they relocated to Greensboro, North Carolina and settled on the north side of North Buffalo Creek (see map page 3, #1). The four Donnell families that relocated in Greensboro must have been related. Thomas Sr., and Robert Sr., came in 1753, were brothers; James Sr., who came in 1760 and Robert, the second, who came in 1771, may have been a nephew of Thomas and Robert, Sr.

Jane Hines Thomson has compiled a comprehensive genealogy of her DONNELL Family, a portion of which we have included in this issue. In fairness to the author, none of the entries has been edited in order to preserve the originality of the work. Her efforts trace the DONNELL family from County Ulster in Ireland in 1728 up to the death of her grandmother in Abilene, TX in 1922 and her grandfather in El Paso, TX in 1937. There will be several installments in future RGRs. The data are accurate through 24 July 2002.



1. Upon arriving in Greensboro, North Carolina Robert Donnell settled on the north side of Buffalo Creek.
2. Daniel Donnell settled east of the Buffalo church and on the north side of Buffalo Creek.
3. General Green retreated across the Dan River.
4. General Cornwallis camped on the Deep River.
5. In 1762 Robert Donnell purchased 560 acres on both sides of Reedy Fork where Tannenbaum Historical Park, Greensboro, North Carolina is today. I am not sure if Robert Donnell is Robert Donnell Sr. or The Second. A Robert Donnell is listed on the "Chain of Title for Hoskins' Property" which is Tannenbaum Park.

An amusing story was told that in 1790 the Donnell families had a great reunion, and one of the old men laughingly asked, "What do you suppose happened to the "Q" we cast overboard at sea by this time?" This would indicate that they all came overseas together, and that the name was O'Donnell in Ireland."ⁱ They were all descendants, or related to, Donald I (861-863), king of Scotland. The late Dr. John A. McDonald, Editor of the Toronto Globe, Toronto, Canada, told the story. "The Donnells, O'Donnells, Donalds, and McDonalds were all of the same blood with a common ancestor."

The children of Robert Donnell, the second, and Mary are as follows:

(when personal information on a family member is found, it will be included by their name)

1. **William Donnell (1747 – 1818) died at age 49. Married Mary Bell. (1751 – 1828) Died at age 77. (My 4th great grandparents)**
2. Elizabeth "Betsy" Donnell (1757 – 1844) died at age 87. Married Robert Donnell son of Thomas Donnell, Sr. Elizabeth is buried in the Buffalo Presbyterian Church Cemetery.^{ix}
3. Daniel Donnell (1755-1835) died at age 80. Married Mary Irvin (1759-1814) who died at age 55. She was the daughter of Robert Irvin. Daniel and Mary had a daughter Jane born 1800 died 1821. Daniel's second wife was Catherine Gorrell; daughter of Ralph Gorrell Sr. Daniel and Catherine married Oct 16, 1816. They lived east of the church on the north side of North Buffalo Creek (see map page 3, #2). Daniel served in the Revolutionary War.^{xii} The tradition of serving their country was handed down to his great-grandson, James D. Donnell. Daniel was a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church. His grandson, Robert Donnell, went to Missouri and became very wealthy. Daniel, Mary and daughter Jane are all buried in The Buffalo Presbyterian Church Cemetery.^{ix}

Guilford County, North Carolina Deed Book 2 1779-1784

A deed dated 16 November 1779. Robert Donnell and Mary his wife of Guilford to Daniel Donnell their son of same, for and in the consideration of the love, affection and good will which we bear towards our son, two hundred seventy one acres, on both sides of North Buffaloe Creek, it being part of the tract of land on which Robert Donnell and Mary his wife now live. Begin: at a black jack stump the NE corner of sd tract on James Donnell's line, W 24 ch. to a post near a marked spanish oak. S 89 ch. crossing sd. creek to a white oak, N 32 ch, to the creek, W 18 ch. to a black oak and white oak bush cor. to James Donnell, N 57 ch. to the beginning.

*signed; Robt. Donnell, Mary Donnell;
witness; James Donnell, William Donnell;
acknowledged November Court 1779.^{xiii}*

4. Samuel Donnell (1760 – 1827) died at age 67. Married Abigail Tappan. Samuel fought in the Revolutionary War at Guilford Court House. Samuel became a minister in the Presbyterian Church and moved to Tennessee. He was pastor of the Spring Creek Church, Tennessee.ⁱⁱ

5. Sarah Donnell (circa. 1764 -?) Married John Donnell in 1779. John was the son of Robert Donnell, Sr.

6. Robert "Major" Donnell Jr. (1766 - 1847) died at age 81. His first marriage was to Jane "Jenny" Morrison (1766-1816) in 1790; Jenny died at age 50. His second wife was Mrs. Nancy Cabe Latta (1781-1841), who was 33 when he married her in 1820, 4 years after the death of his first wife. Nancy died at age 54. She was the daughter of John and Mary Stayhorn Cabe of Orange County. Robert was an active and influential elder in the church. Robert "Major" and his second wife had a daughter Nancy who (1832-1852) died at the young age of 20. Major Robert, Jane, Nancy and daughter Nancy are all buried at the Buffalo Presbyterian Church cemetery.^{ix}

7. George Donnell (1769 - 1842) died at age 73. He married Lydia Ann Forbes on January 19, 1796. The daughter of Arthor and Lydia Forbes. George and Ann relocated to Reedy Fork, North Carolina. They had a daughter Pamela born 1804, died 1852 at the age of 48. George, Ann and Pamela are also buried at the old Buffalo Presbyterian Church cemetery.^{ix} George and Ann had three other children John F., Samuel, and Lydia. George's will was written in 1840 and is transcribed as follows:

"In the name of God Amen I George Donnell of the county of Guilford and State of North Carolina Being in perfect health Both in Body and mind and memory thanks be given unto God Calling unto mind the mortality of my Body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to Die do make and ordain this my last Will and testamont that is to say Principally and first of all I

