

## Editor's Note

In November 2002, this manuscript was sent to Frederick Siler of 889 Dante Court, Mantua, NJ 08051 by Ms. Dorothea J. Rhodes of 855 Calle Del Camions, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. The following information was contained on the first page of a fourteen-page document: *“This material, compiled by Floyd Bennett, 3301 West Grace St., Richmond, VA 23221, was sent to Douglas Wichman, a member of the Rhodes family, who resided in 1965 at 2134 Cypress St., Selma, CA 93662.”*

As a result of the aforementioned information Floyd Bennett is credited as the author of this manuscript. Based upon the content of his prefatory it is assumed that Floyd Bennett was born around 1901 and may have passed on sometime during the early 1970's. It is believed that the majority of the work contained within this document was completed about 1960. This date was arrived at because it is known that Floyd obtained the information regarding John Douglass's Revolutionary War application in 1954, (see page 14), and it is also known that in 1965 a copy of this document was sent to Douglas Wichman.

Subsequent to the receipt of the aforementioned manuscript I visited the Library of Virginia in April 2003 and obtained a copy of the front flyleaf of the bible given to Eliza Caroline Douglass by her Aunt Jane Bishop, see Appendix B. Also at that time I obtained copies of four pages from the John Douglass Family bible, See Appendix C. In January 2004 I received from Mr. Reavis Dixon, 503 Palmas Ave., Waycross, GA 31501, a copy of a letter written by Floyd Bennett to a Mr. Brown on February 4, 1957. This item has been indexed and included in Appendix D.

It is because of the extraordinary efforts of individuals such as Floyd Bennett that we are able to obtain valuable knowledge regarding our ancestors. When he wrote this story the latest technology was a typewriter. Hopefully it was an electric model. Today, some forty years later, we have the advantage of our computers to process our words, communicate via email, as well as to create files and store the fruits of our labor. Because of my respect for Floyd's efforts and the desire to keep his work alive I have created this electronic document so that other members of our ever-growing family may access this information with greater ease and reliability.

This original manuscript did not have a name that I know of therefore I have provided it with the title of, “Genealogy Research of Floyd Bennett: An Account of the Douglass, Bishop, and Dickson Families.” During the editing process I encountered what I believe to be several typographic errors made by the author. As such I have made the appropriate changes. In an effort to maintain the integrity of the original document I have included a listing of all changes within Appendix A of this document. In addition I have added an index of the individuals contained herein. Otherwise I've made all attempts to preserve the author's original words. As a result it is my hope that I've taken a lovely and heartfelt story of my ancestors and made it a bit more accessible to future generations.

## **PREFATORY**

This story of Michael Dickson and his son-in-law Nicholas Bishop, together with as much as is known at present of their families, times and circumstance, has been gathered from family records and accounts, court records and other sources of reliable nature, including several visits to old Chester and Pendleton districts of South Carolina, where they lived.

The chronicle begins in my case with my grandmother Rucker, my mother's mother, who lived during the first eighteen years of my life and was the only grandparent I ever knew. I knew her well. My childhood days were spent almost as much in her home as in our own, for we lived next door and her house was larger, with a large yard and garden. Besides, Grandmother Rucker's was about the most interesting place a boy could go in our small town of Cleveland, Tennessee. As a youth, after we had moved to our new home across town, I still visited grandmother other almost every day until I finished high school. During college years and afterward I would see her frequently on summer vacations and other visits home, until her death in 1919.

Grandmother Rucker did not often talk about herself. She had much to think about and to do, with her large family in her long widowhood. But at times she seemed to enjoy talking of her girlhood years with her aunts Jane and Dorcas Bishop in their plantation home near old Pendleton, South Carolina. These maiden sisters of her mother had taken grandmother to raise at her mother's death, and she had lived with them for many years.

In recent years, with growing interest in family history, I have often wished that I had encouraged grandmother to tell more about the Bishops, Dicksons, Hendersons and others she must have known and heard about while living as a girl at Pendleton; also, that I had given better attention to her stories of those days of her girlhood and young womanhood. She liked to tell them when she had time, and one of us to talk to. But youth gives small heed to such things. About the only way to keep the record is to write it down, as I am doing now. And one of the chief difficulties in that is to distinguish fact from fiction, good everyday tradition from fanciful tales and hearsay.

In the course of the years an aura of family romance has grown up around the Dicksons and Bishops of old Chester and Pendleton, until some accounts have become altogether legendary -- of wealthy planters with slaves to do their bidding. laces and ruffles, powdered wigs and jeweled snuff boxes, gold-headed canes, cufflinks made from the hilts of old swords -- all quite in keeping with fond Southern tradition. Even in the case of dour John Douglass there is the story of the hidden chest of gold that led to his death --shot from ambush by thieves bent on stealing his treasure.

All such stories have their place, and far be it from me to go against traditions, even when

they may appear to be a bit over-glorified. They are a source of inspiration and enjoyment -- a family needs them. Besides, there is some basis of fact in most of them. John Douglass evidently was shot from ambush in 1863 --not in military combat in the Civil War; he was too old for that. The Dicksons and Bishops did have sizable plantations and a few slaves. And somewhere among the Bates connections are some small silver spoons, made from epaulettes of Major Michael Dickson, who served with General Sumter's patriot forces after the fall of Charleston. It is not unreasonable to suppose that there may have been gold cufflinks and even a gold-headed cane for use on occasions. The lace and ruffles and powdered wigs don't quite seem to belong -- but let them be.

Not so romantic, perhaps, but of as much interest and more value are facts revealed in old records and local histories, and by visiting the country where they lived. Rocky Creek still runs near former Dickson and Bishop lands in Chester County, as does "Three and Twenty" near Pendleton. Fort Hill, the fine old mansion on the Clemson College campus, is a beautiful memorial to John C. Calhoun and the Clemsons. The Old Stone Church of which the Dicksons and Bishops were faithful members and in whose hallowed churchyard the Bishops are buried, stands today much as it did when they sat on its crude wooden benches a century and a half ago.

Both Michael Dickson and Nicholas Bishop died intestate, requiring court supervision of administration of their estates and sale of their personal properties. This involved more detailed records and reports than might have been the case had they left wills. These administration papers have been preserved in files of the Probate Court at Anderson, which succeeded Pendleton as county seat.

The inventories and sales lists of their properties, while prosaic enough and without evidence of wealth or elegance for the most part, nevertheless reveal much of interest regarding their circumstances and way of living, members of their families as shown by the legatees, neighbors and friends who attended the sales or were connected in some way with administration of their estates. When these are taken, along with family Bible records, recollections of older members of the families, census records, contemporary history wills, contracts, deeds to land, and the very informative Revolutionary pension application of Nicholas Bishop, it is possible to get a fair idea of their families and communities. Much of the material on which this account is based is given in the appendix, including the more important estate administration papers and bills of sale.

Among the household goods and farm implements included in the bills of sale were many items not in use today, such as pot racks and hooks, candlesticks and snuffers, steelyards, looms and harness, scythes and cradles, ox cart and oxen, flax wheel and hackle, in addition to sows and pigs, horses and heifers still to be found in the country. And there were slaves -- not so numerous as the more than 2,000 said to have been owned by Thomas Heyward, or

even the 33 reported by Andrew Pickens of their Pendleton community; but for those they had the names are given -- Sampson and Molly, Jack and Billy, Nelly, Kate, Cato, Mariah and the rest, not to overlook old "Vilet," whose social security was taken care of by the Court.

Auctions are fascinating; so it is interesting here to see who bought what and at what price. There is the walnut table that went for \$2.25, and a cupboard for \$13; books by name and by lot; Michael Dickson's fine clock that his preacher son, Hugh bid in for \$52, along with an axe and some books; and the "Pewter Bazon, 4 gallons," and feather bed and furniture given to Jane Dickson Bishop before her father's death, hence deducted from her share in the final settlement. Settlement of Michael Dickson's estate almost ran against a snag here, as his son Samuel H. Dickson, administrator of the estate, insisted gifts made by his father during his lifetime should be taken into consideration -- and made his point.

