

## R.144 GENEALOGY OF A WILLIAM HILL & WIFE HANNAH BRIDGES OF SURRY, GUILFORD COUNTIES OF NC.

Entered in December of 1998 by Robert R. Hill Sr of Brandon, FL. Updated in January 1999 by Robert Hill of Brandon, FL.

Source of Information: My research based on DAR Files, The Book East Goes West, by Alta Craft, Court Records of Caroline County, Virginia, Court Records of Guilford, Rockingham, Stokes & Surry Counties of NC, Minutes of the Matrimony Primitive Creek Baptist Church of Guilford County, NC, The Biography of Abner Hill, NC Land Grant Records, Information by Jeff Bradley of Texas, Information provided by Mr. Charles Massey of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Data provided by Mrs Winifred Jacob of Beaverton, Oregon.

### INTRODUCTION.

It is vitally important that the readers clearly understand that during the time between 1770 and 1789, the North Carolina county lines changed rather frequently as a parent county was split off to form new counties. Example: Surry County was created from Rowan in 1771, Guilford County was created in 1771 from Orange & Rowan Counties. Rockingham county was created in 1785 from Guilford & Stokes county was created in 1789 from Surry County.

Because of this, a person may have first settled in Rowan county. In 1771 Rowan split to form Surry and at the same time, Guilford was created from Orange & Rowan counties.

This means that a person that settled in Rowan County prior to 1771, could find himself in either the new counties of Surry or Guilford (after 1771).

In 1785, Guilford County was split to form Rockingham county. This could mean that the same individual may have now be in Rockingham county (i.e. was in Rowan, Surry or Guilford and now Rockingham county).

Then, to make matters worse, in 1789, Stokes County was created from Surry County. This gives us another possibility. Depending in what part of Rowan county that a person settled in, in 1771 he found himself in Surry and remained there until 1789 when Stokes county was formed.

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There are about 5 different William Hills in the general area of Surry County, NC, including a William Hill SR 1/ & his son, Reverend William Hill Jr 2/.

Research shows that Reverend William Hill Jr 2/ was a son of

William Hill Sr 1/ & Susannah Smithers, who's origins were in Caroline County, Virginia.

Reverend William Hill's genealogy has been confused with another different William Hill & his wife Hannah Bridges, who lived in the same area as Reverend William Hill.

Most genealogical publications that I have seen states the following:

1. Reverend William Hill Jr. 2/ was born in Caroline County, Virginia in 1737, and was the eldest child of William Hill SR 1/ & Susannah Smithers. Reverend Hill died on the 29th of September 1792.
2. Reverend William Hill Jr 2/ married Hannah Elizabeth Halbert.
3. Thomas Hill, born 22nd December 1759 was the oldest child of Reverend William Hill & Hannah Elizabeth Halbert.
4. A daughter, Mary (Polly) Hill that married a Thomas Gibbons is listed as daughter of Reverend William Hill Jr 2/ & Hannah Elizabeth Halbert.

There are serious errors in the above information and we will attempt to clarify these errors.

Reference to Number 1.. Reverend Hill was born in 1737 in Caroline County, Virginia but Guilford County, NC Court Records shows he was dead buy the 21st of February 1785.

Reference to Number 2.. Reverend William Hill Jr 2/ married Elizabeth Halbert in Caroline County, Virginia between 1764 and 1767. Court Records of Caroline County, Virginia shows that in 1764, Elizabeth was still a single woman and was made a "ward" to her widowed mother, Frances Jones Halbert. A son John Hill was born in 1767, so marriage was between 1764 & 1767. The records found in court records of both Virginia and NC shows her name ONLY as "Elizabeth" NOT Hannah. It seems this name was confused with another wife of another William T. Hill, who's name was Hannah Bridges.

Reference to Number 3.. Thomas Hill, born 22nd December 1759 in NC, could not possibly be the son of Reverend William Hill Jr 2/ & Elizabeth Halbert because his birth was some 5 or 6 years PRIOR to the marriage of Elizabeth Halbert. (Ref: Caroline Co., Va. Court Records).

Reference to Number 4.. Mary (Polly) Hill that married Thomas Gibbons WAS NOT a daughter of Reverend William Hill & Elizabeth Halbert, but was the daughter of the other William T. Hill & Hannah Bridges. (Ref: Biography of Abner Hill). She was a sister to Thomas Hill.

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## BASIS OF RESEARCH

First off, several members of Reverend William Hill's 2/  
family moved to Tennessee. So did some children of another  
William Hill that lived in the same area.

