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February 12, 1990

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Dear C.K.,

Well I guess I must have lost my marbles when I sent that Henry Hill m. Elizabeth Hardin information to you. I did not have the information that you had sent to me regarding your ancestors in front of me and was working from my memory. The only problem was that I had got Hardin Hill's birth (1847) mixed up and was applying it to your Henry Hill. From now on, when I deal with this matter, it won't be from memory.

The information that you just sent has helped me quite a bit and I must admit this is the first time that I have actually studied and analyzed this Hill line. I have made up some Family Group Sheets from it so that I can better understand the relationships. I also am going to put it into my computer files.

I spent all day this past Sunday reviewing your information and have taken note of a few things and will pass on. You may or may not have knowledge of the following but here goes.

HENRY HILL: Based on what facts you have, it appears to me that Henry Hill was born between 1820-1825 in North Carolina. His marriage in January of 1845 would indicate he was about 20 to 25 years of age. In a case such as this (I personally) assume the middle year, in this case ca. 1823 as his birth.

Now since you know that your Henry Hill married in Rockingham County, N.C. I would (for the present and for research purposes), go ahead and assume he was born and lived there. I would next go to the 1830 Census of Rockingham County, N.C. and make a list of ALL of the Heads of Households listed by the name of Hill and I think the odds are that his father will be listed in that census. This at least narrows down your search for the present time. Then start looking for their wills, and other legal documents to see if your Henry is listed as one of their children.

At the same time, I would take note of the Hardin Families that lived in Rockingham County and (or) the adjacent counties as well. One of them may have died and left a legacy to a married daughter (ie. Elizabeth (Hardin) Hill, wife of Henry Hill, etc etc). That knowledge just might help solve this problem. It is quite obvious that the Harden (Hardin) family was of some importance to this Hill line. We know that a daughter of Captain Robert Hill (son of William Hill Sr.) had a daughter Franky Hill that married Major Mark Hardin. (I think they moved to Alabama). We just saw a Henry Hill (son of a Terry Hill) married a Elizabeth Hardin. Were Mark and Elizabeth Harden brother and sister? I still think that there is a connection somehow to your Hill line.

Now regarding Henry Hill's wife, Lucy Jane Buress, her birth is not quite as accurate as Henry's. I noticed that in the 1850 Census of Rockingham County she is listed as being 25 years old, thus a birth of ca. 1825. Yet in the Widow's claim she filed on 6th July 1885 she states she was "50 yrs old" which is a birth of 1835. That is a ten year gap, so for the moment I estimate her birth to be between 1825-1835. What about her age in the 1860, 1870 and 1880 Census? You did not tell me what age she was in those census records. Do you have them?

The clincher is (I think) noted in the 1880 Census for Rockingham County, N.C. where you say it shows a "L.J. Hill, age 45," and marked as being "widowed/divorced." I think this plus her petition dated 6th July 1885, to claim husbands benefits and stating her age as 50, supports her birth as being 1835.

Now regarding that Henry John Alexander Hill, son of Isaac Hill that Jerry Reid Hill mentioned...I looked at that long ago and don't see any connection. I still am of the opinion that your Hill family will eventually tie into the William Hill Sr. (m. Susannah Smithers) or that Hill Family that originated from Boston and who came into N.C. Remember I wrote you about a cross over regarding these families. Both married into the Hardin Family of N.C.

Now after reading the data that you have sent, reviewing census records and comparing ages with marriage records and noting cemetery tombstones, I FIND HENRY HILL'S FAMILY DATA AND CHILDREN as Follows:

Henry Hill, b. ca. 1823 (N.C.) d. ca. 18 January 1864 in Va. (In Conf. Army)

m. Lucy Jane Buress in Jan. 1845 (m. bond dated 23 Jan. 1845)

children:

Hardin H. Hill, born ca. 1847.

Alexander Hill, born 1855.

Martha J. Hill, born 1856.

William H. Hill, born 10 April 1857, died 22 Feb. 1899.

Robert H. Hill, born 1860.

Martin Hill, born ca. 1865.

(For Martin Hill, I assume this is based on the 1870 and 1880 Census? You gave 4 stars in reference to census but did not explain if 1870/80 or 1900. How about the 1900 census)? Have you checked it out? Wasn't he the one that has disappeared and you don't know where he went?

Now I will try to explain my approach to the above below. I am also suspicious that some children were born to Henry and wife between 1847-1855, who are unknown and who probably died quite young. That is an awfully long time gap between births of Hardin H. Hill and Alexander Hill and allowing 2 years between births shows (in my mind) that there may have been even two children born in this time period.

Now regarding HARDIN H. HILL: I agree with your analysis that he was born ca. 1847 and that the obituary in the newspaper is wrong. Stick with that date, it even fits with the marriage of his parents. Do you know what the H. (middle initial) stands for? It could be important. Remember, a custom of those days was to often name the first born son after the paternal grandfather.

