

# Dillard Annual

Volume 7

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## Statement of Publication

*The Dillard Annual* © is a non-profit manuscript published annually by the Dillard Family Association beginning January 1, 1992. All individual articles are the property of each writer. The address of the *Dillard Annual* is Post Office Box 158, Dillard, Georgia 30537. The cost of printing and mailing is paid for by the Dillard Family Association from the dues of its members. All other work is contributed free of charge.

*Cherokee Claims at Eastertoy (present Dillard, Georgia)*

by

John Thomas Coleman<sup>1</sup>

"To the Victor go the spoils" is an adage practiced since the beginning of warfare. This was the opinion of many whites concerning the lands of the Cherokees because they chose to ally themselves with the English in the American Revolution.

It didn't seem to matter that on the second time around (War of 1812) the Cherokees did side with the Americans against the British and their ally, the Creek Indians. By that time the westward movement of the whites was such that they wanted the lands of both the Cherokees and the Creeks.

These two tribes occupied most of the State of Georgia after Georgia gave up its western lands to form first, the Mississippi Territory, and later, the States of Mississippi and Alabama, Georgia ceded its western lands to the Federal Government around 1802 under an agreement in which the Federal Government promised to extinguish, at its own expense, the Indian title within the reserved limits of Georgia as soon as it could be done "peaceably and on reasonable terms." <sup>2</sup>

When the Federal Government made this agreement, it was already negotiating with France for the Louisiana Purchase. This vast territory west of the Mississippi not only provided for a great westward expansion but provided a place to which the Indians could be moved. This was a plan that took much longer than either the Federal Government or the State of Georgia thought it would.

It wasn't until 1839 that the Cherokee Removal took place. Between 1802 and 1839 certain events had a direct bearing on the persons at the place called Eastertoy, the same place that is now the Town of Dillard, State of Georgia.

These events were referred to as "Treaties," which would imply a mutual agreement. Under these Treaties the Cherokees gave up a quantity of land, referred to as "Cessions." These Cessions are best illustrated by a map based on Royce's 5th Annual Report, Bureau of American Ethnology, shown as Exhibit A.

The cessions of land in Georgia are best illustrated by a map of that state shown as Exhibit B. The Cherokee claims to land in Georgia were north of the Broad River in the northeast part of the state and north of the Chattahoochee River in the northwest part of the state. Lands and cessions south of these rivers were owned by the Creeks.

Cessions I to 7 shown on the Royce Map (Exhibit A) were during the colonial period, in which the Colonies of Virginia, South Carolina, and North Carolina bought certain parts of land claimed by the Cherokees but which were really disputed territory with the Shawnees to the North, Creeks to the South, Catawbias to the East, Chickasaws to the west.

Cession 7 by Richard Henderson and other North Carolina investors established the

settlement at Boonesborough. Virginia claimed Kentucky as its western land. In exchange Henderson & Co. acquired land in the western part of its native state in what was to become the State of Tennessee (Cession 10b). The maintenance of a settlement at Nashborough is a story unto itself. This is also true of the struggle to create the State of Franklin in East Tennessee (Cession 10a & 11).

Cessions 8, 9, and 10 were forced cessions mostly in retaliation for Cherokee hostilities against white settlements. Cession 8 in 1777 in South Carolina brought settlers to Pendleton District. Only the northeastern corner of Georgia was left to the Cherokees. Two old Revolutionary soldiers, Jesse Coffee and Jeffrey Beck, settled there. Their children were to be among the first settlers of Rabun County.<sup>3</sup> Cession 9 opened up western North Carolina to the Blue Ridge and Cession 10 allowed the establishment of the County of Franklin in Georgia.

These cessions in North Carolina allowed the settlement of "Old Buncombe" in 1791 which stretched from the Blue Ridge to the Smokies. Into this area came the Barnards, the Brevards or Brevarts, Dickersons, Dillardes, Gillespies, Millers, Pattersons, Roberts, and Sheltons. Old Buncombe was established too late for the first census of 1790 but all these people were there for the census of 1800.<sup>4,5</sup> All would later appear in Rabun.

Cession 12 through 20 were small tracts up and down the Tennessee River. Cession 21 in 1816 removed the Cherokees entirely from the State of South Carolina.

The Treaty of July 8, 1817 (Cession 23), described as a "tract in Georgia, east of the Chattahoochee," brought about the Georgia counties of Walton, Gwinnett, Hall, and Habersham. This treaty contained the first "citizenship" article. Article 8 to the Treaty of 1817 read as follows: "And to each and every head of any Indian family residing on the east side of the Mississippi River, on the lands that are now, or may hereafter be, surrendered to the United States, who may wish to become citizens of the United States, the United States do agree to give a reservation of 640 acres of land, in a square, to include their improvements, which are to be as near the centre thereof as practicable, in which they were to have a life estate, with a reversion in fee simple to their children, reserving to the widow her dower, the register of whose names is to be filed in the office of the Cherokee agent, which shall be kept open until the census is taken as stipulated in the third article of this treaty. Provided that if any of the heads of families for whom reservations may be made should remove therefrom, then, in that case, the right to revert to the United States."

In compliance with this treaty a Register was started in July of 1817. Beginning with No. 1, was James Lesley with his wife and five family members who were living on Coosa River. Others familiar to the writer include John and Lewis Ross, Bryant Ward, Nancy Ward, Andrew Miller, John Hilderbrand, and Gideon Morris.

No. 306 registered on September 19, 1819 was Richard Downing at Eastertoy No. 307. Also registered on September 19, 1819, was Little Betty (a widow) at Eastertoy.<sup>6</sup>

The treaty of February 27, 1819 (Cession 29) was to become the County of Rabun by Act of Georgia Legislature the last week of December 1819. This Cession also included land that in

1828 became Macon County, North Carolina.

The state line between Rabun County, Georgia, and Macon County, North Carolina runs along the 35th Parallel. Long standing disputes between the two states were finally resolved in 1812 by Andrew Ellicott, a nationally known surveyor. Prior to that time the road between the two states had run along the east side of the Little Tennessee River. The surveyors of the 35th Parallel left a locust post or stake on the state line west of the Little Tennessee River, and a new road started about this time was to cross the line at this post and became known as the Locust Stake Road, later known as the State Road and today as U.S. 23/441.

In the summer of 1820 five survey teams came to the new County of Rabun. They surveyed lots in each of the five land districts. The lots in District 1, 3, 4, 5 contained 490 acres. The lots in District 2 contained 250 acres. Those lots were numbered and are maintained as reference points to this day, using the same district numbers and lot numbers as assigned in 1820.<sup>8</sup>

Article 3 of the Treaty of February 27, 1819, reaffirmed the "citizenship" article of the treaty of 1817.<sup>9</sup>

There were a number of additional treaties on February 27, 1819 (Cessions 30 through 35) involving very small tracts of land, which left the Cherokees in possession of the darkened area on the Royce Map in northwest Georgia, southwest North Carolina, southeast Tennessee, and northwest Alabama from 1819 to 1835. In the interim many Cherokees had voluntarily gone to Arkansas and became known as "old settlers." Additional articles in the treaties of 1817 and 1819 agreed to pay them for "improvements" left behind and to pay a small stipend for leaving.

Most of the Cherokee land was still in Georgia. The State of Georgia kept the pressure on the Federal Government to comply with their Agreement of 1802. Finally in 1835 the "Ross Faction" of the Cherokees signed their final Treaty (Cession 36) ceding all lands east of the Mississippi.

In spite of the Treaty of 1835 there was still resistance by the Cherokees to leaving. Many chose United States citizenship, received their 640 acres of land, and then signed Powers of Attorney to white men to have control of the land and act on their behalf in the ongoing legal battles. Examples are powers of attorney given to William H. Thomas and Thomas Dillard of Haywood County, North Carolina,<sup>10</sup> and to others in Macon County, North Carolina.<sup>11</sup>

The Treaty of 1835 did not have the "citizenship clause." The time had expired for persons to make a claim under the Treaty of 1817 and 1819. However, the right to make "claims for value of land and improvements" was still in effect. These claims were to remain in the Courts for many years. Finally in 1906 the Federal Courts made an award of some \$1,000,000.00. This award gave rise to some 40,000+ claims which have been summarized, indexed, and compiled into nine volumes to date by Jerry Wright Jordan and entitled *Cherokees by Blood*.<sup>12</sup>

It was these claims for value of land and improvements that brought Richard Downing back to Rabun County, Georgia. Stories in Rabun County by the older people indicate that Little Betty never left the county but simply moved further up the creek that today still bears her name. Little

Betty is not to be confused with Betty Whitecloud, who was living along the creek in the 1920s or 30s.

The Henderson Roll of 1835, the Murray Roll of 1848, and the Chapman Roll of 1851 find Richard Downing living along the waters of Shooting Creek in what was then Macon County but later Cherokee County and today Clay County, North Carolina. Nancy Blythe and John and Isaac Tucker were also there in 1835. By 1851 also there were James and Sally Blythe and James and Stacy Beck.<sup>13</sup>

Obediah Terry Dickerson, son-in-law of John Dillard and first County Surveyor for the County of Rabun, was to survey the one square mile, a 640 acre tract for the two claimants. His diagram and description of each is shown as Exhibits C and D.

The writer has made an effort to locate and describe the location of the claims of Little Betty and Dick Downing, using an early National Forest Service Map (1933) (Exhibit E) and a copy of a map of the City of Dillard (Rabun County Plat Book 11, page 228) (Exhibit F). House locations and other markings were added by this writer.

The Forest Service Map is only a small sector of the Second Land District of Rabun County shown on the writer's reproduction of the original survey maps of 1820 and provided to the Book Committee of *Rabun County Georgia And Its People*, Volume 1, pages 12-17 (Exhibit G). As indicated, the lot locations and numbering system are the same on Exhibits E, F, G.

. The documentation for these claims comes from the First Board of Cherokee Commissioners, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 75, Claim No. 114 (Little Betty) and 117 (Downing), National Archives, 700 Pennsylvania. Ave N.W., Washington. D.C. 20408-0001.

In an effort to pinpoint the location of these claims the writer made use of the following Plats at the Clerk of Court's office at Clayton, Georgia:

Lee M. Happ Properties Plat Book 2, Page. 224  
Rabun Mills (Now Rabun Apparel), Plat Book 5A, Page 90  
Various Dillard Heirs, Plat Book 7, Pages 170-175  
City of Dillard, Plat Book 11, Page.223 (Exhibit F)  
Dillard House, Inc., Plat Book 39, Page. 231 (Exhibit H).

The materials from the National Archives contain statements by the two claimants as well as witnesses that knew them and who also gave opinions as the value of their land and improvements.

### The Little Betty Claim

Little Betty Her testimony was that she and her family of 18 had resided on the claim twelve months or more prior to 1817 and 1819, that she did not leave her property voluntarily but by "force, violence and threats." This was witnessed by George Blair, interpreter and Samuel

Sanders, Justice of the Peace, County of Macon, State North Carolina

John Barnett: His sworn statement was that in the spring of 1820 or 1821 he moved into house of Little Betty. She moved off to another house a short distance away. This was witnessed by Samuel Sanders, Justice of the Peace. Note: Some Dillard researchers believe John Barnett may have been John Barnard.

Pleasant Watts: His sworn statement was that he lived near the claimed property since 1821 and that it was valued at \$1500 to \$2000. Note: He was, known to be son of Joseph Watts of Burke County, North Carolina. Pleasant Watts was land speculator and the largest land owner in Little Tennessee Valley. His sister, Katherine Watts Gaines, gave a deposition in Rabun County that they were grandchildren of Chief John Watts, also known as Young Tassel. Another sister, Mary Watts Hollifield, was a great, great grandmother of this writer.

Thomas "Red" Kelly: He was a son of John Kelly, the owner of Land Lots 164 and 172, through which ran Kelly's Creek. Much of this land is still owned by the Kelly family. Surveyors in 1820 called it Wattson's Creek. Kelly put a value of \$1800 on Betty's land.

A. A. Miller: He was an adverse witness saying that he had known Little Betty for 34 years and that he was certain that she did not take a reservation. Note: He is believed to be the same Andrew Miller who was mentioned in *Sketches of Rabun County History* by A. J. Richie at page 65 et seq. A. A. Miller was also a large buyer and seller of lands in early Buncombe County.

Gideon F. Morris: Deposed in Monroe County, Tennessee, he stated that he knew Betty who took a reservation near Franklin, Macon County, North Carolina, and that she had lived there since 1815. He further stated that Betty sold to the State of North Carolina and continued to live there. Note: this is confirmed in Deed Book A, page 20 listing Betty (Betsey) (signature) selling her interest for \$50. Morris is listed on page 23 as guardian of three children of Little Deer and receiving \$800 for that reservation. There was a Gideon Morris as early as 1794 in Wautauga Settlement of North Carolina (later Tennessee) living very near Shadrack Morris. A Shadrack Morris was the first Sheriff of Rabun County.

John B. Moore: He stated that he came from North Carolina to Georgia in 1822 and that Little Betty had moved by then. He was told she had not left voluntarily. He gave a value of \$1500 on her property.

Jonathan Blythe. He gave two sworn statements in support of Little Betty. Note: A white man was married to a Cherokee woman named Nancy or Annie. He lived among the whites in Pendleton District, South Carolina (1810 census); Haywood County, North Carolina (1820 census); Macon County, North Carolina (1830 census), Cherokee County, North Carolina (1840 census); and in Rabun County, Georgia (1850 census). Nancy and a child were on the Cherokee Roll of 1835. White husbands were not included on Cherokee Rolls. Shown on Shooting Creek along with Dick Downing and others, Nancy either died or went to Oklahoma. Jonathan Blythe married Malinda Thompson in Rabun County in April, 1849. In 1906 two hundred twenty one claimants made claim for Cherokee benefits as descendants of Jonathan and Nancy Blythe.

