

MY DILL ANCESTORS by Ellis Harold Dill

Origin of the Dill name

Hereditary surnames are a comparatively recent development in Europe. Most People had only one name prior to about 1100. As the population grew, individuals came to be distinguished by occupation, location, patronymic, or physical characteristics. When William the Conqueror invaded England in 1066 he ordered his new subjects who went by only one name to adopt surnames. The Normans possessed both given names and surnames, and the same system was ordered for the English so as to keep an accurate record of them.

There are indications that the earliest Dill families are of Danish origin.¹ Descendants appear to have migrated to many other countries, including Germany, Switzerland, Holland, England, Scotland, Ireland, Australia, and America. Various spellings have evolved including phonetic endings, diminutives, Patronymics or compounds: Dillec, Dillen, Dilling, Dils, Dills, Dille, Dilly, Dillemann, Dillery, and maybe Diehl, Deal, Dale, Dell, etc. They all lead back to the stem of Dill or Till. The final *s* may have been added to show possession or inclusion and later retained by the family so recorded. The final *e* may have been retained in Germany where all letters are sounded. Diehl or Deal is more the way Dill would be pronounced in much of Europe. The most common and doubtless basic spelling in English is Dill, which has become the adopted form in Germany and Switzerland too. A possible explanation for the origin of the name is given in the book *Surnames as a Science* by Robert Ferguson.² On pages 24, 139 and 140 Ferguson refers to the Anglo-Saxon word dill/till as meaning bonus (good), praestans (excellent). The Anglo-Saxon dictionary of Bosworth and Toller is even more explicit in its translation for the word til/till.³

There are early records of the Dill name in Scotland:⁴ A Thomas Dill witnessed a charter by John Skinner, Burgess of Inverness, about 1360. A Marjorie Dyll held land in "Invernys" in 1361. Some Dill names occur early in the history of America: Rachel Dill arrived in Virginia in 1637.⁵ A Thomas Dill is listed as a resident of Lancaster County, Virginia, in 1665.⁶ Lawrence Dill arrived in the Sommers Islands (Bermuda) in 1673.⁷ Henry Dill arrived in Virginia in 1702.⁸ Annanias Dill and Wilhelm Dill arrived in New York in 1710.⁹ Daniel Dill of York was in America in 1660. Capt. George Dill, mariner, was a proprietor in Salem in 1638. Thomas Dill of Medford, son of Peter and Thanks Dill of Concord, married Mary Pierce at Woburn in 1705. Children of George Dill and Elizabeth Dill were baptized in 1687.¹⁰ No doubt, there were many others before 1710.

¹ NSM, pg. 1. Initials here and following refer to the appended bibliography.

² <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/37520/37520-h/37520-h>

³ http://lexicon.ff.cuni.cz/html/oe_bosworthtoller/b0984.html

⁴ MMJ, pg. 287.

⁵ "Accompts of the Tristram and Jane", ed. by Martha W. Hiden. *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*. 62:3 (July 1954) pp. 424-447.

⁶ MMJ, pg. 287.

⁷ Original Lists of Persons of Quality. ed. by John C. Hotten. Genealogical Pub. Co., Baltimore, 1974

⁸ Cavaliers & Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land. v.3, pg. 64. Nell Marion Nugent abstractor. Virginia State Library, Richmond, 1979.

⁹ Palatine Heads of Families. Boyd Ehle compiler. Genealogical Pub. Co., Baltimore, 1969.

¹⁰ JLD

The number of different surnames in the United States is surprisingly large. In 1790, the total population of the States was 2,505,371 and there were 27,337 different surnames. In 1964, the social security roles included 152,757,455 account numbers. A machine count covering only the first six letters discovered 1,091,522 different surnames. Thus, there are probably over 1,500,000 different surnames. The number of names which frequently occur is much smaller; but even the relatively rare name of Dill has a large number of occurrences. The Dill name ranks about 1,539th in occurrence with an estimated 17,835 individuals with that name.

The first name can also be a clue about the family. First names are called *given* or *Christian* names because early Christians changed their pagan first names to Christian names at baptism. In 1545, the Catholic Church made the use of a Saint's name mandatory for baptism, so that for centuries first names were confined to the John-and-Mary tradition. In all western countries during the Middle Ages, there were only about 20 common names for infants, and John and Mary were the most common. About one half of the population of the United States today have names derived from the New Testament: Elizabeth, Mary, John Joseph, etc. It is little wonder that one encounters so much trouble sorting out the many people with the name of John or Mary in the Dill records. In the 1600s many Protestants rejected anything associated with Catholicism and began to use names from the Old Testament: Elijah, Rebecca, Joshua, etc. We see a number of such names in the Dill records.

Middle names weren't used until the 15th Century when a second given name was used as a status symbol by German nobility. Many years passed before the practice became widespread. Middle names did not become popular in the United States until after the Revolutionary War when it was common to use the mother's maiden name.

Titles attached to a name have meanings that have changed over the years. Esquire originally meant someone much respected, one step away from a knight. Gentleman was one step down from and Esquire. Esquire and Gentleman were expanded over the years to include someone with special social standing in the community. Also Senior and Junior appended to names did not necessarily imply a father son relationship. They could have been an uncle and nephew who had the same name and lived near each other. The term cousin was widely used to mean an extended family, not just the child of an aunt or uncle.

Some Dill Family Lines

(i) One line has been spoken of as the Holland line.¹¹ A David Dill is supposed to have come from Holland as a soldier in 1689 with William of Orange. It is not proven whether he was an Englishman sent by James II to Holland, or originated in Holland, or whether the whole reference to Holland is in error. However, it would be an interesting coincidence in light of the reference to Holland as the source of the John Dill family of Caswell County, North Carolina.¹²

(ii) One Dill line descends from George Dill who arrived in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1639. Along with other members of his family, he had survived a Bermuda shipwreck. Some of the family remained there but George came on to Salem. His descendants moved south to Maryland, South Carolina, and Alabama. A descendant, Katherine Dill (Mrs. James A. Lee) reported in 1931 that her grandfather was born in Maryland in 1757, and her father was Joseph Dill of Talladega, Alabama.¹³

¹¹ NSM, pg. 1.

