



AN APPALACHIAN JOURNEY

UPDATED BIOGRAPHIES OF

DAVID LEWIS AND MARTHA DUNCAN McDONALD

**COLUMBIA, GEORGIA 1771 –DAWSON, GEORGIA 1860
AND NORTH CAROLINA CA. 1784 – AFTER 1860**

WITH A CRITIQUE OF THE WORK OF MYRLE COFIELD MESSER: “OUR McDONALDS”

AND DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL EASTERN CHEROKEE HERITAGE

COPYRIGHT MAY 1ST 2025

(CONTENTS MAY BE SHARED WITH PROPER ATTRIBUTION AND WITHOUT MONETARY GAIN)

Preface

The headwaters of the Enoree and Reedy Rivers in Greenville County, South Carolina lie less than a mile apart in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Here, a ridge separates South Carolina's Saluda and Broad watersheds.

East, between the ridge and the Enoree headwaters, David Lewis McDonald began his family with his young wife Martha, nee Duncan. They arrived here from their home in Columbia Georgia around the end of the eighteenth century.

The farmland was considered excellent north of Paris Mountain. First, they must have cleared the tulip poplars, maples, oaks, and other woodland species. Before moving to Tennessee around 1830, they had acquired over 200 acres.

By the 1820 Greenville County census they had also grown their family to seven sons and four daughters. Son John Washington and daughter Mary Polly had married and were living in households nearby.

David's and Martha's lives were first chronicled in Myrle Cofield Messer's self-published book "Our McDonalds and Allied Families 1771-1962."¹ Myrle Messer was one of David's and Martha's descendants through John Washington McDonald.

Myrle's research, conducted decades before the internet, required substantial effort. Today, an internet search reveals both expected and unexpected sources. Those new, unexpected sources lead to a different picture than Messer painted for David and Martha's early life.

This work is intended to reconcile sources available in Messer's time with what is accessible today.

Note: Cover art is how the author imagines the land around the Enoree and Reedy headwaters appeared in 1800. It is not a picture of the land that David owned.

¹ Messer, Myrle C., "Our McDonalds and allied families, 1771-1962,"
<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/1002934-our-mcdonalds-and-allied-families-1771-1962?offset=2>

Acknowledgements

This work relies heavily on the efforts of others deserving acknowledgment. Generally, thanks to the many known and unknown contributors to online records of the McDonald lineage. This is a small list of all the people who have helped.

- Ancestry User mpbaker01 (David Lewis McDonald's obituary)
 - Gerald Parker (Complete version of Myrle Messer and John Cofield's McDonald Family History and George Parker Eastern Cherokee Enrollment Application)
 - Ken Thomason (copies of Carol Jacobson research and feedback on research topics)
 - FamilySearch User AlyssaPayne6 (Various research contributions and transcription of Henry McDonald Jr.'s account of David Lewis McDonald's origins oral history)
 - FamilySearch User WayneMcD (various sources and verifying findings regarding conflated individuals)
 - FamilySearch User Lordship (US Claims Court resources for David McDonald 1762-ca. 1850 and Reuben Phillip McDonald 1832-1907)
 - FamilySearch User JulieKlar (Bolling family resources)
 - Carroll Fish (Enthusiastic All things Duncan researcher)
 - Marcia Taylor fact checking and interpretation on Bolling, Hawkins, and other lines.
 - Diana Hage fact checking and interpretation Bolling, Hawkins, other lines
 - Several close and distant cousins who have granted access to their DNA kits and online trees and records.
-

Contents

Preface	i
Acknowledgements	ii
Life History of David Lewis and Martha Duncan McDonald	1
David Lewis McDonald's Origins.....	1
Pre-1800.....	5
1800	6
1810	7
1820	7
1830	11
1840	13
1850	13
1860	14
Martha's Surname, Birth Year, and Birth Location	14
Benge	15
Duncan	15
Birth Year and Location.....	17
Cherokee Heritage	18
Likely Dennis Lineage	18
David Lewis McDonald/McDaniel 1771, Columbia, GA Conflated with David McDonald 1762, Chester SC	19
David Lewis McDonald (McDaniel) Conflated with Lewis D McDaniel.....	20
William D. McDonald 1807-1881 Conflated with William McDonald 1807-1883.....	20
Mary Polly McDonald	21
David Lewis McDonald yDNA.....	22
Known yDNA Testers for McDonald Descendants Related to this Discussion	23

David Lewis McDonald was born in 1771 in Columbia, Georgia and died in 1860 in Dawson, Georgia. His obituary details his movements through his life, aiding in research and distinguishing David 1771-1860 from others. The obituary is contained in the newspaper clipping included in Figure 1.

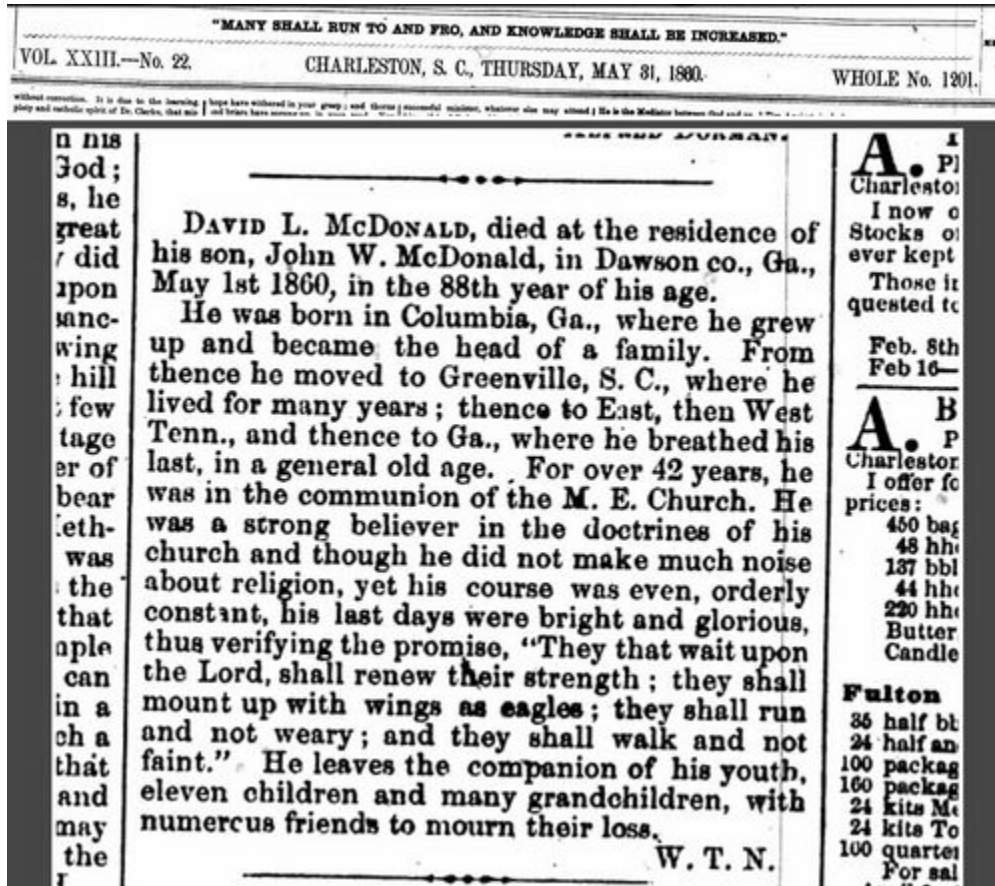


Figure 1: David Lewis McDonald Obituary

Throughout this document there are references to David or Lewis McDonalds/McDaniels with whom David Lewis McDonald 1771-1860 is commonly conflated. Their life facts in the form of census and other records are discussed to help differentiate them from David Lewis McDonald honored in the attached obituary (see the section: “David Lewis McDonald/McDaniel 1771, Columbia, GA Conflated with David McDonald 1762, Chester SC”).

David Lewis McDonald's Origins

David Lewis McDonald's parents' life details are incomplete. His grandson Reuben, through Lorenzo, recorded David Lewis McDonald's father as "George Alexander McDonald" and mother as Serenie (Serena?) Dennis. His great-grandson William Bowling (through John Van Buren Bowling and Mary Polly McDonald Bolling) also named "Renny" (Serena) Dennis as his 2nd great

grandmother. Reuben' son Joseph named David McDonald's father as "Alexander McDonald" and his mother as "Serenie Dennis." ^{2 3}

The following discussion treats the obituary as an accurate recording of David Lewis McDonald's life. It contrasts the specificity of a move to Greenville SC for "many years" and "thence East, then West Tenn." against alternative records in Chester or Abbeville Counties during the decades he lived in South Carolina.

Complementing the obituary is the work of Myrle Messer with supplemental contributions by John Cofield. Myrle, born in 1915 and died in 1999, was the 3rd great granddaughter of David Lewis McDonald.⁴

Her work includes details of David's household in 1820, naming six sons. It is clear she mis transcribed the county since the David in 1820 Abbeville was born 20 years after David Lewis and the record includes only three sons.⁵ The correct six sons are present in the Greenville 1820 census, consistent with David's obituary.

Facts about David and his family from other counties in Georgia, South Carolina, or Tennessee were compared to see which best fit the sum of known or inferred facts. All attributed facts and inferences are documented and subject to revision with new sources.

