



Finding a Father for Cynthia (Dillard) Royston

Phase 5: Seeking Connections to James Dillard, Joseph B. Dillard, and Tolliver Dillard

August 2026

Objective

Overall Objective

Through DNA and documentary evidence, discover Cynthia (Dillard) Royston's biological father. Cynthia was born about 1815 in Georgia and died on 2 August 1882 in Collin County, Texas. Cynthia married Thomas B. Royston about 1833 or 1834, possibly in Cass County, Georgia.

Phase 5 Documentary Research Objective

Seek connections between Cynthia (Dillard) Royston and three men who drew lots in Cass County, Georgia in the 1832 Gold Lottery: James Dillard of Pulaski County, Odams District; Joseph B. Dillard of Oglethorpe County, Hargroves District, and Tolliver Dillard of Burke County, 68 District.

Phase 5 DNA Research Objective

Further analyze the DNA network graph for additional Dillard connections and seek additional DNA evidence through Y-DNA testing and expanding DNA coverage for Cynthia's genome.

Scope & Parameters

- The research was limited to records available online.
- The research was conducted within the time constraints of the Research Like a Pro with DNA study group.
- Cass (now Bartow) County, Georgia, sustained some record loss in the courthouse fire of 1864.
- An 1856 courthouse fire in Burke County, Georgia, destroyed most county records.
- Analysis rests on a single autosomal kit, Victor Parker's, tested at AncestryDNA only and his shared matches. No analysis was completed for DNA tests at GEDmatch or FamilyTreeDNA, so matches from those sites are outside the scope.
- The Gephi network graph was built on 2 November 2020 from matches sharing 20 to 193 cM. Newer DNA matches were examined against the current DNA matches of this project.
- Ancestry Pro Tools was required for the shared-cM work between Victor's matches and Josiah 4.

- All DNA match names were anonymized for privacy except key test-taker, Victor Parker, who gave his permission to use his full name.

Results Summary

- **Eliminated** James Dillard of Pulaski County as a candidate for Cynthia's father. Born about 1795 in South Carolina, James was still living in the household of his father, Phillip Dillard, in 1830, with no wife or daughter of an age to be Cynthia. He married Sarah about 1834, and his eldest child was born about 1835 — after Cynthia's own marriage to Thomas Beverly Royston.
- **Eliminated** Joseph B. Dillard of Oglethorpe County as a candidate for Cynthia's father. Born about 1803 in Virginia, Joseph married Elizabeth Baldwin on 12 August 1830 and was a newly married man of about twenty-nine when he drew his gold lottery lot in 1832. His 1878 will names his five children, none of whom is Cynthia.
- **Identified** Tolliver Dillard of Burke County as the strongest documentary candidate found in five phases of research. Born about 1780 to 1785 in Georgia, he headed a household in 1820 containing a female under ten who could be Cynthia and a male under ten who could be Elijah, and a female aged fifteen to nineteen appears in the same position in 1830. His 1832 gold lottery draw for lot 893 places him in Cass County during the period Thomas Beverly Royston served there, and no record located precludes Cynthia from being his daughter.
- **Reconstructed** Tolliver Dillard's family from records created outside Burke County. Newspaper notices from 1815 and 1826 name Tolliver administering the estates of Thomas and Elizabeth Dillard, probably his parents, alongside William and John Dillard. Three wives are documented — Phebe, who relinquished dower in 1834 and is a candidate for the mother of Cynthia and Elijah; Penelope Hudson, married in Jefferson County in 1837; and Rebecca, named in his 1841 will.
- **Confirmed** the Elijah Dillard cluster as the only cluster in Victor Parker's network graph reaching further back on the Dillard line. Annotating each cluster by its most recent common ancestral couple separated the paternal Royston and Dillard matches from the Parker and Thomas lines. Elijah Dillard, born about 1814 to 1816 in Georgia and died 6 September 1886 in Pike County, Alabama, remains the most recent common ancestor of the cluster.
- **Strengthened** the genetic link between the Elijah Dillard cluster and Cynthia specifically. New matches descending from Cynthia's children Ulysses F. Royston and Richard A. Royston, together with two additional matches through Sarah (Royston) Parker, all share DNA with the Elijah descendant designated Josiah 4. Because these lines converge on Cynthia rather than on Victor Parker's paternal Parker or maternal ancestry, a shared Dillard ancestral couple best explains the shared DNA.
- **Launched** a Y-DNA testing initiative to identify Elijah Dillard's patriline. Census records, obituaries, and family trees identified living male Dillard descendants through Elijah's sons Josiah and James Monroe Dillard, and a project page was published at FamilyLocket.com to explain the study to prospective testers. Letters were sent to six candidates, with testing to begin at the Y-37 level through FamilyTree DNA and upgrades as warranted.

Background

CYNTHIA (DILLARD) ROYSTON PROJECT OVERVIEW

Cynthia (Dillard) Royston was born about 1815 in Georgia and died on 2 August 1882 in Collin County, Texas.¹ Her maiden name is known only from the death certificates of three of her fourteen children.² She married Thomas Beverly Royston in Georgia or Alabama about 1833 or 1834, but no marriage record has been found.³

Cynthia had fourteen children with Thomas B. Royston, including three sons who died in the Civil War (Ulysses Franklin, Charles Baldwin, and Benjamin).⁴ Thomas settled in DeKalb County, in northeast Alabama, by January 1837 and erected a dwelling house in which he lived with his wife and children until 1840.⁵ DeKalb County was formed on 9 January 1836 after the Cherokee Nation ceded its tribal lands in the Treaty of New Echota.⁶ Settlers, primarily from Georgia, Tennessee, and the Carolinas, moved into the area following the removal of the Cherokee families. Most followed subsistence farming,

¹ For birth, see 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. Also 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. For death, see Chambers County, Alabama Estates, box 26 folder 24, Thomas Beverly Royston, petition papers, 27 March 1875; "Alabama, Wills and Probate Records, 1753-1999," case file for Thos B Royston, 1867-1883, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 19 August 2016), digital image 165.

² Death certificates of three of Cynthia's children show her birth name as Dillard: Tex. Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, death cert. no. 27410 (1920), Mrs. Adline Spears. Also, no. 50544 (1928), R. Royston. Also, no. 10870 (1935), Mrs. Mattie Ann Hogge. For the estimated year of marriage, the oldest child, Mary Elizabeth, was born in 1834/1835 in Alabama: Find A Grave (www.findagrave.com), memorial 43662594, image, 12 Nov 2016, by Bennie Gross, gravestone for Mary Elizabeth (Royston) Slagle (Mount Hickory Cem., Chambers Co., Ala.). For 1835, see "In Memoriam," *LaFayette (Ala.) Sun*, 29 Dec 1915, p. 8, col. 2. Also, 1850 US census, Chambers Co., Ala., p. 318, dwell./fam. 749, Thomas B. Royston household.

³ For broad negative Dillard-Royston marriage searches, see Pauline M.J. Gandrud and Lucille S. Craddock, *Marriage, Death and Legal Notices From Early Alabama Newspapers, 1819-1893*, (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1981). Also, "Georgia, County Marriages, 1785-1950," *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1927197). For specific negative searches in identified Georgia locations from 1830-1835, see Clarke Co., Ga., Marriage Licenses 1800-1923, Pittman-Self, *FamilySearch*, IGN 7730679. Also, Clarke Co., Marriage Licenses Book B 1821-1838, index, *FamilySearch*, IGN 7725047, image 180. Also, Morgan Co., Marriage Record 1822-1836, index, *FamilySearch*, IGN 4848904, image 182. Morgan Co., Marriage Record 1834-1854, index, *FamilySearch*, IGN 4848904, image 345. Also, Cass/Bartow Co., Georgia, Marriages Book B 1836-1843, *FamilySearch*, IGN 5190994, images 8-36. For specific negative searches in Alabama, see DeKalb Co., Marriage Records 1836-1850, *FamilySearch*, IGN 7622388, full-text search.

⁴ For Mary, Ulysses, Charles Baldwin, Adeline, Sarah, Joseph, Benjamin, Robert, and Thomas, see the 1850 US census, pop. sch., Chambers Co., Al., p. 318, (stamped), dwelling 749, family 749, Thomas B Royston household. For Margaret, Richard, and Leonidas, see 1860 US census, Chambers Co., Al., pop. sch., p. 130, (penned), dwelling 915, family 895, Thomas B. Royston household. For Maria and Martha, see the 1870 US census, Chambers Co., Al, p. 4, (penned), p. 22 (stamped), dwelling 24, family 24, Cynthia Royston household.

⁵ Thomas B. Royston (DeKalb Co.) cash entry file, certificate no. 5969 (1842), 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 received his final patent in 1845 and assigned it to John Graves. Thomas B. Royston, (DeKalb Co., Al., Lebanon Land Office, accession AL3080_.429; Bureau of Land Management, *General Land Office Records* (www.glorerecords.blm.gov). For the family makeup in 1840 see the 1840 US census, DeKalb Co., Al, p. 7, (penned), line 31, F.B. Royston household.

⁶ "DeKalb County, *Encyclopedia of Alabama* (<https://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/dekalb-county/>).

and few practiced slavery.⁷ In contrast, Thomas enslaved nine people in 1840.⁸ His status as an enslaver suggests he may have originated from a family of similar economic standing. No deed in DeKalb County holds a bill of sale for his enslaved individuals.⁹ He likely acquired them in Georgia, either by purchase or by inheritance from a family member.

By 1842, Thomas and Cynthia had moved south to Chambers County, Alabama, where he paid a poll tax and property tax on five enslaved people, as well as a tax on a metal clock, studs, and jacks.¹⁰ Located in the Alabama Piedmont Upland, this area provided better land for growing the cash crop of cotton and ready access to the Chattahoochee River for shipping.¹¹

Throughout the 1850s and 1860s, Thomas acquired several landholdings and operated a plantation with those he enslaved.¹² In probate papers dated 29 September 1868, Cynthia stated that Thomas died on 21 September 1868 in Chambers County, Alabama.¹³ She listed eleven living children as heirs. Administration papers from 1875 indicate that Cynthia "removed to the State of Texas," and an account paper of 1 November 1882 states that "Cynthia Royston departed this life in the state of Texas on or about the 2nd day of August 1882."¹⁴

Across four research phases, the objective has been to identify her father, who would have been born before 1795, likely in Virginia, and residing in Georgia during the 1820s and 1830s.

PHASES 1-4 RESEARCH SUMMARY

Phase 1 tested the hypothesis that George W. Dillard (born about 1781 in Virginia, died 1854 in Lee County, Alabama) was Cynthia's father. His 1820 and 1830 census households contained females of

⁷ "The History of DeKalb County," *Landmarks Dekalb* (<https://www.landmarksdekalbal.org/historic-dekalb-county-alabama-history/>).

⁸ 1840 US census, DeKalb Co., Al., p. 7, (penned), line 31, F.B. Royston household. Nine enslaved people are listed, four children under ten and five people between ten and twenty-four.

⁹ Negative search for Royston in DeKalb Co. Judge of Probate, Direct Index to Deeds and Mortgages, 1835-1897, *FamilySearch*, Image Group Number (IGN) 8134412, images 146-154. See also DeKalb Co. Judge of Probate, Reverse Index to Deeds and Mortgages, 1835-1897, *FamilySearch*, IGN 8134412, images 339-347.

¹⁰ Chambers Co., Al., Tax Book, 1842, Beat 16, p. 146 Thomas B. Royston, Alabama Dept. of Archives & History, LG 4976, Montgomery, Al.

¹¹ Komanduri S. Murty, "Cotton Economy and Slavery in Alabama During the Nineteenth Century," *Journal of Comprehensive Social Science Research* Vol. 1 (2023); *Gexin Publications* (<https://gexinonline.com/uploads/articles/article-jcssr-101.pdf>).