One sometimes has a feeling of delicacy and hesitance about digging into ancestral records of the kind. For one thing, there's no telling what he's going to find; and for another, those now long gone had their own problems and circumstances which we cannot now know or fully appreciate. In the case of the Dicksons and Bishops it would appear from all accounts and evidence that they were upright, patriotic, God-fearing men and women, well regarded by their neighbors and deserving of our admiration and respect. If anything revealed in these records seems in the least untoward, let it be considered charitably. Some of us might not do as well.

Nicholas Bishop and his wife Jane, a daughter of Michael Dickson, were the parents of my maternal great-grandmother, Nancy Dickson Bishop, who in the month of February, 1817, before she was quite fifteen years of age, had the temerity to marry the stern and difficult Scot, John Douglass, and to come with him into the undeveloped region of what is now McMinn County, Tennessee, an area then but recently acquired from the Cherokee Indians by the Hiwassee Purchase.

It has been said that Nancy married against her parents' wishes, and it may be that she and John eloped, although it is difficult to reconcile such an occurrence with what is known of their family background. Still, such things have happened in the best of families and with the most proper and conservative upbringing. But the fact is that fifteen was about the average age of marriage for girls of the southern frontier at that time. More likely Nancy simply did what other girls her age were doing. It would really be interesting to know how she and John met in the first place, and how their romance developed. I wish grandmother Rucker were here to tell us what she knew about that, for she had probably heard about it and knew the story well.

John Douglass was born March 9, 1793, the fifth of eight children born to Robert and

Elizabeth (Robertson) Douglass, of old Augusta County, Virginia. His parents had come from Virginia into the region of upper East Tennessee in 1787, before the state was formed. Nancy Dickson Bishop was born May 31, 1802, in Pendleton District, South Carolina, one of the younger of seven children of Nicholas and Jane Bishop. At the time of their marriage John Douglass was a tall, purposeful, hardy and experienced frontiersman, of almost twenty-four years. He became successful as a farmer and stock grower in McMinn County. As to Nancy, whatever she may have lacked in experience before her marriage must soon have been made up, for she bore John a generous family of nine children before she died, in October, 1843, at the age of forty-one. They buried her in a hilly little cemetery at old Salem Baptist Church, near the hamlet of Cog Hill, McMinn County, Tennessee, close by the waters of Conasauga Creek and the slopes of the Great Smoky Mountains.

Since John and Nancy were both of staunch Presbyterian stock, it seems a little odd that they should be at rest in a Baptist churchyard. Family tradition has it that John developed irrepressible ambitions to preach in his later years, and as he lacked the theological training required by the Presbyterian Church, he did his exhorting for the Baptists. Be that as it may. John and Nancy lie side by side in Salem Baptist churchyard, with the graves of his father and mother nearby. Robert Douglass' grave has been marked by the D. A. R. as that of a soldier of the Revolution because of his service with Virginia troops.

Those simple graves on that remote hillside stand as symbols of the origins of my native state; for it was such men and women as they, with hardihood and courage to cross mountains and rivers, and to make their homes in the wilderness with the Cherokee for neighbors, who laid the foundations of Tennessee and the old Southwest. The Douglass homestead was near the site of the ancient Cherokee town of Conasaga, said to have been visited by DeSoto and his expedition, June 1, 1540. A short way to the east is the grave and one-time home of Nancy Ward, "Beloved Woman" of the Cherokee and loyal friend of the white settlers; while to the northeast, along the south bank of the Little Tennessee, were the early towns of the Overhill Cherokee -- Milaquo, Tuskegee (birthplace of Sequoyah), Tomotly, Toquo, Chota, Cittico, Chilhowee, Talasee, Half Way Town and the site of ill-fated Fort Loudon, which fell to besieging Cherokee in 1760, with subsequent massacre of its garrison.

This was the heart of the Overhill Cherokee Country; and a wildly beautiful country it is, if one likes mountains, forests, and rushing streams, as well as the cool green valleys. It is doubtful that many of us today would choose to pioneer in such a land and under such conditions, to spend our lives so far from the comforts of an older civilization. But Nancy Bishop had been raised on former Cherokee lands at her home in Pendleton; and the Douglasses had come from the Virginia frontier, moving down mountain valleys into this new region as the Indians moved out - - perhaps at times before. They doubtless knew what they were about, and thought only of making their homes and a livelihood in such a land,

with all the fearlessness and steadfastness of purpose that characterized these Scotch-Irish frontiersmen

Eliza Caroline Douglass, who became my grandmother Rucker, was born March 10, 1834, the seventh child of John and Nancy D. Bishop Douglass. She was a good nine years of age when her mother died, October 30, 1843. Not very long afterward she and her younger sister Julia Anne were taken to live with their mother's maiden sisters, Jane and Dorcas Bishop, near Pendleton, South Carolina. And by 1846 their father married the widow Susan Barker.

No doubt it was quite an adventure for these girls from the hills of East Tennessee to go to live on a plantation in another state. Their trip over such rugged country must have taken two days then, requiring an overnight stop at some inn along the way. Today, with good weather and an early start, the trip from McMinn County, Tennessee, to Pendleton can be made by auto in a good half day, in time for late lunch on arrival. Whether the young Douglass sisters had ever seen their aunts is not known. They probably had, and we may be sure they had heard much of them and looked forward to seeing them now.

There were several other deaths in the Bishop family about this time. The mother, Jane Dickson Bishop, had died in August 1842 her husband Nicholas Bishop in November 1843; and their daughter Elizabeth, who had married James Henderson, died in June 1844. Jane and Dorcas Bishop were in their forties, unmarried, the only surviving women of the family, now confronted with the responsibility of running the plantation on their own.

The Douglass girls would be an added responsibility, no doubt, but Jane and Dorcas were not the sort to shirk responsibilities, and must have felt a strong sense of obligation in caring for the children of their younger sister Nancy. They could be of much help and good company in a household so recently bereft of many members. They were intelligent, well-bred country girls, who should bring new life and new interests, comfort and cheer to the plantation home. There would of course be their further education to see to, along with essential training in homemaking and the social graces and proprieties: but Pendleton should afford considerable advantage in this over their former home in Tennessee.

By 1840 Pendleton had developed into leading social, business, religious and educational center of northwestern South Carolina. The Cherokee Indians had held this region until removed by the Treaty of Hopewell in 1785. Following that, an Act of 1789 established Pendleton County as a part of Old Ninety Six District out of "that part of the lands ceded to the State by the Cherokee Indians, north of the Indian boundary and between the Seneca and Saluda rivers." The next year (1790) the commissioners selected the present site of the town of Pendleton, near the center of the county area, as the county seat. Thus had begun both the town and the county, named after one of the state's distinguished citizens and jurists, Judge Henry Pendleton, of Charleston, a native Virginian. People had flocked into the region to

settle on the newly opened Cherokee lands, and the town soon became a center of trade, business, legal and political activity. But it was for quite another reason that Pendleton came into much prominence socially and culturally during the next half century.

For some reason, soon after 1790 wealthy planters of Charleston and the low country began to experience unusual trouble from malarial maladies during summer months. The period from April until the first killing frosts of fall come to be known as the "sickly season" and to be avoided like the plague by those who could leave their plantations and business in the hands of overseers, and maintain summer homes for their families in the nearby resorts such as Walterboro, Summerville, and the "High Hills of Santee." It was natural that in time the well-elevated piedmont area of Pendleton should be found even more "salubrious" and to offer a welcome change from the low country and Charleston. And so it became quite the style and custom for wealthy and socially prominent families to spend their summers at Pendleton. Many of them acquired country estates in the vicinity, and built fine homes, becoming permanent residents among them were such families as the Carters, Prioleaus and Adgers, Pinckneys, Gibbes, Porchers. Cheves, Haynes, Hamiltons, Gaillards, Elliotts, Wilsons, Hugers, (Elliotts,) Ravenels and Bees, who intermingled at Pendleton with the somewhat more indigenous families of Calhouns, Adams, Pickens, Symms, Seaborns, Rosses, Clemsons, Andersons, Sittons, Sloans and other regular residents of the community.

