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Document Title: John Kirkland, b ca. 1750/60, and His Children



PHOTOS: Grandchildren of John Kirkland's son Archibald Kirkland: Daniel G. Kirkland, b 1814; Jehu Chaney Kirkland, b 1812; Mary Ann D. Kirkland Moore, b 1816. (Photos from Marguerite Tarwater Callahan, descendant of Mary Ann D. Kirkland Moore.)

John¹ Kirkland was probably born in Scotland circa 1750/60.¹ John died circa 1800, probably in Sequatchie Valley, TN.² Our basis for believing that he was born in Scotland comes from family histories written by grandsons. A family history (see below) written by a grandson, Jonathan Blevans, in 1875, says: "He came across the deep and settled in South Carolina while it was a colony." And John Kirkland (b 1818) reports in an Illinois county history (see below) about his family: "Scotch in descent, and came to this country prior to the war of the Revolution, John Kirkland, Mr. Kirkland's grandfather, settled in South Carolina a short time after the war (Am. Revolution)."

He married Mary Delot or de Lot, probably about 1775-1780. John Kirkland was said to be from Scotland, possibly Kirkcudbright, Kirkcudbrightshire, and he died ca. 1800, probably in Sequatchie Valley, Marion Co., TN. His wife, Mary Delot/de Lot, was the daughter of a Scotsman, according to a grandson. The information about Kirkcudbright comes from a great-grandson of John Kirkland, b ca 1750/60.

According to family tradition, John and a brother (James?) came to America before the Revolutionary War, were separated and never saw one another again. John perhaps briefly settled in Virginia and was most likely in Spartanburg Co., South Carolina [one source says North Carolina] by about 1780. He is said to have fought in the Revolutionary War, but we have no proof or suggestive records. He was living in Spartanburg Co., South Carolina at least by 1790 when his daughter Nancy was born (see her obituary, below). He moved from Spartanburg Co., South Carolina to Tennessee after 1797 (when another daughter was born in South

Carolina) and we believe he died there about 1800. He does not appear in early Tennessee tax lists with his son, Archibald. In one family account, he is said to have died on "the courthouse steps while prosecuting a man [Sanders] for eloping with and marrying his daughter."

We have found no definite records for John Kirkland, such as land, probate or marriage records. Early South Carolina and Tennessee records where he lived are sparse, at best.

There was a question among researchers as to whether John Kirkland's name was John or James Kirkland. A great-grandson, whose work was widely distributed, said his name was "James." However, earlier accounts by grandsons said his name was "John." We have no legal proof of his Christian name or legal proof linking him with his eight children. Based on a "**preponderance of evidence**," we believe his first name to be John. The sibling group of his eight children is well-established and well-documented

WHO WAS JOHN KIRKLAND?

For many years, Kirkland searchers who descended from his sons who settled in north Alabama (Fayette Co.), Archibald Kirkland and Daniel Kirkland, believed that the eight children's father's name was James Kirkland, based on an account written by a great-grandson, **Edward Pickens Kirkland** (1843-1929), in Texas in 1922. This was the first account known to Kirkland researchers, but it was actually written 30 to 50 years later than other accounts that we now have of the origins of this family. The accounts written earlier than that of E.P. Kirkland, which are discussed below, include the following:

1. **Grandson John Kirkland (1818-1891)** reported his grandfather's name as John Kirkland in a Montgomery Co., IL history published in 1874.
2. John Kirkland's Christian name was reported in the **obituary of his daughter, Nancy Kirkland Blevans, in 1875**, the information being reported by his grandson, Jonathan Blevans (1815- ca 1892).
3. **Family history by Jonathan Blevans (1815-ca 1892), grandson** of John Kirkland, published in 1932, but written before he died ca 1892.
4. Photo of **Nancy Blevans Kirkland with her parents identified as John Kirkland and Mary Delot** on the back. The photo was from the album of James Jefferson DeLot Blevans (1829-1913), a grandson of Scotsman John Kirkland.

Other accounts are also a **generation closer** to John Kirkland; that is, they were recorded in the 1800s by grandsons. While E.P. Kirkland's account has much accurate information, it has many proved errors. Its importance to Kirkland researchers cannot be underestimated, however, because it helped establish the relationship of John Kirkland's children to each other.

