

&ldquo;White David&rdquo; Campbell

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The Campbell&rsquo;s emigrated from Pennsylvania to Augusta County Virginia and then to Smyth County. Royal Oak, the family home, was the first permanent settlement on the Holston waters. The family became leaders of the settlement.

David Campbell called &ldquo;White David&rdquo; to distinguish him from cousin of the same name with a darker complexion. He was described as a large man with silken yellow hair, fair skin, & blue eyes. He was even tempered as opposed to his wife Mary who was &ldquo;excitable&rdquo; & &ldquo;prideful&rdquo;. A farmer of moderate circumstance lived well but not profitably in Augusta & had no ambition other for sons to be farmers like him. His wife Mary Hamilton Campbell was a woman of intelligence & ambition. At age 80 she was&rdquo;sitting as straight as a girl&rdquo; side-saddle on her horse riding out to visit her neighbors. She was a black-eyed Scotch-Irish woman who ensured her sons were educated. She supplemented the family income from her dairy savings.

&ldquo;White David&rdquo; & Mary had 13 children: Catherine, Mary, Martha, John, Arthur, James, William, Margaret, David Jr, Sarah, Robert, Patrick, & Anne. **5 sons were in the Colonial & Continental service &ndash; COL Arthur & COL Robert, CPT John, & Judge David Campbell.**

In 1765 John, the oldest son accompanied Dr Thomas Walker on an exploring trip through southwest Virginia at which time he bought for his father the Royal Oak survey, which John Buchanan had made in 1747 & named because there stood on the property the &ldquo;most gigantic oak tree seen anywhere in the country. The tree is said to have stood at the northwest corner of the old Royal Oak graveyard, which had been an open grassy area when the settlers arrived. In 1766, John, his brother Arthur& their 18 yr old sister Margaret moved out to the Royal Oak property & made improvements, living in the wilderness for 2 years. During this time, Margaret was the only female for miles. About 1768 or 1769, the rest of the family moved out. Mary had married a Lockhart and her husband & children moved as well. All of the children except Catherine & William came to live at Royal Oak.

John while living in Augusta at age 18 did some &ldquo;brilliant Indian fighting&rdquo; under Gilbert Christian&rsquo;s command. A man of keen intelligence, fine temperament, likable and strong, he was a capable leader of the pioneers. He served as a CPT of the militia and gave much service during the Indian wars as well as the Revolution with his rangers patrolling the frontiers against the Indians. He married Elizabeth McDonald of Hall&rsquo;s Bottom (between Abington & Bristol). They lived at Royal Oak where their son David, **future Governor of Virginian**. In 1789 he sold Royal Oak to Abraham

Good pasture & moved to his wife's farm at Hall's Bottom, where he lived in "old Virginia style".

Arthur Campbell was captured at age 14 by Wyandot Indians while gathering wild plums outside the stockade of Fort Dickenson in present Bath County & was carried to the area around the Great lakes and held captive as the adopted son of an Indian Chief for 3 years. At Detroit he met Jesuit priests who gave him some schooling. When Gen Johnson campaigned against the northern Indians about 1759, Arthur escaped & reached the army, serving as a scout. Later COL Arthur Campbell was a man not quite 6 feet tall with a good personality and strong good looks with a long chin & nose. He was known for his political activity and could be "excitable & overbearing" & strongly favored the Revolution. A few years before his death he moved from his log house & farm above Staley's Mill in Holston to Kentucky where he died of face cancer at age 74. His wife, Margaret Campbell (? a cousin) died at age 70 a short time later. He & Margaret married about 1772 or 1773 & was the father of 12 children. His wife was devoted to his military & political career and pushed him resulting in some "missteps" and alterations.

David Jr, a lawyer, practiced law in Washington County & after his marriage, he moved to Tennessee & became a Judge & the 1<sup>st</sup> federal judge for the new territory, which then became the state of Alabama. He died in 1812.

Margaret who came with her brothers to break ground on Royal Oak married her cousin David Campbell (brother of Arthur's wife). She was known as a great & courageous woman. After her marriage, she moved in 1781 to Campbell's Station, Tenn. She was described as intelligent, mild, & placid; always thoughtful and always calm & prepared for any emergency. She was the first to be looked to or consulted by the people in the station. She died of breast cancer in 1799 at age 51 & is buried at the Presbyterian Church burying ground near Campbell's Station. She is credited for founding the Royal Oak Presbyterian Church in 1776 a log church on her brother's land.

Anne, the youngest daughter, married **Archibald Roane**, a young lawyer from Pennsylvania who lived for a time at Royal Oak. They moved to Tennessee where he became one of the **first Judges of the Supreme Court and was Governor from 1801-1803.**

Martha died in 1801 unmarried. Sarah also was a spinster. James contracted smallpox which left him blind.

Robert made his first military campaign at age 19 as a volunteer against the Shawnee Indians in 1774 in the company of CPT William Campbell. In 1776 he volunteered for CPT John Campbell's company & acted with distinction in battle of Island Flats, Christian's Campaign, & in 1780 he was an ensign under COL Campbell at the Battle of King's Mountain again distinguishing himself and later in a campaign against the Cherokees. He

fought a duel against a Mr Robert Preston who he accused of cowardice in connection with King's Mt. He was wounded in the hip. He acted as a magistrate in Washington County for 30 yrs before moving to the area around Knoxville, TN where he died in 1831 at age 77.

Patrick the youngest, had less military service than his brothers preferring to work the family farm, which he later inherited. He did serve in the Battle of Kings Mountain. He married & had a large family, later moving to Williamson Co, TN where he died at age 80.