



Further corroboration of the relationship of Major William to William Edmiston Sr. is found in the appearance of Holmes as a middle name for two of the Major's grandsons.

The earliest record of Major William Edmondson is of his service in the Revolutionary War. In 1822 a newspaper article appeared in Tennessee which cast aspersions on the bravery of Col. William Campbell at the Battle of King's Mountain in 1780. The Colonel's relatives, members of the Campbell and Preston families, leaped to the rescue of the Colonel's reputation by seeking out survivors of the battle and having them make depositions as to what they observed during the fight.<sup>(7)</sup> One of these depositions was by William Edmondson of Williamson County, Tennessee.<sup>(8)</sup> In this account, William swears that he was a private in Col. Campbell's regiment. That he was a member of Capt. David Beattie's Company is shown by the muster roll of the company, preserved in the Virginia State Library.<sup>(9)</sup> William testifies in his deposition that he was present at King's Mountain and that Col. Campbell acted with appropriate bravery and gallantry. William also says that later he was with Campbell at "the affair of Whitsett's Mill."

William and his brothers Robert and Thomas no doubt came into Tennessee very early. In 1783, William served as a member of the guard for the commission "for laying off the lands allotted the officers and soldiers of the Continental Line" of North Carolina, and for this service, he was awarded 320 acres of land in 1787.<sup>(10)</sup> This land was situated on Arrington Creek, probably a short distance east of the town of Arrington on the <sup>south side of the</sup> Murfreesboro Road, now highway 96. William as far as we know lived the rest of his life on this farm.

William was appointed captain of cavalry of the Mero District on 15 December 1790<sup>(11)</sup> and Major of cavalry 2 June 1791.<sup>(12)</sup> As major of cavalry, he was one of the signers of a petition on 1 August 1791 to President Washington congratulating him "on the completion of the union of all the states, an event

7) This controversy is treated more fully in the appendix to Lyman C. Draper, King's Mountain and its Heroes, 1881. Cf. also EFAB, II, #4, p. 125

8) Library of Congress, Campbell-Preston Papers, VI, 772-4. Partially reprinted in Draper, Op. cit., 587. Williamson County split off from Davidson County in 1799.

9) Virginia State Library, Miscellaneous Militia Lists, Revolutionary War, 69-312

10) The list of the guards is in the Tennessee State Archives. Land grant is North Carolina Warrant #190, 8 October 1787. Note that North Carolina included Tennessee until 1790.

11) Governor Blount's Journal, in Territorial Papers of the U.S., IV, Territory South of the Ohio River, 1790-6, 442.

12) Ibid., ~~442~~ 444

Lt. Robert Edmondson, his elder brother, was in the same company, as well as his kinsmen Samuel, Andrew, and Moses Edmondson

productive of many salutary Consequences..." and asking that something be done about the Indians "fully hoping to meet with a more ample protection than we have heretofore received from the State of North Carolina..."<sup>(13)</sup>

In 1794, William may have served in the Nickojack Campaign, an attack on troublesome Indians. At any rate, a somewhat interesting story is told of him in that connection.

In 1794, a meeting was again held at Col. William Donelson's to concert measures for a campaign against Nickojack... When the men met, an election for officers took place... Two majors were to be selected. Col. John Montgomery was chosen first major over Col. Maucro. Col. Weakley, who had been active in getting up the expedition, was proposed for second major when some twenty-five of Maj. Hays' troops and horse were in attendance with Maj. Wm. Edmondson at their head, said they would not consent to an election, but that their officer, Edmondson, must be the second major by virtue of the rank he held in the horse regiment. Weakley at this time was Inspector General of Robertson's Brigade, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and said he would cheerfully abide the decision of an election as agreed upon prior to rendezvousing, but would not consent to be dragooned into yielding to the dictatorial appointment of Edmondson without submitting it to the wishes of a majority of the army; if, upon trial, it should be found that Edmondson or anyone else was the choice of the men, then he would fall into the ranks without a murmur, and share a soldier's part in all the privations and services of the campaign. Edmondson's troop still insisting upon their demand, Weakley, in something of a pet, left his provisions for the men, and mounting his horse returned home. (14)

Our records do not say whether Major William Edmondson remained as second major of the expedition.

Presumably the rest of William Edmondson's life was less eventful, and little is known of it. In 1799, he was one of the commissioners to erect public buildings for the new county of Williamson.<sup>(15)</sup> He was on the first jury at Franklin, Tennessee, in 1800,<sup>(16)</sup> and was on a road crew to lay off the road from the mouth of Arrington Creek to Franklin.<sup>(17)</sup>

Like many of his kinsmen, he probably did some speculating in land. A survey of 1200 acres on the Elk River (Lincoln County) dated 1792 survives<sup>(18)</sup> and it seems probable that this land did not remain long in his possession. The inventory of his estate in 1832 shows him as a well-to-do farmer, tilling 211 acres, and with twelve slaves.<sup>(19)</sup>

13) Ibid., 73-74

14) Draper Mss., 32 S 372-4. The account is in Draper's notes and is labelled as though it came from Col. Weakley himself.

15) J. G.M. Ramsey, Annals of Tennessee, 707

16) History of Tennessee (Goodspeed), 793

17) Ibid., 791

18) North Carolina Warrant # 2023. The original is in the possession of the author.

19) Williamson County Will Book V, 225

Probably around 1815, at the time of the marriage, William deeded 109 of his original 320 acres to his son-in-law, Edward H. McNeill. On 15 February 1832, on the same day that William made his will, he deeded the remaining 211 acres to his sons Robert and Thomas. William's will makes bequests of slaves and livestock to his wife and children.<sup>(20)</sup> The will was proven in the July term of 1832, thus indicating that William did not long survive the making of his will. His burial has not yet been located.

At some time before 1793, William Edmondson married Frances Boyd, daughter of Robert and Anne Boyd.<sup>(21)</sup> Frances survived her husband--somewhat surprising perhaps since in 1824 a settlement of some Boyd land was made and at that time Frances was described as "so aged and infirm that she cannot conveniently travel."<sup>(22)</sup> Her death date and burial are not known. An extremely remote possibility would be that she is the Frances Edmondson, ~~Frances Edmondson~~ who married Josiah Mullin in Williamson County, 10 November 1841. We have not as yet been able to identify this Frances Edmondson, but if she were the widow of William, she would be in her mid-sixties at the least, which makes ~~her remarriage~~ remarriage extremely unlikely--but not impossible.

The known children of Major William Edmondson and Frances Boyd are as follows. There probably were others who presumably died young: in particular we note no children named after the paternal grandparents. Also, the census of 1820 shows one more female in the household than this listing of children provides for--although of course the extra female might not have been a daughter.

