

The Scottish Clan was a group of families occupying a definite locality or a particular glen, for example. These families were descended from a common ancestor. The head of the group was the living "Representer" of his ancestor and as such was Chief of the Clan. To him the Clansmen owed loyalty and respect. They accepted his jurisdiction over their daily affairs and responded to his summons in time of battle. The Chief, in turn, was the patriarch, the head and leader of the Clan. In return for their personal devotion to the chief, he had an obligation to protect his followers and to give help to any of them who were in distress.

#### THE SCOTCH-IRISH

The Scotch-Irish are Scots who settled in the Northern six counties of Ireland, which is called Ulster and is a part of the British United Kingdom. The first Simpsons to settle in Northern Ireland were in the military from 1590 to 1603, and settled in the County of Antrim. The next group arrived about 1607 in a movement sponsored by the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) with the blessing of King James I of England who invited Scottish and English Protestants to immigrate to this land. They were required to build fortified farmhouse and "bawn" or "strong courtyard" for their cattle if their grants were greater than 1000 acres.

#### DOCTOR WILLIAM SIMPSON

DOCTOR WILLIAM SIMPSON, was born circa 1760, near Drumachose, County Londonderry, Ireland. He died during the Spring of 1816, probably near Ditto Landing, in Madison County, in what is now Alabama, and was buried at Cherokee Island, now known as Hobbs Island, in Madison County, Alabama.<sup>3</sup>

In 1797, William Simpson was commissioned a Major in the United Irishmen, a Protestant organization whose goals were to gain equal representation in the British Parliament for Ireland's Catholics. After the unsuccessful rebellion of 1798, William's Court Martial was held at Newtonlimavady, on March 12, 1798. He was convicted of Treason, for joining and accepting a Major's Commission in a Regiment of the Rebel Army. For these charges he pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to hang at Bantry Bay. In his statement to Lord Cavan he made several objections for being appointed as a Major and when the Rebellion broke out he exerted himself to prevent an uprising in County Derry. He also said that he would "Never fight against George the King of England." He was imprisoned in the Donegal Arms, in Belfast, after remaining there for several months he got leave to settle his affairs under bail, and exiled himself to America.<sup>4</sup>

According to family tradition William left probably from Londonderry, about 1802, with his wife Mary who was pregnant. Their daughter Mary was born on the ship enroute to America.<sup>5</sup>