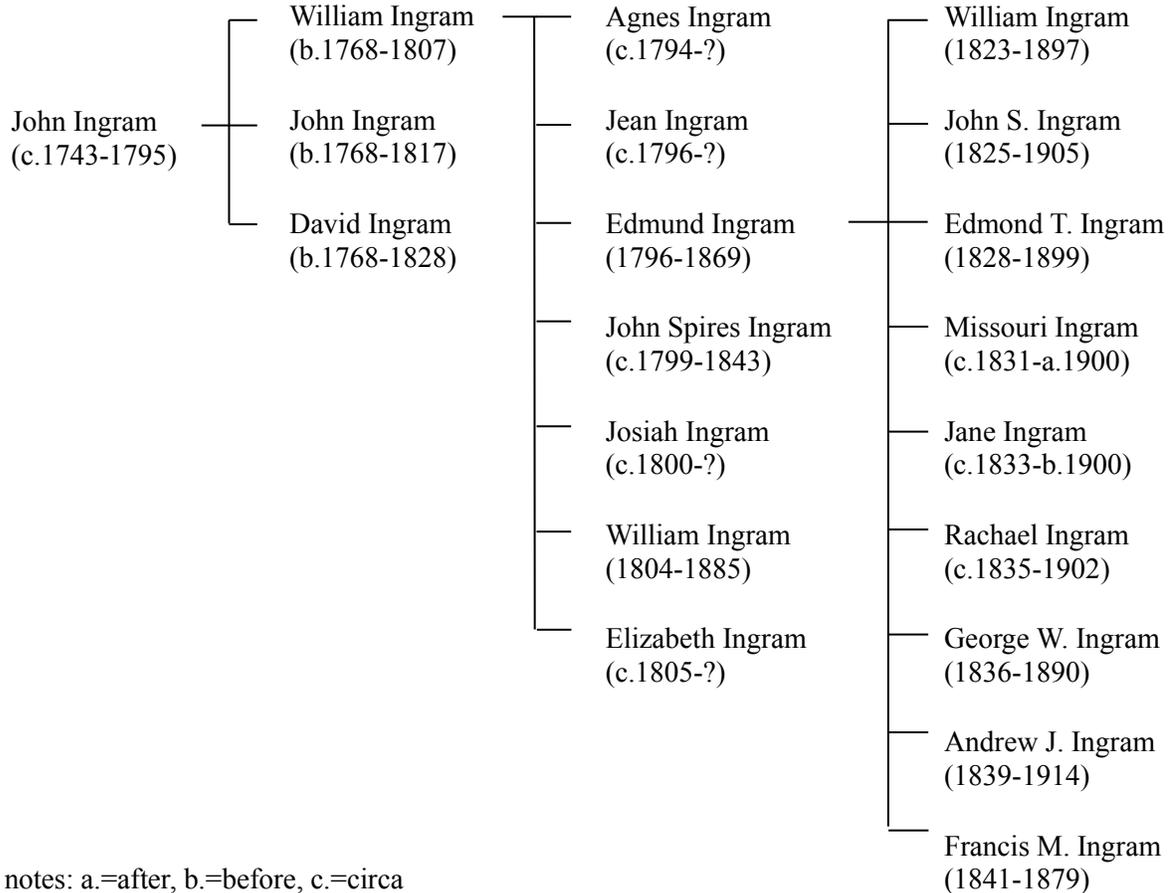


1. Clay County

A. Edmund's Genealogy

Edmund Ingram is the patriarch of the first Ingram family to settle permanently in Clay County, Alabama. It was from this line that I descended. Therefore, I have chosen him as the central figure about whom this history revolves. Genealogically, we can place Edmund with a high degree of certainty in a line descended from **John Ingram** who arrived with his family from Belfast, Ireland in December 1768. Among those who sailed with him were three sons, including Edmund's father **William**. Exhibit 1-1 provides a genealogy of Edmund within the context of his known family, extending through his children.

