

# DICKSON

of  
Ireland and North Carolina

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## **DICKSON Family**

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This is Manuscript Seventy Six of the Travers - Dorgan Genealogies

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VOLUME FOUR  
MANUSCRIPT SEVENTY SIX of the  
TRAVERS - DORGAN Genealogies

FORWARD

This manuscript summarizes genealogical data on one surname of interest to the author's immediate family. It is the author's belief that genealogical data should emphasize information for the immediate family, without sacrifice of utility to a wider range of interests, particularly those with future opportunity to extend the findings. Thus, some conflicting sources and alternative speculations (by others) are repeated herein, with some indication of the degree of uncertainty. All reported data are subject to confirmation, even if they appear well established, or "proven by a preponderance of evidence," as is so often suggested today. Other findings, which can only be viewed as opportunities to further research, must be taken as very tentative, or perhaps only interesting uncorrelated data. I believe the risk in including such data is outweighed by the possible value to future researchers.

The format used here is only partially familiar to most genealogists. We begin with the earliest of the subject line and list known descendants, both male and female lines, with one exception. Where the line descends to the author's immediate family via a different surname, it continues in one or more other manuscripts. Each manuscript is identified by the number prefix to the page numbers. Continuation manuscripts in the author's line are identified in the current text where the current line terminates. The outline format has been intentionally chosen to facilitate easy revision and the addition of new findings. Thus, neither the *Register System* or the *NGS Quarterly System* have been used, though some aspects have been retained. The (+) sign used in the NGSQ system identifies descendants for whom further expansion occurs on a later page, or a different manuscript. All other descendant lines are expanded in the text where the line occurs and extended down until the information is exhausted. Although less formal, and not considered particularly "user friendly" by some, this method facilitates frequent revisions. The author's manuscript is kept in a WordPerfect 5.1 computer file and is revised as appropriate on the approximate date appearing as a footer on each page.

All descendants of the first of the surname appear in caps, the author's ancestors in bold caps, and all others in mixed case. The generation number which appears on the names of ancestors of the subject surname is the number of generations counting back from the author's children (who are designated generation zero and identified only in the Travers manuscript). These generation numbers are prefixed with a minus (-) sign to indicate the count is reversed, and that the numbers increase (become less negative) as the line descends. Some will object to this rather technical elaboration, but recall that more familiar systems which count forward from the immigrant as number one, also increase as the line descends. Thus, there is a close relationship between the two systems and certain computer manipulations are simplified when the various ancestral lines of one individual are compared.

The use of elaborate endnotes may seem pseudo-scholarly to some, but this format combined with the modern word processor affords sophisticated cross indexing capabilities and automatic renumbering and re-indexing when any editing of the text is made. Finally, I wish to apologize to any who object to the inclusion of any less flattering information, as was traditionally so often omitted from 19th century genealogies. Objective research cannot select facts arbitrarily if future researchers are to benefit.

This document was prepared using the word processor WordPerfect 5.1 under the file name: DICKSON.WP and was printed on an HP Laserjet 4 printer in the internal Times Roman font. Additional copies of the latest version of this document may be obtained from: Douglas N. Travers, 1836 Oakhill Road, San Antonio, Texas 78238. The author may also be reached at 210-680-0796 or Prodigy Address: GVR533A. Copies will be provided for the document reproduction cost plus postage.











## PROLOGUE

### The Dickson Family of Ireland and Duplin Co., North Carolina

This manuscript is no. 76 in a series of genealogies of interest to the author's family. It summarizes some history of the Dickson family of Duplin County, North Carolina, which originated a line of descent through the Dyer, Poor and Neal families as described in other manuscripts. Of particular interest here is the ancestry of Elizabeth Dickson, b. 1781, of Cumberland County, North Carolina who married Robert Dyer there in 1801.

Robert and Elizabeth initiated an extensive family record beginning with their own marriage, in a bible purchased in 1803 now in the author's possession.<sup>1</sup> This bible mentions Elizabeth's full unmarried name but by the early 1900s with the death of her grandson David Morrill Poor, Texas descendants had no other record (or family memory) of any earlier Dickson history. Robert and Elizabeth arrived ca. 1809 in Louisiana but the bible mentions no earlier locale. Census research by this author traced the family to Cumberland Co., North Carolina where an extensive and well developed record of Duplin County Dickson families was found. A connection between our Texas ancestor Elizabeth Dickson and these Duplin families was not immediately established due to errors in published genealogies (cited later) and the sheer amount of available Dickson research material. Eventually evidence was found of the move of John Dickson (1765/66 - 1822), to Cumberland County from Duplin County, who proved to be the older brother of Elizabeth. Various marriages between the Dickson, Blocker and Dyer families were also found after which it became clear that Elizabeth Dickson mentioned in the Dyer bible was probably also the one mentioned in The Dickson Letters, as the daughter of Robert Dickson (1742-1790) of Duplin county.<sup>2,3</sup> The so called Dickson Letters were compiled and published in 1901 by James O. Carr, a Dickson descendant, and their complete text will be found in Appendix One with Carr's remarks on their history.

The connection to The Dickson Letters established the relevance of several published or manuscripted Duplin County Dickson genealogies cited later. This data revealed Dickson origins in Ireland, and perhaps Scotland, and something of the pattern of early Dickson arrivals in America. Some very early history of the greater Dickson family has been briefly reported by Austin Wheeler Smith in The Dickson - McEwen and Allied Families Genealogy, first published in 1945.<sup>4</sup> This history describes events beginning in 1259 when the first Dickson is reported to be a son of Marshall Hervey of Keth, who died in 1249, and his wife Margaret Douglas, daughter of William Douglas the third Lord Douglas, of Scotland. (The Douglas family is the subject of manuscript no. 6, in volume one, of this series of genealogies.) The principal subject of Smith's book is General Joseph Dickson whose specific lineage has not been identified but who was probably related to the Duplin Dicksons as will be discussed later.

Between 1955 and 1977 Harriet Dickson Reynolds of Houston, Texas wrote five important Dickson manuscripts,<sup>5,6,7,8,9</sup> and placed them in the DAR library and other locations.<sup>10</sup> Her primary objective seems to have been the family of David Dickson (1750-1830) but she carefully explored the Duplin Dicksons and other branches in South Carolina, and provided some general background regarding early Dickson immigrants. In Reynolds (1972, p. 56) she mentions several Dickson arrivals to Virginia beginning in 1635. These included William Dixon from England, Mathew Dixon on the ship *Assurance*, and later Peter and Stephen Dixon, Adam Dixon, Christopher Dixon and also Edward, Matthew, Richard and Adam Dixon. These immigrants were from Great Britain, or sometimes England, or used England as a port of embarkation. Reynolds also mentions others including the Michael and Thomas Dickson lines from Lunenburg Co., Va.,

as well as others named Robert, William, Mathew, Michael, etc. Reynolds also emphasized connections with South Carolina Dicksons, and identified other Dickson researchers interested in these families. Reynolds also mentions a brief attempt to extend her research into Ireland, particularly Counties Down and Tyrone, but without success.<sup>11</sup> The Reynolds manuscripts should be obtained by any serious Dickson researcher who wishes to extend this family.

Austin W. Smith also reports many Dickson families immigrated to America from England, Scotland and Ireland in the 1700s arriving and settling in Pennsylvania, or later in Maryland and North Carolina.<sup>12</sup> Several Dickson families first settled in Chester Co., Penn., and later moved to North Carolina. Some from Scotland lived in Ireland before arriving in Penn., and later moved to Rowan Co., N.C. As stated earlier, Smith was unable to identify General Joseph Dickson's father but says the general was born in Chester Co., Penn., to parents who came from Ireland. This movement pattern is closely matched by the Duplin branch of the Dickson family which we know had cousins in Ireland and had also lived in Chester Co., Pennsylvania.<sup>13</sup>

The early portion of the specific genealogy reported herein was derived from a source identified by Reynolds in 1972, and Snyder and Sawyer in 1982, cited later. This was a memorandum generated in 1834 by one Samuel Henry Dickson in South Carolina.<sup>14</sup> The sources used to create this memorandum are unknown. They may have been written, oral, or both, but we know from The Dickson Letters that the Duplin branch of the family corresponded, probably many times, with cousins in Ireland, maintaining a close relationship. The later portion of the genealogy reported here is developed from these letters.

It is virtually certain that Elizabeth Dickson, b. in the spring of 1781, wife of Robert Dyer of Cumberland Co., N.C., was also Elizabeth Dickson the daughter of Robert Dickson, d. 1790, of Duplin Co., N.C. as will be argued later. Under the assumption these Elizabeths are the same person her ancestry can be developed from data found in The Dickson Letters and the 1834 memorandum. The Dickson Letters are in part an exchange from 1784 till 1790, between William Dickson (see p. 76-21) of Duplin Co., N.C., and his cousin in Ireland, the Rev. Robert Dickson (see p. 76-13). The letters (see endnotes 2 and 3) were published by Carr, in 1901, and again in expanded form in 1933. They were reprinted by a Duplin Co. newspaper in 1966 (see endnote no. 3). The 1834 memorandum was obtained by James Dickson, Jr., a grandson of the Duplin immigrant John Dickson (1704-1774), from his cousin Samuel Henry Dickson of South Carolina who was apparently the author. In addition to these sources various Dickson family bibles exist which contain derivatives of the same information.<sup>15,16</sup> These sources and other records have been studied by many Dickson researchers but particularly Harriet Dickson Reynolds.

Other sources supporting the early Dickson record, include a monograph written by William Dickson (see p. 76-21) of Duplin Co., in 1810 for the Raleigh Star, and reprinted by the North Carolina Historical Review.<sup>17</sup> This was reprinted again by the Duplin County Historical Society in 1987.<sup>18</sup> This monograph provides excellent background on the Revolutionary period, Cornwallis' march thru Duplin in 1781, and related events crucial to the arguments which connect Elizabeth Dickson, wife of Robert Dyer, with the Duplin Dicksons. It also briefly mentions the origins of early settlements of the upper part of New Hanover Co., before becoming part of Duplin, identifying the first arrivals as emigrants from North Ireland, and some Dutch from Switzerland. Although the main text of the monograph does not describe William's own family, the final footnote (no. 66) provides some detail of the Dickson family arrival in America and places William Dickson's birth ca. 1740 in Pennsylvania, "where his father John had arrived from Ireland in 1738." By this source, William was in Duplin by 1745.

Many other researchers have investigated the Dicksons including the family of General Joseph Dickson, of South Carolina. This manuscript does not repeat all such published or available Dickson data, but rather is limited to an outline of the author's family particularly as reported by Reynolds. However, several other researchers who have reported additional detail are identified, and the family of Robert Dickson, d. 1790, father of Elizabeth Dickson is treated herein in detail. In researching Robert's family, conflicting data were often found in secondary sources, particularly dates, and in such cases all sources are identified. Most such conflicts are in the finer detail and do not affect the more important data which establishes the names of the members of Robert's family, their order of birth, and for the most part, the identity of descendants.

Other manuscript sources of Dickson family data include: A. T. Outlaw's, "Dickson, of Duplin Co., N.C.,"<sup>19</sup> and an unsigned manuscript owned by the Duplin Co., Historical Society, titled, "Dickson Family," which is annotated "from Bessie Edwards."<sup>20</sup> (I will refer to this as the "Edwards Manuscript," hereafter.) Outlaw's 1937 ms. outlines the family of John Dickson, b. 1704 in Ireland (Elizabeth Dickson's grandfather), providing a brief summary of each of his nine children and in a few instances data not found in the other sources. Mr. Outlaw does not list sources, however, he was for many years Register of Deeds and County Historian of Duplin Co., N.C., presumably with easy access to primary sources of the Colonial period. The "Edwards Manuscript," also is primarily a summary of the family of John Dickson b. 1704, and provides extensive data on some lines of descent, more than is found in any of the other sources for certain lines. The Edwards ms. lists twelve sources on its p. 11.

Neither the Edwards or Outlaw manuscripts provide any information on Elizabeth Dickson, daughter of Robert Dickson, except her name and the implication she was the last child of Robert's first marriage. This is essentially the information found in The Dickson Letters from which all such data was probably derived. However, both the Outlaw and the Edwards manuscripts provide data on other persons in the Dickson family not found in any other sources used in preparing this manuscript. The Edwards ms. provides descendants of the McGowan family to four generations, and descendants in the Sloan, Maxwell and Bryan families for three to five generations. Copies of the Outlaw and Edwards manuscripts were furnished by the Duplin Co., N.C. Historical Society in correspondence with Mr. Dallas Herring in 1988.

Apart from the specific genealogical interest of the Author's family a primary objective here is development of the previously undocumented (except in the author's family) line of descent through Elizabeth (Dickson) Dyer, the last child of Robert Dickson's first wife, in the hope this will assist other Dickson researchers. Elizabeth was the only child of Robert, by either wife, for whom no data, other than her name and order of birth, was available from The Dickson Letters, Reynolds, or any other source, outside this family. Snyder and Sawyer,<sup>21</sup> on page 332 erroneously attribute a family to Elizabeth which supposedly included Ann Dowdy of Elizabeth City, N.C. However, Dowdy clarified this (see endnote no. 127) showing she was a descendant of Ann Dickson, not Elizabeth Dickson, and in fact, like the other North Carolina Dickson researchers, knew nothing of the further life of Elizabeth daughter of Robert Dickson.

Thus, with the identification of Elizabeth's line of descent into Texas something substantial can be said for all of the children of Robert Dickson (1742-1790), who were identified in The Dickson Letters. The family of James Dyer of Cumberland, whose son Robert Dyer married Elizabeth Dickson in 1801, is summarized in a companion manuscript to this one (no. 75) where it is shown that early Dyer descendants in Texas maintained contact with Dickson family members from the Carolinas. It is interesting to note a descendant of Elizabeth, one Bettie Dyer, married a

Dickson descendant of Gen. Joseph Dickson of South Carolina whose relationship to the Duplin Dicksons is yet to be discovered. It is hoped both these manuscripts will help future researchers who attempt to improve understanding of the greater Dickson family.

**DICKSON**  
**Of Ireland, North Carolina and Texas**

**SIMON DICKSON**<sup>(12)</sup> b. ca. 1607-08, probably in England, an officer in the Parliamentary Army of Oliver Cromwell, at age 40 or so was sent into Ireland where he settled on one of Cromwell's grants of three or four hundred acres within two miles or so of Dromore in Co. Down. At the restoration of Charles the Second (1660), the grants of Cromwell were nullified, and Simon Dickson and his family became tenants on the land they had previously owned.<sup>22</sup> The number of his children is unknown (a statement which seems to appear in all versions of the 1834 memo reproduced in endnote no. 85) but Snyder and Sawyer (1982) include the wording "It is not known how many sons Simon had but tradition says there were six,"<sup>23</sup> whereas Sawyer (1969) has "but the exact number of his children is unknown."<sup>24</sup> Reynolds' (1972) version has the wording, "but the exact number of his children is unknown, though his eldest son was named Joseph."<sup>25</sup> Reynolds further states some correspondents (not cited) stated Simon Dickson was an Ensign or Lieutenant in the Parliamentary Army, and even if born in England was of the Lowlander Scots, who were fanatically protestant and instantly supported Cromwell in his defiance of the Crown. Reynolds, in her 1977 manuscript summarized data on Simon Dickson and included the wording, "known to have lived in Dumfriesshire, Scotland and Co. Down Ireland (Northern Ireland, formerly the Province of Ulster)."<sup>26,27</sup> In any event, according to the 1834 memo Simon had:

- +1. **JOSEPH DICKSON**<sup>(11)</sup>, b. perhaps ca. 1630, in Ireland, is identified as Joseph Dickson the first. This line is continued on page 76-12.
2. According to the 1834 memo there were probably many other children who remain unidentified.



**JOSEPH DICKSON**<sup>(-11)</sup>, b. perhaps ca. 1630, is identified as the son of Simon Dickson in the 1834 memorandum of Samuel Henry Dickson of South Carolina where he is called Joseph the First. According to this source he had:

- +1. **JOSEPH DICKSON**<sup>(-10)</sup>, perhaps b. ca. 1655 in Northern Ireland. This family is continued on page 76-13.

**JOSEPH DICKSON**<sup>(-10)</sup>, called Joseph Dickson the second, b. ca. 1655 in Northern Ireland, appears in the 1834 memo of Samuel Henry Dickson as son of Joseph Dickson the 1st, and grandson of Simon Dickson. He d. at age 94.<sup>28</sup> He had:

- +1. **MICHAEL DICKSON**<sup>(-9)</sup>, b. ca. 1680-2 in Northern Ireland, d. at age 84. This line is continued on page 76-15.

In her 1972 manuscript Reynolds attempted to establish links between certain North and South Carolina Dickson families and the Rev. Robert Dickson, of the Dickson family in Ireland, who received The Dickson Letters. Her research, indicates Michael had at least one other brother:<sup>29</sup>

2. ROBERT DICKSON of Ireland who married and had:

2a. A son name unknown.

2b. The Rev. ROBERT DICKSON, a Presbyterian clergyman of Narrow Water, near Newry, Ireland, b. ca. 1728, d. 6 Oct 1804 (tombstone) or 7 Oct 1804,<sup>30</sup> at Narrow Water and was buried in the cemetery of Clonallan Church about one mile from Warrenpoint.<sup>31</sup> He was educated at the Univ. of Glasgow, Scotland, completing studies in 1756. He was licensed as a Presbyterian Minister and on 24 Nov 1765 was ordained to Carlingford and Narrow Water. Reynolds provides a connection to Wolfe Tone (1763-1798), a leader of the "Society of United Irishmen," a union which opposed the English oppression of Ireland at the time.<sup>32</sup> A co-leader of Tone's was William Steele Dickson who lived in Down and adjoining counties and whose genealogy has been published in Ireland.<sup>33</sup> The Rev. Robert Dickson was the person to whom the first three Dickson Letters were addressed. He married and had sons, two or three of whom (Reynolds, 1972, p. 11 says three, Carr says two) travelled to America carrying the letters back as a means of introduction. Carr states one of them drowned, and one later returned to Ireland. The letters were delivered to (and remained with) John Dickson of Cumberland Co., N.C. (see p. 76-42) who was the older brother of Elizabeth Dickson our principal subject.<sup>34</sup>

2b1. ROBERT DICKSON was probably an adult by 1810-12 when he visited, with his brother(s), the home of John Dickson (1766-1822) his second cousin once removed, of Cumberland County. Reynolds (1972, p. 11) says he removed to the "back country", probably South Carolina. Other sources say one of the brothers returned to Ireland.

2b2. WILLIAM DICKSON was probably an adult by 1810-12 when he visited John Dickson of Cumberland County. Reynolds (1972, p. 11) says he drowned while swimming in the Cape Fear River.

2b3. JOHN DICKSON was probably an adult by 1810-12 when he visited John Dickson of Cumberland County. Reynolds (1972, p. 11) says he was a physician and moved to Charleston, South Carolina.

2c. \_\_\_\_\_ DICKSON (female) who m. \_\_\_\_\_ Joyce. They had:

2c1. JOHN JOYCE was in Virginia in 1785 and wrote a letter to his uncle the Rev. Robert Dickson dated 24 Mar that year.<sup>35</sup>

Reynolds (1972), p. 40, speculates an hypothetical third son may link the previously mentioned Gen. Joseph Dickson of S.C., to this Dickson family. Reynolds was able to show elsewhere a family relationship existed between John Dickson of Cumberland and Gen. David Dickson of S.C. (1972, p. 40), but was unable to prove a relationship between the other Duplin Dicksons and Gen. Joseph Dickson. Her comments derive from speculations of other Dickson researchers, the similarity of family names, and the fact that the three Dicksons, John b. 1704, William b. 1710, and Gen. Joseph Dickson, were in Chester Co., Penn. before coming to the Carolinas. The family of Gen. Joseph Dickson has been published by Austin W. Smith in, The Dickson - McEwen and Allied Families Genealogy, (Cookville, Tenn.:1945), but his ancestry has not been discovered. Thus:

3. (?) A son. Perhaps, says Reynolds, the father of Gen. Joseph Dickson mentioned above.<sup>36</sup> However, Reynolds mentions thaother conjectural alternative ancestries for the General have been proposed without supporting evidence.<sup>37</sup> One, suggested by Austin W. Smith, as well as Carr (in the introduction to The Dickson Letters), is that he was the son of William (1710-15 to 1775) son of Michael, b. ca. 1680-2.<sup>38</sup> Reynolds, who is a descendant of this William, rejected this.

**MICHAEL DICKSON**<sup>(-9)</sup>, perhaps b. ca. 1680-2 in Northern Ireland, is identified in the 1834 memorandum of Samuel Henry Dickson as the son of Joseph the Second. According to Reynolds, he married Nancy Campbell,<sup>39</sup> and lived to be 84 years of age.<sup>40</sup> They had:

- +1. **JOHN DICKSON**<sup>(-8)</sup>, b. 1704 in Northern Ireland, d. 25 Dec 1774 in Duplin Co., N.C. His wife (or wives) remain unidentified.<sup>41</sup> He is the immigrant ancestor of the Dickson family of Duplin Co., N.C. This line is continued on page 76-20.

Reynolds (1969), p. 4, provides strong circumstantial evidence from land records that William Dickson (below), b. Ireland, and grandfather of Nancy Campbell (Dickson) Smith, was a brother to John Dickson, b. 1704 and therefore also the son of Michael Dickson. However, Reynolds (1972) later cites bible records in which Gen. David Dickson cited his own ancestry, calling himself son of William and grandson of Michael. This would seem more convincing.<sup>42</sup> See also the remarks below under David Dickson, b. 23 Jul 1750.

2. **WILLIAM DICKSON**, b. in Ireland, perhaps County Tyrone, perhaps ca. 1710-15,<sup>43</sup> d. 1 Jan 1775, "at his plantation in the back of N.C."<sup>44</sup> He probably arrived in America ca. 1730 and there is a 1733 land record for a William Dickson in Chester Co., Penn., which one or more of Reynolds' sources believed was his.<sup>45</sup> He was in Anson Co., N.C. by 1752 after passing thru Virginia where according to Reynolds his neighbors included the families of Gordon, Noland, Cureton, Otterson, and Aubrey. His land in Anson Co., N.C., by virtue of boundary surveys eventually became within South Carolina. Based on Anson Co., land grants Reynolds concludes his wife was Mary \_\_\_\_\_, but perhaps also a second wife, Elizabeth Dickson, daughter of John Dickson,<sup>46</sup> but Reynolds says this is unproven. This William Dickson is the one which Smith speculated may have been the father of General Joseph Dickson as mentioned earlier but Reynolds rejected this offering her own speculation (see p. 76-14). Since Reynolds is a descendant of this line and Smith is not her rejection may be well founded even if her own speculation is wrong. Based on data from her correspondants and various court records, deeds, etc., Reynolds concluded William's family included the following children.<sup>47</sup> The oldest of these may have been b. in Virginia, the younger ones were b. in Ninety Six District, South Carolina.

- 2a. **MARY DICKSON**, perhaps b. in Virginia, was granted 100 acres in Berkeley Co., S.C. on the fork of the Broad and Saluda Rivers 9 Aug 1758. On 3 Nov 1761 this same land was certified and delivered to David Dickson. She m. James Crawl (sometimes Croll), who was a protestant emigrant probably from Ireland, and moved to Georgia after 1783. James Croll was a resident of Jackson Co., Ga., in 1805. They had:

- 2a1. **MARGARET "PEGGY" CRAWL** m. 4 Nov 1789 William Cureton, Jr., in Greene Co., Ga., son of William Cureton, Sr. He was a brother to Martha Cureton who m. David Dickson b. 1750, mentioned below.

- 2b. **HUGH DICKSON**, was also granted 100 acres in Berkeley Co., S.C., in the same area on Dickson's Branch of the Tyger River 19 Mar 1772. He received payment on 24 Apr 1786 for service and was deceased by 19 Jan 1791 when David Dickson is his executor. He had Revolutionary service in South Carolina and also served in the Georgia Battalion of Minute Men.

2c. DAVID DICKSON, b. 23 Jul 1750 (old style), perhaps in Virginia, d. 23 May 1830, in a portion of Fayette Co., Ga., which is now in Clayton County. He is the principal subject of at least two of Reynolds' manuscripts. In his family bible he wrote: "Son of William Dickson and grandson of Michael Dickson." David Dickson married three times, first ca. 1784, to Sarah Otterson, b. 14 Feb 1750, probably the daughter of James and Rebecca Otterson and also the sister of Major Samuel Otterson who served in the Rev. war. It is this David Dickson to whom John Dickson of Cumberland Co., N.C., wrote on 5 Apr 1813 addressing him as General and signing himself as "affectionate kinsman." Reynolds says he was appointed Brigadier General of the Third Division in the Georgia Militia. They had:<sup>48</sup>

2c1. WILLIAM HUGH DICKSON, b. 14 Sep 1785, a twin, d. 8 Oct 1863 in Denton Co., Texas; m. 7 Jul 1810 Sarah Sanders in Oglethorpe Co., Ga., daughter of James and Elizabeth Sanders.<sup>49</sup> He was the owner of the William Hugh Dickson family bible, cited by Reynolds (1972), p. 6, which contained records derived from the content of the 1834 Samuel Henry Dickson memo.<sup>50</sup>

2c2. A twin, b. 14 Sep 1785 who lived only a few days.

