

# Is George W. Dillard the Father of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston?

Prepared by Diana Elder

12 April 2018

## RESEARCH SUMMARY

### OBJECTIVE

The objective of this research project was to determine if George W. Dillard born 1781 in Virginia and died 1854 in Lee County, Alabama was the father of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston. Cynthia was born about 1815 in Georgia. She married Thomas Beverly Royston about 1833 in Georgia or Alabama and died 2 August 1882 in Collin County, Texas.

### SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- Estimated the birth year of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston as 1815 based on the 1850-1880 census records. Also noted her birthplace of Georgia on the same census years and the birthplace of her father as Virginia from the 1880 census.
- Searched marriage records of Georgia and Alabama for a marriage of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston and Thomas Beverly Royston. No results.
- Studied Thomas B. Royston's land ownership in DeKalb County and Chambers County, Alabama.
- Confirmed the death dates of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston and Thomas B. Royston in the administration of his estate papers.
- Verified the fourteen children of Thomas and Cynthia Royston from census and probate records.
- Discovered Cynthia's maiden name of Dillard from the death certificates of three of her children: Martha Ann (Royston) Hogge, Richard A Royston, and Adeline (Royston) Spears.
- Examined the records for George W. Dillard, candidate for father of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston.
- Noticed the presence of a female of appropriate age in the 1820 and 1830 households of George W. Dillard.
- Found two marriage records for George W. Dillard: the 1801 marriage to Peggy Armour and the 1822 marriage to Martha F. Wells. Determined that Peggy Armour would be the mother of Cynthia if George W. Dillard was her father.
- Researched newspaper articles for more information on the actions of George W. Dillard. Found several references to him in the community of Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia, from 1828-1836.
- Noted the proximity of Thomas B. Royston's land in Lee County, Georgia, to Muscogee County, Georgia, providing a possible meeting for Thomas and Cynthia (Dillard) Royston.
- Researched newspaper articles for Thomas B. Royston. Found references to him in the *Columbus Enquirer* for 1841, putting him in the same location as George W. Dillard.
- Discovered the Muscogee County courthouse burned in 1838, destroying all records. If Cynthia (Dillard) Royston and Thomas B. Royston had married in the county, no record would exist, explaining the lack of a marriage record for the couple.
- Examined the land descriptions for George W. Dillard's land patents in Chambers County, Alabama.

- Compared the Dillard land descriptions to the Royston land descriptions using original deeds and land patents. No connection was made.
- Searched probate records for George W. Dillard in the general Alabama probate index and in the Macon County, Alabama, probate indexes, no results. Future research could expand the probate search to neighboring counties.
- Noticed the unique name of “Leonidas” in both the households of George W. Dillard (1850) and Thomas and Cynthia Royston (1860). Researching the descendants of George W. Dillard could uncover further naming patterns.

## **FUTURE RESEARCH SUGGESTIONS**

- Search the probate records of Lee County, Alabama, for George W. Dillard.
- Order the land case entry files from the National Archives for George W. Dillard’s land patents in Alabama between 1834 and 1841. The case entry files might have further clues that could uncover a relationship between Cynthia (Dillard) Royston and George W. Dillard.
- Build up the FAN club (friends, associates, and neighbors) for George W. Dillard and Thomas and Cynthia (Dillard) Royston looking for connections.
- Research the possible children of George W. Dillard from the 1850 census: Columbus, Alonzo, Leonidas, and Zenora. Note naming patterns among their descendants.
- Research Lorenzo and Nathaniel Dillard. They also patented land in Chambers County, Alabama, and could be related to George W. Dillard and/or Cynthia (Dillard) Royston.
- Research other Dillard men in Alabama from 1830-1860 to discover possible brothers to Cynthia from George W. Dillard’s first marriage to Peggy Armour. Note naming patterns.
- Search for connections between Cynthia (Dillard) Royston and the family of her possible mother, Peggy Armour, of Greene County, Georgia.
- Identify other possible candidates for the father of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston from the 1820 and 1830 census records of Georgia.
- Systematically research each candidate and possibly eliminate as a father for Cynthia.
- DNA testing and analysis of the descendants of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston and the known descendants of George W. Dillard could reveal a connection.

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## RESEARCH REPORT

The objective of this research project was to determine if George W. Dillard born 1781 in Virginia and died 1854 in Lee County, Alabama was the father of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston. Cynthia was born about 1815 in Georgia. She married Thomas Beverly Royston about 1833 in Georgia or Alabama and died 2 August 1882 in Collin County, Texas.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The descendants of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston have long wondered which of the many Dillard men present in Georgia and Alabama in the early 1800s was her father. Several original records contain circumstantial evidence that points to George W. Dillard as a plausible candidate for her father. Among these are the following:

- George W. Dillard's 1820 household in Georgia included a female under 10.<sup>1</sup>
- Cynthia (Dillard) Royston's estimated birth year from the 1850 census is 1815.<sup>2</sup>
- George W. Dillard was granted several land patents in Chambers County, Alabama, in 1837<sup>3</sup>
- Thomas and Cynthia (Dillard) Royston moved to Chambers County, Alabama by 1850.<sup>4</sup>

Research began by comparing the life events of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston and George W. Dillard, in hopes of making enough connections to indirectly prove a relationship.

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<sup>1</sup> 1820 U.S. Census, Greene County, Georgia, Capt E Woodhams District, population schedule, p. 202, line 2, George W. Dillard household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 June 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 8.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> George W. Dillard,(Chambers County, Alabama), 1837, cash entry patents no. 3733, 3768, 3770, 3771, "Land Patent Search," images, *General Land Office Records* ([www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov) : accessed 17 March 2018).

<sup>4</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Chambers County, Alabama, pop. sch., p. 318 (stamped), dwell. 749, fam. 749, Thomas B. Royston.

## CYNTHIA (DILLARD) ROYSTON LIFE EVENTS

Cynthia (Dillard) Royston was born between 1815-1818 in Georgia according to the 1850 - 1880 census records. Table 1 details her age in each census and her estimated birth year. Although it appears that Cynthia grows younger with time, it is not unusual for ages to vary in the census records. The informant was often the head of household who didn't necessarily know the exact ages of each family member. Generally the earlier listings of age are more accurate making 1815 the best estimate. The census records do agree on Georgia as her place of birth. The table reflects the spelling variations of her name in the records.

