

Now the journey through the untold Taylor family history begins...

The goal of this paper is to allow the Taylor and other researchers a possible theory upon which to move through the highly mobile and loosely documented years of the early 1800's. The main points are the following:

Thesis: William and Maleachy Hawthorn had a daughter named Hannah. That daughter married Richmond Watson, Jr. and having four children, one being Sarah Watson, who married Henry Taylor. Henry Taylor was the son of William Taylor and grandson of Dempsey Taylor. After Hannah's husband Richmond was murdered, she married Ebenezer Lee as a Watson, thus hiding her Hawthorn maiden name and connection to William.

Problem statement: These broken connections between the Watsons, Hawthorns, and Taylors caused a genealogy wall to occur at names of Thomas T. (or E.) Taylor, JJ and William Rice Watson, and much uncertainty as to whether Hannah was actually a daughter of William Hawthorn.

Marriage between Richmond Watson and Hannah Hawthorn

The first of two "lost decades" for genealogists of the Taylors, Watsons and Hawthorns was from 1820-1830, with migrations from Pulaski County GA in the midst of the first and second Seminole Wars in Southwest Georgia.

Richmond R. Watson, Jr. originated from Edgefield SC, with his father of the same name residing through death in Edgefield County, SC (1820 Edgefield County census).

*Arthur Watson was born 1745 Craven County, N.C. and died 1806 in Ridge Spgs., Edgefield County, S.C. He married Ann Corley, daughter of Rev. War Soldier Abner Corley. She was born about 1747.

Will of Arthur Rice Watson as taken from Edgefield County Wills 1787-1836.
page 239, 17 Feb. 1806. "I, Arthur Watson, being in perfect health and of perfect mind and memory. First, I give to my beloved children to wit. Son Richmond Watson, Hezekiah Watson, Abner Watson and daughter's : Frances (Fanny) Watson Satcher, Patience Eidson, and Lydia Warren one shilling to each from the estate and no more as I have given to them already....

1 *Richmond Watson b. 1765 Johnston County, N.C. d. aft 1828, Edgefield County, S.C. m Sarah ?
Military: Rev. War Soldier 1781-1782 - Roster S.C. Patriot's in Am Rev.

Child of RICHMOND WATSON and SARAH is:

9. i. RICHMOND RICE⁷ WATSON, b. Abt. 1794.

Since there were 10 children of Richmond Watson, Sr., research has been difficult, as noted by fellow researchers.

Richmond Watson, who was married to Sarah _?_ when he died, probably had at least 10 children. In four deeds of Edgefield Dist., SC, Deed Book 44, pages 346-330, a number of Watsons were mentioned. Sarah Watson inherited 1/3 of a 250 acre tract of Richmond's land, though the name Richmond is not mentioned. Sarah deeded her 1/3 portion as a gift on her death to her children, Amos Watson and Archibald Watson. The other 2/3 of that 250 acre tract was divided into 10 parts. Six of those portions were inherited by Temperance Watson Howard (wife of Michael Howard), Amos Watson, Celia Watson Padget (wife of Samuel Padget Jr.), Mary Watson, Milly Watson, and Michael Watson. Amos, Celia, Mary, Milly, and Michael were stated to be children of Richmond Watson in the deeds. In the deed of sale by Michael Howard and his wife Temperance Watson (both of Pike County, GA) the name Richmond Watson is not stated but the Relinquishment of Inheritance is stated and the land description is the same. The six named Watson inheritors all sold their 1/10 portions to Abner Watson and Archibald Watson.

Richmond, Jr., one of the other four children no Richmond, Sr., and several family members moved to Pulaski County, GA. as found on the Pulasiki County census in 1820, being married with spouse and children of same ages as wife Hannah Hawthorn and their first two children.

Pulaski County Watsons in 1820		page
Watson	Jacob II	67
Watson	Joseph	67
Watson	Oren O, Senr	66
Watson	Richmond R	67
Watson	Seth G	66

Richmond, Oran Datus, and several other Watsons move with William Hawthorn and others to Tired Creek area of South Georgia, where Richmond paid taxes in Decatur County in 1824.

1824 Decatur County, GA TAX LIST
 Transcribed by: Denise Smiley
 Transcribed on: 01 May 2001
 Email: smileysattitude@hotmail.com
 DECATUR COUNTY
 Includes:
 TAYLOR, William
 CLARK, William
 GODIN, Alexander
 HAWTHORN, William
 TATE, Rowland
 JONES, Robert
 KELLY, Malachi, Elizabeth, James
 LEE, Ebenezer
WATSON, Richmond R

Richmond Watson, Jr. was murdered on 18 December 1824 in the Hawthorne community. No evidence of his marriage to Hannah is apparent, and it has been said that marriages to Indians were not recorded by the state. It is thought that the Watsons were part Indian. In the notice below, the name was Richard, which appears to be a transcription mistake, since Richmond was paying taxes that same year in same community as the only Watson. In early January, 1825, another murder occurred within the Hawthorne community, being that of Rowland Tate, who also is said to have been of Indian descent. A trip to the Decatur County Courthouse will attempt to find the actual court trial of the Richard (Richmond) Watson murder case. Because he was killed, Richmond did not appear on the 1830 census and was lost forever (almost).

Ref: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gaupson2/Murder.html>
Georgia Murderers, Murders and Murder Victims 1823-1840

Since the late Colonial period, Georgia Governors have issued proclamations that offered rewards for the capture of fleeing criminals, usually murderers. These can be found at the Georgia Dept. of Archives and History. Microfilm Reel 40-41

"9. On 18 December last, Richard H. WATSON was murdered by William CLARK, in the house of Alexander GODDIN in Decatur County. Issued 27 January 1825."

(note: William Clark was not listed in 1830 census. Alexander Godin house in 1830 was near Benjamin Harrison and Thomas Harrison, but in 1840 census both Clark and Godwin lived close on both sides of William Hawthorne and Robert Jones at Tired Creek community.)

Hannah Watson, living in Hawthorn's District of Decatur County, drew land in the 1827 Georgia Land Lottery as a widow, strong evidence that she was left a widow by the murder of Richmond Watson. Typically, luck drawers sold their draw and bought more land in their own community, as the Hawthorns did. They did not move to the drawn county (Muscogee or Carroll).

