

Ellison, Major Robert

According to tradition the Ellisons were of English origin, imigrated to Ireland during a religious persecution probably living in Antrim or Derry. It is assumed that William and his family came in 1744. Robert educated in Pennsylvania as a deputy surveyor; reference Ellison, Fairfield County, South Carolina, by Clara Ellison Erath, Chapter III, Page 18-19

William Ellison and family tradition:

1. William Ellison - name of wife unknown

Children - William Ellison

Andrew Eillison

John Ellison

Robert Eillison

a daughter who married McAlister of South Carolina

#### Land Grants

William Ellison received a grant of 300 acres next to land of Robert Ellison on a branch of Little River in 1785. Reference - State Plats Book II, page 102, Archives (Dept. of), Columbia, South Carolina, also, November 1, 1767 - 150 acres on Little River and December 7, 1772 - 400 acres on Watts Branch Jackson Creek.

#### Homestead and Cemetery

Head branches of Jackson Creek, 4 lots in Town of Winnsboro--1 on Washington Street, others on Congress Street. The old homestead cemetery can be found in a wooded spot off of the highway going from Winnsboro to Newberry, and is about two miles from the Town of Winnsboro. A low wail of large rocks with a ditch beside it surrounds the cemetery, and another more modern wall with an iron gate surrounds the Ellison gravestones. There are many field stone type graves of

Kennedy, Moore, Watson, Weldon, and Robertson in the cemetery. Robert Ellison's home was once headquarters for a company of Revolutionary soldiers. The home was destroyed during the war and was rebuilt but was again burned in 1865, during the Confederate War (Page 35 - Descendants of John and Robert Ellison by Clara Ellison Erath). Robert Ellison born County Antrim, Ireland married Elizabeth Potts, November 6, 1772, in Charleston, South Carolina. Tradition says her father was Thomas Potts, (Land Grant 1732-1736; 1759-1770) of Charleston. The Potts family arrived on the Snow Betty Gregg from Belfast. The family listed were Robert Potts--200 acres, John Potts--100 Acres, Elizabeth Potts--100 acres. Their ages were Robert Potts - 58, Sarah Potts - 57 (Land Grant 1732-1736), John Potts - 21 (Land Grant 1767, 1768, 1769), and Elizabeth Potts - 15, deceased in 1774, Robert Potts -14, considered a minor.

#### Organized Company

During the Revolutionary War, Robert Ellison organized a company of which he was Captain under General Moultrie and was promoted to Major.

#### Mount Zion Society

The Mount Zion Society was formed. Its object was to promote education of the youth and build a school in the Camden District. It was chartered in 1777 with John Winn as President and Robert Ellison and William Strother as wardens. A school 1/2 stories was built. It was a log cabin. Copies of the minutes of the Mount Zion Society dated 1783 can be found. Tradition says Robert Ellison rode to Rowan, North Carolina, to persuade Thomas H. McCaule to be its President. It began with a membership of 58.

When Robert Ellison was captured by the British his wife, alone and unprotected with 3 children, was molested by the Tories, who tore her hair out by the roots and burned her home. She, upon little pack horses, with Newry, her servant, and her

little ones left for Charleston hoping to find protection in her relatives there. Newry persuades his wife and children and other servants Londonderry and Belfast to follow him and serve the family at camps. After reaching Charleston, Elizabeth Potts hired out these servants for her support.

Robert Ellison is mentioned when he was elected with others a delegate from St. Davis Parish to a convention in Columbia on the second Monday in May, 1790. This convention met and a new constitution was adopted on June third. It gave the counties of Marlborough, Chesterfield, Darlington, Williamsburg, Clarendon, Sumter, Kershaw two votes and touched Chester and Fairfield counties. This district was divided after the Revolution into three parts known as Chesterfield, Marlborough, and Darlington, (Bishop Gregg's History of Old Cheraw - page 448). He was returned a senator, (Page 450-451), elected county court judge from Darlington, (Page 42), and appointed by legislature as Col. of the 38th Regiment of Militia, (Page 455-457).

#### Elizabeth and the British Commander

When Robert Ellison was taken prisoner by the British, he was confined in one of the vaults under the post office building with Col. Hayne, (who was later hanged) and was offered release if he would take this oath which he refused. He has then confined on a British prison ship in the harbor of Charleston. Elizabeth (Potts) Ellison reached Charleston with her children, interviewed the British commander and pleaded that as he had her husband in confinement and her property had been destroyed by Tories, he ought to issue rations for her and her children. He did. Robert Ellison was sent to Dry Tortuque.

