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Hi Win,

Well I see that you are back home, so you must be almost, if not already recovered from your accident. I will also bet that you are very glad to be back home, and near your genealogy records.

I do apologize for not writing sooner but I will be honest and say that I have been working extra hours, so I have had little time for genealogy EXCEPT to study the material that you have been sending. I do with all my heart appreciate what you send and have gone over and over it many times.

It is a pity but our library here in Tampa is good in some respects but very bad in others. It is crowded and their data is confined mostly to Florida & Georgia. Their micro-film data is poor quality and scarce and so are the census records, only have 1850 and 1880 for most states, except Florida. That is complete. The parking is terrible due to a lot of construction and very high prices.

I have been in touch with Jerry Reid Hill and have tried to encourage him to get all of the wills and estate papers that he can AND also to try and get the whole documents, not just the abstracted versions. Often times (in my opinion) the copier will omit data that is very helpful to another, without intending to. I just hate abstracted data, but it is better than nothing.

Now in reference to the article you just sent, entitled "The Hill Family of Beersheba Springs, Tennessee," by Ralph Wills and Mrs. Delbert Denton...I will not dispute the portion of the Sir John Hill Family by Professor Mark Hill. I have a copy of it and like yourself, I do not reject or except it.

I admit that I am skeptical of that part on the two sons of Samuel Hill (you marked as-1/) and who is a part of the Sir John Hill Line of England. That part about his two sons, Ralph Hill 1/ (of Mass.) & Robert Hill 1/ (m. Mary Webb) being brothers I am skeptical and would like to see some documentation.

If my memory is correct, that comes from a man (now deceased) named Erwin Hill who's collection both Ralph Willis and I tried to get hold of without success.

If I remember correctly, when he died his data (we were told) went to his daughter and was lost or misplaced. It was said to have been in the Library in Indianapolis, but they told me they did not have it.

From what little I know of him (as well as James Seward, of whom I have heard of but do not have his works, would like to though) he was not too good about giving sources for his information, thus one becomes somewhat skeptical. I also am skeptical of some of the information contained by Ralph Willis and Mrs. Denton (The Hills of Beersheba).... Let me explain why.

On the very first page, they state that the Hill family can be traced back to Hancock and Jasper county Georgia; QUOTE "thence to Edgecombe County (formerly part of Martin County, North Carolina" END OF QUOTE.

Edgecombe County North Carolina was not part of Martin County. It was formed from Bertie County, N.C. in 1741. Nash County, N.C. was formed from Edgecombe County in 1777. Martin County was formed from Halifax and Tyrrell Counties in 1774.

Now Robert Hill 3/ lived in Edgecombe County and apparently some of his lands (later went to William 4/) fell into the part of the county that became Nash County. Looks like some of it was in what later became Halifax County.

Now I don't think William Hill 4/, moved (as indicated by Jerry) from Edgecombe County, but instead lived in the portion that became Nash County, N.C. (in 1777).

Thus (as I told Jerry R. Hill) his William Hill 4/ (son of Robert 3/) did not move so much as he thinks but instead it appears that way as William's land was probably in that part of Edgecombe County that in 1741 became Nash County.

So Edgecombe county was not part of Martin County, and that statement appears to be incorrect.

Then on page 15 (of the article) it states: Quote "Isaac & Lucinda and their children moved to Martin County, N.C. and settled near Tarboro on the Tar River. This too appears wrong. Tarboro is (It appears to me) to be either in Edgecombe County, close to the border or Pitt County. Pitt County was formed from Beaufort County in 1760.

Then he states that Isaac Hill was elected Sheriff of Edgecombe County in 1798 till 1800. This seems true to me but (in my mind) re-enforces my thought that by 1798, these

counties had been formed and were functioning well as county governments:

Edgecombe 1741 from Bertie Co.
Halifax Co., 1758 from Edgecombe Co.,
Granville; divided into Warren & Franklin in 1779.
Nash 1777 from Edgecombe.
Pitt 1760 from Beaufort.
Martin 1774 from Halifax & Tyrrell Counties.