Sarah died 17 Sep 1785 at age "35 years, 7 months, and 3 days." David Dickson married second, 10 Mar 1788 Mrs. Martha (Cureton) Aubrey, b. 22 Mar 1764 (old style) in Ninty Six District, S.C., d. 9 Sep 1796 in Jackson co., Ga., daughter of William Cureton and Martha Baugh, and widow of Lt. Chandler Aubrey who d. 1786 in Richmond Co., Ga. They had:

2c3. MICHAEL DICKSON, b. 9 Dec 1788 in Greene Co., Ga., d. ca. 1856 in Montgomery Co., Alabama, m. 10 Nov 1810 Rebecca Aubrey, in Jackson Co., Ga. They had:

2c3a. DAVID MADISON DICKSON, b. 12 Dec 1811 Jackson Co., Ga., d. 5 Apr 1877 Montgomery Co., Ala, m. 24 Apr 1839 Mary Ann Goss, dau of Jesse Hamilton Goss and Mary Ann Haygood in Troup Co., Ga. There were ten children in this family including:

2c3a1. JESSE HAMILTON DICKSON, b. 1847, d. 1920, m. first Martha Marinda Townsend, dau of Albert W. Townsend and Mary "Polly" McNeill. They had:

2c3a1a. DAVID ALBERT DICKSON, b. 1874, d. 1953, m. Eula Elvira Edwards, the dau of Thomas Edwards and Harriet Collins. They had:

2c3a1a1. MARTHA HARRIET DICKSON, m. Everette Reynolds, son of William Richard Reynolds and Effie DuBard. This is Harriet Reynolds of Houston, Texas, who extensively researched the Dickson family over a long period and produced the

important manuscripts cited in endnotes 5 through 9.<sup>51</sup>

- 2c3b. ELIZABETH "BETSY" POSEY DICKSON, b. 10 Mar 1814 Jackson Co., Ga., m. 20 Dec 1832 John W. Lancaster, Troup Co., Ga.
- 2c3c. MARTHA CURETON DICKSON m. 3 Mar 1838 William D. Sherrard, Troup Co., Ga. They had:
- 2c3c1. REBECCA SHERRARD.
- 2c3d. LOUISA "LOUISAY" CASEY DICKSON m. 14 Feb 1839 Thornton Fomby, Troup Co., Ga.
- 2c3e. SARAH "SALLIE EASLEY" CAROLINA DIXON (DICKSON) m. 1 May 1840 Samuel Haynes, Troup Co., Ga.<sup>52</sup>
- 2c4. WILLIAM DICKSON, b. 20 Mar 1790 in Greene Co., Ga. and d. 13 Jun in Copiah Co., Miss., m. 2 Feb 1817 Harriet Catchings, b. 10 Jan 1802 Greene Co., Ga., dau of Maj. Benjamin Catchings, Holmes Co., Miss. They had at least:
- 2c4a. DAVID CATCHINGS DICKSON was an early resident of Texas and Lt. Gov. of Texas 1853-1855.<sup>53</sup> He ran for Governor of Texas in 1855 placing second with 18,968 votes behind E. M. Pease who received 26,336 votes.<sup>54</sup>
- 2c5. ELIZABETH DICKSON, b. 16 Feb 1791, d. 16 Nov 1792 Greene Co., Ga.
- 2c6. DAVID DICKSON, Jr., b. 22 Mar 1792, Greene Co., Ga., d. 31 Jul 1836 Pulaski Co., Ark., m. 20 Aug 1810 Letitia Harris, dau of Gen Buckner Harris, Jackson Co., Ga. He was a physician, Lt. Gov. of Mississippi and a member of the 24th U.S. Congress.<sup>55</sup>
- 2c7. JAMES CURETON DICKSON, b. 10 Jul 1794 Greene Co., Ga., d. Dec 1836 Holmes Co., Mississippi, m. Sep 1817 Ann Jones, at St. Tammany Parish, La., dau of Michael Jones. James lived in Pike Co. Miss., at the time of this marriage.
- David Dickson m. third ca. 1800 Anne Allen Smith, probably in Jackson Co. Ga., dau of Charles Smith of Virginia, a Rev. soldier. Anne was b. 21 Mar 1772, probably in Halifax Co., Va.<sup>56</sup> They had six children:
- 2c8. THORNTON SMITH DICKSON, b. 21 Aug 1801 Jackson Co., Ga., d. 25 Oct 1867 unmarried. Land records place him in Fayette and Troup Counties Ga., and Randolph Co. Alabama.
- 2c9. NANCY CAMPBELL DICKSON, b. 2 Dec 1802 Jackson Co., Ga., d. 14 Apr 1894, or 14 Aug 1895,<sup>57</sup> Randolph Co., Ala., m. 23, or 29 Apr 1824, in Fayette Co., Ga., Jephtha Vinen (Vining?) Smith, b. 4 Dec 1795 in Hancock Co., Ga., d. 25 Sep 1863 at Glendale, Mississippi. He was the son of William Smith and

Mary Powell. According to Reynolds, she was the source of the maiden name of the wife of Michael Dickson, see endnotes 29, 56 and 39. She had at least:

2c9a. WILLIAM HUGH SMITH, b. 1826 d. 1899 and Gov. of Alabama from 1868 to 1870. He supported the Union cause and recruited soldiers in the northern counties of Alabama though others in his family supported the Southern cause.

2c10. CHARLES ALLEN DICKSON, b. 22 Mar 1804 Jackson Co., Ga., d. Sep 1873 probably Upshaw Co., Texas, m. 17 Oct 1833 Cassandra Wilkes, Troup Co., Ga. They had six children:

2c10a. MARTHA J. DICKSON.

2c10b. ANN E. DICKSON.

2c10c. LYDIA DICKSON.

2c10d. MARY DICKSON.

2c10e. NANCY DICKSON.

2c10f. DAVID DICKSON.

2c11. MARTHA ALICE "PATSY" EASLEY DICKSON, b. 30 Nov 1805 Jackson Co., Ga., d. ca. 1880 Commanche Co., Texas, m. 19 Feb 1826 William McConnell in Fayette Co., Ga.<sup>58</sup>

2c12. JOHN ORR DICKSON, b. 1 Jun 1808, Jackson Co. Ga., d. 1883, m. 23 Jun 1883 in Fayette Co., Ga., Mary Glass, b. 1818, d. 5 May 1847. They perhaps had four children:

2c12a. ELLEN DICKSON.

2c12b. MARY DICKSON.

2c12c. JOHN DICKSON.

2c12d. ROBERT DICKSON.

2c13. ROBERT DAVID DICKSON, b. 8 Jan 1810, d. 25 Mar 1889, m. 22 Nov 1832 Bethena Glass in Fayette Co., Ga. They had:<sup>59</sup>

2c13a. WILLIAM WYATT DICKSON, b. 25 Jun 1843, d. Mar 1925.

2c13b. SHERMAN GLASS DICKSON, b. 8 Sep 1845, d. 25 Feb 1865.

2c13c. JOHN MARSHALL DICKSON, b. 31 May 1848, d. 15 Aug 1891. They had:

2c13c1. LESTER DICKSON, a twin.<sup>60</sup>

2c13c2. LELIA DICKSON, a twin.

2d. SARAH EASLEY DICKSON m. James or John Orr,<sup>61</sup> in South Carolina and moved to Ga. She is proved a sister of David Dickson when named in his will.

2e. WILLIAM DICKSON, b. 1762 probably in South Carolina, d. 1812,<sup>62</sup> in Wilkinson Co., Mississippi, m. ca. 1784 Hannah Hughey, dau of John Hughey, Ninty Six District, S.C., and Mary \_\_\_\_\_. She (Hannah) d. 1839 in East Feliciana Parish, La.<sup>63</sup> His will mentions 5 sons and 2 daughters:

2e1. HUGH DICKSON, b. 30 Mar 1785, probably in S.C., d. 22 Jul 1842 in Louisiana, probably East Feliciana Parish. He m. first, 3 Oct 1807, Rebecca Alford in Greene Co., Ga., and second, 7 Apr 1838, Eliza Askew, a niece of his first wife, in Madison Co., Mississippi. He moved to Mississippi between 1808 and 1810.

2e2. JOHN DICKSON of East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana had his mother living with him when she died.<sup>64</sup>

2e3. WILLIAM DICKSON.

2e4. DAVID DICKSON.

2e5. MICHAEL DICKSON.

2e6. MARY DICKSON, m. Mr. Hester.

2e7. ELIZABETH DICKSON, m. Mr. Griffin.

2f. Perhaps an older son MICHAEL DICKSON.<sup>65</sup>

2g. Perhaps MARGARET DICKSON.<sup>66</sup>

2h. Perhaps, according to Reynolds (1972), NICHOLAS DICKSON.<sup>67</sup>



**JOHN DICKSON**<sup>(-8)</sup>, b. ca. 1704 near Newry, County Down, Ireland (now Co. Armagh), d. 25 Dec 1774 Duplin Co. N.C., m. in Ireland. Reynolds states he may have married twice, the second time in America. In any event, one wife was Ann \_\_\_\_\_, who died in 1774, Duplin Co., N.C., 10 months before the death of her husband. He emigrated from Ireland ca. 1736,<sup>68</sup> or perhaps 1738,<sup>69</sup> to Chester Co.,<sup>70</sup> Pennsylvania where some of his family were born. He moved from Penn., probably thru Maryland and Virginia, arriving ca. 1744 in New Hanover Co., N.C., and later lived in Duplin Co., N.C. He became the first Register of Deeds for Duplin 1749-50, later held various offices and was a member of the 1762 Colonial Assembly of North Carolina. He is called Colonel in the Outlaw manuscript. John Dickson made his will 3 Sep 1774, which was probated in 1774 and filed in Duplin Co., naming eight sons and one daughter.<sup>71</sup>

1. MICHAEL DICKSON, b. ca. 1730/31,<sup>72</sup> or perhaps 1733,<sup>73</sup> or perhaps ca. 1735,<sup>74</sup> in County Down, Ireland,<sup>75</sup> d. 19 Jul 1825,<sup>76</sup> or perhaps 19 Aug 1825,<sup>77</sup> in Pendleton District, now Anderson Co., S.C., and was buried at Pickens Chapel, now in Pickins Co., S.C.<sup>78</sup> He m. ca. 1755 Sarah Neely or Neeley, b. 1735, d. 1805, of the York - Chester area of S.C.<sup>79</sup> He came with his parents to Chester Co., Penn., ca. 1738 and afterwards moved with his father to Maryland, but by ca. 1740-50 was in Duplin Co., N.C., where it was previously New Hanover. He is not mentioned in the 1784 letter from William Dickson and probably had moved to S. Carolina, or perhaps even Ga., before the Revolution. Perhaps Michael moved "westward" in N.C., as Reynolds describes it, and by 1755 was in Orange Co., N.C. where he appears on tax rolls. Snyder and Sawyer make no mention of residence in Orange Co. He appears as a Captain in the Orange Co., Militia. On 19 Feb 1763 he was granted 200 acres and Bounty in Boonesborough Township, S.C.<sup>80</sup> He owned land in North and South Carolina and applied for land in Georgia based on his Revolutionary service, but Reynolds says he remained in S.C.<sup>81</sup> He is mentioned in the will of his father. Various sources indicate they had:

1a. JANE DICKSON, b. 1758, d. 1842, m. Nicholas Bishop, a Revolutionary soldier.<sup>82</sup>

1b. JAMES DICKSON,<sup>83</sup> b. ca. 1763, served in the Revolution.

1c. SAMUEL HENRY DICKSON. Published sources differ significantly in their description and identity of this person.<sup>84</sup> Unfortunatley, these differences are important to Dickson history and research on the 1834 memorandum cited earlier. Reynolds (1972), p. 19, says he was b. ca. 1765 Camden District, S.C., d. ca. 1835 in S.C. He was State Senator from Pendleton Co., S.C., also Justice of the Peace and Surveyor for the county. In 1825 he was made administrator of the estate of his father Michael Dickson. Reynolds does not list his children but says he is not Dr. Samuel Henry Dickson (1798-1872) of Charleston, S.C. and that Pendleton County records disprove this claim. Other sources call him "Doctor" and say he was a widely known physician. Snyder and Sawyer identify him as the one James Dickson visited in 1834 and thus the source of the important family history memorandum.<sup>85</sup> The 1834 memo stands as an important contribution to Dickson family history quite apart from problems in the identification of this person (son of Michael, b. 1730-1 or so). [I lack sufficient evidence to place this other Samuel Henry Dickson (the Doctor) in this genealogy.]

1d. JOHN DICKSON, b. 1768 in Camden District, South Carolina, d. 1831 Coweta County, Georgia, m. Lydia Tourtelotte, dau of Asa Tourtelotte and Avis Hines of

Providence, Rhode Island. Asa Tourtelotte was a descendant of Roger Williams.<sup>86</sup> They had:<sup>87</sup>

1d1. MICHAEL DICKSON, b. 31 Aug 1811, Pendleton Co., S.C., d. 30 Jan 1882 Catoosa Co., Ga., m. Sarah Hinton b. 1816, d. 1881. This line has ownership of the "Michael Dickson bible," cited in endnote no. 15.<sup>88</sup> They had:

1d1a. THOMAS DICKSON, to whom the Michael Dickson bible was presented in 1874. He had:

1d1a1. JOSEPH DICKSON.

1d1a2. THOMAS NEIL DICKSON.

1d2. ASA DICKSON was the first Sheriff of Walker Co., Ga.

1d3. LYDIA DICKSON m. as his second wife, Dr. Robert Dickerson.

1e. HUGH DICKSON, b. 1772, d. 1853,<sup>89</sup> or 1835,<sup>90</sup> was a graduate of Hampton-Sidney College of Virginia and a Presbyterian Minister in Pendleton and Abbeville Counties, S.C. He m. Frances Caldwell.<sup>91</sup>

1f. ELIZABETH DICKSON m. Jonathan Fielding, a Revolutionary soldier. Reynolds says the Fielding family accompanied John Dickson (1768- 1831) cited above, to Coweta Co., Ga. and later to Walker Co., Ga.

1g. (?) WILLIAM DICKSON.<sup>92</sup>

1h. NANCY DICKSON, d. 1807,<sup>93</sup> who Reynolds says was named for her grandmother, Nancy (Campbell) Dickson, wife of Michael Dickson.

2. JOHN DICKSON, b. ca. 1732,<sup>94</sup> or perhaps 1737, County Down, Ireland,<sup>95</sup> d. ca. 1785, probably in Abbeville Co., South Carolina. He is mentioned in his father's will in 1774 when he was 42,<sup>96</sup> although he is not mentioned by his brother William in The Dickson Letters or Carr's compilation of same. Reynolds shows he was probably living in 1784 but he cannot be the John Dickson who appears in the 1790 Pendleton county census. He had:<sup>97</sup>

2a. NATHANIEL DICKSON who had service in the Ga., Battalion of Minute Men during the Revolution. He d. before 1 Apr 1784 (he did not present his own claim to his bounty land).<sup>98</sup>

2b. JOHN DICKSON III.<sup>99</sup> Snyder and Sawyer say he is listed as John Jr., in the 1800 census and as just John in 1810 and 1820.

2c. A daughter.<sup>100</sup>

3. WILLIAM DICKSON, b. 10 Jan 1739 Chester Co., Penn., d. 20 Jan 1820,<sup>101</sup> or 23 Jun 1820,<sup>102</sup> Duplin Co., N.C., is the author of five of The Dickson Letters. He m. 29 Oct

1767, Mary Williams, b. 23 Feb 1749, d. 22 Jul 1812 Duplin Co., dau of Capt. Joseph Williams and Mary Hicks, dau of Daniel Hicks of Hicks Ford, Va., and the granddau of Benjamin Williams.<sup>103</sup> Reynolds says Mary Williams was a descendant of Oliver Cromwell through his daughter Frances.<sup>104</sup> William lost a leg in the Revolutionary War,<sup>105</sup> and was a delegate from Duplin Co. to Provincial Congresses in 1775, 1776, and one other.<sup>106</sup> During the Revolution he served in the N.C. Militia under Col. John Keenan and except for a time in the "Frontiers of S.C.," he spent all of his adult life in N.C. He was clerk of the court in Duplin Co., for many years. He wrote a detailed history of Duplin County in 1810 which has been reprinted in recent times.<sup>107</sup> They had nine children:<sup>108</sup>

3a. ANNE DICKSON, b. 6 Sep 1768,<sup>109</sup> m. William Lanier and moved to Alabama. They had three children named in her father's will plus one (William) mentioned in the Edwards ms.:

3a1. FRANCES ANN LANIER predeceased her grandfather who changed the will to make further disposition of her part. Thus she d. before 4 Feb 1817. She m. Mr. Crabb<sup>110</sup> and had:

3a1a. Daughter who d.y. before 4 Feb 1817.

3a2. MARIAH or MARIA<sup>111</sup> LANIER.

3a3. SUSANNAH LANIER.

3a4. WILLIAM DICKSON LANIER.<sup>112</sup>

3b. WILLIAM DICKSON Jr., b. 5 May 1770 in Duplin Co., d. 18 Feb 1816,<sup>113</sup> and m. Polly Gray, dau of Major Gray of Franklin Co., N.C.<sup>114</sup> He studied medicine in New York and later moved to Nashville, Tennessee where he was a physician, speaker of the State House of Representatives and later a U.S. Congressman 1801-1807.<sup>115</sup> They had:

3b1. CORNELIA ANN DICKSON.

3b2. INDIANA DICKSON.<sup>116</sup>

3b3. FLORIDA DICKSON.

3c. JAMES WILLIAMS DICKSON, b. 20 Apr 1772,<sup>117</sup> m. Eleanor Singleton, dau of Spyers Singleton, and left a will probated Jun 1815. He moved to Greene County, Alabama.<sup>118</sup> They had three children:

3c1. MARIA DICKSON.

3c2. ELIZABETH (ELIZA) DICKSON.

3c3. PATSEY JANE DICKSON.

3d. JOSEPH DICKSON, b. 28 Jan 1775, d. 24 May 1825, m. first, 23 Sep 1805, or perhaps 10 Sep 1805,<sup>119</sup> Lucy Gillespie, b. 14 Mar 1776, d. 12 Nov 1807. After her death he married 24 Nov 1808, her sister, Mildred Ann Gillespie, b. 17 Jul 1787, d. 28 Jun 1821.<sup>120</sup> They were daughters, or perhaps granddaughters,<sup>121</sup> of Major James Gillespie and Dorcas Mumford. According to the Edwards ms. he had six children, the first one by Lucy, then five more by Mildred Ann:<sup>122</sup>

3d1. WILLIAM MONTFORT DICKSON, b. 9 Aug 1808, d. unmarried 24 Jun 1827 in Tennessee.

3d2. JAMES GILLESPIE DICKSON, b. 26 Aug 1809, m. first 18 Mar 1833 Ann Clopton Gillespie by whom he had seven children:

3d2a. ALICE LOUISA DICKSON, b. 14 Mar 1834, m. Joseph R. Fonville, moved to Alabama, and died at Anthony, Florida 5 Dec 1903.

3d2b. CORNELIA V. DICKSON, b. 4 Jul 1836, m. James Stewart Devane.

3d2c. ANN ELIZABETH DICKSON, b. 4 Jan 1839.

3d2d. VICTORIA AUGUSTA DICKSON, b. 8 Nov 1840.

3d2e. JAMES G. DICKSON, b. 18 Nov 1843.

3d2f. LUCY JANE DICKSON, b. 17 Apr 1848.

3d2g. FLORENCE ADELAIDE DICKSON, b. 27 Mar 1850, d. 4 Apr 1851 in Bladen Co., N.C.

James Gillespie Dickson married second 14 May 1863, Sarah Jane Sloan and had:

3d2h. JOSEPH LEWIS DICKSON, b. 1865.

3d2i. ROBERT SLOAN DICKSON, d. prior to 1927. He married Miss McLean.

3d3. LUCY JANE DICKSON, b. 9 Aug 1811, d. 13 May 1842 in Galveston, Texas, m. 8 Oct 1835, David Russell in Duplin Co., N.C. He was of Vernon, Alabama. They had:

3d3a. FANNIE RUSSELL, m. ca. 1840 O. D. Russell in Alabama.

3d3b. DICKSON G. RUSSELL, b. ca. 1842 in Texas. [The Edwards ms. has 1843 which must be an error; see mother's birthdate.]

3d4. CALVIN JONES DICKSON, b. 13 Oct 1814, d. in 1861,<sup>123</sup> perhaps on 20 Sep, m. 26 Dec 1838 Catherine Fennell, b. 26 Dec 1821, d. 8 Jan 1886, dau of George Fennell and Eliza Bryan. They moved to the Cape Fear area of Bladen

Co. in 1860.<sup>124</sup> They had eight children listed in the Edwards ms. About 1864, one of the two sisters Lucy and Susan, lived in Sampson Co., and was caring for the younger brother Albert Pickett Dickson. They were:

3d4a. LUCY JANE DICKSON, b. 28 Oct 1839, d. 7 Sep 1871, m. James Davis.

3d4b. SUSAN ELIZA DICKSON, b. 22 May 1841, d. 10 Apr 1906, m. Manchester M. Killett.

3d4c. JAMES WILLIAM DICKSON, b. 5 Mar 1843, m. first, in the fall of 1868, Fannie Powell and second Mollie Barden. He studied for the ministry and joined the Confederate Army at age 17 but returned home in 1861 at the death of his father. He was captured at the fall of Ft. Fisher and imprisoned at Governor's Island, New York<sup>125</sup>

3d4d. CATHERINE FENNELL DICKSON, b. 29 Mar 1844, died unmarried 27 Feb 1870.

3d4e. JOSEPH LEWIS DICKSON, b. 17 Feb 1848, d. unmarried 27 Feb 1870.

3d4f. GEORGE ROBERT DICKSON, b. 14 Jan 1849, d. 5 Jan 1922, never married, was called Robert by his younger brother.

3d4g. JOHN BRYAN DICKSON, b. 6 Mar 1851, d. 6 Apr 1925. He lived at Carver's Creek, Bladen Co., N.C. He left a well written 12 page monograph describing some early history of his family and events of the Civil War.<sup>126</sup>

3d4h. ALBERT PICKETT DICKSON, b. 23 Oct 1853, d. 13 Apr 1921, m. Frances Wyatt DeVane, b. 17 Jul 1858, d. 8 Nov 1943, dau of Thomas Wyatt DeVane and Charity Frances Murphy.<sup>127</sup> He was a doctor and grandfather of Ann (Elliott) Dowdy, of Elizabeth City, N.C., who furnished data on the family of Robert Dickson, d. 1790.

3d4h1. FLORENCE ISABEL DICKSON, b. 2 Aug 1895, d. 18 Nov 1966, m. William Henry Elliot, b. 7 Feb 1893, d. 28 Nov 1968. They had:

3d4h1a. ANN ELLIOT, b. 14 Mar 1921, m. W. F. Dowdy, b. 14 Jun 1917 and contributed important data to this genealogy. They had:

3d4h1a1. HARRIETT DOWDY, b. 7 Oct 1954, m. Joel Michael Marcus, b. 31 Oct 1954 of Fountain Valley, California.

3d5. JOSEPH LEWIS DICKSON, b. 20 Aug 1817, d. 28 May 1833.

3d6. MILDRED ANN DICKSON, b. and died an infant.

3e. MARY DICKSON, b. 20 Oct 1776, m. Isaac Lanier of Anson Co., N.C., and moved to Alabama.<sup>128</sup> Two children are mentioned in the will of their grandfather William Dickson, but the Edwards ms. identifies four:

3e1. WILLIAM DICKSON LANIER m. Ann Colwell and had:

3e1a. I. D. LANIER m. Ianthe de Jarnette and was living in Alabama in 1888. He was a doctor.

3e1b. MARY DICKSON LANIER m. Mr. Darwin and lived in Huntsville, Alabama.

3e2. CLEMENT LANIER died without issue.

3e3. CLARISSA LANIER m. first Thomas Boddie of Madison Alabama and had:

3e3a. GEORGE BODDIE m. Mary E. Gildersleeve.

3e3b. FRANCES BODDIE m. Dr. John Benjamin Rump of S.C.

3e3c. CAROLINA L. BODDIE m. Addison Love of N.C. and moved to Autauga Co., Alabama.

Thomas Boddie died and Clarissa Lanier Boddie m. second Samuel Henry Neely Dickson, according to the Edwards ms., a grandson of Michael Dickson and a son of Samuel Henry Dickson of S.C. They had:

3e3d. CLARISSA DICKSON m. John T. Dunlap of Arkansas and had:

3e3d1. LULA DUNLAP m. M. Lynn.

3e3d2. CARA DUNLAP m. M. J. Martin.

3e3e. CORNELIA S. DUNLAP was never married.

3e4. MARY ANN ELIZABETH LANIER m. Dr. William Gilbert Love and had six children of whom three are identified in the Edwards ms.:

3e4a. CLEM LANIER LOVE.

3e4b. KATE LOVE m. Mr. Zuninerman.

3e4c. E. R. LOVE.

3f. LEWIS DICKSON, b. 4 Mar 1778, m. 11 Sep 1815 Catherine Hill and left a will dated 11 Feb 1815, probated in the Apr 1815 term (Edwards says d. 16 Apr 1815). He inherited his father's the manor plantation located near Faison, N.C. His will names wife and two daughters:

3f1. MARTHA HILL "PATSEY" DICKSON m. 15 Jan 1828 Lemuel Durant Hatch and lived in Greene Co., Alabama. They had:

3f1a. L. D. HATCH, a Col. in the Confederate Cavalry, m. 2 Feb 1871 Willie Frederick McRee of Greensboro, Ala., and had:

3f1a1. FREDERICK McREE HATCH of St. Pickens, Fla.

3f1a2. WILLIAM LEMUEL HATCH of Perdido Bay, Ala.

3f1a3. SARAH FRANCES HATCH m. Avery Rutnam (perhaps the name is Butnam) Mattaus of Chicago, Ill.

3f1a4. CATHERINE ELIZABETH HATCH.

3f1a5. HARRIET HATCH.

3f1a6. LIDA INGE HATCH.

3f2. ELIZA DICKSON m. Moses T. Abernethy of Lincoln Co., N.C.

