

## Simmons Family of Wilkes and Oglethorpe, Georgia

There have been several books written that perpetuate erroneous information on the Simmons family of Wilkes and Oglethorpe County, Georgia. Among these are "Roster of Revolutionary Soldiers in Georgia", pages 154, 155; "Georgia Revolutionary Soldiers and Sailors .." Volume 1, pages 192-193; "Roster of Revolutionary Soldiers in Georgia" volume 3, page 206-207, compiled by Howard H. McCall; and "Simmons Family of Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia" by Ettie Tidwell & Howard McCall<sup>1</sup>. My focus is on John Simmons, who is stated to have come from Scotland, married twice, and produced at least sixteen to eighteen children. There were actually three John Simmons's<sup>2</sup> that came to Wilkes Co., Georgia, the first John( 4 Jan 1743 - 1837, Talbot Co., GA), who married Margaret Nutt, being the son of John Simmons of Johnston Co., NC, the second John<sup>3</sup> (d. 20 Jan 1835, Elbert Co., GA, son of James Simmons of Rutherford, NC) who married Ann Freeman (daughter of Holman Freeman Sr.)<sup>4</sup>; and the third John who died 18 July 1796 in Wilkes Co., Georgia, who left no will, but deeded his property to his children<sup>5</sup>.

1. John Simmons<sup>6</sup> was born about 1725, married to Dannah 'Dianah' (Herbert<sup>7</sup>). John SIMMONS was living in Johnston Co., NC as early as 1760 he owned land on Crabtree Creek. John also owned 617 acres on Walnut Creek, deeded by GRANVILLE 21 May 1762, which he sold 300 acres to William LAWHON 2 January 1767. His will<sup>8</sup> was left in Johnston Co., NC, dated 17 Jan. 1770, probated May 1770. The will names three children all under 18, Willis - 80 acres on South side of Walnut Creek, William 100 acres on Simmons branch, and Solomon Plantation where I live on Walnut Creek. The Executrix was his wife Dannah Simmons, and the witnesses were Jesse Minton, and Adam Simmons. In the County Court Minutes of Johnston Co., NC 1770, Deannah SIMMONS is named as Executrix, qualified page 113, witnessed Jesse Minton and Adam Simmons.

Dianah wife of John SIMMONS left will dated 1790, recorded 4 February 1791, book C, page 121, in Wake Co., North Carolina which lists children Solomon and Mary and deceased son Willis<sup>9</sup>.

### *Children:*

- + 2. i John Simmons Jr. born 4 Jan 1743.
- 3. ii Richard Simmons, no evidence to substantiate this person, just a hunch.
- 4. iii Elizabeth Simmons born 1740-49.
- + 5. v Adam Simmons born before 1746.
- 6. vi Willis Simmons born about 1752, NC, died 1770-71, Wake Co., NC. The book "Abstract of NC Wills 1760-1800" pg. 309, states a brother James Simmons but the name is not found on the will. He was under age but over 18, will dated 5 February 1770, now Wake Co., NC. In his will he names mother Dinah Simmons, sister Elizabeth and Mary Simmons, brothers William, Adam, and Solomon Simmons<sup>10</sup>
- + 7. vii William Simmons born 1753-55.
- + 8. viii Solomon Simmons born 1753-55.
- 9. ix Mary "Molly" Simmons.

### Second Generation

2. John Simmons Jr. (1.John<sup>1</sup>) born 4 Jan 1743<sup>11</sup>, North Carolina, married 25 Oct 1766, in NC, to Margaret Nutt. John died 1837, Talbot Co., Georgia Margaret was the daughter of Robert Nutt of Wake/Johnston Co., NC. Robert Nutt's will recorded 11 April 1785, Wake Co., North Carolina mentions son-in-law John Simmons. We know that the John Simmons who received land on the Oconee was the one from Wake Co., NC, because he is listed as a debtor to the British Crown, 1800-1801; prepared by William Duffy<sup>12</sup>. The article states: "John Simmons, £13.18.11, page 33, [David Hunter of Wake] says that J. Simmons has removed to Georgia and settled low down on the Oconee. He owns very valuable property." This makes a very strong case for John being a son of

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John Sr., because Adam Simmons is also listed as debtor to crown of England. Another connection of John Simmons Jr. to this family is the following: "deed book H p. 164 Robert Nutt of Wake Co., to William Short of same, March 3, 1773, for ... 350 acres lying on both sides of Crabtree Creek adjoining James Simmons ... witnesses Theophilus Hunter, Adam Simmons, John Nutt<sup>13</sup>", showing a relationship between Simmons's and Nutts.