I see no county (not one) listed as originating from Martin County.

I believe they might be wrong about their Hills being in Martin County...perhaps they were in Edgecombe, Warren or Halifax County but not Martin County. I have doubts on this matter.

Next thing is the listing of the children for Robert Hill 3/
(wife Tabitha)...

1. Green Hill, b. 1714, Will Jan. 17, 1831, Northampton Co., N.C. married Grace Bennett. (You noticed this one, of true he would have been 117 years old. Obviously the wrong Green Hill, the correct one being (as you state) married Letitia Chapman.
2. Sion Hill, born 1716, died 1780, Wake Co., married Sarah ?? (Mathias??)
3. Abner Hill, born 1719, married Sarah?? (Mathias??) One of the two (in my opinion) married Sarah Mathias.
4. Tabitha Hill, born 1721, married JOHN Chapman.. (As you state it was David Chapman, another mistake.
5. Lewrsina Hill, born 1724, married William Arrington.
6. Ann Hill, born 1726, married John Steed Sr. (they say a Mr. Steed)
7. Mary Hill, born 1728, married William Bryant.
8. Thomas Hill, born 1730 (Twin) married Sarah Ethridge.
9. Agnes Hill, born 1730, married Charles Arrington, changed name later to Harrington.
10. William Hill (ancestor of Jerry R. Hill), born 1735, Halifax County, N.C., died 1809 in Jasper County, Georgia. He married Elizabeth Clanton.
11. Milbry (Mildred) Hill born 1737, not married at time of father's death, married Matthew Gibbs and (as you say, went to S.C.).

Now an interesting point here is that Jerry Reid Hill sent me some data that says Robert Hill 3/ married Tabitha Green?? in 1713. If true then this appears to rule out Robert Hill 3/ as being the father of the Green Hill 4/ that married Grace

Bennett or for that matter ANY child born before 1715.

At this point I will tell you (as I told Jerry) that I am skeptical about his William Hill being the son of Robert Hill 3/ (wife Tabitha). I suspect it is the wrong William. I also question his so called wife Elizabeth Clanton and his so called second marriage to Lydia White Jones, in Georgia. Again I think it is the wrong William Hill but can't prove it. I will explain all this further down in the letter.

I strongly suspect that William 4/ was a son of a Richard Hill. I also think that William Hill 4/ married a lady named Charity LEWIS (or at least had 2 sons by her) 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 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 William Hill 4/ did not 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/.

Now next they (Ralph Willis & Friend) have listed as the children of William Hill 4/ as follows:

1. William Clanton Hill 5/, born ca. 1757 in Chatham County, N.C. died 1803 in Halifax Co., wife was named Sarah? (Jerry says b. ca. 1752).
2. Herbert Hill 5/, born 1759. (I think this should have been Lewis Hill as Jerry listed, based on land deeds).
3. Richard Hill 5/, born 1761 (deed 1790, land Franklin County, N.C. I assume this means a land deed confirms his birth in that year??
4. Henry Hill 5/, born 1763, (Deed of land Jan. 1st 1801, Wit: Enoch Hill, Chatham Co.). Again does this deed confirm his birth?
5. Enoch Hill 5/?? born 1765.??
6. James Hill 5/, born 1769 married 15 September 1806 to Christinna Lassiter, sister to Benjamin Lassiter.
7. Elizabeth Hill 5/, born 17 February 1785, died 14 July 1851 in Carroll Co., Georgia, married 5th May in Green Co., Ga. to Benjamin Lassiter.

8. Sion Lassiter Hill 5/, born 3rd February 1796, died 21 August 1871 in Dale County, Alabama (Sion L. Hill in 1830 Census of Putnam Co., Ga.).
9. Isaac Abner Hill 5/, born 5 April 1800, died 31 August 1833 in Harris Co., Ga. Married 21 Nov. 1822 to Isoble Cox.