3g. FRANCES DICKSON, b. 20 Oct 1780 Duplin Co., N.C., d. Alabama, according to Reynolds (1972), p. 25a, or b. 20 Apr 1780, d. 4 Aug 1850 according to the Edwards ms. She m. William Rayford Pickett, b. 1777 in Anson Co., N.C., who was then of Fayetteville, Cumberland Co., N.C. They both died at Autauga, Co., Alabama. They had four children.<sup>129</sup>

3g1. WILLIAM DICKSON PICKETT, b. 1802, m. 1829 Eliza Whitman of Providence, R.I. They had:

3g1a. ELIZA DICKSON PICKETT, b. 10 Mar 1832, m. 1850 LeRoy Pope Walker of Huntsville, Ala., who was Sec. of War in the cabinet of Jefferson Davis and later a general in the Confederate Army. They had one son:

3g1a1. LEROY POPE WALKER of New York.

3g2. LOUISA AUGUSTA PICKETT, b. 1804 d.y.

3g3. ALBERT JAMES PICKETT, b. 13 Aug 1810, author of Pickett's History of Alabama, m. 20 Mar 1832 Sarah Smith Harris and had:

3g3a. WILLIAM RAYFORD PICKETT, b. 2 Apr 1833.

3g3b. MARY FRANCES PICKETT, b. 23 Dec 1835.

3g3c. MARTHA RAYFORD PICKETT, b. 18 Jan 1837.

3g3d. CORINNE ALBERT PICKETT, b. 15 Feb 1839.



- 3g3e. MARY GINDRAT PICKETT, a twin, b. 29 Apr 1841.
- 3g3f. ELIZA WARD PICKETT, a twin, b. 29 Apr 1841.
- 3g3g. SARAH JULIA PICKETT, b. 13 Jul 1843.
- 3g3h. JOSEPH ALSTON PICKETT, b. 20 Sep 1845.
- 3g3i. FRANCES DICKSON PICKETT, b. 28 Aug 1848.
- 3g3j. ALBERT JAMES PICKETT, b. 10 Sep 1850.
- 3g3k. ALSTON HARRIS PICKETT, b. 1 Nov 1853.
- 3g3l. JOHN GINDRAT PICKETT, b. 28 Sep 1856.
- 3g4. ELIZABETH WARD PICKETT, b. 9 Jul 1813 and lived in Montgomery, Alabama. She m. 1829 in Montgomery, Ala., Moseley Baker, b. 20 Sep 1802 in Norfolk, Va., who moved to Texas in 1832 and later joined the Texas Revolution. He commanded Co. D, 1st Regiment, Texas Volunteers, and was wounded at the Battle of San Jacinto. According to Reynolds he served as a Brig. Gen., in 1839 and in 1842. He died 4 Nov 1848 at Houston, Texas. They had:<sup>130</sup>
  - 3g4a. FANNIE AMELIA BAKER m. William Darden.
  - 3g4b. ELIZA LANIER BAKER.
- 3h. ELIZABETH DICKSON, b. 1 May 1788, m. 28 Mar 1897 (?) Col. (Gen. ?) Edward Ward of Onslow Co., N.C. She d. 11 Oct 1815 without issue.<sup>131</sup>
- 3i. SUSANNAH DICKSON m. Joseph Gillespie son of Maj. James Gillespie and Dorcas Mumford. Members of this family moved to Henderson Co., Tenn. One son is named in the will of his grandfather William Dickson:
  - 3i1. WILLIAM DICKSON GILLESPIE.
- +4. **ROBERT DICKSON**<sup>(-7)</sup>, probably b. ca. 1740, d. Mar 1790, probably Duplin Co., N.C., where his will was proved Apr 1790, was married twice, first to Catherine Pearsall, by whom he had seven children, and second to Barbara Sheffield (Shuffield?), widow of Isham Sheffield, by whom he had three children. This family is continued on page 76-41.
- 5. JOSEPH DICKSON, b. ca. 1740-50 in Duplin Co., N.C.,<sup>132</sup> d. 1803 Dickson Co., Tenn., m. Jane Moulton (Molton?) of Duplin Co., N.C., dau of Abraham Molton and Sarah Norris.<sup>133</sup> He served as Register of Deeds and Surveyor and represented the County in the N.C. House of Commons in 1780 and 1797. He moved to Tenn., ca. 1790-1800 with his family.<sup>134</sup> According to Snyder and Sawyer, he mentioned nine children in his will.<sup>135</sup>



- 5a. ANNE DICKSON, b. 23 Jul 1777 (or perhaps 1775 according to both Dunn and the Edwards ms.), d. 4 Nov 1837, m. 1795 (or perhaps 1799 according to the Edwards ms., citing the Pearsall Genealogy, pp. 1390-95) Capt. James Pearsall, b. 1750, d. 1812, as his third wife.
- 5b. MICHAEL DICKSON, b. 6 Oct 1777,<sup>136</sup> Duplin Co., N.C., d. 23 Dec 1859 while visiting Nashville, Davidson Co., Tenn. He m. 2 Apr 1799 Sene Williams, dau of John Williams of Southhampton, Va.<sup>137</sup> Michael and his family were living on the Tennessee River in 1815 when the Indian raid known as the Johnson Massacre occurred in 1815. They escaped in a keel boat and landed at what is now Tuscumbia, Alabama. They had:
- 5b1. JOSEPH JOHN DICKSON, b. and d. ca. 1800 in infancy according to Reynolds, but the Edwards ms. only says b. ca. 1800. Dunn says he was b. in North Carolina.
- 5b2. ABIJAH "ABISHAI" DICKSON,<sup>138</sup> b. 19 Jan 1803 at or near Reynoldsburg, Tennessee, d. 27 Mar 1836 at Goliad, Goliad Co., Texas, one of the men with Col. James Walker Fannin, whose Company was massacred on the order of Santa Ana during the Texas Revolution. He married 1827 Ann Margaret Lucas, at Franklin Co., Alabama. In late 1835 he joined the "Alabama Red Rovers," and came to Texas to participate in the Texas Revolution. He joined the Texas Army on 19 Jan 1836 as a private in the Lafayette Battalion under Capt. Jack Shackelford. Based on his service to the Texas Republic, his heirs received a grant of 600 acres in Bee Co., Texas, patented 13 Oct 1875. Reynolds identifies descendants.<sup>139</sup> The Edwards ms. says he may have been the father of Richard L. Dickson, but Dunn identifies four children.<sup>140</sup>
- 5b2a. LOUISA McINTOSH DICKSON, b. 31 Oct 1826 at Franklin Co., Alabama, d. 1914 in San Antonio, Texas. She m. 14 Jun 1846 the Rev. William Hamilton.
- 5b2b. ELIZA JOSEPHINE DICKSON, b. 25 Jul 1829, d. 1843 in Mississippi.
- 5b2c. RICHARD HOGE DICKSON, b. 13 Sep 1831 in Russellville, Alabama, d. 27 Jul 1931 at age 99, at Goose Creek, now Baytown, Texas where he was living in 1929.<sup>141</sup> He was a veteran of the Confederate Army.<sup>142</sup>
- 5b3. LOUIS DICKSON (Dunn has LEWIS), b. 23 Jun 1806 according to Reynolds (1972), p. 28, and died on the Tallahatchie River, Mississippi, while on the way to Arkansas, according to the Edwards ms. Dunn says he was b. in Tennessee.
- 5b4. HUGH DICKSON, b. 14 Apr 1808 in Tennessee, d. at San Antonio, Texas.
- 5b5. PRISCILLA JANE DICKSON, b. 19 Jun 1810 in Tuscumbia, Colbert Co., Alabama,<sup>143</sup> d. ca. 1847 at Nashville, Tennessee. She m. William Wharton according to the Edwards ms., p. 8.

- 5b6. JAMES WILLIAMS DICKSON, or perhaps JACOB WILLIAMS DICKSON, b. 27 May 1812, d. ca. 1866 at Memphis, Tennessee after the Civil War.<sup>144</sup>
- 5b7. DAVID MASON DICKSON, b. 28 Apr 1814, d. at age 18 months in 1815 on the Duck River in Tennessee.
- 5b8. JOSEPH DICKSON, b. 20 Jan 1816 in Colbert Co., Alabama, d. 24 Jan 1878 in Colbert Co., nine miles south of Tusculumbia at a place known as the Messinger Place. He m. Elizabeth Nelson, dau of Lemuel and Rebecca Nelson. They had several children including:
- 5b8a. SENE REBECCA DICKSON m. 25 Jan 1867 T. D. West.
- 5b9. ANNA D. DICKSON, b. 2 Jun 1819 in Colbert Co., Alabama, m. first Mr. Hooper and second Dr. Overton Watson. She d. in Nashville, Tennessee.
- 5b10. MICHAEL DICKSON, Jr., b. ca. 1821, d. 12 Oct 1853 at Hernando, De Soto Co., Miss.
- 5b11. LOUISA "LOU" M. DICKSON, b. 1823, married first William Harris and second 1 Apr 1858 Lafayette Moorman. She d. in Prentiss Co., Mississippi.
- 5b12. JOHN DICKSON, b. ca. 1825 is mentioned in the 1801 will of his grandfather Joseph who deeded him "negro to grandson John, son of Michael." [Edwards cites deed book L, p. 315, Duplin Co., N.C.] John d. near Augusta, Woodruff Co., Arkansas.
- 5c. HUGH DICKSON, b. ca. 1779, m. Hannah Hicks in Tennessee.<sup>145</sup>
- 5d. DAVID DICKSON, b. ca. 1781, m. 1808 Elizabeth McNairy. He served in the County Court of Dickson Co., Tenn.<sup>146</sup>
- 5e. MOULTON DICKSON, b. ca. 1783-5 was four years a county surveyor and state senator from Dickson Co., Tennessee. The Edwards ms. says he was State Senator 1821-23 and cites Goodspeeds History of Tennessee, p. 933-4. He appears in the 1820 Dickson Co., Tenn., census as head of a family in the age bracket 26-45.
- 5f. JOSEPH DICKSON, b. ca. 1770-80, Dunn says b. 1785, was married twice and lived in Montgomery Co., Tenn. He died in Mississippi at the age of 85. The Edwards ms. mentions one wife, Martha, who "survived him many years." They had:
- 5f1. JAMES DICKSON.
- 5f2. JOHN DICKSON.
- 5f3. WILLIAM DICKSON.
- 5f4. JOSEPH DICKSON III.

- 5f5. ABNER DICKSON.
- 5f6. WILSON DICKSON.
- 5f7. MARGARET DICKSON.
- 5f8. ANNE DICKSON.
- 5f9. MARTHA DICKSON m. William Trotter. The Edwards ms., p. 8 says simply "see Trotter Family."
- 5f10. HUGH DICKSON may be a son according to the Edwards ms., p. 8, citing Montgomery Co., Tenn., Will Book H, p. 213, which mentions one Hugh Dickson who d. intestate and whose estate was administered by James Dickson in the Jan term 1839.
- 5g. ABNER DICKSON, b. ca. 1786 was disabled in the Battle of New Orleans according to Snyder and Sawyer p. 292.
- 5h. ROBERT DICKSON, b. ca. 1788-1791, d. 1837, was married twice, first to Martha Toney and second to Patty Morrison. He appears in the 1820 Dickson Co., Tenn., census as head of a family in age bracket 26-45.
- 5i. WILLIAM DICKSON, b. ca. 1789 (Dunn) or 1793 according to Snyder and Sawyer. The Edwards ms. says he appears in the Robertson Co., Tenn., census of 1820.
- 6. ALEXANDER DICKSON, b. ca. 1746, d. 22 Mar 1814, Duplin Co., N.C. By his will dated 19 Jun 1813 he left no children and gave his sizable fortune to the education of the poor under the "Dickson Charity Fund," which according to Carr was dissipated through poor investments. He m. 10 Nov 1778 Elizabeth Molton but the marriage was annulled,<sup>147</sup> and they had no issue.<sup>148</sup> Carr states he moved to Virginia in 1781 and afterwards to Maryland, returning to Duplin County in 1784. He is called Colonel in the Outlaw manuscript.
- 7. EDWARD DICKSON, d. Duplin Co., N.C. Reynolds lists only one child; Snyder and Sawyer, and the Edwards ms., list three:<sup>149</sup>
  - 7a. ANN DICKSON, b. 1778, was probably married but sources disagree to whom. Reynolds (1972, p. 31) says she m. Dr. Stephen Graham (see below under Ann Williams for a similar claim), but Snyder and Sawyer, p. 293 say she m. Mr. Bryan which is more likely correct.<sup>150</sup>
  - 7b. ELIZABETH DICKSON, m. first Mr. Lewis Hicks and had one child, married second Mr. Clinton. She was living in 1860.<sup>151</sup> By her first marriage she had:
    - 7b1. SERENA HICKS.
  - 7c. REBECCA DICKSON, b. ca. 1780, d. 8 May 1803, m. Rev. Jacob Williams as his second wife.<sup>152</sup> They had:<sup>153</sup>

- 7c1. ANN "NANCY" WILLIAMS, b. ca. 1800, d. 24 Jun 1860, according to Snyder and Sawyer, m. Dr. Stephen Graham who d. 27 Oct 1834 "at age 48."<sup>154</sup> They had:
  - 7c1a. SARAH REBECCA GRAHAM, b. 31 Dec 1817, d. 17 Feb 1871, m. Owen Rand Kenan, b. 4 Mar 1804, and had:<sup>155</sup>
    - 7c1a1. THOMAS STEPHEN KENAN, b. 12 Feb 1838, of Raleigh, N.C.
    - 7c1a2. JAMES GRAHAM KENAN, b. 1839 of Kenansville, N.C.
    - 7c1a3. ANNIE DICKSON KENAN, b. 24 Aug 1843, d. 16 Apr 1906 unmarried.
    - 7c1a4. WILLIAM RAND KENAN, b. 4 Aug 1845, m. 28 Mar 1864 Mary Hargrove, b. 3 Jul 1842 and lived in Wilmington, N.C. He served in the Confederate Army. They had:
      - 7c1a4a. MARY LILY KENAN, b. 14 Jun 1867, m. 1901 Henry Morrison Flagler, b. 1830, d. 1913 when he was 71 and she 34. She was his third wife. Flagler was with John D. Rockefeller, co-founder of Standard Oil. She left the bulk of her estate (Snyder and Sawyer say over \$100 million) to her brother and sister.
      - 7c1a4b. JESSIE HARGRAVE KENAN, b. ca. 1871, Duplin Co., N.C., appears in the 1880 census for New Hanover Co., N.C. He m. Chisby Wise of Georgia. They had:
        - 7c1a4b1. LOUISE CHISBY WISE.
      - 7c1a4c. WILLIAM RAND KENAN, Jr., b. 30 Apr 1872, Wilmington, N.C., d. Jul 1964, Lockport, N.Y., m. Alice Mary Pomroy. No issue.
      - 7c1a4d. SARAH GRAHAM KENAN, b. 1876, Wilmington, N.C., d. after 1967, m. 18 Dec 1912 her first cousin Graham Kenan, b. 1883, d. 1920, a Wilmington lawyer.
  - 7c1b. STEPHEN GRAHAM, b. 27 Jun 1822, d. 1 Mar 1900 unmarried.
  - 7c1c. MARY ELIZA GRAHAM, b. 2 May 1824, d. 15 Jul 1853 unmarried.
  - 7c1d. MARTHA GRAHAM, b. 4 Jan 1826, d. 29 Sep 1827.
- 8. JAMES DICKSON, b. 9 May 1750 Duplin Co., N.C., d. 10 May 1812 Duplin. He m. first 5 May 1774, Dorothy Pearsall, b. 12 Jul 1755, d. 30 Jan 1794 by whom he had nine children, and m. second Susannah (Powell) Carr, widow of James Carr and dau of Osborn

Powell,<sup>156</sup> by whom he had six children. He was called James Dickson Sr. Of these 15 children, Reynolds identifies only six, Edward, William, Alexander, James, Linda, and Robert, but Snyder and Sawyer, and the Edwards ms., list all 15.<sup>157</sup>

8a. EDWARD DICKSON, b. 17 Apr 1775, moved to Tennessee where he d. unmarried 30 Jan 1799.

8b. ELEANOR DICKSON, b. 24 Nov 1777, d. 31 Oct 1832, m. first ca. 1795 David Sloan, b. ca. 1764, d. 1801, and married second 18 Sep 1802 John Maxwell Bond, perhaps as his third wife. Eleanor had:<sup>158</sup>

8b1. DICKSON SLOAN m. Catherine Bryan. This family is further documented in the next section under the family of Robert Dickson d. 1790, under the family of his daughter Ann Dickson who m. Kedar Bryan.

8b2. CASSANDRA SLOAN m. first 31 Mar 1817 her first cousin, once removed, Alexander McGowan, and second Daniel Cicero Moore. This family is further documented below under the family of Alexander McGowan, b. 1790, son of Mary Dickson and William McGowan.

Eleanor Dickson Sloan m. second John Maxwell and had:

8b3. DOROTHY ANN MAXWELL, b. 20 Jan 1804, d. 25 Dec 1875, m. first 14 Jan 1825 David J. Middleton, b. 1803, d. 1830, and m. second 29 Aug 1832 Henry Moore, d. 30 Aug 1851. Snyder and Sawyer carry this family, in part, three more generations.<sup>159</sup>

8b4. SARAH MAXWELL, m. 4 Dec 1824 Samuel Stanford, Jr., and moved to Carol Co., Mississippi.

8b5. HENRY MAXWELL.

8b6. MARGARET MAXWELL, b. ca. 1814, d. 9 Jun 1890, age 76, m. Hugh Pearsall, son of James Pearsall and Ann Dickson. They had:

8b6a. WILLIAM F. PEARSALL.

8b6b. JAMES DICKSON PEARSALL.

8c. MARGARET DICKSON, b. 14 Feb 1780, m. Mr. Hancock.

8d. WILLIAM PEARSALL DICKSON, b. 7 Oct 1781, moved to Tennessee, and had nine children, six of whom died young. The family perhaps lived at Fayetteville, Lincoln Co., Tennessee. The surviving three were:<sup>160</sup>

8d1. A. G. DICKSON moved to Memphis, Tennessee.

8d2. PEARSALL DICKSON.

- 8d3. SARAH DICKSON.
- 8e. ALEXANDER DICKSON, b. 20 Feb 1784, moved to Tennessee where he m. Jeannette Stuart and had:
- 8e1. JAMES McDOUGAL DICKSON, d. without issue.
- 8e2. WILLIAM PEARSALL DICKSON, d. in Mississippi leaving a family.
- 8e3. MARGARET WILLIAMSON DICKSON, b. 14 Feb 1780 in Duplin Co., N.C., m. George Martin of Mississippi. They had five children.
- 8e4. NOLAN STUART DICKSON, m. Annie Winans, dau of Rev. William Winans. They had:
- 8e4a. WILLIAM ALEXANDER DICKSON of Centerville, Mississippi.
- 8e4b. LUCY DICKSON of Centerville, Mississippi.
- 8f. ELIZABETH DICKSON, b. 2 or 25 Apr 1786, m. after 1803, Thomas Johnston and lived in Charleston, S.C. In 1818 her sister Linda Dickson, then 14, was living with them while going to school. William Dickson wrote one of the Dickson letters to Linda (the 5th) sending a message to Elizabeth. Elizabeth is mentioned in the will of her uncle Joseph Dickson, 27 Dec 1803, in Dickson Co., Tenn., when he offered her, from his estate, the cost of wedding clothes if she remained in the family until married.
- 8f1. PEARSALL JOHNSTON was living in Pensacola, Fla., in 1845.
- 8f2. MARY CAMPBELL JOHNSTON m. ca. 1834 Williams Dickson, formerly of New Hanover Co., N.C. but then of Marianna, Fla. They had:
- 8f2a. THOMAS DICKSON who lived at Charleston, S.C.
- 8g. ANN DICKSON, b. 15 Jul 1788, or perhaps 1 Aug 1788, in Duplin Co., N.C., m. James Robinson and lived in Double Branches, South Carolina. According to the Edwards ms. they lived in Jacksonville, Ala., after 1830. They had:
- 8g1. THOMAS ROBINSON.
- 8g2. HARVEY ROBINSON.
- 8g3. DOROTHY ROBINSON m. George H. Pierson.
- 8g4. NAOMI ROBINSON m. Mr. Woods.
- 8h. SARAH DICKSON, a twin b. 15 Jul 1793, d. 4 May 1804.
- 8i. MARY DICKSON, a twin b. 15 Jul 1793, m. 1816 Charles Chambers and had:<sup>161</sup>

8i1. ANN ELIZA CHAMBERS, b. 1 Apr 1817, d. 1858, m. 11 Apr 1835 Thomas E. Sheppard, Jr., and had:

8i1a. MARY ELIZA SHEPPARD, b. 14 Mar 1836, m. M. William Nicholson. Snyder and Sawyer further document this family, p. 376.

8i2. WILLIAM DICKSON CHAMBERS, b. 25 Jun 1819, d. 8 Sep 1841 unmarried.

8i3. MARGARET CHAMBERS, b. 22 Jul 1821, d. 16 Dec 1897, m. 29 Feb 1844 Guilford Murray, b. 1811, d. 1889.

8i3a. MARY SUSAN MURRAY, b. 3 Apr 1845.

8i3b. DAVID DICKSON MURRAY, b. 21 Oct 1847, d. before Jul 1885. They had three children.<sup>162</sup>

8i3c. FRANKLIN MURRAY, b. 11 Dec 1849, m. 12 Dec 1882 Sue Tatom.

8i3d. MARGARET ANN MURRAY, b. 25 Jul 1852, d. 22 Jul 1911, m. 1867 William Henry Henderson and had four children further documented by Snyder and Sawyer, p. 376.

8i3e. RHODA MURRAY, b. 25 Oct 1855, d. 31 Aug 1873.

8i3f. MARTHA MURRAY, b. 11 Apr 1858.

8i3g. IRA WYCHE MURRAY, b. 21 Oct 1860, d. young.

8i3h. DOLLIE MURRAY, b. 21 Oct 1862.

8i3i. LUCY MURRAY, b. 21 Apr 1867, d. 12 Nov 1914, m. 1 Nov 1895 Louis M. Sanderlin.

Dorothy (Pearsall) Dickson d. 30 Jan 1794 and James married second 14 Feb 1797 Mrs. Susannah Powell Carr, b. 5 Jul 1769, 23 Jul 1852, widow of James Carr b. ca. 1760-03, d. 5 Aug 1796.<sup>163</sup> She was the dau of Osborne Powell and Ann Sprigg of Craven Co., N.C., and Ann Sprigg was the dau of Osborn Sprigg and Rachel Belt. They had:<sup>164</sup>

8j. J. DOROTHY DICKSON, b. 8 Dec 1797, d. 15 May 1874, according to Snyder and Sawyer, was named for the first wife of James. She m. Archibald Maxwell and they were living with her mother Susannah in 1850. They had:

8j1. SUSAN ANN MAXWELL m. William Pollock and had:

8j1a. GEORGE POLLOCK, d. without issue.

8j2. DAVID COPELAND MAXWELL m. Annie McGee and lived at Mt. Olive, N.C. They had several children, two are identified in the Edwards ms.:



- 8j2a. JAMES DICKSON MAXWELL was killed in the Civil War.
- 8j2b. ELIZABETH J. MAXWELL m. Giles Loftin.
- 8k. ANN JANE DICKSON, b. 8 Nov 1799,<sup>165</sup> d. 30 Dec 1883, m. Benjamin Oliver, son of Rev. Francis Oliver and Sarah Barron.<sup>166</sup> They had:
- 8k1. SARAH OLIVER, d. an infant.
- 8k2. ELIZABETH OLIVER m. Daniel Kornegay.
- 8k3. MARGARET ANN OLIVER m. Dr. Gid M. Roberts.
- 8k4. JAMES FRANCIS OLIVER m. first Luch Jones and second Mary Wooten.
- 8k5. JOHN ROBERT OLIVER, d. unmarried.
- 8k6. JOSEPH BENJAMIN OLIVER m. first Margaret Lois Pope and second Olive Elizabeth Nunn.
- 8l. JAMES DICKSON, Jr. b. 7 Jun 1802, d. 6 Feb 1882 (Reynolds), or 16 Feb 1882 (Snyder and Sawyer), Duplin Co., N.C. According to Reynolds he is the James Dickson who visited his 1st cousin, Samuel Henry Dickson (son of Michael Dickson, 1730-1 to 1825) in South Carolina and obtained (or helped compose as Reynolds puts it) the memorandum of early Dickson history (see p. 76-20 and endnotes 84 and 85). Snyder and Sawyer say he died unmarried. He was born with only one hand and was called "Nub Jim Dickson." The Edwards ms. provides only his name, two dates and little more.
- 8m. LINDA DICKSON, b. 5 Sep 1804, d. 25 Apr 1884, m. ca. 1824 William Carr, son of William Carr and Margaret Greer, and is the person to whom William addressed the last letter dated 13 Mar 1818. They had eight children of whom three lived. Snyder and Sawyer cite: The Carr Family of Duplin Co., N.C. on the three children who lived. "They left their mother alone at her request and volunteered in the Confederate Army. All three were killed in battle. Though she lost her husband and eight children, she lived to be 80, full of cheer and happiness, without a complaint of her ill fortune. In her young days she was a noted beauty, and in her old age lost none of her attractiveness."<sup>167</sup> The three who lived were:
- 8m1. WILLIAM DICKSON CARR, b. 10 Nov 1833, killed 2 Sep 1865 at Petersburg.
- 8m2. JOSEPH CARR, b. 31 Dec 1839, a Corp., Co., A, 43rd Reg., died at Winchester 19 Sep 1864.
- 8m3. JOHN ROBERT CARR, b. 25 Nov 1841, Co., B, 3rd Reg., killed 3 May 1863 at Chancellorsville.
- 8n. JOSEPH DICKSON, b. 29 Apr 1807, d. 4 Nov 1839.