The Dicksons and Bishops, while not of the wealth and social prominence of many of those named, were among the earlier residents of Pendleton and were good, substantial citizens, well regarded in the community. They had both lived in Chester District until some time after the Revolutionary War, and held lands there even after moving to Pendleton County. In the 1790 census of heads of families, the first U. S. Census, both Michael Dickson and Nicholas Bishop are shown as residents of Pendleton County, Ninety Six District. They later acquired lands along Twenty Three Mile Creek and Gaven's Creek, in the vicinity of Pendleton.

In his generally comprehensive but not altogether accurate and well-written History of Old Pendleton District (Anderson, S. C., 1913), R. W. Simpson has the following to say on pages 75-76 regarding the Bishops and their neighbors:

"The following families settled near Pendleton early in the year 1800: Dr. Hall at the Colin Campbell place, afterwards owned by Mr. W. H. Trescott, and after him by John S. Newton's family. Mrs. McGreggor at the Elliott place near Dr. Dart's. Old Ben DuPree settled near Dr. Dart's on the place known as the Lorton place, now owned by H. S. Trescott, and Nicholas Bishop settled on land adjoining Dr. Hall. Of these families I can gather but little information. They all came from Charleston, and were refined in their manners, but possessed of moderate means.

"Mr. Bishop left two daughters, Jane and Dorcas, who never married, and resided at

their father's home on Big Garvin Creek and lived to a good age, and were buried at the Old Stone Church.”

While this account has an appearance of having been based on names gathered from headstones of the Old Stone Church, and is not accurate in all respects, it is essentially correct with regard to the Bishop residence and standing in the community. The comments on the Dicksons do not appear to include Major Michael Dickson and his family, therefore are not helpful as to them, although other Dicksons of the area are discussed.

By the time the Douglass sisters came to live at Pendleton the town had reached a peak of affluence and influence. There was a weekly newspaper, The Pendleton Messenger; male and female academies; library societies, the noted Farmers Society; and two notable churches: St. Paul's Episcopal, consecrated in 1822, and the Old Stone Church, Presbyterian, whose organization Hopewell-on-Keowee dates from 1735, and whose present substantial structure was built by popular subscription in 1797-1800.

General Andrew Pickens, of Revolutionary War and Indian treaty fame (and who married in 1765 Rebecca Calhoun, aunt of John C. Calhoun), was one of the founders and chief supporters of the Old Stone Church, being one of its first trustees or elders, along with General Robert Anderson and Major Michael Dickson. General Pickens was buried in its churchyard with members of his family, and nearby are the headstones of Nicholas Bishop and wife Jane with their daughters Jane and Dorcas, their inscriptions attesting to their Presbyterian faith and zeal. In later years Michael Dickson became a member of Carmel Church near his home plantation on Twenty-Three Mile Creek, and was buried with neighbors and other soldiers of the Revolution in the old-faded churchyard at Pickens Chapel. In upper Anderson County.

There is no doubt that the Douglass sisters and their aunts were faithful attendants of the Old Stone church, or that their religious training was well looked after. In my possession is a small hand Bible published in 1852 that belonged to my grandmother and in which she kept her family records. On its flyleaf is the following inscription, evidently in the hand of Jane Bishop:

*Eliza C. Douglass Book  
given to her by her  
Aunt Jane Bishop in 1853*

This small board-and-leather—bound bible, published in 1852, was used by grandmother during the rest of her life, and in it, she entered her record of the births, marriages and deaths of members of the family, until her own death in 1919. See Appendix B for copy of the original.

Grandmother always spoke of old Pendleton” with a sort of nostalgia, it seemed to me, and



for most of my life I wondered what the place might look like that meant so much to her. I have visited Pendleton several times in recent years, my interest growing with each visit. It would be hard to find a more pleasing countryside, with its gently rolling landscape, fine woodlands and productive farms. And as I have stood on a summer day looking over the former Bishop lands. it has seemed that life has not changed too much in this hospitable country, and that with a little patient waiting one might see the Bishop's "carryall" come down a country lane.

Old Pendleton -- a term which included the town and the country around -- is still a place of sentiment, unhurried, friendly hospitality, historic interest, and of cherished memories. The town is not very different from other small country towns. Except for the single traffic light on entering it from nearby Clemson, the tourist might well breeze through without noticing the place. The town itself has not changed -- or, rather, grown--- much since its days of glory, although it is being crowded on many sides by modern progress in industry, science and agriculture. A few large, dilapidated old homes here and there about the village suggest the days of old when they entertained summer guests, a service now well performed by the modern Clemson House nearby. One sight, to impress the tourist, if not going by too fast, is the ancient, well-kept hall and grounds of the Pendleton Farmers Society, with its long sweep of elm-shaded lawn to the rear. The building, which we, erected 1826-28, is now used as the local post office. West of this quadrangle is the store of M.M. Hunter which has served the Pendleton community for almost a century and even now serves as a source of information to interested visitors. In a shaded retreat at the edge of town stands the quaint old wooden church of St. Paul's, Episcopal, still in use, with its restful churchyard extending back of it. In this small cemetery are the graves of many notable persons, including that of General Barnard E. Bee who gave Thomas J. Jackson the immortal name "Stonewall" at First Manassas. There also are buried Mrs. John C. Calhoun with her children; Thomas G. Clemson and his wife, Anna Calhoun Clemson.

The Old Stone Church stands alone in its grove of oaks some two miles west of Pendleton, just off the Clemson-Pendleton highway. This plain, solid and impressive old edifice of native stone, with its steep stairway at one end, leading to the slaves' balcony, stands in silent testimony to the firm faith and sturdy character of its founders, many of whom rest peacefully on the southern slope of its interesting churchyard.

Of even greater interest for most visitors today is the stately mansion, Fort Hill, former home of John C. Calhoun, and later of the Clemsons, which occupies an eminence on the bustling Clemson campus. The house and the old office of John C. Calhoun are well kept and furnished with original pieces used by the Calhoun and Clemson families, making it an interesting and beautiful historic shrine, well worth a leisurely visit.

But one can give here only an introduction to the many sights and memorials of old

Pendleton, the purpose being to give some idea of the community in which Eliza Caroline and Julia Ann Dorcas Douglass spent their girlhood and young womanhood. They were no doubt on the plantation most of the time, but it was in such an environment and atmosphere. And although Pendleton District had been divided into Anderson and Pickens counties and they were in Anderson County, it was of "Old Pendleton" that grandmother spoke so fondly in later years.

Nicholas Bishop died intestate. His son-in-law, James Henderson, had been appointed administrator of his estate and was serving in that capacity when the Douglass girls went to Pendleton and for some time after. It has been said that Nicholas suffered financial reverses before his death, through unsecured personal loans, but he was still possessed of considerable real estate and a fair amount of personal property. From grandmother's account, her aunts Jane and Dorcas managed to live comfortably, with a few family retainers to help on the plantation and enough work to keep everyone busy. We may be sure that the girls had their appointed tasks and made themselves useful, also that their tutoring and upbringing was properly attended to.

In 1848, grandmother's older sister, Sarah Rebecca, was married to William C. Rhodes. Their trek to California in a covered wagon was an oft-told story in the family. I often wondered if they were really Forty-Niners. The next year Nancy Matilda Douglass married Caynell Lee, of whom no record has been found so far. Then, on January 1, 1857, Julia Ann was married to William Marion Cass, of McMinn County, leaving grandmother in a fair way of being a spinster. Then, toward the end of the pleasant month of April, 1858, the slender, comely, quiet-mannered Eliza Caroline Douglass, who by then was called Carrie, became the bride of her handsome twenty-six year old schoolmaster, James Henderson Rucker, also a native of McMinn County. They set up housekeeping in the town of Cleveland, county seat of Bradley County, in which vicinity James H. Rucker was teaching.