1. Ann Edmondson. From her marriage date, she was probably born c. 1794 and named after her maternal grandmother, Ann Boyd. She married in Williamson County, 17 August 1815, Edward H. McNeill.<sup>(23)</sup> The bondsman was John Buchanan, probably Ann's uncle, husband of Margaret Edmondson. Ann died before 1829, when McNeill married Mary McCutchen.<sup>(24)</sup> There were three children:

1. William E(dmondson?) McNeill
2. Robert H(olmes?) McNeill
3. Thomas A. McNeill

None of these have been traced as yet, although William served as bondsman for his aunt Julia's marriage to William Floyd in 1840. Hildegard Smith, historian of the McCutchen family, reports that William and Robert were apparently living with their stepmother around 1860.

20) Williamson County Will Book V, 182

21) Robert Boyd's will, dated 6 September 1793, Davidson County Will Book I, 302, mentions daughter Frances Edmondson.

22) Dyer County, Tennessee, Deed Book B, 16-21

23) L. J. Gardiner and W. R. Bejach, Williamson County Marriage Records, 1800-1850,

24) License 23 Nov. 1829, vol. 3 Dec. 1829, S. T. Blair, Davidson County Marriage

2. Isabella Edmondson. Her birthdate is unknown. The census of 1820 shows in William's household two females born 1794-1804, three born 1804-1810, and one born after 1810. We can only speculate as to which daughter fits these categories. Isabella died unmarried about 1837, as is shown by a slave deed in the possession of the author in which Robert Hoyd Edmondson, John B. Miles, William Floyd, and Matilda Edmondson deed their shares in ~~some~~ slaves belonging to the estate of Isabella to their brother (or brother-in-law) Thomas Edmondson.

3. Robert Hoyd Edmondson. He was born c. 1799. With his brother Thomas and perhaps other members of the family, he moved to Greene County, Missouri, about 1844. He was a well-to-do farmer, his land including the Edmondson Spring which is part of the water supply of Springfield, Missouri, today. He died in Greene County in September, 1868. He married Vesta LeGrande Wilson, daughter of Samuel Wilson and Margaret Edmiston (a daughter of the Captain William Edmiston killed at King's Mountain). His children:

1. William Constant Edmondson, born c. 1827, died September, 1862, killed in action in Arkansas in the Confederate Army. Presumably unmarried.
2. Virginia Caroline Tennessee (Jenny) Edmondson, born c. 1833, died 12 January, 1889, Brownwood, Texas. She was married in Greene County, Missouri, 13 March 1851, to William Sumners Snow, son of Horace and Mary (Billard) Snow, born 29 August 1829, died c. 1908 in Oregon. Most of the descendants of this marriage are known to the author.   
 1839-40
3. Frances M. T. (Fanny) Edmondson, born c. ~~1833~~, ~~his~~ death date unknown. She married in Greene County, ~~1854~~ 14 October 1856, Nathan Robinson. This family supposedly moved to Lawrence County, Missouri. The descendants have not been traced.
4. America V. Edmondson, born c. 1836, death date unknown. She married in Greene County, 24 June 1852, Christopher or Christian S. Rodenhammer. They lived in Brownsville, Texas. Descendants only partly known.
5. Robert Holmes Edmondson, born September, 1842, died at Waurika, Oklahoma, 22 February 1917. He married in Greene County, 27 July 1870, Sarah Cordelia Hickman, daughter of Jesse and Mahalia (Dodge) Hickman, born 1 June 1847, died at Waurika, 22 June 1922. He served in the Confederate Army, Company E, 3rd Regiment, Missouri Cavalry, 1862-1865, ~~and~~ in Company E, 13th Regiment, Missouri Militia, 1865, and in the 2nd Arkansas Cavalry, U.S.A., 1867. His descendants have been traced, and one of his grandsons is EFA member William Edmondson of Rancho Mirage, California.

4. Thomas Edmondson. He was born in Tennessee, 9 October 1801. He moved with his brother Robert to Missouri about 1844, and like his brother, was a well-to-do farmer in Greene County. He died there, from injuries received in felling off his roof, on 7 December 1856. Thomas may have married twice: in the notes of <sup>the late</sup> Mrs. Katherine Edmondson Callaway of Brentwood, Tennessee, there is an interview with Mrs. Bettie Roberts Ogilvie recorded some years ago. Mrs.

Ogilvie was a niece of Thomas' wife Sarah Roberts. She reported that Thomas had been married before he married Sarah, and that there was one child and his wife died. No record has been found either of the marriage or the child. Thomas' only known wife was Sarah Carter Roberts, daughter of Benjamin and Nancy (Fuqua) Roberts, born in Tennessee 17 April 1811, died in Greene County, Missouri, 24 July 1877. The children listed are all known to be Sarah's children:

1. Robert Hillary Edmondson, born 10 October 1837, died in Greene County, 4 February 1913. He married, Greene County, 1 January 1860, Martha Ann Matthews. His descendants are largely known to the author.
  2. Benjamin Holmes Edmondson, born in Tennessee, 16 August 1839, died in Greene County, Missouri, 29 June 1887. He married first, 22 November 1860, Louisa J. Gray, born 6 May 1844, died 21 November 1872; and second, 3 September 1873, Iry Nettie McMillan, born Harrison, Arkansas, 9 April 1846, died 24 November 1924. Benjamin was a sergeant in Company E, 3rd Regiment, Missouri Cavalry, Confederate Army, 1862-1865. His descendants have been traced.
  3. John Hazzard or John Holmes Edmondson, born c. 1841, ~~and~~ death date unknown. With his brothers and cousin, he enlisted in 1862 in Company E of the 3rd Regiment of Missouri Cavalry. In 1865 at the end of the war, he was apparently a prisoner of war, but that is the last record of him. Family tradition has it that he told his mother that if he were sent to war, he would never return--and he apparently kept the promise. It is possible that he died unmarried in Oklahoma about 1916, for an inquiry came to his brother Thomas seeking heirs to his estate. Thomas was not inclined to follow up the inquiry in the light of John's treatment of his mother, and nothing further was learned.
  4. William Boyd Edmondson, born c. 1844, death date unknown. He married Martha Thomas, but his descendants are not known.
  5. Nancy Matilda Edmondson, born 5 June 1846, died Greene County, 18 September 1846. She married in Greene County, 16 September 1869, George A. McKinnis, born 15 May 1846, died 8 January 1886. Descendants are known.
  6. Frances A. (Fannie) Edmondson, born 1848, died 1906. Married in Greene County, 21 May 1864, James Marshall Snow, son of Horace and Mary (Dillard) Snow, born 17 June 1828, died 1909. Descendants known.
  7. Thomas Emmett Edmondson, born 16 January 1851, died in Greene County, 10 August 1923. He married in Greene County, 19 December 1876, Mary Frances Lavice Freeman, born 4 December 1856, died 3 November 1937, daughter of ~~William E.~~ William E. and ~~Eliza E.~~ Eliza E. (Snow) Freeman (she was another daughter of Horace and Mary (Dillard) Snow). This is the author's grandfather. Descendants are known.
  8. Marcus Judson Edmondson, born c. 1853. Death date unknown. He left Missouri in middle age and was not again heard from. He may have settled in New Orleans and possibly married there.
5. Thisbe Edmondson. She is mentioned in her father's will, but nothing further is known of her. However, see the account of William Floyd under

her sister Julia (# 5).

