

Isaac McDonald of Brunswick County, NC

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Explanation of Reporting Format

This report is divided into multiple sections:

- **Objective** - Your research objective
- **Final Conclusions** - My opinions on research results
- **Summary of Findings** - A high level overview of facts
- **Factual Citations** - All historical citations found in the original records and abstracts. Translated exactly as found. My personal notes are made with the reference 'Note:'.

Objective

Identify the origin of and any additional facts pertaining to Isaac McDonald of Brunswick County, NC. He wrote his will in 1820 in Brunswick County and died that same year. He witnessed a deed in 1810 and gifted land to children in 1812. In a General Assembly petition in 1821, his widow Charlotte McDonald indicated that Isaac had left the family for several years before returning in 1820. Charlotte intermarried with Simon Sellers during Isaac McDonald's absence from home.

Final Conclusions

Isaac McDonald (b. 1781-84, d. 1820) was the son of Captain James McDonald and Ann Walker (b. ca 1760, d. after 1811).

Isaac McDonald (b. 1781-84, d. 1820) was the brother of Margaret McDonald and Sarah McDonald Hunter.

Isaac McDonald (b. 1781-84, d. 1820) was the nephew of Richard Langdon whom he referenced as "friend".

Charlotte, wife of Isaac McDonald, was born about 1787. She stated her father was still living in 1821, but he was not named.

Isaac McDonald left Brunswick County, NC in late 1812 and moved to Savannah, GA. He returned probably in 1813, perhaps as late as 1814.

George Wesley McDonald was the son of Simon Sellers, Jr. and Charlotte McDonald (b. 1787).

No further info has been found on Captain James McDonald. He apparently died prior to 1803 as his wife Ann McDonald (b. ca 1760, d. after 1811) was independently witnessing a deed.

Ann Walker McDonald (b. ca 1760, d. after 1811) was the daughter of John Walker (d. 1775) and Mary Lord (1738-1806).

Ann Walker McDonald (b. ca 1760, d. after 1811) was the sister of Mary Walker Vance and Jean/Jane Walker Langdon.

Mary Lord Walker (1738-1806) was married a second time to George Meek (d. 1788).

Mary Lord Walker Meek (1738-1806) was the daughter of William Lord (d. 1748) and his wife Margaret.

Mary Lord Walker Meek (1738-1806) was the sister of Peter Lord, William Lord, Margaret Lord, Amelia Lord Windham, and Thomas Lord.

Mary Lord Walker Meek (1738-1806) had a nephew John Lord whom she referred to as friend.

Summary of Findings

Isaac McDonald summary:

Isaac McDonald was born between 1776 and 1784, based on the 1810 and 1820 Brunswick County, NC census.

In 1810, Isaac McDonald was a neighbor to E. Lord, a free person of color. J. Lord was also listed in Brunswick County as a free person of color.

In November, 1810, Isaac McDonald and John Campbell witnessed a deed in New Hanover County, NC for Simon Sellers, Sr.

In October, 1812, Isaac McDonald gifted household goods to his children William Henry McDonald, Mary Jean McDonald, and Betsy Ann McDonald. Note that only 3 children were named. He stated in the deed that he was moving. He made his mark with his name spelled as McDanal. John Conyers and Zach Cogsdell witnessed.

In 1815, Isaac Macdaniel was taxed in Smithville District in Brunswick County. Others taxed in the same district included John Lord, William C. Lord, John Gibbs, Simon Sellars, and Sterling B. Everitt. John Lord, William C. Lord, and Simon Sellars were all free people of color.

In October, 1817, the court appointed Isaac McDonald “guardian to his 4 children”: William Henry McDonald, Mary Jean McDonald, Mary Ann McDonald, and George Wesley McDonald. John V. Doshier and John Price were security on the bond.

In May, 1819, the lawsuit McDonald vs. Sellers was tried. The suit revealed the following facts from the viewpoint of Isaac McDonald:

- Isaac McDonald had been married to his wife Charlotte for about 14 years during which time Charlotte had four or five children.
- Isaac McDonald had gone to Savannah for about 3 to 4 months.
- While Isaac McDonald was in Savannah, his wife Charlotte intermarried with Simon Sellers. She became pregnant and later had a child.

