

## **EPHRIAM MCDOWELL**

Ephriam's family fled from Scotland to Ireland and settled near Londonderry. Ephriam was born in 1672 in Londonderry County. He was only sixteen years old when on December 9, 1688, McDonell of Antrim approached the walls of Londonderry. Ephriam went to the defense of the heroic town and assisted in closing the gates against the intruders. He also fought against the forces of James II at Boyne River.

In Londonderry, Ephriam met and married Margaret Irvine, daughter of James Irvine, a neighbor of the McDowells. They had four children: James, Mary Elizabeth, Margaretta and John. Ephriam's wife, Margaret, died in Ireland. She is buried in Raloo Church Yard, Londonderry, Ireland.

When Ephriam was past middle age, he and his two sons and two daughters immigrated to America. A number of Scots-Irish families left Dublin on Mary 3, 1729, on two ships, the John of Dublin and the George & Ann. Several McDowell families were on the George & Ann. Ten members of the families died in passage. The rest landed in Philadelphia on August 1729, and settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

In 1737, Ephriam, his son John, his son-in-law, James Greenlee (1707-1757), and his daughter Mary Elizabeth McDowell Greenlee (1711-1809) moved to Virginia. Ephriam died and was buried in Rockbridge County, Virginia. Later some of the McDowells and Greenlees moved to North Carolina.

Ephriam McDowell was "Hunting" John McDowell's uncle.

## **"HUNTING" JOHN MCDOWELL**

Born: around 1717, Scotland  
Died: 1797, McDowell County

"Hunting" John McDowell was one of the earliest pioneers of Western North Carolina. He came from Scotland to Ireland and then to America with his uncle Ephriam of Augusta County, Virginia. He was the son of Charles and Rachel McDowell. He died in 1797 and is buried in the cemetery on the homestead in McDowell County.

The first land he owned was from Swan Ponds, in Burke, to Buck Creek in McDowell County. In 1779, when the sovereign state of North Carolina was formed, he was issued grant #7 for the same land by Governor Caswell. On June 17<sup>th</sup> he bought 440 acres adjoining his land.

"Hunting" John married Annie Edmiston in Augusta County, Virginia, and together they built a log cabin across from what is now the McDowell House in Marion. It was named Pleasant Gardens. They had three children: Rachel, Annie and Joseph.

Royal Grant #126, dated December 22, 1768, conveyed 640 acres on the main south branch of the Catawba... including Round Hill Bottom and Pleasant Gardens... to John McDowell. The land where McDowell High School and West Junior High now stand are on property originally owned by "Hunting" John McDowell.