Exhibit 1-1. Edmund Ingram's Genealogy



Edmund's genealogy forms the basis for the organization of this book. In this chapter, I examine Edmund's settlement in Clay County, Alabama. Chapter 2 considers his life prior to arriving in Alabama. Chapter 3 discusses the emigration from Ireland and the original settlement in America. Chapter 4 summarizes events associated with branches of the family descended from Edmund's uncles, **John** and **David**. Chapter 5 discusses the families of Edmund's brothers and

sisters. Chapter 6 examines Edmund's descendants. Chapter 7 considers in detail the family of Edmund's grandson, **George F. Ingram**, who was my great grandfather. Chapter 8 provides information about other Ingram families who have been associated with Clay County.

B. Settlement in Clay County, Alabama

The land that is now Clay County, Alabama lies between ridges of the Appalachian mountains to the west and the Tallapoosa river to the east. A map of the area is provided in Exhibit 1-2. Cheaha Mountain, the tallest point in Alabama, is a few miles to the northwest. Clay County could be aptly named for the red, flinty soil that predominates throughout the area, though it is actually named for the statesman Henry Clay. It was to a small neck of this land near the northern end of the county that **Edmund Ingram** brought his family in about 1840.

Edmund married **Rachael Newsome** in about 1820 (Almaraz, p. 28; other sources list 1822). No official record of the marriage has been located. She was born about 1800 in Jefferson County Georgia. *The Ingram Family* [based on information from some of Edmund's descendants] notes that the family arrived in Alabama in 1836. However, according to the 1850 Census for Randolph County, Edmund's next to youngest child, **Andrew Jackson**, was born in Georgia in 1839, and his youngest child, **Francis Marion**, was born in Alabama in 1841, suggesting that the family arrived in Alabama between 1839 and 1841. The family included eight children who were born in Georgia: **William B., John S., Edmond T., Missouri, Jane, Rachael, George Washington** and **Andrew Jackson**.

The area in which they settled was part of Randolph County at that time. Clay County was created in 1866 from parts of Randolph and Talladega Counties because the mountain and river made it difficult for those living along the border of those counties to reach the county seats in those counties. Also, it has been posited that the county, along with others, was created after the Civil War "in order to ensure the federally imposed reconstruction government in Montgomery a firmer control on the state" (East, 2010a).

As noted by East (2010b):

From its earliest days, Clay County has been isolated on the west by the rugged expanse of the Talladega Mountains, with their dense forests and paucity of natural gaps. To the east, the region has been blocked by the deep defiles and swift currents of the Tallapoosa River. Even after white civilization belatedly came to the area following the expulsion of the Creek Indians in 1836-37; either through design, necessity, or pure circumstance, major communications arteries have shunned the area. Today, there is only one railroad line, no interstate highways, only one small airport and no navigable waterways. These factors tend to keep Clay County off the beaten path. Clay County's 66,800 remote acres within the Talladega National Forest further adds to its sense of isolation. And finally, although the county is ringed by the cities of Atlanta (80 direct miles to the east), Birmingham (55 direct miles to the west), and Montgomery (65 direct miles to the south); all of these lie outside reasonable commuting distance. These natural and man made barriers have somewhat isolated Clay County, allowing it to maintain a distinctly Appalachian society. Although it is located at the extreme end of the mountain chain, it is Alabama's best and most intact example of the geographic features and culture known as "Appalachia."

