

DILLARD, JOSEPH A. -Old War pension application. Widow Elizabeth J. Service in Company E 4th Tenn. Volunteers. O. W. Inv. Cert. #8676 File #45787 dated 1857 in Tenn. O. W. Wid. Cert. #8007 File #29974 dated 1902 Arkansas. Mex. Wid. #16659. Soldier's application dated 14 Nov 1855, Smith County, Tennessee; he was 26 years old. He entered service in Carthage, Smith County, Tennessee, in Captain John D. Goodall's Company, on 10 Oct 1847. He became seriously ill after landing at Vera Cruz and was discharged in January 1848. Joseph Dillard married Elizabeth Jane Hanks (she was born 8 Dec 1835, place not stated) in IZARD County, Arkansas on 3 Mar 1853, at the home of William Gillehan. Joseph was born in Smith County, Tennessee, his father was named Alexander Dillard; he had a brother, William A. Dillard, born ca. 1831. In 1898, Joseph Dillard stated that he had the following children living: Melinia born 2 June 1856; Alford A. born 18 July 1861; James H. born 22 Sep 1863; Jennie M. born 15 Sep 1870; Ida M. born 23 Mar 1873. Joseph died 6 Mar 1902 and is buried in Flat Rock Graveyard in IZARD County, Arkansas. His widow applied for a pension 12 May 1902, in IZARD County and submitted his original pension certificate, which is contained in this file. An affidavitt from William Aikins of Independence County, Arkansas stated that he was a close friend of Joseph Dillard for 54 years. Elizabeth Dillard died 23 Feb 1908 in IZARD County, Arkansas.
Ibid. , p. 37.

FORD, LEWIS - Revolutionary War Pension Application #W24223 dated 16 Oct 1837. Ford was residing in Amelia County, Virginia, when he enlisted in service in Captain Edward Walker's Company in Colonel Vivian Brookins' Regiment. He later served as a captain in Colonel Holt Richardson's Regiment. This file contains his commission to Captain dated 25 Mar 1779. Lewis Ford married Anne Lankester 10 Feb 1788 in Davidson County, Tennessee. They had seven children. Lewis Ford died 10 Feb 1833 in Smith County, Tennessee, where he had resided for 30 years. Anne Ford died 7 Aug 1853 in Independence County, Arkansas, leaving surviving children: Nancy L. Lancaster, Elizabeth Cottrell and Lucy Hylton. The Administrator of her estate was Elijah Hylton. Pages from the Lankester Family Bible were submitted as a part of this application, to wit: "Mary Lankester was born Feb 27th 1755; John Lankester was born Jan 2nd 1757; Judith Lankester was born May 27th 1759; Anney Lankester was born May 2, 1771; Elizabeth Lankester was born March 1, 1774; Thomas Lankester was born Feb 15, 1778; Susann Lankester was born Dec 11, 1780; Robert Lankester was born July 9, 1784."
Ibid. , p. 51.

1850 US Census . Independence Co., Ark. Wallace Twp. #462. Lancaster, Jesse S, 41, fmr, Tn; Nancy, 38, Tn; Samantha W, 17, Tn; Sarah E, 15, Tn; John W, 13, Tn; Caroline, 11, Tn; William, 9, Tn; James, 4, Ark; Nancy, 2, Ark; Ford, Ann, 80, VA; Helton, Elijah, 38, Tn.

GORDON

Steven L. Denney

- A.(3). James G. Gordon b. 1797-1800 d. 1854 mar. Harriet Moores
- B.(3). William M. Gordon b. 1800-1801 d. 1850 mar. Elizabeth Harper
- C.(3). Dr. Francis Haynes Gordon b. 1804 d. 1874 mar. #1 Rhoda Moores; #2 Catherine Moore
- D.(3). John Harrison Gordon b. 29 Aug 1806 d. 11 Oct 1838 mar. Matilda Harper
- E.(3). Nancy Gordon b. 1808 d. 1864 mar. Dr. William Brown Moores
- F.(3). Wylie Blount Gordon b. 1810 d. 1849 mar. Virginia Russwarm
- G.(3). Mary Rogers Gordon b. 1812 d. 1839 mar. Rev. James Wallace
- H.(3). Elizabeth Gordon b. 1813 d. 1836
- I.(3). George W. Gordon b. ? d. between 1849 and 1854
- J.(3). Frances L. Gordon b. 18 Aug 1819 d. 11 Oct 1895 mar. Dr. John W. Bowen
- K.(3). One other who supposedly lived to adulthood
- L.(3). Sally Gordon d. young

