

Mackey  
Dill

# The Mackey and Dill Families and the Civil War

by John Dill

Although Arkansas took the southern position during the Civil War, many of the residents of northwest Arkansas remained loyal to the Union. Here is a look at the involvement of the members of two of those families with Washington County roots. It is pieced together from scattered bits of information and provides only a sketchy outline. Some of these family members are well documented in Union service and pension records. Others are almost entirely missing. As this was being researched one individual, in particular, surfaced several times and has perhaps become somewhat of a central figure in this story. He is the mysterious Union soldier, Thomas B. Mackey. (Mackey is only one of the many variations of spelling encountered during this research, it is the "default" spelling used in this article.)

The Mackey family first appeared in a Washington County, Arkansas land entry on 4 Mar 1836. David McKay entered 40 acres on Fly Creek in Section 28, Township 14. His closest neighbor was probably the William Oliver who entered an adjoining 40 acres on the same day. David's past is unknown. It may be that he is the David Mckay who is recorded on White County, Tenn. tax records in 1813. It is also possible that there is some connection with the David McKay who owned land in Greenville, S.C. in the 1780s. The associated Dill and Rutledge families were in both of those areas during those time periods. Tax and census records indicate that David died soon after his Washington County purchase. Beginning in 1837 Rachel Mackey, his widow, paid the taxes on this 40 acres of land.

Rachel is the head of the Mackey household on the

Mississippi River where we beheld the stars and stripes which never looked quite so beautiful before. We were taken on board of U.S. transports to New Orleans, La.

I was captured on the 25th day of April, 1864 and exchanged the 25th day of February, 1865, having been in the care of the johnnies an even 10 months. We came up the Mississippi River to Cairo, Ill. and was furloughed to go home for 30 days. I returned to my regiment at Little Rock, Ark. and soon an order was issued by the Adjutant General to muster out all of the paroled prisoners of war. I returned to Leavenworth, Kans. and was mustered out the 22nd day of May, 1865 having been in the service of my army life might be mentioned which might be of interest to the reader but I have told the main facts so let it suffice.

This was taken from the original writing of Henry B. Luce.

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HENRY B. LUCE (born 10 Dec 1835 in Success, N.Y., died 12 Aug 1906 in Galatia, Kansas), married Earnistine A. Rogers (born 19 Oct 1836, died 12 Feb 1904). They had seven children.

A daughter, Permelia Ann Luce (born 16 Dec 1868, died 20 Nov 1952), married Francis Henry Shelton (born 15 May 1858, died 14 Mar 1938).

Their daughter, Lavilla Ferne Shelton (born 5 Oct 1903, died 1 Jun 1988), married Shelby Ray Ford (born 23 Jul 1902, died 27 Oct 1968) on 5 Oct 1930.

Their daughter, Frances Ann Ford (born 4 Apr 1933), married Grover Otho Lindley (born 4 Apr 1931, died 17 Mar 1997). They had three children:

Gary Grover Lindley of Springfield, Mo.

Shelby Stephen Lindley of Prairie Grove, Ark.

Kimberly Ann Lindley of Fayetteville, Ark.

Frances Ford Lindley married Joseph Dorsa 13 Feb 1971. ❖

1840 census. Within a few years she married Charles Dill. Charles is enumerated with his father's (Elijah Dill) family on the 1840 census. This marriage took place before Washington County began to officially record marriages in 1845. We know about it from a small Dill history written in 1922 by Charles Dill's niece, Ida Dill. She recorded that "Charley (Dill) married widow Mackey," but gave no dates. Charles Dill and Rachel Mackey both joined the Cane Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1839.

Charles and Rachel Dill, along with their two daughters Unicy and Paulina E., are listed on the 1850 census. This record indicates that Rachel was about thirteen years older than Charles. The next census entry (Washington Co., Cove Creek #5) appears to be a complete list of David and Rachel Mackey's children. Those listed are Thomas (26 Tenn.), Hugh (25 Tenn.), George (24 Tenn.), Margaret (22 Tenn.), David (18 Ill.), James (16 Ark.), Andrew (14 Ark.) and Abram (12 Ark.). This is a good example of a "fortunate mistake" in the census records. The information must have been taken "second hand." Hugh had married Jane Rutledge on 21 Dec. 1844 in Barry County, Mo. and can also be found listed in Newton County, Mo. on the 1850 census. Other records show that Thomas, George, and David were all either in California, or on their way there, in 1850 as part of the "gold rush" (*Flashback* Jan. 1964 p. 11-12 and Aug. 1968, p. 35-36).

