

# What's Your Family Line? -

By ADELLE BARTLETT HARPER



Bibb

The name Bibb has been supposed to come from Bibby, Bibbi, Beebe, Bibbs, or some kindred word. Such alleged derivation rests solely on fancy. The word Bibb is a complete word in itself, a finished word and not a derivation of some other word. The word means or comes from a certain equipment of ancient ships. It means "A cleat or bracket bolted to the bounds of a mast to support the tressle-trees."

From an entirely forgotten source there came into the hands of the writer (Charles William Bibb of Baltimore, Md., December 20, 1940) of these lines, an alleged coat-of-arms supposed to belong to the Bibb family. Where it originated we have no idea; but we do know that not an intimation in all the records coming into our hands affords the least support to the armorial we here append as belonging to the Bibb family. Our copy of this document is as follows:

"The Coat-of-Arms herewith emblazoned is ascribed to the family who spell the name Bibby. It is: Arms: azure, three eagles displayed as in the arms. The Coat-of-Arms used by the family who spell the name Bibb or Bibbi is: Arms: Chequy, argent and gules, a Chief argent. Crest: In front of a bubit arm erect, holding a sword inbond sinister proper, pommel and hilt or a mullet of six points, between two shells fessaway argent.

The colors of this armorial are silver, red and gold. Of the other one they are blue and gold. The eagle symbolizes one engaged in high spirits, with the heraldic colors emblems of loyalty, generosity and elevation of mind.

The colors of Bibb's arms are the symbol of sincerity, courage, generosity and elevation of mind, with the sword denoting justice."

Benjamin Bibb the Colonist  
1610-1640-1702

Convincing documentary evidence is extant to support the conclusion that this Benjamin Bibb was really the original Bibb settler on American soil. He was a Huguenot; fled from France to Wales, thence to Virginia about 1685; settled in King William County. He married Mary

\_\_\_\_\_ ; it is not known whether they were married in England or Virginia. From general records it appears that he was a successful planter.

As to the family of the Colonist, we have pretty direct record of at least four sons; there may have been others including a daughter, though we have no record.

## Sons of Benjamin and Mary Bibb:

i. Benjamin, born 1664-1744, represents that group which settled in Hanover, Louisa, Caroline Counties, Virginia.

ii. William Bibb represents that branch of the family which settled in Georgia, Alabama and some in Kentucky.

iii. James Bibb, born 1667 — moved to Elbert County, Georgia, with his brother, William, and left many descendants, says Gov. Gilmer's "Georgians". (William Harper—36 acres in Lincoln Co., Ga., advertised land, adjoining James Bibb, William Bibb and Graves; Survey No. 397, 1797, Book D.D.—page 32.

iv. Thomas Bibb, born 1669, died 1702, represents the branch which located in Amherst County, Virginia with descendants that spread over the south and southwestern part of the country.

William Bibb, second son of Benjamin and Mary Bibb, was born in 1664, died in 1744; married Miss Clark. Their son

William Bibb, born ca. 1735, in Hanover Co., Va., moved to Prince Edward Co., 1774, moved to Elbert Co., Ga., 1789, where he died in 1796. He was member of Convention in 1774-5, and Commissioner of Safety, 1775; Captain in the Revolution and Sheriff in 1789.

"I hereby certify that it appears from the manuscript journal of the House of Burgesses now in the Virginia State Library, and also from the lists given in the Colonial Virginia Almanac that William Bibb was a member of the House of Burgesses for Prince Edward County, at the sessions which began on August 11, 1774 and June 1st, 1775, and that it does appear from the printed journal of the Revolutionary Convention that William Bibb represented Prince Edward County in the Conventions of March, July and December, 1775." (signed) W. G. Standard, Cor. secty., Virginia Historical Society.

William Bibb married in Prince Edward County to Mrs. Booker (nee Clark) and second December 4, 1779, to Sally Wyatt, sister of Col. Joseph Wyatt, of Charlotte, and relative of Mrs. George Washington through the Dandridge family. They moved to Elbert Co., Ga., 1789 where he died in 1796.