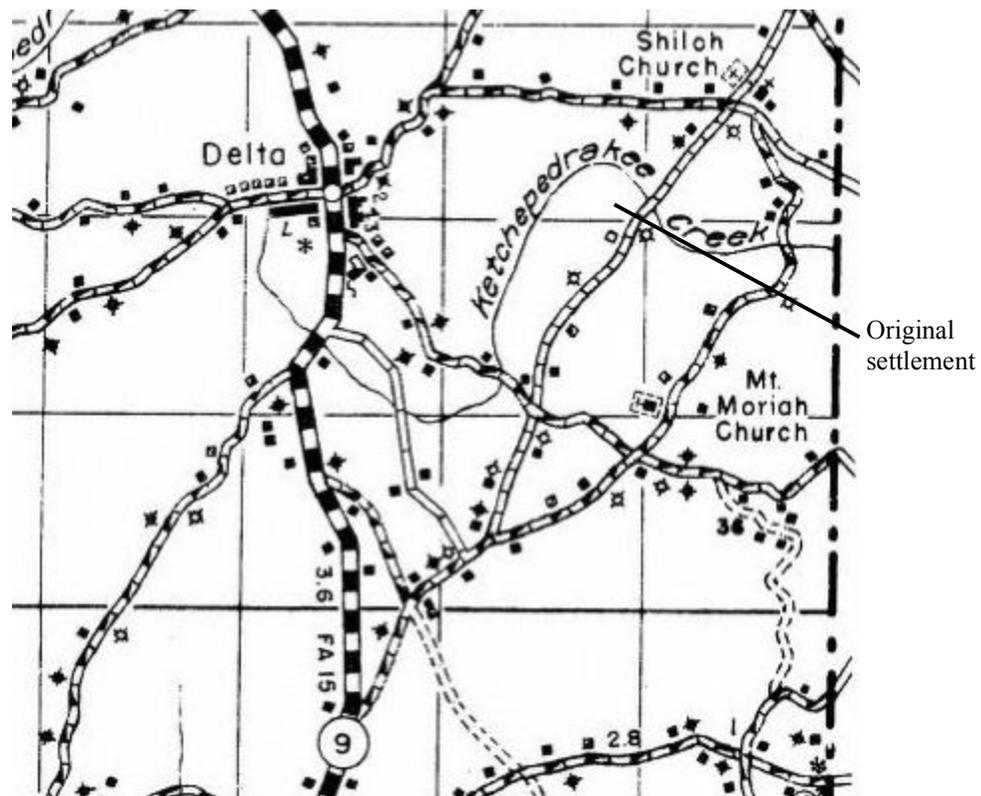
Edmund settled in an area referred to as the Shiloh Community because it was near the Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church where family members were buried (see Exhibit 1-2). According to Church records, Shiloh was established in 1837. The original Ingram homestead was about a mile southwest of Shiloh Church on Shiloh Church Road. The land adjoined the Little

Ketchepedrakee Creek. The name was pronounced by white settlers as Catch-a-ma-dogie because they had trouble with the original Indian name and is still pronounced that way by local residents.

Edmund's children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren were born and died within a few miles of the original settlement. Most of his great, great grandchildren were born in the area, though many migrated to other locations during the early twentieth century. His children and grandchildren purchased land in the Delta and Mt. Moriah communities, all within a few miles of Shiloh. Delta was established in 1845 and remains a small cross-roads town with a couple of general stores and a few churches. It also has a post office and, for many years, had an elementary school, which closed in the twentieth century. Some family members attended the Delta Baptist Church and some are buried in the Delta cemetery. Mt. Moriah is also a Baptist church, and other family members are buried in its cemetery. One of Edmund's sons, **Edmond T.** is buried at Black's Chapel Cemetery, a Methodist Church, a few miles south of Delta.

Note that Edmund's name is spelled "Edmond" in various documents. The "Edmond" spelling is found in his father's will, in various other records, and is the spelling used in the names of several of his descendants named Edmond. It appears that he generally spelled his name as Edmund. It is the spelling most often found in census records. Likewise, the name "Ingram" is spelled various ways, including "Ingrum", "Ingraham", and "Ingrham," in various documents.

Exhibit 1-2. A Partial Map of Clay County Showing Area of Ingram Settlements



C. Native American Lands

What prompted Edmund's move to Clay County was the availability of land following the forced resettlement of Native Americans west of the Mississippi.

