

678 America Daniel McClure

This story about my grandmother, America Daniel McClure, is based in part on a "story" that she herself wrote in 1940 about her life. Her mother was Penelope "Nellie" Caldwell (1837 Buncombe Co., NC — 8/12/1924). The fifth child of Tom (ca 1790-ca 1890) and Sarah Kelley (ca 1803-?) Caldwell.

According to America's story, Sally Kelly's mother was from North Carolina and her father was from Ireland. Tom brought his family to Union County around 1842-3. They settled in the "Buck Snort" area. Tom lived to be 99 years and seven months old (by America).

Nellie was first married to her cousin. MacGinnis Caldwell, from Young Harris [GA] on 1/10/1854. She had four children by MacGinnis: Martha (ca 1857-___), William (ca 1858-___), LouVonnice and Sarah (ca 1865-___). Nellie and MacGinnis were divorced in 10/1865. Nellie remarried on 4/15/1870 to John S. Daniel (10/14/1832-2/12/1925)

The parentage of John has proven difficult to trace. According to America, John was born in Anderson Co., TN to a Baptist preacher (first name unknown) who was married twice and was the father of 24 children. His mother was a King, who died when John was one month old. One of his aunts took him to Louisville, KY where he stayed until the beginning of the Civil War, at which time he enlisted. According to his pension record, he served first with the Co. F 2nd Tenn. Vol from Knoxville, TN. He reenlisted in the Cumberland Gap for 3 ½ more years, although it didn't give his company. He was wounded in the right knee at a battle in Perryville, KY. This injury eventually led to a paralysis of his right side in his old age.

In his pension record he stated that he came to Union Co. in 1868, following the war. There is reason to believe that he moved here to be near some of his family who lived here.

America mentions that the first wedding she remembers attending was that of "one of my half-uncles (Bill Daniel) married one of my first cousins (Snore Dicon / Sonora Dyson) in 1876 in Union Co." She continues "they went away for a year or so, then Uncle Bill came back and said he and his wife was parted, not to live together anymore. He went away for a few days and said he would be back and stay with us and help my father make a crop. He never came back and we never knew what became of him." In addition, an Asa Daniel in Young Harris lived near John and signed some of his application forms.



America and Henry's children
Back: Georgie, Vallie, Birdie, Thomas
Front: Daisie, Sarah

John and Nellie first surfaced in Fannin Co., where America Ann (their oldest) is born. She is followed by a younger brother, John Thomas (ca 1876-___). America made many comments about all the moving her father did: "he started several houses but always moved on before finishing them". Once they even lived in a barn until he got them a house built. She states "He wanted to hammer and work on something all the time. I have always thought I didn't see how we lived but somehow or other my daddy kept plenty to eat and clothes to wear. He worked hard and made an honest living. We never suffered. If people had to live like they did when I was a child, I don't know what they would do. We had to make nearly everything we had, carded wool, spun cloth, knit stockings, made shoes, plowed steers, worked them to wagons. They would go to church in Ox Wagons. I did enjoy it a lot when I was a girl."

John and Nellie moved to Copperhill, TN when America was five. Her father worked there for two years, then moved his family to Persimmon Creek in Cherokee Co., NC. They were listed as living in the Notla Township in the 1880 census. Also living with them at that time was Sarah Caldwell (15) "step-daughter".

John's family remained in Cherokee Co. until America was 15 years old. At that time (ca 1887) her three half sisters were living in Young Harris and her mother wanted to visit them. The trip took them two days by steer power. After their return, that January they decided to move to Young Harris for good. John and Nellie lived in Young Harris until their deaths. They are buried in Old Union Baptist Church Cemetery.

America (1/14/1873-12/11/1955) met her future husband Henry Alexander McClure (11/25/1867-7/23/1952) in Young Harris and they were married on 12/12/1888.

Henry is the oldest son of John Alexander and Martha Ann Townsend McClure. He is the grandson of Elisha and Sara Caroline Anthony Townsend.

Six months after their marriage, Nellie, Thomas and America all took Typhoid Fever. Nellie and America survived, but her brother did not.

All the moving America did growing up prepared her for her marriage. She states that they moved from Union to Pickens Co. to Union Co. (Ivy Log) to Towns Co. to Jackson Co. (GA) to Union to Clay Co. (NC, Pine Log) to Brasstown (NC) and to Hayesville (NC).

America and Henry raised nine children: **Thomas** (11/22/1891-__) who married Ethel Plott; **Etta** (12/13/1893-1/4/1894); **Birdie** (4/26/1895-3/8/1989) who married first to Hezekiah Miller and second to Dow Evans; **Vallie** (7/29/1900-__) who married Zeb Reece; **Georgia** (11/24/1902-__) who married Luther Hoyle; **Daisie** (10/3/1905-2/1975) who married Marion Myers; **Sarah** (5/23/1908-7/11/1888) who married Carter Burns; **Mabel** (3/16/1913-__) who married Ham Scroggs;

and **Savannah** (11/23/1917-__) who married Leo Chastain (2/5/1915-5/6/1988). America and Henry are buried in Old Union Baptist Church.

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This is a transcription of the original article (below).

There are quite a few errors, which documentation has proven otherwise. Please see the other information provided elsewhere in the story of America Ann Daniel McClure.