My mother, Cnythia Tallulah Rucker, known later as Lula or Lura, was born July 20, 1860, the second of ten children and the first to live past infancy. She was in due time to know the responsibility that often befalls the oldest girl of a large family.

James H. Rucker continued teaching until elected to the office of Clerk of the Bradley County Court in 1874. He served in that office until his death in 1884, at the age of fifty-one. He had been a cripple for most of his adult life and walked with a cane.

Grandmother Rucker was thus left with small income to run a large household, of which my mother was second in command. Out of this situation evolved two of the most faithful, patient and courageous persons I have ever known. They faced seemingly insuperable difficulties without flinching, day after day and year in and year out, taking them as a matter of course and overcoming them without complaint. All of the children were given a good

upbringing, with as good an education as the time and place afforded. Most of the boys went west as they grew up, chiefly to Texas.

### DOUGLASS GENEALOGY

(Data on antecedents of John Douglass of McMinn County, Tenn., are based on records left by my mother, Mrs. Lula Rucker Bennett, and her sister, Mrs. Effie Rucker Bounds. They were probably worked up by their double cousin, the late Col. Creed F. Bates of Chattanooga, Tenn., who was a grandson of John Douglass and his wife Nancy Bishop Douglass.

(The remaining data on John Douglass and his immediate family is based almost entirely on the family record of John Douglass' Bible, which was left by my mother and is at present in my possession. Photo static negatives of the John Douglass Bible record are on file with the Virginia State Library, Richmond, VA, under their acquisition No. 24158-a-c., see Appendix C for a copy of the original.)

John and Mary Douglass migrated from Scotland to County Antrim in northern Ireland before 1700. Robert Douglass, son of John and Mary Douglass, was born in Antrim, Ireland January 1, 1700, and died in America December 16, 1795, aged 95 years, 11 months, 15 days. Robert Douglass married Mary Cummings of the County Down, Ireland. She was born in Ireland June 6, 1720, and died in America December 20, 1810, aged 90 years, 6 months, 13 days. After coming to America, Robert and his wife, Mary C. Douglass, settled in Augusta County, Virginia, where their son, Robert Douglass, Jr., was born March 10, 1758.

Robert Douglass, Jr. married Elizabeth Robertson (daughter of William Robertson), of Augusta County, Virginia. She was born in Augusta County, Va. April 6, 1761. Robert and his wife, Elizabeth R. Douglass moved from Augusta County, Va. to upper east Tennessee in 1787, settling first in Blount County, then Sevier County, and moving to McMinn County, Tenn. in 1822. Robert Douglass, Jr. died in McMinn County, Tenn. July 10, 1837. his wife Elizabeth in August 1838.

The children of Robert and Elizabeth Robertson Douglass were:

1. William born 1784: died 1786
2. Died an infant
3. Mary, born April 11, 1788
4. James, born June 9, 1790, in Sevier County, Tenn.
5. John, born March 9, 1793; died May 3, 1863
6. William Robertson, born Oct. 24, 1794
7. Leticia, born May 22, 1800
8. Matilda, born Sept. 9, 1803

John Douglass married Feb. 20, 1817 Nancy D. Bishop of Pendleton, South Carolina, daughter of Nicholas and Jane Dickson Bishop. Nancy Bishop Douglass was born May 31, 1803; died in McMinn County, Tenn. Oct. 30, 1843.

Children of John and Nancy B. Douglass were:

1. William, born May 21, 1819
2. Elizabeth Jane, born Feb. 7, 1824; married 1847 to Ezekiel Bates of McMinn County, Tenn. (his second wife); died Dec. 24, 1896.
3. Mary Letitia, born Aug. 22, 1824; married Jan 20, 1844 to Asahel Carlock and moved to Missouri. See Carlock genealogy.
4. Hugh Dickson, born Jan. 6, 1827 died in Civil War.
5. Sarah Rebecca, born Feb. 4, 1829; married in 1848 to William C. Rhodes and went to California.
6. Nancy Matilda, born July 24, 1831; married Aug. 2, 1849 to Caynel Lee.
7. Eliza Caroline (who came to be known as Carrie), born March 10, 1834; married April 28, 1858, to James Henderson Rucker of McMinn County, Tenn. He died April 19, 1884, and she died Aug. 6, 1919, both at Cleveland, Tenn.
8. Julia Ann Dorcas, born Nov. 11, 1836; married W. M. Cass, Jan. 1, 1857
9. John Ellis, born Jan. 24, 1839; died Aug. 19, 1860

After the death of Nancy B. Douglass, John Douglass remarried, to Susan Barker, by whom he had one child, Angeline .

Children of Sarah R. Douglass Rhodes, wife of William C. Rhodes, were Thomas , born Dec. 1849; John, born July 4, 1852; Harriett, born Feb. 1853; Julia, born Jan. 1856; Hazeltine, born 1858.

Asahel Carlock, ninth of eleven children of Isaac and Sarah Rucker Carlock, was born 1825; died Polk Co., Missouri, Nov. 1856. His wife, Mary L. Douglass Carlock, died in 1857. They had gone from McMinn County, Tenn. to Polk County, Missouri, in 1844, soon after their marriage. Their distinguished son, Dr. Lemuel Lacon Henderson Carlock, Methodist Minister and college president, was left an orphan when twelve years of age, and after Civil War came back to McMinn County, Tenn., where he married Nancy Carolyn Cass on Dec. 26, 1866. He held various "charges" in Holston Conference until his death at Bristol, Va., April 29, 1931. Their children:

1. Maryanne Olive, m. James K. Brewer
2. Amelia Edith, m. Robert C. Hornsby
3. Lacon Hubert, m. (1) May Bell Templeton, (2) -
4. Cassie Clyde, m. Wyth M. Hull
5. Harold, m. Ellen Williams Jones

6. Lucy Lea, m. James White Sheffy
7. Katie Rives, m. John B. Kelly

From "History of the Carlock Family" by Marion P. Carlock, Los Angeles, 1929

Ezekiel Bates, who married E. Jane Douglass in 1847, was third of ten children of James Alexander Bates (Born Dec. 1764 in Virginia) and his wife Mary Murphy Bates. Ezekiel Bates was born Oct. 14, 1792; died June 14, 1864. Married twice, (1) Hanna Hill; (2) E. Jane Douglass. Issue

(1) by Hanna Hill Bates:

Russell H.  
William Leroy  
Cicero McLean  
Frances M.  
Parmelia  
Catherine  
Cynthia Jane  
Margaret  
Adelia

(2) by E. Jane Douglass Bates:

Creed Fulton (m. Alice Eugenia Osment, Cleveland,  
Clark Henderson (single. California)  
John Douglass  
Lafayette Wilford (m. Jane Bailey) Lee  
Adelia (m. Rev. John N. Dickey)  
Nancy (or "Nannie") (m. A. H. Stephens)  
Bishop  
Charles

Ezekiel Bates died June 14, 1864; his wife, E. Jane Douglass Bates died Dec. 24, 1896. They lived near Cleveland, Bradley County, Tenn.

Creed Fulton Bates and Lafayette W. Bates, sons of Ezekiel and Jane Bates, were born near Cleveland but later moved to Chattanooga, where their families were raised. Their children:

Henrietta (m. R. E. Morgan)  
Lillie (m. J. J. Wall)  
Augusta , or "Gussie," a pianist, unmarried  
Margaret (m. Thomas I. Bates, Charleston, Tenn.)  
Ruth (m. Eugene Bryan, Chattanooga, Tenn.)

