

Dawson

Dawson
Family

11/5/90

Dear Rod + Jane

I have fairly well proved that the land assigned to Dawson in Sumter Co. was William. In reviewing the old map Jed Avergher sent me which reflected a Dawson in Section 11 Township 17 Range 1W I noted the land was assigned for improvement. Perhaps the period of time of improvement was never fully recorded then it was never fully recorded. The main thing was that I also noticed that a James Brewster was just above Dawson. I know that James Brewster came to old Why not about 1839 so I have a time frame. William Dawson voted in Milton Beat in Sumter Co in 1843. The land above was in Milton Beat

The land near the Dombay - near the Morgan County line and close to Demopolis where James to Dawson use to go. It is just north of Moscow and just below old COATOP. This was about 160 acres

William may be buried in the old COATOP grave yard

I'll soon have some time to further research. I'm sure that the above was where William + Eli were located before Eli came to Lauderdale County.

I have finished the history of my Church Betting Proceeds will go toward restoration of the Why not School my history of Why not about half completed

Rod I really appreciate the various materials you have been sending me. The Payford map was real

00009

good. People have already used it. Some of the material will be very good to use in lectures etc and I even decide to teach a course at Northern Community College or geology, much of the material will come in handy.

I have only two things left to do before LCD A+H is fully established. Get the law modeled as a Anthony transfer of records - (this in the works now) and to get the Archivist salary a line item in the County + City budget.

During the past quarter I sold over \$3,500 in Pats to the Post + Publication + have about \$900 outstanding.

Am now looking at lots of material for either filing or putting out for public use.

One of the writers for the Mississippi magazine from B'ham also has been in contact with me. He desires to visit and gather info for a series of articles. The dept has been nominated for the National Assn of Counties for its Achievement Award.

The space is completed and a lot of pressure is off.

Am going thru all my stuff at home. Will put a lot of it in the Archive - keeping my Dawson info. By the way all the first printing of Dawson letters sold. Second printing will have Table of Contents and index.

Oh goodness its raining again. Am tired of bad weather. We were froze up for 4 days at Xmas. Had to use our well for water. One of my cars almost froze up. It was rough for a few days but we came

through OK

A number of my Volunteers have been ill - not
much done during December. I spent most of my time

selling
I am now working with Mrs Fawley on a # of
things. She is teaching at the Big W at Columbus.

Will have to commence planning of the big
open house in March - before long.

Well that's about it for now. Have to get ready
for work.

Love I love all fine at Vicksburg. Am
holding off in sending any more suggestions until

I hear from you

You both take care

Cousin Jim

DAWSON INFORMATION

By

James Thomas (Jim) Dawson P.O. Box 5511
Whynot, Mississippi MERIDIAN, MS 39302

OCCGS
Dawson
Family

William Dawson, born 1750-60, was probably born in the state of Virginia, in that part of Virginia that became a part of West Virginia during the Civil War. Family legend is that the writer's Dawsons "came from Virginia which is now West Virginia". The name of the wife of William Dawson is unknown. One William Dawson was in Jackson County, Alabama in 1880 with a family that fairly well matched William Dawson's family on the 1840 Perry County census in regards to age group.

Jackson County, Alabama 1830 and 1840 Census Perry County, Alabama

William Dawson

Males 1830

- 1 - 60-70 born 1760-70 - William
- 1 - 20-30 born 1800-10 - William Eli
- 1 - 5-10 This does not fit and needs to be re-read.
This male to fit needs to be age 10-15
or 10-20.

Males 1840

- 1 - 80-90 born 1750-60 - William Dawson
- 1 - 50-40 born 1800-10 - William Eli
- 1 - 20-30 born 1810-20 - John Patrick Henry

The two ages for William vary and the youngest male ages do not fit.

Females 1830

- 1 - 50-60 born 1770-80
- 1 - 20-30 born 1800-10
- 1 - 15-20 born 1810-15
- 1 - under 5 born 1825-30



Females 1840

1 - 60-70 born 1770-80

No other children in the household.

In studying the two censuses, the following is noted:

1. The wife's age fits
2. An error in William's age
3. William Eli fits born 1800-10
4. As stated above, the baby male age does not fit
5. Daughter Clarasy born 1816 fits with the female in 15-20 age group
6. Daughter Mary E. could fit into the female 20-30 born 1800-10 slot.
7. The female under 5 born 1825-30 on 1830 does not fit.

In 1830 William was about 65 years old and his wife was about 55. There is a skip in births of about 10 years. The female 5 to 10 could have been a grandchild. The over riding factor in the age of the male in 1830 born 1820-25 as compared with the male 20-30 born 1810-15 on the 1840 census. Need to recheck 1830 Jackson County, Alabama census for a possible error and to secure more Jackson County, Alabama information.

In re-checking the 1830 census for Jackson County and also Alabama records by J & G for Jackson County, Alabama, it is now known for sure that the William Dawson in Jackson, County, Alabama was not the same William Dawson who was in Perry County, Alabama in 1840.

As shown above, there was a difference in the ages of these two Williams and the age difference in one male child.

Jackson County, Alabama Probate Records Book K. William Dawson deceased (no date on this document). His heirs were his wife

Judiah, daughter Rebecca, daughter Judiah Varner, son Kesterson, son Thomas, daughter Sarah Gillean. These heirs sold land to Apharrell Dawson of White County, Illinois.

There were three Dawsons, William, Henry and Apharell in Jackson County, Alabama in 1830. William died, Henry and his wife sold land on 7/9/1834 and apparently departed the area and Apharrell removed to White County, Illinois.

The above Kesterson, son of William, on 1850 census for Jackson County, Alabama, born 1808 in Georgia. He apparently died shortly after the census was taken as his wife Nancy remarried on 12/11/1851.

William Dawson born 1750-60 on the 1840 Perry County, Alabama census is not on any 1850 Alabama census. He, William Dawson, born 1750-60 was the only Dawson in Perry County, Alabama in 1840.

1830 Perry County, Alabama Census

Zimmerman, Peter	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	1 - under 5	1 - 50-60
	1 - 5-10	
	1 - 50-60 born 1770-80	
Close by:		
Zimmerman, Adam	1 - 10-15 (1815-20)	1 - 10-15 (1815-20)
	1 - 15-20 (1810 -15)	1 - 50-60 (1770-80)
	1 - 20-30 (born 1800-10)	

Apparently Adam's father was deceased by 1830. The above Peter may have been an uncle to Adam. The male 20-30 above born 1800-10 has to be the Adam Zimmerman who married Mary C. Dawson in Perry County, Alabama in February 1836.

Miller, William	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	1 - 20-30	1 - under 5
	1 - under 5	1 - 10-15
	1 - 60-70	1 - 15-20
		1 - 40-50

This William Miller next door to a William Radford. There was also a James Scoggin 40-50 born 1780-1790 with one male under 5 born 1825-30 and one male 5-10 born 1820-25.

1840 Census Perry County, Alabama (certified 12/10/1840)

Miller, Stephen	1 - under 5	1 - under 5
	1 - 40-50	2 - 10-15

Close by:

Miller, Elizah	2 - 15-20 (1820-25)	1 - 15-20
	1 - 70-80	2 - 20-30
		1 - 50-60

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Dawson, William, 80 - 90 Wife 60 - 70

Son 20-30 (John P. H.) and son 30-40 (Eli)

There were no females with related names near William

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Zimmerman, Adam 20-30 born 1810-20. Female 20-30 born 1810-20.

One male 40-50 born 1790-1800 and one female 40-50 born 1790-1800.

Adam Zimmerman married Mary C. Dawson in Perry County, Alabama in February 1836. According to the 1830 Perry County, Alabama

census, Adam's father was deceased and his mother was born

1770-80. It is unknown who the male and female born 1790-1800

were who was with Adam Zimmerman in 1840. They were not the parents

of Mary C. Dawson Zimmerman. While this Adam listed as being born 1810-20 on 1840 census, he is registered as being born 1800-10 on the 1830 Census.

Adam and Mary C. Dawson Zimmerman were not listed on the 1850 Census for Perry County, Alabama so they apparently removed from the area.

In regards to Clara~~sy~~ Dawson who married David P. Miller on 11/2/1835 in Perry County, Alabama she nor her husband are listed on the 1840 census for Perry County but are listed in the Perryville Beat in 1850 (see above). As noted above there was a William Miller on the 1830 Perry County census and on the 1840 census for the same county there was a Stephen Miller and a Elizah Miller. This Elizah may have been the father of David P. Miller born in 1814.

Miscellaneous information from the Alabama Records - Perry County, Al.

Sarah Miller married John G. Wright on 11/19/1837

Mary Miller married Thomas W. Wright on 12/19/1828

Margaret Miller married Edwin Potts on 12/24/1832

They are on the 1840 census.

Milly Miller married William A. Wilson (no date)

Joseph Zimmerman married Agnes Franklin on 12/17/1834

John P. Miller married Dica Tubbs on 1/3/1839

Dica is on 1850 census - John P. Miller deceased. Continuing with the:

1840 Census - Perry County, Alabama

Dawson, Benjamin	50-40	born 1800-1810
Female	20-30	born 1810-20
Female	5-10	born 1835-40

This is the Benjamin Dawson who married Elizabeth Jackson on 7/16/1834. They were next to Samuel D. Jackson who no doubt was the father of Elizabeth. He fits as a son of William born CA 1755 but this would reflect two sons named Benjamin (see later).

The children of William Dawson born 1850-60 or 1860-70 may have been:

1. Benjamin H. Dawson born 1790 in Virginia. His father would have been 30 to 35 years of age and his mother would have been about 15 years old. If Benjamin was the first child then William and his wife married in Virginia about 1786-87 somewhere in the state of Virginia.

1850 Wilcox County, Alabama Census #835

Dawson, Benjamin	62,	farmer, real estate \$2,000	born VA 1788
Mary	43,	born SC 1807. This Mary (Elizabeth?) was	27 yeras old in 1834.
Benjamin	16,	born Ala. about 1834	
Willie	14,	(William) born Alabama	1836
Mary	13,	born Ala. 1837	
George	9,	born Alaabma	1841
Sarah	8,	born Alabama	1842

The above Mary may have been second wife.

Next door to the above Benjamin Dawson born 1788 was a J. E. Dawson, overseer, 28 years old born in SC in 1822. This J. E. ^{no family} probably a son of Benjamin Dawson born 1788 and if so the above Benjamin born 1788 probably married first about 1820-21 in SC.

One Benjamin Dawson married Elizabeth Jackson in Perry County, Alabama on 7/16/1834. This Benjamin reflected as 30 to 40 on the 1840 Perry County census thus born 1800-1810 so he could not be the above Benjamin Dawson born 1788 nor would he have been a brother. Could he have been a nephew of William Dawson born 1750-60? He is not the son of Benjamin born 1788. Now in regards

to the above Benjamin Dawson born 1788 (see later Va. information).

Another Benjamin Dawson

Itawamba County, MS 1850 Census

Dawson, Benjamin H. 60, farmer, born VA. 1790

Nancy 20, born Alabama 1830

Malissa C. 15, born Alabama 1835

L. G. (Lemuel George) 1, born Alabama 1849

This Benjamin, while his age and birth state compare favorably with the Benjamin on the 1850 Wilcox Alabama census, the family make up does not.