**TABLE 1. CYNTHIA (DILLARD) ROYSTON'S AGE IN CENSUS RECORDS FROM 1850-1880**

NAME	CENSUS YEAR	RESIDENCE	AGE	ESTIMATED BIRTH YEAR	BIRTH PLACE
Synthia Royston	1850 <sup>a</sup>	Chambers Co., Alabama	35	1815	Georgia
Cynthia Royston	1860 <sup>b</sup>	Chambers Co., Alabama	44	1816	Georgia
Cynthia Royston	1870 <sup>c</sup>	Chambers Co., Alabama	53	1817	Georgia
Syntha Royston	1880 <sup>d</sup>	Collin Co., Texas	62	1818	Georgia

a. 1850 U.S. Census, Chambers County, Alabama, pop. sch., p. 318 (stamped), dwell. 749, fam. 749, Thomas B. Royston.

b. 1860 U.S. Census, Chambers County, Alabama, population schedule, Northern Division, Milltown Post Office, page 130 (penned), dwelling 915, family 895, Thomas B. Royston household; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org>: accessed 29 April 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication M653 roll 4.

c. 1870 U.S. Census, Chambers County, Alabama, population schedule, Beat No 2, p. 4 (penned), p.22 (stamped), dwelling 24, family 24, Cynthia Royston household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 April 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 6.

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

### *Marriage of Thomas Beverly Royston and Cynthia Dillard*

A marriage record can state the names of parents and provide clues to the place of residence of the couple. No marriage record has been located for Thomas and Cynthia giving that information. Thomas

was living in Morgan County, Georgia in 1831<sup>5</sup> and had moved to DeKalb County, Alabama by 1837<sup>6</sup> so marriage indexes were searched in both states.<sup>7</sup> The oldest daughter, Mary E. Royston, was born 4 May 1834, giving an estimated marriage year of 1833 for Thomas and Cynthia.<sup>8</sup> If born in 1815, Cynthia would have been about 18 years old at her marriage.

#### *Alabama Residence and Family of Thomas Beverly Royston and Cynthia Dillard*

Thomas and Cynthia appear to have never resided in Georgia as a married couple. The 1850 census names Alabama as the birth place for the nine children in the household, beginning with oldest daughter, Mary, born 1834.<sup>9</sup> Thomas' 1842 application for a land patent in DeKalb County, Alabama, contains a witness statement that the "said Royston settled on said quarter prior to January 1837, that he erected a dwelling house in which he has lived and made his home from that time to the year 1840 . . . having a wife and children."<sup>10</sup> No mention is made of the exact date Thomas and Cynthia moved to DeKalb County, Alabama, but the household is enumerated there on the 1840 census; the three children denoted by tick marks: two males under five and one female 5-10.<sup>11</sup>

The Royston family moved to Chambers County, Alabama by 1850 and began operating a large cotton plantation with the conditions ideal for growing this lucrative crop.<sup>12</sup> The 1850 census shows Thomas B. Royston's real estate valued at \$1800, much higher than the neighbors.<sup>13</sup> Thomas owned three to four times more land than any individual in the vicinity. Slave labor ran the plantation and the 1860 slave

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<sup>5</sup> Morgan County, Georgia, Superior Court, 1831 Tax Digest, page 2, entry for Thomas B. Royston, Morgan County, Archives, Madison, Georgia.

<sup>6</sup> Thomas B. Royston (DeKalb County) cash entry file, 1842, 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.

<sup>7</sup> Negative searches for Royston-Dillard marriage: Pauline Myra Jones Gandrud and Lucille Smith Craddock, *Marriage, Death and Legal Notices from Early Alabama Newspapers, 1819-1893*, (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1981). See also "Georgia, County marriages, 1785-1950," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 15 March 2018).

<sup>8</sup> *Find A Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 12 November 2016), memorial 43662594, Mary Elizabeth Royston Slagle (1834-1915), gravestone photographed by Bennie Gross, member 47013847.

<sup>9</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Chambers County, Alabama, pop. sch., p. 318 (stamped), dwell. 749, fam. 749, Thomas B. Royston.

<sup>10</sup> Thomas B. Royston (DeKalb County), witness statement of Wm C Smith and Isaac DeWall, cash entry file, 1842, state volume patent no.5969, Lebanon, Alabama, Land Office.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Chambers County, Alabama, pop. sch., p. 318 (stamped), dwell. 749, fam. 749, Thomas B. Royston.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

schedule lists 16 slaves owned by Thomas B. Royston.<sup>14</sup> Cynthia and Thomas had fourteen children between the years 1834 and 1863.<sup>15</sup> The Civil War greatly affected the Royston family, with five of their sons enlisting for the Confederacy, and three of them dying as a result of that conflict.<sup>16</sup>

#### *Death of Thomas Beverly Royston and Cynthia (Dillard) Royston*

Cynthia became a widow on 21 September 1868 with the death of her husband, Thomas Beverly Royston.<sup>17</sup> Cynthia appeared in court eight days later to begin the probate process. Cynthia's testimony under oath provides direct evidence of Thomas's death date.<sup>18</sup>

Cynthia Royston widow and relict of Thomas B. Royston decd respectfully represents unto your Honor that the late Thomas B. Royston, who was an inhabitant of this county at the time of his death, departed this life on the 21st day of September AD. 1868 in said county & state. . .

She then lists as heirs, the eleven living children. Not mentioned are their three sons who died in the Civil War: Ulysses Franklin, Charles Baldwin, and Benjamin.<sup>19</sup>

Your petitioner further states, that she is the widow of said deceased and that the next of kin of said decedent are his children [bullets inserted for ease of reading]

- Sarah Parker who has intermarried with Franklin M. Parker, who reside in Coosa County
- Adeline Royston over fourteen years of age & resides with your petitioner in said county
- Joseph Royston over twenty one years & resides in said county

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<sup>14</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Chambers County, Alabama, slave schedule, Northern Division, page 48 (penned), Thomas B. Royston owner; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://ancestry.com>: accessed 13 November 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication M653 roll 4.

<sup>15</sup> See 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 census listings for the names of children, also the probate of Thomas Beverly Royston names 11 of the 14 children.

<sup>16</sup> For Benjamin and Charles Baldwin Royston see Compiled service record, Benjamin Royston, 61st Regiment Alabama Infantry, and C B Royston, Alabama 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Civil War; Carded Records Showing Military Service of Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Alabama, compiled 1903-1927, documenting the period 1861-1865; *fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com> : accessed 15 November 2016); citing NARA publication M311, Record Group 109, Roll 39. For Ulysses Royston see Chambers County, Alabama Estates, box 26 folder 25, Ulysses Franklin Royston Sr, for petition papers of 1866; "Alabama, Wills and Probate Records, 1753-1999," case file for Ulysses Franklin Royston Sr, 1866-1872; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 13 November 2016), digital image 220.

<sup>17</sup> *Find A Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 8 September 2016), memorial 60407551, Thomas Beverly Royston (1806-1868), gravestone photographed by Churchwell, member 46607715.

<sup>18</sup> Chambers Co. Al. Estates, box 26 folder 24, case file for Thos B Royston, 1867-1883; "Alabama, Wills and Probate Records, 1753-1999," , *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 19 August 2016, petition papers 29 September 1868, images 145-146.

