

**SAMUEL MCCLANAHAN / MCCLENACHAN**

Edwin A. Arnold Family  
written by Patrica Arnold Divjak  
and Suzanne Arnold McCormick  
descendants of Mathew McClanahan.

(pg 97): The only records that we have for Samuel's possible date of birth is through Sons of the American Revolution records which place his date of birth as 1745. James McClanahan (believed to be the brother of David McClanahan) in his Will of 20 October 1759 (recorded) 6 May 1760 in Lunenburg County, VA, Will Book I, page 322), bequeaths six cows, "to be evenly divided among the children of my brother John", and names Samuel and William as sons of his brother David.

We next find Samuel mentioned at a court held for Botetourt County the 10<sup>th</sup> day of August 1770. Samuel McClanahan proved a certif. accdg. To law for David McClanahan for four hundred & seven pounds of winter rotten hemp made on the sd. David's plantation.

At a court continued & held for Botetourt County the 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1773; Order that John Brown, orphan of John Brown, deceased, be bound by the church wardens to Saml. McClenachan accdg. To Law.

James Moore's Will made 13 September 1776 and proven August 1780<sup>86</sup> names Samuel McClanahan and Jane McClanahan. Therefore, we know that Samuel and Jane were already married by 1776. Jane Moore McClanahan was also known as Jean.

James Moore's Will

Son: James, eldest son

Son: John, youngest son

Son-in-law: Samuel McClenchan

My four children, John and James Moore, Martha Ralston, and Jean McClenchan

Signed: James Moore (x his mark)

Teste:

Andre Woods

Robert Woods

Marshall Woods

James Moore, Sr., was in Botetourt County, Virginia by 1751 when he purchased 197 acres on the waters of James River<sup>87</sup>.

In 1753, James Moore purchased 350 acres on Looney Creek from John Crockett.<sup>88</sup>

James Moore was married to Jennet Walker. Jennet was mother to Jean/Jane Moore.

The children of Samuel and Jane/Jean Moore McClanahan.

David McClanahan born about 1775 in Botetourt County, VA and died about 1841. David married Mary "Polly" Ingrum September 24, 1818 in Blount County, Tennessee. David died in 1841 in Blount County, TN.

<sup>86</sup>Botetourt County Will Book A, p. 120 (abstract)

<sup>87</sup>Botetourt County Deed Book 4-157 28 Nov 1751

<sup>88</sup>Botetourt County Deed Book 5-132 20 Feb 1753

(pg 98): James Moore McClanahan was born about 1777 in Botetourt County, Virginia. He died in 1845 in Blount, Tennessee. James Moore McClanahan was married but the name of his spouse is unknown.

Matthew McClanahan born February 1778 in Botetourt County, Virginia. Matthew is proven to be Samuel's son through McClanahan Bible records.

The earliest record that we have of Samuel all indicate that Botetourt County was where he first owned property in 1787.<sup>89</sup> It is also proven that he provided some wheat to the American cause of Independence.<sup>90</sup> What is unknown is where he was born. All family trees on Ancestry.com indicate 1762. This date does not make sense given the known information that we have regarding his son, Matthew's date of birth of 1778. It is more likely that he was born about 1745-1750. We have no reason to believe or disbelieve that he was born in Culpeper County, Virginia as some researchers claim. There was a family of McClanahan's in that County who may have been related. Anything is possible. Culpeper County borders Augusta County, from which Botetourt County was formed in 1770. County boundaries were shifting and the primary Virginia Counties where the McClanahan's/MecClenachan's settled were all within reasonable traveling distance of one another.

Some background in the legal process of settling land in that era is required. Charles T. Burton in his book, *Botetourt County, Virginia Early Settlers*, explained it this way.

"The pioneer who wished to own land, was required to, first, get a permit, called a Warrant, from the agent of the King, or the Governor. This would allow him to legally settle on any land not claimed by anyone else. All, or any part, of the warrant could be sold and assigned to others. Two men, James Patton and Benjamin Borden, were very important in the settlement of the area. They were not true settlers, but they received Warrants for thousands of acres, and assigned small tracts to the real first settler.

The holder of a Warrant, or Assignment, would, then locate open land that he liked, and "enter" it and have it surveyed. The dates of Entry and Survey were important; the legal title went to the first person there. Like the Warrant, the Entry and Survey could be sold and assigned to another. Up to this point, the newcomer had very little invested in the land, and some would just move on to another location. This deserted land would then become again, "open" for settlement by another person. The Surveyor's description of the tract as then sent to the Land office, where it was written into the new grant. Some of the early surveys were not very accurate; for this reason, and other good reasons, the later owner would get permission, and have the Surveyor re-survey the outside lines of his tract, or tracts, and have a new grant issued. This was called Inclusive Survey and Inclusive Grant."

<sup>89</sup>*Botetourt County, VA Early Settlers*. From the earliest times through 1795 in the area that was Botetourt County, VA in 1782. surveyor's Record 112 7/12/1787, 179 acres. Looney Creek from new grant.

