

THE
THIGPEN
TRIBE

by

Alice Whitley Smith

Edited by

Hon. Casey Thigpen

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Alice Whitley Smith

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THIS FAMILY HISTORY IS DEDICATED

TO

THE MEMORY OF MY BELOVED PARENTS
BETTIE ZADA THIGPEN AND WILLIAM
BENJAMIN WHITLEY, SENIOR,

AS

A MEMORIAL TO OUR INTREPID ANCES-
TORS, WHO DID THEIR UTMOST TO
RECLAIM AN UNKNOWN LAND AND MAKE
IT SAFE FOR US,

AND

TO

MY DEAR HUSBAND, ARTHUR HUGH SMITH,
WHOSE ENCOURAGEMENT AND HELP, MADE
POSSIBLE THE COMPLETION OF THIS HISTORY.

DR. JAMES THIGPEN, IV, (son of James, III, II, I), b. Perq. Prec't 8th December 1710 (BPR), d. 21 January 1779, 4:30 in the morning, of pneumonia, buried at Penny Hill; m. 20 October 1729, Mary Penelope (Penny) Hill, b. 18 August 1713, d. 30 July 1786 of fever. (She was dau of Mary and Henry Hill. In 1710 Henry Hill proved his rights for transportation of Henry, Mary and Abraham Hill. Both Henry and his wife Mary Hill died and are buried in Perq. Co. N. C. However, even after their removal to N. C. they styled themselves "of Nansemond County, Va." Perq. Co. N. C. Deed Book A, #371 - Henry Hill "of ye upper Parish of Nansemond Co". for 5,000 lbs of Tobacco to me pd by William Easson, assigns Right to 600 a on ye main desert of Perq River, on line of Christopher Givens. Patented by me August 30, 1714. Dated: February 16, 1714/15. /s/ Henry Hill and Mary Hill. 'Test: John Sutton, Farlow Quinn, Henry Hill. - Hathaway, Vol. 2, p. 475 - Chowan Prec't: Mary Hill, widow of Henry Hill, of Nansemond Co. Va. to Thos. Herman of Albemarle Co. N. C. Gen. Power of Attorney. 4/18/1720. Mary Hill was living in Perq. Prec't when above was drawn. Henry Hill died in Perq. Prec't ca 1719.) James IV called his Manor Plantation "Penny Hill" after his beloved wife. It was built up high, in order that with slight excavation an underground room could be made, used in early days as protection against the Indians, in later years for storing the valuable papers of the families. The family records were here when Penny Hill burned in 1832. Although slightly scorched they were not unduly harmed. Penny Hill was rebuilt, different architecture and away from the river.

According to family records James IV was 5 feet 10, brown hair and eyes, and deeply cleft chin, a Thigpen characteristic. Penny was small, five feet 2, curly auburn-brown hair and deep blue eyes. Her portrait (now in the home of Arthur Smith) was painted in 1850 from a seared miniature on ivory (all that was left from the burning of Penny Hill, except for those things in the underground storage room.) The old portraits of James and Penny were burned. She was historian, (and kept very good records), making copies of the ancient records where time was obliterating the writing. From the notations on the margins of her bible, through the years they were an ideally happy pair, and typified a Thigpen tradition of "handsome men and pretty women."

When she recorded the death of her beloved husband in the bible, she reserved space for her own demise to be recorded next his. Beside the death she had written: "The light of my life is gone." They were Episcopalians and conducted daily family devotionals, in which all house servants joined. He owned one of the first mills of the section; a large scale planter, with slaves to tend his acres. He sold the boats inherited from his father, to his cousin John, reserving only two small craft, to navigate the narrow Tar River. The Thigpens, from the beginning had an abiding love of the land, and most of them wherever they settled, had large tracts as not many were interested in public office, although many of them - all branches were teachers, ministers, doctors and educated as lawyers. Although a man of wealth, engaged in many activities, he was most interested in healing the sick. It is said that he invented a surgical instrument for operations in the Rev. War, which was owned in 1920 by an Edgecombe County descendant.

When James and Penny were married they came by boat to their new home, then in Edgecombe, later when Pitt was cut off it fell in Pitt County. Friends and Thigpens of all branches of the family visited often at Penny Hill, some bringing families and staying for weeks and months. They liked having family and friends around them. Many notations of gala entertainments at Penny Hill testify to this fact. In the early days - until the War Between The States - the Thigpens were a closely knit family, the relationship being so close it was said by "outsiders" that it was difficult to tell brothers and sisters from distant kindred. After the war they drifted far away and apart until today - they know not their kindred.

There is today a town by the name of Penny Hill, near the spot of the old plantation home, the land no longer owned by Thigpens. In early days it was said that one could ride for miles on the lands of Thigpens in Edgecombe and Pitt Counties.

CHILDREN (BIBLE RECORDS)

- I. Henry Thigpen, b. 21 October 1730, d. 14 April 1746. He was killed by a felled tree.
- II. Bartholomew Thigpen, b. 14 December 1731, twin; m. Mary? Hardy. He was a soldier in the Rev. War. N. C. Continental Line - Rev. Army Accts. Vol. III, p. 49, folio 3. See page below
- Children may not be in order:
- (1) Mary Thigpen; m. Maxey
 - (2) Penelope Thigpen; m. ---
 - (3) Martha Thigpen; m. 1st: ---Maxey
 - (4) Elizabeth Thigpen; m. ---Starkey
 - (5) Henry Thigpen, d. ca 1830, Tenn; m. Mary Rainey. He was living in Union Co. S. C. census (name spelled Thickpenny.) Moved to Washington County, Tenn. ca 1793. (name spelled Tiffen - he later spelled the name Tippen and it may be the scribes and recorders mistook the p's for f's.) He purchased several tracts of land, two from Richard McPherson by deeds dated Feb. 11, 1795, Book 7, pp 72/73. (This family visited back and forth among the Thigpen families of North Carolina, and as late as 1843, North Carolinians passing through Tennessee on the way to Alabama and Texas, stayed with them - some for several months.)
 - (6) James Thigpen, d. 1792; m. 1st: Jennie Bird; m. 2nd: Rosanna---
First Marriage:
 - (A) Henry Thigpen; m. Margaret---
 - (a) Isaac D. Tipping
 - (b) John C. Tipping
 - (c) Henry Tipping
 - (d) Betsy Tipping; m. ---
 - (B) Jane Tipping; m. William Rainey
 - (a) John Rainey
 Second marriage:
 - (C) Elizabeth Tipping; m. ---

In South Carolina James and his children spelled the name Tipping.