Edward P. Kirkland's account (1929) states that James Kirkland and his brother came to America from Scotland before the Revolutionary War, entered the service of their country, and became separated. After the war, they never re-established contact. James Kirkland was said to have four sons and at least one daughter and to have lived in North Carolina and died there.

This account does not mention James Kirkland and his children moving to Tennessee. It says the sons of James Kirkland were Archibald, Daniel, Robert and James. No daughter is named. The account says another Kirkland family settled in South Carolina and tells a similar story.

In the late 1980s, the Alabama Kirkland descendants connected with descendants of three other children of John Kirkland. Accounts of John Kirkland were found, which as noted above,

were recorded earlier than the E.P. Kirkland account.

First, John Kirkland (1818-1891), second son of Robert Kirkland and grandson of Scotsman John Kirkland, reported in *Biographical Sketches of Citizens of Montgomery County, IL*, 1874, p. 55, that his family is:

"Scotch in descent, and came to this country prior to the war of the Revolution. John Kirkland, Mr. Kirkland's grandfather, settled in South Carolina a short time after this war, and then, after a lapse of several years, he removed to Tennessee where he died."

This history also names seven of the eight children of John Kirkland as follows: Archibald, Daniel, Robert, James, Mrs. Nancy (Stephen) Blevans, Mrs. Sally (Joseph) Evans, Mrs. Jane (Richard) Hale and a sister whose name "is now forgotten."

Second, John Kirkland's name is reported in his daughter's, Nancy Kirkland Blevans's obituary. She died in 22 Nov 1873 and her obituary was published in the St. Louis Christian Advocate on 4 Feb 1875. The obituary was written by her eldest son, Jonathan Blevans (1815-ca. 1892). The obituary states that she was born

". . . in the State of South Carolina in 1790 and emigrated to the State of Tennessee with her father (John Kirkland) and settled in the Sequatchie Valley when she was a girl."

According to her obituary, she married in Tennessee in 1810 and her family eventually settled in western Missouri. Information about her and her relationship to the Alabama Kirkland brothers was not known to our search group until 1989.

Third, before he died in Cass Co., Missouri, Jonathan Blevans (1815-ca. 1892), wrote a short sketch of his ancestors which was eventually published in a Blevans-Burks history in 1932. He names his mother as Nancy Kirkland Blevans. He says that his maternal grandfather was a "Scotchman," who immigrated to America and settled in South Carolina while it was a colony. Jonathan states that this grandfather fought in the Revolution and was married to Mary Delot, whose father was also a "Scotchman."

Fourth, John Kirkland and his wife are identified in a photo caption from a photo album made by James Jefferson DeLot Blevans (1829-1913), youngest son of Nancy Kirkland Blevans, who moved from Missouri to Oregon in 1852. The caption identifies a picture of his mother as "the daughter of John Kirkland and Mary Delot."

All five of John Kirkland's children for whom we have information were born in South Carolina, according to their or their children's US census records.

Thus, the **preponderance of evidence strongly suggests that the immigrant ancestor of this line was John Kirkland, b probably Scotland, rather than James Kirkland.**

SOUTH CAROLINA CENSUS RECORDS

Five John Kirklands are in the 1790 South Carolina census. Wilma Kirkland, compiler of *The Kirkland Source Book of Records* and our expert on South Carolina Kirklands, believes that the John Kirkland in Spartanburg Co. who was living on the north fork of the Pacolote River (see deeds below) is the one most likely to be our John Kirkland. This John Kirkland's 1790 census report best fits the family profile of our John Kirkland family. The 1790 census shows one male over 16, three males under 16, three females, and no slaves. In addition, the tombstone of Sarah "Sally" Kirkland Hix Evans, daughter of our John Kirkland, says that she was born in

Spartanburg Co., South Carolina in 1797.

Of the 22 Kirklands in the 1790 census of SC, only John Kirkland of Spartanburg Co. and William Kirkland of Lancaster Co. are the sole Kirklands in their counties. In Edgefield Co., there were John (2240), Reuben, Isaac and Mary Kirkland; in Orangeburg Dist., there were Benjamin, James, Jr., Richard, Benjamin, Jr., James and George Kirkland; in Beaufort Dist. were John (2240) and John (1420) Kirkland; in Cheraw District were John (2210) and George Kirkland; in Fairfield Co. were Samuel, Francis, Zachariah, and three William Kirklands. Many of these Kirkland lines are well documented.