¹² For residence, see 1850 US census, pop. sch., Chambers Co., Al., p. 318, (stamped), dwelling 749, family 749, Thomas B Royston household. For slave holdings, see 1850 US census, slave sch. Chambers Co., Al, dist. 19, p. 457, (penned), col. 2, line 10, Thomas B. Royston owner, thirteen enslaved people listed ages two to thirty-seven. See also 1860 US census, slave sch., Chambers Co., Al., Northern Div. p. 48, co. 2, line 11, Thos. B. Royston owner, sixteen enslaved people listed ages two to forty-six. For land transactions see Chambers Co., Deeds 11:256, William & Sarah Ingram to Thomas Beverly Royston, 6 October 1852, also 11:326, James H. Meritt to Thomas B. Royston, 30 June 1853, also 11:639, Thomas B. Royston to John Daniels, 19 July 1853 also 12:46, Thomas B. Royston to Joseph Slagle, 23 December 1854; *FamilySearch*, IGN 8193157. Digital images are currently unavailable for viewing.

¹³ Chambers County, Alabama 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.

¹⁴ Chambers County, Alabama Estates, box 26 folder 24, Thomas Beverly Royston, account paper of 1882, image 165.

appropriate age to be Cynthia, and he later resided near the Roystons in Russell and Lee counties, Alabama. This hypothesis was definitively disproven by the discovery of a Mahone Family Bible, which revealed the Dillard female born in 1815 was Mariah L. Dillard, who married James Kivlin on 8 April 1830.¹⁵

Phase 2 systematically examined ten additional Dillard candidates from the 1820 Georgia census who had females of appropriate age in their households. All ten — Arthur Dillard, Edmund Dillard, John Dillard, Nathan Dillard, Owen Dillard, Phillip Dillard, Samson Dillard, Thomas Dillard, Theophilus Dillard, and Susan Dillard — were eliminated based on probate records, wills, marriage records, and census analysis.¹⁶

Phase 3 turned to DNA analysis. Autosomal DNA testing of Victor Parker, Cynthia's great-grandson, and Gephi network graph analysis of his matches revealed a distinct cluster that appeared to originate with Elijah Dillard (born about 1814–1816 in Georgia, died 6 September 1886 in Pike County, Alabama), leading to the hypothesis that Elijah was Cynthia's brother, sharing the same unknown parents. Documentary research traced Elijah's life through land patents in Macon, Barbour, and Dale counties; his marriage to Winny Grubbs in Pike County (1855); Civil War service (1863); and subsequent census records. The hypothesis was strengthened by the identification of DNA matches descending from two independent lines of Elijah Dillard — his sons Josiah Dillard and James Monroe Dillard.¹⁷

Phase 4 narrowed the geographic focus to Cass County, Georgia, based on newly discovered evidence that Thomas B. Royston served as a 1st Lieutenant in 1833 and as a deputy sheriff in 1834.¹⁸ The 1840 census identified four Dillard households there: Elizabeth, John, William, and Elijah. Elizabeth Dillard was traced to Laurens County, South Carolina, and eliminated based on her distinct origins and migration pattern. John Dillard, William Dillard, and Elijah Dillard of Cass County were identified as a family unit from North Carolina who migrated through Monroe County, Tennessee; an 1849 deed and circa 1853 court records named John Dillard's heirs, and Cynthia was not among them. The Cass County Elijah Dillard (born 1801–1810 in North Carolina) was confirmed to be a different individual from the Elijah Dillard identified through DNA analysis.¹⁹

Analysis of the 1832 Gold Lottery identified three Dillard men who drew lots specifically in Cass County — James Dillard of Pulaski County, Joseph B. Dillard of Oglethorpe County, and Roliver (possibly Toliver) Dillard of Burke County — who represent the highest-priority candidates for future

¹⁵ Diana Elder, "Is George W. Dillard the Father of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston?" research report, *Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide*, 2018; Mahone Family Bible, photocopy sent via email, 27 May 2020, Rita Schimpff to Diana Elder.

¹⁶ Diana Elder, "Determining a Father for Cynthia," research report, 8 December 2018.

¹⁷ Diana Elder, "Is Elijah Dillard the Brother of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston?" research report, 2021; land patents, marriage, military, and census records cited therein.

¹⁸ "Cass Sheriff's Sales for April," Thomas B. Royston, DS, *Cherokee Intelligencer* (Edahwah [Etowah] Ga.), 8 Mar 1834, p. 4, col. 1; image, *Georgia Historic Newspapers* (<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu>).

¹⁹ Diana Elder, "Who is Cynthia Dillard's Father? Phase 4: Discovering a Candidate in Cass County, Georgia." Research report, October 2025.

investigation.²⁰ However, documentary research on these three men has not yet been conducted, and the loss of early Cass County deed books limits access to land transactions during the critical period. The central question of who fathered Cynthia Dillard remains unresolved.

GEORGIA GOLD LOTTERY OF 1832²¹

The 1832 Gold Lottery was conducted separately from, but concurrent with, the 1832 Cherokee Land Lottery. Both lotteries distributed Cherokee Nation lands, which the state had organized into Cherokee County. The Georgia General Assembly authorized the Gold Lottery through acts passed in 1830 and 1831.

While the regular 1832 Cherokee Land Lottery distributed standard land lots of 160 acres, the Gold Lottery specifically addressed parcels in gold-bearing areas. These gold lots were significantly smaller, measuring only 40 acres instead of the standard 160 acres.

The discovery of gold in Cherokee territory in the late 1820s attracted prospectors and increased pressure to remove the Cherokee people. The gold-bearing lands were particularly valuable, which explains why the state created a separate lottery system for these parcels and reduced their size to 40 acres, allowing more individuals to participate in the wealth from gold mining.

The lottery was open to most white male residents of Georgia, with extra chances given to:

- Veterans
- Widows
- Orphans
- Certain individuals were specifically excluded from participation:
 - Those who had previously won land in earlier lotteries
 - Those who had mined for gold in Cherokee territory
 - Those convicted of a felony

Dillard men from various Georgia counties drew lots for land in one of the counties of the gold lottery. Three men drew lots in Cass County – James Dillard of Pulaski, Joseph B. Dillard of Oglethorpe, and Roliver [Toliver] Dillard of Burke. Since Cass County is identified as a likely marriage location for Cynthia Dillard and Thomas B. Royston, further research should focus on each of the Dillard lottery winners in Cass County. One of these three could be Cynthia's father. See table 1 for specifics of the lottery.

²⁰ S. Emmett Lucas Jr., *The 1832 Gold Lottery of Georgia: Containing a List of the Fortunate Drawers in Said Lottery* (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1988)

²¹ S. Emmett Lucas Jr., *The 1832 Gold Lottery of Georgia: Containing a List of the Fortunate Drawers in Said Lottery* (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1988) ; summary by Claude 4.5 Sonnet, chat with user, Diana Elder, 28 October 2025, *Anthropic* (<https://claude.ai/> : accessed 28 October 2025).

Table 1. Dillard Men Drawing Lots in Cass County, Georgia

Name	Lottery Type	County of Origin	Militia District	Lot/District or District & Section	Lot Location County
Dillard, James	Gold	Pulaski	Odams	1119/3, Section 3	Cass County
Dillard, Joseph B.	Gold	Oglethorpe	Hargroves	969/2, Section 3	Cass County
Dillard, Roliver	Gold	Burke	68	893/3, Section 3	Cass County

The 1832 Georgia map in figure 1 shows the three counties of the Dillard residences marked with stars, and the approximate location of Cass County marked with a heart.²²

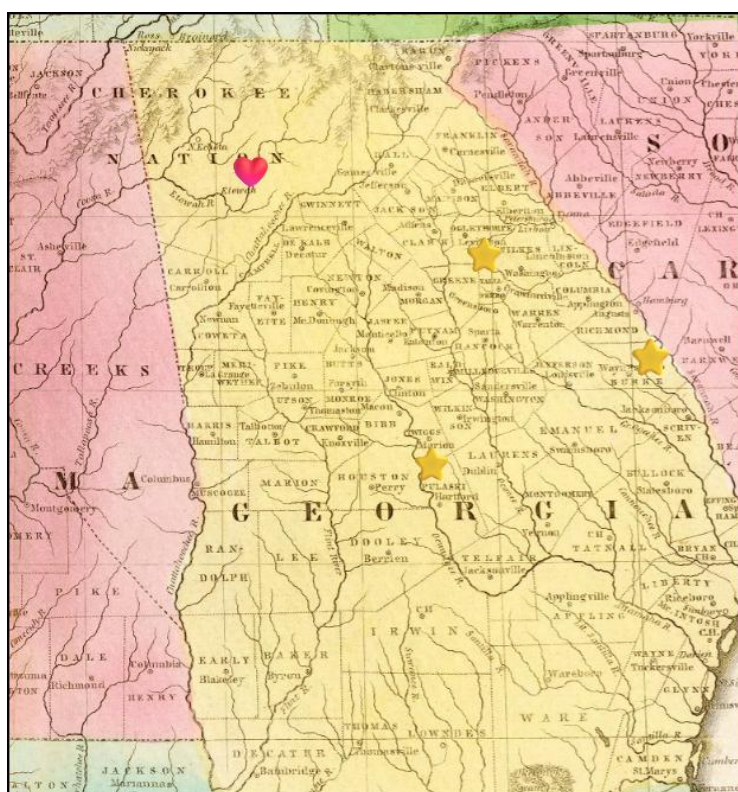


Figure 1 Annotated Map of Georgia, 1832

Findings & Analysis – Documentary Research

²² Francis Junius Huntington, "Southern States," 1832 (Hartford, Conn. : Francis Junius Huntington); *David Rumsey Map Collection* (<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~372544~90139387:Southern-States-> : accessed 1 August 2026). Annotation by the author.

Research needed to identify each of the three Dillard men who drew lots in Cass County in the 1832 Gold Lottery. The lottery record listed the county of origin and the militia district of the man's residence, and the specific lot, district, and section for the land's location. The residence provided an important identifier, and census, probate, newspaper, and deed records could verify the residence and either confirm or refute each man as a candidate for Cynthia's father.

JAMES DILLARD OF PULASKI COUNTY, GEORGIA

The 1832 Gold Lottery named James Dillard of Pulaski County, Odams Militia District, as a lucky drawer for lot 1119, district 3, section 3 in Cass County. The record provided no insight into his age, so research was needed to determine whether he would be a good candidate for Cynthia (Dillard) Royston's father.

The first record naming James Dillard of Pulaski County was his father, Phillip Dillard's, 1828 will. Phillip of Pulaski County named his five children: James, Eliza Ann, Rebecca Ann, Nicholas Phillip, and Sarah Ann.²³ The will was entered on 1 August 1832, indicating that Phillip had died by then and that James, as the oldest son, had executed the estate.²⁴

Phillip's 1830 household of Pulaski County included a placeholder for James Dillard, a male aged 30 to 39. No female of a similar and appropriate age to be James's wife is in the household.²⁵ If James were Cynthia's father, it would be expected he would have his own household with a wife and a daughter age 10 to 15. Instead, the female age 10-14 was almost certainly Phillip's daughter, Sarah Ann.

- Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14 1 Nicholas Dillard
- Free White Persons - Males - 30 thru 39 1 - James Dillard
- Free White Persons - Males - 60 thru 69 1 - Phillip Dillard
- Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9 1 – Sarah Ann
- Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14 1 Rebecca Ann
- Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49 1

James administered his father's estate partition in 1833, and the digitized folder contains receipts, bonds, inventory, estate sale proceedings, etc. - 209 documents total.²⁶ The estate proceedings

²³ Pulaski County, Georgia, Will Book A:117, James Dillard in will of Phillip Dillard, dated 15 November 1828; imaged, Pulaski, Wills 1810–1935, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-893G-85VD> : accessed 26 April 2026); IGN 005759576, image 97 of 617.

²⁴ Ibid, image 99 of 617.

²⁵ 1830 U.S. census, Pulaski County, Georgia, Capt. Limans District, p. 156 (penned), line 1, Philip Dillard; imaged, "1830 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8058/> : accessed 6 June 2026); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 20.