1827 GEORGIA LAND LOTTERY, Statewide By Name, Surnames W - Wheatly

Source: "Reprint of Official Register of Land Lottery of Georgia 1827," Compiled and Published by Miss Martha Lou Houston, Columbus, Georgia, printed by Walton-Forbes Company, Columbus, Georgia 1928. This file was transcribed by: Donna Eldridge
 For more information: <http://www.gagenweb.net/lottery/1827/>
 These files archived at: <http://www.usgwarchives.org/ga/gafiles.htm>

SEC RESIDENCE	DIST CAPT. DIST.	LOT	NO. COUNTY OF DRAW	NAME
2 Decatur County	2 Hawthorns	243	Watson, Hannah Muscogee County	widow
5 Decatur County	3 Hawthorns	136	Hawthorn, Wm. Carroll County	R.S.

Relationship of Taylors to Tired Creek Church

The mass movements of pioneers to the Hawthorn/Sofkee community appear to be centered on Hawthorn's Primitive Baptist religion in addition to land purchases. After founding churches in Robeson County, NC, and Pulaski County, GA (in Allentown, GA), he founded the Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church in 1826 in then Decatur, now Grady County GA.



Figure 2 William Hawthorne Founder of Tired Creek Church

Early members of the Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church are listed here, with my interpretations of the relationship added. This would explain why Thomas T. Taylor's grave is near the church and close to the Hawthorn Memorial headstone.

GEORGIA BAPTIST CHURCH RECORDS

Located in the Georgia Baptist History Depository, Special Collections,
Jack Tarver Library, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia

Updated January 13, 2010
(Supersedes All Previous Editions)

Robert G. Gardner, Senior Researcher in Baptist History

Tired Creek Primitive Baptist Church, Decatur now Grady County

C 1826; locally called Sofkee Church

- Reels 709 and 710: CB, 1826-1924, 1926-1980; Historical Sketch, 1976 [GDAH]
- Reel 905-906: CB, 1980-2002; William Hollingsworth, *My Experience and Call to the Ministry* (1910), 16 pp.
- Washington Library: Membership list, 1826-1865; cemetery records; historical sketch (*Origins*, Summer 1992, 19-27; Fall 1992, 15-22)

GDAH = Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta:

.....
Listed on church attendance rolls from church records (with my interpretation of relationships):

1827 **Dennis Taylor** (Brother of William, son of Dempsey Taylor, who was father of William/Grandfather of Henry/ GGrandfather of Thomas T. Taylor)
1828 William Hawthorne (Pastor and founder of church, blazed Hawthorn Trail)
1828 E.O. Hawthorne (William's son and future pastor of church)
1828 **William Taylor** (Dempsey's son, father of Henry Taylor, Grandfather of Thomas T. Taylor)
1828 **Sally Taylor** (aka Sara Swinson Taylor, wife of Dempsey Taylor)
1852 Mary Hawthorne
1852 Lucrica Taylor (wife of Grandfather William Taylor, and believed died in 1853, or her daughter Lucrecy)
1852 Philip Watson (Son of Richmond and Hannah Hawthorn Watson Lee)
1872 A.J. Hawthorne (Jackson Hawthorn, son in law of Robert Jones wife Martha)
1877 J.J. Watson (Son of Richmond and Hannah Hawthorn Watson Lee, brother in law of Henry Taylor)
1877 Mary Watson
1880 M.M. Taylor
1880 W.J. Taylor
1880 J.R. (John) Taylor
1880 M.L. Taylor
1890 C.L. Hawthorne
1881 Malechia Hawthorne (Granddaughter of William and Maleachy)
1881 Nancy Hawthorne (wife of Jonathan C. Hawthorn)
1881 J.J. Watson

Relations with Indian descendant families

Before 1860, there was also a tendency for family departures west between Alabama and Texas by what appears to be many on a list of "Frindly Indians" of Decatur County. Other research indicates a purging, either voluntarily or involuntarily, of Southwest Georgia of Creek Indians and their relatives as a result of execution of the Indian treaties of the early 1800's. Decatur County land sales also support this theory of moving west. Unfortunately, many of these families were the pioneers of Decatur County, migrating from North Carolina through middle Georgia (Pulaski County and vicinity) to southwest Georgia. Thank goodness, some of these family names remained to make Grady County a better place to live.

Trinley Creeks		PROBATE JUDGE BAINBRIDGE DECATUR COUNTY GA.
W	William Ward	
H	- Henry Heath	
M	Daniel Munn	
S	- Isaac F. Sheffield	
F	Richard Freeman	
C	Francis Coim	
W	Benjamin W. Worack	
P	Philomen Porter	
R	Wm. Rudel	
E	John W. Miller	
B	Wm. Bailey	
T	James Taylor	
T	Richard Taylor	
T	Jesse Taylor	
B	Abelomson Brown	
A	Synthia Mitchell	
A	Edwin H. Mitchell	
T	Rebecca House	
H	George Hicks	
V	Arion Abel Man	
H	- Edl Mrs Freeman	
E	John McIntosh	
A	- Jessie Brown	
A	- Nancy Broidford	
H	Mary Taylor	
B	- Celis. Ward	
B	Joe Ward	
B	James Ward	
B	Women	
A	Big Blue	
3	Old Walker	
3	- Williams Clark	
3	- John Smith	

Figure 3 Decatur County Frindly Indians c. 1830's.

Documents supporting Hannah as a daughter of William Hawthorn

To satisfy historical doubt about Hannah being the daughter of William Hawthorn, the Baptist preacher of Grady County GA Hawthorn Trail fame, there are several other supporting documents.

Hawthorne grant in Santa Rosa Co, FL. Robeson Co, NC, Deed Book W, p. 109. Robert Jones and wife Martha, formerly Martha Hawthorne; James Kelly and wife Milbury Hawthorne; Ebenezer Lee and wife formerly Hannah Hawthorne; and Johnathan Clibourne Hawthorne, Elias Owen Hawthorne, William Bryan Hawthorne and Joshua Thomas Hawthorne, legal heirs of the body of Mileachee Hawthorne, formerly Mileachee Cilborn, all of Decatur Co, GA, to James Blount of Co of Gadsden, Territory of Florida, for \$300. Dated 3 May 1832, Decatur Co, GA.