Lafayette W. Bates' children:

William C. (married, lived in New York City)  
Lorena (m. Frederick H. Fox, live in New Orleans)  
Bettie Fay (unmarried, lives St. Elmo, Chattanooga,  
Creed (unmarried, lives Chattanooga, Tenn.)

**NOTE:** Margaret Young Bates, tenth child of James A. and Mary M. Bates, married Wilfred Rucker, father of James H. Rucker. Since my mother's "Aunt Jane" had married Ezekiel Bates, and her grandfather Wilford Rucker had married Ezekiel's much young sister, Margaret Young Bates (1810-1894), this made Mother double cousin to the children of Ezekiel and Jane Douglass Bates. --FSB

DATA FROM REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSION APPLICATION  
of Robert Douglass, as supplied by National Archives

Veteran's name: DOUGLASS, Robert  
Case number S 1 510

Parents: Not mentioned

Birth: In 1758 in Augusta County, Virginia.

Family: No reference is made to wife or children of the veteran.

Residence: Bedford and Augusta counties, Virginia, during service. In 1787 he moved from Virginia to Blount County, Tenn. In 1822 he moved to McMinn County, Tenn., where he was still living in 1832.

Death: Date and place unknown

Service: When the veteran applied for pension, he stated that he enlisted on Sept. 3, 1777, and served at various times during the Revolutionary War, amounting to 8 months, as a private with the Virginia Troops under Capt. John Talbot and Colonels Mason and Vance. He also stated that he was at the siege of Yorktown.

Pension: Robert Douglass was pensioned on Certificate 22 052, which was issued under the Act of Jun. 7, 1832. The pension was paid at the East Tennessee Agency.

Note: The above abstract of Robert Douglass' pension application statement was supplied by National Archives, General Services Administration, Washington 25, D.C. under date of Aug. 18. 1954. -- FSB

**REFERENCES:**

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Virginia Bates Family, by Madison C. Bates, Galesburg, Ill., endorsed by Hon. Creed F. Bates, Chattanooga, Tenn. Based in early record on Onward Bates Genealogy. Nov. 8, 1920. (Leaflet)

So Lives a Dream, by Pearl Smith McFall. Comet Press, N.Y. 1947. Story of Clemson, Pendleton, Old Stone Church, the Clemson family and Clemson College, the Calhouns and others.

Letters of Lorena Bates Fox (Mrs. F.H.), and of Mrs. Alma Bishop Williams, both descendants of Nicholas Bishop and of Michael Dickson.

Bates family Bible records and information on descendants of Ezekiel Bates and Jane Douglass Bates furnished by Alice Bates Walker (Mrs. Thomas B Walker, Durham, N.C.), a granddaughter of Col. Creed F. Bates of Chattanooga, Tenn.

## APPENDIX A

The following changes were made from the original document:

Page 3 - Jack Dickson Bishop changed to read Jane Dickson Bishop

Page 5 – Affort changed to read afford

Page 6 – reaon changed to read reason

Page 6 – weatlh changed to read wealth

Page 6 – afterwardswards changed to read afterwards

Page 9 – The word “References” preceded DOUGLASS GENEALOGY, as there were no references contained after this word it was moved to page 13 where the references were listed

Page 12 – Cunthia Jane changed to read Cynthia Jane

Page 12 - Lafayette Wilford (m. Jane B(ailey) Lee changed to read Lafayette Wilford (m. Jane Bailey) Lee

Page 12 – Fayette changed to read Lafayette

Page 12 – Chattanooga changed to read Chattanooga

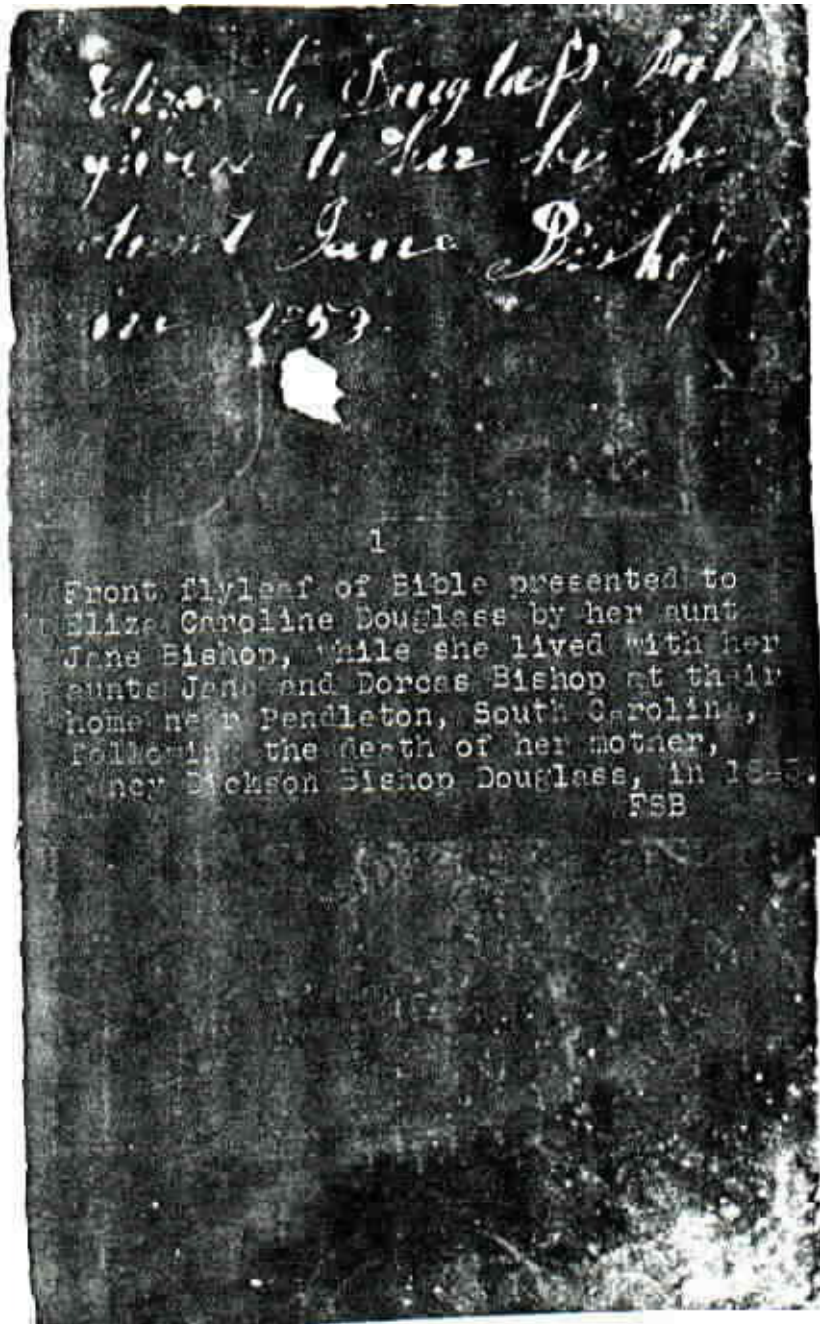
Page 13 – young sisters changed to read younger sister

