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Chapter V

John Ferguson, Lieutenant

The Family Bible pages of James L. Ferguson, son of John, Lieut., records the birth of John Ferguson on 14 August 1773 in Chester Co., SC, on Fishing Creek near present day Richburg. He was my great-great Grandfather.

On page 206, Mrs. Ellet records the following: "Some years after the Revolution, James and Mary Johnston removed from Chester to Fairfield District. It may not be amiss to mention, as illustrative of the good feeling that prevailed in the Johnston family towards their late opponents -- that Ellen, a sister of Mary was married to John Ferguson, a son of the Tory Colonel who fell in the action at Williamson's." This along with the Family Bible of James Lawrence Ferguson, established the fact that John's father was indeed the Tory Colonel, James³ Ferguson. Their marriage occurred on 25 October 1796.

It should be noted that during this period it was not common to use middle names, so that two or more men of the same name in an area were often assigned an appellation to distinguish between them. Thus "our" John was known as "Lieutenant" (Lieut) and his first cousin, also named John, was known as "Esquire" (Esq.) In some cases the appellation "Jr." and "Sr." were used even though the two men were not father and son.

There were several John Ferguson's in the area. The minutes of Providence and Hopewell Baptist Church list John, John, Sr., John, Jr., John B, John, Esq. (also referred to as "Beloved John") and John of Fishing Creek ("our" John)

The earliest record of John Ferguson recorded in the minutes of Providence Baptist Church and Hopewell Baptist Church is in 1826 when he and John K. Johnston were appointed Moderator and Clerk, respectively. While I cannot prove that this is "our" John, it seems to be. The first positive reference in these minutes to "our" John is recorded on 3 May 1834, in a eulogy to Elder Sam McCreary, who died at the home of John Ferguson on Fishing Creek. The report was signed by the same John K. Johnston.

No record was found of Eleanor Ferguson being a member of Hopewell Baptist Church, but all of John's children and their spouses became members.

John and Eleanor had 10 children:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Birth</u> | <u>Died</u> |
|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| Mary | 8 Feb 1798 | 16 Aug 1799 |
| Margaret | 30 May 1800 | 29 Jul 1867 |
| Martha | 25 Jan 1803 | ? |
| Jane Boyd | 3 Apr 1805 | ? |
| Joanah Walker | 18 Jun 1807 | 29 Jul 1881 |
| Jonathon | 27 Oct 18091? | |
| Nancy Hill | 6 Jul 1812 | 9 Aug 1881 |
| Stillborn | 20 Dec 1815 | |
| James Lawrence | 23 Dec 1816 | 10 Dec 1864 |
| Ruth Barnett | 6 Oct 1820 | 23 Jun 1828 |

This is the first generation to have been given more than one Christian name.

John obtained a land grant from the State of SC (as opposed to the Colonial grants obtained by his father and grandfather from the English Crown). It was for 107 acres and was granted 30 Mar 1795.

John served in the War of 1812 for a period of 2 months and 22 days, for which he received a land bounty warrant of 40 acres, Bounty warrant #59,300. In 1853, he applied for a supplemental warrant of 40 acres, because he felt the Act entitled him to 80 acres. He was subsequently awarded a second bounty warrant for 40 acres, #97,898.

He sold the original warrant (#59,300) on 25 Nov 1852 to Daniel Reynolds who redeemed it for 40 acres of land near Detroit, MI, on 12 Dec 1853. The supplement (#97898) was dated 1 Mar 1854, and he died 3 Mar 1854. His son, James L., applied to the court in Chester Co., SC, for authority to sell the supplement for himself and his siblings, the money to be divided among them. It was sold to Henry N. Shaffer on 21 May 1855. Shaffer redeemed it for 40 acres of land on 12 Jun 1855 in Chickasaw Co., IA.

