

Notes on Abraham Goodpasture

Military - Note: Abraham Goodpasture grew up in Augusta Co., served in the militia (1782), and married Martha Hamilton, daughter of Arthur and Barbara Hamilton, in 1776. By 1779, Abraham was living in Washington County, VA where he built the county jail (1778-9), and appears in the old court records several times up to 1789 (Jury duty, a law suit as a plaintiff, and charged with selling whiskey without a license). He also raised a family. In 1799-1800 the family, except for the oldest son William, moved to Tennessee. Abraham passed away in Overton Co. around 1830.

Abraham was orphaned at the age of 15 and bound by the courts to Daniel Pierce to learn the trade of carpentry. On 20 Aug 1778 Abraham was given the contract by Washington County, VA to build a jail. In 1779 he was given the work of finishing the courthouse that Samuel Evans had started. He also built the first courthouse and the first jail in Abingdon, Augusta Co., VA.

This family remained in Virginia until 1799/1800, then migrated into Knox Co., Tennessee and finally into Overton Co., Tennessee, where they settled. Descendants moved onwards into Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, then into Missouri and Oregon. Many remained in Overton Co., Tennessee.

Abraham must have run a tavern in Virginia because the Washington County, VA court fined him 22 Apr 1779 for selling liquor above rates.

31 Jan 1790 Abraham purchased 466 acres from John Campbell, his wife's cousin in Washington County, VA where they lived for about 6 years.

1796-1797 Abraham settled with his family in what was then Knox County, TN but now Loudon County, TN between the Clinch and Tennessee Rivers, 565 acres on the north side of Muddy Creek Station, near Lenor City, TN. It was there that Margaret Goodpasture married Andrew McClain and raised a family. 2 other children, John and James, had planned to settle in White County, TN but the title of their land was not good, so they were the first of the family to move on to Overton County, TN.

1799-1800 Abraham made his last move, crossed what was then known as the Wilderness to Overton County, TN where their last child, Jefferson, was born in 1801.

1813 - petition signed by Abraham, John and Arthur Goodpasture asking to form a force of mounted men of about 500 to fight the British and Creek Indians.

All the Goodpasture children married in Tennessee. Some remained in Overton County, TN to raise their families but some removed to Illinois and some to other states.

The following article was written in 1933 by Albert Virgil Goodpasture who was the author of the book and genealogy titled "The Life of Jefferson Dillard Goodpasture", published in 1897:

"Sometime about the middle of the 18th century, Jacob Goodpasture found his way to Augusta County, VA then embracing all the frontier settlements of southwest Virginia. Whence he came is not known. He no longer has a personality; he is just a name preserved in the public records at Staunton. He does not live in any family tradition. None of his descendants bear his name; his only namesake being a fictitious character introduced into Edgar Lee Master's "Spoon River Anthology". And yet, he was the founder of the large Goodpasture family in America. He is first mentioned in 1753, when Thomas Lewis, the first surveyor of Augusta County, VA surveyed for him a tract of 90 acres of land on the north branch of Lewis Creek in Brock's Gap, now in Rockbridge County, VA. On the face of the plot is this endorsement: "Jacob Goodpasture, transferred to John 90 acres." Jacob Goodpasture died in 1766, and Daniel Price (or Pierce) qualified as his administrator. It is unknown what, if any, connection there was between the families, but at the November 1766 term of the county court, it was ordered that Abraham Goodpasture, orphan of Jacob Goodpasture, who was then 15 or 16 years of age, be bound to Daniel Price (or Pierce), to learn the trade of carpenter. But he was not apprenticed to Daniel Price (or Pierce) though he evidently desired to learn the carpenter's trade. He was old enough now to have a choice of his own, and his subsequent career shows him to have been a man of decision and firmness. So the church wardens delayed the matter until August 1767 when the county court ordered them to bind him to Thomas Smith to learn the grade and mystery of carpenter and house joiner, probably at his request, and they accordingly bound him to Smith until he should reach the age of 21 years. The apprenticeship could not have lasted longer than 4 or 5 years, because 10 years later he had married a wife, had a son, and was the leading contractor and builder in the new county of Washington, VA. Abraham was an apt and diligent pupil and learned his trade thoroughly. It is not believed his father left him penniless, for he was able to marry into one of the first families of Washington County, VA, take a high business standing in the community, and undertake important contracts that required considerable capital. At the expiration of his apprenticeship, he moved to the southwestern frontiers of what was then Fincastle County, VA where he met and married Martha Hamilton, a charming young woman, the daughter of Arthur Hamilton and a niece of Mrs. David Campbell, whose family connections were the most powerful in the county. When Washington County, VA was organized in the first year of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Mrs. Goodpasture's cousins, Arthur and John Campbell, and their kinsmen, William Campbell of King's Mountain fame, were all justices of its court, and David Campbell, afterwards a Judge in Franklin County, TN was its clerk. At Abingdon, its newly made county seat, Abraham Goodpasture settled to pursue his trade. The first action of the county court after its