Page 14 – Collete changed to read College

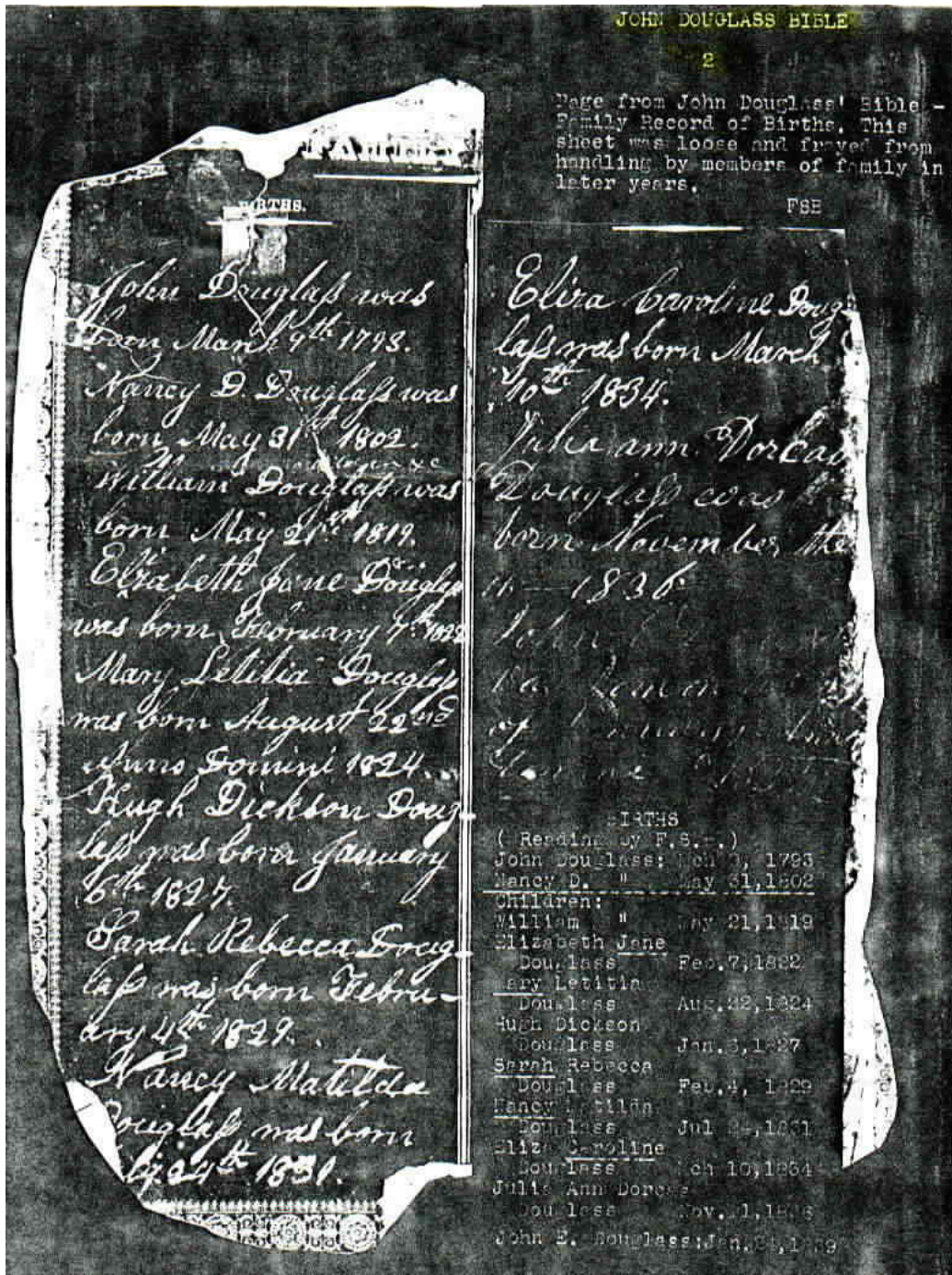
Page 14 – Calhounds changed to read Calhouns

