

Mc LEMORE FAMILY

DONATED BY

ROD BUSH

1-2-1985

Buckeye AZ. 85326

Rod Bush,

Thank you for your letter of Dec. 28.

I am enclosing material concerning the Mc Lemore lineage - a sheet on the William Mc Lemore family you speak of. It does not show his second marriage, but does show the children - all this was taken from a book called "Ole Pasaheal" by Rudy H. Luivette ^{mostly} concerning the life of Amos Mc Lemore son of John Mc Lemore.

Am also enclosing family sheets on John Mc Lemore family and his son Abraham Mc Lemore - my husband's ancestor. Would appreciate any up dating on these families you have. They lived in Jones Co. Miss.

I have just begun the Alford line. My great grandmother on my mother's side was Meadie Alford. She married Robert Monroe Kyle 7. 1843 Miss. They lived in Hazelhurst, Copiah Co. Miss. They had a dau. Celia Kyle who married W. H. Wornock in 1885 and lived in Franklin Co. Miss. They were my grandparents - Hope this is of some help to you. Let me hear from you. Thank you for writing.

Bessie

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HUSBAND: William McLemore
 Born: 1800 Place: North Carolina
 Marr: ca. 1825 Place: _____
 Died: _____ Place: _____
 Bur: _____ Place: _____
 HUSBAND'S FATHER: _____ MOTHER: _____
 HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES: _____

WIFE: Martha Joiners
 Born: 1800 Place: North Carolina or Tennessee
 Died: _____ Place: _____
 Bur: _____ Place: _____
 WIFE'S FATHER: _____ MOTHER: _____
 WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS: _____

No.	CHILDREN		WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN			DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE		WHEN DIED		
			DAY	MONTH	YEAR	TOWN	COUNTY	STATE OR COUNTRY	TO WHOM	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	
1	Given Names	SURNAME											
M	Amos				1829		Chickasaw	Miss.	Mary Jane McShan				
M	Frances T.				1834								
M	William				1836								
M	Joseph												
F	Sarah												
F	Rowena				1845				1861	Joel Foster			
M	John				1843								

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

William and Martha lived in Covington County, Mississippi, during 1832-38 and in Lauderdale County thereafter.

HUSBAND: John McLemore
 Born: 1793 Place: South Carolina
 Married: 1854 Place: Perry County, Mississippi
 Died: _____ Place: _____
 Bur.: _____ Place: _____ HUSBAND'S MOTHER: Equilla ??
 HUSBAND'S FATHER: Amos McLemore
 HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES: _____

WIFE: Anna Marie Yates
 Born: 1804 Place: North Carolina
 Died: 1875 Place: Perry County, Mississippi
 Bur.: _____ Place: _____ WIFE'S MOTHER: Catherine ??
 WIFE'S FATHER: Abraham Yates ??

WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS: _____

SEX M F	CHILDREN List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth Given Names SURNAME	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN			DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE	WHEN DIED		
		DAY	MONTH	YEAR	TOWN	COUNTY	STATE OR COUNTRY	TO WHOM	DAY	MONTH	YEAR
1								Asa Bird			
F	Elmyra			1825				----- 1850	5	October	1863
2								Rosa Lavinia McLemore			
M	Amos	23	Aug.	1827				1 Oct. 1855	17	May	1899
	Abraham Bryan	10	Aug.	1831				Eveline Dickerson			
								----- 1848	2	April	1908
F	Anna Marie			1835				Charles C. Knight			
5											
6											
7											
8											
9											
10											
11											

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 my husband's
 G. Grandfather

SOURCES OF INFORMATION
 John McLemore and his father, Amos, lived in Giles County, Tennessee in 1816-1820. Abraham Yates lived there during the same period. Later, both John McLemore and Abraham Yates lived in Jones County, Mississippi.

OLE ROSINHEELS

". . . 'Have I reasons?' the answer is: my reasons will soon give out. And then I shall act, without reasons." --Wittgenstein, Philosophical Investigations, Remark #211.

The Pioneers

The first large scale immigration into the area which constitutes the present state of Mississippi occurred during the Territorial Period (1798-1817) and was especially intense just after the war of 1812. The stage was set for this great influx of settlers by three important events: the abandonment by the state of Georgia in 1802 of its claims to the territory gave clear jurisdiction to the United States government; the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 opened the Mississippi River to travel; and the First Choctaw Cession in 1805 opened for settlement a large tract of land between Natchez and the present Alabama border. The War of 1812 and the Creek War stemmed the tide of settlers temporarily, but by 1815 conditions were ripe for a great movement of people from the eastern and northern states into the new Mississippi Territory.