JAMES G. GORDON

A.(3). James G. Gordon was the eldest of Jack and Alice Gordon's children having been born between 1797 and 1800 in Hawkins County, Tennessee. As the eldest son, James became deeply involved with the affairs of the plantation at an early age. Undoubtedly, he travelled several times to New Orleans with the crops, ensuring that the family would receive a good profit. He was a horse and slave trader, developing a reputation for the possession of a keen business acumen. The first time James is seen engaging in business is in February of 1819 when he purchased a negro woman from the estate of Thomas Gregory.

He married Harriet Moores and around 1826, established a new residence in Louisiana. In partnership with his father he purchased two cotton plantations on Lake St. Joseph in the Parish of Concordia. Other lands were purchased at "diver times" and "also a number of negroes, horses, cattle and other stock of all kinds." By 1832, his base of operations had transferred to Natchez, Mississippi, where he operated a large slave auction house selling slaves purchased in partnership with his father and his brother, Harrison. The slaves were kept on some sort of boat used by the firm to transport slaves to the most profitable markets on the Gulf.

Jack Gordon visited James in Mississippi for a time in the winter of 1833, no doubt to investigate the business. James had gained quite a reputation and had angered several individuals whom he had bettered in slave trades. It could have been that the elder Gordon had begun to wonder whether he was realizing all the proceeds he should have from the business. An 1836 agreement registered in the Smith County deed book shows that Jack had required that James account for the affairs of the firm since the opening of the plantations in Louisiana. Both are listed as "of Smith County"; therefore, James may have moved back home at least for a time.

Certain evidence indicates that the younger Gordon was leading a lifestyle of which Jack did not approve and that the elder Gordon was determined to make his son repay any money which may have been due their business. James and his father were estranged when John wrote his will in 1849. The language of the document would seem to indicate that it was written directly because of the situation between the two. John stated in his will, written on 1 Nov 1849, "my son James G. Gordon shall be allowed for his share the amount as charged against him on my Books and no more, as the Ballance on my books with facilities he has already received will be equal to any of the shares of my other legatees."

Apparently, James had pressed the generosity of his father past its limits, but it would seem that John was prevailed upon later during the day to rethink his decision concerning James. That afternoon he wrote a codicil to his will, witnessed by the same men who witnessed the signing of his will, which is very enlightening. "I executed my note to James G. Gordon for a sum somewhere about fifteen thousand dollars due the first of January next, and on a more mature consideration and examination, I am convinced said note was given without a valid consideration. Therefore instruct and direct my Executor not to pay said note, until a full and fair statement be made of all the monies he has expended for his use and benefit out of money which should have been applied to the payment of debts. How much for furnishing his house with rich furniture. How much in travelling with wife and Servants as far as Philadelphia and New York in the year 1835. How much going to Kentucky and returning home every year with Family and Servants. How many Servants has been kept about the house that should have been in the farm, and what their value would have been in the farm. How much his wife has given annually to her relations. How much was paid for Grand Gulf Bank Stock. How much was taken in his wife's name. How much has been expended annually for the support and fine dressing of his family & house servants and for Refurnishing his house. How much he paid B. R. Owen out of the firm for an Individual debt of his own. If all the above expenditures had been paid to the Debts of the firm, what an amount of Interest might have been saved."

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Undoubtedly, it was during these business trips to the "Lower Country" that William decided to move his family South. There he could make a fresh start on his own in addition to being one of the Southern agents for the Gordon financial concern which now spanned five states: Tennessee, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

By 1833, William had moved with his small family to the Pearl River Valley of Leake County, Mississippi. His brother, John Harrison Gordon, and brothers-in-law Henry, Logan, Grogan and William Harper and Solomon Taylor Williams had joined him in Leake County. One interesting note is a deed recorded on 15 June 1840, in Smith County, Tennessee, when William M. Gordon purchased a tract of land from Grogan Harper. Neither is listed as a resident of another state as was the practice at that time, but if the two had returned to Smith County, it was only for a brief time. William died in 1850 in Leake County, Mississippi, where he is buried. After his death, his widow, Elizabeth, moved back to Smith County, probably taking residence either with John Gordon or in another house on the same plantation. She died in 1857, leaving several minor children who had to be cared for by members of the family. Most of the children were taken in by daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband, Henry Givens, who moved the children to Logan County, Kentucky. When Bowling Green fell in 1862, the Givens and their wards returned to Mississippi. Following the war, they returned to Kentucky.