(They say all born in Chatham Co., N.C.)

I know for a there are errors here and will show you in a minute.

Chatham County, N.C. was not formed until 1771 and then from Orange County, N.C. Using their own dates, (which some are wrong) the first six children were born in Edgecombe County.

Also notice the large gap between the births of child Number 6 (James Hill, b. in 1769) and child # 7 (Elizabeth Hill b. in 1785). That is a 16 year period between the two children, and I think that the children 7, 8 and 9 are CHILDREN of this William Hill 4/ by a second wife.

Ok...my reasons for the above are as follows:

Reference to a Will of Richard Lewis, Will #7, Page 6, Halifax County, N.C. dated 23rd November 1759, Will proved in June Court for 1760:

QUOTE "To Nicholas Lewis, land, stock, household goods, 5 shillings; lend daughter CHARITY LEWIS 1 Negro girl & her increase for life of said CHARITY, and at her death, the said Negro and increases to be divided between MY GRANDSONS: RICHARD HILL & LEWIS HILL in an honest manner; son Thomas Lewis all my lease land on the north side of Conway Creek, my second best bed and furniture, horse, etc..and all the hogs and cattle of his brand, Negroes etc...daughter ANN LEWIS 1 Negro girl and my third best bed and furniture; son WILLIAM LEWIS the plantation whereon we now live, joining my son Nicholas, 1 Negro and my fourth best bed and furniture; (to) lend wife ANN LEWIS 1 Negro and the rest of my estate.

Extr: my wife ANN LEWIS

Wits: John Lockhart, Thomas Thrower" END OF QUOTE.

Comments: There is only one way for this Richard Lewis to be the grandfather to Richard & Lewis Hill (sons of Jerry's William Hill 4/) and that was for his daughter to have been the mother of the two (Richard & Lewis Hill) and thus (maybe unless born out of wedlock) was wife of William Hill 4/. There is no other way.

Another thing of importance this will shows is that Richard

Hill & Lewis Hill (sons of William Hill) were the only two grandchildren born by 1759 and in the way they are listed (Richard first) makes me feel that Richard Hill was the eldest and probably named for the paternal grandfather (father of William Hill 4/).

Lewis Hill appears to me to have been the second born son and thus was named for the maternal side of the family, this being the LEWIS' side (wife of William Hill 4/), thus was named LEWIS HILL. (Note that the article by Ralph Willis & friend have left him off completely).

Jerry says this Richard married Lydia Watkins, sister of Rebecca Watkins, wife of his brother Lewis Hill. My records show that Richard Hill m. Lidia (Lydia) Watkins on 11th March 1778 in Bute County, N.C.

Allowing him to have been 18 when he married would show a birth of 1760 and 25 would show him born ca. 1753. Now we know he was born BEFORE 1759 so I think we can estimate his birth between 1753 and 1755....because we must also allow for the birth of LEWIS HILL (his brother) who also was born before 1759.

I would estimate that Lewis Hill was born between 1755 and 1758 (a guess). Now notice that neither William Clanton Hill nor any other child of William Hill (grandchildren to Richard Lewis) were mentioned in the Will of the maternal grandfather, Richard Lewis in 1759. So this means that none of the other children of this William Hill 4/) was born prior to 1759. The birth date gave for William Clanton Hill of 1752-1757 appears to be wrong.

Next, notice the will of ANN WILLIAMS, widow of the above Richard Lewis...(Will # 342, Halifax Co., N.C., Page 98, dated 1779 and proved in the August Court of 1785, the children (names not given) of Thomas Lewis and William Lewis cattle, hogs etc..Daughter CHARITY HILL wearing apparels, my son William Lewis, all my crops, Henry Lewis son of William Lewis, silver buttons.