This process requires matching family members against their sex and ages as enumerated by census takers. The following named people are used to validate each record:

- David Lewis McDonald: He was born 1771 in Georgia and died 1860 in Georgia. His birth and death dates are clearly stated in the obituary.
- David's wife Martha: Public pedigrees variously report no last name, or either of the surnames Bengé or Duncan. There's no record connecting her to her parents. Their marriage year is unknown, but likely very close to 1800. Some trees have David's and Martha's marriage year as 1790 in Chester County South Carolina. Six separate census records place Martha's birth in the 1780s. Since she would be under 10 in 1790, a 1790 marriage is rejected.
- David and Martha's children, used to validate census counts, are listed below. The starting point for these family members is the work by Myrle Messer and John R. Cofield. The book is

² McDonald, Reuben Phillips - Application Number 38493, National Archives Catalog, Record Group 123: Records of the U.S. Court of Claims Series: Eastern Cherokee Applications: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/56841995>

³ McDonald, Joseph E. - Application Number 38494, Record Group 123: Records of the U.S. Court of Claims Series: Eastern Cherokee Applications: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/56842006>

⁴ Messer, Myrle C. and John Cofield, "1771 Our McDonalds and Allied Families," Self-Published in limited quantities, 1962. Copies in possession of Gerald Parker and Bill Brooks.

⁵ Image of sons attributed to David Lewis McDonald and Martha at the time of the 1820 Abbeville census (the Abbeville census list only three males, a Greenville County 1820 has six):

<https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/186923940/person/422443735904/media/2af08f9b-7fa0-439f-878b-c1f2f118aab3?galleryindex=3&sort=-created>

in Gerald Parker's possession and accessible on the FamilySearch digital library website.⁶
The following consolidates children as listed in Myrle Messer's and Reuben's filing.

17 State English and Indian names of your grandparents on both father's and mother's side, if possible:

FATHER'S SIDE.	MOTHER'S SIDE.
David L. McDonald	Aaron Mincey
Martha McDonald	Rachel Mincey
Indian names not known,	

18. Where were they born? All from South Carolina

19. Where did they reside in 1851, if living at that time? Dawson and Lumpkin Counties -

20. Give names of all their children, and residence, if possible:

(1) <u>Geo. W. McDonald</u>	
(2) <u>Polley</u>	<u>Aaron Mincey</u>
(3) <u>William</u>	<u>Children all dead,</u>
(4) <u>August</u>	
(5) <u>Stephen</u>	
(6) <u>Bluford</u>	
<u>Burriel.</u>	
<u>Sh Clair,</u>	
<u>Screener -</u>	
<u>Elija</u>	
<u>Lauria</u>	

all reside in Ga except those who are dead

Figure 2: Reuben P McDonald's List of David Lewis McDonald's Children (Lorenzo was recorded as Reuben's father)

Myrle Messer or Reuben McDonald record David's sons as:⁷

- John Washington McDonald was born in Greenville, South Carolina in 1801. Reuben McDonald lists John as George W.
- William D McDonald was born ca. 1807 in Greenville, South Carolina based on the fact that David and Martha were in Greenville in both 1800 and 1810. He married Artemesia Chastain born 1808 having at least the nine children listed in the 1850 Murray, GA census.⁸
- Lorenzo Dow McDonald was born about 1804 in Greenville, South Carolina. He married Wealthy, Weltha, or Welchey (per Reuben's application) Mincey.

⁶ FamilySearch Digital Library:

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/1002934/?offset=2&return=1#page=1&viewer=picture&o=info&n=0&q=>

⁷ Image of sons attributed to David Lewis McDonald and Martha at the time of the 1820 Abbeville census (the Abbeville census list only three males, a Greenville County 1820 has six):

[https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-](https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/186923940/person/422443735904/media/2af08f9b-7fa0-439f-878b-c1f2f118aab3?galleryindex=3&sort=-created)

[viewer/collection/1030/tree/186923940/person/422443735904/media/2af08f9b-7fa0-439f-878b-c1f2f118aab3?galleryindex=3&sort=-created](https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/186923940/person/422443735904/media/2af08f9b-7fa0-439f-878b-c1f2f118aab3?galleryindex=3&sort=-created)

⁸ "United States Census, 1850", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MZYH-XNR> : Sun Mar 10 23:00:46 UTC 2024)

- Austin, or David Austin, McDonald was born ca. 1808 in Greenville, South Carolina based on David and Martha's residences in 1800 and 1810. He married Sarah Elizabeth Glaze.
- Stephen McDonald was born ca. 1811 and died ca. 1866.^{9 10} He evidently died without issue, leaving his real property to his sister-in-law Mary Allison, and his remaining property to be divided equally between his natural born legal brothers and sisters. The witnesses were J. N. O'Kelly, S. B. (Sidney Bluford) McDonald, W. E. Turner, and J. C. Pierce. Witness J. N. O'Kelly is Stephen's brother Sidney Bluford's son-in-law who married Sidney's daughter Mary.
- Burrell J McDonald was born 1813 in Greenville, South Carolina. He's named by both Myrle Messer and Reuben McDonald. He married Mary, last name unknown.
- Bluford (Sidney Bluford) McDonald was born in Greenville, South Carolina 10 June 1814 per his headstone. He's named by both Myrle Messer and Reuben McDonald. He married Martha Lowery. The 1880 and 1900 censuses have his birth as 1816.
- St. Clair (Sinclair A) McDonald. His exact birth year isn't clear but is generally reported as around 1810. He's named by both Myrle Messer and Reuben McDonald. He is not found in any census records. Some trees have him in Washington State in San Juan census records, but they give a Georgia birth location. There's also a record attached suggesting he was made Postmaster in San Juan Washington in 1883.
- Other sons sometimes attached to David and Martha include Alford McDonald 1791 (too old) and Levi McDonald 1801. A Levey McDaniel, born between 1795 and 1804, is recorded on the same page as David L McDaniel in the 1820 Greenville census. It's likely Levi/Levey is a cousin.
- McDonald researchers Myrle Messer and John Cofield did not enumerate any of David Lewis McDonald's daughters. The following are named in Reuben McDonald's enrollment application and used to validate census records:
 - Mary Polly McDonald was born in Greenville, South Carolina ca. 1802. She married Thomas Bolling and is in his household in the 1820 Greenville, South Carolina census living a few houses away from David Lewis McDonald. Most Ancestry trees with Mary's profile do not list any parents. No records from her lifetime use "Elmira" as part of her given name. See Mary Polly McDonald discussion below.
 - Serena or Zeherena McDonald was born in Greenville, South Carolina in about 1809. She's David's mother Serenie's namesake. She married Riland Parrot before 1830.¹¹

⁹ Steven McDonald in the Georgia, U.S., Census for Re-Organizing the Georgia Militia, 1864:

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/records?recordId=17749&collectionId=3007&tid=155763594&pid=162179027538&ssrc=pt>

¹⁰ Stephen McDonald in the Georgia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/records?recordId=826936&collectionId=8635&tid=155763594&pid=162179027538&ssrc=pt>

¹¹ "United States, Census, 1830", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XH5W-7LG> : Sun Jan 19 16:13:18 UTC 2025), Entry for Riland Parrott, 1830.

- Eliza Ann McDonald born 14 January 1820 per her headstone.¹² She married Young Harmon Thomason on 11 Sep 1838.¹³
- Laura Ann McDonald, born before the 1820 census in South Carolina. She and Eliza were twins according to a sworn affidavit of Serena Glaze Thomason included in Zimri Thompson '(Thomason) Eastern Cherokee enrollment application, although her testimony is discredited in several respects¹⁴ She married Henry David Thomason 2 August 1838. She was referred to as Lucretia McDaniel on the marriage record. Lucretia sometimes appears as a separate child of David and Martha's.¹⁵ She died of consumption in 1869.
- Another daughter sometimes connected to David and Martha is Lucinda McDonald born 11 May 1820 per her headstone in South Carolina. David and Martha could not have had another daughter within four months of Eliza's birth. Lucinda married William Potter. Lucinda is not used in the census validation process. Note: Laura and Eliza each used different given names on their marriage certificates. Laura was recorded as Lucretia, and Eliza as Lucinda, further invalidating the possibility of a relationship between William Potter's wife and David Lewis McDonald.

The following sections cover David Lewis McDonald's entire lifespan with records that can justifiably be attributed to him. Census records are found for each decade after starting his family, except for one in 1830.

One sensitive aspect of this discussion is the matter of slave holding. Many online tree managers prefer to include "slaveholder" for those ancestors who did so, and many assign the designation to David Lewis McDonald. This designation is unsupported. No census records or slave schedules record David as a slaveholder. Absent proof that he was a slaveholder, the designation should be removed.

Pre-1800

The obituary has David establishing a family while in Georgia, then moving to Greenville, South Carolina. His wife Martha was born sometime between 1781 and 1787 per either of the 1850 or 1860 census.^{16 17} Martha's age precludes her from being recorded with David in any census as a household before 1800.

¹² Eliza Ann McDonald Thomason Find-a-Grave memorial:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/34455443/eliza-ann-thomason>

¹³ Jacobson, Carol, "John Thomason & Hanna Abercrombie of South Carolina and Georgia, Sixth Revision 2001.

¹⁴ Thompson (Thomason), Zimri - Application Number 22642, Record Group 123: Records of the U.S. Court of Claims Series: Eastern Cherokee Applications <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/56649438>

¹⁵ Jacobson, Carol, "John Thomason & Hanna Abercrombie of South Carolina and Georgia, Sixth Revision 2001.

¹⁶ 1850 Lumpkin County Georgia US Census: <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/records?recordId=18785627&collectionId=8054&tid=155763594&pid=162056270781&ssrc=pt>

¹⁷ 1860 Dawson County Georgia US Census: <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/records?recordId=10990192&collectionId=7667&tid=155763594&pid=162056270781&ssrc=pt>

Nevertheless, researchers frequently attach a 1790 Chester, South Carolina census to David. Many online trees also have David and Martha’s marriage set as 1790. That’s implausible, given that every record reasonably attributed to Martha Duncan McDonald supports her birth as after 1780. It’s certain she wasn’t married at ten.

