

Lineage of the McDowell Family in the book:  
“Fiddles in the Cumberland” by Amanda McDowell 1861-1865 was compiled by Lela  
McDowell Blankenship and edited by W.J. McDowell in 1987  
publisher: Richard R. Smith - NY – 1943

It is believed (and partly substantiated by records) that Michael McDowell was the father of Luke, Edward, William, John P. and Nathan and that they settled in the Powell River Valley of Tennessee in the early 1800's. Michael McDowell was born about 1747, and his place of birth is not known. He is listed in the 1790 census of North Carolina in the Morgan District of Wilkes County. The last record of Michael is the granting of a deed of trust in Claiborne County in 1840 at which time he would have been 93 years old.

Edward McDowell married Lucy Haines in Pulaski County, Kentucky, and raised his family of eight children there. His son, Thomas, mentioned in the book “Fiddles in the Cumberland”, migrated to middle Tennessee and married his first cousin, Celeste, daughter of Luke McDowell. His second marriage was to Nettie “Pernetta” Fisher. They had six children, and some of their descendants settled in Dunlap, Tennessee. It is partly through the encouragement of Lewis McDowell, son of Fountain Forrest McDowell and grandson of Thomas McDowell, that the publication of the second edition of “Fiddles in the Cumberlands” was undertaken.

William McDowell married Desta Herrin in Pulaski County, Kentucky, went to Indiana, and then went on to California and Oregon.

Luke McDowell is believed to have been married twice. His son Curtis was born February 1810 in Kentucky, and a son William was born 30 September 1811 in Tennessee: yet the marriage record for Luke McDowell and Frances Fields in Pulaski County, Kentucky lists 8 December 1811 as the marriage date. One of the earliest records of Luke McDowell's presence in Tennessee is his serving on a jury in White County in November, 1812. Other children of Luke McDowell were Cynthia who married Joseph Cantrell, John who married Margaret, Sidney who married Thomas Rigsby, and Cleve who married Thomas McDowell. William married Deborah Test and settled in Metropolis City, IL. Luke lived in DeKalb Co., Tennessee until his death after 1870.

Curtis McDowell married Margaret Jadwin and their children were Jackson who married Mary Rascoe, Amanda (the author of “Fiddles in the Cumberland”) married Hazel Burns, Lucien Lafayette married Mary Cotton Cantrell, Mary Ann married John Calvin Bartlett, son of Joshua Bartlett & Anna Meador "Annie" Anderson. Curtis also had a son, Jimmy who was drowned as a young child, and Albina who died at age 15.

Jackson McDowell and Mary Rascoe had four children, Gertrude who died as a small child, Lucien Lafayette who married Flora Lassiter, Lela (the author of the first edition of “Fiddles in the Cumberland” married John Blankenship, and Lula May McDowell who married Perry Stubblefield.

Lucien Lafayett had one son, William Jackson McDowell, who with his wife Betty Lawson McDowell has edited the second edition of "Fiddles in the Cumberland". They have two sons, William Lawson McDowell who married Margaret Fowler and Stephen Jackson McDowell.

For further information on some of the McDowell lines, please consult the following sources. \*See also website: [ajlambert.com](http://ajlambert.com)

John P. McDowell:  
Lyle McDowell  
2142 Winchester Street  
Oceanside, CA 92054

Edward McDowell:  
Mrs. Kyle McDowell  
201 State Street  
Elizabethton, KY 42701

William McDowell:  
Osie Alice McDowell Ingalls  
14 Hillcrest Circle  
Bedford, IN 47421

Luke McDowell:  
W. Jack & Betty McDowell  
10903 Melton View Lane  
Knoxville, TN 37931

Thomas McDowell: s/o Edward McDowell  
Lewis McDowell  
Star Route Box 323  
Dunlap, TN 37327

William McDowell: s/o Luke McDowell  
Dr. & Mrs. L.M. Irwin  
218 Imperial Drive  
Bloomington, IL 61701

Cynthia McDowell Cantrell: d/o Luke McDowell  
907 Oak Drive  
Manchester, TN 37355

Mary Ann McDowell Bartlett: d/o Curtis McDowell  
Lela Bartlett McDuffie  
P.O. Box 108  
Manchester, TN 37355



Miriam Shanks Gwaltney, 1992 on the hill of where the Cumberland Institute of White Co., TN used to be located. Curtis McDowell built, owned and operated the school, in the foothills of the Cumberlands of White Co., TN. His two sons helped him with the teaching and the building of the school.



Miriam Shanks Gwaltney, Robert Shanks & his wife, Doris Lee (Gillen) Shanks, 1992 at the spring of Cumberland Institute in White Co., TN. "Fiddles in the Cumberland" by Amanda McDowell 1861-1865 was compiled by Lela McDowell Blankenship and edited by W.J. McDowell in 1987 - publisher: Richard R. Smith - NY - 1943.