¹² HFD, pg. 10.

¹³ NSM, pg. 1.

(iii) Admiral Somers ship, Sea Venture, foundered on the Bermuda Island reefs in 1609, and the island became known as Somers Island to the English. Some survivors continued on to Jamestown, Virginia. Lawrence Dill arrived on Somers Island in 1673 with his wife Elizabeth and several children. He died in 1690. His will dated 16 October 1690 named his wife and children: Abraham, Joseph, Samuel, Benjamin, John, Mary (wife of George Plummer), Mariam, and Martha.¹⁴ The sloop William and Mary of Bermuda was cleared to use the York river in Virginia between October 1703 and May 1704, with John Dill the Master and Joseph Dill the owner.¹⁵ Virginia tax records from 1704 indicate that a Benjamin Dill owned 467 acres of land in Isle of Wight County.¹⁶ A South Carolina will¹⁷ dated 19 May 1731 and probated 2 Jan 1745 states: "I Joseph Dill of James Island Berkeley County, SC, a Master Mariner I will to my son Joseph all my land in Bermuda...I will to my son John all my land on James Island. The remainder to be kept for my daughters namely Elizabeth Mary and Ann Dill." These may have been sons of Lawrence.

(iv) Niclaus Till emigrated in 1736 with his wife Anna Maria Düring and 6 children to the British Colony of South Carolina. Arriving in Charlestown, Niclaus died 10 days later. But his wife and 4 children who survived the Atlantic crossing by boat became first settlers of Orangeburgh S.C. Many Till families still live in Orangeburgh today, maintaining their spelling whereas the family line back in Switzerland adopted the standard spelling of Dill for those born after 1700. Nicholas Dill, 1723, emigrated to Piney Run, Frederick County, MD in 1749.¹⁸

(v) Another line leads from Scotland to Dillsburg, Pennsylvania:¹⁹

David Dill, born in Scotland in 1605, had a son
 Francis Dill who went to Ireland and there had a son
 John Dill., who had a son
 Matthew Dill, born in 1698 in Monaghan, County Donegal,
 Ireland, who came to America in 1735 and was in York County,
 PA, by 1740, and died there in 1750

Matthew became a Captain in the Pennsylvania militia and is known in genealogy as Captain Matthew Dill. He died in 1750 and is buried in the old cemetery near Dillsburg, PA.

(vi) In his book written in 1983, Alonzo Thomas Dill²⁰ cites information provided by Miss Nancy Kinghan of Belfast, Northern Ireland, about her ancestors, as follows:

¹⁴ MMJ, pg. 288-289.

¹⁵ MMJ, pg. 289.

¹⁶ MMJ, pg 290.

¹⁷ Book 1740-1747, page 274. Probate judge Office, Charleston, SC. See "A Collection of Upper SC Genealogical and Family Records", Vol. 11.

¹⁸ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dill/werner%20dill%20ancestors.pdf>

¹⁹ NSM , pg 2.

²⁰ ATD, pg. 59.

- A1. John Dill of Tullinadale, Fannet, County Donegal, Ireland²¹.
- A2. John Dill of Corry, Ballynastocker, Fannet, County Donegal, Ireland.
whose sons are "said to have gone to America"
- A2. David Dill, b. c1650, of Glenalla, Later Aughadreenagh,
m. Catherine Sheridan of Drogheda.
- A3. Francis Dill (1695-1783?) of Aughadreenagh, m. Rebecca Anderson
- A4. John Dill (1726-1804) of Springfield, Fannet.
m. Susan McClure (1745-1807), oldest daughter of Richard McClure
- A4. Mark Dill (1742-1731) of Springfield
m. Mary McClure (1752-1796), younger daughter of Richard McClure
- A5. Rev. Richard Dill (1786-1854) of Ballykelly, Co.
Londonderry,
m. Jane Gordon (1795-1840) of Carnstroan, County Antrim.
- A6. Jane Gordon Dill (1833-1909)
m. Rev. John Kinghan (1823-1895)
(grandparents of Miss Kinghan).
- A3. David Dill, m. Anne Moore
- A4. Francis Dill (1755-)
"went to America, probably Ohio, in 1779."

In this kind of descendants chart, A1 is the principal ancestor, A2 denotes his children, A3 denotes the children of A2, etc, John (A1) is listed on the Hearth Money Roll of 1665 for County Donegal along with a David Dill. Each was charged with one hearth, the number of hearths in a building being the unit of taxation. For a more extensive list the Dill families of County Donegal, see my Dill-Gamble web site.²²

Pioneering in America

The settled area in 1700 stretched inland about 20 miles along the coasts of New Hampshire and southern Maine and 50 miles along the coasts of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. From New York an arc of settled land reached to Albemarle Sound, penetrating inland about 100 miles in south Pennsylvania and in central Virginia. Far to the south an isolated rectangle, with Charleston as its center, extended 75 miles along the coast of South Carolina and nearly 50 miles into the interior. The frontier moved slowly westward. Mississippi became a State in 1817. Texas became a State in 1845. Oklahoma became a State in 1907.

Unorganized individuals and isolated families played a greater part in this frontier advance than in the settlement of New England, although the Appalachian pioneers cooperated in an informal way in traveling, clearing land, building cabins, defending their claims, and fighting the Indians. The Scotch-Irish were effective Indian fighters and usually occupied the farther edge of the frontier.