WILL OF ROBERT ELLISON

The State of South Carolina

In the Name of God Amen. I Robert Ellison of the District of Fairfield labouring at present under great bodily infirmities and being convinced of my approaching dissolution have thought proper to make this my last will and testament. In the first place I desire that my debts and funeral expenses should be paid out of the proceeds of my present crop and out of the purchase money of the following property that is to say One lot in the Town of Winnsboro containing one quarter of an acre; one tract of land containing One hundred and Sixty acres Situate in the District aforesaid bounded Each by the Widow Lochridge, land and on other sides by James McMullens land; Also one other tract of land containing One hundred and Seventy acres bounded West on Thomas Dodd's land and on other sides as laid down in the plat; and Also out of the debts due me including that of John Weldon. I desire that the above mentioned property should not be sold at public sale but at a private sale to the best advantage and if anything should remain afterpaying my debts and funeral expenses I direct the same to be equally divided among my Children. All the rest of my property real and personal I distribute in the following manner: To my eldest Son William Ellison and my Second Son John I give and bequeath that Tract of land or half of a tract Which lies above the mouth of the Wateree Creek on the West side of the Wateree River and bounded on the south by the said Creek; Also one other moiety of a tract of land situate a little distance above the Mouth of the Wateree Creek lying on each Side of the said Creek bounded East and North on Auston Peays on the West and North on John Hensons land and that moiety of the same tract which belongs to the said

Austin Peay and also Mrs. Briggs land to be equally divided between them Share and share alike and to the use of themselves their heirs and assigns forever; To Elizabeth Ellison eldest daughter of the said William Ellison I give and bequeath a young Negro girl named Binah to the use of herself her heirs and assigns forever; To Robert Ellison eldest Son of John Ellison I give and bequeath a young Yellow boy named Navey to the use of himself his heirs and assigns forever - To my Son Robert Ellison I give all that body of land on Which I now live Situate on the head branches of the Jacksons Creek and known by the following boundaries; to wit, bounded north on David Hornes and Robert Gamble East on Hugh Barclay; South on Samuel W. Yongue and James Camron and West on Major Moore and lands originally granted to Robert Box -- To my son James Ellison I give and bequeath One Tract of land containing three hundred acres situate on Lick Creek a branch of the Wateree Creek bounded on all sides. Then surveyed on vacant land to the use and behalf of himself his heirs and assigns forever; to the said James Ellison I likewise give the following negros, Jack, Monday, Prince, Nance, and Jane to the only proper use and behalf of himself his heirs & assigns forever. To Joseph Ellison my youngest son I give and bequeath that Tract of land originally granted to Robert Box which lies on the head branches of Jacksons Creek containing three hundred acres bounded when surveyed on all sides by vacant land to himself, his heirs and assigns forever -- To the said Joseph Ellison I likewise give and bequeath the negros Neury, Ned, Tom, Doll, Toney and Dublin to him his heirs and assigns forever and if either of them the said James and Joseph should die without attaining the age of twenty one years the property above devised to them or either of them to be divided between my sons William John and Robert, and the survivor of them and if they should both die without attaining the age of twenty one years then the said property to be divided between my said Sons William, John & Robert - To John Ellison I commit the guardianship of James

Ellison & the care of his property until he comes of age - To Robert I in like manner commit the guardianship of Joseph and the care of his property until he is of age; And as idleness is the parent of vice and always injurious to youth, I desire that Joseph shall by his own exertions procure himself food and clothing until he has the management of his own property - To my living daughter Sarah I likewise give and bequeath the two negroes Women Amey and Coutney with their increase to the use of herself her heirs and assigns forever - My riding chair I likewise give to my said daughter Sarah & Mary Ellison Wife of William Ellison to their joint use and benefit - I likewise will and direct that whatever money may be received from Colonel Hill and the balance of the money coming from the representatives of Crawford & also as much money as I may have paid toward the purchase of Mosey Pauls land be paid into the hands of John for the use of James Ellison, the last to be paid by Robert as his part of the land is of the greatest value so as to make up the sum of one thousand dollars if the same shall amount to so much. My beds I direct to be divided between my sons Robert James and Joseph. To my son Robert I likewise give my riding horse. And all the residue of my stock of cattle horses hogs and aforesaid and also my household furniture I direct to be divided between all my children but I think it most advisable that my son Robert should take the whole at a reasonable valuation and give to the rest their proper share in money. I likewise direct that my executors should out of the present crop pay to my son William two hundred dollars for his services during the year and also that he should be allowed one fourth part of the ensuing crop; and I also direct my said executores out of the ensuing crop to pay into the hands of my wife Jane Ellison fifty pounds in cash, and I hereby appoint my nephew William Ellison my friend Samuel Johnston and