<sup>19</sup> See the listings of the three boys on the 1850 U.S. Census, Chambers County, Alabama, pop. sch., p. 318 (stamped), dwell. 749, fam. 749, Thomas B. Royston. For Benjamin and Charles Baldwin see Compiled military service record, Benjamin Royston, 61st Reg. Al. Inf., and C B Royston, Al. 14<sup>th</sup> Inf. Civil War; RG 109, NA-Washington. For Ulysses Royston see Chambers County, Alabama Estates, box 26 folder 25, Ulysses Franklin Royston Sr, for petition papers of 1866.

- Robert C Royston a minor over fourteen who resides with the petitioner in said county
- Thomas Royston a minor over fourteen
- Margarette Royston a minor over fourteen
- Richard Royston under fourteen years age
- Leonidas Royston under fourteen years
- Mariah Royston under fourteen years
- Martha Royston under fourteen who all reside with petition in said county
- Mary Slaggle wife Joseph Slaggle who reside in Chambers County of full age

Seven years after Cynthia first appeared in court to begin the probate process of Thomas B. Royston's estate, several administration papers dated from 6 February to 27 March 1875 show that Cynthia has "removed to the State of Texas"<sup>20</sup> and an account paper of 1 November 1882 indicates that "Cynthia Royston departed this life in the state of Texas on or about the 2nd day of August 1882."<sup>21</sup>

A death certificate might reveal a father for Cynthia, but the state of Texas did not require death registration until 1903, twenty years after Cynthia's death.<sup>22</sup>

#### *Identifying the Maiden Name of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston*

Without a death certificate or marriage record, Cynthia's maiden name was determined by searching her children's death certificates. Of her fourteen children, only three lived to have a state registered death certificate that provided her maiden name.

- Martha Ann (Royston) Hogge's death certificate of 1932 gives her mother's name as "Cynthia Dilliard" born in Alabama: informant Charles Hogge, Martha's son and Cynthia's grandson.<sup>23</sup>
- Richard A Royston's death certificate of 1928 states: mother "Miss Cinthia Dillard," born in Alabama: informant Mrs. Luther Lockey, relationship not determined.<sup>24</sup>
- Adeline (Royston) Spears' death certificate of 1920 gives her mother's name as "Dillard" born in Florida: informant M.C. [Mariah Catherine] Lovelady, Adeline's sister and Cynthia's daughter.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Chambers Co. Al. Estates, box 26 folder 24, Thomas Beverly Royston, administration papers of 1875, images 143, 148, 172, and 173.

<sup>21</sup> Chambers Co. Al. Estates, box 26 folder 24, Thomas Beverly Royston, account paper of 1882, image 165.

<sup>22</sup> *The Handybook for Genealogists*, (Draper, Utah: Everton Publishers, 2002), 647.

<sup>23</sup> 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).

<sup>24</sup> 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).

<sup>25</sup> 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).

Two of the death certificates give Alabama as Cynthia's place of birth, understandable since Cynthia and Thomas Royston resided in Alabama for nearly forty years. The other death certificate states Florida as the birth place, the informant, Mariah Catherine (Royston) Lovelady, was Cynthia's daughter. She would generally be the most reliable informant. However, she was 70 years old at the death of her sister Adeline and her mother, Cynthia had been dead for 40 years. She likely cited the birth place incorrectly. All the census records taken during Cynthia's lifetime agree on a birthplace of Georgia. This information was likely given by either Cynthia herself or her husband, Thomas Royston, and is more reliable evidence for her place of birth. A Florida connection to the Dillard's seems possible given Mariah's listing of that birthplace and could be explored in future research. Perhaps Mariah knew or had heard of a Dillard family member with ties to Florida.

What clues can be garnered from examining the life of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston? With an estimated birth date of 1815 in Georgia, candidates for her father would have been born before 1805 and been living in Georgia during the early 1800's. A candidate would probably be listed on the 1820 and 1830 census records residing in Georgia with a female of appropriate age in the household. Families often moved together into new lands, so when Native American land opened up in Alabama during the 1830's it is likely that Cynthia's Dillard relatives also moved to Alabama. Additionally some of Cynthia's 14 children could be named for Dillard relatives.

## **GEORGE W. DILLARD**

The life events of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston laid a strong foundation for a possible father candidate: born before 1805 and resident of Georgia in the early 1800s. Research turned to George W. Dillard, who met these criteria.

### *1820 and 1830 Census Records*

George W. Dillard first appears on the census records of Georgia in 1820, residing in Greene County.<sup>26</sup> Table 2 details his household of two young females; one under 10, the appropriate age category for Cynthia (Dillard) Royston born about 1815, the other young female age 10-16. George's age of 26-45 places his birth date between 1775 and 1796, well in the range for Cynthia's father. The males under 16

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<sup>26</sup> 1820 U.S. Census, Greene County, Georgia, Capt E Woodhams District, population schedule, p. 202, line 2, George W. Dillard household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 June 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 8.



in the household are likely Cynthia's brothers if George is her father. Identifying and tracing them could provide valuable connections to Cynthia. The household included 21 slaves, among them were six adult males and 9 adult females. Eleven total individuals were engaged in agriculture suggesting that George W. Dillard was growing cotton, the primary crop in Georgia in 1820.<sup>27</sup>

**Table 2. George W. Dillard household in 1820**

Locality		1820, Greene County, Georgia														
Page	Line	Head-of-Family	Free White Males						Free White Females					All Others	Slaves	
			0 to 10	10 to 16	16 to 18	16 to 26	26 to 45	45 +	0 to 10	10 to 16	16 to 26	26 to 45	45 +			
202	2	George W. Dillard	2	1		1	1		1	1		1				21

The 1830 census reveals the move of G.W. Dillard's household to Muscogee County, on the western border of Georgia, next to Alabama.<sup>28</sup> Muscogee County was created from Creek Indian lands in 1826. As new lands opened up in the west, many settlers migrated because of the fertile land. Table 3 illustrates the George W. Dillard household in 1830 with several males age 20 to 40 as well as 10 slaves. The slave listing shows only one adult male and two adult females, with seven children. The makeup of this household is much different than that of 1820, suggesting a different situation for George W. Dillard in the new location. If Cynthia was born about 1815, she would be 15 years of age in 1830 and would fit into the household as the female age 15-20.

**Table 3. George W. Dillard household in 1830**

Locality			1830, Muscogee County, Georgia											
Pg. Ln.	Head of Family		0 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 +	Slaves
277	2	M	3				5	7	1					4
		F	1			1	1							6

<sup>27</sup> John C. Inscoe, "Georgia in 1860," *New Georgia Encyclopedia* (<https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/georgia-1860> : accessed 29 march 2018).

<sup>28</sup> 1830 U.S. Census, Muscogee County, Georgia, population schedule, p. 277 (penned), line 2, G.W. Dillard household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 June 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 19.

