

Troup County, Georgia And Her People

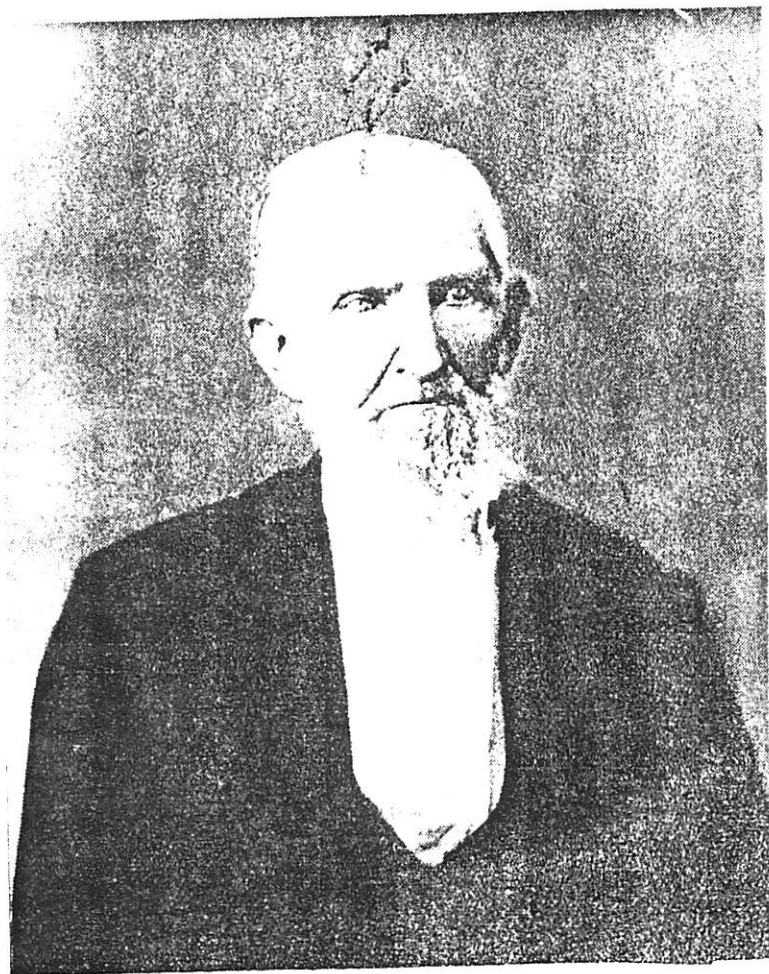
Martha S. Anderson

A GENEALOGICAL/HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

VOLUME VI

OCTOBER 1986

NUMBER 4



JAMES LOYD
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

APR 5 1987

LIBRARIES

ng
s
es.
t
900,

e
of

i-
me."

eron
il
,
ely
f-

nta

e

k
5
On-
in-
om
in
1,

v

d

f

ly
10.
on

ly

THE CAMERON FAMILY OF TROUP COUNTY
By Danny Knight


James C. Cameron, Senior, progenitor of the Cameron family of Troup County, was born 24 April 1764 in Northern Ireland. Coming to America, he settled in Fairfield County, South Carolina, after the American Revolution. There, according to family records, he was wed to Sarah Brown on 2 January 1790.

Leaving South Carolina, James Cameron purchased land in Clarke County, Georgia, from George Taylor on 7 December 1803. There he remained for approximately eight years, for, on 10 January 1815, James Cameron "of Jasper County" sold his land in Clarke County to Samuel Bryant. Later, on 9 April 1818, he purchased land in Jasper County from James Moore.

While a resident of Trussell's District, Jasper County, Georgia, James Cameron received two grants of land, one in Carroll County and one in Muscogee County, for his service in the Revolutionary War. He did not, however, come to Western Georgia immediately. Instead, he and Sarah Brown Cameron moved to Morgan County, Georgia, with his daughter and son-in-law, James and Mary Jane Cameron Loyd. Retaining the faith of his Scottish forefathers, James Cameron and his family united with the Oak Grove Presbyterian Church there.

Later, on 1 October 1831, James and Sarah Brown Cameron and James and Jane Cameron Loyd came by letter to the First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange, Georgia, from the Oak Grove Presbyterian Church of Morgan County, Georgia. They were, however, not the first of the family to settle in Troup County. The Cameron family represented 22^d of the members of the First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange at its founding on 21 March 1829, at which time LaGrange was just over three months old. Among the church's charter members are found the names of David Brown Cameron, Mary Lyle Cameron, and James Hawthorne Cameron, who was his father's junior in years only. The younger Cameron was Major in the Troup County Militia from 11 December 1828 until 3 May 1830, and, although the veracity of the statement has been disproven, he was stated to have built the first house on the permanent site of LaGrange's "old Court Square."¹ According to Knight's Georgia Landmarks, Memorials and Legends, "on the present town of LaGrange, the first house was built by James H. Cameron, a pioneer settler of Scottish descent. It was a structure of logs, built after the fashion which then prevailed on the frontier, but in later years this primitive dwelling was replaced by a handsome edifice."

The old home of James Cameron, Senior, still stands on the Glass Bridge Road in Long Cane, near West Point, Georgia. A few miles away stands the home of his son-in-law, James Loyd, who possessed a unique distinction in the religious history of Troup County. He and Phillip Hunter Greene, both well-educated Bible scholars, were the first people to teach Sunday School in Troup



County. As the Baptist and the Presbyterian Churches in Long Cane shared the Baptist Church's building and cemetery, this "Sabbath School" was a joint venture between the two churches. Later, when the Presbyterians erected their own building, it was named for Loyd, the oldest living member, who died in 1900, at the age of 93. The home of James' son, Thomas Cameron, stood near the others, and, in 1934, his granddaughter, Susie B. Morgan, wrote: "Our old colonial home burned the night of March 12, 1911. I was on a visit back there in 1921. The whole plantation was in ruins. I cried for two days after visiting the remains of my once beautiful, happy, childhood home."