Children by first marriage: Elizabeth, Lucy, Hannah and Sally Booker.

Children by second marriage: William Wyatt, first Governor of Alabama, 1781-1820 (He married Mary, daughter of Holman Freeman of Georgia; had a son and a daughter, Mary (1809-37) m. Alfred Vernow); Thomas, who was the second Governor of Alabama; Peyton; John Dandridge; Joseph, M.D.; Benajah Smith; Delia and Martha D.

## Lineage of Thomas and Ruth (Kettle) Bibb

1. Thomas Bibb, born Ca. 1669, died 1701, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, fourth son of Benjamin and Mary Bibb; married July 20, 1693, Ruth Kettle, of Burlington, New Jersey; she was a step-daughter of Thomas Potts who came to America on the good ship Sheild in 1678. Their son:
2. Thomas Bibb, born 1695, died 1720; married Rebecca who died 1715. Their son:
3. Thomas Bibb, born 1716, died 1781 of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Amherst County, Va.; married Sarah Martin. His will recorded in Will Book 2, page 229, Amherst Co., Va. was signed January 9, 1781, and proved December 3, 1781, names his wife, Sarah; sons, William, John, Henry, James and Martin; daughters Mary Gray, Frances Harper, Temperance Bibb, Barbara Cobb and "my four oldest daughters" — Elizabeth Newglass, Anne Key, Rachel Glass and Barbara Cobb. Will witnessed: Henry Harper, Sr., James Bibb and Sally Patterson.

Henry Harper, Sr., who witnessed the will was the father of Edward Harper who married Frances Bibb, and Martin Bibb married Susanna, daughter of Henry Harper, Sr.

Martin Bibb, and Susannah Harper, dau. of Henry and Judith Harper, married in Amherst Co., Va. about 1782/3 Sweeney's Marriage records, p. 26.)

They had two sons, Thomas and Jesse. Martin Bibb was listed as head of a family in the 1785 tax list of Amherst Co., with four whites.

Thomas and Jesse were legatees of their Uncle William Harper and listed in his administration, being given land in Wilkes Co., Ga. Thomas must have been living there with the Harper family, as he was a purchaser at the administration sale, but apparently Jesse had moved to Mississippi. The record — "Joshua Glass of Wilkerson County, Mississippi for Jesse Bibb of Adams County, Mississippi, to Mary (Polly) Harper of Wilkes County, Ga., for \$33.35, sells one half of Lot No. 5, containing 36½ acres, including all houses and spring, land assigned Thomas and Jesse Bibb from estate of William Harper, deceased, etc." The said Polly Harper was sister to William Harper and aunt to Thomas and

Jesse Bibb, sons of Susanna Harper and Martin Bibb.

Martin Bibb married second, December 5, 1792 to Sarah Whitehead; married third September 23, 1795, to Nancy Cash.

Children of Martin and Nancy Bibb:

- i. Levi, born 1796, married Lucinda Clemens and Nanny Brown.
- ii. Sally, born 1797, married Joshua May 1810.
- iii. Charles, born 1798, married Elizabeth Gatewood.
- iv. Rachel, born 1800, married John Duncan.
- v. Robert C., born 1804, married Frances H. Tinsley.
- vi. Benjamin Brown, born 1806, married three times.
- vii. Nancy Cash, born 1808, married Robert Pryor.
- viii. William H., born 1810, married three times.
- ix. Martin Thomas, born 1812, married three times.

Martin Bibb who was born 1759 and died 1822, leaving Nancy Cash Bibb with a large family of children and no income to support them. (This by his grand-son Charles William Bibb of Baltimore, Md., son of Martin Thomas Bibb, a Baptist Minister. He gives the Bibb Book, pub. 1941 as ref.)

Frances Bibb, daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Martin) Bibb, is named in the will of her father, dated Jan. 29, 1781, Amherst Co., Va., as daughter "Frances Harper". Frances married Edward Harper, son of Henry Harper, Sr., who had witnessed the will of Thomas Bibb. The Harpers and Bibbs lived on adjoining property in Amherst County.