At some unknown time, some researcher, possibly of the Rev.  
Hill family, went to the Tennessee State Archives and located  
the folder containing the information of Rev. Hill's family.  
In that family folder, they saw the following entry Quote:  
"William Hill Jr. married Hannah Bridges." End of Quote.

I have no idea of who or when this was done BUT since the  
name of "Junior" was used and knowledge that Rev. Hill was  
"Junior" and was found in the folder of the family of  
Reverend William Hill Jr, it was probably assumed this was  
Reverend William Hill Jr that married a woman named Hannah.

How or why that name was linked to Elizabeth Halbert is  
unknown but the wife of Reverend Hill was then listed as  
"Hannah Elizabeth Halbert," which appears to be wrong. All  
records found shows she & her mother signed her name only as  
Elizabeth.

It was logical to assume this was Reverend William Hill Jr  
2/, but court records of NC shows the widow was named  
Elizabeth Halbert Hill.

I suspect somebody thought her name was Hannah Elizabeth  
Halbert. Personally, I first thought that Hannah Bridges was  
a first wife of Reverend Hill, who died and then Rev. Hill  
remarried 2nd time to Elizabeth Halbert. I was wrong!

Mr. Charles Massey & I were corresponding with each other  
about the Thomas Hill family and he questioned the fact that  
Reverend William Hill Jr 2/ was listed as the father of his  
ancestor, Thomas Hill. This prompted me to review all of the  
information I had.

The first observation showing confusion was the birth of  
Thomas Hill (22 December 1759) some 5 to 7 years prior to the  
marriage of Elizabeth Halbert, proving she was not his  
mother. Caroline County, Virginia court records shows she  
was still single in 1764.

Next was the minutes of the Matrimony Primitive Creek  
Baptist Church of Guilford County, NC between 1776 and 1786,  
which frequently mentions a William Hill & wife Hannah.

Published records state that Reverend William Hill Jr 2/ was  
a Baptist Minister. This at first caused me to think this  
was Reverend William Hill Jr 2/ & wife Hannah Elizabeth  
Halbert. That was before the conclusion was made that her  
name was not Hannah. (See Church Minutes below).

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## MINUTES OF MATRIMONY PRIMITIVE CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

This church was one of many daughter churches of the Sandy Creek Baptist Church of Randolph County, NC. The deed to this church was issued in 1780, however, another deed issued to Henry Seales in 1778 mentions land adjoining lands of John Hill, despite the fact that the land was not deeded to John Hill until 1783. [Note: He probably had filed for grant but had not yet received it]. .

The following minutes are not complete. The listing only concerns members of the Hill family and associated names, starting on the 17th of September 1776. Notice that on 17 September 1776, William Hill, Hannah Hill, Gustavas Hill, Cattron Hill, Margaret Hill were already members of the church but had been dismissed or excommunicated for some unknown reasons.

One of the first things I did was to recopy the information below into a chronological order (based on the dates) in order to better understand the events. No other changes were made.

Now the following events were in Guilford County, NC:  
Matrimony Primitive Creek Baptist Church Records 1776-1816:

(This is not a complete list of members):

17 Sept. 1776- membership (Hill related only)  
Jonas Bridges & wife Rachel) dead  
William Hill) dismiss (dismissed)  
Hannah Hill) dismiss (dismissed)  
Cattron Hill) excommunicated.  
Gustavis Hill) " "  
Margaret Hill) " "

Reference to Caty Hill, mentioned later below, was (in my opinion) the same person as Cattron Hill. What her relationship to the others is unknown but suspect she was part of the Gustavus Hill family.

Comments by Robert Hill Sr:  
Reverend William Hill Jr 2/ was listed by others as a Baptist Minister with a wife named Hannah Elizabeth Halbert. I first thought this was them that was listed in these minutes, but that proved to be wrong.

Why William & Hannah Hill were dismissed is unknown, but it did not seem likely that a minister would be dismissed & caused me some suspicion of this being a different William Hill other than Reverend Will Hill Jr 2/. No reason is known as to why Gustavas Hill & wife Margaret Hill were excommunicated. Neither is the relationship between William & Gustavus Hill is know, but believe they were brothers.

Matrimony Primitive Creek Baptist Church Records Shows:  
Page 2, 21 March 1779.. Received by letter Brother William  
Hill & sister Hannah Hill. Joseph Hooper, Clerk.

Comments by Robert Hill Sr:

William & Hannah Hill had been dismissed since the 17th of  
September 1776. On that same date, Gustavus & Margaret Hill  
and Catron Hill were excommunicated.

I do not know that much about the discipline of the church  
matters, but it appears to me that it was a more serious  
matter that Gustavus, Margaret & Catron Hill had done to be  
excommunicated, while William & Hannah Hill were less guilty  
and was dismissed.