### *Marriage Records for George W Dillard*

Comparing the oldest females of the 1820 and 1830 census enumerations reveals a discrepancy. The oldest female in the 1820 census household is listed as age 26-45 and would be between 36-55 years of age on the 1830 census. Instead the oldest female is only 20-30 years old and the presence of four children under the age of five suggests a second marriage. A search of Georgia marriage records revealed two marriages for George W. Dillard.

- George W Dillard to Peggy Armour, Greene County Georgia, 9 November 1801<sup>29</sup>
- George W Dillard to Martha F Wells, Greene County, Georgia, 29 July 1822<sup>30</sup>

With the discovery of the 1801 marriage record, a possible mother for Cynthia (Dillard) Royston was identified: Peggy Armour of Greene County, Georgia. Peggy Armour likely died about 1821, soon after the 1820 census enumeration and before the 1822 marriage of George W. Dillard and Martha F Wells. Researching the Armour family of Greene County, Georgia, could provide connections to Cynthia (Dillard) Royston. Of interest is Cynthia's naming of two daughters, Margaret and Martha, perhaps after her possible mother and step-mother.

### *George W. Dillard in Newspaper Articles*

Newspapers can reveal important information about an individual and his involvement in the community. George W. Dillard had moved to Muscogee County, Georgia by 1828 where he placed an advertisement in the *Athenian*.<sup>31</sup>

The Subscriber begs leave to inform his friends and the Public in general, that he is prepared to accommodate from fifty to a hundred Gentlemen, who may wish to visit this place at the sales; his Table shall be furnished with the best the country affords, attentive Ostlers, and an ample supply of provinder has been procured, this Establishment is retired, it being situated on the main road leading to Alabama, near the Ferry. GEORGE W. DILLARD.

A Stage-Coach runs regularly from this place to Fort Mitchell three times a week for the accommodation of passengers. G.W.D.

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<sup>29</sup> Greene County, Georgia, "Marriage Licenses 1786 To 1810," p. 9, Dillard-Armour marriage, 9 November 1801; "Georgia, County Marriages, 1785-1950," image 21 of 659, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 7 June 2017); citing "Marriage Records 1786-1849," FHL microfilm # 159,052.

<sup>30</sup> Greene County, Georgia Marriages 1829-1849, Dillard - Wells, 29 July 1822, p. 186; "Georgia, Marriage Records from Select Counties, 1828-1978," image 201, *Ancestry*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 March 2017).

<sup>31</sup> *Athenian*, 27 May, 1828, p. 3 col. 3, para. 4, George W. Dillard advertisement for inn; *Georgia Historic Newspapers: Athens* (<http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/athnewspapers/id:ath1828-0083> : accessed 8 November 2017).

With the newly formed county attracting settlers, George had opened an inn on the main road leading to Alabama. He provided food, and ostlers, men employed to look after the horses of people staying at an inn. This could account for the 12 males present in the household in 1830, (see Table 2).<sup>32</sup>

In October of 1832, the *Columbus Enquirer* ran an advertisement for three consecutive weeks providing evidence of George W. Dillard's continued residence in the city of Columbus, located in Muscogee County, Georgia: "FOR SALE. A comfortable two-story Dwelling, with convenient out-houses and garden, at the upper end of Oglethorpe street now in the occupancy of Capt. Geo. W. Dillard, in a healthy and beautiful part of Columbus."<sup>33</sup>

Subsequent news articles from the *Columbus Enquirer* show George W. Dillard's involvement in the community during the 1830's.

- George W. Dillard, elected commissioner, 9 January 1835<sup>34</sup>
- George W. Dillard, advertisement for a stray horse, 9 January 1835 and October 1835<sup>35</sup>
- G.W. Dillard, elected Alderman, 8 January 1836<sup>36</sup>
- George W. Dillard, part of the grand jury, April 1837<sup>37</sup>
- Geo. W. Dillard, included in a list of an accounting of city funds, 19 April 1838
- George W. Dillard, notice to pay a debt to Daniel Walling, several issues of 1839

In 1840, George W. Dillard ran two advertisements in the *Columbus Enquirer* indicating his move across the Alabama/Georgia state line into Russell County, Alabama.<sup>38</sup> Although the wording doesn't clearly state that the "Pleasant Hill House" was another inn, it is possible since he had operated that type of establishment in 1828. George also advertised a piece of property for sale and included his place of residence as Russell County, Alabama.

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<sup>32</sup> 1830 U.S. Census, Muscogee County, Georgia, pop. sch., p. 277 (penned), line 2, G.W. Dillard household.

<sup>33</sup> *Columbus Enquirer*, 13 October 1832, p. 4, col. 5, para.1, Capt. Geo. W. Dillard occupancy of dwelling; *Georgia Historic Newspapers: Columbus Enquirer* (enquirer.galileo.usg.edu : accessed 19 June 2017). See also the same source for identical listings on 20 October 1832 and 27 October 1832.

<sup>34</sup> *Columbus Enquirer*, 9 January 1835, p. 3, col. 2, para.3, Geo. W. Dillard elected commissioner.

<sup>35</sup> Elizabeth Evans Kilbourne, *Columbus, Georgia, Newspaper Clippings (Columbus Enquirer Volume II, 1835-1837)*, (Savannah, Georgia : E. Evans Kilbourne, 1997-2009), no page number on photocopy from book.

<sup>36</sup> *Columbus Enquirer*, 8 January 1836, p. 2, col. 4, para.4, G.W. Dillard elected Alderman.

<sup>37</sup> Kilbourne, *Columbus, Georgia, Newspaper Clippings (Columbus Enquirer Volume II, 1835-1837)*, no page number on photocopy from book.

<sup>38</sup> *Columbus Enquirer*, 14 October 1840, p. 3, col. 3, para. 6, George W. Dillard advertisements; *Georgia Historic Newspapers: Columbus Enquirer* (enquirer.galileo.usg.edu : accessed 19 June 2017).

## PLEASANT HILL HOUSE.

The subscriber has located himself four miles from Columbus, on the road leading to LaFayette, Chambers county, and Auburn, Macon County Ala. -- It will give him great pleasure in entertaining all persons that may feel disposed to favor him with a call. GEORGE W. DILLARD

The subscriber has a lot of land in Summerville, Ala. containing 12 acres, two miles and a half from Columbus. There is in the above named place good schools and good society. His lot is well improved with a comfortable dwelling house and all necessary out buildings with a good spring and well water, which he offers for sale at a reduced price. Possession given the first of January next. G.W. DILLARD Russell co. Ala. Oct 14

If Cynthia was George's daughter, she was probably also living in Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia, from at least 1828 when he ran his first advertisement in the *Athenian*.<sup>39</sup> In 1833, she would have been about 18 and approaching marriage. The county clerk generally recorded the marriages during this time period, but a fire in 1838 destroyed the courthouse and all records were lost.<sup>40</sup> This record loss could explain the missing marriage record of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston and Thomas Beverly Royston.

