THE DAVID HOLLIMAN’S OF WILKES COUNTY,

GEORGIA AND THEIR ASSOCIATES, 1770-1800

Foreward

Lynn R. Holliman (1937- )

I am the son of David Fannin Holliman (1893-1964) born and died in Fremont County, Iowa, not to be confused with the city of Fremont, Iowa. His Grandfather was David Fannin Holliman (1832- 1909) born in North Carolina and died in St. Francis, Kansas. He was the son of Robert Holliman (c.1801-c.1867) and Hulda last name unknown. Census and Arkansas County records show him born in North Carolina and died in Hot Spring, Arkansas, in c.1867. Numerous family trees associated with Hollyman Family Yahoo Groups have him, wife Hulda, as the son of James Grantson Holliman. I have researched the rabbit trails through Arkansas, Georgia and North Carolina trying to verify this association.

My father advised me his Grandfather, my Great Grandfather, fled Arkansas during the Civil War as his property was burned to the ground and his life threatened. He had gone AWOL from the confederate army and joined the Union Army. He said his Grandfather was disowned by his family, told his name would be stricken from the family records and all of the freed slaves would be named after him. His Grandfather had married a minister’s daughter who preached against slavery, and the minister and to flee in the middle of the night to avoid hanging by an angry mob. Neither my Great Grandfather nor Great Grandmother saw a member of their family again in their lifetime. My father advised the spelling of the Holliman name had been different during preceding years, but they did not know if was with an “e” or an “o or y” prior to the change. He further said the family “came off of a Georgia plantation”. My father lived in the neighborhood of his Grandfather until he was 16 years old.

My Y-DNA matches my second cousin Donald Holliman, Bird City, Kansas; our common ancestor is David Fannin Holliman (1832-1909). It does not match descendants of James Grantson Holliman (1750-1836). David Fannin Holliman is matched as the son of Robert Holliman through Arkansas Census Records in 1850 and 1860, although there is no available DNA trail. No other survivors of Robert can be located after the Civil War. There is no documented record or implied record of Robert in North Carolina between 1800 and 1850. I have literally battered my research against a proverbial brick wall in this search. My Y-DNA matches two different surnames that originate in Bertie County, NC, from the 1600’s through the present. Through Family Finder DNA and 23 & Me I relate to several Holliman families. I am advised the DNA tests show I could be a descendent of a Holliman daughter raised as a Holliman, children taken into the family by a second marriage of a non-Holliman, by adoption, by illegitimacy or by mutation of the Y-DNA gene.

With all of the above in mind, I undertook the research of the David Hollimans in North Carolina and Virginia with the assistance of Joe Parker. I found a scrambled mess of records in Georgia, caused by the releasing of open records to the public upon the departure of the British after the Revolutionary War. These records have been put back together simply by the work of many, many volunteers and people who supplied records to the state, particularly in Wilkes County. I found that the Revolutionary War Acts of David Holliman in Georgia were credited to two different Davids. Through associations with Absalom Holliman and Charity Holliman, the Bryant adopted children, plus the Salter family, I believe I was able to show that the David Hollimans came from North Carolina, and were actually a father/son combination. There simply was the absence of other Hollimans in the time period of 1770-1800 in Georgia Revolutionary War records which was significant in the overall investigation.

Through the research of Glenn Holliman and Joe Parker, I am comfortable with the connection of the father David Holliman (c.1735-c.1783) to his father Samuel Holliman and mother Elizabeth Jones of Edgecombe County, NC, and to David’s siblings as listed in the Hollyman Tree associated with the Christopher Hollyman family. As Joe said, “I’ve been down this path to many times before...” to further question it.

I also believe this research does show that the David Holliman from Johnston County, NC, did migrate from North Carolina with his brothers Richard and Absalom, along with Simon Salter and Mary Bryant Salter, and his own children Alcy, David, Samuel and Mark. The Georgia Land Plats do show they received their land from their father’s estate, with the same acreages as supplied in David’s will. Further the cemetery records indicate that the David of Putman County, GA, was the person that inherited the land from David, SR. Samuel’s follow-up records also tie him to his father’s land and lineage.

Early on I determined I could not locate my Great Great Grandfather Robert Holliman through the Georgia Hollimans. I proceeded on the research for the challenge of it, to determine Holliman Patriots for SAR and DAR, and to provide the lineage for other persons, particularly one Thomas Jefferson Holliman. I hope people are able to use it for their own benefit, and can further clarify and/or verify the information. As the universal statements go, none of this can be accepted as the gospel and it will never be complete.