Will of James Tipping, York County, S. C. dated August 19, 1783, prob. 30 April 1792, Book A-42, pp 72/74; Names: Wife - Rosanna, Son: Henry; daus: Jane Rainey and Elizabeth. Executors: Son in law William Rainey; David Gordon and wife: Rosanna Tipping. Witnesses: David Gordon; John Davison and Elijah Fleming.

Will of Henry Tipping, dated June 4, 1842, prob. March 6, 1843, York County, S. C. names: Wife- Margaret; sons: Isaac D. Tipping; John C. Tipping; Henry Tipping and dau: Betsy Tipping. Executors: James Moore and John C. Tipping. Witnesses: James McElhaney; Dudley Jones and John W. Moore. The elder James Thigpen (Tipping) was a doctor and a planter.

 - (7) John Hardy Thigpen; m. ---Gibson. Living in Camden Dist. S. C. 1790 census as Hardy Thigpen, wife. Living in Sumter Co. S. C. 1800 census where he gave his full name John Hardy Thigpen, as his cousin Hardy Thigpen was living near him at the time. He had 8 daughters.
 - (8) Edwin Edgar Thigpen; m. ---Bruce. Living in Cumberland County, N. C. 1810 census. (Name spelled Tippen).
- III. John Thigpen, b. 14 December 1731, twin, died 1780, Charleston, S. C.; m. 12 November 1751, Ann Savage; b. 9 September 1736, d. 2 December 1785. See page 39.
- IV. Job Thigpen, b. 10 November 1735, d. 16 August 1781, in South Carolina; m. October 1754, Annie King, b. 1737, d. February 1780, Duplin County, N. C. See page 90.
- V. Margaret Elyn Thigpen, b. 28 July 1737, d. 6 February 1754; m. 3 January 1754, Jonathan Thigpen, b. 10 May 1736, d. ca 1808 in Georgia (son of

Keziah and Jonathan Thigpen.)

- VI. Mary Penelope Thigpen, b. 29 March 1739, died of fever 29 August 1779; m. 25 December 1757, John Thigpen, (twin) b. 27 February 1736, killed by Indians. No children that lived, (son of Elizabeth Lawrence and Dr. James Thigpen of Johnston County, N. C.)
- VII. Joseph Gilead Thigpen, b. 2 April 1741, died of fever 31 August 1755.
- VIII. James Thigpen, V, b. 25 April 1743. See Page 154
- IX. Travis H. Thigpen, b. 19 June 1747, (Rev. War) died in Georgia 1848; m. 1st: Mary Dennis, dau of William Dennis (Rev. War; pay voucher #2539, Col. Rec.). He was educated as a lawyer; planter
- First Marriage:
 - (1) Dennis Thigpen, b. 1766, d. 1823, Edgecombe County, N. C. Travis married second: Lydia Mayo of Pitt County, N. C.
 - (2) Mary Penelope Thigpen; m. Nathaniel Norwood Thigpen Travis married 3rd: ca 1783, Hannah (Hardy) Hall, widow with one son by first marriage, Hardy Hall. Moved to Georgia ca 1789. See page 115
- X. Dr. Lyman Calvin Thigpen, b. 6 April 1757, "Penny Hill," d. 1827 Ware County, Georgia; m. 1st: Sarah Lawrence
 - (1) Sarah Thigpen; m. Daniel/ Stewart
 - (2) Melancthon Thigpen, b. ca 1799, N. C. d. ca 1895, Georgia. He was a Baptist Minister. (Kehukee Asso. Minutes.)
 - Calvin married 2nd: Martha Mayo of Pitt County, N. C.
 - (3) Mary Penelope Thigpen; m. ---Hughes
 - (4) Martha Thigpen; m. ---Cherry
 - Calvin married 3rd: Sarah Knight
 - (5) Mary Elizabeth Thigpen; m. 1st: Edward? Carter
 - Calvin m. 4th, ca 1823, Margaret Carver, dau of Sampson Carver.
 - (6) Travis T. Thigpen, b. Emanuel County, Ga. 13 August 1824, d. Ware County, Ga. 6 March 1896; m. Mary Davis, b. 7 May 1826, d. 17 September 1899, (dau of Penny Lott and Stafford Davis of Montgomery County, Ga; one of the first settlers in Ware County. It is said he lived to be 101 years of age.) Travis' widow m. Moses Kirkland.
- Children (May not be in order)
- (A) Elizabeth Thigpen, b. ca 1842
 - (B) Stafford Thigpen, unm. b. ca 1844, CSA; enlisted 5/9/1862, Co. G, 50th Georgia. Missing in action Battle of Boonsboro, Md. 9/14/1862
 - (C) Barbara Thigpen, b. April 8, 1846; m. J. Cuyler Kirkland - See 39
 - (D) Mary Ann Thigpen, b. September 7, 1848, d. April 6, 1906, unm.
 - (E) Calvin Lyman Thigpen, b. 1849; m. October 3, 1876, Eliza Bailey, dau of William S. Bailey.
 - (F) Susan Thigpen, b. December 24, 1852; m. Alfred B. Findley
 - (G) Delilah Thigpen, b. ca 1855; m. Alfred Sweat
 - (H) Manning W. Thigpen, b. 12 January 1857, d. 1935; m. 1st: Miriam Miller, dau of Ella Dyer and Ezekiel Miller; m. 2nd: Maggie Jones; m. 3rd: Rose (aldrige) Woodcock, widow. He was a Congregational Methodist Minister.
 - (I) Maggie Thigpen, b. 3 September 1861, d. 1 July 1867.
 - (J) Travis T. Thigpen, Jr. b. 31 July 1863, Ware County, Ga. d. 4 December 1900; m. 18 February 1885, Martha Lilla Blackburn, b. 7 February 1860, Ware Co. Ga. d. April 21, 1937, Waycross, Ga; (dau of Mary Cason and Martin Ebenezer Blackburn.) He was in the Lumber and Naval Stores Business, owned saw mills and Turpentine Stills in and near Ware Co. Ga.
 - (a) Mary Elizabeth Thigpen, b. 1 October 1889, Ware Co. Ga; m. 18 March 1909, Romulus Hawkins Duncan, b. 5 September 1881, Pen-

