The William Beaird Sr. Family

A detailed discussion of the lives of

William Beaird Sr. (19 Sept 1794–after 1885) **and** **Zilpha Dunn** (c1794–1870/1880)

of

Jasper County, Georgia,

Bibb County, Alabama, &

Union Parish, Louisiana.

These notes include detailed information on William and Zilpha's ancestors

Edmond Beaird, Benjamin Walding, & Stephen Dunn,

as well as some data on their descendants in these families:

Beaird, Agerton, Jones, & Regan (Reagan).

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by

Timothy Dean Hudson

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Introduction

The births of both William Beaird and Zilpha Dunn occurred in 1794 on their parents' North Carolina farms in Wayne and Edgecombe County, respectively. They apparently met as children when their fathers purchased adjoining farms in Baldwin County, Georgia about 1805 or 1806. By 1812, both families had moved the short distance into Jasper County and again settled on neighboring farms. William and Zilpha married there in 1816, and two years later, they moved with the entire Edmond Beaird family to the Mulberry Creek region in what was then Cahawba County, Alabama Territory. This area became Bibb County, Alabama in 1820, and in 1868, Chilton County. Between 1820 and 1845, most of William and Zilpha's siblings as well as their parents lived near them in the Mulberry Creek neighborhood of Bibb County.

Beginning in the mid-1840s, William and his brothers began making preparations to leave Alabama and move westward towards Louisiana and Texas. William and Zilpha left Bibb County in late 1845 or 1846 and settled in the Zion Hill Community of Union Parish, Louisiana. Located some seven or eight miles northwest of Farmerville on the north side of Bayou Corney and near the small village of Cherry Ridge, the region assumed its name after the Zion Hill Baptist Church founded there in 1841.

William and Zilpha Beaird spent the remainder of their lives on their Zion Hill farm, as did most of their children and grandchildren.

I am the great-great-great-great grandson of William Beaird and Zilpha Dunn through their daughter Nancy Cessum Beaird Regan [Reagan] (c1827–1894). I became interested in learning more about my family while still in high school and accumulated much information on them during the 1980s. This material has moldered in my files since then. With the proliferation of the internet in the 1990s, I have unfortunately observed much incorrect Beaird information online. I hope that by compiling the following notes, I will make a small contribution towards presenting a detailed and accurate description of the lives of this couple.

These Beaird notes present all information I have been able to glean on William Beaird and Zilpha Dunn and their family. This includes all records of their children in Union Parish, Louisiana as well as all records of their parents and grandparents currently known. I have also included many miscellaneous Beaird records from early Georgia.

All conclusions I state are based upon my interpretation of factual records made during their lifetimes. I have also included transcriptions of many of these records.

I first learned about the Beairds from my cousin Wayne Barrett. He has worked on our Beaird and Dunn families for many years. Wayne unselfishly shared his Beaird knowledge and materials with me over the past twenty or so years, and I could not have compiled these notes without his continuous assistance, encouragement, and support. I have also benefited greatly from the Beaird research of my cousin Max Williams. His in-depth analysis of the Beairds in early Georgia, Maryland, Virginia, and the Carolinas has proved vital to understanding and identifying our William Beaird's father Edmond. Max's research also allowed him to identify William Beaird's mother, Sarah Walding Beaird.

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Chronology of the Lives of William Beaird & Zilpha Dunn