Several conclusions can be made based on the court case and other records:

- Isaac McDonald and his wife, Charlotte, were married about 1805
- Note that Isaac McDonald had given 3 children property in October, 1812 and stated he was moving. Is this when he left for Savannah? Was he away from home during the year 1813?
- Note that the court appointed Isaac McDonald guardian to 4 children in 1817. George Wesley McDonald had not been named in his October, 1812 deed. The court case specifically cited that Charlotte had become pregnant by Simon Sellers. Was this in 1813? Was Simon Sellers the father of George Wesley McDonald?
- Note that in November, 1820, Isaac McDonald stated in his will that “his three minor children” were to be cared for by John Gibbs. He did not reference 4 children. If he was married about 1805, all children would still be minors in 1820. Is this more support for the case that George Wesley McDonald was the son of Simon Sellers?

In October, 1819 and April, 1820, William Dunbar Davis sold lot number 19 in the town of Smithville to Isaac McDonald. Witnesses included Edward Fitzgerald, Samuel Hawkins, and A. G. ___way. Isaac McDonald sold the lot to Richard Langdon in April, 1820 with Edward Fitzgerald as witness.

In November, 1820, Isaac McDonald wrote his will and named "three minor children" to be cared for by John Gibbs. The only child specifically named was William McDonald. He named "my friends" John Gibbs, Richard Langdon, and S. B. Everett as executors. Edward Fitzgerald and John McCaleb were witnesses. Isaac McDonald died probably in December, 1820.

In November, 1821, Charlotte McDonald petitioned the NC General Assembly for relief from the crime of bigamy. The petition revealed the following facts from the viewpoint of Charlotte McDonald:

- She stated that she was born poor and that her parents have been poor ever since.
- She married Isaac McDonald when she was 18 years old.
- She bore 6 children for Isaac McDonald, two of whom died.
- Isaac McDonald left her about 4 years ago and she was informed that he would never return.
- Isaac McDonald returned after 12 months.
- She is currently without any support except for what is given to her by her aged father who recently broke his arm.

Several conclusions can be made based on this petition and other records:

- Charlotte McDonald was born in 1787 based on her stated marital age of 18 and Isaac McDonald's statement that he was married about 1805.
- Charlotte McDonald said that Isaac McDonald left home about 1817 and returned about 1818. However, given all other records, we can conclude that Isaac McDonald left in 1812 and returned in 1813/14.

Names of people associated with Isaac McDonald:

- John Campbell
- Zach Cogsdell
- John Conyers
- William Dunbar Davis
- John V. Doshier
- Sterling B. Everitt
- Edward Fitzgerald
- John Gibbs
- Samuel Hawkins
- Richard Langdon
- John Price
- Simon Sellers, Jr.
- Simon Sellers, Sr.

Ann Walker McDonald summary:

In June, 1806, Mary Meek of Wilmington, NC wrote her will. The will is unique in that no male heirs were named. Mary Meek appears to have been providing for the women in her family. "Trusty friend and son in law" Richard Langdon was named as executor. "Friend and nephew John Lord" was instructed to hold property in trust for the heirs named. Hannah Cooke and Eliza Lord witnessed.

Daughters named were:

- Ann McDonald, wife of Captain James McDonald
- Mary Vance
- Jane Langdon, wife of Richard Langdon

Granddaughters named were:

- Sarah McDonald
- Margaret McDonald
- Mary Lord Vance
- Jane Vance

In 1803, Ann McDonald, John Mitchell, James Campbell, and H. Williams witnessed a deed from siblings Mary Meek, William Lord, Isaac Windham and wife Amelia Windham, all of whom sold to John Lord.

In November, 1805, Ann McDonald advertised that she had moved to Wilmington and was keeping a boarding house on Market Street.

On 18 December, 1805, a deed from Ann McDonald to James Marshall was proven in open court by George Duncan. Of note is that Simon Sellers, Jr. was in court that same day. After the McDonald deed was proven, Sellers, Jr. proved a deed from Elias Craig to Simon Sellers.

In April, 1809, Ann McDonald and John Lord sold slaves to John Bessant of Brunswick County, NC with Samuel R. Jocelyn as witness.

Observations:

- Was Eliza Lord the same person as E. Lord who was living next to Isaac McDonald in 1810?
- Note that John Lord was taxed in the same district as Isaac McDonald in 1815.
- Note that Isaac McDonald sold a lot in Smithville to Richard Langdon.
- Isaac McDonald referenced Richard Langdon as friend when he named him as executor of his will.
- Ann McDonald had sisters named Mary and Jane/Jean. Isaac McDonald named his daughters Mary Jean McDonald and Mary Ann/Betsy Ann McDonald.