In the 1850s, now back from the "gold rush," Thomas B. Mackey married Elizabeth C. Roberts on 11 Aug 1853, and George W. Mackey married Charlotte Vance on 8 May 1853. Margaret and David have not been located in any other records. There is a possible record of James which will be mentioned later. Andrew J. Mackey married Paulina Baxter on 22 Mar 1855 and she died in 1858 at Granby, Mo. Andrew's second marriage was to



**Andrew Mackey and his second wife, Soloma Jane Robinson, in the center; on either side—daughters Lenna and Lenora.**

Soloma Jane Robinson on 22 Jan 1862 before his Union service. Abram S. Mackey married Amanda Sinkler on 25 Oct 1862. This marriage took place in T.B. Mackey's home. After Abram's death in the Civil War she married Washington Hendricks. All these marriages were in Washington Co., Ark. The only other record from the 1850s shows that James and Andrew had guardians appointed in 1852. The reason for this is unknown.

The 1860 census finds Hugh and his family are now living in Washington County. They are next to Charles and Rachel Dill, who are still living on the old Mackey homestead but are now listed in Mountain township. Thomas (#96 Cane Hill) and George Mackey (#24 Cane Hill), and Charles Dill's brother-in-law Shelton Hern (#25 Cane Hill) are all to the north on Blair's Creek, not far from Charles Dill's father, Elijah Dill.

#### **Union service by descendants of David Mackey**

1. Thomas Mackey - covered below
2. Hugh Mackey - enrolled in Company D, 1st Arkansas Infantry on 1 Sep 1863. He is officially listed as deserted in late 1863 (one source says Feb 1864). In a pension application, a daughter states that he was sent home sick and died in

the winter of 1863/64 in Crawford County, Ark.

3. George Mackey - also mentioned below. No official record of service has ever been found. The account in *Flashback* of his "gold rush" trip states that he had worn a "peg-leg" since childhood. This probably prevented him from actively serving in a first line unit.

4. Andrew J. Mackey - enrolled in Company A, 1st Arkansas Cavalry on 27 Nov 1862 and served through the War.

5. Abram S. Mackey - enrolled in Company A, 1st Arkansas Cavalry on 23 Nov 1862 and died of injuries suffered in the Battle of Prairie Grove. He died around 18 Jan 1863 at Fayetteville and is probably buried in an unidentified grave in the Fayetteville National Cemetery.

Hugh Mackey's son, John Wesley Mackey, also enrolled in Company D, 1st Arkansas Infantry. He enrolled 1 Oct 1863 and served through the War.

Elijah Dill had moved into the Blair's Creek area of Washington County by the mid 1830s, from White County, Tenn. He raised a family of five sons and five daughters there. One son, Archibald, moved to Texas in the 1840s with his father-in-law, William Kimes. Elijah's other four sons and at least two of his sons-in-law served in some capacity in the Union Army. No "official" record of military service has ever been located for Charles or Benjamin Dill. Charles is known to have survived the War but has not been found in records after 1867. Just after the War both of Charles and Rachel Dill's daughters married



Seaborn Caughman

veterans of Company A, 1st Arkansas Cavalry. Paulina Dill married Seaborn Caughman on 27 Apr 1865 and Unicy Dill married James Council on 8 Sep 1865. Benjamin Dill lived in Benton County after the War and has numerous living descendants, many of whom have

traditions that Benjamin fought on the Union side in the Battle of Prairie Grove and other engagements. Benjamin was married three times, the first being to Charlotte Story on 21 Apr 1853 in Washington County.

Elijah Dill's other two sons, John and Francis, and his son-in-law, Joseph Williams, all moved to Scott County, Ark. in 1860. Francis soon returned to Washington County and the rest were caught up in the War from Scott County.