East (2010a) describes these events:

When white settlers began to move into the Creek lands in the early 1800s, inevitable conflict soon arose between the two cultures. As the resulting raids and retaliatory raids brought bloodshed, it soon led to the Creek Indian or Red Stick War of 1813-1814. Basically, this war was a subset of the War of 1812, as the Creeks and other Indian tribes were caught up in the imperial ambitions of the British, Spanish, French and Americans. The Creeks were eventually defeated in this conflict by United States and state militia forces under General Andrew Jackson. . . . Generals Jackson and White together traveled over 230 miles and spent about 18 days in what is now Clay County during this conflict. After their final defeat of the Creeks at Horseshoe Bend on the Tallapoosa River in March of 1814, the tribe was forced out of 22.5 million acres of their traditional lands in Alabama by the Treaty of Fort Jackson. They were then squeezed into an elongated slice of east Alabama land, measuring 5.2 million acres between the Coosa River and the Georgia/Alabama state line. What would later become Clay County and Lineville were now in the center of this new and downsized Creek Indian Confederacy.

After General Jackson was elected as the seventh United States President in 1828, he soon negotiated the Indian Removal Act of 1830 and the Treaty of Cussetta in 1832. The Indian Removal Act included the Creeks and all other Native Americans east of the Mississippi River. The Treaty of Cussetta specifically dealt with the Creek tribe. Together these treaties allocated each Creek chief a section of land (640 acres) and each head of household one-half section (320 acres). The remaining lands in east Alabama would be eventually opened to white settlers. Further, the Indians were promised if they would remain on their lands for five years and behave themselves, they would be issued official title to it. After that, they were free to legally sell it to the whites and move west of the Mississippi at Government expense, or they could remain on their lands in Alabama as ordinary citizens. The treaties went on to guarantee that all whites would be removed and kept out of the Creek territory for five years so that those Creeks that wanted to move to the west could divest themselves of their land in an orderly fashion.

Unfortunately for all, shortly after the treaties were signed, white settlers and land speculators swarmed into the east Alabama Creek territory like bees. Most of the Indians were quickly cheated or deceived out of their lands. The Alabama legislature attempted to put some order to the chaos by establishing eight new counties from the east Alabama Creek Indian lands (Calhoun, Talladega, Coosa, Randolph, Chambers, Macon, Russell, and Barbour) in December of 1832. The legislature also assigned a judge to each of these counties. These judges were to ensure that the Indian lands were disposed of in an orderly and legal manner. Greed and corruption prevailed however, and within a short while there were approximately 20,000 white "intruders" (squatters) on the Indian lands. The United States government then sent federal troops and agents into the territory to enforce the treaty provisions. This resulted in clashes between the federals and the white settlers.

After the settlers considered taking up arms against the United States, and Alabama considered leaving the union over the matter, President Jackson sent the famous Francis Scott Key to Alabama as a commissioner to try and reach some type of settlement. At that time, Francis Scott Key was the District Attorney for the District of Columbia. It was finally decided that those whites who had already settled in the east Alabama Indian Territory before

