

Family Group Record

FGS #8

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Husband Col. James McDowell		
Born	1 Aug 1770	Place Cherry Grove, Rockbridge Co., VA
Died	15 Sep 1835	Place
Married	Feb 1792	Place Montgomery Co., VA
Husband's father	James McDowell	
Husband's mother	Elizabeth Cloyd	
Wife Sarah Preston		
Born	3 May 1767	Place Greenfield, Botetourt Co., VA
Died	3 Jul 1841	Place
Wife's father	Col. William Preston	
Wife's mother	Susanna Smith	
Children List each child in order of birth.		
1	F Sarah Preston McDowell	
	Born Feb 1793	Place
	Spouse William Taylor	
	Married	Place
2	F Elizabeth Preston McDowell	
	Born 8 Jul 1794	Place Rockbridge Co., VA
	Died 10 Sep 1854	Place Washington, D.C.
	Spouse Thomas Hart Benton	
	Married 20 Mar 1821	Place Rockbridge Co., VA
3	M Gov. James McDowell	
	Born 11 Oct 1795	Place Cherry Grove, Rockbridge Co., VA
	Died 24 Aug 1851	Place Lexington, Rockbridge Co., VA
	Buried	Place Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery, Lexington, VA
	Spouse Susannah Smith Preston	⇒ Linage of Susannah on back of this page
	Married 7 Sep 1818	Place VA

Notes

HUSBAND- Col. James McDowell

James inherited the magnificent estate of his father in Virginia, where he lived until his death.

CHILD 1 - Sarah Preston McDowell

Sarah's husband, Col. Wm. Taylor, was a prominent lawyer of Alexandria, VA, who died in 1846. Their son, Dr. James McDowell Taylor was living in Rockbridge Co., VA, in 1886.

[I have not found any evidence of the last statement.]

CHILD 2 - Elizabeth Preston McDowell

Elizabeth was married to the Honorable Thomas Hart Benton, for 30 years U.S. Senator from Missouri.

CHILD 3 - Gov. James McDowell

Virginia Governor, US Congressman. Born in Rockbridge County, he served as Governor of Virginia from 1843 to 1846. He was then elected to represent Virginia's 11th District in the United States House of Representatives, serving from 1846 to 1851. The county of McDowell, West Virginia is named for him. (Gov. James McDowell's grandmother, Elizabeth (Cloyd) McDowell, was a sister of Mary Cloyd, wife of James McGavock)

John Henry (1704-1784)
m. Sarah Winston (1710-1784)

Children:



1. Patrick Henry¹ (1736-1799)

← siblings →

2. Elizabeth Henry (1749-1825)
m. Gen. William Campbell (1745-1781)



James McDowell (1739-1771)
Elizabeth Cloyd (1739-1796)
(Dau of David Cloyd & Margaret Campbell)



Col. James McDowell (1770-1835)
m. Sarah Preston (1767-1841)

Son → → → → → →

Sarah Buchanan Campbell (1778-1846)
m. Brig. Gen. Francis Smith Preston (1765-1836)



Susannah Smith Preston (1800-1847)
m. Gov. James McDowell (1795-1851)
(Son of Col. James McDowell & Sarah Preston)