After John's death, an inventory of his estate was made on 23 Oct 1854. It is shown below. The estate also contained the 205 1/2 acres of land on which he had lived.

| | |
|--|-------|
| 1 Cupboard | 7.00 |
| 1 Table | 1.00 |
| 1 Clock | 15.00 |
| 1 bowl 5 plate | 1.25 |
| 3 Sheets | 7.00 |
| 12 plates | 0.75 |
| 1 Lot Books | 7.00 |
| 1 Book Case | 0.50 |
| 1 Reel | 0.50 |
| 1 Pair Haims | 0.25 |
| 2 pair plough gears | 1.00 |
| 1 Lot of Sundres | 1.25 |
| 1 pair Steel yards | 0.25 |
| 2 Syths and saw | 0.75 |
| 1 Lot ploughs and Clevis | 1.00 |
| 1 Cross Cut saw | 2.00 |
| 1 Half bushell | 0.25 |
| 1 Wheel | 0.50 |
| 1 Burow | 10.00 |
| 1 jar | 0.60 |
| 1 Bed and Cothins | 18.00 |
| 1 pair sheep sheers and candlemouls | 0.60 |
| 1 Waggon Cloth | 2.00 |
| 5 Chairs | 1.25 |
| 1 Little wheel | 2.00 |
| 1 Table Cloth | 2.00 |
| 1 Candle stick | 0.25 |
| 1 Bed & bedstead & clothing | 18.00 |
| 1 Trunk and two straw baskets | 1.50 |
| 1 Lot of Clothing | 1.00 |
| 1 chest | 1.00 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Box | 0.37 |
| 1 Lot of bed Clothing | 29.00 |
| 1 pair fier dogs | 1.00 |
| 1 Lot old Irens | 2.50 |
| 1 Wash pot and Hooks | 2.00 |
| 1 pot hooks and tongs | 0.75 |
| 1 pot | 0.25 |
| 1 oven and lid | 0.25 |
| 1 Waggon chest | 0.37 |
| 1 Table and Contents | 4.25 |
| 1 Cupboard | 1.00 |
| Churn & Coffee Mill | 0.37 |
| 1 Barrel | 0.10 |
| One Loom & Tacklings | 5.00 |
| Two Benches | 0.80 |
| One Saddle | 0.25 |
| One fine Dog | 0.25 |
| One Horse Doctor | 35.00 |
| One Do Crain | 60.00 |
| One Cow Pink | 8.00 |
| One Do cow & calf Frosty | 7.00 |
| One Do Duram & do | 8.00 |
| One Cutting Knife & Box | 0.75 |
| Two Gums | 0.20 |
| One Razor & Hone | 1.00 |
| 7 Geese | 1.40 |
| Lot Barres | 0.25 |
| 1 Land Warrant | 30.00 |
| Papers | |
| Jas. L. Fergusons Bond | |
| To be accounted for in Distribution | 480.00 |
| for what it calls for | |

We certify the above & foregoing as a true Inventory & appraisal of the Estate of John Ferguson dec^d. as shown to us by the Adm^r this 24th October 1854

John Collins
C. Y. Kee
Thomas L. McFadden

The value placed on all items in the inventory was \$301.31. At the sale, \$212.77 was realized. His farm was sold later for \$2383.00, making the final value of his estate approximately \$2596.00.

From the record of the probate court, it appears James L. Ferguson, as executor of the estate, was allowed a commission of 2 1/2% of the proceeds, or about \$65.00. That would have made the share of each the other heirs about \$362., and James L. would have received total of \$427.00.

At the sale of his estate, Margaret Kelsey, his eldest surviving child (then a widow) bought his clock for \$5.00. This was later taken to AR by her, and later to the home of Mary Ann Ferguson, widow of James Lawrence,

with whom she lived during her last years. My grandfather, Joseph Edwards, acquired the clock from his mother, and later brought it to the home of his son, Fay Ivan, with whom he lived in his last years. I now own the clock, a Seth Thomas brass clock manufactured in Plymouth Hollow, CT about 1835-40. It still keeps perfect time.

It appears that other than his service during the War of 1812, John lived a quiet life farming and raising his family in the area of Fishing Creek where he was born.

Eleanor Johnston Ferguson died 7 March 1847 and is buried in Hopewell Cemetery near Richburg, SC. John lived to the ripe old age of 80 years and 7 mos. and died 3 Mar 1854 and is buried in Hopewell Cemetery near Richburg, SC.

In recent years, my cousins and myself have erected tombstones on the graves of Matthew and Jane Johnston, the parents of Eleanor, in the cemetery at Union Presbyterian Church at Richburg, SC.