

Determining a Father for Cynthia (Dillard) Royston

Research Report

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OBJECTIVE

The objective of this research project was to identify and eliminate candidates for the father of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston. Cynthia was born about 1815 in Georgia and died 2 August 1882 in Collin County, Texas. Cynthia married Thomas Beverly Royston about 1833 in Georgia or Alabama. Her father would be born before 1795, likely in Virginia.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Descendants of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston have long wondered about the identity of her father. Her maiden name of Dillard is known only from the death certificates of three of her fourteen children.¹ Cynthia married Thomas Beverly Royston about 1833 in Georgia or Alabama and is first listed by name in any record in the 1850 census of his household in Chambers County, Alabama.² Thomas is enumerated on the 1840 census in DeKalb County, Alabama,³ and a land application file provides proof that he had a

¹ Texas State Board of Health, death certificate, Mrs. Mattie Ann Hogge, No 18070 (stamped), Ennis, 1935; digital image, "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903–1982," database, *Ancestry*, Ellis 1935, April-June image 28 (<http://search.ancestry.com>: accessed 29 November 2016).

Texas State Board of Health, death certificate, R. Royston, No 50544 (stamped), Decatur 1928; digital image, "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903–1982," database, *Ancestry*, Wise, 1928, Oct-Dec image 14 (<http://search.ancestry.com>: accessed 25 November 2016).

Texas State Board of Health, death certificate, Mrs. Adline Spears, No 27410 (stamped), Registered No. 105 (penned). Bowie, 1920; digital image, "Texas, Death Certificates, 1903–1982," database, *Ancestry*, Montague 1920, Jul-Sep image 10 (<http://search.ancestry.com>: accessed 18 November 2016).

² 1850 U.S. Census, Chambers County, Alabama, population schedule, 19th District, p. 318 (stamped), dwelling 749, family 749, Thomas B Royston household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 17 August 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 2.

³ 1840 U.S. Census, DeKalb County, Alabama, population schedule, Northern District, S.C. Newnan, p. 7 (penned), line 31, F.B. Royston household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 September 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 4.

wife and children by 1837 when he applied for a land patent in DeKalb County.⁴ No marriage record in Alabama or Georgia has been located for Thomas and Cynthia, so the marriage location and her likely residence before marriage is unknown.

Based on Cynthia's estimated birth date of 1815 and birth place of Georgia, a hypothesis was drawn for her father: a man with the surname of Dillard, born before 1795 and residing in Georgia in 1820 with a female about five years of age. He would also be residing in Georgia, possibly near the border of Alabama in 1830 with a female in the household about fifteen years of age.

Several men with the surname of Dillard are listed in the census records of 1820 and 1830, but only those who met the requirements are listed in Table 1 as possible candidates.

Table 1. Candidates for the father of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston

Name	Residence in 1820	Residence in 1830	Estimated Birth year	Notes
Arthur Dillard	Jones, Georgia	Monroe, Georgia	1778	This move was just across the border of Georgia and Indian Lands, Monroe County was created in 1821.
Edmund Dillard	Washington, Georgia	Gwinnett, Georgia	1778	Also on 1830 census, Edmund Dillard, Thomas Dillard, and James Dillard ; on page 327 are another Edmund Dillard and another Thomas Dillard; Gwinnett County was a move to the north, not on the border of Alabama.
John Dillard	Jones, Georgia	Monroe, Georgia	1795	In 1820, this appears to be a young family with five children under the age of ten; the couple were likely married about 1814 and born about 1795. John is likely a son of Arthur Dillard who followed the same migration.
Nathan Dillard	Washington, Georgia	None located	1786	Possible death by 1830.
Owen Dillard	Emanuel, Georgia	Bibb, Georgia	1793	Bibb County was created in 1822 from Indian lands, the move from Emanuel to Bibb was about two counties to the west. Bibb is three counties from the Alabama border.
Phillip Dillard	Burke, Georgia	Pulaski, Georgia	1773	Pulaski is located in the center of the state, not near the border of Alabama.
Samson Dillard	Emanuel, Georgia	Pulaski, Georgia	1792	No female age about 15 in the 1830 census. Pulaski is located in the center of the state, not near the border of Alabama.
Susan Dillard	Not listed	Muscogee, Georgia	1795	This household is that of a widow and her children - the location of Columbus where George Dillard also resided in 1830 makes this a likely connection. Thomas B. Royston, Cynthia's husband was in the area about 1830-1840.

⁴ Thomas B. Royston (DeKalb County), witness statement, cash entry file, state volume patent no 5969, Lebanon, Alabama, Land Office; Land Entry Papers 1800-1908, Record Group 49: Records of the Bureau of Land Management; National Archives, Washington, D.C

Thomas Dillard	Jones, Georgia	Jones, Georgia	1785	This is an older household. Jones County is located in the center of the state, not near the border of Alabama
Theophilus Dillard	Jefferson, Georgia	Jefferson, Georgia	1770	An older household, marriage bond in Wake County, NC in 1782. Because he stayed in Jefferson which is in the eastern part of the state, this is not as likely a father for Cynthia.

The 1880 census reveals that Cynthia's father was born in Virginia.⁵ The migration from Virginia to Georgia was common, especially after the Revolutionary War. Many settlers made their way to new land being opening up and were drawn by the Georgia land lotteries from 1805-1832. Figure 1 details the counties of Georgia in 1830.