### The Dick Downing Claim

Thomas "Red" Kelly, John B. Moore, Jonathan Blythe and Pleasant Watts gave depositions on behalf of Downing. They also gave estimated valuations of his property at \$5,000.

Luke Barnard testified that in March 1820 he moved from North Carolina to Rabun County and into the house of Dick Downing on the authority of Charles Gates. He stated that Downing had another house on the property that he kept locked. Soon thereafter, Downing moved away.

William Gillespie testified that he had lived near Downing since 1822 and valued his property at \$5,000. Note: Gillespie's sister, Mary Elvira Gillespie, was the wife of Pleasant Watts. Their land lots (135-Gillespie and 145-Watts) touched at corner-post on Land Lots 135/136 and 145/146. Gillespie bought his lot from Charles Gates in September 1822 by the first deed recorded in Rabun County in Deed Book A, page. 1.

### Fixing the Site

The writer's article, "Creation of a County" in *Rabun County, Georgia and its People*, Volume 1, pages 8, 9, and 10, describes in detail how the treaties of 1816, 1817, and 1819 were to affect the establishment of a new County called Rabun.

In summary, the Treaty of 1816 took away the last Cherokee land in South Carolina and fixed the eastern boundary of Rabun at Edicott's Rock and down the Chatuga River. Surveyor Edicott had also fixed the north boundary of Georgia and Rabun along the 35th parallel.

Another well known surveyor, James Blair, had shot a north-south line in 1817 to Wildcat Creek and followed this creek to the Tallulah River and then the Tallulah to the Chatuga to form the north boundary of Habersham County. The land to the west of Blair Line and north of the described waters was to remain with the Cherokee Nation.

That changed in 1819 with the Blair Line extending north to the North Carolina line. That land to the east of the Blair line and north of the waters of the Tallulah River formed the new county of Rabun. Land to the west of the Blair Line remained with the Cherokee Nation. That land remained the boundary of Cherokee Nation until their removal in 1839.

Volume 19 of the writer's Research Materials covers early land records of Rabun County and includes those citizens of Georgia who drew land in Rabun in the lottery of 1820. Also included are some of the survey notes of the five survey teams that came to Rabun as follows:

"Field notes of the 2nd District in Rabun County surveyed by me commencing on the 1st day of May 1820 and concluding on the 17th June thereafter. Thomas G. Phillips and Benjamin Thurmond chain bearers and Charles P. Collier, axe man. /S/ Hiram Glazier."

All land surveys have a "Point of Beginning" (POB). For Rabun County it was on the Blair Line at Wildcat Creek. An east-west line was shot from that point due east to the waters of the Chatuga River. Districts 1, 2 and 3 were to the north of that line. District 4 and 5 were to the

south of that line. (See small map on Exhibit G).

Glazier's team shot 15 parallel lines, north to south, 3300 feet apart. Glazier then projected 15 parallel lines, east to west, 3300 feet apart. When finished he had 14 x 14 or 196 Land Lots, 3300 feet square, containing 250 acres each.

Very few of the Georgia citizens drawing land in Rabun County in the 1820 lottery ever came to Rabun. They either sold their lots to land speculators or to persons interested in coming to Rabun County. Most of the first settlers came in from the Carolinas with those from North Carolina settling in "the Valley" and those from South Carolina settling in the Warwoman or Chechero Districts. The Second District extended from the North Carolina line to an east-west line about where the radio station is now located in south Clayton.

On February 1, 1821, James Dillard purchased Land Lot 174 from William Hayes of Morgan County, Georgia. By November 16, 1824, he had purchased three adjoining lots -- 163, 175 and 162 -- in that order. His home place was established on high ground very close to the center of these four lots (Building C, Exhibit F).

In describing the Little Betty and Downing claims, Obediah Dickerson mentions Dillard properties and also property owners to the east, west, and south. The Downing drawing has the east-west line on the south side crowding the south bank of Tuckers Mill Creek (now Darnell Creek), which was known to be near the Gillespie-Watts corner at Land Lots 135-136 and 145-146. Since that corner post is now on the writer and his sister's property, that was my Point of Beginning.

About a hundred yards west of my second home on Kelly's Creek Road, this road passes through a road cut with a high embankment of long standing on the south and Darnell Creek on the north. At that point the north-south fence of the Joe Burrell heirs lines up with a straight line of woodland owned by Rabun Apparel Mill that extends north to the bottom land of the heirs of Tom Grist. This is the dividing line between Land Lots 146 and 145.

The road cut and creek bank are 600 to 700 feet north of the south side of Land Lot 146. If Land Lot 146 is 3300 feet from south to north and one subtracts 600 to 700 feet, that leaves 2600 to 2700 feet remaining in Land Lot 146. If Downing's lot is one mile or 5,280 feet from south to north, then it is only about half of what was in Land Lot 146. The other half would be in the next lot to the north or land lot 163. That is one of the Dillard lots. It would not use all of lot 163, having 3,300 feet but again only a half mile or 2,640 feet with the northernmost eastwest line of the Downing lot, which would be 600 to 700 feet south of 163-174 Land Lot line.

Having established that the half way mark was at the Land Lot 146-163 line, I concluded that Dickerson probably used the Land Lot 146-147 and 162-163 corner as his "POB." This would be Dillard property with which he would be most familiar. If Luke Barnard and John Barnett (both Dillard relatives) displaced Little Betty and Downing, it would follow that both houses were on Dillard property.

My original thinking was that the north-south and east-west lines of Land Lot 162-163

might be the base line, but Dickerson's description put the southwestern corner of Downing on Jesse Carter's lot 147 rather than James Martin's lot 146.

The answer was apparently in Dickerson's effort to put both the Little Betty and Downing houses the same distance from a common north-south fine and, in turn, to place their houses in the middle of their respective north-south fines. All of this was an effort to comply with the 1817 treaty that specified that their improvements would be as near as practicable to the center of their 640 acre tracts. Another indication that Dickerson was trying to help in this respect is that his narrative indicates that the houses were 52 poles or 858 feet from the north-south common fine. Yet on Dickerson's diagram the Downing house would appear to be much closer to the center of the lot than 858 feet would otherwise indicate.

The Cherokees did not believe in individual ownership of land. It was all a communal ownership. Even though Downing and Little Betty may have thought their respective properties were along the Little Tennessee River and Little Betty's Creek, it is doubtful that either envisioned it to be as surveyed and sketched by Obediah Dickerson.

To establish this north-south line, Dickerson started at the Downing house and surveyed a direct line to Little Betty. He then retraced this line half the distance and shot a north-south line, which became the common north-south line. Dickerson's drawing places this line still west of the Locust Stake road on the south end but west of the Locust Stake road on the north end. Present day plats would place this line between 200 and 300 feet west of the north-south lines between Land Lots 162-163 and 174-175.

Dickerson's drawings and narrative would indicate that the houses on an east-west parallel line would be exactly 80 poles or 1/4 mile or 1320 feet apart. This seems unlikely, but he apparently made it happen by surveying the diagonal line to one house of Little Betty and using the other house for the east-west parallel line.

Placing the common north-south fine even one foot west of the known Land Lot line would put the southwestern corner in the Carter lot (147). For that reason it is impossible to reconstruct to the exact footage in the location of the lot lines for the 640 acre tracts or the exact location of the two houses.

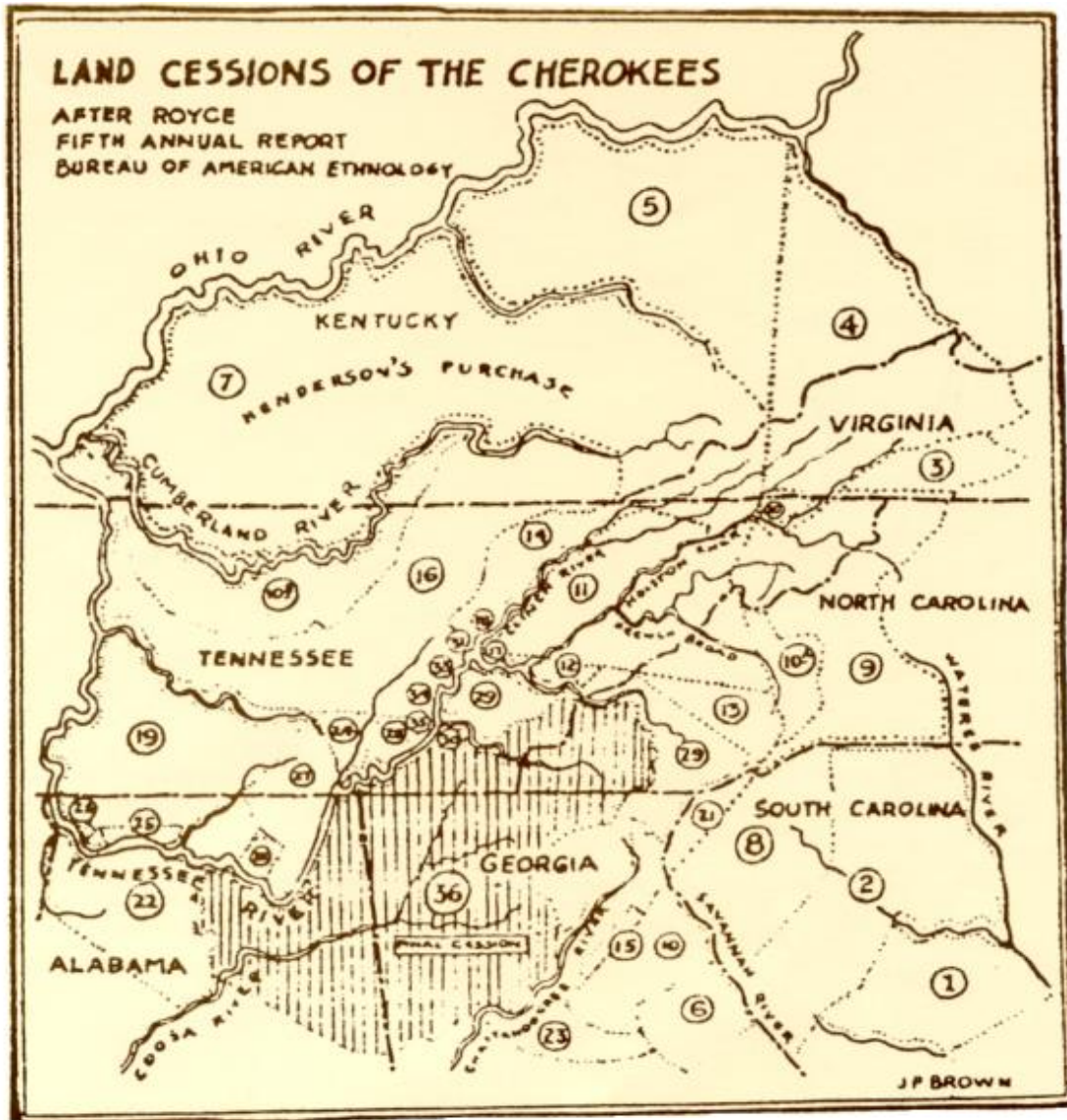
My conclusions are that the Downing house was in the pasture just east of the Dillard House Complex at the end of a street called Skillet. Little Betty's house was over in the block west of the Methodist church. That block is surrounded on two sides by Betty Whitecloud Street. It was named by Dr. John Marion Brown, whose widow still lives there. It seems that he came to the conclusion that the creek flowing nearby may have been named after Betty Whitecloud, but documentation would indicate otherwise.

In 1906 Samuel Beck of the Warwoman District of Rabun County made claim for a share of the Cherokee settlement and received the same based on establishing that his parents were Berry B. Beck and Stacy Blythe, that his grandparents were James Blythe and Sallie Downing, and that his great grandparents were Richard Downing and Nellie Downing.

One final bit of trivia. There was a Cherokee by the name of "Skillet" and two others by the name of "Tucker" on the same Cherokee Roll with Dick Downing on Shooting Creek, Cherokee County, North Carolina.