- V. William Zachary Taylor Thigpen, b. 6/11/1919, d. 2/15/1921
 VI. Arthur Curtis (Snooky) Thigpen, b. 12/3/1921; m. 12/22/1946,
 June Marcilla Barnard, (dau of Ada Artis Souter and James Walter
 Barnard, of Terrell, Texas.) Member and Deacon First Baptist
 Church of Ruston; Sunday School Supt., Church Clerk, S. S. teacher
 and Training Union Officer, Kiwanis. Educated: Ruston H. S., B. S.
 degree Electrical Engineering 1943, La. Tech; B. S. degree 1943,
 La. Tech; Business Administration 1948, Univ. Texas. Summer
 Term, MS degree Electrical Engineering 1950, Oklahoma State Univ.
 Stillwater, Okla. - 1947/8, Purchasing Agent, La. Tech. Listed in
 Who's Who in Engineering 1959; Instructor, Asst. Professor, Asso.
 Professor Electrical Engineering, La. Tech. 1960 - Professor of
 Electrical Engineering, Asst. to Dean of Engineering, Director of
 Student Employment, La. Tech.

WW II, Lieut. U. S. Navy, Oct. 1943-Jan. 1944, Indoctrination
 School, U. S. Naval Reserves, Fort Schuyler, N. Y. Jan. 1944-Apr.
 1944; Pre-Radar, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Me; April 1944-
 Aug. 1944, Radar School, M. I. T. Cambridge, Mass. Aug. 1944-Dec.
 1944; Electronics Officer, Pearl Harbor, T. H. Dec. 1944-Dec. 1945,
 Electronics Officer, Destroyer Escort Division, Pacific Theater,
 Dec. 1945 - Aug. 1946; Electronics Officer, Florida Group, 16th Group,
 Green Cove Springs, Fla.

Registered Professional Engineer State of La; member La. Engineer-
 ing Society, Nat'l Soc. for Professional Engineers; American Institute
 of Electrical Engineers; American Soc. for Engineering Education and
 La. Teachers Association.

- (1) Arthur Curtis Thigpen, Jr. b. 9/2/1949
 (2) Ada Melinda Thigpen, b. 2/23/1951, twin
 (3) Andrew Barnard Thigpen, b. 2/23/1951, twin

Peninah Christiana (Ninnie) Thigpen, (dau of Brythal, son of Joseph, John, Job,
 Dr. James, IV, III, II, I), b. 1/19/1879, d.
 5/10/1950. She was born near Homer, La. and lived in Homer all her life; m.
 Tap Taylor, a very successful merchant, planter, banker. There was never a
 more faithful member of the Baptist Church. She worked for many years in the
 Cradle Roll Department and witnessed in many ways for her Savior, visiting
 new babies and helping young mothers, always taking flowers and cookies when
 she went to celebrate birthdays. She was loved by all who knew her.

CHILDREN (Bible Records)

- I. Avalyn Taylor, b. 6/12/1907, m. 1/22/1928, Joseph C. LeSage. Following
 the foot-steps of her mother, she is a Baptist and like her mother, works
 with small children in the church and does very good work.
 (1) Joseph Victor Carnahan (Little Joe) LeSage, b. 12/12/1928; m. 8/16/1949,
 Lorraine Yearwood, b. 6/3/1928. Both are Baptists and graduates of
 La. State Univ. He was member Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Omicron Delta
 Kappa; Who's Who Among Students in American Univs. And Colleges;
 1949 Pres "L" Club, Delta Sigma Pi; Gamma Eta Gamma, Student Senator;
 Student Council Representative. Two and half years Military Service,
 6 months at Fort Sill, Okla. Attended Judge Advocate School, Univ.
 Va. Washington, D. C. Judge Advocate General Office in Pentagon ca
 2 years, rank First Lieut. Left service as Captain in Reserves.
 Attorney. Residence: Shreveport, La.
 (A) Sherry Ann LeSage, b. 5/9/1950
 (B) Susan Virginia LeSage, b. 2/16/1952

Arthur Ford Thigpen, (son of Brythal, Joseph, John, Job, Dr. James, IV,
 III, II, I), b. near Homer, La. 4/5/1881, d. 1/31/1951;
 m. 11/30/1911, Mary Russell, Methodist. He was graduate Dental School, prac-
 ticed Dentistry number of years, worked for several yrs. in U. S. Post Office

Dallas, Texas.

CHILDREN (Bible Records)

- I. Arthur Ford Thigpen, Jr. died infant
 II. James Thigpen, b. 10/15/1920; m. 12/24/1948, Mildred Hodges.
 Educated: John Carlton College; Univ. Oklahoma and Southern
 Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. WW II. USAF, ground
 crew, January 1942 - end of war, spending 30 months on islands
 in the Pacific. Residence: Dallas, Texas
 (1) Don Arthur Thigpen, b. 9/13/1950.

