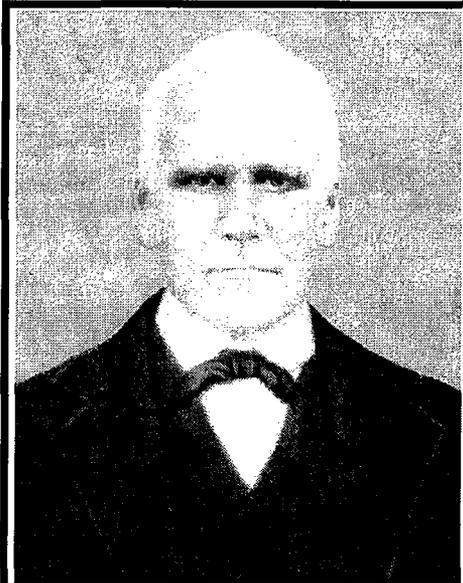


Third Generation - David Hannah & Margaret Burnside

David, Jr. was born about 1790 to David Hannah, Sr. and Elizabeth (Gibson) Hannah at the home place on the Greenbrier River in Pocahontas County. The previously mentioned book, "Historical Sketches of Pocahontas County" by Price gives



David Hannah, Jr. ca 1790 - 1854

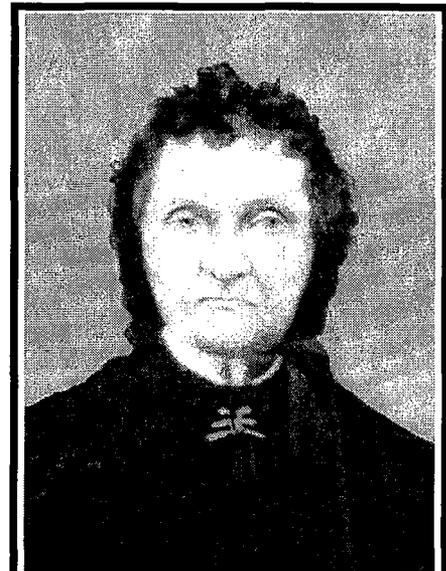
us considerable information about David and his family; and there are some public records concerning him - his marriage record from Bath Co., his 1854 will from Pocahontas County, federal census records, several land records from Pocahontas and Randolph counties, and some official military records from the War of 1812. We also have pictures of David and his wife, Margaret, obtained from Evelene (Hannah) Dulin of Marlinton, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, a direct descendant.

The pioneering families that settled America's wilderness had only a tiny population of neighbors and friends among which to find marriage partners. The John Burnside family lived a short distance up the Greenbrier River from the Hannah farm where David was born, so it is not surprising that the families were joined by marriage. David Hannah, Jr., subject of this chapter, married Margaret

Burnside in 1815.¹⁴ David's older brother, Joseph, married Elizabeth Burnside in 1805. We think the ladies were sisters.

By 1820 David and his brother Joseph with their families had moved from down along the Greenbrier in southern Pocahontas County to their holdings on the Elk River in northern Pocahontas County. In 1822 David, Sr., father of both David and Joseph, deeded land "...up on Elk..." to each of the brothers for \$1. This was land which had been purchased from the Commonwealth of Virginia as early as 1792. It would seem that David, Sr. planned ahead very well and took advantage of the opportunity offered by the cheap land of the times.

David Gibson was another early pioneer of the Elk River area. He and his family settled there very soon after David and Joseph. He was probably related to Elizabeth (Gibson) Hannah, the mother of



Margaret (Burnside) Hannah ca 1790-1855

A Hannah Family of West Virginia

74	6 (Coleman's, Jan.-May, 1814.)	Va. Militia.
<u>David Hannah</u>		
Appears with the rank of <u>Priv</u> on a		
Pay Roll		
of a Company of Infantry commanded by Capt. Anthony Turner of the 19 Reg't Virginia Militia, now attached to the 6 Regiment, stationed at Norfolk,		
(War of 1812.)		
for <u>Jan 11 to Feb 8</u> , 1814.		
Roll dated <u>Norfolk</u>		
....., 1814.		
Commencement of service or of this settlement, <u>Jan 25</u> , 1814.		
Expiration of service or of this settlement, <u>Feb 8</u> , 1814.		
Term of service charged, months, <u>14</u> days.		
Pay per month, <u>8</u> dollars, cents.		
Amount of pay, <u>3</u> dollars, <u>23</u> cents.		
Remarks:		
.....		
.....		
.....		
.....		