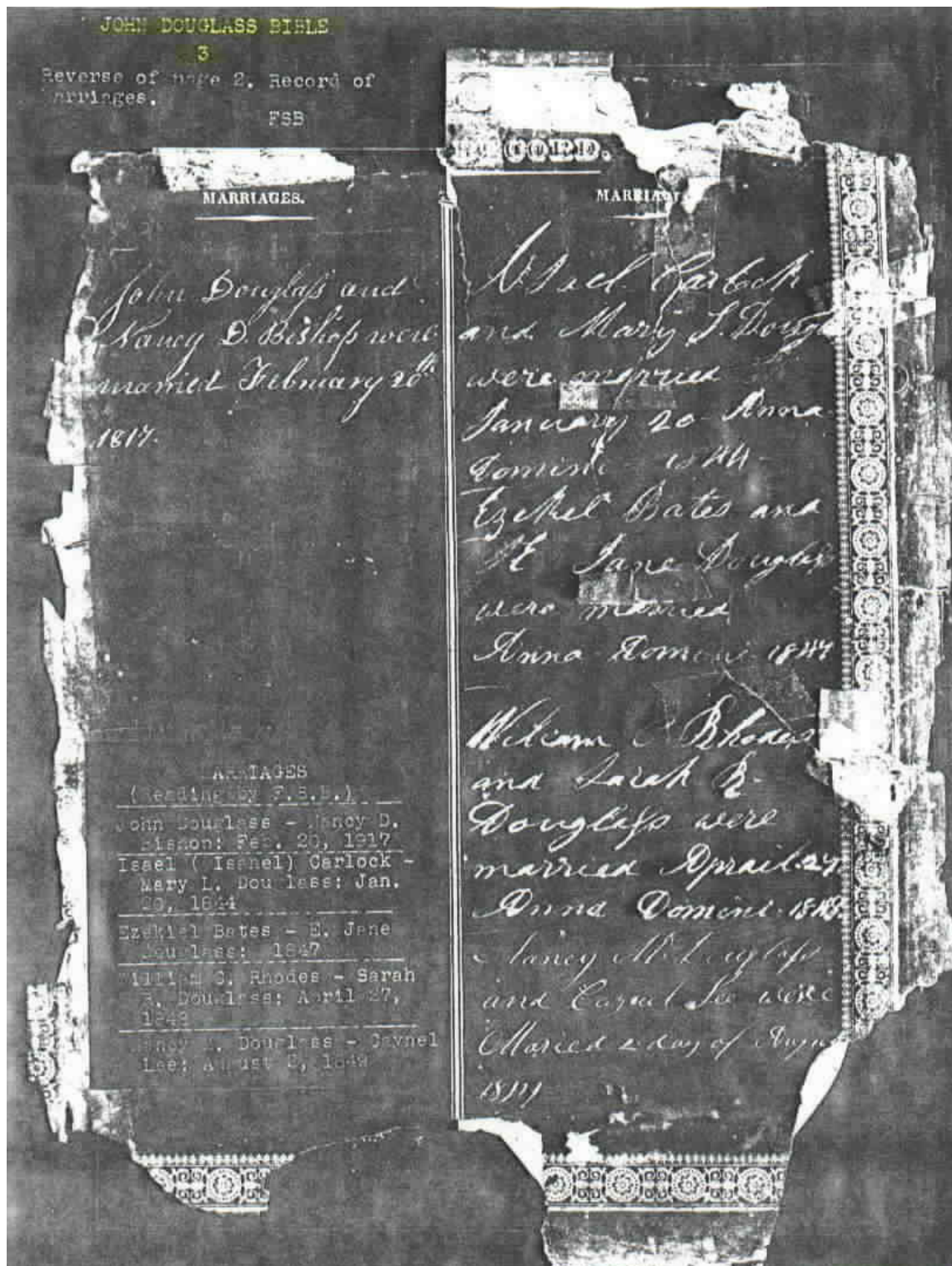


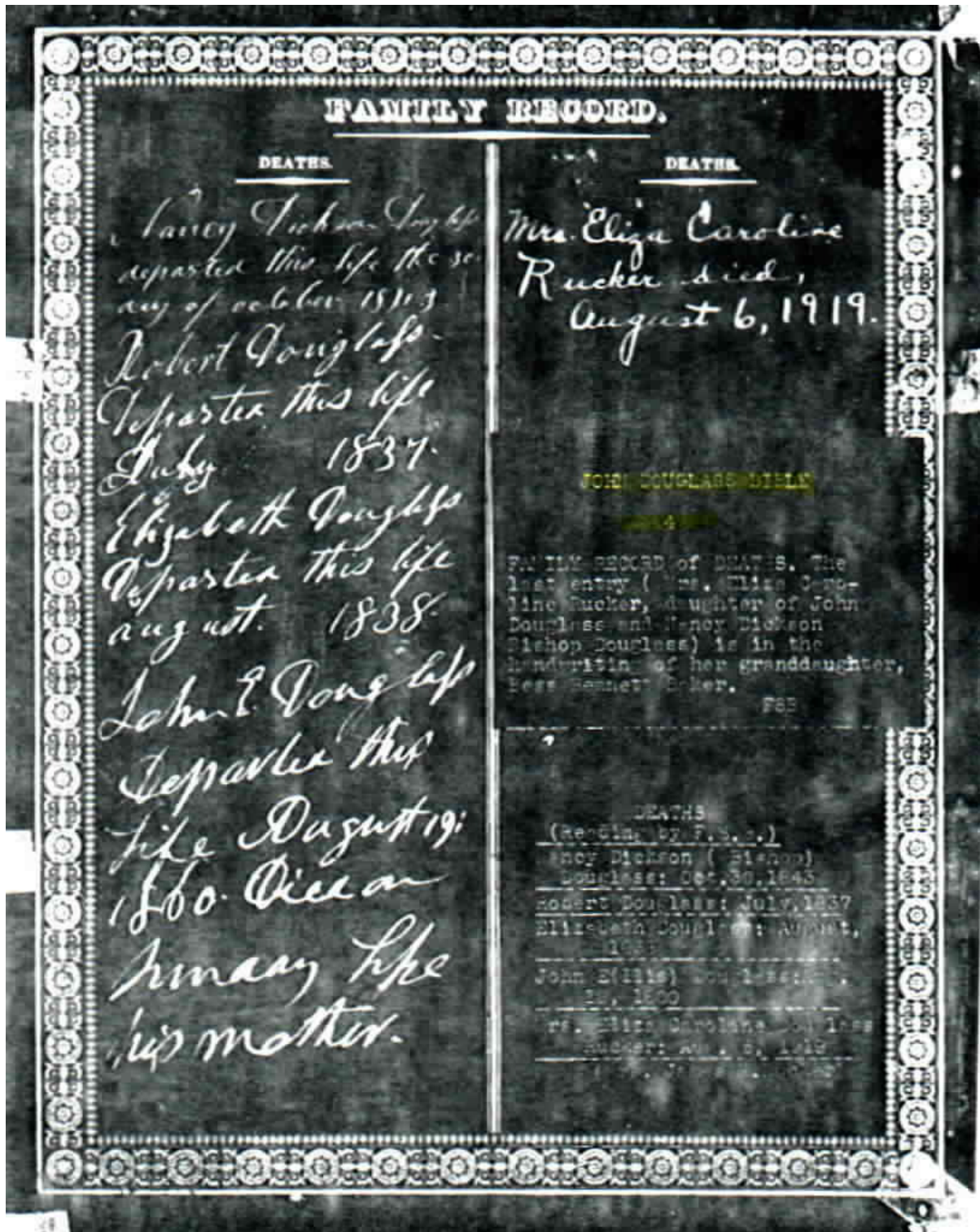
## APPENDIX B

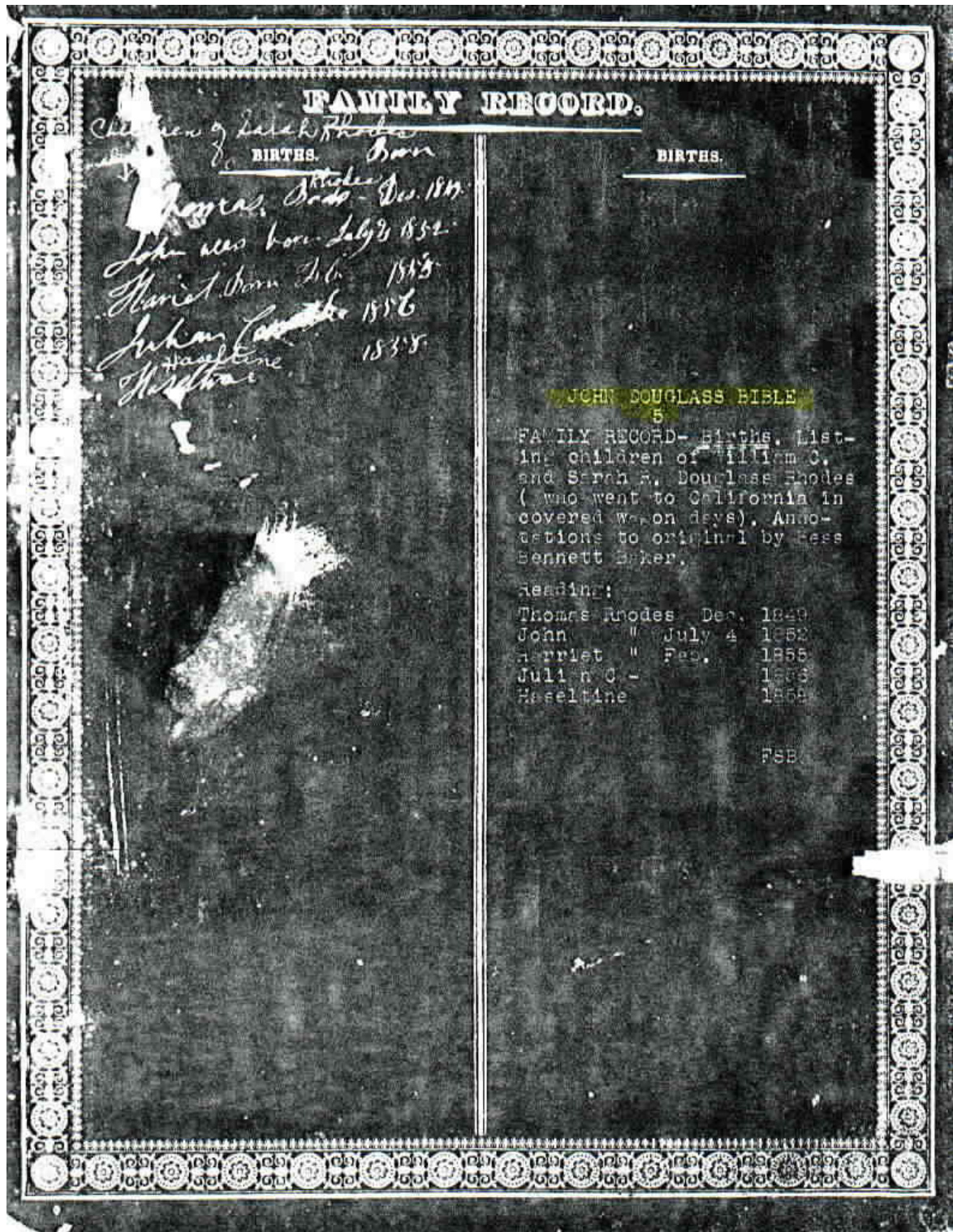


**APPENDIX C**  
**THE JOHN DOUGLASS FAMILY BIBLE**









## APPENDIX D

3206 Seminary Ave.  
Richmond, Va.  
Feb. 4, 1957

Dear Mr. Brown:

In reply to your letter of Feb. 1:  
Michael Dickson is said to have married Sarah Neely in 1755. I do not have documentary evidence of this other than numerous family accounts and D.A.R. lineages, but the weight of this evidence and its general agreement on the time and on her name make it at least probable and acceptable. If there is now any Bible or other record of their marriage in existence I have neither seen nor heard of it. Marriage records were very scarce in the Carolinas at that time, most being married by banns rather than license, as banns were so much less expensive. There were few church registers except with older Episcopal or Church of England parishes, and I am sure Michael was not married in the Anglican church. Sarah was probably living in the area along the Catawba River somewhere below present Charlotte and around York-Chester, which was then thought to be part of Mecklenburg (old Anson) county. Her father was probably either Henry or Samuel Neely. Their son Samuel Henry Neely must have been named for her family, either her father or an uncle or both. The date 1755 seems reasonable enough in view of the date of birth of known children. My Jane Dickson was born in 1758 and there may have and probably was a son born before her.