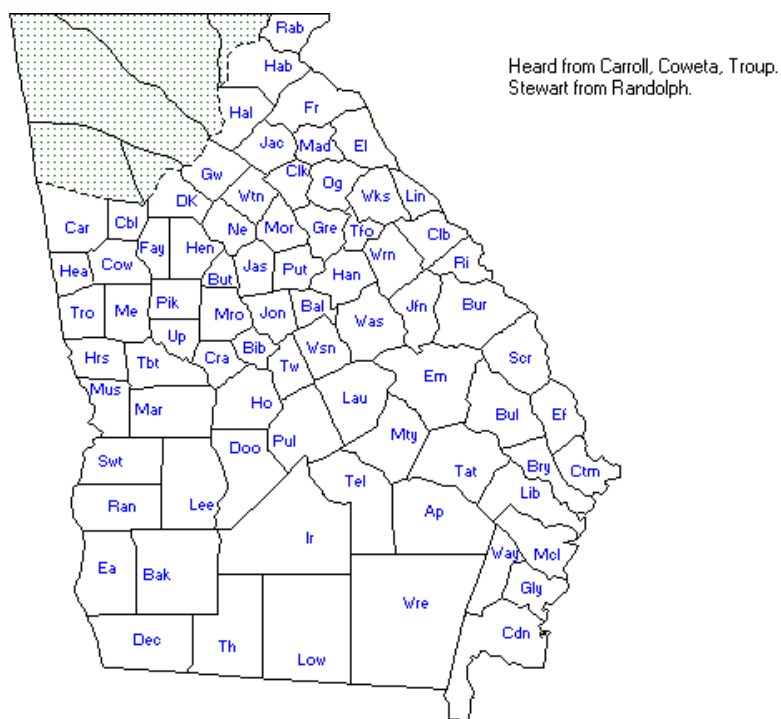


Figure 1 "Georgia, 1830," Map of US.org (<https://www.mapofus.org/georgia/> : accessed 27 October 2018)

⁵ 1880 U.S. Census, Collin County, Texas, population schedule, Precinct 5, enumeration district (ED) 26, p.11 (penned), dwelling 93, family 95, Thomas L Royston household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 17 November 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1296.

HYPOTHESIS AND RESEARCH

Cynthia Dillard and Thomas B. Royston had to be in the same location to have met and married about 1833. Thomas is listed on a tax record of 1831 in Morgan County, located in the northern half of the state next to Green County where he was born.⁶ Thomas received land in Lee County in the 1827 land lottery and probably headed west to claim or sell his new land.⁷ Lee is located in the southwestern portion of the state and close to Muscogee County, Georgia where a George W. Dillard was living by 1830. A newspaper article places Thomas in Muscogee County, Georgia, in this time period.⁸ Cynthia could have met Thomas B. Royston in any of the known locations of Thomas B. Royston, or somewhere along the way as he moved west.

Previous research detailed the lives of Thomas Beverly Royston and George W. Dillard seeking for evidence that George was the father of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston. However, no record was uncovered that provided conclusive evidence. Although, George was determined to be the likely father, eliminating other potential candidates will strengthen the case.

The research strategy employed for this project was to search the following records in order to discover more information about each Dillard candidate and hopefully eliminate him:

1. View online trees for each candidate to see if any females born about 1815 have been identified in the family.
2. View online cemetery records to see if any family relationships are listed.
3. Search probate records for each candidate to discover any wills naming children.
4. Search the 1840 census for residence and to see if the female born about 1815 is still in the household, eliminating Cynthia as a daughter.
5. Search marriage records for the 1830 locale for possible females of appropriate age, eliminating Cynthia as a daughter.

⁶ Morgan County, Georgia, Superior Court, 1831 Tax Digest, page 2, entry for Thomas B. Royston, Morgan County, Archives, Madison, Georgia.

⁷ *Georgia Archives*, "1827 Land Lottery, (http://www.georgiaarchives.org/research/1827_land_lottery : accessed 12 Nov 2016).

⁸ *Columbus Enquirer*, 8 December 1841, p. 3, col. 6, para. 7, Thomas Royston, letters remaining at Post Office; "Georgia Historic Newspapers," *Digital Library of Georgia*, (<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu> :: accessed 11 April 2018).

ARTHUR DILLARD

The 1820 census of Jones County, Georgia showed the following household for Arthur Dillard.⁹ This appears to be a family grouping with a couple and 6 children and an elderly female, likely a mother or mother-in-law. The couple could have been married about 1805. Cynthia would fit as a female under 10 in 1820.

Free White Persons - Males - Under 10: 3
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44: 1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10: 2
Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over : 1

By 1830, Arthur Dillard had moved his household to Monroe County, Georgia and based on the ages of the household members, this appears to be the same family.¹⁰ This could also show a second marriage with the female quite a bit younger than Arthur.

Free White Persons - Males - Under 5: 2
Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29: 11
Free White Persons - Males - 50 thru 59: 1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 5: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39: 1

The FamilySearch Family Tree listing for Arthur Dillard showed his birth as 1755 in South Carolina and death in 1842 in Monroe County, Georgia.¹¹ Eight children were listed including a daughter named Elizabeth, born 1813 who would have been one of the young females in the 1820 household.

John Abney Dillard, born 1794 in Edgefield South Carolina and died 1865 in Monroe, Georgia
Elizabeth Dillard born 1813-deceased
John A Dillard 1814 - deceased

⁹ 1820 U.S. Census, Jones County, Georgia, population schedule, Capt. Buckhalters District, p.129 (penned), line 8, Arthur Dillard; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 7.