19 Sept 1794	William Beaird is born in Wayne County, North Carolina, son of Edmond Beaird and Sarah Walding Beaird.
1795 – 1797	Following the death of William's maternal grandfather Benjamin Walding in late 1794, Edmond Beaird sells his farm in Wayne County, North Carolina on 31 October 1795 and moves to Georgia, settling in Hancock County. By 1797, he had purchased a plantation of 200 acres from Benjamin Thompson.
1801	Edmond Beaird purchases 143 acres of land on Buffalo Creek in Hancock County, Georgia.
1806	Edmond Beaird moves his family into the newly created Baldwin County, Georgia. In 1807 he paid taxes on both his new farm in Baldwin County and his old Hancock County property.
10 Dec 1807	Randolph County, Georgia created from Baldwin County. It was known as Randolph County until 10 Dec 1812, when the Georgia Legislature changed the name to Jasper County. Present-day Randolph County was created in 1828. On the 1807 Baldwin County tax list, Edmond Beaird's farm was adjoining that of Stephen Dunn. But Beaird was not on the 1808, 1809, 1810 tax lists of Baldwin as was Stephen Dunn. This suggests that the Beaird and Dunn property lay on the county line between Baldwin and Jasper (then Randolph). Stephen Dunn sold his Baldwin County farm between 1810 and 1811, and afterwards he moved to another farm in Jasper County.
Jan – Feb 1814	William Beaird serves in William Brown's squadron of Captain McLenton's (or McClinton's) Company of the Georgia Militia under General Floyd during the War of 1812. He served at the Seven Islands on the Oakmulgee River, helping to build forts. Years later, he did not claim to have seen any action during this service.
4 Jan 1816	William Beaird marries Zilpha Dunn in Jasper County, Georgia.
21 Aug 1818	Apparently in preparation for departing from Georgia, Edmond Beaird, as a resident of Jasper County, sells Lot #144, 10th District, a 202½-acre tract of land in Putnam County. He sold the land for $2500 cash, presumably as an investment. The transaction was witnessed by Edmond's son, William Beaird, and Simeon Tucker, the brother of Edmond's son-in-law, Thomas Tucker.
5 Nov 1818	Edmond Beaird sells the remainder of his farm in Jasper County, Georgia on 5 Nov 1818. The Beairds moved to Alabama Territory after this, probably during the winter of 1818 – 1819. They settled on Mulberry Creek in what was then Cahaba County. Following the premature death of Alabama governor Bibb in 1820 after only six months in office, the Alabama Legislature changed the name to Bibb County.
1820	Edmond and William Beaird purchase adjoining tracts of government land in Cahaba (later Bibb) County, Alabama. Edmond's new farm was in the vicinity of the Mulberry Baptist Church that had formed in 1818 just before the Beaird's arrival in Georgia. Actually, Edmond gave land to the church it on which the church built a "meeting house".
Spring 1843	Stephen Dunn distributes his slaves among his four daughters, including a female slave Ginney, aged 23, and her three children Randall (aged 3), Lizar (aged 2) and David (aged 1) to daughter Zilpha Dunn Beaird. He actually deeds the slaves to his grandson John W. Beaird in trust for his mother. Stephen Dunn apparently died soon after making these deeds. These slaves moved to Union Parish Louisiana with the Beairds in 1846. Following the end of slavery in 1866, Randall took the surname "Beaird" and continued to farm the plantation of his former owner, later purchasing his own 280-acre farm adjoining that of William Beaird. Randall Beaird became a prosperous farmer in Union Parish Louisiana until his death in 1884.
23 Oct 1845	William and Zilpha Dunn Beaird's daughter Susannah marries Riley Agerton in Bibb County. This is the last known record of the Beairds in Alabama.
1845 – 1846	William and Zilpha move their family from Alabama to Union Parish Louisiana. There is no recorded deed showing when they sold their Bibb County, Alabama plantation, but from the statements of two of their sons, the family had arrived in Louisiana by 1846.
19 Mar 1847	William Beaird purchases his first farm in Union Parish; it adjoined Powhatan Boatright's property. The Beairds and Boatrights and their descendents lived next to each other well into the next century, with the families attending Zion Hill Baptist Church together, intermarrying, etc.