Also a Georgia Supreme Court legal case specifies the children of William and Maleachy Hawthorn, naming Hannah as such.

http://books.google.com/books?id=tq0aAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA966&lpg=PA966&dq=william+hawthorn+north+georgia+rome&source=bl&ots=FTaulVUvUT&sig=RbLoMgqKNIPhRb5_Kmt0qOohe9o&hl=en&ei=s3ITS_SvDIaWtgev8oTACQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=7&ved=0CBkQ6AEwBg#v=twopage&q=&f=true

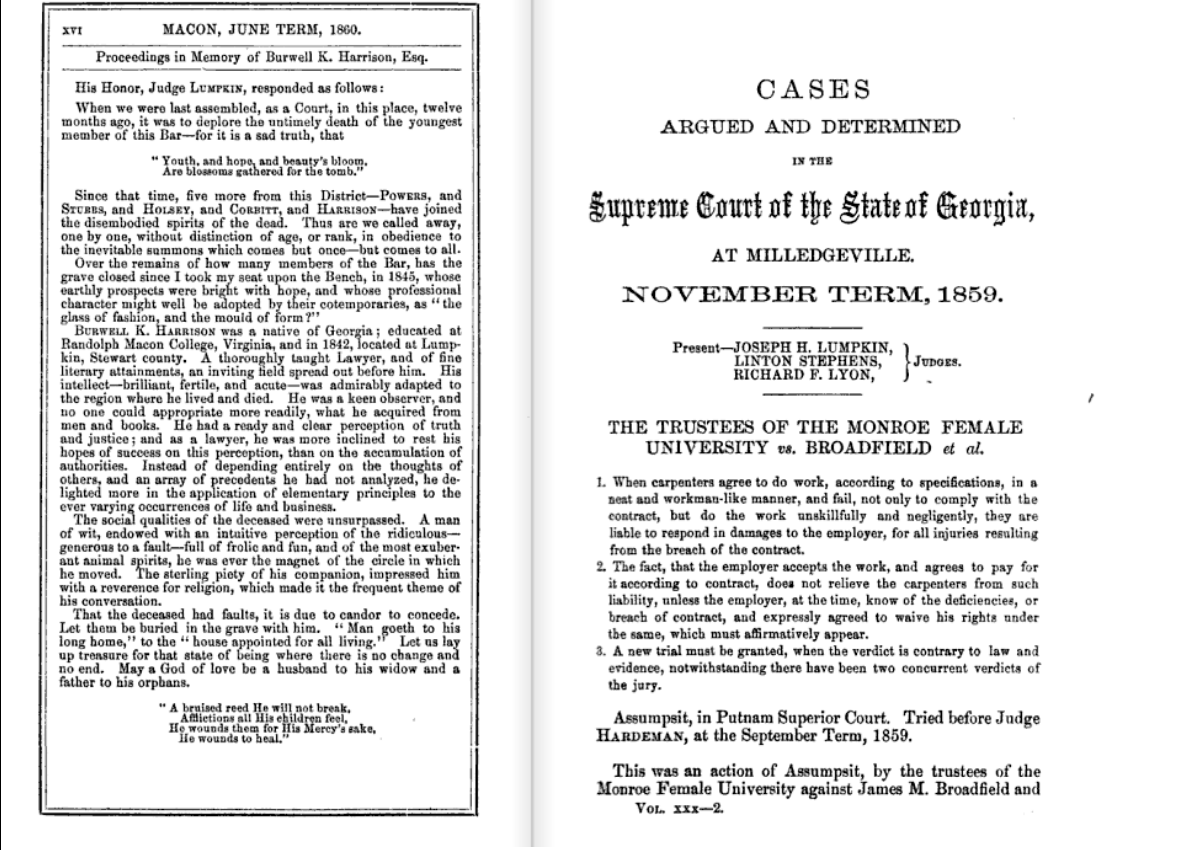


Figure 4 Hawthorn vs. Kelly (page 1)

SCOTT vs. TURPIN & VOLKER.

An appeal entered by a trustee under the Pauper Law ought to be dismissed when the affidavit states, that his inability to give security arises not from the poverty of the trust estate, but from his own poverty.

Motion to dismiss appeal, in Dougherty Superior Court. Decided by Judge ALLEN, at June Term, 1860.

Turpin & Volker brought an action against Henry A. Scott, as the trustee of his wife, Virginia A. Scott, to recover \$121.99 alleged to be due them by account.

At the December Term, 1859, a verdict was rendered in favor of the plaintiffs for the amount sued for, from which judgment Henry A. Scott entered an appeal, by affidavit, in which he states: "That he is unable to pay costs and give security as now required by law, in cases of appeal; that he is advised, and believes, that he has good cause of appeal, and that owing to his poverty, he is unable to pay the cost and give security, as required by law."

At the June Term, 1860, counsel for the plaintiffs moved to dismiss the appeal on the ground, that the affidavit did not show, that Scott's inability to pay cost and give security to enter the appeal was owing to the poverty of the trust estate in his hands, which the plaintiffs were seeking to make subject to the payment of their claim.

The presiding Judge sustained the motion and dismissed the appeal, and that decision is the error complained of.

STROZIER & SMITH, G. J. WRIGHT, VASON & DAVIS for plaintiff in error.

WARREN & WARREN, *contra*.

By the Court.—STEPHENS, J., delivering the opinion.

This was an appeal under the Pauper Law by a trustee. We think that the appeal was properly dismissed upon the ground, that the affidavit did not state that his inability to give security arose from the poverty of the trust estate. It

stated that he was unable from his *own* poverty. If he had given security, it would have been *as trustee*, the security undertaking, not for him, but for the estate; and we don't see what his individual poverty had to do with the matter. The security would have become responsible for nothing but the eventual solvency of the estate, which might depend, to be sure, upon the fidelity of the trustee, but not at all upon his riches.

Judgment affirmed.

HAWTHORN vs. KELLY.

A ne exeat will be dissolved when there is other relief more appropriate to the case.

In Equity, in Decatur Superior Court. Decision on Demurrer, made by Judge ALLEN, at October Term, 1859.