### *Children:*

11. i Isaac Simmons born 11 Feb 1768, Wake Co., NC, died aft 1850, Talbot Co., GA. There is a story that this Isaac was named William and changed his name to Isaac, but there is no evidence to support this claim.
  12. ii Rhoda Simmons born 1 Aug 1771, Wake Co., NC, married 1790, in Hancock Co., GA, William Scurlock( William was from Chatham Co., NC, see Oglethorpe Co., GA, deed book J. page 20). Rhoda died 13 Mar 1851, Muscogee, GA.
  13. iii Winney Simmons born 1 Apr 1774, Wake Co., NC.
  14. iv Sarah Simmons born 17 Sep 1777, married to Isaac Williams.
  15. v John Simmons III born 27 Jan 1781, Wake Co., NC, married 1800-1802, to Ms. Thompson. John died 1843, Montgomery, AL.
  16. vi William Simmons born 25 Dec 1784, Wake Co., NC.
5. Adam Simmons (1.John<sup>1</sup>) born before 1746, died before 12 Dec. 1807, married ca 1765, to Rebecca (last name unknown), born about 1750, died bef 1843, Oglethorpe Co., GA,<sup>14</sup>. I have placed Adam's birth by the following court minutes of Johnston Co., NC: "Ordered that Adam Simmons be appointed constable in the room of William Hernigan, Oct/Nov 1766.<sup>15</sup>" Assuming that he must be a least 21 to be a constable his date of birth would be before 1746. Adam Simmons, son of John, is listed in the County Court Minutes as early as 1765 for a livestock mark. He is listed as living near Crabtree Creek where he and his father work the road. Adam and his wife Rebecca sold land to John MORRIS which was part of her inheritance<sup>16</sup>. Adam received a grant from Governor Richard Caswell, in 1781, for 640 acres, grant #222<sup>17</sup>.

He moved to Wilkes Co., Georgia, which then became part of Oglethorpe County, after 1782 and before 1787<sup>18</sup>. He was a charter member of Cloud's Creek Baptist Church, Oglethorpe Co., GA, which organized Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> 1788. Adam received a grant for 400 acres in Wilkes county. In 1791, Adam & Rebecca Simmons, bought 750 acres on Little River Dam waters of Broadriver from John Prestridge. Adam claimed the loss of two horses by Indians on two separate occasions, the first theft occurring around July 1788, and the second occurring around September of 1789<sup>19</sup>

The 1800 census for Oglethrope Co., Georgia, page 20, lists the following for Adam Simmons, 1 male under 10, 1 male 16 - 26, 1 male over 45; 1 female under 10, 2 females 16-26, 1 female 26-45, 1 female over 45; 3 slaves.

Adam is listed as a debtor to the crown of England 1800-1801; prepared by William Duffy<sup>20</sup>; the article states: "Adam Simmons, £9.13.6, page 33, [David Hunter of Wake] says that A. Simmons has removed to the County of Oglethorpe in Georgia where he now lives in affluence."

I have seen no evidence that Adam Simmons served in the Revolutionary War, several of the above mentioned books claim service in Virginia and North Carolina, but no evidence.

The following names were listed in the real sale of Adam Simmons dated 4<sup>th</sup> April 1809, recorded 10 Jan 1810: John Pass, John Holland, William Davidson, Mrs. Hillhouse, Mr. Rainey, Asa Price, E. Luckie, Moore & Olive, John Davenport, Isaac David, Isaac Collier, John Hardman, Sarah Hillhouse, William Glenn, C. (R)Gaines, Asa Simmons, Eberhart, P. Miller, John Thompson, A. Bell, R Odum, D. Simmons, Rebecca Simmons. Oglethrope Co., GA, Inventory and appraisal of estate of Adam Simmons Senior, dated 12 Dec. 1807. Sale of personal estate

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of Adam Simmons Sr., deceased taken 15 Jan. 1808, recorded 9 March 1808; note a Richard Simmons (brother or nephew ?) purchased Adam's Bible.