<sup>90</sup>*Virginia Public Claims, Botetourt County, VA*, compiled and transcribed by Janice L. Abercrombie & Richard Slatten, pg. 32. (Botetourt County Lists: p.1 A list of Certificates given by Messers Patrick Lockhart & William Ward Commissioners for Provisions & Purchases for Botetourt Count, 1780-1781): Samuel McClenachan, 2 bushels of wheat).

(pg 99): Before the Revolution, the Quit-rents, (or Land Tax) was levied by the Church; these records, for this area have not been found. The first Land Tax records to be recorded in the Courthouse were for the year 1782.

Samuel McClanahan is shown in this list with a Surveyor's Record 112, 7/12/1787, 179 acres on Looney Creek; from a new grant. He sold this property to Martin Beard on 10/22/1790, DB4, pg. 529, 179 acres waters of Looney Creek.

Looney's Creek is a tributary of the James River and is located nearer to the eastern part of Botetourt County. There appeared to be a small settlement according to the map of Botetourt County, surveyed and drawn under the direction of John Wood in 1821. Looney's Creek appears to be 10 to 15 miles long and is located near the Purgatory Mountains. Colonel William McClanahan, Lieutenant Colonel, who was

married to Sarah Neilly, lived closer to the western part of the County and was situated in a larger settlement bordered by mason's Creek, Tinker's Creek and the Roanoke River.

We find Samuel and David, his father, in Botetourt County in the 1787 Personal Property Tax List for Virginia. This tax list is also shown as the 1787 Census for Virginia. It lists all personal property tax owners over the age of 21. These three events happened in very quick order and the lure of the newly opened lands of Tennessee to settlement found Samuel next in the eastern regions of Tennessee. If Samuel was related to Lieutenant Colonel William McClanahan in Botetourt County in Virginia, he certainly did not share in his prosperity.

It was time to move on to "greener" pastures although this was not a move to take lightly. Preparations had to be made to transport the pioneer's household goods over land or by river boat. Only the wealthy could afford transport by riverboat and the likely scenario was that the McClanahan's packed up their belongings in a wagon, slaughtered and dried the meat from their cattle or pigs, fattened their horse to strengthen it for the arduous journey over the mountains. More than likely, the travel would have been undertaken in the early, late September or early October, when the creeks were at their lowest and able to be crossed easily. It is also likely that they would have traveled with other family members, "kin" as the wilderness was still mostly populated by the Indians. The pioneers would have taken their trusty rifle to hunt for wild animals to eat and to protect themselves. At the time, there was still not a federal currency and trading would have been conducted using the skins of wild animals. Hides had their value. Peltry, a wolf scalp, was valued at two dollars and fifty cents, a good deer skin, fifty cents, fox and "coon" skins, twenty five cents and rabbits, fifty cents a dozen.

In 1789, Matthew and Martha (Moore) Ralston, Samuel and Jean (Moore) McClanahan's in-laws, sold their holdings in Botetourt County and within two or three years moved in what is now Jefferson County, Tennessee. Samuel and Jean McClanahan sold their holdings on Looney Creek to Martin Beard on 22 October 1790. Samuel and Jean followed Matthew and Martha to Jefferson County, Tennessee.

When Samuel, his family and "kin" arrived in Jefferson County, the first thing that they would have set about doing was to make a settlers tenement or cabin. The cabin would have been hand built from logs.

(pg. 100): The pioneers would have used their horses to pull logs from the surrounding forest. The spaces between the logs would have been filled in with chinking. Since the groups did travel in numbers, it is likely that they would have helped one another build their cabins. The finished house would have measured about 18 feet square, the chimney would have been outside, serving as a roost for fowls, inside for smoking and drying meat. Inside there would have been two or three beds in the back of the house and a table and stools in the front of the house. There would have been a gun rack over the door for easy access should the owner require it. A spinning wheel would be situated behind the door. This cabin would have been big enough to house a man, wife, and three or four half grown children. There were household articles placed on shelves around the cabin. The people living there didn't feel the least bit crowded.

Samuel is found in the Court Minutes for the May Session 1793. He was a participant in a grand inquest. The court minutes state: The following grand inquest appeared in Court was qualified and received their charge Vix: Abednego Inman foreman, James Hill, **Robert Gentry**, George Edgar, George Evans, Joseph Prignore, Caleb Witt, David Murphy, Joseph Witt, Hugh Kelso, Abraham Slover, Richard Rankin, Samuel Lyle, John McRoberts, Ezekiah Henry, **Samuel McClanahan**, Adam Willson, **David McClanahan**, and Thomas Vance.<sup>91</sup>

Samuel McClanahan died about 1795. Although researchers have not been able to locate Samuel's Will, there is this entry from Samuel's estate papers in Jefferson County: James McClanahan appointed administrator of the estate of Samuel McClanahan. 1795. Estate settled, 1801.

