

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 Boughton^{o's} 's property
Boughton ~~was~~ 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 mill¹ 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 ^{half of the} steadily increased his holdings. Between 1800 and 1847 he was the grantee in 38 land sales.⁷ 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.⁸ 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.⁹

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 ~~the~~ Staunton River," on which Samuel resided, as well as ~~the~~ 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 sone 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.¹⁰ An additional

64 slaves were to be divided for the families of his three daughters.¹¹
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.¹²
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 1862.¹³ 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~~, ~~Carolin~~^{, who lived in North}
and Abraham Wimbish. Part of the purchase price was applied
to the elder Wimbish's debts.¹⁴ Abraham and Samuel were taxed
for the 600 acre ~~land~~ (John lived in North Carolina) home plantation
and the same adjacent tracts which Samuel had owned before his
death.¹⁵

Green Hill, p. 4

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.
- 9
Land Tax Book, 1859, 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.
- 15
Land Tax Books, 1866, 1867, n.p.