### *Children:*

- + 17. i Asa Simmons born ca 1766.
- 18. ii Winifred "Winny" Simmons married (1) 20 Mar 1794, in Oglethorpe Co., GA, to Benjamin Knox (d. ca 1805), married (2) Andrew Bell<sup>21</sup>. testator to a gift deed made by Adam Simmons Sr. to wife Rebecca and testator to a gift deed made by John Prestidge to his wife Elizabeth 1791.
- 19. iii Betsy 'Ann' Simmons born by 1780, married 16-Mar-1795, in Oglethorpe Co., GA, to Preston Miller (died before 1817). The following deed proves family connection: "Oglethorpe Co., Ga., Deed Book C, p. 367, 15 Nov. 1799, Adam Simmons to Preston Miller, both of Oglethorpe Co., for a negro boy by Preston Miller, deliver to his daughter, Betsey Miller, a tract in said co. on Broad River waters, part of tract I now live on S., beg. on branch I now live on, on my cor. white oak, adj. Samuel Shannon & Jacob Everhart, E. my line to other cor. pine on Tilletts Creek, N. on Nathan Johnston's line, W. to branch to beg., 100 acres, in fee simple. (signed) Adam (x) Simmons. Wit: Asa Simmons, Janey (x) Simmons. Ack. 13 Mar. 1800, Saml. Shannon, J.P."
- She married 2<sup>nd</sup> Hezekiah W. Posey. The following record indicates this marriage: Oglethorpe Co., Ga. Deed Book I, p. 218, 8 Jan. 1817, Hezekiah W. Posey of Franklin Co., Ga. in right of his wife Betsey, formerly Betsey Miller, to William Mathews, Junr. of Oglethorpe Co., Ga., for \$100, 100 acres in Oglethorpe Co. on Broad. River waters, is part of tract where Adam Simmons, Senr., decd. formerly lived, beg. white oak on branch adj. Richard Floyd & Burwell Tiller, E. formerly Adam Simmons, Senr.'s line to cor. pine on Tilletts Creek, N. on Nathan Johnston's line, 100 acres, W. to branch to beg. cor. on branch, in fee simple. (signed) Hezekiah W. Posey. Wit: Berry Mathews, Jonatherrin, Wm. P. Culberton. Oglethorpe Co.: proved by Berry Mathews who saw William P. Culberton & Jonathan Herring witness, 30 Jan. 1817, Nathan Johnston, J.P. Recorded 28 Jan. 1817, Isaac Collier, clk.<sup>22</sup>
- + 20. iv Matilda Simmons born ca 1770.
- 21. v Genny Simmons married 25 Jul 1800, in Oglethorpe Co., GA, to Thomas Raines.
- + 22. vi Adam Simmons Jr. born 1784.
- 23. vii Rebecca Simmons married 8 Sep 1805, in Oglethorpe Co., GA, to John Thompson.
- 24. viii David Simmons born 1790-1800, Oglethrope Co., GA, married 25 May 1805, in Oglethorpe Co., GA, to Caty Simmons. David Simmons "the trouble with him is that a David Simmons married Caty Simmons 5 25 1805 in Oglethorpe. I have no idea if David was a son of Adam or Caty was a daughter of Adam. In the estate papers for Adam, Sr there was payment made to a D. Simmons. If this is David, he could be collecting either as a son of Adam or as the husband of Caty. I have nothing on his children that I can prove. He was in Oglethorpe County in 1820, in Clarke County in 1822 along with Adam's son in law, John Pass who married Dicy Simmons, Because of the date of marriage for David and Caty and other clues, I suspect he was in Pike County, GA by 1825. It was in Pike county that an Adam Simmons born about 1806 in Georgia married Mary Montgomery 7 12 1827. The tax records for that county in 1825 show this "David Simmons and as parent of Adam Simmons".<sup>23</sup> If this David is the same one who fought in the Revolutionary War, then he could not be the son of Adam, making Caty the likely candidate for being a child of Adam<sup>24</sup>.

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25. ix Dicy Simmons married 23 Jul 1807, in Oglethorpe Co., GA, to John Pass. Dicy died 1835, Meriwether.<sup>25</sup> moved to Jackson Co., sold 68 acres on the Broad River to Adam Simmons Jr.; June 5, 1829. John Pass Sr. (son of Thomas Pass Sr. b. ca 1731<sup>26</sup>) sold land to Vicente Simmons in 1822.
7. William Simmons (1.John<sup>1</sup>) born 1753-55, NC, died ca 1819, Putman, Georgia<sup>27</sup>. He married Patience, last name unkonwn. In 1785, William of Wilkes Co., GA sold land on Walnut Creek and Simmons branch, it being a part of a GRANVILLE grant to John SIMMONS Senior, Wake Co., NC<sup>28</sup>. The 1800 census of Oglethorpe Co., GA, lists the following for William Simmons: 1 male under 10, 2 males 16-26, 1 male over 45; 1 female 10-16, 2 females 16-26, 1 female over 45; and no slaves.

William Simmons provided for his sons in a deed gift dated 1797 in Wilkes Co., Georgia. The deed named the following sons Willis, Solomon, John, Henry, Asa Simmons<sup>29</sup>. In another deed, William Simmons to his sons and daughters, 200 acres on Clark's Creek; Children Willis, John, Henry, Asa, Solomon, Polly, Nancy, Rachael, and Celinda Simmons, dated June 5, 1798, deed book NN, page 115.

Henry Simmons was the older brother to William and Sanders W. Simmons, because it was appointed their guardian in 1819; the records states minors of William Simmons; Henry Simmons appointed guardian 7-11-1819, Min, Bk A, p. 178<sup>30</sup>. William Simmons purchased 200 acres on Clark ford of Long Creek, march 22, 1795, filed Wilkes Co., Georgia. Wilkes Co., GA, book SS, page 272, Feb. 28, 1801; William Simmons and wife Patience of Wilkes sold the 200 acres on Clark Creek to James Darden, both signed by mark. 1807 Tax Rolls for Baldwin Co., GA lists William Simmons, Willis Simmons (son), and Soloman Simmons (son)<sup>31</sup>. Another deed located in Putman Co., GA, 12-27-1819; by Patience Simmons to John Williams, both of Putman Co., Georgia.

Several of these deeds prove that the William Simmons who had a wife named Mary and left a will in Wilkes Co., Georgia was a different man. The two Williams's have been grouped as one naming Patience as the first wife and Mary as the second wife. As can be seen by these deeds Patience did not die and our William lived much longer than the William who left the will.

