On July 14, 1810, Stockley Donelson registered a survey for a North Carolina Land Grant #1335 dated August 28, 1795. This land was in western Greene County, "Adjacent line between Richard and John Wisecarver and adjacent to the land of Thomas 'Curton' [Cureton]. Although it is probable but cannot be documented, Stockley never actually lived in Greene County.

What makes Stockley Donelson noteworthy not only in Greene County, but the entire state of Tennessee, is he was the son of John and Rachel Stockley Donelson and the brother of Rachel Donelson Jackson [1767-1828], the wife of President Andrew Jackson.

From Find-A-Grave:

**Col Stockley Donelson**

**BIRTH**
1752
Pittsylvania County, Virginia, USA

**DEATH**
Sep 1805 (aged 52–53)
Dandridge, Jefferson County, Tennessee, USA

**BURIAL**
Unknown

**MEMORIAL ID**
86694164 ∙ View Source

Brother of Rachel Donelson, the wife of Pres. Andrew Jackson. Husband of Elizabeth Glasgow, the daughter of James Glasgow, the NC secretary of state who resigned after he was implicated in the land-fraud scheme that came to bear his name (i.e., the Glasgow Land Fraud). Donelson, the surveyor-general of NC and a major land speculator himself, was also heavily implicated in the scandal but was never brought to trial. Hundreds of East Tennesseans were suspected of having benefitted from falsified titles. Attorney James Woods Lackey, the brother of Wm. Lackey, Archibald Lackey, and Hannah Lackey Chamberlain, who was closely associated with Donelson, was, however, never charged in the case. Earlier, Stockley Donelson had served as speaker of the legislature of the ill-fated state of Franklin (c1785) and also as a prominent military officer.
DONALDSON

DONELSON

The Donaldson family came from Scotland where the name was spelled Donaldson. The name came from the Christian name, Donald. (Family Names and their Story, S. Barung Gould) In the early generations in this country it was variously spelled Donaldson, Donalson, Donelson, Donaldson, Donolson and Donilson. (Virginia Militia in the Revolution, J. T. McAllister). Stockley, a son of Col. John Donelson, spelled his name several ways in signing legal documents. (Ramsey’s Annals of Tennessee).

The brothers, Col. John Donelson and William Donaldson, founders of the family in Tennessee, used different spellings. Most of the descendants of the former continue to use his spelling, Donelson, while the descendants of William use the original spelling, Donaldson, as used by him. In this article the compiler will endeavor to use the spelling adopted by the individual.

The Donaldson Coat-of-Arms, dated 1312, has the single word, “Promptus”, as its motto. (Burke’s General Armory).

The emigre, John Donaldson, (whose father was John Donaldson of Scotland), came to America in 1716, and settled near Delaware Bay. At this time he owned his vessel and was engaged in the shipping business between America and London. It is said that his father and grandfather had been shippers. He married Catherine Davies, daughter of David Davies and Martha Thomas Davies of Virginia, (a sister of Samuel Davies. D. D., LL. D., third President of Princeton College, (1761-1766) after its reorganization) They had children:

I John Donelson II.
II William Donaldson.
III Andrew Donaldson.
IV A daughter (name unknown), married —— Henry.
NOTABLE SOUTHERN FAMILIES

I JOHN DONELSON II.

I John Donelson II (1720-1785) is said to have been born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia. He married Rachel Stockley, of Virginia, and had children:

I Alexander Donelson, never married.
II Catherine Donelson.
III John Donelson III.
IV Mary Donelson.
V Jane Donelson.
VI William Donelson
VII Stockley Donelson.
VIII Samuel Donelson.
IX Severn Donelson.
X Levin Donelson, never married.
XI Rachel Donelson.
XII Elizabeth Donelson.

Colonel John Donelson II was a man of education and achieved prominence in Virginia. "He was a burgess from Pittsylvania County in assemblies of May 1769, 1769-1771, 1772-1774." (Virginia Biography. Tyler). Prior to the Declaration of Independence he was made colonel of his regiment of militia. (History of Tennessee. Putnam). He was appointed several times to negotiate treaties with Indian tribes, and in each case was successful. He, with three other men, surveyed the boundary between Georgia and North Carolina, which at that time, ran west to the Mississippi River. (History of Tennessee. Haywood. History of Kentucky. Butler).

One of the most remarkable adventures undertaken in the settlement of the West was the voyage of the company of pioneers with Col. John Donelson as commander, which left the Watauga Settlement. (Dec. 22, 1789), traversed the Holston, Tennessee, Ohio and Cumberland Rivers to French Lick, now Nashville, arriving on April 24, 1780. Nearly two hundred persons made this remarkable voyage on flat boats, dug-outs and scows, traversing dangerous rapids and constantly surrounded by hostile Indians. In this company were his family and the families of a number of men who, under James Robertson, had preceded them going overland through the wilderness.
Nashville Public Television:

Colonel John Donelson (circa 1725-1786) was a land surveyor, an iron manufacturer, and a member of the Virginia Assembly before becoming one of the two founding fathers of Nashville.

Aboard his flagship, the "Adventure," Colonel Donelson led families on an historic river voyage to the first permanent settlement on the Cumberland.

Colonel Donelson and his wife Rachel Stockley (circa 1730-1801) had eleven children. Their seven sons and four daughters were all born in Virginia and all traveled from Watauga settlements in east Tennessee to the new Cumberland settlement. In fact, all of their children, except for one son who went overland with James Robertson, were on the historic river voyage, including twelve-year-old Rachel.

Illustration by J.P. Brown
JAMES SUMMERVILLE, SOUTHERN EPIC (GLOUCESTER POINT, VA: HALLMARK PUB. CO., 1996)

Shortly after arriving in Nashville, Colonel Donelson moved his family about 10 miles up the Cumberland and settled at Clover Bottom on Stone's Rivers. Indian attacks and floods soon forced the Donelsons to abandon their initial settlement and move first to Mansker's Station and then to Kentucky. Colonel Donelson's interest in the Cumberland area continued and he acquired land in the vicinity of what became the site of the Hermitage. The Donelson family returned to stay in 1786, but unfortunately without Colonel Donelson who was mysteriously killed on his way back to rejoin his family in Nashville. The community of Donelson was named after the area's first family of settlers.
Rachel Donelson Jackson [1767-1828]
Wife of President Andrew Jackson

Col. John Donelson [1725-1786]

Memorial at Hermitage Churchyard Cemetery