

COLONEL PATRICK McGRIFF OF CHESTER COUNTY,
SOUTH CAROLINA AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY, GEORGIA

The first record discovered of Patrick McGriff was when he appeared in South Carolina in 1766 with a wife and no child, and obtained a grant of 100 acres in Camden District, later Chester County on the Turkey Creek Waters of Sandy River. As will later be shown, he was then about 21 years of age.

He next appears in 1774, at the beginning of the Revolution, when he was elected Second Lieutenant of a Company of Militia, whose Captain was Edward Lacy. The two of them advanced in rank together till 1782, when Edward Lacy became Brigadier General and Patrick McGriff became Colonel.

Colonel McGriff's name appears continually in the records of Chester County from 1782 until 1799 when he and his family moved to Montgomery County, Georgia.

February 15, 1799 he bought from Arthur Lott 200 acres on the east bank of the Great Ohoopee, which tract included the court house and jail. On December 9, 1799 he was elected coroner, and from 1804 till 1808 he served in the State Senate. His son William served the county as sheriff for two years. His son Thomas served the county as sheriff for two years. He operated a tavern near the court house and his son Thomas operated a store. His son-in-law Peter Thomas was tax assessor. All of these duties, as supplements to farming and stock raising produced cash money, at a time when there was very little money in circulation. The eight or nine years that the family stayed here was one of great prosperity for the McGriff family.

Where Patrick McGriff was born is not proved. A descendent, Mrs. J. P. Tyson who was wife or widow of a Methodist preacher, writing from Moultrie, Georgia in 1927 said that he was born in Ulster, Ireland. This is probably true, but the possibility must be considered that he was born in Virginia, Pennsylvania, or Maryland. His grandchildren associate him with Virginia and Maryland.

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There was a John McGriff before 1766 in Heidelberg district of York County, Pennsylvania. John McGriff in 1774 bought 395 acres on Sinking Creek, a branch of New River in Fincastle later Montgomery County, Virginia. These two John McGriffs may be the same person. The John of Sinking Creek had a son Thomas who was born probably in 1760. This Thomas went to South Carolina and June 3, 1776 enlisted in the 6th South Carolina Regiment. In 1882 he was back in Montgomery County, Virginia with or near

P. T. McGRUFF, ORDINARY
PULASKI COUNTY, GEORGIA

March 16, 1874

Mr. L. C. Draper

Dear Sir:

I have written to several parties to get information of my grandfather's age and the time of his death but have failed so far.

My brother left home a few days ago to visit that section of Georgia and I suggested to him to look after that. As soon as he returns home I will write you again. If there is any record he will examine it. Wishing you success in your work. I am very respectfully yours.

P. T. McGriff

P. T. McGRUFF, ORDINARY
PULASKI COUNTY, GEORGIA

April 22, 1874

L. C. Draper
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Sir:

I have not been able to learn anything more since I wrote to you last. Enclosed you will find a letter that you may be able to get some information through.

I have written to the parties myself and will send you this letter as soon as received.

I am respectfully yours.

P. T. McGriff

JOHN M. STUBBS
ATTORNEY
DUBLIN, GEORGIA



April 12, 1874

P. T. McGriff, Esquire

Dear Sir:

Your letter of 24th to Mr. Joseph Miller of Montgomery County was

? me by that gentlemen today with request that I would answer the same.

He requests me to say to you that a very aged citizen of Emanuel County by name Melancton Thigpen whose father purchased the plantation in Montgomery formerly owned by Patrick McGriff, can give you all the information you desire. He lives immediately in the corner of three counties of Laurens, Montgomery, and Emanuel and at least 20 miles from any post office and we do not know where he gets his mail. But if you will send your letter here to my care, I will forward it to him by some safe means. Also Mrs. Haldy S. Greer a very old lady living 15 miles below this place was fully acquainted with every member of the McGriff family. A letter to this office addressed to the care of John S. Drew will reach her and if satisfactory success should not reach you let me know and I will aid you.

Very respectfully yours,

John M. Stubbs

JOHN M. STUBBS
ATTORNEY
DUBLIN, GEORGIA

June 24, 1872

Mr. L. C. Draper

I have received your form with book for Mr. Thigpen but the old gentlement lives distant from this place 25 miles, and I have so far had no opportunity to send him this form. Thinking I would be called by his place shortly on professional business I would defer the matter and ? same in possession. I have seen Miss Drew since I received your letter and urged her to give you an answer. She is very old but her recollection of events is very acute. She's very uneducated to a great extinct, writing is a great task for her and I offered my service if she ? to see me.