### *Children:*

27. i Willis Simmons married ca 1804, to Jane Goslin. Willis's family moved to Mississippi and had the following children Mason, William "Black Bill", Willis Jr., Narcissa, John Richard, Mary "Polly", George Washington, and James Jackson Simmons<sup>32</sup>
28. ii Solomon Simmons married 1809, in Columbia Co., GA, to Sarah Sally Ware.
29. iii John Simmons.
30. iv Nancy Simmons married 9 Dec 1811, in Putman Co., GA, to John Smith.
31. v Asa Simmons born 1790-1800, married 29 Dec 1812, in Putman Co., GA, Frankey Smith. Grantor in deed Putman Co., GA 12-11-1820 to Francis Williams; \$350; part of Lot 220 fo 2<sup>nd</sup> District Putman Co.; witnesses John Williams, Nathan C. Munrow, book J, p. 21<sup>33</sup>.
32. vi Polly Simmons married 13 Aug 1812, in Putman Co., GA, to Henry Williamson. She married second to Silus Mathers.
33. vii Henry Simmons married 17 Jan 1813, in Putman Co., GA, to Suzy Gonad.
34. viii Celinda Simmons married 8 Apr 1814, in Putman Co., GA, to Basil "Brazzel" Smith.
35. ix Rachel Simmons married 16 Apr 1815, in Putman Co., GA, to John McKissac.
36. x William Harrison Simmons born 1797, married 13 Nov 1823, in Jasper Co., GA, to Mary Walker. William died Aug 1849, Jasper Co., GA.

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37. xi Sanders W. Simmons married 16 Sep 1824, in Jasper Co., GA, Nancy to Walker.
8. Solomon Simmons (1.John<sup>1</sup>) born 1753-55, NC, married Mary last name unknown. Solomon died Nov 1825, Giles, TN. He is listed extensively in the court minutes. Also in the 1790, 1800 census of Wake Co., North Carolina. He moved to Tennessee sometime after 1800.
- Children:*
38. i Sarah Simmons.
39. ii Solomon Simmons Jr..
40. iii Rhoda Simmons.
41. iv James Simmons married 1826, in Giles, TN, divorced 11 July 1848, Giles, TN, Harriet Wilmot Garland.
42. v Britton "Brittain" Simmons born 1802, NC, married to Vina (last name unknown) 1850 Census, Giles Co., TN
43. vi Nancy Simmons.
44. vii Merril Simmons married Jane.
45. viii Jane B. Simmons.
46. ix Eleanor W. Simmons.
47. x Mary P. Simmons.

### Third Generation

17. Asa Simmons (6.Adam<sup>2</sup>, 1.John<sup>1</sup>) born ca 1766, married 1790-1796, Nancy last name unknown. An article in the Augusta Chronicle, dated Saturday, April 23, 1791 states: "Militia under Colonel Freeman's battalion in Wilkes Co., mentions Asa Simmons, Gent. 1st Lieutenant, March 12, 1789". He received a land grant, Deed Book, E, page 124, Asa Simmons received land grant, 3 July 1787, if he had to be 21, then he was born ca 1766.

The 1800 census Oglethorpe Co., GA, page 20 lists the following for Asa Simmons: 1 male 26-45; 1 female under 10, 1 female 16-26, no slaves. Asa Simmons children are: Margaret, Milly and Asa Jr. "from Military Claims, File II Subjects RS 4-2-46-Georgia Dept of Archives and History "Power of attorney. Jackson County, May 10, 1817 of William Smith to Samuel Poole to collect money due as administrator of Asa Simmons on behalf of the widow and orphans of Simmons. Simmons left two orphans under age 14 at the time of his death. Another was born a month after his death". From another source: 1821, Milly, Margaret, Asa Simmons Jr, orphans of Knox's Dist, Jackson County drew lot 11, Dt 12 in Houston County in the 1821 Lottery. From the marriage records of Oglethorpe, Margaret Simmons married Andrew Hendon June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1826, Lucy Simmons married Vinson Simmons Sep. 2, 1813 - I believe Milly and Lucy are the same person because Vinson B. Simmons and Andrew Hendon later became guardians for Asa Simmons Jr. From other sources I know that Samuel Pool apparently married Asa Sr's widow<sup>34</sup>. Asa died 16 Dec 1813, Georgia.

#### *Children:*

48. i Margaret Simmons<sup>35</sup> born 6 May 1802, Oglethorpe Co., GA, married 20 Jan 1826, in Oglethorpe Co., GA (bible record), 1 Jun 1826, Oglethorpe Co., GA (recorded date), to Andrew Hendon. Andrew Hendon born 27 May 1800, Oglethorpe Co., GA, (son of Robinson Hendon and Elizabeth Hartsfield). She died 4 Jan 1874 in Troup Co., Georgia. Andrew died 14 Sep 1847, Troup Co., GA, will dated 8 Sep 1847, Troup Co., GA.; one of the witnesses of the will was Asa Simmons. Margaret is found in 1850, 1860 census Troup Co., GA. Andrew and Margaret's children were: Josiah Newton Hendon born 29 Oct 1826, died 1 Jan 1828; Lucy Jane Hendon born 24 Feb

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1829, died 4 Oct 1841; Sarah Elizabeth Hendon born 9 Jan 1831, married 14 Oct 1847, to Robert W. Hamrick; Francis Robinson Hendon born 2 Nov 1833, married 10 Feb 1853, to Elizabeth D. Scroggin. Francis died 1915; Henry Thomas Hendon born 19 Dec 1836, married 15 Dec 1853, to Cytha E. Scroggin. Henry died 24 May 1874; Flemmon Asa Hendon born 3 Feb 1838, died 13 Jan 1848; Wiley Hartsfield Hendon born 7 Feb 1840, died 7 Apr 1840; William Cincinnatus Lykergus Hendon born 19 Jan 1845, married 17 Dec 1865, to Susan Francis Colley, born 19 Jan 1845, died 29 Oct 1719, Reesville, AL. William died 14 Aug 1908, Alabama. Another connection of Andrew to the Simmons family is deed recorded in Meriwether Co., GA, book A, page 363, dated 20 July 1830, where Elizabeth Simmons of Oglethorpe Co., sold to Andrew Hendon of Clark Co., for \$100 - 202 ½ acres of land in the 7<sup>th</sup> District of Franklin Co., now Meriwether a lot no. 130 lying on Flat Creek, the land was granted to Elizabeth Simmons in the lottery 2 July 1830, witnesses Jesse Simmons, Wiley Carter, signed Elizabeth (mark) Simmons.