In the Name of God Amen I George Donnell of the county of Guilford and State of North Carolina being in perfect health Both of Body and mind and memory thanks be given unto God Calling unto mind the mortality of my Body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to Die do make and ordain this my last Will and testamont that is to say Principally and first of all I give and recommend my soul into the hand of Almighty God that gave it and my body I leave to the Lord to be buried in Decent Christian Burial at the Discretion of my Executors Nothing Doubting but at the General Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the Almighty power of God and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this life I give Devise and Dispose of the same in the following manner and form - - -

First I give and bequeath to my Dearl Belovd wife Anna a Neger woman named Charity and her Child and all her offspring to be her her life time and at her Death Charity and her Child and all her offspring to be my son Johns I give her my Clock and bedstead and my son Johns I give her two Beds and furniture and all my other furniture and half of my horses and half of my Cows and half of my sheep and half of my sheep and one hundred Dollars in Money
Secondly I give and bequeath to my son Samuel Fifty Dollars
Thirdly I give and bequeath to my Daughter Lydia the Hospital
Fourthly I give and bequeath to my Daughter Pamela the Chestnut level tract of land also my Neger Boy named Daniel and half of my horses and half of my Cows and half of my sheep and one hundred Dollars
Fifthly I give and bequeath to my son John my wagon and harness and farming utensils with his Mother having the use of them with him her life time I give him my still and stilling utensils and Dutch Pan and the remainder of my property and money to be equally divided between my Daughter Pamela and my son John I likewise appoint my son John to be my Executor of this my last will and testamont in witness whereof I have set my hand and seal this 3rd Day of February 1840
George Donnell
Pamela Donnell

give and recommend my soul into the hand of Almighty God that gave it and my Body I recommend to the earth to be Buried in Decent Christian Burial at the Discretion of my Executors: Nothing Doubting but at the General Resurrection I Shall receive the same again by the Almighty power of God and as touching such Worldly estate where with it has pleased God to Bless me in this life I give Demise and Dispose of the same in the following maner and form -----

First I give and Bequeath to my Darling Beloved wife Anna A Negro woman Named Charity and her Child and all her ofspring to be hers her life time und at her Death Charity and her Child and all her ofspring to be my son Johns I give her my Dask and Cubboard and Clock and Sun her lifetime and at her Death the one to be my son Johns I give her two Beds and furniture and all my Household & kitchen furniture and half of my horses and half of my Coaws and half of my hogs and half of my Sheep and one Hundred Dollars in Money

Secondly I give and Bequeath to my son Samuel Fifty Dollars

Thirdly I give and Bequeath to my Daughter Lydia the Aydoletts tract of land or what ever I sell it for and one Hundred Dollars

Fourthly I give and Bequeath to my Deaughter Pamala the Chesnut level tract of land also my Negro Boy Named Daniel and half of my horses and half of my Coaws and half of my hogs and half of my sheep and one Hundred Dollars

Fifthly I give and Bequeath to my son John my wagon and harness and farming utencils with his Mother having the use of them with him her lifetime I give him my Still and Stillling utencils and Dutch Fan and the remainder of my property and money to be equally divided Between my Daughter Pamala and my son John I likewise appoint my son John F. Donnell to be my Executor of this my last will and testament in witness wherof I have set my hand and Seal this 8th Day of February 1840". Test

Lathom Donnell

George Donnell

Pamela Donnell

George's will is transcribed as written. I do not take credit for the misspelled words they are his and his alone.

In the *Revolutionary War Graves Register* George is listed as serving from Wilson County, Tennessee as a Sergeant, North Carolina.

"In 1820 the first temperance society was organized in Guilford County. It came about in this way: Jesse Rankin and a slave boy attended a corn shucking in the neighborhood. Nearly all the men got drunk that night and acted ugly and crazy. The next day these two boys were discussing the disgraceful scenes of the night before and the evils of strong drink; and they agreed and struck hands that they would forever abstain from strong drink and would work for

the cause of temperance. At that time nearly every farmer had a distillery; but from this time on one farmer after another began to tear down their still house's."¹¹

George's will was written in 1840 where he willed his son his still. George did not seem to follow the example of the other farmers on temperance.

Robert, the second, died in 1816 at Buffalo Creek, Greensboro, Guilford County, North Carolina and is buried in the Buffalo Presbyterian Church cemetery in Greensboro. Mary, his wife died in 1771 shortly after they arrived in Guilford County, NC. Her youngest son George was only two years old at the time of his mother's death. She is buried in the old pioneer section of the graveyard. Neither of the gravesites could be located. Many of the names on the old tombstones have not withstood the harsh North Carolina weather over the years and are no longer legible. However, their names are in the church register as being buried in the church cemetery.¹² There are approximately 138 Donnells' buried in the Buffalo Cemetery. Only a few are directly related to our Robert Donnell, the second. The first Buffalo church was a log cabin built about 1768 and called "The North Buffalo Creek Presbyterian Church". The picture below is the third Buffalo Church built about 1827. All three churches were in the same vicinity around Buffalo Creek.



Buffalo Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, N.C.



Entrance to Church



Cemetery in back of church



Entrance to Cemetery

William Donnell and Mary Bell

(1749 - 1798)

(1751 - 1828)

William Donnell married Mary Bell February 9, 1773. Mary was 22 years old when she married William.

Mary Bell was the daughter of Samuel Bell. "Samuel Bell was an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and died on his knees, while praying in his family. His wife discovered that his voice faltered, and rose from her knees and went to him. He was barely able to speak, but said in a broken accent, Mollie, what is this; is it death? --- and immediately expired." Samuel and Mary had five boys and two girls: James (1747), Francis (1749), Thomas (17??), Samuel (1753) and John (1755). John was the Honorable John Bell, United States Senator from Tennessee. The two daughters were Mary named after her mother Mary, and Agnes (1759). The Donnells' and the Bells' formed their moral worth and standing as citizens."

Marriage bond of William and Mary Bell

Know all men by their presents that we Wm Donnelly & Wm Dunn are held and firmly bound unto our Sovereign Lord the King his heirs and Successors in the just & full Sum of fifty pounds _____ ~ _____ Proclamation Money to

which payment will and truly to be made we bind our selves, and each of our heirs, ___?___?___ firmly by their presents Sealed with our Seals and dated this Ninth _____ ~ _____ day of February One Thousand Seven hundred & Seventy Three.