Therefore, David McDonald appearing in Chester, South Carolina in 1790 cannot be David Lewis McDonald 1771-1860.¹⁸ An additional contradiction is that two Davids appear contemporaneously in the 1800 and 1820 South Carolina censuses, David Lewis McDonald in Greenville, consistent with the obituary, David, son of Hugh McDonald, in Fairfield. Fairfield’s northern border is coterminous with Chester’s, the home of Hugh McDonald and Rebekah. Fairfield County Deed Book C, page 24, refers to them. The 1790 census David McDonald is their son.

David Lewis McDonald’s life as described in his obituary was captured in records and property records. Each decade of his life is presented.

1800

David and Martha are first recorded in the 1800 Greenville County census (surname McDaniel).¹⁹ David is erroneously recorded in the 16 to 26 column. He should be in the 26 to 45 column. Martha’s birth year was ca. 1784 so her record is correct.

David’s neighbors prove this is the correct David. Elliott Bolling lives nearby in this record. Elliott is again near David’s household in 1810 and 1820. Each of those censuses accurately record David’s age.

Throughout this document, and in research related to other McDonald lines, the same family is recorded in different censuses using McDonald and McDaniel interchangeably. (18 of David Lewis McDonald’s yDNA matches have the surname McDaniel, 21 McDonald, and 2 McDonnell.)

There are several explanations, though scholarly articles are elusive. The most common explanation assert that the names are synonymous in Gaelic. This article is representative:
<https://www.igenealogy.com/en/surnames/m/mcdaniel>

Table 1: Census Recording David and Martha McDonald in 1800

David H Daniel (H is a mistranscription of Mc)		
Home in 1800 (City, County, State)	Greenville, South Carolina	
Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25	1	1775-1784 - David was born in 1771. Elliott Boling is recorded nearby, as he is in the 1810 and 1820 Greenville censuses that correctly record David’s age.
Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25	1	1775-1784
Number of Household Members	2	

¹⁸ 1790 Chester County South Carolina US Census: <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/records?recordId=380250&collectionId=5058&tid=155763594&pid=162619715772&ssrc=pt>
¹⁹ 1800 Greenville County South Carolina US Census: <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/records?recordId=480295&collectionId=7590&tid=155763594&pid=162056270780&ssrc=pt>

1810

David and Martha appear again, as McDaniel, in the 1810 Greenville SC census.²⁰ David is recorded as 26-44 (he would be 38), and Martha as 16-26 (or born between 1784 and 1796). They have four boys and two girls under 10. The boys are John Washington born 1801, Lorenzo born 1804, David Austin born 1807, and William D born ca. 1807. The two girls are Mary Polly McDonald 1802 and Serena/Zarenah 1809.

Table 2: Census Recording David and Martha McDonald in 1810

D McDaniel		
Residence Date	6 Aug 1810	
Residence Place	Greenville, South Carolina, USA	
Free White Persons - Males - Under 10	4	John Washington 1801, Lorenzo 1804, David Austin 1807, William D ca. 1807
Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44	1	David Lewis McDonald 1771
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10	2	Mary Polly 1802–1860 and Serena/Zarenah McDonald 1809
Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25	1	Martha ca. 1784
Number of Household Members Under 16	6	

There’s also a David McDonal in Abbeville in 1810. His census record doesn’t work because he’s too young and doesn’t have the correct number of children in the census year.²¹

1820

A few land transactions involving David, David L., and David Lewis McDaniel occur in Greenville around 1820. It's not proven that these involve our David McDaniel/McDonald, but the evidence is strong. No David McDaniel, McDonald, McDonall, or other variation of the surname with a middle initial L occurs outside Greenville, South Carolina from 1800 to 1830. In Greenville, David uses his full middle name in one of the transactions.

David Lewis McDonald acquired land in Greenville County from John Edwards in a transaction involving 250 acres executed in 1817 and recorded in 1820. The property is described as at the

²⁰ 1810 Greenville County South Carolina US Census: <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/records?recordId=602468&collectionId=7613&tid=155763594&pid=162056270780&ssrc=pt>
²¹ "United States Census, 1810", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XH2S-4SX> : Sun Mar 10 13:00:46 UTC 2024), Entry for David McDonal, 1810

headwaters of Enoree River."²² The Enoree headwaters are in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains a couple of miles northwest of Travelers Rest in Greenville.

Grantee Index to Conveyances, 1787-1913, Mc-Q, page 115 of 596. Online access provided by the Greenville County, South Carolina Register of Deeds and the Greenville County Library System:
https://www.greenvillecounty.org/apps/Historical_Records_Search/Default.aspx#ViewerAnchor

Date of Execution	Date of Record	GRANTEES FAMILY NAMES	GIVEN NAMES A B C D E F G H	GIVEN NAMES I J K L M N O	GIVEN NAMES P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	GRANTORS	Book	Page	No. of Acres	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
1807	1808	McDaniel	Alex			John Lucas	H	53	180	A. Wat. Middle Tyger River
1874	1876	"	Amelia			Henry Morris	HD	432	1	A. Old Spartanburg Road
1826	1831	"	Anderson			John Selmon	Q	475	27	A. Waters Reedy River
1909	1909	"	Benj. F.			Josephine Green	ZZZ	498	33	A. White Horse Road
1893	1898	"	D. T.			T. C. Gower	EEK	776	49	Pt. Maryley St. Adj. Lots of Field & J. E. Payne.
1816	1817	"	Daniel L.			John Stead	K	122	100	A. Between Wat. Enoree & Reedy R.
1912	1912	"	David, et al			Mattie Maroney	19	16	1-5	A. near Pt. Inn, S. C.
1817	1820	"	David Lewis			John Edwards	L	161	250	A. Waters Enoree River
1904	1904	"	Eliza			M. G. Conyers	MM	260		Bond for Title, E. side E. McBee Ave.
1910	1910	"	"			M. G. Conyers	10	30	1	Lot E. McBee Ave., City
1874	1874	"		J. A. et al		William Birnie	FP	343	111	A. 2 Roods, 35P, Augusta Road & 19A & (35 Poles)
1874	1874	"	"	"		William Birnie	FP	343	111	A. 2 Roods, 35P, Augusta Road & 19A & (35 Poles)
1879	1879	"		J. A.		L. W. Grady	JJ	310	1-2	Int. 1 Tract Augusta Road
1885	1885	"		J. A. et al		S. J. Douthit, Master	RH	69	2	A. City, Greenville
1894	1894	"		J. A.		S. K. Tindal, et al	BBB	61	102	A. Augusta Road, Int. 4 Tracts
1894	1894	"		"		L. P. McDaniel, et al	BBB	61	102	" " " " " "

Figure 3: David Lewis McDonald in 1817 Greenville, SC Land Transaction

There were three transactions found involving a David McDaniel, or David L. McDaniel, selling land in Greenville County between 1818 and 1822.²³

- Executed 1818, recorded 1822 David McDaniel conveyed to William Brady 150 acres, described as on the waters of the Enoree River.
- Executed 1820, recorded 1820 David L McDonald conveyed to John Mullinax 100 acres, described as "on the parting ridge between the waters of the Enoree and Reedy River." The two rivers are within a mile of each other at their source.
- Executed 1822, recorded 1826 David McDaniel conveyed to Baylis J. Earle 100 acres, described as on the waters of the Enoree River.

²² David Lewis McDaniel in Greenville County, South Carolina Register of Deeds, Grantee Index to Conveyances, 1787-1913, Mc-Q, page 115 of 596. Online access provided by the Greenville County, South Carolina Register of Deeds and the Greenville County Library System:

https://www.greenvillecounty.org/apps/Historical_Records_Search/Default.aspx#ViewerAnchor

²³ David and David L. McDaniel in Greenville, South Carolina Historical Records, Register of Deeds, Grantor Index to Conveyances, 1787-1913, Mc-Q, page 114 of 593. Online access provided by the Greenville County, South Carolina Register of Deeds and the Greenville County Library System:

https://www.greenvillecounty.org/apps/Historical_Records_Search/Default.aspx

Grantor Index to Conveyances, 1787-1913, Mc-Q, page 114 of 593. Online access provided by the Greenville County, South Carolina Register of Deeds and the Greenville County Library System:

https://www.greenvillecounty.org/apps/Historical_Records_Search/Default.aspx

DIRECT or GRANTOR Index to Deeds, Greenville County, S. C.										14
Refer to SUB-INDEX in front portion of Book for Alphabetical Arrangement and Page Reference to Name in this Index.										CA
Date of Recd- tion	Date of Record	GRANTORS FAMILY NAMES	GIVEN NAMES A B C D E F G H	GIVEN NAMES I J K L M N O	GIVEN NAMES P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	GRANTEES	Book	Page	No. of Acres	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
1860	1860	McDaniel	A. et.al.			James M. Farr	Y	838	207	A. Wat. Reedy River
1819	1821	"	Alex			Wm. S. Dill	L	205	16	A. Wat. S. Tyger R.
1819	1821	"				Wm. S. Dill	L	206	180	A. Wat. S. Tyger R.
1831	1831	"	" et al			Wm. M. Bolling	O	492	52	A. Wat. Reedy R.
1876	1877	"	Amanda			Alice Sloan	II	296	1/2	A. Spartanburg Rd.
1895	1901	"	"			W. Austin Hudson	GGG	780	3/8	A. N. side Spartanburg Rd
1825	1826	"	Anderson			John Salmon	P	77	11 1/2	A. "Salmon Paid Anderson for Shortage in Tract Land."
1819	1822	"	David			Wm. Brady	M	111	150	A. Wat. Enoree R.
1823	1826	"	"			Baylis J. Earle	P	113	100	A. Wat. Enoree R.
1820	1820	"	" L			John Mullinax	L	140	100	A. Betw. Enoree & Reedy R's
1824	1824	"	Hannah			Jeremiah Cleveland	O	7		Renunciation of Dower
1891	1891	"	Harriet			P.W.B. Freeman	XX	696	60	A. Wat. Reedy R.
1862	1907	"		J. A.		John Forbist	PPP	65	52 1/2	A. Fall Cr
1884	1884	"		J. A.		J. O. Allen, et.al.	PP	349	2	Lots, Washington & John Sts
1894	1894	"		J. A.		H. Fleming et.al.	PP	349	2	Lots, Washington & John Sts
1888	1888	"		J. A. et.al.		Chas. H. Lanneau	TT	681	10 1/2	A. Adj. Said Lanneau Donaldson et al."