by son Robert executors of this my last Will and testament.

Rt Ellison (SEAL)

Signed Sealed published and declared

the several words in the thirty ninth forty second forty

fourth and forty sixth lines being first interlined in presence of

Robert Dunlap

Robert Potts

James Homes

Proved 19th April 1806

Jno. Buchanan J.C.O. (LS)

Recorded 22nd April 1806

In Will Book #5 Page 116

Apt #14 File # 136

Children of First Generation

Major Robert Ellison born in Londonderry in 1742 - died March 8, 1806 (grave Fleming McMaster's place) married Elizabeth Potts of Charleston on November 6, 1772 died January 15, 1793 at age 45. (First wife) - issue. He married again Jennie Seauright - no issue.

Children:

1. Susannah - died September 10, 1804. Married probably in 1774 to Rev. David Dunlap. She was 36 years 8 months. He was 33 years 5 months. (See same grave First Presb. Church, Columbia, South Carolina - Southeast corner). See Horne's Growth of Presbyterian Church, Vol. 1, Page 596 died same day.
2. William eldest son born 1776 - died 1833 (Near Winnsboro - March 1798 - see grave marker). (See S. C. Historical - Gen. Mag. Vol. 25 - page 40) Married by David Dunlap - wife Mary Ann Harrison, 1783-1860, June 15 - will Winnsboro 47-730.
3. John born March 8, 1777, died December 20, 1863, buried Sardis Methodist, Talbot County, Georgia.  
Married first - Susannah Milligan 1772-1817 (79)  
second - Elizabeth Patterson  
third - Mrs. Harrison
4. Andrew - died age 12
5. Robert Ellison born July 17, 1779 (lost at sea after 1806)
6. Mary Ellison born June 27, 1781, died September 14, 1786 (?)
7. Sarah Elizabeth died 1856 at age 73. Married 1806 to James Adger. Died September 24, 1858 at age 81 (Second Presbyterian Cem. in Charleston - their



son John B. Adger, D. D., wrote My Life and Times, 1810-1899.

8. James 1788 married Jane Patterson

9.. Joseph - youngest- 16, Sept, 1784 Married probably Margaret Adger born  
October 1791, died May, 1854 (First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, S. C.)

### Children of Second Generation

William eldest son, born in 1776, died in 1823. Married 1798 Mary Ann Harrison 1783- June 15, 1860. William's will dated 1833. Marriage performed by Rev. Mr. David Dunlap. William was working in Charleston then. Mary Ann was from Fairfield County. This couple lived in the homeplace. Sue Cem. for grave. See S. C. Hist. Gen. Mag. Vol. 25, page 40.

#### Children:

1. Elizabeth listed as oldest in will 14-136. Married Samuel William Chambers (or Alex.), moved to Florida. Had one son, William Ellison Chambers. - married Mary Ann Arther.
2. William - married Lizzie, oldest daughter Robert Adger died leaving two children. Issue William, died 1862 aged 21 Confederate Casualty (See Presby. Cem, Winnsboro)
3. Isabella W. born 1803, died 1870 age 67. Married first - William Adger, Jr. died 3-24-1826. second - 4-10-1832, Presbyterian Minister and Missionary George Boggs, 1796-1871. Children: William Law Adger Born 1822, died 5-11-1842; Joseph Ellison Adger born 1824, died October 21, 1845; Susannah Adger died 1826 several months old; also, George Boggs 1840-1900. Thos. Boggs 19 Sec. Presby. (in Western back side)
4. Harriet born 1805 married Kirkland Harrison (Mary Jane) of Harriet Kirkland Harrison married Rev. Thos. Hoyt.
5. Mary Ann Ellison born 1808. Married Col. Alex William Yongue, second son of Samuel Whorter Yongue, born 1799, married 1831, moved to Florida--unmarked and unknown grave.