Several questions have been raised as to the parentage of some of their children. John H. Gordon has generally been listed by some researchers as a child of Harrison and Matilda Harper Gordon. This is incorrect as shown by Harrison's Bible and the list of William's children in John Gordon's estate papers. The Supreme Court trial also shows that he had another daughter, Sarah, who had not been listed previously. Margaret Campbell Pilcher writing in the early 1900's lists another daughter, supposedly the eldest, whose name was Julia and married a Mr. Sargent and moved to Washington. She is not listed as an heir in the Gordon estate papers and probably should be considered a daughter of James G., if indeed she did exist.

Children of William M. and Elizabeth Harper Gordon:

- 1.(4). Sarah Gordon d. before 1887 mar. John Bilbo
- 2.(4). John Harrison Gordon b. 1832 d. 18 Aug 1863 mar. Ellen E. Scott
- 3.(4). Mary Jackson Gordon b. 1834
- 4.(4). Harriet Elizabeth Gordon b. 1837 d. before 1870 mar. Henry D. Givens
- 5.(4). Frances Amis Gordon b. 1839 d. 1857 mar. Archibald Givens
- 6.(4). Bythella Haynes Gordon b. 1842 mar. J. A. Orange
- 7.(4). Jane Hall Gordon b. 1844 mar. James Belcher

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- 8.(4). William Ellen "Dovey" Gordon b. 23 Nov 1849 d. 1901 mar. John Bell Belcher

1.(4). Sarah Gordon was the first born of the family. She married John Bilbo and had at least two children. She visited Tennessee during the Civil War in an attempt to obtain her portion of her grandfather's estate but died before the eventual settlement. For some reason during the war, one of her husband's relatives and her brother, John, had some kind of difficulty which resulted in the death of Gordon.

Children:

- a.(5). Nannie J. Bilbo mar. J. S. McAuly
- b.(5). Josephine T. Bilbo mar. A. J. Scott on 9 Dec 1866

2.(4). John Harrison Gordon was the eldest son of William Gordon. He was apparently born in Tennessee in 1832 and was killed by his brother-in-law's relative, A. Bilbo, at Pleasant Grove, Mississippi, on 18 Aug 1863. He was married to Ellen E. Scott and had two children:

- a.(5). Mary E. Gordon b. 1858 mar. Robert Thigpen
- b.(5). Eliza J. Gordon mar. John L. Hutchins

a.(5). Mary E. Gordon was born in 1858 in Leake County, Mississippi; married Robert J. Thigpen on 18 Jan 1877, in Leake County, Mississippi. Robert was born in 1857 to J. Louis Thigpen and Minerva Williams Thigpen. Minerva was a daughter of Soloman Taylor Williams and Mahulda Harper of Smith County. Mary and Robert had three children:

- 1.(6). Claude Thigpen b. 1878 d. 1966
- 2.(6). Maude Ellen Thigpen b. 22 July 1880 d. 20 June 1910 mar. L. D. Williams 28 Dec 1898 in Leake County, Mississippi
- 3.(6). Robert Bruce Thigpen b. 26 Feb 1883 d. 11 Dec 1958

3.(4). Mary Jackson Gordon was born in 1834 in Mississippi and was blind and still living with her mother in 1857. Elizabeth left Mary a negro girl "because of the affliction of my daughter Mary Jackson, that she may have some one to wait on her and take care of her during her life." She did not expect her to marry or to have children so she also provided that upon Mary's death the slave be sold and profits be divided equally among the remainder of her children. Mary moved to Logan County, Kentucky, apparently to live with her brother-in-law, Henry D. Givens and his family, or to be near relations who could care for her. Henry acted as her attorney until all of her legacy arrived.

To be continued in subsequent issues.