Handwritten text in cursive script, likely a transcription or part of the original document.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas the above bound William Donnell _____ had this day made application for a license for a marriage to be celebrated between him & Mary Bell _____ of Guilford County agreeable to an act of assembly in this province that the said Mary Bell _____ of Guilford County hath this day made application for a license for a marriage to be celebrated between her & William Donnell _____ of Guilford County agreeable to an act of assembly in this province. Ratified the fourth April One thousand Seven hundred & forty One

The Condition of the above Obligation is such that whereas the a bound William Donnell _____ ~ _____ hath this day made application for a license for a marriage to be celebrated between him & Mary Bell _____ ~ _____ of Guilford County agreeable to an act of assembly in this province. Ratified the fourth April One thousand Seven hundred & forty One

1773 Marriage Bond of William Donnell binding him to "Our Sovereign Lord the King."

Now if shall not appear at any time hereafter that there no Lawful Cause to obstruct the said marriage then the above Obligation is to be void otherwise to Remain in full force & virtue.

Sealed & Delivered

William Donnell

In presence of ----

William Denny

John Ponder

*1773 Marriage Bond of William Donnell binding him
to "Our Sovereign Lord the King."*

William and Mary Bell married before the Revolutionary War when the Colonial Colonists were still under British rule.

William and Mary had seven children; all were born in Guilford County, North Carolina.

- 1 Samuel Donnell (1780 -1815) married Martha A. Foster. Samuel became a Cumberland Presbyterian preacher. Licensed in 1813. Helped revise the confession of faith. Due to poor health, (advanced stages of consumption) he was never active as a preacher. Samuel participated in fighting the Cherokee Indians to make way for the settlers to dwell in the land they had purchased in Wilson County, Tennessee. In the 1820 census of Wilson County, Tennessee it lists his widow Martha, three sons and four daughters. He mentions his children in his will, but not by name.
- 2 **William S. Donnell ("Cedar Bill") (1778-1847) died at age 51. Married Margaret ("Peggy") Sherrill (1751 - 1828) died at age 77. (My 3rd great grandfather).**
- 3 Mary "Polly" Donnell (1775 - ?) married Hugh Morrison. Mary stayed loyal to the straight Presbyterian Church. Other members of her family went to the new Cumberland Presbyterian Church.
- 4 Sarah "Sally" Donnell (1788 - ?) married John Gwin.
- 5 Rev. Robert Donnell (1784 -1855) died at age 71. Married Ann Eliza Smith (? - 1828) in 1809. "Ann was not a strong woman and was confined to her bed most of her life. They had 5 children of which 4 died in infancy. Their son was James Webb Smith Donnell, born July 13 1820, died January 8, 1876. James married Maria Louisa Jones. Daughter of John Nolin Spotswood Jones and Ann Eliza Haywood, youngest daughter of Judge John Haywood, who was a Supreme Court Judge in Tennessee. Anna died November 3, 1828. Robert's second marriage to Clarissa W. Lindley was on June 21, 1832. "Robert,

like his father William, was a farmer and in this vocation the son was principally employed until he professed religion and turned his attention to the great works of the ministry.⁶ Robert was not educated in the ministry but was quoted as saying, "It was too long to spend five or six years learning to preach, when there was such a pressing call for laborers in the vineyard of the Lord."⁷ He had much to do with locating Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee, and, on a number of occasions, contributed liberally to its financial support. Rev.



Rev. Robert Donnell
Minister of the Gospel in
The Cumberland
Presbyterian Church

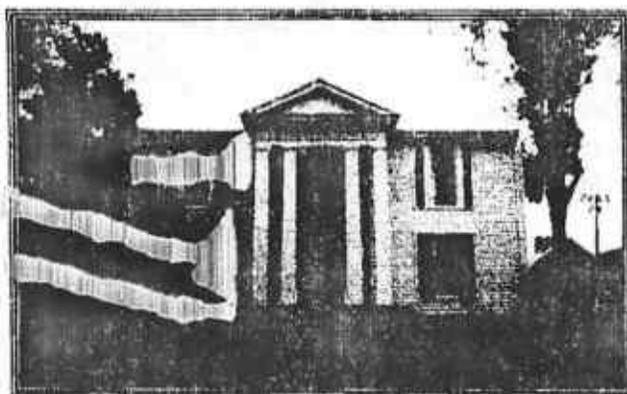
James M. Smith *R. Donnell*

Robert Donnell was a trustee of Cumberland University from 1847 - 1851, served on the board of visitors to the University; a lecturer of divinity to young men preparing for the ministry. "His great leader and friend of

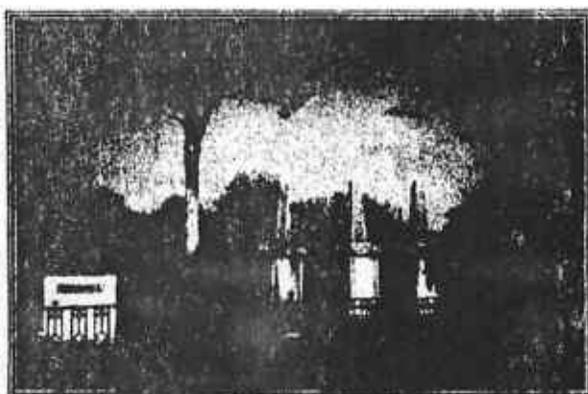


Clarissa N. Lindy

humanity died at his home in Athens, Alabama, May 24, 1855. On the monument erected to his memory are these well-chosen words: 'self made, of gigantic mind and commanding person, social in feeling, fervent in devotion, chaste in style, graceful in attitude, eloquent in manner, logical in argument, urbane in deportment, uniform in piety, consecrated in his calling, his praise is in all the churches.' "



Rev. Robert Donnell's Home, Athens, Alabama



*Donnell Plot Athens, Alabama
Tall Obelisk is the Rev. Robert Donnell's*

- 6 Martha Donnell (1785 - ?) married Alexander Marrs in 1809
- 7 Jane Irene Donnell (1786 - ?) married Robert Wilson.