1861	Three of William and Zilpha's four sons join the Confederate Army, as did two of their grandsons and one grandson-in-law. Son William Jr. joins a unit that is immediately sent to the front north of Richmond Virginia by July 1861. That winter, this unit is assigned to General Stonewall Jackson's Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia, and eventually participates in nearly all of the famous battles of the war. Sons Stephen J. and James Beaird, as well as grandsons William W. and Wiley Newton Pierce and their grandson-in-law William Cleaton Boatright, all join the Phoenix Rifles and are sent to Camp Moore in south Louisiana to train in September. Stephen and James Beaird as well as William Pierce all contract measles but recover. William Beaird's grandson-in-law William Cleaton Boatright catches the disease in late October and dies of it at Camp Moore on November 1st. On November 27th, the Phoenix Rifles leave Camp Moore for Camp Chalmette, located on the old battlefield southeastern of New Orleans where General Jackson defeated the British in 1815.
Feb – Apr 1862	Stephen J. and James Beaird and their Pierce nephews travel with the Phoenix Rifles from Chalmette to Corinth, Mississippi in February to meet General Grant's Yankee army coming down from Kentucky. In mid-March the men had to march in knee-deep mud and water for five days and suffered greatly from exposure. Several soldiers died from disease as a result. William and Zilpha's youngest son, James Beaird, died in camp near Corinth, Mississippi on March 29th of typhoid fever. Their son Stephen J. Beaird and Pierce grandsons probably were with their company during the horrifically bloody Battle of Shiloh on April 6th and 7th.
May-Dec 1862	The Phoenix Rifles helped form the garrison of Vicksburg and endured the Federal bombardment there during the summer. In November, William and Zilpha's grandson Enoch J. Pierce transfers to the Phoenix Rifles from another Confederate unit he had joined in March. In mid-December, Stephen J. Beaird is discharged due to his age.
26-29 Dec 1862	The Phoenix Rifles distinguishes itself in the Battle of Chickasaw Bluffs. The Confederate forces decisively repulse the attack of General W. T. Sherman's troops north of Vicksburg. The only Beaird relatives in the unit at this time are the three Pierce boys, William W., Enoch J., and Wiley Newton.
Feb – July 1863	William and Zilpha's son-in-law William Daniel Regan joins the Phoenix Rifles on February and participates in the Battle of Grand Gulf and the Vicksburg campaign with their three Pierce grandsons. After the surrender of Vicksburg, all come home on parole. William and Zilphia's grandson, James Polk Agerton, joins the Confederate artillery in April.
Oct 1863	William and Zilpha's son-in-law Riley Agerton joins the Phoenix Rifles. Their son Stephen J. Beaird also rejoined his old command in the fall. The youngest Pierce grandson, Stephen R. Pierce, also probably joins at this time.
7 Nov 1863	William Beaird, Jr. is captured by the Yankees at the engagement at Rappahannock Station, Virginia and is sent as a prisoner of war first to Washington DC, where he arrived on November 11th, and then to the Union prison at Point Lookout, Maryland. He remained in prison until he was exchanged on March 10, 1864.
22 Sept 1864	William Beaird, Jr. was captured by General Sheridan's Yankee troops at the engagement at Fisher's Hill, Virginia. He was sent as a prisoner of war first to Harper's Ferry in West Virginia, but on October 1st sent to Point Lookout, Maryland, where he arrived on October 3rd. Beaird remained in prison until his exchange on 10 Feb 1865.
1 Sept 1869	William Beaird, Sr. sells his 320-acre plantation in Union Parish to his single children Stephen J. and Elizabeth Beaird and his orphaned grandson, William A. Jones.
1870 – 1880	Zilpha Dunn Beaird is alive in 1870 with her occupation given as *"Stay in House."* Presumably she was feeble by this time. There is no record of her precise date of death, but she had died by 1880.
1885	William Beaird, Sr. was listed on the tax list of Union Parish Louisiana. This is the last known record of him, as no evidence has been located that indicates his precise date of death.

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William Beaird's
Vital Statistics and Personal Information

Date of Birth

William Beaird was born on 19 September 1794. His birthdate was recorded along with those of Elizabeth, Amy, Benjamin, James, Edmond Oliver, and Sarah Beaird in the family Bible of Edmond and Sarah Beaird. The 1850 – 1880 censuses verify this year of birth, based upon the age of William Beaird recorded by the census enumerators.

Date of Death

I have no precise record of the date of death for William Beaird, Sr. His grave is not marked with a tombstone. He sold his remaining farmland in 1869 at the age of seventy-five years to his two single children, Stephen Jackson and Elizabeth Beaird, and his orphaned grandson, William Absolom Jones (son of his deceased daughter S. Jane Beaird Jones). As a result of owning no property, a succession was unnecessary (*succession* is the Louisiana legal term for *probate*); hence we have no court record that gives his date of death.