Children: Samuel Whorter born 1831

William Ellison born 1834

Robert Ellison born 1838

Alex William born 1840

6. Margaret - 1810, Married John Adger - daughter Susan Elizabeth wife of David E. Johnston, daughter John and Margaret, born February 13, 1840, died November 29, 1858, Presbyterian Cem., Winnsboro. Census - 1850 names 3 more: Mary 1844

James 1845

Robert Emmet born March 15, 1815, died December 23, 1881. Married

Cynthia Robertson, born June 24, 1821, died April 7, 1878

Reference -- Census Records

Will

Hist., Gen. Mag., Vol 25, Page 40. Marker First Presbyterian Church, Columbia. Marker 2 miles from Winnsboro. See also "My Life and Times" by John B. Adger, D. D., page 26. See D.A.R. Patriot Index, page 219. Ellison's Fairfield County, Clare Ellison Erath.

### Children of Third Generation

Mary Ann Ellison married Alex Wm. Yongue. He was a colonel and the second son (see No. 5). Their son William Ellison Yongue, (grandson of Parson Samuel Whorter and Rebecca Potts). He was born 1834, Winnsboro, S. C., on Sion St. in Mrs. Mattie Cathcart's house. He married Amanda Jane Pickett, daughter of John B. Pickett and Sarah Boulware, 1860 and died 1919. She was born 1838 in Fairfield and died in Fairfield, Fla., 1913. (See cem. Presbyterian Church, Fairfield, Fla.)

Their Children were:

1. Sallie (called Sissy) married Will Fant, no living issue, Morriston, Fla.
2. Alex William died bachelor October 7, 1953. Fairfield, Fla.
3. Minnie Adger (Mary Ann) born 2-29-1864, Fairfield Co., died 11-10-1931, Winnsboro, S. C., married at White Oak, S. C., 10-15-1890, to Dr. John Creighton Buchanan, Sr., born 8-15-1862, Winnsboro, S. C., Congress St., died Garden St., 2-28-1943.
4. Mattie (Martha) married Will Finlay, lived Kendrick, Fla.
5. Alice married Brad S. Dansby, Reddick, Fla.
6. Dixie (Betsy Bones) married Fuller Stafford, Leesburg, Fla.
7. Amanda, died unmarried
8. Lila (Eliza) married James Devore
9. Henry Gibson married Maude Devore, Reddick, Fla.

Compiled by Ethel Buchanan Sanborn, a great, great, great granddaughter of Robert Ellison.

Additional information:

Ellison, Capt. Robert - Regiment

First Lieutenant - James Sanders

Second Lieutenant - John Ellison

(He organized this company)

Alexander Boyes	James McDowell	William McLauey
Eliazor Gore	David McCreight	James Morrison
Jno. Ashfore Gore	James McCreight	Alex Robinson
David Hamilton	Robert Gray	James McQuain
Samuel Armstrong	Samuel Dods	Jno. Agnew
James T. Kennedy	James Dods	James McMullen
William Martin	William Wilson	William Young
Jno. Martin	Alex McQuarters	James Hanin
Cato West	John Askew	Thomas Saint
Edward Bland	Andrew M. Dole	
Alex McDowle	William McCallester	
William Penny	Robert Potts	

Military Record:

I claim Major Robert Ellison as my direct ancestor who served as Capt. 3rd S. C Rangers, November, 1775, as listed in the Historical Register of the Continental Army, 1775-1783, taken prisoner at Augusta, September, 1780. Served as a Senator.

See Archives:

AA---535; AA---6686; AA---2217; 5136B; 3645A; AA---2217 No. 92 Robert Ellison for 203 days duty as a private in Gen. Marion's Brigade from 1st November, 1750 -

20 August, 1781 and 92 days on duty as Lieut. in same regiment for 20 August - 20 November, 1781.

See Moultries Memoirs, Vol. 1, Page 447

See Hist. Gen. Mag., Vol. 1, pages 195-196. Also, Vol. 29, Page 330

See My Life and Times, Page 27, 28, and 29

He belonged to the Order of the Cincinnati.

References on Major Robert Ellison are:

My Life and Times by John B. Adger, D. D. and

Ellisons, Fairfield Co., S. C. by Clara Ellison Erath, Houston, Texas, 1972