6. Matilda Edmondson. Mentioned in her father's will. Mrs. Ogilvie told Mrs. Callaway that Matilda never married, and she was unmarried in 1837 at the time of Mr. Isabella's death.

7. Mary J. Edmondson. Birth and death dates unknown. She married in Williamson County, Tennessee, 6 December 1831, John B. Miles, son of Hartwell Miles. Miles was a witness to his father-in-law's will. This line is untraced, although it is known that there were children. John B. Miles is remember as living at least for a time in Greene County, Missouri.

8. Julia G. Edmondson. Birth and death dates unknown. She married in Williamson County, Tennessee, 1 January 1840, William (Dilly) Floyd. Floyd seems to have been previously married to a sister of Julia, for he is one of the legatees of Isabella Edmondson in 1837. Perhaps Thisbe Edmondson was his first wife. The line is untraced, except that Mrs. Callaway records that a Chambers girl, who was a granddaughter, was the second wife of one Edgar Haynes, Sr., in Williamson County.

Howard Vallance Jones  
18 Winter Ridge Road,  
Cedar Falls, Iowa, 50613

THE EARLY EDMONDSONS OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

The true and full story of the Edmondson families in eighteenth century Virginia may never be told. The evidence unearthed so far by several generations of eager researchers simply is not sufficient to give probable lineages to any of the Edmondson or Edmiston families of the Virginia Valley. Whether evidence is still extant which might solve these problems is doubtful. It may be that an arduous examination of early Virginia deeds might shed additional light; it may be also that a further search into the records of Cecil County, Maryland, and Chester County, Pennsylvania, will produce new facts. However, the author confesses to a certain degree of pessimism. At any rate, disappointingly enough, in what follows here there are bound to be more questions asked than answers given. All that I attempt to do is to sort out the skimpy available facts, and, where possible, to suggest some working hypotheses which might be helpful.

The earliest Edmondson settlers in what was then Augusta County, Virginia, seem to have been the following: David (called by some "David Turk"), Isabella, "Jesse", John, William, Rachel, Moses, and another David, all mentioned together in 1740; Mathew, first mentioned in 1742; Robert, first mentioned in 1747. Those listed with David may or may not be the same as others of the same name mentioned in the 1740's and 1750's.

Most researchers have thought that these families came to Virginia from Cecil County, Maryland, or Chester County, Pennsylvania. These two counties adjoin, and the Edmiston lands are supposed to have been on the border between them. We have some record of an eighteenth century Edmiston family which remained in Cecil County, members of which intermarried with the Washington County, Virginia, Edmiston.

(1)  
That Colonel William Edmiston (1734/6-1822) was born in Cecil County is on record.

(2)  
The line of William Edmiston, Sr. (d. 1789) is also from Maryland. On the other

1) Andrew Edmondson, the Colonel's son, to Lyman C. Draper, 12 Jan. 1846. Draper Mas. 10 DD 56.

2) Blanche S. Wentley to Ollie Kate Harris quotes the family Bible of William Sr.'s son, Lt. Robert, that his family came from Maryland to Virginia.

hand, Mathew Edmiston's descendants apparently thought that he came from Chester  
(3)  
County, Pennsylvania.

Although it is usually assumed that all these Edmistons were related, it  
should not necessarily be thought that they were closely related. Our best guess  
is that all are descended from the Scotch house of Edmonstone. This house, of  
venerable antiquity and more than one royal connection, must have left numerous  
descendants not only in Scotland, but also in Ireland. The head of the junior  
branch of the family, the Lairds of Duntruath, is known to have moved to northern  
Ireland, County Ulster, early in the seventeenth century, and other members of his  
family probably accompanied him. Col. William Edmiston was said by his son to be  
(4)  
of Irish ancestry, and probably most of the Virginia Valley Edmistons are from the  
(5)  
same source. From the given names and the spelling "Edmonston", the descendants  
of Archibald Edmonston (1677-1734) of Prince George County, Maryland, seem clearly  
to be of the Irish branch, and there has been much speculation as to a connection  
between this family and the Virginia Valley Edmistons.

On the other hand, descendants of Mathew Edmiston seem to have held that their  
ancestry went back to the elder line of Edmonstones, Lairds of Ednam, a family which  
(6)  
is not known to have come to Ireland. Additionally, it is conceivable that some  
of the Virginia Valley Edmistons may have stemmed from the Quaker Edmondsons who  
settled in the mid-seventeenth century in Talbot County, Maryland, who may be  
English rather than Irish. Another possible source is the Edmondson family who  
settled early in Essex County, Virginia, and who are also probably English.

3) William T. Price, Historical Sketches of Pocahontas County, West Virginia,  
1901, p. 168.

4) Sir Archibald Edmonstone of Duntreath, Genealogical Account of the Family of  
Edmonstons of Duntreath, Edinburg, privately printed, 1875, pp. 46 ff.

5) ~~Price, op. cit., p. 168.~~ Andrew Edmondson to Lyman Draper, Draper Mss. 10 DD 56.

6) Price, op. cit., p. 168. Some account of this line can be found in Sir  
Archibald Edmonstone, op. cit., pp. 92 ff.

Some efforts have been made to differentiate between the families on the basis of how they spelled their names. Although some interesting conclusions can be drawn from such a study, any extended efforts to base proofs on these spellings are dangerous. The rules of spelling were not clearly formulated in the eighteenth century, and the tendency, particularly by frontier people of little formal education, was to spell names according to the scribe's own individual brand of phonetics. In general, we note that the Prince George County family sticks close to "Edmonston" until the later generations. The Quakers of Talbot County usually use "Edmondson" or more frequently "Edmundson." The Essex County families are universally "Edmondson". The Cecil County and the Virginia-Valley families in the eighteenth century seem to be quite consistent in writing their names "Edmiston". However, after about 1800, the descendants of William Edmiston Sr. seem universally to have changed to "Edmondson", those of Col. William vary between "Edmiston" and "Edmondson", those of Moses stick to "Edmiston", and those of Mathew to "Edmondson". What significance all this has, if any, is not known. Prantess Perry Edmiston argued, not very convincingly, that the Edmondson family came from Scotland, settled in South Carolina, then moved to Cecil County, Maryland, and that the Edmiston were an Irish family who moved early to southwest Virginia where they became confused with the Edmondsons. There are enormous problems with this interpretation.

Perhaps the best beginning is to examine some of the hypotheses advanced as to the ancestry of the Virginia Edmiston. In the author's opinion, none of these hypotheses is subject to any degree of proof, and all of them suffer in varying degrees from contradictions in the available evidence. However, we should keep in mind that some of them just possibly may reflect in a distorted way some early family tradition. There may be some truth here—if we can find it.

