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Mr. Jerry R. Hill  
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Hi Jerry,

I received your letter dated March 18th. I enjoy very much reviewing your data and I still am reviewing it as time permits. I find it exciting to gather information on other Hill families.

I am also glad that you are not real thin skinned about certain matters. I am like you, I want the truth, regardless of the circumstances. That helps a lot, and remember those births that I mentioned to you (out of wedlock) is just a theory. I also know that the abstracts are important and certainly hope that you don't think I was jumping on you for them, it's just that the complete document often can help a lot. After all, while I don't like abstracts, they are certainly better than nothing, so I should say who am I to complain?

Now Jerry, I am not too sure that I am getting across to you what I want to convey, I do hope so but just in case I am not....what I am trying to say is this...you say that William Clanton Hill 5/ was a son of the William Hill 4/ that was a son of Robert Hill 3/ and wife Tabitha BUT JUST MAYBE the William Hill 4/ (son of Robert Hill 3/) was not the same William Hill that was the father of Lewis and Richard Hill or for that matter the father of William Clanton Hill.

If this be true, then there has been quite a mistake made over the years by those old researchers that could be leading you (and others) astray.

Another point I think we should consider is this...if he was the same man and father of Richard & Lewis Hill, what proof exist that he was the father to William Clanton Hill? I certainly agree that William Clanton Hill was a grandson to Robert Hill 3/ but was his father William Hill 4/? What proof is there of that fact and what proof exists to show a marriage to Elizabeth Clanton? Maybe the father of William Clanton Hill was another one of the sons of Robert Hill 3/?

Now by the same token, if it proves out that the William Hill 4/ is the son of Robert 3/, and the father of Lewis and Richard Hill then my next question is this....What proof is there to link William Hill 4/ to William Clanton Hill? Are there any records besides those land deeds?

I realize those land deeds tend to support the old theory but again there is nothing in there to say definitely that the William Hill that got the land from Robert was the William Hill 4/, (son of Robert 3/, but I think he was) BUT AND A BIG BUT IS THIS....was he the father to William Clanton Hill? We all have assumed he was based on the old researchers but I say it is time to take a different approach.

In my mind they are wrong about Elizabeth Clanton being the mother of Lewis & Richard Hill and that is enough for me to become awfully suspicious about other matters????

I have also noted the first deed you sent where A WILLIAM HILL obtained land that was originally granted to Robert Hill and, while I can certainly understand the assumption that he was a son of Robert Hill & Tabitha (I think he was), there is nothing to clearly point out he was the son of Robert. Maybe he was a nephew of Robert's.

I am of the opinion that too much emphasis has been made on William Clanton Hill being a son of William Hill 4/ and that legacy he left in his will for his aunt Lucy Arrington. There is no question that he was a grandson of Robert Hill 3/ and Tabitha, but there is no proof (that I have seen) to say his father was William Hill 4/. Perhaps his father was another son of Robert Hill 3/.

Now if I don't know anything else, I am just about as positive as I can be that a William Hill and Charity Lewis were the parents of Lewis and Richard Hill. The question is, is this the correct William Hill for your family line? Are you sure that William Clanton Hill was a brother or half brother to Lewis & Richard Hill? What proof is there? Do you have a will to show this?

If Charity Lewis was actually the wife of William Hill, then I would suspect the possibility that somehow you may have been working on the wrong William Hill, unless Elizabeth Clanton was a second wife. After all maybe there was another William Hill in Chatham County.

There were so many men that were named William Hill it is hard to keep them separate, and since I don't completely trust those old researchers and some of their conclusions, this causes me to feel a mistake is being made somewhere by someone.

Example: If William Clanton Hill was son of a William Hill, what proof do they have and why not show it? I still think they are basing it on the will of William Clanton Hill's legacy to his aunt Lucy Arrington, but that doesn't tell us

for certain who his father was, only that his father was a son of Robert Hill 3/.

Again IF his father was a William Hill (and if it was) was it the same William Hill that was the father to Richard Hill & Lewis Hill and was his mother Charity Lewis?

I find myself thinking of the William Hill that was connected to the DeLoach Family, who was from Isle of Wight County, Virginia and later in Halifax County, N.C. After all this is also where William Clanton Hill lived and died (meaning Halifax County, N.C.). Some how I suspect he was the William Hill that was the son of Robert 3/ and perhaps father to William Clanton Hill. Has anyone ever researched him?

Now Jerry, if all of the above is found to show that William Hill 4/ (son of Robert Hill 3/) was the same William Hill that was the father to Lewis & Richard Hill, then I would consider the possibility that William Clanton Hill was not HIS son, but instead, was a son of another one of the sons of Robert Hill 3/. Is that clear? Gads, I hope so.

What puzzles me is that you are having such a hard time finding (good hard) evidence tying William Clanton Hill into the William Hill 4/ line and this causes me to think a mistake is being made somewhere. Also aren't you having difficulty pinning down the Clantons?

Questions: Just how and what evidence have you that William Hill married Elizabeth Clanton? What county did she and her family live? I hope it isn't based solely on the name of a so called son being William Clanton Hill? I'm not totally convinced that William Clanton Hill was a son of the same or correct William Hill, who was the father of Richard & Lewis Hill.

Now some rambling comments made a few days later: (Ended the letter April 3rd)..

I am quoting myself from my previous letter just to keep my mind straight on the subject.

Quoting myself..."I strongly suspect your William 4/ was a son of a Richard Hill. I also think that your William Hill 4/ married a lady named Charity LEWIS and then he may have married Elizabeth Clanton second. (There is a problem with this 2nd marriage and will be explained later).

My reasons for this thinking is as follows:

One...This particular Hill Family (meaning the Robert Hill 3/ family) had the habit of naming the first born son after the

paternal side of the family and the second son after the maternal side of the family...Note that your William Hill 4/ did not even name a son Robert after his supposed father, Robert 3/. To me this is unusual, especially in this particular Hill line, even though I know this custom was not used 100 per cent of the time.

Second....In my opinion Richard Hill, who married Lydia Watkins, seems to be the eldest son, thus my added suspicions of a Richard Hill being the father to your William Hill 4/. " End of quote.

Now when I said above that a Richard Hill may be the father of William Hill 4/, that is just a theory to be considered and I certainly do not have any particular Richard Hill in mind. I am also somewhat concerned that while this particular William Hill (you say William Hill 4/) named sons Richard, Sion and Henry Hill (similar to the Robert Hill Family line) the name of Enoch does not seem to fit the pattern, nor for that matter does Lewis Hill.

Now I am not saying this for a fact BUT (in my mind) I just question that William C. (Clanton) Hill is a son of this particular William Hill 4/. Suppose he was an uncle instead of the father to William Clanton Hill?

I suspect that this old supposition is based on the fact that William Hill 4/ had obtained land that was originally granted to Robert Hill and then later was connected to William C. Hill (in Chatham Co.) by those land deeds and then the legacy left by William C. Hill to his aunt. It is a good supposition but suppose that particular William Hill was a brother or a nephew of Robert Hill and not his son.? (Did he have a brother named William ?)

Well I will close for now but will be curious to read your reply and get some answers to some of my questions. Meanwhile, good hunting and best regards from..

Bob Hill

My phone number in case you ever want to call is 813-689-5395

PS...Is there any record of the Richard Hill-Lydia Watkins Family