### **THOMAS BEVERLY ROYSTON**

#### *The Georgia/Alabama Frontier*

If Cynthia had moved with her proposed father, George W. Dillard to the newly organized Muscogee County, Georgia, was Thomas B. Royston in proximity to have met and married her? The 1830 census shows no listing for Thomas B. Royston<sup>41</sup> but tax records reveal his residence in Morgan County, Georgia, with his payment of a poll tax in 1831.<sup>42</sup> Morgan County, in the north-central portion of the state, borders Greene County, George W. Dillard's residence in 1820.

Thomas possibly knew the Dillard family during the 1820's, but a land record dated 21 December 1831 in Lees County, Georgia, puts him much closer to Muscogee County, and the Dillard family's new residence on the border of Georgia and Alabama.

Georgia is a state-land state, meaning that the state government distributed its land, not the federal government. Georgia used a lottery system from 1805-1832 to distribute land that had been formerly occupied by the Creek and Cherokee Indians. Each lottery had unique requirements for applicants.

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<sup>39</sup> *Athenian*, 27 May, 1828, p. 3 col. 3, para. 4, George W. Dillard advertisement for inn.

<sup>40</sup> *The Handybook for Genealogists*, (Draper, Utah: Everton Publishers, 2002), 158.

<sup>41</sup> 1830 U.S. Census, negative search for Thomas Royston and name variants, Georgia, population schedules; database with images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 October 2016.)

<sup>42</sup> Morgan County, Georgia, Superior Court, 1831 Tax Digest, page 2, entry for Thomas B. Royston, Morgan County, Archives, Madison, Georgia.

Persons entitled to a draw in the 1827 land lottery included the wife or child (with a three year residence in Georgia) of a husband or father who had been absent from the state for three years.<sup>43</sup>

Thomas B. Royston won this lottery and is listed on the land grant as “John Royston’s orphan of Gaines District, Morgan County.”<sup>44</sup> No Royston is found on the 1830 census for Morgan County, Georgia and Thomas B. Royston is the only Royston on the tax lists of 1831, making him the sole candidate for “the orphan of John Royston.” Additional evidence identifies John Royston as the father of Thomas Beverly Royston.<sup>45</sup>

The grant dated 21 December 1831 was for 202 ½ acres in Lees County. In 1831, Lees County and Muscogee County were much larger than present day and nearly bordered one another. Thomas Beverly Royston would have had to visit Lees County to either live on his newly granted land or sell the land. Deed records in the Lees County courthouse could lend clarity to his actions, but the courthouse burned in 1858 and all records were lost.<sup>46</sup>

Would Thomas B. Royston have traveled from Lee County to Columbus, Muscogee County? A history published in 1854 describes the area: “No country is more highly favoured with extensive water facilities than Muscogee County. The principal stream is the Chattahoochee, affording to the inhabitants a steamboat navigation to the Gulf of Mexico. . . Columbus is the seat of justice . . . it was laid out in 1828 and is the third city in the State.”<sup>47</sup> As the main city of the area, Columbus would have drawn visitors from the surrounding counties. The newspaper evidence presented earlier clearly shows the visibility of George W. Dillard in the community of Columbus, Muscogee County. If Cynthia was his daughter, Thomas B. Royston could have met her while in the area, possibly staying at the Dillard inn.

Two entries in the *Columbus Enquirer* for 1841 show “Thomas Royston” in a list of letters remaining at the Post Office at Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia. The newspaper notices provide direct evidence

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<sup>43</sup> *Georgia Archives*, “1827 Land Lottery, ([http://www.georgiaarchives.org/research/1827\\_land\\_lottery](http://www.georgiaarchives.org/research/1827_land_lottery) : accessed 12 Nov 2016).

<sup>44</sup> Georgia, Surveyor General, *Land Lottery Grants, 1827-1848*, (Atlanta, Georgia : State Dept. of Archives and History, 1967), 20th District, p. 101, FHL microfilm 519,043.

<sup>45</sup> Diana Elder, “Research Report: Thomas Beverly Royston 1806-1868,” 2017, person details for Thomas Beverly Royston KFR2-8KY, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 18 March 2018).

<sup>46</sup> *The Handybook for Genealogists*, (Draper, Utah: Everton Publishers, 2002), 157.

<sup>47</sup> George White, *Historical Collections of Georgia : Containing the Most Interesting Facts, Traditions, Biographical Sketches, Anecdotes, etc., Relating to its History and Antiquities, from its First Settlement to the Present Tie, Compiled from Original Records and Official Documents, Illustrated by Nearly One Hundred Engravings*, (New York : Pudney & Russell, 1854), 568-9.

of Thomas Royston's presence in the area.<sup>48</sup> Thomas B. Royston was living in DeKalb County, Alabama in 1840,<sup>49</sup> which might explain why the letters were still at the post office in Columbus. That had evidently once been his postal address.

## ALABAMA CONNECTIONS – 1840 CENSUS

### *George W. Dillard and the 1840 census*

As mentioned in the newspaper advertisements, by 1840, George W. Dillard had moved across the Georgia/Alabama border to Russell County, Alabama.<sup>50</sup> Table 4 shows his household containing only two females: an older female, probably George's wife, Martha, and a female age 15-20, probably the same female age 5-10 on the 1830 census. The female age 15-20 on the 1830 census would be 25-30 in 1840 and is not present in the Dillard household, indicating a death or marriage. If this female was Cynthia (Dillard) Royston, her absence is additional evidence that she had married by 1840 and was living in her husband's household. The younger males in the household are probably sons of George and Martha; the oldest a possible son of George and first wife, Peggy.

**Table 4. George W. Dillard household in 1840**

Locality		1840, Russell County, Alabama											
Pg. Ln.	Head of Family	0 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 +	Slaves
Pg.35	G W	2			2	1				1			6
Ln .25	Dillard				1		1						5

### *Thomas B. Royston and the 1840 census*

Where are Thomas and Cynthia Royston living in 1840? That census enumeration reveals their residence in DeKalb County, Alabama,<sup>51</sup> to the north of Russell County, Alabama, residence of George W. Dillard in

<sup>48</sup> *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).

<sup>49</sup> 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.

<sup>50</sup> 1840 U.S. Census, Russell County, Alabama, population schedule, p. 35 (penned), line 25, G.W. Dillard household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 June 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 15.

<sup>51</sup> 1840 U.S. Census, DeKalb Co., Alabama, pop. sch., p. 7 (penned), line 31, F.B. Royston household.

1840.<sup>52</sup> Table 5 illustrates Cynthia as the only older female in the house. Her age of 20-30 is appropriate to her estimated birth year of 1815. The household also includes several older males. With five individuals involved in agriculture, these could be relatives, or farm hands. Confusion might come in Thomas being listed as “F.B. Royston” on the census. Names on the census record are often miswritten and need to be used with other records to confirm identity.

