

Volume I

Descendants

of

Our Alabama Hendersons

Enduring Henderson Family Relationships

- **Through Neighbors**
- **Through Marriage**
- **Through Religion**

The Challenge of Genealogical Research

Upon his retirement in 2013, the author became 'hooked' on genealogical research and began compiling an ancestry annals book for himself and another for his wife. His wife is **Ann Ella Henderson Collier** who traces her lineage back through Eugene Archie Henderson to John Clifton Henderson to Edmund Waller Henderson to William Franklin Henderson. Suggest you consider an Ancestry Annals book to be just the opposite of a 'family tree' - namely, take yourself as the starting point and look backward in time at successive generations of your grandparents. One challenge with this approach to genealogical research is the increasing number of unique surnames which must be dealt with plus each successive generation results in doubling of the number of one's grandparents. In effect, the longer you research your ancestral lineage, the bigger your effort becomes. Author's goal has been to document each set of his wife's ancestors (also his ancestors) who actually lived in America - earlier ones living in the 'old country' will have to wait. By late 2016, the author had compiled an Ancestry Annals book for his wife which included about 110 sets of her Henderson-related grandparents dating back nearly 300 years! Suggest you take a look at her ancestral tree (included later in this section) which likely includes many of your ancestors as well. Author also included the state in which each individual was born and died as an aid to help the reader more easily visualize emigration patterns among these families.

Researching one's ancestral heritage can be a pain-staking and complicated process - if you want to ensure that you have made the correct identification. Compiling an Ancestry Annals book is somewhat akin to solving a multi-dimensional jigsaw puzzle (i.e., author likes jigsaw puzzles). In order to ensure correct identification of ancestors from several generations back, the author has evolved the following multi-step process in his research. Its emphasis is on correct identification of all members within each family unit. The reader will see such an emphasis on individual families throughout this book.

a) Author has encountered numerous examples whereby neighboring 1st cousins have names and birthdates which are nearly identical. In order to identify a *specific individual*, the author requires each of following attributes to differentiate a specific individual. Throughout the book, the reader will see dates included with each individual name, e.g., "William Franklin Henderson (1811-1890)".

- 1) Individual's full legal name
- 2) Year of Birth
- 3) Year of Death
- 4) (better) Location of Birth
- 5) (better) Location of Death

b) In order to identify a *family unit*, author considers identity of members across three generations - grandparents, parents, and each child. All of this information is included on

one page in an easy-to-read format as an aid for the reader to identify any inconsistency in the information being presented. The names and dates of birth must be compatible among family members. For example, there is no possibility that a child could have been born before his/her parent nor will there be a child born after the mother reaches 50 years of age.

c) In order to **associate individuals** within a family unit, the author considers WHERE these individuals were born, lived, and died. Given the state of travel prior to the 1940s, newlyweds were almost always neighbors before they married. Understanding of emigration patterns among the individuals is critical to ensuring that each individual is actually a member of that family. Remember that there is a lot of commonality of names among family members - it is often difficult to differentiate between such cousins. This need to consider location as an important factor in verifying family membership led author to include states in which individual lived as part of his wife's Henderson ancestral tree.

d) Prior to 1900, groups of families **clustered together** and (often) emigrated together. The author has taken advantage of this clustering to identify hard-to-identify individuals. For example, the author is now convinced that the 'Our Henderson' family were neighbors of the Stephens, Wardlaw, and Logan families near Abbeville, SC in 1820. He is trying to identify the parents of William Franklin Henderson (and mother of Agness Robinson Stephens) by looking at individuals listed on the census and property rolls for Abbeville County in 1820 - which were destroyed by Sherman's forces during the Civil War. The search continues.

e) Finally, the author performs a **'sanity check'** by considering ALL of the information related to the extended family (i.e., 3 generations) and its members to make sure that all 'facts' seem consistent. This check often finds obvious errors which would not appear were he to analyze information only for one individual. For example, author has encountered a few cases where researchers have matched the wrong couple (e.g., father married to daughter-in-law). Other cases require that a young woman must have emigrated to a different state before marriage - while her parents remained behind - an unlikely occurrence. Any inconsistency highlights an obvious need for further research.

Alabama Hendersons of Greene County

Descendants of the Greene County Hendersons trace their ancestral heritage back to one of four Henderson siblings (i.e., Samuel, David, William, and Cynthia) who emigrated from South Carolina to Greene County, Alabama in the 1820s. However, researchers have been trying to identify the parents of these four siblings for the past two decades without success. As you probably already know, the Henderson surname is allegedly the 13th most widely used surname in America - which just makes the search more difficult. Author's experience suggests there was at least one Henderson family in every county in America by the 1820s. The first Henderson death in Greene County of which author is aware occurred in 1826. According to the census, there were at least two additional Henderson families (i.e., beyond 'our Hendersons') in Greene County during the 1830s.

William Franklin Henderson (and his siblings) were part of a wave of Irish immigrants who emigrated from South Carolina to Greene County, Alabama in the 1820s. Most of them were looking to become 'land owners'. By the early 1820s, the U.S. Government opened new lands for settlement which are located in present-day NW Alabama and NE Mississippi. Author read one account which indicated as many as 90% of the immigrants living in parts of South Carolina emigrated to Alabama and Mississippi during this time period. Apparently, there was concern in South Carolina that too many residents were leaving!

A surprising result of the author's research has been to uncover several close relationships between Henderson family and neighboring families which have survived for generations. The **Stephens** and **Henderson** families have been linked since the mid-1700s when they lived together in Virginia and early 1800s in South Carolina before they emigrated to Greene County, Alabama in the 1820s. By the time they arrived in South Carolina, this group was joined by the **Wardlaw** family - there were almost certainly other familiar surnames as well. Surnames of Scottish families who intermarried with the Hendersons after they settled in Greene County include **Drummond, Legg, Lamb, and Mayes**. A more recent addition to this list includes the **Roebuck** family who intermarried (4 times in one generation) with the Henderson family beginning in 1928. Each of you as individual readers are likely to identify additional family relationships as you compare grandparents in Ann Ella Henderson Collier's ancestral tree with your own grandparents. Good luck on your personal journey in discovering your grandparents.

Fifteen (of 16) of Ann Ella Henderson's GGGrandparents emigrated from/through South Carolina to Greene County, Alabama and Starkville, Mississippi in the 1820s. They traveled through the Cumberland Gap by wagon and (likely) built rafts to float down the Holston and Tennessee Rivers to their destination. One of her GGGrandparents settled near Stevenson, AL which is on the Tennessee River about 30 miles downstream from Chattanooga. Four of her GGGrandparents (surnames included Montgomery, Nason, Bardwell, Milling, Rogers, Guion) floated down the Tennessee River to Corinth, MS before driving overland to settle in Starkville, MS. These people

were some of the earliest settlers in Starkville and were later involved in establishment of Mississippi State University.

Ten (10) of Ann Ella Henderson Collier's GGGrandparents (surnames included Henderson, Stephens, Wardlaw, Cartee, Lamb, Drummond, Legg, Mayes, Briggs, Williamson, Jones, Harris, and Archibald) floated down the Tennessee River to Huntsville, Al before driving overland to Tuscaloosa, AL. At that point in time, Greene County was literally at the 'end of the civilized world' - there were no roads between northern and southern Alabama. During the 1830s, there was a single 'superhighway' (i.e., graded wide enough for wagon traffic) from Tuscaloosa to Eutaw. This road passed through Ralph, the original Bethel Baptist Church property, and Knoxville on its way to Eutaw. Author was amazed to learn that all 16 of Ann Ella's GGGrandparents migrated to a small area in NW Alabama and NE Mississippi at about the same time. For certain, his ancestral migrations did not cluster in this manner. The first two generations of Ann Ella's grandparents in Greene County included 17 unique surnames - if you include the spouses of their children the number of unique surnames grows to about 40! **The practical impact of this finding is that each "Henderson Cuzzin" can claim blood kinship to a large number of pioneer families who settled Greene County in the 1820s and 1830s!**

There was a caravan of mostly Irish immigrants who migrated from Edgefield District, SC to Greene County, AL in 1827. Per the White Family ancestry book, Thomas and Isabel Drummond were part of this caravan (i.e. Thomas is listed as Charter Member of Beulah Baptist Church). Apparently, Benjamin Waller Stephens and Margaret Wardlaw (along with the Widow Henderson and three children - Samuel, David, and Cynthia) were also part of a another caravan in 1827. Mr James Roebuck of Tuscaloosa told author in Feb2015 that one of his ancestors was part of a similar caravan which emigrated from Edgefield District, SC in 1834 to Tuscaloosa - where they camped for one year - before moving on to Greene County. Author now suspects there were multiple caravans of migrants on a yearly basis for at least two decades beginning about 1820.

Prior to 1900, travel (except by water) was very difficult. Roads were scarce and travel was either by horse or walking. For example, there was one graded 'superhighway' (i.e., 10 feet wide) between Tuscaloosa and Eutaw in the 1830s over which travelers could drive a wagon. It does not take one long to realize that most newlyweds must have been nearby neighbors (e.g., 2-3 miles maximum) before marriage; otherwise, how would they have occasion to meet and fall in love. Reality was those that lived more than a few miles apart were unlikely to meet at all. Further, it was not unusual for a newlywed couple to undertake the hardships and hazards of emigrating to a new land (e.g., South Carolina to Greene County) in search of their new future together.

Author read one article that described a Wardlaw family member trip. In this case, individual boarded a steamboat on the Black Warrior River at the Eutaw landing. From there, the trip took two days just to reach Tuscaloosa!

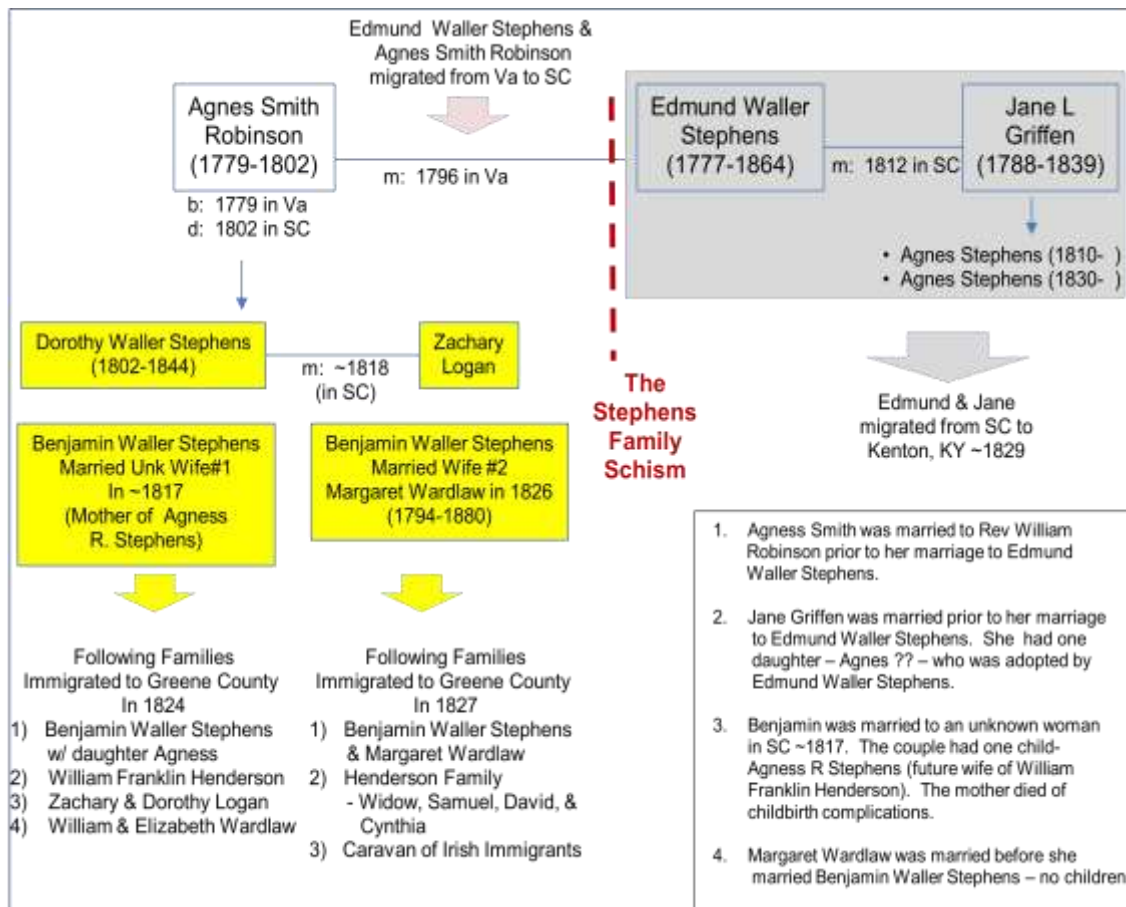
Another unusual attribute of Ann Ella Henderson Collier's ancestors in Greene County was (and still is) their close relationship with four local churches: Bethel Baptist, Beulah Baptist, Mt Hebron Presbyterian, and Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian. Author's research indicates that twenty nine (29!) of Ann Ella's grandparents are buried in Greene County, Alabama. Twenty seven (27) of them are buried in the cemeteries associated with these four churches. Also, author is aware of the large number of Henderson descendants who are buried in the Mesopotamia Cemetery at Eutaw, Alabama. **There are several hundred Henderson family 'cuzzins' covering seven generations who are buried in these cemeteries .**

Author was surprised to learn that early churches (including Bethel and Beulah) in Greene County did not hold weekly services. For several decades after their founding, **services were integrated** and services were conducted once monthly - whether the preacher was available or not. Apparently, Beulah congregation had a 2-day meeting with Saturday being the day to conduct Church business and Sunday being the day for preaching. Church weddings were apparently another activity which did not come into vogue until about 1900. Further, early church members were compelled to attend each month, refrain from prohibited behavior such as cards and dancing, and to contribute to the church treasury - or face expulsion. As you can see, church influence on their daily lives was significantly stronger than it is today. Author has a copy of the Beulah Baptist Church meeting minutes which extend from its original founding to the present day - reading these minutes frequently turns up interesting tidbits about early life in Greene County.

Tracking Henderson family ancestry prior to William Franklin Henderson (and his three siblings) has proven to be a "show stopper" for almost two decades to researchers of the Greene County Hendersons. As a researcher, the author believes he is the one nearest to actually being able to identify the parents of William Franklin Henderson and mother of Agness Robinson Stephens. His research indicates there were three closely knit families (i.e., **Stephens, Logan, and Wardlaw**) who lived near Abbeville, SC prior to 1820. These three families emigrated to Greene County, AL in the 1820s where they were again neighbors whose children intermarried. Author research suggests (but has yet to prove) that the **Widow Henderson and her four children (i.e., Samuel, David, William, and Cynthia) - as well as mother of Agness Robinson Stephens - were neighbors with these three families in Abbeville County, SC in the years just prior to 1820.**

Determining the lineage of Agness Robinson Stephens (i.e., wife of William Franklin Henderson) has also proven to be difficult. Author is confident in his research which shows Benjamin Waller Stephens was the father of Agness Robinson Stephens. However, the identity of Agness' mother is still unknown. Mixed into this research is a schism which apparently developed in the family of Edmund Waller Henderson (i.e., Benjamin's father) after Edmund married his second wife in 1810. Diagram below depicts results of author's research regarding the background and migrations involving family of Agness Robinson Stephens (i.e., wife of William Franklin Henderson) and why researchers have had such difficulty in reconstructing her family tree.

Edmund Waller Stephens married Agness Smith Robinson in Virginia in 1796 - after which the couple emigrated to Abbeville County, SC. Their first child Benjamin Waller Stephens (1797-1844) was born in Virginia and their second child Dorothy Waller Stephens was born in South Carolina (in 1802). Year of death suggests that Agness Smith Robinson (1779-1802) died of childbirth complications when Dorothy was born. There is a Stephens family story about how several members of Benjamin Waller Stephens (1754-1839) family emigrated to Abbeville County, SC where they encountered serious health problems and multiple deaths - including the death of Agness Smith Robinson in 1802. Problems were sufficiently bad that Benjamin, Sr and Benjamin, Jr left Virginia and traveled to South Carolina to 'rescue' his children. Several of them had long-term symptoms similar to those produced by malaria.



Stephens Family Schism and Separate Paths to Alabama and Kentucky

There appears to have been a split - probably over money because Edmund was relatively wealthy. Another likely source of friction was that typically found when the father remarries and has a second family. In the 1820s, the Edmund Waller Stephens family split as follows:

- a) Edmund's first family - Both Benjamin and Dorothy (with their respective spouses and children) emigrated to Greene County, AL in about 1824. Note that Benjamin

The Hendersons of Greene County

returned to SC in 1826 long enough to marry Margaret Only Wardlaw before the newlyweds returned to Greene County, AL in 1827.

b) Edmund's second family - Edmund and Jane Stephens (and children) married in 1812 and then migrated to Kenton County, KY in 1829.

Edmund Waller Stephens (1777-1864) married his second wife (widow) Jane L Griffin (1788-1839) in 1812. Census includes a daughter Agnes Stephens who was born in 1810 - presumably this daughter was born during Jane's first marriage and adopted by Edmund after they were married..

Circumstantial evidence (but thus far no proof) suggests that both Benjamin Waller Stephens and Margaret Only Wardlaw had been married to other spouses prior to their 1826 marriage in South Carolina. Benjamin was 29 years of age and Margaret was 32 years of age at time of their marriage. Also, Margaret's parents had emigrated to Greene County, AL in 1824. Land records show that William C Wardlaw (also spelled Wardlow) purchased 80 acres in Greene County in 1824 and Benjamin Waller Stephens purchased the adjoining 80 acres in 1826. William's property was about 4 miles NE of Eutaw near the Black Warrior River and straddled the 'superhighway' which connected Tuscaloosa with Eutaw.

Note: One historical account indicates that William C Wardlaw designated a 1-acre plot of his 80-acre homestead as the Wardlaw family cemetery. The author has been attempting to prove whether or not such a cemetery still exists - without success as of March 2017. If true, it is likely that William and Mary Wardlaw as well as daughter Lydia and her husband Theophilous Murphy were buried there in 1840. Unfortunately, timber on this property has been harvested multiple times since the Stephens and Wardlaw families relocated elsewhere - author suspects that any family cemetery was destroyed during logging operations.

