

L.013 COPY OF A LETTERS SENT TO ME DATED 13TH AND THE 20TH JANUARY 1986 AND 19TH SEPTEMBER 1987 FROM MRS. HUGH W. HILL, 1005 N. SECOND AVE, P.O. BOX 157, McGEHEE, ARK. 71654

Entered into computer on 7th June 1995 by Robert R. Hill Sr. of Brandon, Fla.

INTRODUCTION

My reasons for entering these letters is due to the following reasoning.

My fourth great grandfather was Moses Hill, born ca. 1757-1758. It is strongly thought he had brothers named Leonard Hill, born ca. 1760-1763 and Thomas Hill born ca. 1764-1765. All three were Revolutionary Soldiers in S.C. and received land grants in 1785.

In Fairfield County, South Carolina a Leonard Hill was granted 82 acres of land in 1785. In 1789, Leonard Hill sold this land and moved to Fayette County, Virginia, which became the state of Kentucky on 1st June 1792. The area that he lived in Fayette County, later became known as Clark County, Kentucky.

When Leonard Hill sold his 82 acres of land, his wife Elizabeth, signed the deed. We have no other information regarding this wife, Elizabeth Hill.

In his 1826 Kentucky will, Leonard Hill clearly states that both Susannah and Rachel Dunford (Dumford) bore him children and even names them. The will does not at any time acknowledge these two sisters as "wives" and it certainly appears that these children were all born out of wedlock.

Both of these women were daughters of Michael Dumford (Dunsford). Michael Dumford in his Kentucky Will also named a daughter, Elizabeth Hill. It is thought she was married to Leonard Hill.

I cannot help but wonder if Leonard Hill and his wife, Elizabeth Dumford (Dunsford) were parents to William D. Hill, listed as age 54 (born 1796) and born in South Carolina.

The problem with this theory is that Leonard Hill and wife Elizabeth had moved to Fayette County, Virginia (Kentucky as of 1st June 1792) and was not in South Carolina.

Since there may be some type of connection I have entered this letter. They are quoted word for word:

Letter Number One to me dated 13th January 1986:

Dear Mr. Hill,

I need help on William Dunford Hill, born April 16th, 1796 in South Carolina. The birth date comes from the family bible and the state of birth comes from census records. He must have migrated down into Alabama and married Elizabeth-- ?, born 1828 in Alabama.

Their first child was William Dunford Hill Jr., who was born in Alabama in 1848. Then they migrated down to Sabine County, Texas and were there for the 1850 census. So I figure they married ca. 1847. James Bloiva (Hill) was born in September 1850; Caroline born 1854.

In the 1860 census Elizabeth (wife) had died or gone back o Alabama. By 1870 James Bolivar Hill was the only member of (the) family listed in census records and he was listed as an orphan. He moved to Arkansas and married LaMaria Jane Shelton (in) 1879 but died before his son, James Arthur (Hill) was born in 1881.

James Bolivar (Hill) was my husbands grandfather. It seems to me that anyone with stately names like Dunford and Sullivan- people should be easy to locate, but I have definitely changed my mind.

Don't mind my rambling. I have a habit of that when I get on "Family chasing." Have you senn or heard of William Dunford Hill? I would appreaiae any help.

Signed/ Martha J. Hill
of McGehee, Ark.

2nd Letter to me dated 20th January 1986:

"Dear Robert,

This must be my month! Your was the second letter I have received this month with information plus a phone call the other night. Every little tid-bit gives me a lift. I am sorry I have no documentation for any of my information except census records and the family bible. The story is simple but lacking in any detail. My husbands line is Hill & Sullivan. Now, the family bible listed WILLIAM DUNFORD HILL, born April 16th, 1796; Elizabeth (his wife) born February 21st, 1828. William D. Jr. born July 7, 1847; James Bolivar (born) Sept. 16th, 1850; Carolina Elizabeth born 1852. (The print in the bible was too dim to see month and day).

Dad Hill (my father in law) decides in the late 50's that he needed a birth certificate, so her tore the family page out

of the bible and mailed it to the Bureau of Vital Statistics- asking for a delayed certificate and you can imagine the results. No certificate and no record returned. He was rather senile at the time. He always told me when I would ask questions about his family that his father was born in the Red River county of Texas, and had moved into Miller County, Arkansas.

