

## Herndon Ancestry

Laura Virginia Barnwell married William Junius Florance on 7 November 1880. They are my [James Lee Florence, Jr.] great grandparents. Laura Virginia Barnwell is the daughter of Robert Samuel Barnwell and Mary Frances Smith. Robert Samuel Barnwell was born 22 March 1828 in Orange County, North Carolina, died 26 December 1890. Mary Frances Smith was born 11 September 1833 in Caswell County, North Carolina, and died 9 June 1878. Robert Samuel Barnwell and Mary Frances Smith Barnwell are buried at Cross Roads Presbyterian Church in Alamance County, North Carolina.

Mary Frances Smith is the daughter of James T. Smith and Elizabeth Herndon Smith married 21 December 1832, and Mary Frances Smith is their daughter. James T. Smith and Elizabeth Herndon Smith resided in Caswell County, North Carolina, on a farm near the Alamance County and Orange County lines. James T. Smith and Elizabeth Herndon Smith are buried in a family cemetery on that farm. Elizabeth Herndon (who married James T. Smith) is the daughter of Edmond Herndon and Elizabeth Graham Herndon. Edmond Herndon and Elizabeth Graham Herndon were married 26 November 1810.

Dr. John Goodwin Herndon who researched this Herndon family and published several books setting forth his findings concludes that the parents of Elizabeth Herndon (who married James T. Smith) are Edmond Herndon and Elizabeth Graham Herndon. Dr. Herndon also concludes that the father of this Edmond Herndon (who married Elizabeth Graham) is David Herndon, whose will is recorded in Orange County, North Carolina (Will book D, Page 373). That will identified Edmond Herndon (father of the Elizabeth Herndon who married James T. Smith) as the son of the testator David Herndon. The following is based upon the work of Dr. Herndon (*Part IV: Richard Herndon of Caroline County, Virginia, and His Known Descendants*).

Edmond Herndon (father of the Elizabeth Herndon who married James T. Smith) is the son of David Herndon (whose will is referenced above) and Frances Pierce. David Herndon and Frances Pierce married c.1766 in Caroline County, Virginia. Edmond was born in Caswell County, North Carolina in 1777 and died in 1840. While David Herndon and Frances Pierce are buried at Bush Arbor Primitive Baptist Church (Caswell County, North Carolina), no grave markers have been found to substantiate this claim.

David Herndon (who married Frances Pierce) is the son of a Richard Herndon, and some sources claim a Lucy Poe married Richard Herndon and was the mother of the David Herndon who married Frances Pierce. This David Herndon was born in Caroline County, Virginia c.1740.

David Herndon was married twice, and his second wife was Betsy Unknown. David Herndon was mentioned in the minutes of the first meeting of the Caswell County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions (June 1777) in connection with work on the road from a Mr. Palmer's to the county line. By 1799, David Herndon owned land in Orange County, North Carolina, and in 1808 acquired another Orange County tract. He also owned land in Caswell County and lived on Lynch's Creek and the waters of Southern Hyco. As the will of David Herndon was recorded in Orange County, North Carolina, one reasonably could conclude that he resided there.

Richard Herndon, the father of David Herndon, was born c. 1708 in King and Queen County, Virginia. This Richard Herndon is the son of Edward Herndon and Mary Waller Herndon. Although Richard Herndon is said to have married twice, we do not know the name of the other wife.

#### Children of Richard Herndon

##### First Marriage:

1. George Herndon: married Sarah Unknown and moved migrated to Orange County, North Carolina.

##### Second Marriage:

2. David Herndon: married (1) Frances Pierce and (2) second Elizabeth (Betsy) Unknown. He lived in Orange County and Caswell County, North Carolina.

3. Elizabeth Herndon: married Major Lea. Lived in Orange County and Caswell County, North Carolina.

4. Benjamin Herndon: married Lydia Massey.

5. Fannie Herndon: married Thomas Marcom.

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#### Reference

*The Herndons of the American Revolution. Part 4: Richard Herndon of Caroline County, Virginia and His Known Descendants through the Seventh Generation of the Family in America,* John Goodwin Herndon (1952).

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