²⁶ Pulaski County, Georgia, Estate Records, James Dillard, administrator of Philip Dillard estate, 1833; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G93B-PSXY> : accessed 10 May 2026), IGN 5778371, images 193- 402.

identify James as the James Dillard of Pulaski County who drew lot 1119, district 3, section 3 in the 1832 Gold Land Lottery.²⁷ He received the land grant for this lot in 1838.²⁸

James moved from Pulaski to the neighboring county of Twiggs by 1835, when he witnessed a deed of sale for two associates, also of Twiggs County: Jesse Yates and James Harrison. The sale involved the land lot that Jesse Yates won in the 1832 land lottery.²⁹ Jesse Yates of Twiggs County, Georgia, sold Lot 543 in the 2nd District, 2nd Section of the Cherokee Purchase to James Harrison, also of Twiggs County, for twenty dollars on 15 December 1835. The deed, signed by Yates with his mark and witnessed by James Dillard and Wilson Morris, was proved on 30 March 1836 before Daniel Massey, Justice of the Peace, by the testimony of Wilson Morris. The instrument was recorded on 20 October 1838 by James Jordan, Clerk of the Superior Court of Cherokee County, Georgia.³⁰

James apparently married by 1840, when his Twiggs County household included a female age 20-29 and three children under 5.³¹

- **Head of Household:**
- James Dillard
- **Free White Males:**
- 1 male under 5 (Wilmington)
- 1 male 40–49 (James)
- **Free White Females:**
- 2 females under 5 (Susannah and Mary)
- 1 female 20–29 (Sarah)
- **Slaves:**
- 1 male 10–23

By 1850, James had moved back to Pulaski County, and his age of 55 on the census corresponds to the 1840 census, giving him an approximate birth year of 1795 and birthplace in South Carolina. His inferred wife, Sarah, and he had six children, with the oldest child born about 1835, suggesting a

²⁷ S. Emmett Lucas Jr., *The 1832 Gold Lottery of Georgia: Containing a List of the Fortunate Drawers in Said Lottery* (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1988).

²⁸ Cherokee County, Georgia, Grant Records 1832-1859, James Dillard of Odams District, Pulaski County, for lot 1119, 4 December 1838; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C34G-L9NW-X> : accessed 5 June 2026), IGN 8622941, image 401 of 579.

²⁹ Cherokee County, Georgia, Superior Court, Deeds D:85, James Dillard of Twiggs County, witness to deed, Yates to Harrison Deeds; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4R-SSQP-N> : accessed 6 June 2026), IGN 7900716, image 429 of 658.

³⁰ Cherokee County, Georgia, Superior Court, Deeds D:85, Jesse Yates to James Harrison, 15 December 1835; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4R-SSQP-N> : accessed 6 June 2026), IGN 7900716, image 429 of 658.

³¹ 1840 U.S. census, Twiggs County, Georgia, District 354, p. 377 (penned), line 8, James Dillard; imaged, "1840 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8057/> : accessed 6 June 2026); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 51.

marriage about 1834. The oldest three children would be those listed as under 5 in 1840. Table 2 details the 1850 census information.

Table 2. 1850 Census for James Dillard of Pulaski County, Georgia

Name	Sex	Age	Birth Year	Birthplace
Jas Dillard	M	55	1795	South Carolina
Sarah Dillard	F	35	1815	South Carolina
Wilmington Dillard	M	15	1835	Georgia
Susanah Dillard	F	12	1838	Georgia
Mary Dillard	F	10	1840	Georgia
Jas H Dillard	M	8	1842	Georgia
Jno P Dillard	M	4	1846	Georgia
Chas N Dillard	M	2	1848	Georgia

James Dillard moved to Dooly County, west of Pulaski, by 1860, where his household had aged appropriately. Although the census only shows initials for the first names, the ages and initials match those of the 1850 census, and the oldest son, Wilmington, is listed directly after the Dillard family, adding further evidence that this is the correct James.³²

- Jas Dillard 66 M Farmer \$70 personal GA
- S G Dillard 43 F NC
- M A Dillard 18 F GA
- Jas Dillard 17 M GA
- J C Dillard 14 M GA
- Charles Dillard 12 M GA

Tracing James Dillard of the 1832 Gold Land Lottery in Cass County, Georgia, found no connection to Cynthia (Dillard) Royston. His birth year of 1795 makes him a candidate for Cynthia's father, but there is no evidence of a marriage before his approximately 1835 marriage to Sarah. At 40, he was an older man for a first marriage, but his likely presence in his father's household in 1830 suggests he had neither a wife nor a daughter who could be Cynthia. James Dillard of Pulaski, Twiggs, and Dooly Counties almost certainly was not Cynthia's father.

³² 1860 U.S. Census, Dooly County, Georgia, population schedule, Vienna Post Office, p. 54 (penned), dwelling 363, family 362, Jas Dillard; imaged, "1860 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7667/> : accessed 6 June 2026); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 119.

JOSEPH B. DILLARD OF OGLETHORPE COUNTY, GEORGIA

The 1832 Gold Lottery named Joseph B. Dillard of Oglethorpe County, Hargroves Militia District, as a lucky drawer for lot 969, district 2, section 3 in Cass County. The record provided no insight into his age, so research was needed to determine whether he would be a good candidate for Cynthia (Dillard) Royston's father.

In 1830, Joseph B. Dillard and Elizabeth Baldwin applied for a marriage license in Oglethorpe County.³³ J.G. Alexander, Minister of the Gospel, married them the next day.³⁴ Joseph was involved in the community over the next few years, witnessing a deed and serving on a jury in Oglethorpe County in 1833 and 1839.³⁵ By 1840, Joseph and Elizabeth's family had grown to include several young males, and they continued to reside in Oglethorpe County. Joseph enslaved thirteen people and likely was running a mid-size plantation.³⁶

- **Free White Persons – Males**
 - Under 5: 2
 - 5 thru 9: 2
 - 10 thru 14: 1
 - 30 thru 39: 1
- **Free White Persons – Females**
 - 20 thru 29: 1
- **Slaves – Males**
 - Under 10: 1
 - 10 thru 23: 3
 - 24 thru 35: 1
 - 36 thru 54: 2
- **Slaves – Females**
 - Under 10: 4
 - 10 thru 23: 1

³³ Oglethorpe County, Georgia, Court of Ordinary, Marriages White 2:232, marriage license of Joseph B. Dillard and Elizabeth Baldwin, 11 August 1830; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99XF-FZ7Z> : accessed 7 June 2026), IGN 7579184, image 237 of 588.

³⁴ Oglethorpe County, Georgia, Court of Ordinary, Marriages White 1830-1862, p. 11, marriage of Joseph B. Dillard and Elizabeth Baldwin, 12 August 1830; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89XF-JVP5> : accessed 7 June 2026), IGN 7579185, image 56 of 550.

³⁵ Oglethorpe County, Georgia, Deeds, v. N 1829-1834, N:513, 515, Joseph B. Dillard, witness, 1833; image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLZ-19NM-S> : accessed 5 June 2026), IGN 8188537, image 270 of 346. Southern Recorder, Milledgeville, Georgia, "Oglethorpe Superior Court, October Term, 1839," 12 November 1839, p 3, col. 6, Joseph B. Dillard, juror; database with images, *Georgia Historic Newspapers* (<http://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn82016415/1839-11-12/ed-1/seq-3/> : accessed 21 April 2026).

³⁶ 1840 U.S. census, Oglethorpe County, Georgia, 226th District, p. 34 (penned), line 12, Joseph B Dillard; imaged, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8057/> : accessed 7 June 2026).

- 24 thru 35: 1
- 36 thru 54: 1
- 55 thru 99: 1

By 1850, Joseph had amassed a wealth of \$10,000 in property, and his family had grown to include six sons and one daughter.³⁷

- Joseph B Dilard 47, Farmer, \$10,000 real, VA
- Elizabeth Dilard 37, GA
- John Dilard 19, Farmer, GA
- Joseph B Dilard 15, GA
- James R Dilard 13, GA

- **[2nd page]**

- Robert Dillard 10 M, GA
- Crawford Dillard 8 M, GA
- Fielding Dillard 5 M, GA
- Mary Dillard 3 F, GA

Joseph drew his lot in the 1832 Gold Lottery at about age 29, a newly married man just starting his family. His inferred birth year of 1803, based on the census record, makes him too young to be a good candidate for Cynthia (Dillard) Royston's father.

In 1860, Joseph's wealth had again increased with real estate valued at \$13,500 and personal estate valued at \$22,750. The personal estate would mainly have been his enslaved people, and his oldest son, Ruben, listed as Overseer, was managing the plantation. The family appears to have a teacher residing with them to instruct the younger children. The family names match the 1850 census, with Crawford Hinton, the male born in 1842, and Mary Lizzie, the female born in 1847/48.

- Joseph B. Dillard, age 57, Male, Farmer, born in Virginia
- Elizabeth A. Dillard, age 48, Female, born in Georgia
- Ruben Dillard, age 22, Male, Overseer, born in Georgia
- Robert Dillard, age 20, Male, born in Georgia
- Hinton Dillard, age 18, Male, born in Georgia
- Fielding Dillard, age 15, Male, born in Georgia
- Lizzie Dillard, age 12, Female, born in Georgia
- Emma Brown, age 20, Female, Teacher, born in Vermont

³⁷ 1850 U.S. Census, Oglethorpe County, Georgia, population schedule, Division 66, p. 58-59 (penned), dwelling 439, family 440, Joseph B. Dilard; imaged, "1850 United States Federal Census," Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8054/> : accessed 5 June 2026).

Joseph B. Dillard died in 1878, and his will names his five children, all of which are named in the 1860 census previously discussed.³⁸

- Joseph B. Dillard
- James R. Dillard
- Robert S. Dillard (also named as an executor)
- Fielding Dillard
- M. Elizabeth Daniel (listed as the fifth child in Item 2nd; her husband, Amaziah Daniel, is named as a son-in-law and executor)
- Elizabeth A Dillard is named as a wife

Studying the records for Joseph B. Dillard of Oglethorpe County revealed no connection to Cynthia (Dillard) Royston. Joseph, born about 1803, did not marry until 1830. His will named “my five children,” which were clearly named in the census records. Joseph B. Dillard was eliminated as a candidate for Cynthia’s father.

TOLLIVER DILLARD OF BURKE COUNTY, GEORGIA

The 1832 Gold Lottery named “Roliver” Dillard of Burke County, Militia District 68, as a lucky drawer for lot 893, district 3, section 3 in Cass County. The record provided no insight into his age, so research was needed to determine whether he would be a good candidate for Cynthia (Dillard) Royston’s father. “Roliver” was actually Tolliver, as evidenced by numerous records from Burke County naming him and his namesake son, Tolliver – noted here as Tolliver Jr.

Burke County, Georgia, experienced a severe record loss in the 1856 courthouse fire that destroyed important records for proving relationships and identity: deeds, probate, marriage, and court records.³⁹ However, some original volumes, privately held copies, and documents filed elsewhere survived. Alternate jurisdictions such as private, state, and federal records fill in the gaps to identify Tolliver Dillard and discover some of his family relationships.

Census Records

1820 Census

Federal census records provide a snapshot of an individual’s life every ten years. The first federal census available for Georgia is the 1820 census, in which Tolliver Dillard headed a household in Burke County. The census included a placeholder female who could have been Cynthia, born about 1815, and a

³⁸ Oglethorpe County, Georgia, Court of Ordinary, Will Book E:121, will of Joseph B. Dillard; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9YG-24W2-3> : accessed 10 May 2026), IGN 7701149, image 398 of 550.

³⁹ “Burke County, Georgia Genealogy,” *FamilySearch Wiki* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/index.php?title=Burke_County_Georgia_Genealogy : accessed 15 July 2026); citing Paul K. Graham, *Georgia Courthouse Disasters* (Decatur, Georgia: Genealogy Co., 2013), 16-17.

male who could have been Elijah, born about 1816.⁴⁰ Tolliver also enslaved ten people and noted that five persons in the household were engaged in agriculture – likely himself and the four enslaved people over 14.

- Free White Persons (Total: 5)
- Males - Under 10: 1 **Elijah?**
- **Males - 26 thru 44: 1 - Tolliver**
- **Females - Under 10: 2 Cynthia?**
- Females - 26 thru 44: 1
- Slaves (Total: 10)

1830 Census

In 1830, the Tolliver Dillard household again contained a female who could have been Cynthia, age 15 -19. However, there is no male that would fit Elijah Dillard, born about 1816. He could have been residing in another household or already left home. Tolliver also continued to enslave people, and nine were listed by age and gender.⁴¹

- Free White Persons (Total: 5)
- Males - 5 thru 9: 1
- **Males - 40 thru 49: 1 Tolliver**
- Females - 10 thru 14: 1
- **Females - 15 thru 19: 1 Cynthia?**
- Females - 40 thru 49: 1
- Slaves (Total: 9)

1840 Census

In 1840, the household had changed again, with the oldest female much younger than the oldest female from the 1830 census (40-49).⁴² At age 20 to 30, she could be one of Tolliver's daughters or a second wife. If Cynthia (Dillard) Royston belonged to this family, she would not be in the household – instead, she was in the DeKalb County, Alabama, household with her husband, Thomas Beverly Royston. Indeed, the records will show the latter situation, a second wife for Tolliver.