The record in this case presents the facts following, that is to say:

John Hawthorn executed a deed, of which the following is a copy:

"This indenture, made the 9th day of May, 1814, between John Hawthorn, Sr., of the one part, and the children of William Hawthorn (the son of said John) and his wife, Melitia, of the other part, *witnesseth*: That the said John Hawthorn, for and in consideration of the natural love and affection which he hath toward William and his wife, Melitia, with their children, hath lent unto the said William and Melitia a negro girl named Kate, and her increase, during the natural lifetime of the said William and Melitia Hawthorn. The above loan is here to be understood, that the said William and Melitia Hawthorn stand as the natural guardians of their children during their natural life, relative to said girl and her increase, and that this be understood, that I have this day given unto my grand-children, the children of said William and Melitia, that is to say, Polly, Han-

Figure 5 Hawthorn vs. Kelly (page 2)

Hawthorn vs. Kelly.

nah, Milbury, Jonathan, Elias, Claiborne, Owen, William Ryan and Joshua Thomas, the said negro girl, Kate, and her increase, forever, free from the claim or claims of any or every person or persons whatever, so that they shall have, use and peaceably enjoy, the said negro with her increase forever, as above described, through the medium of their parents during their lives, then the above negro or negroes to be equally divided among my several grand-children above named. In confirmation of the above deed of gift to my grand-children, I hereby warrant and defend the right of the above girl and her increase in my said grand-children their assigns forever."

Under this deed, William and Melitia Hawthorn took possession of the negro and kept her until the death of William, and that she is still in Melitia's possession. The increase of the negro girl consists of nine negroes of the aggregate value of seven thousand dollars.

Melitia Hawthorn together with one of her sons, William B. Hawthorn, placed one of the negroes in possession of one Eliza Garland, who has made efforts to send or carry him out of the State, and claims a title to or interest in said negro.

Of the children mentioned in the deed, two are dead, to-wit: Jonathan and Joshua Thomas.

Milbury married James Kelly; Polly married Robert Jones, and Hannah married Ebenezer Lee.

Kelly and wife, Jones and wife, and Lee and wife filed a bill in equity against Melitia Hawthorn, William B. Hawthorn and Eliza Garland, in which the facts before stated are alleged, and in which it is also stated that they are apprehensive that the negroes, or some of them, will be removed from the State, and the rights of complainants will be defeated.

The bill prays for a *ne exeat* or *quia timet*, or other sufficient process, to restrain the defendants from removing said negroes from the State, or compelling them to give security for the forthcoming of the negroes to answer the demand of complainants at the death of Melitia Hawthorn.

Process issued, pursuant to the prayer of the bill, for the arrest of the negroes and their safekeeping, unless the security aforesaid should be given.

The defendants met the bill with a demurrer thereto, for

Hawthorn vs. Kelly.

want of equity, and on the ground that the interest or title of complainants, under the deed aforesaid, was not sufficient to enable them to maintain the bill.

After argument had thereon, the Court overruled the demurrer, and that decision is the error alleged in the record.

McINTYRE & YOUNG, for plaintiffs in error.

LAW & SIMS, *contra*.

By the Court.—STEPHENS, J., delivering the opinion.

We think the *ne exeat* ought to have been dissolved in this case, because we do not think the complainants are remainder-men in the whole property, as claimed in the bill. It is not very clear from this deed that the parents were intended to take any beneficial interest at all, and we think they were certainly not intended to take more than a joint estate with the children during the lifetime of the longest liver of the two parents, with remainder in fee to the children. On the supposition that the parents take no beneficial interest, then they were mere trustees for the children, and as there was no longer any purpose to be served after all the children had ceased to be minors, the trust ceased, and the children became entitled, and are now entitled, to maintain trover for the whole of the property, and to have bail in the action in case of danger, as alleged in this bill, of the property being removed. On the supposition of a joint estate in the parents and children during the life of the longest liver of the parents, the children are entitled to a partition of the property, leaving the surviving parent a life-estate in one share of it, together with an account of the past profits of the joint life-estate. If, after such partition, the remainder interest of the children in the part falling to their mother should be endangered, they would undoubtedly be entitled to a *ne exeat* as to that part; but the probability is, that the partition, as the matter now stands, would remove all danger. We incline to think the deed creates an estate of the latter description.

Judgment reversed.

Figure 6 Hawthorn vs. Kelly (page 3)

The third hint that Hannah could be the daughter of Maleachy Hawthorne's daughter and mother of Sarah Watson Taylor is found in the Decatur County GA land deed grantor book where Sarah is dedeed Grandma Maleachy's personal estate from Hannah in 1853.

	Wright, Wiley	11 30 1849	4 13 1850	Lot 154, Dist. 19	W.D.
	Watson, Jonathan J.	7 31 1850	6 30 1851	Lot 155, Dist. 19	W.D.
Sarah	Lee, Ebenezer, Hannah	12 1 1853	12 6 1853	Estate Malecky Hawthorn	D
Wm. D.	Owens, Daniel B.	11 2 1856	12 10 1856	Lot 137, Dist. 19	W.D.

Figure 7 Decatur County Deed Book

Connection of Hawthorns and Watsons to the Taylors

The following picture of the land sale of 1853 (Decatur County District 19, land lot 177 and 143), purchased by William Taylor in 1825 and 1826, is being sold by the heirs of head of household Lucretia Taylor after her death. This shows that Henry J. Taylor would be one of those heirs. William Senior appears to be the 2nd William on the deed, but he is deemed incapable by a judge to handle his affairs, and would probably be given a child's share (this is pure speculation). All the heirs had married by this time or had their own property elsewhere. Henry J. Taylor had bought land in the Hawthorn/Tired Creek Church community.

