

REGISTERED

ER

BRAND

Ebenezer Plantation

Artesia Road

Starkville, Mississippi
Rt 1 Box 422

C. V. McKELL
J. R. McKELL

6 Aug 1981

Mr. W. W. Taylor
Winnsboro County Museum
Winnsboro S.C. 29780

Dear Bill,

I enjoyed our conversation of this evening and thank you so much for any information you can give me.

My Great Great Grandfather William McKell came to this country from Scotland in early 1800 and settled in Fairfield county. He married Elizabeth (Betsey) Bell daughter of William Bell Sr about 1812 and had four children (that I know of) David, James, Nancy (Crown) Jane (Muse).

William died sometime between 7th of July 1821 when he wrote his will and 1 Oct 1821 when it was proven in Fairfield County S.C.

BRAND

Libenezer Plantation

Artesia Road

Starkville, Mississippi

C. V. McKELL

L. R. McKELL

Williams wife Elizabeth and her children moved to Mississippi in 1835/6 and purchased the farm I now operate.

I am enclosing a letter from S.C. Murray who did some research at Montreat and Columbia. This may help in your search.

I would like to know the following.

1. Date of death of William McKell?
2. His age or birth date?
3. Date of marriage of William McKell and Elizabeth Bell. I understand that in S.C. a marriage license was not required until 1900?
4. Any other McKells that might have been listed in Fairfield County 1800-18.
5. Do you know of any reason the Bells, Montgomery, and McKells would have moved to Mississippi in 1835-36. They had property and position so why move?

Yours truly
James H. McKell

Fairfield Oaks 19
Shreveport, La. 71104
July 26, 1981

Dear Jim:

I found out I was wrong about the Associate Reformed Presbyterian records being in Due West, S.C. They are in Montreat. I had time to read some of the Presbytery minutes, but couldn't find any early 19th century session minutes from A.R.P. Churches in Fairfield District, S.C. Yet I did find enough to confirm that the McKells, Bells, and Montgomerys were A.R.P. They say so in a petition to the Second Presbytery of the A.R.P. Synod from Mississippi in the 1830's. I have a Xerox copy which I am using in my History of Starkville Presbyterians, but you are welcome to it if you like.

To review what I told you on the phone:

Sept. 12, 1815 (Fairfield Dist. Deeds, Book A. p. 308)
William McKee paid \$500 to Jacob Dansby of Hickman County, Tenn. for 97 acres on Wilkins Creek, a branch of Broad River. Released to William Bell. (court clerk copied name as McKee, but should have been McKell: see below)

March 2, 1819 (Fairfield Book AA, p. 209)
William McKell paid \$1000 to Gracy Wood for 170 acres.

March 6, 1820 (Fairfield, Book BB p. 295)
William McKell paid \$280 to Creyton Ward for 80 acres on the waters of Broad River

December 18, 1823 (Fairfield Dist. Book GG p. 181)
Henry Mirnar (spelling ?) conveyed to heirs of William McKell 191 acres he bought at auction (a sheriff's sale) for \$712 on June 1820. William McKell paid him \$712 before his decease and this deed "confirms the verbal agreement. Witnessed: Hugh Montgomery, Charles Montgomery, William M. Bell. recorded June 12, 1826

Note: This places the death of William somewhere between 1820 and 1823.

December 1, 1836 (Fairfield Deeds, Book MM page 144)
William I Alston paid \$720 to Elizabeth McKell, David McKell, and William Bell as executors of . . . William McKell for 288 acres of land in two separate tracts, to wit: "One of 97 acres conveyed Sept. 12, 1815 to William Bell, the nominal purchaser for William McKell, the real purchaser, who at that time was an alien, by Jacob Dansby." And the other of "191 acres conveyed 18th Dec. 1823 by Henry Mirnar. Witnessed: Nathan Free and Elija Bell Signed by Elizabeth McKell, David McKell, and William Bell Sr.

Note: This is likely the sale of land in order to move to Mississippi. The David McKell I take to be the brother of William spoken of in William's will. It is doubtful that it could be a son since none of William's children could have reached the age of maturity, i.e. 21 yrs. to be able to serve as executor. Or had they? *David was born 1813*
was son born 1813

Now the question is what ever became of David? *5 or 6 yrs* Did he move to Miss. with the clan? Remain in S. C. ? Or go to other parts?

