

David Epperson

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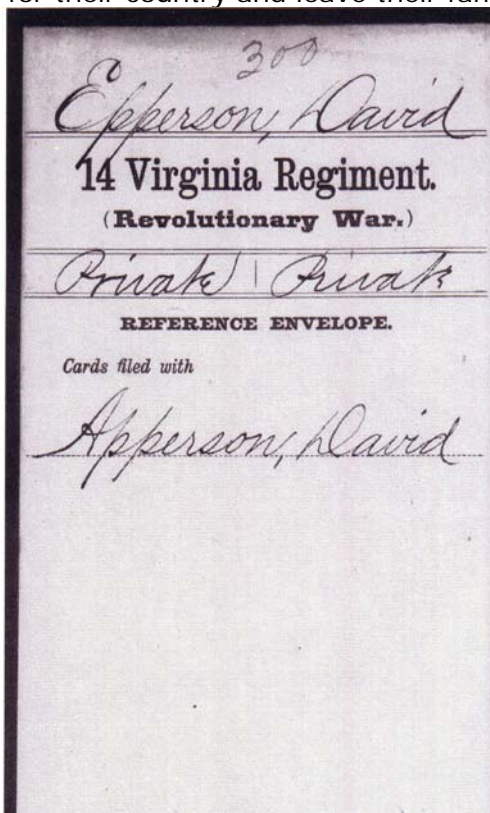
Born: 27 May 1734 Albemarle, VA

Married: Hannah Thompson

Died: Dec 1799 Albemarle, VA

Parents: John Epperson & Elizabeth Michaux

David Epperson appears on the Dissenters' Petition of 1776, from Albemarle County, voicing his loyalty to the independent self-developing spirit of the colonist who wanted to be free from the Church of England. When the call came to resist England's troops, he and his sons were said to have been the first to stand at the crossroads of his parish, probably at Wood's Gap and the Three Notched road. Later he volunteered his service in the 14th Virginia Regiment. His signature is affixed to a record which shows him to have been one of those paying for volunteers who were not financially able to enter service for their country and leave their families without support.



Information found online at Footnote.com

N ^o	Names	Rank	When Appointed	Pay Indicated Dated	Whole Amount of pay due	Cash Paid	Balance
	Brought Over				299	4	4
23	Rowland Hardy	Private	1. March	6/3			Did not appear at Review
24	John Bains		18 Dec		✓ 2	24	8 p.d.
25	Greenberg Jensen		16 Nov ^r 76		Indicated by Dr. Johnson		
26	John Barnett		23 Dec		✓ 10	8	Did not appear p.d.
27	Benj ^r Hensley		24		✓ 10	6	8 p.d.
28	Isiah Sharp		7 February		✓ 5	9	4 p.d. 2 ^d company
29	John Burk		8		✓ 5	8	p.d.
30	John Wheeler		13				p.d.
31	John Keer		13		✓ 5	1	4 p.d. Did not appear at Review
32	John Simmons		13		✓ 5	1	4 p.d. 2 ^d company
33	David Mullins		13		✓ 5	1	4 p.d.
34	David Thompson		13		✓ 5	1	4 p.d.
35	Thomas Dunn		13		✓ 3		12 p.d. Discontinued 2 ^d company
36	Daniel Alder		23		✓ 4	8	p.d.
37	William Campbell		8 March		✓ 3	8	p.d.
38	William Decker		28 Feb ^r		✓ 4		p.d.
39	Julius Webb		25 Jan ^r		✓ 6	5	4 p.d.
40	Joseph Fry		12 Feb ^r		✓ 5	2	8 p.d.
41	Gabriel Fry		13		✓ 16		p.d. Discontinued 2 ^d company
42	Geo. Hughes		13		✓ 5	1	4 p.d.
43	Edmond Foster		13		✓ 5	1	4 p.d.
44	John Lewis		15		✓ 4	18	8 p.d.
45	John Clark		16		✓ 4	17	4 p.d.
46	Peter Davis		18		✓ 4	14	8 p.d.
47	Edw. Miller for Maupin		18		✓ 4	14	8 p.d.
48	Geo. Casby		3 March		✓ 3	14	8 p.d.
49	David Martin		14		✓ 3		p.d.
50	William Coleman		14		✓ 3		p.d. 23 p.d. 2 ^d company
51	Joe. McGuire		13		✓ 3	1	8 p.d.
52	Saml. Coleman		20		✓ 2	12	p.d.
53	Mourning Roberts		24		✓ 2	6	8 p.d.
54	John Rice		31		✓ 1	18	8 p.d.
55	Michael Simmons		13 Feb ^r		✓ 5	10	4 p.d.
56	Joel Norton		24 Jan ^r		✓ 6	10	8 p.d.
					465	7	8

Information on the following pages are from the book, "The Story of David Epperson & His Family" by Edna Epperson Brinkman

THE STORY OF
DAVID EPPERSON &
HIS FAMILY
OF ALBEMARLE COUNTY
VIRGINIA

*With supplementary notes on the Epperson
family in America. Data gathered,
verified, and published by*
EDNA EPPERSON BRINKMAN



Hinsdale, Illinois: 1933

3RD GEN.