Circumstantial evidence suggests that Benjamin Waller Stephens' first marriage was at age ~20 to a young woman who lived in South Carolina. Their first child was Agness Robinson Stephens (1818-1873) who was born in South Carolina - Agness later married William Franklin Henderson in Greene County, AL. Circumstantial evidence suggests that Agness' mother died of childbirth complications in 1818. As of Feb2017, author has been unable to find any reference to this marriage or the supposed mother - and neither have any of the other Henderson family researchers been able to identify Agness' mother. Note: Benjamin gave his deceased mother's name (i.e., Agness Smith Robinson) to his baby daughter - author presumes that his wife was deceased before naming of her baby girl.

The scenario described above includes five important criteria related to Agness Robinson Stephens:

a) Per some of the Henderson family researchers, Agness' mother was allegedly born in Virginia in the 1860s. However, author's research indicates that Agness' grandmother

was the one most likely born in Virginia. Agness' mother was almost certainly born about 1780 - probably in South Carolina. Remember that her four Henderson children were born between 1803 and 1818 and the Widow Henderson allegedly died in 1845 in Greene County.

b) Per census records, Agness was born in 1818 in South Carolina and emigrated to Alabama prior to her marriage (about age 17) in November 1835.

c) Since Agness was only 17 when she married, William Franklin Henderson and the Stephens family must have lived near each other there in Alabama. Remember that William Franklin Henderson had been working his new Snoddy homestead for almost four years when the couple married in November 1835. William's land was at least ten miles distant from the Stephens homestead (4 miles NE of Eutaw). Otherwise, their courtship and marriage would have been almost impossible given the distances involved.

Note: Both Stephens family (i.e., Benjamin and Margaret Stephens) and Henderson family (i.e., William and Agness Henderson) became members of Bethel Baptist Church shortly after its founding in the late 1830s. Also, David Henderson purchased 80 acres near Bethel Baptist Church at about the same time as did the Stephens family. Author suggests it likely that David Henderson's family, including the Widow Henderson, were also early members of Bethel Baptist Church. Author's research suggests that the **Widow Henderson was buried in the Old Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery in 1845**. Author is still looking for a list of Charter Members of Bethel Church - **he suspects that the Stephens and Henderson families were charter members**.

Note: During visit to Greene County in October 2016, Mr Ray Drummond told author about a story told him many years ago by his grandfather. Supposedly, each of these early farmers goal was to clear one acre of their property (for cultivation) each year. If so, William Franklin was not able to complete clearing of his 80-acre homestead within his lifetime! Further, Ray said that these early farmers planted turnips (?) as their first year's crop on the newly cleared land - he did not know the reason why.

d) There is a 12-year gap between Agness' birth and birth of Benjamin and Margaret Stephens oldest child. Gap strongly implies that Margaret was not Agness' mother as some researchers contend.

e) Agness Smith Robinson (1779-1802) married Edmund Waller Stephens (1777-1864). Their son was Benjamin Waller Stephens (1797-1844) - who author's research indicates is the father of Agness Robinson Stephens (1818-1873). Agness Robinson Stephens married William Franklin Henderson (1811-1890) - their daughter was named Agness Robinson Henderson (1836-1861). This unusual spelling of 'Agness' paired with the surname 'Robinson' goes back to the Reverend William Robinson (1708-1792) and Agness

Smith (1738-1792). Reverend Robinson included this unusual spelling of his wife's name on both their wedding record and his will

Note: Author has been unable to find any record which lists this mother and daughter combination as anything other than 'Agness R.' However, author found the "Agness" and "Robinson" names beginning with Agness Smith (1738-1792) and propagating forward through five generations of Stephens and Henderson women.

Note: Among Ann Ella's ancestors, Agness Robinson Stephens (and her daughter Agness Robinson Henderson) are the only people who could potentially have had the name 'Roebuck' as part of his/her name prior to 1928. Author's research (Thanks to Tina Henderson who first proposed this idea) indicates that Agness' middle name was 'Robinson' instead of 'Roebuck' because the first Henderson-Roebuck marriage did not occur until 1928. To this point, Henderson family researchers have used the initial R. or Roebuck as Agness' middle name - Author suspects that all of them are propagating an error which was made by an early researcher in the 1990s.

Following table lists a number of original land patents in Greene County, AL which were purchased from the Government by Ann Ella Henderson Collier's grandfathers in the 1820s and 1830s.

Greene County Land Patents Purchased by Ann Ella's Ancestors in the 1820-1860 Period

Purchaser	Date	Acres	Map Group	Township	Range	Section	Proximity Location	Relationship to Ann E Henderson Collier
Zachary Logan	1824	160	19	T-22N	R3-E	5	Knoxville	Husband of Dorothy Stephens
Zachary Logan	1826	160	19	T-22N	R3-E	5	Knoxville	Husband of Dorothy Stephens
Zachary Logan	1837	80	19	T-22N	R3-E	5	Knoxville	Husband of Dorothy Stephens
William Wardlaw	1848	40	25	T20-N	R1-W	23	~15 miles SW of Eutaw	Ann's GGGGrandfather
William Wardlaw	1848	40	25	T20-N	R1-W	23	~15 miles SW of Eutaw	Ann's GGGGrandfather
Benjamin W Stephens	1826	80	18	T22-N	R2-E	12	4mi NE of Eutaw	Father-in-law of William Henderson
Benjamin W Stephens	1835	80	19	T22-N	R3-E	6,7	Knoxville	Father-in-law of William Henderson
Edward Mayes	1830	320	12	T23-N	R2-E	4,5,8,9	1mi NE of Union	GGGGGrandfather of Ann Ella
Edward Mayes	1834	80	12	T23-N	R2-E	5	1mi NE of Union	GGGGGrandfather of Ann Ella
Edward Mayes	1837	120	12	T23-N	R2-E	5	1mi NE of Union	GGGGGrandfather of Ann Ella
Edward Mayes	1838	40	12	T23-N	R2-E	5	1mi NE of Union	GGGGGrandfather of Ann Ella
William Franklin Henderson	1832	80	11	T23-N	R1-E	5	Snoddy Community	Ann's GGGrandfather
Thomas J Drummond	1834	40	6	T24-N	R2-E	36	Snoddy Community	Ann's GGGGrandfather
Thomas J Drummond	1835	40	6	T24-N	R2-E	35	Snoddy Community	Ann's GGGGrandfather
Thomas J Drummond	1838	40	6	T24-N	R2-E	36	Snoddy Community	Ann's GGGGrandfather
Thomas J Drummond	1839	80	6	T24-N	R2-E	36	Snoddy Community	Ann's GGGGrandfather
Thomas J Drummond	1858	40	6	T24-N	R2-E	36	Snoddy Community	Ann's GGGGrandfather
David Henderson	1835	40	22	T21-N	R1-E	1	~8 miles west of Eutaw	William's Brother
David Henderson	1835	40	17	T22-N	R1-E	26	~8 miles west of Eutaw	William's Brother
David Henderson	1839	80	7	T21-N	R3-E	34	Just SW of Bethel Baptist Church	William's Brother
Samuel Henderson	1835	80	22	T21-N	R1-E	1	~8 miles west of Eutaw	William's Brother
Joseph W Cartee	1858	120	6	T24-N	R2-E	24	2mi east of Snoddy	Ann's GGGrandfather
Edmund W Stephens	1860	80	32	T24-N	R3-E	32	Just SW of Bethel Baptist Church	??

Author's supposition: Both Benjamin Waller Stephens family and William Franklin Henderson's siblings and mother originally settled in the area about 4 miles NE of Eutaw, AL near the Black Warrior River. Their properties were adjacent to the 'superhighway' which ran from Eutaw to Knoxville to Bethel Church to Ralph to Tuscaloosa. This road was apparently one of the few roads in Greene County in the 1830s which was wide enough to support wagon traffic. Suggest this proximity is the reason each of these people became involved with Bethel Baptist Church at Ralph, AL in the 1830s - and why three generations of them are buried in the Bethel Cemetery. Author

would not be surprised to learn that both Stephens and Henderson families were charter members of Bethel Baptist Church when it was organized in 1834 - but as of early 2017 has been unable to locate any church records to prove this supposition. For certain, both Benjamin Stephens and David Henderson families relocated their homesteads to the immediate vicinity of Bethel Baptist Church prior to 1840.

Samuel Henderson's family moved to Chickasaw County, MS (near Starkville) in early 1840s because their first child was born in Greene County, AL in 1840 and second child was born in Mississippi in 1843. Griffin and Cynthia Henderson Cockrell moved to Mississippi in the 1840s (i.e., before the 1850 census) - apparently without ever purchasing any land in Greene County. Census records indicate that Samuel, David, and Cynthia were illiterate and could neither read nor write.

Following the Civil War (and before 1870 census), David Henderson's family also moved to Mississippi. William Franklin Henderson and his family (and their descendants) were the only Henderson family members to remain in Greene County, AL. David Henderson, his wife, and six children are listed as illiterate (neither read nor write) in the 1840 census. Also, census indicates an older woman (probably David's mother - the unidentified Widow Henderson) living with them.

Author's Assumption: The Henderson siblings were poor - likely because their father was an Irish immigrant without significant property. Basis for this assumption is lack of literacy in Samuel, David, and Cynthia's families. William Franklin Henderson was listed as literate on the census because he was likely taught to read and write while living with Benjamin Waller and Margaret Stephens (and Agness of course). Author suspects (but has not proven) that William lived with Benjamin and Margaret Stephens (and Agness, of course) during the period of 1824 to 1832 to include his seven years of indentured service. William purchased his 80 acres of land along present-day Snoddy Road (about 1.5 miles north of Beulah Baptist Church) in Jan 1832. William and Agness were married in Nov 1835.

Finally, the Henderson and Roebuck families lived near each other in Greene County (and Beulah Baptist Church) from prior to 1840. None of the first generation of Henderson and Roebuck children born in Greene County married each other. However, four children of Edmund Waller Henderson married four Roebuck children beginning in 1928. These four marriages are the source of close linkage between the Henderson and Roebuck families in Greene County.

Chronology of the Henderson and Stephens Families

Author developed the following chronology based on both factual and circumstantial evidence of time and movements of the Henderson family and associated neighbors. Author's research indicates that the Stephens, Logan, Wardlaw, and Henderson families (as well as mother of Agness Robinson Stephens) were neighbors near Abbeville, South Carolina in 1820 shortly before they emigrated to Greene County, Alabama. These families remained neighbors after their arrival in Greene County - there were numerous inter-marriages among these families. Author is searching for parents of William Franklin Henderson and mother of Agness Robinson Stephens based on supposition that these families were neighbors in South Carolina prior to 1820.

These Henderson, Stephens, Wardlaw, and Logan families were neighbors for several generations - perhaps, they were neighbors in Ireland before immigrating to America. As of early 2017, author's research indicates that 29(!) of Ann Ella Henderson's grandparents are buried in Greene County, AL - 27 of them are buried in Bethel (9), Beulah (12), Mt Hebron (3), and Pleasant Ridge (3) church cemeteries. All 16 of her GGrandparents emigrated to Alabama and Mississippi in the 1820s - many of their descendants still live in the area.

- 1756 William Franklin Henderson's Unk father was born - family lore says Ireland, PA, or VA
- 1780 William Franklin Henderson's Unk mother was born - family lore indicates VA but author's research suggests SC would be more likely
Mother of the four Henderson siblings was almost certainly born in the 1780-1787 time period based on birth dates of her children. The father could have been born in Ireland in the 1750s - family lore indicates he died in SC about 1820. Such a date would be consistent with a birth year of 1756.
- 1797 Benjamin Waller Stephens (Agness Robinson Stephens' father) was born in Virginia
- 1797 Agness Robinson Stephens' Unk mother was born in SC (or taken to SC as a child)
Food for thought: These two families could have been neighbors in VA before both of them emigrated to SC about 1800.
- 1801 William Franklin Henderson's parents were married in SC
- 1803 Samuel Henderson born in SC
- 1806 David Henderson was born in SC
- 1811 William Franklin Henderson was born in SC
- 1815 Cynthia Henderson was born in SC
DOBs suggest at least two infant deaths in ~1809 and ~1813
- 1817 Agness Robinson Stephens parents (Benjamin Waller Stephens and ??) were married in SC (Author's assumption)

Benjamin Waller Stephens was 29 and Margaret Only Wardlaw was 32 when they married in 1826. Author assumes - but has not verified - that this was a second marriage for both. Margaret remained in SC while her Wardlaw family emigrated to Greene County, in 1824 - Benjamin returned from Greene County and married Margaret in 1826 - the couple emigrated back to Greene County in 1827. A reasonable assumption would be that Margaret's husband #1 died in South Carolina in late 1825-early 1826. Author postulates that Benjamin married Agness' mother about 1817- unfortunately, Agness' mother died at a young age of childbirth complications. Author's research indicates that Agness was raised by her father Benjamin Waller Stephens and (later) stepmother Margaret Only Wardlaw.

- 1818 Agness Robinson Stephens was born in SC
(Assumption: Agness' mother died of childbirth complications.)

Author and Mr James Roebuck of Tuscaloosa were unable to identify any Henderson-Roebuck marriage prior to 1928. Thus, Agness' middle name was almost certainly "Robinson" rather than "Roebuck" as reported by Henderson family researchers. Author's research shows the names "Agness" and "Robinson" appear in four (of 5) consecutive generations of Stephens and Henderson women. Thanks to tip from fellow researcher Tina Henderson for suggesting the initial "R." was Robinson rather than Roebuck.

Agness and Robinson are two female names which appear in the Stephens Family ancestry beginning with the marriage of Rev William Robinson and Agness Smith in 1757 in Virginia. This spelling of "Agness" and "Robinson" then appear in the next five generations of Stephens-Henderson women, including the daughter of Agness Robinson Stephens (1818-1873).

- 1818 Dorothy Stephens (sister of Benjamin Waller Stephens) married Zachary Logan in SC. Zachary was wealthy and later served as JP for many years in Greene County. Author's research indicates the Stephens, Logan, and Wardlaw families were neighbors in South Carolina and would be considered as wealthy. Further, research suggests that the Henderson family was not wealthy - thus, the potential need for indentured contracts as the only means by which the Henderson siblings could become landowners. Author further supposes that the mother (and 1st wife of Benjamin Stephens) of Agness Robinson Stephens was member of a land-owning family there in South Carolina. Such supposition is based on belief that Benjamin and this young woman were married - likely in what we might consider a 'society wedding'. Author's search for these Henderson ancestors continues.

- 1820 William Franklin Henderson's father died in SC (per Henderson family lore)

- 1824 Benjamin Waller Stephens (w/daughter Agness R Stephens), Zachary & Dorothy Logan, William C Wardlaw family, and William Franklin Henderson emigrated from Abbeville County, SC to Greene County, AL.

Author's research suggests these pioneers traveled on foot from South Carolina through the Cumberland Gap to the Holston River. From there, they built large rafts on which they rafted down the Holston and Tennessee Rivers to a spot near present-day Huntsville, AL. From there, the emigrants would travel overland to Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, and then to 'end of the civilized world' Greene County. Large rafts were commonly used because there were no roads capable of handling wagons plus there was always danger from hostile Indians.

Author has not seen any historical reference which showed such emigrants rafting down the Holston and Tennessee Rivers. However, one of his ancestors emigrated from North Carolina to southern Illinois in 1810 by rafting down the Cumberland River. James Robertson's team also rafted down the Cumberland River in late 1790s in order to reach present-day Nashville. Historical references also indicate that such rafts were used to move agricultural products from eastern Tennessee to Natchez, Mississippi - via Ohio and Mississippi Rivers - during this same time frame.

- 1824 William Franklin Henderson agrees to 7-year contract with either Benjamin Waller Stephens (more likely) or Zachary Logan in Dec 1824 in Greene County. William agrees to work seven (7) years in return for 80 acres of land (@ \$1.25 per acre) in Greene County. William purchased his land (along present day Snoddy Road) in Jan 1832.

Author understands that William would have been only 13 years of age in 1824 and could not sign such a legal document. Either the 'contract' was informal or perhaps his parents signed the contract prior to his departure from South Carolina. Author read of a legal requirement that persons purchasing land patent must be 21 years of age - this might not have been exactly true because William did not turn 21 until Feb 1832.

Author has not yet located historical proof of such indentured contracts in return for land in Greene County, AL. However, such contracts were common among immigrants as a means to pay for their passage to America. Author believes that such contracts were likely the reason why Samuel and David Henderson were able to purchase 80 acres of land (at \$1.25 per acre) and then get married within three months period of time - seven years after they supposedly arrived in Greene County!

- 1824 William "Chunky Bill" Wardlaw (or Wardlow) and Zachary Logan each purchase 80-acre land patents near Eutaw, AL
- 1826 Benjamin Waller Stephens purchases 80-acre land patent about four miles NE of Eutaw - near the Black Warrior River and adjacent to the Wardlaw homestead.

Benjamin's land is adjacent to 80 acres owned by William "Chunky Bill" Wardlaw - which had been purchased in 1824. William's property straddled the 'superhighway' wagon road which connected Tuscaloosa with Eutaw. This same 'highway' went through Ralph, Bethel Baptist Church property, and Knoxville on its way to Eutaw. Remains of the road are still readily visible near Bethel Baptist Church.

Author's research indicates that the Stephens, Logan, Wardlaw, and Henderson families were neighbors near Abbeville, South Carolina in 1820 shortly before they emigrated to Greene County, Alabama. These families remained neighbors after their arrival in Greene County. Author is searching for parents of William Franklin Henderson and mother of Agness Robinson Stephens based on "fact" that these families were also neighbors in South Carolina.

1826 Benjamin Waller Stephens returns to South Carolina to marry Margaret Only Wardlaw

Note: Benjamin and Margaret were also the parents of another of Ann Ella Henderson's grandparents - James Benjamin Stephens, Sr. Two of Benjamin's grandchildren married and became direct ancestors of Ann Ella Henderson.