The youngest male corresponds to the youngest male listed in 1830, and the other male could be an overseer or hired hand.

⁴⁰ 1820 U.S. census, Burke County, Georgia, Waynesboro, p. 39 (penned), column 1, line 36, Tolliver Dillard; imaged, "1820 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7734/> : accessed 21 April 2026).

⁴¹ 1830 U.S. census, Burke, Georgia, Company District 69, p. 154 (penned), line 23, Tolliver Dillard, head of household; imaged, "1830 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8058/> : accessed 21 April 2026).

⁴² 1840 U.S. census, Burke County, Georgia, 69th district, p. 4 (stamped), line 10, Toliver Dillard; imaged, "1840 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8057/> : accessed 15 July 2026).

- Males, 15 and under 20: 1
- Males, 20 and under 30: 1
- **Males, 50 and under 60, 1 Tolliver Sr.**
- Females, 20 and under 30: 1
- Slaves (23 total) - shown on preceding page
- 9 persons engaged in agriculture

1850 Census

In 1850, the census lists the household members, and only Tolliver and his son are living in the household.⁴³ Tolliver Jr., age 25, born about 1825, matches the young male in both the 1830 and 1840 censuses. Tolliver Sr., age 65, was born about 1785, which falls directly in the ranges for the previous censuses. No females appear in the household, leading to the supposition that neither man was married. Tolliver Sr.'s wife may have died by this census.

- Toliver Dilliard Junr. 25, M, Farmer \$7250 real estate, born in Georgia
- Toliver Dilliard Senr. 65, M, born in Georgia

The corresponding slave schedule lists 23 enslaved individuals ranging from infants to a female age 60.⁴⁴

1860 Census

In 1860, Tolliver Dillard Jr., a 32-year-old physician born in Georgia, resided in District 69, Burke County, Georgia, near the Hopefull post office.⁴⁵ His household included Tolliver Dillard Sr., an 80-year-old male born in Georgia, and Martin Davis, a 27-year-old overseer born in Georgia. Tolliver Jr. reported real estate valued at \$12,224 and personal property valued at \$12,000, the value of the fifteen enslaved people on the plantation.⁴⁶

- Toliver Dillard Jr. 32 M, Physician & Planter \$12,224, personal 12,000 estate, born Georgia
- Toliver Dillard Sr. 80 M born Georgia
- Martin Davis 27 M Overseer born Georgia

⁴³ 1850 U.S. Census, Burke County, Georgia, population schedule, District 69 & 72, p. 596 (penned), p. 299b (stamped), dwelling 454, family 454, Toliver Dillard Jr. and Sr; imaged, "1850 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4193086-00162> : accessed 12 July 2026).

⁴⁴ 1850 U.S. census, slave schedule, Burke County, Georgia, District 69, p. 583 (penned), line 8, Tolevar Dilliard; imaged, "1850 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8055/images/GAM432_88-0294 : accessed 12 July 2026).

⁴⁵ 1860 U.S. Census, Burke County, Georgia, population schedule, District 69, p. 77 (penned), p. 945 (stamped), dwelling 581, family 581, Toliver Dillard Jr. and Sr; imaged, "1860 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7667/> : accessed 12 July 2026).

⁴⁶ 1860 U.S. census, slave schedule, Burke County, Georgia, District 69 (65th or Goshen's District), p. 89 (penned), line 8, Toliver Dillard; imaged, "1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7668/> : accessed 12 July 2026).

Tolliver Sr., age 80 in 1860, was born about 1780, correlating with the earlier censuses. He was almost certainly born between 1780 and 1785. At this age, Tolliver is a possible candidate for the father of Cynthia Dillard, born about 1815. No record eliminates him, and the 1820 and 1830 censuses contain a placeholder for Cynthia.

Additional records identify some of his family relationships, suggested by the censuses.

Family of Tolliver Dillard

With the record loss in Burke County, Georgia, the family of Tolliver Dillard can be pieced together through records from other Georgia counties and newspapers.

Parents of Tolliver Dillard

Although no probate records survive before the 1856 fire, a newspaper article reveals that Tolliver, along with William Dillard, administered the estate of Thomas Dillard, deceased, in 1815. The *Augusta Chronicle* advertised the sale of seven enslaved people.⁴⁷ Eleven years later, in 1826, Tolliver and John Dillard, executors, sold more enslaved people, the property of Elizabeth Dillard, deceased.⁴⁸ Thomas and Elizabeth Dillard were likely Tolliver's parents, and William and Thomas may have been his brothers.

Wives of Tolliver Dillard

Tolliver appears to have married at least three times. In 1834, Phebe Dillard, wife of Tolliver Dillard, relinquished her dower rights for property he sold in Bibb County, Georgia. The lot of land was originally granted to Elizabeth Dillard in 1822, and in 1823, Tolliver sold it to Martin M. Dye – both men of Burke County. Phebe was not examined until 1834, probably when Martin M. Dye wanted assurance that he held complete title to the land.⁴⁹ Phebe was likely the female listed in the 1820 and 1830 censuses and may have been the mother of Cynthia and Elijah.

Phebe died by 1837 when Tolliver Dillard of Burke County married Mrs. Penelope Hudson of Jefferson County, Georgia.⁵⁰ Jefferson County borders Burke to the east, and additional research could explore the connection between the two families. Penelope may have been the young female in the 1840 census, age 20-30.

⁴⁷ *Augusta Chronicle*, Augusta, Ga., "Will Be Sold," 18 August 1815, p. 4, col. 4, William, Toliver Dillard, administrators; database with images, *Georgia Historic Newspapers* (gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn82014185/1815-08-18/ed-1/seq-4/ : accessed 21 April 2026).

⁴⁸ *The Constitutionalist*, Augusta, Ga., "Notice," 24 November 1826, p. 4, col. 4, William, John, and Toliver Dillard, executors; database with images, *Georgia Historic Newspapers* (gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn84025807/1826-11-24/ed-1/seq-4/ : accessed 21 April 2026).

⁴⁹ Bibb County, Georgia, Superior Court, Deeds 1837-1839, E:74-5; Elizabeth Dillard to Tolliver Dillard, 1823, recorded 1837; image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3QP-KS49> : accessed 14 July 2026), IGN 8563388, image 69 of 274.

⁵⁰ *Augusta Chronicle & Sentinel*, Augusta, Ga., "Married," 19 June 1837, p. 1, col. 5, Toliver Dillard, groom; database with images, *Georgia Historic Newspapers* (gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn90052047/1837-06-19/ed-1/seq-1/ : accessed 21 April 2026). Also, Jefferson County, Georgia, Court of Ordinary, Marriages "white" 1803-1880, A:252 Tolliver Dillard and Penny Hudson, 6 June 1837; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GPPX-99G7> : accessed 14 July 2026), IGN 4849075, image 167 of 424.

Tolliver's marriage to Penelope was short-lived, as his 1841 will names yet another wife, Rebecca, although no marriage record exists. If they married in Burke County, the record was destroyed in the 1856 courthouse fire.⁵¹ Possibly Penelope and Rebecca are the same woman, but that seems doubtful. Additional research in cemetery records could find information about their deaths and burials.

Children of Tolliver Dillard

The 1820 and 1830 census records show at least four children born to Phebe: two daughters born between 1810 and 1820 and two sons, one born between 1810 and 1820, and one born between 1825 and 1830. The records identify only one of the sons, Tolliver Dillard, Jr.

In his 1841 will, Tolliver left land and property to his wife, Rebecca Dillard, and eight enslaved persons to his son, Tolliver Dillard. However, the will was not produced in court until twenty years later in 1861 after Tolliver's death.⁵² Tolliver may have been ill or injured in 1841 and not expected to survive. Instead, he lived another twenty years.

- **Date of Will:** 5 July 1841
- **Date Probated:** 2 December 1861, Burke County Ordinary Court
- **Bequests:**
- **First:** Growing crop of current year designated to pay all debts; Executor given full discretion in disposal.
- **Second — To Rebecca Dillard:**
 - 10 enslaved persons: Rachel, Summer, Aimmez, Pat, Minty, Jack, Hager, Grace, Fed, and Caty
 - 2 tracts of land in Cherokee County, drawn by Tolliver Dillard and James Nicols in the land lottery
 - 1 feather bed and furniture
 - 2 trunks
 - 1 clock
 - Riding coach and coach horses
- **Third — To Tolliver Dillard (son):**
 - 8 enslaved persons: Lucy, Ben, Easter, Bob, Dinah, Let, Dicey, and Siller
 - All land in Burke County where testator currently resides — 1,440 acres, more or less
 - All remaining real and personal property not otherwise named
 - Property to be kept on plantation by trustee until son reaches age **21**
 - **Appointments:**

⁵¹ Burke County, Georgia, Court of Ordinary, Wills Book A 1856-1896, p. 198-9, Will of Tolliver Dillard, 1841; imaged, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L935-2BTB> : accessed 3 June 2026), IGN 5761732, image 149 of 620.

⁵² Ibid.

- **Trustee for son Tolliver Dillard:** William Byne
- **Executor:** William Byne
- Witnesses:
 - P. Robinson Jr.
 - Daniel White
 - Isaac Farmer
- **Testator's signature:** Tolliver Dillard (L.S.)
- Probate Notes:
 - Presented to court **2 December 1861** by **Tolliver Dillard**, heir at law and legatee
 - William Byne, named executor, **renounced** the executorship
 - Witness **Philip Robinson Jr.** appeared and was sworn; testified that testator signed freely, voluntarily, and was of sound mind; that Daniel White and Isaac Farmer also signed as witnesses in the presence of the testator and of each other
 - Sworn before **Joseph A. Shewmake, O.B.C.** (Ordinary, Burke County)

Since the will only names one son, perhaps the other three children of Tolliver and Phebe had either died or married and moved on. Tolliver could have given them their inheritance earlier, and those records were either lost in the 1856 courthouse fire or never recorded.

Headright Land Grants⁵³

Georgia was a state land state and distributed some of its land via headrights. These records were issued by the state and not subject to the Burke County record loss, so they can provide additional evidence for Tolliver's actions.

The first effective land act in Georgia was passed in 1783. This and subsequent acts entitled a qualifying male citizen to a headright of 200 acres free except for office and surveying fees, plus an additional 50 acres for his wife, each child, and each slave at prices from one to four shillings per acre, the total not to exceed 1000 acres. Until 1786, land was granted for various types of Revolutionary War service; after 1786, ungranted land was opened to headright settlers.

The applicant appeared before the land court of the county in which he wanted land, took an oath as to the size of his family including slaves, and obtained a warrant for the survey. The county surveyor then laid out the applicant's land, kept a copy of the plat of survey in his office, and forwarded a copy to the Surveyor General. After living on the land for one year and cultivating at least three percent of the acreage, the settler applied to the Governor's office for his grant and paid all purchase price and office fees due. The grant was then issued and recorded.

⁵³ "Headright Grants, Georgia Archives (https://www.georgiaarchives.org/research/headright_grants : accessed 14 July 2026).

The Act of 1785 removed the provisions for the purchase price and cultivation. No surveys for bounty grants were conducted after February 22, 1786, but if bounty land had been surveyed prior to that date, a grant could still be made upon the warrant at any time thereafter.

Between 1815 and 1836, Toliver (also spelled Tolliver/Tolver) Dillard was issued a series of Georgia state land warrants in Burke County, granting him headright land totaling over a thousand acres in scattered tracts (ranging from small 14 and 50-acre parcels up to 400 acres). Each warrant was issued by the Justices of the Burke County court, directed to a county surveyor to lay out and plat the land, and the tracts generally adjoined either Dillard's own existing land or neighboring landowners such as Lewis Bynum, Isaac Welch, David Bryson, Abel Lewis, Lewis Dunn, Thomas Reynolds, Edmond Bruce, Joshua Elgin, John Farmer, John Rutledge, and Moses Shelton. Several of the warrants carry docket endorsements noting when they were actually executed (surveyed) — dates that sometimes fall a year or more after the original warrant date.

