

DESCENDANTS OF THE DILLON FAMILY

By Deanna Adams Holm

The first Dillons to arrive in Raleigh County were two brothers, Wright Dillon and George Wilson Dillon, who were sons of Aquilla Greer Dillon and Lucinda Spradlin. Greer came from Franklin County, Virginia. He first appeared in the 1840 census of Monroe County, Virginia. He was recorded as Graarh Dillyon. Greer's father was Asa Dillon who was married to Elizabeth Greer on August 13, 1798, in Franklin County. Asa was the son of Jesse Dillon and Mary Elizabeth Blankenship who were married about 1776. They had a large plantation in Franklin County.

Descendants of Aquilla Greer Dillon

Aquilla Greer Dillon was born about 1803 in Franklin County. He died between 1841 and 1850 in Monroe County. He died when he was young and left his widow and a large family for her to rear. He married Lucinda Spradlin who was born about 1805 in Franklin County. They were married on December 29, 1819, in Franklin County. Lucinda died after 1850 in Monroe County. Their children:

Lucy Dillon was born about 1825. She married James Meadows on October 09, 1848, in Monroe County.

Asa Dillon was born about 1828. Asa was named after his grandfather. He married Elizabeth Basham on January 6, 1851, in Monroe County.

Elizabeth Dillon was born about 1829. Elizabeth married Joseph A. Dunn on February 18, 1847, in Monroe County.

Wright Dillon, born about 1831, married Elizabeth J. Dillon on December 27, 1853, in Monroe County.

Jane Dillon was born about 1833. She probably never married.

George Wilson Dillon was born in February 1834 in Monroe County. Wilson died in November 4, 1912, in Sandlick, Raleigh County. Wilson was in the Civil War. He joined the Confederacy and was in Company E, The Raleigh Rangers, 36th Infantry Regiment, under Captain Benjamin R. Linkous. Wilson was wounded during his military service and spent most of his time at home recuperating from his injuries. Wilson married Emily K. Wright who was born about May 1837 in Monroe County. They were married on May 17, 1855 in Monroe County. Emily died in 1920 in Mattsville, Raleigh County. Her parents were Hugh Caperton Wright and Harriett K. Keatley.



Wilson was married second to Mahala Morris who was born about 1842 in Raleigh County. They were married on May 03, 1883, in Raleigh County. Mahala died about 1912 in Raleigh County. She was buried at the Dillon Creek Cemetery.

This is a picture of Mahala, Wilson, and their son, Quince Dillon.

Mary Dillon was born about 1835. She married J. A. Basham on March 19, 1857, in Monroe County.

Henderson Dillon was born on August 3, 1839 in Monroe County. He died March 9, 1917, in Monroe County. Henderson married Sarah A. Maude Dillon, a daughter of Jefferson Dillon.

William T. Dillon was born about 1841. He married Mary Dillon on March 19, 1857, in Monroe County.

Wright and Wilson Dillon migrated from Monroe County to Raleigh County about 1861. Wilson bought property on Sandlick. My great-grandfather was Wilson's son, George Wentworth Dillon. His name is recorded as George Washington Dillon in the Raleigh County marriages. My mother and her sister believed his middle name to be Wentworth. I vividly remember both George and Amanda Ellen Atha, his wife. They were married in 1887 in Raleigh County.

Descendants of George Wentworth Dillon

George Wentworth Dillon was born August 12, 1865, in Sandlick, Raleigh County. George died on August 7, 1955, at Eccles, Raleigh County. George is buried at the Dillon Creek Cemetery. According to my cousin, Elmer Daniel, after George's death, he was brought home to the house he shared with his wife. His casket was placed on the porch of their home for viewing by family and friends.

George married Amanda Ellen Atha who was born on February 15, 1865, in Monroe County. They were married on September 14, 1887, at Sandlick, Raleigh County. Amanda died on March 14, 1955, at Eccles. She was buried at the Dillon Creek Cemetery. Amanda was the daughter of Lorenzo D. Atha and Mary Jane Wiseman. Both George and Mandy were elderly and sick when they died. Their children:

- Wilmer F. Dillon was born October 16, 1888, in Sandlick. Wilmer died May 19, 1910 at Sandlick. He is buried at the Dillon Creek Cemetery.

- Ocus Wilson Dillon was born on July 17, 1890, in Sandlick. Ocus died on April 15, 1953, at Harper, Raleigh County. While serving in World War I, he was sprayed with Mustard Gas by the Germans. He loved his family and took very good care of my grandmother and my mother after Ray died. Ocus married Edith Mae Beckelhimer who was born February 24, 1900, at Harper. They were married in May 1921 in Raleigh County. Edith died on February 17, 1989, in Beckley, Raleigh County. Her parents were Levi Harrison Beckelhimer and Annie Lou Wilson.