organization was to direct the sheriff, James Dysart, to let out contracts for the building of a courthouse and a jail. The contract to build the courthouse was let to Samuel Evans, and for the jail, was awarded to Abraham Goodpasture. The jail was promptly and satisfactorily completed, but for some reason, when the courthouse was half finished, Evans failed of his contract and Goodpasture was employed to complete the courthouse, in addition to the jail. This was 10 years after he was bound to Thomas Smith to learn the carpenter's trade. The years 1777-1779 were strenuous years for Abraham Goodpasture. His first son was born in 1777 and second son in 1778. The records of the county disclose some of his activities. The necessity for a jail was so imperative that it had to be used before it was completed, which suggests hurry. He fed a prisoner at the rate of "6/per diet". He served on juries. He sold liquors above the rates, and fined 10/. He sued John Daughterty and recovered a judgement for 200/. Later he had a Fi.FA. issued to Kentucky County. After 1779 he dropped out of the record. For the next 10 years he continued to ply his trade, made money, and was in comfortable financial condition. By this time he had 7 or 8 children growing up and thought of the country as a better place to rear them. Accordingly, he bought 466 acres of land from Col. John Campbell which adjoined the celebrated Royal Oak Plantation, then owned by his father, David Campbell, but in the same year descended to his brother, Patrick Campbell, and took possession January 31, 1790. He lived on this farm 6 years before his removal to Tennessee. Abraham Goodpasture has appeals to the memory of his family, his county and his church; he won a noble wife, whose children adored her; he erected the first public buildings in Abingdon, VA; and before he left Virginia, he conveyed the Royal Oak Church and burying ground to the trustees of the Upper Holston congregation.

When I was preparing "The Life of Jefferson Dillard Goodpasture" in 1897, his brother, Dr. John G. Goodpasture, wrote me that their grandfather had given the land for the Royal Oak Church, in Washington County, VA (Royal Oak is now in Smyth County). Not being able to verify the statement, I did not use the information; but after an examination of the extensive data compiled in Sumner's "Annals of Southwest Virginia, I am convinced that this family tradition is substantially correct.

Royal Oak was a well known plantation of 740 acres, the family seat of the Campbells, situated between seven mile and mill fords, on the middle fork of the Holston River, near the northern border of Washington County, VA. Col. John Campbell, once widely known as John Campbell of Royal Oak, bought it in 1765 from John Buchanan who patented it in 1747. It is probably best remembered now as the birth place of his son, Gov. David Campbell of Virginia.

The neighborhood of Royal Oak was attractive. As early as 1770 Arhur Campbell built a mill near its lower border. This was the first mill erected on the Holston River; hence roads were opened from Arthur Campbell's mill to the north fork of the Holston River and to Cripple Creek, and from Mill Ford to Seven Mile Ford. William Campbell, who married a sister of Patrick Henry, lived at Aspenvale, his historic home near Seven Mile Ford.

In 1773 a road was laid out from town house to Eighteen Mile Creek. Willliam Campbell was overseer from Seven Mile Ford to the spring below Capt. Thompson's: William Edmiston from there to James Kincannon's; and James Bryant, thence to Eighteen Mile Creek, now known as Abingdon. This was part of the main highway through the valley of Virginia. It was then known as the "Big Road", but it is now Federal Highway #11. The road crossed the Holston River at Seven Mile Ford and ran through the Royal Oak Estate. On the south side of the Big Road, a church, with a burying ground, was erected. The name of the church is not given, but being at Royal Oak, I think we may credit the tradition that it was known as the Royal Oak Church.