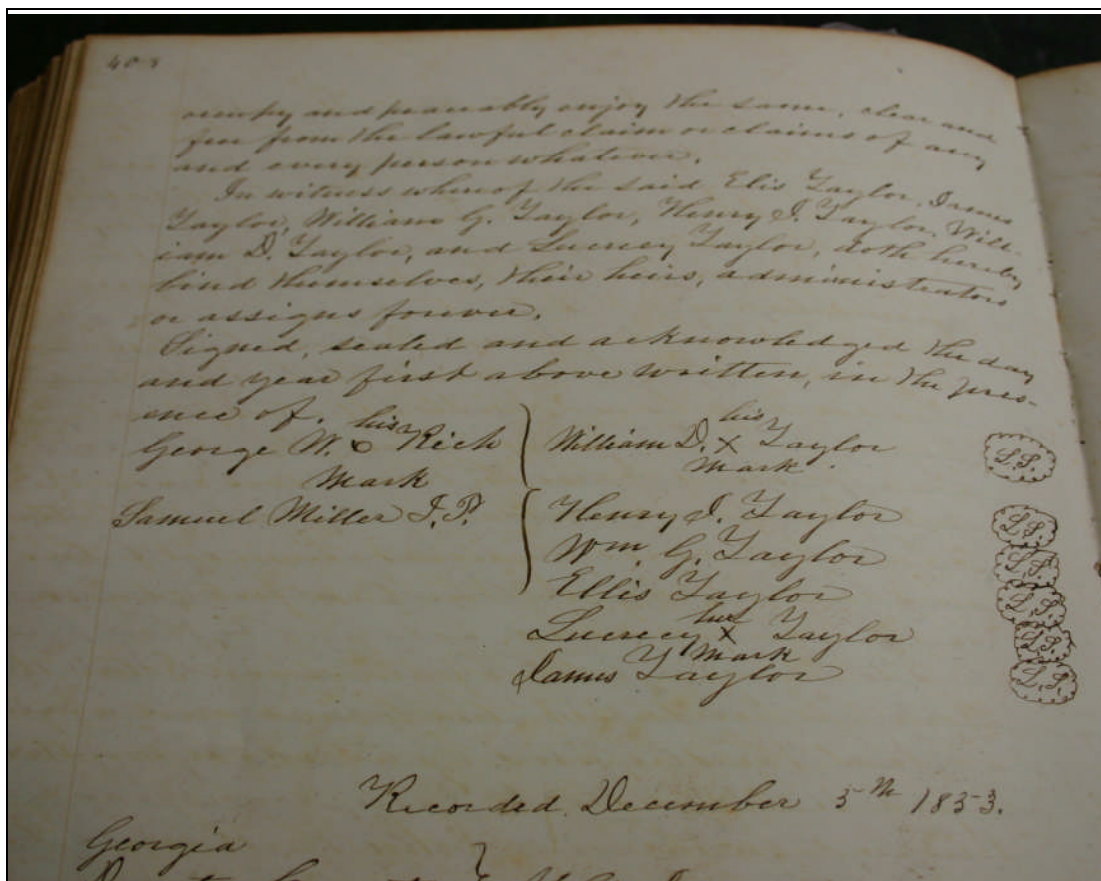


Figure 8 Land Sale by Heirs of William and Lucretia Taylor - 1853.

1860 Decatur County GA Census shows the Henry J. and Sarah Watson Taylor family (married in 1844), living adjacent to siblings Ellis Taylor and Lucrea Taylor. Henry purchased land in the Hawthorn community after the marriage to Sarah, who was the granddaughter of William Hawthorn via Hannah. It is my theory that sister Lucrey married in 1851 a William D. Taylor, possible cousin also in the 1850 census, who is not the same as her brother William D. Taylor. Again, this is another confusing branch to the family tree.

Thomas T. Taylor would have attended the Hawthorn School with his teacher George McMillen. The school was located in the Hawthorn curve on Tired Creek, due west of the Hawthorne Cemetery. Later Thomas's cousin Pearl Taylor would teach at the school. Maleachy is buried in the family cemetery (as pictured below in right corner) several hundred yards due north of the school location. The Robert Reaves Jones family cemetery is thought to be in land lot 117 due north of Maleachy's burial site.