Figure 4: David/David L. McDaniel in 1818 to 1822 Greenville, SC Land Transactions

These transactions from David, David L., and David Lewis McDaniel are each referring to the same person as evidenced by all the parties being named in the transaction involving Baylis J. Earle.

Supporting that David in these records is David 1771-1860 is a land transaction of one of his nearby neighbors in each of the 1800, 1810, and 1820 censuses. Elliott Bolling is recorded acquiring land in Greenville County in 1818. The description is "Along the Waters of the Reedy River." In 1820, one of David's transactions has the property description "Between the Enoree and Reedy Rivers."²⁴

²⁴ Elliott Bolling in Greenville, South Carolina Historical Records, Register of Deeds, Grantee Index to Conveyances, 1787-1913, Series A-B, pg 438 of 688. Online access provided by the Greenville County, South Carolina Register of Deeds and the Greenville County Library System:
https://www.greenvillecounty.org/apps/Historical_Records_Search/Default.aspx

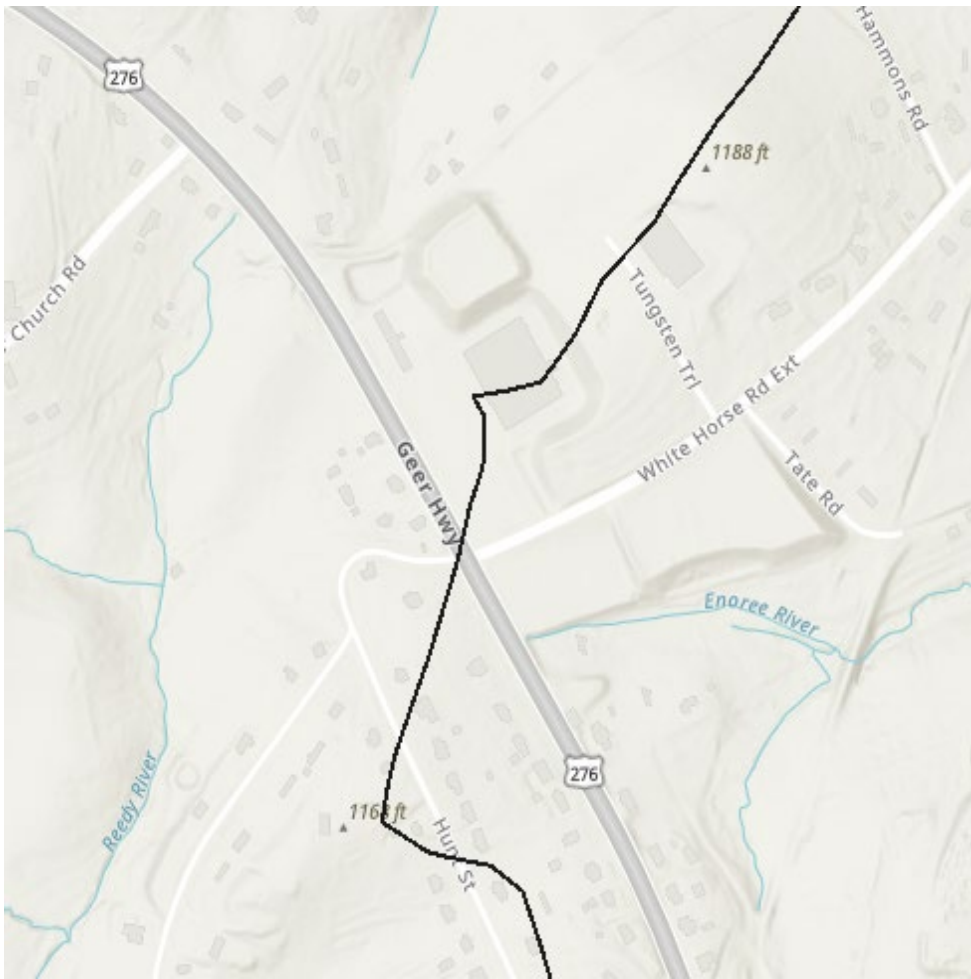


Figure 5: Watershed Demarcation Between Enoree and Reedy Rivers²⁵

The “drainage divide” that separates the Savannah (Reedy) and Saluda (Enoree) river basins is shown as the solid black line in Figure 5.

In 1820, David L. and Martha appear in the Greenville County SC census (as McDaniel).²⁶ David is recorded as over 45 (he would have been 48), and Martha is recorded as 26-44 (she would have been about 35). They have 3 boys under 10 (Sinclair born 1810 enumerated before turning 10), Burrell born 1813, and Sidney Bluford born 1814 (or 1812 per 1850 census) and 3 boys 10-15 (Lorenzo born December 1804 - the census was enumerated in August, so he hadn’t reached his 16th birthday), David Austin born 1807, and William D McDonald ca. 1807).

In 1820, John Washington (Jno W in the record) is living next door to David with one female. John’s household helps justify attaching this 1820 record to David Lewis. Thomas and Elliott Boling’s households are also nearby.

²⁵ South Carolina Department of Environmental Service, Watershed Atlas:

<https://gis.dhec.sc.gov/watersheds/>

²⁶ 1820 Greenville County South Carolina US Census: <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/records?recordId=970015&collectionId=7734&tid=155763594&pid=162056270780&ssrc=pt>

There are four females in his household in the census. Two are under 10 (twins Laura and Eliza born in 1820), one is 10-15 (Serena/Zarenah born ca. 1809), and one 26-44 (Martha born ca. 1785).

Table 3: Census Recording David and Martha McDonald in 1820

David L McDaniel		
Enumeration Date	7 Aug 1820	
Home in 1820 (City, County, State)	Greenville, South Carolina, USA	
Free White Persons - Males - Under 10	3	Sinclair 1810, Burrell 1813, Sidney Bluford 1814, (or 1812 per 1850 census?)
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15	3	Lorenzo 1804 (still 15 at census), David Austin 1807, William D ca. 1807
Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over	1	David Lewis 1771. Living next to John W McDonald born between 1795 and 1804
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10	2	Twins Laura and Eliza Ann 1820
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15	1	Serena/Zarenah McDonald 1809
Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44	1	Martha about 35
Number of Persons - Engaged in Agriculture	1	
Free White Persons - Under 16	9	
Free White Persons - Over 25	2	
Total Free White Persons	11	
Total All Persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other	11	

Two notable points about the 1820 Greenville census, aside from his obituary specifically stating David and Martha lived in Greenville for many years, are:

- It precisely fits the known sex and ages of David Lewis McDonald's family as it existed when the census was recorded. No other South Carolina census does so. The Abbeville 1820 census is frequently attached to David and Martha's profile. Abbeville accommodates three sons and David in Abbeville was born after 1795. Abbeville calls for four daughters under 15, David and Martha had only three. The mother in this record was born after 1795, but Martha was born in the 1780s.
- It is also an excellent contrast with the Fairfield County census of David McDonald, born in Chester in 1762, the son of Hugh and Rebekah McDonald. Fairfield's David McDonald has no sons under 10, but there should be three. Fairfield has sons 10 to 15, which could work, but also has another three sons 16 to 25, though David and Martha have none in that range. David's age range works, but Martha, born in the 1780s, doesn't fit. More about David on of Hugh and Rebekah is in a later section.

1830

David's obituary takes him to East, then West Tennessee before returning to Georgia. Myrle Messer claims to find his family in the Appalachian County of McMinn, Tennessee.

A John W. McDaniel is found there with one male under 5, one male 5 to 10, two males 20 to 30, one female under 5, one 5 to 10, one 10 to 15, and one female 30 to 40 (Martha Bolen would be under 30 in the 1830 census, requiring birth year record manipulation).

The census record was originally transcribed as “Schulth,” though upon close examination, John W is correct. Record images from the census are reproduced below for comparison:

Compare “John” from John James, “W” from William Pow, and put them with McDaniel to confirm John W. McDaniel’s presence. This John Washington’s record isn’t completely consistent with David’s son. See Figure 6.

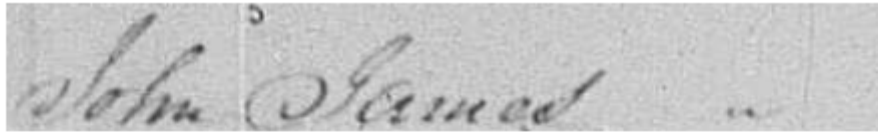
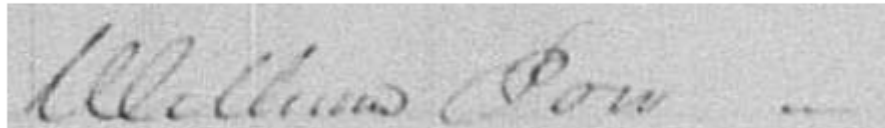
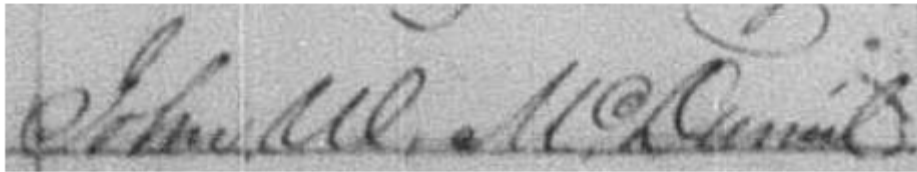
A close-up of a handwritten name 'John James' in cursive script, likely from a census record.A close-up of a handwritten name 'William Pow' in cursive script, likely from a census record.A close-up of a handwritten name 'John W. McDaniel' in cursive script, likely from a census record.