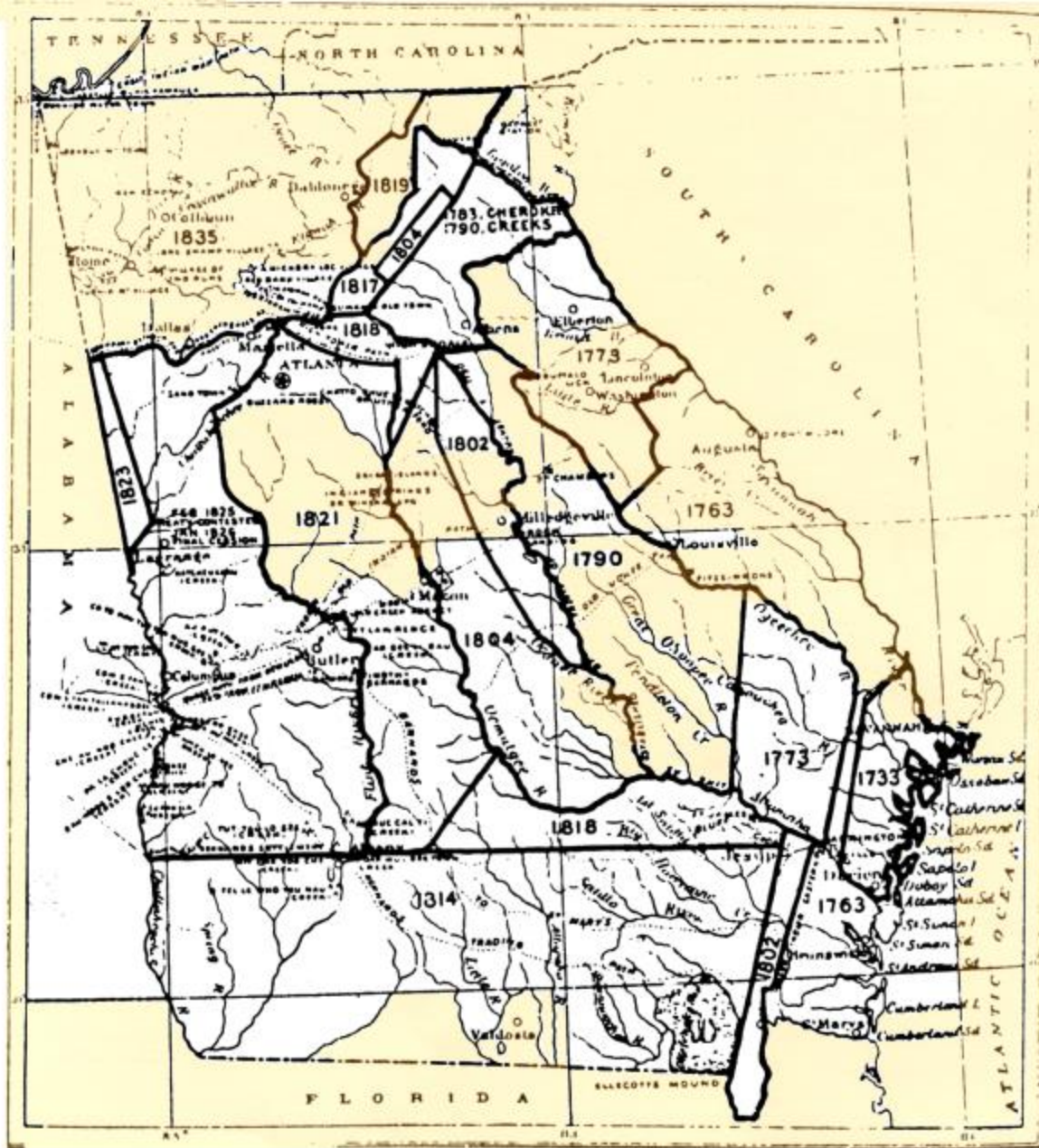
EndNotes

- <sup>1.</sup> This writer was born in 1930 in Persimmon District, Rabun County, Georgia, to Norman and Ruby Howard Coleman. In 1934 his father moved to Rabun Gap to provide the first school buses in the Valley District. He graduated from Rabun Gap Nachoochee School in 1947 and from North Georgia College in 1951. He was commissioned 2nd Lt. Infantry. He served one year in Korea. He has been 40 years in insurance claims, of which 33 years was as Claims Manager for two insurance companies. He has been interested in genealogical and historical research since 1975. He has published seven census books and one court record book on Rabun County. He has a collection of 40 volumes of Research Materials on various subjects and families of Rabun County. These include the descendent of many early settlers of Rabun: the Becks, Coffees, Colemans, Howards, Justuses, Smiths, Sheltons, Roberts, Yorks, and Watts.
- <sup>2.</sup> *Georgia History in Outline* by Kenneth Coleman.
- <sup>3.</sup> Volumes 3 and 4 of J.T. Coleman Research Materials.
- <sup>4.</sup> 1800 Census, Buncombe County, North Carolina.
- <sup>5.</sup> *Buncombe County Index to Deeds, 1783-1850* by James E. Wooley.
- <sup>6.</sup> Register of Persons Who Wish Reservations Under the Treaty of July 8th 1817, from Books of Agent for the Cherokee Indians, Volume 18 of John T. Coleman Research Materials.
- <sup>7.</sup> *Bartram's Travels*.
- <sup>8.</sup> John T. Coleman reproduction of 1820 Surveys shown on pages 12-17 of *Rabun County and Its People*, Volume 1.
- <sup>9.</sup> Same as 6, above.
- <sup>10.</sup> Haywood County, N.C. Deed Book pages 412-414 and pages 547-548.
- <sup>11.</sup> Macon County Deed Book A, pages 20 - 28 and Deed Book B, page 636.
- <sup>12.</sup> Jerry Wright Jordan and this writer have common Howard ancestors. She lives in Fort Worth, Texas and works from the Regional Archives in that city.
- <sup>13.</sup> *Cherokee Roots* by Bob Blankenship.



REFERENCE: OLD FRONTIERS by John P. Brown, 1938, Southern Publishers, Inc.

Exhibit A



INDIAN CESSIONS IN GEORGIA

viii

REFERENCE: GEORGIA HISTORY IN OUTLINE by Kenneth Coleman  
University of Georgia Press, Athens

Exhibit B

States of Georgia  
 Hayburn County

The above Plat correctly represents a Tract of Land containing 640 acres Surveyed by me for Richard Downing as a Reservation Commencing at the place where said Downing Dillard's House stood on the year 1819 and Lining Due west 50 poles to a North and South Line Equally distant from the House of Little Betty and then thence South 100 poles to a Stake in Sipe's Carters field near the mouth of Betty's Creek then East crossing the Swamp River above the Bridges on the State's road 300 poles to a Stake near Pleasant Wells thence North 100 poles to a Stake in John Kelly's Field thence West 300 poles crossing the Swamp River to another Stake near Jones Dillard's Stall on Little Betty's Reservation line thence South with said line 100 poles to the beginning having such form and mark as are represented by the foregoing plat. The plat annexed marked by dotted lines represents the Reservation of Little Betty's Spring commencing at the Dwelling House the place where they stood not plainly appears could not be included in the cutting of each being only 100 poles apart consequently the Dwelling House Downing is only 50 poles from his western Boundary. I was here a resident in the Spring of the said Land since 1836 and consider it well worth Five thousand Dollars November 27<sup>th</sup> 1838

Obadiah Pickerson, C<sup>l</sup>

Exhibit C



The above is a correct representation of a survey made by me for Little Betty a Cherokee woman as a reservation commencing at which her Dwelling House stood in the year 1819 and running East 52 poles to a wall line Equally distant from the House of Richard Downings a distance of 100 poles South with the Lines of Downings Reservation 100 Poles to a pine then west 280 poles to a peach tree in Andrew Suttons field thence North 320 poles to a Stake thence East 360 poles to a Stake on the State Road near Capt Dillards thence South 20 Poles to the N. West Corner of R Downings Reservation thence South with the western Boundary of Said Reservation 20 poles to the beginning having such fairs and marks as are represented by the above plat. The Plat marked by dotted lines represents the Reservation of Richard Downings on the Linnepes River near the head at a place called Easttoles on the State Road between Clayton Georgia and Rabun County and Franklin N.C. I have been well acquainted with the Land described in the foregoing survey since 1822 and consider it worth Fifteen Hundred or Two Thousand Dollars November 16<sup>th</sup> 1838  
 Obadiah J. Bukerson, C. Surveyor  
 R 6

Exhibit D

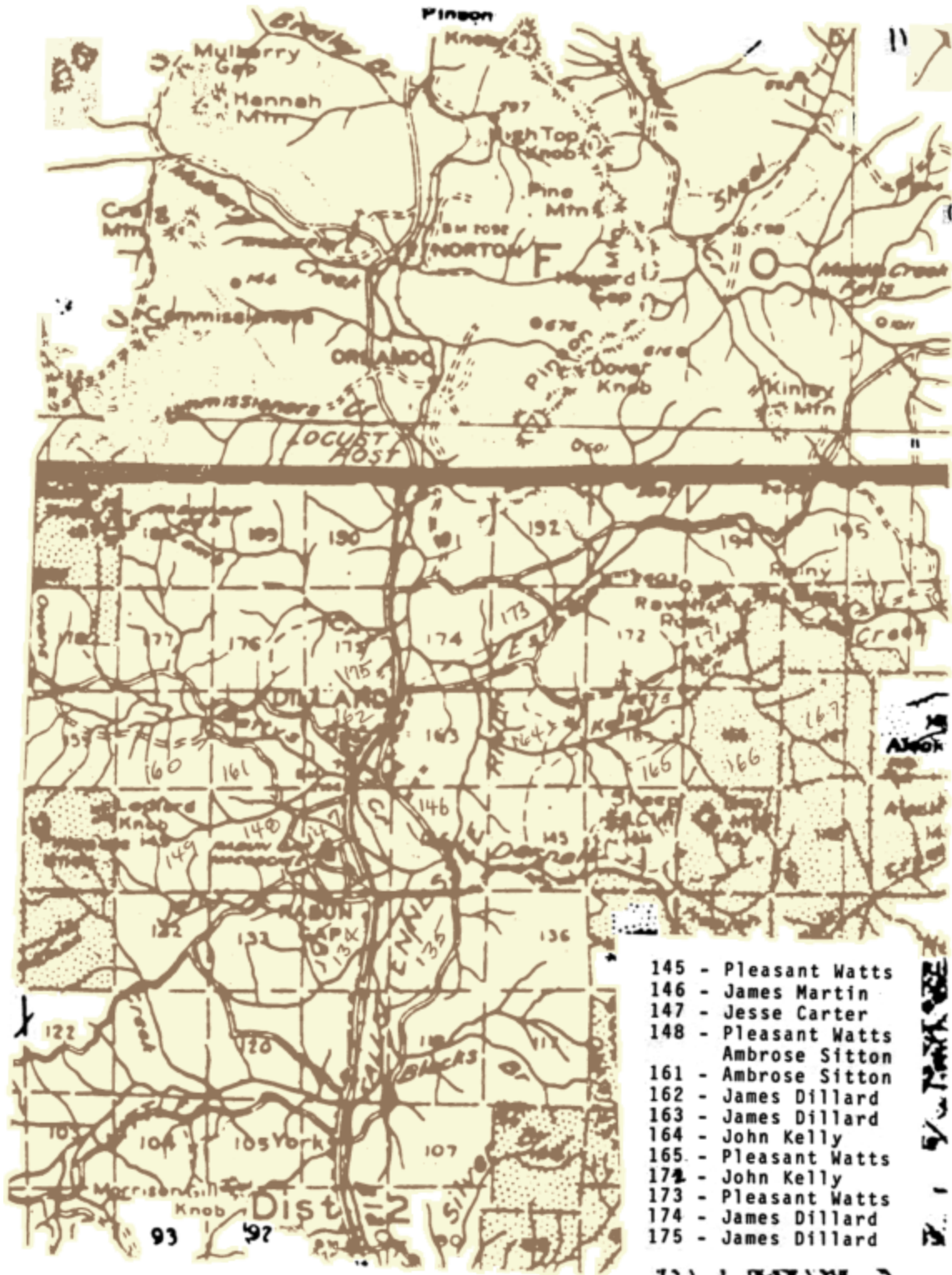
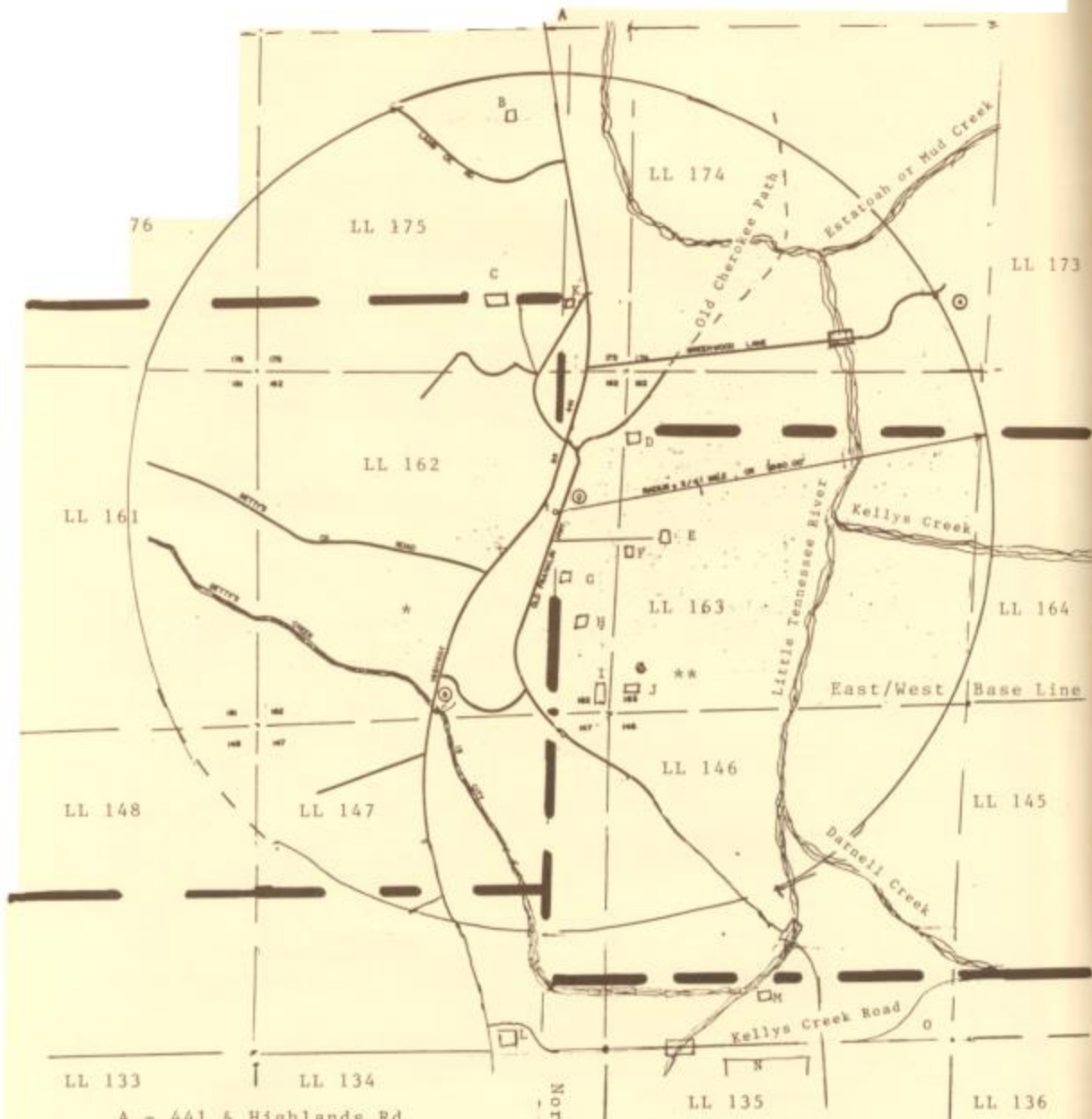
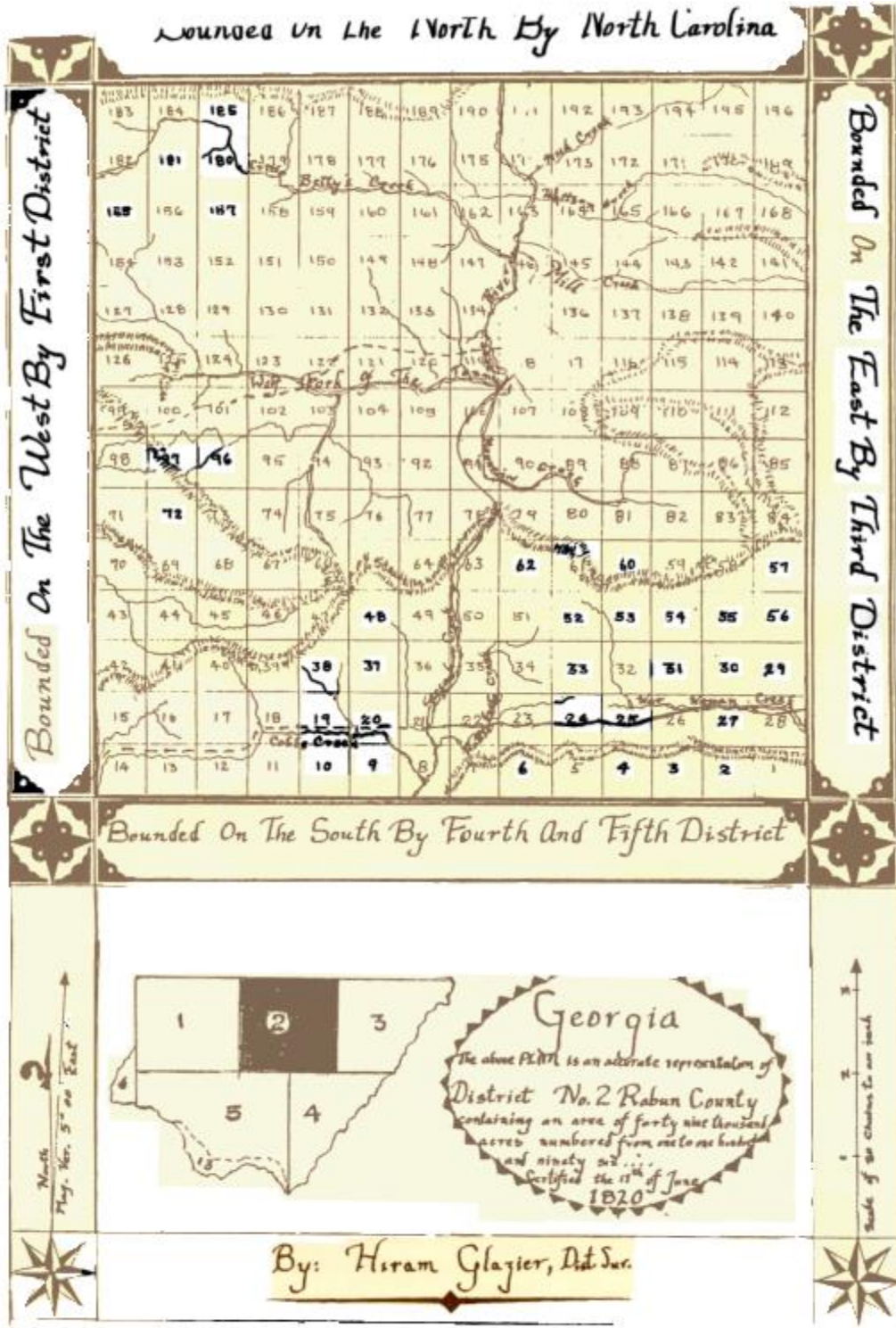