Further research uncovered the following two entries regarding the estate of Samuel McClanahan. Jefferson County Will Book 1, 1792-1810, pages 243-244, abstracts the following information: James McClanahan Admr. "an inventory of the goods & chattels, rights, and credits of the estate of Samuel McClanahan late of Jefferson County, deceased. Debts desperate: William Nelson, Lewis Tarwater, John

Morrow, George Graham, Wm. Thornton, Joseph Copeland, Jacob Derrick, John Kenney, John Briggs, Saml. Jack, Michael Yokom. Sale of the Estate to James McClanahan, Widow McClanahan and Matthew McClanahan.”<sup>92</sup>

There is one other reference to **Samuel McClanahan’s** estate in the Jefferson County TN Court Minutes 1792-1795.<sup>93</sup> Page 131 of the court minutes give the following entry: “James McClanahan hath leave to administer on all and singular the goods and chattels rights and credits of **Samuel McClanahan deceased** who entered into Bond with **Mathew Roulstone** and Parmenas Taylor his securities and was qualified”.

Searching the 1800 Federal Census for Blount County, Tennessee, we find our family of McClanahan spelled McLanahan. David McLanahan, Matt McLanahan and James McLanahan are shown on the tax list/census.

<sup>91</sup>Jefferson Co. TN Court Minutes 1792-1795 by James L. Douthat & Roberta D. Hatcher, pg. 13.

<sup>92</sup>Jefferson Co. TN Will Book #1, 1792-1810, by James L. Douthat, pg. 27.

<sup>93</sup>Jefferson Co. TN Court Minutes 1792-1795, by James L. Douthat & Roberta D. Hatcher, pg. 131.

(pg 101): It is likely that the James McClanahan appointed as administrator for the estate of Samuel McClanahan is James Moore McClanahan, son of Samuel and Jean. David and Matthew are also known sons of Samuel.

There is little doubt that the Samuel McClanahan, who appeared in the early records of Jefferson County, TN and died there about 1795, was the same Samuel McClanahan who was the son of David and Isabella (Snodgrass) McClanahan. We are also sure that this same Samuel McClanahan married Jean Moore. There are numerous deed records to indicate that he traveled and moved with his sons’s David and James McClanahan to Jefferson County as well as his brother, William and cousins, John and Alexander McClanahan.<sup>94</sup> All are shown numerous times in the records of Jefferson County, TN. Also show is John Moore’s Will, the likely brother of Jean Moore.

<sup>94</sup>DAR Ancestor #A132633, **Alexander McClanahan** served in Captain May’s Militia, Botetourt County, VA. He had a son, Alexander, born 10 April 1799 in Tennessee. Ancestor Alexander died in Alabama.

## **MCCLANAHAN, ALEXANDER**

Ancestor #: A132633

Service: VIRGINIA

Rank(s): PRIVATE, PATRIOTIC SERVICE

Birth: 2-20-1755

Death: 5-5-1824, Hartselle, Morgan Co. AL

Pension Number: R6617V

Service Source: R6617V; BLW #47511-160-55

Service Description:

1) CAPT DAVID MAYS, BOTETOURT CO MILITIA;

2) SIGNED OATH OF ALLEGIANCE 9-1-1777

Comments

1) WIDOW'S PENSION APPLICATION REJECTED FOR LACK OF PROOF OF MARRIAGE.

Residence: **County:** BOTETOURT CO - **State:** VIRGINIA

Spouse: **SARAH MOORE**

## MCLANAHAN AND HUNT BIBLE RECORDS

Bible Records are a valuable source of historical information. From the book Rutherford Co. Tennessee Bible & Family Records with Tombstone Inscriptions & Miscellaneous Records by WPA 1938 with new Index by Samuel Sistler. 2005, we find Bible records from the McClanahan and Hunt family Bibles.

### MCLANAHAN BIBLE RECORDS

Records from the McClanahan Bible.

Present Owner: Mrs. Jarman Edwards, (Hallie Hunt).

Residence: 740 N. Spring St., Murfreesboro, TN

Matthew McClanahan, son of Samuel McClanahan & Jane Moore, was born February 26, 1778, and was married to Sarah Bradley, daughter of John & Molly Bradley, on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 1801.

John Bradley McClanahan, was born February 17, 1823.

James R. McClanahan and Caroline M. Wallace married February 26, 1840.

Mary B. McClanahan, daughter of M. McClanahan and Sarah, was born 31<sup>st</sup> of March, 1802.

Lockey W. McClanahan was born July 12, 1841

Samuel McClanahan  
Was born September 3, 1804.

John B. McClanahan married Hannah Kimbro, April 10---

Jane McClanahan  
was born September 30, 1807  
(part of this page torn off)

Sarah Matildy McClanahan  
was born the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, 1847.

Cassandana McClanahan  
Was born December 17, 1815.

Simeon Taylor and Matilda McClanahan were married, September 6, 1833.

James Roulston McClanahan  
was born April 22, 1818

Mary B. McClanahan was married to Burwell Ward, January 24, 1822.

Harriett Newell McClanahan  
was born October 20, 1820.

Samuel McClanahan was married to Elizabeth Ward, ----?

\*See James Moore family sheet and other Moore files at: <http://www.ajalmbert.com>