Factual Citations

Facts on Isaac McDonald of Brunswick County, NC:

In 1810, **J./I. McDaniel** (sic), age 26-44, born between 1766 and 1784, was enumerated in Brunswick County, NC. He was listed between W. Snell and **E. Lord**, a free person of color. Other nearby neighbors included S. Stutt, R. Chapman, A. Perry, D. Everit, L. Dudley, S. Wilkinson, Mrs. Barlow, Ryon Holt, Mrs. Haden, W. Scaff, J./I. Davis, W. Watson, J. Potter, Jr., B. Liles, Jr., James Potter, A. Skipper, J. Skipper, Jr., D. Rabon, J. Pounds, Jr., J. Potter, Jr., A. Watson, etc. Also enumerated in his household were:

- 2 males < 10
- 1 female < 10
- 1 female 16-25
- 1 female 26-44
- 5 slaves

J. Lord was enumerated on page 4 of 10 with 2 free people of color and 6 slaves.

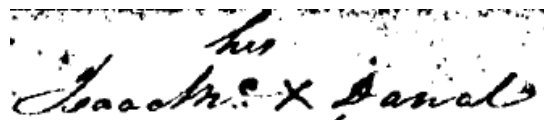
[1810 US Federal Census, NC, Brunswick, page 8 of 10; ancestry.com]

On 16 November, 1810, **Isaac McDonald** and John Campbell witnessed a deed from Simon Sellers, Sr., planter of New Hanover County, NC to Effy Grissom (New Hanover County, NC Deed Book O, Page 141). Simon Sellers, Sr. gifted 320 acres "for love, good will and affection" on the east side of Cape Fear River to Effy Grissom. The land bordered Turpentine Land or Alley's Landing, Peter Cesar, Hooper's land, Moseley's, the Atlantic Ocean, the Cape Fear River, and Edward Newton.

[Abstracts of Deeds, New Hanover County, NC Books N & O, Pruitt]

On 26 October, 1812, **Isaac McDonald** gifted to his son **William Henry McDonald** and his daughters **Mary Jean McDonald** and **Betsy Ann McDonald** (Brunswick County, NC Deed Book G, Page 20). **Isaac McDonald** noted that he was moving. He gave his son "one feather bed and a proportionate part of all and every part of my household and kitchen furniture". He gave each of his daughters the same allotment. **Isaac McDanal** (sic) made his mark. John Conyers and Zach Cogsdell witnessed.

<https://rod.brunasco.net/>

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Isaac McDanal". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Isaac McDanal's mark from clerk copy of deed

In 1815, **Isaac Macdaniel** (sic) was on the tax list for 1 white poll in Smithville District in Brunswick County, NC. He was not taxed for land. His total tax was 70 cents. Others taxed in the same district included:

- John Lord and William C. Lord, 320 acres on Town Creek valued at \$3000, 4 lots in Smithville, valued at \$1250, 2 colored polls, tax owed \$6.80
- John Gibbs, 1 white poll, 4 colored polls, 1 slave, tax owed \$9.50
- Simon Sellars, 500 acres on Cape Fear River valued at \$900, 5 colored polls, tax owed \$4.67

- Sterling B. Everitt, 1 ½ acres of land joining the town of Smithville valued at \$150, 1 white poll, tax owed 89 ½ cents

Note: John Lord and William C. Lord were listed as white in New Hanover County census records in 1820 and 1830.

Owner	Value	Description	Tax
Lord John	320	Smithville	6 80
Lord William C.	220	on Town Creek	4 25
Montgomery James	273	on the N side of E branch of Rock River	2 10
Isaac Macdaniel	150	on the E side of Rock River	1 00
William Henry	100	on side of Rock River	2 5
John Price	100	on Bayou Swamp	1 00
Robert	20	on the head of Cuddebs Branch	1 00

Isaac Macdaniel on 1815 tax list of Brunswick County, NC

On 27 October, 1817, the Brunswick County court ordered that **Isaac McDonald** be appointed “guardian to his four children” **William Henry McDonald, Mary Jean McDonald, Mary Ann McDonald, and George Wesley McDonald**. John V. Doshier and John Price were security.

[*Brunswick County, NC Minutes of Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, January, 1814 - December, 1820, Volume 3, The Old New Hanover Genealogical Society*]

On 1 May, 1819, the suit “McDonald vs. Sellers” was cited in the Carolina Sentinel:

“The suit, McDonald vs. Sellers, came to be tried on Tuesday last, before his honor Judge Murphey. It appeared in evidence, that the plaintiff and defendant were both pilots – that the plaintiff had been married about 14 years, during which time his wife had four or five children – that the plaintiff and his wife enjoyed the usual domestic comforts. That the plaintiff went to Savannah, for the purpose of seeking a more lucrative employment – that he gave his wife, at the time of his departure, what money he had – that he was absent for three or four months. That a short time previous to the return of the plaintiff, the defendant had criminal conversation with his wife – that he procured a license, and was married by a respectable justice of the peace to the plaintiff’s wife – that she has since had a child by the defendant.”

