



William Blackburn grew up on Mulberry Run of Cedar Creek in current Shenandoah County Virginia. He and brothers George and Arthur with two Colville brothers organized the Cedar Creek Presbyterian meeting place (only Anglicans could have churches). In 1771 they moved to the Holston where George and Arthur bought Wolf Hill tracts from Dr. Joseph Walker. William bought a tract on Spring Creek (I-81 Virginia Highlands Airport site) from Edmond Pendleton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. They were callers of Charles Cummings, the “fighting parson” to Sinking Spring and Ebbing Spring.

William married Elizabeth Black, youngest sister of Joseph Black, Martha Black Cusick, Christian Black Acklin, and Jane Colville Black Vance. In 1783 the surviving William Blackburn family moved to Boyds Creek (now Seymour TN across the road from Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy) with a caravan of Kings Mountain veterans and families. Sister Martha Cusick, half brother Samuel Newell, and half sister Sarah Newell Vance were part of the caravan. Brother Joseph Black joined them in the Eusebia Presbyterian congregation south of the French Broad River two years later.