Travis Hill Thigpen, (son of Dr. James, IV, III, II, I), b. "Penny Hill"
 6/19/1747, d. 1848, Montgomery Co. Ga; age 101;

m. 1st: 1765, Mary Dennis, b. ca 1750, d. 1766, soon after birth of only
 child Dennis, who was reared at "Penny Hill," (dau of William Dennis of
 Pitt Co. N. C.); m. 2nd: ca 1768, Lydia Mayo of Pitt Co; one child sur-
 vived infancy; m. 3rd: ca 1783, Hannah (Hardy) Hall, widow who had one
 son, Hardy, by first marriage. Lawyer, planter.

Land Grant Office, Raleigh, N. C. to Travis Thigpen, Dobbs Co. Grant
 #1454, 600 acres; Grant #319, 1782, Book 45, p. 20, adj. lands of Britt, Newby
 Ellis and his own lines. Pitt Co. N. C. Registry, Book L, p. 338, 1/24/1789:
 Deed from Jesse Dunn of Pitt to Travis Thigpen of Dobbs Co. for one Negro boy
 11 years of age by name of James. Test: John Eason, Titus Carr, Benj. May.

Ga. Hist. Com: Travis Thigpen, Justice Inferior Ct. Washington Co. Ga.
 1/18/1798 to 2/16/1799 - resigned. His signature is on record, Ga. Hist. Com.
 Ga. Hist. Com. Atlanta: "Pass to travel in lands occupied by Indians; To His
 Excellency, John Milledge: Sir- Travis Thigpen, Esquire, being desirous of
 obtaining a Pass Port from your Excellency to travel throu the Creek Nation
 of Indians, I take the liberty of recommending him to your Excellency as a
 man of good character and uprightness. /s/ Thaeon Vivion. --- On reverse
 side: Recommendation for Pass Port. Granted. 17th May 1804. His Excellency
 John Milledge." (In 1803 Travis went to Miss. with his nephew, Rev. James
 Thigpen, then living in S. C. to patent lands, he returned to Ga. as above shows.
 Rev. James returned to SC but later to Miss.) Carter Territorial Papers, Vol.
 V. p 282, 1803 - Miss. Memorial by Travis and James Thigpen as residents of
 Miss. He had several thousand acres of land in Ga. by purchase, inheritance
 and grant. Following from Ga. Hist. Com.

1807 or 2nd Land Lottery: Travis Thigpen living in Montgomery Co. drew
 land Lot 110 in the 24th dist. of Wilkinson Co... 1820, Emanuel Co. Book M-5,
 p. 934; Grant for 250 acres... 1820, Montgomery Co. Book M-5, p. 935, Grant
 for 500 acres... Montgomery Co. Book T-5, b. 659, Grant for 250 acres; 1832,
 one of those fortunate enough to draw in the Cherokee Land Lottery, #189, 12th
 Dist. 2nd section of Cherokee Co. Ga.

He served in the Rev. Army 6 years 9 months, only one pay voucher has
 been found of record, photostat of the original pay voucher shown herein. He,
 his brothers and numerous cousins served with Dobbs County troops. In the
 battle of Moore's Creek, Col. Caswell, Commanding, his nephew Job Thigpen,
 (son of John) was killed. Travis received a shoulder wound and deep gash on
 the head. He said that when he became aware "a lovely angel was bending over
 him tending his wounds." His brother James, V, thought his mind was wander-
 ing, but Travis - even when he was completely recovered - insisted it was true
 and would not change his story. He ceased repeating it - however, to avoid
 being teased about his "angel."

CHILDREN (Family Records)

- I. Dennis Thigpen, b. 1766, d. ca 1823, Edgecombe, his son Redding Thig-
 pen was Admr. of his Estate in 1824; m. Sarah Grey. Planter. See p. 137