- 8o. ROBERT DICKSON, b. 16 Jan 1810, m. Mary Catherine Sloan and had:<sup>168</sup>
- 8o1. MARY SUSAN DICKSON, m. Joseph H. Carr. They had:
- 8o1a. JAMES OZBURN CARR, who compiled and edited The Dickson Letters cited in endnotes 2 and 3 and reproduced in Appendix One.
- 8o2. LUCY JANE DICKSON.
- 8o3. JAMES DICKSON m. Frances or Francinia Robinson.
9. MARY DICKSON, b. ca. 1751-52, d. 1 Jan 1812 (or 1813), m. 26 Jul 1769,<sup>169</sup> William McGowan, probably b. Scotland, d. Duplin Co., N.C., Oct 1792.<sup>170</sup> According to Reynolds they had seven children,<sup>171</sup> but Snyder and Sawyer say they had 10 sons:<sup>172</sup>
- 9a. DAVID McGOWAN, b. ca. 1769, d. before 1784, according to the Edwards ms,<sup>173</sup> or d. young according to the Outlaw ms.
- 9b. JOHN McGOWAN, b. ca. 1770-71 is mentioned in The Dickson Letters, as William Dickson's sister's oldest child. He must have been of age by 1792 as he owned land and qualified as his father's executor. He m. Mary Molton, dau of John Molton.
- 9c. WILLIAM McGOWAN Jr., b. 5 Dec 1772, d. 12 Jul 1860,<sup>174</sup> m. 22 Feb 1799 Mary Pearsall, b. 8 May 1772, d. 22 May 1829, dau of James Pearsall, Sr., b. 5 Dec 1773, d. 12 Jul 1860 in Duplin Co., N.C. They had:
- 9c1. CATHERINE McGOWAN, b. 29 Jan 1800, d. 10 Jul 1854, m. Lincoln Sheffield, or Shuffield as Edwards has it. They had:
- 9c1a. ELIZABETH P. SHEFFIELD, b. 12 Jul 1842.
- 9c1b. MARTHA G. SHEFFIELD, b. 2 Apr 1844, m. William Herring Sloan.
- 9c2. ZILPHA McGOWAN, b. 29 Jan 1802, d. 1895, m. 1864 [Edwards] David Sutherland, b. 15 Jan 1789, d. 31 Dec 1878 in Duplin Co., N.C. Edwards says no of issue. S&S mention only her birthdate.
- 9c3. JAMES PEARSALL McGOWAN, b. 29 Oct 1805, d. 11 Mar 1860, m. 12 Jan 1841 Jane Stokes, b. 19 May 1809,<sup>175</sup> d. 19 May 1886, dau of Andrew Stokes and Jean Johnston. They lived in Duplin Co., and had:
- 9c3a. HENRY JAMES McGOWAN, b. 23 Dec 1843, d. 10 Aug 1862.
- 9c3b. MARY JANE McGOWAN, b. 18 May 1844, d. 5 Jan 1874.
- 9c3c. WILLIAM WASHINGTON McGOWAN, b. Nov 1845, d. 1 Nov 1887, m. 25 Dec 1875 Mary Prudence Phillips b. 24 Dec 1842, d. 14 Jun 1925, dau of Thomas Phillips and Milly Best.

- 9c3d. JOSEPH A. McGOWAN, b. 20 Nov 1847, d. 2 Mar 1893.
- 9c3e. SUSAN ANN McGOWAN, b. 20 Jun 1849, d. 1851.
- 9c3f. SUSAN ANN McGOWAN, 2nd, b. 10 Jun 1851, m. Stoke Strickland.
- 9c4. ANN McGOWAN or NANCY McGOWAN, b. 1806, d. 29 Oct 1892 without issue.
- 9c5. SUSAN ELIZA McGOWAN, b. 5 Dec 1807 or 1808, d. 23 May 1894, m. 16 Sep 1830 Thomas Pearsall Hall, b. 6 Feb 1796, d. 7 Sep 1844, who was the son of William Hall and Margaret Pearsall. They had:
- 9c5a. EDWARD JAMES HALL, d. unmarried.
- 9c5b. NICHOLAS HALL, d. young.
- 9c5c. JEREMIAH PEARSALL HALL, d. unmarried.
- 9c5d. ANDREW JACKSON HALL, d. young.
- 9c5e. DAVID GILLESPIE HALL, d. unmarried.
- 9c5f. SAMUEL HALL, d. young.
- 9c5g. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HALL, b. 29 Jan 1842, m. 12 Apr 1871 Margaret Tannahill Sprunt, b. 20 Oct 1844, d. 26 Apr 1914, dau of Alexander Sprunt and Jane Dalzeil of Wilmington, N.C. They had:
- 9c5g1. JAMES SPRUNT HALL m. Edith Kirkpatrick.
- 9c5g2. ALEXANDER McDONALD HALL m. Margaret Hargraves.
- 9c5g3. SUSAN ELIZABETH HALL.
- 9c5g4. LOUIS EDWARD HALL m. Eleanor Williams.
- 9c5g5. JOHN HALL m. Katherine Hokd.
- 9c5g6. JESSIE DALZEIL HALL was a missionary to China.
- 9c5g7. JANE SPRUNT HALL.
- 9c6. WILLIAM McGOWAN, b. 1810, m. 10 Mar 1836 Elizabeth Turner and had:
- 9c6a. MARY S. McGOWAN, b. 1840.
- 9c6b. ZILPHIA A. McGOWAN, b. 1845, m. C. M. Strickland.

- 9c7. JOSEPH McGOWAN, b. 1812, m. Charity Carroll and had:
- 9c7a. JOSEPH McGOWAN.
- 9c7b. ANN DORA McGOWAN.
- 9c8. MARY McGOWAN, b. 16 Jan 1811, m. 15 Nov 1847 William J. Stokes, d. Jan 1895 and had:
- 9c8a. LUCY PEARSALL STOKES m. first William H. Morton and second Mr. Atkinson.
- 9d. EDWARD McGOWAN is mentioned in The Dickson Letters, and in the will of his father.
- 9e. ROBERT McGOWAN is mentioned in The Dickson Letters, and in the will of his father.
- 9f. JAMES McGOWAN is mentioned in The Dickson Letters, and was a private in the war of 1812.
- 9g. MICHAEL McGOWAN is mentioned in The Dickson Letters, (1784) and by court records died before Oct 1794.
- 9h. JOSEPH McGOWAN, b. 1782, d. 3 Jul 1851 at age 67, m. first Sarah McIntyre and second Hannah Green, b. 1791, d. 13 Oct 1854. By Sarah he had:
- 9h1. SARAH MCINTYRE McGOWAN, b. 2 May 1817, d. 8 Nov 1836, m. William Joseph Price of Wilmington, N.C.
- 9h2. MARGARET POWELL McGOWAN, b. 1 May 1819, d. 19 Aug 1872, m. 2 Jan 1840 Edward Pearsall, b. 28 Dec 1812, d. 18 Jan 1871, son of James Pearsall, Jr., and Annie Carr. They had:
- 9h2a. JOHN WESLEY PEARSALL, b. 16 Sep 1841, Duplin Co., N.C., d. 23 Aug 1927, m. first 12 Oct 1865 Lucy L. Sullivan, b. 3 Oct 1844, d. 25 Jun 1874, dau of Samuel Sullivan and Dicey Jones. He m. second 24 Dec 1877 Annie Elizabeth Ervin, b. 29 May 1849, dau of Edward Kenan Ervin and Sarah Elizabeth Jarrett of Onslow Co., N.C.
- 9h2b. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PEARSALL, b. 3 Jul 1843, d. 23 Sep 1921, m. Dec 1877 Flora Loftin, b. 15 Nov 1853, d. 8 Feb 1930.
- 9h2c. ANNIE ELIZABETH PEARSALL, b. 21 Aug 1846, d. 13 Nov 1918, m. Dr. Isaac C. M. Loftin, b. 4 Dec 1837, d. 13 Aug 1900.
- 9h2d. EDWARD DICKSON PEARSALL, b. 6 Feb 1848, d. 26 Sep 1913, m. 11 May 1876 Barbara S. Armstrong, b. 29 May 1848.

9h2e. JOSEPH FLETCHER PEARSALL, b. 29 Oct 1850, d. 13 Dec 1911 in Richmond, Va., m. 1 Oct 1885, Elizabeth Bryan Fennell, b. 6 Oct 1860 in Sampson Co., N.C.

By his second wife Hannah Green, Joseph McGowan had:

9h3. JOHN QUINCY McGOWAN, b. 2 Dec 1821, m. Maria Faison.

9h4. ELIZABETH JANE McGOWAN, b. 3 May 1826, d. 12 Apr 1847, m. 10 Oct 1844 Thomas Hall, b. 11 Jan 1820.

9h5. MARY BROWN McGOWAN, b. 24 Sep 1828, m. 25 May 1850 her sister's husband, Thomas Hall.

9h6. JULIA A. McGOWAN, b. 19 Nov 1830, m. 23 Dec 1852, Dr. John Haywood Faison.

9h7. CHARLES BROWN McGOWAN, b. 15 Aug 1832, served in the Confederate army, was captured 12 May 1864, and d. 31 Oct 1864 as a prisoner at Fort Monroe, Virginia.

9h8. ALEXANDER DICKSON McGOWAN, b. 17 Jan 1835, m. first 4 Apr 1861 Martha Pearsall Rhodes, b. 5 Mar 1833, d. 23 May 1884, dau of James Pearsall, Jr., and Annie Carr. He m. second, 13 Jun 1886, Priscilla Eliza Reives who d. 1 Jul 1895. They had:

9h8a. HANNAH GREEN McGOWAN, b. 17 May 1862, m. John Oliver Bryan b. 5 Jun 1849.

9h8b. LUCY ANN McGOWAN never married.

9h8c. JOSEPH HALL McGOWAN, b. 23 Nov 1868, m. Mary Powers.

9h8d. CHARLES DICKSON McGOWAN, b. 25 Mar 1869, m. Janie Rivenbark.

9h8e. WILLIAM BROWN McGOWAN, b. 16 Oct 1871, m. 15 Jun 1910 Clara McGowan, b. 19 Dec 1883 dau of Edwin S. and Clara McGowan.

9h8f. EDWARD LOFTIN McGOWAN, b. 6 Apr 1874, m. Aldine Peacock.

9h8g. ALEXANDER LLOYD McGOWAN, b. 9 Jul 1876, m. Ada Wallace.

9h8h. MINNIE MENDENHALL McGOWAN, b. 18 Jul 1879, never married.

9i. GEORGE McGOWAN, b. 1777-78, d. before 1817 when the court appointed his brother Alexander to administer his estate. The Edwards ms. and the Outlaw ms. say he m. Mary McIntyre.

9j. ALEXANDER McGOWAN, b. 1790, d. 1819, m. 31 Mar 1817 Cassandra Sloan, b. 1799, d. 1842 dau of David Sloan b. ca. 1764, d. 1801, and Eleanor Dickson, b. 1777, d. 1832. They had:

9j1. CLARISSA SLOAN McGOWAN, b. 10 Oct 1818, Duplin Co., d. 25 Nov 1893, Duplin Co., m. 4 Jun 1839, Halstead Bourden.<sup>176</sup> They had:

9j1a. BRYAN ALEXANDER BOURDEN, d.y.

9j1b. ANN ELIZABETH BOURDEN.

9j1c. BENJAMIN CICERO BOURDEN.

9j1d. CASSANDRA BOURDEN.

9j1e. WILSON BOURDEN.

9j1f. JOSEPHINE BOURDEN.

9j1g. CLARISSA BOURDEN.

9j1h. MARY EMMA BOURDEN.

**ROBERT DICKSON**<sup>(-7)</sup> b. ca. 1742 Duplin Co., North Carolina, or perhaps Maryland,<sup>177</sup> left a will dated 18 Mar 1790, probated in the Apr term 1790 in Duplin County.<sup>178</sup> He was a member of the House of Commons from Duplin Co., in 1777, and 1784 through 1788,<sup>179</sup> and was appointed a Second Major in the forces of Duplin by the Provincial Congress sitting at Halifax 4 Apr 1776. He appears among the signers of the "Oath of Allegiance and Abjuration," required by the assembly at New Bern, 15 Nov 1777 to promise allegiance to North Carolina and renounce the authority of the king. In the first of The Dickson Letters his brother William wrote, "he [Robert] is a very frugal, industrious man, has about as many working slaves as I have, he lives very well and plentifully, is in as good credit as any man in the county."

Robert appears in the state census of 1786 with six white males, six white females and 20 slaves.<sup>180</sup> Robert's will names wife Barbara, unborn child, sons Edward, Robert and John, daughter Ann Bryan, step children Lincoln and Mary Shuffield [Sheffield].<sup>181</sup> Other children are not named but the will specifies distribution of certain assets to "my wife and all my children," except certain others named. To the step children he willed "James Wallace and Isom Shuffield's old plantation." He named as executor son John, brothers William and Joseph.<sup>182</sup>

Robert's plantation in Duplin Co., during the march of Cornwallis through the area, became a one day encampment for his army.<sup>183</sup> The date for this establishes the approximate birthdate (within days or weeks) of his last daughter, Elizabeth, by his first wife, Catherine Pearsall, and the date of Catherine's death. This information is in the first of The Dickson Letters, but requires interpretation as some researchers have misread this letter (and Carr's interpretation of it) erroneously concluding Elizabeth was born in 1784 rather than 1781.<sup>184</sup>

History clearly establishes Cornwallis' march through Duplin Co., was in the spring of 1781.<sup>185</sup> The first of The Dickson Letters clearly places the one day encampment at Robert's plantation near the date of 28 Apr 1781 when the N.C. militia was discharged by General Lillington. William Dickson writes: "The next day after being discharged we returned home. Cornwallis' army was then in the middle of our county, encamped at my brother Robert Dickson's plantation." A few sentences later he writes: "I will now give you some account of how we all fared while the enemy were in our neighborhood. My brother Robert had left his place and removed his family and property. The enemy encamped one day and night at his plantation and destroyed some of his stock which he had not got off." A few paragraphs later he writes the crucial information: "Robert moved his property into the back parts of Virginia when Cornwallis went through us and returned in July to move his family there also, but his wife died the very day of his return and left him an infant but a few days old, which he put to nurse and returned to Virginia again; but not liking to settle there he returned home as soon as the enemy left Wilmington and being resettled again he married another wife." Clearly this also refers to the same event mentioned above and so we may conclude Elizabeth (the last child by wife Catherine) was born days or weeks before July 1781, and his wife Catherine died that month. No where does the letter suggest these events were in 1784, and in any event, we know Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown on 19 Oct 1781.<sup>186</sup>

Another compelling argument fixing these events in the spring of 1781, rather than some later date, is that Robert m. second, the widow Barbara Sheffield, and had three more children. This marriage had to have occurred well before Nov 1784, the date the first Dickson letter was written, as both the new wife and her first child, Susan, are mentioned: "Elizabeth, the youngest by his first wife, and Susan by his present wife." This places the second marriage in the 1782-83 interval and positively places Elizabeth as last by the first wife.<sup>187</sup>

Robert married first, ca. 1764, Catherine Pearsall, daughter of Edward Pearsall, b. 1717, and his wife Catherine James. About 1782 Robert married second Barbara Williams Sheffield,<sup>188</sup> or perhaps her name was Barbara Boney Sheffield,<sup>189</sup> widow of Isham Sheffield by whom she had two prior children, Lincoln and Mary.<sup>190</sup> After Robert's death Barbara m. third 24 Jan 1798 John Wilkinson. She appears as Barbara Dickson in the 1790 census for Bladen Co., N.C., and in the 1820 for Duplin Co., as Barbara Wilkinson.<sup>191</sup> Her will is dated 10 Feb 1827 and was probated in Duplin Co., in the Apr term of the 1827 court. Robert and his first wife Catherine had:<sup>192</sup>

1. JOHN DICKSON, b. ca. 1765-6, Duplin Co., N.C., d. 8 Apr 1822 near Campbellton (established 1762 and name changed to Fayetteville in 1783), Cumberland Co., N.C. He was a surveyor, and before his marriage surveyed many land grants in Tennessee as well as in Cumberland and adjoining counties in N.C. After his marriage he moved to Cumberland Co., became an important land holder and a wealthy resident at Blocker's Ferry on the Cape Fear River, near Fayetteville. He was a legislator, a founding Elder in the Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, and a Colonel in the North Carolina State Militia. John was the person in America to whom one or more of the "Dickson Letters," were returned ca. 1810-12 when brought from Co., Down, Ireland by his cousins (second cousins once removed), Robert, John and William. This John is also the person who wrote to General David Dickson on 5 Apr 1813 signing himself as "affectionate kinsman," and in that letter stating he was m. June 1774 and now had 5 daughters and 2 sons. He appears in the 1820 Cumberland Co., North Carolina census.<sup>193</sup> He married Jun 1794,<sup>194</sup> Sarah Blocker, who left a will dated 22 Nov 1822, daughter of George Blocker d. 1794, and Mary Dyer who was the dau of James Dyer of Cumberland.<sup>195</sup> In her will Sarah named daughters, Catherine, Mary Ann, Betsy, and Martha. They had:<sup>196</sup>

- 1a. CATHERINE DICKSON, b. 9 Apr 1796, d. 12 May 1880, m. Mr. Thomas Evans, b. 22 Dec 1791, d. 5 Feb 1823, and had at least:

1a1. MARY ANN EVANS.

1b. MARY ANN DICKSON.

1c. BETSY DICKSON.

1d. Female DICKSON.

1e. MARTHA WASHINGTON DICKSON, b. ca. 1812 in Cumberland Co., N.C., according to the Edwards ms., and bapt. 4 Apr 1813.<sup>197</sup> She was identified by her father as his youngest daughter in his letter to Gen. David Dickson dated 5 Apr 1813. She m. Alexander Torrens Stanford, b. 6 Oct 1804, d. at Kenansville, N.C. ca. 1887, son of Margaret Torrens and Rev. Samuel Stanford.<sup>198</sup>

1f. JOHN DICKSON is identified in the Blocker genealogy in one of the charts, but not on the page where the daughters are mentioned.<sup>199</sup>

1g. MICHAEL DICKSON.



2. ANN DICKSON, b. ca. 1767,<sup>200</sup> or ca. 1768,<sup>201</sup> or 1758,<sup>202</sup> d. ca. 1817,<sup>203</sup> became 1 Nov 1787 the fourth wife of Capt. Kedar Bryan, b. 1752, d. 1808, son of Needham Bryan and Nancy Smith.<sup>204</sup> Kedar Bryan had two children by two of his former marriages. He and Ann Dickson had.<sup>205</sup>
  - 2a. NEEDHAM BRYAN, b. ca. 1789, m. Margaret J. Slocumb,<sup>206</sup> or perhaps Sallie Hinton.<sup>207</sup>
  - 2b. ROBERT BRYAN, b. 1795, d. young.
  - 2c. KEDAR BRYAN, Jr., b. 1795, d. 24 Nov 1828. He m. Mary Evans of Cumberland Co., N.C.<sup>208</sup>
  - 2d. ANN BRYAN (or NANCY in Dowdy ltr of 23 Mar 88), b. 1797, m. John Stallings, of Duplin Co., N.C., by whom she had children.<sup>209</sup> The Edwards ms., is annotated in the margin with a second marriage to Timothy \_\_\_\_ ick, (the last name being unreadable), and the note John Stallings was the son of Mary Wells and Shadrach Stallings.
  - 2e. CATHERINE BRYAN, b. ca. 1801, m. 1820 Dickson Sloan, son of David Sloan and Eleanor Dickson, dau of James Dickson as documented elsewhere under the family of James Dickson b. 1750.<sup>210</sup>
  - 2f. ELIZABETH BRYAN, b. ca. 1800, m. 26 Jan 1815 Rev. George Fennell, b. 22 Nov 1790, d. 1859. They had 11 children including:<sup>211</sup>
    - 2f1. CATHERINE FENNELL, b. 26 Dec 1821, m. her cousin Calvin Jones Dickson son of Joseph Dickson, b. 1775, and grandson of William Dickson, b. ca. 1738, documented under the family of John Dickson, b. 1704.<sup>212</sup> They had:
      - 2f1a. Dr. ALBERT PICKETT DICKSON of Raeford, Hoke Co., N.C. He is the grandfather of Ann Dowdy of Elizabeth City, N.C. who furnished data on the descendants of Robert Dickson, b. 1742, father of Elizabeth Dickson, wife of Robert Dyer. [As stated elsewhere, Dowdy has two lines of descent in the Dickson family, one from Robert, d. 1790 and one from his brother William, b. 1739.]
3. PEARSALL DICKSON, b. 1762,<sup>213</sup> or 1770,<sup>214</sup> moved to Tennessee where he died.
4. EDWARD DICKSON, b. 1773<sup>215</sup> or perhaps 1766<sup>216</sup> and moved to Tennessee.
5. CATHERINE DICKSON, b. ca. 1774-1776,<sup>217</sup> d. 8 Mar 1796, m. 1795 as his second wife, Charles Hooks, b. 1758, or perhaps 20 Feb 1768,<sup>218</sup> in Bertie Co., N.C., d. 18 Oct 1843, son of Ann (? and Thomas) Hooks. They moved to Alabama where he became a State Senator and a U.S. Congressman. No issue.<sup>219</sup>
6. MARY DICKSON, b. ca. 1778 and d. before 1784.<sup>220</sup>



- +7. **ELIZABETH DICKSON**<sup>(-6)</sup>, b. Duplin Co., in the spring of 1781,<sup>221</sup> probably May or Jun, near the time of the Cornwallis encampment on the Dickson estate. This family is continued on page 76-46.

According to the first Dickson letter, Catherine (Pearsall) Dickson "died the very day of his return [July 1781] and left him with an infant but a few days old." Robert Dickson m. second ca. 1782-83, Barbara (Williams or Boney<sup>222</sup>) Sheffield (Shuffield?), b. ca. 1748, d. 3 Mar 1827, the widow of Isham Sheffield, and had:<sup>223</sup>

8. SUSANNAH DICKSON, b. ca. 1784 before the date of the first Dickson Letter, 30 Nov 1784. She m. David Hooks.<sup>224</sup> They had:

8a. ROBERT DICKSON HOOKS.

9. ROBERT DICKSON, probably born after 30 Nov 1784, probably in 1786, d. 11 Jan 1815 without issue, but leaving a will.<sup>225</sup>

10. WILLIAMS DICKSON, b. 20 Mar 1790, d. 1840, m. first 21 Oct 1813 Margaret Sloan, dau of Robert Sloan of Duplin.<sup>226</sup> He m. second Mary Campbell Johnson of Charleston, S.C. By his first wife he had:<sup>227</sup>

- 10a. ROBERT SLOAN DICKSON, b. 1814, m. first Sarah Mae Wilder of Onslow, and m. second Margaret E. Chapman,<sup>228</sup> Cumberland Co., N.C., who d. 2 Jun 1860 in Marianna, Florida. He was a judge and editor of the Marianna Patriot.<sup>229</sup> By his first wife he had:

10a1. JESSE DICKSON.

By his second wife he had:

10a2. JOHN DICKSON.

10a3. ROBERT DICKSON.

10a4. SUSAN CAROLINA.

- 10b. BARBARA ANN DICKSON, b. 1816, d. 1909, m. before 12 Aug 1834 John Robert Chapman of Pensicola, Florida, and lived at Marianna, Florida.<sup>230</sup>

- 10c. WILLIAMS DAVID DICKSON, b. 1818 lived in Florida, married but no issue. According to the Edwards ms., his wife d. in 1848 at which time he considered moving to Texas.

- 10d. MARY SUE DICKSON, b. 1819, d. 1823.<sup>231</sup>

- 10e. ISABELLA JANE DICKSON, b. 1824, d. 1826.

- 10f. EDWARD ROBINSON DICKSON, b. 1827, d. 1903 in Tenn., Supt. of schools Mobile, Ala., and Professor at Univ. of Ala. He was a Yale graduate.<sup>232</sup>

10g. MARTHA WASHINGTON DICKSON, b. 1829, m. 1855 Jacob Bamper of New Jersey.

*By his second wife, Williams Dickson had:*

10h. THOMAS DICKSON, who moved to Charleston, S.C.<sup>233</sup>

**ELIZABETH DICKSON**<sup>(-6)</sup>, b. 1781,<sup>234</sup> probably in May or Jun, probably in Duplin County, North Carolina,<sup>235</sup> d. 14 Apr 1832,<sup>236</sup> in Texas,<sup>237</sup> or Louisiana,<sup>238</sup> "aged 51."<sup>239</sup> She probably left North Carolina before ca. 1808 when her family moved to East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. She m. Robert Dyer 24 Mar 1801, probably in Cumberland Co., N.C.<sup>240</sup> Elizabeth is known to later family generations only from the Robert Dyer bible which provides her name, approximate birthdate, and time of death. It has been established from census records of some of her children that she was born in North Carolina.<sup>241</sup> It is also certain Robert Dyer lived in Cumberland Co., N.C., when the 1800 census was recorded. This census was completed 24 Apr 1801, one month after they were married, and since they were not married at this time (there is no female appropriate to Elizabeth's age) it seems likely the marriage was performed shortly afterward and therefore probably in Cumberland Co., N.C. Their marriage does not appear in N.C. marriage records, and should not if it occurred in Cumberland as all such bonds are missing for the years 1754 to 1802.<sup>242</sup>

Research suggests no Dickson family lived in the Fayetteville, Cumberland Co., area prior to about 1784 when John Dickson of Duplin Co., married Sarah Blocker of Cumberland Co., and moved there to make his home at Blocker's Ferry. John Dickson's younger sister, Elizabeth Dickson, who was born in the spring of 1781 as documented in the first of The Dickson Letters, is the only reasonable candidate for Robert's wife (from the immediate area). Arguments which support the thesis that Robert's wife and John Dickson's sister were the same person include these: (1) They were both born in the spring of 1781 in N.C., as documented elsewhere, (2) many other Dickson researchers have summarized the family of Robert Dickson, identifying Elizabeth as the last child by Robert's first wife, but none were able to provide any data whatsoever on Elizabeth's later adult life, and (3) a separate link to the Dyer family was established by John Dickson in 1794 (seven years before the marriage of Robert and Elizabeth) when he married Sarah Blocker the granddaughter of James Dyer, who was the father of Robert Dyer.<sup>243</sup> Sarah Blocker's mother was Mary Dyer, sister to Robert Dyer, and thus Robert Dyer was an uncle to John Dickson's wife. Thus it is certain Elizabeth Dickson (sister to John D.) knew Robert Dyer at least seven years before they were married. It therefore seems reasonable that Elizabeth married her sister-in-law's uncle, only five years older than she, and a person she had known for several years. Additionally, (4) no other Elizabeth Dickson, close to this age bracket, can be identified in the greater Dickson family who is not further documented as to marriage and later life. Finally, (5) John Dickson, Elizabeth's brother was an active buyer at the sheriff's sale of land from the estate of James Dyer after his death in 1794. In all of this a tight three way relationship existed between the Dickson, Dyer and Blocker families, evidently long before Robert Dyer married Elizabeth Dickson.

