

John Fields Auld[†] & Mary Jackson
of
North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, & Louisiana

by Timothy Dean Hudson

John Fields Auld (6 May 1788–28 Aug 1859) was born in Anson County, North Carolina the son of Michael Piper Auld (3 Mar 1757–18 Sep 1789) and Sidney Fields (c1756–c1820). The Aulds were a wealthy family originating in Ayrshire, Scotland. John's grandfather, Maj. James Auld (c1723–8 May 1782) was born in Talbot County, Maryland and married about 1747 to Rosanna Piper (1723–1792). After James and Rosanna migrated to North Carolina, they maintained regular communication with his parents, John Auld (21 Feb 1702–22 Jul 1766) and Mary Sherwood (25 May 1704–30 Sep 1795), back in Maryland. These letters have survived, providing much personal information on their family relationships between the 1760s and 1790s.

John's father and grandfather were lawyers and both served as the Clerk of the Anson County Court. Both also served in military capacities during the Revolutionary War. Michael engaged in extensive business affairs in the 1780s and accumulated large land holdings. A sickly man for much of his life, Michael perished after "*a most cruel and violent illness in 24 hours after he taken [ill]*" [1].

John Fields Auld grew up in Anson County, raised by his mother and stepfather John Cason, who his mother married in the early 1790s.

About 1806, John married Mary Jackson [Polly] (c1791–28 Aug 1859), the daughter of Stephen Jackson and Nancy Kindrick. In 1804, the North Carolina General Assembly had approved an act that the names of Mary Kindrick and her three siblings, all the "*natural born children of Stephen Jackson of Anson county,*" to have the surname Jackson. The act specified that they "*...shall for ever hereafter be legitimated and made capable to possess, inherit and enjoy, by descent or otherwise, any estate real or personal, to all intents and purposes as if they had been born in lawful wedlock*" [2].

John Fields and Mary Jackson Auld lived in Anson County near his mother Sidney and stepfather John Cason until 1826, several years after Sidney's death. Soon afterwards, John moved his family to Alabama. They appear to have been omitted on the 1830 federal census of Alabama,

[†]During his lifetime, John Fields Auld signed his name as "*Auld*," as did his ancestors throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Surname spellings remained fluid during this period, not becoming standardized until around 1900. Since then, most family members, including most of Auld's descendants, have spelled their name as "*Aulds*." This biography uses "*Auld*" to remain true to the manner in which John Fields Auld signed his own name.

although they certainly lived in that state by then. One page of the Lowndes County census is missing, and he may have been listed there.

In April 1830 John's eldest son Elijah Michael Auld married Margaret Jane Ward, with the marriage license recorded in Montgomery County. The portion of Lowndes in which the Aulds and Wards lived belonged to Montgomery prior to the creation of Lowndes in January 1830.

John F. Auld purchased government land in southern Lowndes County on 23 May 1831 at the Cahaba Land Office in nearby Dallas County; Auld's property lay several miles northeast of the Ward's farm in southeastern Lowndes. John's son James A. Auld married Elizabeth Ann Hester in 1833. Soon afterwards, James's father-in-law Randolph Hester moved to Sumter County Alabama, probably with James A. Auld accompanying him. Sumter County was located on the western border of Alabama, adjoining Kemper County, Mississippi.

In search of better farmland further west, John F. Auld sold his 160-acre plantation in Lowndes County on 15 November 1834 and moved west. Where he spent the 1835 growing season is unclear, but it was probably Sumter County, Alabama or across the border in Kemper County, Mississippi.

On 26 November 1835, John Fields Auld and his son James purchased adjoining tracts of government land in Kemper County, with John buying 240 acres and James 160. Six weeks later, on January 14th, Elisha Ward Sr. purchased 40 acres nearby, and on March 8th, Elijah Michael Auld and Elisha's son David also bought tracts of government land. The 1837 state census indicates that only John F. and James A. Auld cultivated their land during the year 1836, so perhaps Elijah Michael Auld and the Wards returned to their former homes in Lowndes County for the year 1836. However, during the year 1837, Elijah and his father-in-law Elisha Ward returned to Kemper and joined John and James Auld. Meanwhile, Elisha's son David Ward moved further west to north Louisiana, settling in what was then Ouachita Parish near the Bayou d'Loutre.

The Aulds and Elisha Ward only lived together in Kemper County, Mississippi for one year, for soon after the 1837 growing season, Elijah Michael Auld and Elisha Ward moved west to join David Ward in north Louisiana. At the same time, James A. Auld moved back across the state line into Sumter County, Alabama, where he resided in 1840. James Auld remained in Alabama until about 1846, when he and the Hester family moved to Union Parish, Louisiana.

John Fields Auld remained in Kemper County, Mississippi until 1841, but then left Mississippi and settled in Claiborne Parish, which bordered Union Parish to the west. Sometime in the 1850s, John Fields and Mary Auld sold their Claiborne Parish plantation and joined their sons Elijah

Michael, James Alexander, and Sherwood Ager Auld in Union Parish Louisiana. John and Mary died of unknown circumstances on the same day, 29 August 1859, while residing in Union Parish.

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Known Children of John Fields Auld & Mary Jackson

In late 1824, either in preparation for leaving Anson County and moving to North Carolina or perhaps in fear of an early death, John F. Auld gave all of his land, enslaved people, and personal property to his half-brother to be held in trust for Auld's wife Mary and their children. This deed gives the names of John F. Auld and Mary Jackson's children born up until that time [3]. Two additional children were born after this deed was made. All of the Auld's children except the last daughter were born in Anson County North Carolina.