Moreover, many other members of the family of James Cameron have risen to distinction in local and state affairs. General Alfred Austell, husband of James Hawthorne Cameron's daughter, Francine, emerged from the War Between the States with a largely reduced estate, but he soon returned to prominence in state affairs. On 1 September 1865, he organized the first national bank ever organized in the Southern States, known as the Atlanta National Bank.²

Perhaps, however, the most prominent member of the Cameron family was Benjamin Hazeltine Cameron, son of James Cameron, Senior. A prominent Georgia contractor, he built the old brick Troup County Courthouse in LaGrange in 1831, the Dobbs Building at LaGrange College, the Cameron-Awtrey-Brady House, the Cameron-Swanson House, and many other buildings. He was Judge of the Inferior Court of Troup County from 1836 until 1843 and again from 1856 until 1860, and he served as a state legislator in 1842, in 1847, and in 1854. Although descendants of Benjamin T. Cameron, his nephew, believe it to have been him, it is stated that, in October, 1861, he organized the Sallie Fannie Reid Guards, also known as Cameron's Company, which was named for the daughter of William Reid, who equipped the outfit. Thomas Glenn Cameron, Benjamin's son, served in the LaGrange Light Guards and was wounded at Wilderness, Virginia, on 5 May 1864. He was first married to Eugenia Reid, and he and both of his wives are buried in the Hillview Cemetery. His son, Benjamin Lee Cameron, who was born in the Cameron-Swanson House in 1865, married Mary Emma Watson and, along with his father and several brothers, settled in the Ware's Cross Roads Community. Benjamin Lee Cameron's wife was a descendent of James Mooty, and it was for his grandfather Cameron's grist mill and property that the Cameron Mill Road was named.

The life of the elder James Cameron, which had spanned nearly eight decades and two continents, drew to a close on 17 April 1840. Ten years later, on 16 December 1850, he was joined in the Cameron Family Plot in Long Cane by his wife, Sarah Cameron, who, during the course of her life of nearly 83 years, had, as a small child, taken a brave stand against British officers on her native South Carolinian soil and had also reared a family of ten children and many grandchildren. Although the progenitors of the Cameron family

and departed, the accomplishments of their descendents were to be many and were to be among the most influential in molding the history of Troup County.

Troup County, Ga. and Her People, Vol. II No. II, "Early History of Presbyterians in Troup," by Forrest Clark Johnson III. History of Atlanta, Georgia, edited by Wallace P. Reed, 1889.

☞☞ CAMERON ADDITION ☞☞

Following the completion of the preliminary portion of this article, the editor received information from Col. Jack M. Jordan, Austin, Texas, concerning the ancestry of James Cameron, Sr., progenitor of the Cameron family of Troup County. An abridged version of this lineage follows.

- John Cameron b. Iverness, Scotland (?) m. Mary Ann Fraser.
- 1. Thomas Cameron b. Ireland m., in Ireland, Susannah _____.
He arrived in Charleston Harbor with his family about 1767. In 1774, he was granted land on "the waters of Seetoys Fork of Sandy Creek, otherwise called Sandys River by some, in Craven County." Later, in 1785, he received a second grant of land located at the fork of Broad and Little Rivers, in Camden District. By 1793, however, he had sold this land and had moved to Elbert County, Georgia, with his children.
- 1-1. Thomas Cameron, Jr. m. Nancy Miller, daughter of John Miller.
- 1-2. Mary Cameron b. 1759 Ireland m. 1. Robert McClary m. 2 Robert Hawthorne.
- 1-3. James Cameron b. 24 Apr. 1761, Northern Ireland, d. 17 Apr. 1840, Long Cane, Troup County, Georgia, m. 2 Jan. 1790 Sarah Brown.
- 1-4. Joseph Cameron. (undocumented)
- 1-5. John Cameron. (undocumented)
- 1-6. Simon Cameron. (undocumented)
- 1-7. Benjamin Cameron. (undocumented)
- 1-8, 1-1-9, 1-1-10, three daughters. (undocumented)

DESCENDENTS OF JAMES AND SARAH BROWN CAMERON

(To find the parents of a particular person, remove the final digit of a person's number, and one will have the the number of the person's parents.)

- Flora Cameron b. 1790 m. 13 Nov. 1806 Samuel M. C. Lorance.
- 1. Mary Lorance b. 1807 m. 2 Sept. 1834 Moses Bently.
- 2. John Lorance b. 1809.
- 3. Sarah Lorance b. 1810 m. Harman Watson.
- 4. Caroline Lorance b. 1814 m. 28 Oct. 1834 Samuel Johnston.
- 5. Emily Lorance b. 1819 m. 28 Sept. 1834 Bennett J. Rushton.
- 6. Susannah Lorance b. 1820 m. 4 Feb. 1836 Seaborn J. Springer.
- 7. Martha J. Lorance b. 1821 d. 11 July 1894 m. 23 Dec. 1834 Joseph Rushton.
- Sarah Cameron b. 26 April 1793 d. 23 Jan. 1862 m. 11 May 1830 James Wilson b. 25 Nov. 1784 d. 24 Aug. 1880.
- 1. John Dodson Wilson b. 4 March 1831 d. 12 Nov. 1912 m. Rebecca Ann Justiss.