4TH GEN.

5TH GEN.

DAVID EPPERSON

b. May 27, 1734
 d. Dec. 1799
 Albemarle Co., Va.
 m. abt. 1753
 Hannah Thompson
 d. abt. 1814
 Richmond, Ky.
 David probly was
 son of John and
 Elizabeth Epperson

1. DAVID EPPERSON Jr.
 b. abt. 1754
 d. Valley Forge Hospital, Feb. 1777
 m. Judith Maupin dau. Gabriel (son of Daniel
 and Ann Ballard Maupin) of Albemarle County.
 Judith married—Burch } one child
2. FRANCIS EPPERSON
 b. abt. 1756, d. Aug. 1784
3. THOMPSON EPPERSON
 b. 1757, Albemarle Co., Va.
 d. June 9, 1836
 m. Sept. 22, 1782 at Amherst at
 parson's house
 m. Mary —
 d. Nov. 6, 1843
 1. PETER EPPERSON b. 1783
 2. HANNAH WATKINS b. 1787
 3. GEORGE EPPERSON b. 1790
 4. JOHN EPPERSON b. 1793
 m. Tabitha
 5. CATHERINE GRIFFIN b. 1795
 6. THOMPSON EPPERSON b. 1797
 7. CHARLES EPPERSON b. 1803
4. JAMES EPPERSON b. Albemarle Co., Va.
 m. Mary —
5. JOHN EPPERSON Albemarle Co., Va.
 m. Dec. 22, 1788, Elizabeth Bowen
6. WILLIAM EPPERSON b. abt. 1762, Albemarle Co., Va.
 m. June 21, 1788, Nancy Hicks
7. ROBERT EPPERSON
 m. March 1805, Madison Co., Ky., Lucy Oberbick
8. CHARLES EPPERSON
 b. July 14, 1766
 Albemarle Co., Va.
 d. Dec. 15, 1852, Oxford, Ill.
 m. Dec. 16, 1791, Va.
 Sarah Love Lamb
 b. March 10, 1772, Va.
 d. April 23, 1853, Oxford, Ill.
 1. JOHN H. EPPERSON
 2. ELIZABETH EPPERSON
 3. ISALAH EPPERSON
 4. ELIAS EPPERSON
 5. PEDRO WILLIS EPPERSON
 6. CHARLES EPPERSON
 7. PERMELIA EPPERSON
 8. EDLEY THOMAS EPPERSON
 9. SARAH LAMB EPPERSON
 10. SUSANNAH EPPERSON
 11. HIRAM EPPERSON
9. JUDITH EPPERSON m. James Gardner
10. SUSANNA EPPERSON m. Jonathan Langford
11. HANNAH EPPERSON m. — Freeman
12. LUCY JANE EPPERSON m. Jan. 17, 1786, John Burch
13. ELIZABETH EPPERSON
 m. William Beauchamp Proctor
 1. JOSEPH B. PROCTOR
 m. Hannah
 2. JANE PROCTOR
 3. ELIZABETH PROCTOR
 4. SUSANNAH PROCTOR

Congressional Heads of Families of Albemarle County in 1782 record David under the name of Apperson, with five in his household, and with five outer buildings and two dwellings on his plantation.

This locality was known as the St. Anne's Parish; later, as the Fredericksville Parish. On its records the names of David and his sons appear, subscribing to the efforts of the colony to find a code of rules whereby all could live peaceably together and prosper as a group. His name is on the Dissenters' Petition of 1776, from Albemarle County, voicing his loyalty to the independent self-developing spirit of the colonist who wanted to be free from the Church of England. When the call came to resist England's troops, he and his sons were said to have been the first to stand at the crossroads of his parish, probably at Wood's Gap and the Three Notched road. Later he volunteered his service in the 14th Virginia Regiment. His signature is affixed to a record which shows him to have been one of those paying for volunteers who were not financially able to enter service for their country and leave their families without support. Family tradition stated that David was a Major in the Revolutionary War, but I could not find a record of this commission. I found the record of his first enlistment, but nothing later. I did not find even the record of his son Thompson's enlistment, but his pension papers record him as having the rank of Captain.