Figure 6: John James, William Pow, and John W McDaniel in 1830 McMinn County Census

There is a David McDaniel in the 1830 White County Tennessee census, but the children’s birth ages don’t fit David Lewis’s. The head of household in this census is also nine years younger than David Lewis. This is likely the same David McDonald recorded in the White County 1820 census while David Lewis was still in Greenville.

It is possible David Lewis McDonald’s household was in transit at the time of the census. History Hub, an online resource for historians, genealogists, and archivists, shares that one reason a family isn’t found in a census is it’s in transit.²⁷ The hope is the record is there to find.

²⁷ US History Hub.gov: <https://historyhub.history.gov/genealogy/census-records/b/census-blog/posts/twenty-reasons-you-may-have-trouble-finding-an-ancestor-in-the-census>

1840

David McDonald is found in the 1840 Hall Georgia census with his wife and hired help engaged in agriculture.²⁸ The household contains one male 15-19 (presumably the hired hand), one male 60 – 69 (David is 68), and one female 50 – 59 (Martha is about 54).

Table 4: Census Recording David and Martha McDonald in 1820

David L McDonald		
Residence Date	1840	
Home in 1840 (City, County, State)	District 434, Hall, Georgia	
Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19	1	No known males born after 1820. This is probably the other person employed in agriculture and not a member of his family
Free White Persons - Males - 60 thru 69	1	David Lewis 65
Free White Persons - Females - 50 thru 59	1	Martha about 55
Persons Employed in Agriculture	2	
No. White Persons over 20 Who Cannot Read and Write	2	
Free White Persons - Under 20	1	
Total Free White Persons	3	
Total All Persons - Free White, Free Colored, Slaves	3	

1850

David and Martha are last recorded in Lumpkin County GA in the 1850 census.²⁹ David is recorded as 79 and Martha as 63. There are no other household members. Comparison of the enumerator's state notations support interpreting David and Martha's birth location as "North Carolina." Martha is also recorded as born in North Carolina in her son John Washington's 1860 census record.

²⁸ 1840 Hall County Georgia US Census: <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/records?recordId=1750751&collectionId=8057&tid=155763594&pid=162056270780&ssrc=pt>

²⁹ 1850 Lumpkin County Georgia US Census: <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/records?recordId=18785626&collectionId=8054&tid=155763594&pid=162056270780&ssrc=pt>

Table 5: David and Martha McDonald in the 1850 Lumpkin County, Georgia Census

David McDaniel	
Gender	Female (s/b Male)
Race	White
Residence Age	79
Birth Date	abt 1771
Birthplace	North Carolina (obituary says Georgia)
Residence Date	1850
Home in 1850	Amicalola, Lumpkin, Georgia, USA
Occupation	Farmer
Industry	Agriculture
Line Number	12
Dwelling Number	23
Family Number	23
Household members	
Name	Age
David McDaniel	79
Martha McDaniel	63

1860

David's last mention is found in his obituary, stating that he died on May 1st of 1860. Martha is living with their son John Washington by June 5th when enumerated in the 1860 census. She is recorded being born in North Carolina in about 1781.

Table 6: Martha Duncan McDonald in the 1860 Lumpkin County, Georgia Census

Name Recorded in 1860 Census Purdies District, Dawson, Georgia	Martha McDonald
Age	79
Birth Year	abt 1781
Gender	Female
Race	White
Birth Place	North Carolina
Home in 1860	Purdies District, Dawson, Georgia
Post Office	Dawsonville

Martha's Surname, Birth Year, and Birth Location

Martha's surname, birth year, and birth location details pose problems for researchers. There are a variety of alternate facts offered, most lacking sources. Surname, age, and birth location evidence is discussed below.

Benge

Aside from unsourced family trees, there is not a single record found attached to any instance of Martha that connects her to a Benge ancestor. The unsubstantiated connection is through Dorcas Lightfoot, a full-blood Cherokee, and either of her spouses William Benge(not a real spouse), Bob Benge, or Charles Gordon Duncan. None of William Benge, Bob Benge, Charles Gordon Duncan, or Dorcas Lightfoot left any known record of a child Martha.^{30 31 32}

The origin of “Benge” in Martha’s name is not known. Given its pervasive use, it was probably adopted many decades ago, apparently at least since the creation of David and Martha Duncan McDonald’s Find-a-Grave memorials.³³

An exhaustive search hasn’t produced supporting evidence. Wikitree names Dorcas’s daughters Rebecca and Emily, as does Dorcas’s Find-a-Grave memorial.^{34 35} Her FamilySearch profile adds a daughter Elizabeth, though attached sources don’t appear connected to Elizabeth.³⁶ The FamilySearch profile has several attached sources. None name a daughter Martha.

The author of the “Benge” fabrication is unknown, but the Find-a-Grave memorial is now accurate. There are no records from Martha’s lifetime that she had a middle name, Benge or otherwise.

Duncan

As noted previously, Martha’s maiden name is recorded as Duncan on her Find-a-Grave profile. The memorial doesn’t list any parents, but Duncan is confirmed through various Eastern Cherokee settlement claims submitted by Martha’s descendants. Martha’s grandson, Reuben Phillip McDonald, wrote a letter to his cousin (once removed) James D. Parker, in which he says the following (James was a generation removed from Reuben):

“...your great grandfather married Martha Dunken. My great grandfather married Serency Dennis [that] is where the Indian comes from.”

³⁰ Find a Grave, database and images (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/129177531/william_lewis-benge: accessed December 13, 2024), memorial page for William Lewis Benge (1759–7 Oct 1780), Find a Grave Memorial ID 129177531, citing Kings Mountain Battleground Cemetery, Blacksburg, Cherokee County, South Carolina, USA; Maintained by Vonnie L Cantrell (contributor 47192880).

³¹ Bob Benge 1760 – 1794 WikiTree Profile: <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Benge-367>

³² Robert Benge ca. 1760 –1794 <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/KD3X-TXP>

³³ Find a Grave, database and images (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/70941998/martha_benge-mcdonald: accessed December 24, 2024), memorial page for Martha Benge Duncan McDonald (1775–1860), Find a Grave Memorial ID 70941998, citing Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery, Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, Georgia, USA; Burial Details Unknown; Maintained by Michael Bell (contributor 46911790).

³⁴ Dorcas Lightfoot Duncan WikiTree Profile: <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Lightfoot-716>

³⁵ Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/90523525/dorcas-duncan>: accessed December 21, 2024), memorial page for Dorcas Lightfoot Duncan (1760–1836), Find a Grave Memorial ID 90523525; Burial Details Unknown; Maintained by Sara N. Pitts (contributor 47800208).

³⁶ Dorcas Lightfoot FamilySearch Profile: <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/sources/LTQ5-T6H>

This makes it very clear – the McDonald Cherokee heritage is not through Martha Duncan, but her husband David. Martha’s Duncan’s parents, whoever they are, are not Cherokee.

Which Duncan lineage best fits? One stands out:

It’s reasonable to assume that when David and Martha moved to Greenville, they maintained a family connection. In the 1800 census, David is living next door to Joseph Batson, whose significance is related below.

Also in Greenville are William Duncan and John Duncan, purported sons of John Jack Duncan and Martha Patsy Dennis.³⁷ David Lewis McDonald’s mother was recorded as Serena Dennis in Reuben McDonald’s Eastern Cherokee enrollment application. This supports both the Duncan and Dennis connection. John Jack Duncan’s sources suggest a Scotland birth.

Circling back to neighbor Joseph Batson, John Jack Duncan’s daughter Lucy married Joseph Batson. William Duncan, cited above, married Sarah Batson. These neighbors suggest that David Lewis McDonald was settling in Greenville SC among family.

Nexus is further established by the connection to Wrightsboro, Georgia. John Duncan is listed as a pre-1776 landowner in the county, as is John Dennis, believed to be Martha Patsy Dennis’ father, though this is circumstantial.^{38 39} It is supported, however, by Martha’s brother John Dennis’s final residence in McMinn County, Tennessee where David purportedly resided in about 1830.⁴⁰





Prior to the turn of the 18th to 19th century, John Duncan is recorded engaged in land transactions in Columbia County before his removal to Greenville. Columbia County is the birth location recorded in David Lewis McDonald’s obituary.

William Duncan left Greenville, SC in time to appear in the 1830 Warren Tennessee census.⁴¹

This timeline and state is consistent with

movement we expect to see for David Lewis McDonald, though David has not yet been found in an 1830 Tennessee census.

Triangulated DNA matches share a common ancestor. With sufficient triangulated cousins with solid trees, the common ancestor can be inferred. An abbreviated example for McDonald and Duncan matches:

	John Jack Duncan/Patsy Dennis
	Charles Duncan/Sarah Browning
	Charles Duncan/Sarah Browning
	Martha Duncan m. David L McDonald

³⁷ John Duncan ca. 1750 FamilySearch Profile: <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/GLYL-TSX>

³⁸ John Jack Duncan WikiTree Profile Research Notes: <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Duncan-2509>

³⁹ Baker, Mrs. Pearl, for the Wrightboro Restoration Foundation, Thompson, GA: “The Story of Wrightsboro 1768 -1964”. No page numbers – contained in Chapter 10, last page: <https://hrcga.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/The-Story-of-Wrightsboro.pdf>

⁴⁰ Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/108299465/john-dennis>: accessed December 28, 2024), memorial page for John Dennis (1756–1827), Find a Grave Memorial ID 108299465, citing Dennis Cemetery, Riceville, McMinn County, Tennessee, USA; Maintained by Bev Scott Kendall (contributor 46880950).