Note: Benjamin was 29 and Margaret was 32 when they married in SC in 1826.

1827 Benjamin Waller & Margaret Stephens, Henderson family (i.e., widow, Samuel, David, & Cynthia), and Thomas Drummond & Isabel Margaret Legg families join caravan(s) of Irish immigrants emigrating from South Carolina to Greene County.

Author's research indicates that William Franklin Henderson emigrated to Greene County in 1824 while his older siblings did not arrive until 1827. Two reasons: First, William's contract must have expired in December 1831 because he purchased his 80-acre land patent in early January 1832. Second, Samuel and David's contract must have expired in September 1835 because they both purchased 80-acre land patent on 1 October 1835. This sequence of events suggests that William began his indentured service in December 1824 while Samuel and David did not begin their service until September 1828.

William, David, and Cynthia were each married in Nov-Dec of 1835 - shortly after David purchased his land patent. Author suspects (but has not proven) that Cynthia also worked under an indentured contract which expired in September 1835. Presumably, she received money, instead of land; for her services. Cynthia then married Griffin Cockrell in Dec 1835 - both of his parents had died in 1834. Presumably, Griffin did not have much money because his parents (apparently) did not purchase land in Greene County. Griffin and Cynthia moved to Clay County, MS within a few years of their marriage.

- 1828 David Henderson and Samuel Henderson sign contracts with Benjamin Waller Stephens (more likely) or Zachary Logan for 7 years of labor in return for 80 acres in Greene County in Sep1828. David and Samuel purchase their 80 acres on 1Oct1835.
- 1829 Edmund Waller Stephens (father of Benjamin Waller Stephens) and 2nd wife Jane Griffin (who was a widow) emigrate from SC to Kenton County, KY.
Author's research indicates that Jane and husband #1 had a daughter named "Agnes" who was born in 1810. This "Agnes" was apparently adopted by Edmund when they married. Further, some researchers indicate that Edmund and Jane had a daughter together in 1830 whom they named "Agnes". This proliferation of girls named 'Agnes' has caused much confusion among Henderson family researchers.
- 1830 Greene County Census lists a household headed by 'David Henderson'. Its five members have ages and sex consistent with that of the four Henderson siblings and their widowed mother.
One question author has been investigating was "Where did this Henderson family reside in 1830?" Author is trying to establish this location by identifying a patent land owner listed on same page in the census record - thus far without success.
- 1832 William Franklin Henderson's indenture contract expired in December 1831 - William purchased 80-acre land patent located near Snoddy in January 1832 - about one month prior to his 21st birthday.
- 1833 Beulah Baptist Church (near Snoddy) was organized. Thomas Jame Drummond and Isabel Margaret Legg were charter members.
Note: Isabel's parents - Thomas Legg and Jeannette Nully - also emigrated from SC at the same time and were early members of Beulah Baptist Church. Family lore is that both were buried in Beulah Cemetery.
- 1834 Bethel Baptist Church (near Ralph) was organized as of 10May1834.
Author's assumption: Henderson and Stephens families were early - perhaps even charter - members. For certain, both Benjamin Waller Stephens and David Henderson purchased 80-acre homsteads near Bethel Church prior to 1840.
Benjamin Waller Stephens and wife Margaret Only Wardlaw were buried in the old (now abandoned) Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery. Author is still searching for list of founding members of Bethel Baptist Church.
- 1834 Another caravan of Irish immigrants traveled from Edgefield District, SC to Greene County. Immigrants spent a year at Tuscaloosa before moving on to Greene County. One of James Roebuck's (of Tuscaloosa) ancestors was part of this caravan.

- 1835 William Franklin Henderson married Agness Robinson Stephens in Greene County, AL in November 1835.
Circumstantial evidence suggests that William had been indentured to Benjamin Waller Stephens and had fallen in love with Agness while working for her father. William spent almost four years working his newly-acquired land near Snoddy (which was at least ten miles from Benjamin's property) before he and Agness were married. Further, both families became early members of Bethel Baptist Church at Ralph, AL.
- 1835 Seven-year contracts which David Henderson and Samuel Henderson had signed expired in September 1835. Both David Henderson and Samuel Henderson purchase 80 acres of land in Greene County, AL on 1 October 1835. Their adjacent purchases are about 10 miles SW of Eutaw - apparently they did not want to settle near William who lived in Snoddy Community.
Circumstantial evidence suggests lack of closeness between the Henderson brothers. The youngest, William, purchased his 80 acres near Snoddy in January 1832 - he and Agness lived there throughout their married lives. The two older brothers, Samuel and David, purchased their 80 acres in southwestern Greene County in October 1835. In early 1840s, Samuel moved on to Mississippi and David relocated to near Bethel Church about 1839. David's family moved on to Mississippi in the late 1860s.
- 1835 David Henderson married Lavinia Hix (from Ga) in Greene County, AL
Author would not be surprised to learn that Vianna was a widow. Some researchers propose that her family was living in Tennessee - not in Greene County. If true, the most likely scenario would be that Vianna was married in Tennessee and the newlyweds emigrated to Greene County, AL where Vianna became a widow within a few years. This scenario is strictly conjecture at this point as the author cannot verify that the 'Tennessee Vianna' and the 'Greene County Vianna' are the same person.
- 1835 Cynthia Henderson married Griffin Cockrell in Greene County, AL
Both of Griffin's parents had died in 1834. Thus far, author has been unable to locate any record that the elder Griffin purchased land in Greene County even though the family had been in Greene County for about 13 years.
- 1838 Samuel Henderson married (widowed) Sarah Head in Greene County, AL
- 1839 Benjamin Waller Stephens and David Henderson each purchase 80-acre land patents just south of Bethel Baptist Church. Presumably, this became the homestead for each family. Their new property (as well as Bethel Baptist Church) was adjacent to the 'superhighway' between Tuscaloosa and Eutaw.
- 1839 Edmund Waller Henderson (son of William and Agness Henderson) was born in Snoddy, AL

- 1842 Samuel Henderson relocated his family from Greene County to Clay County, MS
 - 1st child born 1840 in Greene County
 - 2nd child born 1843 in MS
- 1840s Griffin and Cynthia Henderson Cockrell's family relocates to Clay County, MS
- 1845 Widow Henderson (i.e., William's mother) died in Greene County (per family lore)

Author's Assumption: Mrs Henderson was buried in the original Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery - this cemetery was abandoned about 1880. Author is searching for list of early Bethel Church members in an attempt to confirm this assumption. For certain, the acidic soil in that old abandoned cemetery - which is about 200 yards 'down the hill' from current church location - would have completely eroded her tombstone within a few decades.

Five (5) of Ann Ella Henderson Collier's grandparents were buried in the original cemetery at Bethel Baptist Church between 1845 and 1880. Tombstones for four of them have been lost. The fifth tombstone (i.e., Agness Robinson Stephens) was relocated (after 1890) to be alongside her husband's tombstone in the current Bethel Cemetery.

Author surveyed this old abandoned cemetery in February 2017. He was unable to locate any additional tombstones - even though he was using a pitchfork. However, there is a slope downward of about 100 yards between area of known tombstones and electrical power substation. Author encountered much difficulty walking along this hillside because of depressions which appear consistent with collapsed graves. There are at least 50 such depressions along this slope.

- 1850 Benjamin Waller Stephens died and is buried in the old (now abandoned) Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery. His tombstone has been lost.
- 1860 Per 1860 Census, David Henderson's family lived in Green County
- 1860s David Henderson relocates his family from Greene County to Clay County, MS
- 1867 Edmund Waller Henderson and Elizabeth Jane Cartee are wed in Beulah Baptist Church. This marriage resulted in uniting the Henderson and Cartee families there in Greene County.
- 1870 Census records indicate that families of David Henderson, Samuel Henderson, and Cynthia (Henderson) Cockrell now reside in Clay County, Mississippi

- 1870 Census records indicate that Samuel, James J, and Martha E Henderson are still living at home with William Franklin and Agness Henderson. Also resident are William Leavell (their 9-year old grandson) and Elizabeth Murphy (age 30).
- 1873 Agness Robinson Henderson (William's wife) died in Snoddy, AL and was buried in the Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery (Old) - which is now heavily wooded.
 Author's Assumption: Agness' tombstone was relocated from her original burial site in the old cemetery to beside her husband's tombstone sometime after 1890. Note how completely the bottom portion of her tombstone has been eroded - which likely happened before it was relocated to its current location. As late as the 1990s, her eroded tombstone stood erect - whereas it is now lying flat. Author presumes that no attempt was made to exhume Agness' corpse.
 Note: There are six other tombstones of burials prior to 1880 which were relocated to the current Bethel Church Cemetery. These six tombstones plus Agness' tombstone, plus undated tombstone of Agness' daughter are the only tombstones in Bethel Cemetery which involve burials which occurred prior to 1880.
- 1875 Margaret Only Wardlaw Stephens died and was buried in old (now abandoned) Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery. Her tombstone has been lost.
- 1880 James Benjamin Stephens and Josephine Drummond are married in Greene County. This marriage resulted in linking the Henderson, Stephens, and Drummond families there in Greene County
- 1890 William Franklin Henderson died in Snoddy, AL and was buried in Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery at Ralph, AL
- 1928 The first (of 4) Henderson-Roebuck marriages occurs in Greene County. Each Henderson was a child of Edmund Waller Henderson and Elizabeth Jane Cartee.

Henderson Family Findings

Author's wife is Ann Ella Henderson who is a GGGranddaughter of William Franklin Henderson (1811-1890) and Agness Robinson Stephens (1818-1873). Her Henderson lineage is Eugene Archie (E A) Henderson thru John Clifton Henderson thru Edmund Waller Henderson to William Franklin Henderson. William Franklin and Agness emigrated from South Carolina to Greene County, Alabama in 1824, were married in Nov1835, became lifelong members of Bethel Baptist Church at Ralph, and raised their family in the Snoddy Community - homestead located along present-day Snoddy Road about 1.5 miles north of Beulah Baptist Church. Author is concerned about lack of progress over the past 30 years by Henderson family researchers because of their inability to identify the parents of William Franklin Henderson (1811-1890) and the mother of Agness Robinson Stephens (1818-1873). Author is convinced that he has narrowed the 'search space' down to a narrow slice of time (i.e., 1820), a small community (near Abbeville, SC), and a small number of families. The intent of this paper is to outline everything the author believes to be true (as of Apr2017) about this situation. **His personal objective is to inspire serious Henderson family researchers to collaborate in this hunt for ancestors and crack this proverbial 'research show-stopper' regarding Henderson family ancestors.**

Author believes he has uncovered a significant number of previously unpublicized facts about members of these early Henderson family members. Further, author believes that he has compiled the single most correct and comprehensive set of 'information' to date on these Henderson grandparents - the reader might ask 'How can he be so sure?' The answer is based on the huge number (e.g. several 100 thousand) of online queries (plus an eye for spotting discrepancies and outright errors) which author has made in compiling Henderson family information. For most of his wife's grandparents, the author has reviewed the content of every family tree (sometimes there can be 100+ such trees) on ancestry.com which mention that individual. When this approach stops yielding new information, the author turns to other genealogical databases (e.g. Mormon) or online queries. This latter effort, has gleaned a number of related family histories which have been published over the last century. Unfortunately, even this level of effort is not enough to 'fill in' all the gaps.

Following are a number of important Henderson family 'facts' which author's research has yielded - following discussion provides the rationale for them. In some cases, he could be wrong. Reader is encouraged to identify such 'errors' and publish some documentation which would lead researchers to adopt a different conclusion. You will also see the term "author's research" which indicates assertion can be inferred directly from published information. The term "author's analysis" indicates an assertion which the author derived by reviewing all of the evidence available, logically analyzing the situation, and applying some of his personal heuristics to the situation (some might call it a 'best guess'). To the author, genealogical research is analagous to solving a large 4+ dimensional jigsaw puzzle - he likes to solve puzzles.

Some of these 'facts' include:

1. Wife of William Franklin Henderson (1811-1890) was Agness Robinson Stephens (1818-1873).

a. Both Agness and Robinson are family names which trace back to marriage of Agness' grandparents - the Rev William Robinson (1708-1792) and Agness Smith (1738-1792).

b. A researcher in the 1990s erred in identifying Agness' middle name as "Roebuck" rather than "Robinson". This error has been repeated since.

2. Family lore is that the elder Henderson father was an Irish immigrant and his wife was born in VA or SC.

a) Author's analysis indicates this Henderson family was both poor and uneducated. The evidence for this assertion about lack of education is that censuses from decades later indicate that members of David Henderson, Samuel Henderson, and Cynthia Henderson Cockrell families could neither read nor write.

b) Author believes his research indicates that all three Henderson sons (Samuel, David, and William Franklin) - and perhaps Cynthia - performed 7-year indentured service in return for 80 acres of land in Greene County. Author is searching for evidence which shows such contracts were common among these Irish families.

3. Author's research indicates that the (wealthier) Edmund Waller Stephens, William C Wardlaw, Zachary Logan and Benjamin Waller Stephens families plus the (poorer) Henderson family were close neighbors both in South Carolina and again in Greene County, AL. Author's 'aha moment' came when he recognized significance of a marriage in Greene County, AL in 1837 between the son of Edmund Waller Stephens (who had emigrated from SC to KY in 1829) and granddaughter of William C Wardlaw (who had emigrated to Greene County in 1824). Edmund (i.e., father of Benjamin Waller Stephens) had moved his 2nd family (wife - Jane Griffen) from SC to Kentucky in 1829. The real 'takeaway message' here is that these families were in close communications between 1824 - when his first two children (i.e., Benjamin Waller Stephens & Dorothy Stephens Logan) and William C Wardlaw emigrated to Greene County - and 1837 when Edmund Waller Henderson's son traveled from KY to AL to get married. The reader might ask why is this assertions so important:

a) Just prior to 1820, the parents of William Franklin Henderson must have lived near the Wardlaw's at Long Cane which is northeast of Abbeville in Abbeville County, SC. Family lore indicates that Mr Henderson died about 1820 and is buried there.

b) Author's analysis indicates Benjamin Waller Stephens Sr (1797-1850) married unidentified mother of Agness Robinson Stephens (1818-1873) about 1817 in

Abbeville County, SC. Unfortunately, this unidentified mother died giving birth to Agness and is buried there. Author's 'aha moment' came when he realized that Benjamin gave his deceased mother's name (i.e., Agness Smith Robinson) to his infant daughter. Further, author presumes that Benjamin's wife died during childbirth because she was apparently not available to influence naming of her baby daughter (i.e., who was named Agness Robinson Stephens).

4. 1824 - Author's research indicates that William C Wardlaw family (minus Margaret Only Wardlaw who was presumably already married in SC), Zachary & Dorothy Stephens Logan family, Benjamin Waller Stephens w/Agness, and William Franklin Henderson emigrated to Greene County, AL. They were part of a caravan which traveled by trail through the Cumberland Gap, built large raft(s), and floated down the Holton/Tennessee River to Huntsville, AL. From there, they drove overland to Tuscaloosa and on to "end of the earth" Greene County. Within a few months, Wardlaw and Logan purchased 80-acre tracts located about 4 miles NE of Eutaw to a point about one mile west of the Black Warrior River.

5. 1826 - Author's research shows Benjamin Waller Stephens purchased 80-acre tract adjoining that of William C Wardlaw. Author's analysis indicates William Franklin Henderson entered an indentured contract in December 1824 with Benjamin Waller Stephens for seven (7) years of service in return for 80 acres of land in Greene County. Benjamin (age 29) returned to South Carolina where he married (widowed) Margaret Only Wardlaw (age 32).

6. 1827 - The newlyweds Benjamin and Margaret Stephens, as well as rest of the Henderson family, traveled from SC to Greene County, AL. The 1830 census in Greene County shows a household headed by David Henderson with two sibling males, one sibling female, and an older woman. The sex and age ranges shown on the census are consistent with those of 'our Henderson family'. Thus far, author has been unable to determine exact location of this family's residence there in Greene County in 1830. However, if the siblings worked for Benjamin Stephens, they must have lived in close proximity to - or most likely on - his homestead (i.e., 4 miles NE of Eutaw).

7. 1Oct1828 - The two older Henderson brothers (Samuel & David - probably Cynthia also) agree to 7-year indentured service in return for 80 acres of land (cost - \$1.25 per acre from the U S Government) in Greene County.

a) Indentured contracts expire in Sep1835 - both Samuel and David purchase adjoining 80-acre tracts in early Oct1835. Land is about 10 miles SW of Eutaw - i.e., at least 15 miles distant from William's tract in the Snoddy Community.

b) William Franklin Henderson weds Agness Robinson Stephens in Nov1835.

c) David Henderson weds Vianna Nix and Cynthia Henderson weds Griffin Cockrell in Dec1835

8. Mid-late 1830s - David Henderson and Benjamin Waller Stephens purchase 80-acre tracts south of Bethel Baptist Church.. These two families, as well as William Franklin & Agness Henderson become early members - perhaps even charter members - of Bethel Baptist Church at Ralph, AL when it was chartered in 1836. Author is trying to locate a list of Bethel Charter members.

9. 1845-1880 - The original Bethel Baptist Church and Cemetery was located on a 3-acre plot about 200 yds 'down the hill' from current Church location toward Ralph. Author's research and analysis indicates that five of Ann Ella Henderson's grandparents, including Agness Robinson Stephens, are buried in that original (and long abandoned) cemetery. Unfortunately, the acidic soil would cause a tombstone carved from limestone to completely disintegrate within a few decades. Author's analysis is that Agness' tombstone was relocated to its present location sometime after 1890 - the other four tombstones were lost to the environment. Note: Based on a photo of tombstones in Bethel Cemetery, author is convinced that seven (7) tombstones were relocated from the old cemetery at the same time after 1890. Agness' tombstone is located beside her husband William - the other six are clustered in a small area which suggests they were all moved at the same time. These tombstones are the only ones in Bethel Cemetery with a date of death earlier than 1880.

Author believes he has found 'hard' proof that several of the Henderson-related families were neighbors both in SC and in Greene County during the early 1800s. His reasoning for this was a marriage between Elizabeth Susan Wardlaw (1821-1882) and John Franklin Stephens (1813-1884) which occurred in Greene County on 15Dec1837. The couple spent their married lives in Kenton County, KY and are buried there.