During the 15 years following the end of the War of 1812 several related families of McLemores settled in southern Mississippi. The earliest of these were the families of Moses and Richard McLemore. They settled in that part of Wayne County which, in 1819, became Covington County and, still later, in 1826, became Jones County. Both Moses and Richard are listed in the 1816 census of Wayne County, but neither of their names appears in the 1810 census of the same area. A fair guess is that Moses and Richard moved to Wayne County from Giles County, Tennessee, immediately following the end of hostilities in the War of 1812.

Both Moses and Richard were born in South Carolina, the former in 1787 and the latter in 1798. In Mississippi they settled in what might be called the Leaf River country of what is now Jones, Perry, Forrest, and Covington counties. For 20 years they, along with John McLemore who joined them in 1820, lived in close proximity to each other until, in 1836, Richard moved to Lauderdale county. Richard is known

today as the first permanent settler in Lauderdale County and the founder of Meridian, the second largest city in Mississippi. Both Moses and Richard married women named Nancy. Moses' wife was born in South Carolina around 1794. Richard's wife, Nancy Perry Hill, was the daughter of Caleb Hill who, like John McLemore and probably like Moses and Richard as well, came to the Leaf River country by way of Giles County, Tennessee. Nancy Hill McLemore seems to have been born in Tennessee. Moses served as an officer in the Tennessee militia under the command of General Andrew Jackson during the war of 1812 and the Creek War.

As suggested above, the third McLemore family head to arrive in the Leaf River country was John who was born in 1793, also in South Carolina. By 1812 John was living in Giles County, Tennessee. At the end of October in 1820, John sold his preference right to 160 acres of land in Giles County, Tennessee, to Jesse Allen and John Wisdom, giving a power of attorney to an old friend named Matthew Benthall to complete the deal since John was about to leave Tennessee for Mississippi. The land in question was located on Big Creek. John and Caleb Hill, the father-in-law of Richard McLemore, each had half interest in a pending grant from the State of Tennessee which they had acquired as assignees of William Rainey. The grant was not actually issued until November 21, 1821, (under Grant Number 16229) after John had already relocated in Mississippi. The actual title to the land was not transferred to Allen and Wisdom until June 23, 1831.

John McLemore had at least another 130 acres located on Big Creek in Giles County, Tennessee. On October 10, 1816, he bought such a tract from his father, Amos McLemore, for the sum of \$350. This tract was located between other holdings of Amos to the east and those of General Nathaniel Taylor on the west. It was part of a grant which Amos had received from the State of North Carolina on April 23, 1813. One of the witnesses to the deal between John and Amos was Caleb Hill.

When John McLemore arrived in the Leaf River country, Mississippi had been a state only three years. The place John chose to make his home was still a virgin wilderness. John seems to have located near Moses and Richard who very probably were his brothers. By 1836, John owned land in Jones County .

adjacent to properties owned by Moses and Richard; and at about the same time, John and Moses split an entire section in Perry County between them, with Leaf River flowing between roughly equal parts. Portions of the Perry County tract remained in the hands of John's descendants until the 1960's. The exact locations of these lands are described in Appendix A.

John McLemore's wife, Anna Marie Yates, was born in North Carolina around 1804. She is thought to have been the daughter of Abraham Yates who also lived in Giles County, Tennessee, prior to moving to Jones County, Mississippi. Anna and John McLemore had at least four children. There were two sons, Amos and Abraham Bryan, and two daughters, Elmyra and Anna. The older son, Amos, is the principal subject of this biography. Available genealogical information on the various McLemore families, including the family of John and Anna, is included in Appendix G.

Three other early arrivals in south Mississippi were Amos McLemore, born in 1796, William, born in 1800, and Josiah, born around 1804. Amos and Josiah were born in South Carolina. William was born in Tennessee. It is possible that Josiah, who is also referred to as Joseph in the 1850 and 1870 census records, was a son of Moses. Amos and Josiah were established in the Leaf River country as early as 1827. William arrived in 1836. The latter stayed in Covington County for only two years before moving on to Lauderdale County with Richard.