Additional detail on the members of this Dyer family are in manuscript 75 on James Dyer of Cumberland Co., N.C., (revised 1992). Robert Dyer and Elizabeth Dickson had the following children as recorded in the Robert Dyer bible:<sup>244</sup>

1. SARAH DYER, b. 12 May 1803, d. 16 Sep 1806, was probably named after her grandmother Sarah ( ) Dyer.
2. JAMES DYER, b. 25 Mar 1805, d. 10 Sep 1806, was probably named after his grandfather James Dyer, d. 1793-4.
3. ROBERT DYER, b. 20 Apr 1807, probably in N.C., as he indicated in his own 1850 East Feliciana, Louisiana census record. He did not move to Texas with the rest of the Dyer family in 1833-4. He m. first 16 Feb 1830 Martha Margaret Benton, and second 30 Nov

1835, Mrs. Elizabeth Nettles.<sup>245</sup> He died 26 Jan 1860 at Wilson, Louisiana. He had two children by his first wife and six by the second.

4. JOHN H. DYER, b. 19 Jul 1809, location unknown, d. 25 Mar 1845, in Texas. He probably married ca. 1835, Betsy Lawson and had three children.<sup>246</sup> His middle initial was probably for Henry.<sup>247</sup>
- +5. **ELIZA DYER**<sup>(c5)</sup>, b. 21 May 1811 in Louisiana was probably the first child born in Louisiana to this family. She was married three times, first on 18 Feb 1830 to Colin C. McRae, probably in East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, by whom she had *four children*. After his death she married second on 14 Apr 1837, Ira Poor, probably in Red River Co., Texas. After his death on 6 Feb 1853 she married third on 13 Sep 1855, the Rev. Thomas Anderson Smith, a native of North Carolina and a Methodist Episcopal minister from 1817 until his death in 1879. This family is continued in the Dyer manuscript, no. 75 in the Travers - Dorgan Genealogies which further continues the line of descent to the Travers family through the Poor and Neal families.
6. GEORGE WASHINGTON DYER, b. 19 Mar 1813, probably in Louisiana, was living in 1857. He married 17 Aug 1841 Tullola Ann Mary Cornelius and had a number of children. He appears in the 1850 census in Rusk Co., Texas.
7. DICKSON HENRY DYER, b. 8 Mar 1815, in Louisiana, m. ca. 1837 Sophronia Godly, b. 1815 in N.C. and had eight children. His first daughter, Elizabeth Dyer, or Betsy Dyer, married David Lewis Dickson, a descendant of Gen Joseph Dickson of South Carolina.<sup>248</sup>
8. MARTHA DYER, b. 7 May 1818, m. Roland Cornelius and they were living in Rusk Co. Texas in 1880.
9. WILLIAM JAMES DYER, b. 9 Dec 1820, d. Thursday, 31 Jul 182\_, probably 1823.<sup>249</sup>

## ENDNOTES

1. Family Bible Record of Robert Dyer, d. 1839, Red River Co., Texas. This bible record appears transcribed, and as digital images, in Appendix One to manuscript no. 75 in this series, which describes the family of James Dyer, d. ca. 1793, of Cumberland County, North Carolina. This bible was also published in: "Our Heritage," vol. 19, Jul 1978, no. 4, p. 161, Journal of the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society, but with an error on p. 162: the birth of John Dyer should read 19 Jul 1809 instead of 1829.
2. James Ozburn Carr, The Dickson Letters Compiled and Edited, (Raleigh: 1901), a privately printed manuscript. The version used in Appendix One is this one and was found in the DAR library, Wash., D.C. It contains the annotation "copy made by Frances Pickett." Researchers are likely to find various publications and reprinted versions of the letters based on Carr's first version. A brief history of the letters is also given in the Appendix.
3. James Ozburn Carr, The Dickson Letters, (1933), a revised and enlarged manuscript containing the original five letters plus a sixth letter and other material (not seen). This version has been described by Harriet Reynolds (1972) as cited in endnotes 5 through 9. This version of the letters was probably the one reprinted in a Duplin County newspaper beginning 17 Oct 1966 for which clippings were placed in the DAR Wash. D.C., library F.C. files. The clippings do not reveal the name of the paper but in part it was "The Wallace \_\_\_\_\_," vol XLV, no. 60, 17 Oct 1966, "Duplin's Favorite Newspaper." The letters were reprinted over a period of time and also appeared in "The Pender Chronicle," Burgaw, N.C., on 27 Oct 1966. Because these clippings were incomplete it is not possible to provide a complete citation. These reprints contain extensive explanatory comments by Carr which appear to be the source of remarks provided by Reynolds.
4. Austin Wheeler Smith, The Dickson - McEwen and Allied Families Genealogy, (Cookville, Tennessee: First ed., July 1, 1945; Second ed., March 1975).
5. Harriet Dickson Reynolds, Early Dickson History, (1972), (subtitled: Simon Dickson ca. 1607- of Ireland; John Dickson, 1704-1774, of North Carolina; William Dickson, ca. 1710-1775, of South Carolina, And Some of Their Descendants) an 80 page manuscript. This outlines portions of the family of Simon Dickson, ca. 1607 of Ireland; John Dickson (1704-1774) of Duplin Co., N.C., and William Dickson (1710-1775) of South Carolina. Copy obtained from the DAR library, Washington, D.C. [There were six separately bound Reynolds items in the DAR library in 1985 including one collection of photostatic copies of a family bible relevant to the David Dickson family. The five manuscripts are cited here in the order of their apparent relevance to the Duplin Co., Dickson family.]
6. Harriet Dickson Reynolds, David Dickson, 1750-1830, Indian Fighter, Border Captain and General in the Georgia Militia and Some of His Descendants, (1956). Vol. I. A 168 page manuscript, found in the DAR library, Washington, D.C., marked "first draft, to be revised." This ms. emphasizes the South Carolina branch. This manuscript was subsequently corrected and extended in Reynolds' 1969 manuscript.
7. Harriet Dickson Reynolds, David Dickson, 1750-1830, of South Carolina and Georgia, (1969). A 12 page manuscript correcting errors in the 1959 (sic) typescript found in the DAR library, Wash. D.C. This manuscript attempts to reconcile the South Carolina branch with the "Dickson Letters." In this manuscript Reynolds is critical of the of proof of the quoted line of descent from Simon Dickson to Michael Dickson, son of Joseph the Second. She writes (p. 1): "This line of descent for Michael Dickson has been widely quoted but no actual proof of the first three Dickson generations (Simon, Joseph the first, and Joseph the second) has been seen. This lineage, according to Mr. James Ozburn Carr, who edited The Dickson Letters, was 'taken from a very old family record.' In letters

dated April and May 1923, between Mrs. George M. (Florence) Jackson, of Cartersville, Bartow Co., Ga., to Miss J. Nicolene Bishop of Akron, Hale Co., Ala., Mrs. Jackson wrote that this Dickson lineage was from an old Dickson bible brought from Ireland, and which was in her family for many years. This Dickson bible was lost or destroyed during the Civil War, but members of Mrs. Jackson's family knew and wrote down their Irish ancestry. Mrs. Jackson and Miss Bishop were descendants of Major Michael Dickson, b. 1731 in Northern Ireland, and d. in 1825 in Pendleton District, South Carolina. (Copies of the Jackson - Bishop letters are owned by Robert D. Jackson, Jr., of Jonesboro, Ga.)" [In this manuscript Reynolds lists the locations where she placed this and the corrected manuscripts. These locations were: (1) The DAR library, Wash., D.C., (2) The Ga. Archives, Atlanta, Ga., (3) The Alabama Archives, Montgomery, Ala., (4) The S.C. Archives, Columbia, S.C.]

8. Harriet Dickson Reynolds, David Dickson and Some of His Descendants, (1977) Vol. II. A 135 page manuscript further extending the South Carolina branch and the family of David Dickson.
9. Harriet Dickson Reynolds, Michael Dickson, 1788-ca. 1856, and Some of His Descendants also Related Lines Aubrey, Goss, Townsend, and Edwards, (1974) Vol. III of the Dickson family History. A 63 page manuscript in the DAR library, Wash. D.C. This volume emphasizes Michael Dickson (1788-ca. 1856), son of David Dickson.
10. These locations were: (1) The DAR library, Wash., D.C., (2) The Ga. Archives, Atlanta, Ga., (3) The Alabama Archives, Montgomery, Ala., (4) The S.C. Archives, Columbia, S.C.
11. Reynolds (1972), p. 8.
12. Smith, First Edition, p. 297, in Chap. 4, "A Biographical Sketch of Gen. Joseph Dickson."
13. Reynolds, (1972), p. 8-12 for cousins in Ireland and p. 15 for Chester Co., Pennsylvania.
14. Samuel Henry Dickson, "A Memorandum Pertaining to the History of the Dickson Family," (1834), cited by Reynolds (1972), p. 3 (*original not seen and probably not extant*). It apparently received circulation among members of the Dickson family in the mid 1800's after it was received by James Dickson of Duplin Co., N.C. during a visit to his cousin Samuel Henry Dickson in 1834. It traces the family back to Simon Dickson of Ireland and may be the source of the entries in the two Dickson bibles cited elsewhere. The text of the memorandum is reproduced in endnote no. 85, as taken from Snyder and Sawyer, cited in endnote no. 21. Researchers should be aware there were at least two persons named Samuel Henry Dickson who have been confused in the various Dickson genealogical sources. See endnote no. 85 for more.
15. "The Michael Dickson Family Bible," cited by Reynolds (1972), p. 5. This bible, published in 1846, contains records through the 10th generation from Simon Dickson, with two intervening generations omitted. However, these missing generations are understood from the Dickson Letters and the William Hugh Dickson bible cited in endnote no. 16. Reynolds stated this bible was owned in 1969 by Mrs. Nora (Dickson) Benton of Catoosa Co., Ga.
16. "The William Hugh Dickson Family Bible," cited by Reynolds (1972). This bible was published in 1836 and contains records thru the 7th generation from Simon Dickson, with three intervening generations (understood from the Dickson Letters and the Michael Dickson Bible) omitted. The omitted generations in this bible are different from those omitted in the previously cited bible. Reynolds stated this bible was owned in 1972 by Mrs. Gladys Dickson Miller, 3216 Lasker Ave., Waco, Texas 76707.



17. William Dickson, Duplin County, monograph written for the Raleigh, N.C. Star, and signed 23 Nov 1810, vol. 1928, pp. 429-446. Reprinted by the North Carolina Historical Review, pp. 429-446, under the general heading, "Twelve North Carolina Counties in 1810-1811." A brief biography of William Dickson is provided in footnote 66 therein, which cites Carr's, The Dickson Letters. He is also mentioned in three other sources: (1) Biographical History of North Carolina, V, pp. 85-89; (2) St. Gabriel's Parish Register, 1800-1816; and (3) Duplin Co., Court Minutes, and N.C. Historical Commission MSS.
18. Footnotes, Occasional publication of the Research Committee of the Duplin Co., Historical Society, P.O. Box 130, Rose Hill, N.C. 28458, Issue no. 26, 1 Aug 1987, Editors: Horace Fussell, Jr., Leon H. Sikes, and Dallas Herring.
19. A. T. Outlaw, "Dickson, of Duplin Co., North Carolina," (1937), a five page typewritten manuscript owned by the Duplin Co., Historical Society, P.O. Box 130, Rose Hill, North Carolina 28458. The author was of Kenansville, N.C. in 1937.
20. Unsigned eighteen page manuscript titled: "Dickson Family," owned by the Duplin Co., Historical Society, P.O. Box 130, Rose Hill, North Carolina 28458. The first page of the manuscript is annotated, "from Bessie Edwards, 224 Metcalf, New Bern, North Carolina." Twelve sources are listed on page 11 (there is a page labeled 10 1/2 between page 10 and page 11) which is the end of the Dickson portion. These 12 sources are, (1) The Dickson Letters, (2) various census records, (3) Routledge Cemetary records, (4) Montgomery Co., Tenn., court house records, (5) Duplin Co., N.C., court house records, (6) Ashe's Biographical History of N.C., (7) Pearsall's Pearsall Family, pp. 1360-90, (8) The will of William Dickson in the DAR magazine of Aug 1928, p. 499, (9) T.H. Moulton's Moulton Family, p. 138, (10) Owen's History of Alabama, and Dictionary of Ala. Biography, vol. 4, p. 1364, (11) the wills of Robert Dickson, Alex. Dickson and George Norris, as published in the DAR magazine, and (12) Goodspeed's History of Tenn., pp. 933-4.
21. Kathleen Powell Snyder and Mamie Chambers Sawyer, Our Kin, (1982), a privately published genealogy of the families of Powell, Vann, Tatum, McArthur, Cooper, Coore, Williams (of Va.), Moone, Greene, Bowden, McGowan, Hodges, Sloan, Dickson, Pearsall, Davis, Chambers, and Lanier. Limited printing of 100 copies. Author Sawyer warns of typographical errors. Copies available in 1988 from the authors, 111 West Cypress St., Elizabeth City, N.C. 27909, \$50. per copy. The book is an important contribution to Dickson research but contains two errors of significance to the research documented here. On p. 292, and 332, the birthdate of Elizabeth Dickson is given as 1784 but should be 1781 (the year her mother died "when Cornwallis went thru us"). On p. 332 the erroneous date is repeated with the statement "ancestress of Ann Dowdy of Elizabeth City, N.C.," when in fact Ann Dowdy descends from Ann Dickson, older sister of Elizabeth. [Ann Dowdy called this error to my attention in correspondence dated 19 Feb 1988. The error confusing 1781 with 1784 is actually due to an incorrect interpretation of Carr (either version) and the text of the letters, as explained in endnote nos. 184 and 187.]
22. Variations of this text appear in Carr's version of, The Dickson Letters (though not in the text of the letters themselves) and in other sources including Reynolds (1972) p. 1, and two works by Sawyer, one as co-author with Snyder, all cited elsewhere.
23. Snyder and Sawyer (1982), p. 285.
24. Mamie Chambers Sawyer, The Chambers Family of Duplin County, North Carolina, (1969) pp. 36-38. Privately published genealogy, available from the author, 111 West Cypress St., Elizabeth City, N.C. 27909.
25. Reynolds (1972), p. 1.

26. Reynolds (1972), p. 2.
27. A quick survey of English history of the period is available in: F. E. Halliday, A Concise History of England, (London: 1986), first paperback edition 1980, reprinted 1986. See pp. 116-120. This is one of a set of three similar books on the histories of Scotland, England and Ireland, sometimes available in genealogy stores.
28. No primary source for his age has been found. Carr (1901) simply states his age. Reynolds (1972), p. 8, estimates the range as ca. 1657-1751 and cites Carr (1933). Snyder and Sawyer (1982) repeat same, p. 286, in summarizing the 1834 memorandum of Samuel Henry Dickson. In their version of the 1834 memo the visit of James Dickson, Jr., to South Carolina was recorded in "an old bible," 1 Mar 1870. This bible was lost in a fire in recent times but its content had been copied about 1920 by Mrs. Laura Gavin of Kenansville, N.C., whose notes were available to Snyder and Sawyer. Sawyer (1969) cites Carr, which version not stated.
29. Reynolds (1972), pp. 7-8, cites Carr (1933). Reynolds (1969), pp. 1- 2, provides more detail and also cites Carr (1933). In her 1969 ms. Reynolds states: "The letters of William Dickson, 1739-1820, to his 'Dear Cousin Robert,' the Rev. Robert Dickson of Narrow Water, near Newry, County Down, Ireland, are proof that Michael had a brother Robert Dickson, for the father of the Rev. Robert Dickson of Narrow Water was also named Robert Dickson, as proved by Presbyterian records of Ireland." She then lists two sources for this statement: Carr (1933), and the family tradition statement made by Nancy Campbell (Dickson) Smith (1802-1894), descendant of William, b. Ireland ca. 1710-15, (see p. 76-15).
30. Reynolds (1972), p. 9. This date is given in: "A Matriculation Album of the University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland." Reynolds cites two other sources for data on Rev. Robert Dickson: (1) The Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland, Church House, room 19, Fisherwick Place, Belfast BT 1 6 DX, Northern Ireland, and (2) The Scotch Irish, by Hanna, vol. 2, p. 375.
31. Carr (1901) refers to the Rev. Robert Dickson of Ireland as the cousin of William Dickson, author of The Dickson Letters, but provides no other specific ancestral connection. The relationship given here is that established by Reynolds (1972, p. 9).
32. The United Irishmen and its association with Wolfe Tone is described in A Concise History of Ireland, by Maire and Conor Cruise O'Brien, third edition, (1985), pp. 89-91.
33. Reynolds (1972), p. 10, speculates this William S. Dickson was perhaps related to the Rev. Robert Dickson. Reynolds believes the close association between Tone and Rev. Robert Dickson is established from the comments in The Dickson Letters where the writer, William Dickson, is replying to the Rev. and remarks on the Irish Volunteers and the bravery of the Irish people. In the letter William compares the Irish struggle to the American struggle (the Revolution) also against the English oppression.
34. It is worth noting that the arrival of the letters, ca. 1810-12, in America to John Dickson of Cumberland County occurred a year or so after the departure of Robert Dyer and his wife Elizabeth Dickson for Louisiana ca. 1809. Thus it would appear there never was an opportunity for any of the family data in the letters to be included in the Robert Dyer bible.
35. Reynolds (1972), p. 10.
36. The descendants of Gen. Joseph Dickson are documented in Austin Wheeler Smith, The Dickson-McEwen and Allied Families Genealogy, 1st ed., (Cookville, Tennessee: 1945), 2nd ed., Mar 1975.



37. Some of this speculation is cited in: Caroline Beall Price, "Ancestral Beginnings in America of the McGregor, Magruder, Beall, Price, Philips, Dickson, Henderson, Young," (and others), typed ms. found in the Texas State Library, Austin, Texas, p. 65. Copy 42 of 50 copies. The author cites two books: [1] The Harvey Family, and Cumberland Valley Families of Pennsylvania, by Eagle. The lineage given in Price is one of these speculations. No firm evidence is cited. The line is from Scotland.
38. Austin Wheeler Smith, The Dickson - McEven and Allied Families Genealogy, pp. 302-3. Here Smith writes (referring to the passage in The Dickson Letters): "This 'Uncle William Dickson' may have been the father of General Joseph Dickson. I think that he was and many others share that belief." And on p. 303: "... I have become convinced that Gen. Joseph Dickson was the son of the William Dickson who died in the back country of North Carolina and a cousin to the Joseph Dickson of Dickson Co."
39. The wife of Michael Dickson (b. ca. 1680) is identified by Reynolds (1956), p. 7; (1972), p. 7; and (1977), p. iii. In 1972 she stated the name of Michael's wife was obtained from a statement by Nancy Campbell (Dickson) Smith, b. 1802, d. 1894, who said she was named after her great-grandmother. Reynolds cited this as a basis for linking the South and North Carolina Dicksons as well as the family in Ireland. Nancy Campbell Dickson is identified on p. 76-13, 76-17, and is mentioned in Reynolds (1977), p. 68.
40. Michael's age when he died is given as 84 in all references which mention an age except Snyder and Sawyer (1982), p. 286, where the figure 74 is used.
41. Reynolds (1972), p. 15. Ann Dowdy, of Elizabeth City, N.C., submitted a family sheet on Robert Dickson which identifies the wife of John Dickson, b. 1704, as Ann Greer, b. ca. 1714, d. Feb 1774 or Oct 1775. This data on Ann Greer was obtained from Kathleen Powell Snyder, of Warsaw, N.C., one of the authors of "Our Kin."
42. Reynolds (1972), pp. 7-8, also Reynolds (1969), pp. 5-6.
43. Reynolds (1969), p. 4, and (1972), pp. 7-8.
44. Carr (1901). Near the end of the first letter William Dickson wrote: "My uncle William Dickson died at his plantation in the back of North Carolina on New Years day 1775, just seven days after my father."
45. Reynolds (1969), p. 7, lists several sources for her summary on William Dickson including: (1) Memorial books at South Carolina Archives especially vols. 11, 12, and 14; (2) Newberry Co., S.C., deeds; (3) Marshall, Gordons of the Deep South; (4) DAR applications and (5) correspondants as named. Her named correspondants in the same manuscript included those who transmitted family traditions related by Nancy Campbell (Dickson) Smith, (1802-1894), great granddaughter of Michael Dickson of Northern Ireland; Mr. Floyd S. Bennett, a Dickson researcher and descendant of John Dickson (1704-1774) who is identified in her (1972) ms., p. ii; and others cited later in connection with the family of John Dickson (1704-1774). Reynolds must also have been aware of the mention in the first Dickson letter.
46. Reynolds first mentions this in (1956), p. 7, but in (1969), p. 4, she concludes his wife is Mary based on Anson Co., N.C. land grants, and perhaps Elizabeth Dickson was another wife, but concedes this is unproven. In (1972), p. 44, she says "there is no definite knowledge of the wife (or wives) of William Dickson," but she repeats two unverified versions of the story that one wife was Elizabeth Dickson (not related), dau of a Col. John Dickson. One version comes from: R. H. Earley, Family of Earley, p. 287, which states, "William Dickson, emigrant, of Scotch ancestry,

married his cousin, Elizabeth, of Irish Extraction, the dau of Col. John Dickson, a Revolutionary Soldier." Reynolds was unable to confirm this claim and argued that because of the dates involved it is probably untrue. However, the unlikely dates are associated with the claim that John Dickson was of an appropriate age to have been a Revolutionary Soldier - he would have been too old.

47. The identification of William's children is in part uncertain. In (1956) Reynolds mentioned eight: Mary, Peggy (Margaret?), David, Hugh, Michael, William and Nancy, and cites her source as Nancy Campbell (Dickson) Smith, and states the only information which comes directly from a child of William is the data with respect to David. In (1969), pp. 6-7, Reynolds names five with some degree of certainty, Mary, Hugh, David, Sarah, and William, then names Michael as perhaps a son, and then two more Margaret and Nicholas to which she appends "as some say." Later, Reynolds (1972), pp. 44-47, names six, order of birth uncertain: Mary, Margaret, David (whose line was familiar to Reynolds), Hugh, Sarah or Sallie, and William. By this time she has shown that Michael was not a child of William (as is claimed on at least one DAR application) but that instead he was a son of John Dickson, b. 1704, and thus was a first cousin to David Dickson, the subject of her research at the time.
48. Reynolds (1969), p. 8, also Reynolds (1956), p. 16. Where the data do not exactly agree I have used the 1969 version.
49. Reynolds (1969), p. 8 identifies two descendants: (1) Mrs. Gladys (Dickson) Miller, 3216 Lasker Ave., Waco, Texas 76707; (2) Mr. John Cook, 2560 Ironwood, Morrow Bay, California 93442.
50. Reynolds (1972), p. 6. This bible was published in 1836 and when Reynolds wrote her ms. was owned by Gladys Dickson Miller, 3216 Lasker Avenue, Waco, Texas 76707.
51. I never met Harriet Dickson Reynolds or exchanged correspondence with her. I first became aware of her important Dickson manuscripts about 1980 when researching the surname in the DAR library in Washington, D.C. In 1985 I attempted to reach her by phone and learned she was critically ill. Any serious Dickson researcher should attempt to acquire her five manuscripts. In 1977 she was listed at 6200 Inwood Drive, Houston, Texas 77057.
52. Reynolds (1969), p. 9 identifies descendant: H. D. Haynes, Rt. 1, Box 69, Shangaloo, Louisiana 71072.
53. Reynolds (1969), p. 9 identifies descendant: Mrs. Gloria (Cook) Roth, 282 Wroxtton St., Houston, Texas.
54. The Texas Almanac - 1992-93, published by the Dallas Morning News, p. 440.
55. Reynolds (1969), p. 10 identifies descendant: Mr. A. Jeff Kemp, 1617 Binz Building, Houston, Texas 77002.
56. Reynolds (1969), p. 10, cites a letter in the Ga. Archives, written to Miss Anne A. Smith, Halifax County.
57. Reynolds (1977), p. 68.
58. Reynolds (1969), p. 10 provides additional details on the career of McConnell and the imprisonment of his family by Federal Forces during the Civil War. She identifies two descendants: (1) Mrs. Lucile McConnell, Box 154, Lafayette, Walker Co., Ga. 30728, and (2) Mrs. John B. Pogue, Commanche, Rt. 3, Box 182, Commanche Co., Texas 76442.