John Franklin Stephens was a son of Edmund Waller Stephens and 2nd wife Jane Griffen - presumably he (at age 16) went with his family from SC to Kenton County, KY when they relocated there from SC in 1829. Otherwise, he went to Greene County in 1824 (or 1827) with his half-brother Benjamin - he was then married in 1837 and decided to move to Kenton County, KY. In either case, author surmises there must have been close ongoing interaction between the Stephens family in Kentucky and the Wardlaw family in Greene County - at least between 1824 and 1837. Also, remember that Benjamin Stephens was in Greene County, AL from 1824 through 1826 when he returned to SC to marry (widowed?) Margaret Only Wardlaw. There must have been communication between the families in SC and those in Greene County in 1826 for Benjamin Stephens to learn that Margaret Wardlaw was now a widow.

Elizabeth Susan Wardlaw was a granddaughter of William C Wardlaw & Lydia Heard - her father was John Lewis Wardlaw. She was born in SC but her family emigrated to Greene County, AL in 1824. The moral: Young love will find a way to communicate - even under difficult circumstances. Elizabeth was taken to Greene County in 1824 (i.e., as a 3 year old) and John travelled from KY to Greene County in 1837 to be wed 13 years later. It is not obvious that the young couple had even talked since Elizabeth moved to Greene County, AL in 1824 and was only

16 when she was married. Author suggests their union could have been an arranged marriage between two close families.

There is another implication in this discourse: There were multiple Wardlaw (sometimes spelled Wardlow), and perhaps multiple Stephens, Logan, or Henderson families who were part of this emigration in 1824 from SC to Greene County, AL. Author has contacted descendant of this second William Wardlaw. The key differentiator thus far is this William died in 1836 while 'our' William died in 1840.

- 1) The John Lewis Wardlaw family accompanied his father's family when they emigrated from SC to Greene County, AL in 1824.
- 2) There a was second William Wardlaw family (likely to be a cousin or uncle of 'our' William C Wardlaw) who also settled in Greene County, AL about this same time.

The Wardlaws lived near Long Cane in Abbeville County, SC prior to emigrating to Greene County in 1824. Author's analysis is this marriage indicates that Edmund Waller Stephens, Benjamin Waller Stephens, Zachary Logan (husband of Dorothy Stephens), Zachary's father's family, and William C Wardlaw families were neighbors in SC. It does not take much of a stretch to conclude that the Henderson family and 1st wife of Benjamin Waller Stephens also lived nearby. We can also conclude that Jane Griffen and her first husband also lived in this same small area prior to 1810. If one had a census listing of all families who lived in this part of Abbeville County, SC in 1820 perhaps we could identify parents of William Franklin Henderson and the mother of Agness Robinson Stephens.

Prior to 1900, distance was a severe constraint on family relationships. In order for a young couple to ever meet and fall in love meant their two families must have been close neighbors. "Close" is relative term but any two young people living more than five miles apart might not ever meet during their lifetime. Fostering closer ties between neighbors who had similar beliefs was a key function of the early churches such as Bethel and Beulah Baptist Churches there in Greene County. 'Close' to the author means a radius of no more than 2.5 miles of the individual's homestead which is being researched.

Burials - William Franklin Henderson and Agness Robinson Stephens



Notice how completely the bottom portion of Agness' tombstone has been eroded. Her tombstone was also standing upright when this picture was taken about 1990. Author's research indicates that current Bethel Cemetery was not opened until about 1880. Agness must have been buried in the original cemetery - which is long abandoned and heavily wooded. The soil there is acidic which caused bottom of her tombstone to disintegrate. Agness' tombstone was relocated to its current position beside William's tombstone sometime after 1890.



Notice that Agness' tombstone lies flat and is almost completely underground as of 2015. Earlier photo shows her tombstone in this location to be erect but with its bottom portion eroded away. Author believes this erosion occurred prior to tombstone being relocated to its current position beside William's tombstone.



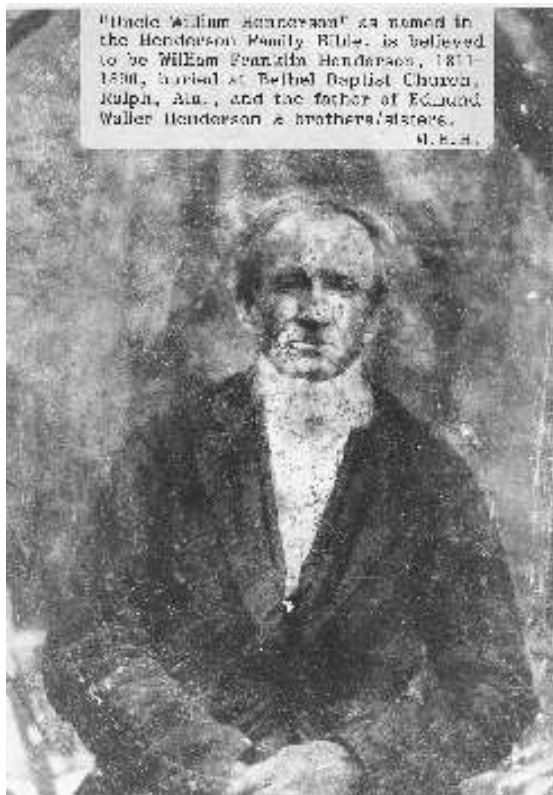
**Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery
(Tombstones with deaths prior to 1880)**

Photo indicates that seven (7) tombstones (each with date of death prior to 1880) were relocated at about the same time because of their clustering in the photo above.

The Hendersons of Greene County

Per Milton Henderson's Research in the 1990s

WILLIAM FRANKLIN HENDERSON 1811-1890

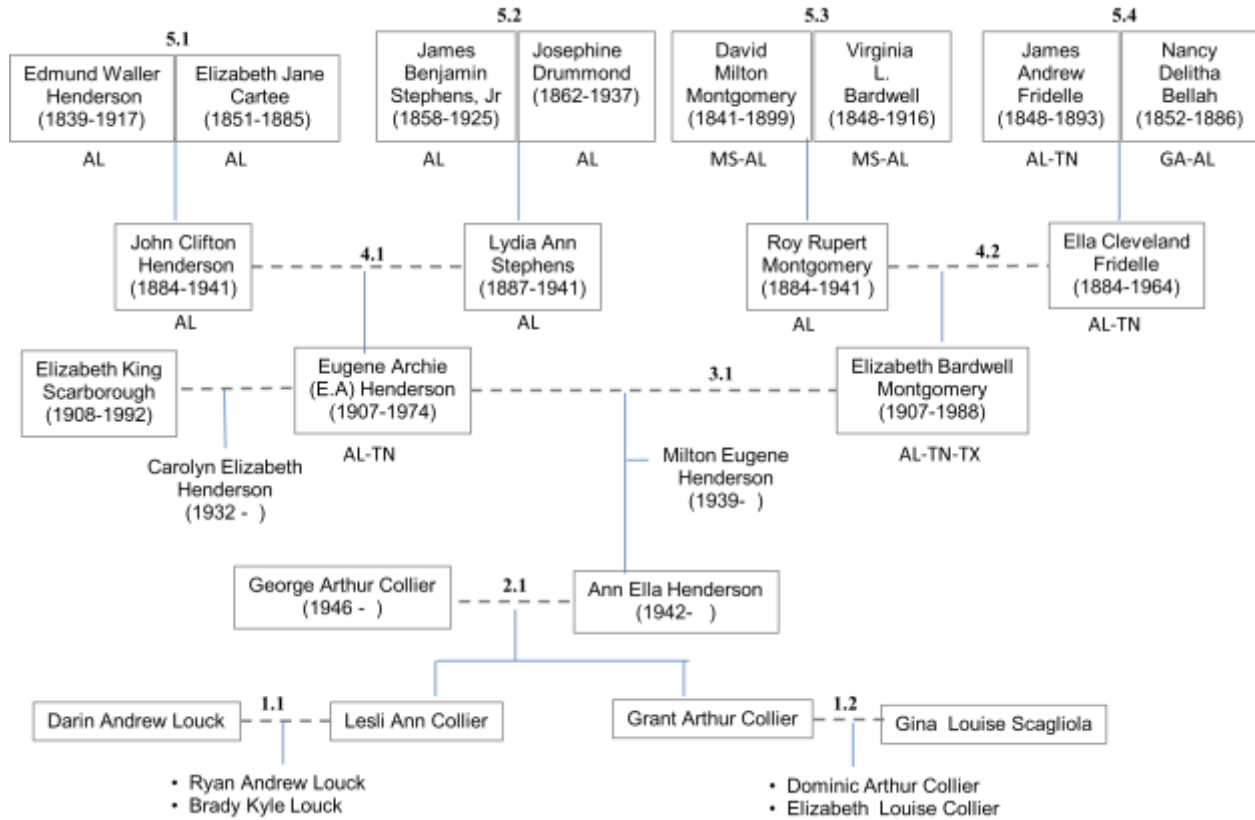


"Uncle William Henderson" as named in the Henderson Family Bible creates a question as to who the "Uncle" is? Milton Eugene Henderson (author of this web site) knows of four (4) William Hendersons, the first being William Franklin Henderson 1811-1890 who married in Greene County, Alabama in 1835 and is buried in the Bethel (not Beulah) Baptist Church Cemetery at Ralph, Ala. just northeast of Greene Co. over in Tuscaloosa Co. This WFH had a brother David Henderson 1806-1895 who also married in Greene Co. in 1835, David had a son also named William Franklin Henderson (known as "Sr." in Miss.) 8/1838-10/1866 apparently named after his 1811-1890 Uncle W.F.H. This 2nd William Franklin Henderson 1838-1866 was a Confederate Soldier during the W.B.T.S. and suffered wounds and was captured/prisoner of war and died soon after The War in 1866 back "at Home in Ala." at age 28, his burial place is unknown to MEH. The 1st eldest WFH 1811-1890 died at age 79 years!

The 3rd William Franklin Henderson 1863-1943? (known as Jr. in Miss.) (born during the WBTS while father in service) was the son of the 2nd WFH (Sr. in Miss.). MEH has heard that the 2nd WFH 1838-1866 has been considered a brother of Edmund Waller Henderson and the son of the 1st eldest WFH, but believes that is in error when the Census records are studied, the 2nd WFH being the son of David Henderson instead. The 4th and least likely William to be considered the "Uncle William Henderson" in question is Samuel Henderson's reported son, William ? Henderson, born 1847 in Miss.

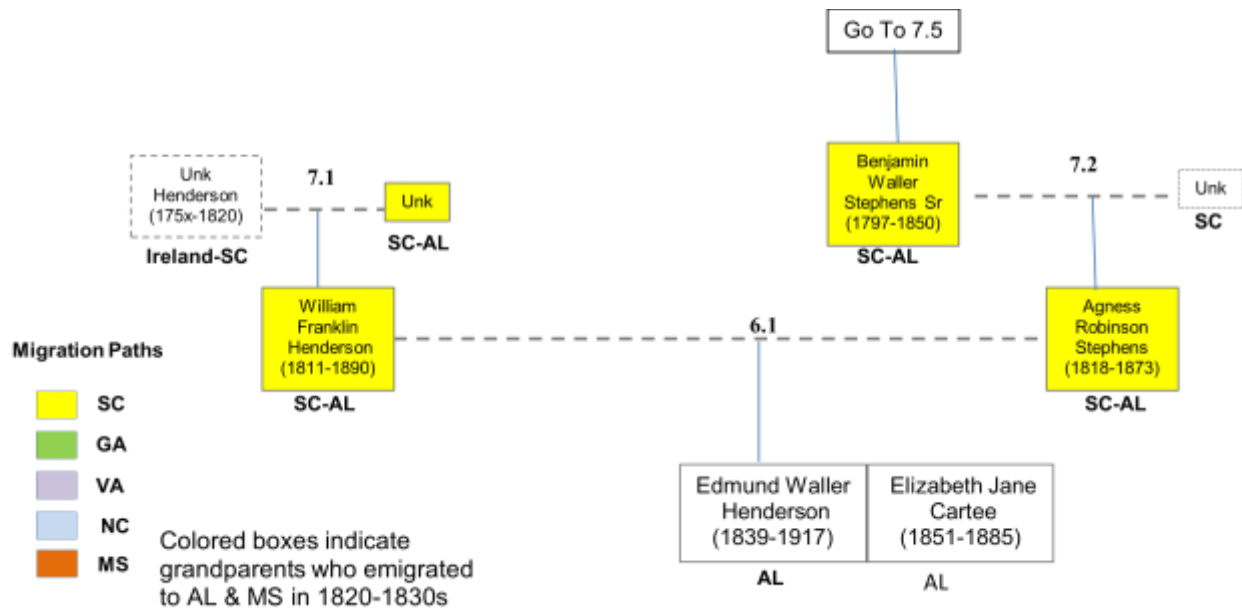
When considering all the above, especially the age differences, 1st WFH death age 79 and his nephew the 2nd WFH with his death at age 28, MEH is of the opinion that the "Uncle William Henderson" picture is of 1811-1890 William Franklin Henderson eldest to Greene Co., Ala. from South Carolina. The picture is apparently of an elderly Henderson. With Confederate Soldier 2nd WFH back "at Home in Ala." to die probably in Greene Co. in 1866 at age 28, he and his brothers (all of David) calling their uncle "Uncle", the eldest WFH, such maybe where the "Uncle" came from for the picture. MEH believes the picture is of 1811-1890 William Franklin Henderson, his and others' GGGrandfather!

Ann Ella's Ancestral Tree (The Younger Generations)



Ann Ella's Ancestral Tree

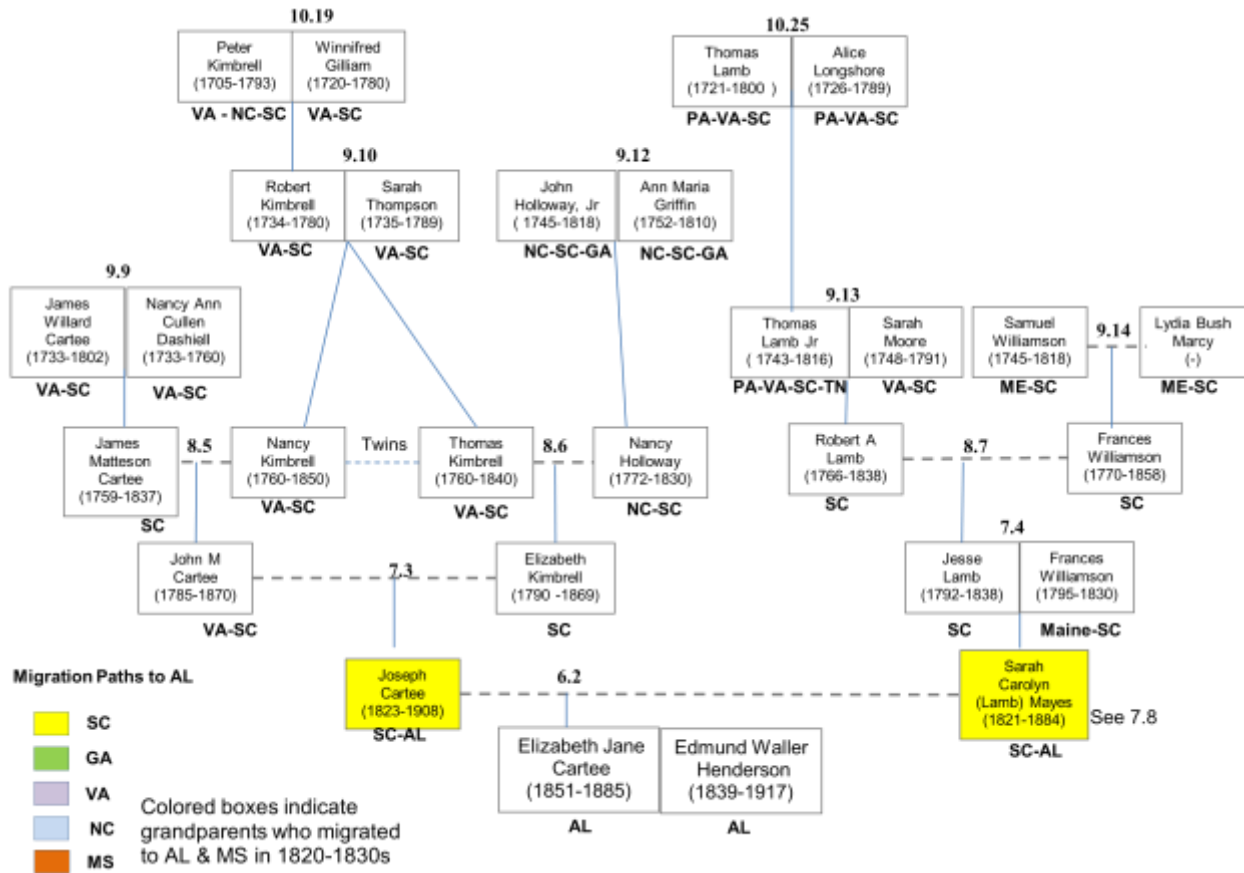
(Lineage of Paternal GGrandfather Edmund Waller Henderson)



Note: Colored boxes in Ann Ella's Ancestral Tree was added to aid in analyzing migrations paths of each grandparent in her tree. There were several significant observations to include:

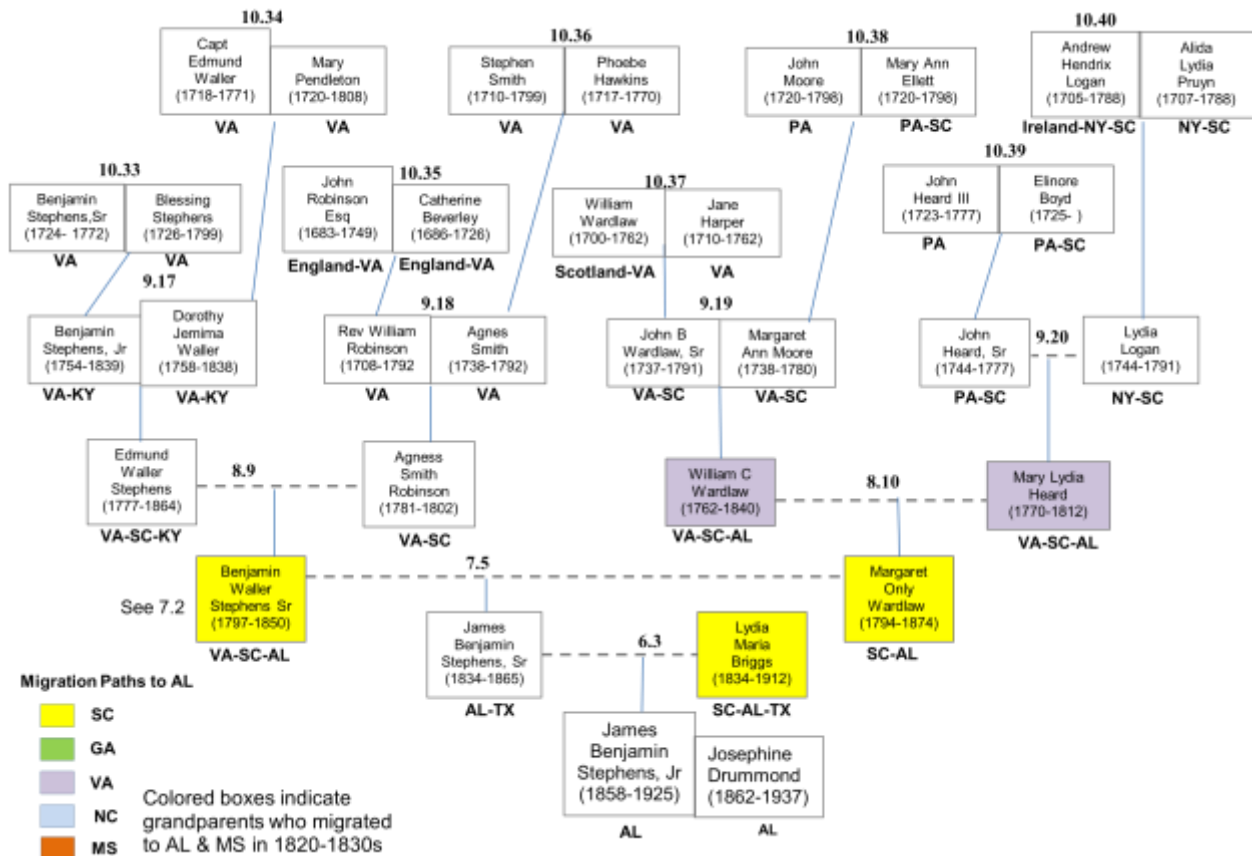
1. Did the migration path (including year) taken by each married couple agree with other information available?
2. Were both individuals living in near proximity when they married? Author is still working on case in the tree where this is not apparent nor believable. But right now, "everyone else says so". For certain, close proximity was a necessity for most marriages.
3. In which state, did each individual live and die.
4. Lines which cross alert researcher on likelihood of marriage between close cousins. This happened but not often.
5. In a few cases, multiple lines emanating from a single individual indicate that this one individual was responsible for two of Ann Ella's grandparents. This happened with at least two of Ann's grandparents.

Ann Ella's Ancestral Tree (Lineage of Paternal GGrandmother Elizabeth Cartee)



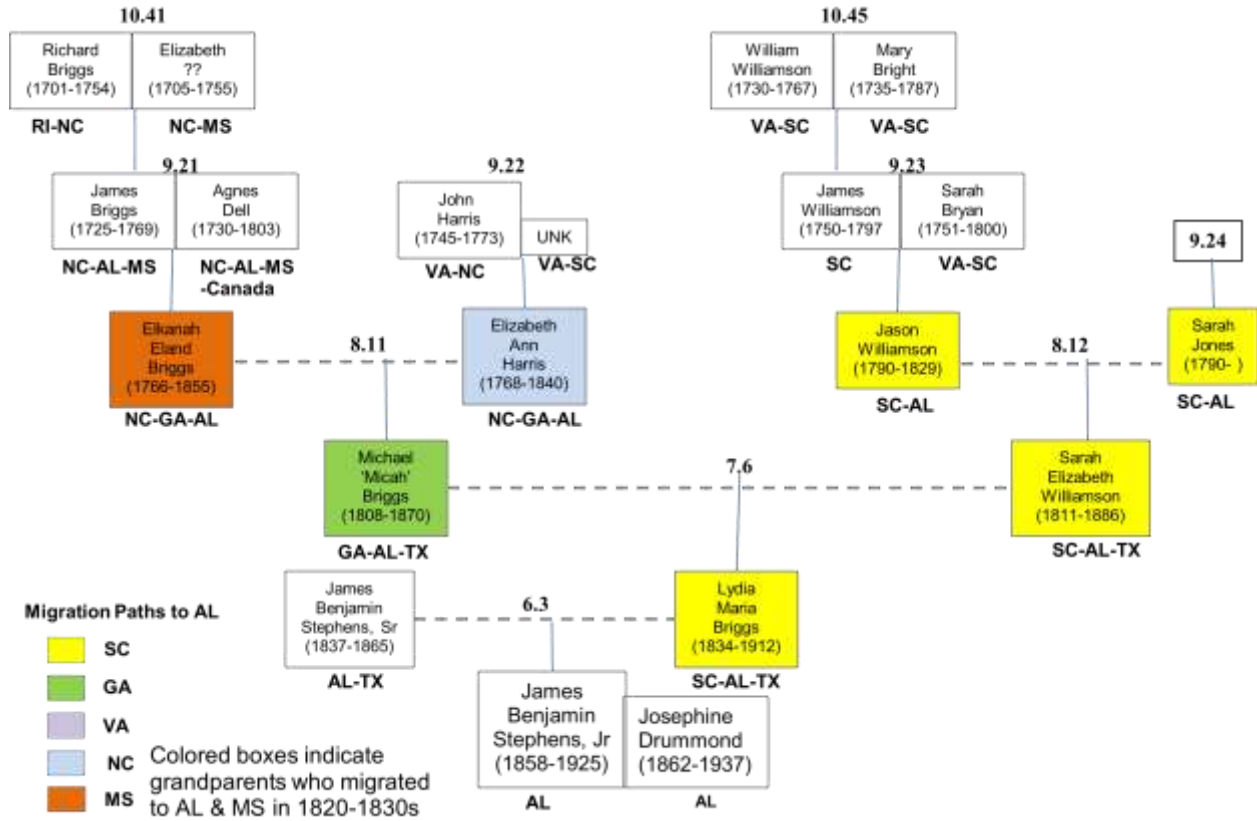
Ann Ella's Ancestral Tree

(Lineage of Paternal GGrandfather James Benjamin Stephens Jr - Pg 1)



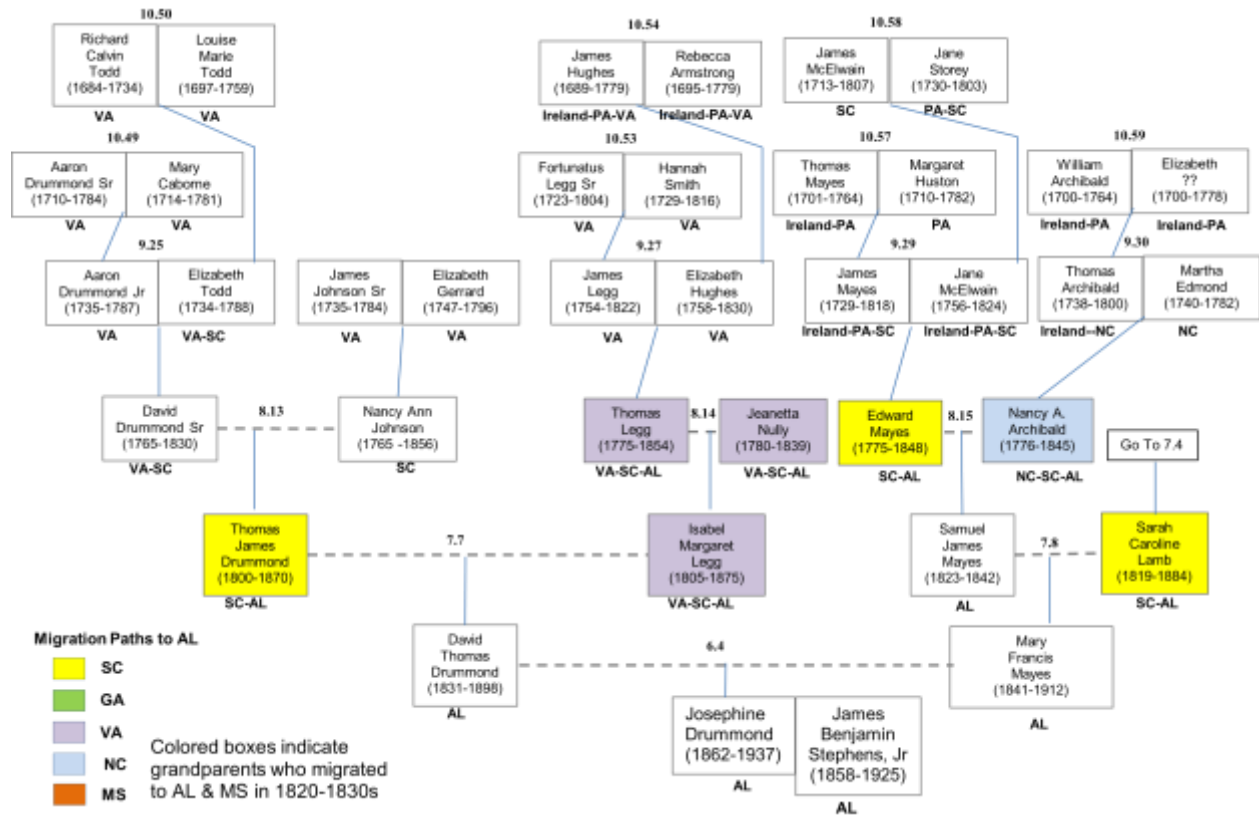
Ann Ella's Ancestral Tree

(Lineage of Paternal GGrandfather James Benjamin Stephens, Jr - p2)



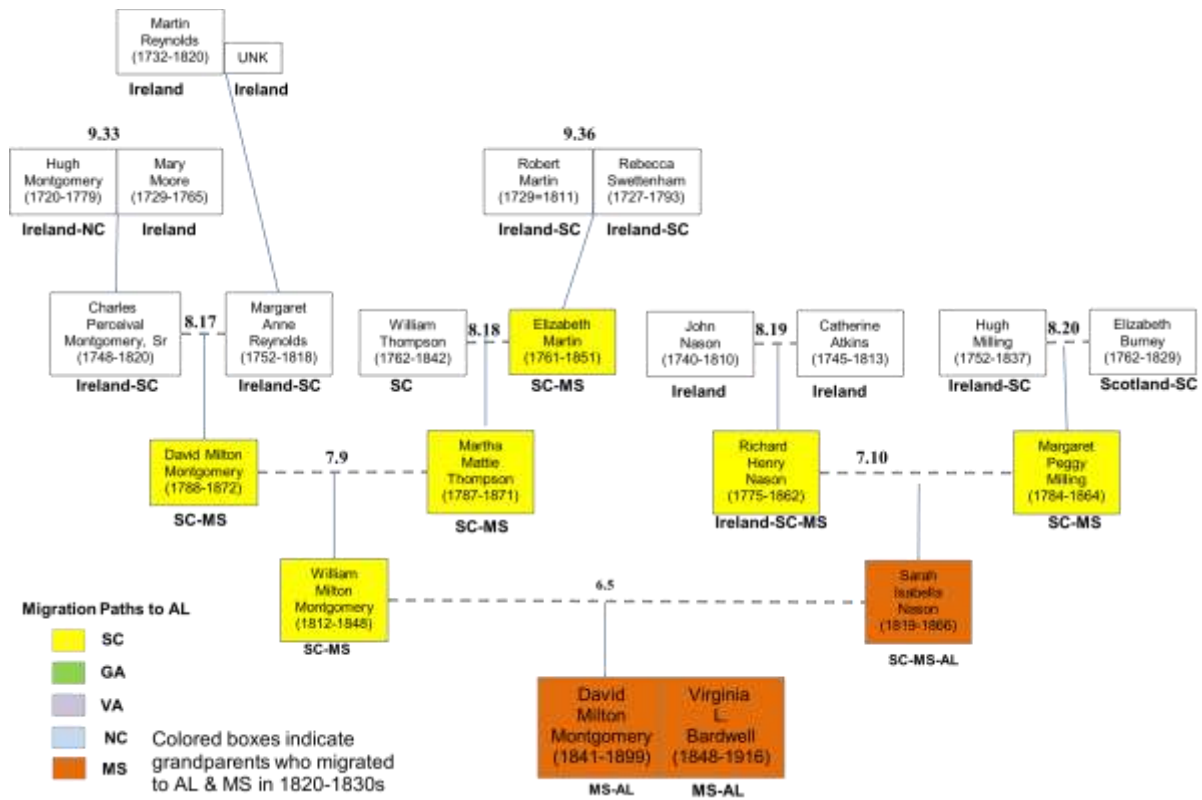
Ann Ella's Ancestral Tree

(Lineage of Paternal GGrandmother Josephine Drummond)



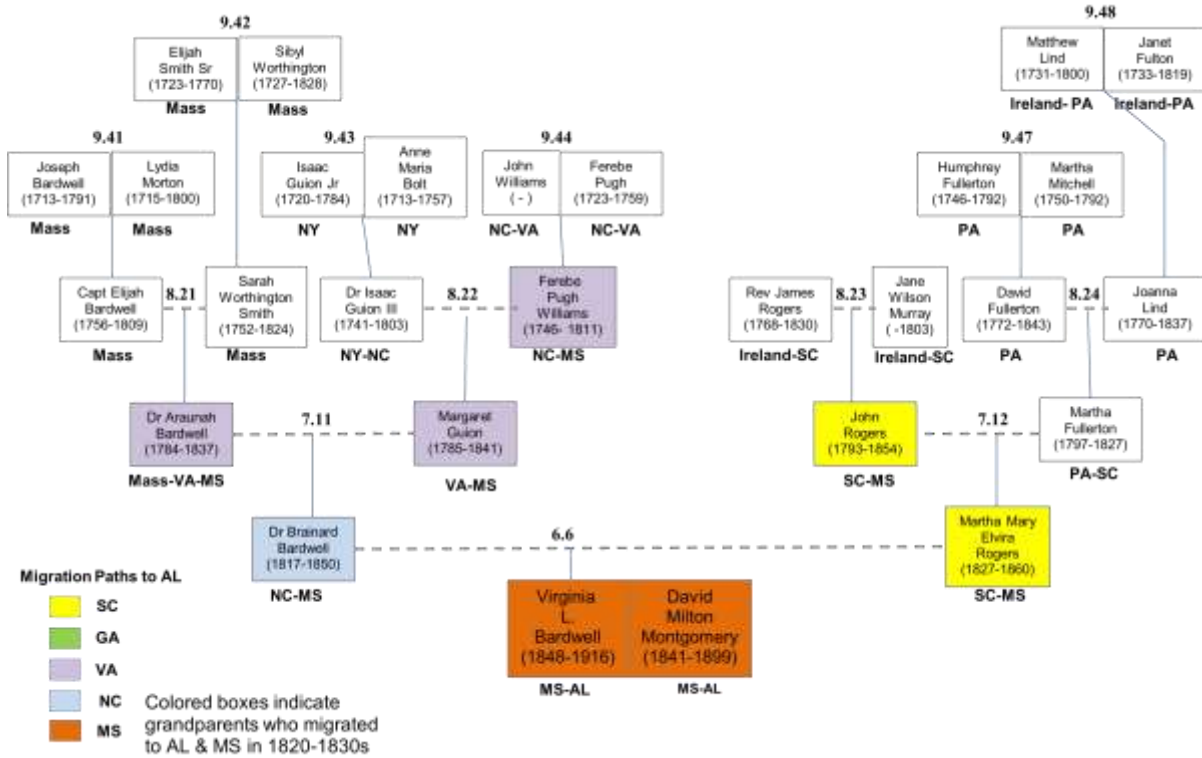
Ann Ella's Ancestral Tree

(Lineage of Maternal GGrandfather David Milton Montgomery)



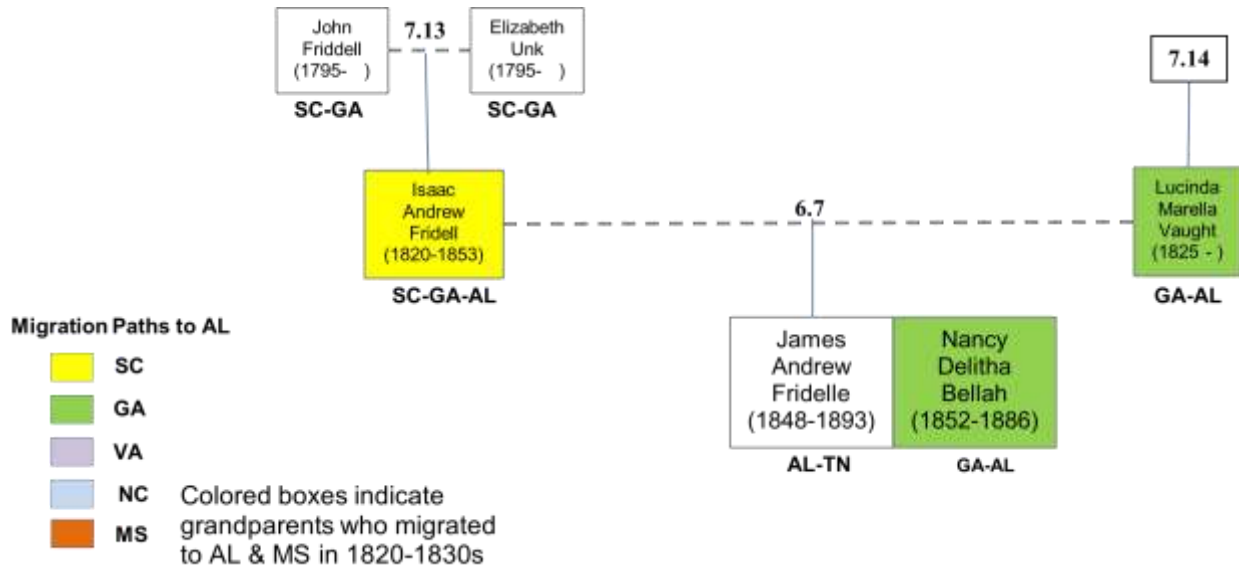
Ann Ella's Ancestral Tree

(Lineage of Maternal GGrandmother Virginia L Bardwell)