- 49. ii Milly "Lucy" Simmons married Vinson Simmons (relationship if any unknown).
- 50. iii Asa Simmons Jr., From Scoggin research it states that Martha Scoggin born 1817-1820 married Asa Simmons December 27, 1835. This appears to be Asa Jr in the 1850 census of Troup county GA. Asa is shown as 36 (therefore born about 1814) wife, Martha A., children Asa F, Millington, Mary M, William M, and Andrew H. Simmons<sup>36</sup>

20. Matilda Simmons (6.Adam<sup>2</sup>, 1.John<sup>1</sup>) married by 1787, Jacob Eberhart, (born 1757, died 1850).

*Children:*

- 51. i Adam Eberhart born 11 Sep 1787, Oglethorpe Co., GA, married 11-May-1809, in Oglethorpe Co., GA, Frances 'Franky' Mackleroy, born 1789, (daughter of Andrew Mackelroy and Johanna New) died 09-Feb-1859, Madison Co., GA, buried: Madison Co., GA. Adam died 09-Nov-1859, Madison Co., Georgia.

22. Adam Simmons Jr. (6.Adam<sup>2</sup>, 1.John<sup>1</sup>) born 1784, he married 14-Dec-1803, in Oglethorpe Co., GA, to Elizabeth 'Betsy' Muckleroy, born 1783, (daughter of Andrew Mackelroy<sup>37</sup> and Johanna (New or Hancock) died after 1860, Lincoln Parish, Louisiana. Adam is proved to be the son of Adam Senior based on the following deed: "Oglethorpe Co., Ga., Deed Book E, p. 150, Adam Simmons of Oglethorpe Co., for love, goodwill & affection to my son, Adam Simmons of said co., give 100 acres in said co., is part of tract I now live on, beg. branch on Mathews' cor., E9S 9 outs & 5 pines to cor. on Nathan Johnston's line, N. 4 outs to pine cor., W. to cor. in my field, S. to mouth of son Simmons Spring Branch, up main branch to beg. now in my possession an inventory given today, with no condition, 31 Dec. 1804. (signed) Adam Simmons, Senior Test: Jacob Odom, James Davenport, John Hardman, J.P. Recorded 2 Mar. 1807."

Adam died December of 1819 or January of 1820, Oglethorpe Co., GA. Adam left a will in Oglethorpe County, Georgia will book B 1807-1826, pages 173-174, signed 23 December 1819. For a complete transcription of his will go to rootsweb for Oglethorpe Co., Georgia. The will identifies his children: "among all my children To Wit Jesse SIMMONS, Jane SIMMONS, Winney SIMMONS, James SIMMONS, Andrew Jackson SIMMONS, Asa B. SIMMONS, Hannah SIMMONS. And if my Dear wife should bear another child son or daughter, I will and bequeath that it shall be made an equal with the children already named above."

Adam's wife Elizabeth was pregnant with her daughter Elizabeth A. Simmons. In Deed Book H, page 141-142, Georgia Meriwether County states:

"Know all men by these present we Jesse SIMMONS, Asa SIMMONS, James SIMMONS,

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Hannah SIMMONS and Benjamin J. BARNETT having a remaining interest in a Negro boy named Moses about twenty five years old, by the last will and testament of Adam SIMMONS at the death of Elizabeth SIMMONS the mother of the above named children heirs of Adam SIMMONS have this day for and in consideration of the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars to us in hand paid of and before the signing of these present we do hereby assign transfer and take over to John JAMES all right title in interest which we do possess at this time or which that we may here after acquire in with the said boy Moses and the right and title to said boy we do hereby warrant and will forever defend from claims of ourselves and heirs and assign from the claims of all other persons whatsoever.

Signed Asa B. SIMMONS, Benjamin J. BARNETT, Hannah X SIMMONS, Jesse SIMMONS, James SIMMONS. Witness our hand and seals this 4th day of September 1843. Witnesses: John R. SEYMORE, Allen YOUNG BLOOD recorded 28th Oct 1843.”

The children Jane, Winney, and Andrew Jackson are not mentioned in this deed. So they either died young or did not go to Meriwether County from Oglethorpe County Georgia. The 1820 census for Oglethorpe Co., GA lists ages for all children. The 1830 census is missing one son and two daughters, since we know the whereabouts of all but Andrew Jackson, Jane, and Winney, they are the ones missing. Andrew Jackson either died or left home at age 18 - 20, Jane & Winney may have gotten married. However, I found no marriage records for these three, so best assumption is they died young. Elizabeth and her children: James, Asa Bailey, Hannah, and Elizabeth moved to Jackson Parish (now Lincoln Parish) Louisiana in 1849<sup>38</sup>.

