



### **COLONEL JAMES MOFFITT MCDOWELL**

Born: 6/22/1791, Pleasant Gardens, McDowell County

Died: May 29, 1854, South Toe River, Yancey County

James Moffitt McDowell, son of Colonel Joseph and Mary Moffitt McDowell was born in his father's home, Pleasant Gardens, Burke County (now McDowell). He inherited the McDowell House from his father and became a plantation owner. Colonel James Moffitt McDowell was the first postmaster of the Pleasant Gardens post office.

On February 22, 1821, he married Margaret Carolina Erwin, one of sixteen children of William Willoughby Erwin and Matilda Sharpe Erwin of Belvidere Plantation in Burke County, who was also the great granddaughter of David Reece, signer of the Mecklenberg Declaration of Independence. They had five children: Joseph Alberto, John Calhoun, William Wallace, Katherine Ann and Margaret.

James' wife, Margaret, died July 23, 1831 and was buried at Belvidere Plantation. After her death, James moved from Burke to Yancey County. Colonel James Moffitt McDowell lived on the McDowell farm at South Toe River from 1831 to 1854.

The children of James Moffitt and Margaret Carolina Erwin were raised at Belvidere Plantation by Margaret's sisters, Celia and Matilda Erwin.

He was buried in the woods at the foot of Mt Mitchell. The inscription on his gravestone reads, "Col. J.M. McDowell born at Pleasant Gardens June 22, 1791 and died on South Toe River in the County of Yancey on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, 1854. God's noblest work an honest man."

He served as a Senator from Burke County in the North Carolina Senate in 1832.