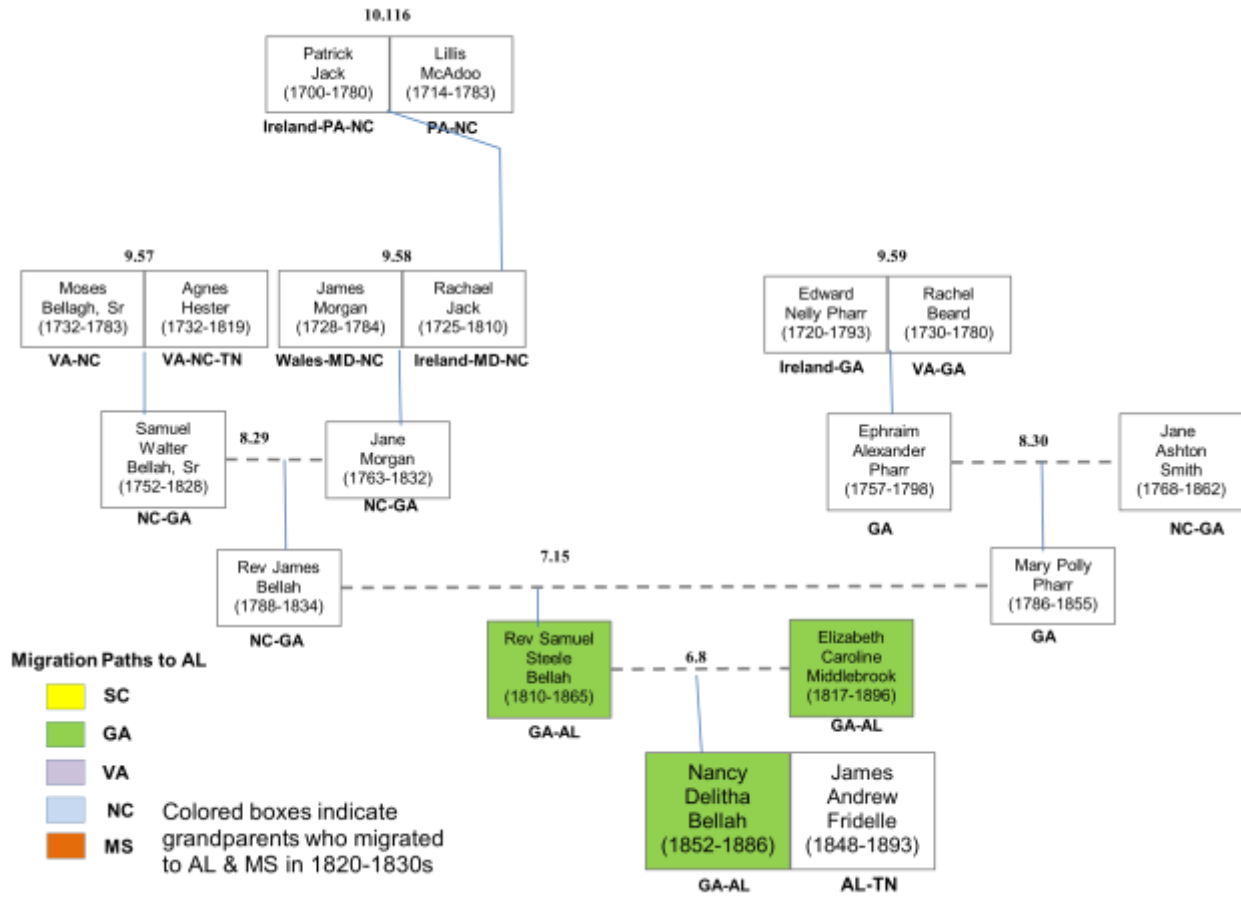
Ann Ella's Ancestral

(Lineage of Paternal GGrandfather James Andrew Fridelle)



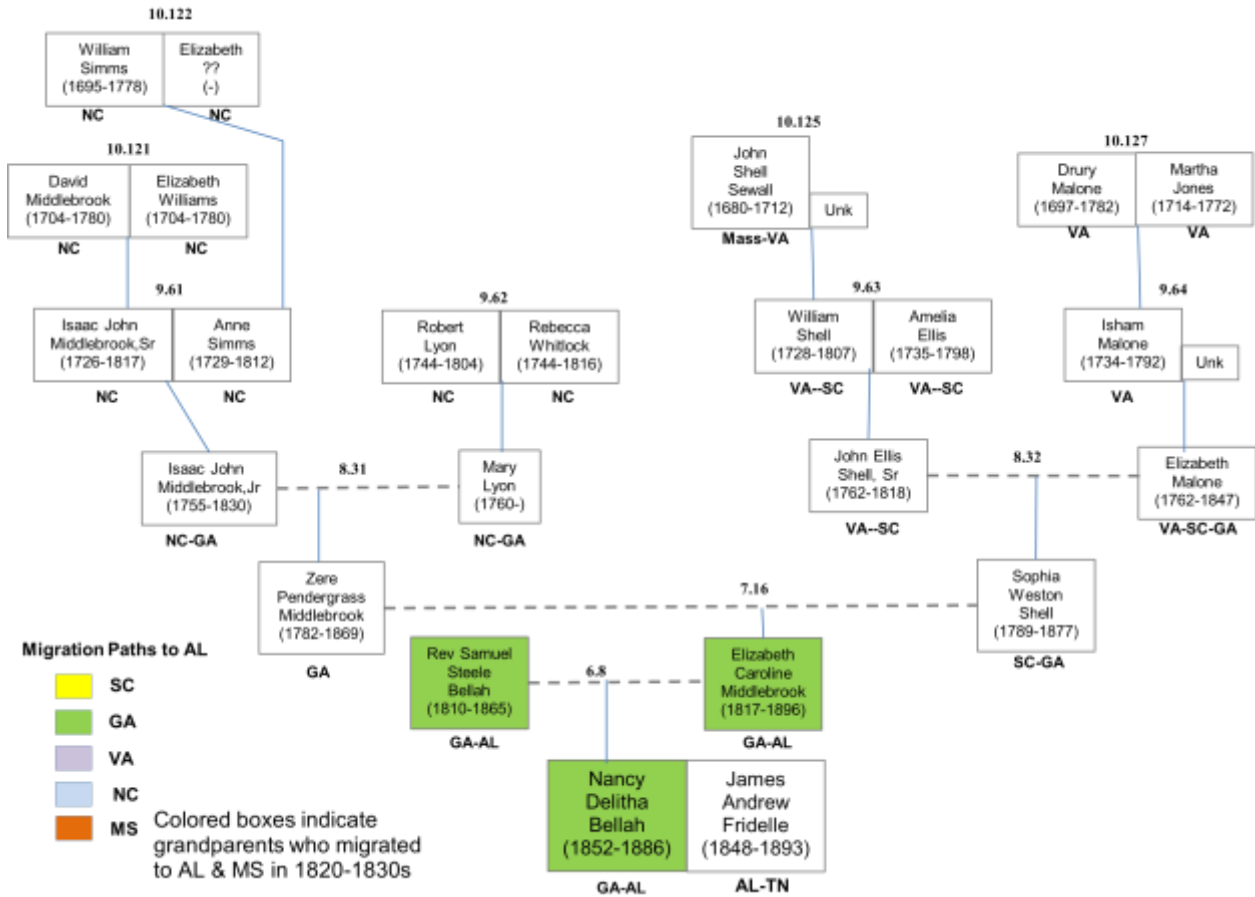
Ann Ella's Ancestral Tree

(Lineage of Maternal GGrandmother Nancy Delitha Bellah - p1)



Ann Ella's Ancestral Tree

(Lineage of Maternal GGrandmother Nancy Delitha Bellah - p2)



Henderson Family Churches in Greene County, AL

The "Alabama Hendersons" have had a close relationship with four churches near where they settled in Greene County, Alabama for at least six generations. These churches (and their associated cemeteries) are:

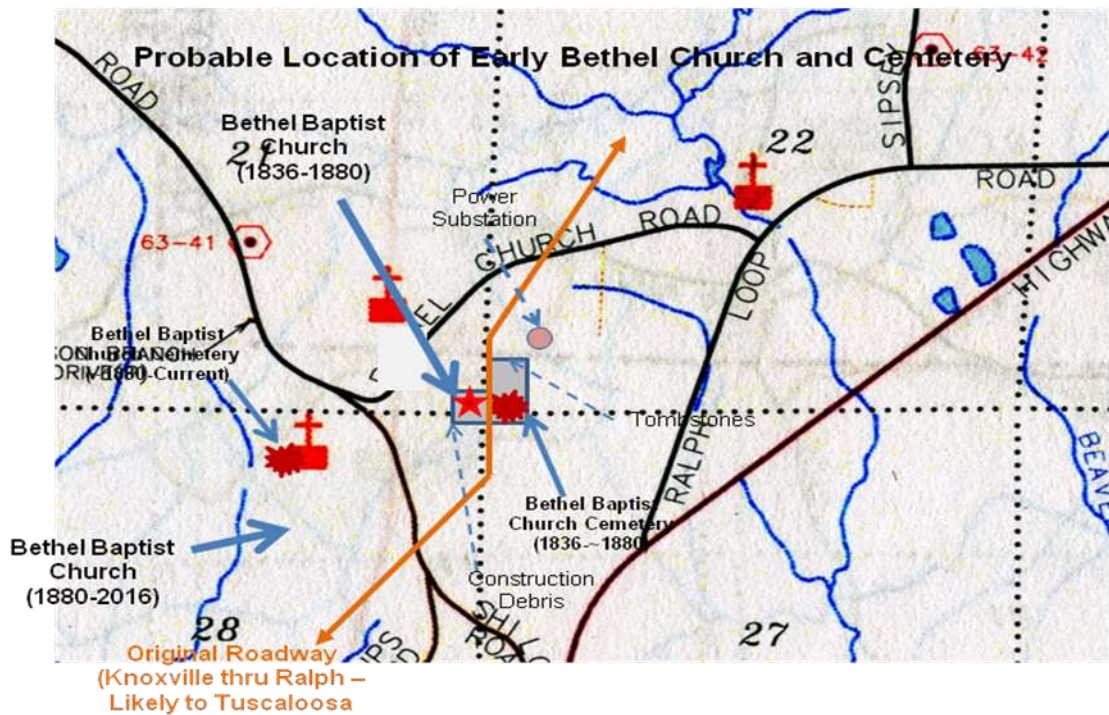
- a) Bethel Baptist Church near Ralph, Alabama
- b) Beulah Baptist Church near Snoddy Community, Greene County, Alabama
- c) Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church near Pleasant Ridge, Alabama
- d) Hebron Presbyterian Church near Union, Alabama

Note: Author has compiled a spreadsheet which lists all known burials (in alphabetical order) in these four cemeteries with hyperlink to photograph of that individual's tombstone. These four cemeteries have about 2300 tombstones.

Bethel Baptist Church

Ralph, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

Bethel Baptist Church was organized on 10 May 1834 by 32 former members of the Grants Creek Baptist Church. In the early 1830s, two Baptist Churches (Grant's Creek and Buck Creek) were organized in the vicinity of Ralph, AL. Apparently, there were not enough members to sustain Grant's Creek Church which was located north of Ralph near Prosper. As a result, the two congregations agreed to merge and reorganized as Bethel Baptist Church. This original Bethel Baptist Church site was located (in the local schoolhouse) south of Bethel Church Road about 200 yards down the hill from the current intersection of Bethel Church Road and Shiloh Road. Roadbed for the original 'superhighway' between Tuscaloosa and Eutaw passed through Ralph, Bethel church property, and Knoxville. The original Bethel Baptist Church property consisted of three 1-acre plots (each 210 feet on a side) with two plots arranged in a N-S orientation east of the old road and the third plot (with church building) was situated on west side of this old roadbed. The Bethel Church Cemetery was located on the NE section of the church property as illustrated in the following drawing.



Things we know:

- 1) Per Mr Jacobs, the Knoxville-Tuscaloosa Road passed through the area as indicated. The actual road was NOT straight.
- 2) We know that northern edge of the old cemetery was cut by newer Bethel Church Road.
- 3) Per Mr Jacobs, the original deed was for three 1-acre blocks (~210 ft per side) arranged as depicted.
- 4) The distance between intersection of Bethel Church Road & Shiloh Road and the tombstones is ~200 Yards.

Things we Assume:

- 1) Church building was located adjacent to the road.
- 2) Spacing seems to imply that church building and cemetery were on opposite sides of the road.

Per local newspaper article, the original Bethel Baptist Church building was destroyed by a tornado in 1856. The structure was rebuilt within two years and church services continued until about 1880 - based on dates of tombstones in the current Bethel cemetery. At that point, the church likely found itself on a dead-end dirt lane on the side of a steep hill when the original Shiloh Road was opened.

As a result, the Church members decided to relocate both the Church Building and its Cemetery to their current location atop summit of Bethel Hill. The original Cemetery was used for burials between 1836 and ~1880 before the site was abandoned and is now covered by heavy forest. Given the rate of burials in early 1900s in Bethel Cemetery, there were likely 100+ interments in this original Bethel Cemetery between 1836 and 1880. However, its acidic soil disintegrated most of its tombstones. Author's research indicates that five of Ann Ella Henderson Collier's grandparents are buried in this old Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery.

- "Widow Henderson" - Mother of William Franklin Henderson
- Benjamin Waller Stephens (Agness' father) and Margaret Only Wardlaw
- Agness Robinson Stephens - wife of William Franklin Henderson
- James Benjamin Stephens - son of Benjamin Waller & Margaret Henderson

In addition, the following four individuals (who were also Ann Ella's grandparents) are buried in the current Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery.

- William Franklin Henderson
- Josephine Drummond
- Benjamin Stephens and Lydia Maria Briggs

During March 2015 visit, author also took photo of tombstones for the following persons buried at Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery who are distant cousins of Ann Ella Henderson Collier:

1. Cartee
Johnnie E Cartee (27Aug1882-25Apr1930)
Martha Cartee (21Oct1856-7Oct1915)
W.T. Cartee (25Jul1849-11Aug1922)
W.G. Cartee (6Jun1885-5Apr1928)
Joe Cartee (26Dec1916-24Jan1934)
2. Cockrell (surname of Cynthia Henderson's husband)
Tom W. Cockrell (1859-29Dec1911)
Geneva E Cockrell (14Apr186x-1Jul1925)
Willie Ann Cockrell (3Dec1886-22Aug1896)
3. Henderson
Nannie W Henderson (3Apr1882-11Aug1956)
George W Henderson (3Apr1882-29Ju1967)
Lillie C Henderson (19May1881-13Oct1916)
Maude Henderson (19Oct1887-14Dec1958)
James E Henderson (28Mar1884-30Mar1957)

- J. Z. Henderson (22Aug1850-16Apr1888)
 Stella H Henderson (30Apr1893-2Feb1985)
 Ross G Henderson (30Sep1894-1Mar1934)
4. Lamb
 Edna L Lamb (7Feb1884-4Oct1963)
 James A Lamb (a Mason) (6Oct1875-17Sep1941)
 Mildred E Lamb (6Oct1918-9Jun1919)
5. Stephens
 Nannie Kate Stephens (28Aug1914-1918) - dau D.W. & M.P. Stephens
 Minnie P Stephens (19Jul1890-2Jul1918) - wife of D.W.
 Minnie Luc... Stephens (1809-190x)
 Willie T Stephens (8May1889-1967)
 Bessie Stephens Tingle (24Apr1903-8Apr1987)



According to this sign, there have been three Bethel Church Buildings located on the current site atop Bethel Hill as follows:

- 1) Building # 1: Used between 1880 and 1907 when it was replaced by a larger structure. Thus far author has not located a picture of this first church building.
- 2) Building #2: See photo below. This Church Building was used between 1907 and 1977 when it burned after being struck by lightning and destroyed by fire.
- 3) Building #3: See photo below. This brick Church Building is still being used by its members as of 2016.



(Built in 1907, this building was struck by lightning and burned in 1977. This photo is of a photograph hanging in Robertson's Cafe in Ralph, AL as of Jan2016. Existing Church Building was rebuilt on current site atop summit of Bethel Hill.)



Bethel Baptist Church (circa 2015)



Inside Bethel Baptist Church (Feb2016)

The Hendersons of Greene County



Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery (c2015)

Agness Robinson Stephens (1818-1873), as well as four other grandparents of Ann Ella (Henderson) Collier were buried in Old Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery. However, Agness' tombstone lies flat on the ground (and mostly buried) beside her husband's (William Franklin Henderson 1811-1890) tombstone - which is located in current Bethel Cemetery. Note that author has photo of Agness' eroded tombstone from the 1990s when it was standing vertically near William's tombstone. Burials were occurring in the current Bethel Cemetery after about 1880 (e.g., J.Z. Henderson in 1888).

In February 2017, author again visited the old (now abandoned) Bethel Cemetery with his pitchfork searching for additional tombstones. Author was unable to identify any additional (buried) tombstones in the area. However, he walked 'down the hill' for the approximately 100 yards distance between the tombstones and the small power substation located along Bethel Church Road (about 300 yards downhill from current church location). There is gently sloping (toward the south and east) terrain along most of this distance. However, footing is treacherous because of uneven terrain. It appeared to the author that as many as 50 collapsed graves cover much of this hillside.