The first indication of any Union involvement by members of the Dill and Mackey families can be found in the August 1953 *Flashback* which printed what was believed to be a roster of Co. D, 1st Arkansas Cavalry USA. The article states that "This company of 182 men was raised by G.W.M. Reed, probably late in 1861, for the Federal service." There is more to this than first meets the eye. Very few of those listed have been located in any other records of the 1st Cavalry or any other Union regiment. The 1861 date seems improbable. T. B.



The author believes the middle row, left to right, are Francis Dill, Benjamin Dill (positive), Elizabeth Dill Williams Mangrum, Charles Dill, and John Dill. These are five of Elijah Dill's ten children.

Mackey is listed as the Captain. Three privates listed are of special interest here. They are C. Dill, B. Dill, and Shelt. Heron. C. and B. Dill are almost certainly Elijah's sons, Charles and Benjamin Dill.

**Union service by descendants and sons-in-law of Elijah Dill**

1. Charles Dill - only known record is "Company D" roster given above.

2. Benjamin R. Dill - only known record is roster. Descendants say he served in the Union Army throughout the War.

3. John Sutton Dill - enrolled in Company D, 1st Arkansas Infantry on 1 Sep 1863 and served until discharged on disability late in the War. John married his first wife, Elizabeth (Rutledge) Gallion on 27 Mar 1844 in Newton County, Mo. She died 3 Nov 1856 and he married her youngest sister, Mary Rutledge, on 15 Oct 1857. They were sisters of Hugh Mackey's wife, Jane Rutledge.

4. Francis Marion Dill - enrolled in Company D, 1st Arkansas Cavalry on 2 Jul 1862 and served through the War. Francis' first wife was Nancy Gallion who died in 1860 in Scott County. She was a step-daughter of his brother, John. On 4 Oct 1864 Francis married Louisa (Tollett) Crawford, the widow of Pinkney Crawford. Andrew J. Mackey later provided Francis with a deposition which states that this marriage took place in the house in Fayetteville where Andrew was living at that time. Reuben North, the Chaplain of the First Arkansas Cavalry, performed the ceremony.

5. Shelton Hern - listed on the "Company D" roster referred to above. He married Elijah Dill's daughter, Mary, on 11 May 1853. In 1890 his widow filed a pension application based on service with Company D, 1st Arkansas Cavalry which was denied. This application was later "amended" to indicate that in about 1864 Shelton served as the head wagonmaster for a Union supply train.

6. Joseph Williams - enrolled in Company D, 1st Arkansas Infantry on 1 Oct 1863 and died at Waldron, Arkansas shortly afterward. After the War his body is believed to have been moved to the National Cemetery in Fort Smith, Ark. He mar-

ried Elijah Dill's daughter, Elizabeth, in the late 1840s in Newton County, Mo. Joseph had at least two brothers who also served on the Union side. John S. Williams served in Company D, 1st Arkansas Infantry and Thomas B. Williams served in Company H, 6th Kansas Cavalry.

John Dill's two oldest sons, William and James Wesley Dill served with their father in Company D, 1st Arkansas Infantry. Both enrolled 1 Sep. 1863. John Dill's step-son, Benjamin T. Gallion, enrolled in Company D, 1st Arkansas Infantry on 1 Oct 1863 and served through the War.



The enrollment dates of John Dill, Hugh Mackey and the others from west central Arkansas are interesting. They all enlisted

**William C. Dill (left) and James Wesley Dill, great-grandfather of the author. These two brothers were twins.**

shortly after the Battle of Devil's Backbone was fought near Greenwood in Sebastian County, Ark. Sources say the Confederate forces were holding a large number of men of neutral or Union persuasion from that area, who were to be conscripted into the Confederate Army. These men broke and ran to the Union side during that battle and then applied to join the Union Army. Many enlisted that same day at Jenny Lind and most ended up

in the 1st Arkansas Infantry.

One additional fact emerged from a study of the 1st Arkansas Infantry records. Almost to a man, these soldiers were hospitalized for several months at the end of 1863. Many died or were discharged at that time. The apparent cause, as given in some of the records, was a bad vaccine the men were given after enlistment. This may have contributed to the deaths of Hugh Mackey and Joseph Williams soon afterward.