Together, the documents reflect Dillard's ongoing acquisition of headright land in Burke County, Georgia, over roughly two decades. In total, 1,214 acres were granted to Toliver Dillard across eight Burke County, Georgia headright warrants.⁵⁴ The census records confirmed his status as an enslaver. He would have qualified for much of his land based on the many people he enslaved, as well as his wife and children.

Tax Records

Tax records provide another view of an individual's life and clarify details. The 1850 and 1860 censuses showed Tolliver Jr. as the household head and the owner of the real estate and personal property. However, the tax records reveal that Tolliver Sr. retained ownership until his 1861 death.

Few early tax lists survived the loss of Burke County records, but between 1855 and 1859, Tolliver Sr. and Tolliver Jr. consistently paid taxes. Table 3 describes how many acres Tolliver Sr owned, the value of that land, the number of slaves and their value, other money or debts due to him, and other property. The 1855 acreage of 2,494 is likely a clerical error and should be 1,494, consistent with the other entries.

Tolliver Sr. did not pay a poll tax because he was older than 60. The law required each white male between 21 and 60 years of age to pay an annual poll tax of \$ 0.25.⁵⁵ In contrast, Tolliver Jr. didn't own any property and had no taxable income until 1857. He consistently paid the poll tax.

Table 3. Taxes Paid by Tolliver Dillard Sr. and Tolliver Dillard Jr. in Burke County, Georgia

Year	Person	Acres	Land Value	No. Slaves	Value of Slaves	Money/ Debts	Other Property	Taxable Total	Poll Tax
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⁵⁴ Georgia, Court of Justice, headright land grants to Tolliver Dillard, Burke County, 8 warrants, 1816-1836; imaged, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YQH-8PY> : accessed 14 July 2026), IGN 5095261, images 57-72 of 395. Transcription and summary by Claude, chat with user, Diana Elder, 15 July 2026.

⁵⁵ *Acts of the General Assembly of the state of Georgia, passed in Milledgeville, at a biennial session in November, December, and January, 1851-'2 [volume 1]*, Section VII, p. 290; *Digital Library of Georgia* (https://dlg.usg.edu/record/dlg_zlgf_25386957#text : accessed 15 July 2026).

1855 ^a	T. Sr	2,494	\$6,723	23	\$9,000	\$100	\$695	\$16,818	None
1855	T. Jr	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$0.25
1856 ^b	T. Sr	1,494	\$6,723	24	\$10,000	\$500	\$600	\$17,623	None
1856	T. Jr	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$0.25
1857 ^c	T. Sr	1,494	\$5,976	26	\$10,500	\$400	\$1,000	\$17,676	None
1857	T. Jr	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$316	n/a	\$116	\$0.25
1858 ^d	T. Sr	1,494	\$5,976	21	\$10,000	\$400	\$1,000	\$17,616	None
1858	T. Jr	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$308	n/a	\$108	\$0.25
1859 ^e	T. Sr	1,454	\$7,470	18	\$11,600	\$450	\$1,000	\$20,320	None
1859	T. Jr	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$750	n/a	\$550	\$0.25
a. Burke County, Georgia, Superior Court, Tax Digest 1855-1860, p. 41, T. Sr and T. Jr Dillard, 1855, 69th dist.; imaged, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3H3-BSM8-W : accessed 12 July 2026), IGN 8629353, image 49 of 443. b. Burke County, Georgia, Superior Court, Tax Digest 1855-1860, p. 48, T.Sr and T. Jr Dillard, 1856 69th dist.; imaged, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3H3-BS94-9 : accessed 12 July 2026), IGN 8629353, image 118 of 443. c. Burke County, Georgia, Superior Court, Tax Digest 1855-1860, p. 42, T. Sr. and T. Jr Dillard, 1857 69th dist.; imaged, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3H3-BSM4-3 : accessed 12 July 2026), IGN 8629353, image 412 of 443. d. Burke County, Georgia, Superior Court, Tax Digest 1855-1860, p. 43, T. Sr. and T. Jr Dillard, 1858, 69th Dist.; imaged, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3H3-BSSN-C : accessed 12 July 2026), IGN 8629353, image 188 of 443. e. Burke County, Georgia, Superior Court, Tax Digest 1855-1860, p. 43, T. Sr. and T. Jr Dillard, 1859, 69th Dist.; imaged, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3H3-BSSZ-R : accessed 12 July 2026), IGN 8629353, image 269 of 443.									

Land Records

In 1851, Tolliver Dillard of Burke County sold land lottery land, located in Union County, Georgia, lot number 1292, 15th District, 2nd Section.⁵⁶ This was not the same land from the 1832 lottery. Perhaps this was the land drawn by James Nicols and mentioned in the 1841 will. No other deeds have been located for Tolliver Dillard Sr.

Death of Tolliver Dillard Sr.

⁵⁶ Cherokee County, Georgia, Deeds, K:524, Tolliver Dillard; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLX-LSPM-6> : accessed 5 June 2026), IGN8192619, image 592 of 603.

Although Tolliver Dillard Sr. wrote his will in 1841, he did not die until 1861 when the will was probated.⁵⁷ The 1841 will appointed William Byne as executor, and on 12 November 1861, he appeared in court and renounced his executorship, stating that he could not attend to it and requesting that the administration be granted to another. Tolliver Dillard, son of the deceased, a legatee and heir at law, applied for leave to prove the will and was granted the privilege of propounding it.

The will was then produced in open court by the son, Tolliver Dillard, and, the named executor having renounced, was duly proven by the oath of Phillip Robinson Jr., the only surviving witness. The court ordered the will admitted to record.

Summary of Evidence Identifying Tolliver Dillard of Burke County, Georgia

The census records show a likely birth year of 1780 to 1785 and a possible birthplace in Georgia for Tolliver Dillard, Sr. Three records name three different wives: an 1834 land record names Phoebe Dillard, an 1837 newspaper and marriage record reveals Mrs. Penelope Hudson as the next wife, and Tolliver's 1841 will names Rebecca, his wife. Tolliver resided consistently in Burke County, Georgia, which had record loss destroying records before 1856. All records for him prior to that time were from another jurisdiction or recorded later in Burke County.

His 1832 land lottery draw in Cass County ties him to Cynthia Dillard. She likely met Thomas Beverly Royston in this area by 1834, which also experienced record loss. The dearth of records during this era in both Burke County and Cass County could account for the lack of evidence of a direct connection. No record precludes Cynthia from being Tolliver's daughter, as the early census enumerations include placeholders for a female born about 1815. DNA research will need to provide a connection.

DNA Background

DNA INHERITANCE

DNA testing has become a new form of genealogical evidence for difficult genealogical questions. With documentary research not revealing Cynthia's father, DNA opens another avenue for research. Three types of DNA testing are available for genealogy research: mitochondrial DNA, Y-DNA, and autosomal DNA

Mitochondrial (mt) DNA testing traces the matrilineal line. Each person inherits mtDNA from their mother, but only females can pass on this type of DNA. Because mtDNA is virtually unchanged from generation to generation, it reaches far back on the family tree. This testing could be used in the future if the research identifies a possible mother for Cynthia and an mt DNA tester could be located. Cynthia had several daughters whose descendancy could be traced.

⁵⁷ Burke County, Georgia, Court of Ordinary, Court Minutes 1858 - 1869, pgs. 152-153, estate of Tolliver Dillard, deceased, 1861 ; image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3H3-B92J-8> : accessed 14 July 2026), IGN 8629355, image 112 of 353.

Y-DNA traces the patrilineal line and is passed from father to son. Occasionally, a mutation will occur in the Y-DNA, and by analyzing those, the testing can often predict relationships within a genealogical timeframe. Elijah Dillard was previously identified through autosomal DNA clustering and analysis as a possible brother of Cynthia, so one of his male descendants could take a Y-DNA test. The hope would be that he would match a group of Dillards, providing a clue to the Dillard origins. Finding a descendant willing to test is the next step in the Dillard research.

Autosomal DNA (atDNA) is randomly passed down to descendants regardless of male or female inheritance inherent in Y-DNA and mitochondrial DNA testing. As the DNA is passed from generation to generation, each person receives less of the ancestor's atDNA. For that reason, analyzing the atDNA of a person more closely related to the ancestor in question is important.

This project used the autosomal DNA test results for Victor Parker, Cynthia's great-grandson. Victor inherited about 12.5% of his DNA from Cynthia and up to 6.25% from each of her parents. Victor has over 63,000 DNA matches on AncestryDNA, and isolating DNA matches who also descend from Cynthia's parents' lines could discover family connections for further research.

Before looking for matches that could come from the Dillard parental line, Victor's DNA was compared to other descendants of Cynthia and Thomas B. Royston. His best matches in terms of amount of DNA shared are shown in figure 2 and descend through sons Robert C. Royston and Richard A. Royston. Victor descends through their sister, Sarah (Royston) Parker. This analysis verified Victor's biological descent from Cynthia and Thomas Royston.

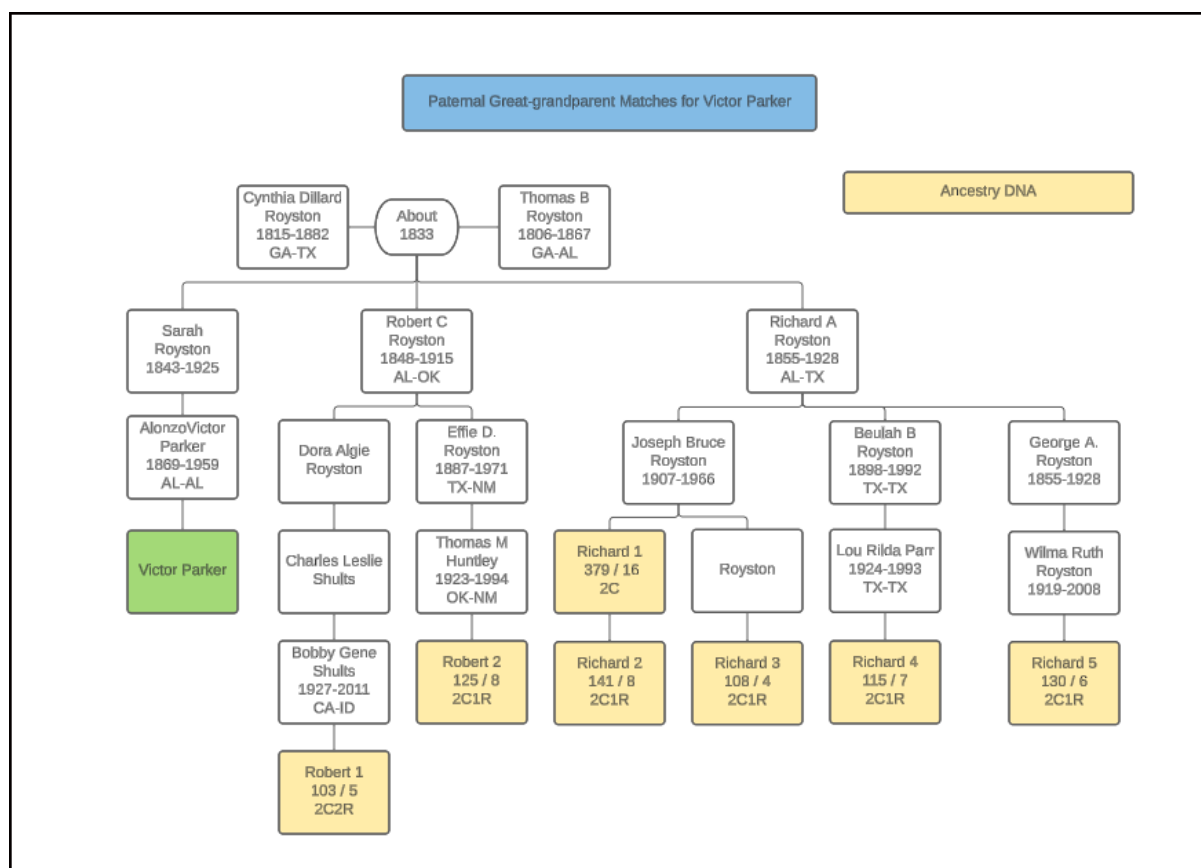


Figure 2 Selected DNA Matches for Victor Parker

DNA CLUSTERING AND NETWORK GRAPH ANALYSIS

Proving genetic relationships through DNA involves identifying the most recent common ancestor (MRCA) between two matches. Each person received a segment of DNA from the MRCA. When working with thousands of DNA matches, techniques that can cluster these matches for analysis facilitate the research.