⁴¹ "United States, Census, 1830", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XHP4-BXH> : Sun Mar 10 21:06:14 UTC 2024), Entry for Wm Duncan, 1830.

It can thus be reasonably concluded that these Duncans and Dennis families belong to David and his wife Martha. An examination of these families is underway, but neither appears to have Cherokee heritage.

Birth Year and Location

Martha McDonald's birth details are variously reported on Ancestry. Many have a birth year and location as 1775/76 in Chester SC. Fewer have 1778 in Laurens, SC, some have 1778 in North Carolina, and a very few use the census records in which Martha is found, either 1787 or 1781 in North Carolina.

Martha's most contemporaneous records are her enumeration in the various censuses. In 1800, she's born between 1775 and 1784. In the 1810 census, between 1785 and 1794. In 1820, between 1776 and 1794. 1850 and 1860 US censuses. One records a ca. 1787 birth, the other a ca. 1781 birth, both in North Carolina.^{42 43}

She's recorded having a North Carolina birth in her sons William D McDonald's and Sidney Bluford's 1880 census records.^{44 45} There is a John W. McDonald in the 1880 Gwinnett County GA census that reports his mother's birth location as South Carolina.⁴⁶ If this is John Washington McDonald, then he didn't remember his own age, recorded a decade earlier than correct. Son Burrell recorded both parents birth in South Carolina in the 1880 census, so if he wasn't clear on his father, he may not have been clear on his mother.⁴⁷

Martha's given a Georgia birth in in daughter Serena's 1880 census. Serena's son-in-law is the likely informant in this record.

She's given a South Carolina birth in Sidney Bluford's 1900 and 1910 census records.^{48 49} Sidney's son-in-law is the likely informant for these records and contradicts the record when Sidney was head of household.

The most contemporaneous records support a ca. 1784 birth and North Carolina birth location. The only records supporting a South Carolina birth are either unsourced or are 2nd or 3rd hand informants such as in-laws, or are senile (John W McDonald in 1880 who doesn't know his own

⁴² "United States, Census, 1850", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MZYT-GFR> : Fri Mar 08 06:17:51 UTC 2024), Entry for David McDaniel, 1850.

⁴³ "United States, Census, 1860", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MZMP-5GR> : Mon Jul 08 04:41:23 UTC 2024), Entry for Washington Mc Donald and Nancy A Mc Donald, 1860.

⁴⁴ "United States, Census, 1880", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M8P4-FHT> : Tue Jul 16 19:39:53 UTC 2024), Entry for William D. Mc Donald and Minerva Mc Donald, 1880.

⁴⁵ "United States, Census, 1880", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M8GQ-ZHH> : Thu Mar 07 16:47:20 UTC 2024), Entry for Sidney McDonald and Martha McDonald, 1880.

⁴⁶ "United States, Census, 1880", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M8G3-HS3> : Tue Jul 23 08:07:43 UTC 2024), Entry for John W. McDonald and Nancy McDonald, 1880.

⁴⁷ "United States, Census, 1880", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M8G3-CBJ> : Sat Mar 09 12:06:36 UTC 2024), Entry for Burrell J. Mc Donald and Mary Mc Donald, 1880.

⁴⁸ "United States, Census, 1900", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M3J3-X59> : Tue Aug 27 15:52:34 UTC 2024), Entry for James Okelley and Jane Okelley, 1900.

⁴⁹ "United States, Census, 1910", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:ML28-J67> : Sat Jul 20 23:15:50 UTC 2024), Entry for Sidney B McDonald and Anne McDonald, 1910.

age). One errs with David as well. A North Carolina birth location is reasonable to accept, but even if she was born in South Carolina, there's no evidence to suggest it was in Chester.

Cherokee Heritage

Many of David and Martha's descendants claimed Eastern Cherokee heritage through David to his mother Serena Dennis. Modern descendants believe Martha was also part Cherokee. Martha's heritage was never directly addressed by the US Claims court as none of Martha's descendants' enrollment applications used her as their connection. Multiple applications were allowed, so if she was Cherokee, it's suspect that a path through her wasn't attempted. Reuben McDonald letter to his cousin James Parker, cited above, settles that question.

There is another source that suggests Cherokee heritage for each of David and Martha. That's in the form of an affidavit written by Serena Glaze Thomason, wife of James Abercrombie Thomason.

Her affidavit was included in Zemeriah Thomason's Eastern Cherokee Nation enrollment application and is transcribed in a book by Carol Jacobson.^{50 51} The quote:

I know that the above named Duncan and Laura Ann & Eliza Ann whose maiden names were McDonald daughters of David L. McDonald & Martha his wife whose maiden name was Duncan were all recognized Cherokees. I know this for I was born & grew up, and lived among them till they were taken away or moved away.

At best, Serena's testimony simply intimates Martha's Cherokee heritage. As noted in Carol Jacobson's book, Serena's recollection errs in some respects. Most significantly, she confuses how the Cherokee Duncans fit with her Abercrombie relations and has probably simply assumed that the Duncan families were related. The court disputes her assertion, rejecting Zemri's and Reuben Phillip McDonald's claims. The court's finding as noted in Reuben's claim: "Ancestors did not live in the Cherokee domain. Shows no connection with the Eastern Cherokees."⁵²

David and Martha and their descendants were only ever recorded as "white" in the various censuses, though fractional Cherokee may have been counted as such. Nevertheless, David's and Martha packing off to Greenville and starting their household next door to Joseph Batson and his wife Lucy Duncan, daughter of John Jack Duncan and Martha Dennis is significant. These families require additional research but appear Scottish and English in origin.

Likely Dennis Lineage

The most likely Dennis lineage is the one that ended up in Grayson County, Texas connected to David Lewis McDonald's descendants. This line may originate with the William Dennis family discussed in the Coweta County Chronicles and living in Orangeburg, South Carolina in 1790.⁵³

⁵⁰ Jacobson, Carol (n-13)

⁵¹ Thompson (Thomason), Zimri (n-14)

⁵² McDonald, Reuben P. (n-2)

⁵³ Jones, Mary G., and Lily Reynolds: "Coweta County Chronicles for One Hundred Years with and Account of the Indians from Whom the Land was Acquired and Some Historical Papers Relating to its Acquisition by Georgia, with Lineage Pages" edited and compiled for Sarah Dickenson Chapter of the Daughters of the

David Lewis McDonald/McDaniel 1771, Columbia, GA Conflated with David McDonald 1762, Chester SC

The above discussion distinguishes between two David McDonalds who are commonly conflated. David, son of Hugh and Rebekah McDonald is easily distinguished from David Lewis.

Hugh's son David appears in the 1820 census in Fairfield County SC with three males 10-15, one male 16-18, two males in the 16 -25 range, and one male over 45. There were three females between 10 and 25, and one female over 45, too old to be Martha. Three males of the proper age to belong with David and Martha are missing in Fairfield; three older males also don't fit. There's one female too many.

David McDonald 1762, son of Hugh and Rebekah, is not found in any census records after 1820 but was still alive in 1831 when he filed for a Revolutionary War pension.⁵⁴ He mentions his frail state, so may not be the head of household in 1830, explaining his absence in 1830 and subsequent census records. Estate records have not been identified. His pension payments suggest he died about 1848/50.

In addition to his living near Hugh and Rebekah, witnesses to David McDonald's Revolutionary War Pension application include their associates and in-laws. James Harbison, Esq., James Brown, and William McGarity were all known to Hugh McDonald.⁵⁵ William McGarity is listed in the DAR memorial in the Catholic Presbyterian Church Cemetery, just the second person below Hugh. Another witness to David's application was John Brown, Hugh's daughter and David's sister Jean's husband.

Along with the fact that David's Revolutionary War pension application stated he was born in Chester, his presence in Fairfield also connects him to Hugh McDonald 1720-1814 through land records as noted in South Carolina Deed Book C page 24, further establishing the geographical nexus between David born 1762 and Hugh.⁵⁶

The above eliminates any reason to attempt attaching, or maintain an attachment of, David Lewis McDonald to Hugh and Rebekah. Associated Find-a-Grave memorials have been updated with the correct relationships.

American Revolution of Newnan, Georgia. Published by the Stein Printing Company in Atlanta, Georgia, 1928 edition. Page 790. <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=cub.u183048950859&seq=814&q1=dennis>

⁵⁴ Unknown author possibly Gibson, Dorothy Dallas Texas: "Revolutionary War Pension Application Record for David McDonald", <https://www.wikitree.com/photo.php/8/88/McDonald-34395.pdf>

⁵⁵ Possibly Gibson, Dorothy, undated Transcription of Revolutionary War Application for David McDonald, attached on the Memory Gallery for David McDonald 1762's FamilySearch profile: <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/memories/G787-W1X>

⁵⁶ As recorded in "Ancestors of April Wells: Information about Hugh McDonald" Genealogy.com: <https://www.genealogy.com/ftm/r/u/s/April-W-Russell/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0513.html>

David Lewis McDonald (McDaniel) Conflated with Lewis D McDaniel

David Lewis McDonald appears on wikitree and on FamilySearch.⁵⁷ ⁵⁸ His wikitree sources appear appropriate, but some previously-connected sources on FamilySearch conflate him with a Lewis D McDaniel who is sometimes incorrectly recorded as David Lewis McDaniel.⁵⁹ Lewis McDaniel's estate records have him dying in Greenville SC in 1839.^[7]

This Lewis is the same Lewis McDaniel recorded in the 1830 census in Greenville with one male under 5, one male 20-29 (born between 1801 and 1810), two females 5-9, and one female 20-29 (born between 1801 and 1810).^[8]

Isabel from the estate papers is the female 20-29. Isabel is found again in the 1840 census as the one female 30-39. With her are 6 boys under 10 born after the 1830 census, one boy 10-14 who was the lone boy under 5 in the 1830 census, one female between 15 and 19, the other having left the household, and a female 70-79, perhaps Lewis or Isabel's mother.^[9] Isabel was bearing children in the late 1830s, so could not have been born much before 1795.