¹⁰ 1830 U.S. Census, Monroe County, Georgia, population schedule, p.221 (penned), line 22, Arthur Dillard; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 19.

¹¹ Family Tree person details, Arthur Dillard LZD6-NNP, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LZD6-NNP> : accessed 23 November 2018).

Arthur Dillard 1815-1869
Joseph K Dillard 1818-deceased
Henry Dillard 1820 - deceased
Sarah Dillard 1824-1900
Frances L Dillard 1825-deceased

Searching the *Find A Grave* database for a possible cemetery record for Arthur Dillard provided no results,¹² but his will was located in Monroe County.¹³ The will named his wife and heirs:

- 17 January 1840; administration 5 January 1842
- Wife, Polly Dillard appointed executrix
- Heirs: John A Dillard, Nancy Harmon, Elizabeth Joslin, Arthur Dillard Junr, Joseph K. Dillard, Henry Dillard, Sarah W. Yarbrough, Frances L. Dillard when of age or marries to have a negro girl Ann and boy Columbus.

The names of the heirs match the listing in the FamilySearch family tree for the most part with the exception of Nancy Harmon. The two females listed first, Nancy Harmon and Elizabeth Joslin, are likely the two females shown in the 1820 census that could have been Cynthia. Arthur Dillard can be eliminated as a candidate for the father of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston based on his birth in South Carolina and Cynthia not being named in his will.

EDMUND DILLARD

The 1820 census revealed the household of Edmund Dillard in Washington County, Georgia.¹⁴ Included is a female under 10, the appropriate age for Cynthia (Dillard) Royston born 1815. This appears to be a family with a couple and two young children under ten. The couple were likely married about 1815.

Free White Persons - Males - Under 10: 1

Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44: 1

Free White Persons - Females - Under 10: 1

Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44: 1

¹² *Find A Grave*, negative search for Arthur Dillard, (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 23 November 2018).

¹³ "Georgia, Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992," will of Arthur Dillard Sr 1840, Monroe, digital image 127, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 November 2018); citing Georgia. Court of Ordinary (Monroe County) Wills Vol A-B, 1824-1866.

¹⁴ 1820 U.S. Census, Washington County, Georgia, population schedule, p.141 (penned), line 17, Edmond Dillard; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 9.

By 1830, Edmund Dillard had moved to Gwinnett County, Georgia.¹⁵ Also listed on the same census page are Thomas and James Dillard with another Edmund and Thomas five pages earlier. These are likely relatives who moved west together. Included in the 1830 census household is a female age 15-19 who could be Cynthia, born 1815.

Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19: 1

Free White Persons - Males - 50 thru 59: 1

Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19: 1

Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29: 1

Free White Persons - Females - 50 thru 59: 1

Searching online trees for Edmund Dillard discovered a William Edmund Dillard II, 1775-1832.¹⁶ This individual was born at Fairfield South Carolina, and died at Gwinnett, Georgia. His spouse is listed as Elizabeth and his daughter as Lucy Anne Dillard, born 1814 at Haralson County, Georgia. No burial record or probate was located for him.¹⁷ Searching marriage records of Gwinnett County, Georgia revealed only one record for a Dillard: Edmund Dillard and Margaret Thurmond, married 7 December 1837.¹⁸ This could be the male age 15-19 in the 1830 census, or the son of one of the other Dillard's of the 1830 census in Gwinnett County. The 1840 census reveals an Edmund Dillard in Muscogee County, Georgia, age 30-39.¹⁹ This could be another Edmund Dillard, son of Edmund who died 1832 in Gwinnett.

With the naming of Lucy Ann Dillard born 1814 as the daughter of Edmund Dillard, he is probably not the father of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston. Also, a birthplace of South Carolina doesn't match Cynthia's father's birthplace of Virginia. Further research could be conducted on Lucy Ann Dillard and

¹⁵ 1830 U.S. Census, Gwinnett County, Georgia, population schedule, p.333 (penned), line 17, Edmond Dillard Sen.; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 17.

¹⁶ William Edmund Dillard II, 1775-1832, L287-JS9, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/L287-JS9> : accessed 23 November 2018).

¹⁷ *Find A Grave*, negative search for Edmund Dillard, (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 23 November 2018). See also "Georgia, Wills and Probate Records," negative search for Edmund Dillard, *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8635> : accessed 23 November 2018).

¹⁸ "Georgia, Marriage Records From Select Counties, 1828-1978," marriage for Edmund Dillard and Margaret Thurmond, digital image 93, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 November 2018); citing Gwinnett Marriages, Loose Papers, 1835-1838.

¹⁹ 1840 U.S. Census, Muscogee County, Georgia, population schedule, District 678, p.311 (penned), line 7, Edmund Dillon; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 November 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication 704.

the other Dillard families of Gwinnett as well as the Edmund Dillard of Muscogee County, Georgia. At this point in the research, Edmund Dillard can be eliminated as a likely candidate.

JOHN DILLARD

John Dillard was deemed a possible candidate for the father of Cynthia Dillard. The 1820 census of Jones County showed his household containing three females under the age of ten, one of whom could have been Cynthia.²⁰ This appears to be a young family with five children under the age of ten; the couple were likely married about 1814 and John born about 1795. Notes on Ancestry identify this individual as John Rabun Dillard, this could be accurate, but not necessarily.

Free White Persons - Males - Under 10: 2
Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25: 1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10: 3
Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25: 1

In 1830, a John Dillard's household was enumerated in Monroe County, Georgia, again with a female of appropriate age to be Cynthia.²¹ Comparing the ages of the husband and wife and the ages of the children, this could be the same John Dillard.