“The defendant set up, by way of defense, that the plaintiff went off and left his wife in a destitute situation – that shortly after his departure, a great part of his property was seized and sold under execution; and that from her destitute situation, she was measurably compelled to pursue the course that she did. That it was the intention of the plaintiff not to return from Savannah. The irregularities of the plaintiff was also attempted to be shewn. The jury gave a verdict of one thousand dollars”.

[*Carolina Centinel, Newbern, NC, Saturday, May 1, 1819, Volume 2, Number 58; newspapers.com*]

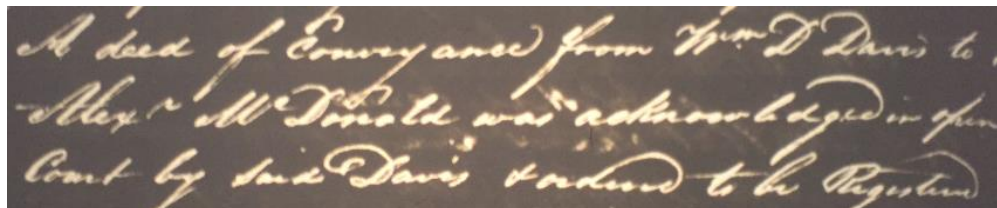
On 25 October, 1819, William D. Davis of the town of Smithville sold ½ of lot number 19 in the town of Smithville to **Isaac McDonald** of Smithville for \$30 (Brunswick County, NC Deed Book H, Page 227). William Dunbar Davis signed his name. Edward Fitzgerald witnessed. The deed was filed during the October term of court, 1819.

[<https://rod.brunasco.net/>]

On 26 October, 1819, “a deed of conveyance from William D. Davis to **Alexander McDonald** was acknowledged in open court by said Davis and ordered to be registered”. [*Brunswick County, NC*]

Minutes of Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, January, 1814 - December, 1820, Volume 3, The Old New Hanover Genealogical Society]

Note: It seems obvious the clerk made an error in the court minutes. This was the same deed from William D. Davis to **Isaac McDonald**. The court minutes name him as **Alexander McDonald**.

A photograph of a handwritten document in cursive script. The text reads: "A deed of Conveyance from Wm D Davis to Alex'r McDonald was acknowledged in open Court by said Davis & ordered to be Registered". The ink is dark on a light-colored paper.

Excerpt from original court minutes showing the name Alex'r McDonald

On 6 April, 1820, William Dunbar Davis of Smithville sold ½ of lot number 19 in the town of Smithville to **Isaac McDonald** of Smithville for \$30 (Brunswick County, NC Deed Book H, Page 265). William Dunbar Davis had obtained the land from John Conyers, Benjamin Blaney, and Samuel Potter “commissioners appointed by act of assembly passed at Raleigh in December, 1806 as will fully appear by reference being to the book of registry of said county G page 223”. William Dunbar Davis signed his name. Samuel Hawkins and A. G. ___way witnessed.

Note: Brunswick County, NC Deed Book G, Page 223 was consulted and there is no relevance to Isaac McDonald.

[\[https://rod.brunsko.net/\]](https://rod.brunsko.net/)

On 25 April, 1820, **Isaac McDonald**, pilot, of Brunswick County, NC sold ½ of lot number 19 to Richard Langdon of Brunswick County, NC for \$50 (Brunswick County Deed Book H, Page 266). **Isaac McDonald** made his mark. Edward Fitzgerald witnessed.

[\[https://rod.brunsko.net/\]](https://rod.brunsko.net/)

In 1820, **Isaac McDonald**, age 26-44, born between 1776 and 1794, was enumerated in Brunswick County, NC. He was listed between Mary Gumash and John Anderson. Other nearby neighbors included Thomas Bell, Ann Long, Margaret Blaney, Mary Betts, E. J. Betts, Alice Copes, George Cratok, Edward Clemons, John Clemons, John Price, Christian Soles, Charles Tharp, Lemuel Murrell, John Wescot, Joshua Franklin, Nancy Roberson, John Gibbs, Robert B. Potter, etc. Also enumerated in his household were:

- 1 male < 10
- 1 male 10-15
- 1 female < 10,
- 1 female 10-15
- 1 female 16-25
- 1 female 26-44