William Donnell (1749-1798) My 4th great-grandfather was a farmer by trade and also an elder in the famous Almanac Presbyterian Church. "While in North Carolina, his family enjoyed the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Caldwell, by whom all the children were baptized in infancy. William Donnell served his country in the war of the Revolution and was engaged in the battle of Guilford Court House, when General Greene drove the invading army of Cornwallis from North Carolina. Indeed, most of the male members of Dr. Caldwell's congregation took part in the struggle of that eventful day; while the female members of his church, on the same day, united in prayer to almighty God, on whose aid success in battle depends. The congregation of Dr. Caldwell had suffered greatly from the British troops previous to that battle. He himself, from the ardor of his patriotism, had become a conspicuous object of British hostility. The price of two hundred pounds having been bid for his head by the British general. In the meantime, the invading troops were encamped on the doctor's premises and had driven the wife and children from their residence to the smokehouse for shelter, having insulted the mother in the most vulgar and ungentlemanly manner. Before leaving the encampment, the troops had burned every rail of fence on the farm, consumed all the provisions that could be found, and destroyed every living thing except one old goose. Even the doctor's papers did not escape; nor was the family bible spared." ⁱⁱ



"This scene of desolation and distress was not confined to Dr. Caldwell's family, but spread throughout the bounds of his congregation. Indeed, wherever the British found David's psalms, they regarded them as evidence that the owners were hostile to the king and encouraged rebellion. Another strong proof that all the men of the Buffalo congregation were in active service is the large number of campaigns made by the army officers from this church. By a careful study of history and the colonial records, we find they were in no less than fifteen campaigns and battles, and that is not counting the large number of expeditions made against the Tories [a person who favored continued allegiance to the British]. There was almost constant warfare." ⁱⁱ

"When General Greene was retreating before Lord Cornwallis from Charlotte towards Virginia, he sent an order to the Guilford officers to call out the militia en masse and join him. Some of the Guilford soldiers were already with him, and others joined him, and all retreated

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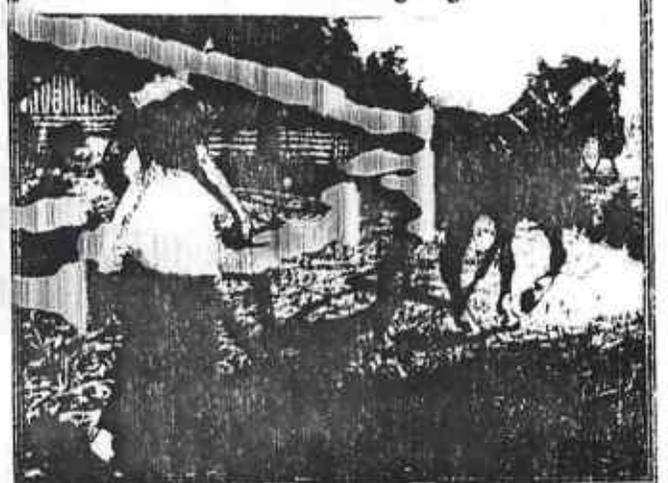
over the Dan River. (See map page 3, #2) Lord Cornwallis gave up the chase at the Dan and went to Hillsboro. In about two weeks, Cornwallis came back to Guilford, and camped at different places in the bounds of Buffalo Church for a week, then moved his camp to Deep River, beyond Guilford College. While he was camping in the bounds of Buffalo, his cavalry and detached parties of his soldiers were constantly pillaging, plundering and robbing homes of the community. "What the men and their horses could not consume was destroyed; corn cribs were pulled down and the corn wasted, the hay and fodder were burned or scattered about, the fences were destroyed, and it seemed to be an object with them to do as much mischief and produce as much wretchedness over the country as possible. They knew the people were all Whigs [a person who supported the struggle against England] and were bent on destroying all their resources. Most of the Guilford men were away from home in the army, and in many cases the British soldiers drove the women and children from their homes and otherwise mistreated them." The women and the children had to assume the farm chores while the husbands were away fighting.

"General Greene, having received reinforcements from Virginia, recrossed the Dan and received other reinforcements from North Carolina.

(See picture page 3 #3) While Cornwallis was encamped on Deep River, General Greene came on to Guilford Court House, in the very bounds of Buffalo church, and again called for all the North Carolina men to join him. We can now understand why 'All the men in both these congregations who were fit for duty were either in the battle, or employed in some way under the direction of General Greene.' They were fighting mad and saw a good chance with general Greene's reinforcements to drive these pesky marauding British from their country. Dr. Caruthers says, 'A number of individuals in the Buffalo Congregation volunteered that morning and put themselves under officers of known valor.' Some of those volunteers were no doubt men beyond the military age limit of fifty years, some were boys under age limit of sixteen, and some were men who had just served on other campaigns and were at home on furlough. Some in the congregation were perhaps sick and could not be present that day, but had been in other battles before this and were in others after."



The wives assumed the home-front chores while the men were off fighting



"When General Greene retreated across the Dan River, many of the officers and men of Guilford were with him. This section was left without protection. The Tories took advantage of this and overran the congregation, plundering, robbing and devastating to their hearts' content. For a few weeks after the Guilford battle, they continued to overrun the county. No man, not even the aged, was safe in his own home. The Whigs had to hide out and sleep in the thickets, or collect in squads for protection. About this time Col. David



General Greene crossing the Dan River

Fanning, the notorious Tory, established his headquarters on the Deep River and began his campaign of rapine and murder. This whole section was in fear and confusion. The homes had been repeatedly robbed until the people had practically nothing left. We can hardly imagine the horrible and distressing condition of our people at this time. But they soon rallied and organized new companies and began other campaigns against the Tories. The feeling and hatred was now so intense that when a man was captured by either party he was usually put to death on the spot. If the Whigs happened upon anyone they did not know personally, the usual question was put

to him, 'Who are you for?' If he did not give a satisfactory answer, he was immediately swung to a limb or severely thrashed and ordered to leave the country. The people had suffered much and were still suffering. Their patience was at an end. Their feelings were so wrought up that no slacker or neutral party would have been allowed to remain in this red-hot bed of Whigs."ii



BATTLE-FIELD AT GUILFORD.