## McDowell Y-DNA Project

A McDowell genealogy Y-DNA testing program has been started. We are hoping that the results from this program will give clues to the history of the McDowells.

### What is Y-DNA?

For many centuries it has been known that physical characteristics are inherited from parents. Common facial and other features are seen in siblings, grandparents, and even cousins. In the last several decades it has been learned that these characteristics are passed on through the genetic information held in our genes. These genes are stored in the DNA of our cells, and are passed on from parent to child. All men carry Y-chromosomes in their DNA. This Y-DNA is passed on from father to son, generation after generation, with little, if any variation in each generation. The Y chromosome is present in males only; daughters do not inherit Y-DNA.

### How can it be used in genealogy?

People studying their family history have spent countless hours documenting their findings. We all have thick files of birth and death records, marriages, wills, land records, census records, family bibles, old letters and many more. The paper trail created by conventional research is essential to finding the truth about our past. DNA testing is another tool that can be used to strengthen conventional research, or to point a researcher in the right direction.

But what if you don't have a complete paper trail? Maybe the courthouse where your family lived for many generations burned down, destroying all the records? What if your family lived in frontier area where no records were kept? What if your research is based on old letter written by a long dead, absent-minded relative who had the names of his ancestors wrong? In that case, DNA testing possibly can be used to confirm a suspected connection between two families or disprove a connection. Although it is impossible to pinpoint a common ancestor from the test results alone, with a proper paper trail you may be able to do so.

### Who should participate in this study?

Male surnamed McDowells who have a desire to establish relationships using scientific analysis.

### Why should I participate in the study?

If your research has hit a brick wall, this study could be for you. However, what if you already know everything there is to know about your family, and you have traced your McDowells back several centuries or more, you might be asking why should I participate? By participating in the DNA study you enable other McDowell families to identify their surname connection, seal relationships of McDowell families, and narrow the number of the supposed unrelated McDowells. Are we all descended from Dougall, son of Somerled, as the legends would have us believe?

### Who is running this project and where can I get more information?

The administrator of the McDowell Y-DNA Project is Charlotte McDowell Baker. She can be reached by emailing her at [charlotte\\_baker@tds.net](mailto:charlotte_baker@tds.net)

There are also several good websites that have information on the subject.

[www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com) is the website for the company that we have selected. They have lots of detailed information on DNY testing.

These websites are from other families who have done DNA testing.

[www.hullsurnamestudy.com](http://www.hullsurnamestudy.com)

<http://blairgenealogy.com/dna/dna101.html>

What do I have to do?

To participate you have to order a test kit from Family Tree DNA. You rub a plastic scraper inside your cheek and mail the sample back to the company. It is very simple.

After mailing your test kit back to Family Tree DNA, you then have to send Charlotte McDowell Baker your genealogical information. Charlotte will need to be able to identify your oldest documented McDowell ancestor. Email this information to Charlotte, including the ancestor's name, birth year, birth place, and major places of residence if known. You should also email her several generations of your line of descent from your oldest documented McDowell ancestor. This will allow Charlotte to make connections between test participants, without putting our personal information on the website. Charlotte will not include information about living persons on the website unless she has your express permission to do so.

How can I sign up?

You can sign up by going to Family Tree DNA's website at [www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com) and then going to the McDowell surname project. The direct link is: [https://www.familytreedna.com/surname\\_join.asp?code=Z57055&special=true](https://www.familytreedna.com/surname_join.asp?code=Z57055&special=true)

When you enroll, choose one of the Y-DNA male marker tests. There are three different ones, a 12, 25, and 37 marker test. I recommend the 25 marker test. From one of the studies I have seen, people who got the 12 marker test often went back and got the 25 marker test.

Who am I?

My name is Alan McDowell. I am been studying my family history for almost twenty years. I have traced my McDowell line back to Kentucky in the 1780s. From Bourbon and Nicholas Counties in Kentucky, the family moved to Marion and Morgan Counties in Indiana in the 1820s, then to Vermilion County Indiana, then to Washington and Iowa Counties Iowa by the 1850's. My efforts to find out where my ancestors lived before they came to Kentucky have been unsuccessful.

I am hopeful that, with this project, I will be able to identify an immigrant ancestor, and then trace down his family tree until it reaches my information. Identifying an immigrant ancestor would allow me to concentrate my research on his information, such as where he and his descendants lived. Hopefully this would allow me to pinpoint a state in which to concentrate my research for my oldest known ancestor.

I have been married for 4 years and have no children yet. My wife is also very interested in genealogy, and has traced her family back many generations. Hopefully I will be able to catch up to her with information from this project!

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