Author's hypothesis:

- 1) The Old Bethel Church Cemetery includes 100+ interments during the period of 1835-1880. Only a few legible tombstones and large number of collapsed graves remain to denote site of this abandoned cemetery.
- 2) Seven (7) individuals (including Agness Robinson Stephens) who died prior to 1880 and whose tombstones are currently in Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery were actually buried in the Old Bethel

The Hendersons of Greene County

Baptist Church Cemetery. These seven tombstones (but probably not the graves) were relocated to their current location sometime after 1890. For example, notice how bottom of Agness' tombstone has been completely eroded while remainder of inscription has remained legible. That erosion occurred prior to relocation of the tombstone - the soil in the old cemetery is very acidic and would have eroded her tombstone within a few decades.

3) Agness Robinson Henderson (daughter of William Franklin Henderson and Agness Robinson Stephens) died in 1861 and is buried in the Old Bethel Cemetery. However, sometime after 1890 someone purchased a 'replacement tombstone' (with no dates) for Agness and placed it in the current Bethel Cemetery next to her son's grave.

4) Seven tombstones were relocated about the same time as indicated by clustering shown in the following photo.



Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery
(Tombstones with deaths prior to 1880)

Beulah Baptist Church

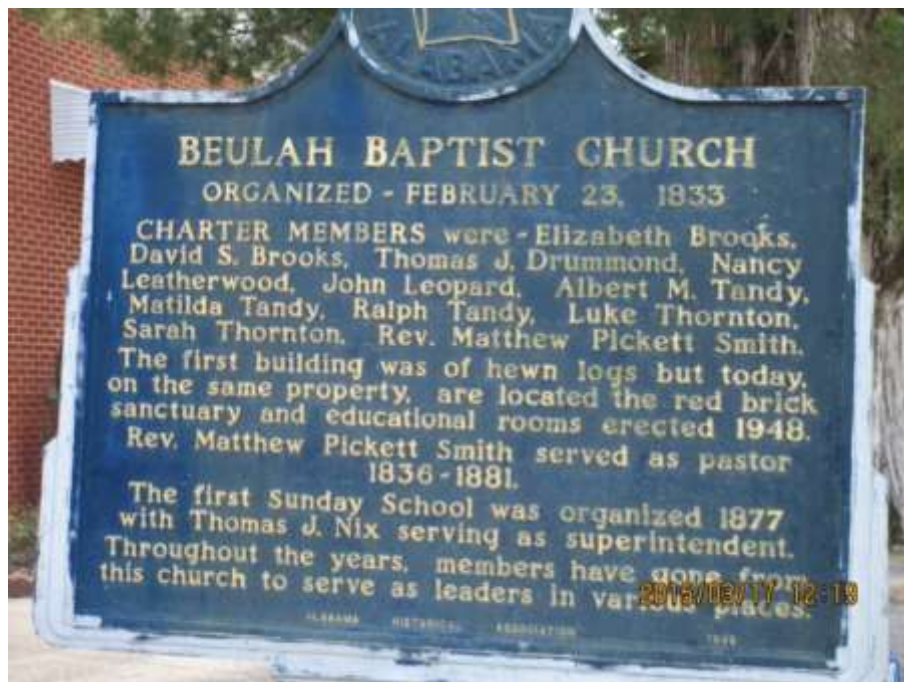
Snoddy Community

6496 County Road 213
Greene County, AL

The settlers who migrated from the Carolinas, Virginia, and Georgia had received grants of land for their military service during the Revolutionary War. Tradition says that a group set out for the "new western territory" that had been opened up with the removal of the Indians. Some of the known settlers who received land grants included Drummond, Smith, William Bonds, and Luke and Elisha Thornton. Most of the settlers in this area were planters, farmers, and merchants.

Beulah was the name given to the church that was established in 1833. Located about a mile west of the church was a gin, a store, and a stagecoach stop. The stagecoach stop was named Snoddy for a family by that name. Beulah Academy was established in 1859 and was a 3-room school whose students attended through the eighth grade. It was built on land donated by James Washington Burnett and his wife Lenora Thornton Burnett.

There was no provision for heating the church building until 1884 when a stove was purchased. The roads were little more than trails and became impassable in the winter. Loneliness was a problem and church became a way for young people to gather to court and frolic. However, church meetings from these early years clearly show congregation's intolerance for those who drank, danced, or played cards.

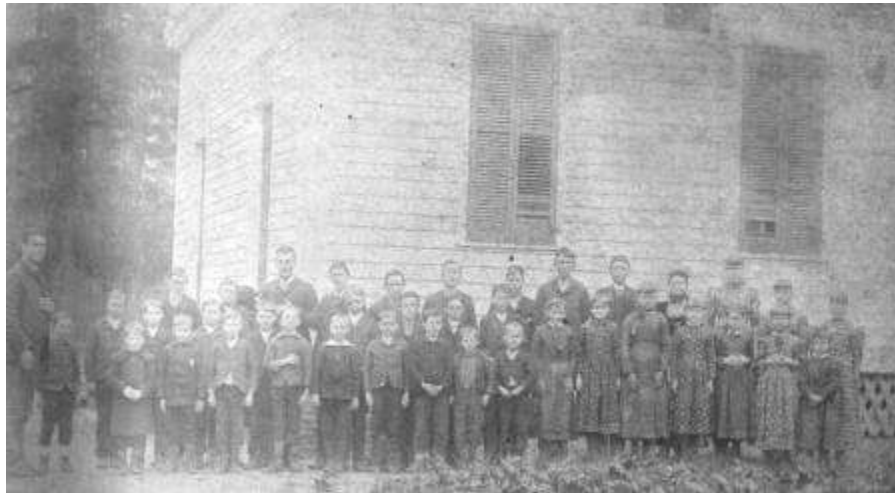


Edmund Waller Henderson was an ordained deacon and became a member 1877 by letter from Bethel Baptist Church (Ralph, Alabama). Edmund was church clerk 1893-1899.



Beulah Baptist Church (before 1948)

Per Milton Henderson's Research in 1990s: Beulah Baptist Church, was organized 23Feb1833, the Church has had four (4) buildings. The first structure was erected in 1872 as a wood structure. Milton Henderson was told that James Edmund Henderson, a carpenter among other trades, "turned the Church around". According to Mr James Roebuck of Tuscaloosa, AL, his grandfather (i.e., this same James Henderson) turned the inside of the church around so that the pulpit/stage was at the opposite end of the auditorium from the entrance. James was quoted by his wife as saying "... this will be better for funerals." According to Mr James Roebuck, his mother told him that "... it is so sad that James was the first funeral to use the new arrangement.



Beulah Baptist Church also functioned as the local School House (c1899)



Beulah Baptist Church (c2015) - Building completed in 1948



Interior View of Beulah Baptist Church (Oct2016)

Following is an excerpt from program associated with **150th anniversary celebration** of the Beulah Baptist Church which was held in 1983. Snoddy was a station for the exchange of horses on one of the old stage lines. During the 1840's this section was added to Greene County to become a Northeast corner and was included in the Union Voting District. It was an area of small farms and small slave holders. The land was red clay with pine and other timber in abundance. The farms while small were productive. The slaves did not outnumber the white population. The size of farms and the number of slaves were increasing until 1860.

The first building for Beulah Baptist Church was of hewn logs, but today on the same property, are located the red brick sanctuary and educational rooms which were erected in 1948.

Rev. Matthew Pickett served as pastor 1836-1881.

The first Sunday School was organized 1877 with Thomas J. Nix serving as superintendent.

After the Revolutionary War, people began to move West. Those settlers from Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia moved into the Southwest. The defeat of the Indians and the consequent land cessions accelerated the migration. The invention of the cotton gin and the development of a high land variety of cotton sent thousands of people in this area seeking new cotton lands. The Union was growing and as people moved into the Southwest they moved and brought their beliefs, ideals, religions, and morals with them. In the States on the Seaboard South, the Episcopal Church was the established Church.

During the early years there were several nationwide revivals of religion, one of which is known as the "great awakening". These revivals were emotional in their appeal bringing religion to the great masses of people on the levels they understood. Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians grew in great numbers, churches were organized and set in order almost as soon as the houses were built and the land cleared.

The settlers were usually very religious, such a group were those who left Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia to settle in an area known officially as Snoddy, but later called the Beulah Community.

A Christian group of people in the Snoddy community felt the need of a church so on February 23, 1833, a Presbytery consisting of the Reverend Robert Marsh, the Reverend Silas Dobbs and the Reverend William B. Stansel, examined and found orthodox the following which they constituted into a regular Baptist Church of Christ: Ralph Tandy, Matilda Tandy, Albert M. Tandy, Luke Thornton, Sarah Thornton, Matthew P. Smith, John Leopard, **T. J. Drummond**, David Brooks, Elizabeth Brooks and Mary Leatherwood.

After constituting of the Church, Reverend Marsh was elected Moderator, Ralph Tandy and Matthew P. Smith having already been ordained were chosen Deacons. The name Beulah was selected.

The first sermon was preached on April 27, 1833 by a Mr. Taylor. The text from Luke 19:6-10, "And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully". During the business meeting, "Articles of Faith" and "Rules of Decorum" were drawn up as governing principles for the Church.

Articles of Faith are Baptist Beliefs with Calvinistic teaching. Strict rules of discipline were followed and the Ordinance of the Lord's Supper was observed twice a year.

All members were required to attend Lord's Supper twice a year and were required to attend regular preaching services, or show why. Baptists were the most numerous denomination in Alabama from early days. The Baptist Churches were independent democratic units.

Twelve (12) of Ann Ella Henderson Collier's grandparents are believed to be buried at Beulah Cemetery to include:

- Thomas James and Isabel Drummond - Charter Members
- Joseph Cartee and Sarah Lamb
- David Thomas and Mary Drummond
- Edmund Waller and Eliza Henderson
- John C and Lydia Henderson
- Thomas Legg and Jeanetta Nully

Author observed several unique features of Beulah Baptist Church and its Cemetery to include:

- 1) Twelve (12) of Ann Ella Henderson Collier's grandparents over five generations are buried in Beulah Cemetery.
- 2) Author was surprised to see the number of tombstones distributed throughout the cemetery which are obviously not the ones installed when the burial was performed. There may be as many as 100 tombstones which have been replaced with a stone memorial which does not easily erode. In February 2017, author found an abandoned tombstone leaning against fence in SW corner of the cemetery. Even though this tombstone was still legible, it had been discarded and replaced by a newer stone. Author has been told that early church members allowed a number of cedar trees to grow for many years in the cemetery - the tree roots destroyed some of the tombstones. In recent decades, cedar trees inside the cemetery were removed and (at least) 20 tombstones were replaced.
- 3) During its history, Beulah Baptist Church has had two baptistries which were installed outdoors. Per James Roebuck, the original baptism was located 'down the hill' immediately west of the current cemetery. Author visited this general area in February 2017 but was unable to discern any structure on that wooded hillside. James' parents were baptized in that outdoor baptism about 1910. Each baptism was designed to 'trap' and hold spring water as it flowed down the hill. Early church minutes refer to Edmund Waller Henderson (one of Ann Ella Henderson's ggrandfathers) as being tasked to identify (and cost) needed repairs to this original baptism. The reader can visualize how cold this water must have been as well as the difficulty in keeping debris out of the uncovered pool of water.
- 4) Beulah Baptist Church built a second outdoor baptism sometime prior to 1940. This baptism is located 'down the hill' from NE corner of the church parking lot. Again, the baptism

was built to 'trap' and hold spring water as it flowed down the hill (see photo below). This second baptistry was used until church included an indoor baptistry as part of its modernization project in 1948. There was a recent cleaning effort of this outdoor baptistry which included addition of a covering but the structure is again covered in leaves as indicated by photos author took in February 2017.



Baptizing at Beulah Church

Photo of Beulah Church Baptistry above was taken in August 1943. The pool was filled with cold (or even icy) spring water. Persons in photo include Rev J L Watson plus:

- back row: James Storey, Melvin Lamb, Jimmy Hollingsworth, Guy Pearce, Artice Hamilton, Paul Drummond
- front row: Elizabeth Burroughs, Jeanne Atkins, Janet Taylor, Lois Storey, and Jewel Pearce.



Outdoor Baptistry - Beulah Baptist Church (c2017)

The Hendersons of Greene County

5) For the first several decades of its existence, Beulah Baptist Church was integrated in that it had both white and black members. Author was told that a significant number of black members are buried in the Bethel Cemetery in the southern front section of the cemetery (i.e., near the road). There are currently 5-6 small tombstones in that area but no one is certain whether they were for white or black individuals. See photo below which shows area where black members were buried near the trees.



Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery
(Oct2016 - As viewed from south side of the Church)

Directions to Beulah Church and Cemetery located near Snoddy, AL are as follows:

- Starting with Tuscaloosa, AL, take I-20/59 west from Tuscaloosa for 19-20 miles.
- Take Exit 52 (Hwy 11/43 and Knoxville, AL) and head north on US 11.
- Follow US11 north approximately 300 yards. Note that the only business remaining at this interstate exit (as of 2016) is a gas station which is located on your right.
- Turn left on Hwy 220 (a paved road) until it dead-ends after 7.9 miles. See sign below.
- Turn left at intersection onto Hwy 213 and go ~0.4 mile to Beulah Church and Cemetery.



The Hendersons of Greene County

Per Mr James Roebuck of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, there is an interesting view if one looks northward while standing behind Beulah Church. Without tree obstructions, one could see the original William Franklin Henderson homestead located about 1.5 mile distant. All of the Henderson buildings are gone but there are still a few of the pioneer families (e.g., Drummond) who live in the Snoddy community. Author met one of these Drummond descendants during a visit in February 2016 - she lives about one mile east of the Snoddy intersection. William Franklin Henderson's homestead was located immediately to the east of this Drummond property. This lady showed author the framed original land patent which her GGGrandfather Thomas J Drummond (& a 2nd person) purchased from the U.S. Government.

Notes from the Beulah Baptist Church Meeting Minutes (1833-2016)

In August 2016, the author learned that a historical researcher in Eutaw, Alabama had paid to digitize and transcribe ALL minutes of the Beulah Baptist Church congregation since its inception in 1833. He was fortunate to obtain a copy of these almost 600 pages of minutes. Following are interesting notes from the minutes which cover the first 75 years of the Church existence.

- 1) Author found it amazing the degree to which the Church congregation was able to influence the behavior of its individual members. Disputes between members, dancing, cards, etc were indiscretions which would get one expelled from the congregation. However, confession and a promise to do better were usually enough to avoid expulsion. It is not clear what the practical effect in one's daily life would be if you were not a member of the congregation or had been expelled. For example, there is no mention of William and Agness Henderson in the church minutes - we know they lived nearby but attended Bethel Baptist Church. Further, there is minimal mention of Bethel Baptist Church in the minutes.
- 2) Beulah Church accepted black members from its earliest days. Apparently, their first building had a walled partition down middle of the church such that whites and blacks did not see each other during worship service. The minutes talk about removing at least part of the wall.
- 3) The church met monthly - apparently they had business meeting on Saturday and Church on Sunday. They initially met on 4th weekend but changed to 3rd weekend within a couple of years. It was near 1860 before they began paying the preacher and having preaching twice monthly.
- 4) Minutes talk about a book with list of membership. It would be most interesting to see a complete list of membership from some of those early years. It would be very difficult to reconstruct a list of members based on these meeting minutes. Note: Author visited Special Collections Section of Samford University Library (in Birmingham) in October 2016 but was unable to find any additional information regarding early Beulah Baptist Church at Ralph (not to be confused with the disbanded Bethel Baptist Church at Northport, AL). Both Bethel churches are technically located in Tuscaloosa County.
- 5) The church participated in both District and Association meetings - the church even purchased minutes of those meetings.

- 6) Thomas J Drummond (one of Ann Ella's ancestors) was listed as a charter member of Beulah. He requested that his name be removed from the roll in Apr1851 - it was approved per the minutes. However, Thomas contributed cash to building a new church building in 1860. The minutes seem to have him listed on a committee at some later date. Unclear what happened.
- 7) David Drummond (Thomas' father and another ancestor of Ann Ella) was also listed as a member of Beulah when he contributed cash to building a new building in 1860. There was a misunderstanding about "stolen cotton" (which was returned) in Nov1865 with David asking that his name be removed from the roll. However, David rejoined the congregation in Oct 1870.
- 8) Joseph Cartee (one of Ann Ella's ancestors) joined Beulah in Feb1847 by letter. There was no mention of a wife.
- 9) Initially, Beulah Church did not have a budget. However, in Nov1857 the congregation decided to pay the preacher \$150/yr. They set up a "subscription system" (based on percentage of property tax) by which each member was coerced into paying his fair share.
- 10) Feb1862 - The Church agreed to pay a black janitor \$1.75 for sweeping the church for the previous year.
- 11) Even as late as 1860, the Church was still contributing less than \$5/year to the Association.
- 12) Apparently, the Beulah Church Building burned in Aug1871. However, the minutes are not helpful in determining how it was rebuilt. Instead, minutes talk about members refusing a request from Buck Creek that meeting be moved from Beulah to Buck Creek because of this fire.
- 13) There is a note in the minutes of Aug1869 that Edmund Waller Henderson was a delegate from Bethel Church.
- 14) Minutes of Nov1862 talk about a 9-day revival meeting (including an outside preacher) - minutes have similar meetings in later years. Description of the revival meeting sounds like some of those 'revival meetings' author enjoyed (or rather endured) as a child.
- 15) Nov1877 - Edmund Waller & Elizabeth Henderson (Ann Ella's ggrandparents) joined Beulah Church by letter from Bethel Church.
- 16) Jun1877 - Edmund Waller Henderson was assigned job of defining needed repairs for the church's baptistry or 'pool'. Note that this was original baptistry which was located immediately to the west of Beulah Baptist Church Cemetery.
- 17) Dec1887 - Church agreed to pay pastor \$200/year. Each member was assigned a pro rata share of this cost. Within a few years there were complaints that some members were not paying their share of the budget.
- 18) Sep1892 - Edmund Waller Henderson was elected clerk of Beulah Church. Edmund remained clerk until May1899 when he resigned because of health problems.

19) Dec1892 - David Drummond (another of Ann Ella's ancestors) named as Church Sexton - Author understood this title means Church Treasurer.