²¹ The Ordinance Survey of Ireland, Discovery Series, Map number 2, shows Corry near Ballymastocker Bay on the Fanad Peninsula in North Central County Donegal. There is also a Tullynadall on the Fanad Peninsula. I assume that these are the modern spellings of the old place names

²² <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=dillgamble>

The Scotch-Irish

Following 1607, England, making another wrongheaded effort to cope with Ireland, settled thousands of Lowland Scots Presbyterians in turbulent Ulster to replace the natives. Three generations later they were a thriving yeoman-craftsman caste, still Presbyterian with Scots tongues, practicing intensive farming mixed with cottage industry. After William defeated James at the battle of Boyne in 1690 with the support of the English Protestants and Scottish Presbyterian colonists of the Ulster Plantation, Britain enacted repressive Penal Laws (1695-1727) designed to suppress the Irish. But these laws were also applied to Ulster. One section of the Penal Laws caused ruinous restrictions on the industry developing in Northern Ireland and this, along with the tithes for support of the Anglican Church, sorely chafed the Scotch-Irish Presbyterian manufacturers of Ulster. The Irish Presbyterians worshipped on sufferance and were excluded from all posts in the government they had helped to preserve. In addition, between 1715 and 1720 a series of natural calamities, a series of crop failures and other blows, intensified the economic problems of northern Ireland. Many of these Scotch-Irish, seeking political freedom and economic gain, became the earliest wholesale emigration of Irish to America in the 18th century. Large scale north Irish emigration to the American colonies began in 1718. Many of them arriving through Philadelphia.

Delaware

In 1682, Wm Penn divided DE into "hundreds" for purposes of taxation. The Hundreds are thought to have been groups of 10 families, figured at 10 members per family, including servants. There were originally 5 Hundreds in Kent County: Duck Creek, Little Creek, Saint Jones (which became Dover in 1823), Motherkill (which became Murderkill), and Mispillion. Some hundreds were subsequently subdivided and renamed. In a letter of 1727, the provincial secretary of Pennsylvania, commenting on the influx of "Presbyterians" from Northern Ireland through the ports of Delaware Bay, stated that "These immigrants settle generally toward the Maryland line, where no lands can honestly be sold till the Penn family's dispute with Lord Baltimore is decided."²³ By "Presbyterians", he presumably meant the people whom the British called Ulster Scots and are now referred to as Scotch-Irish. As early as 1698 Presbyterian congregations had been established at Philadelphia and in the Delaware Bay ports of Lewes and New Castle.²⁴ The Philadelphia Presbytery, which included these early congregations, tried to reach out to the settlers of Kent County, noting "the desolate [religious] condition of the people", and sent ministers to preach among them."²⁵

Early Dill families in Delaware

There is some existing evidence of the original Dill settlers. Pennsylvania records of 1713 show that John Dill owned 200 acres in Kent County near Bear Swamp²⁶ and a Kent County surveyor reported in 1722 that John Dill had applied for a warrant of 200 acres near Bear Swamp²⁷ on which he had settled some years earlier²⁸.

²³ The Scotch-Irish in America, by Henry Jones Ford. New York, 1969. pg. 264

²⁴ The Scotch-Irish in America, by Henry Jones Ford. New York, 1969. pg. 261-262.

²⁵ Presbyterians on Delmarva: The History of the New Castle Presbytery, by James H. Lappen, n.p. 1972, p. 6.

²⁶ Jeter, pg. 290

²⁷ Early Pennsylvania Land Records, Minutes of the Board of Property for the Province of Pennsylvania. ed. William Henry Egle. Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1976

²⁸ Margaret McDonald Jeter (MMJ) asserts that this John Dill is a son of Lawrence Dill of Bermuda (above), the same John Dill who captained the sloop William and Mary in Virginia in 1701.

William Dill and John Dill are the only Dill families listed in the record of Kent County tax assessments²⁹ for the Murderkill Hundred from 1726 through 1735. John Dill, Jr., appears in 1736. There are no surviving records for 1745-1747. John, son of William, appears in 1748. There are no surviving records for 1749-1750. The notation John Dill, Sr., appears for the last time in 1751 where his name is written in and then crossed out. Also appearing in 1751 are Solomon, Job, John (son of William), and William (his brother). The notation John Jr. appears last in 1754. William, son of William, appears last in 1754. Job is listed and crossed out in 1757. William is listed and crossed out in 1763. From 1764 on, there are several persons named John Dill. After 1767, the number of Dill families listed in Kent County grows rapidly. In the first federal census of 1790, there were eleven Dill families in the Murderkill Hundred³⁰ although several families had already migrated westward.

"The Dill Family History", by Thomas H. Dill³¹ tells of the Dills of Delaware. He was born 7 February 1839 in Kent County, Delaware, and died 9 March 1924 in Columbus, Ohio. His principal source was "Aunt Polly" Dill, widow of Abner Dill, with whom he spoke in 1865. She resided at that time on the old Dill farm in a house over two hundred years old. Following is some information as recorded by Thomas.

"The Dill family was of Scotch-Irish extraction. Three brothers William, Abner³², and John were the first settlers. They were ship builders by trade and settled first in Nova Scotia³³, later moving to Delaware and Maryland. They came from Londonderry County, Ireland. The earliest land transfer on record for parts of the old Dill farm is dated 1705. William settled in Murderkill Neck, Kent County, Delaware, a few miles from Frederica. He married into the Barratt family."

Harry F. Dill (HFD), accepts that three Dill brothers, William, John, and Abner, settled around the year 1700 at the head of the Choptank River, in Bear Swamp, near Whiteleysburg, in Murderkill Hundred, Kent County, Delaware, about ten miles west of what is now Felton. He states that several researchers have discovered the religious preference of many Dill families living in that area was Presbyterian and that they migrated from Ireland. He cites a 1727 report of the Pennsylvania provincial office that identified several Dill families as being of the Presbyterian faith. It seems likely, but has not been proven, that these early Dill settlers were Scotch-Irish.