Free White Persons - Males - Under 5: 2
Free White Persons - Males - 30 thru 39: 1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 5: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9: 3
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14: 2
Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39: 1

Searching online trees for John Dillard found multiple entries, but none in Monroe County, Georgia.²² A search for John Dillard on *Find A Grave* revealed men of that name in Rabun County and

²⁰ 1820 U.S. Census, Jones County, Georgia, population schedule, Capt. Gresham's District, p.121 (penned), line 19, John Dillard; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 7.

²¹ 1830 U.S. Census, Monroe County, Georgia, population schedule, p.121 (penned), line 20, John Dillard; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 19.

²² *FamilySearch* Family Tree, search for John Dillard, (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 23 November 2018).

Burke County, Georgia, but none in Monroe County.²³ Probate records of Monroe County, however, yielded the following information.

- Monroe County, Georgia, bond of \$12,000; dated 5 March 1865; Kirk Dillard to make an inventory of John Dillard, late of Monroe County.²⁴
- R G Anderson & Shepherd H Stone & J W Lake securities for \$1400, 2 Dec 1867 ; R G Anderson appointed guardian of Thomas Dillard, orphan child of John Dillard, deceased.²⁵
- Joseph Stearn principal and Kirk Dillard security bout unto Moses A Potts for \$1000, 2 August 1871, Joseph Stearn appointed guardian of Thomas J Dillard, orphan child of John Dillard²⁶

With the number of John Dillard's in Georgia, it's unclear which the probate refers to so additional census records were searched to determine more information. The 1840 census finds John Dillard residing in Monroe County with a much smaller household than in 1830.²⁷ This John Dillard was probably born about 1800.

Free White Persons - Males - 30 thru 39: 1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 5: 3
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49: 1

The 1850 census is the first to name all members of the household and their specific ages. The listing for John Dillard in Monroe County gives a better estimate of his birth date as 1796.²⁸ This correlates well with the 1820 and 1830 census records, but the 1840 census is a bit off, not unusual in

²³ *Find A Grave*, negative search for John Dillard of Monroe County, Georgia, (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 23 November 2018).

²⁴ Monroe County, Georgia, Administrator Bonds, 1831-1878, bond for estate of John Dillard, 1865; "Georgia, Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 November 2018).

²⁵ Monroe County, Georgia, Guardian Bonds, 1831-1878, guardian bond for Thomas Dillard, orphan child of John Dillard, 1867; "Georgia, Wills and Probate Records," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 November 2018).

²⁶ Monroe County, Georgia, Guardian Bonds, 1831-1878, guardian bond for Thomas J. Dillard, orphan child of John Dillard, 1871; "Georgia, Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992", *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 November 2018).

²⁷ 1840 U.S. Census, Monroe County, Georgia, population schedule, District 573, p.179 (penned), line 26, John Dillard; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 November 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication 704.

²⁸ 1850 U.S. Census, Monroe County, Georgia, population schedule, Division no. 6, p.33b (penned), dwelling 488, household 488, line 22, John Dillard; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 78.

census records. The census enumeration reveals the name of John’s wife, Pheba. Also in the household is his son-in-law and granddaughter, the Snelson individuals. Mitchel Braddy is unknown, possibly a farm hand.

John Dilliard 56 M Farmer GA
 Pheba Dilliard 56 F
 William Snelson 24
 Mary Snelson 2
 Mitchel Braddy 32

The 1860 census is the last for John Dillard and at 66 he has aged appropriately.²⁹ He has a large personal estate of \$15,800 and real estate valued at \$6,000. Besides himself, age 66, only a Caroline Dillard age 19 is in the household. Is Caroline a daughter, daughter-in-law, or 2nd wife? Searching the marriage records for Monroe County, the following marriages were discovered, detailed in Table 2.³⁰

Table 2. Dillard Marriages of Monroe County, Georgia

Couple	Date of Marriage
Mary A. P. Dillard John W. Snelson	24 Jan 1849
Amanda E. Dillard Joseph E. Speer	5 Oct 1847
Willis Dillard and Eliza Daniel	11 Jan 1838
Eliza Dillard and William R. Bell	16 Mar 1838
Missouri Dillard and John Green	14 Dec 1837
Ann Dillard and John Thompson	21 Mar 1839
Caroline Dillard and Seth Morgan	14 Jan 1836
Elizabeth Dillard and Joshua Acock	30 Mar 1845

This specific database only covers marriages for Monroe County from 1824-1850, so if John Dillard married a young Caroline, it would have been just prior to the 1860 census and not listed in this database. What the marriage records do reveal is the name of several females who correspond to the 5

²⁹ 1860 U.S. Census, Monroe County, Georgia, population schedule, Dillard's District No 596, p.812 (penned), dwelling 788, household 764, line 22, John Dillard household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 131.

³⁰ Georgia Marriages, 1699-1944, search for Dillards in Monroe County, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com> : accessed 23 November 2018).

females listed in the 1830 census of Monroe County, Georgia, age 5-14: Caroline married 1836, Missouri married 1837, Eliza married 1838, Ann married 1839, and Elizabeth married 1845. With this many female Dillard's marrying in Monroe, it is highly unlikely that Cynthia Dillard was among the daughters.

