

Mar, 1985

COLLAGE OF CAPE COUNTY



CAPE GIRARDEAU EXPORTS 1874

Item	Amount	Price	Value
flour	120,000 bbls	\$ 6.00	\$720,000
lime	38,000 bbls	1.15	43,000
bacon	300,000 lbs	.07	21,000
lard	50,000 lbs	.07	3,500
hogs, dressed	150,000 lbs	.05	7,500



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WILL OF WILLIAM ROSS
Cape Girardeau County, Missouri

Body to be interred in my burying ground...wife Jane (personal estate during life).
Children: John, Martha, Enoch, Bethan, Mary. Personal property to John and Martha.
All my real estate consisting of plantation where on I now live containing four hundred
and twenty arpens to sons Enoch and John. Adjoining land owner, John Baldwin. To
daughters Bethany and Mary, each ten dollars. Executors: wife Jane Ross and sons John
Ross and Enoch Ross. Signed 5 May 1820. Witnesses: John Baldwin, John G. Smyth, and
James P. Edwards. Proved, 24 May 1820.

(Contributed by Barbara Yarberry, 121 W. Second Ave., Ajo, AZ 85201)

from Saga of Southern Illinois

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Excerpts concerning William Ross from THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ELDER REUBEN ROSS
by James Ross

Your grandfather's family was originally from Scotland. The name is identified there with many places, and is also borne by many persons. There was, as he used to say, a tradition that in early times several persons of this name left Scotland together, crossed the Atlantic, and settled in Virginia; that their descendants--many of them--emigrated into Maryland and Pennsylvania; that their complexions were generally dark (Ross Dhu); and that almost every family had a John, William, or James in it. The name is not "unknown to fame" having been borne by statesmen, philosophers, warriors, and navigators.

His grandfather, William Ross, a descendant of these supposed traditional ancestors, emigrated from Virginia to Martin County, North Carolina; date unknown. His father, also named William, was born August 9th, 1731, O.S. The maiden name of his mother was Mary Griffin. They were married in 1756.

A further account of the family from an old family record was brought from North Carolina in 1833.

"William Ross, Senior, of Martin County, was the son of William Ross, formerly of the State of Virginia, who came to this State, namely North Carolina, and settled in the above named county. His son, the father of the children whose names are under written, was born on the 9th of August, 1731, O.S. and departed this life the 25th of December, 1801.

The names and births of the children are as follows:

John	born September 3rd, 1757	James	born March 19th, 1769
William	" January 17th, 1760	Mary	" February 11th, 1771
Martin	" November 27th, 1762	Nathan	" November 2nd, 1773
Winifred	" March 9th, 1765	Reuben	" May 9th, 1776
Nannie	" March 26th, 1767	Elizabeth	" May 3rd, 1779

His parents were apparently estimable characters, both members of a Baptist church and both adorning their profession by pious and godly lives...His father was successful in accumulating property. The vast cane brakes on the rich alluvial lands along the Roanoke River afforded abundant food for cattle, summer and winter, and the mast that fell from the forest trees enabled him to raise hogs to good profit, but little corn being needed, and that only to keep them gentle. These products were sold chiefly to traders from New England who ascended the Roanoke in their vessels. This enabled him and others, who were industrious and enterprising, to realize large profits for those times. All this prosperity, however, vanished at the commencement of the Revolutionary war. British cruisers filled the waters. Trade of all kinds was paralyzed, and at the close of that eventful period, he found himself a poor man, comparatively, with a large family to provide for. Yet he was never heard to complain on account of his changed circumstances, but rather to rejoice that, by the sacrifice of his property and by sending his three sons--William, John, and Martin--into the army, he had contributed his mite to obtain the priceless blessings of freedom. Your grandfather always spoke of this circumstance with evident pride.

Of all these children, not one is now living. They all married and had families, except Mary, who died young. Your grandfather was greatly attached to this sister, and spoke of her in most affectionate terms. Two of his brothers, Martin and James, and two sisters, Mary and Elizabeth, died in Carolina. Two brothers, John and Nathan, and two sisters, Nannie and Winifred, died in Tennessee. His brother William, the first to leave his native state, soon after the war of Independence, settled in Missouri, and died near Cape Girardeau.

...Your grandfather was visited by his brother William Ross...This brother soon after leaving the army at the close of the Revolutionary War, had come west and settled in

William Ross (continued)

what is now Missouri, but was at that time known as Louisiana...The place he selected for a home while still unmarried was near the Mississippi River below the old French town called by the early French adventurers Cape Girardeau, and in a "bottom" famous for its deep and fertile soil. They had not met before since your grandfather was a little boy.

I was present at their meeting. It was very affectionate. They held each other in a long embrace and shed tears freely. He had wandered so far from home--nearly a thousand miles--and been so long absent and lost sight of by his family, that he had come to be regarded very much as one dead. I have heard that he encountered almost incredible hardships and dangers during his long journey on foot, from the shores of the Atlantic to the Mississippi, while passing with his rifle on his shoulder through the deep forests and savage Indian tribes. He was very gentle and affectionate, and in consequence we all became much attached to him, considering the short time he remained with us.

He greatly desired your grandfather to remove from where he was and settle near him, describing the country in which he lived as surpassed by none in point of fertility of soil, and in the fall of the next year your grandfather went to see him and to look at the country. But from what he saw of it he concluded it must be unhealthy, and was afraid to take his family there.

In the autumn of 1836, long afterwards, I had occasion to visit that country myself. I learned that he, his wife, and some of his children had been dead many years, and the rest had left there and gone farther west, no one could tell me where. I went to the house where he had lived, but it was occupied by strangers, who knew nothing of the family. It was a pretty place, situated on a little stream called Cape-la-Cruce, near the western bank of the great river.

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