A Sketch of the Ancestry and Life
of Augustus Munro McIver

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Abstract

Augustus Munro McIver (1828-1881) was a planter and teacher in Liberty County, Georgia. After marrying in 1858, he and his wife had four children. He fought for the Confederate cause in the War Between the States. In 1878 he and his family moved to Duval County, Florida where he died.
Acknowledgements

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History does not begin and end with the life of one person. It is a continuous flow that links each generation with the previous generation. So in order to understand an individual at a particular point or time, it is best to study the process of arrival from which he came. Therefore to reach Augustus Munro McIver, we will begin our journey in the 1700s.

Simon Munro

Simon Munro, born in Foulis, Scotland, had a very prestigious background. He was a descendant of the Scottish Clan Chiefs de Munro whose traditional home had been and continues to be Foulis Castle, Rosshire.

Perhaps Simon left Scotland to make his own fortune as so many other immigrants to America hoped to do. Maybe he was simply looking for adventure. Whatever his reasons, Simon made a name for himself in the parishes that were to become Liberty County, Georgia. He began this task by petitioning for land and establishing the plantation known as Westfield. In addition to being a plantation owner, he was a merchant in Sunbury, a prosperous, commercial port city on the Medway River. Evidently he did well for himself becoming a partner in the company Darling and Munro, and later involving himself
in several other mercantile enterprises. Simon's responsibility in the company was to buy land, and in 1768 he was granted 1300 acres for the purpose of establishing a sawmill and a landing. Simon was politically active, being appointed tax collector in 1768 and Justice of the Peace in 1771 for Sunbury and St. John's Parish.

On March 7, 1768 Simon married Elizabeth West and together they produced four daughters: Elizabeth, Anna, Amaritha and Semor. Good fortune and prosperity appeared to shine down upon Simon and his family until the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. Unfortunately for Simon he fought as a Colonel for the losing Loyalist side. Yet one has to admire a man who risks his fortune and good name to fight for his beliefs no matter how unpopular they may be. But unpopular they obviously were, for Simon was banished from the states, and it was not until the "repeated petitions from his friends and neighbors" that he was allowed to return to his home. Simon died on December 19, 1790 at the age of 49 and is buried with his wife Elizabeth in the family cemetery in Westfield.

Elizabeth Munro

Elizabeth, daughter of Simon Munro and Elizabeth West, was born about 1769 and grew up to marry Alexander McIver, a merchant of Sunbury, in 1785. They appear to have been a prosperous couple being involved in the mercantile business as well as planting. They owned property and real estate including a portion of a lot on East Bryan Street in Savannah.
The United States Corps of Engineers, Crump Annex, now occupies this site. They also acquired real estate lying "partly in the County of Chatham and partly in the County of Effingham known by the name of Monteith,"\textsuperscript{17} which is now a small Black community located Northwest of Port Wentworth, Georgia.

Alexander and Elizabeth were the parents of three children: Barbara Harriett, Euphemia, and Alexander Munro.\textsuperscript{18} After the death of Alexander, Elizabeth married John Bettis on May 8, 1796.\textsuperscript{19} She died in childbirth August 31, 1799 and is buried with her mother and father at Westfield.\textsuperscript{20}

Alexander Munro McIver

Born after 1786 Alexander grew up to be a planter like his father. There is no evidence that he pursued the mercantile business however. Alexander married Mary Law in 1815,\textsuperscript{22} and they had two daughters: Elizabeth and Harriett.\textsuperscript{23} After Mary's death Alexander married Mrs. Martha Smith Lambright, widow of James Lambright of Liberty County, on March 2, 1826.\textsuperscript{24} They, too, were productive and owned much land and slaves. Unfortunately their's was a short marriage, not quite two years, for Martha died on December 18, 1828 just seven days after giving Alexander a son, Augustus Munro McIver.\textsuperscript{25} Alexander died later sometime between 1830 and 1833.\textsuperscript{26}

Augustus Munro McIver

Born December 11, 1828 Augustus was to become an orphan
early in life. He never knew his mother, and his father died when Augustus was about five years old, too young to really remember him. But Augustus was fortunate in that his father left him, Elizabeth and Harriett with an estate worth quite a sum of money. In 1834 William Roberts was appointed guardian of Augustus and was also in charge of administering the McIver estate. However this arrangement did not last very long.

In 1836 Harriett married Samuel Spencer, and Samuel became the guardian of Augustus and Elizabeth. He also became heir to the McIver Estate, and in 1837 he had the property divided between himself and his wards. Each heir received $7,331.91 which was quite a bit of money for that time.

Augustus remained in the home of Samuel and Harriett until he left for college in Athens, Georgia. The college that he attended, Franklin College and now the University of Georgia, was an all-male college. Student life then was much as it is today. The boys were rambunctious, and drinking was the "chief source of amusement." Franklin college at that time catered to the elite, the sons of wealthy planters, so it was mainly for prestige that one attended the college.