On this date, (21 March 1779) William Hill & Hannah Hill were  
"received" by letter. This indicates to me that they had  
submitted a letter requesting their membership be reinstated  
back into the church (Matrimony Primitive Creek Baptist  
Church). The church agreed and reinstated them.

Page 2, (21 March 1779) Gustavus Hill & wife. (received?).

Comments by Robert Hill Sr:

This entry was incomplete but I think it was Gustavus Hill &  
wife Margaret attempting to regain membership back into the  
church.

Page 3, 18 September 1779 the church met together & \_\_\_\_\_ a  
matter concerning Charity Hill & one of the \_\_\_\_\_ wimmem  
(women). excommunicated them both (& husbands).

Comments by Robert Hill Sr:

This Charity Hill's relationship to the other Hills is  
unknown BUT these minutes says (Quote): "excommunicated them  
both (and husbands" (end of quote) PROVES Charity was  
definitely married to a Hill and I suspect it was the wife of  
John Hill, who helped obtain the land for this church,  
however there is no proof of this theory.

15 July 1780 received Brother Gustavus (sic) Hill in  
fellowship again.

Comments by Robert Hill Sr:

Obviously Gustavus Hill was accepted into the church  
membership again. Notice there was no mention of the wife  
Margaret Hill returning.

9 November 1780 a matter of dispute between sisters Charity  
Hill & Hannah Hill & was found hard spirit in Charity Hill.

Comments by Robert Hill Sr:

On this date, some type of trouble existed between Charity

Hill and Hannah Hill. The entry QUOTE: "found hard spirit in Charity Hill" END OF QUOTE: indicates to me that CHARITY HILL was the problem and she was either unforgiving OR would not repent her (so called) sin or sins.

From what I understand, Charity Hill (at this time) was not a member of the church as she had been excommunicated on 18 September 1779 and was not, as far as I can see, re-admitted until 21 January 1781 in minutes below.

21 January 1781 Sister Charity Hill gave satisfaction again.

Comment by Robert Hill Sr:

What ever the problem was, Charity Hill had made ammends and was again received back into the church as a member. No mention was made of her husband.

Page 5, 15 March 1781 as there was dispute between Brothers Gustavas Hill & Sister Hannah Hill, they cum (come) together again.

Comments by Robert Hill:

Remember that Gustavus Hill owned land adjacent to William & Hannah Hill. While their relationship is unknown, I suspect they were brothers. I think this was a argument between a man (Gustavus Hill) and his sister in law, Hannah Hill. What ever it was, it appears they settled the affair.

No date, Sister Charrity (sic) Hill for lying (to?) the church, excommunicated her.

Comments by Robert Hill Sr: Again, this Charity Hill was the cause of a problem, having lied to the church. What ever it was about, it was serious and she was booted out of the membership.

8 June 1783. a difference between Brother Gustavas Hill & Sister Margaret Hill & both left rum (sic) for mistake & came together again. (Note: I believe the word rum was intended to be home).

Comments by Robert Hill Sr:

It appears to me that Gustavus Hill and wife Margaret were having some marital problems and separated from each other, but later made up.

Page 5, 15th October 1784, Sister Caty Hill made up for her so called error in life, and was again reinstated into the church.

Comments by Robert Hill: The identity of this Caty Hill is unknown but suspect it was a name for a Catherine Hill. Who ever and what ever she did wrong, she apparently was forgiven by the church.

Page 6, 14 April 1786, a charge by Joshua Hopper against Caty Hill and satisfaction gained.

Comments by Robert Hill:

This is self explanatory, Joshua Hoper made a charge against Caty Hill, but the matter was settled,

21 Jan. 1786, received Hannah Hill in membership again.

17 Feb. 1786, received WILLIAM HILL in membership again.

Comments by Robert Hill Sr:

It was this last two entries of the 17th of February 1786 that convinced me that this was not Reverend William Hill Jr 2/ & wife Hannah Elizabeth Halbert. Reverend William Hill Jr 2/ had died by February of 1785 (Reference Guilford County Court Records). . This had to be a different William Hill!

end of church records

Note: I have no proof but think Charity Hill was the wife of the John Hill, who helped obtain the land for this church, even though his name never appears in the church minutes. I think William, Gustavus and John Hill were probably of the same family, maybe brothers, but have no proof.

Robert Hill Sr

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#### RETURNING TO MY RESEARCH.

Upon recognizing this was a different William Hill, I requested of Charles Massey if he could to provide me with the Auto-Biography of a Abner Hill, a son of Thomas Hill & Catherine Shropshire.