In the 1800 South Carolina Census, there are 35 Kirklands, among whom are four John Kirklands. There are John Kirkland Sr. and John Kirkland Jr. in Edgefield Co. Greenville Co. has two John Kirklands. One John Kirkland's household has 1 male 26 to 45 years, 2 females 0 to 10 years, and 1 female 26 to 45 years. The second John Kirkland's household has two males 10 to 16 years, 1 male 45 and older, 1 female 0 to 10 years, 3 females 10 to 16 years, 2 females 16 to 26 years, 1 female 26 to 45 years and 1 female 45 years or older. No John Kirklands are in Spartanburg Co. in 1800. If our John Kirkland was in SC for the 1800 census, he is most likely the second John Kirkland listed above in Greenville Co. As will be shown below, by 1800, the John Kirkland of Spartanburg Co. owned land in Spartanburg Co. and land which was partly in Spartanburg Co. and partly in Greenville Co., as the county line ran down the middle of a parcel. He could have been enumerated in Greenville Co. or Spartanburg Co. in 1800.

SOUTH CAROLINA LAND RECORDS

SEVERAL deeds relate to a John Kirkland in Spartanburg Co. & Greenville Co., SC whose land is located very close to the North Carolina border. One parcel of his land had the Spartanburg-Greenville county line running through it.

1. On 13 Aug 1790, William Dickson sells 100 acres to a John Kirkland in Spartanburg Co., SC on the north side of the Pacolote River. Spartanburg Co., SC, Deed Book B, p. 476.
2. On 28 Feb 1794, a John Kirkland is witness with Reuben Warren when William Poole, agent for Abraham Markley of Charleston SC sells to Sampson Trammel of Spartanburg Co. 310 acres, part of a 100 acre tract granted said Markley on the north side of the Pacolote River, beginning on James Phillips line...to William Dicksons...on Isaac Youngs. Recorded 13 Nov 1794. Spartanburg Co., SC, Deed Book C, pp. 314-314.
3. On 4 Jul 1796, a John Kirkland of Spartanburg Co., SC sells to Ephraim Elder of same for 65 pounds sterling 100 A. granted William Dickson 7 Nov 1785. Land lies on north side of the Pacolote River.... /s/ John (X) Kirkland. Witnesses: James Turner, James Saunders, William Saunders. William Saunders swore 11 Oct 1796 before J. Harrison, J.P. Recorded 22 Sept 1797. Spartanburg Co., SC, Deed Book E, p. 73. [Note above that Edward P. Kirkland's family history has John Kirkland prosecuting a man named Sanders for eloping with and marrying his daughter.]
4. On 5 Aug 1797 a John Kirkland of Spartanburg Co. buys from John Gowen for 60 pounds land in Greenville Co. on both sides of Mill Creek of So. Pacolote River beginning at a pine at or near the Ancient Indian boundary line...Robucks corner...100 acres, being the upper end of a track granted by patent 22 Mar 1785 to William Jameson & by him conveyed to said Gowen including the plantation where James Maxwell now lives... Witnesses: James Bates, James Maxwell, Willey Brown. Greenville Co., SC, Deed Book D, p. 333. Recorded 20 Jan 1797.
5. 17 Nov 1797 a John Kirkland of Greenville Co. buys from John Gowen of Spartanburg Co., for 50 pounds, 50 acres in Greenville and Spartanburg counties (the county line running through

it) on both sides of Mill Creek of So. Pacolate River. Granted by patent bearing the date 1 Jan 1797 to William Jameson and by him conveyed to Gowen, joining land below where said Kirkland lives his tract...Also one other track lying in county aforesaid in like manner conveyed to Gowen (the lower end of said tract.) Witnesses: John Robuck, Barto (X) Grogan, Willy S. Brown. Greenville Co., SC, Deed Book D, page 504. Recorded 27 Mar 1798.