Unfortunately, his father James Boliver Hill had died before he was born. His mother remarried quite soon after James Bolivar Hill's death and she was so busy with her new family- there was little time for telling a small boy anything about his father.

I finally found the James Bolivar Hill family in the 1880 soundex of Arkansas. I wrote the Archives and got the page from census records and found that his father was born in South Carolina and his mother in Alabama. Then I went to census records for Texas. I searched 1850, 1860, 1870 records of Red River county, Texas so many times and found nothing.

There were several other counties on the micro-film with Red River and for some reason I continued looking through them (and) one day there they were in SABINE COUNTY, TEXAS.

William D. Hill (age 54) born South Carolina, occupation farmer. Elizabeth, age 22, born Alabama, William D, age 2, born Alabama.

Since Elizabeth and William Jr. were both born in Alabama- I deduced that William Dunford had moseyed down to Alabama- met Elizabeth- married and had their first child before going west. Maybe he even fought in the Creek or Seminole War.

I wrote (the) Alabama Archives for help- none. I went back to Texas and Sabine County census records. In the 1860 I find:

W.D. Hill age 64,

W.D. Hill age 12 born Miss. (Maybe he was born as they migrated west).

James B., age 9, born Texas,

Caroline E. age 6, born Texas. No mother was listed.

In 1870 I could find no record of them and continued to hunt- finally I found James Boliver (Hill) age 18, born in Texas, Orphan, living in the home of Robert Gillarty, farmer from Scotland. And as I have already stated- in 1880 James Boliver Hill was in Miller County, Arkansas with wife LaMira Jane Shelton, born Arkansas and (with) daughter Emma, age 3 monthsd.

He died in May 1881 before his son James Arthur (Hill) was born in November 1881. James Arthur and Agnes Sullivan had 3

sons- Hugh Wilson (Hill); James Earl (Hill) and Albert Lynn (Hill). James Earl and Albert Lynn are both dead, so my husband Hugh is (the) onlt remaining son.

I am assuming that W.D. (Hill) Jr. and Caroline (Hill) died before the 1870 census. I can find no cemetery records or stones in Sabine county- have not checked the mortality schedule. So you see, there is no family, to our knowledge.

We live in a small town and our library is limited in reference material. We do have a reader so I cam order film. MOst information from writing letters and reading genealogy publications from other areas. Your letter is the first I have received in regard to HILL that has given me a hint. There are so many Hill families in South Carolina that I had no idead where to start. I am definitely a novice at this but enjoy every minute of it. I did write "Huntinng Bears" trying to find marriage of William Dunford and Elizabeth in Alabama but no luck.

Thank you so much for your letter and sharing your knowledge with me. If I ever find anything I will be glad to share.

Sincerely
Signed/ Martha

Mrs. Martha J. Hill (Mrs. Hugh W. Hill)
1005 N. Second St P.O. Box 157
McGehee, Ark 71654
Phone 501-222=4609"

End of quoted letter.

3rd letter to me dated 19th September 1987:

Dear Robert,

My apologies. Children and grandchildren started arriving about the time your letter of June 15th arrived. All letters were pushed back in a corner of the desk and I am just now beginning to wade through it.

I feel terrible. You do all of this research and trying to help me with mt Hills and I don't contribute anything.

Searching through 1790 North Carolina Census the other day at he library I came across William Dunford od Edgecombe County. He could have been my William Dunford Hill's grandfather (his mother's father)? You know the Scotch name pattern of naming the 1st son after the father's father and No. 2 son after mother's father.

Edgecombe County, N.C. isn't too far from S.C. line. Oh, I am just speculating. Since I do not know my William's father's name- or any other verified information- he might have even been born in South Carolina- census records have been wrong before.

When I can- I think I will concentrate on Alabama. I know they were in Texas in 1850, so I will do it the logical way, and go backwards. His parents may have moved to Alabama- not just him.

Yes, I feel that Elizabeth was a Bolivar of Alabama but, so far, I haven't found any Bolivars. Thank you again for your interest and help. One of these days it will all come together. I just need to be a millionaire and be able to travel extensively or pay a researcher to do all of this hunting. That would take away the fun of finding new "cousins" and friends.

Signed/ Martha J. Hill
of McGehee, Ark.