“One of the last important battles of the Revolutionary War was fought on March 15, 1781 at Guilford Court House. Cornwallis commanded the British troops and Nathanael Greene, the Americans. The British lost between a fourth and a third of their entire army. In a letter General Greene wrote to Joseph Reed, he praised the Virginia militia. He also wrote, *‘Never did an army labor under so many disadvantages as this; but the fortitude and patience of the officers and soldiery rise superior to all difficulties. We have little to eat, less to drink, and lodge in the woods in the midst of smoke. Indeed, our fatigue is excessive. I was so much over come night before last that I fainted. Our army is in good spirits, but the (North Carolina) militia are leaving us in great numbers to return home to kiss their wives and sweet-hearts. I have never felt an easy moment since the enemy crossed the Catawba since the defeat of the 15th, but now I am perfectly easy, being persuaded it is out of the enemy’s power to do us any great injury. Indeed, I think they will retire as soon as they can get off their wounded.’* Cornwallis was forced to abandon the interior and retreated to the seacoast at Wilmington. Cornwallis never returned to North Carolina, instead going into Virginia. The Tories were disheartened, and the Whigs triumphant; the cause of liberty, which had been so gloomy, was bright once more.”⁷¹

Funny How History Repeats Itself

By David Patton

Ever have that funny feeling that you have just met yourself coming from the other direction? Well, I have. Picture this. When I was about three or four years old my mother took me and my brother way out in the country (nearest neighbor about ½ mile away) to meet our uncle, William "Uncle Captain" Banning, who was getting on in years. Uncle Cap'n, as everyone used to call him, was a retired sea captain who skippered clipper ships to and from the orient. In his twilight years Uncle Cap'n had taken to collecting Wells Fargo stage coaches, restoring them to pristine condition, and training teams of horses to pull them. As I recall there were six coaches in his barn and I delighted playing stage coach by climbing up on the box and pretending to drive the team. What I found out much later was that Uncle Cap'n had the largest privately owned collection of Wells Fargo stage coaches in the country.

The barn and its contents were not the only things of interest. The house was a rambling ranch style house. On entering the front door one found a study on the right side of the foyer and a large living room on the left; then on the right was the dining room. Both living and dining rooms opened into a spacious kitchen with a back porch overlooking a lush garden of both flowers and vegetables. Bed rooms were beyond the kitchen (I was not allowed to go back there.) On the east side of the house was a riding ring. The barn was on the south side of the ring. On a small hill behind the barn was a corrugated steel water tank. Since I could not yet swim I was not allowed to go back there either. Needless to say I loved the house and the layout of the grounds.

Some years later, vandals burned the barn in the middle of the night destroying all the stage coaches and the horses. Uncle Cap'n's heart was broken and he died soon afterward.

Eighteen or nineteen years later I married my first wife. Since her parents had been divorced for some years she wanted to have me meet her father who was spending his twilight years running his printing business and showing his horses, and so we drove out the freeway to West Covina. As we turned into the driveway I yelled, "STOP!" There before me was a sprawling ranch style house with a riding ring on the east side and a barn on the south side. I asked if there was a corrugated steel tank on the small hill behind the barn. There was. I then described the house as "on entering the front door one found a study on the right side of the foyer and a large living room on the left; then on the right was the dining room. Both living and dining rooms opened into a spacious kitchen with a back porch overlooking a lush garden of both flowers and vegetables. Bed rooms were beyond the kitchen." My spouse was dumbfounded because everything I had told her about the house was letter perfect. My former father-in-law who had rebuilt the barn after he purchased the property, used the barn to stable his Tennessee Walking horses. His pride and joy was an 18+ hand walking mare with which he won the California championship. Having been required to learn to ride as a youngster I was overjoyed to have been allowed to ride that mare after a fifteen minute "how to" course. Talk about power...wow! When I had her walking in a smooth gait (or rack) my former father-in-law yelled, "Rack on!" Talk about riding a runaway train, that was it.

A couple of years later, vandals burned the barn in the middle of the night taking the lives of those beautiful Tennessee Walking horses. A couple of years after the fire, my former father-in-law died of a broken heart.

Projected 2004 Income and Expendiature

11/6/2003

	Committee	Book			Misc				
Social	Expense	Purchase	Dues	Gifts	Expense	RGR		Total	Month
			\$60.00		\$7.00			\$67.00	Jan
					\$7.00			\$7.00	Feb
\$13.00					\$7.00	\$265.00		\$285.00	Mar
					\$7.00			\$7.00	Apr
					\$7.00			\$7.00	May
\$13.00					\$7.00	\$265.00		\$285.00	Jun
					\$7.00			\$7.00	Jul
					\$7.00			\$7.00	Aug
\$13.00					\$7.00	\$265.00		\$285.00	Sep
					\$7.00			\$7.00	Oct
				\$200.00	\$7.00			\$207.00	Nov
\$20.00					\$7.00	\$265.00		\$292.00	Dec
\$59.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$200.00	\$84.00	\$1,060.00		\$1,463.00	Totals
Expected Income Dues			\$1,034.00						
Expected Book Sale									
Volumn I		12@\$30.00	\$360.00						
Volumn II		4@\$25.00	\$100.00						
Volumn III		4@\$35.00	\$140.00						
Volumn IV		5@\$45.00	\$225.00						
Set		5@\$140.00	\$700.00						
Total expected Book Sale			\$1,525.00						
Expected Misc Income			\$200.00						
Total expected Income			\$2,759.00						

Important

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS - 2003

The Board of Directors meets the *first Monday of each month* (except as noted below) at 8100 Parkland Drive, Phone 778-1767. Meetings are at 4:30 PM. The BOD consists of the current officers, the immediate past president, TSGS representative, and the committee chairmen. **Members are urged to attend and take part in the discussions of items presented for consideration by the Board but may not vote.**