However, Gilbert S. Dill [GSD] states his belief that two brothers John Dill and William Dill arrived in what later became Kent County, Delaware, probably from County Donegal, Ireland, between 1715 and 1720. He suggests that John (1680-1750) and William (1690-1760) are sons of John Dill (1647-1730) [A2], of Corry, Ballynastocker, Fannett, County Donegal, Ireland³⁴. John Dill (1680-1750) had a son Edward. Edward had a son Elijah who was born on 31 May 1751.

²⁹ State of Delaware, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, Bureau of Archives and Records Management, Kent County Assessments 1727-1850. Microfilm by the American. Genealogical Lending Library. Bountiful, Utah

³⁰ Reconstructed 1790 Census of Delaware, by Leon De Valinger Jr. National Genealogical Society Publication No. 10, Washington D.C., 1954, p. 48

³¹ Written in 1918 and preserved by the Columbus Chapter of the DAR. This work of one and one-half pages is included in the book by John Lewis Dill.

³² John Lewis Dill (JLD) suggests that the name may have been Edward.

³³ The only such reference to a connection to an earlier location in the Northeast that I have found.

³⁴ Modern spelling is probably Cory, Ballymastocker, Fanad.

In his book, John L. Dill (JLD) adopts the following genealogy. John Dill (c.1680-1751), a son of John Dill [A2], was born in County Donegal, Ireland, around 1680. He came to America and married Sarah in Talbot Co., Maryland, in 1702. He died in 1751, probably in Kent Co., Delaware. There may have been brothers, or other relatives, who arrived with him from Ireland. John and Sarah had several children:

J1. John Dill (c1680-abt 1751) of Delaware

It is clear that a John Dill settled in Kent Co. Delaware before 1713. There is a recorded marriage of a John Dill to Sarah in 1702 in Talbot County Maryland, which is near the property of John Dill. It seems likely, but is unproven, this is the same John Dill and that he was born in County Donegal, Ireland, a son of John Dill [A2]. He was probably an early Scotch-Irish emigrant who arrived through Philadelphia or another port of Delaware Bay. A possible list of children is as follows.³⁵

Children of John Dill(c.1680-1751) and Sarah

name/spouse		born	at	died	at
Edward	Mary	c.1703	Kent Co. DE	1757	Kent Co. DE
				1770	Kent Co. DE
William	Mary	c1704	Kent Co. DE	1760	Kent Co. DE
				1782	Kent Co. DE
John Early(?)	Mary	c1705	Kent Co. DE		
James Brown	Mary	c1706	Kent Co. DE		
George (?) Fisher	Mary	c1708		1771	Kent Co. DE

There may have been others. William and Edward may have been brothers of John. Records show a marriage of one of those named John Dill to Mary Early on 17 June 1732.

W1. William Dill (c1704-1760) of Delaware

My family certainly descends from William Dill (c.1704-1760) of what is now Kent Co., Delaware. He may have been the son or brother of John [J1] and born either in County Donegal, Ireland, or in Kent Co., Delaware. His birth date was likely between 1680 in Ireland and 1704 in Delaware. He married Mary about 1722 in Delaware. He lived out his life in Kent County, and died there about 1760.

³⁵ JLD. See also the listing by Mel Odom at [http:// hometown.aol.com/melo0909/index.html](http://hometown.aol.com/melo0909/index.html).

Children of William [c1704-1760] and Mary

<u>name/spouse</u>	<u>born at</u>	<u>died at</u>
Job	c1724 Kent Co. DE	c1819 Maury Co. TN
John Mary /Ann Barrett	1/1726 Kent Co. DE	c1807 Greenville Co. SC
Edward	c1726 Kent Co. DE	10/11/1773 Kent Co. DE
Solomon /Rachel	6/1727 Kent Co. DE	3/1783 Kent Co. DE
William /Mary Skulley`	12/1728 Kent Co. DE	5/1783 Kent Co. DE
James /Mary Herring (widow)	c1733 Kent Co. DE	3/1790 Kent Co. DE
Sarah /Cornelius Shehorn	c1736 Kent Co. DE	
Elizabeth	c1738	
Rebecca /John Dixon	c1740	
Joseph /Nancy	c1746 Kent Co. DE	12/1819 Smith Co. TN
Philemon C.	6/1748 Kent Co. DE	c1823 Kent Co. DE

The will of William Dill was probated on 27 December 1760³⁶. It mentions his wife Mary, seven sons, and two youngest daughters³⁷. One son may be deceased. The reference to "youngest" daughters suggests that there was an older daughter. The list of goods and chattels mentions "cash by John Dill and James Dill."

Mary Dill, widow, had her estate administered in 1782. Elijah Dill (probably the son of Edward) and Nimrod Dill (probably a son of Joseph) are listed as administrators of the will of Mary Dill³⁸. The report of the administrators mentions Dill heirs: William, Job, John, Edward, James, Elizabeth, Joseph, Sarah, Solomon, Rebecca, Philemon. A copy of this document is in HFD.

Several of the sons of William [WI] migrated on to NC and SC, and his son Joseph may have settled in Smith County TN.³⁹ James was probably the first son of William to leave Kent County in search of new land. In 1754, shortly after he became 21 years of age and before he became a taxpayer in Delaware, James went to Orange County, NC.⁴⁰ A James Dill is listed as a taxpayer in 1755 in the Dan River Valley, in the part of Orange County that became Caswell County in 1777. James returned to Kent County in 1775 and married Mary, widow of George Herring. Job may have left Kent County in 1756.⁴¹ A Job is listed as a taxpayer in Bertie County NC in 1757 and a Job Dill is listed as a taxpayer in Maury County TN in 1816 but it is not known if this is the same person.