Could the Dillard women be daughters of another Dillard man? The only other Dillard in Monroe County in 1830 was Arthur Dillard, discussed previously and his will named his daughters, Elizabeth and Sarah - none of the Dillard females married in the county. Although John Dillard of Monroe County, George was of an age to be the father of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston, the marriage records provide indirect evidence that Cynthia was not among his daughters.

NATHAN DILLARD

Nathan Dillard emerged as a candidate for the father of Cynthia Dillard with the discovery of his household in the 1820 census of Washington County, Georgia.³¹ Any one of the four females under the age of 10 in 1820 could have been Cynthia (Dillard) Royston, born 1815.

Free White Persons - Males - Under 10: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44: 1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10: 4
Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44: 1

Nathan disappears by the 1830 census, but a search of the FamilySearch Family Tree discovered the following information.³²

Nathan Dillard, born 11 February 1780, Edgefield, South Carolina
Died 23 August 1822, Washington, Georgia
Married 1808 to Bathsheba Session (1788-1878)
Children: Almerin Dillard 1809-1881, Nathaniel J Dillard 1809-1886, Indiana Dillard 1818-1889

An Ancestry Public Member tree added the following daughters: Barcenoy born 1811, Versaney Born 1811, Gallen born 1813, Noycella born 1815, and Indiana, born 1818. Some of the daughters appear to have sources and with such unusual names, there is likely family information or another record that names them. A marriage record of Robert Martin and Indiana Dillard, on 19 February 1839

³¹ 1820 U.S. Census, Washington County, Georgia, population schedule, p.141 (penned), line 17, Nathan Dillard; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 9.

³² Nathan Dillard, KZ7Q-ZD5, Family Tree Details, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/KZ7Q-ZD5> : accessed 23 November 2018).

lends credence to the information.³³

With the clue from the online trees that Nathan died in 1822, Washington County probate and cemetery records were searched with no results.³⁴ A tax record for Washington County, Georgia, however provided evidence of Nathan's decease by 1828, when his wife, "Bathshiba Dilliard," Administratrix of the estate of Nathan Dillard was listed in Captain Floyds District.

The tax record lends credence to the information discovered about the family of Nathan Dillard in online trees. With five daughters of Nathan Dillard born between 1810 and 1820, it is highly unlikely that Cynthia (Dillard) Royston would be in this family. Nathan Dillard can be eliminated as a candidate for her father.

OWEN DILLARD

The 1820 census of Emanuel County, Georgia names as head of household, Owen Dillard.³⁵ Included in his household is a female who is probably his wife and seven children under the age of 10. This could be a blended family, but any of the four females under 10 could be Cynthia (Dillard) Royston born about 1815.

Free White Persons - Males - Under 10: 3
Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44: 1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10: 4
Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25: 1

By 1830, Owen Dillard had moved his family to Bibb County and the household contains three individuals who could be Cynthia.

Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9: 3
Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19: 2
Free White Persons - Males - 30 thru 39: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14: 3

³³ Randolph County, Marriages, 1837-1838, 1845-1860, Dillard-Martin 1839; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 23 November 2018), film #005190868, image 360.

³⁴ Georgia, Wills and Probate Records, negative search for Nathan Dillard, (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8635> : accessed 23 November 2018).
Find A Grave, negative search for Nathan Dillard, (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 23 November 2018).

³⁵ 1820 U.S. Census, Emanuel County, Georgia, population schedule, p.96 (penned), line 2 , Owen Dillard; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 6.

Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39: 1

Who was Owen Dillard, and could he be the father of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston? Online family trees identified him as Owen Dillard 1793-1845, his death occurring in Bibb County.³⁶ His spouse was named Harriett Olive Winn Neale and three daughters were named: Annie, Phoebe, and Anna.³⁷

A search for probate and cemetery records in Bibb County had no results,³⁸ but a will for Olive Dillard was found dated 31 December 1851.³⁹ The will named each of her children:

Son, Manning Dillard - land scrip or bounty warrant for 80 acres of land
Divide the rest of the estate into 5 equal shares:
Susan E. Dillard wife of son, Perry Dillard, and the children of said Susan E. Dillard
Daughter Nancy Morris & her children
Daughter, Demaris Dillard
Daughter Phoebe Greer & her children
Son, Boyant Dillard
son, Neal Dillard - affluent circumstances, excluded from the estate
executor - Perry Dillard

Based on the will of Olive Dillard, widow of Owen Dillard, Cynthia (Dillard) Royston would not be a daughter of this family. Olive seemed to name each of her children even her son, Neal Dillard, who was excluded from the estate. Additionally, marriage records for Bibb County are extant and many Dillard's are named from 1832-1835.⁴⁰ If Cynthia had been residing in the county, it is likely she would have married there and been named in the records. Owen Dillard can be eliminated as a candidate for the father of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston.

³⁶ Owen Dillard GMZ6-SBB, Family Tree details, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/GMZ6-SBB> : accessed 23 November 2018).

³⁷ *Ancestry*, Public Members Trees, Stickland-vinsonFBK-20151115, Owen John Dillard, 1793-1845, of Bibb County, Georgia, (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 November 2018).

³⁸ Georgia, Wills and Probate Records, negative search for Owen Dillard, (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8635> : accessed 23 November 2018). See also *Find A Grave*, negative search for Owen Dillard, (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 23 November 2018).

³⁹ "Georgia, Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992," will for Olive Dillard, 1957Bibb County, wills, vol A-c, 1823-1891; *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 November 2018).

⁴⁰ "Georgia Marriages, 1699-1944," results for Dillard 1830, Bibb County, Georgia, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 November 2018).