Edward Harper of Amherst Co., Va., "son and heir-at-law of Henry Harper,

## FAMILY LINE . . . . . From Page 45

deceased, administered on his father's estate; he sold to John Whorton, of Albemarle County, 136 acres in Albemarle County, bounded by John Henderson and Thomas Jones." Wit: Mark Leak, William Leak, Thomas Clark, (Deed Book 8, p. 227, Dec. 8, 1785.) This record indicates that Henry Harper, Sr., had died prior to 1785. It is not known just when Edward and Frances (Fanny) moved to Georgia. He was listed on the Tax List in Amherst County in 1785 and in 1805 he was listed in the land lottery of Elbert Co., Ga. He would have lived in Georgia a year or more to be eligible to draw.

"Edward Harper and wife Fanny, of Elbert County, Ga., to John Pope for

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\$300, sell 150 acres on both sides of Pistol Creek in Wilkes County, adjoining Baldwin, Saffold and Griffin." Wit: Wylie. (Deed Book XX, page 35, May 8, 1806. Wilkes Co., Ga.) Edward and his sons are listed in many land transactions in Elbert, Wilkes, Morgan, Jasper and Henry Counties.

Children:

- i. Thomas Bibb, m. Jenny Selfridge.
- ii. Henry Austin, m. Rhoda Green.
- iii. Roderick Bibb, m. Susanna Selfridge.
- iv. Sarah, m. Jeremiah McMullen.
- v. Elizabeth, m. William Green, brother of Rhoda Green. Elizabeth died next day after her marriage.

### Liquidation Sale

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### Morris

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Miot Cox, 1145 North 44th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503, would like to correspond with descendants of James Morris (d. Elbert County 1795) and of Sherrod Morris (b. 1792 in N. C.; d. after 1850 in Gwinnett County).

### Dortch and Others

Miss Frances P. Abraham, P. O. Box 188, Arkadelphia, Ark. 71923 wants information, will exchange: Jessie Lewis Dortch-Orra Stone before 1880, Carolina-Va.; Byrd Womack-Rebecca Haskins before 1858 Va. and Tenn.; Benjamin Peterson-Dorothy Dortch Dupree before 1820 probably Va. and Ga.; Levi Thomas Wellborn-Roxanna Bethune, before 1890, Ga. and Texas.

### Kelley

Chesley Young, 350 W. 51st St., Penthouse 17A, N. Y., N. Y. 10019 — Chas. Kelley m. Eliz. Howard 1805; Robt. Kelley m. Magee 1806, Jackson Co., Ga. Parents? Chas. and maybe Robt. Shelby Co., Ala. 1820. Brothers? Chas. Kelley's son Robt. m. 1853 Nicholas Hardin's dau., Martha Jane. Was mother Celinda Cammack? Perry Co., Ala.? Nicholas b. Va. 1794. Parents?

### Pace

Mrs. L. S. Terrell, Rt. 1, 9719 Brown Rd., Jonesboro, Ga. 30236, wants information on parents of R. E. Paris Pace, m. Ersa S. Giles, Jan. 18, 1846, recorded in Marion Co., Ga. He was born 1820, father died 1822 and mother married Mr. Patton. Had one brother named Dreadzil, other brothers and one sister.

### Purvis

Jimmy L. Purvis, Rt. 2, Adel, Ga. 31620 wants information on parents and grandparents of Needham Lee Purvis, b. April 12, 1848, d. April 18, 1938. He lived in Lowndes Co., Ga.

### McDearmond, Stewart

Mrs. Howard M. Hicks, 2040 Ridge Rd., McKeesport, Pa. 15135, needs marriage record of David McDearmond and Nancy Washington Stewart, date July 14, 1842. Also Francis Norton and Etta McDearmond, August 12, 1870. Both were married in Georgia.

### Groover

SFC Robert L. Groover, RPI 4007525, HHC Special Forces Center, Fort Bragg, N. C. 28307, is writing a book on the Groover family, "The Groovers: From Ebenezer On." He has done a great deal of research and will be most grateful for any information on this family.