What makes this so interesting is that there was a Lemuel George Dawson who married Pedge Harris in Sumter County, Alabama the same year James Eli Dawson married Nancy Manola Allen. (1853)

The writer can not fit this Benjamin born 1790 in Virginia into the picture of William Dawson born 1750-60 children as yet. He could very well have been the son of one of William Dawson's brothers as indicated elsewhere. This Benjamin no doubt kin to William Dawson, Sr. Itawamba County is not all that great a distance ^{from} to Sumter County, Alabama. If the above Benjamin was kin to William then possibly James Eli Dawson would have known him. Writer needs to go further with the 1860 and 1870 census of Perry County for possible Dawson, Miller, Zimmermans, etc. for James Eli went to kin folks in Perry County in 1870.

With the Benjamin Dawson being in Wilcox County, Alabama indicates he may have been kin to the Peter Dawson born VA in 1899 (see later).

The Benjamin born 1788 was 19 years older than his wife and he would have been 32 in 1830 and out of his father's household. He, like Eli Dawson, waited late^{in life} to marry (see Eli later).

According to old Cahaba Land Records - Military Warrants 1817 - 1855, Benjamin H. Dawson was issued land in Perry County, Alabama, Township 21, Range 10 on 11/16/1836 (military Warrants). This would be two years after his marriage and indicate that he had served in the U. S. Government military in some capacity. This could have been the War of 1812 when he would have been 24 years old.

By 1850 he was in Wilcox County, Alabama. Where he went to from Wilcox County is unknown as no other record is found. He could have removed to Louisiana or Texas.

2. Peter Dawson born in 1799 in Virginia. The writer first found him on the 1830 census index for the state of Alabama in Marengo County, Alabama which joins Perry County, Alabama at the lower tip of Perry County.

1840 Marengo County, Alabama

Dawson, Peter	40 to 50 years born 1790 to 1800, farmer, and owner of 11 slaves.
One male	10 to 15 years born 1825 to 1830
One male	5 to 10 years
One male	under 5 years

Peter Dawson listed on an undated voter list in Sumter County, Alabama prior to 1857. Sumter County, Alabama joins Marengo County, Alabama.

1850 Census Moorehouse Parish, Louisiana Ward 4

Dawson, Peter	51, brick mason born 1799 in Virginia
Nancy	40, born Tennessee 1810 Nancy Cleveland
Wright C	22, Wright C [?] (leveland), brick mason, born Ala. 1828
Elizabeth	19, born Alabama
Peter Jr.	15, born Alabama
<u>William</u>	11, born Alabama named after William Sr.
Nancy	5, born Alabama
Lucinda	1, born Alabama

1850 Union Parish, Louisiana Census page 4. A Peter Dawson aged 52 born in Virginia is listed as a brick mason. He must have been working in Union Parish but lived in Moorehouse Parish.

Peter Dawson married Nancy Cleveland in Wilcox County, Alabama on 7/13/1824 when he was 25 years old. Wilcox County joins Marengo County at the SE tip of Marengo County. Wilcox County was made using part of Marengo and Dallas Counties in 1820.

Peter Dawson left Marengo County Alabama in 1849 after the birth of his daughter Lucinda and removed to Louisiana. Peter Dawson was next found on Caddo Parish, Louisiana 1860 Census. This put him near the Texas border and he probably went on into the state of Texas. The Caddo Parish census has this Peter born 1795 in Georgia[?] and he is alone in his household.[?]

3. Eli Dawson born 1806 in Virginia (family legend). According to the 1840 census of Perry County, Alabama there was a male 30-40 years of age born 1800-10 which fits Eli Dawson's age. When Eli was born his father William Dawson was 46 years old. Later there is a William Dawson on the old Sumter County, Alabama voter list as voting in the Milton Beat in 1844. Previously, it was

thought that this William was the William Dawson, Sr. born 1750-60 but if Eli Dawson's name was William Eli Dawson then it was Eli who was in Sumter County, Alabama in 1844 and not his father. Eli Dawson was in Lauderdale County, MS in 1845. If this is in fact (William) Eli, he used his first name. His father William was nearing 90 years of age in 1840 and perhaps would not be moving to another location. Both William born 1750-60 and his wife were probably dead by 1844. They most likely are buried in Perry County, Alabama.

It was about 1844 that Eli's brother John P. H. removed to Louisiana (see later). Eli may have been with his brother John P. H. in Sumter County, Alabama until John P. H. departure.

With this thought in mind both John P. H. and Eli may have received funds from the father's estate, if there were any. Eli bought 16th Section land lease in 1845 in Lauderdale County, MS and John Patrick Henry bought land in Morehouse Parish, LA. If they received monies from the estate about 1843-44 then the parents died in about 1841-43 and were probably buried in Perry County, Ala. ^{As STATED.}

(William) Eli Dawson married Nancy Jane Fortson, daughter of Samuel H. and Mary Alford Fortson in Lauderdale County, MS on 2/8/1845 (see later).

4. Mary C. Dawson born probably Virginia 1800-10 married Adam Zimmerman in Perry County in February 1836. This Adam was on the 1830 Census index for Perry County, Alabama. No further record found and they like Peter and John P. H. Dawson removed from the area, possibly to Louisiana and Texas. They had to remove from the area prior to 1850 as this family not registered on the 1850 census for Perry County, Alabama. Census records of surrounding

counties reflect no results. No record of children found.

As noted above there is a conflict in the age of Adam Zimmerman in comparing his age on the 1830 census of Perry County, Alabama with the age on the 1840 census. No other information found on Adam Zimmerman.

5. John Patrick Henry Dawson born Virginia in 1812 married Martha Ann Gaines in Sumter County, Alabama on 11/2/1840. He like Peter Dawson removed to Louisiana.

1850 Census Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, Ward 3

Dawson, John P. H.	38, farmer, born Virginia in 1812
Martha Ann	38, born Mississippi (?)
Mary Frances	9, born Alabama 1841
David Henry	7, born Alabama 1843
John Patrick	5, born Louisiana 1845
^{Son} Andrew C.	2, born Louisiana 1848

No William *unless it was a third son name.*

This family departed Sumter County, Alabama about 1844. John Patrick Henry Dawson died sometime in 1851, and his widow remarried Stephen Shelton. It is thought that some of his descendants are presently living in the Mel Rouge Louisiana area. This John P. H. Dawson could very well be the son in William Dawson's household in Perry County, Alabama in 1840 in the age group 1810-20. He married after the census was taken. If so, he was no doubt a brother to Eli Dawson.

This John P. H. married when he was 28 years old and was probably the baby son of William Dawson. *Dr*

Note: Eli Dawson and his wife Nancy Jane could very well have travelled to Morehouse Parish, Louisiana around 1850. That is if John P. H. and Eli were in fact brothers and were close. (see later).

6. Clarsey Dawson born 1816 probably in Cherokee Country, Alabama when William was 46 years old. She married David P. Miller on 11/2/1835 in Perry County, Alabama

1850 Perry County, Alabama Census, Perryville Beat, #879

Miller, David P.	36, born SC 1814, farmer
Clarsey	34, born Alabama 1816
Martha/Margaret	13, born Alabama 1837
George <u>W.</u>	11, born Alabama 1839
<u>William C.</u>	9, born Alabama 1841
Mary c.	7, born Alabama 1843
Eliza F.	5, born Alabama 1845
Cynthia	4, born Alabama 1846
Samuel L.	3, born Alabama 1847

Reviewing the above the Martha/Margaret may have been named after Clarsey's mother. The William C. may have been named after William Dawson born 1750-60. The Mary C. may be named after Clarsey's sister. *The "C" in William name may be a clue to full name, William C.*

This family no doubt removed from the area as no further record found on them. They too could have gone to Texas. Please note that this David P. Miller was born in South Carolina in 1814.

The last son of William Dawson, Sr. is thought to have been John Patrick Henry Dawson born 1812 in Virginia. He was perhaps the last child born in Virginia. His last child Clarsey born 1816 in the Cherokee Country Alabama.

In regards to counties or parts of Virginia counties which were put into the State of West Virginia.

Berkeley County, Virginia was formed in 1772 from the parent county of Frederick County, Virginia. Berkeley County, Virginia became a part of West Virginia in 1863 when the new state was formed from the state of Virginia. Hampshire County, Virginia also became a part of West Virginia.

There were several counties made from both Berkeley and Hampshire which includes Hardy, Morgan, Jefferson.

The above William Dawson in Frederick County, Virginia in 1810 (see later).

In studying the various counties the writer found in an index to wills 1774 - 1880 in Berkeley County, West Virginia by Dale and Deborah Morrow an Allen Dawson, Frederick Dawson and a Jefferson Dawson. He also found a David Miller, will 1780, plus many other references to Miller's. There was also a will of 1789 on one Adam Zimmerman. A David P. Miller and an Adam Zimmerman were later in Perry County, Alabama. Both married Dawsons who are thought to be daughters of William Dawson in Perry County, Alabama in the 1830's (see above).

The parent county of Berkeley was Frederick. From the above index to wills in Berkeley County, West Virginia it is known that the Millers and the Zimmerman's were in Berkeley County, Virginia. (see later.)

One William Miller married Roena Alford in Greene County, Alabama on 8/18/1827,

On final report of Joseph Fortson of the settlement of his mother's estate there is a note to the effect that W. G. Fortson was in the army (1865).

Adam Zimmerman in Perry County, Alabama 1829, land records.
No Zimmerman in Perry County, Alabama in 1850.

The AIS Early American Series Alabama Volume I lists William Dawson in the Cherokee Nation Alabama Territory in 1819.

Virginia Colonial Abstracts Volume 3, Records of Births, 1661-1810, Northumberland County, Virginia, one William Dawson born 12/20/1755 was the son of a John Dawson. This fits with the birth of the William Dawson in Perry County, Alabama in 1840. Northumberland County located in East Virginia on the ^{west} ~~east~~ bank of the Chesapeake Bay. *Near the mouth of the Potomac River. Close to Maryland.*

On the 1820 Alabama Census Index, William Dawson was listed as being in Cherokee Country, Cherokee Indian lands. The Cherokee lands were in the extreme NE corner of Alabama. This is our William Dawson. Actually Cherokee County, Alabama became a county sometime after 1852 and before 1840. There were three counties formed, Cherokee, DeKalb and Marshall, from the Cherokee Lands. William Dawson actual location in the Cherokee Lands not known at this point. Cherokee County, Alabama was actually formed from part of the Cherokee Nations in 1856 after the Cherokee Cession in 1835. By this time William Dawson born ca 1755 was in Perry County, Alabama where one of his daughters married.

With William Dawson leaving the Cherokee Country prior to the Cherokee Cession in 1835, any record on him while in the Cherokee Country (Nation) would probably be in the Mississippi or Alabama Territorial Papers.

If William Dawson's son John Patrick Henry was born in 1812 in Virginia and that seems the case then William Dawson born about ¹⁷⁵⁵1855 came to Cherokee Country, Alabama between 1812 and 1819 where he signed the below listed document in 1819. He, William Dawson, was in Perry County, Alabama by 1835. He is not on any Alabama census record for 1830 so there is a good prospect that he left Cherokee Country about 1830-31. He could have moved to the area of Perry County, Alabama to be near his sons Benjamin and Peter Dawson.[?]

The Territorial Papers of the United States

Volume XVIII: The Territory of Alabama 1817-1819. Memorial to the Secretary of War from the Cherokee Country. This is a memorial from residents protesting an order by the Agent of Indian Affairs for the Cherokee Nation ordering all intruders on Indian land to remove by the first day of July 1819. This document signed by one William Dawson. This document dated 1819. This reflects that William Dawson in Cherokee Country in 1819 and he was there in 1820 (see above). There were no related family names such as Zimmerman or Miller on this list of names. Nor was there any other Dawsons. It is known that the Millers and Zimmerman's came from Berkeley County, Virginia later West Virginia.

