

SIMMONS

Charles Simmons was an outstanding man in Floyd County. He was the owner of several thousand acres of land, and he was the head of a large family, yet all the vital data about him are missing. There is no record of the date and place of his birth, date of death, place of burial, names of his two wives, dates of his marriages, the names of his parents. No family record has survived and no official record can be found. The account given here represents my research, and the conclusions reached are the results of that research. This contradicts what has been previously established in some instances and may not be acceptable to everyone.

Charles Simmons was born in Maryland, according to the statement of his daughter, Eleanor Simmons Lester (Hulen's wife), in the 1880 census. A search has been made in Maryland, both in the eastern part of the state particularly around Baltimore County, and in the west in Frederick County. Although several Simmons families have been located, it has not yet been possible to connect Charles Simmons with any one of them.

It is estimated that Charles was born about 1750. In 1824 he was exempted from the payment of county levy and poor rate taxes in Montgomery County on account of old age and infirmity.

Charles Simmons probably came to the Floyd County area, then Botetourt County, Virginia, about 1772-73. A land survey was made for him in 1774, and in 1775 his name appears on a Botetourt County list of tithables.

It seems likely that Charles married in Maryland and that his young wife accompanied him to Virginia. Her name is not known. Will Lester, (son of Joshua Lester, great-grandson of Charles Simmons), stated in an unpublished manuscript written in 1919, that Charles Simmons' first wife was a Miss Shoat. He does not give the source of his information - perhaps furnished by an elder member of the family living at that time. Shoat is a Maryland name. This has not been verified.

Two, probably three children were born of the first marriage:

(1) John Simmons (1775?-1814), who left the county, married and lived in Cabell County, Virginia, now West Virginia; he was a soldier in the War of 1812 and died of wounds received at the Battle of New Orleans.

(2) Edward (Ned) Simmons (1780?- ), who moved to Indiana, married and raised a large family.

(3) Sarah Simmons (1786?- ), who married John Ferrill, September 30, 1807, in Montgomery County, Charles Simmons, security. Because of the