Exhibit E



- A - 441 & Highlands Rd.
- B - Albert Dillard Heirs
- C - James Dillard Homestead
- E - Sally Powell House
- F - Dr. Lester Neville
- G - Edward Dillard
- H - B.R. Dillard House
- I - Old Community School  
Now City Hall
- J - Henry Dillard Playhouse  
Dillard House Complex
- D - Zack Dillard House
- \* - Little Betty House
- K - Hiram Dillard House  
Now Real Estate Office
- L - Rabun Gap Post Office
- M - Pump House - Confluence of  
Little Betty Creek and  
Little Tennessee River
- N - Rabun Apparel Inc. Mill
- O - Norman Coleman Heirs
- \*\* Richard Downing House

Exhibit F



7

Exhibit G



*Dillards and Normans in Old Culpeper County, Virginia:  
Using Land Records to Sort Them Out*

by

John T. Dillard

This article follows my 1997 article and talk given at the 1997 Dillard History Session and expands my 1999 talk. The use of land records to attempt to trace who lived next to whom and where can very quickly become mind numbing. I left much of the minute details out of my 1999 talk. They are incorporated in this article.

I wish to emphasize that records to which I refer have been personally viewed by me or were found in an abstract or verifiable reference work. I have studied original records at the court houses of Culpeper, Fauquier, Orange, Rapahannock and Spottsylvania Counties in Virginia. I have studied the Grant Abstracts for the Northern Neck Land Grants of Virginia. I have relied also on the previous research done by Dorothy Dillard Hughes, John H. Dillard, Irene Fulton, Howard V. Jones and the late Lucile R. Johnson. Mike Long's well researched book on his link to the Isaac Norman family of Culpeper County has also been of great value.

This article will contain a fair amount about the Isaac Norman line through his son Joseph, who was the father of Mary Norman Dillard. Any member of the Dillard line who descends from Mary Norman and William Dillard, who died at the Battle of Eutaw Springs, South Carolina, is also a member of the Isaac Norman line.

The questions left after my 1997 talk were as follows: First, did Mary Norman Dillard's property come solely from her father, Joseph Norman? Second, what happened to the unaccounted for 320 acres owned by John Dillard, William Dillard's probable father?

I want to place Old Culpeper County for the reader's benefit. Old Culpeper County as I use that term refers to Culpeper County between 1749 and 1830. Culpeper originally contained all of the present Culpeper, Madison, and Rappahannock Counties. There is a nasty little jog of land which follows the Hughes and Hazel Forks of the Rappahannock. That jog of land keeps the boundaries of the counties from being square. That is a real headache for me as I research the deeds. Some of the John Dillard land could well be in modern Madison County. I have not researched the land records there to prove or disprove that thought. John Dillard's property was in that angle where the three counties meet.

There was also adjacent Norman property there. However, the most of the Norman property we are concerned with, including Mary Dillard's three hundred acres, was entirely in modern Rappahannock County near Ben Venue on Hickman's Mountain, now Hickerson Mountain. Irene Fulton and Lucile Johnson sent me excerpts from Hope Hilton's book on the Edwin and Elander Hickman families that showed the change from Hickman to Hickerson. The Hickmans left, the Hickersons moved in, and over a period of fifty years the name changed in local usage.

Mary Norman Dillard's ownership of three hundred acres can be traced through the court records of Old Culpeper County. She received the land from her father at the time of her marriage to William Dillard. Joseph Norman, Mary and William Dillard did not record the deed in the Culpeper Court House or make any other legal record of the gift that can be found. Joseph, unlike his father, Isaac, appears to have had pretty lax habits when it came to recording land deals.

Mary Norman Dillard's property was sold by her heirs after her death in 1814. The court assisted the heirs in disposing of the property as can be read in the 1815 Culpeper County Court Minute Book at pages 212 and 263. The property was bought by James Green in two transactions (Culpeper County Deed Books, HH page 16 and II page 438).

Green then sold the property to Henry, David, and Joseph Ritenour (see Culpeper County Deed Books, AW page 250, and PP pages 199, 217, and 219). Henry Ritenour, David and Joseph's probable father, died about 1827. His will was in the one will book that was lost during the Civil War. His heirs did sell the property the following year to William Rudacilla (Culpeper County Deed Book UU page 318).

In 1830, the heirs of James Norman, the oldest son of Joseph Norman, filed suit to recover the property from the current owners. They claimed legal rights to the property through entail due their father and his estate. This court action can be found in the Culpeper Land Causes of 1831, Book 2, pages I through 49, as Joseph Norman and others vs. Ritenour. Two juries of the Culpeper County Superior Court found for the defendants. It was this court case that proved a lot about Mary Norman Dillard and her family.

Mary Norman Dillard appears to have been the oldest daughter of Joseph and Mary Read Norman. I believe that Joseph and Mary had four children. They were James, Mary, Winnefred Norman Bywaters, and Isaac. Mary Read Norman died prior to 1751 when Joseph and his second wife recorded a sale of property. I am uncomfortable making definite statements about the Norman family in that most of my data relies on *The History of the Culpeper County Normans*. Some of the birth dates given in it and copied in *The Normans of Normandy Hall* are suspect. Mike Long, in his privately published book, *Isacc Norman,. James Turner, and Allied Families, 1724-1850*, gives more acceptable birth dates with substantiation from the records.

One example of Mr. Long's research deals with the maiden name of Sarah Norman, the second wife of Joseph. Most family histories give her maiden name as Sarah Everett. Mr. Long found a will for one David McMurrin on pages 19 and 20 of Culpeper County Will Book A. The will gives a shilling to his daughter Sarah Norman. It is interesting to note the witnesses include Isaac and Courtney Norman (Long, id., at page 24). Both men were sons of Isaac, the first. Courtney stayed in Virginia while the younger Isaac moved to North Carolina.

Joseph was born about 1718 by my calculations. His first wife, Mary Read, was born about 1720. The descendants of Joseph's son, James, claim that James was born in 1732. The records do not bear that assertion out. The records tend to indicate that Joseph and Mary's children were born between 1740 and 1749. Our family traditions have given both Mary and

William birth dates in the early 1750s. I believe that these traditions need to be reviewed for reasons that will come out in this section.

There is a fairly good amount of records extant of Joseph's land dealings. He had land dealings in two areas of Culpeper County. The primary area was near Stevensburgh on Flatt Run where his father, Isaac, had taken property prior to 1724. Joseph bought a portion of Isaac's patent there in 1740 as seen in Orange County Deed Book 4 at page 239. I use this first property transaction as one point to set Joseph's birth date at about 1718. I believe he had reached lawful age for property purchases.

Joseph and Isaac also had property dealings on Hickman Mountain. Hickman Mountain was originally called "Thorough Fare Mountain." I had to follow the property dealings of Ashley, Browning, Hickman, Hickerson and Norman plus the location at the "headwaters of Battle Run" all of which were used in deed references. *The Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia, 1743-1759* at pages 55 and 56 show Isaac in 1748 deeding 100 acres to his son-in-law James Turner there adjoining the Francis Browning and Joseph Norman-properties (*Long, id.*, page 19). The land that Joseph held was part of a grant originally given to Courtney Norman that had been sold to John Ashley. Ashley then sold the parcel to Isaac and Joseph Norman (Orange County Deed Book 10 at pages 217 and 220). The presence of John Ashley and Francis Browning is a key to placing transactions on Hickman Mountain. They had a grant in partnership which they divided. The dividing line and other line references of the grant are found in several early Culpeper County deeds.

The Hickmans had sold and left the area by 1800. Culpeper Deed Book F at page 548 has a sale to Courtney Norman by Edward Hickman. By that time, the Ritenours started buying property there, and the Hickersons were well enough established to be mentioned in deed landmarks.

The previously mentioned deed reference to Joseph in the Norman and Turner sale indicates that Joseph owned property on Hickman Mountain prior to the grant from Fairfax which is continuously referenced in the land cause of 1831. It is well to note here that the only property referenced in the 1831 land case is the Fairfax grant of 238 acres that Joseph received in 1751. The 238 acres used Francis Browning's property as a line and corner reference. The grant refers to it as a piece of "waste and ungranted land." I believe Joseph figured out that there was a piece of unclaimed land on the mountain and had it granted to him. I feel comfortable in stating that Joseph owned up to 480 acres on Hickman Mountain at one time or another.

Joseph gave 300 acres on the mountain to his daughter and son-in-law. He willed another 100 acres there to his grandson, Isaac. Joseph's will was probated in 1784. I believe he used the will to dispose of all his property he had not gifted or sold. The will specifically disposes of three pieces of property. Steven Chilton, who married Joseph's daughter, Fanny, stated in a deposition for the land cause that there were disputes among Joseph's heirs over the will. This is an interesting comment, but I have not found any court records of disputes arising from the will. Chilton also listed Joseph's children but left out two who had died indicating that Chilton did not know the family until approximately 1800.