January	5	
February	2	
March	1	
April	5	
May	3	
June	7	
July	5	
August	2	
September	7	(Monday is a Holiday)
October	4	

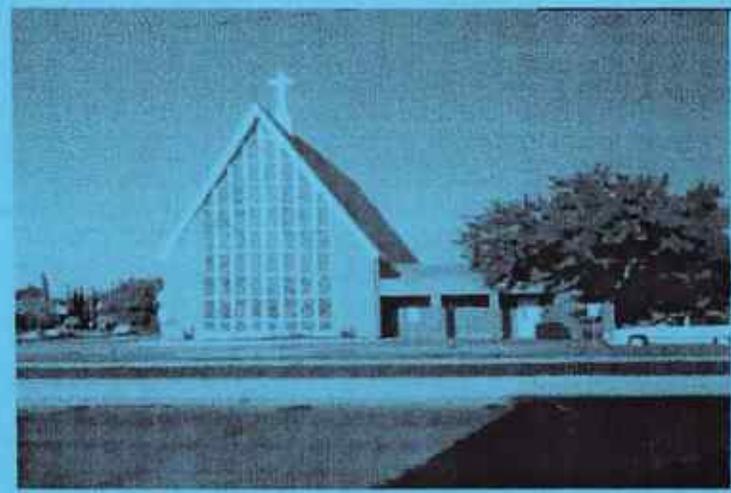


Photo by E. Zavala-Patton

MEETING LOCATION:

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
PARISH HALL - 3500 McRAE
7:00 PM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS - 2004

January	9	
February	12	
March	11	
April	8Potluck Dinner
May	13	
June	10	
July	8	
August	12	
September	9Potluck Dinner
October	14	
November	11	
December	9	(Tentative) (Christmas Social

TBA)

Daylight Savings Time started Sunday October 26. And here's a little trivia for you. Do you remember that there was a two hour daylight saving time for the duration of WWII?

Members helping members -

the basis of a great society

MERRY X-MAS!

Happy New Year!

*Family history enhances family values Members
helping members - the basis of a great society*

*El Paso Genealogical Society
c/o El Paso Public Library
501 N. Oregon
El Paso TX 79901*



Helen Hamilton

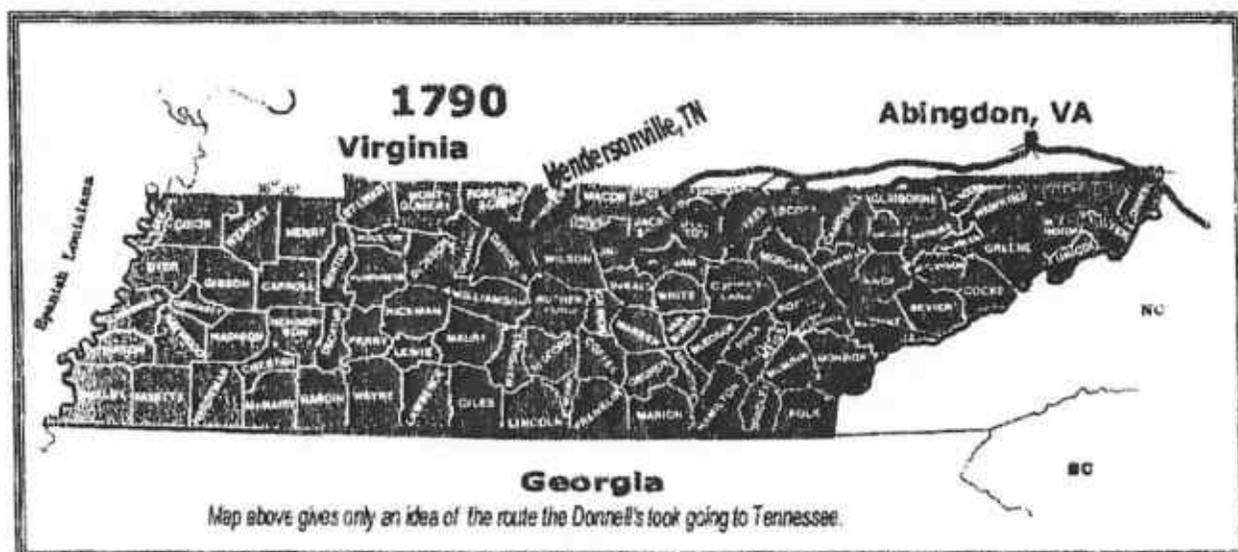
Capistrano Beach, CA 92624



The Rio Grande Researcher is the official newsletter published quarterly by the El Paso Genealogical Society. Issues are mailed on or about the tenth of March, June, September, and December to all members and participating genealogical societies. New member's joining the EPGS anytime during the year will receive a full year's subscription. Limited back copies are available at \$3.50 each. Send requests to Editor, Rio Grande Researcher at the address listed above.

The Donnells Move to Tennessee

In 1789 William and Mary Bell along with their seven children began their journey to Tennessee. They first traveled to Abingdon, Virginia in hopes of joining a wagon train heading west. They arrived too late in the fall as the wagon train had departed. They spent the winter in Abingdon, continuing their journey in the spring, arriving at Drake Settlement on the Cumberland River in Sumner County. "In their move to Tennessee, William Donnell's family endured great hardship, and were exposed to much danger from the Indians. The country lying between Knoxville and Nashville was an entire wilderness and the safety of emigrants required them to travel in bodies under an escort of soldiers. A very serious alarm on a certain night was given in camp, and while William Donnell shouldered his rifle to aid in repelling the savages, his mother concealed the children. The family spent the first year after reaching Tennessee in Captain Bell's fort, in Sumner County, near the place where Hendersonville now stands. Land had been bought in Wilson County, but hostile Indians were still infesting that portion of the county, and it was considered unsafe to occupy the land." *



Map above gives only an idea of the route the Donnell's took going to Tennessee.

