

TN.001 INFORMATION REGARDING SPENCER HILL, ORIGINALLY OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA, THEN OF HERTFORD COUNTY, N.C. AND LATER OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE.

Gathered, Entered & Partly Compiled by Robert R. Hill Sr. in May of 1987.

SPENCER HILL OF HERTFORD AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES, N.C PRIOR TO MOVING INTO WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE.

Source of Following: My research and Information provided by Mr. Ralph Hill of Prattsburg, N.Y.

Note by Robert Hill Sr: This Spencer Hill just might be some way connected (cousin etc) to the family of Spencer Hill (Revolutionary Soldier) who was born in 1762 probably in Shenandoah or Bath, County Virginia and who was the son of Francis Hill.

I wonder if the unknown father of this Spencer Hill could be related to Francis Hill, the father of the Spencer Hill, who lived in and around Bath-Shenandoah Counties, Virginia and who moved westward into what later became Nicholas County, West Virginia. (Suggest reading Information entitled VA.022 on Virginia Disk).

My reason for this line of thinking is that the Bath County-Shenandoah County, Virginia area is not too far from Northumberland County, Virginia, which was the birth place of the following Spencer Hill (b. 1756-57) and who moved to N.C. & then Tennessee. Also it should be noted there is only about a 6 year difference in the births of the two Spencer Hills. These facts plus the two names of Spencer Hill from the same general areas of Virginia (both having been born within 6 or 7 year period) causes suspicions of a family connection. I admit there is no proof of this theory.

SPENCER HILL SR. (b. ca. 1756 or 1757- d. 1816) is believed to have been originally from Northumberland County, Virginia and appears to have been married twice, first to Mary Denney and second to Penelope \_\_\_\_\_?

Following data has not been proven to be an absolute fact and no records have been found to show a marriage to Mary Denney by Spencer Hill or that Spencer was born in Northumberland County Virginia. There are a few real good genealogical clues that leads us to believe that his wife was indeed Mary Denney. That clue is this... a son named Spencer Hill Jr. named a daughter MARY DENNEY HILL, probably after his mother. (This taken from his will of 1861 in Henry County, Tennessee).

Other items that tend to show a Virginia connection were: St Stephen's Parish Chronicles in Northumberland County, Virginia lists two children born of SPENCER HILL & MARY HILL. They were:

1. William Hill, son, born 23rd November 1782.
2. Nanny Hill, daughter, born 11 December 1784.

Mary Denney's father was William Denney, thus the name of their first son, WILLIAM Hill, after him. The date and place of Mary Denney Hill's death has not been determined. Also the exact location of Spencer Hill between the years of 1785-1789 is not known.

Spencer Hill is located in the 1790 Census of Northampton County, N.C. Prior to 1790, a few land deeds places Spencer Hill in Hertford County, N.C. His last location prior to 1790 was Northumberland County , Virginia in 1785.

A fire had long ago destroyed the old Hertford County N.C. Courthouse and it's records, but a 1785-1786 tax list was saved and Spencer Hill does not appear on it, thus his residence in Hertford County, N.C. in 1785 and 1786 is doubtful. He probably arrived here in 1787-1789, just prior to his residence in Northampton County N.C., which is shown in the Census of 1790.

While Spencer Hill obviously lived first to Hertford County, N.C., he is believed to have purchased 210 acres of land in Northampton County, N.C. prior to the 1790 census.

In any case, in 1796 the 210 acres in Northampton County, N.C. was sold and the family moved to Davidson County, Tennessee. In 1796 he bought 180 acres on Mill Creek, near Harpeth River in Tennessee. In 1799 Williamson County Tennessee was formed and this 180 acres became part of the new county (Williamson County).

Spencer Hill was released from the "Poll Tax" in 1807 in Williamson County, Tennessee and poll tax were assessed to all males 21 to 50 years of age, thus assuming he had reached age 50, this would project his birth to be ca. 1756-1757.

Now to summarize the known facts: It appears that Spencer Hill Sr. and 1st wife Mary Denney had three children:

William Hill, Nanny Hill and Spencer Hill Jr.

Apparently Mary Denney (his wife) died because he was later remarried to a woman named Penelope----? and the remainder of the children were her's, all born after 1790. They were:

Joseph b. 1791; Jonathan b. 1793; Benjamin b. 1795; Jeremiah b. 1799; and Hezekiah b. 1800.

Spencer Hill was listed in 1790 Census N.C. but he died in Williamson County, Tennessee. His will was proved in April of 1816. His wife Penelope Hill and son Jonathan Hill were executors. The children named in the will (written 6 May 1813) were:

1. William Hill, born ca. 1782-1783
2. Nanny Hill, born ca. 1783-1784
3. Spencer Hill Jr., born 1787  
(following by 2nd wife)
4. Joseph Hill, born 1791
5. Jonathan Hill, born 1793
6. Benjamin Hill, born 1795
7. Jeremiah Hill, born 1799
8. Hezekiah Hill, born 1800.

All of the children can be found on Tennessee Census Records in Williamson, Bedford, Rutherford and Henry Counties in Tennessee, as well as early tax listings and the 1820-(Thru?) 1860 Census.

Nanny Hill married William Black and lived in Bedford County, Tennessee their entire lives. They had one known son, Thomas Hill Black, who was mentioned in Spencer Hill's will of 1813.

Early Williamson County Tax Lists (1800-1813) shows Spencer Hill and his Mill Creek lands, which were increased at one time to 335 acres. He bought another parcel of 400 acres in Bedford County, Tennessee, leaving that in 100 acre parcels to four of his children in his 1813-1816 will.

CLOSE FAMILY TIES TO THE BARNES, NLY, LAURENCE, GRIFFIN, BOON AND TO THE REVEREND GREEN HILL FAMILY, ALL OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE WERE EVIDENT. Spencer Hill served as trustee of the Liberty Methodist Church (1807), which was founded by Reverend Green Hill. In fact Green Hill signed as a witness to Spencer Hill's Will, written in May of 1813.

Briefly, most of the men mentioned above were associated with each other in North Carolina and present efforts in research deal with Virginia counties that border eastern N.C. as possible counties of residence for Spencer Hill, prior to his locating in Hertford County, N.C.. The Nly, Barnes and Griffin Families have been found in Southampton County, Virginia prior to their move into N.C.

It is believed that there was a Methodist congregation from Virginia, that were, feeling some heat and pressure from established churches when they became aware of Reverend Green Hill's plans to form a new church in Tennessee. This eventually led to the migrations from N.C. into Tennessee.

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