**Table 5. Thomas B. Royston household in 1840**

Locality			1840, DeKalb County, Alabama											
Pg. Ln.	Head of Family		0 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 +	Slaves
Pg. 7 Ln.31	F. B. Royston	M F	2	1			1	5						5 4

Land records can provide evidence of residence and help to fill in details the census only hints at. As previously discussed, the 1842 land case file for Thomas B. Royston in DeKalb County, Alabama, helps to determine that the F.B. Royston on the census is Thomas B. Royston. On 1 May 1845 after having lived on and improved the land for several years, Thomas was granted a land patent from the United States government.<sup>53</sup> To receive the patent, Thomas had to pay fees, and provide witnesses that he had lived on the land. These documents make up his land case file for the DeKalb County land. The witness statement dated 23 May 1842 gives the following information:<sup>54</sup>

- Royston settled on the land prior to January 1837
- He erected a dwelling house in which he lived and made his home from then until 1840
- He was the head of a family having a wife and children

Thomas received his DeKalb County land under the Preemption Act of 1838, which entitled a settler over the age of twenty-one or the head of a family to purchase up to 160 acres for \$1.25 an acre. He had to have lived on the land for four months preceding the act. He qualified for the land, paid \$200.85 and then assigned the land to John Graves. No mention is made in the case file or the land tract book of any

<sup>52</sup> 1840 U.S. Census, Russell County, Alabama, pop. sch., p. 35 (penned), line 25, G.W. Dillard household.

<sup>53</sup> Thomas B. Royston, (DeKalb County, Alabama), cash entry patent no. 5969, "Land Patent Search," images, General Land Office Records ([www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov) : accessed 13 September 2016).

<sup>54</sup> 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

payment between Graves and Royston for the land, but it is possible that a large sum of money changed hands and that is how Thomas purchased the land for his plantation in Chambers County.<sup>55</sup> The deed index for DeKalb County, Alabama, 1835-1897 has no listing for a Royston, so the federal land patent is the sole land record for Thomas in that county.<sup>56</sup>

## **ALABAMA CONNECTIONS - CHAMBERS COUNTY**

### *Land Records for George W. Dillard – Chambers County*

Following the American Revolution, the state of Georgia pressured the Native American Creek tribe to cede their land. Beginning in 1790, their land was gradually given over to Georgia and then to Alabama. The Creeks signed a treaty in 1832 that agreed to the removal of the 20,000 tribe members still in Alabama; sending them to land allocated as Indian Territory, now Oklahoma.<sup>57</sup> With the Creek Cession of 1832, Native American lands opened up in Alabama. The state of Alabama distributed the new land under the federal land patent system. George W. Dillard received multiple land patents between 1837- and 1841 in Crenshaw, Tallapoosa, and Chambers Counties.<sup>58</sup> Of particular interest are the land patents in Chambers County, where Thomas and Cynthia Royston had settled by 1850. George W. Dillard received five land patents in Chambers County, four in 1837 and one in 1840.<sup>59</sup>

Following the transfer of land from the state to an individual, the county deed books listed the transfer of land from individual to individual. The Chambers County deed books reveal only one land transaction for George W. Dillard, selling the land he originally patented in 1840 to Robert Mitchell of Chambers

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<sup>55</sup> DeKalb County, Alabama, Tract Books, p. 62, entries arranged by legal land description; see Township 9 South, Range 7 East, Section 20, SE 1/4, Thomas B. Royston, 1842; "United States Bureau of Land Management Tract Books, 1800-1955," Alabama, Vol. 6B (Lebanon), image 72 of 208, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 27 March 2018).

<sup>56</sup> Negative searches in DeKalb County Alabama, "Index to deeds and mortgages 1835-1897" FHL microfilm 103174. DeKalb County Alabama "Deed records, v. A 1835-1845," FHL microfilm 1035174. DeKalb County, Alabama, "Deed records, v. B-D 1842-1855," FHL microfilm 1034175.

<sup>57</sup> Claudio Saunt, "Creek Indians," (University of Georgia, 2002); *New Georgia Encyclopedia* (<https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/creek-indians> : accessed 26 March 2018)/

<sup>58</sup> Bureau of Land Management, George W. Dillard, "Land Patent Search," images, *General Land Office Records* ([www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov) : accessed 17 March 2018).

<sup>59</sup> Bureau of Land Management, George W. Dillard, (Chambers County, Alabama), 1837, cash entry patents no. 3733, 3768, 3770, 3771; also 1840 Indian Allotment, state volume patent no. 2, "Land Patent Search," images, *General Land Office Records* ([www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov) : accessed 17 March 2018).



County.<sup>60</sup> In that deed, George and his wife, Martha F. Dillard, are named as residents of Russell County, Alabama.

By 1850 George and Martha Dillard had moved from Russell County, Alabama to Macon County, Alabama, its neighbor to the west. The 1850 federal census shows George and Martha residing in Macon County, Alabama with four children: Columbus, Alonzo, Leonidas, and Zenora.<sup>61</sup> Although relationships are not stated, the ages of household members do correlate with earlier census records.

George died in 1854 and is buried in current day Lee County, Alabama.<sup>62</sup> Lee County was created in 1866 from Chambers, Russell, Macon, and Tallapoosa counties.<sup>63</sup> It appears that George never lived in Chambers County. What happened to the 480 acres of land patented in 1832? Studying the deed index for Chambers County between the years 1834-1876, few deeds up to 1850 were recorded and no other land transactions for George W. Dillard are listed.<sup>64</sup> Could the land have been gifted to Cynthia (Dillard) Royston? Could it appear in Royston land records of Chambers County, Alabama?

#### *Land Records for Thomas Beverly Royston- Chambers County*

Studying the deeds for Thomas B. Royston of Chambers County revealed that he owned two separate plantations located just a few miles apart.<sup>65</sup> As a federal land state, Alabama land was divided into a grid pattern of townships and sections. A township was a six mile square of land divided into 36 sections, each section one mile square.<sup>66</sup> The land was first distributed by the federal government with an individual eventually receiving a land patent after fulfilling the various requirements. Further land sales were recorded in the county deed books. Thomas B. Royston did not patent any land in Chambers County, Alabama but the county deed books reveal him both buying and selling land. Figure 2 depicts the location of the two distinct Royston plantations, both located in Township 24 North, Range 26 East.

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<sup>60</sup> Chambers County, Alabama Probate Court, Deed Records 1840-42, Vol. 4, page 282, Dillard to Mitchell, 10 June 1844, the land granted by Chief Emarthal as the Indian Allotment in 1840. FHL microfilm 1,854,661.

<sup>61</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Macon County, Alabama, population schedule, 21st District, p. 272 (stamped), dwelling 1088, family 1096, George W. Dillard household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 March 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 9.

<sup>62</sup> *Find A Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com>: accessed 6 June 2017), memorial 8971146, George Wellington Dillard, (1781-1854), gravestone photographed by JC, member 46615432.

<sup>63</sup> *The Handybook for Genealogists*, (Draper, Utah: Everton Publishers, 2002), 38.