### **CSA involvement of family members**

It is possible that one or more members of the Dill and Mackey families supported the Confederate cause. Minutes of Methodist Conferences 1893-96, page 96, Emory University Theological Library, gives this information: James Mackey was born in Washington County, Arkansas on 8 Mar 1838. He married Liz Taylor on 20 May 1860. He was a chaplain in the CSA and died in 1879. It is unknown if this James is the missing brother from this Mackey family. Andrew J. Mackey, possibly a brother of this James, was a Methodist minister from Washington County after the War.

The picture is more clear with Archibald Dill, brother of Charles. Archibald had lived in Texas for many years and served in a CSA "homeguard" there. He even named a son, born during the War, Jefferson Davis Dill.

All the soldiers with "recognized" service (in this case an enrolled date) can be tracked during and after the War using service and pension records from the National Archives. It is a very different matter to locate or identify the older soldiers who apparently were serving in militia or "homeguard" units. There are almost no known records of their service. Research using Union pension records and the information given below makes it appear that the "Roster of Company D" which was quoted earlier in this article is possibly the roster of

the Company D, Union Militia, one of the three Union "homeguard" companies from Washington County.

\* Captain Thomas B. Mackey, 1st Arkansas Cavalry - "deserted absent without leave since Sept 7, 1863" (Roll 59, Misc. Abstracts, Micro 399, 1st Arkansas Cavalry - National Archives). A search of records from the National Archives has turned up no other reference to a Thomas Mackey serving in the 1st Arkansas Cavalry. This must have been an administrative problem connected with Thomas leaving Company A to join the newly organized Union Militia at Fayetteville.

\* Report of the Adjutant General of Arkansas, 1867 gives this information: "In the autumn of 1863, in accordance with orders from Major General Schofield, then commanding the department of the Missouri, several companies of Union men were organized in northwestern Arkansas, the government issuing arms and ammunition, and when on active service furnishing them with subsistence. These companies were commanded as follows: In Washington county by Captains Bracken Lewis and Mackey. . . There was also a very efficient company organized in West Fork township. . . Captains Lewis and Mackey's companies took part in the defense of Fayetteville on the 3d of November, 1864, and all these organizations rendered valuable aid to the government, for which they have received no compensation."

\* *Flashback* (May 1961 p. 23-24) published a letter written by John Buchanan on 12 Jan 1864 to the commander of the Union army at Fayetteville. "Last week, Capt. Thos. Mackey, Mr. George Mackey, Shelton Herron, and others whose names I do not recollect, came to my house and took off two mules, two mares, and one horse."

\* The genealogy department of the Fayetteville library holds a letter (published in *Flashback*, Jan. 1957 p. 36) written by Fount Richardson in 1953 which tells a Civil

War story about George Mackey. Briefly this is the story of how George repaid Jim McCulloch for saving his life on the California gold rush (1849) by aiding him in eluding capture when Jim was in the Confederate army and George serving "with the Feds."

The actions of Thomas Mackey and the other militia soldiers may have greatly influenced the history of north-western Arkansas during the War and yet he and his comrades are almost completely unknown. Thomas died

An important and often overlooked source of family names for Cane Hill, Washington County, Arkansas in the late 1830s is an article which was published in the August 1957 *Flashback* about the Campbell and Pittman (store) Ledger of 1837. This ledger is a gold mine of names of early settlers. Elijah Dill's two oldest sons, Archibald and Charles are named as is John Hearn, the father of Shelton Hern. Unfortunately none of the Mackeys apparently had credit with that store.

The article ended with this note. "We have tried, without success to identify..." and goes on to name eight families from the ledger. One of those named is William Kimes, the early settler who became Archibald Dill's father-in-law. Two others named are John and Thomas Rutledge. They are brothers of Elizabeth (Rutledge) Williams, the wife of Luke Williams and the father of Joseph, Thomas, and John Williams who were mentioned as Union soldiers. These Rutledges were siblings of Benjamin Rutledge who was killed in an 1835 accident in Jackson County, Tennessee. Benjamin was the father of the wives of Hugh Mackey and John Dill. One other early settler also tied into this family. Stephen D. Sutton was married to another of these Rutledges, Nancy Rutledge. Stephen's mother, Elizabeth, and Elijah Dill were siblings. By the early 1840s these Rutledge families had all moved to Newton County, Missouri where they remained.