Network graphs provide a view of a person's DNA matches and reveal connections between clusters. Nodes (circles) in a network graph represent DNA matches, and the lines connecting them indicate a shared match between them. When a group of matches has many connections among themselves, they form a cluster. A network graph created for the Ancestry DNA matches of Victor Parker showed many colored clusters on the outer edges and a large group of interconnected matches in the center of the graph.⁵⁸ (See figure 3).

⁵⁸ Nicole Dyer, Network Graph for Victor Parker using Gephi, created 2 November 2020, Ancestry DNA matches, 20-193 cM.

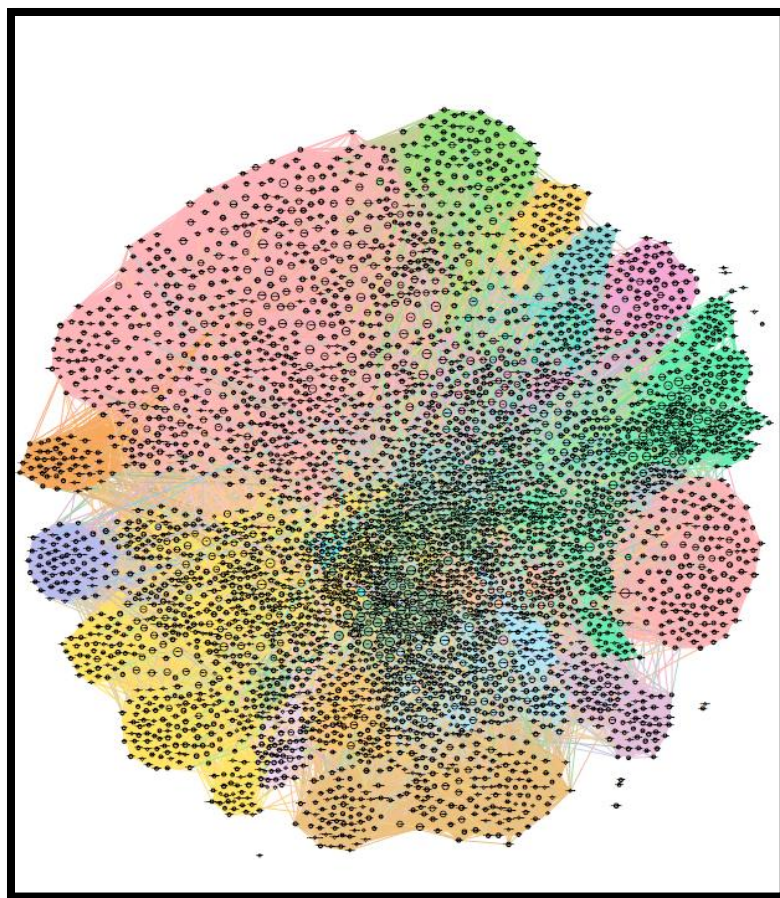


Figure 3 Network Graph for Victor Parker's Ancestry DNA Matches

Separating out the paternal Royston-Dillard clusters from Victor's maternal clusters resulted in a more focused network graph.⁵⁹ See figure 4.

⁵⁹ Nicole Dyer, Network Graph for Victor Parker using Gephi, created 2 November 2020, Ancestry DNA matches, 20-193 cM, Royston clusters separated out.

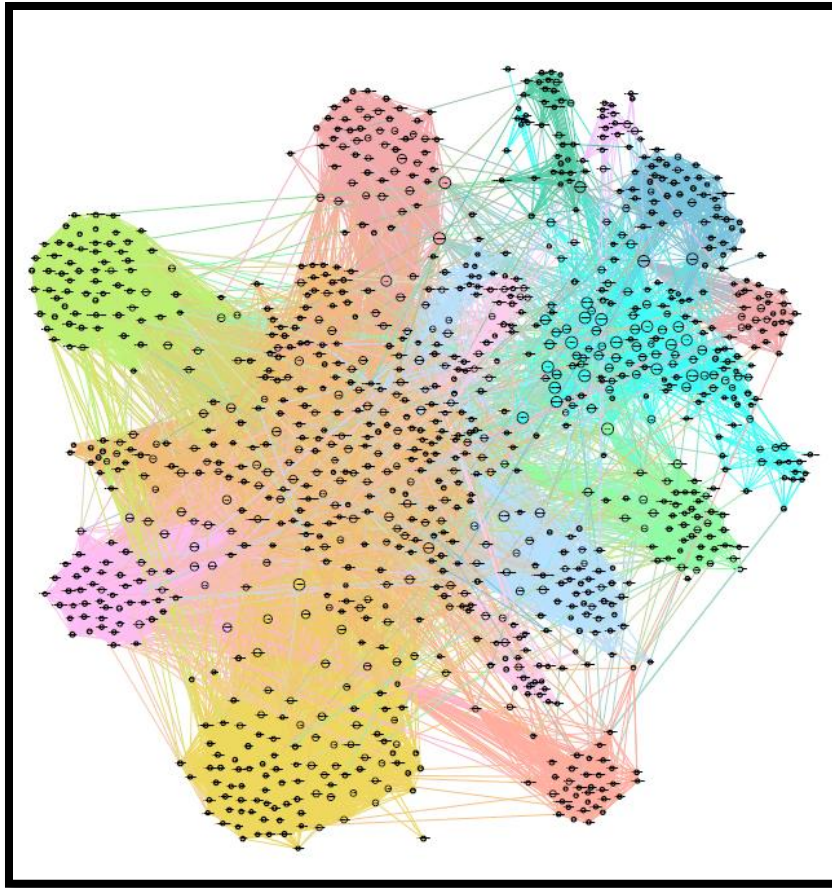


Figure 4 Royston-Dillard Network Graph for Victor Parker's Ancestry DNA Matches

Analyzing the Royston-Dillard network graph revealed the peach cluster in the top-right section. This cluster connects to the blue and aqua clusters, which contain known descendants of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston through two of her sons, Richard A. and Robert C. Royston. Examining the trees of some of the matches in the peach cluster found the MRCA to be Elijah Dillard, born about 1814-1816 in Georgia and died 6 September 1886 in Alabama. (See figure 5.)

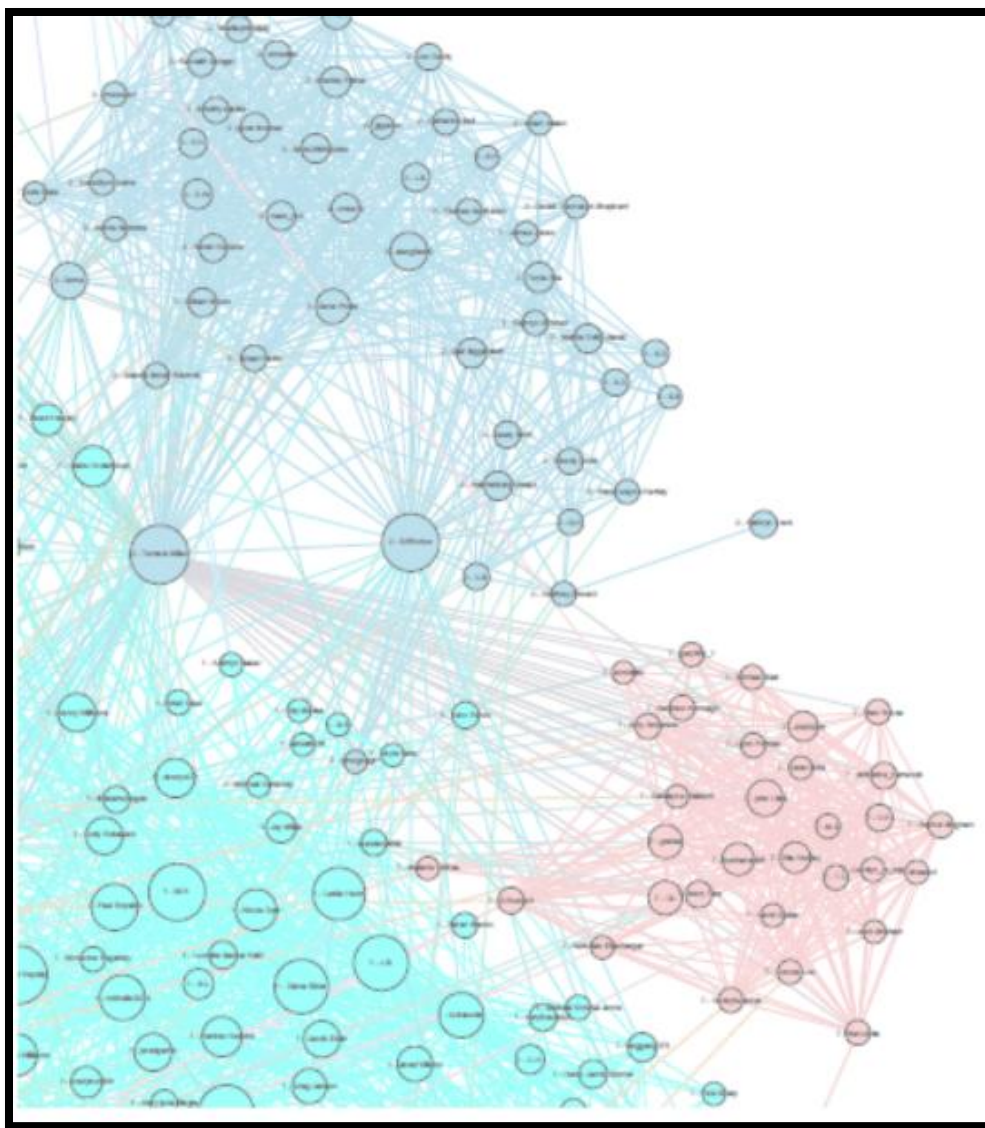


Figure 5 Peach cluster MRCA = Elijah Dillard, Aqua Cluster MRCA = Robert C. Royston (son of Cynthia), Blue Cluster MRCA = Richard A. Royston (son of Cynthia)

The diagram in Figure 6 illustrates the lines of descent from Elijah Dillard to four DNA matches in the peach cluster. Each comes through either Elijah's son, Josiah Dillard, or James Monroe Dillard, and

has the relationship of 3C1R, 3C2R, or 3C3R to Victor Parker.⁶⁰ The matches share between 20 and 29 cM of DNA with Victor Parker, well within the proposed relationships of 3C1R, 3C2R, and 3C3R.⁶¹

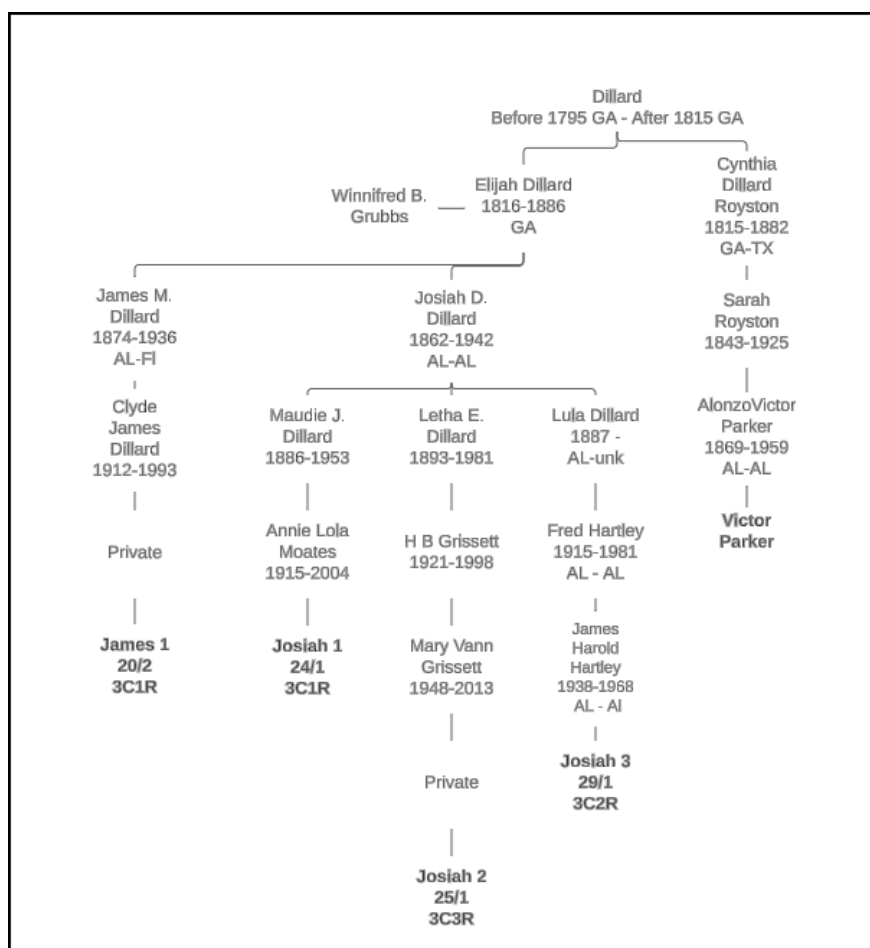


Figure 6 Dillard DNA Matches for Victor Parker

With this foundation set, the next steps of the DNA work could unfold.