I have already listed the children of Joseph and Mary Read Norman. The children of his second marriage to Sarah McMurrin were William, Thomas, John, Peggy Norman Calvert, Frances (Fanny) Norman Chilton, Jernina Norman Lewis, Kesiah Norman Kelly, and Sarah (Sally) Norman. Sally died after the will was drawn but before Chilton knew the family. Isaac from the first marriage was dead by 1777. His son Isaac was given the 100 acres on Hickman Mountain.

John and Thomas Norman were given equal shares in the Norman home place. John sold his portion to Thomas in 1789 and left Virginia. James Norman had left Virginia as a young man but came back to visit after Joseph had passed away. He managed to get Thomas to buy out the interest he claimed as eldest son. I have read both of these transactions but failed to make or keep a note of them. I did not foresee that they would end up being appropriate to this story.

The Land Cause record shows that James Norman attempted to claim ownership of the property of Mary Norman Dillard. Mary set him straight on the ownership of the property twice. Mary Dillard Wharton, a daughter of Mary Norman and William Dillard, in her deposition stated he twice tried to get his sister to pay him rent for use of the property. Mary Norman Dillard told him that he knew it was hers, given to her by their father, and if he wanted to claim it he could just leave the property and not bother her. It is interesting to note that James did not assert any claim to the property during his life, even after Mary had died and the property had been sold.

The other main witness for the defendants in the land cause was Ezekiel Norman. He was a son of Courtney Norman and had been present at the time Joseph gave the land to Mary. I believe Ezekiel had gone there with his father, who was a lawful witness to the gifting. Joseph formalized the gift by taking something of value, a tree, from the land. Ezekiel served in the Revolutionary War and moved to Ohio. He was an old man there when he was deposed on the Land Cause. One interesting point about the Land Cause is the basically similar stories that Mary Dillard Wharton and Ezekiel Norman tell despite being separated by years and distance. Both place the marriage at about 1765, reinforcing my belief that both Mary Norman and William Dillard were born in the 1740's. Mary Wharton further stated that she was 65 years old at the time of her 1830 deposition. That reinforces the date of marriage of Mary Norman and William Dillard at about 1765.

This concludes the tracking of the Mary Norman and William Dillard property. I will now turn my attention to John Dillard and the unaccounted 320 acres of his property. I speculated at my 1997 talk that I might find additional daughters of John and Sophia Dillard. I found two clues in the records which I did not expect.

John and Sophia, who lived on the Hazel at or about where it forks with the Hughes, are believed to be the parents of my ancestor William who died in the Battle of Eutaw Springs. James who migrated to Laurens County, South Carolina, and Elizabeth who married Robert Strother. This John Dillard acquired 466 acres of land in 1749, located on the northern side of Hazel River in the Gourd Vine Fork running near the foot of Grindstone Mountain, according to Dorothy Dillard Hughes in *Culpeper County, Virginia Dillards and Two Related Families of South Carolina*, privately published, 1996, page 46. Robert Strother and John Dillard had joint

land dealings in that area where they jointly sold eight hundred eighty-one and one half acres to Richard Chilton (Culpeper County Deed Book S at pages 101 and 102). This property sale was signed by John Dillard, Robert Strother and Elizabeth Strother, all as sellers. This property sale also contained a two hundred fifty-six acre parcel of Norman property which Strother had purchased from a group who I believe may have been the children of Isaac Norman, son of Joseph Norman (Culpeper Deed Book R, pages 170-171). I will deal more with that later. This sale to Richard Chilton occurred in 1794 and included the property where the Bromfield Church was sited. That location is identified today by a small brick column in a pasture. To the best of my knowledge, none of the property in this sale came from the John Dillard grants from the Fairfax family.

John Dillard sold ninety-two acres of his property a few days later to Bartholomew Conyers (Culpeper Deed Book U, pages 171-173). He had previously sold fifty acres to Gayle and Poole for a millsite (Culpeper Deed Book A, pages 517-520). He originally had 466 acres; the two known sales of one hundred forty-two acres leaves three hundred twenty-four acres not accounted for in the record.

It is well to remember that a lot of land transactions between generations of families were not recorded in this area of Virginia. Technically, the land was rented, not bought, from the Fairfax family in the Grants. The Fairfax Grants and land activities extend up until 1854. Some people after the Revolution ceased paying rent to the Fairfaxes. They also tended not to pay land taxes to the State of Virginia. If a piece of property stayed within a family, there might not be a land transfer record until a sale occurred. I personally know of property in that area that has been in continuous family ownership since the 1740s. This does make research rather difficult.

I found my first clue as to what might have happened to the property when I found a George Dillard listed as a line reference in a Fairfax Grant of August, 1800. This was in Gertrude E. Gray's *Virginia Northern Neck Land Grants* at page 250 of Volume III. "Y-429 T.W. 19,681 = 2 Oct, 1783 Rueben Thornhill 54 1/2 A (22 Jan 1799) in Culpeper Adj. George Dillard, Matthias Weaver, William Reece, Grindstone Mountain, Bartholomew Conyers. 30 Aug 1800 [DI'd Rueben Thornhill 10 Sept 1800]." This was a tax warrant that was exercised to purchase property. Grindstone Mountain and Conyers threw up flags in my mind. Conyers had bought property from John Dillard; Grindstone Mountain was a reference in property that John Dillard had purchased.

There was another George Dillard in Culpeper County, and that could have been a reference to him. However, he was dead by 1791 and his property there had been disposed of by his heirs. That was the George Dillard who had lived on Muddy Run of the Rappahannock. I discussed this with the late Lucile Johnson and by the time we had hashed it around, we agreed that I had a line of research to follow.

I returned to the Culpeper Court House with a list of those who had been adjoining land holders to the deeds of John Dillard and Robert Strother. I went through the deed indexes up to 1820 for deeds where these people were involved. I also checked through the will index for them. I had ten distinct land ownerships adjacent to the two pieces of property sold by John Dillard and Robert Strother, including the purchasers. I did not bother to count the number of

land records I read in which this group was involved or used as a line reference. There were a good number of them.

Finally, I found in 1799 where George Dillard was used as a corner and line reference in a sale from John and Sarah Yager to Matthias Weaver (Culpeper Deed Book U, page 265). This sale was for sixty acres on July 4, 1797, and was recorded June 17, 1799. There were no other references to George in the Culpeper records. I do believe that I have found another son of John Dillard where I expected to find daughters. I do not believe this story is completed.

I still need to determine if John Dillard's two pieces of property were adjacent. If they were not, there is a chance that the piece George Dillard received was actually in Madison County where I have not studied the land records. It is interesting to note that, when John Dillard sold the ninety-two acres in 1794, neither John nor George Dillard was listed as adjacent landowners. I do have reason to believe the property that the Strothers sold to Chilton lay in both present day Culpeper and Madison Counties. Perhaps some day I can find the answer to this.

Back to the Normans for a moment. Mary Norman Dillard's brother, Isaac, was dead by 1777. He left a widow, Sarah, who was mentioned in Joseph Norman's will and a son who received one hundred acres on Hickman's Mountain. Well, apparently he left more. He may have even been Joseph Norman's oldest son.

Robert Strother received a power of attorney from William Norman, who was leaving Culpeper County (Culpeper Deed Book P, page 102, dated May 4, 1792). Strother then bought a piece of property shared by William Norman, Isaac Norman, Mary Norman, Fanny Norman, and Nancy Norman (Culpeper County Deed Book R, pages 170-171, dated Dec 17, 1792). Strother represented William Norman in this sale.

There are two interesting items about this deed. First, the property being sold came from "land belonging to Isaach Norman Deceased". Second, that part of the original larger portion had been "set apart for the Widow". I do not know how many times I have read this deed. I do know that when I was reviewing my notes during my last trip to Culpeper, it did come clear to me. First, the Norman girls listed in the deed fit into no Norman family that I recognized. Second, there was a widow of "Isaach Norman" involved. Which "Isaach"? Which widow? The elder Isaac was dead by 1748, his son Isaac had moved to North Carolina by 1753, and Courtney had no son Isaac.

That left Isaac, son of Joseph who had died by 1777, leaving a widow and son Isaac, who were mentioned in Joseph's will. Back to the court house where I found a deed disposing of the Widow's property in 1801 (Culpeper Deed Book W, Page 301). That clinched it for me. Isaac, I believe, died, leaving a widow and five small children. The children received a portion of his property as their inheritance, which they sold to Robert Strother. The fact the girls used their maiden names indicates they were unmarried and still fairly young, which the fifteen years between Isaac's death and the land sale would speak for. This does not relate directly to our family but is a good example of how we can develop a fairly well based genealogical record from tracing land records.

One other point I discovered in my research of the records is that Mary Norman Dillard was literate enough to sign records. Nowhere have I found where she signed using a mark. She always used a legal signature.

I believe this pretty well wraps up this topic on using the land records to work out who was where and when they were there. This is not the definite or final word on these people, but as of this date, they are the best assumptions I can make from the record. As normal, any errors in here are mine and mine alone

### **Exhibits**

#### **Deed of Robert Strother, Betty Strother and John Dillard to Richard Chilton dated October 20, 1794 recorded in Culpeper County, Virginia on October 20, 1794 in Deed Book S, Pages 101 and 102**

This indenture made this twentieth day of October in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and ninety four Between Robert Strother and Betty his wife and John Dillard of the County of Culpeper of the one part and Richard Chilton of the same county of other part. Witnesseth that the said Robert Strother and Betty his wife and John Dillard for and in consideration of the full and Just sum of Five hundred and ninety seven Pounds Current Money of Virginia to them in hand paid by the said Richard Chilton the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have given granted bargained and sold and by these presents do give grant bargain and sell unto the said Richard Chilton his heirs and assigns forever a Certain Tract or parcel of land lying and being the County of Culpeper on both sides of Hughs and the Hazle Rivers whereon the Brick Church Stands Containing by Estimation Eight hundred and eighty and one half acres of land be the same more or less and Bounded as follows, Beginning at a large Hickory and white oak standing on the south side of Thornton Road a corner to Norman's Patent and Thornton Fitzhughs thence with the said road of Fitzhughs line north fifty five degrees west thirty eight poles north thirty six degrees west seventy two poles north seventy three poles to a Bent in the said Road thence north seventy five degrees west twenty eight poles north Eighty eight degrees west forty poles north seventy five degrees west sixty eight poles to two Oaks each side of said road Comer to Hawkens thence south twenty five degrees west one hundred and twenty two poles to a stake in the mud across a small branch thence south twenty five degrees east one hundred and forty one poles to a pine on a point thence south fifty four degrees west seventeen poles to three small Hickorys on the Bank of Hughs River thence down the said river Eighty poles crossing the rivers and cornering at two white oaks -a comer in Norman's Patent thence with that Patent line south fourteen degrees thirty minutes East forty eight poles to a pine and red oak thence south eighty four degrees thirty minutes east thirty three poles to two pines in the edge of the bottom thence south forty six degrees east sixty poles to two small white oaks and Hickory comer to Milly [?] Norman thence north forty two degrees east fifty one poles to two white oaks a maple and sycamore on the bank of the river thence crossing the river and down the several courses of the same one hundred and three poles to a gum and maple a little below a sharp bent and corner to Wm Norman thence north thirty eight degrees east one hundred and eighty four poles to a maple on the Bank of Hazle River thence up the several courses of the river one hundred and sixty five poles to a white oak standing on the Bank a little below the Mill Tail thence north twenty degrees east ten poles thence north four degrees west eighteen poles

crossing the Mill Pond and comer to a poplar and Spanish oak standing in the said pond and comer to James Long thence south sixty six east ninety two poles to a Hickory and two white oaks on the Top of a High Ridge thence with the course of the said ridge north thirty six poles to a Black oak marked with the Cross thence with the said ridge north fourteen east thirty eight poles to a red oak thence north four east thirty six poles to a red oak thence north five west twenty four poles to a pine thence north eight west fifty six poles to a Spanish oak thence north thirty west Twenty four poles to a red oak thence north twelve west sixty eight poles to two Chestnuts and Black oak thence north ten east sixty six poles to four black oaks on the Top of said ridge and in John Dillards present line thence with that line north twenty nine west fifty four poles to three oaks near a large rock a corner in the Patent thence with another of the Patent lines south fifty west two hundred twenty poles to two white oaks and a gum on the Bank of Hazle River and comer with William Sampson thence down the several courses of the said River two hundred four poles crossing the river cornering at four oaks above the mouth of a small branch and comer with Thornton Fitzhugh thence with his line south thirteen east two hundred forty poles to the Beginning together with one acre of land condemned for the use of the Grist Mill which acre formerly belonged to James Long together with all houses, Mills, millstones, ways, waters water courses profits and emoluments to the said Tract and acre of land and Mills belonging or in any wise appertaining and the reversion and reversions remainder and remainders rents issues and profits thereof and of every part and parcel thereof to have and to hold the said lands Mills and premises with their and every of their appurtenances unto the said Richard Chilton his heirs and assigns forever to the only proper use on behoof of him the said Richard Chilton his heirs and assigns forever and the said Robert Strother and Betty his wife and John Dillard shall and will warrant and forever defend the said Lands and Mills with their and every of their appurtenances unto the said Richard Chilton his heirs and assigns forever free and clear from the claim or claims of all every Person or Persons whatever lawfully claiming the same or any part thereof, except two acres of land whereon the Brick Church stands Belonging to the Parish of Broomfield which was inclosed in the aforesaid Boundaries of land is by no means to be considered as sold or conveyed to the said Richard Chilton his heirs or assigns any thing contained in this Indenture to the Contrary notwithstanding. In witness whereof the said Robert Strother and Betty his wife and John Dillard have hereunder set their hands and seals the day month and year first within written.