## Mackey Family

by July 1865. His brother George was the administrator of his estate but that record gives no indication of what had happened to Thomas. Five years of research have turned up no further trace of either Thomas or George, or of any descendants. In every record Thomas is referred to by the rank of Captain, first in the 1st Arkansas Cavalry and later in a Washington County Arkansas Militia. One final record makes it obvious that the victorious northern side considered him to be a soldier and officer.

Thomas Benton McKay, Capt Ark, is buried in Section 5, grave 356 of the National Cemetery at Fayetteville. His wife is buried next to him. The wording of his marker is interesting. It identifies him as a Captain from Arkansas, but gives no unit.

The primary sources of information on these families are various Union Army records, especially Union pension applications from the National Archives. In most cases, someone at least filed for a pension on these soldiers. Documents in those files provided proof of most of the family relationships given above and in a few cases provided considerable additional information.

The author is a descendant of John Sutton Dill's son, James Wesley Dill. Wesley and his twin brother, William, were 17 when they enlisted. Many years later, curious descendants asked Wesley why they had joined the Union Army and were only told "because of Elijah." There is a family tradition that Elijah was murdered at or near his home on Blair's Creek (Greasy Valley) because of his well known Union sentiment and the active involvement of his sons and neighbors in the Union cause. This entire subject is still being researched. The author welcomes contact from anyone with questions or information on this subject.

This article was researched and written by John Dill, 7011 Johnson Road, Huntington, AR 72940, e-mail address - <johndill@ipa.net>. He welcomes information or inquiries from those interested in these families. ♦



The children of John Henry and Nancy Elizabeth "Betty" (Sizemore) Mackie includes five boys and five girls. On the front row are Dallas, Martin, Laura, and Cora. On the back row are Will, Ed, Jesse, Julia, Lora, and Mary. Seated on the front

row is Physa (Williams) Mackie, the mother of John Henry Mackie. She is holding a Bible. The photograph was taken about 1910, probably at the homeplace on West Main Street in Yadkinville.

## After Fifty Years, This Side Of The Mackies Assembles

By ANDREW L. MACKIE

Last Saturday, July 19, the descendants of John Henry Mackie (1860-1949) and his wife, Nancy Elizabeth "Betty" Sizemore (1861-1946), held a family reunion at Yadkin County Park. It may be the first time this side of the family has assembled in over 50 years.

A roomful of kinfolk filled the new picnic shelter and ate a delicious home-cooked meal catered by Ace's Restaurant. Sixty-six relatives and their friends were in attendance.

The reunion was the idea of the seven children of Will and Eula Williams Mackie. Since 1983 they have held a biennial reunion for their branch of the family tree. This year they decided to expand their reunion to include the descendants of the four brothers and five sisters of their father, William Luther Mackie.

The 10 children are Lora (1882-1944), who married Arthur Warden; William (1883-1973), who married Eula Williams; Edward (1885-1953), who married Minnie Mackie; Cora (1887-1974), who married Sidney Shermer; Mary (1888-1913), who married Arthur Green; Jesse (1890-1975), who married Bertha

Hinshaw; Laura (1894-1935), who married Sidney Simmons; Julie (1896-1979), who married Albert Draughon; Martin (1899-1978), who married Verna Mae Branon; and Dallas (1901-1989), who married Ethel Bryant.

The closeness of this family is indicated by the fact that John Henry, Betty, and all 10 of their children and their spouses, except Arthur Green, are buried at Harmony Grove Friends Church in Yadkinville.

For this reunion Arthur Buren Mackie of Bethesda, Md. compiled a list of every known descendant of John Henry and Betty. He discovered that their 10 children produced 26 grandchildren; that these grandchildren produced 43 great-grandchildren; and that these great-grandchildren produced 57 great-great grandchildren, for a total of 136 descendants.

Three of John Henry and Betty's children were represented at this year's reunion: Will, Jess, and Dallas.

Representing Will and Eula were their children: Mary Ruth M. Thompson, Silver Spring, Maryland; Mrs. Marshal Mackie, Winston-Salem; Dorothy Mae M. Miller and her husband, Charles, Charlotte; John D. Mackie and his wife Betty, Oxford; Arthur Mackie and his wife Joan, Bethesda; Martha M. Caudell, High Point; and Sam Mackie and his wife, Anne, Statesville.