⁶⁰ "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 21 October 2021), "Glenn Tate - Kay Snell Tate Family Tree," by Chad and Brooke Whisnant, profile for Elijah Dillard (1816-1886), attached to DNA match Mary Tate.

"Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 21 October 2021), "Rita Hartley Family Tree," by Rita Hartley, profile for Josiah D. Dillard (1862-1941), attached to DNA match Rita Harley.

"Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 21 October 2021), "Carroll-Coxwell Family Tree," by Stephanie Coxwell, profile for Elijah Dillard (1816-1886), attached to DNA match Stephen Coxwell.

"Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 16 November 2021), "O'Shea Family Tree: family tree by Melanie O'Shea, pedigree view.

⁶¹ Jonny Perl and Blaine Bettinger, "The Shared cM Project 4.0 tool v4," *DNA Painter* (<https://dnapiainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4> : created 17 June 2020), calculating probable relationships for # 24, 25, and 29 cM shared by Victor Parker and DNA matches

Findings & Analysis – DNA Research

REEXAMINING THE NETWORK GRAPH

This project returned to the Royston network graph to further analyze each cluster and determine the MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestral Couple) of each (see figure 7). The analysis found that the top-right of the graph contained paternal Royston and Dillard matches, while the lower-left contained paternal matches on the Parker and Thomas lines. A few clusters were identified that were both maternal and paternal matches – likely Victor's close relatives and their children and grandchildren. The Elijah Dillard cluster remained the only one that connected further back on the Dillard line.

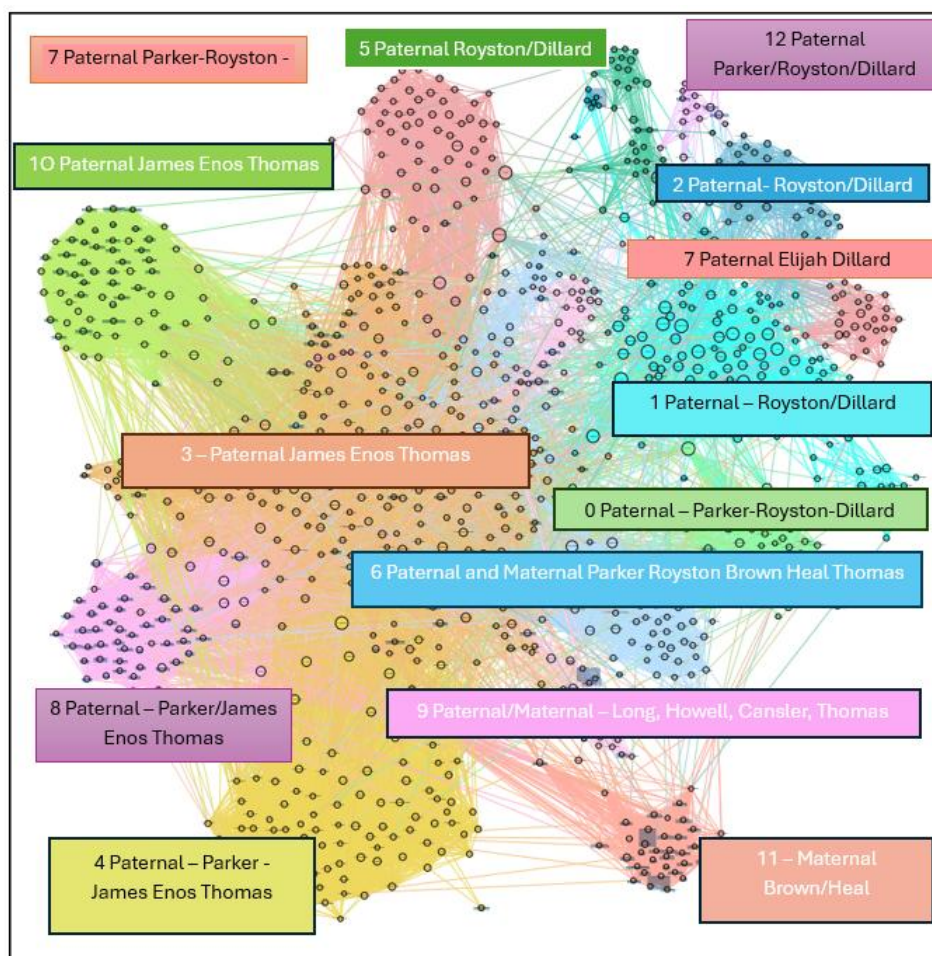


Figure 7 Victor Parker Network Graph Annotated by MRCA of Cluster

ADDING EVIDENCE TO THE ELIJAH DILLARD CLUSTER

To ensure that the atDNA matches in the Elijah Dillard cluster were not through Victor Parker's Parker line or his maternal lines, instead of the Royston line, additional DNA matches were sought. Two

DNA matches descending from two other children of Cynthia Dillard, Ulysses F. Royston (1837-1863) and Richard A. Royston (1855-1928), added evidence that the Elijah Dillard cluster descended from an ancestral Dillard line. Additionally, two more matches through Sarah Royston were found – again providing evidence that the Elijah Dillard cluster was connected to Cynthia Dillard Royston and not another of Victor’s ancestral lines. Figure 8 shows the added match connections highlighted in orange. These matches were all to the DNA match labeled Josiah 4.⁶²

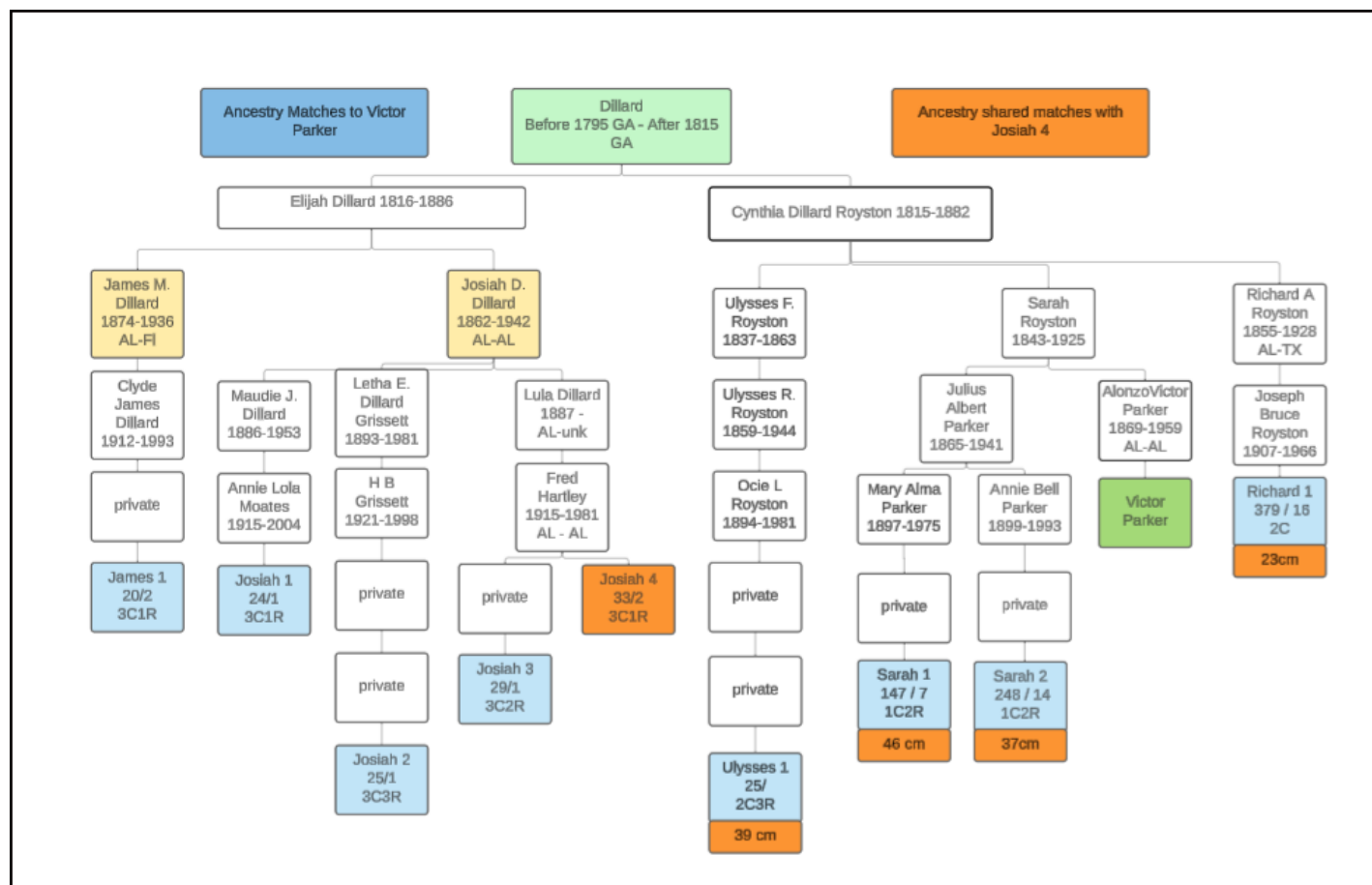


Figure 8 DNA Matches between descendants of Elijah and Cynthia Dillard

Next steps for autosomal DNA analysis will be to ask additional DNA matches from both Cynthia and Elijah to share their Ancestry DNA results. The Dillard DNA has been recombined with each generation, and some matches will share more than others. Finding those with strong genetic Dillard connections will help to find parent candidates.

⁶² Match list for Victor Parker, database report, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/dna/matches> : accessed 1 August 2026). Ancestry pro tools were used to find matches between Victor’s DNA matches and Josiah 4. All shown relationships are charted on "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 August 2026), "Shults_Kelsey" family tree by Diana Elder.

Y-DNA

With Elijah Dillard identified as a possible brother to Cynthia (Dillard) Royston through the autosomal DNA analysis, the next step was finding a Y-DNA test-taker. This would provide additional evidence to place Elijah's Dillard line within the broad Dillard and Dill** Surname Y-DNA project hosted by FamilyTree DNA.⁶³ The project has many participants who could be compared with a Dillard male descendant of Elijah Dillard. Research in the census, obituaries, family trees, and other records yielded several possibilities. Figure 9 illustrates the lines.