My curiosity was kindled by the above information so I went on looking in Columbia with the time I had. That's when I found the will of William Bell, Sr. (Fairfield Dist. Wills: Vol 2, 1820-1839, Book 10, page 5) He had children:

Son, William

Grandchildren: William Bell, Margaret Watt, Nancy Bell, James Bell and Sarah Bell -- these children of deceased son James

Grandchildren: Margaret Hawthorn, and Isabella Hawthorn, Mary Hawthorn, Nancy Hawthorn -- children of John Hawthorn (and a deceased daughter?)

Sons: Adam Bell
Robert Bell
John Bell

/ will dated 14 May 1824

Daughter: Margaret McGill

/ proved 20, Sept. 1825

Sons: Charles Bell
Thomas Bell
Hugh Bell

Daughters: Betsy McKell

Isabella Montgomery (wife of Hugh Montgomery)

(if these are in order of age Betsy is the eleventh of twelve children)

And what about said William Bell?

October 15, 1768 William Bell presented a memorial for 100 acres on Crooked Run Creek, Craven Co. S.S. (Craven County then made up about half the upper state. Later divided and Fairfield Dist. one part.)

Sept. 12, 1768 adjacent to the village of Winnsborough one hundred acres on Crooked Run Creek was an original grant to William Bell. (see history of Fairfield County)

June 5, 1786 (Vol 12 of State Grants, page 336)

For two pounds 6/8 sterling money paid by William Bell to the Treasurer of this state, conveyed 100 acres located in Cheraw Dist. on the Southwest fork of Thompson's Creek. Land surveyed 7 March, 1785

Were these the same William Bell's or were they Father and Son?

Will of William Bell, January 22, 1773 of Prince George Parish, Craven County, S. S. to wife Elizabeth ... to son William Bell ... to daughter Mary Bell ... proved 25 June 1773.

(this page 519, Vol. 15 Book B. 1771-1774 Record of Wills, Charleston County, S. S. - Note: in Colonial days and even later all wills and most other records were kept in Charleston, S. C.)

Evidently the Bells go back in South Carolina to before the Rev. War. Why did William McKell come to South Carolina? I tried to find other McKells there.

South Carolina Memorials (Registration of Land Grants) compiled by Mrs. Jerome A. Esker, 1946. On page 68 this:

Memorial exhibited by Wm White to be registered ... 100 acres Craven County .. 2 Feb. 1773 Reuben White (Vol. XII, Page 270) John McKell, D.S.

I don't know what D.S. could mean unless it is "District Surveyor"

No other McKells could I find. But I did run across names spelled McKle, and these were in Fairfield District.

and Elizabeth McKle in 1811 (could it be the same Betsy?)
a John McKle in 1832

And some strange coincidences:

a William McKee, E. McKee, and W. Bele in 1813

In the South Carolina state Census of 1829 (which census has been lost and there only remains the Index:

page 5, line 63 Elizabeth McKell (widow)

In Montreat I located three of the A.R.P. Churches in Fairfield District:

Winnsboro, sometimes called Bethel Church, estab. about 1820
Little River, or Sterling's Meeting House (The Sterlings are part of my Castles kin)
Brick Church

In a brief history of BRICK CHURCH I found:

It was/still is located about 12 miles from Winnsboro in the western part of Fairfield County. (on Little River) It was first called Little River then Ebenezer Church. The members to whom a deed for the land was first conveyed June 2, 1793 include:

Charles Montgomery, James Kincaid, William Bell, Hugh Montgomery,

Alexander Kincaid, William Watt (the Watts also my relatives)

Therefore I am almost certain that this was the congregation attended by our McKells, Montgomerys, and Bells.

Now I am wanting to visit the church and its cemetery.

This about exhausts what I was able to pick up in Columbia in the four hours in the Archives. There is much more material there that I didn't have time to look at. It would be worth a trip for you sometimes. I want to get to Charleston also, which has the South Carolina Historical Society library, with much more material.

Now a question or two for you. In my work on Starkville Church I found that William Bell was an elder in the Presbyterian Church Old School (now the U.S. Church). Why did he join this church when his relatives remained A.R.P. and by their consistent efforts got an A.R.P. Church in Starkville? Or was he a different family of Bells?

NOT SURE WILLIAM 13411

I'm curious as to approximately when William McKell came to this country. Do you have any indication of when he married Betsy Bell? On way to get at it would be the age of their eldest child and add a year. Do you have names and ages of William and Betsy's children? I would think his arrive preceded his marriage by at least a year, maybe more if he were working off his passage with a relative from the homeland. But that would give something to go on.

As you can see, I get hooked on genealogy. It is like a puzzle in which a few pieces have to be fitted together carefully to get a partial picture.

Good hunting,

Spencer