On May 13, 1790, William Donnell, along with other families, bought land prior to leaving North Carolina, on Spring Creek, Sumner County, Tennessee. The tract purchased contained twelve hundred and eighty acres sight unseen. "To prevent difficulty in assigning to each one his portion, after personal examination, it was mutually agreed that the decision should be made before the families reached Tennessee. On seeing the land, each member of the company took possession of his own without a murmur, though the poorest part of the tract fell to the share of **William Donnell**." * His portion of the land was 320 acres, which he paid 320 dollars cash in hand. On May 18, 1797, he purchased another 640 acres from Robert Marrley. Both tracts were situated on Spring Creek. (Wilson County, Tennessee was established in 1799 and at one time had been a part of Sumner County, Tennessee). Owing to the difficulty of transportation across the mountains, most of their goods, including the family Bible, were sent on flatboat down the Tennessee River and destroyed by hostile Indians at Nickajack. It wasn't until the militia removed the Indian threat in 1795, and the settlers were met by friendly Indians, that William was free to take possession of his land. In 1797 the family

'Rosie the Riveter' Stories, Mementos Sought

"You must tell your children, putting modesty aside, that without us, without women, there would have been no spring in 1945."

--- Inscription from the Rosie the Riveter Memorial

This memorial, honoring American women's labor during World War II, is the first in the nation to honor the contributions and sacrifice of women on the home front. The National Park, located in Richmond, California, is the former Kaiser Shipyard and Ford Assembly Building.

If you, your mother, aunt or grandmother, etc. participated in the home front or has a 'Rosie the Riveter' experience, memento, anecdote or memory and would like to share it, follow the instructions at SHARE YOUR STORY here:

https://www.timeinc.net/people/secure/sweeps/ford/rosie/index_2.html

The stories and artifacts collected will be incorporated by the National Park into future exhibits, research centers, and historic records to bring to life the stories of those who came together on the American home front to help ensure victory overseas in World War II. For additional information about this National Park and the Rosie the Riveter Trust, please visit these websites: <http://www.nps.gov/rori/> or <http://www.rosietheriveter.org/>

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We hope you have seen the ads running locally on late TV . Ed.

* * * *

TIPS FOR RESEARCHERS. Researching Your Irish Roots ? With St. Patrick's Day less than three weeks away, it is time to share a list of worthwhile research links and online articles that are of interest to those who doing Irish family history research. Read any one of dozens of free articles, find links to archives, museums, libraries and other resources for those interested in Irish genealogy and history. Resources include both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

More information: <http://globalgenealogy.com/links/ireland.htm>.

* * * *

Family Tree Maker Version 11.0 Update (Service Pack 1). Do you have Family Tree Maker version 11.0 and are having a problem using your World Family Tree CDs? If this problem is happening to you, it means that you are probably using a computer with Win 95, 98 or Windows ME. There is an easy fix and it's free. Read full article: <http://globalgenealogy.com/globalgazette/gaztec/gaztec101.htm>.

With thanks to Global Genealogy

crossed the Cumberland River and was at last able to settle on the land previously purchased on Spring Creek. Some of the other families that settled on Spring Creek were; (some of the names you will recognize as children of the Donnell families married young men and women of neighboring families) *Joseph Moxley*, *Hugh Marrs*, *Bartlett Graves*, *John Forbes*, *William Sherrill*, *Purnel Hearn*, and "*the Donnell Settlement*." (Since there were so many Donnell's they called it the "The Donnell Settlement"). This is where many of the young people met fell in love and married. When a couple married, the neighbors would gather together. The men would build a home for the couple while the women help to furnish the house with household necessities.



Tannenbaum Historical Park where Cornwallis's troops gathered for battle

"The family obtained from the woods a substitute for tea and coffee, and made their sugar from the sap of the trees. Much of the clothing of the boys and even young men was made of dressed deerskins. William's own rifle generally afforded an ample supply of this raw material of clothing, and with his own hands the skins were dressed. He is said to have had no superior, either in shooting at a mark or in the successful pursuit of game. Their food, to a large extent, was the flesh of wild animals, and that without salt most of the time. Wild animals were numerous, and they could secure their meat by killing buffaloes, bears, deer and squirrels. Wild fowls were plentiful, such as turkeys and quail; and also wild geese and wild pigeons in their season. This would



Life depicted in log cabin, Tannenbaum Historical Park



Fireplace in cabin at top of page

have been a veritable paradise for sportsmen today, but our ancestors hunted and fished more for their food supply than for sport. Their first homes were the rudest log cabins, they were one-room with one door and one small window and the window had no glass, just one shutter. The cabins back then were covered with thatch or clapboards. The chimneys were usually built of sticks and mud. The floors were dirt. Their furniture was hand made from rough materials. The coverings for their beds were usually the pelts of deer, beavers, bears, and wolves. These trying conditions lasted for only a few years. It was not

long until their homes were enlarged and improved." 4

"William, (William S. (Ceder Bill)'s father), was the first man to drive a wagon from Sumner County, Tennessee to Lexington, Kentucky. Whither he went to obtain salt for his family and other emigrants. On coming to a stream that could not be forded, he took his wagon apart and crossed in a canoe, swimming his horses." 11

William Donnell died in 1798 of fever, in his forty-ninth year, just a year after arriving on the land he had purchased, leaving a widow and seven children. He was buried on the land he had labored so hard to settle. "He was noted for his kindness to the poor and needy. The following incident, illustrating this trait of character, occurred the year before he died. *William Donnelson*, after riding several days without success in search of corn to relieve the wants of his family, called on **William Donnell** and made known his distress. 'What have you to give for corn?' inquired **William Donnell**. 'Cash in hand, sir,' was the reply. 'Then rejoined the other, 'you can surely find it in the country. I have some corn to spare, but am keeping it for those who are unable to pay for it in money.' After much persuasion, however, he consented to let *Mr. Donnelson* have three bushels. When the corn was measured, three dollars were laid on the table, being the current price at that time. **William** took up one dollar, and pushed the other two back, saying, 'One is all I will take.' "16

What a fine man our **William** was. His death came at such an early age leaving him totally unprepared. He died intestate (one who dies without a will). The following is a testament agreed to by his survivors of the disposition of his personal property.