In 1819 William Dawson born about 1755 was 64 years old. Virginia Land Records - Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, Maryland, page 797. John Dawson listed as the original purchaser of lots in the town of Bath 1777 - 1798. This now Berkely Springs in Morgan County, West Virginia.

One Mason Dawson was in Williams Alabama Mounted Volunteers, Keener's Company which was formed either in Barbour or Russell County, Alabama. This during the War of 1812. This Mason Dawson could not have been the Mason Dawson born 1821 in Virginia who was in Morehouse Parish along with John Patrick Henry and Peter Dawson. The Mason Dawson who was in the War of 1812 could have been a brother to William Dawson born 1850-60.

Barbour and Russell Counties located SW of Columbus, Georgia and Phenix City, Alabama. This would imply that the Mason Dawson who was in the War of 1812 just might have come west through the state of Georgia.

The writer in checking further into Russell County records found part of Georgia A. Dawson's will. That part of the will only reflected that it was witnessed by one Elizabeth B. Lewis, John Dawson, J. C. Lewis and Joseph M. Phillips.

On the 1850 Census for Russell County, Alabama, one John Dawson, age 58, born 1792 in Georgia was in the household of his son William born Georgia 1815. In this household there is a Lubon Dawson, 41, born Georgia 1809 with his family. Georgia A. Dawson's husband name was Thomas Dawson.

The writer was unable to connect these Dawsons to the Mason Dawsons who was in the War of 1812. The above could very well have been sons of the Mason Dawson in the War of 1812. The Mason Dawson born 1821 in Virginia could not be a son in the above family since some were born in Georgia before he was born in 1821 in Virginia, but there could be a connection.

Going to Barbour County, Alabama for possible leads. No county records checked as yet.

On the Barbour 1850 census there is a Joseph Dawson, 35, born 1815, in SC with his children. Also on the census is a John Dawson, age 56, born SC in 1894. More research needed on this county. These Dawsons appear to have come to Alabama through Georgia and were from South Carolina.

With the legend that my Dawson family came from Virginia which is now a part of West Virginia in mind, the writer went to the 1810 census for Virginia and other Virginia Census records to determine what counties of Virginia became part of West Virginia.

1810 Frederick County, Virginia Census, page 343 - WILLIAM DAWSON

1 male over 45 born before 1765

1 male 16 - 26 born 1784-1794

2 males 10 - 16 born 1794-1800

1 male under 10 born 1800-1810

The male over 45 born before 1765 fits William Dawson who was in Perry County, Alabama in 1840. The male 16-26 fits Benjamin Dawson born 1788 -90. One of the males 10-16 born 1794-1800 fits Peter Dawson born 1799. The other male 10-16 name is not known at present but he could have been the father of the Mason Dawson born 1821 in Virginia who was in Morehouse Parish Louisiana in 1850. The male under 10 born 1800-10 fits William Eli Dawson. Go back and get female information.

It appears from brief information that our William was in Frederick County, Virginia in 1810.

Both Berkeley and Hampshire Counties made from Frederick County, Virginia.

Berkeley made from Frederick County on 3/24/1772 and Hampshire made from Augusta, Hardy, and Frederick counties on 12/13/1753. So if the above William Dawson born before 1765 was in Frederick County, Virginia in 1810, he was in fact in Virginia in 1810. Now Berkeley County, Virginia made from Frederick on 3/24/1772, Jefferson County made from Berkeley County in 1801 and Morgan County made from Berkeley County in 1821. Looking at the above, in view of the above 1810 census of Frederick County, Virginia it would appear that in 1810 the William Dawson born 1850-60 were still in Virginia and that they were from Frederick County, Virginia of which a part became a part of West Virginia in 1863 long after our Dawson has departed.*

In looking at all this with the Millers and the Zimmermans coming from Berkeley County, Virginia which was placed in West Virginia it can be understood how the legend got mixed up. William Dawson, Sr. had to leave Virginia between 1812 when his son John Patrick Henry was born and 1816 when his daughter Clarsey was born in the Cherokee Country, Alabama.

Note: One reason it has been so difficult to trace William Dawson born 1850-60 is the fact he was living in and with the Cherokee Indians in the Cherokee Country in NE Alabama and he probably came from Virginia to this location. Chances are William Dawson married a woman of Cherokee blood *or his father did*

Frederick County, Virginia was made from Orange and Augusta Counties in 1738. William Dawson born 1850-60. If he was born in say 1855 in Frederick County and supposing his father was 25 years old born 1730 it would mean that his father was born either in Orange or Augusta County, Virginia. This gives a lead for

* Legend. My ancestor came from the part of Va that became a part of W Va.

further research on the parents of William Dawson born 1850-60. William Dawson, born 1750-60, father may have been John Dawson.

1790 Census of Virginia

Orange County, Virginia 1782-85

John Dawson with 10 whites in his household. That would include 8 children and their parents. William born 1755 would have been about 27 years old ^{in 1782} and still in the household until about ~~1768~~ ¹⁷⁸⁶⁻⁸⁷ when he married. The above tells us that William had a number of siblings.

On this same census there was an Abraham Dawson. Isaac Dawson and David Dawson in Humphries County, Virginia. It was interesting to see on this 1782-85 ^{Orange Co.} census a Thomas Fortson with 8 white in his household. This brings forth the prospect that the Dawsons and Fortsons knew each other prior to arriving in Alabama, but it is known that they went separate routes. The Fortson's came through Georgia, while William Dawson came through Cherokee Indian Country. *William Dawson siblings may have come through Georgia*

By 1810 William was in Frederick County, Virginia which was formed from Orange on 12/15/1750 (see above).

On a list of Colonial Soldiers of Virginia, a special report in 1913 by the Virginia Department of Archives and History and in the Virginia State Library, the following Dawsons are listed ^{from Orange Co} John, Andrew, David and Henry. Notes from Orange County, Virginia Military Commission, 9/1791 - John Dawson, ensign, 4/17/93 - John Dawson, captain. The rank of ensign would refer to the navy.

SUMMARY

William Dawson born 1750-60 was probably born either in Orange County or Augusta County Virginia. He no doubt married about 1786 probably in Frederick County, Virginia. His possible children:

Benjamin	born 1788 in VA
Unknown son	born 1794 - 1800 in VA
Peter	born 1799 in VA
Eli	born 1806 in VA
Mary C.	born 1800-1810 in VA
John Patrick Henry	born 1812 in VA
Clarsey	born 1816 in Alabama

On the 1810 Frederick County, Virginia there was one male born 1794-1800 listed that has not been identified. This male may be the father of the several Dawsons that were in the Sumter/Marengo/Perry County, Alabama area that have not been identified or connected to the William Dawson family.

Peter Dawson, son of William was in Wilcox County, Alabama by 1824 when he was 25 years old. Benjamin first recorded in the area (Perry County, Alabama) in 1836.

There is the possibility that William Dawson born 1750-60 was a Revolutionary soldier. There is also the possibility that both Benjamin and Peter Dawson were in the War of 1812. Benjamin received a military grant for land in Perry County in 1836. No such record found on Peter.

The War of 1812 may have brought these Dawsons to the above area. The one male born 1794-1800 may have lost his life in the War of 1812 (speculation).

The above report gives a fair picture of the William Dawson family. The writer's primary interest is of course on (William) Eli Dawson, born 1806, son of William.

Peter Dawson owned slaves and was a ^{Blacksmith} ~~blacksmith~~ by trade.

Benjamin was a farmer as was John Patrick Henry. All three had money. Eli Dawson had money when he arrived in Lauderdale County. ^{His son} James Eli in 1870 leaving ^{Lauderdale Co MS} the money for a horse on a gate post, anchored by a rock ^{to life} and went to Old Town in Perry County, Alabama. There had to be some of his relatives there for he (James Eli) was ^{known son of} only 16 years old. From the above it can be ascertained that William Dawson born 1750 - 60 had removed from that area. With that in mind then a relative, ^{or} may ~~have been~~ a descendant, of one of William's daughters or a descendant of the unknown son born 1794-1800, ^{may have been the person that James Eli went to on his timey head.}

There is the possibility that William Dawson's father was named John. With one son named John Patrick Henry there is the prospect that all sons carried three names. Writer wonders if this is true what was William Eli's third given name? And if he used that name after his difficulties in Lauderdale County, MS? ^{Was it Dav?}

Perhaps research in the Perry County, Alabama courthouse will help to clear up some of the above questions.

With a number of the sons of William Dawson and possibly one of his daughters removing to the west it is highly likely that Eli Dawson born 1806 also went westward after his difficulties

in Lauderdale County, MS in 1846-47.

Writer does not believe that he returned to Perry County, Alabama. Apparently Eli Dawson hid his tracks carefully for no trace of him has been found after 1847 when he was charged with assault and battery in Lauderdale County, MS.

Years of research on Eli Dawson by writer and others have brought forth no results.

When such a blank wall appears there has to be a reason. Someone used another name or changed their name.

Back to the main subject.

We now have a framework from which to work on the following:

1. Gather all possible information in the Perry County, Alabama Courthouse to fill in and document the above.
 2. Search for information in Orange and Augusta Counties, Virginia for father of William Dawson.
 3. Gather information on Millers and Zimmerman's. This information might give us a lead on where Eli and Nancy J were located. This in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas or Mississippi.
 4. Be alert for any different name for Eli as he may have changed his name. He would have had to have done something horrible to force a name change. More on this later.
 5. Check for possible 1812 War pension records.
 6. Check for the unknown son born 1794-1800 in Virginia.
- The writer has looked at many John Dawsons over the years. In fact, one chapter of his Dawson Letters is on the various John's.
- One of these John Dawsons received a British patent on 4/5/1770 on 150 acres of land on the waters of the Tombigbee.

This John in the area of present Sumter/Washington County, Alabama long before William Dawson arrived. The writer followed him sufficiently to note he was not of his Dawson line.

The writer is of the opinion that John Dawson, father of William Dawson, born ca 1755, probably never left the state of Virginia.

Note: It is very possible that the Peter Dawson from Maryland born 1760 and who was denied a Revolutionary War Pension was a brother to William Dawson born ca 1755. (*See Dawson Letter*)

The writer is fairly sure that John Dawson of Orange County, Virginia (1782-85) was the father of William Dawson born ca 1755. He is sure William Dawson born ca 1755 is the father of (William) Eli Dawson born 1806.

All these years the writer has been trying to solve the puzzle. The problem was William Dawson born ca 1755 being in Cherokee Indian Country for so long. The writer had the information before him but never saw the connection until recently. This was after Elizabeth S. Mills of Tuscaloosa Alabama pointed the writer in the right direction. After the writer separated the William in Jackson County, Alabama and the William in Perry County things began to fall in place. Elizabeth also pointed out it was not Cherokee County but Cherokee Country.

After full research in Perry County, Alabama and research in Virginia plus checking for pension records this case should be in fairly good shape -- except the whereabouts of good old Eli Dawson. The writer knows one thing -- if he ever sees Eli anytime in the hereafter he will know him on sight!

ELI AND NANCY JANE FORTSON DAWSON

They were married on 2/8/1845 in Lauderdale County, MS by one of the leading Baptist ministers, William P. Carter. William P. Carter and Eli Dawson had previously purchased a 99 year lease on the 16th section land at present Bonita (540 acres) for \$900. Eli and Nancy Jane sold their interest six months after they married for \$700.