#### THE MYTHS

##### 1. Thomas Edmondson and Miss Buntyn

William Campbell Edmiston (1854-?) was the son of John Stuart Edmiston

(1815-1889), in turn the son of Col. William Edmiston's eleventh child, General William Campbell Edmiston (1785-1847). Mr. Edmiston, who lived in Memphis most of his life but died in Guthrie, Kentucky, did a great deal of research on the family, and his letters and papers turn up in many of the older collections of notes. In 1935, he wrote to Mrs. Katherine Edmondson Callaway that Col. William's father was one Thomas Edmiston. Mrs. Callaway's notes quote him as saying: "When Thomas Edmiston came into this country, two other boys came with him but were no kin to him, settled in Cecil County, Maryland. In the vicinity resided a Mr. Buntyn who had three daughters and Thomas and his two companions married the Buntyn girls. Major William (8) was born there in 1722." A later version, also in the Callaway notes, comes from

R. I. Moore "who had it from his kinsman William Campbell Edmiston":

Thomas Edmiston lived in Cecil County, Maryland, then moved with his family to Augusta County, Virginia, the part that is now Rockbridge County. He died there and his five sons moved to the part of Augusta County that is now Washington County and lived near the Holston River. The five brothers were in the Battle of King's Mountain, three were killed. William and John survived and married Misses Montgomery. William lived in Washington County and reared a large family. John moved to Kentucky and remained there a short time, then moved to Davidson County, Tennessee, near the mouth of Stone's River. Thomas Edmiston, Joseph Cunningham, and Robert Buchanan came over from Ireland together and settled in Maryland. All three married sisters, the Misses Buntyn. Robert Buchanan moved to Virginia to Augusta County and reared a large family. Joseph Cunningham moved to North Carolina, do not know what became of him. (Reference: Col. William Pentleton, historian...) One relative wrote to another that the U. S. Government has built an arsenal on block of ground in Washington, D. C. which belongs to Thomas Edmiston and authorities have advertised to find the owners of the above property, and have offered a good amount of money to find owners.

This is an intriguing theory, particularly since Mr. Edmiston in a letter to

(9) Mrs. Blanche Bentley indicates that he had in his possession at one time family papers which shed light on his ancestry and the relationships of the Virginia Valley Edmiston papers he lost while moving. Therefore, it is possible that he had evidence in his family papers which has not been seen by other researchers.

8) Mrs. Katherine Edmondson Callaway of Brentwood, Tennessee (1879-1959) was a descendant of Samuel Edmiston, brother to Col. William. Through the kindness of her daughter, Miss Julia Callaway, I have been able to copy Mrs. Callaway's extensive notes and correspondence.

9) Blanche S. Bentley was a descendant of William Edmiston Sr. Her papers are unfortunately lost, but a twenty page account of the family survives, with my

However, the account as quoted here contains errors which do not build confidence in the research skills of Mr. Edmiston. First, Colonel William Edmiston was certainly not born in 1722. His birthdate is usually given as 1734, although he himself put it closer to 1736. (It should be noted that this leaves open the possibility that Mr. Edmiston stumbled on some other William Edmiston born in Cecil County in 1722, who actually was the son of Thomas and Miss Buntyn. It is not a bad date for the birth of William Edmiston Sr., although a bit early, and it could be Captain William, although his children's birthdates indicate a considerably later birthdate for him). Secondly, we will endeavor to show later that Col. William's father was quite certainly a John Edmiston. But could John's wife have been Miss Buntyn? Or was John perhaps the son of Thomas and Miss Buntyn, a slip of one generation? Thirdly, we do not know for certain that Col. William had four brothers, although the author personally believes that he did. Fourthly, in any case only two brothers were killed at King's Mountain, not three.

~~RMXXX~~ However, the strongest argument against this theory is that there is no mention whatsoever of any Thomas Edmondson or Edminton in Augusta County records until late in the nineteenth century. Although the state of the records does not make this conclusive, it must still count strongly.

All in all, the best we can do here is to leave a small door open. We hope that someone will check out the Buntyn family in time; perhaps some evidence will appear. Finally, even if we were inclined to accept this theory, which we are not, it would still not be proof, and we regret that Mr. Edmiston cited no authorities for his theory.

2. Thomas Edmondson and Ruth Offutt. A note in the Callaway Papers, apparently from a researcher named Kate J. Hanley, states that William Edmiston Sr., John Edmiston, and Thomas were brothers, sons of Thomas Edmonston and Ruth Affutt (sic) of Maryland. John is identified as the John who died in 1771 (the probable father of Col. William), and Thomas is said to have gone to Kentucky with no further record. There is no authentication for any of this in the notes.

The most attractive feature of this theory is that it makes William Edmiston

Sr. an uncle of Col. William, a relationship which Judge Redmond S. Cole favored and which seems the best way to explain the closeness of the two families. As for the Thomas who went to Kentucky, if he was of the generation of William Sr. and John, he was an extraordinarily early pioneer in the wilderness.

As for a Thomas Edmonston who married Ruth Offutt, this is usually thought to be the son of Archibald Edmonston I of Prince George County. This Thomas was allegedly born in 1718—which would make him the all-time champion of precocity to be the grandfather of Col. William, born in 1734! However, nothing definite, including the marriage, seems to be known of the Thomas of 1718. Is there perhaps another Thomas Edmonston in Maryland of an earlier generation?

Is this perhaps a garbled version of Thomas Edmiston and Miss Buntyn? In both accounts, some connection is indicated with the Prince George County Edmonstons, for W. C. Edmiston's account refers to the land in Washington, D. C. which the heirs of Thomas could allegedly ~~xxx~~ reclaim from the government, and this is a recurrent story in the descendants of Archibald.

Again, the best we can do is to leave a small door open and to say that it is indeed possible that there was a Thomas who was the grandfather of Col. William. Also, that it is indeed possible that there is some connection between the Virginia Valley Edmiston and Archibald Edmonston of Prince George County—but the connection cannot be through the children of Archibald.

Howard Vallance Jones  
18 Winter Ridge Road,  
Cedar Falls, Iowa, 50613

THE EARLY EDMONDSONS OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA <sup>(12)</sup> ~~South~~

PART II

In our last issue, we broke off in the middle of discussing what we called some "myths" about the ancestry of the early Edmondsons of Southwest Virginia. There is one more to be added.

3. Thomas Edmondson and Martha Campbell

In a much read article written over three score years ago, Mrs. Sarah Chesney, a granddaughter of Sally Edmondson Beattie (1790-1868<sup>8</sup>), thirteenth child of Colonel William Edmondson, gives an account of her family.<sup>(10)</sup> After a short and not very accurate account of the Scotch Edmondsons (her spelling), she says:

Among those leaving Scotland on account of dissensions caused by differences in religion were Thomas Edmondson and his wife, Martha Campbell, according to tradition in one family, they were both of prominent families, he a younger son of a nobleman, she a daughter of Duke of Argyle. They located in Pennsylvania, early in the eighteenth century, and together with other Scottish families, notably Montgomerys, Campbells, Buchanans and Kenedys formed an intelligent thriving community. There was established a Presbyterian church called the Abingdon church in 1695 in the same county. After some years residence here, Thomas Edmondson removed with his family to Cecil county, Maryland, where their son William was born in 1724.