- II. Mary Penelope Thigpen, b. 1769; m. ca 1784, Nathaniel Thigpen, (son of Sarah Norwood and Joshua Thigpen of Onslow Co. NC)
- III. Elder Calvin Thigpen, never married. (This Calvin, preacher, has been confused by genealogists with Dr. Calvin, brother of Travis.)
- IV. Charles Thigpen, b. ca 1785; m. 1st; ca 1804, Mary Arnold; m. 2nd: 8/22/1809, Barbara Culbrath. Ga. Hist. Com.: Judge Inferior Ct. Emanuel Co. 11/17/1813-11/14/1817; Judge, Early Co. Ct. 3/7/1820-8/15/1822; Judge, Irwin Co. Ct. 1/30/1833/35; Judge, Baker Co. Ct. 2/12/1835. Lawyer, planter. Surveyor.
"Ga: Early Co. 4/12/1821: Charles Thigpen notified Willis M. McDonald and Richard Grimsley to meet at the house of Richard Pressley - together with the Clerk of said Ct - in order to draw a jury to have trial of slave. List of justices headed by James Jones, Clerk - William McDonald, Justice of Inferior Court; Richard Grimsley, JIC; Charles Thigpen, JIC." m. 3rd: 9/8/1825, Martha Tilley
Known children - may not be in order:
- (1) Arnold Thigpen, b. ca 1805; m. 1824, Ann Mills
 - (2) William Thigpen, b. ca 1810; m. Amelia Mims. Moved to Ala. 1850 Wilcox Co. census shows him living there, wife and son John.
 - (3) Elizabeth Thigpen; m. William Newbern
 - (4) Mary Thigpen; m. Charles McMinn
 - (5) Daughter
- V. John Thigpen, b. ca 1786; m. 10/15/1809, Nancy Holton
- VI. Martha Thigpen, b. ca 1790; m. 1st: 12/1/1811, Juniper Hall; m. 2nd: ---Graham. (1) 6 sons; (2) 4 daughters
- VII. Hannah Thigpen, b. ca 1791; m. 10/24/1809, John Fligg
- VIII. Melancthon Thigpen, b. 12/19/1792, Liberty Co. Ga. d. 12/26/1877, Laurens Co. Ga; m. 3/20/1814, Barbara Ricks, b. 2/12/1799, d. 11/1/1895, (dau of Elizabeth Herring and Richard Ricks.) Teacher and Planter. See below
- IX. Mary(Polly) Thigpen, b. ca 1794; m. 10/11/1811, Hezekiah Neal
- X. James M. Thigpen, b. ca 1799, unm. Living in Washington Co. Ga. 1860 census. Teacher
- XI. William Thigpen, b. 6/26/1789. Said to have remained single. He was a Baptist Minister; he preached in Dorminy's Meeting House, (later known as Young's Meeting House and now Brushy Creek Primitive Bap. Ch.) 6/26/1836, using as his text 13th v. 13th chap. of Paul's Epistle to the Corinthians. He lived to be quite old.
Ga. Hist. Com. Wm Thigpen, Lt. Emanuel Co. Militia, 5/16/1823-8/3/1824, (MR - 1808-1829, p. 103; Captain, 8/29/1836, MR. 1829-41, p. 118). Ga. Hist. Com: 1820 or 3rd Land Lottery: Wm Thigpen, living in Emanuel Co. drew Lot #258 in 3rd dist. Early Co. Emanuel Co: Book Z-5, p. 863, 1859; Grant for 56 acres; Emanuel Co. 1835, Book R-5, p. 462; Grant for 540 acres; Emanuel Co. 1839, Book T-5, p. 684, Grant: 500 acres; Emanuel Co. 1853, Book T-5, p. 983; Grant for 194 acres. In addition he inherited land from his father.

Melancthon Thigpen, (son of Travis, Dr. James, IV. III, II, 1.), b. 12/19/1792, d. 7/26/1877, buried in Bethesda Churchyard, about 3 miles from Adrian, Ga; m. 3/20/1814, Barbara Ricks, b. 2/12/1799, d. 11/1/1895, buried by the side of her husband, (dau of Elizabeth Herring and Richard Ricks.) He was Justice of Peace for Emanuel Co. a number of yrs. His commission recorded Ga. Hist. Com. His second home was built ca 1840 and is still standing near old Bethesda Church. A large scale planter and slave owner - owned several thousand acres - inherited, by purchase and grant, ... 1821, or 4th Land Lottery; Melancthon Thigpen living in Emanuel



Barbara (Ricks) Thigpen, wife of Melancthon Thigpen



Sarah Ann (Thigpen) Dame



George Appling Dame



John Thigpen Dame



Emma (Smith) Dame 3rd wife of John Thigpen Dame

Co. drew Lot #3 in 18th Dist. of Henry Co. . . Emanuel Co. 1860, Book A-B, p. 19, Grant for 96 1/2 acres. . . 1837, Book S-5, p. 434, Grant for 200 acres, Book, N-5, p. 575, Grant for 200 acres. . . 1823, Emanuel Co. 1839, Book T-5, p. 685, Grant for 700 acres.

CHILDREN (Family Records)

- I. Richard Thigpen, b. 6/16/1815; m. Mary Hern, b. 1816. See page 120
- II. Travis Thigpen, b. 4/25/1818, d. 12/12/1907; m. Matilda McLemore, b. 9/1/1821, d. 11/30/1904
DAR Cemetery Records, Vol. 1, AE, Tombstone Inscriptions in Thigpen Cemetery one mile south of Norristown, in Treutlen County, Ga.
"Sarah Elizabeth Gillis, 1839-4/1/1909
Travis Thigpen, 4/25/1818-12/12/1907, age 89 yrs
Matilda Thigpen, 9/1/1821-11/30/1904, age 83 yrs
Martha Thigpen, 8/23/1841-5/10/1896."
Travis Thigpen living in Montgomery County, 1853; Book B-Y, p. 1047, Grant for 250 acres; 1853, Book B-Y, p. 991, Grant for 240 acres; 1853, Book &-5, p. 985, Grant for 317 acres; 1850, Book X-5, p. 431, Grant for 179 acres.
(1) Elizabeth Thigpen, b. 1839; m. Norman Gillis. (A) 2 children
(2) Martha E. Thigpen, b. 8/23/1841, d. 5/10/1895
(3) Eliza Thigpen, b. 1/5/1844, unrm.
(4) John M. Thigpen, b. 3/26/1849; m. ---Barwick
(A) Ann Thigpen; m. ---Williamson; (B) Dottie Thigpen; m. ---Page
(5) Champion Thigpen, b. 9/6/1855, unrm.
(6) Andrew L. (Dock) Thigpen; m. ---Barwick (Soperton, Ga.)
- III. Daniel Thigpen, b. 5/4/1821, d. 4/22/1897; m. Mary Hilborn
(1) Ira Von Thigpen; m. 1st: Henrietta V. Martin, b. 1/17/1865, d. 6/1/1890; m. 2nd: Fannie Moore, b. 2/1/1871, d. 7/6/1916; m. 3rd: Eadie---. Baptist, planter.
First Marriage: (A) Daniel Grover Thigpen, b. 3/3/1888, d. 9/2/1961. See (B) Virgil, d. young; (C) 3rd Marriage: Ira Von Thigpen, Jr. Rt. 1, / P. 121
Adrian, Ga. (D) Hattie Evelyn Thigpen; m. ---Jackson, 2453 Broadway, Muskegan, Mich; (E) Oswald A. Thigpen, 509 Watson St. Swainsboro, Ga. (F) Geraldine Thigpen; m. ---Martin; 205 Spruce St. Louisville, Ga. (G) Yunawn Thigpen; m. ---Tapley; Swainsboro, Ga. (H) Paschal N. Thigpen, Alma, Ga.
(2) Andrew L. Thigpen; b. 7/20/1861; m. Georgiana Drew, b. 12/16/1859. See
(3) Richard Byron Thigpen, b. 10/11/1860, d. 12/19/1942; m. Frances / p. 125 Esley Martin. (After death of his mother, she became a mother to Daniel Grover Thigpen, Sr.) She was b. 4/3/1874. See page 121
(4) Daniel Thigpen, unrm.
(5) Georgia Thigpen; m. Ed Walker. (A) Robert Walker; (B) James Walker; (C) Trudie Walker. Orland, Ga.
(6) Leona Thigpen; m. Noah Derriso. (A) Kate Derriso; (B) Willie Derriso; (C) George Derriso; (D) Lavata Derriso
(7) Molly Thigpen; m. Ches Smith
- IV. Elizabeth Thigpen, b. 11/6/1923; m. Chesley McLemore
May be others; may not be in order:
(1) William McLemore; (2) Lucien McLemore; (3) Ira McLemore;
(4) Georgia Ann McLemore; (5) Elizabeth (Lizrie) McLemore.
(Henry McLemore, popular syndicated columnist is a descendant of this family. AWS)
- V. William Thigpen, b. 6/16/1826; m. Delilah Clements
May not be in order:
(1) Charlton Travis Thigpen; m. Willie V. ---. (A) Burton Thigpen; m. ---
(B) Jewel Thigpen; m. ---. No Children; (C) Willie V. Thigpen; m. --- Macon
(D) John Hardee Thigpen; Merchant; m. ---
(a) Mary Myrtle Thigpen; m. ---Clay