Extrs: my son Thomas Lewis

Wits: John Boutin, Thomas Dazin/Dozier, William Dazin/Dozier

Comments on the above wills : This shows that Ann (Lewis) Williams, was the widow of Richard Lewis, had re-married to Wilson Williams, who also died ca. 1774 (see his will below). This will shows that Ann (Lewis) Williams had a daughter Charity that married a (I think William) Hill...It also shows she was the mother of both Thomas & William Lewis, who are named as sons in the will of the above Richard Lewis...thus I would say that Richard Lewis's widow (Ann Lewis) must have

re-married to Wilson Williams (ref his will below), and this was her will. When she left a legacy to Henry Lewis, son of William Lewis, and children (un-named) of Thomas Lewis, she was leaving a legacy to her grand children. This also shows that Charity Hill was still alive in 1779 when her mother wrote the will in 1779.

Next reference to the will of Wilson Williams, Will # 207, page 366, dated 16th September 1771, proved August Court 1774: Wife ANN WILLIAMS (the above Ann (Lewis) Williams), whole estate, daughter MARY HILL, Henry Potts, gun etc...; residue of my estate to be equally divided between brothers & sisters: Jesse Williams, Eley Williams, Isaac Williams, and Martha Williams.

Extrs: my brother Jesse Williams
Wits: Thomas Nash, Williams Lewis, Thomas Etheridge, John Etheridge.

Comments: This shows that ANN (LEWIS) WILLIAMS' second husband was Wilson Williams, who died ca. July-August of 1774 and it looks as though Wilson Williams also had a daughter named MARY who had married a HILL.

Now about the son Sion Hill....

I think that the correct Sion Hill, son of William Hill, was the one that married Drucilla Lane...and who we know died ca. January or February of 1795. The book "Kinfolks of Nash Co., 1778-1854" on page 312, says they were married on October 2nd, 1783.

REF: "Abstracts of Early Nash Co., N.C. Records, 1777-1859" by Joseph W. Watson, Page 197: HILL, SION inventory by Drucilla Hill, admrx., Feb. 10, 1795. Account current. Feb. Term 1797. Paid Tax for 1792-93." Estate papers show only wife Drucilla and a Elizabeth mentioned (a daughter?).

REF: "Estate Records In The Deed Books of Nash Co., N.C. 1781-1897" by Joseph W. Watson, Page 39 of Vol. 1:

"#161 p. 56 Division of the estate of NEWET LANE, deceased, among the widow and orphans of the said deceased. (24 Nov. 1831?) The estate of 166 pounds 7 shillings 7 and 1/2 pence was divided among the Widow, DRUSYLLA HILL, John Lane, Micha Lane, Kinchen Lane, Mary Pusell and Bennett Lane. Reg. Nov 24, 1831." (Note Drucilla Hill was still alive and had not re-married on 24 November 1831).

All of this suggest to me that Sion Hill died young probably with only one child, Elizabeth. He appears to have died in January or early February of 1795. Allowing for his age of

18 at marriage (on 2 October 1783) suggest to me a birth of ca. 1765. If he was 25 when he married on 2 October 1783, would suggest he was born ca. 1758, which we know he was not true, due to that Richard Lewis will, so to me it seems he (Sion) was born between 1760-1765.

Now the question to me is...was she Sion's daughter named after her grandmother, (Sion's mother) Elizabeth Clanton? If so when did she marry William Hill?

Now on to the marriage of William Hill 4/ to Elizabeth Clanton, when or if they married?

For the moment (assuming they did marry), I suspect the children of Elizabeth Clanton & William Hill 4/ were at least these three: William Clanton Hill; Elizabeth Hill and probably James Hill. Another thought is that Charity Hill had the sons Richard & Lewis out of wedlock and the rest of the children belonged to Elizabeth Clanton. This would explain why her father in his 1759 will called her "Charity Lewis" even though the two grandsons had already been born. Then some 20 years later, her mother (Ann Lewis who was now a Williams) called her "Charity Hill" indicating she was alive in that 1779 will.