A military record from the National Archives

David, Jr., and Joseph. The three families lived in the area for many years and raised large families. At the time of this writing there are still Hannah families living in the area. A historian of the area, Raymond Mace¹⁵, said in his book (1990) "Several years ago, a high percentage of the people of Elk could trace their lineage directly back to the pioneers, David Hannah, Joseph Hannah, and David Gibson, and some could claim direct kinship to all three.". One can only guess at the maze of cousin, aunt, uncle and in-law relationships which were generated by these three large families.

Mace¹⁶ goes on to say about the Hannah family that during the first half of the 20th century at least ten members of the various Hannah families became school teachers. Mace lists the teachers of the several schools of the area and it includes many Hannahs. Some of them taught at the Hannah School, a one room public school built about 1915 near a Hannah farm.

William T. Price, the historian, knew the family of David Hannah, Jr., personally and here is what he had to say about the "Old Pioneer" as he calls David, Jr.:

"The writer remembers the personality of the venerable pioneer very vividly. In early youth I saw him frequently, and

he was very interesting to me from the fact Mr. Hanna had been off to the war of 1812. To me an old soldier seemed more than human. He had an interesting way of relating his adventures, and was fond of talking about the war."

Price relates a couple of interesting anecdotes about David's experiences while in the army. In one story David is prostrated by fever and given up as a critical case in the army hospital. The doctor had given orders that he was not to be given anything cool to drink.

"He noticed there was some whiskey and water on the table for the nurse's use, and he determined to have some at all hazards. Soon as the nurse's back was turned the sick soldier crawled to the table, mixed the liquor and water, and drank til he could drink no more and crawled back to his bunk. And when the nurse returned he was

surprised to find his patient apparently asleep and his skin showing a tendency to moisture. Finally the sweat broke, and when the doctor came to look at him, and seemed much pleased with the change in the patient's condition.

'You were mighty near gone, old fellow, and if we had not kept cold water away from you, where would you be now?'

The soldier kept his secret and as he was beginning to get stronger the liquor was kept out of sight. He thought he would have mended much more rapidly if things had been left on the table as before."

Another anecdote about David Hannah is related by both Price and Mace, historians of Pocahontas County:

David was part of a contingent of troops sent to face the British near Norfolk. One morning before daylight, the troops were aroused and told that they were going to move against the enemy. As they started to march, the soldier from Locust Creek began to have trouble keeping his hat on his head. It fell off just as fast as he replaced it. His hat was a good fit, and he had never had trouble with it before. When the troops finally halted, he examined his head to determine the cause of his problem, and he found his hair standing on end and as stiff as hog bristles. The company was soon ordered to march back to camp, and the young soldier noted that his hair quickly resumed its natural form and texture, and his hat remained on his head all the way back.

An 1840 court record from Pocahontas Co., West Virginia shows that David emancipated a slave named Richard. Quoting from the record: "a man of yellow complexion about six feet high thirty years of age". Could this have been a half brother of David? Or perhaps a son, since David was roughly twenty years old when Richard was born? That would not have been unusual for the time, and a blood relationship could account for the freeing of a valuable "piece of property". A transcription of the court record follows:

Know all men by these presents that I David Hannah of the County of Pocahontas in the State of Virginia have manumitted, emancipated and set free and by these presents do manumit, emancipate and set free a negro man slave named Richard and I hereby declare him the said Richard to be entirely liberated from slavery and entitled to all the rights and privileges of a free person with which it is in my power to vest him. He the said Richard hereby emancipated is a man of yellow complexion about six feet high & thirty years of age.

A Hannah Family of West Virginia

In testimony whereof I have herewith set my hand and affixed my seal this sixth day of October 1840 and in the 65th year of the Commonwealth.

David Hannah

Virginia Court

Pocahontas County Court October term, 1840.

This deed of emancipation from David Hannah to his late negro man slave Richard was acknowledged in open court by the said David Hannah to be his act and deed and the same was admitted to record

Teste-, J. Tallman, Clk.