59. Reynolds (1969), p. 11 says that in 1956 the David Dickson bible was owned by descendant Pearl Dickson, Fayetteville, Fayette Co., Ga.
60. Reynolds (1969), p. 11 says Lester Dickson of Fayetteville, Fayette Co., Ga. is an authority on the life of Gen. David Dickson (1750-1830) and has placed related information in the Ga. State Archives.
61. Reynolds (1972), p. 46 has John Orr which is then crossed out in pen and ink and replaced with James Orr.
62. Reynolds (1972), p. 51, says he made his will 18 Jul 1812 and it was in probate by 1 Oct 1812.
63. Reynolds (1969), p. 6, identifies her source for this line: Mrs. Clark G. Dumas, 4515 Anita St., Dallas, Texas. Note East Feliciana Parish, La., is the arrival location for Robert Dyer and wife Elizabeth Dickson ca. 1809, after leaving Cumberland Co., N.C.
64. Reynolds (1972), p. 51.
65. Reynolds (1969), pp. 6-7, summarizes the difficulty of sorting out the various persons named Michael Dickson in the 1784 - 1800 period.
66. Reynolds (1969), p. 6, is skeptical here. She writes, "And as some say, Margaret Dickson and Nicholas Dickson."
67. Reynolds (1972), p. 54, provides two pages of data on one Nicholas Dickson of South Carolina. Nicholas petitioned on 28 May 1767 for a warrant of survey on the S.C. Bounty act of 1761 for 400 acres. 400 rather than 100 acres indicates a household of several, not necessarily a wife and children. The petition included records proving he was a Protestant and an immigrant from Europe. On the same day as this petition, James Croll (Crawl) petitioned for 100 acres in the same location. This is probably the James Crawl who married Mary Dickson and moved to Georgia (see p. 76-15). Both men were granted land not far from the home of William Dickson (1762-1812), see p. 76-19, brother to Mary Dickson who m. James Crawl. By 1786 the 400 acres granted to Nicholas belonged to William Dickson (1762-1812). Reynolds (1972), p. 55 cites deeds which say Nicholas Dickson gave the land to him. Reynolds has more for interested researchers.
68. Snyder and Sawyer (1982) cite other data and list the date as 1738 or "before 1738," which is consistent with the Dickson Letters, but on p. 288 they write the date as "ca. 1736."
69. Reynolds (1972), p. 15, says "about 1738." Carr says 1738.
70. T. A. Outlaw, "Dickson, of Duplin County, N.C.," p. 1.
71. Robert is identified as a son of John in Reynolds (1972), p. 26. Carr's list of John's children does not include his second son John b. ca. 1732 so that he names William the second son and so on. Reynolds shows that John is a son as he is mentioned as same in his father's will.
72. Snyder and Sawyer (1982), p. 288, also Outlaw, p. 1.
73. Reynolds (1972), p. 16. For the death date Reynolds has 19 Jul 1825, Snyder and Sawyer have 19 Aug 1825, "in his 95th year."
74. Edwards ms., p. 1.

75. Reynolds (1972), p. 16. But Carr, in the introduction to The Dickson Letters, says he and his brother William were born in Chester Co., Penn. It is worth noting that in other matters Reynolds description of his family seems more accurate as it is more complete in the identification of children.
76. Reynolds (1972), p. 16.
77. T. A. Outlaw, p. 1.
78. In her early manuscripts Reynolds identifies him as a son of William (or perhaps a son) but by (1972) she has determined him to be a son of John. At least one DAR application incorrectly identifies him as a son of William, according to Reynolds. Outlaw, p. 1, says William is a son of John and that he lived in the Pendleton District of S.C. after moving from Duplin Co., N.C. Outlaw mentions no other locations.
79. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 288-89.
80. Reynolds (1972), p. 16.
81. Carr, in his comments on the letters says he moved to Georgia just before or just after the Revolution and has many descendants living there. Reynolds (1972), p. 17, states this claim is unfounded and that while he did apply for land in Georgia on 13 Mar 1784, and he was described by his brother in a letter as "about to move to Georgia." He in fact never did and instead remained in South Carolina.
82. Reynolds (1972), p. 18.
83. Reynolds (1972) only states his name, Snyder and Sawyer, p. 289, list the additional data.
84. Sources which mention a person named Samuel Henry Dickson include: [1] Reynolds (1972), p. 19, where he is son of Michael Dickson, b. 31 Aug 1811, and grandson of John Dickson, b. 1768. Reynolds says he is not the doctor and while she does not mention the 1834 memo in his writeup she elsewhere, (1972), p. 3, provides detail on how the memo came to be and asserts it is this Samuel Henry Dickson (not the Doctor) who met with his cousin James Dickson when the memo was generated; [2] Snyder and Sawyer, p. 289, who say he is son of Michael Dickson, b. ca. 1730/31, who m. Sarah Neeley; [3] the Edwards ms., p. 1, which says he is son of Michael, b. Ireland ca. 1735, and describes his medical education and practice at Charleston, S.C. Edwards does not mention the 1834 memo but says he had a son Samuel Henry Neeley Dickson; [4] Outlaw, p. 1, who says he is son of Michael Dickson, b. 1730-1, whose family is difficult to identify but may include Dr. Samuel Henry Dickson, one of the most widely known physicians in the country at the time. Obviously, these sources disagree in substance and only Reynolds (1972) seems to know there are two or more persons by this name who have become confused by the various researchers.
85. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 285. The text of the memo as transcribed from the James Dickson bible is: "Simon Dickson, an Englishman by birth, was born about the year 1607-8, was an officer in the Parlimentary Army, and was sent over in the army of Oliver Cromwell into Ireland, and settled on one of Cromwell's grants of 300 or 400 acres when he was about 40 years old, within two miles of Dromore in the County of Down. At the restoration of Charles the Second, the grants of Cromwell were destroyed and Simon Dickson and his family became tenants, notwithstanding they lived on the same land. He had numerous offspring. It is not known how many sons Simon had, but tradition says there were six. The family in the United States are descendants of his son Joseph. Joseph I, was the father of Joseph II, who was the father of Michael, who was the father of John, who was the father of James Dickson." Even if Snyder and Sawyer confused the two Samuel Henry

Dicksons with respect to their placement in the genealogy, the importance of the memo is not diminished. Reynolds (1972), p. 3, gives some history of how the memo came into being. The memo was drafted or written by Samuel Henry Dickson (1765-1835) in 1834 or perhaps earlier when he was living in Abbeville, later Anderson, County, South Carolina. In this year he was visited by his 1st cousin, James Dickson, Jr., (1802-1882) who Reynolds speculates verified some of the generations familiar to him. The memo was apparently widely circulated in the Dickson family as its contents with respect to the earlier generations appear in various family bibles, the contents of two of which became known to Reynolds (see p. 76-21 for comments on the Michael Dickson bible and p. 76-16 for the William Hugh Dickson bible). This is a rather important observation because one bible was found in a descendant line of John Dickson (1704-1774) while another was found in a descendant line of William Dickson, (ca. 1710-1775) and tends to reinforce Reynolds' conclusion, based on other evidence, that these two were brothers. Finally, the memo was published in Carr's 1933 version of The Dickson Letters, (not seen by this author) along with other Dickson family data and the statement, "James Dickson of Duplin Co., was born in 1802, made a visit to his friends in South Carolina, in 1834, and brought back with him a memorandum pertaining to the history of the Dickson family, which he certified was presented to him by his cousin Samuel Henry Dickson. This memorandum traces the Duplin branch of the family back to Simon Dickson in 1607." Reynolds (1972), p. 4, states it is not known if the memo is still in existence.

86. Reynolds (1972), p. 18. Other manuscripts in this series describe a line of descent from this same Williams family, in Virginia, through the Canterbury family, which then descends through the Kincheloe, Simpson, Hart, Mussey, Poor and Neal families. The famous Roger Williams of Rhode Island was a brother to a direct ancestor in this line.
87. Reynolds (1972), p. 18.
88. Reynolds (1972), p. 18-19, also p. 5 for some comments on the Michael Dickson bible.
89. Reynolds (1972), p. 19.
90. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 289.
91. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 289.
92. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 289, Reynolds does not list William.
93. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 289.
94. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 289.
95. Reynolds (1972), p. 21, mentions some difficulty in identifying this John Dickson from at least one other in Pendleton County who left various records including an entry in the 1790 census. Reynolds showed our subject died before 1790 (in 178\_) as proved by an Administration Bond located by Mr. Floyd S. Bennett (a Dickson researcher now deceased) in Box 27, Pack 620, Probate Records, Abbeville Co.
96. T. A. Outlaw, p. 1, and Reynolds (1972), p. 21.
97. Reynolds (1972), p. 21. Outlaw speculates he moved to S.C. but Reynolds says he cannot be the John Dickson in the 1790 census there.
98. Reynolds (1972), p. 22. Nathaniel is not mentioned by Snyder and Sawyer but they do say John had two sons, one unidentified.

99. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 289, but Reynolds (1972), p. 22, says he had only one son, Nathaniel.
100. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 289, but Reynolds (1972) mentions no daughter.
101. Reynolds (1972), p. 24.
102. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 289, also T. A. Outlaw, p. 2.
103. Reynolds (1972), p. 24. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 289, say married 23 Jun 1829, obviously an error.
104. Only Reynolds (1972), p. 24, makes this statement.
105. John B. Dickson, "Memories of Seventy - Odd Years," 12 p. monograph in possession of the Cumberland Co., N.C. Genealogical Society, copy furnished by Ann Sherman 21 Mar 1988.
106. Reynolds has a typo here where she repeats the date 1776 twice. Snyder and Sawyer provide other data.
107. William Dickson, "Duplin County," originally published in the Raleigh Star, in 1810, and reprinted by the North Carolina Historical Review, some years ago. It was reprinted again in: Footnotes, an occasional publication of the Research Committee of the Duplin County Historical Society, P.O. Box 130, Rose Hill, N.C. 28458, issue no. 26, 1 Aug 1987.
108. The order of the children of William and his wife is uncertain and varies in the different sources. This version of the family from Snyder and Sawyer p. 290-91. Outlaw, Edwards, and Reynolds (1972), p. 24 list the same children but in a different order, in particular Joseph is listed as 4th, Mary 5th, Lewis 6th, Frances 7th and Susannah 8th.
109. Edwards ms., p. 3.
110. Edwards ms., p. 3.
111. Edwards ms., p. 3.
112. The Edwards ms., p. 3, has (4) William Dickson, presumably meaning William Dickson Lanier.
113. Edwards ms., p. 3.
114. T. A. Outlaw, p. 5, cites an unnamed newspaper clipping.
115. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 290, cite: Ray, Tennessee Cousins, p. 697.
116. The Edwards ms., has Indiana Dickson as the second child.
117. The Edwards ms., p. 3, omits the middle name Williams but provides the birthdate which the other sources do not.
118. T. A. Outlaw, p. 2.
119. Edwards, p. 3, has 10 Sep 1805.
120. Edwards ms., p. 3.



121. John B. Dickson, "Memories of Seventy - Odd Years."
122. The Edwards ms. provides the most detail on this family; while Snyder and Sawyer provide some detail on one line. Reynolds and Outlaw provide very little. There are conflicts between Edwards, and Snyder and Sawyer, on some of the dates, for instance Edwards has Calvin Jones Dickson d. 20 Sep 1881 (p. 4), while S.& S. have d. 20 Sep 1861 (p. 290). The data shown here is taken primarily from the Edwards ms.
123. John B. Dickson, "Memories of Seventy - Odd Years." Another Dickson source sets the date at 20 Sep 1881 but in the monograph John Dickson provides a detailed description of the death of his father and mentions his own age (10 years) at the time.
124. John B. Dickson, "Memories of Seventy - Odd Years."
125. John B. Dickson, "Memories of Seventy - Odd Years."
126. John B. Dickson, "Memories of Seventy - Odd Years."
127. This line leads to descendant Ann Dowdy, P.O. Box 103, Elizabeth City, N.C. 27909 who contributed essential data to this genealogy and corrected an important error in Snyder and Sawyer, p. 332, which erroneously attributed her line to Elizabeth Dickson, the subject of this manuscript.
128. T. A. Outlaw, p. 2.
129. The remainder of this family is from the Edwards ms.
130. Reynolds (1972), p. 25a. In the Edwards ms. it reads "probably the daughter who married George Moseley Baker."
131. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 291 cite The Raleigh Register, of 6 Apr 1907.
132. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 292.
133. Some additional details on the line of descent to Abishai Dickson will be found in: Mrs. U. R. Dunn, "Abishai Mercer Dickson, Goliad Hero," Stirpes, Vol. IV, no. 4, Dec 1964, pp. 131-133. Stirpes, is the official publication of the Texas State Genealogical Society. Mrs. Dunn's article is based on The Dickson Letters, but includes data not found in the letters.
134. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 292, cite: Ray, Tennessee Cousins, p. 59.
135. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 292 lists nine children, but Reynolds (1972) lists only Michael.
136. Reynolds (1972), p. 28. This date and the birthdate for his sister Anne Dickson given by Snyder and Sawyer, p. 292, conflict. Snyder and Sawyer give no birthdate for Michael; the Edwards ms. has the date given by Reynolds. The Edwards ms. says Anne was b. 1775, Reynolds gives no date.
137. Reynolds (1972), p. 28. Dunn, p. 131 says she was of North Carolina.
138. Dunn, pp. 132-133.
139. Reynolds (1972), p. 29, lists descendants: (1) Mrs. Margaret (Hamilton) Skidmore, wife of T. D. Skidmore, of San Antonio, Texas, and (2) Mrs. C. O. Summitt of Nashville, Tennessee, and Hattiesburg, Forrest Co., Tenn.

140. Dunn, p. 132-133.
141. Edwards ms., p. 8.
142. Some details of his life can be found in: The Tri Cities Sun, Goose Creek, Texas, 27 Jul 1931, vol. 13, no. 48, pp. 1 and 4.
143. Dunn says she was b. in Tennessee.
144. Reynolds (1972), p. 28 has the name James Williams Dickson; the Edwards ms. has the name Jacob W. Dickson. Both say died at Memphis Tenn., and both place this person in the birth order shown.
145. T. A. Outlaw, p. 3. The Edwards ms., p. 8, identifies a descendant Dr. Charles W. Price of Washington, D.C., "lately deceased." The Edwards ms. is undated but contains references as late as the 1920's.
146. The Edwards ms. simply says, "no record."
147. Reynolds (1972), p. 31, Snyder and Sawyer, p. 293. The date of the marriage is from Bass, a list of marriages for which I have lost the citation.
148. T. A. Outlaw, p. 3.
149. Reynolds (1972), p. 31; Snyder and Sawyer, p. 293; Edwards ms., p. 9.
150. Reynolds (1972), p. 31 says Ann Dickson m. Dr. Stephen Graham, citing Carr (1933), p. 11 and 94, but this is probably an error. What Carr actually wrote in describing the family of Edward Dickson was: "His oldest daughter Rebecca, married Rev. Jacob Williams by whom she had a daughter Ann who m. Dr. Stephen Graham a noted physician of Duplin County in his day." Both Snyder and Sawyer, p. 293, and the Edwards ms., p. 9, say Ann (dau of Edward) "married a Bryan," then state later that Edward's granddaughter, Ann Williams, m. married Dr. Stephen Graham of Duplin Co., N.C., who died 27 Oct 1834. Snyder and Sawyer continue the line three more generations, the Edwards ms. one more generation. Each contains data, including names, not found in the other. Reynolds had almost no data on this family while the other sources had extensive data.
151. This data only in Snyder and Sawyer, p. 293.
152. T. A. Outlaw, p. 4.
153. This line continued in Snyder and Sawyer, p. 293, and in the Edwards ms., p. 9.
154. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 293, carry this family at least three more generations but with some obvious errors. For instance, Ann Williams, dau of Rebecca is listed as b. ca. 1800, and the mother of Sarah Rebecca Graham b. 31 Dec 1781. Descendants of this line inherited part of the Rockefeller fortune derived from the Standard Oil Corp. Snyder and Sawyer cite: The Kenan Family, p. 47-54.
155. Snyder and Sawyer cite, The Kenan Family, pp. 47-54, for the material which follows. The birthdate given for Sarah in Snyder and Sawyer is 31 Dec 1781, surely an error. The date 31 Dec 1817 is from the Edwards ms., p. 7.
156. T. A. Outlaw, p. 3.



157. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 296, and the Edwards ms., pp. 8-9. Carr says he had 7 girls and 8 boys but he only names three, Edward, William and Alexander. Reynolds (1972), p. 32, names six of the fifteen children: Edward, William Pearsall, Alexander, James Jr., Linda, and Robert Dickson.
158. Eleanor Dickson Sloan's family is documented in several places. See: (1) Snyder and Sawyer, p. 307 (Dickson family), p. 273 (Sloan family), and pp. 240, 245 (McGowan family); (2) Reynolds (1969), p. 3; (3) Reynolds (1972), p. 21; (4) Mamie Chambers Sawyer (1969), p. 36 cited in endnote no. 161; (5) Murphy, "Duplin County Wills," p. 150, will 465.
159. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 309.
160. The Edwards ms., p. 10.
161. This Chambers family is further documented by Snyder and Sawyer, p. 373. See also: Mamie Chambers Sawyer, The Chambers Family of Duplin Co., North Carolina, (1969), published by the author, 111 West Cypress St., Elizabeth City, N.C. 27909, see pp. 34-61.
162. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 376.
163. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 298. They cite: Ozborn Carr, The Carr Family, pp. 58-59, (not seen) and other sources including the James Dickson, Jr., family bible, and the Carr Family bible (not seen). Susannah Powell married first 16 Oct 1787, James Carr b. 1763, d. 5 Aug 1796, son of Joseph Carr of Ireland (Carr Family, p. 38).
164. According to Snyder and Sawyer, pp. 295, 298, Susannah Powell was the dau of Osborne Powell of Carven Co., N.C. James Carr and Susannah had three children: (1) Ann Carr b. 18 Mar 1790, (2) Osborne Carr b. 11 Mar 1793 and (3) John Carr b. 22 May 1795.
165. Edwards has b. 8 Nov 1799, Snyder and Sawyer p. 297 have b. 17 Nov 1798 but on p. 300, b. 8 Nov 1798.
166. Edwards names the spouse Benjamin Oliver; S. & S. have John Oliver on p. 297, and Benjamin Oliver on p. 300.
167. The similarity of text in Snyder and Sawyer, p. 297 and the Edwards ms., p. 10 and 1/2, suggests the former had access to the latter source.
168. Snyder and Sawyer, pp. 297, 301, also Reynolds (1972), p. 32. According to Snyder and Sawyer, p. 297, this family has been published by Linda Carr Hawes and Frances Dickson Jenkins in: The Dickson Family, (1979), Rose Hill, N.C.
169. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 311, also Reynolds (1969), p. 3.
170. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 235.
171. Reynolds (1972), p. 33.
172. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 235, and the Edwards ms., pp. 11-14. There are many differences between these sources in the dates, particularly the birthdates. I have generally used the more complete date where this occurs and have cited a few instances where the difference is significant. At the end of this family the Edwards ms., says: "One of these ten sons of William McGowan married Susannah Hooks and had Thomas Jefferson McGowan." On the same page the author wrote: "George

McGowan married Elizabeth West, this was doubtless the son of Edward or Robert McGowan, one of these ten sons. He appears on the Onslow Co., N.C., records.

173. David McGowan is not mentioned in the 1784 Dickson Letter. This may be interpreted in one of two ways: (1) he died before the letter was written, thus "John the oldest," is the oldest living son, and (2) he was born and died after 1784. The Edwards ms., p. 12, says "b. 1769, d. before 1784." Snyder and Sawyer, p. 238, say, "b. after the 1784 letter, mentioned as dead Oct 1797, Court Minutes."
174. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 238. The birthdate varies with the source, Edwards ms. has 5 Dec 1773 for William and 18 May 1782 for Mary Pearsall.
175. The Edwards ms. has b. 1814.
176. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 245.
177. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 285, quotes from the James Dickson (b. 7 Jun 1802) bible saying two sons were b. *Pennsylvania* and one, name not given, was born in Maryland.
178. An abstract of his will appears in The DAR Magazine, 1928, p. 498-499. It reads: "Duplin Co., N.C., will dated March 18, 1790, proved Apr term 1790, book A, pp. 101. Mentions child my wife Barbara is now great with. Sons Edward and Robert, John Dickson. Dorothy Dickson (relationship not given). Stepchildren Lincoln Shuffield and Mary Shuffield (land adjoining James Wallace and Isom Shuffield), Edward appears to have had children, others unmarried, except Anne Bryan. Lands of John Boney, Chason and Peter Morriss, and John Chambers. Executors John Dickson (son) and Wm. and Joseph Dickson (brothers). Witnesses James Dickson, Dorothy Dickson and Jane Dickson. A second abstract appears on p. 498 dated 24 Mar 1790 (6 days later) which defines a codicil proved Apr 1790. This mentions John Dickson (son), Anne Bryan (dau), executors Wm. and Joseph Dickson. Mentions James Maxwell's land. Same witnesses as the will.
179. Emma Morehead Whitfield, Whitfield, Bryan, Smith, and Related Families; Book Two: Bryan, Smith; p. 18, footnote 26. Editor: Theodore Marshall Whitfield. Copy in the DAR library, Wash., D.C.
180. The N.C. State Census for 1786 for Duplin Co., reads: "Duplin list of Capt. Gillespie's Company, taken by Thomas Routledge and returned Apr 1786." Then:

Robert Dickson  
1 white male, 21-60  
5 white males, <21 and >60  
6 white females  
9 blacks 21 to 50  
11 blacks <12 and >50
181. Lincoln Shuffield is perhaps the one who m. Catherine McGowan (see p. 76-36).
182. William L. Murphy, "Genealogical Abstracts, Duplin County, North Carolina Wills," (1982), Duplin Co., Historical Society, Rose Hill, N.C., p. 40, will 138.
183. "William Dickson to Rev. Robert Dickson," 30 Nov 1784, Duplin Co., N.C. (First "Dickson Letter.") This event is mentioned twice in the description of Cornwallis' march thru Duplin, about one third way into the letter, see Appendix One.

184. The error in citing 1784 rather than 1781, is due to misinterpretation of Carr (1901), in his introduction to the letters, which uses that date in referring to Robert's last return from Virginia but not with respect to the birth of Elizabeth or the death of his wife. This error was repeated by several researchers including: Reynolds (1972), p. 26; Snyder and Sawyer in several places; and others, but not by Pearsall (1928) who clearly says on p. 1390, "returned in July 1781."
185. Samuel Eliot Morison, The Oxford History of the American People, (New York: 1965) map, p. 252, text, p. 261.
186. Morison, p. 265.
187. What is one to make of Carr's 1784 comment and its further misinterpretation by others? I suggest the following: Carr's remark is not a quote from the letters. It is a statement based on information in the first letter (and perhaps other information known to Carr but not contained in any of the letters) which refers to Robert Dickson's return from Virginia. Carr wrote in his comments explaining the letters: "Robert Dickson, the third son of John Dickson, moved to Virginia at the close of the Revolution, but returned to Duplin about 1784, where he made his permanent home." Nowhere in the letters does this information appear. What the letters say has to do with Robert's return from "the back parts of Virginia when Cornwallis went through us." Since he uses the words "when Cornwallis went through us," in the same sentence with the words, "returned in July," he has to mean 1781. This suggests Carr's reference to 1784 is a later return, the final one to Duplin, from Virginia. This later event has no connection to the birth of Elizabeth or the death of his wife. One can only conclude those who assigned the year 1784 to Elizabeth's birth on the basis of Carr's comment introduced an unwarranted and certainly erroneous assumption. That there had to be two (or more) "returns," from Virginia is clear from the letter where in the same sentence mentioned above William Dickson wrote, "which he put to nurse and returned to Virginia again; but not liking to settle there he returned home as soon as the enemy left Wilmington..." etc. "As soon as," may suggest sooner than 1784 but Carr does say "about 1784," as if not sure.
188. The name, Williams, is given in the letter: "Ann Dowdy to Douglas Travers," dated 19 Feb 1988, which included a family record sheet on Robert Dickson, d. 1790. On this data sheet Barbara Williams is identified as the widow of Isham Sheffield. Essentially the same data has been found in several other sources which mention Barbara Shuffield.
189. The name, Boney, is given in the Edwards ms., p. 6 and p. 7, also in Outlaw, p. 3. Neither Snyder and Sawyer, or Reynolds provide the maiden name of the widow Barbara.
190. "Ann Dowdy to Douglas Travers," letter dated 19 Feb 1988.
191. The subsequent marriage to John Wilkinson is mentioned in the Edwards ms., p. 6; also in Outlaw, p. 2. Ann Dowdy provided similar information copied from an LDS microfilm which shows widow Barbara married 24 Jan 1798 John Wilkinson. She appears in Bladen Co., N.C., in 1790 and in Duplin in 1820.
192. Clarence E. Pearsall, Hettie May Pearsall, and Harry L. Neall, History and Genealogy of the Pearsall Family in England and America, (1928), three volumes, p. 1389. Virtually every source which mentions the name of Robert's wife identifies her as Catherine Pearsall daughter of Edward Pearsall. [The Pearsall genealogy is to be used with caution, particularly with respect to the earlier generations. See the severely critical paper: Seversmith and Wardwell, "The Fabulous Pearsalls", The American Genealogist, vol. 18, 1942, pp. 78-90. In addition Sawyer wrote: "Pearsall is absolutely wrong on the Duplin family," "Mamie Sawyer to Douglas Travers," letter dated 26 Aug 1988, original in possession of this author. Nevertheless, the identity of Robert's wife does not seem to be in question.]