The marriage of James Hill to Christianna Lassiter is given by Jerry as 15th September 1806. Using the birth of James Hill that he gave (1769) means he was 37 years old when he married, which, while possible, I think was too old. Allowing him to be about 18-25 when married shows a birth of ca. 1781-1788.

Now this would place the daughter Elizabeth Hill to be born (as Jerry says) on 17th February 1785 and making James Hill older, being born ca. 1781-86 and puts them in the same time period.

Now what about the son, William Clanton Hill? Well he obviously was not born before 1759. If Charity Lewis was the legal wife of William Hill, she did not die until after 1779. Now assuming Elizabeth Clanton married William Hill as a second wife, it would appear to have been after 1779 or 1780, but there is a problem.

Jerry says William Clanton Hill married Sarah Branch in 1790 (Halifax Co., N.C.G.S.) and again allowing him to be 18-25 at that time shows a birth of between 1765-1772. HOW CAN WE ACCOUNT FOR HIS FATHER BEING MARRIED TO ELIZABETH CLANTON WHEN HIS FIRST WIFE (CHARITY HILL) SEEMS TO STILL BE ALIVE AS LATE AS 1779, WHEN HER MOTHER WROTE HER WILL?

I suspect or see things one of two ways: Children of William

Hill 4/ who married Charity Lewis 1st ca. 1751-1752 and had children:

1. Richard Hill, born ca. 1753-1755, married Lydia Watkins on 11th March 1778 in Bute County.
2. Lewis Hill, born ca. 1755-1757, married Rebecca Watkins. He died 10th July 1795.
3. Herbert Hill, born ca. 1760-1762.
4. Henry Hill, born 1763-1764.
5. Sion Hill, born ca. 1760-1765, married Drucilla Lane, died ca. January-February 1795, one child named Elizabeth
6. Enoch Hill, born 1765-1767, m. 1st Martha Brantley, 2nd Sarah Brantley.

Somewhere Elizabeth Clanton (if in fact they did marry) comes into the picture. From the wills of the Lewis & Williams families it seems to me that the mother & 1st wife, Charity (Lewis) Hill, was alive as late as 1779 and one would think any children born before then was hers BUT???? the marriage of the father (William Hill) in early 1770s to a younger woman could have produced the following children but why the large gap between William C. Hill and James Hill?

7. William Clanton Hill, born ca. 1765-1772, married Sarah Branch in 1790. He died in 1803. (Father's age ca. 40-45 when William Clanton Hill was born).
a 16 year gap between births
8. James Hill, born 1781-1784, married 15th September 1806 to Christianna Lassiter. (Father's age was ca. 51-54 when James born).
9. Elizabeth Hill, born 17th February 1785, married Benjamin Lassiter on 5th May 1801, she died on 14th July 1852 at age 67. (Father's age was ca. 50-55 when she was born).

Another possibility is that all of the children were Elizabeth Clanton's (if she m. William Hill?) but Richard & Lewis were children of Charity Lewis & William Hill out of wedlock. (Don't Hit me).

Now it is possible that the wife Charity (Lewis) Hill died ca. 1780-1783 and William Hill 4/ (probably 50-55 years old) remarried a 2nd time to Elizabeth Clanton after 1779. Thus among their first child was Elizabeth Hill, born 17th February 1785. (This is also reason why I question William's marriage to Lydia White Jones).

If Elizabeth Clanton was young enough, old William Hill 4/, who by 1780 was about 50 years of age, could sire children to a younger woman and I suspect this is the case here.

The problem here is that this would indicate that William Clanton Hill was born when Charity Hill was still alive, so when did William Hill 4/ marry Elizabeth Clanton (IF HE DID)??? Was Charity a legal wife and also was Elizabeth Clanton? If so when did they marry and who's children are who's?

Well Win, I had best close for now. Right or wrong if we all would chip in and give ideas etc...progress can and will be made on the Hill Family research. Welcome back home.

Best wishes from

Robert Hill