

Clark S. Bird

Clark Bird was born December 18, 1800, in McDowell County (formerly Burke), near Old Fort, second son of Reverend Jonathan Bird (1764-1848), a circuit-riding Methodist preacher ordained by Bishop Francis Asbury, and Angelica Banning whose father Benoni Banning was wounded in the battle of King's Mountain during the Revolutionary War. On December 7, 1820, he married Mary Pauline "Polly" Curtis (1804-1863). Sometime between 1824 and 1837 he left Burke County for newly formed Macon; and a land grant from the state of North Carolina signed by Governor Z.B. Vance in 1862, assigns to Clark Bird fifty acres in Macon County "situated on the waters of Tillico Creek"... "it being part of the land lately acquired by the Treaty from the Cherokee Indians and sold in obedience to an act of the General Assembly of this State." The grant states "in consideration of the sum of six dollars" (whether that was the entire amount of per acre is not clear) that the plat, "together with all woods, waters, mines, minerals, Hereditaments and appurtenances...to Clark Bird his heirs and assigns forever..."

Clark Bird and Polly Curtis Bird were parents of sixteen children: (1) James Harvey Bird (1821-1843); (2) Asbury Bird (1823-1845) who drowned; (3) John Williamson Bird (1824-1904), a Methodist preacher, who married first Jane Elizabeth Moore of Macon County, and second Sophia Jones of Candler, NC; (4) Mary Ann Bird (1825-1914) who married Reverend Barnett G. Wild (1824-1893) and lived in Jackson County close to Webster; (5) Joshua Curtis Bird (1828-1892) who married Katherine Sophronia Wilde (1826-1892). This couple settled in Macon County near Tellico and Burningtown and many of their descendants still live in that area as well as some in Swain and some in Jackson counties; (6) Elizabeth Jane "Betty" Bird

(1829- ?) who married Thomas Duvall who died early in the marriage; afterward she lived with her nephew Jake Wild and his wife Minnie at Webster; (7) Louisa Delilah "Lou" Bird (1831- ?) who married a Burnett; (8) Celia Brittain Bird (1832-1924) who married Alexander Leroy Wild (1831-1900) and moved from Macon County to Union County, Georgia, around 1875, then to Woodstock, Georgia, around 1895. One of her grandsons, Robert L. Kincaid, became the president of Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate, Tennessee; (9) Rebecca Malinda "Becky" Bird (1835- ?) who married first a Duvall, then second, Charles Cunningham and had one son who lived in Etowah, Tennessee; (10) Jonathan Lafayette Bird (1837-1921) who married Nancy Elvira Dean (1845-1932) and reared a family in Macon County. Both he and his wife are buried in Oak Grove Methodist Cemetery about seven miles from Franklin. Their children scattered in Swain County, Tennessee, and Georgia; (11) Eleanor Marinda "Ellen" Bird (1838-1927) who first married Thomas Henley Moore (brother of Jane Elizabeth Moore, wife of John Williamson Bird) by whom she had two sons and two daughters, then married second Felix Dowdle, by whom she had four sons and one daughter. This family lived in Macon County and many of their descendants still live in or near Franklin or in counties nearby; (12) Jesse Richardson Bird (1840-1865) who died during the Civil War; (13) Martha Ovian "Matt" Bird (1842- ?) who married Silas Totherow and raised a family of seven sons and a daughter(?) in Birmingham, Alabama. Later "Aunt Matt" came back to Jackson County and is buried in the Webster Cemetery; (14) Carmine Sevier Bird (1844- ?) was a preacher and never married; (15) Benjamin Andrew Bird (1846-1919) who married first Mary A. Morrison and had nine children, some of whom remained in Western North Carolina; one daughter married and

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moved to California, another to Montana; Benjamin married a second time to Emmaline Mason; (16) Daughter, name and dates unknown, died in infancy.

Clark Bird's first wife died in 1863; five years later, he married Melinda West. He died July 18, 1885, in Macon County.