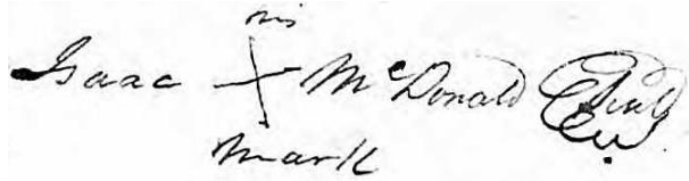
[1820 US Federal Census, NC, Brunswick, page 4 of 7; ancestry.com]

On 8 October, 1820, Gabriel Holmes, Jr., High Sheriff of New Hanover County, NC, sold a slave to John Cowan for \$425 (New Hanover County Deed Book R, Page 195). Joe/Joseph had been sold on 10 September, 1820 at the court house in Wilmington due to a writ of fi fa from New Hanover County Superior Court against Simon Sellars for \$600 and \$74.66 costs due to suit by **Isaac McDonald**. Charles B. Morris witnessed. [Abstracts of Deeds New Hanover County, NC Books R & S, 1820-1826, Pruitt]

On 17 November, 1820, **Isaac McDonald** of Smithville, NC wrote his will. He stated the following:

- His three minor children were to be cared for by John Gibbs.
- A gun was left in the possession of Aaron Todd and was to be given to his son **William McDonald** when he came of age.
- “My friends” John Gibbs, Richard Langdon, and S. B. Everett were appointed executors.

Isaac McDonald made his mark. Edward Fitzgerald and John McCaleb witnessed. The will was probated during the January term of court, 1821.



Isaac McDonald's mark from his original will

On 30 January, 1821, the last will and testament of **Isaac McDonald** was proven in open court by the oath of John McCaleb. John Gibbs qualified as executor. [*Brunswick County, NC Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, January, 1821 - November, 1825, Volume 4, Butler*]

On 30 April, 1821, the account sales of the estate of **Isaac McDonald** was sworn to in open court by John Gibbs, executor. [*Brunswick County, NC Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, January, 1821 - November, 1825, Volume 4, Butler*]

On 30 November, 1821, **Charlotte McDonald** petitioned the NC General Assembly for relief. The petition read as follows:

Petition of **Charlotte (x) MacDonald**, a poor, weak and distressed woman, born of parents who were in extreme low circumstances. Unfortunately, they have continued so ever since. At the age of eighteen years, your petitioner was lawfully married to **Isaac MacDonald**, pilot, and bore him six children, two of whom it has pleased the Lord to take out of thy troublesome world. Said husband's disposition was very uneven, and he treated your petitioner in a different manner from what he should – all of which your petitioner bore with fortitude until about four years ago, when he left me and children destitute of the means of support and went off in company with another man's wife. I was later informed that he never intended to return, and after many months I was solicited to marry a man, then a widower, Simon Sellers, whose circumstances were good and I not being aware of the enormity of the crime, consented and was married to him. About twelve months later, said **Isaac MacDonald** returned and prosecuted Mr. Sellers and recovered a considerable sum. Before payment was made, Mr. Sellers died, and his property was sacrificed to pay the judgement. MacDonald then solicited my return to him and said he would become a different man and treat me and the children well. Since I was in a destitute situation and unusually weak, I consented and returned to him. Shortly afterwards, Mr. MacDonald died, and I am now in a deplorable situation. Some considerable time ago, a writ from the court issued against me, previous to MacDonald's death, to be brought to justice for a crime which I was completely ignorant. The writ has not yet been served owing to my absence. Your petitioner and children are without any assistance except what little they obtain from an aged father, whose family is large and whose sole dependence is

by farming on rented land. To add to my distress, my father unfortunately broke his arm a few weeks ago. Prays for relief by having an act passed to have the suit dismissed.

Report of the select committee to whom was referred the petition of Charlotte MacDonald are of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to legislative interferences and recommend the following bill for her relief.