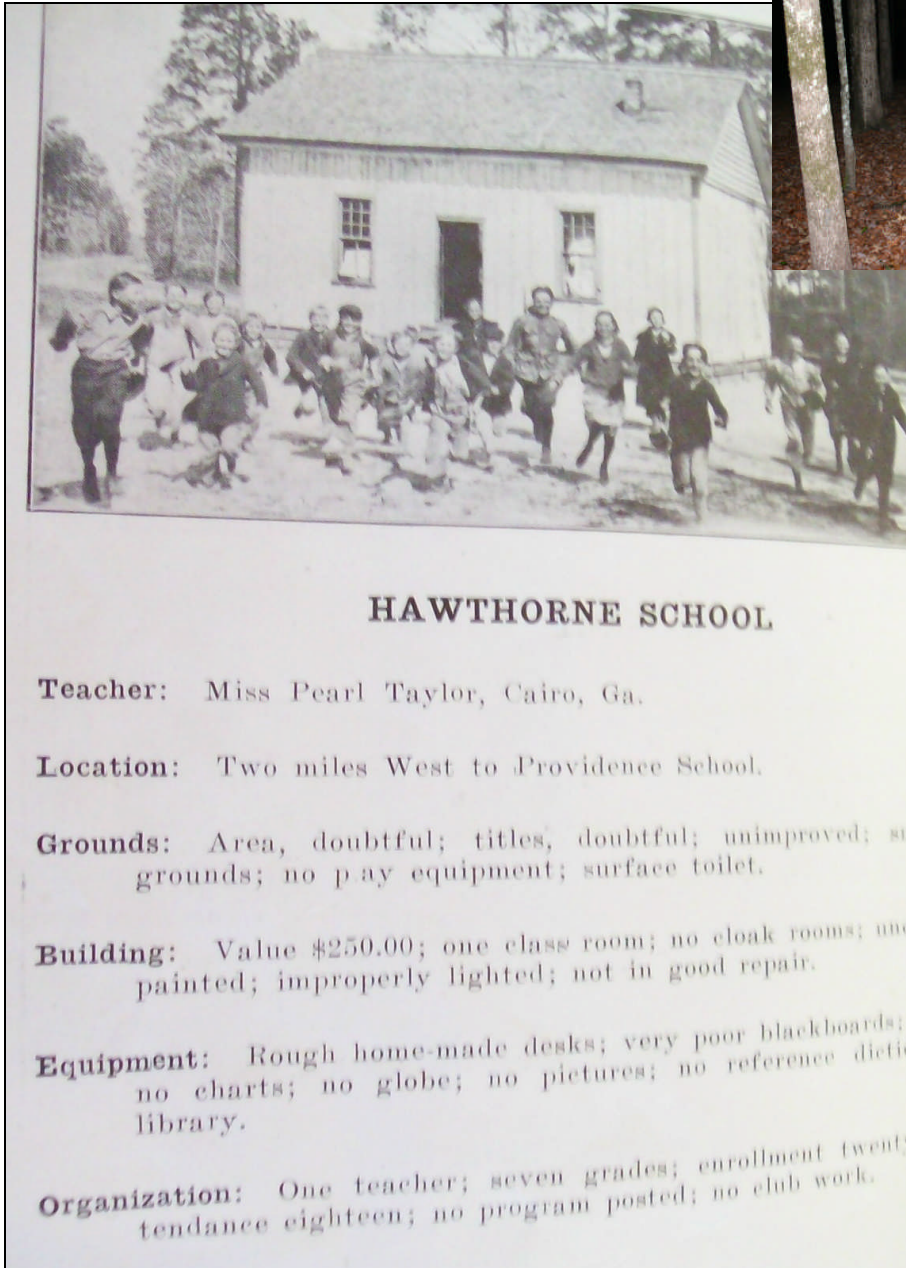


Figure 12 One-Room Hawthorne School on Tired Creek Road

Sarah Watson Taylor was not in the Decatur County GA 1870 census, with all the children living in community neighbor's homes. She most likely died in the smallpox epidemic of 1865. Henry appears not to have returned from the war, if indeed he did go to war at age 40, since there are no war veteran grave markers recognized for him in either Grady or Decatur County GA. Great grandmother mother Maleachy died in 1866 at age 99. Grandmother Hannah is believed to have died around 1860. Both Hannah Lee sons died in the war. The deaths of these kinfolk are still being researched.

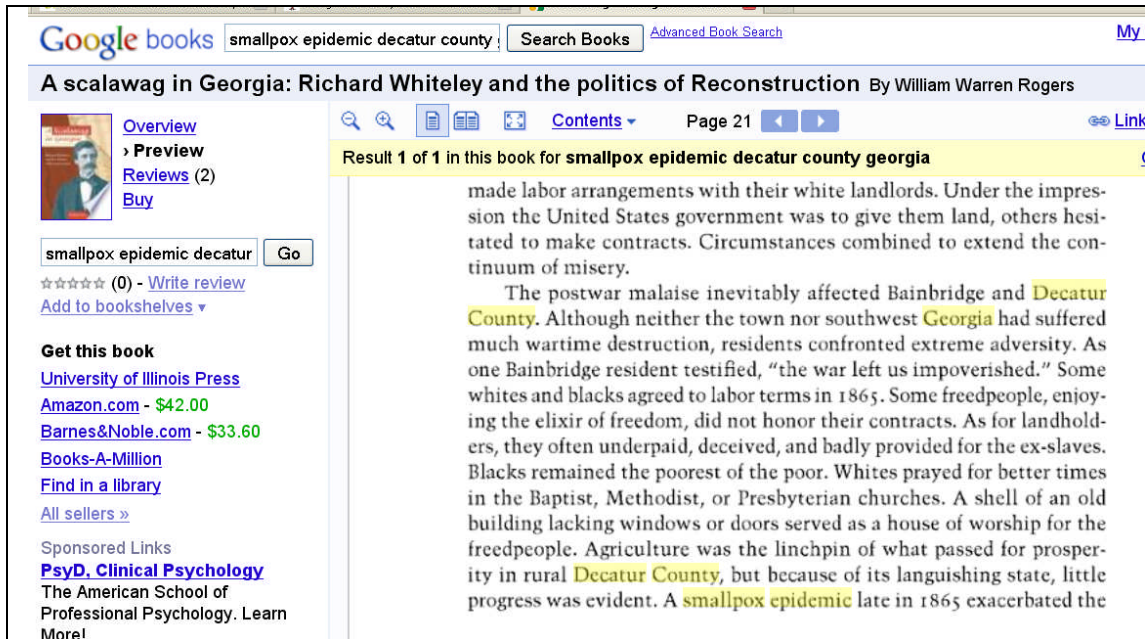


Figure 13 Decatur County GA Smallpox Outbreak in 1865

This 1870 census also supports the theory that Thomas Taylor was born about 1858, rather 1860, as shown below on his grave marker at Tired Creek Church. Also, the Thomas Taylor family Bible also shows his middle initial as "T.", rather that "E.", a fact that also may have thrown researchers off the trail of the Thomas Taylor family tree. Efforts are being made by the Douglas Taylor family in Grady County to correct the gravestone.