In 1771, John Campbell conveyed 300 acres of his Royal Oak Plantation to his father, David Campbell. This tract, embracing the Royal Oak Mansion, was held by the father, David Campbell, until his death in 1790, when he bequeathed it to his youngest son, Patrick Campbell. The remainder of his original Royal Oak purchase, computed at 466 acres, John Campbell continued to hold until January 31, 1790 when he sold it to Abraham Goodpasture, who was the husband of John Campbell's cousin, Martha Hamilton. It was on this land that the church and graveyard used by the upper Holston congregation was situated.

Abraham Goodpasture lived on Royal Oak for 6 years. Upon the admission of Tennessee into the Federal Union June 1, 1796, he determined to sell his home and emigrate to the new state. The trustees of the Upper Holston congregation, apparently uneasy about their church and graveyard, if the property should pass out of his hand, applied to him, and on June 18, 1796 Abraham and his wife Martha conveyed to Edwin Crow and Samuel McReynolds, Trustees of the Upper Holston congregation, for the nominal consideration of \$10.00, a certain tract or parcel of land, containing 2 acres and 35 poles, lying in Washington County on the south side of the Big Road, and containing a graveyard and meeting house.

A month later he sold the remainder of his Royal Oak farm to George Kellner, for a cash consideration of \$2,167 and removed to Tennessee, with all his family except his eldest son, William, who then a young man of 19, and probably in love, who a little later married his distant cousin, Sarah Lockhart and settled on the William Lockhart farm.

When Abraham Goodpasture went to Tennessee he settled in Knox County between the Clinch and Tennessee rivers. Many of Martha's kindred had already settled in that inviting section. Her second cousin, David Campbell, who married her first cousin, Margaret Campbell, founded Campbell's Station, about 16 miles west of Knoxville on the Nashville Road, celebrated as the birth place of Admiral David G. Farragut; and Martha's cousin, Judge David Campbell of the Tennessee Superior Court, lived at Southwest Point, now known as Kingston, TN.

Abraham acquired a farm of 565 acres on the north side of Muddy Creek Station, the first stop east of Lenoir City, TN on the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railroad. Chancellor Ernest H. Boyd, a descendant who has recently investigated the matter, concluded that this farm lies in the present county of Loudon, TN in one of the most beautiful and fertile valleys of eastern Tennessee.

Abraham's 2 older sons, John and James, found their way across the Clinch River below the mouth of Turkey Creek, but they were dissatisfied and restless. In 1799 they joined other inhabitants "living in Knox County, below the mouth of Turkey Creek, or north of the Clinch River", in a petition to the legislature to form a new county out of the territory lyiing on both sides of the Clinch River at Southwest Point. Legislatiave action not coming promptly enough to suit them, or else the spirit of the frontiers calling too strongly to them, Abraham Goodpasture sold his Muddy Creek farm to David Stuart for a cash consideration of \$1,300 on May 31, 1800, and

he and his family, except his daughter Margaret, moved across the Indian Reservation, called the wilderness, and settled in that part of Smith County, now included in Overton County, TN. Margaret married Andrew McClain of Knox County, and lived near Bald Camp. I spent a night at the old homestead, then occupied by some of her descendants, 62 years ago. The section of the country to which they went was then new and uninhabited. Abraham Goodpasture found a location on Flat Creek, where his youngest son was born May 13, 1801, three months after President Jefferson's inauguration. He lived in his new home the remainder of his life and died about 1820 at approximately 68 years of age. His wife, Martha Hamilton of course, came with him to his Overton County home, but I do not know how long she survived."

WRITTEN JUNE 12, 1933 BY A.V. GOODPASTURE (1845-1942)

From Smyth County VA History, pg. 123:

"John Campbell sold his farm to Abraham Goodpasture in 1789, and June 18, 1796, Abraham and Martha, his wife, conveyed two acres and thirty-five poles of land on which the meeting house, Royal Oaks Presbyterian Church, was standing to Edward Crow and Samuel McReynolds, trustees of the Upper Holston Congregation. "
