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Dear Bob,

Here we go again. As you say, I guess there is no hope. One problem is, you apparently do not understand what I agree with in your research and what I don't agree with. Let me begin by telling you what I agree with.

To quote from your last letter, "If after reading all of this you still refuse to realize that it was Rev. William Hill, Jr. 2/ that married (Hannah) Elizabeth Halbert that remarried John Glenn, Jr. and that Rev. Hill was the father of Thomas, James, John, Mary, Elizabeth, Jacob, William, Cynthia, Frankey, & Green Hill then there is no hope for you."

I agree with this entire paragraph except for two words. You have listed Thomas and Jacob as sons of Rev. William Hill and you have presented no sound basis for doing that. As far as the rest of the paragraph goes, I agree with it completely and have from the beginning. You do not have to prove these things to me again. Please. It would help if, in the future, you would give your attention to our areas of disagreement rather than agreement.

Then you make the following statement: "Notice the children named were (you admit) brothers of Thomas and Jacob Hill." This is not correct. I do not admit that the children named were brothers of Thomas and Jacob. I can prove they were not. (See below)

If I understand your logic for including Thomas and Jacob as sons of Rev. William Hill, it goes something like this: Thomas and Jacob inherited land from someone named William Hill and had brothers named James and John. Rev. William Hill had sons named James and John so he must be the William Hill who left the land to Thomas and Jacob. Therefore, since Thomas and Jacob inherited land from Rev. William Hill, they must be his

sons. Since they were his sons, this proves beyond any doubt that Rev. William Hill left them the land. Fantastic.

When I pointed out to you that Thomas' mother was Hannah Bridges, not Elizabeth Halbert, you put forth the unsubstantiated notion that Hannah Bridges was Rev. William Hill's first wife who died. Then, you say, he married Elizabeth Halbert.

Then I pointed out to you that this could not be because William and Hannah Bridges Hill were attending Matrimony Baptist Church in 1779, long after Rev. William Hill and Elizabeth Halbert were married. You have offered no comment on this.

Then I pointed out that the Fisher River property could not have been Rev. William Hill's property because it was purchased in 1789 and Rev. William Hill was dead by this time.

Now you come up with the ridiculous notion that the Fisher River property was purchased by Rev. William Hill's son, William Hill III. (You say you are telling me this for the third time. I searched through all your letters. I assure you this is the first time you have suggested this.) William Hill III was born in September 1773. In January 1789 he was 15 years old. To suggest it was he who purchased 380 acres in Surry County from James Bryson is absurd. Surely you can do better than that.

Now I will prove to you that John Hill, Rev. William Hill's son, was not the same person as John Hill, Thomas Hill's brother. ~~As you have said, John Hill, Rev. William Hill's son, was alive in 1808. However, John Hill, Thomas Hill's brother, was dead by October 1796. How do I know this?~~

Proof:

In 1795-96, John, James, and Jacob Hill sold to Colby Creed the land that had been deeded to them in 1792 by their brother Thomas.

Surry County, NC Deed Book K:217 Dec. 1, 1795. (JOHN HILL sells the 100 acres deeded to him by Thomas Hill in Nov. 1792)  
"JOHN HILL of County of Surry and State of North Carolina of the one part

and COLBY CREED of the other part.... land lying situate in said county of Surry on Little Fish River being part of the survey made by William Ramsey which said Creed is now in possession of from a purchase of Jacob Hill....

Surry County Deed Book G:190. Oct. 1,1796. (Sale of the 140 acres that Thomas deeded to Jacob Hill in Nov.1792)

"Joab Hill of the one part and Colby Creed....land lying and being situate in the County of Surry on Little Fish River being part of a tract deeded for William Ramsey of 380 acres divided by and bounded by Fielding Herrin and JOHN HILL DECEASED to said Colby Creed.....".

(If you will refer to the map I sent you, you can see that Jacob's land was bounded by John's to the north.)

Based upon these two deeds, John Hill, brother of Thomas, was alive in Dec. 1795 but was deceased in Oct. 1796. John Hill, son of Rev. William Hill, was still alive in 1808!!! It's hard to see how they could be the same person, don't you think?