He did so and in that biography, Abner mentions his paternal grandfather as William Hill. He does not mention his grandmother by name but states Quote: "my grand uncle Thomas Bridges, brother of my grandmother." End of quote.

This convinced me that it was a different William Hill (not Reverend Hill) that had a wife named Hannah Bridges and they were the parents of Thomas Hill, and the grandparents of Abner Hill.

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#### THE FAMILY OF WILLIAM HILL & HANNAH BRIDGES.

This Hill family resided first on Buffalo Island Creek in Guilford County, NC & then in Surry County of NC on Fisher River. The first found record of them a land grant below. a Whether or not this William Hill owned other lands prior to this grant is unknown.

Based on court records, land deeds, it appears that William Hill & wife Hannah Bridges had the following KNOWN children:

1. Thomas Hill, born 22 December 1759 m. Catherine Shropshire in 1783.
2. James Hill, b. 1761, d. ca. 1822 in Tennessee.
3. John Hill, b. ca. 1763, d. after December 1, 1795 but before 31 October 1796.
4. Jacob Hill.
5. Mary (Polly) Hill, married Thomas Gibbons.

There may have been other children but this is what there is proof of.

William Hill applied for a land grant of 382 acres on the 26th of February 1778 in Guilford County, NC. The grant was "officially made" on the 1st of March 1780. This land was adjacent to Gustavus Hill's land. Because of this I was able to determine which William Hill this was.

On the very same date, this same William Hill also applied for another (2nd) land grant of 350 acres in Guilford County, NC on Buffalo Island Creek of Dan River. [Note: Fisher River and Buffalo Island Creek were very close to each other]. See the 2 Land grants below).

NC LAND GRANT NO. 298 (TO WILLIAM HILL)  
ENTRY 161  
ENTERED: JANUARY 26, 1778  
ISSUED: MARCH 1, 1780

382 acres "In Guilford County on Buffalo Island Creek of Dan River, beginning at a White Oak (tree) on the south side of aforesaid river, thence west 186 poles to a Black Oak (tree), in Joseph Gibson's line, crossing the creek 206 poles to his corner, thence the same course continuing 80 poles, 286 in all to a Poplar (tree) in Gustavus Hill's line, thence east along his line crossing White Oak Fork 37 poles to a White Oak (tree), thence north along his line 54 poles to a Black Oak (tree) then east crossing the branch 149 poles to a Black Oak (tree), thence south crossing the creek 340 poles to the first station.

Comments by Robert Hill Sr:

When plotted, as well as the fact that this land grant was adjacent to Gustavus Hill, indicates this was not Reverend William Hill but the William Hill that married Hannah Bridges.

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On the first of December 1778, Gustavus Hill applied for a land grant of 200 acres. His grant was "officially granted" on the 1st of March 1780, the same date that William Hill



got his two grants. (See William's 2nd grant below after grant to Gustavus Hill).

NC LAND GRANT NO. 337 (TO GUSTAVUS HILL)  
ENTRY NO. 879  
ENTERED: DECEMBER 1ST, 1778  
ISSUED: MARCH 1ST, 1780

200 acres in Guilford County on the north fork of Buffalo Island Creek bounded by the claims of land of Gibson's land to the south.

Comments by Robert Hill Sr:

Notice that William Hill applied for his land grant on the 26th of February 1778 while Gustavus Hill applied for this one on the following 1st of December 1778. The relationship of William Hill & Gustavus Hill is uncertain but the facts that they owned land next to each other, were both members of the same church and their obtaining land grants almost at the same time, certainly implies they were related, probably brothers.

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On the 26th of February 1779, William Hill applied for another land grant of 350 acres in Guilford County. It too was "officially granted" on the 1st of March 1780. (See below).

NC LAND GRANT 313 (TO WILLIAM HILL)  
ENTRY NO. 150  
ENTERED: FEBRUARY 26 1779  
ISSUED: MARCH 1ST, 1780

350 acres "In Guilford County on both sides of Buffalo Island Creek of Dan River beginning at a White Oak (tree), running thence north 165 poles to a Post Oak (tree) in the aforesaid Hill's line, thence east along his own line 60 poles to a White Oak (tree) thence north along his own line, crossing Buffalo Island Creek 160 poles to a Black Oak (tree), thence east 180 poles to another Black Oak (tree), thence south, crossing a branch 120 poles to a Post Oak (tree) in Henry Seale's line, thence west along his line, crossing a branch 60 poles to a Black Oak (tree), thence south along his line, crossing the creek aforesaid and such creek fork 205 poles to White Oak (tree) thence west, crossing such fork 180 poles to the beginning.