Signed, sealed and acknowledged  
Before

Robert Strother (LS)  
Betty Strother (LS)

John Dillard (LS)

Received of Richard Chilton five hundred ninety seven Pounds Current Money of Virginia in full for the within Consideration Money, witness my hand this 20th day of October 1794

Test

Robert Strother

At a Court held for Culpeper County the 20th day of October 1794 This Indenture of Bargain and Sale from Robert Strother and Betty Strother his wife and John Dillard to Richard Chilton together with the required money was acknowledged by the parties and ordered to be recorded. Previous to which the said Betty was Privately Examined as the law directs.

Examined

Clerk

John Jameson C House

Notes: (1) On the above deed I have a question mark behind Milly. I believe we can accept Milly as an accurate name. From page 10 of History of the Culpeper County Normans, 1972 we find Milly listed as a daughter of Courtney Norman with references to Culpeper Deed Book S and Will Book B. (2) Which Norman had the Patent that is referred to twice? (3) Where did William Norman get the property Robert Strother bought in 1792? Who was this William?

**Deed, John Dillard to Bartholomew Conyers dated October 28, 1794 recorded in Culpeper County, Virginia on January 21, 1799 in DeedBook U, Pages 171-173:**

This Indenture made this twenty eighth day of October in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and ninety four Between John Dillard of the County of Culpeper and state of Virginia of the one part and Bartholomew Conyers of the County and state aforesaid of the other part, Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of Forty pounds of good and lawful money to us in hand paid by the said Bartholomew Conyers unto the said John Dillard before the sealing and delivery of these presents the receipt and payment whereof I do hereby acknowledge the said John Dillard hath granted bargained and sold and by these presents doth bargain sell and convey unto the said Bartholomew Conyers his heirs executors administrators or assigns all that tract or parcel of land containing by estimation ninety two and a quarter acres (be the same more or less) situated lying and being in the state and County above mentioned Beginning as follows (Viz) at four black oaks in the patent line on the top of a ridge corner to Shelton running thence with the line and with the course of the ridge South ten West Sixty six poles to two chestnut oaks and a black oak thence South twelve East Sixty eight pole to a red oak thence South thirty East twenty four poles to a spanish oak thence South Eight East fifty six pole to a pine thence South five East twenty four pole to a red oak thence South four West thirty six poles to a red oak thence South fourteen West thirty eight poles to a black oak thence South thirty six pole to two white oaks and which are in James Longs line thence with said line South Sixty six East six pole to a pine on a hill side thence North thirty six East Eight six pole to a chestnut on a point near James Longs comer thence North One hundred and fifty poles to two red oaks and one white oak comer with the patent line thence North twenty nine West One hundred and forty poles to the beginning the said tract lying and being as aforesaid with all and singular its appurtenances and all benefits and advantages whatsoever to the said land belonging or appertaining and all the estate right bills interest reversions remainder claims or demands of the said John Dillard of in or to the same or any part or parcel thereof to the said Bartholomew Conyers his heirs or assigns to have and to hold the said land with and every (of) its appurtenances to the only proper use and behoof of the said Bartholomew Conyers his heirs and assigns forever and the said John Dillard do covenant and agree that he himself his heirs and assigns shall at all times warrant and forever defend the said land and premises bounded as above described against all lawful claims or demands whatsoever of any other person or persons free from all manner of molestation or disturbance peaceably and quietly to hold the said land and premises hereby granted unto the said Bartholomew Conyers his heirs and assigns forever In Witness hereunto I have set my hand and seal the day and year above mentioned.

Signed Sealed & delivered  
In Presence of

John Dillard (LS)

Boswell Pulliaus  
John Popham  
Thos Wright

At a Court held for Culpeper County the 19th day of January 1795 This Indenture of Bargain and Sale from John Dillard to Bartholomew Conyers was partly proved by the oaths of Boswell Pulliaus and Thomas Wright two of the witnesses thereto and Ordered to be Certified And at a Court held for said County the 21st day of January 1799 This said Indenture was fully proved by the oath of John Popham another witness thereto and ordered to be recorded.

Examined

Teste  
John Jameson C House

Note: I believe the "Shelton" to be "Chilton" of the Strother and Dillard deed. Chilton refers "to 4 black oaks on the top of said ridge and in John Dillards present line the with that line north." Compare to the start on the description for above deed . Which is correct, Chilton or Shelton?

## Dillard Trails to Tennessee

By

Pat Bracey Greenwood

I am of probable descent from George Dillard of King and Queen County, Virginia, to his probable son, Nicholas, of Caroline County, Virginia; to his son, Thomas Dillard, Sr. of Spotsylvania County, Virginia; to his son, William Dillard, who migrated to the Hillsborough District of Chatham County, North Carolina; to his son, Osborne (Auzborn) Dillard, the Revolutionary soldier who migrated to Chestnut Mound, Smith County, Tennessee; to his son, Daniel Dillard, who fought in the War of 1812; to his son, Miles Dillard, the Chestnut Mound farmer; and to his son, Thomas Marshall Dillard, who was my grandfather and who moved to Robertson County, Tennessee on December 11, 1922. This move was after his marriage to Annie Lizzie Gore. They became my grandparents through their second daughter, Catherine Gore Dillard, who married Porter C. Bracey of Robertson County, Tennessee.

We all realize that those early generations are not proved but are based on the 1704 Quit Rent records of Dillards of the same surname in King and Queen County, Virginia. I will not address the first three generations of my Dillard lineage but will refer anyone interested to the revised 1998 paper by Dorothy Dillard Hughes entitled "*Genealogy of the First Four Generations of Dillards in America*," which you will find well researched and full of excellent information.

By the fourth generation of Dillards in this country, my ancestor, William Dillard,<sup>1</sup> who may have had a previous marriage, was definitely married to Keziah Petty and had fathered at least Levinia Dillard prior to his death. We know this from the guardianship proceedings which took place in Chatham County in 1793, when William Petty assumed guardianship of his granddaughter, Levinia, Dillard.<sup>2</sup>

Several years after William Dillard's death in 1782, most of his children, including John, Osborne, Elisha Grant, and Willis, removed to Tennessee following the usual pattern of westward migration. The 1790 Census records for the Hillsborough District of Chatham County, North Carolina show them in North Carolina on that date. By the time the Tax List of 1815 was prepared, which was only 25 years later, there were no Dillards in Chatham County. Young people in those days who wanted to buy more land found it more economical to travel further inland.

The Mero district of North Carolina contained a large segment of middle Tennessee, which was then divided into sections called Tennessee, Davidson, and Sumner counties. Only three years after Tennessee attained statehood, Wilson County was created from areas previously in Sumner County. However, the records in Sumner County are complete with county deeds from 1793 to present at the Register's office. There are marriage, court minutes, wills and inventories at the County Court Clerk's office. These records are untouched by wars, fires or floods, and they provide a sketchy but interesting sidelight to the records of births, marriages, and deaths of our ancestors.

For example, Gabriel Dillard (son of Owen Dillard, son of Nicholas Jr., son of Nicholas Sr., son of George Dillard), who married Sarah Jones on 31 May 1820 was something of a victim of circumstance. He has been called a mystery man because he was found in so few records. But the records in which he is found give us a clue as to the reason. Sumner County records show Gabriel and Sarah married in 1820, but by 1825 she had left him and apparently left Tennessee by 1831. They had been separated about nine years by 30 October 1833, when Gabriel petitioned the court for a divorce (273-1833)<sup>3</sup>. This petition was accompanied by the signatures of four men. Under Tennessee law then and now, a spouse's signature is necessary for the sale of real property. Considering this, it is understandable why Gabriel would not have sold property even at a handsome profit. By and large, however, those who migrated to Tennessee acquired land somewhat dramatically. For example, the tax list for Wilson County in 1827 shows William M Dillard owned 30 acres and Allen R. Dillard owned 90 acres. By 1829, only two years later, they paid taxes on 40 acres and 160 acres respectively.<sup>4</sup>

*Smith County, Tennessee Deed Books B-M* dating from 1800 through 1835 record transfers of real property for the following: Alexander Dillard, Elisha Dillard, Elizabeth Dillard, Gabriel Dillard, George R. Dillard, Joel Dillard, John Dillard (numerous references), John L. Dillard, Josiah Dillard, Louisa J. Dillard, Mary A. Dillard, Orren Dillard, Osborn (Osbourne) Dillard, Tandy Dillard and William Dillard (numerous references). Luke Dillard migrated to Montgomery County where records show he was fairly active in civic affairs until his death at which time his wife, Alley Dillard, was named administratrix of his estate. The Wilson County Dillards included Edward Dillard,<sup>5</sup> John L. Dillard,<sup>6</sup> Owen Dillard,<sup>7</sup> Zachariah Dillard,<sup>8</sup> Nancy Dillard,<sup>9</sup> William Dillard,<sup>10</sup> and Willis Dillard.<sup>11</sup> Some of our Dillards are easily identifiable but others are not. Such is the situation in the land sale of 48 acres on the Cumberland River from George W. Martin to Zachry Dillard which was witnessed by Elijah Dillard and Thomas Dillard.<sup>12</sup>

Joel Dillard, son of Nicholas Dillard, by 1820 was living in Rutherford County with one male aged 16-18, three males aged 16-26 and one over 45 years old (himself) and one female, aged 10-16. Josiah was also in Rutherford County living with three males under age 10, one male 10-16, one male 16-18, one male 16-26 and one male 26-45 (himself) as well as three females under age 10, two females 10-16, one female 16-26 and one female 26-45 (his wife). John Dillard was living in Jackson County at age 26-45 with two females under age 10 and one female age 16-18. John S. Dillard was in Maury County at age 26-45 and one female age 16-18.

Two early William Dillards were in Tennessee. One lived in Wilson County with one male aged 16-18, two males aged 16-26, and himself aged over 45 as well as one female aged 16-18 and his wife aged over 45. The second William Dillard was in Smith County with one male aged 16-18, one male aged 16-26 and himself aged 26-45 as well as three females under age 10, two females 10-16 and his wife aged 26-45. These statistics become important when we attempt to identify which William Dillard the record refers to. It is the Smith County William Dillard who deeded a Negro woman to his granddaughter, Polly Howard Womack, on 23 July 1821. Clearly, it is this William Dillard who owned land on the Cape Fear River in Chatham County, North Carolina, and who was on the same road (for they were appointed with several others to "lay off a new road from John Avents Ferry to the Pee Dee Road") as the land

belonging to John Womack, James Womack's father.<sup>13</sup> A later William Dillard, whose will was recorded 30 October 1845, mentions sons: John, William and Thomas Dillard.

The Wilson County William Dillard died there in 1826 and had a wife named Sarah. A land sale on 13 May 1824 of 108 acres in Wilson County to William Allgood from Willis Coefield mentions that the property was bounded by William Dillard, John Cage, and the Meeting House.<sup>14</sup> The 1830 Tennessee Census lists Frances Dillard in Maury County; James Dillard in Bedford County, and Thomas Dillard in Jackson County.

My own great great-grandfather, Daniel Dillard (son of Osborne Dillard), was not enumerated in the 1820 census. No records are found after his service during the War of 1812 which indicate that he ever ventured very far from his home in Chestnut Mound, Smith County, Tennessee, where he was listed in subsequent censuses.

Elisha Dillard and his nephew, Daniel Dillard, had a very close relationship. In his later years when Elisha and his wife, Zaney Petty, were embroiled in an acrimonious breakup of their short-lived marriage, Elisha turned to Daniel to help him protect a fairly extensive fortune from his spouse. Daniel was named administrator of Elisha's estate. He had buried his first wife (who was Elisha Grant's youngest child), Leodicia, on his farm in Ferguson Hollow, where he lived most of his life. After he died, he was buried there as well. Many years later when Francis Olleson, Daniel's second and younger wife, died, she was buried close by.

An examination of the 1830 Tennessee Census record is similarly revealing when we note the Dillards shown living in Smith County (i.e., Alexander, Daniel, Elisha, John L., Jonathan, Tandy and William) and their relationships to each other: Alexander, Daniel, William, and Jonathan were brothers; Elisha was uncle to them; and Tandy was their cousin. The group living in Smith County begins to look like an invitation list for Christmas dinner: all were fairly closely related. Even though Elisha was an uncle (remember at his death Daniel was named administrator of his rather significant estate) this group were all members of a "family."

But if we examine the Dillards shown living in Wilson County, those easily identifiable are Allen R. and the two Wilson County Johns, one of whom was almost certainly Allen's brother. This family group is related to the Smith County Dillards five generations removed, since Allen and John were grandsons of Willis Dillard who was a brother to the Smith County group's father, Osborne, and to Elisha. The salient point here is that these diverse groups were several generations away from a connection with each other. Most of the same names appeared in the same counties ten years later in the 1840 Tennessee Census. It appears that what we need here is a comprehensive study of all death records for all Dillards in Tennessee. I have begun such a study, but it could take considerable time for me to complete it. Marriage records are equally important in forming a complete picture. Extracted below are some Dillard marriages from *Tennessee Bible Records and Marriage Bonds* compiled by Jeannette F. Acklen, Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., Baltimore, 1974.