<sup>64</sup> Chambers County, Alabama Probate Court, "Direct index v. 1 1834-1876," FHL microfilm 1,862,630, negative search for additional deeds for George W. Dillard.

<sup>65</sup> See Table 5 for specific land descriptions and transaction details. Also Figure 2 for the approximate location of the Royston land.

<sup>66</sup> See Table 5 for specific land descriptions and transaction details.

Figure 2. Township 24 North Range 26 East, St. Stephens Meridian, Alabama

6	5	4	3	2	1	N↑  SECTIONS
7	8	9	10	11	12	
18	17	16	15	14	13	
19	20	21	22	23	24	
30	29	28	27	26	25	
31	32	33	34	35	36	

The original land patents for Sections 32 and 33 are dated 1837 and 1841.<sup>67</sup> Those for sections 14, 13, and 24 are dated 1840, 1843, and 1857.<sup>68</sup> Thomas B. Royston in 1840 was patenting land in DeKalb County, Alabama. What brought him to Chambers County? Possibly the lure of better land invited the move. Sometime before 1850, he purchased the land in Sections 32 and 33. No deed exists to show this purchase<sup>69</sup> but the 1850 census clearly provides evidence of land ownership with his real estate valued

<sup>67</sup> Bureau of Land Management, "Land Patent Search," St. Stephens Meridian, Township 24 North Range 26 East Sections 32 and 33, entries for Smith, Yarborough, Stroud, Dougherty, and McLemore, Chambers County, Alabama, *General Land Office Records* ([www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov) : accessed 17 March 2018).

<sup>68</sup> Bureau of Land Management, "Land Patent Search," St. Stephens Meridian, Township 24 North Range 26 East Sections 13, 114, and 24, entries for Yarborough, Stroud, Dougherty, McLemore, and Merritt Chambers County, Alabama, *General Land Office Records* ([www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov) : accessed 17 March 2018).

<sup>69</sup> Chambers County, Alabama Probate Court, "Direct index v. 1 1834-1876," FHL microfilm 1,862,630, negative search for additional deeds for George W. Dillard.

at \$1800.<sup>70</sup> In 1853, Thomas B. Royston sold 420 acres of his land in Sections 32 and 33 to John Daniel for \$2200.<sup>71</sup>

A few months earlier, on 6 October 1852, Thomas B. Royston had purchased 450 acres from William Ingram in sections 13 and 24.<sup>72</sup> In 1853 he completed his plantation with a purchase of land in section 14 from James H. Meritt for \$1000, no acreage listed.<sup>73</sup> Of note is the unusual fact that James H. Merritt didn't receive his final land patent until 1857, four years after selling the same land to Thomas B. Royston. In 1854, Thomas B. Royston sold the portion of his plantation in Section 14 to son-in-law, Joseph Slagle. The last land transaction recorded for Thomas B. Royston was the sale of four acres to the Deacons of the Baptist Church at Mount Hickory on 19 February 1857.<sup>74</sup>

Table 6 makes sense of the various land transactions. If the row is complete, the original land patent description matches the land description in the deed. For instance, William Dougherty patented the East ½ of Section 24 in 1840; then William Ingram sold land of the same description to Thomas B. Royston in 1852.

Incomplete rows indicate a division of the original land patent. For example, William Dougherty also patented the East ½ of Section 13 in 1840. Only part of that land was sold to Thomas B. Royston in 1852: the West ½ of the South East ¼ of Section 13. Missing in the table and the deed index are the deeds showing the land transfers from the original patentees to the grantors, probably before 1850.

**Table 6. Select Chambers County, Alabama Land Transactions involving Royston land**

Land Description	Original Patentee	Date of patent	Grantor (Seller)	Grantee (Purchaser)	Date of Land Transaction	Purchase Price
<b>SECTIONS 13, 14, AND 24</b>						
E ½ Sect. 24	William Dougherty	1840	William Ingram	Thomas Beverly Royston	6 October 1852 <sup>a</sup>	\$1500 450 acres in all

<sup>70</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Chambers County, Alabama, pop. sch., p. 318 (stamped), dwell. 749, fam. 749, Thomas B. Royston.

<sup>71</sup> Chambers County, Alabama, "Deeds v. 11 1852-1854," page 639, Royston to Daniels, 19 July 1853; FHL microfilm 1,854,664.

<sup>72</sup> Chambers County, Alabama, "Deeds v. 11 1852-1856," page 256, Ingram to Royston, 6 October 1852; FHL microfilm 1,854,664.

<sup>73</sup> Chambers County, Alabama, "Deeds v. 11 1852-1856," page 326, Meritt to Royston, 30 June 1853; FHL microfilm 1,854,664.

<sup>74</sup> Chambers County, Alabama, "Deeds v. 12 1852-1854," page 46, Royston to Deacons, Baptist Church at Mount Hickory, 19 February 1857; FHL microfilm 1,854,664.

E ½ Sect. 13	William Dougherty	1840				
W ½ Sect. 13	Stroud, Dougherty, and McLemore	1843				
W½ of the SE ¼ Sect. 13 NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Sect. 13			William Ingram	Thomas Beverly Royston	6 October 1852	\$1500 450 acres in all
S ½ Sect. 14	James H. Merritt	1857	James H. Meritt	Thomas B. Royston	30 June 1853 <sup>b</sup>	\$1000 320 acres
NE ¼ of the SE ¼ ; SW ¼ of Sect. 14			Thomas B. Royston	Joseph Slagle	23 December 1854 <sup>c</sup>	\$300 280 acres
<b>SECTIONS 32 AND 33</b>						
SW ¼ Sect. 33	Joseph Yarborough <sup>d</sup>	1837	Thomas B. Royston	John Daniel	19 July 1853 <sup>e</sup>	Total: \$2200 420 acres
E ½ SE ¼ Sect.32	Joseph Yarborough	1837	Thomas B. Royston	John Daniel	19 July 1853	
NW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 32	Robert W Smith	1837	Thomas B. Royston	John Daniel	19 July 1853	
S ½ NW ¼ Sect. 32			Thomas B. Royston	John Daniel	19 July 1853	
N ½ Sect. 32	Stroud, Dougherty, and McLemore	1841				
<p>a. Chambers County, Alabama, "Deeds v. 11 1852-1856," page 256, Ingram to Royston, 6 October 1852; FHL microfilm 1,854,664.</p> <p>b. Chambers County, Alabama, "Deeds v. 11 1852-1856," page 326, Meritt to Royston, 30 June 1853; FHL microfilm 1,854,664.</p> <p>c. Chambers County, Alabama, "Deeds v. 12 1852-1854," page 46, Royston to Slagle, 23 December 1854; FHL microfilm 1,854,664.</p> <p>d. Bureau of Land Management, "Land Patent Search," St. Stephens Meridian, Twp. 24 N Rng. 26E Sections 32 and 33, Chambers County, Alabama, <i>General Land Office Records</i> (<a href="http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov">www.glorerecords.blm.gov</a> : accessed 17 March 2018).</p> <p>e. Chambers County, Alabama, "Deeds v. 11 1852-1854," page 639, Royston to Daniels, 19 July 1853; FHL microfilm 1,854,664.</p>						

The land study was done in hopes of finding a connection between George W. Dillard and Thomas and Cynthia (Dillard) Royston. Studying the land descriptions for both the land patented to George W. Dillard and the land Thomas B. Royston sold revealed that these were separate tracts of land. The Dillard land was located in Township 21 North, Section Range 25 East. The Royston land was located in Township 24, Range 25 and 26 East. Although the Chambers County deed books are not complete for the years 1836-1850, studying the original land patents showed that Thomas B. Royston likely purchased his land from the original patentees. He did not receive the land from George W. Dillard.