Apparently Eli and Nancy Jane lived in the Bailey/Centerhill area of Lauderdale County near her grandmother Melba Alford. In 1846 ^{his} her 97 bushels of corn plus household effects became items of attachment in a suit brought by the county ranger, Henry Deen. In a counter suit by Eli Dawson, William Allen and Burwell Hamrick were his securities. Burwell Hamrick was the son of John Hamrick, a veteran of the War of 1812. Eli's signature is on this court document being very clear and readable, which reflects he was somewhat educated.

All was quiet until about the middle of 1847 when he was charged with assault and battery by the county attorney, George Wood. The name of the Assault and Battery victim is not given in the court record.

It was in 1845-46 that William McLemore, step father to Nancy Jane became administrator and guardian of Nancy Jane's brother William C. and Joseph G. in regards to their deceased fathers share of their grandfather William Fortson's estate.

The writer believes that Eli Dawson attempted to secure Nancy Jane's rightful share of this estate but William McLemore would not apply for her share due to the family's dislike for Eli Dawson.

All this brought on the assault and battery and the later hiding of Eli. This line of Dawsons are known for their fiery temper. Eli's son James Eli had one helluva temper and would fight at the drop of a hat.

For Eli to be forced to run and disappear he must have beat up on more than one person. One of these persons had to be William McLemore.

Eli and Nancy Jane's first child Mary Elizabeth was born in 1848, three years after their marriage, the second child William Gray was born in 1849 then there is a skip in births until 1854 when James Eli was born.

This family is not on the 1850 census for Lauderdale County, MS nor the 1850 Agricultural Schedule, nor are they on the 1853 State Census for Lauderdale County.

Nancy Jane appears during the settlement of her mother's (Mary Alford Fortson McLemore) estate in 1857 as the wife of David Scoggins. There is no further record until she marries J. F. Jones in 1863 in Lauderdale County, MS.

A great deal of time has been spent by the writer plus others in attempting to locate Eli and Nancy Jane in MS, Ark., La., and Texas, all with negative results.

The writer remembers certain bits of information, for example, the tombstone of his grandfather, James Eli Dawson that reads born 1806 died 1864.

It is known that this is the grave of James Eli and not his father (William) Eli Dawson. The point is that some of James Eli's children knew about their grandfather, about his date of birth and death and these dates got mixed up. James Eli died in

1909 and it was years later that the tombstone was placed on his grave by his son, Joseph Ponds Dawson. Joseph was gassed in WWI and spent years in a veterans hospital in El Paso, Texas. He often visited his relatives. Writer's father and brother to Joseph said that Joseph was drunk when he purchased the tombstone.

~~Case~~ Thinking on the dates 1806-1864, the writer remembered another remark years and years ago when he was asking questions, that someone hinted that James Eli father (no name) was killed in the Civil War. The writer forgot all about this after finding no record of his service. That is until recently.

Often the key to a puzzle is under the nose but one is unable to see it. All of this would have been easy if only writer's aunt had talked to him.

For years, writer thought it had to do with James Eli Dawson taking a horse at night and leaving the money on the gate post anchored with a rock but now writer thinks the matter went much deeper to Eli Dawson.

Heretofore writer studied the possibility of Eli Dawson being connected in some way to the Copeland gang. This just may have happened and he was absent from the county for a period; no child births from 1849 to 1854.

What writer is about to discuss may be considered by some as really "off the wall".

Eli Dawson's first difficulty was over Nancy Jane Fortson receiving her share of William Fortson's estate and the matter involved William McLemore and possibly his wife Mary Alford Fortson McLemore.

The severe difficulties forced Eli Dawson to flee the area and this may have been the time he became involved with the Copeland gang.

There is a hint in the 1846 minutes of the Fellowship Baptist Church at Centerhill that a slave from Mrs. Daw--- was purchased by a Mr. Hatcher by improper method. Eli could have sold this slave while the slave was really the property of Nancy Jane, a gift perhaps from her grandmother Melba Alford.

By 1855 William McLemore was dead and that matter was in the past. Eli Dawson had by now endangered himself for his action with the Copeland gang. This involved the stealing of livestock, taking the stock to a designated clearing house, a respectable farmer, when the stock was sold. The operation also involved the stealing of slaves who were then sold, then stolen and again sold.

In 1857 Nancy Jane shows up for the settlement of her mother's estate and her monies to buy items as the wife of David Scoggins. In 1858 she gives birth to her last child, a daughter Frances Susan.

This points to the fact that (William) Eli Dawson could have changed his name to David Scoggins and Nancy Jane never left the area. She hid and perhaps friends helped her. Bear in mind that if Eli Dawson was stealing livestock and by the ranger suing him in 1846 the prospects were that he was taking other people's livestock. It stands to reason if he was doing this, and he is bound to have, then he became known as a thief. At that point, he began to travel returning only for brief periods? Sometime

before 1857 he changed his name and continued his occupation.

All of this changed when James Copeland was caught in Perry County, MS in 1858. In 1859 James Copeland released the names of the members of his gang. Writer has seen a partial list. This sent shock waves through the area.

There was a trial at DeKalb, Kemper County, MS of a S. S. Shumate who was a leader of sorts. His bookkeeper was a McLemore (can't find my reference). Will have to double check on the first name. This McLemore testified against Shumate and was never seen again.

Many people who were perhaps involved pulled up stakes and departed for Texas or parts unknown.

What did Eli do? Well, he stayed put for a spell as a respectable David Scoggins fathering a child in 1858 then he became involved somewhat with the Confederate Army. He was 54 years old in 1860, too old to be accepted in the regular army in the beginning. But there are other means that he could have been associated with the Confederate Army.

The writer realizes this theory is weak but it happened either this way or Eli Dawson was killed while operating with the Copeland gang. The writer can find no trace of a David Scoggins that fits.

The gravestone -- Eli Dawson born 1806 died 1864. Nancy Jane married J. F. Jones in 1863. This J. F. Jones was in the Civil War and drew a pension. At the time of their marriage, J. F. Jones was working for Nancy Jane's brother Joseph Gail Fortson.

William Gray Dawson, son of Eli and Nancy Jane Fortson

Dawson was in the household of Joseph G. Fortson in 1860. He was 11 years old. Was he there for protection against Eli's enemies?

In summary, the writer suspects that (William) Eli Dawson was of a mean nature, that he apparently was not above taking what he wanted, if necessary. His nature and character was reflected in his baby son James Eli Dawson who was prepared at all times for a fight with his gun, his whip and his knife.

So be it. It's all solved for now, again!!

P.S. Eli Dawson may have had several names. Several choice names come to mind.

Rob - Remember the legend that Joseph's
Father took care of three (3) Confederate Veterans
families. We could never identify but two - Could the
Eli Dawson family be the third family?

WILLIAM GEORGE FORTSON
SON, ~~ELI DAVISON~~
SAMUEL H. FORTSON

William George Fortson was born in 1832 in Greene County, Alabama. He died between 1912 - 1919 in Jasper County, MS and probably is buried in an unmarked grave.

He was 26 years old when he married Elizabeth J. Hunt in Clarke County, Mississippi in 1856.

William George had received the last part of his share of his grandparents estate through his father sometime after 2/18/1856. It is suspected that W. G. left Lauderdale County for Clarke County shortly thereafter. The probate judge had sued the estate of W. G.'s step father, William McLemore for the release of the funds.

W. G.'s first land in Clarke County, Mississippi is registered in Deed Book E-1, page 386 (need copy of deed).

It is known that W. G. had left Lauderdale County by 1857 -- so W. G. left home sometime in the later part of 1856 or early part of 1857 when he was about 24 years old.

The withholding of the inheritance from W. G. may have caused some difficulties between him and his mother. She, Mary Alford Fortson McLemore may have been the one who held the purse strings. There were two settlements, one when W. G.'s grandfather, William Fortson, died in Greene County, Alabama and then later when his grandmother died.

His brother Joseph apparently did not have any possible ill feeling and became the administrator of his mother's estate. The

over riding point is that for some reason W. G. apparently never returned to Lauderdale County after his departure even though he lived a short distance from Lauderdale County and he apparently never received anything in the settlement of his mother's estate.

Checking some Clarke County, MS records there is an indication that Lucy Hunt was W. G.'s mother in law.

In 1860 W. G. Fortson, Wiley Kitchens, George Brady and Joseph Brady petitioned the probate court for shares of Lucy Hunt's estate in Clarke County.

W. G. and Wiley Kitchens, both son in laws (?) received \$250.00. The two Brady men received \$80.00 each. The Brady's may have been married to grand daughters of Lucy Hunt.

From Rod Bush's information it is known that W. G. had three (3) children, one of which was a son Samuel H., named after W. G.'s father.

Also according to Rod, W. G. served in the Civil War (am now waiting to see if pension application can be found in Clarke County.)

There are a number of land transactions by W. G. and his son, S. H. in Jasper County.

The last transaction in regards to land deeds that W. G. signed was on 12/18/1912. On that same day C. H. Woodham and Z. C. Woodham signed over their interest in a lease on Section 16, Township 4, Range 11 to W. G. and S. H. Fortson in Jasper County, Mississippi for \$1.00. Then W. G. and S. H. sold the lease

(remaining years) on this 16th section land. The exact description was the N½ of the NW¼.

After this, the next land transaction by S. H. Fortson was in 1919 and then in 1921.

W. G. was 80 years old in 1912. Since Mississippi commenced birth and death records in 1912, W. G.'s death certificates might provide information.

Being in Clarke and Jasper Counties, he was not too far away from his brother Joseph nor his sister Nancy Jane. He would have been fairly close to William Gray Dawson, son of Nancy Jane in Scott County, Mississippi until William Gray's death in 1887.

Over the years, the writer feels that some family contact occurred among the various family members. (See Rod Bush materials in LCDA & H).

We can assume that Eli Dawson did not go to Clarke County, Mississippi nor possibly Nancy Jane, his wife to stay with W. G. for W. G. was in Lauderdale County until 1856.

mission's (unanimous) recommendations. These included continued economic and military aid for the freely elected government of El Salvador, as well as limited military assistance to the Nicaraguan "contras," who are fighting that country's Marxist regime.

But Election Day is less than seven months away, and the Democratic Party is desperate for issues on which to run against Mr. Reagan. Their

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alleged plans of ending the mining, but for ending all aid to the Nicaraguan "contras," and even all military aid to El Salvador.

It is hard to imagine playing politics more irresponsibly with the safety of this nation. The AFL-CIO, which is firmly anti-communist, must be gritting its teeth at the performance of all three Democratic presidential candidates.

Here's My View

The Meridian Star 4/19/84

MISSISSIPPI

County Archives Unit Inaugurated

As many perhaps know, the Lauderdale County Department of Archives and History was recently established by the board of supervisors. Preparations are being made to secure a charter, effective in July. The year for the corporation will run from July to June each year. Upon receipt of the charter, Benny Watts, CPA, who has generously offered his service, will proceed to obtain private, non-profit status, which will allow donations to be tax-deductible. Directors will be appointed and the by-laws of the corporation will be written.

The main goals of this corporation will be to establish a county archives and a museum, and compose a history of the county.

The department will be interested in the following: Who were the first families to locate in the area now known as Lauderdale County? Where were they from? Why did they come here? How did they get here? What skills, trades, businesses, religious affiliations, and so on, did the first settlers br-

Jim Dawson

Contributing Columnist



ing to this area?