20) Dec1892 - Congregation agreed to drop all ongoing disciplinary actions and treat future cases more kindly. However, this vote was overturned in Jul1893 and there were numerous disciplinary cases afterwards.

21) Jul1894 - Edmund Waller Henderson was added to Committee Report. One practical impact of this was that Edmund was designated to attend a lot of meetings.

22) May1895 - J. M. Chambers killed Harvey Mize - church 'excluded' Chambers for killing another church member. For some reason, Chambers asked church to defer his 'exclusion vote' until after he went to trial. The church did not wait to vote on his exclusion.

23) Aug1896 - Robert Lamb asked that his name be taken off the roll as it had been a mistake for him to join the church because he was not religious.

24) Aug1896 - Membership was 69 male and 90 female members.

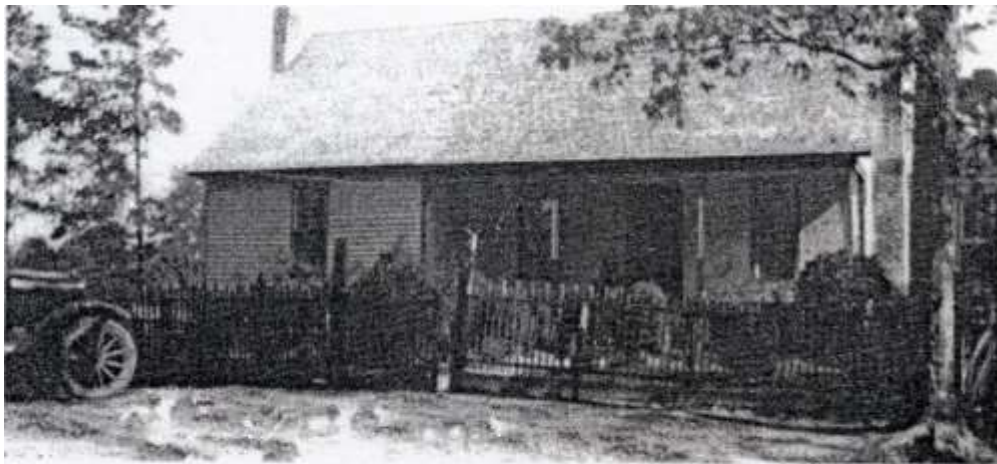
25) Jul1897 - Church voted to forbid "lemonade or other beverage drinks" within one mile of the church. They later voted to keep lemonade away from some association meeting to extent of asking nearby landowners to not allow lemonade. No indication of why such beverages were of concern to the church members. Note: Further research suggests that 'lemonade' was a code word for moonshine similarly to how 'buttermilk' was a code word for moonshine in middle Tennessee.



The Hendersons of Greene County



Beulah Baptist Church Cemetery, c1991



*Beulah Parsonage, Smith, Bonds, Atkins home,
ca.1920. Haunted House at Beulah.*

Allegedly, the ghost of a young girl inhabited this house.

Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church

Pleasant Ridge, Greene County, AL

Early History of the Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church Pleasant Ridge, Greene County, Alabama by Scott W. Owens

In accordance with an appointment of the Tuscaloosa Presbytery, Rev. J. L. Kirkpatrick and Rev. C. A. Stillman met on November 18, 1848, and organized a Presbyterian church at Pleasant Ridge. The church was formed with the following charter members: James H. Archibald, Mary A. Archibald, Elizabeth Archibald, Samuel S. Archibald, Andrew B. Archibald, William Steele, Eleanore Steele, Elizabeth W. Steele, William P. Kennedy, Elizabeth A. Kennedy, James M. Kennedy, William Leroy Kennedy, and Elizabeth A. Hutchins. The Steeles and Archibalds had been members at Mesopotamia Presbyterian Church in Eutaw, the Kennedys and Miss Hutchins from the Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Clinton. Rev. Stillman preached from I Timothy 5:17 at the organizational service, with Rev. Kirkpatrick presiding, this service being held at a home near the present site of the church. On motion it was resolved that the church elect three ruling elders. Elected as the first Session of the Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church were: James H. Archibald, William Steele, and Dr. William P. Kennedy. All these men had previously been ordained as ruling elders; they were installed at the organization as elders of this church. Dr. Kennedy was elected Clerk of the Session. Rev. J. L. Kirkpatrick then gave a charge to the elders and also to the people. It was then determined by a vote of the congregation that this church be called Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church.

The Session met after the services of organization, Rev. Kirkpatrick presiding and opening with prayer. The following persons presented themselves to the Session for admission into the communion of the church, and upon examination as to their religious experience were received: J. A. Williams, R. T. Kennedy, Joseph Benton, Mary Benton, Mary Bostick, and Ann J. Bostick.

The church continued to meet in the home for services. The pulpit was filled by stated supplies A.P. Silliman in 1849 and Fields Bradshaw in 1851, as well as Rev. C. A. Stillman, R. W. B. Kennedy, and M. Calvin from 1848-1855. The first infant baptized in the church was Samuel Miller Archibald, son of Edwin Addison and Ellen Jane Archibald, on March 14, 1851 by Rev. N. R. Morgan. By this time there were twenty-three communicant members of the congregation. On February 18, 1854, the church elected, ordained, and installed its first deacons, Samuel S. Archibald and Richard M. Kennedy. This same day, Edwin Addison Archibald was elected ruling elder of the church.

On September 8, 1855, the 41 communicant members convened in a Congregational Meeting, Rev. R. W. B. Kennedy presiding. After a reading a portion of Scripture, singing, and prayer, the moderator proceeded to take the votes of the congregation for Pastor of the same. Whereupon Rev. J. P. McMullen was unanimously elected. A call was then drawn in due form, and subscribed to by the Electors. Thus the Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church called its first pastor.

James Porter McMullen was born July 21, 1811 in Abbeville District, South Carolina, the youngest son of Archibald and Mary (Dunlap) McMullen, members of the Associate Reformed Church. He did not profess Christ until the twenty-third year of his life. When he reached manhood, he moved to Alabama where his brother Robert B. McMullen, D.D., then resided. At a Tuscaloosa Presbytery meeting at Eutaw, at the Mesopotamia Presbyterian Church, in 1833 that he joined himself to the church, and shortly thereafter he gave himself to the sacred ministry. He attended the □ Manuel Labor School at Marion, Alabama during the years 1834 and 1835 to begin his literary education. Thereafter he entered Franklin College in Athens, Georgia in 1836, graduating with honors in 1838. On November 4, 1838, James married Miss Martha S. Fulton at the Ebenezer Presbyterian Church

in Clinton. James was a member of this church until at least 1840. He studied theology privately under the direction of his brother the Rev. Dr. McMullen until 1841. In April of 1841 he was licensed by the Tuscaloosa Presbytery and in December he was ordained and installed as pastor of the churches of Mt. Zion, Concord, and Carthage Presbyterian churches in eastern Greene County, now Hale County. Here he labored thirteen years, and was much blessed in the successful result of his ministry.

Upon his acceptance of the call to pastorship by the Pleasant Ridge church, James P. McMullen was also pastor of the Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Pickens County. *Snedecor's Greene County Directory, 1856* indicates that Mr. McMullen was also pastor of the New Hope Church in Knoxville, some distance to the northeast.

The effects of his ministry at Pleasant Ridge were even more fruitful than his previous ministry in eastern Greene County. From 1855 to 1860 eighty-three members were added to the rolls of the church, including twenty African-American members. The first of these was Jacob, servant of William Porter, who was received into full communion of the church on letter of the Hebron Presbyterian Church in Union. Although all the African-American members were servants in the community, half of those who joined the church during this antebellum period were servants whose masters were not members themselves or most certainly did not attend the church, or were members at churches of other denominations in the community. Clearly the African-American members attended the services of this church by their own choice. Session records reveal that examination of religious experience, admission to membership, and matters of church discipline were administered equally regardless of race or social status. On March 14, 1856, the church elected James M. McGowan ruling elder.

With the growth of the congregation a permanent and appropriate house of worship was needed. In 1859 a Greek Revival church building (similar to structure of the First Presbyterian Church in Eutaw seen below) was constructed on land which had been purchased on Sipsey Road near the Baptist church. The central double entrance doors led to a shallow vestibule with stairs in the right corner leading to the upper gallery entirely above the vestibule. The double isle sanctuary was heated by pot belly stoves at the four corners. The rostrum at the front was surmounted by a railing with a box pulpit. Walls and ceilings were plastered; woodwork was stained oak. Three brass whale oil chandeliers were over each isle, with one larger chandelier over the pulpit. The tower over the west facade was fitted with louvers in the belfry. A hipped copper roof topped the bell tower.

During this time the church mourned the death of one of the founding elders. On February 17, 1859, Mr. William Steele died at his home in Pleasant Ridge. A lengthy tribute to Mr. Steele was prepared by the Session and published in the *Tuscaloosa Presbyterian*. George Washington Knox and Abner Alexander Archibald were elected ruling elders January 28, 1860.

With the coming national crisis in 1861, the growth of the church continued under Mr. McMullen's ministry. While no new members were received in 1861, a couple and their servant were received on letter, as a family, in 1862; one communicant joined in 1863 and seventeen in 1864, the latter number including three African-Americans. During 1861 and 1862 many of the men of the church answered the call of the colors. No less than twenty-five members of the Pleasant Ridge church are documented in Confederate service. This little church furnished two chaplains, one each for the two major field armies. William P. Kennedy, a founding elder, was chaplain of the 11th Alabama Infantry

in the Army of Northern Virginia; the pastor himself answered the call of the chaplaincy in 1864, ministering to the 42nd Alabama Infantry of the Army of Tennessee. Of those who served in their country's armies, eleven did not return.

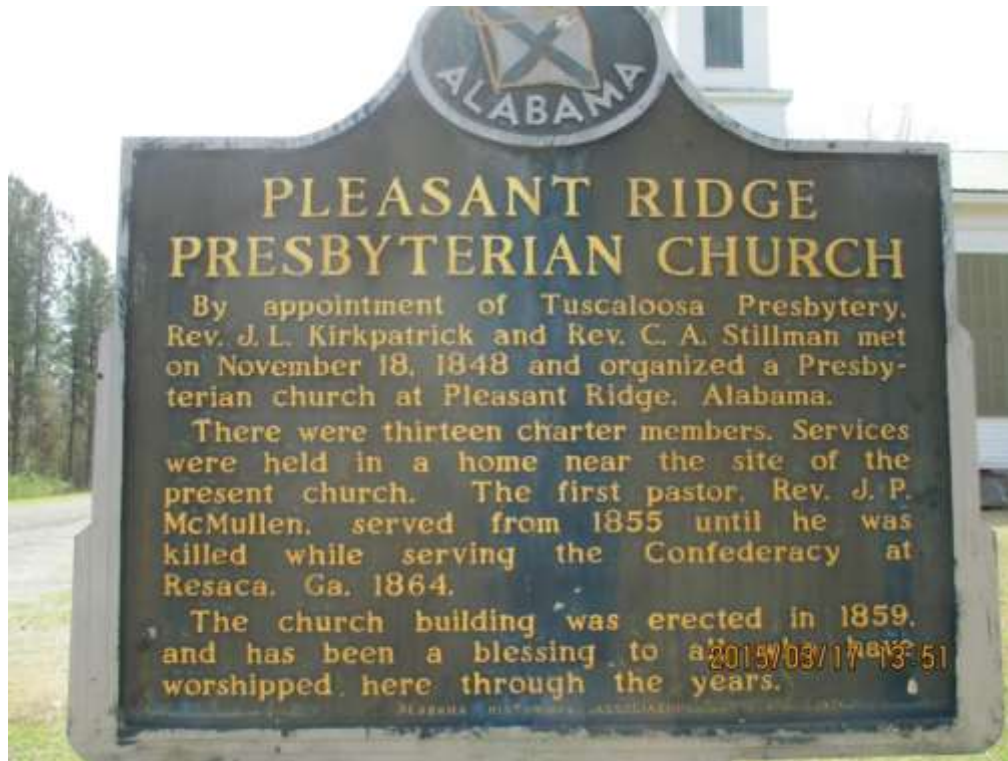
The Church reached its peak membership of 177 members on the active roll in 1873. However, by 1875, the membership was less than 100 members. Apparently, they were having services only once per month. The Church was integrated until 1885 when the Presbytery decided that a separate church should be provided for the black members.

William & Sarah (nee Nason) Montgomery who would become Ann Ella Henderson Collier's grandparents first migrated from South Carolina to Mississippi in the early 1800s and settled near present-day Starkville. After her husband's death in Mississippi, Sarah Nason remarried and her new family moved from Mississippi to Pleasant Ridge, Alabama which is located about 20 miles south of Tuscaloosa and 14 miles west of I-20/US59 on Highway 14. The Montgomery family members were Presbyterian. Three (3) of Ann Ella Henderson Collier's grandparents are buried at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery to include:

- Sarah Isabella Nason Montgomery Archibald
 - Sarah married Thomas Archibald after husband #1 died
- David Milton Montgomery and Virginia L. Bardwell

Other Montgomery family members buried in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery include:

- a) Thomas P Archibald (1818-1877) - 2nd husband of Sarah Isabella Nason
- b) Laura Glenn Montgomery (1843-1876) - Daughter of Sarah Isabella Nason
- c) Infant son (1861) of Thomas P and Sarah Archibald
- d) Infant son (1870) of David Montgomery and 1st wife Martha Sanders
- e) Martha C Sanders (1844-1871) - 1st wife of David Montgomery
- f) William Hunter Montgomery (1879) - infant son of David Montgomery and Virginia Bardwell



Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church (circa 2015)
(Notice shuttered windows)



Pleasant Ridge Cemetery - Notice woods at back of cemetery. There is a downward slope into the woods which includes a few old markers but most of that area is barren - which indicates that many of the oldest graves have been lost. In February 2017, the author photographed a number of tombstones which are located further back 'in the woods' - there could be additional tombstones even further back in the woods. It appears that vegetation was allowed to consume part of the original cemetery.

Mt Hebron Presbyterian Church

Union, Greene County, Alabama

The Reverend Andrew Brown preached the first sermon at Mt Hebron Presbyterian Church in March 1822. The church was organized in 1824, when the Reverend Thomas Archibald came from South Carolina and settled in the area between the Hebron and the New Hope Church in Knoxville in order that he might serve both churches. The deed is on record at the Presbyterian Historical Foundation at Montreat, North Carolina showing the church received 80 acres in grant dated October 1, 1835. The second meeting of the Tuscaloosa Presbytery was held at Hebron on October 1, 1835.

The church building was on the order of the Presbyterian Church at Clinton and is believed to have been built at about the same time. The Snedecor Directory of 1856 lists Hebron Church with 244 members. This was the largest Presbyterian Church in Greene County at that time. Most of its membership must have been lost before 1900 as the building became neglected and collapsed in 1918. In 1920 a congregational meeting was held to decide if the church should be rebuilt. It was not and it is believed that the last active member of the church, Miss Lucy Brown, was buried there in 1923. Dr R E Fulton was moderator of the 1920 meeting and it was he who documented much of the history of the church which was dissolved by the Tuscaloosa Presbytery in 1931.

The cemetery has been used by both black and white members and it is still cleaned off each year. There is a fund for future care of the cemetery. One shortcoming here is that many older tombstones have fallen over and are being slowly buried by mowed vegetation.

The author visited the Hebron Cemetery in October 2016 and photographed about 300 of its older tombstones. As indicated above, the last 'oldtimer' to be interned at Hebron was in 1923. The original church and cemetery property consisted of 80 acres - the current cemetery is about ten acres configured in a triangular shape. The original Hebron Presbyterian Church and 'oldtimers' cemetery was located in the middle of the triangle. This central area is kept mowed but many of its tombstones have fallen over and are becoming either shattered or buried in the debris. Author estimates there are at least 400 'oldtimer' burials (i.e., prior to 1923) in the Hebron Cemetery. As you can see in the photos below, a lot of these tombstones have been destroyed and a large number of pieces are stacked in a central location.

Note: Church records of the 1920 meeting indicate members voted to sell the property except for five acres and use the proceeds to fund future upkeep. However, author estimates (as of October 2016) that cemetery covers at least ten acres of land - arranged in a triangular shape.

One unusual aspect of Hebron Cemetery is the site could be considered as two separate cemeteries. As indicated above, there are at least 400 'oldtimer' burials located in the central area of the triangular plot. However, the cemetery was 'reopened' in recent decades and there are at least 150-200 burials which are clustered in each of the three 'corners' of the cemetery property. Burials continue to this day - these tombstones present a stark contrast to the 'oldtimers' tombstones. Hint: Notice difference in color between tombstones located near center of the cemetery versus the newer tombstones located in the right rear portion of the photo.



Hebron Cemetery at Union, Greene County, AL (c2016)



Stacked pieces of Tombstones at Hebron Cemetery (c2016)

The Mayes family were active members of the Hebron Presbyterian Church in the 1830s and 1840s. Per family records three (3) of Ann Ella Herderson Collier's grandparents (i.e., members of the

The Hendersons of Greene County

Mayes family) are buried in the Hebron Cemetery. Ann's grandparents who are buried at Hebron include:

- Samuel James Mayes (1823-1842)
- Edward Mayes (1772-1848)
- Nancy A Archibald Mayes (1786-1845)

Per Jim Taylor; Houston, Texas; ladasca@aol.com; November, 2002

In its lifetime, estimated from about 1828 to 1905, Hebron Presbyterian Church was a busy worship and community center for Mantua. Greene County, AL, but both the Church and the adjoining cemetery have met a sad and unfortunate fate. The Church dissolved and the building has disappeared. The road to its old location is now an eroded red clay path. The cemetery has suffered from neglect, but much more from deliberate destruction. Today, only a fraction of the graves remain marked; what pieces remain of the other markers is hidden in long grass. My father, Cecil Adrian Taylor [b 17 Jan 1916/d 15 Sep 1989 and the son of Walter Eugene Taylor, Sr. and Vicie Elizabeth Wilson] grew up in the Mantua area. Before he died, we visited the site where the church used to be. I already knew that some of my ancestors were members of Hebron and are buried in the cemetery; I am now sure that many more are buried there.