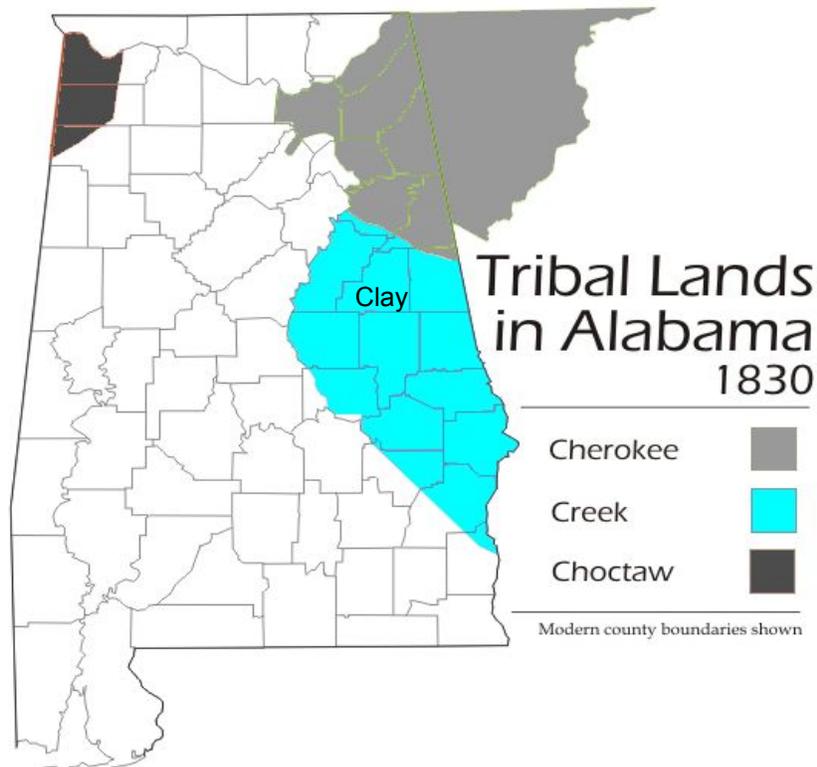
the treaties were signed would be allowed to stay, and that all other illegal settlers would have to remove themselves from the Indian lands. This plan also proved to be unenforceable and the flow of settlers continued. This soon led to real trouble and eventually broke out into open hostilities between the whites and Indians. This violence prompted President Jackson to quickly modify and enforce the provisions of the treaties and force all Indians to the west of the Mississippi River, ahead of the original schedule.

Some of the Indians began voluntarily leaving the east Alabama area as early as 1832, but others chose to resist, and by the spring of 1836, war broke out. This was known as the Second Creek War, or the Creek Indian War of 1836. This Creek uprising was quickly put down by state militias and federal troops, and the forced removal of the remaining Indians got into full swing. The removals continued as the smaller bands were rounded up, and by 1850, most of them had been relocated west of the Mississippi River.

As the Indian removals occurred and the lands in east Alabama were legally opened up for white settlement, the flow of land-hungry pioneers turned into a flood as they surged into the new territory to lay claim to homesteads. The majority of these early East Alabama settlers were from Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia and the Carolinas, and many came bearing land grants provided for their service in the Creek Indian War of 1813-14 or the Revolutionary War.

Exhibit 1-3 identifies lands taken from Native Americans and settled by European-Americans in the early nineteenth century (source: en.wikipedia.org).

Exhibit 1-3. Lands Ceded by Native Americans in Alabama



Edmund was of Scotch-Irish descent typical of those who migrated into eastern Alabama during this period. Most of these people were farmers whose ancestors had recently migrated to America in search of land. As land was settled in the Eastern states and more immigrants arrived from Europe, these people moved further west as new areas were opened to settlement. As discussed by East (2010b), Clay County was not a prime location for settlement:

Clay County is not from the publicized antebellum South of William Faulkner or Margaret Mitchell. The traditional antebellum mansions, with large land and slave holdings, were found in most any direction from Clay County, but were never a part of the landscape here. With the mountain land being unsuited for the economic production of cotton, and since it was held by the Creek Indians until the mid 1830s, this county was settled primarily by the less fortunate late comers. These frontiersmen owned very few slaves, lived in rough log cabins and had relatively small land holdings. When the log cabins finally gave way to homes built of sewn lumber, they remained small, simple and rough, . . .

Thus, the economic golden era of the ante-bellum South largely bypassed Clay County. Although there were brief flashes of prosperity from mining and timber, it did not produce a broad based economy. Clay County was primarily a land of “one horse” farms during those better times that existed in other parts of the state.

East's description applies well to **Edmund** and his descendants for most of four generations. Most of these people were simple farmers who made an honest but difficult living from the poor soil of the region and whose lives were encapsulated within their small communities of friends and family.

The soil of Clay County afforded a meager living, and there is no indication that Edmund was ever prosperous. Nevertheless, he finally found a home for his family after what appears to have been a long and arduous search. The events leading up to his arrival in Alabama are the subject of Chapter 2.