

murder, he alone being with them in the field; and imagine they could conceal their crime, but OH how mistaken. They soon told the whole story for themselves and a darker tale of crime was never told. The 4 were committed to the Eutaw goal in Greene County to await their trial.

- July 4 Finished working our corn.  
July 9 President Zachariah Taylor died at 10 o'clock instant. Born 1784, consequently about 66 years old.  
July 15 Caught Burns Negro man George and whipped him for disorderly and outrageous conduct.  
July 16 Hillary Judge, son-in-law to Judge Thornton, died suddenly in Eutaw. Spasmodic colic probably.  
July 17 Alexander Graham, Esq., died suddenly in Eutaw. A man much esteemed for his excellent qualities and intellectual ability. A plain Republican with high order of mind.  
July 22 We began to use last crib of corn, 100 bushels.  
July 31 Intermittent fevers have prevailed in this month, but mostly of a mild character. Diarrhea or an irritable state of the bowels is frequent and more than common susceptibility of the brain.  
Aug 1 & 2 Pinkney Philips raised new mill house.  
Aug 4, 8, & 29 Thermometer to about 100 degrees.  
Aug 6 & 7 George Kimbrough and family visited us. (FSU. A brother-in-law. He was the husband of Esther Steele, youngest sister of Elizabeth Steele Patton.)  
Aug 6 & 7 Making boards for gin house and B. [Barn.]  
Aug 8 5 hands worked 2 days on Springfield road.  
Aug 19 & 20 We topped about 24 acres cotton for worms.  
Aug 23 A light shower of rain much the best since July 16<sup>th</sup> and but little, but appearance are more encouraging at present.

#### 1851

October The year is yet and has been the most extraordinary and strange of years. Dry, hot, sickness of unprecedented kind in this country. The winter and early spring were chilly damp and unpleasant, but not remarkable until the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April when we had a most unprecedented day of rain and flood. Great, great. Then, in the month of April, we had a few sprinkles only and on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May I considered our wheat and oats spoiling with the drought. We had only a few sprinkles until the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> of August and then nothing like sufficient to saturate the earth. Dry again, on and on. In the latter part of October, two very light showers hardly sufficient to bring up the wheat, oats, and c. Through much of the summer the hottest part of the day was up to from 98 to 104 degrees of temperature by thermometer hanging on the north side of this house. Early in the summer, a Dysentery appeared over on the Bigby first about Warsaw and caused many deaths. Spread gradually and was greatly distressing in our family in October, but prevailed most in the neighborhood in September; but I, William Patton, was severely attacked on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May. It is yet a mystery that I was attacked so long before the family and recovered from so severe an onset so soon. It was a violent case of that terrible epidemic. I was two or three weeks occasionally a little affected, but only 5 or 6 days bad.

October 24 5 o'clock evening Elizabeth Patton departed this life, 48 years and 8 months old. 25 years and 3 months the TRUE friend and affectionate consort of her now lonely and bereaved spouse.

#### 1853

(Note MPM. Last fly leaf, top torn half away. With two short exceptions, this seems to be the last entry William Patton made in his records. For some reason he does not express himself very coherently. Below in some of my words and some of his is what I think he felt.)

1853 is a lonely winter to us here in this house where the mother but a short time before with loving and patient skill presided over the family of six healthy stirring sons and daughters. The present is a contrast full of sweet and sorrowful memories. Now but two, the widowed father and affectionate daughter, are all of this family who occupy this sanctified homestead. The mother has been called away to Heaven and the others scattered abroad in the quest of knowledge and in the pursuit of useful and honorable vocations. These reflections reconcile us to the loneliness of our home. Soon the years will have fled and with them those scenes of childhood and youthful actions and feelings which have left so deep an impression upon the memory of the parent who is now acting the last scene in the Drama of Life. Soon the curtain must drop.

1859

On April 20, 1859, at 3 o'clock morning. Our eldest son, W.S. Patton, aged 31 years, 7 months, and 14 days, left ours for the Eternal Home, but that Serene Calm and Steadfast Resolution. (APH. Last lines illegible.)

