

Templeton Reid, an Early Coinmaker in Georgia

by Jeannette Holland Austin



Templeton Reid Coin...if you find one of these, wealthy you shall be!

The Reid family were from Scotland and arrived in Georgia by way of Northern Ireland and Lancaster County, Pennsylvania about 1745. A few years later, they moved southward to Rowan County, North Carolina. The father of Templeton was Alexander Reid who had four brothers who fought in the American Revolutionary War.

Afterwards they all qualified for bounty lands in Georgia. So it was that five Reid families moved into Greene County between 1786 and 1792.

Alexander Reid owned and operated a ferry over the Oconee River and a grist mill near the crossing of the Eatonton-Greensboro Road.

After the death of Alexander, Templeton removed to Columbus where he advertised in *The Enquirer* as being the best gun maker in the United States. Thereafter, he minted gold coins in Dahlonega.