Prestige or no, Augustus graduated from Franklin in 1848 with a degree in Education. In 1850 at the age of twenty-one, he was teaching in Camden County in the home of Dr. Samuel Furman. One hopes that Augustus was fond of children because he had charge of three: ages eight, six and five. It was perhaps at this time that he met and fell in love with Caroline M. Sturtevant who was living in Camden County, also.
Myers in his *Children of Pride* states that Augustus returned to Liberty County in 1851 to become a planter.\(^{37}\) One can speculate that Dr. Furman's children were a little too much to handle for such a young man. Perhaps Augustus merely wanted to establish a plantation where he could live with his love, Caroline. If the latter is the case then he succeeded, for he had a successful rice plantation encompassing 1000 acres.\(^{38}\) On October 14, 1858 Augustus and Caroline were married in Middleboro, Massachusetts.\(^{39}\) Caroline did not bring any property into her marriage however, having signed a pre-nuptial agreement that stated that she would not be responsible for her husband's debts.\(^{40}\) Evidently this was a common practice in those days and was used to keep family properties intact.

In 1859 Augustus and Caroline had their first child, a son they named Henry.\(^{41}\) Caroline's mother, Permelia, came from Rhode Island to live with them.\(^{42}\) Perhaps she came to help the new mother and to be near her new grandson.

Life continued uninterrupted for the McLiver family until the outbreak of the Civil War. Augustus seemed eager to fight for the Confederate cause enlisting right away.\(^{43}\)

On October 8, 1961 Augustus left his wife, son, and eight months old daughter Elizabeth to join as a second Sergeant in Captain Winn's Company, Liberty Independent Troop, 1st Battalion, Georgia Volunteer Cavalry.\(^{44}\) Liberty Independent Troop was stationed on the Liberty County Coast in 1861,\(^{45}\) so Augustus kept near home. The first month that he enlisted, being
on detached services to Colonel's Island, he took some action.

Later on April 28, 1862 Augustus, along with three other soldiers, was sent on another detached service to Carr's Neck in Liberty County.46 They "resolved to fire on anything that should pass" their way.47 Augustus reenlisted on May 17, 1862 as a private in Captain Walthour's Company. In 1863 he joined the Company G, 5th Georgia Cavalry, which later surrendered its cause in North Carolina in the early months of 1865. According to the terms established during a military convention on April 26, 1865 between General Joseph Johnson, Commanding the Confederate Army and Major General W. T. Sherman, Commanding United States Army in North Carolina, Augustus was paroled at Hillsboro, North Carolina in May of 1865.

The Civil War almost devastated the South. During the reconstruction period that followed, Augustus attempted to do his part to help the South pick up the pieces. Myers states that for "some months in 1867" Augustus was local agent for the Freedmen's Bureau in Liberty County.48 The Freedmen's Bureau, or Federal Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, was organized by an act of Congress approved March 3, 1865.49 Its duties were to supervise all affairs relating to "refugees, to freedmen, and to the custody of abandoned lands and property," responsibilities that previously had been shared by the agents and military commanders of the Treasury Department.

Some of the problems that faced agents included dealing with whites who would trespass on neighboring plantations to harass the newly freed blacks who were now working as laborers.
on these plantations. Many blacks were fired upon, and the houses and fences of the sympathetic planters who would hire them would be burned. Agents also had to deal with planters who would refuse to compensate the blacks for the labor they performed. Perhaps it was the hopelessness of these types of situations that prevented Augustus from continuing with his duties for more than a few months.

Myers states that Augustus later became principal of Walthourville Academy, a school where attention was given to "boys preparing for the highest classes in college." In 1870 Augustus was "teaching school," but whether this is referring to his duties as principal cannot as yet be determined.

By 1870 Augustus' and Caroline's family had increased to include Martha and Alexander M. Life continued unimpeded for the family until the decision to move to Duval County, Florida sometime before October of 1878. One can speculate as to the reason for moving, but it was not because of financial difficulties. Augustus had managed to keep his plantation after the Civil War and had never needed to sell any of his property before the move. The move to Duval County proved to be a sad experience, however, because on October 14, 1878 Henry died at the age of 19 years. Since typhoid and yellow fever were epidemic during these times, it is possible he died from one of these illnesses.

It was not until after Augustus' death on January 19, 1881 that Caroline and her children moved inside the Jacksonville City limits to 43 West Church Street. In order to
support her minor children, Martha and Alexander, and her "lunatic" daughter, Elizabeth, Caroline sold Augustus' property. This was a small lot which was "north of the track of the Florida Central and Western Railroad." 57

Caroline sought additional support by teaching seventh grade at Jacksonville Grammar School with Elizabeth assisting her. Alexander lived at home with his mother and worked as a clerk, while Martha married and moved away before 1886. 58

Caroline died November 8, 1892 at age 62. 59 Both she and Augustus are buried in the McIver family plot in Old City Cemetery in Jacksonville.
End Notes

1. The Scottish Clans and Their Tartans (Edinberg and London: W. and A. K. Johnston and G. W. Bacon Ltd.)


4. Barrie Rosier, A copy of an Inscription taken from the historical marker for Simon Munro, erected by the Georgia Historical Commission. The Marker is located on a side road, approximately four miles west of U. S. Highway 17.

