

William Henderson- Mary Cannon Henderson Family

By J.A. SHARP

William Henderson was the son of Elizabeth Moon wife of Jesse Moon as shown by the will of Jesse Moon made in Sevier County, 14 September 1805. He named his "Wife Elizabeth Moon and William Henderson her son" as equal heirs to his whole estate and after her death William Henderson was to have the whole estate, but he failed to describe or locate his lands. The father of William Henderson is unknown, but it must be assumed from the will that Elizabeth Moon had been married previously to a Henderson who was the father of her son William. Neither do I know the maiden name of Elizabeth Moon- she was living with her son William Henderson in 1850 (census, Sevier County, 1850) and was then 84 years old- so she was born about 1766.

The above will of Jesse Moon was made on his death bed (nuncupative will) and was very brief; he died the next day, 15 September 1805. His will was witnessed by William Moon, James Cannon and Job Manning, and was probated before ~~Wm~~ Samuel Wear, Sevier County's first county court clerk, on 17 September 1805. It was found among papers of William Henderson preserved by Mrs. J.B. McCosh who owns the old homestead of her great grand father William Henderson about four miles south of Sevierville.

William Henderson and wife Mary Cannon had the following children: William Jr., James, George, John K., Randall, Elijah and Andrew and at least two daughters, Elizabeth and Nancy- there may have been others. I believe that Mary Cannon was the daughter of James Cannon, early Sevier County settler and probably a Revolutionary War soldier- he obtained a Tennessee grant for 328 acres on the "waters of East Fork of little Pigeon" in 1810 and was still living in Sevier County in 1830 and the census of that year shows that he was born between the years 1750 and 1760, so he was the right age to serve in the Revolution. His homestead was the farm now owned by John R. Burchfield.

James Henderson married Leah Swann, daughter of one Robert Swann as proven by a chancery court record of Sevier County. Nothing is known of this Robert Swann, but he was probably a resident of Jefferson County where the Swanns settled early and are prominent people there today. Children of James Henderson and wife Leah Swann were: Amanda, Elizabeth and Robert. James Henderson died 11 August 1843 and his widow remarried in 1849; her second husband was John Howard who at one time was sheriff of Sevier County. James Henderson's home and lands, between two to three hundred acres, were located on East Fork of Little Pigeon; Mack Henderson, a great grand son of James, owns part of this land today. ~~This may be the land inherited by William Henderson from Jesse Moon-~~ In fact I am inclined strongly to this belief, but am unable to prove it. The above children were raised by their mother, their grand father William Henderson, their step father John Howard and their uncle Elijah Henderson. Their mother died in 1852. Amanda Henderson married Thomas Share (b. 1818, d. 1905)- he was my great grand father, but I descended from his first wife and am not related to the Hendersons. Nothing is known about Elizabeth Henderson, daughter of James and Leah- she may have died young.

John K. Henderson, son of William and wife Mary Cannon, married Martha Catlett (in 1833), daughter of John Catlett. This John Henderson was said to have been insane which led to his divorce from his wife. He gave his father as well as his wife much trouble and the story is told that one day while seated on the old hotel porch at Henderson's Springs John shot a hole through the bucket of a summer "boarder" who was trying to obtain a bucket of the famed chalybeate water. He was jailed several times at Sevierville

to prevent his doing injury to his wife, father or brothers who he imagined were conspiring against him; he was also sent to the insane asylum at Nashville- each time he managed to escape in a short time and returned to Sevier County. Finally a guardian was appointed for this Henderson; Samuel Pickens, the guardian, then sold John's lands in the tenth district and sent him with his wife and children in a wagon to Kentucky to a new farm, but the next the homing instinct struck John again and he deserted his wife and children and came back to his old Sevier County home. It was after this that his wife divorced him. During these troubles William had his son John jailed under a peace warrant and John to get released from jail signed, on June 29, 1847, the agreement that in the future He would not "abuse, in any way, my father or any of his family, nor drink any more sperits, or ramble about at improper hours of the night- nor to carry any gun or any other weasen of danger nor to disturb the neighborhood in any manner whatever." In 1850 John at the age of 37 was living with his father and Martha, his divorced wife was living with her children: Henry, John, William, Marey, Mahala and Maria- it is not known what happened to these Henderson children, but I believe they left Sevier County.