### *Children:*

52. i Jesse Simmons born Abt 1807, Oglethorpe Co., GA, married 19-Jan-1835, in Oglethorpe Co., GA, to Frances S Pittard born 5 Jan 1816, Oglethorpe Co., Georgia (daughter of William Davis Pittard<sup>39</sup> and Nancy Crowder O'kelley),. Jesse died 1844, Meriwether Co., GA, Jesse left a will in Meriwether Co., GA dated 21 Oct 1844. will book A page 84-85; which listed the name of his wife and children. He is found in the 1840 census Meriwether Co., GA. His wife and children are back in Oglethorpe Co., GA for the 1850 census. Several of his children moved to Louisiana, first to Lincoln Parish and then settling in Winn Parish.
53. ii Jane Simmons b. 1804-1810, Oglethorpe Co., GA died young or married before 1830.
54. iii Winney Simmons born 1810-1817, Oglethorpe Co., GA, died young or married before 1830.
55. iv James Simmons born Aug 1813, Oglethorpe Co., GA, married 25 Aug 1837, in Meriwether Co., Georgia, to Lucinda Walthall, born 28 Aug 1821, Georgia, (daughter of John Harvey Walthall, left will Coweta Co., GA 1870, and Susannah Morgan) died by Oct 1887, Lincoln Pr., LA. James died after 1887, Lincoln Pr., LA. 1840 census Meriwether Co., GA 1850-70 census Jackson Parish LA 1880 census Lincoln Parish, LA. North LA Genealogical Society Vol 4, NO. 1, Lincoln Parish.
56. v Andrew Jackson Simmons born 1810-1812, Oglethorpe Co., GA, died young or left home before 1830.
57. vi Asa Bailey Simmons born 25-Dec-1816, Oglethorpe Co., GA, married 24-Dec-1838, in Oglethorpe Co., GA, to Temperance Sterling, born 28-Dec-1819, Oglethorpe Co., GA, (daughter of Josiah Sterling and Elizabeth Mackelroy) died 1888, and Asa died ca 1884. It has been undetermined where Asa and Temperance are buried, in Texas or Louisiana. 1840 Census Meriwether Co., GA; 1850-70 censuses Jackson Parish, LA Jackson Parish Louisiana History. "The Civil War Tax in LA 1865" pg77-81. Asa and Temperance were third cousins. Asa's grandfather was Andrew Mackleroy

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and Tempy's was Avington Mackleroy. Both Andrew and Avington were sons of Archibald Mackleroy.

- 58. vii Hannah Simmons born 1818, Oglethorpe Co., GA, died after 1880; listed as a legal lunatic, as found in the census records 1850-1870 of Jackson Parish, Louisiana.
- 59. viii Elizabeth A. Simmons born 1820, Oglethorpe Co., GA, married 03-FEB-1837, in Merweither Co., GA, to Benjamin Johnson Barnett (son of David & Sarah Barnett<sup>40</sup>), born 1810-12, Oglethorpe Co., GA, died -before 1887, Lincoln Parish, Louisiana. Elizabeth died before 1887, Lincoln Parish, Louisiana.

### Unknown Simmons relationships:

<sup>1st</sup> Richard SIMMONS (born ca 1740) wife Elizabeth DEANS (daughter of William DEANS will dated 3 Nov. 1760, probated Jan. Court 1761<sup>41</sup>).

<sup>2nd</sup> Richard Simmons, left a will in Oglethorpe Co., GA date Jan. 26, 1796, proved Feb. 24, 1796. Mentions wife, daughter Betsy (from a former marriage to Mary Ellis), daughter of <sup>2nd</sup> marriage Chaney both under 16. This Richard married <sup>2nd</sup> to Sally Huckaby (daughter of James Huckaby will left in Oglethorpe Co., GA, dated May 10 1796, probated June 29, 1796<sup>42</sup>). His daughter Betty Simmons married 17 Sep 1805, in Oglethorpe Co., GA, to David Ragan<sup>43</sup> (son of Jonathan Ragan, b. 11 Apr 1744, VA<sup>44</sup>).

<sup>3rd</sup> Richard Simmons, was a man who purchased the bible of Adam Simmons Sr., at the estate sale in 1808. He could not have been the <sup>2nd</sup> Richard, because he was already deceased when the estate sale took place.

James Simmons found in deed book H, p. 164, Wake Co., NC, dated 1773, Robert Nutt, sold land on Crabtree Creek, next to James Simmons, Witnesses: Theophilus Hunter, Adam Simmons, and John Nutt.

Benjamin SIMMONS mentioned in GRANVILLE grant in Johnston County 1761.

William Simmons m. Sarah Brown 23 Dec., 1784, Wake Co., North Carolina; Richard Simmons Bondsman.<sup>45</sup>

William Simmons m. Priscilla Griggs, 28 Nov 1798, in Wake Co., NC; bondsman was Samuel Griggs<sup>46</sup>.

William Simmons who left will in Oglethorpe Co., Georgia dated May 12, 1808, probated Nov. Court 1808. States wife's name as Mary, sons Samuel and William Jr., and son-in-law Jesse Simmons. This is not the same William who deeded his property to his children, June 5, 1798 in Wilkes Co., Georgia, see information on number 7. His wife Patience out lived William so she could not have been his first wife.