The department will work closely with attorney Tom Goldman, who is recognized as an accomplished researcher of Choctaw Indian history of this and other areas. The history of Lauderdale County would commence with the history of the Choctaw Indians in this area.

A weekly column prepared by the department will soon be published in The Meridian Star, with the object of expanding community involvement. It will deal with genealogy. Inquiries on family and county history will be answered through the column.

The writer is interested in receiving copies of family histories, which will enable the department to gain more

knowledge of people who lived in the county in the past, thus assisting in the composing of a county history. It will also help others who may be tracing their family history.

For example, the writer is presently corresponding with Mr. Rod Bush, 5892 Karen Avenue, Cypress, Calif. 90630 regarding the McLemores, Fortsons and Alford; with Mrs. Helen H. Smith, 2117 E 4th Avenue North, Columbus 39701, regarding the Hugheses, and with Mrs. Margaret Lauder 5154 Woodmire Street, Mobile, Ala. 36609 regarding the Brocks and Martins.

The composing of a county history will no doubt involve, to some extent, the counties surrounding Lauderdale County — for example, Sumter Coun-

ty, Ala., as well as Kemper County in our own state.

The more I think of a county archives, the more excited I get. It could really be something of lasting value to the county and its people. It could and would tell the story of the past, but organizing it will take time, work and the cooperation and support of the community.

Offers of materials such as written pieces and old farm implements have already been received, but no donations can be accepted for tax purposes until after July 1, 1984.

A space to house the archives will be selected shortly. It is expected that the first site will be in the Lauderdale County Courthouse Annex Building.

The department will be working with various county and city officials as well as all interested residents of the county to secure, preserve and maintain any and all possible records, old maps, books, pictures, letters, family bibles, manuscripts, and so forth, that would help

connect the history of Lauderdale County.

Thus it is our hope that after a safe place for storage of such material is secured, many old priceless items will be donated to the archives.

Along this line, I urge residents to check with me on any old material they may hold and be unable to identify. On occasion, old pictures and written material are left behind and new owners may throw such things away. On one such picture, I worked for two years before finally identifying one person, which led to a descendant and additional information.

The present address of the department is: Lauderdale County Department of Archives and History, 11th Floor, Courthouse Annex Building, 410 21st Ave., Meridian MS 39301.

Let me hear from you.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jim Dawson is the executive director of the Lauderdale County Department of Archives and History.

NOTES FROM REVIEW

Elizabeth Shown Mills was certainly correct when she wrote me that often there was more information in records than a person sees. In reviewing my material with an eagle eye, I have brought forth a great deal of additional information, especially in records of my early research.

Let's take first James F. Jones who was born CA 1814/15. He was working for Joseph G. Fortson (brother to Nancy Jane Fortson Dawson Scoggins Jones) in 1860.

In reviewing his confederate pension application I noticed for the first time:

He enlisted in May 1861 and served for a period of 4 years, serving until the surrender in 1865. This means he returned to Lauderdale County to marry Nancy Jane Fortson Dawson Scoggins on May 12, 1863. I had always thought he had returned from the war in 1863. He surrendered near Petersburg, North Carolina. James F. had no sons between 16 and 21 years of age. His occupation was farmer and he served in Company E, 13th Mississippi Regiment under H. D. Cameron. Cameron was from the Alamucha area of Lauderdale County and Alamucha was where James F. lived when he filed for a Confederate pension on September 5, 1894.

N. J. and J. F. married on May 12, 1863 in Lauderdale County, Mississippi. Could an Eli Dawson (alias David Scoggins) have been in Company E with J F? No such record found in the Mississippi State Archives by Jane Williams. Did this James F. Jones bring word home that her husband had been killed in the war? Why would Nancy Jane marry J. F. Jones in the middle of the war? (See later)

If Eli, alias David Scoggins did serve with James F. Jones then Eli Dawson or David Scoggins most likely was killed sometime in the first part of 1863 and buried at the location where he expired.

There is a need to locate a list of the members of Company E, 13th Mississippi Regiment and secure, if possible, the location of the company's battles.

The overriding fact is that the marriage on May 12, 1863 is getting very close to the date of death of 1864 on the tombstone in the Salem Cemetery. This is the mixed up date on the tombstone of James Eli; that being the date of birth year of 1806 and death of 1864 (which would be Eli Dawson). James Eli Dawson actually died in 1909 after being born in 1854. The writer is sure now that his uncle Joe Dawson by mixing up the birth and death dates of his father with those of his grandfather left a key to what happened to Eli Dawson born 1806. It took the writer years to come to the above conclusion.

With Nancy Jane Fortson Dawson (Scoggin) marrying James F. Jones then the possible lie of a Scoggin marriage was put to rest. It also appears to the writer that Nancy Jane Fortson Dawson Scoggins Jones never left Lauderdale County. Her oldest son William Gray Dawson was with Nancy Jane's brother Joseph G. (Gail or Gale) Fortson in 1860; so Nancy Jane with the two girls M. E. and F. S. along with James Eli were nearby, perhaps with old Foxey Eli, known as David visiting every now and then. (Until he went into the Confederate Army?)

James F. Jones was 79 years old in 1894 and he was married according to the pension application; wife's name not given. He was certified as being physically unable to earn a support by his own labor.

Going further to view a second Confederate pension application I noticed more than I had before. I had thought this to be a second James F. Jones, a younger James F. Jones. What I had done was to take the age of a widow who was applying against James F. Jones service. I had done this years ago and never rechecked the information.

The pension application was from the widow of James F. Jones and James F. Jones date of death was June 9, 1896. This widow S. Melissa Jones was 49 years old when she filed the application on 8/14/1896. While she does not give the company number, she was living on the Sammie Welch place at Alamucha. Her husband enlisted in 1861 and was discharged in the Spring of 1865 and one of his officers was Captain H. D. Cameron.

Both applications were on the same man, James F. Jones. It was at this point I became excited for I realized that Nancy Jane never went to Alamucha and was not buried in the Salem Baptist Church Cemetery and that I was dealing with the second wife of James F. Jones.

James F. Jones married Silvy M. Huggins on 9/29/1875. The license was not returned for recording.

I knew from the above that Nancy Jane Fortson Dawson Scoggins Jones was deceased by 9/29/1875.

Now let's go to the minutes of the Fellowship Baptist Church at Centerhill just north of Bailey which is just north of present day Meridian (short distance).

Nancy Jane's grandmother Melberry (Melba) Gray Alford was received in February of 1839 by letter. In March of 1839 Nancy Jane's mother Mary Alford Fortson was received by letter. Nancy Jane in 1839 was about 10 years old. She was 12 when her mother married William McLemore in 1840.

The Austin Keeton to whom Eli and Nancy Jane Fortson Dawson sold their 16th section land was a member of this church.

November 1846 - Brother Hatcher charged with improper conduct in the purchasing of a certin Negro slave from N (Nancy?) Daw (son?). He was harboring said Negro and thereby placing a burden (?) blemish (?) on the church. If Nancy Jane owned a slave then most likely the slave was a gift from her grandmother Melba Alford or Nancy Jane just sold one of her grandmother's slaves? Nothing in the court records on this. "Improper conduct in purchasing". Some problem in the payment for the slave? Not paying? Did not purchase slave from the rightful owner? Taking advantage of Nancy Jane? There were no DAWS in the area of the church.

I think that Eli Dawson sold a slave that belonged to Nancy Jane. (The attachment suit was filed against Eli Dawson by Henry Deen, county range on 9/24/1846. Eli needed money to fight the law suit?)

Hatcher was excluded from the church in January 1847. His wife was excluded in June 1847. The Hatchers were upset. Sister Hatcher stated that there were some members of the church for whose fellowship she did not desire. She requested to be excluded. Was she referring to the Dawsons? Nancy Jane probably a member of this church in 1846; maybe Eli, too.

In July of 1847 Eli Dawson appealed his attachment suit brought by the state. The original suit was brought to court by Henry Deen, county ranger for the state. Eli's appeal or counter suit was against Henry Deen and his attorney George Petty (well known attorney).

In September 1847, Eli was charged with assault and battery by the state.

February 1849 - Sister Melba Alford granted a letter of dismissal. One possibility, it may have been Hatcher who brought forth the assault and battery charge against Eli.

September 1867 - Mary E. Dawson, William G. Dawson and J. F. Jones were received by experience (Baptism) and Nancy Jane Jones was restored. Apparently, she had been "churched" at an earlier date. There is nothing in the minutes that gives information as to the early charge against Nancy Jane. Could have been over the sale of the slave.

There is nothing to indicate that Eli Dawson was every a member.

December 1867 Brother J. F. Jones, wife Nancy J. Jones and step-daughter Mary E. Dawson received letters of dismissal. William G. Dawson remained a member of the church.

I suspect that William Gray Dawson was not in the Jones household. He was 18 years old and probably out on his own.

October 1869 A Lewis and Joseph Harvey were received by experience (one John Harvey went with James Eli Dawson to Perry County, Alabama in 1870. See later.)

December 1869 Brother E. L. Stephens called for a letter of dismission for brother Will Dawson which was granted, then rescinded. The following month Brother Dorson (Dawson) was charged with attending dancing partner. Will Dawson may have worked for E. L. Stephens.

April 1870 Brother Dawson acknowledged that he did wrong and the church forgave him. The minutes do not reflect that he was given a letter of dismission but that was probably the case. This is the year that James Eli took the horse?

Need to secure the date of the 1870 census. This would help to narrow down the date James Eli left, for he is not in Jones household in 1870.

September 1871 The church took up Sister Dawson's case. This has to be Mary E. Dawson. She had apparently re-joined the church with it not being noted in the minutes. Likewise, the case of brother Jones (J.F.) was deferred until the next meeting. The actual charge not listed, probably dancing.

October 1871 The Jones and wife case continued until the next meeting. Mary E. Dawson was excluded, Mary E. now 23 years old. She never returned to the church. This is the last real information found on Mary E. Dawson.

November 1871 Both J. F. and Nancy Jane Jones were excluded.

No charge given - dancing? Writer now knows where his dancing talent came from?

October 1877 W. G. Dawson granted another copy of his letter of dismissal. There are many minutes of this church that are missing.

William Gray Dawson probably left the area after he received his letter of dismissal from Fellowship in April 1870. He married Kelly Caldonia Finley in Scott County, Mississippi on 9/2/1875. So in 1870 William Gray gone toward Scott County, probably following Fortsons. James Eli took the horse and went to Perry County, Alabama. That left James F. Jones, Nancy Jane and the two girls Mary E. and Frances Susan.

September 1884 Brother J. F. Jones was restored and given a letter of dismissal.

His second wife S. M. Jones (female) is listed as a member. They were later at Alamucha, near the Alabama line.

Note: There was a house of ill repute in the area of the church. One minister charged with visiting the house. One witness said he brought presents to the girls.

Oh yes, I wondered about that, too; with the Dawson-Jones dancing. For all I know, James F. might have made corn whiskey and operated a house for dancing, etc.

I think folks that Nancy Jane Fortson Dawson Scoggin Jones died in the Fellowship Baptist Church area some time between November 1871 when she was excluded and September 1884 when James F. Jones was restored. To narrow it down even further, she died be-

tween November of 1871 and when James F. Jones married Silvy M. Huggins on 9/29/1875.

I know for a fact that the James F. Jones who married Nancy Jane is buried in the Salem Cemetery at Alamucha. Writer's father James Nevel Dawson said many times that a Jones, husband of his father's mother was buried there but he did not know about her. In this view then it would seem that Nancy Jane most likely is buried in the cemetery of the Fellowship Baptist Church at Center Hill in an unmarked grave. She has to be buried in the Fellowship area.