- A. Mary Marlene; m. ---Souther
 a. Robert Michael Souther; b. Debra Jean Souther
 c. Gregory Souther
 B. Vienna Luella Clay; m. ---Wade; a. Frederick Samuel Wade; b. Russell Edmond Wade
 C. Caroline Araminta Clay; m. ---Driggers;
 a. Charles E. Driggers
 (b) John Gordon Thigpen; m. ---
 1. John Carnage Thigpen; m. ---
 A. Danny Gordon Thigpen; B. Cindy Thigpen
 (c) Grable Estus Thigpen
 (d) Julian Moye Thigpen; m. Margaret W. ---
 1. Donna Barbara Thigpen
 2. Bonita Helen Thigpen
 3. Julian Moye Thigpen, Jr.
 4. Brenda Lee Nell Thigpen
 5. Gordon Donaldson Thigpen
 (d) Helen Araminta Thigpen; m. ---Poole
 1. Araminta Jolene Poole
 2. Patty Melinda Poole
 3. Kimberly Jeanine Poole
 (2) Floralie Thigpen, d.
 (3) William Hicks Thigpen, b. 3/31/1862 m. Eliza Beasley, b. 2/28/1868
 (A) Uziah Thigpen, b. 8/12/1883, d. 10/12/1939; m. Anna Pearl Carter; b. 11/20/1886. See page 126
 May not be in order:
 (a) Handel Thigpen, b. 1/22/1906
 (b) Jonnie Mae Thigpen, b. 8/30/1908
 (c) Martha Ella Thigpen, b. 12/10/1910
 (d) Nubern Thigpen, b. 6/21/1913
 (e) Jessie Nell Thigpen, b. 10/28/1915
 (f) Trudie Pearl Thigpen, b. 4/23/1918
 (g) Eliza Jane Thigpen, b. 4/20/1920
 (B) Charlton Harrison Thigpen; m. Lavata Spell
 (a) Charlton Harrison Thigpen, Jr.; b. 9/25/1918
 (b) Mary Christine Thigpen, b. 5/15/1921
 (d) Dorothy Waynelle Thigpen, b. 9/21/1927
 (C) Richard Thigpen; m. Rita Spell
 (a) Juanita Thigpen, b. 9/27/1915; m. Herbert Anderson, Sr.
 (son of Jessie Mae Hutcheson and Horace Anderson, son of Arlia Barbara (Zerma) Thigpen and Rice Anderson.)
 1. Herbert Anderson, Jr.
 He was State Supervisor for Pardon & Parole Bd. and a planter. He d. 6/30/1962. Lived: Scott, Ga.
 (b) Louise Thigpen, b. 8/20/1921
 (D) Delilah Thigpen; (E) Effie Thigpen; (F) Webster Thigpen;
 (G) Jonnie Thigpen
 (4) Hardee Thigpen, b. 3/7/1862, d. 12/10/1940; m. ca 1883, Lugene Hilburn, b. 1861, d. 5/30/1942. (dau of ___ Carter and ---Hilburn)
 See page 123
 (5) Arlia Barbara Thigpen (Zerma); m. Rice Anderson
 (A) W. Horace Anderson; m. Jessie Mae Hutcheson
 (B) Dau; m. John J. Reading; (C) Harold Anderson; (D) Earl Anderson; (E) Gene Anderson; (F) Herbert Anderson, b. ca 1916, d. 6/30/1962, m. Juanita Thigpen, (dau of Rilla Spell and Richard Thigpen.) (a) Herbert Anderson, Jr.
 (G) Margaret Anderson
 May not be in order

