

# Keith family of Hall came from Virginia

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In the Yellow Creek Church Cemetery near Murrayville are two old boxed graves with inscriptions which are barely legible.

GEORGE KEITH, borned December 16 A.D., 1772 (Va.), died May 6, 1840

MARGARET KEITH, borned November A.D., 1777, died July 20, 1845

George Keith left a will recorded in Book "A" Wills, Hall County courthouse, (p. 8-11) Dated: 21st June 1839, Probated: 7th Sept. 1840. "To Margaret, all land and Negroes, household and kitchen furniture, plantation and tools. At her death, or marriage, all to be sold and divided among my 10 children: Makey A. (Anderson), Mary McClure, Lucinda Roper, Matthew, Sarah Roper, John W., Elizabeth Bramblett, Cornelius, Margaret Looper, and George Jr.

"Executors: sons, Makey A., Matthew, John W., and (son-in-law) Robert B. McClure.

"Witnesses: J.E. Rives, John Bird, and Terrell Bird. E.M. Johnson C.C.O."

The 1800 census, Pickens District, South Carolina, enumerates CORNELIUS KEITH, over 45 years of age; wife, over age 45, and four male children, and three females; two slaves. William J. Stewart states in one of his publications:

"Cornelius Keith Sr., was

born in 1743, died 13 June 1820 and is buried in Oolenoy Churchyard in Pickens County, S.C. His wife Mary LaFoom (Laffoon?) Keith was born 1749, died 13 Feb. 1846. Cornelius Keith Jr., was born 14 May 1786, died 26 Nov. 1848. His wife Nancy was born 24 June 1788, died 1 March 1863. Cornelius Sr., was of a family living on the Roanoke River in Brunswick County in 1734, and found in various places in southern Virginia; he himself moved from Surry County, N.C., to Pendleton District probably about 1795, along with a number of others from that area. He wrote a will 19 May 1820, which was not filed for many years. He names children: John, George, William L., James, Allen, Mary (married Amos Sutherland), Rebecca (married Joseph B. Reid), Eady (married Alfred Hester), Cornelius.

"Cornelius Keith Sr. probably went to South Carolina shortly after he sold land in 1796 in Patrick now Grayson County, Va., to Nathaniel Stewart. Some of the Stewart family and several Keiths, probably related to Cornelius, removed to Greenville District, S.C."

George Keith, most likely the one buried at Yellow Creek, was in the 1805 Jackson County, Georgia, lottery. On Sept. 3, 1801, George had bought of the heirs of Joseph Nail, 287 1/4 acres on the Oconee River in Jackson County. The following year he

sold a small tract to Patrick Shields. George is possibly the son named in the will of Cornelius Keith of Pickens District, S.C. since he names one of his sons, Cornelius.

The George Keith family is not enumerated in the 1820 census of Jackson County. A recently located cemetery plot may place the family in the Cherokee Nation in 1823; therefore, George Keith was not listed in 1820 census of Hall County. James Smith, a govern-

ment surveyor, ran across the particular long lost burial plot. It is located in the Wahoo Shores

## Hall County history

Subdivision in the deep woods near Lake Lanier. There are

several graves that have no markers other than field stones. The one crudely inscribed headstone reads:

SARAH KEITH was born Feb. 6, 1822 and died Feb. 11, 1823, or 1828.

Several marriages of Keith children recorded in Hall County records:

Matthew Keith married Betsey Tallant, Jan. 5, 1826

Elizabeth married Joel Bramblet, Mr. 23, 1830.

John W. Keith married

Dorcas Talant, May 25, 1834.

The 1840 census of Lumpkin enumerates Cornelius Keith. George Keith Jr., leaves a will recorded in Hall County. Dated: 4 May 1860, probated: 2 July 1860. "I will and bequeath to beloved wife, Elizabeth, seven Negroes which were deeded to wife by her father, Nathaniel Smith, and my home plantation lying on Yellow Creek and Chestatee River, 883 acres more or less." Children are not named.