6. On 25 Aug 1803, Samuel McClure sells 94 acres to a John Kirkland of Spartanburg Co. Land on the south part of 183 acres "where John Kirkland lives" was granted in 1786 to George Thompson. Witnessed by Daniel Kirkland, John Brook & Winn B. Gowen. Daniel Kirkland's oath on 3 Mar 1805. Recorded 26 Mar 1805. Spartanburg Co., SC, Book K, p. 47-48. [Our John Kirkland's son, Daniel, b. 1783, was old enough to witness documents in 1805.]

John Kirkland was not listed on the Tennessee tax lists with his son(s) in either 1805 (Anderson Co.) & 1815 (Bledsoe Co.) or in the Knox Co. Circuit Court Minute Book in 1810.

KNOWN CHILDREN OF JOHN KIRKLAND AND MARY DELOT KIRKLAND

2 i. Catherine (probable daughter, but not proved)² Kirkland was born about 1786 in Spartanburg Co., SC or possibly TN. She married James Long. They lived in Tennessee and then in Montgomery Co., Illinois, down the road from her brother, Robert Kirkland. She had a son James Delot Long. On his marriage license, Catherine is listed as "Catherine Kirkland Long" in 1883 (check date, may be typo). She was widowed by the 1830 census. Her eldest son was John K. (Kirkland?) Long.

3 ii. Archibald Kirkland was born circa 1780. He married Mary (Hannah?) Chaney in Sequatchie Valley, Marion Co., TN, circa 1804. Mary was born circa 1780 in Albemarle Co., VA.³ Mary died before 1850 in Fayette, Fayette Co., AL.⁴

Archibald Kirkland was a cattleman and farmer. He died at Fayette Court House, Fayette Co., AL in 1846, according to an item mentioning "Archibald is dead" in the Fayette Co. Circuit Court Minutes in Dec 1846. The estate was probated in 1851, Fayette Co., AL, with his will appended; his will was lost after the estate was filed. He married Mary (Hannah?) Chaney about 1804-5, probably in Sequatchie Valley, TN. She was born in Virginia. She is possibly a d/o Jacob Chaney (wife Sarah) whose will was proved Sept 1801 in Pittsylvania Co., VA, Deeds and Wills, #11, 1780-1820. Family tradition says that her brother Jacob Chaney moved to Tennessee and then to Alabama with Mary. A Jacob Chaney appears on early Tennessee tax lists/petitions, along with Archibald Kirkland. She is believed to have died before Archibald, as she is not mentioned in his estate settlement or in the 1850 census.

Archibald and Mary are buried with an unnamed child in the City Cemetery, Fayette, AL. A new grave marker for them was placed in the 1990s by Kirkland descendants, organized by Robert Jasper Moore of Atlanta.

Archibald was on TN tax lists in Anderson Co., TN (1805) and Bledsoe Co., TN (1815) and in the Circuit Court Minute Book, case #210, Knox Co., TN (1810). Records show him in Catco (check sp) Co. (later Morgan Co.), AL in 1818 and 1819. He and his brother, Daniel, settled west of Hartsille in Morgan Co., AL on Flint Creek about 1817-8 after floating down the Tennessee River on a raft from Sequatchie Valley, Marion Co., TN. Archibald moved from Morgan Co. to Fayette Co., AL by 1830. He was a farmer, cattleman, Primitive Baptist, and slave holder.

4 iii. Daniel Kirkland was born in Spartanburg Co., SC March 22, 1783. Daniel died December 10, 1863 in Morgan Co., AL, at 80 years of age. His body was interred in Morgan Co., AL.⁵ He married Elizabeth Parker in Sequatchie Valley, Marion Co., TN, circa 1809. Elizabeth was born February 28, 1794 in TN. Elizabeth died June 11, 1868 in Morgan Co., AL, at 74 years of age. Her body was interred in Bishop Cemetery, Morgan Co., AL. His will was written 25 Oct 1850 &

probated 4 Dec 1865 in Morgan Co., AL. Farmer; slave holder; Primitive Baptist.

1850 agricultural U.S. census schedule shows Daniel Kirkland as owning 275 acres of improved land and 345 acres of unimproved land, with a farm cash value of \$12,000. Farming implements & machinery were valued at \$330 and livestock at \$2,000. His main crop was Indian corn, producing 1600 bushels in 1850. He had 9 slaves in 1850.