The Carolinas

In 1665, King Charles of England gave all of Carolina to eight nobles who governed for about 70 years. Carolina was divided into North and South in 1710. King George asked the nobles to return the land to him in 1729. One of them, George Carteret, Earl of Granville, refused to sell his 1/8 share; so, in 1746, what is now known as Old Granville, was cut off from Edgecombe County and given to him

³⁶ Calendar of Kent Co, Delaware, Probate Records, 1680-1800, Dover, Public Archives Commission, 1944, by Leon de Valinger, Jr.

³⁷ Dover, Delaware, Archives Probate Records, Vol A14, pages 122-123, Reg of Wills, Liber K, Folio 251.

³⁸ Dover, Delaware, Archives Probate Records, Vol. A14, pages 104-105., Reg. of Wills, Liber L, Folio 268.

³⁹ HFD

⁴⁰ GSD

⁴¹ GSD.

as his share. The counties of Caswell, Person, Orange, Vance, and Granville comprise most of that land. Orange was cut off from Granville in 1751. Caswell was cut from Orange in 1777 and the county seat was established in Leasburg. Person was cut off from Caswell in 1791 and the county seat of Caswell was moved to Yanceyville. Caswell was settled in 1850 by Scotch, Irish, and English peoples from Virginia who introduced the planting of tobacco.

J2. John Dill (1726-1807) of Delaware, NC, SC

John, son of William [W1], was born in Kent County, DE, about 1726. He married Mary Ann Barrett(?). They had children as follows.

Children of John Dill [1726-c1807] and Mary Barrett

	birth date	birth place	death date	death place
Archibald	abt 1747	Kent Co. DE	1838/39	Jackson Co. TN
Richard	abt 1751	Kent Co. DE	bef 1840	Wilson Co. TN
Anna(Mitchell)	abt 1754	Kent Co. DE	abt 1845	Greenville Co. SC
Runnels	1757	Kent Co. DE	27 Oct 1844	Greenville Co. SC
John[II]	25 Nov 1759	Kent Co. DE	7 Jan 1846	Caswell Co. NC
Stephen	9 Jan 1765	Kent Co. DE	19 Mar 1837	Greenville, Co. SC
Lydia	abt 1770	Orange Co. DE	4 Oct 1847	Walker Co. AL

About 1768, after the death of his father, John took his family to the part of Orange Co. NC that became Caswell County in 1777. The land, tax, and census records in the appendix document their location. The family remained in Caswell through the Revolutionary War. The sons Archibald, Richard, Runnels, and John (Jr.) served in the Revolutionary war as privates.

The Caswell Co. NC Historical Association states "...Pleasant Grove (a primitive Baptist Church community) was organized in 1829. Near here is where the Dill family settled in 1759 from Kent Co. DE. They were a dark complexioned people and originally came from a corner of Holland bordering on Germany.⁴² The actual date was probably later and this origin does not agree with the other reports unless it refers to the migration from Denmark to Holland to Scotland to Ireland to America.

About 1789, John and several of the sons took their families on to Greenville Co. SC. John, Jr., remained in Caswell County for the remainder of his life.

Greenville County, SC

The site of the city of Greenville, on the rolling hills above the Reedy River and Richland Creek, was once the hunting ground of the Cherokee Indians. After the French and Indian wars, when the Indians signed treaties with the English, these Indians made friends with the early pioneers. In 1777 they signed a treaty with the Governor of South Carolina and ceded the land in the northwest corner to SC. From this land, Greenville County was created. Prior to 1777, Scotch-Irish and English pioneers ventured into this Indian territory. Some had land grants from their English King and some came without grants. The settlers came in groups and settled where they found satisfactory locations for building homes. Most of the settlers came south through the mountains from PA and VA and NC, while others pushed

⁴² HFD, Pg. 10

north from the coast of SC and GA. Among the early settlers in the northern part of the county were the DILLs, Gowens, Fishers, and Howards. Jesse Morgan settled to the east near the Spartanburg line. These settlers built log forts or block houses near the Indian boundary to protect them from the Indians. The last of these on the Dill place has completely disappeared. [Bridging the Gap, by L. S. Ebaugh, 1966]. In the 1790 census, the northwest corner was called Ninety Six District. It was divided into eight census subdivisions including Greenville and Spartanburg. By 1800, these subdivisions had been organized into districts, with a small increase in the area of Greenville, that functioned like counties. They were designated as counties in 1868.

The 1790 census for Greenville Co., SC. lists the following Dill families:

<u>Given name</u>	<u>Probable relation</u>
Stephen	Son of John (J2)
Ekkels	Ennels, Renolds, Runnels, son of John (J2)
John	(J2)
Joseph	Brother of John (J2)
Archibald	Son of John (J2)
Elijah	Son of Edward the brother of John (J2)
Nimrod	Son of Joseph the brother of John (J2)

Other Dill families are located in Ninety-Six district: John, Joseph, Joseph.

Other Dill families were in the Charleston District: Sarah, Joseph, Joseph Sr.

One Dill was in the Orangeburgh District (North Part): Dill (widow). The relationship, if any, of these other Dill families to John is unknown to me.

By 1800, there were 11 separate Dill families in Greenville County.