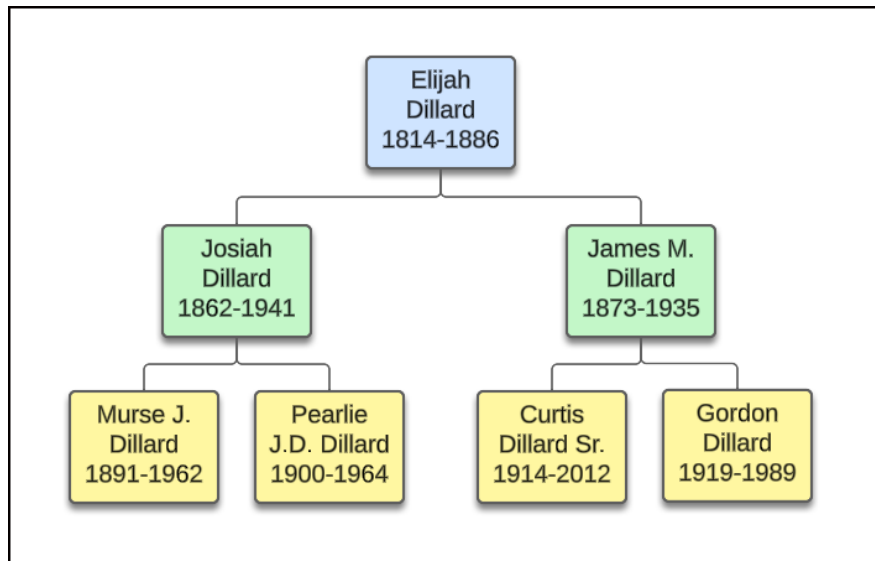


Figure 9 Male descendant lines of Elijah Dillard with potential Y-DNA testers

To explain the Dillard Y-DNA project to potential test-takers, a webpage on Family Locket.com was created.⁶⁴ Letters were sent to six candidates, and DNA testing will begin with the Y-37 marker test on FamilyTree DNA, then proceed to upgrade as needed.

With Tolliver Dillard identified as a possible candidate for Cynthia and Elijah Dillard's father, target testing his Dillard line would add more evidence to analyze for this connection.

Conclusion

The objective of Phase 5 was twofold: to seek documentary connections between Cynthia (Dillard) Royston and the three men who drew lots in Cass County, Georgia, in the 1832 Gold Lottery — James Dillard of Pulaski County, Joseph B. Dillard of Oglethorpe County, and Tolliver ("Roliver") Dillard of Burke County — and to further analyze the DNA network graph for additional Dillard connections while

⁶³ Mags Gaulden, Administrator, "Dillard and Dill**," Y-DNA Surname Project, *FamilyTree DNA* (<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/dillard/about> : accessed 21 July 2026).

⁶⁴ Diana Elder, "Who Was the Father of Cynthia (Dillard) Royston b. 1815 in Georgia," *FamilyLocket* (<https://familyloket.com/51036-2/> accessed 28 July 2026).

pursuing Y-DNA testing and broader coverage of Cynthia's genome. The objective was partially met. Two of the three lottery candidates were eliminated, one emerged as the strongest documentary candidate identified in five phases of research, and the autosomal evidence linking the Elijah Dillard cluster to Cynthia's Dillard line was materially strengthened. Cynthia's father, however, remains unproven.

Documentary Research

- **Eliminated James Dillard of Pulaski County.** Born about 1795 in South Carolina, James was enumerated in the household of his father, Phillip Dillard, in Pulaski County in 1830 with no wife or daughter of an age to be Cynthia. He married Sarah about 1834, and his oldest known child was born about 1835 — after Cynthia's own marriage. He almost certainly was not Cynthia's father.
- **Eliminated Joseph B. Dillard of Oglethorpe County.** Born about 1803 in Virginia, Joseph married Elizabeth Baldwin on 12 August 1830 and was still a young man starting a family when he drew his lot in 1832. He was too young to have fathered a daughter born about 1815, and his 1878 will names his five children — none of them Cynthia.
- **Identified Tolliver Dillard of Burke County as a viable candidate.** Born about 1780–1785 in Georgia, Tolliver headed a Burke County household in 1820 containing a female under ten who could be Cynthia and a male under ten who could be Elijah; the 1830 enumeration contains a female aged 15 to 19 in the same position. His 1832 Gold Lottery draw for lot 893, district 3, section 3, places him in Cass County during the same period Thomas Beverly Royston served there and about the time he and Cynthia married. His wife Phebe, named in an 1834 dower relinquishment, is a candidate for the mother of Cynthia and Elijah. His 1841 will names only his wife Rebecca and his son Tolliver Jr., but the will was written twenty years before his 1861 death and does not purport to name all issue. No record found in this phase precludes Cynthia from being his daughter.
- **Documented the record-loss context.** The 1856 Burke County courthouse fire and the 1864 Cass County losses destroyed the deed, probate, marriage, and court records most likely to have named a daughter or recorded her marriage. The absence of direct documentary evidence connecting Cynthia to Tolliver is consistent with this loss rather than with her exclusion from the family.

DNA Research

- **Confirmed the Elijah Dillard cluster as the sole Dillard-line cluster.** Annotating each cluster in Victor Parker's network graph by its most recent common ancestral couple showed paternal Royston and Dillard matches concentrated in the upper right of the graph and Parker and Thomas matches in the lower left. Of these, only the cluster whose MRCA is Elijah Dillard (born about 1814–1816 in Georgia; died 6 September 1886 in Pike County, Alabama) reaches further back on the Dillard line.
- **Strengthened the link between the cluster and Cynthia specifically.** New matches descending from Cynthia's children Ulysses F. Royston (1837–1863) and Richard A. Royston (1855–1928), together with two additional matches through Sarah (Royston) Parker, all share DNA with the Elijah descendant designated Josiah 4. Because these lines converge on Cynthia rather than on

Victor's Parker or maternal ancestry, the shared DNA is best explained by a Dillard ancestral couple shared by Cynthia and Elijah.

- **Corroborated the predicted relationships.** The Elijah Dillard descendants share 20 to 29 cM with Victor Parker, amounts consistent with the third cousin once, twice, and three times removed relationships that a sibling relationship between Cynthia and Elijah would produce.
- **Laid the groundwork for Y-DNA testing.** Candidate male Dillard descendants of Elijah were identified through census records, obituaries, and family trees; an explanatory project page was published at FamilyLocket.com; and letters were sent to six candidates. Testing will begin at the Y-37 level through FamilyTree DNA, with upgrades as warranted. No results were available for this phase.

Taken together, the documentary and genetic evidence now converge on a single working hypothesis: that Cynthia (Dillard) Royston and Elijah Dillard were siblings, and that their father was possibly a Dillard with a documented presence in Cass County in the early 1830s. Tolliver Dillard of Burke County is the only candidate examined to date who satisfies both conditions and whom no record excludes. The hypothesis remains unproven — no record names Cynthia as his daughter, and the atDNA evidence, while consistent, does not by itself identify the shared ancestral couple. Y-DNA results from a male Dillard descendant of Elijah, compared against the Dillard and Dill** Surname Project, offer the most direct means of testing whether Elijah's patriline traces to Tolliver's Burke County family.

Future Research Suggestions

Phase 5 eliminated two of the three Cass County gold lottery candidates and established Tolliver Dillard of Burke County as the strongest documentary candidate identified to date, but neither the documentary nor the genetic evidence yet proves a parent-child relationship. Because the Burke County (1856) and Cass County (1864) record losses removed most of the records that would ordinarily name a daughter, the following steps prioritize Y-DNA testing — which can test the hypothesis directly — followed by record sets created outside the destroyed county jurisdictions. Researching other Dillard men who drew lots in neighboring counties is also suggested to either eliminate or add them to the pool of candidates.

DNA

- **Complete the Y-DNA testing already underway.** Follow up with the six male Dillard descendants of Elijah Dillard who received letters; if none respond, extend outreach to additional living male-line descendants through Elijah's grandsons Murse, Pearlie, Curtis, and Gordon Dillard. Order the Y-37 test at FamilyTree DNA, join the Dillard and Dill** Surname Project, and upgrade a

promising result to Big Y-700 to obtain a terminal SNP and place Elijah's line on the Dillard haplotree.

- **Recruit a Y-DNA tester from Tolliver Dillard's proven male line.** A match between a descendant of Elijah Dillard and a descendant of Tolliver Dillard Sr. would provide direct evidence for the hypothesis; a non-match would eliminate Tolliver. Trace the descendants of Tolliver Dillard Jr., the physician enumerated in District 69, Burke County, in 1860, forward through the 1870 and 1880 federal censuses, Burke County marriage records (extant from 1855), and *Find a Grave* and obituary sources, to identify a living male Dillard who carries the surname.
- **Research Tolliver Dillard's proposed father and brothers.** Follow their male descendants for Y-DNA testing – especially if no descendants are found for Tolliver Jr.
- **Analyze the Y-DNA results in the surname project.** Once results are in hand, compare Elijah's haplotype against the project's existing Dillard groupings, identify the genetic cluster to which he belongs, and conduct documentary research on the earliest documented ancestors of the men in that cluster to determine whether any line connects to Burke County, Georgia.
- **Search Burke County record sets that survived the 1856 fire.** State- and ordinary-held records escaped the courthouse loss and may name Tolliver's children:
 - Georgia property tax digests, 1793–1892, for Burke County (Georgia Archives microfilm; also imaged on *Ancestry*), for annual entries naming Tolliver Dillard and any sons reaching taxable age, and for the years before the 1855–1860 digests already examined.
 - Burke County, Miscellaneous Records in the Office of the Ordinary, 1787–1918 (*FamilySearch*), for pre-fire loose papers, bonds, and guardianships.
 - Burke County Superior Court, Equity Records, 1834–1895 (*FamilySearch*), for suits among heirs that may recite family relationships predating the fire.
 - Georgia Archives headright grant files and accompanying plats for Tolliver Dillard's eight warrants, 1816–1836, for chain-of-title references naming family members.
- **Determine the disposition of Cass County lot 893, district 3, section 3.** Search the Cherokee County, Georgia, Grant Records, 1832–1859 (*FamilySearch*, IGN 8622941) for the grant issued on Tolliver Dillard's 1832 gold lottery draw, then trace the lot forward in Cass/Bartow County deed and tax records to determine whether Tolliver or a family member ever occupied or conveyed it. Evidence that a Dillard was physically present in Cass County in 1833–1834 would materially strengthen the association with Cynthia's marriage.
- **Continue searching for the Royston–Dillard marriage record.** Cass County marriages survive only from 1836. Search marriage records for the counties created from the Cherokee cession and those adjacent to Cass — Cherokee, Cobb, Paulding, Floyd, Murray, Gilmer, Forsyth, and Walker — for the period 1833 to 1836, along with Georgia church minute books for congregations serving that area.
- **Identify the wives of Tolliver Dillard.** Search Jefferson County, Georgia, estate and land records for Penelope (Hudson) Dillard and her first husband's family; search Burke County cemetery transcriptions and *Find a Grave* for Phebe, Penelope, and Rebecca Dillard; and search the *Augusta Chronicle* and *The Constitutionalist* on *Georgia Historic Newspapers* for death and estate notices. Establishing Phebe's identity and death date would test whether she could be the mother of children born about 1815 and 1816.

- **Expand autosomal coverage of Cynthia's genome.** Recruit or test descendants of Cynthia's other children, targeting testers who are generationally closest to Cynthia. Upload existing kits to *FamilyTreeDNA*, *MyHeritage*, and *GEDmatch* to capture Dillard matches who tested outside *AncestryDNA*, and build out the trees of unidentified matches within the Elijah Dillard cluster to look for a common ancestor above Elijah.
- **Reserve mitochondrial DNA testing.** If further research establishes a candidate mother for Cynthia — Phebe Dillard being the current possibility — trace an unbroken female line from one of Cynthia's daughters to a living descendant of either sex and order a full mitochondrial sequence at FamilyTree DNA for comparison with descendants of the candidate mother's other daughters.

Documentary

- **Resume documentary research on Elijah Dillard in Alabama.** Search the Macon County, Alabama, probate and orphans court records, 1832–1940, and the Macon County estate case files (loose), 1836–1953, on *FamilySearch* for Dillard entries; research Edmond Dillard of Pike County, Alabama, for connections to Elijah; and request the land entry application files from the National Archives for Elijah's Russell, Barbour, and Dale County patents, which may name associates or family.
- **Research Cherokee County lottery winners. Examine** Dillard fortunate drawers in Cherokee County (William Dillard of Walton, Sampson Dillard of Emanuel, Willis Dillard of Monroe, and James Dillard of Elbert) to determine if any maintained connections to Cass County or had family ties to the three Cass County winners.
- **Research Cobb County lottery winners.** Investigate John Dillard of Burke and John Dillard of Walton, along with Dempsey Dillard of Washington, who drew lots in Cobb County, as these individuals may have had connections to adjacent Cass County.
- **Research Paulding County lottery winner.** Examine Almerin Dillard of Washington County, who drew a lot in Paulding County, which borders Cass County, to determine any family connections.