

EDWARD OR ALEXANDER?

It has been stated in the introduction that great reliance has been placed on the "Greenlee Family" published in 1908. An attempt to verify the information contained therein, about our emigrant ancestor, represented to be Edward Greenlee, or to locate the publishers' original material has been unsuccessful. The material has been reproduced in this work as originally published. However, there appears to be some basis for the belief that our emigrant ancestor may have been Alexander Greenlee, and that he may have been the one who married Anna Henry, possibly in Ireland, and that the children credited to the Edward Greenlee of the second generation, may have been those of Alexander, our emigrant ancestor.

Persons now living recall hearing a son of Samuel Greenlee (No. 16) speak of his grandfather as "Alexander".

The records of Botetourt County, Virginia, show that Edward Greenlee and Hannah Greenlee (No. 10) were married in that county on July 13, 1792; the name of her father is given as Alexander Greenlee.

In recording the death of Rachel (Greenlee) Van Bibber (No. 12) on February 6, 1860, the records of Mason County, West Virginia, show the names of her parents as Alex and Ann Greenlee. Her daughter, Elizabeth (Van Bibber) Tillis, is shown as furnishing this information.

A search through the records in Virginia gave no positive proof, but on page 57 of "Records of Augusta County, Virginia, 1745-1800, (Chalkley) Vol. II" is the entry "Campbell vs. Charleton - O.S.6; N.S.2 - Alexander Greenlee, aged about 54, deposeth 10th February, 1794, in Botetourt." According to this he was born about 1740.

On page 570 - 571 of "Kegley's Virginia Frontier" is a reference to Mason's Cove, "Across the ridge" (from Fort Lewis). "The residents of this community constituted Captain Lewis' new company, 1783". Among those listed were the names of Alexander Greenlee and William Greenlee.

In checking the personal property tax lists of Botetourt County, Virginia, for 1784 the names of Alexander, William and Edward Greenlee were found. (This Edward could very well be the son of William who was born in 1761, and then would have been 23 years of age.) (See No. 10)

These three names appear on the personal tax lists of Botetourt County, Virginia, more or less regularly until 1799. As what is now Mason County, was then a part of Kanawha County, it is clear that they were still east of the mountains in 1799. They cannot be found on any tax list in 1800, which is probably the year of their migration. From 1801 until 1804 they appear on the personal tax lists of Kanawha County, and thereafter in Mason County. As only one Edward Greenlee appears on these early tax lists, it appears that the Alexander Greenlee mentioned, very likely, is our emigrant ancestor. The fact that beginning with William Greenlee (No. 3) born 1771, and Hannah Greenlee (No. 10) born 1773, the other children appearing at regular intervals, adds to the belief that all these children belonged to Alexander.

The compiler would appreciate hearing from anyone who might have information on this subject.

William Clarkson Greenlee
1310 Howell Branch Road
Winter Park, Florida.