This son William is of course Colonel William.

The objections to this account are similar to earlier criticisms: Colonel William was definitely not born in 1724; Colonel William's father was John, not Thomas; no proofs are cited at all.

I might add that Martha Campbell is a restless spirit who haunts Colonel William's family. Hetty McEwen has her as the first wife of Colonel William himself,<sup>(11)</sup> most certainly untrue unless the stalwart colonel was three times married. Prentess Perry Edmiston has her marrying a William who died in 1782 and how was a son of David Turk Edmiston.<sup>(12)</sup> ~~Perhaps~~ Perhaps ultimately we will locate an Edmondson marriage which belongs to her and she will be able

---

10) Sarah Ellen James Chesney, "Edmondsons-James", Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society, January, 1903, pp. 48-53.

11) Mrs. Hetty Montgomery McEwen, "Annals of the Edmiston Family", Feb. 1869, (typescript, available in copies in many places. Original not located)

12) P. P. Edmiston, op. cit., p. 4

to cease her restless wanderings. However, it may be that she does not belong to the Edmiston at all: Judge Cole points out that some records make her the mother of Robert Campbell Kennedy (1761-1815) who married Esther Edmiston (1766-1823), third child of Colonel William.<sup>(13)</sup> Thus, she was Mrs. Hatty McEwen's paternal grandmother, and Mrs. McEwen's account has just mixed up grandmothers. Judge Cole's comment is a good summary: "If eventually it could be shown that Mrs. McEwen had a great grandmother named Martha Campbell and two grandmothers of the same name, she would certainly be voted a place in 'Believe it or Not'."

\* \* \* \* \*

What are we to make of these stories? Only that there just may be a Thomas Edmondson somewhere in the background of the Virginia Valley Edmondsons. There are interesting clues to follow up here: where was the church called Abingdon, if there was one? What can we find about the Buntyn family? Was there a William Edmiston born in 1722 or 1724? If so, which one of the Virginia Valley Williams was he, if he removed there?

Now let us turn to the facts about the earliest Edmondsons to locate in western Virginia and see how far they will take us.

#### I. David "Turk" Edmiston

On 24 July 1740, before justices Robert Slaughter, James Pollard, Henry Field, Samuel Ball, Morgan Morgan, and John Lewis, David Edmiston appeared and made oath that he imported himself, Isabella, Jesse, John, William, Rachel, David, Moses Edmiston, and Jesse Golsby and James Daley of Ireland to Philadelphia and there to this colony. (Orange County Virginia, Order Book, II, 208). On the same date, he was granted ~~200~~ 350 acres in Beverly Manor.<sup>(14)</sup>

The older researchers persistently refer to this David as David "Turk" Edmiston, for reasons which are nowhere stated. There was a Turk family in Augusta County and there may be some family tradition here of a middle name which might denote a maternal connection. However, middle names are rare this early, and the official references to David do not use a middle name,

---

13) Redmond S. Cole, "The Wives of Colonel William Edmiston", Typescript, 25 Sept. 1939

14) Lyman ~~Edmiston~~ Chalkley, Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia, III, 306. All references from here on will be from ~~Edmiston~~ Chalkley unless otherwise indicated.

and we may be dealing only with a nickname.

There are a few other references probably to this David Edmiston. On 10 December 1745, William Wright was appointed constable in his place in Samuel Gay's company (I, 13). On 19 February 1745/6, David presented an unspecified claim to the county court (I, 15). He witnessed a deed for 100 acres from Moses Thomson to James Edmiston on 20 February 1745/6 (III, 254), the James probably being David's son. The deed was proved on 15 April 1746. David and Thomas ~~Stevenson~~ Stevenson were appointed processioners from Alex Elain's to Captain Samuel Gay's on 3 September 1747 (II, 433), and they reported on 7 March 1747/8 (II, 435) and again on 12 March. On 17 August 1748, David was appointed overseer of a road from Tikking Spring to Stuart and Christian's road (I, 36). On 19 October 1748, leave was given to build a place of worship near David's farm (I, 37).

David apparently died early in 1751, for on 28 May 1751, Isabella and James Edmondson posted bond as executors for his estate (III, 21). Appraisal of the estate was recorded by William Finley, William Jonston and Samuel McCune on 27 August 1751 (III, 22). No record of a will exists, nor of burial, and the only other reference is a later one, 1765, to a tract of 200 acres formerly known as Elk Run Corner which was surveyed for David Edmiston (III, 426).

This is a most skeletal account of a man. When was he born? My guess would be c. 1690, a date based on the possibility of his being the grandfather of Colonel William, born in 1732. If his son James were of age in 1746, as indicated by the deed from Moses Thomson, this again points to a birthdate at least as early as 1700. Presumably he was born in Ireland.

Isabella was his wife, as is indicated in a deed by James, his son and heir, and Isabella, his "relict", to Hugh McClure 20 August 1752 (III, 306). The original 350 acres deeded to David were here passed on by his administrators to McClure. I have a reference, source not indicated, that Hugh McClure married Agnes Edmiston in 1755. Was Agnes a daughter of James? A sister? As for Isabella, there is no indication of her maiden name, although some speculation has made her a Buchanan. The reference to her in 1752 is the last one, and so we do not know when she died.

What of David's children? Probably the other Edmistons mentioned in his importation proceedings are children--and 350 acres would be right for a man with six children at 50 acres for each.

~~In 1765, I am reasonably sure that this man, microreading for some time, saw no records of a James Edmiston at this time, nor does the name appear in any book of the family until much, much later. The position of this name~~

II. Josse, son of David Turk Edmiston

I am reasonably sure that this is a misreading for James, and that there was no Jesse at all. There are no records of a Jesse Edmiston at this time, nor does the name appear in any branch of the family until very much later. As will be seen directly, we are positive that there was a James.

III. James, son of David Turk Edmiston

James was of age at the time of his father's death in 1751, and therefore must have been born by 1730 or before. From his position in the importation proceedings (if we insert James instead of Jesse), he would be the eldest son, which is further indicated by his serving as administrator of his father's estate.

Tracing this James presents problems, since there are at least three James Edmiston in this generation—James, son of David; James, son of Robert; and James, son of Matthew. This leaves quite a few references in the records uncertain, but some of them can be connected to this James with reasonable certainty.

He probably was deeded 100 acres "east side south River <sup>S</sup>Shanandoe<sup>e</sup>, on the Red Banks" in 1745, by Moses Thompson, since David witnesses the deed. (III, 254). As we have seen, he and his mother, acting as administrator's of his father's estate, deeded 350 acres to Hugh McClure on 20 August 1762 (III, 306). On 23 May 1755, Agnes Edmondson released her dower in 350 acres from her husband to Hugh McClure ~~III~~ (I, 67. Chalkley says to Hugh "McCleave" but this is a misreading).

