

Thomas Shirley Anderson
The Jackson Co. Family History Book
200 Years of Memories
presented by the Jackson Historical Society – 1996
by James Paul Anderson
pgs. 56 & 57

Thomas Shirley Anderson, Sr. (b. February 8, 1779; October 8, 1858); settled on Blackburn's Fork in Jackson Country, Tennessee as early as 1806. He was the second of fourteen (14) children born to William (1753 - 1805) in Cumberland County, Virginia. In 1807, Thomas married Judith Robinson (b. May 9, 1785; d. November 5, 1868) the daughter of Edward Robinson, Jr. and Annah Meador Robinson.

Traveling with Thomas were his brothers, Joel Anderson (1781-1852) and Garland Anderson (1783-1850), also, many members of the Robinson Family, including the parents of Judith Anderson. Their means of transportation was by wagons drawn by oxen. As they traveled through the Cumberland Mountains, Annah Robinson gave birth to a son. No name would be more proper for this son than Cumberland Robinson.

The Spring Creek Baptist Church received by experience, Thomas Anderson, the first Saturday of September, 1813. Many members of the family became a part of the Spring Creek Baptist Church, including Annah (Anny) Robinson.

Thomas Shirley Anderson received grants for land and at his death, owned 1200 acres of land, approximately 400 acres on the east side and 800 acres on the west side of Blackburn's Fork Creek. Their house and barn and other out-houses were built of logs. The house stood beside a spring along side the creek, while the barn and other out-houses were located where the Whitson Smith house presently stands. Some of the log out-houses were standing in the 1950's. The Old Anderson Cemetery is about 200 yards from the Creek, on the east side, located on a bank overlooking the grounds of the home site. Thomas Shirley and Judith Anderson are buried there, along with many family members. Following the death of her husband, Judith Anderson spent her last days with her son, Silas Caleb Anderson, near Silver Point, Tennessee.

Their children were: William James, "Short Billy" (1808-1890) married 1st Polly Lynn, married 2nd Martha Wallis, married 3rd Judy Gibson. Garland "Gallant" (1810-1868) married Sarah Jones. Edward "Ned" (1811-1855) married Lucinda Mahaney. Frances "Fannie" (1812-?) married John Warrick Reynolds. Catherine "Katie" (1814-?) married Ranson P. Mahaney. Ann "Annie" (1816-1892) married Joshua Bartlett. Thomas Shirley, Jr. (1818-1861) married Lousia Alexander. Paul Thomas (1821-1866) married Susie Johnson. Silas Caleb (1823-1889) married Jane Wilson. Francis Marion (1825-1903) married Frances Almeda Ritchie.

As the children married, their father gave each child \$10.00 to start housekeeping and a cow and calf valued at \$10.00. Ned, Annie and Thomas Jr. moved to Buffalo Valley to buy land for 35 cents an acre as early as 1838. Silas Caleb Anderson later went to Silver Point and Fannie died in MO, William "Short Billy", Catherine, Paul, & Francis remained in Jackson Co., TN. In later life, Francis went to DeKalb Co., TN where he died.

Smith Co., TN Commission Book – Reel 2, 1807-1832:

Thomas Anderson of Jackson Co., TN commissioned Lt. In the 18th Rgt. Of Militia – May 7, 1808.