MARTHA J. HILL, daughter of Henry Hill....according to the marriage record of hers, she was married on 12 December 1878 in Mayo Township of Rockingham County, N.C. at age 22 to S.D. Curry. This shows a birth of 1856 NOT 1852 as you indicated by the 1860 census. Again I would consider this more accurate than the age given on the 1860 census or any other census.

Now a good example of how census data can confuse things is that in the 1880 Census of Rockingham County you say a M.J. Curry, (Martha J. Hill) wife of S.D. Curry was listed as being aged 25 and mother to a daughter E.A. Curry born in October 1879. Now her age of 25 shows a birth of 1855 BUT if her brother Alexander was 25 in 1880 census, they had to be twins or there is a mistake.

At this point I think you have to refer to the marriage records and use their ages given at that time over the census records.

Now to really confuse things a M.J. Curry in the 1910 Rockingham County Census is listed as Head of Household, widowed and aged 72. who is believed to be the above Martha J. (Hill) Curry...this gives a birth of 1838. Impossible unless it is not the same woman. I will go with the birth for Martha J. Hill as being in 1856.

ALEXANDER HILL, son of Henry: Now you state that based on the 1860 census Alexander was born ca. 1856, yet the 1880 census states he was age 25, which shows a birth of 1855. What does the 1870 Census show? Based on the age Martha gives in her marriage record (22 yrs and born 1856), I think Alexander was born in 1855 and thus was older than Martha. If not then Martha made a mistake and gave a false age in her marriage record.

WILLIAM H. HILL: (son of Henry Hill & wife Lucy)... The 1860 Census shows he was 3 years old, (born 1857) but the 1870 census comes along and says he was 10 years old (born 1860). I am convinced that William H. Hill was born in 1857 and

this is supported by both the 1860 Census record and the tombstone inscription.

Reference to your Cemetery Records of Rockingham & Stokes Counties:

It shows William H. Hill (father) Irene E. Hill (mother) (born) 10 April 1857 (born) 22 Aug. 1861 (died) 22 Feb. 1899 (died) 20 Aug. 1888 (1898?)

I am of the opinion that you have located their graves. (Price Family Cemetery). It appears that the wife, Arena Oakley, was actually named Irene E. (Eliza?) Oakley (not Arena Oakley, it being a nickname of some sorts). The name of Eliza (I think) was after her mother, (ie. the grandmother that the children were with in 1900).

Now Census records are quite often not that accurate regarding the ages of individuals and other documents will quite often prove that, such as in the case of the marriage bond of the daughter, Ida. (I personally have a case where my 2nd great grandmother aged only 4 years between the 1860 and 1870 census but the 1850 census tips me off to her true age, as her husband was then living but was dead in the 1860-1870 census. I could make a good comparison of their two ages. Seems the ole gal was trying to stay young).

Now the fact that the children of your William H. Hill were in the Household of the grandmother (Eliza Oakley) in 1900 supports the fact that they (the parents) were dead by that time.

Of course it could be explained simply by the fact that the parents were not at home (visiting someone else on a business trip or out of town) when the census taker came by. In that case they would be counted in the Household that they were physically in at the time of the census, not at the place they would normally live. I tend to believe the evidence at hand shows the parents were dead and the tombstone dates supports this theory.

The death given on the tombstone for the mother (Irene) is (to me) obviously wrong, unless William had a second wife. I suspect that death date for Irene should have been 1898, not 1888.

You have the age of their youngest daughter (Ida) as being 20 years old when she married on 30 August 1911, so that makes her birth in 1891, and was witnessed by her married sister "Lottie Edwards." This legal evidence is (in my mind) overwhelming and shows that her mother was alive in 1891.

The only other recourse is to except the fact that a mistake was made on the tombstone or her mother was by a second marriage of her father. (This could probably be confirmed by a death certificate for Ida, assuming she died after N.C. started filing death certificates and her parents are listed (as they usually are). I have doubts that there was a 2nd marriage by William.

ROBERT H. HILL (married Roxanna Trent). Their marriage records show they married on 19 February 1883, Robert being 23 years of age and Roxanna's as 20. This shows a birth for Robert Hill as being in 1860 and hers in 1863. That fits close to your ca. birth for Robert as 1862 (1870 Census). I personally would take this legal document to be more accurate than the census record and list them as (Robert) born in 1860 and (Roxanna) in 1863.

MARTIN HILL: You gave no information on him so I accept what you listed for his birth ca. 1865. If you ever get data on him please send it along so that I can place in my files.

I can't find out who Terry Hill's father was, somehow it has become separated from the original data. I am still looking but I feel there is a connection there somehow. Will keep in touch.

Robert R. Hill