193. The 1820 Cumberland Co., N.C. census record for John Dickson, Esq., reads:

| Head of Family     | Free White Males |          |          |          |          | Free White Females |          |          |          |    | For<br>Nat | Agr<br>ure | Com<br>mer<br>ce | Man<br>fac<br>ure | Fre<br>Col<br>erd | Sla<br>ves |     |
|--------------------|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----|------------|------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-----|
|                    | <10              | 10       | 16       | 16       | 26       | >45                | <10      | 10       | 16       | 26 |            |            |                  |                   |                   |            | >45 |
|                    | to<br>16         | to<br>18 | to<br>26 | to<br>26 | to<br>45 |                    | to<br>16 | to<br>26 | to<br>45 |    |            |            |                  |                   |                   |            |     |
| John Dickson, Esq. | 0                | 1        | 1        | 3        | 0        | 1                  | 1        | 1        | 1        | 0  | 1          | 1          |                  |                   |                   |            |     |

194. "John Dickson to Gen. David Dickson," 5 Apr 1813, letter written "near Fayette Ville N.C.," reproduced by Reynolds (1972), p. 43, who states the original is in the Dickson Manuscripts File, The Ga. Dept. of Archives and History, Atlanta, Ga. This was John Dickson b. ca. 1765-6, d. 1822, of Cumberland Co., N.C.
195. Marguerite Blocker Bartlett, "Some of the Blockers," p. 8, manuscript written Apr 1967 at St. Petersburg, Florida. Copy provided by Anna Sherman of Fayetteville, N.C. Original in possession of Mr. Samuel T. Johnson, P.O. Box 587, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33731, (813-866-2705 or 813-343-9206, in Oct 1988).
196. John Dickson's letter of 5 Apr 1813 provides the number of children and Martha's name. Sarah (Blocker) Dickson's will dated 22 Nov 1822, provides the other names. See: Lepine and Sherman, "Will Abstracts, Cumberland Co., N.C., 1754-1863," (1984). Outlaw, p. 2, provides the name of Martha's husband.
197. John Dickson's letter of 5 Apr 1813.
198. The Edwards ms., p. 6.
199. Bartlett, "Some of the Blockers," family chart preceeding p. 1.
200. The Edwards ms., p. 6.
201. "Ann Dowdy to Douglas Travers," letter dated 19 Feb 1988, enclosed family information sheet on Robert Dickson. The Dickson letter written 30 Nov 1784 supports this date: "age about 16."
202. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 291, clearly a ten year error.
203. "Ann Dowdy to Douglas Travers," letter dated 23 Mar 1988.
204. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 291. Nancy Smith is not named in Whitfield. According to Ann Dowdy (23 Mar 1988) the first three wives of Kedar Bryan were: (1) m. 1775 Elizabeth Smith, issue: John Bryan, (2) Mary Whitfield, issue: Rachel Bryan, and (3) Betsy James. The same information is in Whitfield, book two, pp. 18-19.
205. "Ann Dowdy to Douglas Travers," letter of 23 Mar 1988, and Whitfield, cited above. The same six children are listed in the Edwards ms., p. 6.
206. Whitfield, book two, pp. 18-19, as cited in "Dowdy to Travers," 23 Mar 1988.
207. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 291; Edwards ms., p. 6, and Outlaw, p. 2, all show Sallie Hinton and none mention a second marriage.
208. Edwards ms., provides the names of his children; Dowdy, 23 Mar 1988, provides exact date of death.

209. The Edwards ms., p. 6.
210. Whitfield, vol. 2, cited by Dowdy, 23 Mar 1988.
211. Dowdy's line. Mentioned by her, 23 Mar 1988.
212. "Ann Dowdy to Douglas Travers," letter of 23 Mar 1988.
213. The Edwards ms., p. 6.
214. "Ann Dowdy to Douglas Travers," letter of 19 Feb 1988, family group sheet for Robert Dickson.
215. "Ann Dowdy to Douglas Travers," letter of 19 Feb 1988, family group sheet for Robert Dickson.
216. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 292.
217. Date range estimated from the first Dickson letter which gives Ann Dickson's age. Dowdy says 1774 (19 Feb 1988, sheet on Robert Dickson), Snyder and Sawyer, and Edwards have no birth date.
218. Edwards ms., p. 7.
219. The Edwards ms., p. 7, cites: T. H. Molton, The Molton Family.
220. Called dead in first Dickson letter.
221. Established from the first Dickson letter as clarified elsewhere.
222. The name Boney comes from the T. A. Outlaw manuscript, p. 2.
223. "Ann Dowdy to Douglas Travers," letter of 19 Feb 1988, sheet on Robert Dickson. As stated elsewhere, Dowdy says Barbara's maiden name was Williams; the Edwards ms., p. 6, and Outlaw, p. 2 say it was Boney.
224. "Ann Dowdy to Douglas Travers," 19 Feb 1988, Robert Dickson sheet.
225. He is not mentioned in the first Dickson letter of 30 Nov 1784, Dowdy estimates b. 1786, death date from Robert Dickson family sheet from Dowdy. Without issue stated by Snyder and Sawyer, p. 292, but they also say d. 1845, which is an error. Edwards ms., says d. 1815 and cites his will published in "Duplin Wills," cited earlier, and the DAR magazine, Aug 1928, p. 498.
226. Edwards ms., p. 7; Dowdy, 19 Feb 1988, Robert Dickson family sheet.
227. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 292, and the Edwards ms., p. 7. Each source contains names in this family not listed by the other. Snyder lists the two children who died young, Edwards list the child by the second marriage.
228. T. A. Outlaw, p. 2 says Margaret Chapman was the second wife of his father, William Dickson.
229. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 292; the death date of the second wife is from the Edwards ms.
230. The Edwards ms., p. 7; Snyder and Sawyer, p. 292.

231. Snyder and Sawyer, p. 292 have b. 1919, d. 1923, obviously an error. This child and the next are not in the Edwards ms.
232. The Edwards ms., p. 7.
233. Thomas is in the Edwards ms., p. 7, but not in Snyder and Sawyer.
234. Family Bible Record of Robert Dyer, d. 1839, Red River Co., Texas.
235. The U.S. Census for Rusk County, Texas, family of Roland Cornelius and wife Martha (Dyer) Cornelius, who listed both her parents born North Carolina.
236. The Robert Dyer bible, p. 729, provides the death date and the note, "aged 51 years."
237. Alfred Poor, The Poor Poore Family Gathering at Haverhill, Mass., 14 Sep 1887, (Salem, Mass., 1890). See Appendix One of the Poor family portion of this record for the text of the obituary of Ira S. Poor. This source reports her death in Texas. Because she died in 1832, however, it is more probable she died in Louisiana as the family probably did not move to Red River Co., Texas until ca. 1834. See: Gifford White, First Settlers of Red River County, Texas, (1981), pp. 21-24.
238. See above citation. There is perhaps no way to resolve this with certainty.
239. The Robert Dyer bible, p. 729.
240. The Robert Dyer bible, p. 727.
241. Of the nine children of Robert and Elizabeth only two, Eliza Dyer and Martha Dyer are certain to have lived past the 1880 census, although a third, George Washington Dyer, has not been located in 1880. Martha (Rusk Co.) reported her mother b. in North Carolina, the entry for Eliza occurs with her son David Poor in Bexar Co., and lists Elizabeth as born Louisiana, which is highly improbable.
242. The marriage bonds for Cumberland are missing for the years 1754 to 1802, see: William Perry Johnson, "North Carolina Marriage Bonds," The North Carolinian, vol. 2, no. 4, Dec 1956, no. 8, p. 231.
243. Marguerite Blocker Bartlett, "Some of the Blockers," manuscript finished April 1967, printed St. Petersburg, Fla. Out of print. Original papers in the possession of Mr. Johnson, son of the author. In Oct 1988 Mr. Johnson could be reached at 813-866-2705 or 813-343-9206.
244. The Robert Dyer bible, p. 728.
245. Louisiana Genealogical Register, vol. 3, no. 2, Oct 1947, p. 122.
246. Three children are identified in two letters from Mary Dyer (one of the children): (1) "Mary John Dyer to Eliza (Dyer) and Thomas Smith," letter dated 27 Jul 1862 at Clarksville, Texas. Orig. in possession of this author, Dyer doc. no. 15, and (2) "Mary J. Dyer to Eliza (Dyer) Smith," letter dated 1 Jan 1862 at Clarksville, Texas. Orig in possession of this author, Dyer doc. no. 14.
247. No evidence exists (in the author's family records) for the middle name Henry; only the initial "H" is used in the Dyer bible. The name Henry appears in the records of Clairborne Parish, La., where Dickson H. Dyer was county clerk. See the Dyer manuscript, "James Dyer of Cumberland County, N.C.," for Dyer bible evidence supporting a case for Henry also being the middle name of

Dickson's brother, John H. Dyer b. 1809. Hester, a Robert Dyer family slave, named her first son b. after John died "John Henry." The name Henry may have had special family meaning.

248. Austin Wheeler Smith, The Dickson McEwen and Allied Families Genealogy, (Cookville, Tenn.: 1945), 1st edition, p. 43, (no. 186).

249. The Robert Dyer bible, p. 728. The last digit of the date cannot be read. The 31st of July occurred on a Thursday in 1823.



## APPENDIX ONE

### The Dickson Letters

The first four "Dickson Letters" were written by William Dickson (cited on page 76-21) of Duplin Co., North Carolina during the American Revolution and were directed to his cousin the Rev. Robert Dickson (cited on page 76-13) in Ireland. The fifth was to his neice in South Carolina. James O. Carr, a descendant of the Dickson family (and whose line of descent is identified in this manuscript), recognized the historical significance of these letters and published them in 1901 in manuscript form. Carr told us in 1901 the first three letters were then in existence and had the marks of their use as a message of introduction by cousins coming to America. Two sons of the Rev. Robert Dickson came to America, bringing the letters as a means of introduction. One of these sons was drowned and the other eventually returned to Ireland after which the letters fell into the hands of John Dickson of Cumberland Co., N.C., then Robert Bryan, Sr., of Scott's Hill, N.C., and the Evans family of Cumberland County who preserved them. In his 1901 manuscript Carr reports the letters were essentially unedited, however, he did change some capitalization, spelling and punctuation in what he called "slight changes," that did not impair the sense or expression of the originals. The existing original versions have been donated to certain libraries. The letters consist of the following 5 items:

Table One - The Dickson Letters

| Ltr No. | Date Written | Author          | To Whom        | Comment  |
|---------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|--|
| 1       | 30 Nov 1784  | William Dickson | Robert Dickson | Cornwallis at Robert Dickson's ranch; death of Robert's wife Jul 1781 leaving an infant a few days old; impact of war on some Dickson family members.            |
| 2       | 24 Feb 1786  | William Dickson | Robert Dickson | Descriptions of the countryside and further accounts of Dickson family members after the war; new school. Remarks on Irish politics.                             |
| 3       | 30 Nov 1787  | William Dickson | Robert Dickson | Comments on government and the creation of the constitution at Philadelphia; some genealogy. Remarks on parallels between N.C. and Roman governments.            |
| 4       | 28 Dec 1790  | William Dickson | Robert Dickson | Favorable comments on the new U.S. government but concern N.C. and southern states will not receive equal treatment with states of the north. Letter incomplete. |
| 5       | 13 Mar 1818  | William Dickson | Linda Dickson  | A personal letter with comments on some members of the Dickson and other families; "to improve .. the mind is more ornamental .. than dress or show."            |



**1. The First Letter - William Dickson writes to The Rev. Robert Dickson in Ireland, dated Duplin Co., 30 Nov 1784**

Dear Cousin Robert:

About two months ago I received a very long letter from you, dated in Sept 1783 which afforded me much pleasure and satisfaction in the perusal, as it contained a historical account of the political proceedings of the Irish Nation during the continuance of the late American War. I much admire and applaud the determined resolution of the volunteers in claiming a redress of public national grievances, etc. I understand by that letter that you wrote me in May 1783, by the ship Congress, **Capt. Chenen**, bound for Philadelphia; that letter never came to hand. I received another letter from you dated 19th of July 1784, which was handed to me by my **cousin Joseph Dickson**, from Dromore, who arrived in Virginia the 2nd of October last and came to my house about the 20th of the same month with his wife and little son, all in good health. He and his family remain with me yet. He is not provided with any settlement or place of employment. Since his arrival here he has visited his friends, that is, my brothers and sister, and he has been to Bladen County, about 60 miles from here, to inquire after his **uncle Maturine Colvill's** affairs; he finds that estate is much wasted and embezzled; there are only the lands and some part of the slaves found remaining, which are now in the possession of **Mr. Patrick Neil**, who came over last year in quest of said estate. **Joseph** is now gone to Wilmington to see **Archibald Maclaine, Esq.**, who is attorney for some of **Colvill's heirs**, and as soon as he can be informed concerning his uncle's affairs he will write to his father on that subject. Your letter by **Colvill Dickson** has never come to hand.

Your friend and relation **Mr. Josie**, who came over with **Joseph**, stayed in Virginia; he had the offer of a good school and did not come to Carolina. In both your letters which I have received you requested I would give you some account of the present circumstances and situation of our families since the war, also the present state of our civil government, also concerning religious matters and how ministers were supported in this country, and also concerning the price of plantations and whether any new settlements were about to be made on the western waters over the Appalachian Mountains, etc. Dear Cousin, in answer to those questions I wrote you a very long letter about a month ago which was a few days after the arrival of my **cousin Joseph**. That letter I sent at random by a person going to Virginia, where, I was informed there was a vessel which would sail in about three weeks for Belfast. That letter is a very long one, but written in such haste that it will appear a perfect scrawl. The person who carried it waiting with impatience while I wrote. I had not the opportunity to review or correct it. However if it ever comes to hand I make no doubt you'll be able to digest its contents. In it you'll find I have attempted to give you some account of our civil government and mode of legislation, etc. Also of the different sects of religious people most prevalent amongst us in the lower counties of this state, and that the Presbyterian settlements are chiefly with the upper counties of the state, where there are many large and able congregations and some of them are frequently vacant.

I also gave you my opinion that a good sound preacher of a good moral character scarcely ever wanted good encouragement. I also wrote you concerning the price of lands and plantations in this part of the country. I also began in that letter a historical account of the war as far as concerned us and our families in the vicinity of Carolina which I have found from the commencement of the war down to the Battle of Guilford in North Carolina, which happened in the spring of the year 1781, from which **Lord Cornwallis** returned to Wilmington to recruit and repair his damages, etc., before he could proceed to Virginia; and **General Green** marched his army to South Carolina to dispute the dominion of the state with **Lord Rawdon** who then commanded the garrison at Camden; then I concluded my last letter in which you'll find none of our families concerned except my oldest **brother Michael**, who had his share of both good and ill fortune. I can give you no account of his present situation. The last account I had from him he was about moving his family to Georgia. Having thus brought the war to our door, I shall now give you some account of its operation here and how much it affects us and our families. About the 25th of January, 1781, **Maj. Craig** arrived in the Cape Fear River, landed at Wilmington with about 450 veteran troops with which he garrisoned the town and detached a party up the North East River to the great bridge about 12 miles above

the town, and then demolished the bridge, seized and burned some public store ships and their contents which had been run up the river for safety, and also destroyed some private property and returned to the town, and **Major Craig** immediately fortified the garrison. The militia of three counties were then immediately ordered down to take post at the great bridge, and that pass was fortified by us in order to prevent the enemy from making excursions into the country. We had been there about three weeks with about 700 militia when **Major Craig** marched out upon us in the night with his main force and some field pieces, surprised and dispersed our piquet guard and displayed his artillery across the river upon our dirt works, but without any effect. The enemy finding their attempt entirely fruitless, after staying and viewing us across the river for two days, returned in the night to Wilmington. About two weeks after this we received intelligence from Guilford County in the upper part of the state that a general engagement had ensued between **Lord Cornwallis and General Greene**; there the conflict was long and obstinate and the victory had been in favor of the Americans had it not been for misconduct of the North Carolina militia, who broke and left our part of the line exposed, which the enemy seeing, and being about to make use of the advantage, **General Greene** ordered a retreat and broke off the whole without any confusion. The enemy remained upon the ground.

**General Greene** finding his troops still in high spirits and not so much diminished as might be expected, made all the necessary preparations to attack the enemy the next day, but was disappointed by **Cornwallis** precipitately decamping in the night; he carried off some of his wounded and left about 200 of his wounded at the place of action with an officer and two surgeons whom he recommended to the compassion and humanity of the American General. **Cornwallis** made his retreat good to Wilmington and **General Greene**, after pursuing him two days without any prospect of coming up with him, turned his course and marched into South Carolina, where I shall leave him for the present. **Cornwallis** arrived at Wilmington, and, **General Greene** being gone to South Carolina, seemed to strike terror on our militia then at their post. **General Lillington**, who then commanded the post at the great bridge, ordered our retreat from that to Kingston on the Neuse River, about 30 miles above Newbern, where on the 28th of April, he discharged all the militia except one company to guard the artillery and stores. The militia thus discharged, we had not the name of an army in North Carolina. Every man was now to look to himself. The next day after being discharged we returned home. **Cornwallis' army was then in the middle of our country, encamped at my brother Robert Dickson's plantation.** The whole country was struck with terror, almost every man quit his habitation and fled, leaving his family and property to the mercy of merciless enemies. Horses, cattle and sheep and every kind of stock were driven off from every plantation, corn and forage taken for the supply of the army and no compensation given, houses plundered and robbed, chests, trunks, etc., broke, women and children's clothes, etc., as well as men's wearing apparel and every kind of household furniture taken away. The outrages were committed mostly by a train of loyal refugees, as they termed themselves, whose business it was to follow the camps and under the protection of the army enrich themselves on the plunder they took from the distressed inhabitants who were not able to defend it. We were also distressed by another swarm of beings (not better than harpies). These were women who followed the army in the character of officers' and soldiers' wives. They were generally considered by the inhabitants to be more insolent than the soldiers. They were generally mounted on the best horses and side saddles, dressed in the finest and best clothes that could be taken from the inhabitants as the army marched through the country.

Our family are all obnoxious to the enemy, although none of the brothers except myself have actually taken arms and joined the army. I will now give you some account of how we all fared while the enemy were in our neighborhood. **My brother Robert had left his place and removed his family and property. The enemy encamped one day and night at his plantation and destroyed some of his stock which he had not got off.** The same day my **brother Joseph** in his own house by the dragoons, but being determined would not surrender, fled into a thicket or swamp, and although pursued made good his escape. The enemy plundered his house, took all his corn, his horses and his wife's clothes, side saddle, etc. The same day another party went to my **brother James** house, and not finding him at home, plundered his house of everything they could find in it, took off two of his slaves and all his corn, etc., and compelled his wife and a neighbor woman, who was there, to deliver them the rings off their fingers and the buckles off their shoes. The same day my sister's husband, **William McGowan**, was found driving some stock out of their way;

he was made a prisoner and after being some time under guard was compelled to pilot their Light Horse to his own and several of his neighbor's houses where they took all the corn and forage, all the horses and cattle, etc., they could get. The night following they detained him under guard and went and plundered his house of everything they found in it worth carrying away, broke every lock, ransacked every chest and trunk, took away all the bedding, etc., all the apparel, even the baby's clothes, stripped the rings off my sister's fingers and the shoes and buckles off her feet, choked the children to make them confess if their father had not hid his money, and to tell where it was, etc., and many of the neighbors were treated in the same brutish manner. The following day the army encamped near my house. Sundry portions of their Light Horse called on my house, and notwithstanding I was not at home, they went away peaceably and took nothing from me, which I thought very strange, for sundry of my neighbors were plundered of almost everything they had. The enemy being destined for Virginia, made but a very short stay in our neighborhood, but immediately after they were gone came our greatest troubles; for the Loyalists, or as we term them Torries, began to assemble and hold councils in every part of the state, and thinking the country already conquered, because the enemy had gone through us without being checked, they were audacious enough to apprehend and take several of our principal leading men prisoners and carry them down to Wilmington and deliver them to the guards. There were numbers of our good citizens thus betrayed, perished on board prison ship and in their power. This so alarmed the inhabitants that none of us dared to sleep in our houses or beds at night for fear of being surprised by those blood-suckers and carried off to certain destruction. In the meantime the Governor of the state, and several others of the first character, were surprised in this manner, by some who had been personally acquainted with him, and carried and delivered to the guards in Wilmington, notwithstanding the attempt of sundry parties of the militia to rescue him.

Matters being thus in confusion, there was no subordination amongst men; but every proprietor or leading man raised and commanded his own little party and defended themselves as they could. At length we got collected about 400 men under **Colonel Kenan** in Duplin, and about 200 under **Colonel Brown** in Bladen, the adjacent county. **Colonel Kenan's** militia had not made a stand more than ten days when **Major Craig** marched his main force, with field pieces, defeated and drove us out of our works, and made some of our men prisoners (here I narrowly escaped being taken or cut down by the dragoon). The enemy stayed several days in Duplin County (this being the first week in August 1781). The Royalists gathered together very fast, and we were now reduced again to the utmost extremity. The enemy were now more cruel to the disressed inhabitants than **Cornwallis'** army had been before. Some men collected and formed a little flying camp and moved near the enemy's lines and made frequent sallies on their rear flanks while others fled from their homes and kept out of the enemy's reach. **Major Craig** marched from Duplin to Newbern, plundered the town, destroyed the public stores, and then immediately marched back to Wilmington to secure the garrison.

The Loyalists or Tories in Duplin and other counties, now think the day entirely their own, became more insolent than ever; but **Craig** having again returned to Wilmington the Whigs again resumed their courage and determined to be revenged on the Loyalists, our neighbors, or hazard all; accordingly we collected about eighty light horsemen and equipped them as well as we could; marched straight into the neighborhood where the Tories were embodied, surprised them, they fled, our men pursued them, cut many of them to pieces, took several and put them instantly to death. This action struck such terror on the Tories in our county that they never attempted to embody again and many of them in a short time came in and submitted and were pardoned (I was not in this action nor any afterward during this whole season of the war). I never received a wound but one which was a shot through my right leg, though I had three narrow escapes when I was in danger of being killed or taken.

In Bladen County the Tories were more numerous and more insolent than in our county; one **McNeil**, a Scotchman, was made Colonel of the Loyalists, and was very active against the Whigs. He was one of the principal commanders in carrying off the Governor to Wilmington, but did not live to get there himself; for being attacked by a party of the militia, who attempted to rescue the prisoners, **Colonel McNeil**, and several men of his party, was slain, although none of the prisoners were retaken. Immediately after this a commission was sent to your friend and countryman, **Maturine Colvill**, to take command of the Loyalists in Bladen County, which he accepted. Some of the leading men of the Whig party in that county and **Mr.**



Colvill having been formerly obnoxious to each other, occasioned by some dispute among themselves, and they dreading his courage and intrepidity and the impetuosity of his temper, which some of them very well knew would be fatal to some as soon as he came to head his troops, it was so contrived that he was soon taken off by a party who slew him in his own house the morning of the same day in which he was to head his loyal troops. He was succeeded in command by **Col. John Slingsby**, who headed the troops embodied, about 400 at Bladen Court House. **Colonel Brown**, with about 150 of the Whigs, surprised him in the night, slew **Colonel Slingsby** and two of his Captains and some of his men, and retreated without any loss, and returned in the morning where he found only the slain and some of the wounded, the rest having fled and made their escape. This put an end to the disturbances in Bladen County; the Tories never embodied there any more, so by this time our two distressed counties of Duplin and Bladen began to get the upper hand of their enemies. **Colonel Slingsby** was succeeded in the command of Royalists in Bladen by **your countryman, Faithful Graham**, but before he had the opportunity of doing his majesty any service he had suffered the fate of his predecessors had he not made his escape through a swamp and got into Wilmington. About this time, being about the middle of October, **General Rutherford and General Butler**, with 1,500 militia from the back counties of the state, came down to our assistance. Their troops began by distressing the Royalists with a view thereby of drawing the troops out of Wilmington to an engagement. Immediately upon their coming down we received the agreeable and long expected news of **Lord Cornwallis** and the British army being captured at York in Virginia, upon which our troops marched down immediately to lay seige to the town. The same day that our troops encamped in the village of Wilmington, **Major Craig** demolished the works of the fort, spiked all guns, destroyed all public stores he could not carry off with him, got his troops on board and sailed for Charleston, and our troops were in possession of the town the same hour the enemy went out. Thus ended the war in North Carolina, and **General Greene's** successes in South Carolina during the summer campaign had by this time reduced that state to the obedience of their own legislature. Every out-post was now driven into the principal garrison at Charleston, which was then the only post they held in any of the southern states, where they remained until they were withdrawn from there by the articles of the Definitive Treaty.

Thus, sir, I have amused you with a long and tedious relation of war in Carolina and its effects on our families, but as it is in compliance with your request I hope the amusement will not be altogether disagreeable to you. I shall now give you some account of the present circumstances and situation of each of our families, which I flatter myself will be very agreeable amusement to you. I shall take the family in rotation and begin with myself as the oldest.

I find myself at this time in as good a situation as I was when the war began, but perhaps I would have been better off had the war never commenced, for during the war I was obliged to contract some debts for necessaries to support my family, and being in the service I could not improve my plantation nor raise anything to discharge my debts; but since the war has ended I have got over all those difficulties and am now in a more prosperous way than ever I was before. I have a very good plantation where I live, a good stock of cattle, etc., eight working slaves and some young ones growing up. I hold the clerk's office of Duplin Co., court, which I esteem as good as fifty pounds sterling yearly, which with my other industry and care of my plantation, etc., enables me to live very plentifully and to maintain my family in credit and decency. My oldest daughter **Ann** is about 16 years of age; my oldest son, William, is a little upwards of 14; the rest of my children are **James, Lewis, Fanny and Susana; the youngest is about nine months old.**

**Robert moved his property into the back parts of Virginia when Cornwallis went through us and returned in July to move his family there also, but his wife died the very day of his return and left him an infant but a few days old, which he put to nurse and returned to Virginia again; but not liking to settle there he returned home as soon as the enemy left Wilmington and being resettled again he married another wife. He is a very frugal, industrious man, has about as many working slaves as I have, he lives very well and plentifully, is in as good credit as any man in the county, his oldest son John, is about 18 years of age, his oldest daughter Ann is about sixteen, the rest are Pearsall, Edward, Catherine (Mary dead) and Elizabeth, the youngest by his first wife and Susan by his present wife.**

**Joseph Dickson** was very much distressed and plundered by the enemy, first by **Cornwallis** and afterwards by **Craig**. He was much discouraged, had thoughts of moving away, went to view the waters over the western mountains, but did not like the country when he saw it, returned and contented himself with what little he had left to begin the world, as it were, anew. He has a good plantation, four or five slaves and some stock, he is surveyor of the county, which is as good as thirty pounds sterling a year, he lives as comfortably and decently as any man in the county, is one of the first in repute, has a fine promising family of young children, his oldest daughter, **Anna is about nine years old, the rest are Michael, Hugh, David, and Moulton, the youngest, who is named for his wife's father.**

**Alexander Dickson**, upon **Cornwallis'** approach, moved himself and property into Virginia and Maryland, and never returned with his property till a few days ago. He has a good plantation and four or five slaves and no family but himself. I do not know what course of life he intends to fix himself in since his return.