[The NC Genealogical Society Journal, Volume XXV, No 2, May, 1999; GASR Nov 1821 - Jan 1822, Box 4, folder SCR - Prop and Grievances - Miscellaneous]

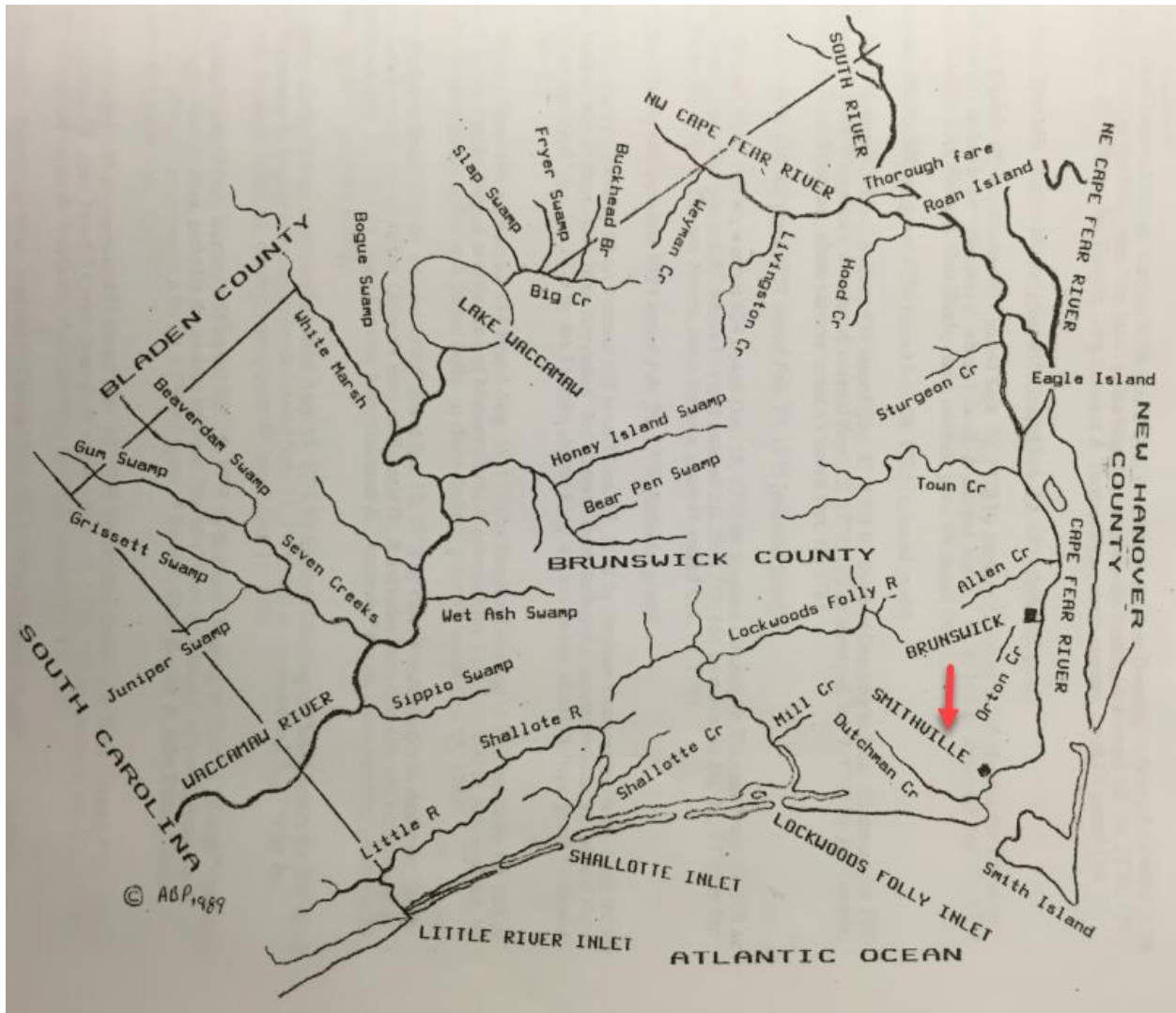
Bill for relief of **Charlotte McDonald**, late of County of New Hanover and widow of Isaac McDonald, late a pilot on the Cape Fear River. Immediately after the passage of this act, she is hereby discharged from any punishment to which she may be liable by reason of having intermarried with a certain Simon Sellers during the lifetime of said Isaac McDonald. In Senate, 11 December, 1821, read third time and ordered to be engrossed.