William D. McDonald 1807-1881 Conflated with William McDonald

1807-1883

William D. McDonald 1807-1881 is found on various tree platforms with three wives. Two are valid (Artemesia Chastain and Minerva VanHorn) and the other belongs to a different William McDonald (married Mary Gravitt).

FamilySearch presently has William D. McDonald with the following children with first wife Artemesia Chastain as listed in the 1850 GA census: William B, Francis M, Eliza A, Louisa I (J), Martha E, Andrew P, Sarah C, Arta A, and McPherson B. The profile shows William D McDonald had a son Dennis with his second wife Minerva VanHorn.

⁵⁷ Wikitree Profile of David Lewis McDonald: <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/McDonald-19768>

⁵⁸ FamilySearch Profile of David Lewis McDonald: <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/GK9X-4FV> <https://www.geni.com/people/Hugh-McDonald-III/6000000089574583978?through=6000000175137213821>

⁵⁹ FamilySearch Profile of Lewis D McDaniel (as David Lewis McDaniel): <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/sources/GMYW-2DY>

William McDonald who married Mary Gravitt is a different person. He is recorded contemporaneously with William D. in separate households in 1850, 1860, and 1880 census records.^{60 61 62 63 64 65}

The relationship fits per William D. McDonald's presence in the 1880 Lower Tenth, ED 198, Whitfield, GA census with Minerva, his son McPherson B. from his wife Artemesia, and some step and in-law children.⁶⁶

Minerva was first married to George Baker 1840-1863 with whom she had a son George Jr. born ca. 1864. Dennis was born in 1881. He appears in a household with Minerva in 1900

There is a Find-a-Grave memorial with wife Mary Gravitt. This memorial names parents Thomas McDonald 1780 and Mary Kimball 1784. There is an 1850 census for this family as well, so the Find-a-Grave memorial does not belong to William D. McDonald, husband of Artemesia Chastain.⁶⁷

Mary Polly McDonald

Reuben McDonald lists "Polly" as one of David Lewis McDonald's daughters. Several posted pedigrees link Henry McDonald born ca. 1750 in Chester, South Carolina as her father. Others list no parents.

Census records were examined for Greenville, Chester, and Fairfield Counties for 1790, 1800, and 1810. A Henry was found in Orangeburg County in 1790, and in Fairfield County in 1800.^{68 69} Henry wasn't found in any county examined in 1810. None of these records found him in proximity to Elliott Bolling, Thomas Bolling's father. So how would Mary meet Thomas Bolling?

David Lewis McDonald is found in the 1800 Greenville census just several dwellings away from Mary's eventual father-in-law Elliott Bolling's domain. He's found again with Mary in his household in the 1810 census and with Elliott and his family recorded the second page previous in the same census. This contrasts with Henry living several counties away in Fairfield.

⁶⁰ "United States, Census, 1850", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MZYH-XNR> : Sun Mar 10 23:00:46 UTC 2024), Entry for William D McDonald and Arta McDonald, 1850

⁶¹ Duncan-15380

⁶² "United States, Census, 1860", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MZM4-998> : Mon Jul 08 04:54:59 UTC 2024), Entry for Wm D Mc Donald and Arta Mc Donald, 1860.

⁶³ "United States, Census, 1860", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MZMY-J93> : Mon Jul 08 04:38:16 UTC 2024), Entry for Wm Mc Donald and Mary Mc Donald, 1860.

⁶⁴ "United States, Census, 1880", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M4JG-NYM> : Sat Mar 09 23:28:21 UTC 2024), Entry for William Mc Donald and Mary Mc Donald, 1880.

⁶⁵ "United States, Census, 1880", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M8P4-FHT> : Tue Jul 16 19:39:53 UTC 2024), Entry for William D. Mc Donald and Minerva Mc Donald, 1880.

⁶⁶ "United States Census, 1880", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M8P4-FHT> : Tue Jul 16 19:39:53 UTC 2024), Entry for William D. Mc Donald and Minerva Mc Donald, 1880

⁶⁷ FamilySearch Person Profile William D. McDonald
<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/L4WG-4FH>

⁶⁸ "United States, Census, 1790", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XHKN-FZB> : Sat Mar 09 04:39:35 UTC 2024), Entry for Henry McDonald, 1790.

⁶⁹ "United States, Census, 1800", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XHRH-R85> : Wed Dec 04 16:00:07 UTC 2024), Entry for Henry McDaniel, 1800.

By the 1820 census, one of David's daughters, Mary, has moved out and is the household of Elliott's son Thomas.^{70 71} Thomas and Mary live just a few houses away from David Lewis McDonald in this census.

There are no records that Henry had a daughter named Mary. There are such records for David Lewis. Combining Reuben McDonald's Eastern Cherokee claim and accounting for proximity of the two families supports connecting the Mary who married Thomas Bolling as David's daughter.

Mary died after the 1850 Union County, Georgia census. Her burial location is unknown, but it's very likely in Union County. Her daughter Martha was in the household of her son Thomas J Bolin in Blairsville, Union Georgia in the 1860 census.⁷² Also in 1860, Mary's daughter Rachel is living in Union County with the family of William and Amy Ledford (1830-1892) Franklin. Amy Ledford's brother Silas married Thomas and Mary's daughter Dolly.^{73 74}

Daughter Rachel Bolling is buried in the Zebulon Cemetery in Blairsville, GA.⁷⁵ The cemetery has several Bowling/Bolling memorials, though their possible relationship with Mary has not yet been examined.

David Lewis McDonald yDNA

Three of David Lewis McDonald's descendants have yDNA tested, two of them to the most sophisticated "BigY". The terminal haplogroup for the BigY testers is R-BY39834, which is downstream from R-BY39831. The common ancestor for all is estimated born about 1700. The common ancestor for BY39834 was born in about 1750. Figure 7 illustrates the "time tree" for the BigY matches. Time estimates are imprecise. The 1750 point-estimate has a 68% confidence interval of 1664-1783 CE.

yDNA is passed intact from father to son with little variation over time. Variants define new haplogroups, or branches, and the series of variants is called the haplotree.

These mutations occur, on average, once every three generations, or roughly every 83 years. Like the rings on a tree, count the variants and you know when the branch formed.

⁷⁰ "United States, Census, 1820", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XHGD-18C> : Sat Jul 20 07:11:08 UTC 2024), Entry for David L McDaniel, 1820.

⁷¹ "United States, Census, 1820", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XHGD-18S> : Sat Mar 09 11:09:05 UTC 2024), Entry for Thomas Boling, 1820.

⁷² "United States, Census, 1860", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MZMG-45H> : Mon Jul 08 04:53:16 UTC 2024), Entry for Thomas J Boling and Mary A Boling, 1860.

⁷³ "United States, Census, 1860", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MZMG-8R1> : Mon Jul 08 04:51:39 UTC 2024), Entry for Wm Franklin and Amy Franklin, 1860.

⁷⁴ Silas Ledford family profile on FamilySearch: <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/GF7S-XJ2>

⁷⁵ Rachel Bowling/Bolling Find-a-Grave Memorial: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/7635909/rachel-avelynne-ross>

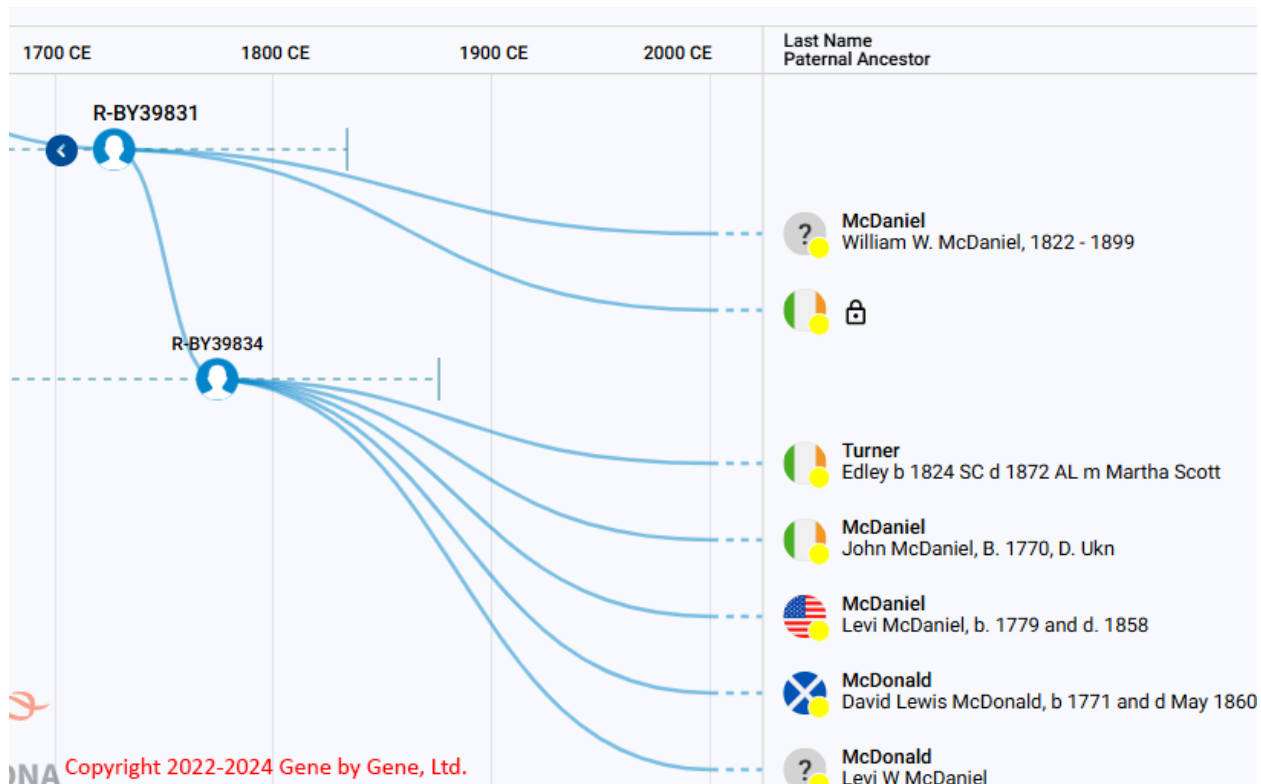


Figure 7: David Lewis McDonald BigY DNA Matches (reproduced with permission of FamilyTreeDNA)

