Job, William, John Dill (Chart 4)

MY DILL ANCESTORS by Ellis Harold Dill

Origin of the Dill name

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

There are indications that the earliest Dill families are of Danish origin.¹ Descendants appear to have migrated to Germany, Holland, England, Scotland, Ireland and America. The name may come from the herb of the parsley family that is called in old Anglo-Saxon *dile*, and which would have the final e sounded. Various spellings have evolved: Dill, Dils, Dills, Dills, Dills, Dilly; maybe Diehl, Deal, Dale, Dell, etc. The final s may have been added to show possession or inclusion and later retained by the family so recorded. The final e may have been retained in Germany where all letters are sounded. Diehl or Deal is more the way Dill would be pronounced in much of Europe. The most common and doubtless basic spelling in English is Dill.

There are early records of the Dill name in Scotland.² A Thomas Dill witnessed a charter by John Skinner, Burgess of Inverness, about 1360. A Marjorie Dyll held land in "Invernys" in 1361.

Some Dill names occur early in the history of America. Rachel Dill arrived in Virginia in 1637.³ A Thomas Dill is listed as a resident of Lancaster County, Virginia, in 1665.⁴ Lawrence Dill arrived in the Sommers Islands (Bermuda) in 1673,⁵ Henry Dill arrived in Virginia in 1702.⁶ Annanias Dill and Wilhelm Dill arrived in New York in 1710.⁷ Daniel Dill of York was in America in 1660. Capt. George Dill, mariner, was a proprietor in Salem in 1638. Thomas Dill of Medford, son of Peter and Thanks Dill of Concord, married Mary Pierce at Woburn in 1705. Children of George Dill and Elizabeth Dill were baptized in 1687.⁸ No doubt, there were many others before 1710.

The number of different surnames in the United States is surprisingly large. In 1790, the total population of the States was 2,505,371 and there were 27,337 different surnames. In 1964, the social security roles included 152,757,455 account numbers. A machine count covering only the first six letters discovered 1,091,522 different surnames. Thus, there are probably over 1,500,000 different surnames. The number of names which frequently occur is much smaller; but even the relatively rare name of Dill has a large number of occurrences. The Dill name ranks about 1,539th in occurrence with an estimated 17,835 individuals with that name. On the other hand, *Bell* ranks number 54 with 248,400 persons.

² MMJ, pg. 287.

⁷Palatine Heads of Families. Boyd Ehle compiler. Genealogical Pub. Co., Baltimore, 1969.

8 JLD, pg



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

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

⁵Original Lists of Persons of Quality. ed. by John C. Hotten. Genealogical Pub. Co., Baltimore, 1974. ⁶Cavaliers & Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land. v.3, pg. 64. Nell Marion Nugent abstractor. Virginia State Library, Richmond, 1979.

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

In the 1600s many Protestants rejected anything associated with Catholicism and began to use names from the Old Testament: Elijah, Rebecca, Joshua, etc. We see a number of such names in the Dill records.

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

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

Some Dill Family Lines

- (i) One line has been spoken of as the Holland line⁹. A David Dill is supposed to have come from Holland as a soldier in 1689 with William of Orange. It is not proven whether he was an Englishman send by James II to Holland, or originated in Holland, or whether the whole reference to Holland is in error. However, it would be an interesting coincidence in light of the reference to Holland as the source of the John Dill family of Caswell County, North Carolina.¹⁰
- (ii) One Dill line descends from George Dill who arrived in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1639. Along with other members of his family, he had survived a Bermuda shipwreck. Some of the family remained there but George came on to Salem. His descendants moved south to Maryland, South Carolina, and Alabama. A descendant, Katherine Dill (Mrs. James A. Lee) reported in 1931 that her grandfather was born in Maryland in 1757, and her father was Joseph Dill of Talladega, Alabama.
- (iii) It is known that Admiral Somers ship, Sea Venture, foundered on the Bermuda Island reefs in 1609, and the island became know as Somers Island to the English. Some survivors continued on to Jamestown, Virginia. Lawrence Dill arrived on Somers Island in 1673 with his wife Elizabeth and several children. He died in 1690. His will dated 16 October 1690 named his wife and and children: Abraham, Joseph, Samuel, Benjamin, John, Mary (wife of George Plummer),

⁹ NSM, pg. 1

¹⁰HFD, pg. 10.