Comments by Robert Hill Sr:

William Hill had obtained 382 acres in his first land grant and another 350 acres in this second grant for a total of 732 acres of land.

On the 29th of March 1783, William Hill sold 350 acres of land to a son, John Hill. This still left him with 382 acres of land. (See deed below).

#### GUILFORD CO., NC DEED BOOK 2, PAGE 280

March 29, 1783, William Hill of Guilford County. Province of North Carolina sells to John Hill of same, 350 acres of land on both sides of Buffalo Island Creek of Dan River, "beginning at a White Oak (tree), running thence north 165 poles to a Post Oak (tree) in the aforesaid Hill's own line, thence south crossing a branch 120 poles to a Post Oak (tree) in Henry Seale's line, thence west along his line crossing a branch 60 poles to a Black Oak (tree), then south along his line.. "

Witnessed by George Peay, George Peay Jr. & William Shropshire.

Comments by Robert Hill Sr:

This shows William Hill selling his 350 acres of land that he obtained in Land Grant Number 298. John Hill is thought to be his son. This left William Hill with 382 acres of land he got by land grant Number 298 in his possession. He probably owned other land prior to the two grants 298 and 313 but no record of it has been found. William Shropshire was a brother to Catherine Shropshire, who married Thomas Hill in 1783. Thomas Hill was a son of this William Hill & Hannah Bridges.

In March of 1788, William Hill sold another 382 acres of land he obtained in grant Number 313 to a William Mills of Henry County, Virginia, leaving him with 380 acres of land still in his possession. By this time the land was in Northwest Rockingham County, close to the Virginia state line. This was due to the county lines changing etc.. (see deed below).

#### ROCKINGHAM COUNTY NC DEED BOOK E, PAGE 180 (FORMERLY GUILFORD COUNTY)

March 10th, 1788, William Hill of the county of Rockingham, state of North Carolina of the one part and William Mills of the county of Henry, state of Virginia, sells 382 acres of land, situated in the county of Rockingham on the waters of Buffalo Island Creek of Dan River, "beginning at a White Oak (tree) on the south side of the aforesaid creek, running thence west 186 poles to a Black Oak (tree) in Joseph Gibson's line, thence north along his line crossing the creek (206 poles in all), to a pole in Gustavus Hill's line, thence east along his line crossing the creek.."

Comments by Robert Hill Sr:

With this deed, William Hill had sold off his entire two land grants of 382 and 350 acres of land. This deed also

helps to prove that this was not Reverend William Hill Jr as he had died in February of 1785. When plotting these deeds, it shows that William & Hannah Hill owned land adjacent to Gustavus Hill on the north, and John Hill on the south. Thomas Bridges, brother of Hannah Bridges and the brother in law of William Hill, owned land next to John Hill.

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Surry Co., NC Deed Book D, Pages 404-405

January 20th, 1789: James & Catherine Bryson of Surry County of the one part and William Hill of same county of the other part, sells 380 acres of land, situated in said county on Fisher's River beginning at a pine (tree) on the south side of the Main River and 9 degrees north, 70 degrees west, 80 chains to a Spanish Oak (tree) thence north 37 chains to Black Oak (tree) then east 76 chains to a pine (tree) then south 63 chains to the beginning.

Witnessed by: John Bryson Jr & Thomas Hill.

Comments by Robert Hill Sr:

This is the very first deed on Fisher River found for a Hill. It was this land that was divided among the sons. Notice Thomas Hill witnessed this deed for his father. He had not yet moved to Georgia. Thomas was now about 20-21 years old. Whether this William Hill owned other lands prior to this is unknown, but with his prior selling off his two land grants totaling 732 acres, this is the only proof he owned any land at all.

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Court records, as well as land deeds, shows that at some time prior to his death, the father, William Hill, had reached an agreement with his sons on how to divide his remaining 380 acres of land.

Now the erroneous death date assigned to Reverend William Hill of 29th of September 1792, just may be the death of this William Hill because in November of 1792, it is obvious that he was dead and the sons were dividing the lands as was agreed to.

STOKES COUNTY NC DEED BOOK F. PAGE 348.

October 2nd, 1792, "Thomas Hill of the state of Georgia, county of Wilks, of the one part, and Benjamin Cadle of the other part, sells 100 acres of land situated in Surry County Bull Run, the waters of the Tarrarat River.."

Witnessed by Joel Mackey, James Hill, Jean Mackey.

Comments by Robert Hill Sr:

This land was now in a new county. This land seems to match

that which was granted to Thomas Hill for his military service during the Revolutionary War. Notice that Thomas was a resident of Wilks County, Georgia.