<sup>1</sup> Copy located in Washington DC, DAR building.

<sup>2</sup> There were actually more John Simmons's but these are the ones that some researchers have gotten confused.

<sup>3</sup> Peggy Hill states: One of the sons of James Simmons of Rutherford died without leaving children. There was a settlement of the estate which named all James' children by both marriages. Since John of Elbert County, GA was already deceased, it named his children.

<sup>4</sup> Their children were Holman Freeman, James B., Susannah, Moses W., John Jr. Simmons.

<sup>5</sup> His children were Thomas, David, Ruth, Susannah, Elijah/Elisha, Keziah, Elizabeth, and Rebecca Simmons.

<sup>6</sup> A good deal of this research has come from Peggy Hill, to whom I'm very much indebted, she runs the Simmons Information Exchange, P.O. Box 245, West, Texas, 76691, email PeggyHill@prodigy.net

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<sup>7</sup> Kyle Simmons, deceased, of San Antonio, Texas believes that her name was Herbert and that both families were from Princess Ann Co., Virginia. I believe more research is necessary to confirm this promising information.

<sup>8</sup> North Carolina Johnston County. In the name of GOD Amen. I being weak and low in health but in perfect sense and memory and this I make my last will and testament. After I depart this life I give my soul to Almighty GOD I also leave my body to be decently buried by the directions of my Executors and my worldly goods I give as here after mentioned. I give unto son Willis Simmons Eighty acres of land lying on the south side of Walnut Creek and bounded as follows. Beginning at the creek lowhawrds(Lawhorn) line cross it and running along the line to the corner of \_\_\_\_\_. I give unto my son William Simmons one hundred acres of land more or less lying above a branch called Simmonses Branch running as the branch runs and from the mouth of the branch across the creek, a south course. I give unto my son Salomon Simmons my plantation whereon I now live and all my land upon Walnut Creek unmentioned or ungiven only I reserve the use of the land which I give to my son Salomon. To my wife until my son Salomon do arrive to the age of eighteen years and also it is my will and desire that my wife shall keep my children until they do arrive to eighteen years of age and then I do set them all at liberty to act for themselves. Further, It is my sill and desire that my executor shall sell all my land lying upon Richland creek to discharge my just debts. Further it is my will and desire that after my just debts be paid I give the residue of my estate unto my wife during her natural life and after her death to be equally divided among all my children and I leave my wife whole and sole executor in this my last will and testament as witness my hand this the seventeenth day of January In the year of our Lord One thousand and seventy. Signed & sealed in the presence of John Simmons, witnesses Jesse Minton and Adam Simmons.

<sup>9</sup> In the name of GOD amen. August the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of One thousand seven hundred and eight four. I Dianah Simmons of the County of Wake and state of North Carolina being very sick and weak of body but sound and disposing mind and memory. Thank be to Almighty GOD, calling to mind the certainty of death and the uncertainty of the time there of do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following. Imprimis I give and bequeath unto my son Solomon Simmons and his heirs forever one tract of land containing eighty acres be the same more or less being that part of land lying on the south side of Walnut creek which was given to me by my son Willis Simmons. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Mary Simmons all the rest and remainder of my estate of what nature or kind soever after all my just debts and funeral expenses are paid and discharged to her and her heirs forever. And lastly I do nominate and appoint my daughter Mary Simmons Executrix of this my last will and testament ratifying and confirming this and only this to be and contain my last will and testament. In witnesses where of I have hereunto set my hand and seal this day and year first above written. Her mark, testator's last will and testament in the presence of Joel Lane, jurat, John Wrench, and Mary Jones jurat.

<sup>10</sup> In the name of GOD Amen, this fifth day of February in the year of Christ one thousand seven hundred and seventy. I Willis Simmons of the Province of North Carolina and the County of Johnston formerly but said now to be the county of Wake being in my minority but above the age of eighteen years and being sick and weak in body but of perfect mind and memory do make and ordain this my last will & testament. In the following manner and form, Imprimis I give unto my mother Dinah Simmons my land containing by estimate eighty acres adjoining the land formerly belonging to William Lawthon now to Captain Theophilus Hunter according to the manner of my deceased fathers last will to her and to her heirs and assign forever and I give to my said mother my cow and what hogs of mine runs with her hogs and their increase forever only with this reservation that if my sister Mary out lives my said mother that She my said mother or my sister Elizabeth or both should out live my said mother shall think the worth of the said cow and hogs to be at this time and also the money being upwards of ten pounds which my brother Adam Simmons is now indebted to me to be given in like manner to my said mother and I do hereby give to my brother William all the hogs I has of my brother Adam and their increase forever. I also give to my brother Solomon one sow and six pigs being by themselves and their increase forever and I do hereby nominate my mother aforesaid my only and sole executrix of this my last will and testament. Declaring this to be my last will and testament in the witnesses whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year above written. Willis (mark) Simmons. In the presence of George Renyor Turner. Recorded in the clerks office of Wake County in book A pages 243.

<sup>11</sup> Dates are from Bible records, from Isaac Simmons's application for Revolutionary war pension.