This was probably the same person who was named Dick, value \$420, in the probate inventory of David Hannah, Sr., upon his death in 1826.

Price says in his book that David worked hard to build up his home and that "the privations he and his family had to endure would seem unbearable now. He was much esteemed by all of his acquaintances.". Certainly building a home and providing for a large family would have been a major accomplishment. And it was done without modern machinery and materials. The area along the Elk River is steep and heavily wooded. Their farms were on bottom land and must have required tremendous effort to clear enough land to build a home and to plant crops and graze cattle and sheep. Work was done by hand using horses or oxen, a major effort. No power tools available!

David's brother, Joseph, was the subject of an amusing anecdote related by Price in his book on Pocahontas County. Joseph's "friends" and the slave named Dick conspired to play a trick on Joseph. Dick agreed to play his part in the trick, which he did convincingly. While Joseph and Dick were hoeing corn, a shot rang out from ambush and Dick fell to the ground and rolled and kicked about in mortal agony. Young Joseph, probably imagining an Indian attack, fled desperately toward the house, and in his flight jumped over a gully. When quiet was restored, they measured his leap at forty-two feet, a record then, and maybe even today! Joseph was fond of telling the story of his record-breaking jump.

David and Margaret's children were Isabella, Elizabeth, John B., David (3rd), Robert A, and William and Joseph (twins). The order of their birth is uncertain, but David, our direct ancestor, is probably the fourth born.

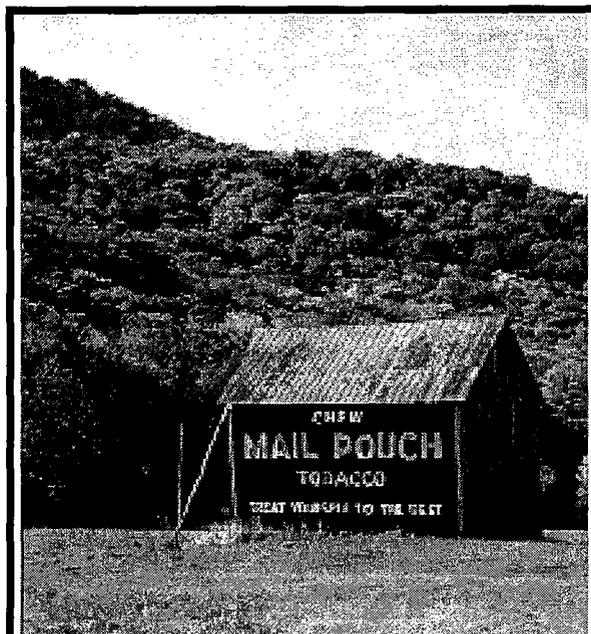
Isabella married John Varner. Elizabeth married Marinus J. Van Reenan. John Burnside Hannah married Margaret McClure. David Hannah (3rd) is the subject of the chapter 7 in this book. Robert A. Hannah (whose obituary is shown in the preface of this book) married Jennie Burk in Iowa. William married Catherine Rhinehart of Randolph County. Joseph married Elizabeth Cool of Webster County. The book by Price gives more information on the families of David and Margaret's children.

David died in 1854 and is buried in the Hannah cemetery on the old Hannah farm along the Elk River. His wife, Margaret, died the following year and is probably buried with him, although her grave is not marked.

David Hannah, Sr. had willed to David, Jr., "...my lower plantation whereon I now live, to him and his heirs forever;...". This was the original plantation along the Greenbrier River at Locust Creek, where David, Sr. settled in about 1782. David, Jr.,

A Hannah Family of West Virginia

passed it on to David, 3rd. David, Jr.'s will was entered into court record in 1854 and divided his several hundred acres on the Elk River among his children and his wife. He willed to his son, David (David 3rd, who was by then married to Sarah McClure), "....the place he lives on and the old place....". This "old place" named in the will was most probably the original Greenbrier homestead settled by David, Sr. and Elizabeth Gibson shortly after the Revolutionary War.



Modern picture of a Hannah barn on the Elk River. This picture in color is used in West Virginia promotional brochures.

A Hannah Family of West Virginia