¹¹NSM, pg. 1.

Mariam, and Martha.¹² The sloop William and Mary of Bermuda was cleared to use the York river in Virginia between October 1703 and May 1704, with John Dill the Master and Joseph Dill the owner.¹³ Virginia tax records from 1704 indicate that a Benjamin Dill owned 467 acres of land in Isle of Wight County.¹⁴ A South Carolina will¹⁵ dated 19 May 1731 and probated 2 Jan 1745 states: "I Joseph Dill of James Island Berkeley County, SC, a Master Mariner I will to my son Joseph all my land in Bermuda...I will to my son John all my land on James Island. The remainder to be kept for my daughters namely Elizabeth Mary and Ann Dill." These may have been sons of Lawrence.

- (iv) Another line leads from Scotland to Dillsburg, Pennsylvania: 16
 - M1. David Dill, born in Scotland in 1605, had a son
 - M2. Francis Dill who went to Ireland and there had a son

M3. John Dill., who had a son

M4. Matthew Dill, born in 1698 in Monaghan, County Donegal, Ireland, who came to America in 1735 and was in York County, PA, by 1740, and died there in 1750

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

Closely related to this line is Francis Dill, born in Ireland about 1748, who came to America and settled in Ohio, producing a large number of descendants in that State.

- (ν) In his book written in 1983, Alonzo Thomas Dill¹⁷ cites information provided by Miss Nancy Kinghan of Belfast, Northern Ireland, about her ancestors, as follows:
 - A1. John Dill of Tullinadale, Fannet, County Donegal, Ireland¹⁸.
 - A2. John Dill of Corry, Ballynastocker, Fannet, County Donegal, Ireland. whose sons are "said to have gone to America"
 - A2. David Dill, b. c1650, of Glenalla, Later Aughadreenagh, m. Catherine Sheridan (?) of Drogheda.
 - A3. Francis Dill (1695-1783?) of Aughadreenagh, m. Rebecca Anderson

A4. John Dill (1726-1804) of Springfield, Fannet.

¹² MMJ, pg. 288-289.

¹³ MMJ, pg. 289.

¹⁴ MMJ, pg 290.

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

¹⁶NSM, pg 2.

¹⁷ATD, pg. 59.

¹⁸ The Ordinance Survey of Ireland, Discovery Series, Map number 2, shows Corry near Ballymastocker Bay on the Fanad Peninsula in North Central County Donegal. There is also a Tullynadall on the Fanad Peninsula. I assume that these are the modern spellings of the old place names.

m. Susan McClure (1745-1807), oldest daughter of Richard McClure of Convoy.

A4. Mark Dill (1742-1731) of Springfield m. Mary McClure (1752-1796), youngest daughter of Richard McClure of Convoy.

A5. Rev. Richard Dill (1786-1854) of Ballykelly, Co. Londonderry, m. Jane Gordon (1795-1840) of Carnstroan, County Antrim.

A6. Jane Gordon Dill (1833-1909) m. Rev. John Kinghan (1823-1895) (grandparents of Miss Kinghan).

A3. David Dill m. Anne Moore

A4. Francis Dill (1755-)
"went to America, probably Ohio, in 1779."

In this kind of descendants chart, A1 is the principal ancestor, A2 denotes his children, A3 denotes the children of A2, etc,

The last Francis may be that one cited in the preceding paragraph. John (A1) may be a descendant of David (M1). John (A1) is listed on the Hearth Money Roll of 1665 for County Donegal along with a David Dill. Each was charged with one hearth, the number of hearths in a building being the unit of taxation.

Pioneering in America

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

The frontier moved slowly westward. Mississippi became a State in 1817. Texas became a State in 1845. Oklahoma became a State in 1907.

