GREEN HILL

ABSTRACT

1797  Samuel Pannill purchases Green Hill with 600 acres, a mill and a mill seat from Fuqua family.

1799  Pannill's Store referred to in Court Order Book
       Pannill named Justice of the Peace

1805  Pannill inherits 2/3 of John Boghton 's property
       Boughton is his father-in-law

1813  Pannill's Green Hill mill is licensed to use improvements invented by Oliver Evans.

1848  Taxed on 3268 1/4 acres of a land and $9,000 in buildings at Green Hill.

1859  Pannill's will recorded. References to 187 slaves, store, mill, Green Hill plantation.

       Pannill taxed on 2981 acres and $1,000 in buildings.

1861  Samuel Pannill dies (no inventory)
       John Pannill inherits Green Hill, the store, mill, etc.

1862  John Pannill sells Green Hill and everything on it to his nephews Samuel, John and Abraham Wimbish

1866  Samuel and Abraham Wimbish are taxed for Green Hill and adjoining tracts.
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In September, 1797, Samuel Pannill of Pittsylvania County, purchased from Moses and William Fuqua of Campbell County, "a certain tract or parcel of Land lying and being in the said county of Campbell on the North side of Staunton River containing by estimation six Hundred acres." The transaction included "the mill and mill" seat on Hill's Creek.

By 1799, Pannill's enterprises in Campbell County also included a store. He and three other citizens were authorized to "study a way for a Road from Pannell's Store to the Locust thicket" at the January 1799 County Court.\(^2\) That same year, Pannill was appointed a Justice of the Peace.\(^3\)

Sometime prior to 1805 Pannill married Judith Boughton, the only daughter of John Boughton. Before his death Boughton conveyed by deed of gift all of his slaves except one to his son-in-law. In his will, written in July 28, 1805, Boughton bequeathed 2/3 of his land to Samuel Pannill. The will was proved in 1808.\(^4\)

Pannill's mill was apparently successful enough to allow for capital improvement and the most current technology. In 1813, he purchased a license from Philadelphia millwright Oliver Evans to construct and use the later's patented milling equipment.\(^5\) The license, which was recorded in a county deed book, describes in part Pannill's mill and the equipment to be installed. The improvements were for "elevating grain & meal and conveying
the same from one part of the mill to another, and for cooling
the meal and attending the [bolting?] hoppers." According to
the license, Pannill's mill had one water wheel driving not more
than one pair of mill stones at the same time. 6

During the first nineteenth century, Pannill
steadily increased his holdings. Between 1800 and 1847
he was the grantee in 38 land sales. By 1848, he owned 3268 1/4
acres in one magisterial district alone. The buildings on the
tract which he had purchased from Fuqua were valued at $9,000
in that year, an exceptionally high figured when compared to
other large landowners. 7 Pannill must have sold some
property or transferred it to his sons because by 1859,
he owned 2981 acres. The buildings at Green Hill were assessed
at o $1,000, a surprising drop in only 11 years. 8

Samuel Pannill died in 1861 and the will he had written
two years previously gives a detailed account of the extent of
his wealth. His son John was his principal heir. He inherited
"the Green Hill tract of lands on Staunton River," on which
Samuel resided, as well as adjoining lands, islands in the
River at the upper end of the mill race, his stone toll bridge
across the River, and other tracts totaling 730 acres. Further,
the son received 123 slaves. Samuel named all 123 in the will,
but only identified three by trade. These were Ryal, a carpenter,
Edward a house servant, and Simon, a blacksmith. 9 An additional
64 slaves were to be divided for the families of his three daughters. John received all of the riding carriages, personal and perishable property belonging to Green Hill, and "all goods, wares, merchandise purchased for, and in the store at Green Hill, and all the wheat and flour in the mill."

David, another son, received a life interest in a 600 acre plantation across the river from Green Hill in Halifax County. This and several other properties were to be managed by John and William L. Graham, a third, unidentified legatee. In the document, Pannill referred to his son-in-law and business partner, Abraham W. Wimbish, for whom he had apparently covered some debts, and requested that an attempt be made to settle these in order to release property which was held in trust.

The estate was divided according to the provisions of the will in 1862. Three years later, on September 11, 1865, John Pannill of Green Hill sold the plantation and everything on it as well as David's estate to his nephews John, Samuel, Caroline and Abraham Wimbish. Part of the purchase price was applied the the elder Wimbish's debts. Abraham and Samuel were taxed for the 600 acre (John lived in North Carolina) home plantation and the same adjacent tracts which Samuel had owned before his death.

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Notes

1  Campbell County Deed Book 4, p. 249 ff (Hereafter, all records refer to Campbell County).

2  Court Order Book 6, p. 193.

3  Ibid., p. 242.

4  Will Book 2, p. 351.

5  Deed Book 10, p. 212.

6  Ibid.

7  Deed Books, Grantee Index, 1787-1914, passim.

8  Land Tax Book, 1848, n.p.


10  Will Book 12, pp. 577-78.

11  Will Book 14, p. 72, contains the record of the division of the property with the slaves counted.

12  Will Book 12, pp. 578-79.

13  Will Book 14, p. 72.

14  Deed Book 34, p. 248.