<sup>12</sup> North Carolina Genealogical Journal (NCGJ), vol XII, No. 1, pages 20-28.

<sup>13</sup> Abstracts of the early deeds of Wake Co., NC, 1785-1802", page 65

<sup>14</sup> In Deed Book H, page 141-142, Georgia Meriwether County.

<sup>15</sup> Johnston Co., NC, Court Minutes 1759-1766, book 1 by Wynn.

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- <sup>16</sup> The court record was vague and did not provide any information into her surname.
- <sup>17</sup> Wake Co., NC, County Court Minutes 1777-1784 by Wynn.
- <sup>18</sup> Most likely 1785, with a group of Wake Co., NC settlers.
- <sup>19</sup> Georgia Indian Depredation Claims, by Donna B. Tlaxton, ISBN 0-931739-00-4
- <sup>20</sup> NCGJ, vol XII, No. 1, pages 20-28.
- <sup>21</sup> Oglethorpe Co., GA, deed book E, page 86, dated 30 Nov 1805, States "Winney Bell to John Knox, both of Oglethorpe Co., for \$100, 119 acres ... where Benjamin Knox, decd. Formerly lived, is Winney Bell's dower of said estate ... to John Knox during the natural life of Winney Bell. Signed Winney Bell.
- <sup>22</sup> Oglethorpe County, Georgia Deed books F-J, 1809-1820, M. Farmer, LC 99-72621
- <sup>23</sup> Peggy Hill, Ibid
- <sup>24</sup> If this David was a Rev., Soldier this may have been a second marriage for him, because he would have been about 45.
- <sup>25</sup> estate administered by by Vincent Simmons (Son of Asa).
- <sup>26</sup> Rootsweb "Pass" Surname, email from Rickey Lynn Morgan, [rlmorgan@texhoma.net](mailto:rlmorgan@texhoma.net), dated 24 Oct 1998.
- <sup>27</sup> Several deeds indicate that William and Patience were living after 1808, see Wilkes Co., deed book SS, p.267, p.272; deed book UU, p. 55; deed book VV p. 72. Also land records of Houston Co., GA, vol I, by Campbell and Henry, page 63; lists children and Patience as a widow, dated 1826. States Patience was a widow of Jones Co., Georgia.
- <sup>28</sup> Deed book G, 1785, Wake Co., NC.
- <sup>29</sup> "Early Georgia wills and settlements of estate, Wilkes Co., Georgia", by Sarah Quinn Smith, copyright 1959.
- <sup>30</sup> Leon Hollingsworth Collection (LHC)
- <sup>31</sup> Peggy Hill, ibid
- <sup>32</sup> "The Silver Creek Simmons Family, descendants of Willis and Jane Goslin Simmons", by Edna Simmons Campbell and Hansford L. Simmons, McComb, Mississippi.
- <sup>33</sup> LHC, ibid
- <sup>34</sup> Peggy Hill, ibid
- <sup>35</sup> Alice Hughes 1801, Highway 138E, Cobington GA, 30014 - bible records
- <sup>36</sup> Email from Peggy Hill, dated 4 July 2000.
- <sup>37</sup> Oglethorpe Co., Ga., Deed Book E, p. 149, Andrew McElroy of Oglethorpe Co., for love, goodwill & affection to my son-in-law, Adam Simmons of same co., give a negro girl named Mary between 6 & 7 yrs. old in my possession, inventory given today, 14 July 1804. (signed) Andrew McElroy. Wit: Jacob Averharte, Charles Martin, Wm. Smith, J.P. Recorded 2 Mar. 1807.
- <sup>38</sup> On Rootsweb for Lincoln Parish, Louisiana I have provided additional information on this family.
- <sup>39</sup> Information on the Pittard family can be found at [www.geocities.com/BourbonStreet/3387/pitcon.htm](http://www.geocities.com/BourbonStreet/3387/pitcon.htm)
- <sup>40</sup> David Barnett(25 Dec 1776 - 1861) was the son of William Barnett & Susannah Webb of New Kent, Virginia. Information from Claudie Cargill, Rt. 5, box 745, Ruston, LA 71270.
- <sup>41</sup> Johnston Co., NC will Abstracts, 1746-1825, by Ross, 1975, page 63.
- <sup>42</sup> Georgia Willis, Oglethorpe Co., page 3, mentions wife Sealy, eldest daughter Elizabeth, daughter Sealy Rowland, Sally Simmons, and Winifred Huckaby, daughter Jenna Christopher, (daughter or granddaughters Creacy and Chaney.
- <sup>43</sup> Oglethorpe Co., GA, deed book E, p.88, dated 4 Feb 1806, Moses Stallings, exor. For the last will & testament of Richard Simmons, decd. Of Oglethorpe Co., to David Regan of said Co., for

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\$1,410, agreeable to will, on both sides of North Fork ... signed Moses Stallings, exer. Witnesses Sally (S) Graves, William Graves, J.P. Recorded 2 Sep 1806.

<sup>44</sup> Rootsweb, "Ragan" surname, from Robert Ragan, [ragan@southeast.net](mailto:ragan@southeast.net), dated 13 Apr 1997.

<sup>45</sup> Wake Co., Marriages 1770-1868 by Holcomb

<sup>46</sup> Ibid