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

The Scotch-Irish

Following 1607, England, making another wrongheaded effort to cope with Ireland, settled thousands of Lowland Scots Presbyterians in turbulent Ulster to replace the natives. Three generations later they were a thriving yeoman-craftsman caste, still Presbyterian with Scots tongues, practicing intensive farming mixed with cottage industry. After William defeated James at the battle of Boyne in 1690 with the support of the English Protestants and Scottish

Presbyterian colonists of the Ulster Plantation, Britain enacted repressive Penal Laws (1695-1727) designed to suppress the Irish. But these laws were also applied to Ulster. One section of the Penal Laws caused ruinous restrictions on the industry developing in Northern Ireland and this, along with the tithes for support of the Anglican Church, sorely chafed the Scotch-Irish Presbyterian manufacturers of Ulster. The Irish Presbyterians worshipped on suffrance and were excluded from all posts in the government they had helped to preserve. In addition, between 1715 and 1720 a series of natural calamities, a series of crop failures and other blows, intensified the economic problems of northern Ireland. Many of these Scotch-Irish, seeking political freedom and economic gain, became the earliest wholesale emigration of Irish to America in the 18th century. Large scale north Irish emigration to the American colonies began in 1718. Many of them arriving through Philadelphia.

Delaware

In 1682, Wm Penn divided DE into "hundreds" for purposes of taxation. The Hundreds are thought to have been groups of 10 families, figured at 10 members per family, including servants. There were originally 5 Hundreds in Kent County: Duck Creek, Little Creek, Saint Jones (which became Dover in 1823), Motherkill (which became Murderkill), and Mispillion. Some hundreds were subsequently subdivided and renamed.

In a letter of 1727, the provincial secretary of Pennsylvania, commenting on the influx of "Presbyterians" from Northern Ireland through the ports of Delaware Bay, stated that "These immigrants settle generally toward the Maryland line, where no lands can honestly be sold till the Penn family's dispute with Lord Baltimore is decided." By "Presbyterians", he presumably meant the people whom the British called Ulster Scots and are now referred to as Scotch-Irish. As early as 1698 Presbyterian congregations had been established at Philadelphia and in the Delaware Bay ports of Lewes and New Castle. The Philadelphia Presbytery, which included these early congregations, tried to reach out to the settlers of Kent County, noting "the desolate [religious] condition of the people", and sent ministers to preach among them.

Early Dill families in Delaware

The is some existing evidence of the original Dill settlers. Pensylvania records of 1713 show that John Dill owned 200 acres in Kent County near Bear Swamp²² and a Kent County surveyor reported in 1722 that John Dill had applied for a warrant of 200 acres near Bear Swamp²³ on which he had settled some years earlier²⁴.

William Dill and John Dill are the only Dill families listed in the record of Kent County tax assessments²⁵ for the Murderkill Hundred from 1726 through 1735. John Dill, Jr., appears in 1736. There are no surviving records for 1745-1747. John, son of William, appears in 1748. There are no surviving records for 1749-1750. The notation John Dill, Sr., appears for the last

¹⁹The Scotch-Irish in America, by Henry Jones Ford. New York, 1969. pg. 264.

²⁰The Scotch-Irish in America, by Henry Jones Ford. New York, 1969. pg. 261-262.

²¹Presbyterians on Delmarva: The History of the New Castle Presbytery, by James H. Lappen, n.p. 1972, p. 6.

²³Early Pennsylvania Land Records, Minutes of the Board of Property for the Province of Pennsylvania. ed. William Henry Egle. Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1976.

²⁴ Margaret McDonald Jeter (MMJ)asserts that this John Dill is a son of Lawrence Dill of Bermuda (above), the same John Dill who captained the sloop William and Mary in Virginia in 1701.²⁴ This is an interesting but unproven hypothesis

²⁵State of Delaware, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, Bureau of Archives and Records Management, Kent County Assessments 1727-1850. Microfilm by the American. Genealogical Lending Library. Bountiful, Utah.

time in 1751 where his name is written in and then crossed out. Also appearing in 1751 are Solomon, Job, John (son of William), and William (his brother). The notation John Jr. appears last in 1754. William, son of William, appears last in 1754. Job is listed and crossed out in 1757. William is listed and crossed out in 1763. From 1764 on, there are several persons named John Dill. After 1767, the number of Dill families listed in Kent County grows rapidly. In the first federal census of 1790, there were eleven Dill families in the Murderkill Hundred²⁶ although several families had already migrated westward.