This last gives us a wife for James—Agnes, probably Thompson. The will of William Thompson of Tinkling Spring, 4 July 1774, mentions Agnes Edmondson as one of his daughters. Cole and others have made Agnes the wife of Robert Edmondson, but the latter's will mentions wife Jaan, and it seems much easier to leave the lady with her name of Agnes and put her here. As mentioned before, I have a reference that Hugh McClure married an Agnes Edmondson in 1755: who is she? A sister of James? A daughter of James? If the latter, we would have to move his birthdate a good deal earlier.

On 17 March 1757, James deeded the 100 acres from Moses Thomson to Alexander Henderson (III, 347). On 10 August 1764, James and Agnes deeded 140 acres on the North Branch of the James, "part of the tract whereon James Edmondson now lives" (III, 413). The deed was not delivered to Welch until 1783, the year of James' death.

James apparently died in 1783, for Cole cites a will of that year, mentioning wife Agnes, son David, daughters Jean and Sarah, grandchildren Elizabeth, Agnes, Jean and Sarah Tedford.

20 May 1765. John and Margaret Edmiston to John Stewart, 132 acres in Borden's Tract, corner John Stewart, corner William Edmiston. Witnesses: Samuel Buchanan, William Edmiston, Samuel Edmiston. Delivered to John Stewart 18 December 1790. (III, 422)

20 August 1765. John and Mary Stewart to Samuel Steel, 148 acres of Borden's Tract. Witnesses: William Edmiston, Samuel Edmiston, John Edmiston (III, 427)

20 August 1765. Samuel and Mary Steel to Robert Steel, ~~248 acres~~ 34 acres. Delivered to Robert Steel, August Court, 1770 (III, 427)

The meaning of these transactions is indicated in another entry:

20 August 1765, dedimus to take a deposition of John Edmondson, about to leave the Colony (I, 122). John was apparently selling off his land before he left. Why he was leaving is unknown, and it is not certain that he did leave. Our last reference is that his death abated an unspecified suit, 23 August 1771 (I, 164). We then put his death at around 1771.

One other piece of evidence fills in the picture. Judge Benjamin Estill wrote to this historian Lyman Draper on 21 August 1845<sup>(17)</sup> concerning the judge's stepfather, Samuel Edmiston, brother to Colonel William. He mentions that there were four brothers and a brother-in-law, including Colonel William, at King's Mountain, of whom three were killed. He says that Colonel William was the eldest son, Samuel the next, and that their father owned only two or three hundred acres in Rockbridge County, and so the sons went west to seek their fortunes. The father's farm was on Wardlaw's Creek in Rockbridge County and it passed to a daughter who married a Steel. Thus, the 1765 deed to Samuel Steele may well mark the transfer of Colonel William's father's property to his son-in-law. How the Stewarts fit into the picture, or how to explain the other transactions of 1765, is not clear.

Therefore, John's wife was named Margaret. What became of her or ~~what~~ what her maiden name was is not clear. She may be the Margaret Edmondson who signed the call to the Reverend Charles Cummings in 1772; this call came from the combined congregations of Ebbing and Sinking Springs on the Holston River, Fincastle County, and was signed by Robert Edmiston, William Edmiston, Samuel Edmiston, Margaret Edmiston, and John Edmiston. Margaret apparently signs next to John's, ~~and~~ since wives do not seem to sign the call, this may indicate her status as a widow with her own household.<sup>(18)</sup>

17) Draper Manuscripts, Wisconsin State Historical Society, Madison, 8 ZZ 17.

18) Summers, Annals, 1354-5.

6  
T  
1765

What of the children of John and Margaret?

1) William, later Colonel William, b. Cecil County, Maryland, 27 ~~April~~ <sup>October</sup>, 1736/7 (some say 1734), died Washington County, Virginia, 30 July 1822. His son Andrew, in a letter to Draper, <sup>(19)</sup> said that the colonel was born in Cecil County in 1734. The colonel himself deposed in 1806 that he would be 70 or 71 years old on 27 October 1806 (II, 272). He married first, Margaret Montgomery, and ~~she~~ she died 27 January 1778. <sup>(20)</sup> His second marriage, on 5 May 1781, <sup>(21)</sup> was to Elizabeth Kennedy, who died 18 November 1821. <sup>(22)</sup> According to listings gleaned by Judge Cole from two copies of the family Bible, he had 14 or 15 children, as follows:

- 1- Margaret, b. 16 Feb. 1762, d. 1848, Clinton, Miss. Married, 1), 1778, John Montgomery, killed by Indians, no issue. 2) Robert Harrell (Harreld, Herold). Issue.
- 2- John Montgomery, b. 21 Feb. 1764, d. 22 Jan. 1813, at the Battle of the River Raisin, in Kentucky. Married, 10 Sept. 1799, Margaret Robinson (Robertson) Montgomery. Issue.
- 3- Esther, b. 12/13 April 1766, d. 1823, Columbia, Tennessee. Married, 10 March 1785, Robert Campbell Kennedy. Issue.
- 4- Samuel, b. 7 Dec. 1768, d. 21 or 25 Sept. 1821, Williamson County, Tennessee. Married, Davidson County, Tenn., 23 May 1791, Alice (Nellie) Dean. Issue.
- 5- Robert, ~~born~~ b. 24 May 1771, d. 1811-1820. Married, 1793, in North Carolina, Susan Hannah. Issue.
- 6- Thomas, b. 4 Aug. 1773, d. 25 Oct. 1822, Washington County, Virginia. Married 9 Sept. 1800, Margaret Buchanan. Issue.
- 7- Mary Elizabeth, b. 22 Jan. 1776, d. ? . Married 1), 25 Sept. 1795, Samuel Gilliland. Issue. 2) 8 May 1805, Rev. Ebenezer McEwen. Issue.
- 8- Martha (Patsy) Montgomery, b. 25 Jan. 1777, d. ? . Married 9 April 1799, James Gillespie. Issue.

By the second wife:

- 9- William B., b. 5 May 1781, d. 1853, Shelby County, Tenn. Twice married, the first wife unknown, the second, 10 Jan. 1819, Elizabeth Ann Boteler. Issue by both marriages.
- 10- Andrew, b. 3 Aug. 1783, d. 2 Feb. 1847. Married Jane Campbell Bowen. Issue.

19) Draper Mss. 10 DD 56.

20) From a DAR record in the Newberry Library, Chicago. This record puts this first marriage on 19 April 1761. No authorities for either date cited.

21) From a letter of Mrs. Anna Rogers Hutton (descended from #6, Thomas) to Mrs. Callaway.

22) ~~Redmond~~ Redmond Selections Cole, the Ancestry and Family of Col. William Edmiston (1937),

11- General William Campbell Edmiston (his name, not a title), b. 18 Nov. 1785, d. 11 July 1847, Lincoln County, Tenn. Married Elizabeth (Betsy) Stewart. Issue.