Patsey Dillard married George Martin	20 March 1809	Testator: John Allcorn
Polly Dillard married John Cartwright	16 March 1811	Surety: John Cartwright and Robert P. Poole
William Dillard married Elizabeth Corley	15 June 1818	Surety: William Dillard and James Browning
Sally Dillard married Moses Harris	3 January 1818	Testator: F. G. Crutcher
Edward Dillard married Martha S. Gold	11 December 1826	Surety A. H. Oynall
Martha Dillard married George Cooper	26 May 1818	Solemized 28 May 1818 by John Page
Olive Dillard married Shadrack Owens	27 March 1818	Testator: John Allcorn Surety Shadrack Owens and Henry Jacobs
John Dillard married Sarah Jacobs	18 July 1820	Surety Shadrack Owens
Rebecca Dillard married Edward Denton	2 April 1821	Surety Thomas Denton
Joshua Dillard married Catharin Quinn	9 October 1813	Surety Alex Chambers
Allen R. Dillard married Emma D. Taylor	3 January 1822	Surety Henry Jackson

Further records abstracted from Wilson County, Tennessee Marriages 1802 -1840, WPA Historical Records Project No. 165- 43- 3 -115 reveal the following Dillard marriages:

William Dillard married Elizabeth Corder	15 June 1818	
William M. Dillard married Elizabeth F. Corley	5 September 1826	
John Cartwright married Polly Dillard	16 March 1810	
Allen R. Dillard married Emma B. Taylor	3 January 1822	
Edward Dillard married Martha S. Gold	11 December 1826	
William Smith married Elizabeth Dillard	22 February 1833	Bondsman: Nathaniel G. Carter
Henry R. Harris married Rebecca Dillard	16 November 1830	
Henry Dillard married Rebecca McHolland	17 June 1833	

George Cooper married Martha Dillard	28 May 1818	
Isaac Moore married Nancy Dillard	17 October 1814	
George Martin married Patsey Dillard	20 March 1809	

*Endnotes:*

1. Kezekiah (Keziah) Dillard was granted administration on the estate of William Dillard according to *Chatham County North Court Minutes Carolina*, Volume U, 1781-1785, p. 4A.
2. *Chatham County, North Carolina Court Minutes*, Volume H, 1781-1785, p. 29.
3. *Tennessee Divorces 1797-1858*, Gale W. Bamman, C. G. & Debbie W. Spero abstracted from Legislative Petitions.
4. *Wilson County, Tennessee Genealogy Resource Material 1827-1869* abstracted by Thomas Partlow.
5. Edward Dillard purchased 332 acres on Cedar Creek from Daniel McKisick of Bedford County on 12 June 1810. Witnessed by George Dillard and Joshua Dillard. *Wilson County Deed Book D*, p. 268.
6. Land sale of 247 acres on Clendennan Creek from Andrew Foster to John L. Dillard recorded 18 April 1818 in *Wilson County Deed Book H*. p. 177 and witnessed by William Dillard and Alex G. Carruth.
7. Sale of 127 acres of land on Fall Creek from Owen Dillard to James Smith. Recorded 3 March 1812 in *Wilson County Deed Book F*. p. 12 1.
8. Allotment to Nancy Dillard, widow of Zachariah Dillard of her dower of 150 acres. The allotment being a child's part. recorded 12 January 1814 in *Wilson County Deed Book E*, p. 610.
9. Sale of 52 acres adjoining land of the late John Watson to Joseph G. Winn of Sumner County from Nancy Dillard, widow of Zachrey Dillard recorded 17 December 18,14 in *Wilson County Deed Book E*, p. 53 5.
10. Granted to William Dillard by the State of North Carolina on 27 February 1796 No. 280 of 320 acres on the Cumberland River recorded in *Wilson County Deed Book D*, p. 404.
11. Witnessed sale of 50 acres of land south of the Cumberland River from George W. Martin to Josiah Carrot of Sumner County recorded 31 October 1814 in *Wilson County Deed Book E*, p. 563. Also purchased 133 acres on Barton's Creek from John Impson. This was recorded 1 October 1818 in *Wilson County Deed Book H*. p. 37 1.
12. Recorded 12 March 1812 in *Wilson County Deed Book F*. p. 16.
13. *Chatham County, North Carolina Minutes of Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, 1790- 1794*, p. 3.
14. *Wilson County Deed Book K*, p.137.
15. *Smith County Enrollment Book 1843*, p.41-50.

*The Dillards Settled in Laurens and Later*

*in Greer, South Carolina*

by Joann Green McAbee

Every time we go to a different library, someone has a different version of some of the Dillards. I think that the Greer, South Carolina, or Manning Green Dillards are descendants of Samuel Dillard and Ann Hutchins Dillard. The parents of Samuel Dillard seem to be George Dillard and Priscilla Major.

Samuel Dillard and Ann Hutchins' known children were John, Polly, Nancy, Mildred, and Sarah. Their son John Dillard was born about 1780 and married Elizabeth Pearson, daughter of William Pearson and Sarah Jones Jacks. John Dillard died November 3, 1823. Where he is buried is unknown to us. Elizabeth moved after John died to Georgia. She died in 1841 and is buried at Cartersville, Georgia Confederate Cemetery. Their children were Lemuel, Simeon, Serena, Anna, Charlotte, Betsy, and John.

We have seen information written up about John Dillard, who we believe was named John Marion Dillard. For whatever reason, he dropped the John and changed his name to Marion Green Dillard. My grandfather, Lewis Augustus Green, made reference that Manon changed his name to Manning Green Dillard. This name is on his tombstone at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery in Greer, South Carolina.

Manning Green Dillard was born October 16, 1810. He married Nancy Ray, daughter of Turner Ray and Nancy Wesson. Nancy was born on June 25, 1813. Nancy died February 25, 1859. She is buried at Ebenezer Methodist Church Cemetery at Batesville community south of Greer. Manning Green Dillard is buried at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery beside his second wife, Susan Mayfield.

Nancy Ray (first wife) and Manning Green Dillard had ten children:

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|----|---|---|
| 1. | Elizabeth Ann Dillard<br>(B) January 9, 1831<br>(D) December 16, 1857<br>(B) Sardis Church Cemetery | Isaac Jacks Adair (CSA)<br>(B) June 12, 1829<br>(D) May 8, 1904<br>(B) Same<br>Co.A 13 S.C. Regt. (CSA) |
|----|---|---|

They had two children: Thomas M. Adair and Nancy Louvania Adair. Elizabeth was twenty-six years old when she died. Isaac married Ann Hollingsworth (born November 20, 1839 and died March 4, 1915).

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|----|---|---|
| 2. | John Turner Dillard (CSA)<br>(B) November 14, 1832<br>(D) June 29, 1912<br>(B) Antioch Presbyterian<br>Church Cemetery off<br>Hwy. 417, Spartanburg<br>County, S.C. | Lettie Adalene Anderson<br>(B) May 8, 1837<br>(D) August 31, 1924<br>(B) Same |
|----|---|---|

There are seven children of John and Lettie's buried at Antioch Church near their parents,

four sons and three daughters.

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|----|---|--|
| 3. | Martha Elizabeth Dillard<br>(D) January 24, 1879<br>(B) Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery,<br>Greer, South Carolina<br>(B) February 14, 1835       | John Henry Copeland (CSA)<br>(B) October 18, 1939<br>(D) December 30, 1906<br>(B) Duncan Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Laurens County, S.C. |
| 4. | Sims Stacy Dillard (CSA)<br>(B) June 2, 1837<br>(D) December 27, 1862<br>(B) Antioch Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Hwy 417,<br>Spartanburg County, S.C. | Mary R. (Mollie) Anderson<br>(B)<br>(D)<br>(B) Unknown   |
| 5. | Lemuel Gaines Dillard<br>(B) October 15, 1839<br>(D)<br>(B) Unknown   | Lula Lusicus<br>(B)<br>(D)<br>(B)Unknown   |

All we know about Lemuel Gaines Dillard was that Manning Green Dillard's will states that he was living in Florida. I also have his Civil War records.

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| 6. | Martin Finney Dillard<br>(B) March 4, 1842<br>(D) April 13, 1915<br>(B) Mountain View Cemetery<br>Greer, S.C. | Martha Aurilla Cunningham<br>(B) December 16, 1846<br>(D) December 13, 1924<br>(B) Same |
|----|---|---|

Martin Finney and Martha Dillard married on September 26, 1867. They had six children. These are my great-grandparents. Their fifth child, Minnie Ormelous Dillard, married Lewis Augustus Green on November 22, 1896. They are my grandparents.

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|----|--|---|
| 7. | George Madison Dillard (CSA)<br>(B) August 26, 1884<br>(D) March 15, 1924<br>(B) Fulton Presbyterian Church Cemetery | Mary Elizabeth Smith<br>(B) June 7, 1847<br>(D) August 30, 1907<br>(B) Same |
|----|--|---|

George and Mary were married on March 19, 1868 in Reidville, South Carolina by Rev. R. H. Ried. They were parents of twelve children: William Lemuel, James Pinkney, Samuel Landford, Hattie Ann, George Oliver, Jerome, Louella, Edward Law, Sarah Leila, Benjamin Perry, Bersie, and Nancy Josephine. George Madison Dillard's second wife was Sallie Kemp, born March 3, 1845 and died February 3, 1915. She is buried in Wilson's Cemetery in Greer, SC. His third wife was Cora Bell. They were married February 22, 1917 by L. W. Davis at Cora Bell's

home.

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|----|--|--|
| 8. | Thomas Weir Dillard<br>(B) August 3, 1847<br>(D) March 21, 1893<br>(B) Pleasant Grove Baptist<br>Church Cemetery | Maggie L. Wilson<br>(B) April 13, 1858<br>(D) September 1897<br>(B) Same |
|----|--|--|

Thomas and Maggie were parents of ten children: Brock, Manning, Claude, Cora, Lola, William, Eva, Nannie, Brodie, and Thalia.

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|----|---|---|
| 9. | Serena Lucinda Dillard<br>(B) April 25, 1850<br>(D) February 16, 1888<br>(B) Pleasant Grove Baptist<br>Church Cemetery, Greer, S.C. | Leander B. Raines<br>(B) 1845<br>(D)<br>(B) Unknown |
|----|---|---|

Serena died when she was thirty-eight years old. We have found only three of her children: Raiford Roselee, Mary Etta, and Edward Raines.

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|-----|--|--|
| 10. | Nancy Josephine Dillard<br>(B) May 25, 1854<br>(D) May 26, 1928<br>(B) Pleasant Grove Baptist<br>Church Cemetery | Thomas Garrison Smith<br>(B) June 20, 1850<br>(D) October 22, 1914<br>(B) Same |
|-----|--|--|

Nancy and Thomas had five children: Gracie, infant son, Mrs. I. M. Wood, Mrs. W. E. James, Mrs. Norris Smith.

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|----|--|--|
| 1. | Jefferson Davis Dillard<br>(B) November 24, 1861<br>(D) May 27, 1904<br>(B) Pleasant Grove Baptist<br>Church Cemetery, Greer, S.C. | Minnie Wood<br>(B) October 25, 1869<br>(D) July 26, 1942<br>(B) Same |
|----|--|--|

Jefferson Davis and Minnie Wood had Manning Jefferson, Troy, W.M. "Will," H. L. Dillard, Bessie and Hazel.

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|----|--|---|
| 2. | Herbert L. Dillard<br>(B) February 8, 1871<br>(D) January 12, 1958<br>(B) Pleasant Grove Baptist<br>Church Cemetery, Greer, S.C. | Margie Smith<br>(B) April 1, 1871<br>(D) April 14, 1922<br>(B) Same |
|----|--|---|

Herbert and Margie did not have any children. After Margie died his second wife was Maybelle Mayhim.

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|----|--|----------------------|
| 3. | Sunie Dillard  | W. Walker Elmore     |
|    | (B) December 30, 1872                                      | (B) October 23, 1873 |
|    | (D) December 4, 1937                                       | (D) April 14, 1951   |
|    | (B) Pleasant Grove Baptist<br>Church Cemetery, Greer, S.C. | (B) Same             |

Sunie and Walker had one son and three daughters: Gordan Elmore, Ellie Elmore, Helen Elmore, and Mrs. H. L. Mayfield.

#### References:

*Our Kin, Ancestors and Descendants of George Madison Dillard and Elizabeth*, Greenville County Library, Greenville, South Carolina, gravestones in Sardis Church Cemetery, Antioch Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, Mountain View Baptist Church Cemetery, and Fulton Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

*A Tribute to the Memory of W. R. L. Ritchie*

by

Kathryn Paintin

Our family used to visit our relatives in Georgia. A highlight of every trip was a visit to Rich's. I thought they were saying "Ritchie's." I thought that great store was a glittering trove maintained exclusively by Daddy Ritchie for the delectation of his family and friends. Such was his generosity. His name could be plausibly invoked to explain away the small crimes of childhood, such as that of a little girl about three years old, who once appeared with some contraband: "Where did you get those cookies?" came the stem parental inquiry. "Daddy Ritchie gived 'em to me. Aint him sweet?" was the wily response, and the prosecution withdrew.

W. R. L. "Daddy" Ritchie was a member of an early post-war baby boomlet, born November 5, 1869, the second child bom to his parents after his father returned from his Confederate service. In keeping with the tradition of naming children for admired public figures, he was named William Robert Lee, and was called Lee. Many of his descendants have the name Lee, which is doubly evocative of our Confederate heritage and of Daddy Ritchie.

Daddy Ritchie's father was the remarkable James Madison Ritchie, 1825-1909. Jim Ritchie went to the California Gold Rush, sailing from Charleston around Tierra del Fuego and up the Pacific coast. He prospected and struck gold. He returned overland and bought considerable property in Rabun County. He served in the Georgia legislature, in both the House and the Senate. His Confederate service included organizing the Georgia militia for a year and then three years of active duty in the cavalry. Daddy Ritchie's mother was Elizabeth Elvira Dickerson. James and Elizabeth Ritchie had five children: Mary Rebecca, 1858-1948, who married Zack Dillard; James Riley, 1860-1939, who married Marinda Carter; John Franklin, 1866-1926, who married Texie Kelly; William Robert Lee, our Daddy Ritchie; and Thomas Jefferson, 1872-1955, who married Ethel Penland.