1800 Census of Greenville Co. SC

<u>Given name</u>	<u>Probable relation</u>
Richard	son of John (J2)
Thomas	Rev. Stephen Thomas Dill
Joseph	Brother of John (J2)
Reynolds	Ennels, Renolds, Runnels, son of John (J2)
John	(J2)
Archibald	Son of John (J2)
Solomon	
Stephen	Son of John (J2)
Joseph, Jr.	Son of Joseph the brother of John (J2)
Sarah	
Arter	Arthur, son of Archibald

Stephen DILL (1765-1837)

Stephen, son of John[J2], was born 9 Jan 1765 in Orange Co. (later Caswell County), NC, died 19 Mar 1837 in Greenville Co. SC, married Mary (Polly) Pike. Their Children, born in Greenville Co. SC, were probably as follows.⁴³

Children of Stephen Dill (1765-1837) and Mary Pike

	<u>born</u>	<u>died</u>
Elijah	abt 1786	abt 1857
Frances (Frankey)	abt 1794	
William M.	abt 1795	
Charles S.	abt 1798	
Elias	22 May 1800	15 Oct 1885
John	abt 1802	
Mary (Polly)	abt 1804 ?	abt 1879
Stephen	abt 1805	
Thomas Jefferson	abt 1806 ?	
Ezias	abt 1808	
James Madison	abt 1811	
George Washington	abt 1816	abt 1876
Jesse (?)	1810-1820 ?	died as child
Benjamin Franklin.	abt 1820,	

Stephen died in 1837 without a will. There is a record of the court action to distribute his estate: The State of South Carolina: To Polly Dill, Elijah Dill, William Dill, Charles Dill, Elias Dill, Stephen Dill, Ezias Dill, George Dill, Jefferson Dill, Benjamin F. Dill, John Dill, James Dill, Richard Henson and Francis his wife, and Eben Henson and Mary his wife, legal heirs and representatives of Stephen Dill, deceased, who died intestate. Greeting: You are hereby required to appear at the Court of Ordinary to be holden at Greenville Court House of Greenville district on th 5th day of March next to shew cause, if any of you can, why the real estate of the said Stephen Dill, dece., situate in said district, containing 160 acres (more or less) on Fortunberry's Beaverdam Creek of Middle Tyger River adjoining lands of Edward Stewart, Milton Ponder and others, should not be divided or sold, allotting to the said Polly Dill (the widow) 1/3 part thereof and the remaining two-thirds in equal portions among the balance of the above mentioned heirs. Given under my hand an seal this 1st day of January 1838. Col Wm. Senter appointed guardian for Benj. F. Dill.

All heirs named in the above recorded summons consented to a division or sale except John Dill, James Dill, Richard Henson and Francis his wife, and Eben Henson and Mary his wife, who resided out of this state. They were notified by eight weeks publication in the Greenville Mountaineer. They having not appeared and objected, their consent is hereby entered as of record. March 5th 1838.⁴⁴

⁴³ [HFD] [JLD] [census]

⁴⁴ Greenville Chapter Journal, SC Genealogy Society. Per HFD.

The census data for 1790 through 1840 lists residents with the family only by age group. It is not known whether all of the children counted in the census are children of the head of the household which precludes an accurate count of the children. Census data is also often in error, but if the census data is accurate and all of the male youths are sons, we find the following results.

Census data for males of the Stephen Dill family

<u>Date</u>	<u>num. born</u>	<u>num. \geq 10</u>	<u>num. departed or deceased</u>
bef 1790	1		
1790-1800	4	1	
1800-1810	5	3	2
1810-1820	3	6	2
1820-1830	0	2	7
total	13		

There appears to be 13 sons while the list of children above shows 12. The one male born before 1790 is probably Elijah. Four males were born between late 1790 and mid 1800, while the list of children above puts only three sons (William, Charles, and Elias) in that category. There appears to have been one son born between 1790 and 1800 who died between 1800 and 1810 (assuming Elijah had left home). The five males born between 1800 and 1810 may be John, Stephen, Thomas, Ezias, and George. The 3 males born between mid 1810 and mid 1820 may have been James, Jesse, and Benjamin. Jesse is mentioned only by HFD and may have died early, but there is a Jesse Dill listed as head of the household and age 16-25 in the 1820 census. There is a George, a George W., a G. W., and a Washington in the censuses for 1820-1850, so that we cannot pin down the birth date of George. I guess George Washington was a popular name in the early 1800s.

The first census in which the actual age of the family members is recorded is the 1850 census. In the 1850 census of Greenville County, SC, we find the following.

<u>1850 Census</u>			
	<u>age</u>	<u>yr. of birth</u>	<u>son</u>
Esias	42	1807-1908	Ezias
Madison	38	1803-1804	James M.
Elijah	64	1785-1786	Elijah
B.F.	29	1820-1821	Benjamin F.
George W.	34	1815-1816	George Washington
William	55	1794-1795	William M.
Stephen	45	1804-1805	Stephen, Jr.

Given the unreliability of census data, one can only say that the census *supports* the indicated year of birth.

Mississippi

The area now included in the state of Mississippi was originally inhabited by the Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Natchez Indians, and several lesser tribes. The area was claimed at various periods by France, Spain, and England, and occupied by Spain during the American revolution. Spain ceded the Natchez

country north of the 31st parallel to the U.S. in 1795. The Mississippi Territory was organized in 1798 and became a state in 1817. The northeastern half of the state was Indian lands until 1830. The Indians gave up their remaining land in 1832 and there was a rush of immigrants to the state. Sectional friction between the Delta planters and the "piney woods" inhabitants marked the early political history. Mississippi was a center of militant secessionism and the second state to secede from the Union. It was the scene of extensive fighting throughout the civil war. After the war, Mississippi depended upon cotton for two thirds of a century and hard times plagued the state almost constantly, as the state was saddled with a one-crop economy and the share-cropping system. Not surprisingly many families sought to improve their fortunes further west.

Charles S. Dill (c1797-abt1879)

Charles S. Dill is a son of Stephen (1765-1839) of Greenville County, SC. The only information that I have on Charles is from census data and the book by GSD. I have located him in the 1830, 1850, 1860, and 1870 census records. The census data indicates that he was born in SC about 1798. He married Rebecca S. (unknown) there about 1825. The family moved to Mississippi between 1838 and 1841, after the death of his father. I have not found them in the 1840 census; they may have been on the road.