- (6) Sarah Delilah Thigpen
 (7) Emmet Thigpen
 VI. Eliza Thigpen, b. 12/16/1828; m. 7/30/1848, Pollard McLendon, b. Oct. 1822
 (1) William McLendon, b. 12/30/1849; m. Ella McLendon, cousin
 (2) Mary McLendon, b. 12/25/1852; m. John Manning
 (3) Pollard McLendon, Jr. b. 7/17/1854; m. Samantha Davis
 (4) Ephriam McLendon, b. 4/25/1857; m. Ida Miller
 (5) Martha McLendon, b. 7/20/1859
 (6) Alpha McLendon, b. 11/7/1860; m. Archibald McDaniel
 (7) John McLendon, b. 5/6/1865; m. Josephine Wall
 (8) Laura McLendon, b. 10/27/1867; m. Carol Martin
 (9) Elizabeth McLendon, b. 11/22/1871, d. 1876
 VII. Arlia Ann Thigpen, b. 7/11/1830, d. 11/1926, buried Thigpen cemetery near Scott, Ga; m. Richard Archibald (DICK) Odom, a successful planter near Dublin, Ga. They built the first residence ever erected in Dublin. He was appointed by the President of the U. S. to delineate the western line of Laurens county when it was laid out, it being partly in Indian territory. He was called a "Jureau." Arlia Ann was asked to designate a place to build the first courthouse in the county, she selected the site and made an x, they built it there.
 (1) Archibald Paul Odom (Arch); m. Julia Ross; had children:
 (A) Julius; (B) Pearl; (C) Fleta; (D) Clarence; (E) Carl; (F) Bernard;
 (G) Lerver; (H) Ray and a dau who died infant.
 (2) Josephine Odom; m. ---Burns of Atlanta
 (A) Virginia; m. ---Connif; (a) Cecil (dau); (b) William; (c) Mary (d) Paul; (e) and Phillip Connif
 (B) Loto Burns; m. Wiley Mims; (a) Maude Mims; m. Moore;
 (b) Myrtle; m. Elmer Shuman; (c) Preston; m. ---no children
 (d) Wilbur; m. ---; 2 sons; (e) William Mims; (f) Paul Mims
 (3) John Odom; m. Mattie Horton
 (A) Minnie Odom; m. ---Hester; (a) one dau: Cleo Hester
 (B) John; (C) William; (D) Grady; (E) Lela; (F) Zelma; (G) Agnes
 (4) Virginia Lee Odom; m. John Job Leach, lived near Scott, Ga.
 (A) Bessie, d. young; (B) Dena; m. ---; (C) Thelma, d. age 16
 (D) Wm. Pinkney; (E) Bert; m. Alice Glover; (F) John, d. age 12
 (5) Lela Odom; m. Barton H. Overby of Atlanta; (A) Barton, Jr.
 (6) Lula Odom, b. 1873; m. Daniel Walker; Baptist Minister and Evangelist. (A) Evelyn Walker; m. Frank Caldwell, High Point, N. C.
 (a) Dan Caldwell; (b) Martha Caldwell
 (b) Roy Walker, died age 9
 (7) Richard Virgil Odom (Dick), b. 1868; m. 1st: Melissa Keen, m. 2nd: Viola Sharpe, no children 2nd mar.
 (A) Alma; m. Lee Alford; (B) Gladys; m. 1st coz. Carl Odom; (C) Clyde (dau) d. young; (D) Doris; (E) Linnie; m. ---Cummings
 (8) Robert Lucien Odom, b. 1870, d. 8/26/1926; m. Mary Chaffin, of Warrenton, Ga. (A) Jessie Odom, b. 7/16/1898; m. Charles Ivey.
 (a) Robert Ivey - Independence Ins. Co. Jacksonville, Fla. m. Virginia Phillips; have sons Kenneth, James and dau Susan
 (B) Ruby Mary Odom, b. 6/29/1903, owns and operates the Rubies Fabrics, Orlando, Fla. (C) Richard Melancthon Odom, b. 4/2/1905; m. Mrs. Calla Reese, Res. Wilmington, Del. He is mechanic on USS Goethals; M/Sgt USAF 15 yrs.
 (D) Robert Lucien Odom, b. 4/8/1907, unm. d. 1936
 VIII. Lucien Thigpen, b. 10/23/1833; m. Sarah Hilburn
 (1) John Melancthon Thigpen; m. Dora Hilton
 (A) Hilton Thigpen; (B) Maude Thigpen; (C) Ernest Thigpen, d.
 (2) Lawson A. Thigpen, b. 1/24/1865; d. 4/28/1888

- (3) Arlia Ann Thigpen; m. H. Courson. (A) Lucien Courson; (B) Dora Courson; (C) Oscar Courson; (D) Era Courson; (E) Dale Courson; (F) Annie Courson; (G) Laura Courson
- (4) Arnold Thigpen; m. ---Worrell
- (5) Otis Thigpen, unm.
- (6) Stella Thigpen; m. ---Phillips. (A) Neal Phillips; (B) Nesby Phillips; (C) Inez Phillips; (D) Quantita Phillips; (E) Evedilla Phillips
- (7) Walter Thigpen; m. ---Swain. (Jordan Thigpen; (B) Dwight Thigpen; (C) 3 Others; (D) 5 daughters
- (8) Oceana Thigpen; m. ---Hall. No children
- IX. Sarah Ann Thigpen, b. 1/4/1836, d. 3/27/1934, at the home of her son John Thigpen Dame where she had lived for 40 years; m. 5/6/1842, George Appling Dame, b. 11/18/1825, d. 9/18/1882, (son of Catherine Carter and George Green Dame, b. 3/9/1784, Middlesex Co. Va. War 1812, d. 1867, Clinch Co. Ga.) See page 127
- X. John Thigpen, b. 2/4/1838, CSA, d. 4/24/1864. He was mortally wounded in the battle of Ocean Pond, Olustee, Fla. and died at Lake City, Fla. One of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War.
- XI. Floralie Thigpen, b. 9/13/1841, d. 7/18/1862, unm.