**Edward Dickson** didn't suffer much by the enemy. He never moved from his plantation, and the enemy never called on him; he has nine or ten good slaves, two good plantations and a very fine stock of cattle; he lives very plentifully, is in good credit, has three children, **Rebecca, Elizabeth and Ann**, the oldest is about six years old.

**James Dickson**, the youngest brother, inherits his father's plantation, he was very much distressed and plundered by the enemy, he has a very good plantation, some stock, has good slaves, he is a laborious industrious man, a very good hunter, he supports a good honest character, lives plentifully and well. His oldest son, **Edward is about nine years old, the rest are Elenor, Margaret, William and Alexander. My sister Mary** is the youngest child of the family. She married at eighteen years of age to **Wm. McGowan**, a very worthy man, a fine prudent husband; they were much distressed and plundered by the enemy and lost something considerable each time, but is now in a good way of living again; they have a good plantation, a good stock, six or seven good slaves and some young ones growing up. They have seven sons; **John, the oldest, William, Edward, Robert, James, Michael and Joseph, all fine children. My father died on Christmas day in the year 1774. My mother had been dead about ten months before. My uncle, William Dickson died at his plantation in the back of North Carolina on New Year's day 1775, just seven days after my father. I made some mention of his family in my former letters though I have heard nothing of them since the commencement of the war.**

Dear cousin, I have much more to write to you which I will make the subject of my next letter, in which I purpose to entertain you with some description of this country, also the prospects of settling the western waters beyond the Appalachian mountains, etc. In the meantime I shall conclude this letter with my best wishes to you and your family, desiring also to be remembered to all my relations of your acquaintance who may inquire for me. My wife also joins me in respects to you and **Mrs. Dickson**, I remain Dear Sir,

Your affectionate cousin

W. Dickson

Duplin County, 30 Nov 1784

**2. The Second Letter - William Dickson to The Rev. Robert Dickson in Ireland, dated Duplin County, 24 Feb 1786.**

Dear Cousin Robert:

*This is the third letter I have written to you since I received yours of the 12th of Sept., 1783, by which I was informed you had written me one before, of the first of May 1783, which never came to hand. About a month after I received the letter of the 12th of Sept., 1783, I received another from you of the 19th of July, 1784, which was handed me by our cousin **Joseph Dickson** from Dromore, who landed in Virginia about the first of October, and came to my house about the 20th of the same month with his wife and little son, all in good health. I was much rejoiced to see a friend and relation who could give me a particular account of the situation and circumstances in Ireland, whom I had never heard from since my father's death, which happened a little before the commencement of the war. I was much delighted with the information you gave me of the politics of Ireland. I much admire the spirited resolution of the Nation in asserting their rights and privileges as a free people. Nothing in my opinion can be more commendable and noble amongst mankind than that free, generous and undaunted, persevering spirit of the volunteers, determined to assert and maintain their own and their country's freedom, notwithstanding the haughty menace of a tyrannical Prince and venal Parliament who had stationed a royal army in the heart of their country to awe them into their measures. I heartily wish success to the volunteers of Ireland in everything that can contribute to advance and raise the dignity of their country. Shortly after I received your letter I wrote you two very long letters, in answer to yours which I had then received, the first I sent by way of Virginia for a passage, and the second I sent to **Archibald Maclaine**, Esq., in Wilmington who got it a passage with his letters which he was then sending to his friends in Ireland. In these letters (agreeable to your request) I gave you some accounts, as well as I was able, the different sects of religious professors in this country. That the Presbyterian settlements were generally in the back counties on the heads of our rivers and were mostly, I believe, supplied with ministers, who were annually supported by subscriptions in their congregations, which I believe to be about as good as 200 pounds in our money, or perhaps equal to 100 pounds sterling. Land since the war is becoming very high; a good plantation, such as a man can live comfortable on, with about three or four hundred acres of land and improvements and some convenient buildings, will cost two or three hundred pounds sterling; but plantations of an inferior quality may be purchased for much less, according to the value of them.*

*I did not give you any encouragement to come to this country, as Presbyterians are very thinly settled in the lower and middle parts of the state and mostly indifferent about paying and supporting a minister. I also in these letters gave you a particular account of the situation and circumstances of each of our families with the number and names of all their children, etc.*

*I also gave you some account of the progress of the war in the southern states, particularly of Lord Cornwallis' march through our settlement, what we suffered and the effects his march had on our families and properties; also of Major Craig, who commanded a body of troops under Cornwallis and garrisoned Wilmington for ten months; of his march through our neighborhood and what we suffered by his means; the division he caused amongst us in the county, commonly known by the character of Whig and Tory.*

*Our family were more fortunate than common during the whole course of the war, all rigid Whigs and generally engaged in the militia service, none of us or our family connections lost any lives, though some of us lost considerable of our property. I never received a wound in battle but once, which was very slight, though I was three times in danger of being taken prisoner, but always had the good fortune to escape. I cannot boast that I ever was in any battle when we got the victory.*

*These accounts, Dear Cousin, being mentioned at large in my former letters (though in a crude and unlearned style) should they ever come to your hand will, I make no doubt, be pleasing and entertaining to you, though I have some reason to doubt those letters ever reached you. I shall now, however, omit any*

(10 May 1993)

further repetition of what I wrote you before, and shall now proceed as well as I can to give you some description of this country which I have not done in any former letters. As I never since my infancy traveled anywhere beyond the limits of the state of North Carolina except in some of the frontiers of South Carolina, so that I am not otherwise acquainted with any other state than by information.

Carolina from the seashore to about 120 miles back, is generally a low, flat, sandy, barren woodland country, and very thinly inhabited except along the rivers and creeks that run through it, many of which are navigable. The upper part of the country from thence to the mountains, which are generally about 250 miles back from the sea, is generally hilly broken country and some places very stoney, the land more fertile and rich, abounding with herbage and fine pasture, pleasantly situated and much better watered, but not so well timbered as the low country. The soil of the low country is natural to Indian corn, potatoes, peas, indigo, and if properly managed will produce wheat, oats, flax and tobacco. Great quantities of tar, pitch and turpentine can be made here. Our swamps and marshy lands are natural for rice when properly cultivated. The lands higher up the country are generally of different cast, the soil much richer and stronger, are natural for Indian corn, wheat, oats, rye, barley, flax, and hemp. Orchards of any kind, with proper care, will thrive in any part of the state; the peach is natural to the climate; apples generally thrive better in colder climates. Stock of every kind, formerly when the country was new and fresh, would thrive in the wood with very little attention or care; but at present, the country being more thickly settled and the wild range chiefly consumed, no stock of any kind can be raised without great care and application. The low country near the sea is best for cattle and the middle country best for pork; the hilly country in the back counties is best for raising horses and sheep. *The richest and most fertile lands on this continent that have ever yet been discovered are said to be on the waters of the Ohio and Mississippi.* A few years before the commencement of the war sundry gentlemen in Virginia and North Carolina who had outlived their incomes, and their affairs becomming somewhat desperate, went without the concurrence of government and held a treaty with the western Indians and purchased a very large tract of country from them on the west of the Applachian Mountains exentding from said mountains westward to the river Ohio, and bounded by Cumberland River on the south, and by Louisa or Kentucky River on the north. They carried thence a great number of the poor inhabitants of the country and formed the great settlement now called the Kentucky settlement. Perhaps no part of America ever settled so rapidly. In the time of the war they furnished their quota of men in every expedition, and were able to defend themselves against the excursion of the several nations and tribes of Indians who live adjacent to them, and were encouraged and supported, with arms and ammunition to make war against, by our enemies.

The soil of this country is thought by some equal to the richest in the universe, and lies in the latitude of Virginia. *The Legislature of that state, thinking it was not just that a few individuals should monopolize so large a territory of country to themselves (about the time of the conclusion of the war), passed an act to limit the purchasers thereof to a certain bound within the said purchase, which they judged sufficient to compensate them for their trouble and expense in purchasing and settling that large country, and all the rest of the said purchase they seized for the use of the government.*

About the same time, or very soon afterwards, a settlement was founded on the waters of Tennessee River, that is, on Cumberland, Holstein, and Nola Chuckie rivers, in the latitude of North Carolina, and also being a very fine fertile country. This settlement became so very numerous, and lying far remote from the seat of government, were much disconcerted, notwithstanding the legislature of North Carolina had granted them counties and District Superior Court of law, and appointed their judges, etc. About the beginning of the year 1785 they revolted and declared themselves to be an independant state by the name of Franklin. They elected their Governor and Council, formed Constitution, established a legislature, sent a delagate to Congress and solicited to be received as one of the states of the Union. What may be the consequences of their proceedings is yet unknown. *Their delagate was not received at Congress, and neither Congress nor the Legislature of North Carolina have yet taken any notice of them.*

Congress have it in contemplation to form several new states to the westward and northward, bordering on the lakes and the river St. Lawrence, and on the waters of the Mississippi, and have laid a plan for carrying



their purpose into effect, but the contents or particulars of that plan I am not able at present to acquaint you with. About the time of the commencement of the war a very considerable purchase of territory was made from the Indians in Georgia, extending from the former boundary line nearer Augusta, on the Savanna River, to Altamaha River and Ockmulgee River, containing 100 square miles, and the most fertile part that has yet been settled in that country, but the war being hotter in Georgia than in any other of the southern states, that country became almost quite depopulated and prevented that new purchase from being then settled, but that country is now resettling very fast, as it is thought, that if the peace continues, will soon become one of the most flourishing states in the Union, as it contains a vast extensive frontier quite back to the river Mississippi, which is generally a fine level country, well watered and timbered, and scarcely any mountains. It lies convenient to the navigation of Florida and the river Mississippi, and in a most desirable climate between the extremes of heat and cold.

Dear Cousin, I would be exceedingly glad if it suited your interest to come to America and live the remainder of your days amongst us. I think a gentleman of your character and abilities would be very useful amongst us, especially to the young and rising generation, which by appearance is likely to be numerous in our families, and it is now upwards of twenty years since we had a Presbyterian minister placed in this part of the country; but as you are now far advanced in life and likely to have a young family, and as I understood you are very agreeably and happily settled where you are and in a situation where you can live very comfortably your life-time, I cannot advise you to leave your native country and come to America on uncertainties.

The old Presbyterian settlement in this place is much reduced. The old heads of our sect are all dead, and the young set, though more able to support the church, are more luke warm in religious principles which now becomes rather unfashionable. However, I think a good smart gentleman might get a genteel maintainance here if he could take upon himself the fatigue of riding to two or three different places of meeting about twenty miles distant from each other, but perhaps this might be too fatiguing for a person of your advanced age in life.

At our last session of Assembly in this state we got an act passed for establishing an Academy for the education of youth in the Grove neighborhood in this county. This school is fixed in the heart of the Presbyterian settlement where our family all live and we have a considerable share in conducting it. We have purchased a piece of ground pleasantly situated for the purpose, on which we are now building a house, which we expect will be finished about twelve months hence. From the pleasantness and agreeableness of the situation and the country adjacent around it, which is generally esteemed very healthy, we have the greatest expectation that the success of it will be agreeable to our wishes. The presidency or tuition of this academy we think at the beginning will be as good as 100 pounds sterling per annum, but no gentleman will be admitted to this charge unless he be of approved abilities and good conduct, and good sound moral character. We think a gentleman of the clergy might have a meeting house in the neighborhood and a small congregation and superintend the Academy also, having a prudent young gentleman as a teacher under him and might by that means acquire a genteel support. As no gentleman is yet engaged, if you were here and the acceptance of it agreeable to you, I would not make the least doubt of your obtaining it. I think we could have the interest of all the trustees in your favor, but as matters may be precarious I will not advise you to come in this expectation unless it be your wish and desire to come to America. Should you not think of coming to this country yourself you will perhaps recommend some gentleman of known abilities, character and conduct who would wish to accept the place. I am convinced it will not be engaged in less time than ten months from now and perhaps longer time. I hint this as a matter for your consideration and leave yourself to determine on it.

When your cousin **Joseph Dickson** came to my house first he and his family wintered with me. In the spring of the same year he went up to Hillsborough, a small town about a hundred and ten miles distant from where I live, and kept a store for one **Mr. Sampson**; sometime in June he moved his family from my house up there. The last time I heard from there he was teaching school, his family were all well. Last October I received your very affectionate letter of the 21st April last, which was sent my by **Rev. Alexander Patrick**

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who soon after made me a visit and tarried some days with me, in which time I contracted a small acquaintance with him. I heartily thank you for the recommendation you gave me in his favor, from the good opinion I have conceived of the young man as well as from his apparent modesty and candor as from your recommendation I will pay every attention to his interest and good success of his affairs as may be within the compass of my power. His brother I have never seen; I understand he is living with one **Mr. White** in Bladen County. **Mr. Patrick** immediately on coming into this country got possession of one of the late **Mr. Colvill's** plantations on the N. west river and some of his slaves; the plantation he has rented out and the negroes he has hired for wages, which rent and hire he tells me amount to about one hundred and thirty pounds per annum. About Christmas he came down to our neighborhood at the Grove where we made him up a small school of fourteen or fifteen boys which is the first attempt that has ever been made to teach the languages in this part of the country. This little school will be about as good as forty or fifty pounds sterling to him. Those now under his tuition are intended to be removed to the Academy when opened, when it is probable **Mr. Patrick** may be employed as a teacher if he is approved of; the school is in the same place where the academy is fixed. **Mr. Patrick** lives with my brother **Joseph** and has a convenient room and bed to himself.

Among the boys under his tuition are *my second son, my brother Robert's second son, and my sister's oldest son*. **Mr. Patrick** is much esteemed in the neighborhood. I request that you will acquaint his father that he is doing well.

Dear Cousin, I cannot conclude without thanking you for your correspondence, of the five letters you mention you have written me I have received three, and am much concerned to find by your last that you received none of mine, though I never wrote you but two before this; but they were both very long as well as this, and contained much of other matters. I shall, however, omit of no opportunity of writing to you, and hope you will continue your correspondence with me. Notwithstanding the miscarriage of my letters please let me know in your next letter if you ever received the letters I wrote you last year. When you write, direct to the care of **Archibald MacLaine, Esq.**, Wilmington and if not sent by a person who will see it delivered, direct it to be put in the Post Office of North Carolina. I take this opportunity of sending this letter by the hands of **Mr. Bostwick Gillespie** an acquaintance of mine who is going home to Ireland with his wife to see their friends who live in the county of Monaghan about 20 miles from Newry where he expects to call. If you should see him he can give you a satisfactory account of our families as he is well acquainted with all of them; he has a brother who lives in this country at the Grove, who ever since the Revolution of this state has been a member of the Assembly, and now is a member of the Supreme Council of the state.

My brother and sister and their families are all well; nothing has happened amongst us since I wrote you before; our families are generally young and numerous but no marriage has ever yet taken place amongst any of our children though some are grown up.

I shall add no more at present but conclude with my best respects and compliments (in which my wife joins me) to you and Mrs. Dickson and little son. I remain, Dear Cousin, with all due respect and esteem your sincere and affectionate Cousin.

Wm. Dickson  
Duplin County,  
24th Feb., 1786.

**3. The Third Letter - William Dickson to The Rev. Robert Dickson in Ireland, dated Goshen, Duplin County, N.C., 30th Nov 1787**

Goshen, 30th Nov. 1787  
Duplin County, N.C.

Dear Cousin:

Your letter of the 24th August, 1786 and a duplicate of the same dated the 3rd October, 1786 I received both together, from the postoffice in Wilmington, about the first of September last, and about three weeks ago I received your letter of the 7th August last by our young cousin, **Hugh Dickson**, from Dromore, who arrived at Wilmington about the first of this month, and came immediately to my house. The books and pamphlets you sent me were a very agreeable present, and very acceptable to the youth of my family. I esteem it as a token of your affection and remembrance of us. I congratulate you upon the rising prospect of your family, but much regret the decline of your health as well on our account here as that of your own and your family's. We had flattered ourselves with the pleasing prospect of yet seeing you in this country amongst us and at the head of our infant seminary of learning. We are not strangers here to your general good character and well known articles in literature. This motive induced me to write to you in the manner expressing a desire that you would remove to Carolina and spend the remainder of your days amongst us, and though I could not present to your view anything lucrative to induce you to remove from so happy a climate to this wild country, I was conscious if it was agreeable to your inclination and suited you convenience otherwise to remove here, you might be very useful amongst us, and doubly so as a teacher and minister to the rising generation.

But, my dear cousin, when I reflected on the agreeable situation in which Providence has placed you, wherein you enjoy the esteem and affection of your brethen of the clergy as well as that of the people under your ministry, the pleasant and agreeable situation of your dwelling, wherein you enjoy all the necessary comforts of life, added to the domestic pleasure of spending your latter days in the enjoyment of your agreeable rising family, and when I also consider the advanced period of life to which you have now attained, and the decline of health which you have lately experienced, together with the trouble and difficulties with which a removal to Carolina would be attended, and the prospect (as you justly observe) of not being perhaps more useful generally here than where you are now, I acknowledge your determination against a removal founded, as I think, upon principles of prudence and consideration. Our Grove Academy (as it is styled by the legislature) is not in a more flourishing condition than when I wrote you last (although yet short of our expectations or of what you wish it to be), the house is now finished, the school was removed into it last week, there are yet but twenty five students under a master who teaches only the Latin and English grammar and the Latin and Greek Languages. We have no other fund for the support of it but the fees of the students and the benevolence of public spirited gentlemen, which have as yet appeared to be very low. I wish I could with propriety give you a description of it mor to your satisfaction. The genius of the people of this part of the country is not adapted to the study of learning and science. The most desirable object, that people here have in view are interest and pleasure, but I flatter myself that that period will soon arrive when an emulation will take place amongst the youth (who are of most discernment) to aspire to the attainment of that which in the end will be most permanent and profitable, and that this infant institution (altho' far inferior to that erected at Strabane, or indeed almost any other), through the exertions of some who are concerned in it, may yet become profitable and rise to repute. During the course of the last summer a grand convention of delagates from the several states of America were assembled at Philadelphia. The only production of their councils which I have yet seen published is a constitution for the United States of America, to be submitted to the legislature of each state for their approbation and concurrence, a copy or pamphlet of which, for amusement, I herewith enclose you.

Our General Assembly for this state are now convened and have it under consideration. We hear that debate runs high concerning it, also the populace in the country are divided in their opinions concerning it. For my own part, I am but a shallow politician, but there are some parts of it I do not like; however, I expect our

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legislature will adopt it in full. The ancient Romans when they deposed their king and abolished the Royal Government, so jealous of their liberties, would not trust the sovereign power and command of their armies to one council only, but for the better security of the Republic had always two councils with equal powers, whence it could scarcely be supposed that one could lay any plan to usurp or subvert the government without being opposed or rivaled by his colleague. Those consuls were amicably elected and were not eligible to be elected the ensuing year. Yet, notwithstanding all their precautions, both Sylla and Caesar, each in their turn, found ways and means through the powers they had to hew their way through blood to the throne. How much easier may it be for a President of the United States to establish himself on a throne here, invested with sovereign power for a term of four years at once and eligible to the same again at the expiration of that term; invested with the sole command of all our armies and no rival to circumvent him. I conceive the way is in a manner laid open and plain before him, should his ambitions inspire him to aim at sovereign power. However, the constitution of an empire is too deep and extensive for my comprehension, therefore it does not become me to cavil with it.

My dear cousin, from the puport of your last letter I am now divested of all hopes or expectation of ever seeing you on this side of Time. I shall therefore more earnestly request you will continue a correspondence with me by letter. Your letters are all very acceptable, agreeable and entertaining to me. I regret my own defect that I have not a liberal education so as to enable me to correspond on equal terms with those who possess these advantages, nevertheless you may be assured I will cheerfully embrace all opportunities of answering your letters and communicating to you (in such a manner as I can) anything that may occur here which I think may be amusing or entertaining to you. I am much indebted to you for the relation you gave me of our friends about Dromore and Two Mile Mill. My family and brothers and sisters and their families are all well. **On the first day of this month Robert's daughter Ann was married to a Mr. Bryan a widower about 36 years of age; he has had two children.** He is a man of unblemished character and possessed of considerable property. She is his fourth wife, it is a match very agreeable to herself and all her friends, and is the first and only marriage that has yet taken place amongst all my father's grandchildren.

My wife joins me in respects to Mrs. Dickson and all your family. I remain Dear Cousin with respect and all due esteem your sincere friend and affectionate Kinsman,

Wm. Dickson.

**4. The Fourth Letter - William Dickson to The Rev. Robert Dickson in Ireland, dated Goshen, 28 Dec 1790. (A portion as published in the Fayetteville Examiner and copied from Carr 1901.)**

Goshen, 28th December, 1790

I am much indebted to you for the pains you have taken in considering and giving me your opinion of the general plan of our Federal Government. I will readily agree with you that a better could not be formed for the United States in General. I think that it is formed so as to lay the foundation of one of the greatest empires now in the world, and from the height opinion I have of the illustrious characters who now hold the reins of government, I have no fear of any revolution taking place in my day. Since I wrote to you on the subject I have become reconciled to it. I was convinced of the propriety as well as the necessity of yielding up some of the privileges we enjoy as freemen for the sake of a more permanent and efficeint government, but I believe that the state of North Carolina would not have adopted the government of the United States for this principle only. It was a matter of necessity rather than choice when the convention of North Carolina received it about twelve months ago, we being the last state except one (Rhode Island) which came into the measure. Virginia, though with much reluctance, and the other states around us having



previously adopted the federal plan, the state of North Carolina could not remain independent of the union and support the dignity of a state itself. Had Virginia only stood out with us, I think North Carolina would not have been in the union yet. It appears to me that the southern states will not receive equal benefit in the government with the northern states. The interset, manners and customs and trade will be more united and by being more numerous and more powerful will form the laws of the General Government more to their own advantage and convenience.

The southern states will have their vote but will not be able to carry out any point against so powerful a party in cases where either general or local interests are the object. Some attempts which were made in the course of the last session of Congress have much alarmed the Southern people. The most strenuous exertions were made by some of the Northern representatives to liberate and emancipate the slaves in the United States, and though they did not carry their point they seemed determined never to drop the matter until they do. This if effected, will be arbitrary, cruel and unjust. The people in the southern states who have any property hold it most in land and negroes, and if divested of their negroes their lands will become useless or rather burdensome to them. They will not be able to cultivate or pay the taxes on them and the most opulent and considerable families would in a short time be reduced to indigence and extreme poverty. [End of the published portion.]

##### 5. The Fifth Letter - William Dickson to Linda Dickson dated at Goshen, 13th March 1818.

Goshen, 13th March, 1818

My Dear Linda:

Your kind letter of 7th January last came to hand in due time, though I have not answered it until now. We all rejoice to hear that you enjoy good health, but lament to hear that **your sister Johnston** has not been so well. Myself and **your sister Nancy** [is this Ann? - ed.] are well at present. I have lately heard from your mother and other friends; they are also well.

It is with pleasure I hear you are now at school under the tuition of a lady under whose instruction you expect to make useful improvements. My dear Linda, you have now arrived at the period of life when the mind is capable of receiving useful instruction and improvement thereby, and I have not any doubt but you will be attentive and make the best use of your time to acquire as much useful knowledge as possible. To improve the faculties of the mind is much more ornamental to any person than dress and outward show. The one will continue for life, the other will vanish with the times. In two or three years more you will appear upon the theatre of the world, exposed to the view and criticism of all manner and ranks of people, when it will be prudent so to conduct yourself with propriety so as to gain the applause and good opinion of the most virtuous and respectable class of our fellow citizens. This I make no doubt will be your pride and ambition to obtain. Nature has done a good part for you in the formation of your personal graces, and intellects of the mind, and your mother, as far as in her power has given you opportunities for improving them, which I sincerely hope and believe you will.

I expect you frequently receive letters from your mother and other friends by which you have information of the times in this place, some deaths and some marriages have lately occurred which perhaps you have not yet heard of. About two months ago **old Mrs. Beck of this place died**, and about a month ago **Mr. Andrew McIntire at the Court House died**; his complaint was the dropsy, which had afflicted him

upwards of six months. Your cousin **Joseph Dickson** is no better yet than when you went from here, he continues in the same condition.

Last Tuesday the 10th inst. was married **Mr. Allen Whitefield of Wayne Co.**, to Miss **Mary Sloan**, daughter of **Gibson Sloan**, of this county; and yesterday evening **Mr. John Whitfield of Lenoir County** to Miss **Carolina Wright**, daughter of **Thomas Wright** of this county. Your brother **James** is well; he continues to live with us and goes to school daily. Your sister **Dolly Maxwell** has a daughter **Susan Ann**. **Nancy Pearsall** has a daughter named **Linda**.

I have nothing worth communicating that will be of any amusement to you. Your sister **Nancy** joins me in love to yourself and respect to **Mr. and Mrs. Johnston**, etc.

I remain Dear Linda with due affection,

Your Uncle,

Wm Dickson

Miss Linda Dickson.

N.B. I enclose you a lock of my hair, and **Nancy** sends you a lock of your Father's hair. They are tied together. Your father's is the shortest.

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