[Source: Doris (Mrs. Hardwick (Mrs. George); Marriages of Morgan County Alabama, 1818-1896 by Elbert T. Minter, Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society, Huntsville, AL, 1986; Estate papers of Daniel Kirkland, Morgan Co., AL; U.S. Census of Alabama, 1830, 1850; 1850 Census includes population schedule, slave census and agricultural schedule.]

5 iv. **Robert Kirkland** was born in Spartanburg Co., SC circa 1785. Robert died January 2, 1862 in Montgomery Co., IL, at 76 years of age.⁶ His body was interred in Montgomery Co., IL.⁷ He married **Jane Long** in Sequatchie Valley, Marion Co., TN, circa 1809.⁸ Jane was born circa 1785. Jane died after 1829 in Illinois.

Robert settled Kirkland's Grove, near Walshville, Montgomery Co., IL after moving from Sequatchie Valley, TN in 1828. Robert and Jane (Long) Kirkland are buried in Kirkland Cemetery, Montgomery Co., IL.

He died intestate, but probate records list heirs and disposition of goods sold by auction. Probate records filed 26 Mar 1862 from County Clerk's Office, County Courthouse, Hillsboro, IL. Estate valued at \$3,053.41. Heirs were chn: Daniel, John and Stephen A. Kirkland, Elizabeth K. Fogleman, Jane C.K. McPhail, Chn of dau. Ellen K. Long, chn. of dau. Martha A. K. McPhail. (Montgomery Co., File Box 3. Son John Kirkland, administrator.)

[Source: Joan McConnell, Keith Kirkland, Kenneth R. Barlow, Sr., Walter Sanders. Biographical sketch of son, John Kirkland, in Biographical Sketches of Citizens of Montgomery County, IL, 1874, p 55. IL census, marriage, probate & cemetery records.]

6 v. **Son (James or possibly John?) Kirkland** was born in Spartanburg Co., SC circa 1787. We have found no information on him. He is said to have gone to "Ohio Territory" after his father died.

7 vi. **Nancy Kirkland** was born in Spartanburg Co., SC 1790.⁹ Nancy died November 22, 1873 in Cass Co., MO, at 83 years of age.¹⁰ Her body was interred in Cass Co., MO. She married **Stephen Ausborn Blevans** in Sequatchie Valley, Marion Co., TN, 1810.¹¹ Stephen was born October 10, 1787 in Buncomb Co., NC. Stephen died December 14, 1851 in Cass Co., MO, at 64 years of age.¹²

She married Stephan Ausborn Blevans, b 10 Oct 1787 in Buncombe Co., NC s/o Richard Blevans and Hannah Ausborn. [He was married, first, to Sally Maunto or Miss Fanny ____ (name not proved) and had two chn.: Richard Blevans, b @1807 & d ca 1831-32 in Osage Country, MO & Susannah or Mahala Blevans, b @1808 & d as infant.]

Stephen married, second, Nancy Kirkland in 1810 in Sequatchie Valley, Marion Co., TN. The family moved from Tennessee to Alabama in 1815, and then back to Tennessee in 1823. On 24 March 1830, the family pulled up stakes and after traveling for about six weeks stopped in Bond County, Illinois, for about 18 months, where two of Nancy's siblings were living. Owing to the severe winter of 1830-31, the family became dissatisfied, so Nov. 15, 1851, they set out for Arkansas. After traveling for about two weeks winter set in, so they stopped on the Gasconade River in Pulaski Co., MO. Subsequently they lived in Miller Co., Platte Co., Buchanan Co., and Cass Co., MO. Stephen was a farmer, and d 14 Dec 1851 in Cass Co., MO, of pneumonia. The family were Methodists. Nancy d 22 Nov 1873 in Cass Co., MO & was buried next to husband in Cass Co., MO.

Nancy Kirkland Blevans's siblings, Robert Kirkland and Sarah Kirkland Hix Evans, also settled in

Bond Co., IL about 1830. In Miller Co., MO, Stephen was an associate justice in the first session of the county court, a justice of the peace, and member of first circuit trial jury (1837).