David, Jr., volunteered in 1777, for three years. He sold his home of one hundred acres of land near his father's property when he entered the war. His father enlisted for two months in the 14th Virginia Regiment and was able to return home a short while before he went again in May. But David, Jr., who

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marched away with the 10th Virginia Regiment, on February 13, the same day on which his father left with the 14th Virginia Regiment, did not return. He had enlisted for three years, but after a lingering illness in the Valley Forge Hospital, he died in October of the same year. His wife Judith was cared for in her distress, by her neighbors. Richard Bruce advanced her 164 pounds and was reimbursed by the action of the House of Delegates of Virginia, in the December 1780 meeting. It was not until 1782 that David, Jr.'s wife knew of "arrears of pay due from the Publick" to her "decesed" husband. She then placed a claim for payment. David's wife later married John Burch. In his will John Burch makes provision for the care of his wife's child, the child of David, Jr. and Judith Epperson.

Of the remaining sons of David, Sr., Francis died from war injuries in 1784; John served in the 14th Regiment with his father; it is not certain where James, William, and Robert served. James signed the Albemarle County Declaration of Independence, April 21, 1779, according to Woods' history of Albemarle County, Virginia. This declaration was signed by Albemarle citizens, renouncing and refusing all allegiance to George III, King of England, his heirs, etc.—and took allegiance to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

David leaves on the records of Colonial Virginia the stamp of a noble family man. Evidence of his fatherly influence is found in the devotion of his children who chose to remain on plantations adjoining his. In the Will of his son Francis this devotion is expressed by the son's bequeathing all his property "to his beloved father." Family history records David's faithfulness to his religion as well as to his home. "The circuit rider of the Parish stopped for the night at his home and there were services after the supper things were taken away," said Elizabeth Dalton Epperson. David's wife was his equal and was a great companion. She was named by him the Executrix of his will. In this period few women served in such capacity.

DAVID EPPERSON—APPERSON

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According to family tradition, when David died in December, 1799, his family laid him away in a little burial plot near his home. The families of his sons, William, John, and Charles, and those of his daughters, Elizabeth, Judith, Susanna, and Lucy, were living on plantations adjoining his. At David's death about 1400 acres, on and bordering Epperson mountain, were owned by this combined family. His son Thompson had gone to North Carolina in 1785. In 1790 Thompson was living in Franklin County, Georgia. James, another son, sold his property in 1795. A son, Robert, presumably had gone earlier to Kentucky.

David's will gave all his estate, both real and personal, to his wife, Hannah. His land when she had finished with it was to be divided equally between his sons, Charles and John, at which time his personal property was to be divided equally among all his children. When the children were married, according to my grandmother, Elizabeth Hart Dalton Epperson, David and Hannah gave each child a portion of land and personal property as a wedding gift.

Hannah's interests were not so much for herself as for her sons. Accordingly, she with her two sons sold the entire property and prepared to leave Virginia. The families of John Epperson, a son, and Robert, another son, also those of John Apperson, Peter, Richard, and Joseph Epperson, all probably brothers or cousins of David, had gone to Tennessee and Kentucky. In 1802 Hannah started for Hawkins County, Tennessee, with her son Charles and family, leaving presumably five daughters and one son in Albemarle. Hannah's daughter Judith who married James Gardner was said to have moved to Tennessee and Kentucky with her mother and her brother Charles, but this statement was not proved. When Hannah left her home on the mountain, she left her dead in the little lot on the hillside overlooking the great beautiful valley toward the East. From the description in the deeds of the property sold at this time, David's home and grave seem to be a part of the Blue Ridge Farm, Greenwood, Virginia.

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Today this little burial plot lies secure on that quiet hillside. It has been cared for and kept sacred for one hundred and thirty-two years, or since 1800 when John Epperson sold the plantation to James Durrett. In this little graveyard are five graves. Three stones mark the graves and have carved in the stone the names of James Durrett, his wife, Nancy Durrett, and their beloved pastor. Two other old, nameless stones, one a large one and the other a small one, which were evidently in this cemetery several years before the Durrett's stones were placed there, complete the group. Since these unnamed stones belong to a period before the Durrett's owned the property, and since the place was the Epperson home during that period, it would seem that the two unlettered stones mark the graves of the Eppersons. David Epperson died in December, 1799, and was buried on the Plantation near his home. Isaiah, his little grandson, died about the same time. The Durrett's bought the place from John Epperson after David's death, and twenty-two years later were placed beside David in this quaint little burial place on their plantation. They had been his neighbors in life and they chose to be his companions in death.