"The Dill Family History", by Thomas H. Dill²⁷ tells of the Dills of Delaware. He was born 7 February 1839 in Kent County, Delaware, and died 9 March 1924 in Columbus, Ohio. His principal source was "Aunt Polly" Dill, widow of Abner Dill, with whom he spoke in 1865. She resided at that time on the old Dill farm in a house over two hundred years old. Following is some information as recorded by Thomas.

"The Dill family was of Scotch-Irish extraction. Three brothers William, Abner²⁸, and John were the first settlers. They were ship builders by trade and settled first in Nova Scotia²⁹, later moving to Delaware and Maryland. They came from Londonderry County, Ireland. The earliest land transfer on record for parts of the old Dill farm is dated 1705. William settled in Murderkill Neck, Kent County, Delaware, a few miles from Frederica. He married into the Barratt family."

We have to be suspicious of any genealogy that begins with the old "three brothers" story.

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

However, Gilbert S. Dill [GSD] states his belief that two brothers John Dill and William Dill arrived in what later became Kent County, Delaware, probably from County Donegal, Ireland, between 1715 and 1720. He suggests that John (1680-1750) and William (1690-1760) are sons of John Dill (1647-1730) [A2], of Corry, Ballynastocker, Fannett, County Donegal, Ireland³⁰. John Dill (1680-1750) had a son Edward. Edward had a son Elijah who was born on 31 May 1751.

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

²⁶ Reconstructed 1790 Census of Delaware, by Leon De Valinger Jr. National Genealogical Society Publication No. 10, Washington D.C., 1954, p. 48.

²⁷ Written in 1918 and preserved by the Columbus Chapter of the DAR. This work of one and one-half pages is included in the book by John Lewis Dill.

²⁸ John Lewis Dill (JLD)suggests that the name may have been Edward.

²⁹ The only such reference to a connection to an earlier location in the Northeast that I have found.
³⁰ Modern spelling is probably Cory, Ballymastocker, Fanad.

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

It is clear that a John Dill settled in Kent Co. Delaware before 1713. There is a recorded marriage of a John Dill to Sarah in 1702 in Talbot County Maryland, which is near the property of John Dill. It seems likely, but is unproven, this this is the same John Dill and that he was born in County Donegal, Ireland, a son of John Dill [A2]. He was probably an early Scotch-Irish emigrant who arrived through Philadelphia or another port of Delaware Bay. A possible list of children is as follows.³¹

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

name/spouse	<u>born</u> <u>at</u>	died at
Edward Mary	c.1703 Kent Co. DE	1757 Kent Co. DE 1770 Kent Co. DE
William Mary	c1704 Kent Co. DE	1760 Kent Co. DE 1782 Kent Co. DE
John Mary Early(?)	c1705 Kent Co. DE	
James Mary Brown	c1706 Kent Co. DE	
George (?) Mary Fisher	c1708	8/1771 Kent Co. DE

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

³¹ JLD, pg?. See also the listing by Mel Odom at http:// hometown.aol.com/melo0909/index.html.

W1. William Dill (c1704-1760) of Delaware

My family certainly descends from William Dill (c.1704-1760) of what is now Kent Co., Delaware. He may have been the son or brother of John [J1] and born either in County Donegal, Ireland, or in Kent Co., Delaware. His birth date was likely between 1880 in Ireland and 1704 in Delaware. He married Mary about 1722 in Delaware. He lived out his life in Kent County, and died there about 1760.

Children of William [c1704-1760] and Mary

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

The will of William Dill was probated on 27 December 1760³². It mentions his wife Mary, seven sons, and two youngest daughters³³. One son may be deceased. The reference to "youngest" daughters suggests that there was an older daughter. The list of goods and chattels mentions "cash by John Dill and James Dill."