[The NC Genealogical Society Journal, Volume XXV, No 2, May, 1999; GASR Nov 1822 - Dec 1822, Box 2, folder SB - 10 Dec]

On 29 October, 1822, the case of “John Gibbs, executor of **Isaac McDonald** vs. Pitt W. Robeson, Moses McKeithen, and John F. Sullivan” was brought before the Brunswick County, NC court. Pitt W. Robeson had failed to pay \$8.60 to the estate of Isaac McDonald. *[Brunswick County, NC Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, January, 1821 - November, 1825, Volume 4, Butler]*

On 29 October, 1822, it was ordered that **William McDonald** be bound as an apprentice to James Price to learn the art and mystery of a pilot. *[Brunswick County, NC Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, January, 1821 - November, 1825, Volume 4, Butler]*

On 30 January, 1823, it was ordered that S. B. Everett and Samuel Potter be appointed to audit the accounts of John Gibbs, executor of **Isaac McDonald**, and report to the next term of court. *[Brunswick County, NC Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, January, 1821 - November, 1825, Volume 4, Butler]*



Early map of Brunswick County, NC showing the location of the town of Smithville
Abstracts of Land Warrants, Brunswick County, NC, 1778-1810, Pruitt

Facts on Ann Walker, wife of Captain James McDonald:

On 5 July, 1748, **William Lord**, tavern keeper, of Brunswick in New Hanover County, NC wrote his will. He named the following heirs and property:

- “I give devise and bequeath all my estate...”
 - To my loving wife Margaret Lord
 - To my six children:
 - Peter Lord
 - William Lord
 - **Mary Lord**
 - Margaret Lord
 - Amelia Lord
 - Thomas Lord
- It was noted that all children were under 21 years of age
- Executrix named as wife Margaret Lord

[NC Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998, New Hanover, Original Wills; ancestry.com]

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read 'William Lord'. The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, textured paper. To the right of the signature is a dark, circular ink smudge or stamp.

Signature of William Lord from original 1748 will

On 10 February, 1775, **John Walker** of Brunswick County, NC wrote his will. He named the following heirs and property:

- “Any cause or account including my concern with Henry Toomer be settled, paid, and discharged by my executors”
- Wife **Mary Walker**, 1/3 part of the residue of my whole estate
- Other 2/3 of my estate to be equally divided among my three children:
 - **Ann Walker**
 - Mary Walker
 - Jean Walker
- My two children Mary Walker and Jean Walker should be under the management and directions of my executors
- My daughter **Ann Walker** “shall always be under the sole management and direction of her Aunt Quince to be educated, instructed, and brought up as she alone shall think most proper”.
- Executors:
 - James Walker
 - Richard Quince, Jr.
 - John Quince
- Additional note written at the bottom of the will (after the will was written):

- “Whereas there is a tract of land containing 600 acres lying on Long Creek - sold Arthur Mabson it my will and order that my executors make said Mabson a deed for the same agreeable to patent from Robert Walker estate”.
- Witnesses:
 - John Cray
 - Henry Hawkins
 - Thomas Wright

[NC Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998, Brunswick, Original Wills; ancestry.com]



Signature of John Walker from original 1775 will

On 14 February, 1780, **George Meek** filed a bond to marry **Mary Walker**. Fellow bondsman was James Walker. Thomas Maclaine witnessed.

On 15 November, 1787, **George Meek** wrote his will. He left all of his estate to his wife **Mary Meek**. **Mary Meek** and A. McNorton were named as executors. James Council and Peter Robeson witnessed. The will was probated during the May term of court, 1788 in Bladen County, NC and was proven by Peter Robeson. On 7 October, 1788, Henry Urquhart qualified as executor of the estate. *[NC Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998, New Hanover, Original Wills; ancestry.com]*

In 1803, **Mary Meek**, William Lord, Isaac Windham and his wife Amelia Windham sold a moiety of 640 acres to John Lord for 50 pounds (New Hanover County, NC Deed Book N, Page 412). The land was “in New Hanover on the east side of the Cape Fear River about four miles from Brunswick”. On the north side, it joined land formerly owned by John Porter, deceased. On the south side, it joined land formerly belonging to Col. Maurice Moore, deceased. **Mary Meeks** (sic), W. Lord, and Amelia Windham signed their name. The deed was witnessed 4 October, 1803 for **Mrs. Mary Meek** by **Ann McDonald** and John Mitchell. The deed was witnessed 27 October, 1803 for William Lord by James Campbell and H. Williams. The signature of Amelia Windham was done 4 July, 1806 in Wilmington before P. Maxwell. The deed was proven during the February term of court, 1809 by J. Mitchell and H. Kelly. *[Abstracts of Deeds, New Hanover County, NC, Books N & O, Pruitt]*

On 26 November, 1805, a boarding house was advertised in a Wilmington newspaper. The ad read as follows: “The subscriber acquaints her friends and the public that she has removed to town, and intends keeping a genteel boarding house in the tenements lately occupied by Mr. Jacob Levy in Market Street. **Ann McDonald**. *[Abstracts from Newspapers of Wilmington, NC, 1804-1806, Volume 4, Fouts]*