So I will ask you a multiple-choice question. You say I am hung up on this question. That is correct, for it is the key to identifying Thomas Hill's father.

Q. Who was the William Hill who bought the 380 acres on Fisher River from James Bryson in 1789 and that Thomas Hill later deeded to his brothers?

1. William Hill who died in 1787?
2. Rev. William Hill who died in c.1785?
3. William Hill III, age 15?
4. William Hill (husband of Hannah Bridges, member of Matrimony Baptist Church, and neighbor of Winkfield Shropshire, Thomas Hill's father-in-law.) who sold his 382 acres on Buffalo Island Creek in 1788?
5. Some other William Hill we know nothing about?

The answer cannot be #1 or #2. Do you really think #3? Do you also think the William Hill #4 was actually Rev. William Hill and that William Hill III

sold his father's Buffalo Island Creek property at age 14? No. Of course not. It must be either #4 or #5. Clearly it's #4 but Jeff Bradley thinks #5.

Now I will address some other points you raised in your July 29 letter:

1. First page, 4th paragraph you say "Take note that Jeff Bradley states that the name of a son Joab Hill 3/ was actually Jacob Hill 3/, having been erroneously copied as "Joab" due to the "unique" hand writing of the clerk on the original document."

Comment: This refers to the question of whose name was on Thomas Hill's 1792 deed to Jacob Hill. Jeff Bradley determined the name was Jacob, not Joab. The reason this was an issue was that in 1796, it was unquestionably Joab Hill, not Jacob, who sold this land. After this sale, Joab moved to East Tennessee with James and others in this Hill family. There he met and married Elizabeth Lane, daughter of Isaac Lane. The question is, who was this Joab Hill and how was he related to this Hill family. Some hypothesized that because of the similarities in the names, the 1792 deed was really to Joab, not Jacob. Jeff Bradley determined this was not the case. So who was he? This is a tough and interesting question. Winifred Jacob, his descendent, thinks he was Jacob's son. I think he was a younger brother of Thomas, James, John, and Jacob. But I can't prove it. I don't propose that you and I try to deal with this question. If we can't get past the relatively simple question of Thomas' father, I'm sure we can't handle this one.

2. Page 1, 7th paragraph, you say "Notice and remember this: when the land was divided it was surveyed by William Ramsey. Any land involving any deeds of these three sons, Thomas, James, John that mentions William Ramsey surging(?) & dividing up his lands (as they agreed) was lands and heirs of Rev. William Hill 2/."

Comment: This paragraph is incomprehensible to me.

3. Page 3, first paragraph, you say "On the 26th of November 1794, John Hill, William Hill & Frankey Hill asked the courts for their share of the PERSONAL estate and it was granted. Notice the name of Frankey Hill?"

That in itself should tell you this was the three children of Rev. William Hill. How many other William Hills have a daughter called "Frankey" with two brothers, John & William. How many other Frankey Hills married Mark Hardin."

Comment: I have no idea why you wrote this paragraph. It sheds no light whatsoever on the issue we are dealing with. Like I say, we are somehow unable to communicate.

4. In two instances on page 3, you show that the heirs of Rev. William Hill were his sons William III, James, John, and Green. You explain the absence of Thomas and Jacob by saying they had sold out their inheritances and moved away.

There you go again. In the same way that you invented Hannah Bridges as the first wife of Rev. William Hill and invented William Hill III as the one who purchased the Fisher River property, you have now invented the notion that Thomas and Jacob sold out. Where is your evidence that this is true? I suspect your "evidence" is that they weren't listed, so they must have sold out.

5. The last two pages, dealing with the disposition of Rev. William Hill's land.

Comment: Irrelevant. Nowhere in this is there anything about Thomas Hill or the property on Fisher River. The only reason I can come up with for you including this is that it proves that Rev. William Hill had sons named James and John, which I do not dispute.

If, after all this, you think it will be productive to continue, I will be interested in your reply.

Glad to hear you are getting e-mail. We will be able to scream at each other much more efficiently.

All in Fun,

*Charles*