Richard Thigpen, (son of Melancthon, Travis, Dr. James, IV, III, II, I), b. 6/16/1815; m. Mary Hern, b. 1816. Grants to Richard Thigpen, Montgomery County, Ga; Book X-5, p. 435, for 236 acres; 1850, Book X-5, p. 434, for 510 acres; 1850, Book X-5, p. 432, for 162 acres; Book T-5, p. 657, for 250 acres.

CHILDREN (Family Records)

- I. Joseph (Joe) Thigpen; m. Martha McLendon (Melancthon)
- (1) James (Jim) Thigpen
- (2) John A. Thigpen
- (3) Ennis Thigpen
- (4) Claude Thigpen
- (5) Tell Thigpen
- (6) William (Bill) Thigpen
- (7) Joanna Thigpen, unm.
- (8) Martha Thigpen; m. Dock Davis
- (9) Jennie Thigpen; m. Rev. ---Wilkes
- (10) Shelly Thigpen, (dau); m. 1st: Willie Wilkes; m. 2nd: Chap Beacham
- II. Jack Thigpen; m. Serina Williams.
- (1) William Thigpen, b. 3/18/1864; m. S. A. ---, b. 4/22/1865
- (2) George M. Thigpen, b. 2/4/1878; m. Ophelia, b. 10/24/1873
- (3) John B. Thigpen, b. 1880; m. Lillie M. ---, b. 1885
- (A) John B. Thigpen; m. Jessie Kate Lacy
- (B) Lamar Thigpen; m. Alice Frazier
- (C) Johnie Thelma Thigpen, b. 10/21/1908; m. ---Lucas
- (4) Cone Thigpen, b. 11/28/1888; m. Ludie H. ---, b. 11/28/1888
- (A) Ruby Thigpen; m. ---Williams
- (B) Della Thigpen; m. ---Beacham
- (C) Mary Thigpen, b. 4/19/1915; m. ---Cochwell
- (D) Lois Thigpen; m. ---Donaldson
- (E) Annie M. Thigpen, b. 3/2/1907; m. ---Griffin
- (F) Connie Mae Thigpen; m. ---
- (5) Chap Thigpen; (6) Ashley Thigpen; (7) Charlie Thigpen; (8) Willie Marvin Thigpen, b. 1873; m. Sallie W. ---, b. 1889; (9) Serina Thigpen; m. John D. McCrimmon.

Daniel Grover Thigpen, Sr. (son of Ira Von Thigpen; Daniel; Melancthon; Travis, Dr. James, IV, III, II, I), b. 3/3/1888, d. 9/2/1961; m. 4/19/1910, Ella Floy McClain, b. 6/19/1887, (dau of Mittie Webb and Dr. Wyatt Russell McClain, b. 5/8/1836, d. 8/2/1925, CSA. Dr. McClain was regarded as a specialist in the treatment of hemorrhagic fever, yet his son Dr. Giles McClain died of this fever, as Dr. McClain had to be away and could not return in time to treat his son. He was a prisoner of war in Washington at the time President Lincoln was assassinated.)

Educated: Oak Ridge Military School, Oak Ridge, N. C. Stanley's Bus. School, Macon, Ga. graduating May 1907. Starting as Teller at Hand Trading Co. in June 1907, served as Asst. Mgr; Manager, Credit Manager, at time of death 1961, was Secy-Cashier. Only worked for this one company. Methodist, Democrat; member city council several years, pd. \$1.00 per meeting.

"Augusta Chronicle, 9/4/1961: Labor Day Rites For Prominent Pelham (Ga) Business Leader - Grover Thigpen, Outstanding Citizen Passes in Quincy After Brief Illness: Daniel Grover Thigpen, local business, civic and religious leader died at the Gadsden County Hospital, Quincy, Fla. about noon Saturday, Sept. 2, following several weeks illness. He had been in ill health four years.

"The death of Mr. Thigpen, who was 73 years of age, brought to a close a chapter of Pelham's history which was rich and colorful, a chapter that was filled with recordings of progress and civic development of the city which was aided by the untiring efforts of this loyal and faithful Pelhamite for more than half century. . . . Immediately after completing business school he came to Pelham and became associated with the newly formed Farmers Bank of Pelham, and next year went to the Hand Trading Company where he remained until his death. During his long career with the Company, Mr. Thigpen worked in every department of the store and was part of a working organization that built a small town store into one of the most famous rural department retail stores in the nation. He became manager of "The Big Store" in 1922, holding many offices and in 1949 became Secretary and Cashier. He was a stockholder and director of the Company.

"Mr. Thig" as he was affectionately called by his friends, was not only devoted to his work but he was interested in the progress and development of his city, and for many years was very active in the Pelham Business Men's Club. He was always ready - anxious and willing to lend his support to any enterprise which would mean an advancement for the town he loved so well. A devoted member of the Hand Memorial Methodist Church, served on its Board of Stewards and at time of death was a trustee of the church. He was a Mason and a Shriner."

CHILDREN (Family Records)

- I. Daniel Grover Thigpen, Jr., b. 1/8/1913; m. 7/21/1940, Louise Carolyn Clark, (dau of Eva Daniel and John Clark.) Grad. Pelham, H. S. and Georgia Tech, 1934, BSEE (Bach. Science in Electrical Engineering.) Kappa Eta Kappa (honary frat.) Methodist. Teller, Hand Trading Co. until 1941. Fire Insurance Inspector for Factory Mutual Fire Ins. Co. Democrat. She is grad. University of Ga. - Teacher.
- (1) Daniel Grover (Dan) Thigpen, III, b. 4/17/1942, Charlotte College.
- II. Helen Bowen (niece and foster dau); m. Dr. James Winston Sapp. They were married April 19, 1930, having the same wedding anniversary date as her foster parents, Ella Floy McClain and Daniel Grover Thigpen, Sr. Residence: Havana, Fla.
- Daniel Grover Thigpen, Jr. resides: 1937 Brandon Circle, Charlotte, N. C.