You ask also about Michael's brother John, whom Mr. Carr omitted altogether in his first edition of THE DICKSON LETTERS, but included in his revised version. I have very few records on John as yet, but believe he went to Cherokee lands in western Carolina before Pendleton County was created late in 1789, following the Treaty of Hopewell with Cherokee in 1785 by which they relinquished their lands to the State of South Carolina, Michael and John, the two oldest of the children of John Dickson(1704-1774) were as you know born in Ireland and came over with their father, in 1738. It seems evident that as young men they got out on their own rather early, visiting relatives and former Pennsylvania friends who had settled in the Carolinas, looking over the country and probably seeking out lands for themselves. There is record of Michael in the Orange County tax list of 1755, also as a captain of Orange militia when that county extended from the Virginia line to old Anson on the south, comprising eight and more of present counties. The next year

he was granted land in Anson County by Gov. Arthur Dobbs, and later two tracts on Rocky Creek in Mecklenburg County, which when the line was surveyed west of Catawba River in 1772 were found to lie in old Craven County, South Carolina, instead of Mecklenburg Co., N.C.. By that time Michael and Sarah had settled on their lands in what is now Chester County, . S.C.

I have not given much study to tracing John or his family, but both John and Michael appear in the Pendleton County 1790 "heads of families" census - the first U.S.Census taken. It is my belief that John was there some time ahead of Michael. In that census he is credited with a wife and 1 daughter; 1 son over 16 and 1 under 16. Michael then had a wife, 2 daughters; and 4 (but not John of Duplin, of course) sons over 16; also 2 slaves. John Dickson, Sr. and John Dickson, Jr. both appear in the 1800 census, while both the 1810 and 1820 enumerations include John Dickson - probably the younger. Michael appears in these enumerations up to 1820, and is credited with more children than I have been able to account for with known names. Some doubtless died early and we have no record of them.

There were also David and Matthew Dickson in the 1790 census of Pendleton County, Ninety-Six District; David credited with his wife only, so must have been a rather young married man. I believe he was a first cousin of Michael and John and may have been a son of William Dickson, the brother of John-the-elder, who went to Rowan County about the same time that John-the-elder came to Duplin or New Hanover (1745-50), and who died in the "back part of N.C." New Years Day 1775, according to William's first letter. If it is true that David was this William's son, then he was perhaps also a brother of Major Joseph Dickson of Lincoln County, who later came to be .known as General (militia) Dickson and moved to middle Tennessee 1803-5, going to Congress from there. David Dickson does not appear in Pendleton County census records after 1790, as he moved to Georgia where he had served during part of the Revolution as Captain in Col. Jacks Battalion of Minute Men, as a consequence of which he was granted extensive lands in Georgia and became a prominent citizen of that State, also a General of State Militia and member of its legislature. He died in Fayette County, Georgia, May, 1830. Bible records of his family indicate rather strongly close relationship to Michael and other Dicksons of our line. Matthew Dickson, on the contrary, does not seem to be of our line. He had progeny who lived in western South Carolina and remained there than any of ours, and in trying to trace Michael and John I find some of Matthew's offspring coming into the

picture rather often. I have had the census records of that area checked for Dicksons and Bishops through 1850.

It is my theory - and that's all it is at present - that in their early days of visiting over the rapidly growing settlements of the Carolina border and interior, Michael and John got as far west as their uncle William's home in Rowan, and that John stayed in that western part of Carolina, going further south to settle near the rich Cherokee lands, as many did even before removal of the Cherokee, but that Michael met Sarah Neely in the Scots-Irish neighborhood of old Mecklenburg and decided to settle nearer home. He married sooner than John, by several years. One of the family stories which comes down through my Bishop line is that Michael and his father were traveling over the country and stopped overnight with a Mr. Neely, whose daughter Michael admired very much, and so made a point of stopping there again as soon and often as possible. So much for romance - and as you might expect this was handed down by an elderly maiden Bishop teacher in Alabama State Normal, Miss J. Nicholene Bishop, who died in 1940 at advanced age, and whose papers from years of family research were made available to me. I have been working on this for several years now, but do not seem to get anywhere very fast. It is a slow process unless one can acquire a good chunk of reliable record all at one time, such as Bible records, but these seem to have been lost for the older generations. My own go back only to my great-grandmother, Nancy Dickson Bishop (1802-1843), who as a very young girl had the temerity to marry a stern young Scot by the name of John Douglass and to go to make a home for him in the mountainous section of McMinn County, East Tennessee. She bore him nine children before her death at the age of 41, of whom my grandmother, Eliza Caroline Douglass was the seventh (1834 -1919), and as a young girl was taken to be raised by her mother's maiden sisters Jane and Dorcas Bishop in old Pendleton, S.C. I have her small Bible given to her by her aunt Jane Bishop in 1853. Jane and Dorcas Bishop were buried in the cemetery of' the noted Old Stone Church between Clemson and. Pendleton, S.C. beside their father Nicholas and their mother, Jane Dickson Bishop. Their headstones stand still in good condition in that early cemetery of one or the oldest of the Presbyterian churches of the South Carolina frontier. General Andrew Pickens, Michael Dickson, and General Robert Anderson were its founding trustees or elders.

As to the next Bishops: My Nicholas who married Jane Dickson in 1785 was next to the youngest son of Nicholas Bishop of Camden (later Chester) District, S.C. and of Hannah Bracken Bishop, whose children in order of age were: Henry, Dorcas, William,



Hannah, James, Nicholas, and John. The five Bishop brothers fought in the Up Country struggle following the fall of Charles Town in May 1780 which led a few months later to the Battle of King's Mountain, known as the turning point of the Revolution. Henry Bishop, as a Captain of mounted militia under Major Wm. R. Davis and Gen. Thomas Butler, died from wounds received at the Battle of Hanging Rock, S.C. Aug. 6, 1780<sup>1</sup>, in which Michael Dickson was also engaged as a major mounted militia, and Nicholas Bishop as a private. Henry had a son Henry who was living in Mecklenburg County, N.C. some years after the Revolution according to a court record I found, but I have not traced him further. Both Nicholas and his brother John lived long enough to apply for pensions after the pension Act of 1832 and I have copies of their applications, which give details of their service as well as interesting items of family history. I also have a copy of the elder Nicholas Bishop's will made in 1778 and probated April 21, 1787, which must have been soon after his death.

According to his statement in his pension application, Nicholas, Jr. was born "near Philadelphia" Penna. and his parents brought him as an infant to Chester County, S.C., which would make it about 1760 that they joined the throng of Pennsylvania Scots-Irish in that growing section along the Catawba. Whether they stopped in north Carolina on their way south is not known, but I found records of Bishops in New Hanover and Duplin in N.C. Colonial Records, and a George and Abraham Bishop are shown in early Chester records, as in the 1790 census for that district, early deeds, etc.

As you will see from the foregoing, my interest is as much or more in the historic background as in genealogy as such, and so when I get started on that it takes a good deal of space. Please excuse it. Also, I am writing this without reference to notes, so do not put it into record. I am going to give you a condensed genealogical schedule when I have revised mine to include some data on James Dickson and his family which has just come in from a lady in Florida whom I have been trying to get to for a year or more, but has been ill. her daughter finally came to my aid. James was Michael's son born about 1763, also in Revolution.

(Signature) F.S. Bennett

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<sup>1</sup> Wells, Lawrence K, and Brent H. Holcomb, eds. The South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research. Volume I, Number 2, Spring, 1973, p.65. [The date of August 6, 1780 is in error. The aforementioned reference cites compensation paid to Elizabeth Bishop, widow of Henry, who lost his life by a wound received from the British 1 Augt 80, 8.15. The first Battle of Hanging Rock was fought on August 1, the second battle on August 6].

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