Daddy Ritchie was born in Rabun Gap, where he attended school. After completing school in Rabun Gap, he went to Hiawassee Academy. He married Sarah Lelah Carter, known to us as Mother Ritchie, on January 14, 1892. Daddy and Mother Ritchie had five children: my grandmother, Margaret Elizabeth, who married Oliver C. Montgomery; Virginia Lelah, who married Dr. Myron Bartlett Allen; Rose Della, who married Newson Rowland; Mary Lucille, who married Alfred Howard Simpson; and Carter Lee, their only son, known to us as Uncle Bud, who married Mary Ramey. Uncle Bud died in 1996, at the age of 90.

Daddy Ritchie worked at a variety of jobs. Before his marriage he taught school. Early in his marriage he had a farm in Rabun Gap. Because the mountain climate did not agree with Mother Ritchie's health, he gave it up. The family moved to Demorest, Georgia, where he ran a livery stable. After Mother Ritchie's death and his retirement, in his 70's, he made his home principally in Toccoa with his daughter Lucille Simpson, our beloved Aunt Cille, and her family.

These are the biographical details of his life. More interesting are the lovely character and charm that defined Daddy Ritchie, so that today, whenever his name is mentioned to anyone who was fortunate enough to have known him, their face lights up and they exclaim, "Oh, Uncle Lee!" or, "Oh, Daddy Ritchie," and some anecdote soon follows.

Among Daddy Ritchie's attributes was his physical vigor, which endured well into old age. The following story comes from his grandson Myron Allen.

In 1962, when Myron was 31 and Daddy Ritchie was 93, Myron and his wife, Frances, and their three children, Myron, III, Virginia, and Mary, visited overnight with Aunt Cille and her family in Toccoa. Daddy Ritchie had a beautiful garden of approximately one-half acre, which he tended and supplied the family with a variety of fresh vegetables throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Each year Daddy also raised out a calf, which he had dressed to provide a good portion of the beef for the family. Myron and his family arrived late one afternoon and enjoyed a wonderful dinner like only Aunt Cille could fix, after which Myron enjoyed a cigar with Daddy on the front screened porch.

Early the next morning Myron heard Daddy get up and start fixing a breakfast of ham, biscuits, scrambled eggs, and coffee. Myron decided to get up and help, not knowing that this was Daddy's normal routine. Daddy allowed Myron to have some coffee and sit to talk with him while he prepared the meal. There was a knock at the front door, which Myron answered. A neighbor had stopped by to inform Daddy that his calf was out of the pasture. Myron told Daddy that he would go check it out. Daddy told Myron to sit down and have breakfast, and then they would check it out. After eating, they headed to the pasture, where Daddy stood Myron by the gate, told him to stand very still and be ready to close the gate, while he ran up the calf.

Myron suggested that, since he was so much younger, it would be better if he ran up the calf and Daddy tended the gate. But Daddy allowed as to how Myron probably did not know how to run up a calf, so he should watch him and next time he would let Myron do it. Myron stood very stiff at the gate, mouth agape, as his 93-year-old grandfather gave him, by example, a lesson in how to efficiently round up a calf and get it back through the gate and into the pasture. Myron admits that it was a lesson well taught; however, since he was never at Aunt Cille's again when Daddy's calf was out, he has never to this day exercised his newfound expertise.

Daddy Ritchie had a wonderful, puckish sense of humor, which was never far from the surface. Aunt Cille and Uncle Alfred had two daughters, Claire and Cille. Daddy Ritchie took a lively interest in their comings and goings, especially regarding their many gentlemen callers. Cille, whose middle name is Ritchie and whom he called "Little Ritchie," once had a basketball-playing swain whom Daddy Ritchie found to be inordinately tall. When he came calling for Cille, Daddy Ritchie would announce him: "Cille, the Moon catcher's here." When Cille grew tired of her suitors and banished them to the outer darkness, they stayed banished. Flowers and other blandishments might arrive, "But it won't do 'em any good," Daddy Ritchie would crow with delight. White dogs were called Midnight and black dogs were called Snowball. Daddy Ritchie was always cheerful and optimistic. "Don't worry about things you can't do anything about." "Do the best you can and move on," was his philosophy. He was also a firm believer in using life's lemons to make lemonade. Later in life he was afflicted with

increasing deafness. He enjoyed watching baseball on television.

He simply turned up the sound loud enough that the entire neighborhood could enjoy the game with him. After one such session, Myron Allen, who was fresh from the Navy and had had lots of training in electronics, had the idea of devising earphones for Daddy Ritchie in order that he could adjust the sound for himself independent of the television's speaker. This experiment was so successful that Daddy Ritchie decided to try a hearing aid, which greatly improved his ability to communicate. It had the added benefit that it could simply be turned off when the sermon or the conversation wasn't to his liking, and he didn't hesitate to exercise this wonderful capability in full view of the preacher or any other interlocutor.

Daddy Ritchie maintained a lively interest in current events. He read the paper every day and was impatient if it hadn't been delivered by noon. He never missed a news broadcast, and if the climax of your soap opera collided with the news, too bad! One of his great friends was Judge Lothridge. Every afternoon the people of Toccoa would greet the familiar figure of Daddy Ritchie as he walked up to the court house for his daily visit with the judge, where they discussed the affairs of the world over a good cigar.

Daddy Ritchie was a devout and lifelong Methodist and an even stauncher Democrat. He watched every minute of the Democratic Presidential conventions on television. "I voted for McKinley and I've voted for every Democrat since," he declared. Once, his granddaughter Claire Simpson Godwin found him rocking on the front porch one rainy afternoon while the Republican convention was on. "Why aren't you watching the convention?" Claire asked. He said, "I'd rather watch a good shower of rain than a Republican."

His loyalty extended to inanimate objects as well. He had a favorite porch chair. Every spring Aunt Cille threw away that chair, and every spring, when the man came to paint the porch chairs, Daddy Ritchie's chair would reappear in fine with the others to be painted, mysteriously rescued from the trash.

Daddy Ritchie was a fine cook. He taught Claire and Cille how to peel a potato correctly and how to make corn bread. They use his corn bread recipe to this day. A firm believer in a good breakfast before school, Daddy Ritchie rose early and fixed eggs and bacon and biscuits, and oatmeal in the winter.

While he loved serving others, he did not want to be a trouble to anyone. Once, when his daughter-in-law Mary Ritchie made his bed for him, he protested gently, saying "It felt good when I got out of it and it'll feel good when I get in it."

He fostered industry and helpfulness in children. When he joined Aunt Cille's household, the garage became a hen house, and Claire and Cille were enlisted to gather eggs, for which they were paid thirty-five cents a week, enough for a movie and popcorn on Saturdays.

Daddy Ritchie died November 5, 1968, on his ninety-ninth birthday. I like to think that a bit of his loving spirit survives in all of us.

***Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the  
Dillard Family Association***

The Annual Meeting of the Dillard Family Association was held at the Rock House at the Dillard House, Dillard, Georgia on Sunday, June 12, 2000 at 1:30 P. M. The President, John T. Dillard, presided. The minutes of the 1998 meeting were read and approved.

A motion was made by Malcolm Dillard to raise the dues from \$15.00 to \$20.00 annually. This motion was seconded and passed.

The report of the Nominating Committee was presented. The officers to serve in the next year in the Dillard Family Association are John T. Dillard as President, Frank Singleton and Bobby Singleton as Vice Presidents, and Odelle K. Hamby as Secretary-Treasurer. Nominations closed and the above named officers were elected by acclamation.

Malcolm Dillard expressed appreciation for the work of the officers. Sadness at the loss of Lucile Robinson Johnson was expressed. A motion was made the next meeting of the association to be held June 10-11, 2000 at the Dillard House, Dillard Georgia. This motion was passed.

Malcolm Dillard discussed future meeting sites stating that the meetings do have to always be in Dillard, Georgia. If some one else would like to host at another site, this should be brought to the attention of the association.

It was reported that 56 people attended the 1999 reunion and the Saturday evening dinner and that 18 people attended the Sunday dinner. A treasurer's report indicated that the Association had funds at the present time in the approximate sum of \$1,069.02. The balance of funds on hand as of September, 1999 is the sum of \$1,125.02.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Odelle K. Hamby,  
Secretary-Treasurer

***2000 Reunion to be held June 10-11  
Plans to be Announced***

President John T. Dillard has announced that the 2000 Reunion of the Dillard Family Association will be held at the Dillard House, Dillard, Georgia, on Saturday, June 10, 2000 and Sunday June 11, 2000. The Saturday morning History Session will continue with the format of the 1999 Reunion. Specific details, including speakers and topics, will be announced in the second mail-out.

### *Special Thanks*

Special thanks are due to Dorothy Dillard Hughes and Dr. Howard V. Jones for advice and proof reading this issue of the *Dillard Annual*.

### *Chattahoochee County Dillards Connected*

A. K. (Kay) Saville, Jr., registered forester from Rochelle, Georgia, was able to connect his ancestor, Starling Manuel Dillard, with the line of James Dillard (son of Thomas Dillard, Sr. of Pittsylvania County, Virginia, circa 1705-1774) who settled in Fairfield County, South Carolina. He spent several hours in the Rabun County Library in Clayton, Georgia, and used Dillard materials, especially the Dillard Data Base prepared and updated annually by Dorothy Dillard Hughes of Lubbock, Texas.

The Dillard Data Base may be retrieved in the computer program. This data base now has 22,112 individuals and 8,054 marriages. The father of Starling Manuel Dillard, John D. Dillard, moved to Muscogee County, Georgia in 1834 at the time the Creek Indians were resisting white settlers. That county became Chattahoochee County, Georgia in 1854.

### *Dillard-I/D Subscription List and Website Update*

Librarians John James Dillard and his wife, Sara Frances Hammett Dillard, to whom we are grateful for maintaining the Dillard genealogical e-mail subscription service (listserv) report that over 200 persons now participate. A digest (Dillard-D) periodically is transmitted and may be accessed with key words which bring up previously sent messages using such key words.

John James and Sara also maintain the Dillard Family website. For those who request past copies of the *Dillard Annual* the first five volumes are partially on the website. It is hoped that the 1999 issue (Volume 6) and the within issue (Volume 7) will be on the website soon.

To access the website, type <<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~dillard/>>.

### Documents Corner

This column is new to the Dillard Annual, Do you have letters or similar documents, including newspaper clippings and older photographs or sketches, which can make our ancestors come alive instead of being a collection of names? We would like to place "meat on the bones" of those of old to know what they were doing and when they were doing it. If you do, please submit these to the *Dillard Annual* for enjoyment by all.

#### *1834 Letter from Elizabeth Barnard Love to her sister*

Printed below is a June 19, 1835 letter from Elizabeth Barnard Love to her sister Peggy Young in Burnsville, Yancey County, North Carolina. It was provided by Belinda Bettis of Hayesville, North Carolina, a Barnard researcher. Barnard is commonly misspelled "Barnett." Luke Barnard came into Rabun County while Cherokees were still there. He arrived at a date which appears to be before the date of the arrival of the Dillards (see John T. Coleman's article above) and had daughters, Sally Barnard (the wife of James Dillard), Elizabeth Barnard (wife of Thomas Love), Nancy Barnard (wife of Doctor Carnes), Margaret ("Peggy") Barnard (wife of Joshua P. Young), and sons John Barnard (mentioned in John T. Coleman's article above as "John Barnett"), Andrew Barnard, and possibly Joseph Barnard.

Thomas Love, the husband of Elizabeth Barnard Love, was a son of Thomas Love and Martha Dillard Love. Martha Dillard Love was a daughter of Thomas Dillard, Jr. of Pittsylvania County, Virginia who moved to and died in Washington County, North Carolina later Tennessee. This letter gives us a glimpse of how and to what extent our early migrating ancestors kept up with each other (and they did have letters and a post office!), and their pain in leaving and not hearing from loved ones left behind..

“Henry County, West Tennessee June 19, 1835

Dear Sister:

After an absence of nearly two years I avail myself of the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know I am still in the land of the living though many miles from the land of my youthful pleasure but I think I am placed in a situation far superior to many things I could have promised myself in that country. I have nothing very particular to write there has been so much said already about this country that I think it would ---- to say any more. Our family are all well and all the rest of the friends in this country. Hoping these few lines may find all enjoying the same blessings. Brother John and the doctor are very well pleased with their move to this country. John was married on the 20th of May to Miss Eleander Sisson and I think there is no doubt but she will make him a good wife and an agreeable companion. Mr. Love has purchased land in this country 6 miles from Parris. I feel entirely satisfied and think we are settled for life. I have understood that father and mother intends visiting you this summer. I feel for you my dear Sister for I know there is no person but one who have parted with a dear old father and mother thinking it to be the last time they are ever to see them that can conceive what I felt when I left mine for I had no idea I ever should see them any more in this life but I now have the pleasing prospect of meeting with them again if we should all be spared a few months longer. I wrote to you shortly after our arrival in this country and have been anxiously expecting a letter from you ever since but I have not received the first line from none of my relatives since I left that country only from my two brothers. I think I must complain of you and Sally Dillard for it seems as though you have forgotten that you have a sister by the name of Love. We have never enjoyed better health in our family in our lives than we have since we came to this country. I expect to be confined by 20 of September. We have had a very wet season and the prospects of crops are not so good at this time. We all join in love to you and all your family and all inquiring friends. So no more but remains your affectionate sister.

Elizabeth Love"