Mary Dill, widow, had her estate administered in 1782. Elijah Dill (probably the son of Edward) and Nimrod Dill (probably a son of Joseph) are listed as administrators of the will of Mary

³²Calendar of Kent Co, Delaware, Probate Records, 1680-1800, Dover, Public Archives Commission, 1944, by Leon de Valinger, Jr.

³³Dover, Delaware, Archives Probate Records, Vol A14, pages 122-123, Reg of Wills, Liber K, Folio 251.

Dill³⁴. The report of the administrators mentions Dill heirs: William, Job, John, Edward, James, Elizabeth, Joseph, Sarah, Solomon, Rebecca, Philemon. A copy of this document is in HFD.

Several of the sons of William [WI] migrated on to NC and SC, and that Joseph may have settled in Smith County TN.³⁵ James was probably the first son of William to leave Kent County in search of new land. In 1754, shortly after he became 21 years of age and before he became a taxpayer in Delaware, James went to Orange County, NC.³⁶ A James Dill is listed as a taxpayer in 1755 in the Dan River Valley, in the part of Orange County that became Caswell County in 1777. James returned to Kent County in 1775 and married Mary, widow of George Herring. Job may have left Kent County in 1756.³⁷ A Job is listed as a taxpayer in Bertie County NC in 1757 and a Job Dill is listed as a taxpayer in Maury County TN in 1816 but it is not known if this is the same person.

The Carolinas

In 1665, King Charles of England gave all of Carolina to eight nobles who governed for about 70 years. Carolina was divided into North and South in 1710. King George asked the nobles to return the land to him in 1729. One of them, George Carteret, Earl of Granville, refused to sell his 1/8 share; so, in 1746, what is now known as Old Granville, was cut off from Edgecombe County and given to him as his share. The counties of Caswell, Person, Orange, Vance, and Granville comprise most of that land. Orange was cut off from Granville in 1751. Caswell was cut from Orange in 1777 and the county seat was established in Leasburg. Person was cut off from Caswell in 1791 and the county seat of Caswell was moved to Yanceyville. Caswell was settled in 1850 by Scotch, Irish, and English peoples from Virginia who introduced the planting of tobacco.

³⁴Dover, Delaware, Archives Probate Records, Vol. A14, pages 104-105., Reg. of Wills, Liber L, Folio 268

³⁵ HFD, pg. ?.

³⁶ GSD, pg. ?.

³⁷ GSD, pg. ?.

Bibliography

- NSM = "Phelps-Marshall kinship", by Nancy S. McBride, published after 1973. An excerpt of six pages is included in the book by John Lewis Dill.
- THD = "The Dill Family History", by Thomas H. Dill, written in 1918 and preserved by the Columbus Chapter of the DAR. This work of one and one-half pages is included in the book by John Lewis Dill.
- MMJ = "History of the McDonald, Thomasson, Biggers, Grimes, and Related Families," by Margaret McDonald Jeter, 5140 N. Via Sempreverde, Tucson, AZ, published in 1989. A copy is in the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah. (Call no. 929.273 M145j)
- JLD = "A Dill Family History", by John Lewis Dill, privately published 1991, revised 1992 (110 pages). Copies may be purchased from the author: P.O. Box 19453, Birmingham, AL 35219.
- HFD = "Some Descendants and Kinsmen of William Dill, Sr.", by Harry F. Dill, 1992 (164 pages). Printed by BookMasters, Inc., Ashland, OH 44805. Copies may be purchased from the author at 6019 Benjamin St., Alexandria, LA 71303.
- ATD = "Some Genealogical Notes on the Origins of the Green and Dill Families in North Carolina, Virginia, and Delaware" by Alonzo Thomas Dill, West Point, Virginia, 1983. I believe that this work is now unavailable. I have a Xerox copy of pgs. 55-90 on the Dill families.
- GSD = "The William Dill Family and Relatives in America", 3 volumes, by Gilbert S. Dill, Rt. 4, Box 437AA, Jasper, AL 35501, was privately published in 1993. It was reprinted in 1997 by the Gregath Pub. Co., P.O. Box 471, Wyandotte, OK 74370. Page numbers in references are to the reprint.

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