Virtually all of the McLemores of the so-called Piney Woods counties of Mississippi are descended from the six pioneer settlers mentioned above. It is quite indisputable from the record that these McLemore families, especially those of Moses, Richard, and John, were literally among the first families of the state of Mississippi. Moses and Richard settled in Wayne County while the area was still a territory of the United States government. At that time there were only about 230 white families inhabiting that entire, vast wilderness. If it turns out that Josiah was, indeed, a son of Moses, then he, too, can be counted among the very first of the pioneers of the Leaf River country. John McLemore brought his family to the new land within three years of the creation of the state of Mississippi, and within perhaps five years of the arrival of Moses and Richard in the Leaf River country.

We are now quite certain that the father of John McLemore was Amos McLemore of Giles County, Tennessee, who was originally from South Carolina. We are also sure that Richard McLemore's father was named Amos and that he, too, was from South Carolina. We know, further, that Richard's father-in-law, Caleb Hill, was a friend and neighbor of John and Amos in Giles County, Tennessee. These facts, together with the fact that John and Richard lived in close proximity to each other for many years in the Leaf River country, are compelling evidence for the belief that John and Richard were brothers. If so, their mother was probably the woman named Equilla or Acquilla who was listed in the 1850 census of Lauderdale County as part of the Richard McLemore household. Her name is given as Equilla Tiner in the census record. She was ninety years old. North Carolina was given as her place of birth. It is believed that after the death of Amos McLemore, she remarried a man named Tiner. Equilla must have been born around 1760.

The only Amos McLemore known to have lived in South Carolina prior to about 1800 was the one listed in the 1790 census of the Cheraw District. We know of this Amos Macklemore that he had 400 acres surveyed for himself on December 12, 1791. This land was located on Big Beaver Dam Creek swamp on the north side of Black Creek. It was bounded on all sides by vacant land. These 400 acres were surveyed for Amos Maclemore on December 12, 1791, and granted to him by the State of South Carolina on September 2, 1793. The record of the grant can be found in Volume 35, page 214 of State Grants in the South Carolina Archives. These 400 acres are located in the present Marlboro County, South Carolina.

The 1790 census of the Cheraw District lists a Richard Macklemore along with Amos as a head-of-household. It is possible that one or both of these men fathered some or all of the pioneer Mississippi McLemore men. At present, however, this is no more than a promising topic for further research. There were other McLemores living in South Carolina in 1790, and one should not allow the similarities of the names involved to blind him to other possibilities.

All of the American McLemores probably descended from a man whose first name we know only as an abbreviation: Mun. Macklemore. We do not know exactly

when Mun. Macklemore arrived in the New World, but we do know that he was in the Virginia colony not later than April 23, 1681. On that date Colonel Edward Hill, a noted public official and land speculator in Charles City County, Virginia, used the headrights of Mun. Macklemore and 43 other persons to secure his claim to 2200 acres of land in New Kent County, Virginia. Hill had apparently acquired Macklemore's headright (a right to 50 acres of free land bestowed upon each immigrant simply by virtue of his arrival in the colony) in connection with some other business transaction in which the headright was used as payment. Headrights were commonly used in this way as negotiable instruments, often being traded, for example, for passage from Europe or Great Britain to the colonies. Thus, the fact that Hill was in possession of Macklemore's headright does not necessarily mean that Hill ever knew Macklemore in person. Certificates testifying to the immigrant's right to 50 acres of land were issued at any time after the immigrant's arrival in Virginia by the county courts upon a proper showing of entitlement. Thereafter, these certificates were used almost as money is used today, and they sometimes floated on the economy for years before finally being used in connection with an actual claim to a particular tract of land. A fair guess, however, is that Mun. Macklemore was in Virginia by about 1675. For further information about the early McLemores and their origins, see Appendix D.

Major Amos McLemore

The name Amos has been popular among the McLemores originating in South Carolina. In the course of the studies reported here I encountered the name in connection with references to at least a dozen distinct individuals, three of whom have already been mentioned. In addition to these, Josiah, the youngest of the pioneer fathers, had Amos as a middle name, and several of the other founding fathers gave it to their children and/or grandchildren. William McLemore, for example, had a son named Amos who served in Company I of the 37th Mississippi Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. During the same period, the Amos of whom this biography is written served first as a captain and then as a major in the 27th Mississippi Infantry Regiment. The company commander of the Amos McLemore who served in the 37th Regiment was Captain Caleb H. McLemore, a son of Richard McLemore