FamilyTreeDNA’s public “Discover Tool” allows anyone to examine the “ancestral” path, or haplotree, for haplogroups listed in the project. Through this easy-to-use tool, the birth year of the most recent common ancestor of any tested member can be estimated.⁷⁶ An analysis of testers proves that David Lewis McDonald descendant test results are incompatible with testers connected with any of the several well-known McDonald lineages. See following tables.

Known yDNA Testers for McDonald Descendants Related to this Discussion

Table 7 includes testers who report a patrilineal connection to McDonalds/McDaniels discussed in this research. The testers who report a connection to a person mentioned in this research are highlighted according to the following key: yellow highlighted testers purportedly have a patrilineal ancestor in common with Hugh McDonald 1680-1747; orange highlighted testers reported David Lewis McDonald 1771-1860 as an earliest known ancestor.

The pedigrees for most of first three groups in the table are unknown – just the self-reported common ancestor is known from the Donald USA project results page. Reviewers can find some of the reported ancestors from a search on Ancestry using the name and date information.

⁷⁶ FamilyTreeDNA Discover Tool Portal: <https://discover.familytreedna.com/> (find the haplogroup for a tester of interest, enter it in the haplogroup dialog box, click “Ancestral Path” in the left menu, and view the branch points.)

Each tester within Group A shares a common ancestor with his counterparts within the past one-thousand years. There is no genealogically-significant overlap between Group A and the other groups (e.g., no tester in Group A shares a common patrilineal ancestor with a tester in Groups B through F within the previous 1,000 years).

Using the Ancestral Path tool in the FTDNA Discover tool makes examining this easy. To expedite, a quick link to the Discover Report is included in the header for each group. The first group contains David Lewis McDonald's BigY tester.

Subgroups in the R-CLD56 path merge at R-FGC11896 which branched in about 1150 CE. Three subgroups fall into the R-FGC11896 ancestral path.

Although yDNA analysis can be challenging, the reward (or disappointment) is that it establishes the possibility of a common patrilineal ancestor between any two testers. In this case, David Lewis McDonald is proven to not share a common ancestor with other testers reportedly connected to Hugh McDonald 1680-1749. If there's still doubt, other direct descendants of David Lewis McDonald and Hugh McDonald (of any birth year or location) should undertake yDNA testing.

Table 7: Researched McDonald yDNA Testers

Group A

B2a1a1a2 R-A14076 (R1b ... L21>S552>DF13>DF21>Z16267>F24434>Z3000>Z3006>Z3008>FT14355>[added by author: > BY39825>BY39829>BY39831>BY39834) Ireland and Scotland MRCA 600 A.D. https://discover.familytreedna.com/y-dna/R-BY39834/path				
B52935	Raney	John Raney, b.1854-Scotland, d.1926-Allen Co, Indiana	Scotland	R-BY78063
7996	Hughes	William Hughes, born about 1760 virginia or Maryl	Unknown Origin	R-FT212042
25742	Turner	Edley b 1824 SC d 1872 AL m Martha Scott	Ireland	R-BY39834
541431	McDonald	David Lewis McDonald, b 1771 and d May 1860	Scotland	R-BY39834
270994	McDaniel	John McDaniel, B. 1770, D. Ukn	Ireland	R-BY39834
40141	McDaniel	Levi McDaniel, b. 1779 and d. 1858	United States	R-BY39834
719704	McDonald	Levi W McDaniel	Unknown Origin	R-BY39834
528900	McDaniel	William W. McDaniel, 1822 - 1899	Unknown Origin	R-BY39831

Group B

ASLJ4a (R1a...>YP327>YP326>FGC11896>CLD56>CLD18>CLD27) Descendants of John, 1st Lord of the Isles, Sleat MRCA 1500 AD https://discover.familytreedna.com/y-dna/R-CLD27/path				
27987	MacDonald	Somerled d. 1164	Scotland	R-CLD27
564138	MacDonald		Unknown Origin	R-CLD27
162919	Macdonald	Somerled, 1148-1207	Scotland	R-CLD27
310078	McDonald	William MacDonald, b.1822 Scotland, d.1899 Ontario	Scotland	R-CLD27
59716	MacDonald	Skye, Scotland, UK em 1842	Scotland	R-CLD27
231598	MacDonald	Ranald MacDonald, Macdonald of Rigg, Somerled	Scotland	R-CLD27

Group C

ASLJ5a (R1a...>YP327>YP326>FGC11896>CLD56>FT17453>FGCLR579>L175) Descendants of John, 1st Lord of the Isles, Dunnyveg and the Glens, Antrim MRCA 1650 AD https://discover.familytreedna.com/y-dna/R-L175/path				
1014056	McDaniel		Unknown Origin	R-FGCLR579
65581	McDaniel	John MacDonnell b. abt. 1670 VA, Somerled	Scotland	R-FGCLR579
911319	Barnhardt	Gurley Dameron Barnhardt, Sr, b.1891 NC, d 1972 NC	Unknown Origin	R-FGCLR579
897567	McDaniel	John MacDonnell b. abt. 1670 VA, Somerled	Ireland	R-FGCLR579

Group D

ASLJStr CLD56 Lord John descendant inferred by STR profile plus inadequate SNPs, or Autosomal plus paper trail (Used R-FGC11896 as terminal haplogroup) https://discover.familytreedna.com/y-dna/R-FGC11896/path				
190327	Macdonald	Ian Macdonald 5 June 1786 - 11 Jan 1882	Unknown Origin	R-M198
12829	McDonald		Unknown Origin	R-M198
N87680	MacDonald		Scotland	R-M198
388512	MCDONALD		Scotland	R-S5301
206792	McDonald	howard hugh macdonald b.c. 1865 - 1932	Scotland	R-M198
85799	McDaniel	William McDaniel, b. 1802 and d, abt 1833 TN	Unknown Origin	R-YP327
204288	McDaniel	John McDaniel, b. 1720 VA and d. 1813 NC	United States	R-M198
133891	Macdonald		Scotland	R-M198
13120	Godfrey		Scotland	R-M198
171754	McDonnell		United Kingdom	R-M198
790984	McDonald	Alexander Elder McDonald, b.1797 and d.1854	Scotland	R-YP326

Group E

B2a1b1a2 R-BY207 (R1b ... L21>S552>DF13>L513>S5668>A7>FGC64750>Z17623>S5979>S5982>BY207>) Scotland and Ireland MRCA 600 A. D. https://discover.familytreedna.com/y-dna/R-BY207/path				
347615	McDonald	Ranald MacIsaac MacDonald b1754 d1859	Scotland	R-FTB35327
329805	McDonald	Hugh MacIsaac McDonald b.1730 Fort Augustus, Scot.	Scotland	R-FTB35327
307845	smith	Donald Smith b 1679 Inverdrue	Scotland	R-Y71507
56875	Tucker		Unknown Origin	R-BY11556
B73485	McDaniel	James Reuben McDaniel b. c.1766-1775 NC	United States	R-BY11248
137257	McDonald		Unknown Origin	R-BY11248
190210	McDonald	John McDaniel (1741-1835) Va	Scotland	R-A1066
230552	McDonald	Jno MackDaniel 1658 Headright Gloucester CO VA	Scotland	R-A1063
B832768	Robinson (M(a)cDonald)	Angus McDonald	Scotland	R-FTC30299

Group F

B2a1a1a3a R-BY3158 (R1b ... L21>S552>DF13>DF21>Z16267>F24434>Z3000>Z3006>Z3008>S953>ZZ13_1>FT14481>A938>FT112238>BY3158>) Ireland and Scotland MRCA 1700 A.D. https://discover.familytreedna.com/y-dna/R-BY3158/path				
68859	Edwards	John Melton Edwards, b.1818 in SC, USA, d.1870	United Kingdom	R-A14093
278275	McDaniel	Philip McDaniel/McDonald, b. 1795 / d. 1840	United States	R-BY3158
934379	McDonald; Administered by M. Compton	Bryan MacDonnell b. 1645 d. 1707	Ireland	R-BY3158
294097	McDonald	John Thomas McDonald, b. about 1841 and d. about	United States	R-BY3158
617821	McDonald	Bryan McDonald (MacDonnell) Lt.1645-1705	Ireland	R-FTD25795
367328	McDonald	Bryan McDonald	Unknown Origin	R-A14093
941090	McDaniel	John MacDonald 1770-1822	United States	R-A14093
438540	McDaniel	Samuel A. McDaniel, 1807-1880	United States	R-BY3158