Representing Mary Ruth and her late husband Milton were Lee Thompson and his wife Sara, and their children, Brian, Paul, and Randy, Olney, MD.

Representing the late Marshall and his wife Dorothy were Bill, Columbia, S. C.; and Jeff, his wife Florence, their daughter Arrin and her friend, Matt, Hickory.

Representing Dorothy and Charles were Janet M. Rowland, her husband Larry, and their children Kemp and Amy, Winston-Salem.

Representing John D. and his wife Betty were their son Dal, his wife Betty, and their children, Kam and Jay, Raleigh; and their daughter Rosalyn, Oxford.

Representing Arthur and Elise, his first wife, were Lora, her husband, David and their son Willy, Herndon, Va.; and Will, his wife Linda, and their children, Diana, Danielle, and John, Fruit Cove, Fla.

Representing Arthur and Joan, his second wife Joan, were Susanne, Arlington, Va.; and A. J., his wife Deana, and their son Matthew, Bethesda.

Representing Martha and her late husband Ross Caudell were their four children: Cheryl and her friend Rick Calvert, Swannanoa; Ross, Jr., Pinehurst; Holly and her husband Rick Ketner, and their three children, Matt, Sam, and Erin, Salisbury; Sam, his wife Susan, and their four children, Ann-Marie and her friend Kevin Lanford, Samantha, Spence and Beth, Inman, South Carolina.

Representing Sam Mackie and his wife Anne were Allison and her husband John Strickland, Greensboro.

Representing Jesse and Bertha Hinshaw Mackie were Grady, his wife Lestine, and their son Andrew, Yadkinville, and his friend Jody Johnson Miller, Winston-Salem; and James and his wife Cassie, Winston-Salem.

Representing Dallas and Ethel Bryant Mackie were their son Roger and his wife Nancy, Yadkinville.

In his address to the family, Arthur Buren Mackie explained that family history goes in two directions: ancestors and descendants.

He said, "Ancestors are like the view we have from a rear view mirror. When we look into the mirror,

we can see where our family has been. Descendants, however, are the view from the front porch. We can look ahead and imagine what our family will become, where they will live, and what they will do with their lives and heritage."

It was agreed by those in attendance that their view from the front porch includes a great deal of good, especially the large number of children who attended this reunion.

After their marriage in 1880 in Yadkin County, John Henry and Betty lived first on Haire Road in a two-story frame home with a slate roof. Even though this home is no longer standing the magnificent white oak trees that surrounded it are still standing.

About 1901 the family moved into the historic T. C. Hauser Home on West Main Street. This home is still standing and is now being renovated.

It was from this home that much of the family history is told, including John Henry and Betty's marriage of 66 years.

John Henry and Betty raised 10 children, five boys and five girls, all of whom became a credit to their upbringing in a strict Quaker home.

Betty and John Henry's names are remembered by Bettie Street and Henry Street, which are located east and west of this home. The streets were named about 1950 by their son, Jesse Lee Mackie, when he surveyed the land in preparation for an auction of the family estate.

At the next reunion in 1999, the family plans to expand again and invite descendants of the three brothers and one sister of John Henry Mackie.

They are William Luther (1865-?), of whom not much is known; Simon Luther (1867-?), who married Fanny Jane Shugart; Ida Jane (1869-1958), who married Robert L. Howell; Dallas Winfield (1872-1951), who married Bessie Estell Dean; and Walter Lee (1875-1909), who married Lora Biddie Royall.

Information on these families can be sent to Andrew Mackie, PO Box 891, Yadkinville, NC 27055-0891, Arthur Mackie, 7431 Arrowood Road, Bethesda, MD 20817.

## Historian Revises The Mackie Outline

The Mackie family historian, Andrew Mackie, has revised the identification under the picture of the Mackie family printed last week in *The Ripple* as follows:

The children of John Henry and Nancy Elizabeth "Betty" Sizemore Mackie included five boys and five girls. Standing on the front row are Martin, Laura, Cora and Dallas. On the back row are Mary, Ed, Julia, Jesse, Lora and Will. Seated on the front row is Physa (Williams) Mackie, the mother of John Henry Mackie. She is holding a Bible. The photograph was taken about 1910, probably at the homeplace on West Main Street in Yadkinville."

7-31-97

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*Does Not Circulate*