The 1830 U.S. Census of Bond Co., IL shows Stephen Blevans with 2 males under 10; 1 male 10-20; 1 male 20-30; 1 male 40-50 and 2 females under 10; 4 females 10-20; and 1 female 30-40. Steven Blevans is listed in Noble Township, Buchanan Co., MO in 1840 US. Census with 5 in household and with five slaves. Listed in 1842 tax list of Buchanan Co., MO. Owned 3 horses/mules (\$150) and 8 cattle (\$95). Administrator of a will in Platte Co., MO in 1847. U.S. Census 1850, Platte Co., MO (Green Township) shows assets valued at \$3,600. In 1860, Nancy is living with her daughter, Hannah R. Blevans Good, in Big Creek Township, Cass Co., MO.

[Sources: St. Louis Christian Advocate, 4 Feb 1875 obituary of Nancy K. Blevans & 30 May 1877 obituary of Robert K. Blevans; 1815 Tax Roll of Bledsoe Co., TN (listed along with Nancy's brothers, Archibald & Daniel Kirkland); Miller, Platte, Buchanan & Cass Counties, MO record searches; Marriage Book A, Miller Co, MO; 1830 U.S. Census, Bond Co., IL: 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880 U.S. Census of Missouri. Indexed death records for the above counties. A History of Miller County, MO by Gerald Schultzy, 1933; From Bethany Blevans Curry: Blevans-Burke History, 1932 by Ruth Blevans Ping (privately printed); two family Bible pages; a 1905 letter from James Jefferson DeLot Blevans; Around the Cat's Back, a book compiled from the writing and diaries of Daisy & Caroline Wasson (great-granddaughters of Nancy & Stephan Blevans), 1989, Black Wallow Publishing Co., Union, OR.; Two pages of family Bibles from Robert Kirkland Blevans; Assorted, undated obituaries]

8 vii. **Jane Kirkland** was born in Spartanburg Co., South Carolina or possibly Tennessee circa 1795. She married **Richard Hale**. Richard Hale was born circa 1790. We have no more information on her or her family.

9 viii. **Sarah 'Sally' Kirkland** was born in Spartanburg Co., SC November 12, 1797.¹³ Sarah died January 22, 1888 in Montgomery Co., IL, at 90 years of age. Her body was interred in Montgomery Co., IL.¹⁴ She married Joseph Evans. Joseph was born August 12, 1796 in Knoxville, Knox Co., TN.¹⁵ Joseph died 1862 in Walshville Twp., Montgomery Co., IL, at 65 years of age. His body was interred in Kirkland Cemetery, Montgomery Co., IL. Joseph Evans was a farmer.

-- Many people have contributed to this research, especially the Kirkland Siblings Group active in the late 1980s and early 1990s. I thank all of them.

REFERENCES

¹John Daniel Kirkland, son of Robert Archibald Kirkland, says the Kirklands came from Kirkcudbright, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland. It is on the southern coast of Scotland and is considered "border lands." The main business in Kirkcudbright was glove making.

²All subsequent descendants' reports say he died in Tennessee.

³Mary Chaney Kirkland was possibly d/o Jacob & Sarah Chaney-see his will, Pittsylvania Co., Va, 1801.

⁴Mary Chaney Kirkland is believed to have died before husband.

⁵Bishop Cemetery.

⁶Estate filed 26 Mar 1862, File Box 3, County Clerk's Off., Mont. Co., IL.

⁷Kirkland Cemetery.

⁸All of his children were by this first wife.

⁹Nancy (Kirkland) Blevans lived in South Carolina, Sequatchie Valley, Tennessee, Jackson Co., Alabama, and five counties in Missouri.

¹⁰Obituary, *St. Louis Christian Advocate*, 4 Feb 1874. Written by Jonathan Blevans, her oldest son.

¹¹Stephen A. Blevans' marriage to Nancy Kirkland was his second marriage. He had two children by his first wife. The children were Richard & Mahala Blevans.

¹²Buried with wife 'near Nancy Reads.'

¹³Tombstone says b Charleston, Spartanburg Co., SC.

¹⁴Kirkland Cem. with 2nd husband, Joseph Evans. First husband (____) Hix.

¹⁵Son of Revolutionary War patriot, Joseph Evans, 7th VA Regiment (Capt. Jos. Crockett's Co.)