

CHAPTER 1

THE DESCENDANTS OF DOCTOR WILLIAM SIMPSON

William Simpson was born, presumably in the townland of Ballynahery, Parish of Drumachose, County Londonderry, Ireland.¹ He was born before November 2, in the year 1780,² and died in the spring of 1816, near Ditto's Landing, Madison County, Mississippi Territory.³ He was buried at Chickasaw Island, now known as Hobbs Island, in Madison County, Alabama.⁴

Of William Simpson's adolescent years nothing is known. Records in Drumachose Parish show the following interesting information proving the family had settled in Ballycrum townland, in the generations before William Simpson.

Vestry Meeting held in the Parish Church of Drumachose on 7 April 1795: - A list of gentlemen who subscribed to the enlarging of the churchyard, entitled them to their own plots of burial ground there. Among those listed was William Simpson, who paid 11s 4 1/2d.

List of Parishioners 25 November 1820: Ballycrum - Mrs. Simpson

List of Doubtful Parishioners 25 November 1820: Matthew. Simpson (no address was given)

P.R.O.N.I. T 808/15264 Religious Returns for County Londonderry 1766.
Drumachose Parish: Balicrum B. - John Simpson D (Dissenter)

P.R.O.N.I. T 808/125258 Protestant Householders, County Londonderry. 1740,
Drumachose Parish: Limavady - Joseph Simson
Ballycrum - Robert Simpson

¹National Society of United States Daughters of 1812; National No. 4156; Tennessee State No. 57, Application papers of Mrs. Samuel Allen Wilkinson. Nee Laura May Simpson.

²Dorothy W. Potter, "Passports of Southeastern Pioneers, 1770-1823," (Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press, Inc., 1982), p. 158.

³Inventory of the Estate of William Simpson, 1816, Madison County, Alabama. Original in file number 1024, County Courthouse, Huntsville, Alabama.

⁴J.C. Fox, "Simpson and Allied Families," in *Americana Illustrated*, (New York, NY: The American Historical Company, Inc., 1942), Vol. XXXVI, No. 4, p. 10.