Children of Charles S. Dill (1797-1879) and Rebecca

<u>name</u>	<u>born/at</u>	<u>died/at</u>
Benjamin Franklin	abt 1826 Greenville Co. SC	
Elijah	Feb 1829 Greenville Co. SC	
Mary	abt 1830 Greenville Co. SC	
Francis (dau)	abt 1832 Greenville Co. SC	
David	abt 1834 Greenville Co. SC	
Stephen S.	Oct 1836 Greenville Co. SC	
Dennis M.	Dec 1839 Greenville Co. SC	
William H.	May 30, 1842 Neshoba County, MS	15 Dec 1910 Tarrant Co., TX
Rebecca	abt 1843 Neshoba County, MS	

The 1830 census shows him in the Greenville district, SC, with a household of 2 males under 4, one female age 15-19, and one female age 20-29. The 1850 census lists him in Neshoba County, MS, with post office at Oakland. The 1860 census (September) shows Charles in Choctaw County, MS, Oakland post office. Elijah Dill, S. S. Dill, and D. M. Dill are living nearby. The 1870 census (22 July) has Charles in Calhoun County, MS, Slate Springs post office. Elijah Dill, William H. Dill, Stephen S. Dill, and Dennis M. Dill are nearby.

These counties are all in the portion of land opened by the Choctaw session of 1830. Modern day Slate Springs is near the border between two Counties:

1860 Calhoun-Choctaw
 1870 Calhoun-Choctaw
 1880 Calhoun-Sumner
 1900 Calhoun-Webster

It may be that this is the area in which Charles and most of his sons lived. I have yet to check on the exact location recorded in the census.

A Benjamin Franklin Dill was the editor of The Memphis Daily Appeal newspaper which survived for three years on the run from Union armies during the Civil War. Editor Dill died in 1866.⁴⁵

Texas

The aboriginal Indian population of the state consisted of the crop-growing Caddo tribes along the rivers of the eastern area, the roving Comanches and Apaches who ranged over the western portion, and a number of fish-economy tribes along the coast. The area was ruled by Mexico until the Anglo-settlers won independence in 1836. It became a state in 1845. Texas joined the South in the Civil War but it was little touched by military action. It was readmitted as a state in 1870 and a long period of economic growth followed. Railroad construction boomed, farmers displaced the cowman westward, and oil was discovered near Beaumont in 1901

William H. Dill (1842-1910)

William H. DILL, son of Charles S. DILL was born in May 30, 1842, in Neshoba County, MS. He was married first to Mary J. (unknown), before 1869 in Calhoun or Choctaw Co., MS. She was born in 1846-47 in AL. William died 15 Dec 1910 and is buried in the East Oakwood Cemetery in Tarrant Co., TX.⁴⁶

Children of William H. DILL and Mary

<u>name</u>	<u>born/at</u>	<u>died/at</u>
Sarah Elizabeth (Sallie)	Abt 1869 Calhoun Co., MS	
William Dan	27 Aug 1870 Calhoun Co., MS	9 Aug 1911 Stuart, OK
Stevenson ⁴⁷	Abt 1872 Calhoun Co. MS	
Mary Ann	Abt 1875 Calhoun Co., MS	
Alice	Jul 1879 Calhoun Co., MS	
Dennis Marshall	Oct 1882 1934 Mississippi	Atoka, OK
Grover (Cleve) Cleveland	Oct 1887 Mississippi	

⁴⁵ JLD

⁴⁶ GSD II: 362

⁴⁷ GSD, II:363, list his name as Stephen but my family records have Stevenson.

William H. Dill was married a second time to Lavenia (Lulu) (unknown)⁴⁸ in 1897 in Tarrant Co. TX. She was born in July, 1867, in GA.

Children of William H. Dill and Lula

<u>name</u>	<u>born/at</u>
Henry L.	Jun 1898, Tarrant Co., TX
Claudia H.	1901, Tarrant Co., TX

William H. Dill is listed in the 1870 and 1880 census in Slate Springs, Calhoun County, MS, with wife Mary and family. In the 1900 and 1910 census, he is in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, TX, with wife Lulu and family. Dennis is not listed in either census. However, his existence is in the oral tradition and records of two separate lines of the family. Dennis is listed in the family of his uncle Dennis M. Dill in 1900 and identified as a nephew.⁴⁹

William H. Dill served in Co. D, 3rd Bat., Mississippi Infantry, from Choctaw Co., during the Civil War on the Southern side.⁵⁰ At least 24 Dill men served in Mississippi units during the Civil War.⁵¹

William and Lavenia are buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth, TX, in a special section called Soldiers Row. It is a strip of land bordering the northern edge of Calvery Cemetery deeded to the Robert E. Lee Camp No. 158 of United Confederate Veterans for burial of confederate veterans and their wives. W. H. Dill is in row 13 space 2, birth date 30 May 1842, death date 15 Dec 1910. The marker for Lavenia L. is a small one that reads Mrs. L. D. There is more information on the veterans who are buried here in an index card file at the Fort Worth Public Library. The title of the file is "Location of Burial Sites of Confederates" compiled by Dora Davenport Jones (Mrs. Jo Buck) in 1982. This card file identifies W. H. as William and Mrs. L. D. as Lavenia L. Dill. Lavenia died 10 Dec 1913. Alice married M. Dallas Dutton. She died in 1920 in Lane County, Oklahoma.