PHILLIP DILLARD

The analysis of the 1820 and 1830 census records discovered Phillip Dillard born about 1770 residing first in Burke County, Georgia⁴¹ and then in Pulaski County, Georgia.⁴² The household in both censuses included a female who could be Cynthia (Dillard) Royston.

Online trees had his spouse as Fanny Dillard and sons: Pleasant, John, James, Sampson, Mary Ann, Thomas Rutherford, Eliza Ann, Rebecca Ann, Nicholas Philip, Sarah, and Jason.⁴³ No cemetery record was found for Phillip Dillard,⁴⁴ but his will named the following:⁴⁵

- Wife, Elizabeth Dillard
- Five children: James, Rebecca Ann, Nicholas Phillip, Sarah Ann, Eliza Ann
- Seven children Sampson, Mary Ann Collier, James Dillard, Eliza Ann Dillard, Rebecka Ann Dillard, Nicholas Phillip Dillard and Sarah Ann Dillard.

Phillip Dillard's will is lengthy and discusses his children throughout. The first grouping of five children were to divide some of the property equally. The next seven children were mentioned in various ways. Missing is any mention of a Cynthia who would have been named if a daughter. With the children of Phillip Dillard clearly named in his will, he can be eliminated as a father for Cynthia (Dillard) Royston.

⁴¹ 1820 U.S. Census, Burke County, Georgia, population schedule, Waynesboro, p.15 (penned), line 26 , Phillip Dillard; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 8.

⁴² 1830 U.S. Census, Pulaski County, Georgia, population schedule, Capt. Limans District, p.156 (penned), line 1 , Phillip Dillard; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 20.

⁴³ Family Tree details, Phillip Dillard K24M-T9K, 1769-1831, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/K24M-T9K> : accessed 24 November 2018). See also Public Member Trees, Garner Quillian Family Tree, Phillip H Dillard, 1769-1831, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 November 2018).

⁴⁴ *Find A Grave*, negative search for Phillip Dillard, (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 23 November 2018).

⁴⁵ "Georgia, Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992," Pulaski, wills, 1810-1935, entry for Phillip Dillard, 1828, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 24 November 2018).

SAMSON DILLARD

Samson Dillard appears on the 1820 census enumeration in Emanuel County, Georgia.⁴⁶ His household includes 2 females under the age of 10, either of which could be Cynthia (Dillard) Royston. This appears to be a family grouping with the older female either a wife or mother or mother-in-law; the eight younger individuals could be children or farm hands (males 16-25).

Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:	1
Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25:	3
Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44:	1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10:	2
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15:	2
Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over :	1

Another "Sampson Dillard" is listed on the 1830 census in Pulaski County, Georgia,⁴⁷ and would be the son of Phillip Dillard, named in his will of 1828. This census does not include a female of appropriate age to be Cynthia.

A search of the FamilySearch Family Tree located Samson of Emanuel County and a life sketch details his migration from Montgomery County, Georgia, to Emanuel County, Georgia, then to Jefferson County, Florida, and lastly to Sumter County, Georgia.⁴⁸ An excellent research report details his life and names his daughters as Mary and Zilpha which agrees with his will dated 1848.⁴⁹

- Samson Dillard of Sumter County, Georgia, being of advanced age, to wife Sarah Dillard
- Children Nancy Yeaman, Phoebe Durdin, Mary Davis & Zilpha Yeoman
- Son, David Dillard, son-in-law Francis Davis executor
- Will dated 2 Feb 1848; proven in court March term 1848

⁴⁶ 1820 U.S. Census, Emanuel County, Georgia, population schedule, p.92 (penned), line 14 , Samson Dillard; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 6.

⁴⁷ 1830 U.S. Census, Pulaski County, Georgia, population schedule, p.155 (penned), line 17 , Sampson Dillard; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 20.

⁴⁸ Family Tree details, Samson Dillard, LRBF-XP4, 1775-1848, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LRBF-XP4> : accessed 24 November 2018).

⁴⁹ "Georgia, Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992," Sumter County, Administrators and Guardians Bonds and Wills, 1838-1895, entry for Samson Dillard, Will, 1848; *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 24 November 2018).

With four daughters named in the will of Samson Dillard, Cynthia (Dillard) Royston is almost certainly not part of this family and Samson can be eliminated as a candidate for her father.

SUSAN DILLARD

Susan Dillard appears in the census records for the first time in 1830 in Muscogee County, Georgia.⁵⁰ Her household includes 2 females that could fit with Cynthia's estimated birth year of 1815. Susan is likely a widow living alone with her children. The location of Columbus, Muscogee County is of interest because it is also the location of George W. Dillard in 1830 who is the top candidate for the father of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston. Could Susan be his daughter-in-law or other relative? The census reports Susan's age as 30-39, giving her an estimated birth date of 1795-1805.

Free White Persons - Males - Under 5: 1

Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14: 1

Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9: 1

Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14: 1

Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39: 1

A search of online trees did not reveal a Susan, spouse of a Dillard.⁵¹ Cemetery and probate record searches were also negative.⁵² An important note, however, is that Muscogee County probate records start after 1838 due to a courthouse fire, so if Susan's husband died in Muscogee County prior to 1830, which is likely, no record would have survived.

A search of marriage records in Muscogee County revealed a marriage for Mr. William J. Bradly and Miss Susan Dillard, 8 April 1847.⁵³ Could this be Susan Dillard of the 1830 census? Searching the

⁵⁰ 1830 U.S. Census, Muscogee County, Georgia, population schedule, Columbus, p.125 (penned), line 33, Susan Dillard; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 19.