If this be the case then James Eli Dawson probably never saw his mother after his departure in 1870 and that she (Nancy Jane) was never in the Alamucha area.

We know where James Eli went - also William G. but where did Mary E. go, the last mention of her is in September 1871. On the 1880 Lauderdale County Census, page 74, P.-O. Meridian Supervisors District 2 there was a

Mary Dawson, age 31, (born 1849(Mississippi, white, single, no information listed on parents.

In this household there were:

Hattie Robinson, black female, 28, born Mississippi, parents Virginia
Jim Williams, black male, 2, born Mississippi

The age fits fairly well but the area in which she lived was populated with members of the black race, but that is the way in some parts of Meridian today.

One would really need to figure out the route of the census taker to go further with this. She did not list an occupation and

apparently gave only brief information (an old Dawson trait it seems). The above could be Mary E. Dawson or it could be a Mary Dawson who was born of a white father and a black woman, a mulatto (?).

As stated, this may have been Mary E. Dawson and it was the black Hattie Robinson who gave the information and did not know much about Mary E. but she would have known Mary E.'s occupation. If this was Mary E. this writer suspects that just maybe the house of ill repute in the Fellowship Church area was run by the Jones family and in 1880 Mary E. was continuing along that line of occupation. The above is pure speculation. It grieves the writer to even suspect the above but considering all he knows about his Dawsons, he is not surprised at anything the Eli Dawson family did. On the other hand,

Nancy Jane, Mary E. and Frances Susan all may have died during the outbreak of yellow fever in the 1870's. It was at its peak in 1878.

After Nancy Jane's death, James F. Jones married S. M. Huggins and continued to live at his residence, which was next door to Joseph Houston, probably a share cropper.

The two sisters. One possibility that has not been checked is the possibility that they went with their brother William Gray Dawson to Scott County, Mississippi. This brother more than likely would have at least helped his baby sister, Frances Susan, who was about 14 when her mother died. The 1880 Census of Scott County and other records of that ^{County} ~~county~~ need to be checked. The girls did not go to their uncle, Joseph G. Fortson.

Writer suspects that Frances Susan who was 12 in 1870 was not old enough to be a member of the church in 1870. In 1871 she was 13, 1872 - 14, 1873 - 15; so she was about 15 years old when her mother, Nancy Jane, died. Nancy Jane 39 in 1870, 40 in 1871, 41 in 1872, 42 in 1873, and 43 in 1874. Poor thing, she had a rough time and died young. Even though she got "churched", writer is glad and proud she had the opportunity to dance a bit before she expired. Just maybe she had a few good years with J. F. Jones.

Looking over the situation Nancy Jane Fortson, in writer's estimation, lost a lot when she married Eli Dawson but writer is glad for he (writer) would not be here if she had not married Eli.

The writer figures she lost her share ~~to her share~~ of her Fortson grandparents estate. She more than likely lost her share of her grandmother Melba Alford's estate - but there is an indication that she may have received a slave before Melba's death. She was not willed anything from her mother's estate but was allowed to buy things from the estate. Writer thinks she was forced to live under an assumed name for a period of time. Her baby child James Eli took a horse just before her death. This no doubt broke Nancy Jane's heart.

At least we now know about when and where she died. With her children using the name Dawson in the Fellowship Church we know that the surname Dawson was not hidden, that is after Eli Dawson's death. The girls being listed on the 1870 census as Jones may have been an error on the part of the census taker or the person giving the information. Of course, a church is different

from a Federal Census taker. After all the people around Fellowship Church knew ^who was who.

There was never ever anything mentioned to my father by his father of any sisters. The writer has looked under Dawson, Scoggin and Jones in marriage records. There is absolutely nothing on Frances Susan and only one M. E. Jones who was married to a H. W. Ranger in 1876 by a Reverend Miles Linton who writer knows lived in the Whynot/Causeyville area far removed from Bailey or Center Hill. There were many Jones's in that area and some were in trouble with the law.

What brought Eli Dawson to the area where the Alford's were? Alford from Greene County, Alabama, so were the Fortsons. Did he come to the Hamricks?

More from notes:

Eli Dawson charged with assault and battery in September 1847. This was after he won his "attachment" suit in July 1847. The fight occurred maybe in August of 1847 (using monthly terms of court, no specific dates).

Mary E. born 1848. (We have no record of Mary E.'s date of birth - except the year).

James F. Jones knew all about Eli Dawson - so did Joseph G. Fortson. Nancy Jane must have had a rough life as did her children. None of the children were educated and were left nothing from their father but grief, fear and God knows what else.

The writer's father James Nevel Dawson, son of James Eli was born in 1895 at Gaston just across the Alabama line and a

short distance south of Alamucha and the Salem Church. James F. Jones and his second wife in Alamucha area in 1894. Writer's Aunt Nellie Dawson Goodwyn was born on 7/7/1889. During the period 1894-1900 she would have been 5 to 11 years old and writer is sure she knew some of the family history which she refused to pass on -- always telling the writer to leave it alone. Don't get me wrong. Aunt Nellie was good to me but just would not tell about the family.

Anyway, we know Eli Dawson was dead by 5/12/1863, if, in fact, he used the name David Scoggin. If Nancy Jane did marry a David Scoggin, he, was dead by 5/12/1863. My gut feeling is that there was no David Scoggin here. The David Scoggin name may have come from someone Eli Dawson knew was deceased. If that is so, Nancy Jane lied when she married James F. Jones.

If there was no David Scoggin and it was an assumed name for Eli Dawson, then Joseph G. Fortson and others of the family knew this and helped protect her. Nancy Jane used this name at her mother's estate settlement. The point is that just maybe Nancy Jane did not care for and was embarrassed over this situation but Eli called the shots and was not above being cruel. She had to follow his instructions. All were afraid of him. Perhaps this is why she jumped at the opportunity to marry James F. Jones when she learned of Eli Dawson/David Scoggin's death.

Eli and Nancy Jane married in February of 1845 but there were no children born until 1848. This implies to the writer that Eli was not home on a regular basis. My cousin Jane Williams of

Vicksburg and also Elizabeth Shown Mills have questioned whether Eli Dawson was married before he married Nancy Jane. The writer now thinks that there is good possibility that he was and some of the time away from home could have been spent with the other family.

On the other hand, he may have been hiding from that family (see later). The second child, William Gray Dawson, was born on January 1, 1849 thus conceived in April of 1848. Mary E. born 1848 had to be born along about January or February of 1848 thus conceived in April or May of 1847. It is possible that there was a miscarriage, an infant died or no conception during the period of February 1845 and April/May of 1847.

Chain of Events:

2/8/1845 - Eli Dawson married Nancy Jane Fortson

9/24/1846 Eli Dawson sued by Henry Deen, county ranger to attach property of Eli. The case set for October 1846 term of court.

10/3/1846 Eli Dawson enters an appeal and hearing set for the March term of circuit court.

March term 1847 Eli Dawson wins on appeal with Henry Deen paying his court costs (another enemy?)

Note: It is interesting to note that the State brought Henry Deen to court in September 1846 for affray (quarreling and fighting). His one witness, one James Martin could not be found in the county. Deen lost the case and was fined. Lots of assault and battery charges in the circuit court minute books. Had a nice time going page by page. Another gent of the area of Eli - Thomas Hamrick - also charged with assault and battery in September of 1846. Looks like they all in that area had a chip on the shoulder. This Thomas father in law to Joseph Houston and Thomas Hamrick father was John W. Hamrick. (see later.)

September 1847 term
(Circuit Court)

Eli is charged with assault and battery by the state, Case No. 201. This was on a grand jury indictment. Grand jury foreman, Isaac Spinks. He was arrested on Capics from ~~the~~ ^{7th} Court. His bail was set at \$100.00. His securities were Burwell Hamrick and William Brown. This was on 9/11/1847. The same day a William Brown was also charged with assault and battery. Burwell Hamrick later charged with assault and battery (see below). It was noticed that this was simple assault and battery in Eli's case with no intent to murder. Also, noticed that other assault and battery charges carried a higher bail of \$300.00. I hope to find case #201 (vertical files) some day..

March 1848 term
(Circuit Court)

Case No. 201, Court ordered alias for Eli to ^{from minutes} Lauderdale and Clarke Counties, Mississippi. The court had some idea or someone knew that he was using another name. Wonder what name he was using? This point lets us know that he did in fact use another name or names. I wonder if Eli Dawson was an alias? Boy that would be the pits. Don't think this is the case. The judge was A. B. Dawson, have traced him, not in Eli's line but they may have known each other. A. B. ^{from} came from Georgia, an attorney and died in Clarke ^{Coosa} County, MS., prominent gent. At this session of court, the judge ordered the same for the William Brown. ^{Co. AL.}

September 1848 Court Nothing in Circuit Court Minutes. Mary E. Dawson is born to Eli and Nancy Jane, probably in January or February of 1848.

July 1849

Case 201, a pluner ordered by the court to Lauderdale and Clarke Counties, MS on Eli. William Gray Dawson born in January. Melba Alford, Nancy Jane's grandmother, leaves the Fellowship Baptist Church. William Brown deceased. Case closed with state paying the cost. William Brown has died between **March 1848 and July 1849**. He apparently was a friend of Eli Dawson so was Burwell Hamrick.

September 1849

Case 201. An alias pluner for Eli ordered and the case continued.

September 1849

Case No. 248. State vs. Burwell Hamrick for assaulting and beating an officer. This Burwell Hamrick was one of Eli Dawson's securities. Writer wonders if a deputy sheriff or constable was looking for Eli and got nasty with Burwell or maybe Burwell got tired of being bugged about the whereabouts of Eli Dawson. Burwell Hamrick was the son of John W. Hamrick, a veteran of the War of 1812 and a brother to Thomas Hamrick mentioned above who was charged with assault and battery. Writer found nothing more on Burwell case so it must have been dropped.

March 1850 Term
(Circuit Court)

Case No. 201. This day came George Wood who prosecutes on behalf of the state and enters a nol pros. It is therefore ordered by the court that the defendant go hence without day (delay) and the state pay the costs. So there is no longer a charge against Eli. At this point the writer wonders why Eli did not show up. In reviewing the circuit court minutes, book A, there were many assault and battery cases. If the defendant pled guilty he was fined 3 to 5 dollars and court costs. Bail ran 100 to 300 dollars. Eli received the low bail. Eli had appeared on and during his attachment case. What made this case different? Apparently, he was not afraid or had to hide until the assault and battery occurred in August of 1847. Whoever he beat up on must have had some connection with some other real mean folks. There were lots of mean folks in Lauderdale County in the early years. For that matter, some mean folks here today! Whatever got after Eli, whether it was a party of men or whatever, it was too much for him to handle alone. There were people perhaps who wished him harm and whoever it was that he attacked was after him with a vengeance and no doubt would have killed him on sight. He appeared and made bail but he never appeared again.

I still say it was William McLemore that he beat up. Of course, Eli had other enemies. There were ^{MARY} Mary McLemore's people and they were powerful. Perhaps in the right circles a price was put on Eli's head. Eli was mean and cunning and he no doubt took advantage of people. Boy, Aunt Nellie would skin me alive if she was here. I'd better watch it or her ghost will pay me a visit in the middle of the night or Eli's ghost!