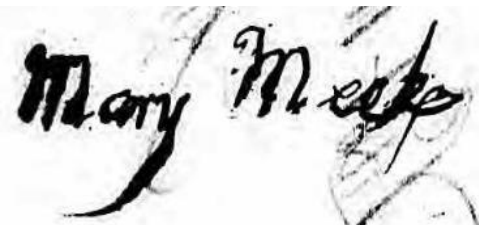
On 18 December, 1805, a deed from **Ann McDonald** to James Marshall was proven by George Duncan and ordered to be registered. The next entry in the court minutes was a deed from Elias Craig to Simon

Sellers proven by Simon Sellers, Jr. [*New Hanover County, NC, Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1805-1808, Sammons*]

Note: *This deed was not found in New Hanover County Deed Abstracts by A. B. Pruitt. Nor was it found in the grantor/grantee index. The index was searched for Ann McDonald and for James Marshall.*

On 9 June, 1806, **Mary Meek**, house keeper, of Wilmington, New Hanover County, NC wrote her will. She named the following heirs and property:

- To my daughter **Ann McDonald**, wife of **Capt. James McDonald**
 - Slave named Sylvia
 - Slave named Betty and her son John
 - All slaves were held in trust by “my friend and nephew John Lord”
- To my daughter Mary Vance
 - Slave named Flora
 - Slave mulatto man named Manuel
 - One dozen silver table spoons of her choice
- To my daughter Jane Langdon
 - One dozen silver table spoons “thus bequeathed only as a testimony of her mother’s equal esteem and the certainty of her not being in want having an affectionate husband”.
- To my granddaughter **Sarah McDonald**
 - A slave woman named “Robesons Kate” and her child Mimbo
 - One bed and bedstead and furniture for the same
 - One dozen silver spoons
- To my granddaughter Mary Lord Vance
 - One bed and bedstead and furniture for the same
- To my granddaughter Jane Vance
 - One bed and bedstead and furniture for the same
- To my granddaughter **Margaret McDonald**
 - One bed and bedstead and furniture for the same
- Residue of property after paying debts to my daughter Mary Vance and my granddaughter **Sarah McDonald** to be equally divided “with the exception not to sell old Kate”
- “My trusty friend and son in law” Richard Langdon named as executor
- Witnesses:
 - Hannah Cooke
 - Eliza Lord



Signature of Mary Meek from original 1806 will

[*NC Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998, New Hanover, Original Wills; ancestry.com*]

On 18 November, 1806, Richard Langdon, executor of **Mary Meek**, published a notice in the Wilmington Gazette:

“All those indebted to the estate of **Mary Meek**, deceased, are requested to make payment immediately, and those having claims against said estate are notified to present them duly authenticated within the time prescribed by law, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery, Nov 17, 1806”

[files.usgwarchives.net/nc/newhanover/court/meek931gwl.txt]

According to findagrave.com, **Mary Meek** was buried in Saint James Church Cemetery in Wilmington, NC. She was born 15 October, 1738 and died 15 October, 1806.

[<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/42875688/mary-meek>]

On 11 May, 1807, **Miss Sarah McDonald** married Captain William Hunter. [Abstracts from Newspapers of Wilmington, NC, 1807-1810, Volume 5, Fouts]

On 13 February, 1808, **Mrs. A. McDonald** and about 50 others were mentioned as owing debts to James Usher (New Hanover County Deed Book P, Page 24). James Marshall was also on the list. [Abstracts of Deeds, New Hanover County, NC, Books P & Q, 1813-1820, Pruitt]

On 25 April, 1809, **Ann MacDonald** and John Lord of Wilmington sold slaves Betty and her child Becky to John Bessant of Brunswick County, NC for \$375 (Brunswick County Deed Book F, Page 104). **Ann McDonald** and John Lord signed their name. Samuel R. Jocelyn witnessed. The deed was proven and registered on 28 January, 1811. [<https://rod.brunsko.net/>; Brunswick County, NC Minutes of Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1805 - 1813, Volume 2, The Old New Hanover Genealogical Society]

On 20 February, 1811, Benjamin Smith of Brunswick County, NC sold a lot in Wilmington to Andrew Scott of Wilmington, NC (New Hanover County Deed Book Q, Page 24). The lot began on Front Street and bordered a lot owned by the estate of Peter Molett. The lot also bordered a lot owned by John Martin and presently occupied by **Mrs. Ann McDonald**. [Abstracts of Deeds, New Hanover County, NC, Books P & Q, 1813-1820, Pruitt]