¹. Patrick Henry, an American Patriot, is best remembered for his stirring phrase "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death." Born in Hanover County, Virginia, he attended public school for only a short time, and was taught by his father, who had a good education. He began a career as a shopkeeper, but was a poor businessman and soon deeply in debt. He then studied law and received his attorney's license in 1760, which helped his oratory skills when he had to argue cases in court. In 1764, Henry was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses, where he soon became a leader of the frontier people against the old, established plantation aristocracy. His speech in the House of Burgesses in 1765 against the Stamp Act is considered one of his greatest orations. In it he argued, "Caesar had his Brutus, Charles the First his Cromwell, and George the Third may profit by their example. If this be treason, make the most of it." In 1774, he was elected a delegate to the First Continental Congress, and the following year, to the Second Continental Congress. He left the Congress before the resolution for independence was put to a vote, to become Commander-in-Chief of Virginia's militia, a position he resigned in February 1776 when he realized his limitations and lack of military experience. A few months later, he became a member of the committee to write the Virginia Constitution. As soon as Virginia eliminated their royal governor and set up a constitution government, Patrick Henry was elected as its first Governor, and moved into the palace in Williamsburg, where the English royal governors had lived. A hard working administrator, Henry worked to solve the many problems caused by the American Revolution. He recruited the state's quota of 6,000 men for the Continental Army, as well as 5,000 men for the Virginia Militia. He obtained and supplied the Continental Army with clothing, shoes, and cattle, as well as lead and gunpowder for ammunition. He was reelected in 1777, 1778, 1784 and 1785. During his second term as Virginia Governor, he supplied the George Rogers Clark Expedition, which conquered the Northwest Territory from the British. In 1788, Henry served in the Virginia delegation to ratify the US Constitution. Although he was initially against ratification of the US Constitution because he believed it lessened the rights of the states, after its ratification, he joined the Federalist Party and supported the document. He was largely responsible for the adoption of the first ten amendments to the Constitution, which we call the Bill of Rights. As public service had left Henry in debt, he returned to his law practice in 1788, and soon became a successful criminal lawyer. In 1794, he retired to his estate near Appomattox, Virginia. In his remaining five years, Henry was offered many public offices, including US Senator, Minister to Spain, Minister to France, Secretary of State in President Washington's cabinet, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, all positions which he refused. In 1796, he was elected Virginia Governor for a sixth time, but refused to take office. Finally, his close friend George Washington convinced him to run for representative in the Virginia State Legislature, and after winning the election, he died before he could take office.

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Husband Thomas Hart Benton		
Born	14 Mar 1782	Place Hillsboro, NC
Died	10 Apr 1858	Place Washington, D.C.
Married	20 Mar 1821	Place Rockbridge Co., VA
Husband's father		
Husband's mother		

Wife Elizabeth Preston McDowell		
Born	8 Jul 1794	Place Rockbridge Co., VA
Died	10 Sep 1854	Place Washington, D.C.
Wife's father Col. James McDowell		
Wife's mother Sarah Preston		

Children List each child in order of birth.

1	F Jessie Ann Benton	
Born	31 May 1824	Place Lexington, VA
Died	27 Dec 1902	Place Los Angeles, CA
Buried		Place Angelus Rosedale Cemetery, Los Angeles Co., CA
Spouse John Charles Fremont		
Married		Place

Notes**HUSBAND- Thomas Hart Benton**

Thomas Hart Benton was in the U. S. Senate between 1820 and 1850 and "became one of the most influential men in the United States, promoting the opening of the west and championing hard money."

WIFE - Elizabeth Preston McDowell

Elizabeth was married to the Honorable Thomas Hart Benton, for 30 years U.S. Senator from Missouri.

CHILD 1 - Jessie Ann Benton

Jessie Ann Benton married John Charles Fremont. Jessie is buried in Los Angeles, CA.

John Fremont mapped much of the Iowa Territory in 1841 and explored the Wind River Chain of the Rocky Mountains in 1842. He explored Colorado, Great Salt Lake and Oregon to Fort Vancouver, CA and New Mexico in 1843-1844. In 1846 he became major of the battalion of California Volunteers in the conquest of California. John was ordered to act as Governor of California by Commodore Stockton but Gen. Kearney revoked this order and placed him under arrest for mutiny. He was found guilty but President Polk revoked the penalty. He resigned March 15, 1848. In 1856 John Fremont was the Republican nominee for President of the United States. He was in the U. S. Army from May 14, 1861-Jun 04, 1864 serving as Major General in charge of the Department of the West until December 2, 1861 and later was in charge of the Mountain Department. In 1856 he was again nominated for President by the Radical Republicans but withdrew.

He died in New York City and is buried at Rockland Cemetery, Sparkill, NY.

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