Continuing with chain of events:

- March 1850 Term
(Circuit Court) One John W. Hamrick had three (3) assault and battery charges filed against him.
File 235 assault and battery on an officer
File 236 regular assault and battery (person)
File 237 regular assault and battery (person)
- September 1850 John W. Hamrick charges set aside and he was cleared. This Hamrick was Burwell Hamrick's father, the War of 1812 veteran. Writer figures that Eli and Nancy Jane were living near the Hamricks and possibly on Hamrick land. The Hamricks were on the 1850 census as well as the 1850 Ag Schedule.
- March 1853 Term
(Circuit Court) The State vs. James F. Jones. Charged with use of a deadly weapon by grand jury. Bail \$300.00. Both securities (unknown at present) had to put up \$150 each if he failed to appear in court. Writer found no other entry regarding this case as he examined circuit court minutes into the 1860's. It was about here that William McLemore died. Have the date but can't find it.
- 10/31/1854 James Eli Dawson born, son of Eli and Nancy Jane Fortson Dawson. He was conceived in January of 1854. Writer believes that Nancy Jane never left the area so Eli Dawson was in Lauderdale County in January of 1854.
- 1856 This is when Joseph G. Fortson and William G. Fortson received their share of their grandmother Fortson's estate, with their sister Nancy Jane Fortson Dawson receiving nothing. Her mother Mary Alford Fortson McLemore must have really disliked Eli Dawson to forsake her daughter. There had to be real HATE for Eli. Writer suspects that Nancy Jane was not in her mother's household after her mother married William McLemore in 1840 or left the household shortly after the marriage to live with her grandmother Melba Alford. Writer thinks it was while she was at her grandmother's home that Eli Dawson courted her, not at William McLemore's and Eli and Nancy Jane may have lived at Melba Alford's log home after they got married, at least for a while. Then they had their own log cabin with its bedstead, feather bed, 4 chairs, and the water bucket (items on attachment suit). Apparently Henry Deen, living in the same area as the Hamricks and Eli, knew what Eli had. John W. Hamrick dies during the year.

1857 -

Nancy Jane surfaces as the wife of David Scoggins after her mother's death. Nancy Jane's brother William George removed to Clarke County, Mississippi after receipt of final share of his grandmother's estate. Nancy Jane bought \$84.00 worth from mother's estate; a horse, hogs, etc. This was the year that James Copeland was caught in Perry County, Mississippi which sent shock waves among some residents of Lauderdale County, Kemper County, Mississippi and other locations. The writer has checked personal tax rolls on certain names who were alleged to be connected to the Copeland gang. For example, their wealth increases and the payment of taxes on clocks, pleasure buggies, etc. In the 1857-58 period, many pulled up stakes and went westward to Texas. Some were members of the Fellowship Church. It is known that James Copeland went to trial over the murder of one J. M. Harvey. The writer often feels that it was easy in a way for Eli and Nancy Jane to hide. They were more or less protected by others. The writer also feels that Eli Dawson was really a thief. He stole horses and perhaps slaves, took them to a certain point where he was paid. While maybe not being an active member of the Copeland gang, he was furnishing goods for sale to the gang.

Some members of the community knew and were in on this operation. Robbing the man who had plenty and exchanging of live stock, goods, and slaves through a well known and respected gentleman.

Something blew Eli's cover and it just may have been the theft of some of William McLemore's live stock in 1846. First there was the attachment suit when Eli won. This angered McLemore and there was a fight, of which Eli won. Then all hell broke loose, which forced Eli to take to the woods so to speak. How great it would have been if the courts would have named names in the court minutes. Sometimes they did. I'll have to examine other records.

1858 -

Frances Susan born. Writer thinks she was the last child of Eli and Nancy Jane. Conceived in 1857.

It was during this period 1857-58 that Eli Dawson left the area again and this time he just may have gone back to Perry County for there no longer was a gang to work for. or he hid out somewhere. He would have had to hide real good or leave for people who had lost stock, etc. to the gang no doubt desired to even the score.

William G. Fortson, brother to Nancy Jane married in Clarke County, Mississippi.

- February 1858
(Circuit Court) R. W. Maxey charged with manslaughter. His bail furnished by Con Rea, noted newspaper publisher. Bail \$1,000. The manslaughter incident occurred in 1857 and it was the grand jury in February 1858 which indicted Robert W. Maxey. Maxey lived near present day Marion east of the Hamricks.
- August 1858 Case continued.
- February 1858 Case continued.
- August 1859 Case continued.
- 1860 R. W. Maxey found not guilty and most important was that William George Fortson was fined court costs for being a defaulting witness for the state. The manslaughter occurred in 1857 and William George Fortson left the area in 1857. Now we know why William G. Fortson left never to return. Who was the victim of this manslaughter? The name of the person killed is most important. William G. apparently did not desire to be a witness and by not doing so cleared R. W. Maxey as he, William G. was the only witness.
- William Gray Dawson, son of Eli and Nancy Jane Dawson at age 11 was in the household of Joseph G. Fortson, brother to Nancy Jane.
- Writer thinks William Gray was at his uncle's home when the census taker came by. At age 11, he would have been of help to his mother, that is if Nancy Jane was using an assumed name of Scoggin. Here again this William Gray was listed as a Dawson on the census record. Was it the David Scoggin that R. W. Maxey killed? Nancy Jane's brother was a witness. It got sticky at this point. Was it Eli? We need names for sure. The writer feels that the victim was most likely in the family and that William George Fortson was more involved than just a witness. He, like Eli had to leave the area.
- May 1861 James F. Jones enlists in the confederate army. He at the time was working for Nancy Jane's brother Joseph G. Fortson. James F. and Nancy Jane were bound to have known each other before he left for the army.
- 5/12/1863 Nancy Jane Fortson Dawson Scoggin marries James F. Jones. Married by JP O. S. Mason. Jones at the time on leave (sick?) from the confederate army.

- 1865 James F. Jones returns from the war. Final settlement of Mary Alford Fortson McLemore's estate by Joseph G. Fortson. The court could not locate her son William George Fortson. There is a note that he served in the confederate army.
- 1867 Nancy Jane restored into the Fellowship Baptist church with her husband James F. Jones, her son William Gray and daughter Mary E. joining the church by experience. (See above on Fellowship Church).
- December 1869 One E. L. Stephens called for letter of dismission for William Gray Dawson (see above on Fellowship. This implies that William Gray was out of the area at this time.
- 1870 James F., Nancy Jane Jones and her two daughters, Mary E., 22 years old and Frances Susan 12 years old on 1870 census for Lauderdale County, Mississippi and living next to Joseph Houston (probably on his land). James Eli Dawson, age 16, son of Nancy Jane takes horse (from Joseph Houston?) and with a friend John Harvey goes to Old Town in Perry County, Alabama. James F., Nancy Jane Jones and M. E. Dawson all excluded from the church for dancing.
- 1871 - 1874 Nancy Jane Fortson Dawson Scoggins Jones dies.
- 9/29/1875 James F. Jones marries Silvy M. Huggins in Lauderdale County, Mississippi. Writer wonders about the whereabouts of Nancy Jane's daughters M. E. and F. S. at this point.
- 9/12/1875 William Gray Dawson marries Kelly Caldonia Finley in Scott County Mississippi.
- 1877 William Gray Dawson receives second copy of his letter of dismission from Fellowship.
- 1884 James F. Jones restored into the Fellowship Baptist Church. His wife, S. M. listed as a member. The minutes do not reflect the date he left and the minutes of the Salem Baptist Church at Alamucha do not reflect him as ever joining that church.
- 1/1/1887 William Gray Dawson dies after falling backward on a double bladed axe. Jane, while going through your correspondence, I noticed in your letter regarding your grandfather, confidential talk to you behind the house; that he said one of his father's (William Gray Dawson) brothers took a horse that the owner would not sell and went to

Alabama never to return and that your grandfather called his uncle Dolph or Darl, Dol? Your grandfather implied there that William Gray Dawson had more than the one brother James Eli. Let's suppose for a moment that there was another brother and he was the first born possibly in 1846-7 with the name Adolphus? This son would have been 4 years old in 1850, 14 years old in 1860, 17 years old when Nancy Jane married James F. Jones in 1863 and 21 years old in 1867 when Nancy Jane was restored in the Fellowship Church. This son could have taken the horse sometime around the middle 1860's. Your grandfather stated he never came back. We had figured it was James Eli who took the horse but going further James Eli was later back in the county, lived at one time in Meridian. He served as a witness to court cases and as a court bailiff on one occasion.

Now here comes the kicker. Could James Eli have gone to his older brother in Perry County, Alabama after Nancy Jane died in 1871-74? We have absolutely no census records on which to check this family, none at all, so a first son could have existed. He would have been, as stated, 21 in 1867. Legend has it that the son who took the horse left money on the gate post. Writer has wondered how a 16 year old would have money to buy a horse. There is no way one can make Uncle Dolph out of James or Eli unless James Eli took an assumed name. This thought brings to fore a lead that should be checked.

Lordy, I wish I had been more attentive in my earlier research days. Will have to re-check things in Perry County, Alabama.

We know for a fact that James Eli went to Perry County. He was gone by the time the Lauderdale County census was taken. It is realized that he went to someone he knew for he was only 16 years of age. Anyway, it is a point to check out. Of course, this possible son Dol, probably changed his name too.

It all centers around Demopolis in Marengo County, Alabama when James Eli used to go for his whiskey and also at Uniontown in Perry County, Alabama where James Eli lived for a period after his marriage in Sumter County, Alabama and, of course, Old Town in Perry County. James Eli may have referred to himself as a black sheep as he ran away and left his mother and family. He was so mean that I doubt he had any remorse, maybe in his later years. Had thought about having a large picture of him made from the small one I have. Don't know about that yet.

Will let this part rest for a bit until more is known. But, if there was this son then Eli Dawson probably did not leave Lauderdale County during the assault and battery proceedings. It would be in 1857 or so that he changed his name or that he died.

One William Dawzey married a J. E. Foster in Clarke County, Alabama on 9/10/1831. Eli would have been 25 years old in 1831. Peter Dawson, who writer thinks was Eli's brother married next door in Wilcox County, Alabama in 1826. Clarke bordered Marengo. Maybe! a William Dossey on 1840 Marengo County, Alabama census. At the time (years ago) I failed to get the information.

By the way, this from Rod. Joseph G. Fortson served in the 8th Mississippi Infantry so Joseph was gone for a spell from his home probably 1862-63. No dates known.

Well time to stop. Have been at it for the entire weekend. Nice, quiet and pleasant, no visitors, just we two, the only time I got up from my chair was to eat, sleep and put another log on the fire.

I am so thankful for the help from Elizabeth. I consider myself a good researcher now but I sure wasn't years ago and I had never thought to re-examine documents I secured in the past. The information on Nancy Jane was right before me. It makes me feel good to know about when she died and where she is buried. I have been to Fellowship Church and walked through the cemetery and I wrote a history of that church, all that time I did not see the connection with the S. M. Jones as James F. Jones second wife.

I had not seen the possible connection of Eli to the Hamricks. It could very well be that Eli knew the Hamricks. I will now go further to see if I can identify the victims of the assault and battery cases. This is difficult information to secure as the state brings forth the charge. The info. not in the circuit court minutes and not in the regular vault file.

In looking at the circuit court minutes I noticed lots of assault and battery with intent to kill. Everybody was suing and being sued!

No wonder men had their toddy in the morning back in the early days. It helped them (I guess) to meet the trials of the day.

I was proud to see that Eli was not charged with "intent to kill". Sure wish I could figure why he ran from a simple assault and battery charge.

