

HUMPHREYS COUNTY

HISTORY OF THOMAS SHANNON FAMILY 1822

This History is owned at present by Mrs. J.F. Shannon, Waverly Tenn.

Copied by Miss Minnie Strickland, Sycamore Landing, Tennessee - May 1938.

In the fall of 1822 a permanent settlement was made at Saltillo by Thomas Shannon. In October, 1822 Mr. Shannon left Davidson County, near Nashville, in a keelboat with his household goods and provisions to last one year. Col John Holland and Parkerson Mitchell, whom he hired to help manage the boat and his four negro men. They descended the Cumberland to the Ohio, then to the mouth of the Tennessee to where Point Pleasant now stands and went out half a mile from the river and erected a camp. Mr. Shannon's family, consisting of his wife, five sons (William, Franklin, Thomas, Nathan and Sarah) came through by land, drove forty head of cattle and crossed Tennessee River at a place now known as Shannonville, and traveled up the west side of the river to the camp.

Mr. Shannon calculated on a large profit from raising cattle at a small expense, but his cattle were not used to cane, and the result was that in three months from the time they were turned loose in the cane, 39 out of the 40 were dead.

A log house was erected soon after the arrival near the camp, which was then the first house built in the county, on the west side of the river. The spot where this house stood is now in Decatur County, but was then included in Hardin.

Mr. Shannon's father, as also his mother's father, came from Ireland. Thus we find that the first permanent settlers on both sides of the river were of Irish and Welch descent.

In the year 1825 Mr. Shannon and his boys built a hewed log house on the hill, about 400 yards north of the present landing at Saltillo, near the present site of Mrs. Heney's residence. This was the first house built in Saltillo, and was first occupied by William and Nathan Shannon. It was in this year (1825) that Smith Hawkins brought \$200.00 worth of dry goods from Louisville on a keelboat to what is now Saltillo, for Mr. Shannon to sell for him. A hewed log store - house was at once erected, and Nathan Shannon then a youth, sold out the goods in three months.

In 1760 or thereabouts, Samuel Shannon came from Ireland and settled in Amherst County Va., and then moved to Montgomery Co. now Pulaski Co., Va. in about 1773 or 4.

In 1784 he moved to Nashville, then N.C. He had a large family of children - 7 sons & 4 daughters. (boys) Thomas, ancestor of present Va. branch of family) John, David, James, Joseph, George and Samuel. (girls) Jane, Anne, Ester and Sarah, 2 of these married Mores, one James and the other Alexander, the latter served as Captain of a Co., in the Revolutionary War.

Ester married James Rawlston, Sarah died without ever having been married.

James Shannon who lived in Davidson County and was a son of Samuel

Shannon as above set out had a son named Robert, and 2 girls named Sarah or Pollie and Elizabeth, and all of these moved to Duck River, Humphreys County Tenn., along about 1800, that is, James Shannon moved there about this time, and possibly the children were born after 1800.

As Aunt Lizzie Shannon understands it, Jas. Shannon as above, had a son named Robert, who had a son named James, who was an ancestor as above set out, instead of the Names at the head of this division.

4.

Robert Shannon was born possibly on Duck River near old Pleasant Valley Church and in 2 or 3 miles of Hurricane Mills, P.O. along about 1800 or a little later.

5.

Robert Shannon had the following children, Joseph J. Shannon, Bettie Shannon, Sarah Shannon, Susie Shannon, and Marshall R. Shannon for the History of the last four see the O'Bill in the County Court of Humphreys County, Tenn. in Case of Mattie Harris McCollum et al, vs. Josie Wilhite et al, filed in 1896. Robert Shannon died in 1874 or 5.

6.

Joseph J. Shannon born in 1833 or Robert Shannon by his first wife, whose name was -----Johnson, and who was said to have been related to Andrew Johnson, Pres. of the U.S. He married Nancy Young and had the following children now living (1897) Robert, James J. John P. Annie V. Mattie J. Nora and Lula.

The said Joseph J., served continuously through the late war in Co.,----- Tennessee Infantry & C.S.A. and was surrendered at Fort Donelson, and kept in prison about seven or eight months and changed at Vicksburg, Miss. Was captured another time while at home on furlough and kept in prison until close of war. He died March, 6, 1895.

7.

Record of John Franklin Shannon's family.

John Franklin Shannon was born Feb. 8, 1867 died Jan. 7, 1933.

8.

John Franklin Shannon and Margaret Virginia Duncan were Married Sept. 29, 1889.

9. Children: Infants born June 28, 1891.

10. Walter Enloe Shannon was born April 11, 1891.

11. Infant son still born.

12. Mable Shannon born July 31, 1894.

13. Joe Camel Shannon born Jan. 2nd 1896.

14. Marie Shannon born Feb. 15, 1899.

15. John Finley Shannon born June 6th 1903.

16. Infant daughter born and died same day Jan. 1916 called a Blue Baby.

17. John Franklin Shannon was a son of Joseph J. Shannon who was a son of R Robert Shannon who was a son of James Shannon, who was a son of Samuel Shannon who had two girls, Sarah or Polly and Elizabeth who moved to Duck River as afore mentioned.