⁵¹ *FamilySearch* Family Trees, negative search for a Mrs. Susan Dillard, (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 24 November 2018). See also Public Member Trees, negative search for Susan, spouse of Dillard, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com> : accessed 24 November 2018).

⁵² *Find A Grave*, negative search for Susan Dillard, (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 23 November 2018). See also Georgia, Wills and Probate Records, negative search for Susan Dillard, (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8635> : accessed 23 November 2018).

⁵³ "Georgia, Marriage Records from Select Counties, 1828-1978," Dillard-Bradley, 1847, Muscogee, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 24 November 2018) ; citing Muscogee County, Record of Marriages, Book C, 1845-1854.

1850 census discovered the household of William and Susan Bradley and shows her as age 23, born 1827.⁵⁴

At this point in the research, Susan Dillard could not be eliminated as the mother or relative of Cynthia Dillard. Future research could examine all of the Dillard's of Muscogee County in hopes of further identifying Susan and her household of 1830.

THOMAS DILLARD

Thomas Dillard was a candidate for the father of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston based on the 1820 census of Jones County, Georgia.⁵⁵ Either of two females could have been Cynthia, born about 1815.

Free White Persons - Males - Under 10: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over: 1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10: 2
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over : 1

Other Dillard men also in Jones County in 1820 were Arthur and John Dillard. Arthur was born about 1775 and was probably a brother to Thomas. John was born about 1795 and was the son of Arthur, named in his will. Both of these men moved to the neighboring county of Monroe County by 1830.

Thomas Dillard is still present in Jones County in 1830 and that census has one young female at home besides himself and his wife.⁵⁶ His reported age of 60-69 gives him an estimated birth year of 1760-1770.

Free White Persons - Males - 50 thru 59: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 60 thru 69: 1

⁵⁴ 1850 U.S. Census, Carroll County, Georgia, population schedule, Division 11, p.38B (penned), Susan Dillard in household of Wm J Bradley; digital image, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 63.

⁵⁵ 1820 U.S. Census, Jones County, Georgia, population schedule, Capt. Permenters District, p.125 (penned), line 34, Thomas Dillard; digital image, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 7.

⁵⁶ 1830 U.S. Census, Jones County, Georgia, population schedule, p.125 (penned), line 28, Thomas Dillard; digital image, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 18.

An online tree at Ancestry.com has the two census records for Thomas Dillard of Jones County and names the following children: Allen, Dempsey, Sallie, Sarah, John, Kirk, Phoebe, Willis, Arthur, Bethany, and Martha (born 1815).⁵⁷ Not all of the children have been researched and have sources attached, but the dates seem reasonable.

No cemetery or probate record has been located for Thomas Dillard of Jones County.⁵⁸ Marriage records for Jones County, however, reveal several individuals that are named on the Ancestry Public Member tree, shown in Table 3.⁵⁹ Martha Dillard, married in 1832 is almost certainly the female on the 1830 census of Thomas Dillard that could have been Cynthia (Dillard) Royston. Based on this marriage record, Thomas Dillard can be eliminated as a candidate for her father.

Table 3. Dillard Marriages in Jones County

Dillard Individual	Spouse	Date
Phoebe Dillard	Thomas Gaddis	17 January 1817
Allen Dillard	Eda Shurley	8 May 1825
Bethany Dillard	S. Middlebrooks	5 October 1825
Martha Dillard	Wm D. Oliver	5 January 1832
Arthur Dillard	Mary Hansford	5 February 1837
Sarah Dillard	Frank M. Simmons	23 December 1841

THEOPHILLUS DILLARD

The final candidate for the father of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston to be explored was Theophilus Dillard. The 1820 census for Jefferson County, Georgia, includes one female of the appropriate age for Cynthia, born 1815.⁶⁰

Free White Persons - Males - Under 10: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15: 1

⁵⁷ Public Member Tree, Powers Family Tree, Thomas Dillard 1770-1837, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 24 November 2018).

⁵⁸ *Find A Grave*, negative search for Thomas Dillard, (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 23 November 2018). See also "Georgia, Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992," negative search for a Thomas Dillard born 1770, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com> : accessed 24 November 2018).

⁵⁹ "Georgia Marriages, 1699-1944," index listings for Dillard in Jones County, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 24 November 2018).

⁶⁰ 1820 U.S. Census, Jefferson County, Georgia, population schedule, p.18 (penned), line 36, Theophilus Dillard; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 10.

Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over: 1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44: 1

Theophilus Dillard is present in Jefferson County in 1830 also, and the census shows the following members of his household.⁶¹ The young female that could be Cynthia has aged appropriately.

Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19: 2
Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29: 1
Free White Persons - Males - 60 thru 69: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19: 1
Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49: 1

A search of online family trees found several for a Theophilus Dillard with spouse Susanna Allen, based on a marriage record of Wake County, North Carolina.⁶² None of the trees list any children.⁶³ Cemetery records do not name a Theophilus Dillard.⁶⁴ Probate records for Jefferson County are available through FamilySearch and a general search for Dillard was negative.⁶⁵ Most of the collections for Jefferson County are browse only and further research could examine each of these. A probate index for general records on Ancestry did not locate a Theophilus Dillard.⁶⁶

⁶¹ 1830 U.S. Census, Jefferson County, Georgia, population schedule, p.18 (penned), line 1, Theophilus Dillard; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 18.