From the existing deed records, no connection could be made between George W. Dillard and Thomas and Cynthia Royston.

## **PROBATE RECORDS FOR GEORGE W. DILLARD**

The headstone for George W. Dillard states his death date as 21 May 1854.<sup>75</sup> The full inscription reads: "1856. Erected by his children in memory of George W. Dillard who was born August 26, 1781; and died May 21st 1854. An honest man is the noblest work of God. Requiescat in peace." George was buried in the Pine Hill Cemetery, Auburn, Lee County, Alabama. Future research could seek more information on the children mentioned on the inscription and other cemetery records. Cynthia (Dillard) Royston lived in Chambers County, Alabama, just to the north of Lee County, and could have been one of those children.

A will or other probate records could name Cynthia Royston as a daughter of George W. Dillard. Alabama probate records have been indexed and a search discovered no records for George.<sup>76</sup> Because the last residence of George W. Dillard was the 1850 census in Macon County, probate records of that location were also searched.<sup>77</sup> No mention of George W. Dillard was found. Future research could extend to Lee County, Alabama, the place of the burial.

## **NAMING PATTERNS**

The repetition of a name in families can be strong evidence of kinship. The 1850 census household of George W. Dillard in Macon County, Alabama includes Leonidas Dillard, age 9.<sup>78</sup> The Chambers County 1860 census of Thomas B and Cynthia Royston lists Leonidas Royston, age 3.<sup>79</sup> If Cynthia was the daughter of George W. Dillard and his first wife, Peggy [Margaret] Armour, Leonidas Dillard, son of

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<sup>75</sup> *Find A Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com>: accessed 6 June 2017), memorial 8971146, George Wellington Dillard, (1781-1854), gravestone photographed by JC, member 46615432.

<sup>76</sup> Negative search for George Dillard, "Alabama, Wills and Probate Records, 1753-1999," database with images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 17 August 2016). 1,617,060 item 1. Also "Macon County, Alabama, probate records, 1834-1930", probate minutes 1854-1856, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 8 November 2017); FHL microfilm 1,617,060 item 2.

<sup>77</sup> "Macon County, Alabama, probate records, 1834-1930", Orphan's book v. 1-2 1834-1841, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 8 November 2017); FHL microfilm 1,293,633 Item 2-4. Also "Macon County, Alabama, probate records, 1834-1930", probate minutes 1852-1854, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 8 November 2017); FHL microfilm 1,617,060 item 1.

<sup>78</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Macon County, Alabama, population schedule, 21st District, p. 272 (stamped), dwelling 1088, family 1096, George W. Dillard household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 March 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 9.

<sup>79</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Chambers County, Alabama, population schedule, Northern Division, Milltown Post Office, page 130 (penned), dwelling 915, family 895, Thomas B. Royston household; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org>: accessed 29 April 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication M653 roll 4.

George W. Dillard and second wife, Martha, would be her half brother. Macon County and Chambers County share a border and it is possible that the two families were in contact. Future research could discover other naming connections between the two families.

## **CONCLUSION**

This research project sought to establish connections between George W. Dillard and Cynthia (Dillard) Royston. Without a marriage record for Thomas B. Royston and Cynthia, Cynthia's maiden name of "Dillard" appears only in three of her children's death certificates. The census records from 1850-1880 provide evidence of her birth about 1815 in Georgia.

Because of the proximity of George W. Dillard to Cynthia (Dillard) Royston in Chambers County, Alabama, his life was studied as a candidate for her father. The 1820 and 1830 census households for George W. Dillard show a female of appropriate age to be Cynthia. His presence in Muscogee County, Georgia, from 1828 to 1840 is well documented in newspaper articles. A land record puts Thomas B. Royston in Lee County, Georgia, near Muscogee in 1831, making a meeting between him and Cynthia Dillard possible. A newspaper notice of Thomas Royston in a list of letters remaining at the post office at Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia provides direct evidence of his presence in the same area as the Dillard family. The Muscogee County courthouse fire in 1838 could explain the lack of a marriage record for Cynthia and Thomas B. Royston.

The move of both George W. Dillard and Thomas B and Cynthia Royston into Alabama by 1840 also points to a possible connection, with families often migrating together. George W. Dillard patented land in three different Alabama counties, including Chambers County, where Thomas and Cynthia settled by 1850. Studying the land transactions of Thomas B. Royston revealed no connections to the land George W. Dillard patented.

The presence of a "Leonidas" in both the Dillard and Royston households also points to a possible connection. Future research could examine the descendants of George W. Dillard for other similar naming patterns.

Although evidence continues to point to George W. Dillard as the possible father for Cynthia (Dillard) Royston, further research should be done to eliminate other candidates.

## **FUTURE RESEARCH SUGGESTIONS**

- Search the probate records for Lee County, Alabama for George W. Dillard.
- Order the land case entry files from the National Archives for George W. Dillard's land patents in Alabama between 1834 and 1841. The case entry files might have further clues that could uncover a relationship between Cynthia (Dillard) Royston and George W. Dillard.
- Build up the FAN club (friends, associates, and neighbors) for George W. Dillard and Thomas and Cynthia (Dillard) Royston looking for connections.
- Research the possible children of George W. Dillard from the 1850 census: Columbus, Alonzo Leonidas, and Zenora. Note naming patterns among their descendants.
- Research Lorenzo and Nathaniel Dillard. They also patented land in Chambers County, Alabama, and could be related to George W. Dillard and/or Cynthia (Dillard) Royston.
- Research other Dillard men in Alabama from 1830-1860 to discover possible brothers to Cynthia from George W. Dillard's first marriage to Peggy Armour. Note naming patterns.
- Search for connections between Cynthia (Dillard) Royston and the family of her possible mother, Peggy Armour, of Greene County, Georgia.
- Identify other possible candidates for the father of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston from the 1820 and 1830 census records of Georgia.
- Systematically research each candidate and possibly eliminate as a father for Cynthia.
- DNA testing and analysis of the descendants of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston and the known descendants of George W. Dillard could reveal a connection.