Respectfully yours,

John M. Stubbs



Dublin, Georgia
June 28, 1874

Mr. L. C. Draper

In reply to your favor of May 23, wishing to know something of the McGriff family I cannot state anything that will do you any good. I .

know that Colonel Patrick McGriff lived at Old Montgomery Court House and died there and was buried there. But it has been so long that I do not know his age, but I know that he was an old man when I was a young woman and I am now 87 years old. He was an old Revolutionary soldier, he bore a good character. I do not know whether he filled any public position or not. I think that Mr. M. Thigpen can tell you more about him than I can it has been so long and I have not kept my mind charged with it until I do not recollect much about the family.

Hulda D. Drew
By: John S. Drew

EMANUEL COUNTY, GEORGIA



July 18, 1874

Mr. L. C. Draper

I never received your favor of the 23 May lost until a few days ago hence my neglect in writing sooner. The information you ask for I will give you the best I can. Colonel McGriff lived and owned the place where the Montgomery Court House was at that time. I first got acquainted with him in 1801. The county was split in 1813, and the place where he lived is now in Emanuel County, Georgia. His age was about 65 years. He died in 1810 in Montgomery County on the Oconee River, on the east side not far from where Robert L. Troup then lived, and by his request his remains were carried back to Montgomery Court House and there layed by the side of his wife and daughter. Montgomery Court House stood on the east bank of the great Ohoopie River. There is no stone to mark his last resting place. I never heard anything as to his Revolutionary services. His weight was 178 pounds, 5 feet 8 inches or 10 inches. He was well built and fine looking of Irish decent, light hair, fair complexion, blue eyes. He represented Montgomery County in the Georgia legislature both in the House and Senate for several years ending in 1808. He was well thought of in his county. He had good property. I do not remember anything else that would benefit you.

I live in Emanuel County 8 miles from where Colonel McGriff was buried. I was born the 19th day of December 1791, which puts me in my 83rd year. My post office is Swainsboro, Emanuel County, Georgia.

Melancton Thigpen

From the Swainsboro, Georgia, Herald, November 6, 1877:

Ohoopie, Georgia - September 25, 1877.

Melancton Thigpen was born in Washington County, Georgia, December 19, 1792 and died in Emanuel County, July 26, 1877, age 84 years, 6 months and 7 days. He was confided to his bed only about 3 weeks. He suffered little pain. The manly fabric did not like many of us, "rust out," but wore out, bright to the last. About the year 1802 his father

removed from Washington County, and settled near the Cow Ford, on the Little Ohoopsee River in Emanuel County, Malancton, then about 10 years old became familiar with the habits of the red man of the forest, who then roamed the country at will, not frequently startling the timid deer and sage matrons with the "war whoop," sounds which never failed to arouse the hardy sons of our frontier who being used to such, calmly smoked their clay pipes at the log cabin door, the deadly rifle carelessly lying across their laps, ready as the master's will for any emergency, and woe to the red skin that dared venture within range of its deadly aim. Amid such scenes was the early life of Malancton spent. No wonder then, that he should be infatuated with the life of the frontiersmen. The writer of these memories having sat for hours (taking notes) intently listening at the recital of the many thrilling scenes, remarkable adventures and hair breadth escapes with which his memory was so well stated, not exaggerations but truths, for be it known, that through a long life of usefulness, he was far above the lie, or self aggrandizement. He was a man of worth, and scorned notoriety.

Malancton's father was County Surveyor, and Clerk of the Court of Emanuel County for several terms. This gave the young man many advantages, having access to the public records, by which he was enabled to store his ready witted mind with many lawful and useful facts, these proving, in after years, of value to himself, and highly beneficial to the frontier folks. One advantage among us was, "what Uncle Malancton said was so." The fraternity of lawyers lost dollars by his saying, "boys law is a bad place to settle; you had best settle your scrapes at home." Advice generally taken.

On the 20th day of March, 1814, Malancton was married to the young and blooming Barbary Ricks with whom he lived happily for 63 years 4 months and 6 days. She still survives. By her he had 11 children. 9 of them were alive at his death. One of his daughters died several years ago, and his youngest son, John, was wounded at the Ocean Pond fight in Florida, from which he shortly died. 91 grandchildren, of whom 74 are living, and 14 great grandchildren. These statistics about the children may possible not be correct, but they are the best I could obtain from the family, of whom I got them. Thus a gap is left in our community that never can be filled, we mourn, but not without hope. The noblest work of our God "an honest man," has left us.

The Dublin Gazette and Hawkinsville Dispatch will please copy, as many of the family connections are subscribers to those papers.

Each paper publishing this obituary will please send a copy to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin at Madison. By so doing they will confer a favor of the family.

James P. Bell