1862

Mr. Durrah here to access my taxes June 27, 1862. (Note APH. Written on the last page of the volume in a greatly changed hand.)

Opposite [below] see the record of the sons and daughters of other days who have had their days and generations departed. Once they were children; then youths full of sprightliness and feeling; then the middle aged urged on by ardor and ambition; then worn out with the world and its struggles, they bowed their heads and departed. (APH. An entry in the front says this record was placed within in 1856.)

Dr. Z. Merriweather was born July 2, 1791, and deceased September 11, 1865, aged 65 years, 2 months, and 96 days. Fever.

March 20, 1856. Mrs. Tucker deceased somewhere in 60, not known exactly. Paralysis.

March 24, 1856. Mrs. Polly Coats deceased at Mrs. Levill's about 80 (or 30) years old. Lung disease.

April 13, 1856. Mrs. Samuel Chambers deceased about 78 years old. Urinary disease.

July 29, 1856. James Jennings deceased, aged about 82. Asthmatic dropsy. (Note MPM: Court records show this unfortunate gentleman owed William Patton \$14.50 which his estate was unable to pay.)

Mrs. Martha Patton deceased April 16, 1856, aged about 71. Gastritis. [Possibly Martha (Archibald) Patton, widow of William Patton, Jr. (1768-1825).]

Betsy Archibald deceased at James Hall Archibald's about March 1856, aged 91.

Thomas Leg deceased in the spring of 1854 at Rev. M. Smith's, aged about 86. Senile mortification of the leg.

Mr. Holland deceased in the spring of 1854 at Doctor John Storey's, about 91 or 92. Age's infirmity.

Matthew Knox deceased June 14, 1854, was in his 57<sup>th</sup> years. Strangular hepatitis.

John McShan died about December 1st, aged about 80 years. Pneumonic fever.

Isaac Knox was born November 13, 1795 and deceased September 19, 1856, 61 years old next November. Gastritis with hepatitis.

H. Dobson Reese deceased in the fall of 1855, aged about 83. Paralysis, 2<sup>nd</sup> attack.

Some dates from a discourse on the *Dead of the Synod of Alabama* by Robert Hall, Selma, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 1851.

Thursday, March 1, 1821, the Rev. A. Burns, Rev. James Sloss, and Rev. Neil McMillin organized the first Presbytery in Alabama in Cahaba.

Reverend Andrew Brown deceased near Marion on the 8<sup>th</sup> day in October 1823. In 1820, The Rev. Andrew Brown settled in Tuscaloosa.

The Rev. Francis Porter visited Alabama in 1818 and again in 1821 and in this year, 1821.

The Reverend Andrew Brown and Francis Porter organized New Church in Greene County, Alabama, and joined the Presbytery of South Alabama in spring of 1828. Died on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, leaving a wife and seven children. In the year 1822, the Reverend Joseph P. Cunningham from Kentucky settled in Concord. Lebanon and Mount Zion Churches in Greene County, Alabama. In 1822, Rev. James Hillhouse settled in Greensborough. In 1832, Joseph P. Cunningham returned to Kentucky and died soon after. The Rev. James Hillhouse deceased in Greensborough November 17, 1835. In the year 1826, the Rev. Robert Cunningham, D.D., settled in Alabama. Died 1839. April 12, 1823, the Rev. Joseph Cunningham was ordained, the first ordination in Alabama. The Rev. Isaac Hadden appointed missionary in 1823 and died 1849. The Rev. Richard B. Cater, D.D., came to Alabama September 28<sup>th</sup> and died in Montgomery January 26, 1851. The subscriber heard Rev. James Hillhouse and Rev. Joseph Hillhouse, Rev. R.B. Cater, Rev. Reed preach their Licentiate sermons at a Synod at Fairforest, South Carolina.

William Patton

(FSU. It was the final sentence above that led Mabel P. Morrison to the discovery that Dr. William Patton's grandfather, also named William Patton, lived in Fairforest, South Carolina, which in turn led to the discovery of other records on the family.)