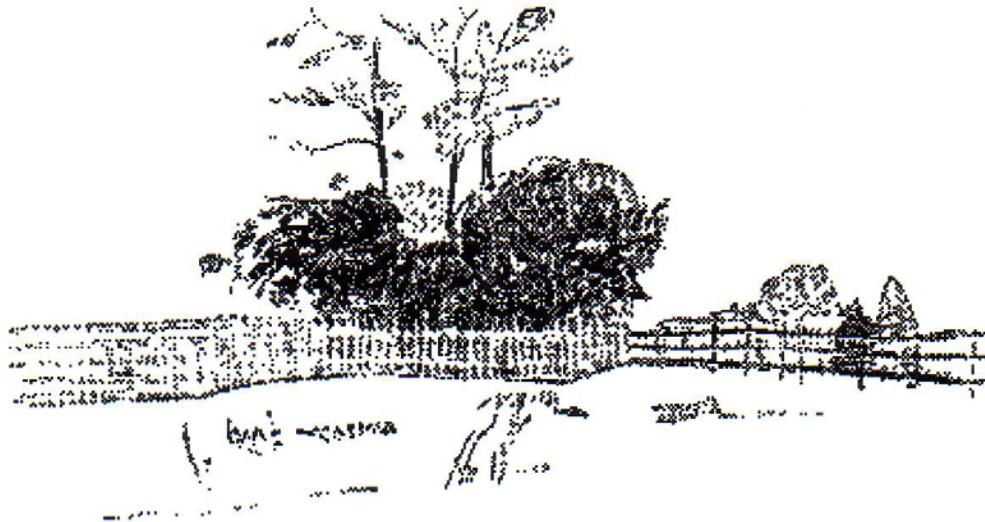
The picture below shows the plot in the perfect order in which the author found it, watched over faithfully by one who never knew its occupants. To Mrs. Randolph Ortman, the present owner of Blue Ridge Farm, and therefore really keeper of this graveyard, we pay tribute in deepest gratitude. It is good to know that in this busy world, where every hour brings feverish new excitements, there are reverent souls who step aside to pay homage to our dead. With Mrs. Ortman's permission, I quote the following from her book, "The Old House," published in 1897. It expresses her love and respect for noble souls who have lived before her, whose tradition and deeds live on, always in the present. As she cherishes her home she hears in fancy the old house speak to her of those who loved it before she did, and of those who will love it in years to come.

In the garden and not far distant from the house and the little

DAVID EPPERSON—APPERSON

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burial plot is an old oak tree which noted tree-men think was never in a forest. It was probably planted there by the Lambert family prior to 1769, and is over one hundred and sixty years old.



Little Graveyard, Greenwood, Virginia

WILL BOOK 4—PAGE 33, ALBEMARLE COUNTY VIRGINIA—CLERK'S OFFICE

WILL OF DAVID EPPERSON

In the name of God Amen—I David Epperson of Virginia and County Albemarle being through the mercy of God of sound mind and memory, do make, appoint, constitute and ordain this my last will and testament and desire it to be received by all as such. Imprimis—my soul I humbly bequeath to God who gave it me, my body I commit to the earth from whence it was taken, to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executrix and executors hereinafter mentioned. My will is and I positively order

that all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid out of my estate, My will is and I desire that my estate be neither appraised nor sold,

Item the 1st: I lend unto my beloved wife all my estate real and personal during her natural life.

Item the 2nd: I give and bequeath unto my son Charles Epperson his heirs and assigns forever one half of my land so as to include the "Mantion Spot" whereon I now live.

Item the 3rd: I give and bequeath unto my son John Epperson his heirs and assigns forever one half of my land so as to include the "Mantion

Item the 4th: I give unto my eleven children viz. Robert, James, Thompson, William, John, and Charles Epperson, Judith Gardner, Elizabeth Proctor, Susanna Langford, Hannah Freeman and Lucy Burch or Burke, to them their heirs and assigns forever, all my stock of every kind whatsoever and household and kitchen furniture together with the rest of my estate whatsoever not heretofore devised to be equally divided among them.

Lastly I do nominate and appoint my wife Hannah Epperson Executrix, James Epperson and Jonathan Langford Executors of this my last will and Testament—In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal this Twenty 2 day of February one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine.

DAVID ^{his}D EPPERSON
mark

Signed, sealed and delivered

In presence of

Teste. John Hall
Nathen Hall
Candis Hall

At Albemarle October Court 1799

This last will and testament of David Epperson Dec-d was produced into Court and proved by the Oathes of John Hall, Nathan Hall, and Candis Hall Witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded.

Teste

John Nicholas—Clerk