12- Elizabeth (Betty, Betsy), b. 2 Feb. 1788, d. Memphis, Tenn., ? . Married, 5 May 1808; Johnathan Smith. Issue.

13- Sarah (Sally), b. 31 July 1790, d. after 1879. Married 5 Sept. 1811, John Beattie. Issue.

14- Catherine (Kate) Moffett, b. 12 March 1795, d. 10 January 1856. Married 20 January 1821, Robert Jones. Issue.

15- Anna Kennedy, b. 9 April 1798. Listed only in one copy of a family Bible seen by Judge Cole. If she existed, she probably died young, since no mention is made of her in the colonel's will or in a distribution of his lands made some time before his death.

2) Samuel Edmiston, b. 3 May 1738, Cecil County, Maryland, d. 1808, Washington County, Virginia. He married first, Elizabeth Edmiston, daughter of David Edmiston and Margaret Donnell of Cecil County, Maryland. Second, after 1782, Catherine (Kitty) Moffett, daughter of John <sup>m</sup>Moffett and Mary Christian, widow of Benjamin Estill (d. 1782). The children are probably all by the first wife:

1- John, b. c. 1760, d. c. 1826. Married Barbara Hayes. Issue.

2- William. Probably died early and unmarried.

3- David. No record. Probably died early and possibly unmarried.

4- Mary, m. 20 Oct. 1806, Samuel Robinson.

5- Samuel. No record. Probably died early and unmarried.

6- Martha, d. before 1822. Married 13 Oct. 1791, William Gilmore

7- Margaret. Married William Watson. Issue.

3) Robert, known as Lieut. Robert Edmiston Sr. Killed in 1780 at King's Mountain. Married Mary, probably Montgomery. No issue.

4) Andrew, b. 1752?, d. 7 Oct. 1780, killed at King's Mountain. Married Anna Edmiston, supposedly the daughter of Thomas Edmiston (Blind Tom) and perhaps Margaret Buchanan. She married secondly William Patterson and had further issue. By Andrew, her children were:

1- Margaret. Married 5 Nov. 1800, Robert Gillespie.

2- John, b. c. 1774, d. c. 1830. Married 31 Oct. 1799, Martha (Mattie) Moore. Issue.

3- Martha, m. 7 July 1795, William Edmiston, son of Moses and Rachel. Issue.

To these, we can add with reasonable certainty:

5) Mary (from the deeds of 1765), married Samuel Steele. Issue probable. I would also like to suggest adding another son, for reasons too lengthy to recount here:



the eldest son of Samuel, and the only son of Andrew are all named John. Here again, the pattern of naming the first-born for his grandfather is most apparent.

Was this John the son of David Turk? Chronologically, it seems that he ought to be. His birthdate of c. 1710 would go well with our speculations on David Turk. There does not seem to be any other John around to take over as David Turk's son. Many researchers have gone ahead to state positively that John must be David Turk's son.

~~But~~ And yet, many of us have reservations, based on a strange feeling that this is not the right relationship somehow. There is no conclusive evidence one way or another: the major evidence for making John the son of David is the chronological fit and the geographical proximity. On the other hand, David's importation proceedings indicate that he brought his brood to Philadelphia and thence to Virginia, whereas John definitely stayed a while in Cecil County, Maryland.

More significant to my mind is the fact that John's children seem to avoid the name David more than one thinks they should. John had, as far as we know, no son David, even though he had four or five sons. Colonel William had seven sons to name, but not one of them is a David. To be sure, both Samuel and John II had sons named David—but in both cases, the name could have come about because of a maternal grandfather, another David Edmiston (not to speak of a maternal uncle named David who left his estate to his nephews). This is flimsy evidence, but it does seem as though this branch of the family had no reason to make much use of the name David. It might also be significant that the name James is similarly little used, although David's first-born was given that name.

All that we can say in conclusion here is that we don't know. John may or may not be the son of David Turk. Perhaps instead he is the son of a mysterious Thomas, as would seem to be indicated by some of our "myths" explained earlier.

(to be continued)

THE EARLY EDMONDSONS OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

~~xxx~~ V. William, son of David Turk Edmiston.

There have been many times when I wished that the Edmiston family had never discovered the name William. From 1750 on, there are a great number of references to William Edmiston in Chalkley, but it is next to impossible to straighten out which one is which, for there ~~were~~<sup>were</sup> more than one William Edmiston in Augusta County early. Later, there are no less than ~~at~~ three William Edmiston in the early settlement of Washington County, all of about the same period. In the light of this confusion, about the best we can do is to list what we know about the various Williams and leave it possible that one of them is the son of David Turk Edmiston.

1. William Edmiston Senior

If the John Edmiston just described is indeed the son of David Turk Edmiston, then there would be a strong possibility that William Edmiston Senior is also a son. Many researchers, including Judge Cole and your author, believe that there was a close relationship between the family of Colonel William, son of John, and the family of William Senior. The earliest clear reference to William Senior comes in 1775 when he was deeded 237 acres between the middle and south forks of the Holston by Colonel William.<sup>(24)</sup> Whether this marks the first appearance of William Senior in Virginia is uncertain, but it would seem more probable that he came on from Augusta County with other members of the family to share in the large grant made to Colonel William for his service in the French-Indian War. At the same time that William Senior received his land, Colonel William ~~also~~ deeded land to his brother Robert, and also to various members of the Buchanan family.

William Edmiston Senior married Agnes Holmes, according to universal family tradition as yet unproved. He presumably was born not later than about 1730, since his first child was born in 1753. He died in Washington County late in 1788 or early in 1789.<sup>(25)</sup> Since all his children were apparently of age at the time of his death, it may be that the eldest child was born prior to 1753, and it seems likely that he was older than Colonel William (born in 1736).

---

24) Lewis Preston Summers, Annals of Southwest Virginia, 1769-1900, (Abingdon, 1929), ~~xxx~~ 643, 667.

25) His will is dated 25 December 1788 and was proved 10 February 1789. He mentions wife Agnes, children James, William, John, Samuel, Robert, Thomas, Margaret. Executors: William Edmiston Esq., son John, Matthew Buchanan. Washington County Will Book I, 143, summarized in Summers, 1347.

The children of William Edmiston Senior are as follows:

1- Robert Edmiston, known as Lt. Robert Jr., born 1753, died in Davidson County, Tenn., 16 February 1816. Like all the descendants of this branch, he used the spelling "Edmondson". He was at King's Mountain and served on other campaigns as well. He married Isabella Buchanan, eldest daughter of Capt. Andrew Buchanan and Joannah Hay. Issue: 1- William; 2- Agnes; 3- Jane, m. Peter Wright; 4- Andrew Jackson; and probably, 5- Nancy Holmes, m. James Titus; 6- Rebecca, m. James Titus as his third wife; 7- Isabella, unmarried; and 8- Joannah, m. George Titus.