1. **Rosanna Fields Auld** (c1807–4 Sep 1880) married about 1827 to John Martin Stoudenmire (25 Jan 1804–21 Oct 1867), son of John George Stoudenmire (12 Jul 1771–6 Aug 1842) and Mary Magdalene Whetstone (2 Feb 1775–24 Jun 1851). John M Stoudenmire is buried in the Stoudenmire Cemetery, Autauga County Alabama, but Rosanna has no marker there today.
2. **Susan Elizabeth Auld** (c1809–aft. 1824) was referred to as both "*Elizabeth*" and "*Susan*" in the 1824 deed made by her father.
3. **[Elijah Michael Auld](#)** (c1811–1877/1880) married on 7 April 1830, probably in Lowndes County, Alabama (with the marriage recorded in neighboring Montgomery County), to Margaret Jane Ward (c1812–1880s), the daughter of Elisha Ward Sr. and Jane Washington Neeland. They moved to Union Parish, Louisiana in 1838 and spent their lives there.
4. **James Alexander Auld** (c1813–1870/1880) married on 12 December 1833 in Lowndes County, Alabama to Elizabeth Ann Hester (c1816–1850/1852), the daughter of Randolph Hester (11 Apr 1790–3 Apr 1851) and his wife Elizabeth Yarbrough (27 Sep 1792–11 Feb 1873). After Eliza Hester Auld's death between 1850 and 1852, James A. Auld married on 15 August 1852 in Union Parish Louisiana to Elizabeth J. Hollis (c1836–1860/1865). He married on 28 August 1865 in Rapides Parish Louisiana to Matilda Ann Tarver (Mar 1828–aft. 1900), daughter of Solomon Tarver (c1798–?) and Elizabeth (c1805–?).
5. **John Henry Auld** (Dec 1820–1901) married 7 November 1850 in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana to Rebecca Ann Martin (c1832–?). He married later to Sarah E. ? (c1836–1880/1885). John H. Auld married on 12 January 1886 in Montague County, Texas to Mrs. Martha M. Howell (Aug 1836–aft. 1900).
6. **Sherwood Ager Auld** (May 1823–1870/1871) married on 22 August 1848 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Adeline Jane Rossitter (10 Jan 1833–2 Oct 1856), the daughter of George Rossitter (5 May 1799–3 Sep 1880) and Elizabeth Ann Blankenship (3 Jan 1813–22 Jul 1863). Sherwood presumably married about 1858 or 1859 to Matilda E. ? Sherwood married about 1863 or 1864

to Mary Elizabeth Horton (13 May 1823–27 Jan 1906), the daughter of Robert Horton (c1790–by 1860) and Sarah Elizabeth Saunders (1793–1878), and the widow of Asa Henry and Balak Bullock. Mary Elizabeth Horton Auld is buried in the Drew Cemetery, Ouachita Parish Louisiana.

7. **Washington C. Auld** (c1826–28 Aug 1862) married on 20 December 1849 in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana to Caroline Elizabeth Shaw (c1830–3 Feb 1884). He married on the same day that his younger sister married.

In 1850, the newlyweds Washington and Caroline lived with his parents in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana. In 1860, they lived with their two children on a farm near Downsville, in southern Union Parish. They lived near the Henry family, into which Washington's brother, Sherwood, married a few years later.

Washington C. Auld enlisted as a private in Co. I, 12th Regiment Louisiana Infantry in the summer of 1861. His company went south to the Louisiana Confederate training ground at Camp Moore near the village of Tangipahoa, where they were mustered into the service of the Confederate States on August 13th. Washington Auld was furloughed on October 13th for thirty days while his regiment was stationed in Kentucky. His military record has no further information, but his wife reported in court that he died on 28 August 1862.

Caroline Elizabeth Shaw remarried on 7 March 1863 to George Washington Johnson. They lived in Commerce, Hunt County, Texas in 1880 and reportedly died there.

8. **Mary Ann Elizabeth Auld** (c1832–aft. 1870) married on 20 December 1849 in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana to George Washington Sikes (c1828–1863). She married on the same day that her brother Washington married.

Mary and George lived next to her parents in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana in 1850. They moved to Bossier Parish, Louisiana during the 1850s, as George W. Sikes purchased 40 acres of land there in the latter 1850s [4]. In 1860, he and Mary lived in Rapides Parish near Alexandria, along with Mary's brothers James and Sherwood Auld.

George W. Sikes died sometime in 1863, possibly while serving in the Confederate Army, although no military service record has been located. Mary Ann Elizabeth Auld Sikes still lived in Claiborne Parish in 1867, and her brother John Henry Auld lived nearby. Shortly before 1870, both John Henry and Mary Ann moved their families to Van Zandt County, Texas. There is no known record of Mary Ann after 1870.



Notes

1. Auld Family Letters, Maryland Historical Society, Manuscript File No. 1186.
2. *"Laws of North Carolina"* (Raleigh: Arnett & Hodge, 1804), Chap. CXXVI: *"An Act to alter the names of the persons therein mentioned, and to legitimate them,"* p. 55.
3. Anson County NC Deed Book V, p. 58–59: John F. Auld to King and Elijah Cason, 11 December 1824.
4. George W. Sikes purchased the NE¼ of NE¼, Section 4, Township 20 North, Range 13 West, for which the government issued him a final patent on 1 April 1859.

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