5. John McKay Sheftall, Sunbury on the Medway, State of Georgia, Department of Natural Resources, Office of Planning and Research.


11. Rosier, Historical Marker Inscription.

12. Ibid.

13. Barrie Rosier, A copy of th Inscriptions of the graves of Simon Munro, Elizabeth Munro, and Elizabeth Bettis which are
located on Westfield Plantation, Liberty County.

Wilson. p. 9. I am assuming she was the first born. If she is born a year after Simon and Elizabeth marry in 1768, she would be sixteen years old at the time of her marriage to Alexander. Also her gravestone lists her as being 31 when she died.


Chatham County Record Book H. p. 899.


Alexander died sometime between 1789, when he is listed as being involved in a constable's bond (Wilson, p. 99) and May 8, 1796 when Elizabeth remarried. (Midway Congregational Church Records. V. 3, p. 101.)

Rosier, Inscription on grave.

Georgia Genealogical Magazine. No. 14, p. 902. An excerpt from Minutes of the Inferior Court, 1792-1798, shows that in January, 1798 John Bettis is appointed guardian of Alexander, who is a minor under 12.


Georgia Census for Liberty County 1830 lists Alexander M. McIver as having two white females living in his household. One is five to nine years old, and the other is ten to fourteen years old. According to their ages they could be the daughters
of Mary and Alexander. I assume Mary died although I found no
documentation.

24Savannah Georgia, March 7, 1826. p. 2, c. 5.

25There is a discrepancy as to the identity of Augustus' 
mother. Myers in Children of Pride states that Augustus is 
the son of Alexander McIver and Elizabeth Munro. Records 
clearly show that Elizabeth was Augustus' grandmother.

26Alexander was alive during the 1830 Census and the 
adadministration papers of his estate are dated 1833.

27Inscription on Grave, Old City Cemetery, Jacksonville.


30Liberty County Record Book K (Part 2). p. 376.

31Ibid.

32Georgia Census for Liberty County 1840.

33Myers Children of Pride. I could find no documentation 
to support this. The University of Georgia Archives may have 
more information.

34Lester Hargret, "Student Life at The University of 
Georgia in the 1840s." Georgia Historical Quarterly. V 8, 
1924, p. 49.

35Georgia Census of Camden County, 1850.

36Ibid.

37I could find no documentation for this.

38Liberty County Record Book S. pp. 736-737.

39Ibid., p. 434.

40Ibid.

41Georgia Census of Liberty County, 1860.
42Ibid.

43Compiled Service Record of Augustus Munro McIver, Georgia Department of Archives and History.

44Ibid.


46Myers. p. 885.

47Ibid.

48I could find no documentation to support this. However, the Federal Archives in East Point, Georgia may have documentation.


50I could find no documentation. The Georgia Archives in Atlanta may have information.

51*Daily Georgian*. January 6, 1841, p. 3, c. 2.

52Georgia Census of Liberty County, 1870.

53Ibid.

54Grave of Henry W. McIver located in the McIver Family Plot, Old City Cemetery, Jacksonville, Florida.

55Grave of Augustus Munro McIver, Ibid.

56The 1880 Census for Duval County, Florida lists only those persons living within the city limits of Jacksonville. Since Augustus is not listed, I assume he lived in the surrounding area.
57 Estate of Augustus Munro McIver, Book C, Duval County Courthouse, Jacksonville, Florida. Augustus did not leave a will; Caroline was appointed Administratrix.


59 Inscription of grave of Caroline McIver.
References


Chatham County Record Books, I-B and H.

City Ward Map Book of Savannah.

Daily Georgian, 6 January 1841, p. 3, c. 2.

Duval County Courthouse. Estate of Augustus Munro McIver, Book C.


Georgia Census of Camden County 1850.

Georgia Census for Liberty County 1830, 1840, 1860, 1870.

Georgia Department of Archives. Compiled Service Record.


Hargrett, Lester. "Student Life at the University of Georgia." Georgia Historical Quarterly 8 (1924): 49.


Liberty County Record Book, K and S.


Old City Cemetery, Jacksonville, Florida.

Rosier, Barrie. Midway, Georgia

Savannah Georgian, 7 March 1826, p. 2, c. 5.

Sheftall, John McKay. Sunbury on the Medway. State of Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Office of Planning and Research.

The 1880 Census for Duval County.


Will Books A and B, Liberty County Georgia.

FAMILY GENEALOGY

Simon Munro  m  Elizabeth West

Elizabeth  m  Alexander McIver

Mary Lambright  m  Alexander Munro McIver

Augustus Munro  m  Caroline Sturtevant

Alexander M.  Elizabeth  Henry  Martha