2- Thomas Edmiston, b. 25 July 1759, d. Davidson County, Tenn., 2 August 1824. Married 24 April 1782, Martha Buchanan, daughter of Robert Buchanan. Issue: 1- William; 2- Robert; 3- Nancy, m. William Bunge; 4- Elizabeth, m. Sterling Davis; 5- Samuel; 6- Martha, m. William White; 7- Esther, <sup>m.</sup>/Bennett White Smartt; 8- Rachael Shelby, m. James Powell Thompson; 9- Louise Ann, m. Frazor Titus; 10- John Black; 11- Mary, m. William Edmondson, son of Lt. Robert Edmondson Jr.

3- Elizabeth Edmiston, m. Matthew Buchanan, son of Captain Andrew and Joannah Hay. Issue: 1- Andrew; 2- Samuel; 3- Nancy, m. William Parks; 4- William; 5- Joanna, m. Moses Buchanan, Jr.; 6- Jane or ~~Janet~~ Janett, m. Coll James Edmondson; 7- Isabella, m. William Graham; 8- Martha, m. John Keys; 9- Margaret, m. John Moore; 10- Mary, m. Robert Keys.

4- Major John Edmondson, d. Washington County, Virginia, c. 1815. Married Mary Buchanan, daughter of Captain Andrew and Joannah Hay. Issue: 1- Joannah, m. Andrew E. Kelly; 2- William; 3- Andrew; 4- Samuel; 5- Nancy, m. Samuel Graham; 6- Elizabeth, m. Thomas Todd; 7- Martha, m. Andrew Edmondson, grandson of Andrew brother to Col. William; 8- Polly, m. Hardy Riggs; 9- Selina, m. John Surber; 10- Jane, m. John Rose; 11- Margaret, unmarried.

5- William Edmondson, ~~b. c.~~ b. c. 1765, d. Williamson County, Tenn., 1832. Married before 1793, Frances Boyd, daughter of ~~Robert~~ Robert Boyd. Issue: 1- Ann, m. Edward H. McNeill; 2- Matilda, unmarried; 3- Isabella, unmarried; 4- Robert Boyd; 5- Thomas (the author's great-grandfather); 6- Thisbe; 7- Mary J., m. John B. Miles; 8- Julia G., m. William Floyd.

6- Samuel Edmondson. No record. Supposedly moved to Tennessee.

7- James Edmondson. No record. Supposedly also in Tennessee.

8- Margaret Edmondson, b. c. 1774, d. Tennessee, 1858. Married 12 March 1795, John Buchanan, son of Captain Andrew and Joannah Hay. Issue: 1- Nancy; 2- Anna, m. T. Ennis Murray; 3- Eliza, m. Thornton Corner Tulloss; 4- Thomas; 5- Payne; 6- Joseph; 7- Rebecca; 8- Eleanor; 9- John Jr.

Additionally, some authorities list: 9- Andrew, and 10- Jane, neither of whom are mentioned in William Senior's will and neither of whom are of any record elsewhere.

## 2. Captain William Edmiston

Captain William is sometimes said to have been~~er~~ born in Cecil County, Maryland, in 1734. I regard this date with some skepticism, since it seems very probably to be borrowed from Colonel William. The birthdates of the captain's children would indicate a birthdate for him closer to 1750, unless he married late. He married Elizabeth, according to some rumors--herself an Edmondson.--He was killed at King's Mountain in 1780.

Captain William is in a sense the most mysterious of the three Williams of Washington County, Virginia. The earliest clear reference to him, probably, comes in 1775, when he witnessed the deed from Colonel William to William Senior. That he was wealthy is apparent from the later fortunes of his family and also from his estate, which required a bond of 15,000 pounds.<sup>(26)</sup> Some have thought him a son of a Thomas Edmondson, and indeed, a Thomas was an administrator of his estate. Note also that his eldest son was Thomas. Governor David Campbell, who knew this family well, described him as a cousin to Colonel William and his brothers.<sup>(27)</sup> From th&s, we could speculate that John, William Senior, and this Thomas were brothers--but this is only speculation.

The children of Captain William were:

- 1- Martha, b. 1772, d. 1839 or 1859, m. 1794, William G. Boyd, son of Robert Boyd.
- 2- Margaret, b. 30 Sept. 1774, d. 11 May 1839, m. 1789, Samuel Wilson.
- 3- Thomas, b. 13 April 1779, d. Davidson County, Tenn., 26 Jan. 1834, m. Agatha Perkins.

Elizabeth, the widow of Captain William, seems to have married a Dean after the untimely death of her first husband.

## 3. William Edmiston of Rockbridge.

We know little of this gentleman other than that his will was dated 23 February 1779 and filed 5 February 1782. It mentions children: 1- William, 2- Robert; 3- John; 4- Isabel; 5- Ann; 6- Mary; 7- Elizabeth. Of these,

---

26) Summers, 1064.

27) William Henry Foote, Sketches of Virginia, Second Series, (Philadelphia, 1856), p. 115.

it is believed that John may have married Jennet Duncan and that Elizabeth may have married William Peebles. Other than that, nothing further seems to be known about this family. Unfortunately, with the dearth of information there is not even a clear picture~~s~~ of which generation this William belongs to.

Which of these Williams, if any of them, is the son of David Turk Edmiston is not certain. It should also be pointed out that if John, the father of Colonel William, is the John who was son of David Turk, then the six year old future Colonel was with the family when they came: might he be the William mentioned in the importation proceedings?

VI. David, son of David Turk Edmiston

There is no further information on this man. The <sup>early</sup> records of Augusta County mention no David Edmiston after the death of David Turk. There is a David Edmiston of the right generation in Cecil County, Maryland, but he is said to be the son of another David.

VII. Moses, son of David Turk Edmiston

Moses is mentioned in the importation proceedings, and there is a reference later to him as being one of the first settlers on the Borden tract.<sup>(28)</sup> Otherwise, the name does not turn up until 1778, when he was deeded land in Washington County by one of the William Edmiston.<sup>(29)</sup> From then on, there are references from time to time, culminating in Moses' death in 1806, as indicated by his will in Washington County.<sup>(30)</sup>

This raises the question as to whether the Moses of 1740 and the Moses who died in 1806 are the same man. The children of Moses of 1806 seem to be ~~born in the 1770's, indicating a birthdate for the parents in the 1750's.~~ born in the 1770's, indicating a birthdate for the parents in the ~~1750's.~~ 1750's. On the other hand, Douglas Scott, a descendant of Moses of 1806, argues that Moses of 1740 seems to be the youngest child, as indicated by his placement in the importation listing. Therefore, he might have been a child in 1740 and could still be the Moses of 1806.

At any rate, the Moses of 1806 was survived by his widow Rachel (Thompson according to Prantess Perry Edmiston), and left children: David, John, Moses, William, Hannah, Jean, Elizabeth, Nancy, and Rachel.

---

28) Deposition of John Stuart, 1805, Chalkley, II, 267

29) Summers, 997, ~~1275~~ 1275.

30) Washington County Wills, III, 11