Abner Alexander Steele was born November 5, 1768.  
Departed this life July 1, 1843 [1842], aged 74 years wanting 4 months, 4 days.

Elizabeth Deale, his wife, born April 13, 1777. Deceased July 2, 1854. [A daughter of Clement and Mary (Griffin) Deale.]

Abner A. Steele and Elizabeth Deale married March 26, 1794. They were united in life 48 years, 3 months, and 4 days.

1. Alexander Steele their son born January 8, 1795. Deceased April 5, 1828, aged 33 years and 3 months, wanting 3 days.
2. Mary Steele their daughter born September 23, 1796, married James Archibald August 1821. Departed this life September 10, 1829, aged 43 years wanting 13 days. (FSU. She was either 33 or the date should be 1839.)
3. Elihu Reese Steele their son born December 25, 1798.
4. Richard Griffin Steele born December 31, 1800.

- 5 & 6. Nancy and Elizabeth Steele, twins, born February 27, 1803. Elizabeth was married to William Patton July 20, 1826. Deceased October 24, 1851, aged 48 years, 8 months, an affectionate wife. [Nancy married James Gillespie.]
7. Martha Steele was born January 3, 1805. Departed this life September 10, 1822, aged 17 years, 8 months, and 7 days.
8. William Steele was born July 5, 1807. [Died 12 June 1836 while returning from the Florida War.]
9. Abner Alexander Steele was born October 15, 1809. Married Mary B. Ingham August 18, 1836. Died April 28, 1841.
10. Jane Steele was born November 22, 1811. [Married Pringle Baskin.]
11. Susannah Steele was born March 29, 1814. [Died young.]
12. Ester Steele was born October 21, 1817. [Married George Kimbrough on 14 February 1835.]
13. James Steele was born October 16, 1820. [Married Peggy Ross Patton on 19 January 1842, a daughter of George Ross and Mary (Davidson) Patton, Sr.]

Note by William Patton: Clement and Mary Deale were parents of Elizabeth Deale.

#### THE STEELE FAMILY

Author Unknown

[Sent by Mrs. Underwood McCoy with the Dr. William Patton Records]

Descendants of the Steele family of Greene County, Alabama, can trace their family line to the immigrant ancestor, John Steele, who was born in Ireland and came to Philadelphia about 1700.

In the *History of Delaware (1609-1888)*, published by the Historical Society of Delaware, page 933, in the chapter on the history of New Castle County, we find the following: "On August 19, 1707, two hundred and fifty acres of land, the property of Joseph Moore, was sold by Colonel John French, Sheriff, and purchased by John Steele, who came from Ireland and settled at Philadelphia. John Steele purchased other lands in White Clay Creek Hundred which, at his death, passed into the hands of his son James." As late as 1888, this property was still in the possession of the Steele family, having been handed down father to son.

John Steele, in the same volume, is mentioned as an elder of the Head of Christiana Church. This church was founded in 1708 by the Alexanders and other Scotch-Irish settlers, who previous to this time had worshipped at New Castle, the full title being Protestant Presbyterian Session of the Protestant Presbyterian Congregation of Head of Christiana Church.

John Steele was the father of James, Joseph, Mary and possibly one other daughter who I believe was married to George Gillespie. We know that his daughter Mary was married to James Alexander. The will of James Alexander (1717) mentions his father-in-law, John Steele, Yeomen of New Castle County, and James Alexander's wife's name was Mary. In a book entitled *The Mecklenburg Signers and Their Neighbors*, by Worth S. Ray, he lists the will of John Garner in 1723 which shows as heirs: the children of James Steele; the children of James Alexander by Mary Steele; Joseph Steele and Margaret Steele; George Gillespie; and the children of George Gillespie. He goes on to state that one of George Gillespie's sons was a cousin "of course" to both the children of James Steele and to the children of James Alexander by Mary Steele. I think the obvious inference is that the wife of George Gillespie was a sister to James and Mary Steele, both