⁶² "North Carolina, Marriage Records, 1741-2011," marriage bond for Dillard-Allen, digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 September 2018); citing Wake County, Georgia, Marriage Bonds (1778-1869); North Carolina State Archives, Record Group 48.

⁶³ Public Member Trees, search for Theophilus Dillard of Jefferson County, Georgia, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 November 2018). See also FamilySearch Family Tree, search for Theophilus Dillard of Jefferson County, Georgia, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 25 November 2018).

⁶⁴ *Find A Grave*, negative search for Theophilus Dillard, (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 23 November 2018). See also Georgia, Wills and Probate Records, negative search for Theophilus Dillard, (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8635> : accessed 23 November 2018).

⁶⁵ "Georgia Probate Records, 1742-1990," negative search for Theophilus Dillard, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1999178> : accessed 23 November 2018).

⁶⁶ Georgia, Wills and Probate Records, negative search for Theophilus Dillard, (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8635> : accessed 23 November 2018).

Marriage records of Jefferson County revealed three Dillard marriages that correspond to the two males and female on the 1820 and 1830 census listings for Theophilus Dillard's household.⁶⁷

- John Thompson and Nancy Dillard, marriage dated 14 December 1834
- Joseph Dilliard and Martha Rollins, 29 December 1837
- Toliver Dilliard and Tenny Hudson 6 June 1837

Based on the marriage records, Theophilus is not the father of Cynthia Dillard Royston. The only female in his household in 1820 and 1830 was almost certainly Nancy, married in Jefferson County. Theophilus was the only Dillard in the county in 1830. He can be eliminated as a possible father for Cynthia.

CONCLUSION

This research project was very successful in identifying and researching ten Dillard individuals who were candidates for the parent of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston. Cynthia and her husband, Thomas Beverly Royston, had been researched extensively and clues to her parentage came in the records of her later life: born in Georgia about 1815, maiden name of Dillard. A previous research project had focused on George W. Dillard of Muscogee County, Georgia, and Russell County, Alabama as a likely father for Cynthia. Without an direct evidence of that relationship however, eliminating other possible candidates could strengthen that hypothesis.

A candidate for the parent of Cynthia had to meet the criteria of having a female of appropriate age to be Cynthia in the 1820 and 1830 census enumerations, prior to her marriage about 1834. The following table details the findings.

Table 4. Conclusions

Name	Residence in 1820	Residence in 1830	Estimated Birth year	Conclusion
Arthur Dillard	Jones, Georgia	Monroe, Georgia	1778	Eliminated based on his will naming two females, Nancy Harmon and Elizabeth Joslin, and the absence of Cynthia in the will.
Edmund Dillard	Washington, Georgia	Gwinnett, Georgia	1778	The FamilySearch Family Tree names Edmund's daughter as Lucy Ann Dillard born 1814 at Haralson County, Georgia. He is likely not the father of Cynthia.
John Dillard	Jones, Georgia	Monroe, Georgia	1795	Eliminated based on the marriages of five Dillard women in Monroe County between 1836 and 1845, accounting for the females

⁶⁷ "Georgia, Marriage Records from Select Counties, 1828-1978," Dillards, Jefferson County, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 November 2018).

				on the census records of 1820 and 1830. If Cynthia was a daughter, she likely would have married in the county and be listed among the others.
Nathan Dillard	Washington, Georgia	Washington, Georgia – listed under his widow, Mrs. B. Dillard	1786	Online trees name several females as the daughters of Nathan and Bathsheba Dillard, among them an Indiana Dillard. Her marriage record lends credibility to the information. Cynthia is not among the names and is likely not a daughter of this family.
Owen Dillard	Emanuel, Georgia	Bibb, Georgia	1793	The will of Owen’s widow, Olive Dillard, names each of her children and does not include Cynthia. Owen can be eliminated.
Phillip Dillard	Burke, Georgia	Pulaski, Georgia	1773	Eliminated based on his will which names each of his children, none of them Cynthia.
Samson Dillard	Emanuel, Georgia	Pulaski, Georgia	1792	Samson’s will names his daughters, none of them are Cynthia.
Susan Dillard	Not listed	Muscogee, Georgia	1795	Susan remains a possible a connection to Cynthia Dillard and the Dillard’s of Muscogee where George Dillard also resided in 1830. It is unlikely that she is the mother of Cynthia, but additional research could rule her out or find supporting evidence.
Thomas Dillard	Jones, Georgia	Jones, Georgia	1785	Eliminated based on the marriage records of Jones County. If Cynthia was a daughter, she would likely have married in the county and be listed.
Theophillus Dillard	Jefferson, Georgia	Jefferson, Georgia	1770	Eliminated based on the marriage of Nancy Dillard in Jefferson County, the female of the census records. Theophillus was the only Dillard in the county in 1830. If Cynthia had been his daughter, she would have been named in a marriage record in that locality.

Of the ten candidates for the parent of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston, all were eliminated based on the research except for Susan Dillard of Muscogee County, Georgia, 1830. George W. Dillard, also appearing on the Muscogee County census of 1830 remains the strongest possibility for the father of Cynthia. Further research could explore all of the Dillard’s of Muscogee County from its creation in 1826 to about 1850, seeking further connections for Cynthia.

FUTURE RESEARCH SUGGESTIONS

- Compile a list of all Dillard individuals in Muscogee County, Georgia from 1826-1850.
- Research each individual – discovering their origins if possible.
- Complete an autosomal DNA analysis of the descendants of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston, seeking to connect to Margaret Armor, the first wife of George W. Dillard, and probable mother of Cynthia.