

The Clan Ross of Scotland was founded in the 14th century and sprang from the Earl of Ross. Numerous members of this Clan emigrated to America. Descended from this Clan was Col. George Ross, signer of the Declaration of Independence. His brother John was killed in the Am. Rev., and it was his widow, Betsy Ross who made for Congress the American flag. In the middle of the 18th century, three brothers, Thomas, John and Daniel, came to America and settled in Louisa County, Virginia.

Daniel Ross, the youngest of the three brothers, born in Ross-Shire, Scotland about 1740, bought 100 acres in Fredericksville, Louisa County, Va. In June 1780, he was appointed 2nd Lt. in the Va. Militia; rendered further assistance by furnishing foodstuffs for the army. He married about 1765, Betty Garth, born 1747, died 1790, daughter of John Garth. Of their 13 children, David Jefferson was the tenth child.

David Jefferson Ross, born 1770-75 in Henry Co., Va., died Franklin Co., Va., March 20, 1849. Married Oct. 20, 1802, Sarah (Sally) Anderson. Of their nine sons, David Jefferson was the third son.

David Jefferson Ross, born Patrick Co., Va., 1806, died 1850-60; married Feb. 21, 1833, Elizabeth Turner. A son was Elmer A. Ross.

Elmer A. Ross, born Patrick Co., Va., Jan. 31, 1850, died Johnson City, Tenn., July 31, 1923; married June 8, 1891, Susan C. Turner, born June 9, 1870, died Nov. 8, 1953, daughter of Samuel Claiborne and Nancy (Stovall) Turner.

May Ross, a daughter of the above marriage, born Buffalo, N.Y., May 11, 1898; LL.B., E. Tenn. Law School, 1934; LL.D. (hon.) Steed College Technology, 1962. Admitted to Tenn. bar 1934; practice of law Johnson City, Tenn., 1935-43. General counsel, corp. sec. Johnson City Foundry & Machine Co., 1943-46, v.p. general counsel Johnson City Foundry and Machinery Works, Inc. 1946-. Member council, chmn. com. ten county Girl Scout Council; member Advisory council board Salvation Army. First woman city commissioner Johnson City 1957-65; vice-mayor City of Johnson City, 1959-61, mayor, 1961-63; member Johnson City Planning Commission, 1959. Recipient Certificate Meritorious Service, U.S. Dept. Labor 1963. Member, Soc. Daughters Colonial Wars, Sons and Daughters of Pilgrims, Ten. Soc. Colonial Dames of 17th century, D.A.R., Patrick Henry Allied Families of Patrick and Hentry Counties, Va. (founder, historian), American, Washington County, Tenn., bar associations, Nat. Assn. Women Lawyers, Business and Prof. Woman's Club (1st. pres. 1924, state pres. Tenn. federation 1925-26).

Married, Aug. 29, 1938, George Howard McDowell, born Maryville, Tenn., Jan. 15, 1898; manufacturer; son of Robert Thompson and Nannie (Summers) McDowell. Issue, one son, George Ross McDowell, who died in infancy.

The first known ancestor of Susan Turner Ross was Shadrack Turner, Sr. who was born about 1720 and died in Henry County, Virginia 1783 or 1784. The family is reportedly English but proof has not yet been established.

Shadrack, Sr. had brothers named Meshack and Abednago. The Meshack line was worked on for years by Walter LeSeur Turner of Roanoke, Virginia (now deceased). Abednago went to South Carolina and was buried at Abbeville, South Carolina.

Shadrack, Sr. married a woman referred to only as Ann. They were the parents of several children including John Turner born about 1747 at Halifax County, Virginia and died at Patrick County, Virginia, March 17, 1812. He married Elizabeth Price, daughter of Joseph Shores Price, and John and Elizabeth Turner had two children, Shadrack, Jr. and Mary Ann Turner.

Shadrack Turner, Jr., born 8-26-1788 married Judith Burnett, and these were parents of nine children, one of whom was Samuel Claiborne Turner, born 3-24-1833, at Patrick County, Virginia. He died at same county 4-20-1916. On 11-12-1857 he married Nancy M. Stovall, daughter of Joseph Stovall and Permelia Corn. These two had nine children including Susan Clementine Turner.

Susan Clementine Turner was born 6-9-1870 at Patrick County, Virginia and on 6-8-1891 married Elmer A. Ross, as his second wife. Issue, seven children: (1) Kate Ross, B. 5-26-1892, M. 1st Glen W. Setzer, 2nd A. D. VanGorder; (2) John Turner Ross, B. 4-3-1895, M. Mabel Barnett; (3) May Armenia Ross, B. 5-11-1898, M. George H. McDowell; (4) Charles Ross, B. 9-13-1900, died, 4-2-1902, (5) Ella V. Ross, B. 9-2-1902; (6) Mildred E. Ross, B. 1-21-1907, M. 1st John F. Willard, 2nd John T. McCool; (7) Theodore Warner Ross, B. 10-31-1913, M. Lena Robinson.

Mrs. Susan Turner Ross was related to many prominent persons in Patrick, Henry and Franklin Counties, Virginia. Her father served the Confederacy in the Civil War; her great grandfather, John Turner, served in the American Revolutionary War as did her great great grandfather, Shadrack Turner, Sr. She had many ancestors who served in the House of Burgesses in Virginia including Captain John Ward, William Hatcher, George Stovall and others.

Her daughters were interested in politics and three of them have held elective offices: Kate Ross VanGorder served on Board of Education in Johnson City, Tennessee; May Ross McDowell was on the Johnson City City Commission for eight years and during that time served as Vice-Mayor for two years and as Mayor for two years; and Ella V. Ross was elected a delegate to the Tennessee Constitutional Convention in 1953, and presently is serving as the only woman member of the Washington County, Tennessee County Court.