This date seems to agree with a death date of 29th of September 1792 for the father, William Hill. I think Thomas, being the eldest son, had returned to NC and sold his land, and at the same time, was acting as administrator for his father's estate.

I do not think this was inherited land. Thomas went to Georgia ca. 1790-1781, before his father died. He apparently came back briefly to NC in 1792 to act as executor or administrator of father's estate and to clear up his inheritance.

#### DIVISION OF LAND AMONG THE SONS.

Lands deeds shows that the father, William Hill, was dead by 10th November 1792. These deeds shows that the father, William Hill, had reached an agreement among his sons as to how to divide his 380 acres of land. This was done on the 10th of November 1792.

There were four known sons to divide the 380 acres of land. We have no details on the agreement reached between the father and sons, but assuming the land was equally divided, it would appear that each son would get about 96 acres each.

Since Thomas had moved out of the state to Wilks County, Georgia, he apparently sold his 95 acres to his brothers.

In the final division, James Hill & Jacob Hill got a total of 140 acres of land, while John Hill got 100 acres. This certainly accounts for the 380 acres, but was not equally divided, but I have a theory as to how this division may have been made.

Each of the four sons (Thomas, James, Jacob & John) inherited about 95 acres each. Thomas sold his 95 acres off to his brothers, by splitting up his 95 acres, but for unknown reasons, was not done equally.

This could not be done equally because the 3 brothers would have to get about 31.7 acres each, or totaling 95.1 acres. Thomas only had 95 acres to divide.

I think Thomas sold 45 acres to James & Jacob Hill (or 90 acres of his land), leaving him 5 acres left, which went to brother John Hill. James & Jacob had inherited 95 acres each, and then purchased 45 acres from brother Thomas Hill, giving the total of 140 acres.

John had inherited 95 acres plus 5 acres purchased from

Thomas, giving him 100 acres. This accounts for the 380 acres that was divided among the sons. (See 3 deeds below).

Deed Number 1

Surry Co., N.C. Deed Book F, Page 274, dated 10th November 1792 (same days as the following two deeds)

Thomas Hill of Wilks Co., Ga. sells to (brother) James Hill for 90 pounds current money, a tract of land in Surry Co. lying on both sides of Fisher River at the fork in the lower end of Surry made by William Ramsey for 380 acres, "bounded by a conditional line made between the said James Hill and his father William Hill, containing 140 acres"... etc. etc

Signed/Thomas Hill

Signed, Sealed in presence of

J. Mackey

John (x) Watson

Surry County August term 1795, the execution of this within Deed was proved by Matthew Sims and ordered to be registered.

Test J. Williams CC (County Clerk)

Comments by Robert Hill Sr:

It appears that Thomas had inherited 140 acres but sold it to his brother, James Hill. Thomas may be acting as the administrator. Later research proves that Thomas Hill was not the son of Reverend William Hill & Elizabeth Halbert, but was the son of another William Hill & Hannah Bridges. This was one of three deeds where Thomas Hill, now a resident of Wilks Co., Ga. was selling his inherited lands in N.C.

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Deed Number 2

Surry Co. Deed Book F, Page 273, dated 10th November 1792 (same day & year as previous deed as well as the following deed):

A Deed between Thomas Hill of Wilks County, Ga. to Jacob Hill for 50 pounds sold 140 acres of land in Surry Co., N.C. located on both sides of Fisher River, on both sides (of) the little river, joining JOHN HILL above and JAMES HILL below, agreeable to the conditional lines made between them and their father WILLIAM HILL in his life time and including the place where he deceased, containing 140 acres by estimation be the same more or less .. etc. etc.."

Signed/Thomas Hill

Signed, sealed & delivered in presence of:

J. Mackie

John (X) Watson

his mark

Matthew (M) Sims

his mark

Surry County August Term 1795: The Within Deed was proved in Open Court by Matthew Sims & ordered to be registered.

Test: J. Williams CC  
County Clerk

Comments by Robert Hill:

This was a second of three deeds where Thomas Hill, a resident of Wilks Co., Ga, was selling another 140 acres of his deceased father's land to his brother, Jacob Hill.

This deed and the one above accounts for a total of 280 acres of the 380 acres that was divided. I think Thomas Hill accepted money for his inheritance since he no longer lived in NC.

This land shows up again on the 1st of October 1796, when a Joab Hill sells it Colby Creed. How Joab got possession, I do not know, but suspect Joab was a son of Jacob Hill, who had moved away or died.