* Wm. H. Hugh L. Ed H.

HUMPHREYS COUNTY

LETTER OF SAMUEL SHANNON

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HUMPHREYS COUNTY

LETTER OF SAMUEL SHANNON

1788

The following is an old letter owned at present by Mrs. J.F. Shannon, Waverly, Tennessee. The letter was written by her husband's great grandfather.

Whites Creek, May 31st. 1788.
State of North Carolina, Davidson Co.

Dear Son and Daughter:

I having this opportunity to let you know that we are in good health at present, blessed be God for his mercy, hoping these few lines will find you and your family, enjoying health and happiness.

I have received but one letter from you these thirteen months and was dated the sixth of last August which give me an account of your welfare which I was very glad for to hear.

We have had a middlin troubled summer. Last year and likewise there was in the course of last winter and early this spring about seven persons killed at Cumberland, and off the road between this and Kentucky.

We have had very stilltimes about Indians affairs these two months past. We sent two men early this spring to the Creek nation to treat for peace which the Creeks readily granted. They said they sent a number of Indians against us last fall upon account of their head warriors being killed on the cold water expedition upon the Tennessee so I think we are not in any danger of Indians only a few roguish Chickmaugas that come in sometimes to steal horses.

There is 90 road cutters to set out next Monday to blaze it better, and dosome cutting from this to holston and there is another party to go sometime in July to clear it about half way, and about the first of September there is to go a large party to clear it to holston and to be a guard to the people that will be moving to this county this fall.

I have had some thoughts of coming to your parts this year, but I think that time seems to be too troublesome to venture it may be that some of the boys if they be called on clearing the road it may be that some of them will be there this fall. These that have lately viewed the road and marked it say that it does not exceed two hundred miles from holston settlement till the French broad and likewise says it can very easy be made a wagon road.

Tell John Crow I have got the patten or grant for his -----? There's one half dollar cost on it and ten years tax on the land of five shillings per hundred which I have assumed to the court to pay so you may not be uneasy about your land for I will keep it clear till you come or send.

I wrote you that I made use of your horse and desire that you pay yourself for him. Keegers Whiskey. I wrote to you for to try to trade for some corduroy for jackets and breeches for the boys and likewise some things for your mother and Sallie and Ester, they are all grown now and as we have frequent opportunity of going to sermon they would want to appear like other people. there is very few goods comes to this country and what few comes they are at such extravagant price that it is out of poor people's power to pur-

chase them.

I have always kept myself clear of being indebted to the stores and intend to continue so, needles and pins is scarce articles here and is wanted very much.

I have made no further purchase of land yet, it is likely I will purchase some this fall. I have the offer of land very cheap. I intend to go to Kentucky this fall to try and get my land from Kanton. I received a letter from him last year which gave me some hope that he intended to use me better than I expected these years past. I had some expectation that James Cloyd would have come here before this time he promised that if he came that he would bring some articles if you have traded for them.

I think if you would come to see this country you would not stay much longer at Walkers Creek. But I dont take upon myself to advise you to it for fear of danger of roads. Remember our kind respects to Brother and Sister William and Anna Crow and Margaret and Anna and John Crow and his wife and likewise to Col. Cloyd and wife and family not forgetting Dr. Daniel Howe and his wife.

Dear Son I would earnestly treat you that you would always keep the fear of the Lord before you and as you have a young family sett a good example by keeping the Worship of God daily in your family let the example of good/Joshua be a guide for you, let others do what they will that you and your household will serve the Lord. You live in a very loose and careless part of the country. I could wish you were in a place where the Gospel is preached, take this small advice from me and your dear Mother who wishes the welfare of you and your wife and family's sakes. We shall concluded with the best wishes to you and your Nancy and the children and remain your affectionate father and mother, whilst your brothers and sisters send their compliments to you and Nancy and the children.

Samuel and Jean Shannon.

P.S. We have had a very hard winter and a middlen cold set spring creatures suffered somewhat for the frost killed a good deal of the Kane it will make some more industrious for to save fodder in time to come, corn may be had here now for one quarter of a dollar per bushel. I want to get twenty acres of corn planted this year if the season is good it is likely we will be plenty this next year. Your stock is in my reach now and seems to do very well. You have a particular chance for beef when you come to this country for you have some very likely steers as likely as I ever seen at New River.

Son John and family is well and James Mores and the children is well, Anna has a son and daughter they are both very thriving and well. I am fearful I shall tire your patience in taking up your time to read so long an epistle about so many frivolous affairs the bearer of this Mr. Reuben Jerson has promised to call at your house with this letter and thinks of resting himself two or three days which I expect you will not be against from

Your loving father
Samuel Shannon.