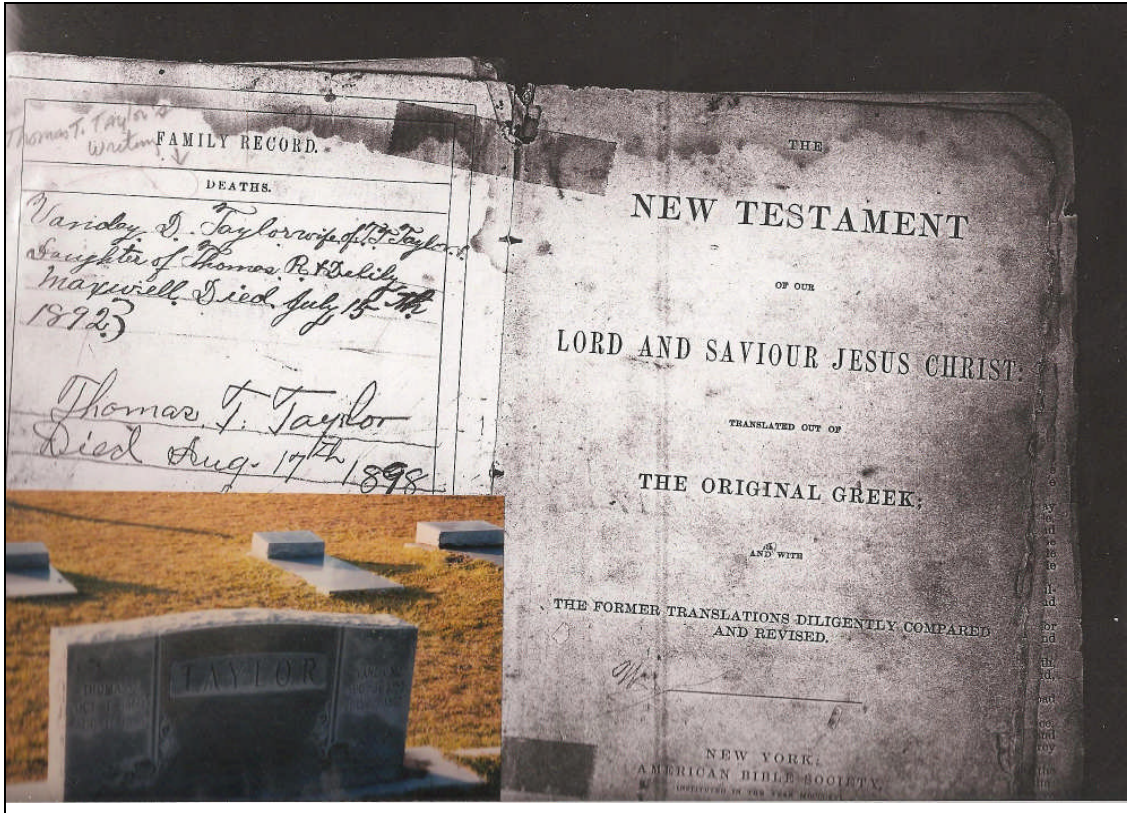
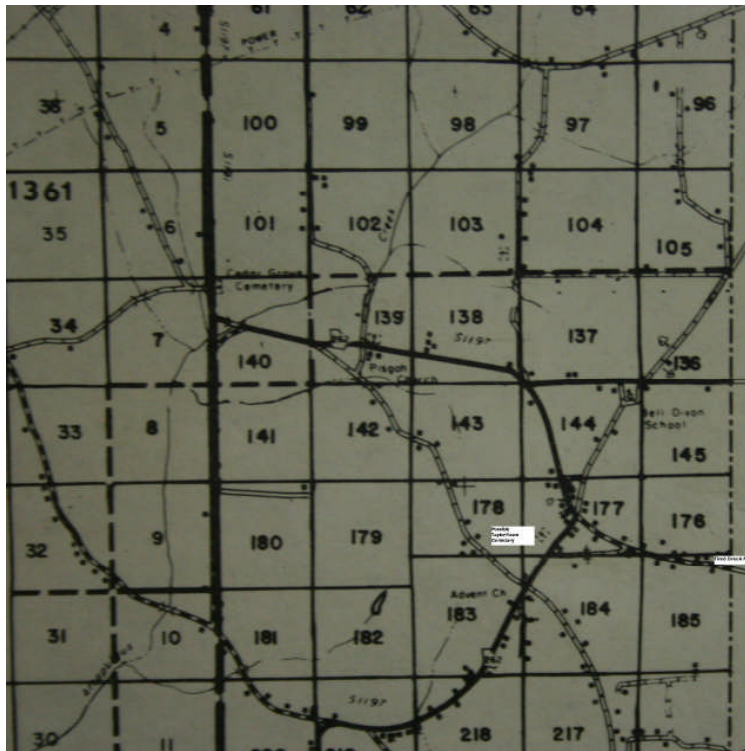


Figure 14 Wrong Initial on Thomas T. Taylor Headstone at Tired Creek Church

The next great adventure is to verify and care for the recently found family cemetery of ancestors William and Luctetia Taylor, discovered on Dist 19 LL 177 on the west end of Tired Creek Road near Fewells store.

The discoveries of the lost decades of the Taylor family along Tired Creek Road have allowed the family tree to grow back through the 1800's. As well, untold stories of the family hardships can be imagined. All suggestions and counterpoints are truly welcome.