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Deed Number 3

Surry Co., N.C. Deed Book F, Page 274, (100 acres)  
10 November 1792 (same date as previous two deeds)

Thomas Hill OF WILKS CO., GA. sells 100 acres to (brother?) John Hill for 100 pounds current money, a certain tract or parcel of land lying and being situate in the county of Surry on both sides of little Fisher River bounded by the "conditional lines made and agreed on between the said John Hill and his father William Hill, deceased, and the former lines of the Survey deeded by William Ramsey for 380 acres, containing (this) 100 acres by estimation be the same more or less etc. etc."

Signed, sealed & delivered in the presence of

J. Mackey

John (X) Watson

his mark

Matthew Sims

Surry County August Term 1795: The execution of the within Deed was proved in open court by Matthew Sims and ordered to be registered.

Test: J. William CC (County Clerk)

Comments by Robert Hill Sr:

This was the 3rd deed where Thomas Hill was dividing up his deceased father's land, as they all had agreed to before his death. I think Thomas was acting as administrator. John Hill had earlier purchased 350 acres from his father on the 20th March 1783. For that reason, I suspect John was one of the elder sons. Since the father had sold him the land, he

left John only this 100 acres, which completed the division of 380 acres as was agreed to with their gather, William Hill.

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It appears to me that in the above deeds, Thomas Hill was simply acting as anyone would that was selling his land.

He possibly was acting as executor or administrator of his father's estate, but no estate papers have been found regarding this William Hill's estate, nor has any record or mention of a widow. [Note: It is possible she died first between 1786 when she & husband were mentioned in the Church records (Ref: Church Minutes above) and November of 1792 when the land was divided among the sons}.

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### THOMAS HILL AND FAMILY.

This Information provided by Mr. Charles Massey.

When the Revolutionary War broke out in 1776, Thomas Hill was a 16 or 17 years old boy. He entered the military in June of 1776, about 17 years old. In his first three months he was sent to quell trouble with the Indians on the Tennessee River.

He served another tour in 1781 that was to prevent the British from crossing the Dan River. About the same time the famous battle of "Guilford Court House" was fought but he was not there, as he was again sent to East Tennessee to help protect the area of Hawkins County.

Thomas Hill married a 23 year old Catherine Shropshire (1760-1854) in July of 1783. He was 24 years old. She was a daughter of Winkfield Shropshire and his second wife, Jane Jones. Catherine was the 7th of many children.

Winkfield Shropshire owned land adjacent to Gustavus Hill. Gustavus Hill's land was adjacent to William Hill's land, indicating that Thomas Hill & parents lived in the same neighborhood as the future wife of Thomas lived. Thomas Hill was granted, or purchased, 100 acres of land near his father's land near Fisher River, located about 45 miles west into Surry County, NC.

The father of Thomas, William Hill, was dead by 10th November 1792.

Thomas Hill and wife Catherine had sold their land in Surry County, NC and moved to Green county, Georgia. In 1792 they resided in Wilks County, Georgia. Obviously, Thomas returned temporarily to NC to administer the father's estate and to

clear up personal matters.

About this time, or shortly after, the father, William Hill died. It appears (but not proved) that Thomas was named administrator of his father's estate.

In November of 1792, Thomas fulfilled the agreement made between his father and him & his three brothers. This was accomplished by three deeds between Thomas & his three brothers. Thomas had sold his 95 acres he inherited to his brothers. This meant the lands had to be re-surveyed and was done by William Ramsey.

In 1795, several members of this Hill family, moved to East Tennessee. They were Hannah Hill, who was a charter member of the church founded in 1796, James Hill & wife Nancy Royalty Hill, John Hill, Joab Hill, Susannah & Jean Hill.

In 1804, when Thomas Hill was 45 years old, he moved his family to Claiborne County, Tennessee. There, in February of 1805, joined the Big Spring Baptist Church, located about 4 miles south of Tazewell. It is noted that several other members of Thomas Hill's family were already members of the church.

In August of 1805, John Hill & Susannah Hill, James Hill & Thomas & Catherine Hill were dismissed by letter from the church.

About this time, Thomas moved his family again to the area of Cherry Creek section of White County, Tennessee. Catherine Shropshire had a brother, William Shropshire who came to White County, Tennessee about the same time.

In 1805, Abner Hill, the third son, was 17 years old and became the first Christian Church preacher in White County, Tennessee. At the age of 73 Abner wrote his autobiography, which included his childhood events.

Both Thomas Hill & wife were believers of the Baptist Church and Catherine was teaching her son Abner their ways..

On the 10th of April 1809, Thomas Hill was granted 100 acres in White County, Tennessee.

On the 15th of April 1822, Thomas was appointed guardian of Jefferson Hill, Claiborne Hill, Sabern Hill, & James Hill, minors and orphans of his son, James Hill, deceased. These minor children were his (Thomas') grand children.