- James Luther Dillon was born on February 2, 1892, in Sandlick. He died February 18, 1960, in Sandlick. In Raleigh County, on February 13, 1915, James married Alice Bertha Clyburn who was born about December 4, 1895, at Sandlick. She was the daughter of Joseph Manillas "Neeley" Clyburn and Elizabeth Electra Brown.

- Ina Jane Dillon was born on September 17, 1893, at Sandlick. Ina died on April 03, 1989, in Beckley. Ina took care of the old people when they got to the place that they needed help. Ina was married to Henry Monroe Daniel. Henry was born about 1891 in Raleigh County. Ina and Henry were married about 1913 in Raleigh County. Henry died on October 02, 1933, at Eccles. Henry's parents were Robert Cumberland Daniel and Margaret Jane Elizabeth Massey.

- Charles Ray Dillon was born on April 18, 1895 at Sandlick. Ray died July 26, 1919 in Willis Branch, Fayette County, West Virginia, from typhoid fever. He is buried at the Dillon Creek Cemetery. Ray was my grandfather, and my grandma's first husband. He married Edith Mae Beckelhimer who was born on February 24, 1900, at Harper. They were married on October 29, 1916, in Dameron, Raleigh County. Edith died on February 17, 1989, in Beckley. Edith was the daughter of Levi Harrison Beckelhimer and Annie Lou Wilson.

Charles and Edith were the parents of Bernice Arvada "Shirley" Dillon who was born on February 14, 1918, at Willis Branch.

Charles Ray Dillon was my grandfather, and my mother was his only daughter. When he was dying from typhoid fever, he asked his brother Ocus to promise that he would take care of my grandmother Mae and daughter Arvada (Shirley). My grandmother married Ocus after Ray died.

Shirley married Arthur Wellington Adams II in Tulsa, Oklahoma, about 1937. Shirley died on April 19, 1967, in Duluth, Minnesota. She was buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Canyon, Minnesota. After Shirley and Arthur were divorced, about 1940, Shirley worked in a steel plant during World War II as a Rosie Riveter. Shirley managed an ice cream store in Colonial Heights, Virginia. She also worked as a waitress in Duluth, Minnesota. She did retail sales and some modeling. Shirley married Oliver Herbert Pierson. They bought a place in the country about 25 miles from Duluth. They remodeled the entire house. Shirley's vegetable and flower gardens were beautiful. Shirley was crippled in her right hand due to being burned as a child; however, this did

not prevent her from making beautiful clothes, doing fine needlepoint, embroidery, crocheting, knitting, and quilting. She won many prizes at the local county fair for her beautiful work.

- Henry Howard Dillon was born on August 15, 1900, at Sandlick. He died on December 9, 1962, in Harper. Howard married Essie Pearl Martin who was born on April 06, 1902, at the Head of Sandlick. Howard and Essie were married about 1923 in Raleigh County. Essie died on October 07, 1992 in Beckley. She was the daughter of Granville Adam Martin and Martha Ann Daniel.

- Leta Mae Dillon was born September 20, 1903, at Sandlick. Leta died on June 13, 1987, in Mabscott, Raleigh County. Leta was married first to Ernest J. Honaker. He died about 1953. Her second husband was Henry Boggs who died about 1974.

- Garnet F. Dillon was born on August 20, 1906, at Sandlick. Garnet died on August 24, 2002, in Morgantown, Monogalia County, West Virginia. She was married to Berling Hurt who was born about 1900.

- George Doff Dillon was born on March 22, 1912, in Sandlick. George died on April 28, 1969, in Beckley. George was buried at Mt. Tabor Cemetery, Beckley. Uncle Doff and my mother (Shirley) were very close in age and more or less grew up together. Mom adored Uncle Doff. George married Lillie Wavie Lucas who was born on July 12, 1911 in Glen Daniel, Raleigh County. George and Lillie were married on May 18, 1935 in Raleigh County. Lillie died on May 04, 2001 in Beckley. Her parents were Charles L. Lucas and Nora Ellen Burleson.

I have fond memories of the Dillon family Reunion that I attended in 1949 at Sandlick. It is so beautiful there, as is all of Raleigh County.



Dillon Reunion - 1949

Young girl in front is Deanna Adams.

Sitting left to right are George Wentworth Dillon and Amanda Ellen Atha.

Standing left to right are Nancy Tyree who was married to Quince Dillon, Quince Dillon, and Granville Dillon.