Appendix 1. The Douglas E. Taylor family in the 1800's – pedigree and map

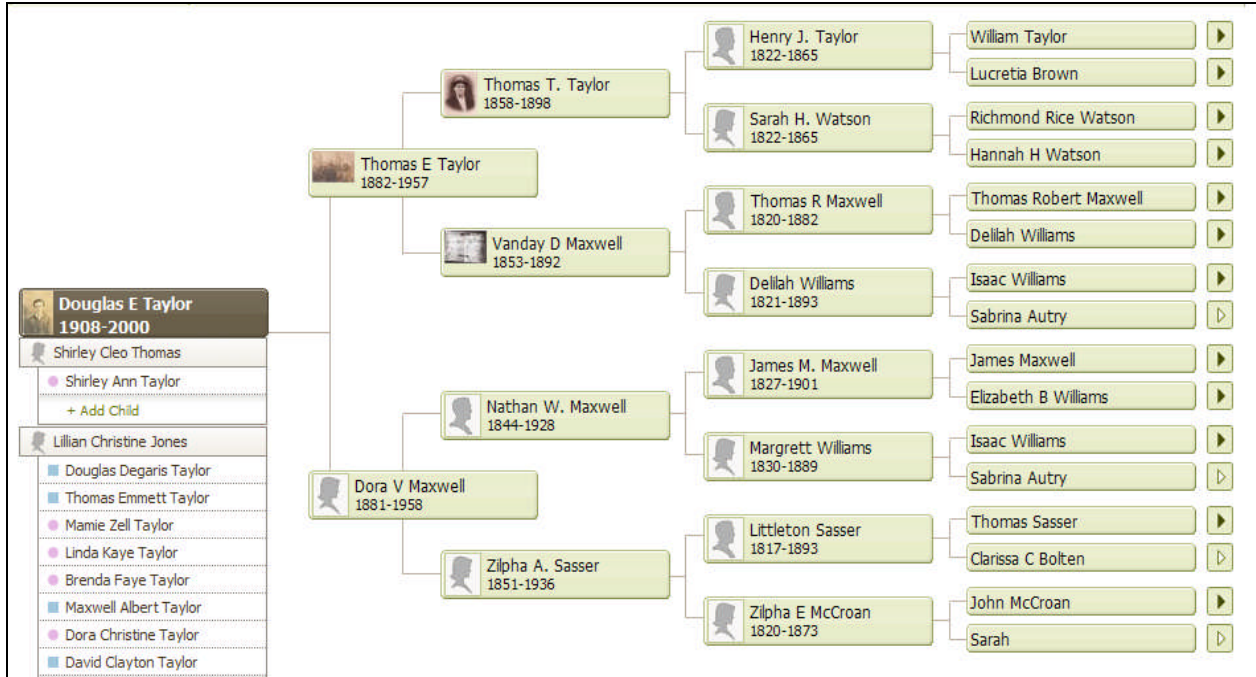


Figure 15 The Taylors from the Paternal Taylor Line

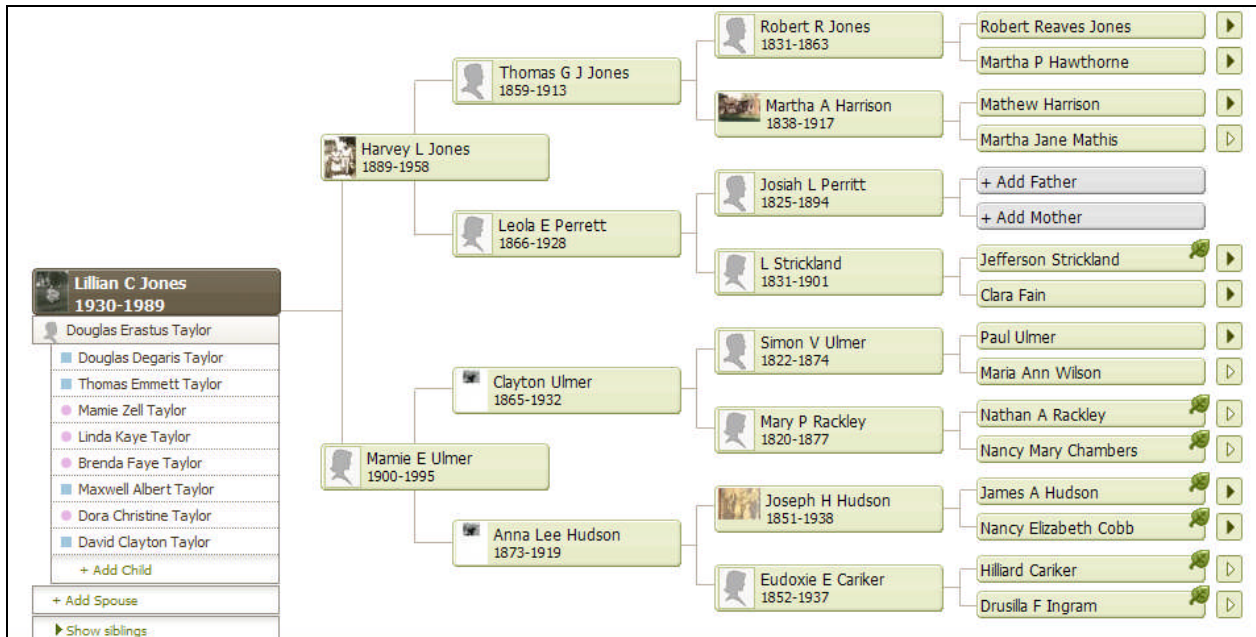


Figure 16 The Taylors from the maternal Jones Line

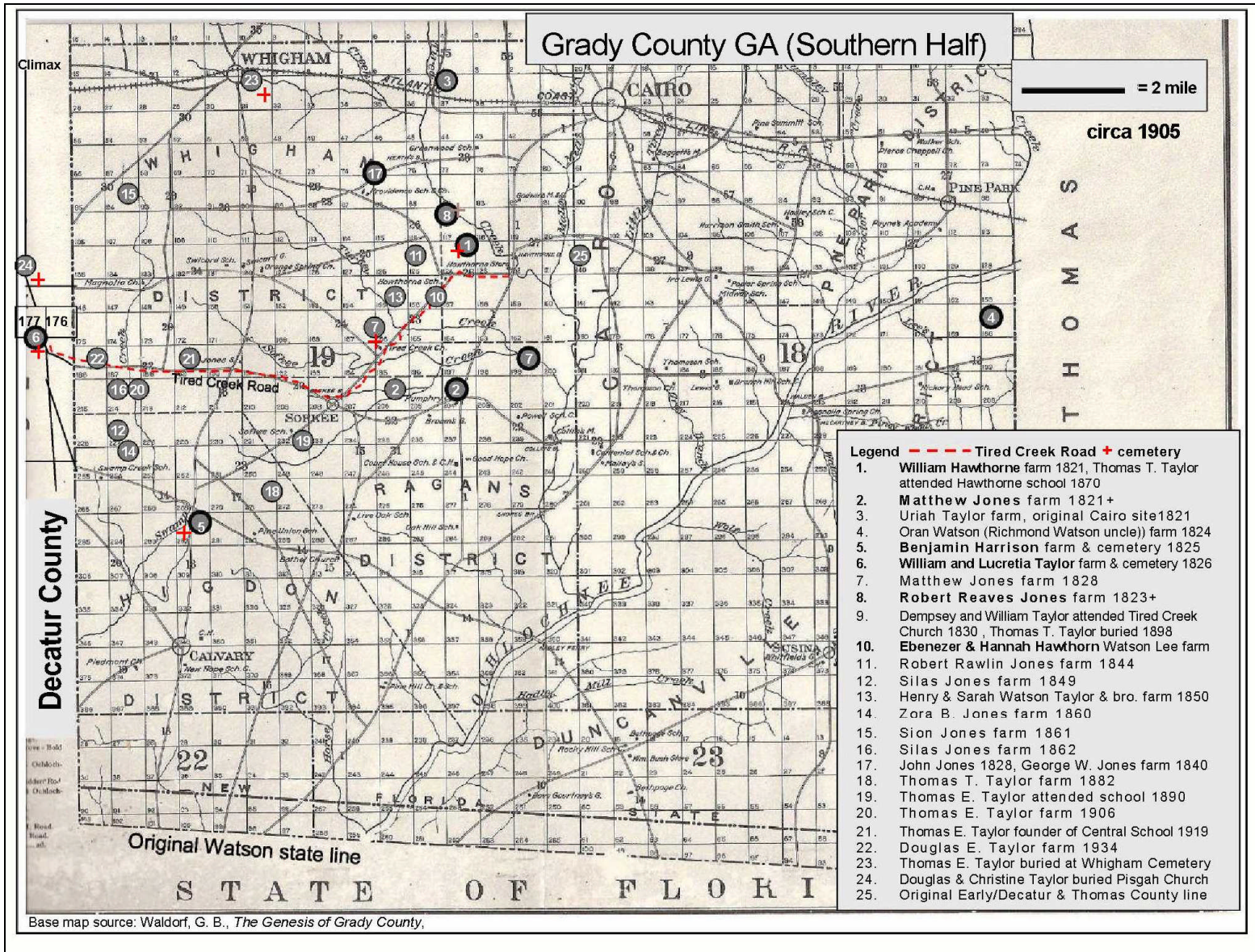


Figure 17 Map of Tired Creek Road in Decatur/Grady County GA in 1800's