On the 21 of December 1824, Thomas received another grant of 50 acres for the benefit of the heirs of James Hill, deceased.



When Thomas moved his family to White County, Tennessee, his son, Winkfield Hill, was about 13 years old. He grew up in that county and on the 8th of December 1824, at age of 32, was granted 50 acres of land. He married Martha (Patsy) Anderson and had eight children 3 boys and 5 girls.

The 1840 census shows the elderly parents (Thomas & Catherine Hill) were living with Winkfield Hill.

Thomas Hill died in 1849 at the age of 89. Catherine died on the 14th of February 1854. She was 93 years old. Winkfield Hill died on 8th August 1851. His wife Patsy died ca. 1855.

When Thomas Hill moved his family to Georgia, he and his wife had four children:

1. Elijah Hill born in NC
2. James Hill born in NC, dead prior to 15 April 1822 in TN.  
His orphans named: Jefferson Hill, Claiborne Hill, Sebern Hill, James Hill. (Probably named after uncle).
3. Abner Hill born 20th August 1788 in NC.
4. William Hill born in NC. (named after grandfather??)

They remained in Georgia for about 13 years, and had 5 more children,

5. Winkfield Hill, born 1792, in GA., d. 8 August 1851 in TN., m. Martha (Patsy) Anderson. Had 8 children, no names listed. (Winkfield probably named after maternal grandfather, Winkfield Shropshire).
6. Jane Hill.
7. Cynthia Hill.
8. Thomas Hill. (Probably named after father).
9. Hannah Hill. (Probably named after paternal grandmother, Hannah Bridges).

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Additional comments: Thomas Hill married ca. 1783 Catherine Shropshire, daughter of Winkfield Shropshire. These two families (Hills & Shropshires) were members of the Matrimony Primitive Creek Baptist Church. They moved to Georgia together ca, 1790-1791. (Ref: Abner Hill's biography).

Abner also briefly mentions his "grand uncle Thomas Bridges, brother of my grandmother. Also note there was mentioned a Jonas & Rachel Bridges, both deceased. This certainly proves members of the Bridges family were also members.

Despite the fact that neither Thomas Hill or any other Hill children are named in the church minutes, I will bet that Thomas & Catherine Shropshire were married in that church.

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## DISCUSSION REGARDING THE JOHN HILL FAMILIES.

In dealing with the area of Surry, Guilford, Rockingham & Stokes Counties of NC from 1770 until the early 1800s, we are dealing with several William Hills. This document only concerns a William Hill & wife Hannah Bridges, who had among their children a son, John Hill.

I think John Hill Sr was that son of William Hill & Hannah Brdiges and was the brother to Thomas, Jacob & James Hill. He also had a son John Hill Jr. (See list of children below).

Meanwhile, living in the same area, but not considered in this document, was another John Hill, the son of Reverend William Hill Jr 2/ & wife, Elizabeth Halbert.

John Hill Sr., son of William Hill & Hannah Bridges, moved from BC to Tennessee and was still alive in Davidson County, Tennessee on the 1st of December 1795, but was dead by 31st of October 1796.

A FAMILY GROUP SHEET SENT TO ME YEARS AGO BY ???  
IMPORTANT REFERENCE TO COMMENTS BELOW.

JOHN HILL SR. (VETERAN OF 1812 WAR)

B: 29 MAY 1782 GUILFORD CO., N.C. ???

M: JUNE 1800

D: AFTER DECEMBER 1809 IN DAVIDSON CO., TENN.

Lived on Buffalo Island Creek.

FATHER: POSSIBLY WM. HILL.

MOTHER: POSSIBLY HANNAH BRIDGES

WIFE: MARY COVINGTON

Children:

1. Micajah Hill.
2. John Hill Jr.
3. Unity Hill.
4. David Alexander Hill. \*\*\*
5. Margaret (Peggy) Hill m. Alexander Jones.
6. Dutton Hill.

\*\*\* Note: Gustavas Hill sold 200 acres to a David Alexander. This implies a relationship between the Hills & Alexander families.

Comment by Robert Hill Sr:

I question these dates as being for John Hill Sr. John Hill Sr had died in 1796 in Davidson County, Tennessee. I think he, John Hill Sr, was a son of William Hill & Hannah Bridges and the brother of Thomas, Jacob Hill & James Hill.

My unproven theory is that John Hill Sr was the father of the above/following children: Micajah Hill, John Hill Jr., Unity Hill, David Alexander Hill, Margaret Hill & Dutton Hill.

In making this FGS, I think somebody has confused the dates to John Hill Sr., when in fact they were for the son, John Hill Jr.

END OF R.144 DATA