Oklahoma

The great plains of the western part of the state were populated by the nomadic Plains Indians who followed the migrating herds of buffalo. Other tribes had more fixed regions of habitation. These included Siouan tribes such as the Osage, Kansa, and Crow, Caddoan bands such as the Wichitas and Pawnees, the Kiowa, Comanche, and others. The area of the state of Oklahoma came to the US in the Louisiana purchase of 1803. It was subsequently explored by a number of traders and military expeditions. Fort Gibson was established in 1824. In 1834, Congress designated the area as Indian Territory and the property of the five southern tribes (Cherokee, Chickasha, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole) now referred to as the five civilized tribes and they were forced to move there from Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, continuing the process of westward displacement caused by European settlement. After distribution of land in the eastern portion of the territory to the civilized tribes, and land in the west to the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Tonkawa, Pawnee, Kiosas, Comanche, and Wichita tribes, there remained 1,887,800 acres in the center of the territory which was unassigned. That land was

⁴⁸ GSD, Vol. II, pg. 362. The 1900 census gives her name as Lulu.

⁴⁹ Parker Co., TX, 1900 census.

⁵⁰ GSD II:362

⁵¹ JLD

opened to homestead in 1889. In 1889, the land west of the lands of the five civilized tribes was organized into the Territory of Oklahoma and "surplus" Indian lands were opened to settlement. The tribal governments were abolished by Congress and the land distributed to individual owners in the 1890s allowing settlers to move into I. T. by purchase of land from the Indian owners. By 1904, all of the "surplus" Indian lands had been distributed and the two territories were combined into the state of Oklahoma in 1907.

William Dan Dill (1870-1911)

William Dan Dill, son of William H. Dill, was known as Dan. According to family records, He was born on 27 August 1870. He married Georgia Emma Alice LUCK, known as Allie, about 1901, probably in Indian Territory. They had five children. The 1910 census (April) lists W. Dan Dill living in Cabiniss Township, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma. Dan died from an accident on 8 Aug 1911. He was digging a well and was overcome by bad air. He fell back into the well while he was being pulled up and hit his head. He is buried in Pryor Cemetery near Stuart, Hughes Co., Oklahoma.

Children of Dan DILL and Allie LUCK

<u>name</u>	<u>born/at</u>	<u>died/at</u>
William Clyde	7 Nov 1902	10 Oct 1904
Norris Raymond	27 Apr 1905 Mead, OK	23 Dec 1965 Shawnee, OK
Leonard Alvin	10 Apr 1907 New Mexico	19 Sep 1971 Sacramento, CA
Irene	7 Jun 1909 Arpelar, OK	2 May 1991 Hillsboro, OR
Harold (none)	22 May 1911 Stuart, OK	8 Jul 1973 Seattle, WA

Allie Luck remarried to J. T. Ferguson who already had several children. They had two children, J. T. Ferguson (Jr.) and June, who died as a baby.

William Clyde Dill, died before the age of two, as a result of eating dried peas which expanded and created internally injuries.

The second son, Norris, was born in Oklahoma in 1905 and lived there throughout his life. He married Elza ROSS and had a son Morris Manuel and a daughter Darleta.

The third son Leonard was born in a covered wagon in New Mexico in 1907. The family subsequently returned to Oklahoma. He married Marvine SPICER and had two sons, Harold Alvin and Marvin Joseph. The family migrated westward in the 30's, living in Arizona and California, and ultimately settled near Sacramento, CA.

The only daughter Irene was born in Oklahoma in 1909. She married John Ferguson, son of J. T. by his first wife. They settled in Hoquiam, Washington. They had two daughters, Stella Mae and Ruth. Stella Mae died at an early age.

The youngest son Harold was born in Oklahoma in 1911. He married Mayme Doris ELLIS and they had two children, Ellis Harold and Zona Glee. The daughter Zona Glee died as a baby. The family moved west in the 30's, living in Arizona and California. They eventually settled near Sacramento,

California.

Allie married John Ferguson in AR and they lived there awhile. Elza and Norris were married in AR while Elza was teaching school. The Dill children did not get on well with John Ferguson. At one point, Irene took money from John's pocket to send Harold to stay with his grandfather LUCK. Harold was about 7 or 8 and he planned to catch the train back to OK. However neighbors saw him and he had to return home. Later his mother let him go since he wanted to so badly. She pinned a note on him with his name and destination, but Harold pulled it off as soon as he was out of sight. At 13, Harold went to live with Mattie and Zed Logan, south of MeAlester, OK, who he came to regard as his foster parents.

Bibliography

NSM = "Phelps-Marshall kinship", by Nancy S. McBride, published after 1973. An excerpt of six pages is included in the book by John Lewis Dill.

THD = "The Dill Family History", by Thomas H. Dill, written in 1918 and preserved by the Columbus Chapter of the DAR. This work of one and one-half pages is included in the book by John Lewis Dill.

MMJ = "History of the McDonald, Thomasson, Biggers, Grimes, and Related Families," by Margaret McDonald Jeter, 5140 N. Via Sempreverde, Tucson, AZ, published in 1989. A copy is in the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah. (Call no. 929.273 M145j)

JLD = "A Dill Family History", by John Lewis Dill, privately published 1991, revised 1992 (110 pages). Copies may be purchased from the author: P.O. Box 19453, Birmingham, AL 35219.

HFD = "Some Descendants and Kinsmen of William Dill, Sr.", by Harry F. Dill, 1992 (164 pages). Printed by BookMasters, Inc., Ashland, OH 44805.

ATD = "Some Genealogical Notes on the Origins of the Green and Dill Families in North Carolina, Virginia, and Delaware" by Alonzo Thomas Dill, West Point, Virginia, 1983. I believe that this work is now unavailable. I have a Xerox copy of pgs. 55-90 on the Dill families.

GSD = "The William Dill Family and Relatives in America", 3 volumes, by Gilbert S. Dill, Rt. 4, Box 437AA, Jasper, AL 35501, was privately published in 1993. It was reprinted in 1997 by the Gregath Pub. Co., P.O. Box 471, Wyandotte, OK 74370. Page numbers in references are to the reprint.

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