I think when all is said and done the assault and battery case will revolve around William McLemore and just maybe the manslaughter case of Robert Maxey will revolve around either David Scoggins or Eli Dawson.

If it does then Eli Dawson (alias David Scoggins or some other name) was killed in 1857. If this is true and Nancy Jane appears as Nancy Jane Scoggins on 12/10/1857 (mother's estate sale). She would not have married when she was P.G. Writer is real anxious to find out who Maxey killed and who beat up on who in the assault and battery cases. Will have to get into the sealed grand jury files.

More later. Take care.

Sincerely,


Jim

Jim Dawson
Route 6, Box 115
Meridian, MS 39301
December 31, 1991

Dear Cousin Jane, Joe and Rod:

Well folks, on this the last day in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety one, I found DAVID SCOGGINS (listed as SCROGGINS). Please see attachment, pages 62 and 63 from the Lauderdale County Subpoena Book 1857. He was a witness for the State when three men were charged with commencing a riot. The location has to be in the Meridian area as Lewis A. Ragsdale owned half the land. Meridian was built on. Meridian was incorporated in 1860.

I have not had time to fully review this new development and I am not taking the time to correct my ~~entire~~ letter as I desire to get this mailed today. Then we can say it was a real good year, found Nancy Jane, found David Scoggin. This David issued a subpoena on November 27, 1857 so we know he was here. In December 1857 Nancy Jane at her mother's estate sale. We also know that the daughter Frances Susan is most likely the child of David Scoggin. She, Frances Susan born in 1858.

*+ to let you
have a full
dose of my
work!*

There is no subpoena book for 1847 or anything else I can check trying to find out who Eli Dawson beat up on. I will compose another letter over the weekend.

I found where the R. M. Maxey was charged with manslaughter in April of 1857. I reviewed the list of witnesses but there were none connected with our families except William George Fortson. It is still possible that the person he killed was Eli Dawson but nothing in the record to prove this. The vertical file and other like files are missing.

You will note on page 62 of the subpoena book there is an adultery case against one Jane Jones and that James F. Jones is a witness for the state. This is probably his first wife. Whites were in the area of Center Hill (Bailey area). WHOOOO - WHEEEEE. That whole group in that area were characters. You would not believe what I have found out in the past week.

I could write a best seller

April Term Circuit Court 1857

William George Fortson was a witness for the state in the assault and battery trial of W. J. Warbington. October of 1857 John T. Harvey* charged with assault and battery with intent to kill. AND note this. Page 70 State vs. Joseph Fortson and David J. House charged with affray 11/27/1857

* I want to see if this is missing

All in the area were quarreling fighting so it seems. NOW: We know Joseph G. Fortson was in the 8th Mississippi Infantry. Jane please go to the state archives and get a copy of his service record and see if you can get a list of members of his company. I do not have the company designation. I think we will find that David Scoggins in that company. I have one William Scoggins in Company D, 8th Wade ^{reg.} that died on 7/6/1862 in the Okolona confederate hospital. Could his name have been William David or David William?

By the way, that Robert W. Maxey was some type of a merchant. He was charged with receiving stolen goods in 1866. Still feel he is connected to Eli's death but have to study the new info and research more.

Right now I am thinking someone got Eli when the Copeland gang news broke in 1857.

Glad to find out Nancy Jane did not assume the name of Scoggins, but where did she marry? Lots of questions.

Oh yes, I found a Gayle A. Fortson as a witness in 1858. Who is this Rod? Can't be son of Joseph, Gayle Adolphus? ~~Adolphus~~

1857

I will see if can prove or disprove that there was a son born to Eli and Nancy Jane in 1846. Such makes sense but I don't know. May have to go back to the idea that James Eli was called Darling or Darl for short.

Anyway, I gotta close and get this in the mail. We now know more. Will have to let it all settle and re-examine it all.

By the way, James Eli was by no means a darling!!!

Best wishes,

Jim
Jim

237 *W. H. Brown*
W. H. A. B.
Anthony B. B. April 1857
 27/187
 May 1858
 Day this account from last

George Jordan P
 217 James Tucker P
 2000
 3 10 5.00 per ipd

238 *The State*
W. H. Adams in H. Adams
W. H. Adams April 1857
 27/187
 May 1858
 Day this account from last

Robert L. Murphy P
 E. M. Decker P
 3 James F. Dalton P
 2 John P. Dalton D 20/187 2
 C. F. Garrison D 6
 James Atkins D 4
 4 M. P. Payne D 4

239 *The State*
W. H. Adams in H. Adams
W. H. Adams April 1857
 27/187
 May 1858
 Day this account from last

James Davis Esq. P
 W. M. Morgan Esq. P 5 16 8.30 per ipd
 3 James F. Jones Esq. P 5 16 8.30 per ipd

240 *The State*
W. H. Adams in H. Adams
W. H. Adams April 1857
 27/187
 May 1858
 Day this account from last

* Davis Thompson P
 Willis Bishop P
 Lewis A. Ragsdale P
 James Brown P

Apr Term 1858

241 The State vs E.D. W.
Joseph H. Malt
April Term 1858
Ex 27/57
Days miles amount from cut

Allen Williams ?
Capt. L. S. ... ?
Wm. B. ... ?

May 1858

242 The State vs Capt. Wm. ...
Wm. E. ...
April Term 1858
Ex 27/57
Days miles amount from cut

Wm. ... P
M. ... P
John G. Daniel P
418 Robert McKelvey P

Ex 5 34 \$ 9.20 per ipd
Ex 3 24 \$ 4.70 per ipd
Ex 1 00 \$ 1.50 per ipd

Apr

243 The State vs E.D. W.
Wm. ...
April Term 1858
Ex 27/57
Days miles amount from cut

James ... ?
Willi L. Bishop ?
* David ... ?
416 Lewis A. ... ?

ERW. Exhibiting ... - Sub. ...
Kellum ...

Apr

244 The State vs ...
Wm. ...
April Term 1858
Ex 27/57
Days miles amount from cut

of Samuel ... ?

Sat., May 19, 1984

Dawson Family
OCCGS

Dear Rod;

I received your letter of May 7 last week, but due to the sudden death of my mother on May 10, have been unable to answer and tell you how delighted to gain another cousin! Mama was the last Dawson in Luther Davis Dawson-Aldora McClendon line. Mack and Bob, her brothers passed away 4 and 2 years ago, respectively. Mama had been well (if you can call Parkinson's and catarrach (sp)benign diseases)and had spent from December to April with me. She died of a heart attack Thursday A.M. while my sister Betty was there with her. I had told her that I was beginning to break through with the Dawson-Fortson line (as the Johnson-McClendon one has been well-searched). She was interested in my meeting with Jim Dawson and we talked of having a get-together this summer at her house in Walnut Grove. I called Jim today and told him of her death.

I think Jim is an excellent position to find more about the Dawsons if any information exists. Jim and I both feel there may have been some name-changing after the horse-thievery episode. There was so much SHAME for anyone connected with that. My grandfather was deeply embarrassed when he was forced to tell me about it. *(Backin 1964)*

My grandfather, Luther Davis, told us that his father's mother (Luther Davis'grandmother) was a Fortson and he spoke of two uncles that apparently influenced William Gray very much. An "Uncle Joe Fortson and and Uncle Bob or Will or Bill). Also an Aunt Susan Fortson was spoken of with affection.

The guilty party who took the horse was an Uncle Dolph or Adolphus. This apparently occurred in Lowdes or Winston County.

Jim told me that Vilate Higginbotham married Samuel H. Fortson, died shortly after having Nancy Jane. He then married Mary Alford, mother of the beloved Uncle Joe. I have absolutly no information on our Fortson's except those facts given me by you and Jim. I have many pages from the DAR Elbert County Ga. book photocopied, but do not know how to make the connections. Would appreciate any information you might have and share. Will gladly pay for any expenses you incur.

Jim and I speculated about the nature of the Dawson men and how we felt that they were hard men, quick to anger, perhaps deadly as enemies. It would be so, so interesting to know what went on in that family. Did Eli mistreat Nancy Jane..was he a fugitive? Why was William Gray living with Joe and his wife when the Civil War started? Where was Nancy Jane and Eli during census taking time? I guess we'll never know but will be

fyb to speculate.

Anything of interest that I find in my searching will be glad to share with you.

Now, my personal Data:

Mary Jane Johnson Williams, M. John Clark Williams
b. Jan 29, 1932. b. Sept. 28, 1927,
Walnut Grove, Ms. Troy, Mo.

daughter of:

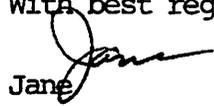
Lynn Boyd Johnson	and	Una Dawson Johnson
b. Feb. 27, 1885		b. Aug. 12, 1905
Walnut Grove, Ms.		Sebastapol, Ms.
d. July 28, 1961		d. May 10, 1984
Una May was Daughter of:		
Luther Davis Dawson	and	Aldora McClendon
b. Jan. 12, 1879		b. Mar. 23, 1880
Scott County, Ms.		Scott County, Ms.
d. June 26, 1967		d. Dec. 1, 1968
Luther Davis Dawson was son of:		
William Gray Dawson	and	Kelly Caldonia Finley
b. Jan. 26, 1849		b. Aug. 14, 1858
d. Jan. 1, 1887		d. Nov. 18, 1941

Clark and I have two children, John Clark Williams, II **"Corky"
b. Oct 5, 1956
Elizabeth Anne Williams Thorpe "Boo"
b. June 25, 1960 married Jerry Allen Thorpe
Jan. 7, 1984 b. Oct. 4, 1961

I will stop for now and get this in the mail tomorrow.

It has been a long, grinding and sad week. I guess the death of both parents is the real milestone...I'm nobody's child now.

With best regards,


Jane

*We southerners all have to have nicknames.

P. S. Boo lives in Placentia, CA, and works for Rockwell, Int.

DAWSONS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR (AND THEIR DESCENDANTS), Vol. I, by Carol R. (Anderson) Dawson, 1974, hard cover, index at end of each chapter, 170 p., \$20.00. Vol. I is based on the same sources as listed for Vol. II.

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- ROBERT, Pvt. Pa., m. 1st Miss Pinkerton, m. 2d Isabel, 14 p.
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- TIMOTHY, Pvt. Conn. (DIRECT line only by his 2d wife, Abigail (Winston)... to Charles Carroll Dawson, author of the book on DAWSONS in 1874) 10 p.
- WILLIAM, Pvt. Ga., N.C., S.C., m. the widow (Gibson) McElvin, 5 p. (ADD. in Vol. II).

JAMES DAWSON FROM WALES (AND HIS DESCENDANTS), by Carol R. (Anderson) Dawson, 1968, hard cover, 204 p. illus., \$10.00.

According to McLean Co., Ill. County History books, JAMES DAWSON came from Wales and settled on the north fork of the Potomac River in Va. early in its history (no dates given). He was twice married and had 16 issues by each wife (no names given). He died at the age of 128 and ALL of his 32 children were alive. One of his grandsons, b. in Va., moved to Ky. and was killed by Indians. The FIRST name ever given is that of a.....great grandson, JAMES R. DAWSON, b. Oct. 10, 1794 in Bourbon Co., Ky., m. 1st Mary (Ogden), m. 2d the widow, Elizabeth Robbins, died 11 Apr. 1848 in McLean Co., Ill. Was in the War of 1812 from Ohio, prob. Ross Co. Had total of 12 issues. The author's husband is from this line.

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