Whereas William Donnell, deceased of Wilson County, state of Tennessee having died without a will. His heirs being all of adult age and acting for themselves mutually agreed to decide the estate and property of said deceased both real and personal among themselves to the satisfaction of each of said heirs, except a Negro woman named Sarah who was left for the assistance and benefit of the widow of said deceased, since that time the said Negro woman has had 3 children all of which are under ___? ___ property. Therefore know ye that this day we Mary Donnell, Hugh Morrison and Mary Morrison his wife and William Donnell, Robert Donnell, Alexander Marrs and Martha Marrs his wife, Robert Wilson and Jane Wilson, his wife and David Foster executor of Samuel Donnell deceased one of said heirs of Wilson County state of aforesaid, John Swin and Sarah Swin, his wife of Sumner county, state of aforesaid have mutually agreed to divide the property of said Negroes equally between themselves and do hereby bind themselves, their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns on the penal sum of one thousand dollars that they will abide by and stand to said division of said estate both first and last. In testimony whereof we the said heirs have set our hand affirm our seals this 16th day of November 1818.

Attested: James Foster, Jurat
Alex Foster, Jurat

Mary Donnell
Hugh and Mary Morrison
William Donnell
Robert Donnell

Alexander and Martha Marrs

Robert and Jane Wilson

David Foster, exc.

John and Sarah Swin

State of Tennessee

February Term 1819

Wilson County Court

The foregoing articles of

*Agreement between the heirs of Samuel Donnell and was ___? ___ in open court
and proved by the oaths of James Foster and Alexander Foster the witnesses
thereto and ordered to be registered. Bist Jogn Alleorn clerk of*

Wilson County Court

Registered 23 April, 1819^{xiii}

In comparing wills that are written today, note how simple and direct the wills were back in the days of our forefathers.

I have often wondered how I would feel knowing my ancestors owned slaves. I know the times were different, but it remains to be said, that owning another human is morally and ethically wrong. Now that I have read the wills of our ancestors and have realized they all owned Negros (they never referred to them as slaves), I have learn to deal with it. There is nothing I can say or do that can change the past. I know it was wrong and feel sure the Donnells knew in their hearts it was wrong. However, after reading the following story, it was somewhat reassuring to know how the families treated their Negros.

"Most of the men in Buffalo owned salves, but there were no large slave owners in the Buffalo Presbyterian congregation. In 1800 a slave was worth from three to four hundred dollars, and this was about the price of one hundred acres of land. The slaves of this community were well fed and clothed and cared for, and appeared to be contented. Many belonged to and attended the church with their masters, but sat in a different section of the building." One such member of the church had four sons. He asked his slave Ben, if he would work hard and help him educate his sons so that when the youngest had finished his schooling he would be set free. He accomplished what had been asked of him; two boys became ministers and two doctors. His owner set him free but he remained with his master and the four sons took care of Ben in his old age. In many cases there were strong attachments between the slaves and their masters, even after the Civil War. Some slaves remained with their master many years after they were freed.

"Mary Bell Donnell was a woman of more than ordinary intellectual endowments, and her religious influence in her family was elevating, refining and spiritual. The Sabbath was a sacred day in the family, and so strictly kept that neither visiting nor worldly conversation was allowed. She never failed to pray in her family, morning and evening, when her husband was absent; and it was during one of these seasons of devotion that her young son Robert first felt the necessity of religion. Her son Robert says: 'My mother was, from my first recollection, to the duty of family prayer in my father's absence; and her fervent supplications made an early impression on my mind of the importance of religion.'"

"This excellent mother of Israel died on the seventh day of June 1828, 'in full assurance of hope.' The following is her son's own account of his last interview with his mother. 'About ten days before she died, I visited her, and found her mind calm, and in the full enjoyment of religion. When I approached her bed to bid her farewell and to shake hands with her, as I believed for the last time, she requested me to kneel, and then offered up a short but fervent prayer for myself, wife, and all her children. At the close, she remarked, with much feeling, "This will be our last meeting on earth." All her children, then living, were members of the church, and those that were dead had left satisfactory evidence that they joined the church above. What a thought! *a whole family in heaven!*'"

I'm indebted to the Presbyterian Church for the wonderful records they kept on parishioners in their churches. And for the two books mentioned at the beginning; without this material, I would never have been able to piece together the early Donnell families.

Jane Hines Thomson has compiled a comprehensive genealogy of her DONNELL Family, a portion of which we have included in this issue. In fairness to the author, none of the entries has been edited in order to preserve the originality of the work. Her efforts trace the DONNELL family from County Ulster in Ireland in 1728 up to the death of her grandmother in Abilene, TX in 1922 and her grandfather in El Paso, TX in 1937. There will be several installments in future RGRs. The data are accurate through 24 July 2002.

* * * *

Southern California League of Genealogical Societies formed. Last summer leaders from 19 of the genealogical societies gathered to discuss common problems and solutions confronting genealogical societies in Southern California. The outgrowth of that meeting was the formation of the SCLGS. In order to immediately promote the flow of information of interest of to genealogical societies, a web page has been created and is now on line. You can visit the web page and read about the League as well as keep abreast of the goings-on in our area. The website is <www.cagenweb.com/kr/league>. Check it out! Thanks to the Ventura county Genealogical Society, PO Box 24608, Ventura, CA 93002.

* * * *

Genealogical Seminar planned for Lake Havasu City, AZ. The 10th annual Genealogical Seminar, sponsored by the Lake Havasu Genealogical Society, Inc., will be held Saturday March 13, 2004. Registration will be at 8AM with the program from 9AM to 3:30PM. The seminar site will be Mountain View M.H.P. Clubhouse, 2635 Anita Avenue, Lake Havasu City, AZ. Topics to be presented are: Vital Records; Emigration, Immigration, and Naturalization Records; note taking and citations; and Loves Labor's Lost—finding female ancestry. Early registration deadline is March 5. For more information, contact Lake Havasu Genealogical Society, Inc., 1208 McCulloch Blvd. S., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406-8963.