William Beaird, Sr. was alive in 1880, when he lived with his daughter Elizabeth and grandson William A. Jones. On the 1885 Union Parish Louisiana Tax List, "Beard, Wm. & S. J. Jr." paid taxes on livestock valued at $55, "other property" valued at $600, and vehicles valued at $10. They were listed in Ward 6 next to Stephen J. Beaird, Sr., William Beaird, Sr.'s son. I believe this was William Beaird, Sr. for several reasons.

First, the man known as "Stephen J. Beaird, Jr." in the Union Parish records was William Beaird, Sr.'s grandson, the son of John W. Beaird, Sr. He had the same name as his single uncle, so William's son was called "Stephen J. Beaird, Sr." and William Beaird, Sr.'s grandson was called "Jr."

Throughout most of the 1880s, S. J. Beaird, Jr. paid taxes on his property separately in Ward 7, and he never paid taxes on anywhere near $600 of "other property" except in 1885. This alone strongly suggests that this "other property" belonged to Stephen's grandfather, William Beaird, Sr. Moreover, in this year in Ward 7, William Beaird, Jr. paid taxes on his property under the name *Wm. Beard*. Also paying taxes in Ward 7 were William Beaird Sr.'s daughter-in-law, Martha Ann Regan Beaird, the widow of John W. Beaird, Sr., and S. J. Beaird, Jr. One has to wonder why Stephen J. Beaird, Jr. would pay taxes separately on his own property in Ward 7, and yet also be jointly listed as a taxpayer in Ward 6. It is possible that the notation on the tax list was in error: perhaps it should have been William Beaird, Sr. and his son, S. J. Beaird, **Sr.** who were taxed jointly; this is more logical. On the other hand, Stephen J. Beaird, Jr. was single (and remained so until 1897), so he possibly helped take care of his aged grandfather, single aunt, Elizabeth Beaird, and his namesake single uncle, Stephen J. Beaird, Sr., during the 1880s. I should also point out that there were no other males of this family by the name of *William Beaird* – only William Beaird, Sr. and his son, William Jr. The only grandson by this name was William Louis Beaird (son of William Beaird, Jr. and Hannah L. Raborn), who died in 1870 at the age of four years.

So, although it is slightly unclear for the above reasons, I do believe that William Beaird, Sr. was still alive in 1885 and paying taxes on property jointly with his grandson. He was 91 years old by this time, so he presumably died within a few years.

Father

William Beaird was the son of Edmund Beaird. Although Edmond Beaird left several provisions to his daughters, unfortunately no recorded deed showing Edmond Beaird leaving property to any of his sons has been located. The following records indicate Edmond's relationship to William Beaird:

- William Beaird is the first child listed in the Bible record of Edmond Beaird's children

- William and Edmond Beaird purchased adjoining farms in Bibb County, Alabama from the government in 1820, and in 1825, William Beaird was the "attorney" for Edmond Beaird, signing Edmond's name to government documents at the Cahaba Land Office regarding the 1820 land purchases
- Edmond Beaird was the only landowner with the surname "Beaird" in Jasper County, Georgia between 1807 and 1820; this is where William Beaird joined the army in 1814 and married Zilphia Dunn in 1816
- Both Edmond and William were members of Mulberry Baptist Church in Bibb County and served as delegates to the Canaan Baptist Association from Mulberry in the 1820s

My cousin Max Williams (a descendent of William Beaird's sister Amy Beaird Tucker) gave me a copy of the family information from a Beaird family Bible in the 1980s. This copy is faint and difficult to read, but contains a page of Beaird births and a few deaths. The parents of the children are not specifically identified, but based upon the names of the Beaird children and a few court records that prove several of the children were his, we know that this information comes from the family Bible of Edmond and Sarah Beaird. In 1842 and 1846, Edmond Beaird named Sarah Connell as his daughter (Autauga Co AL Deed Book D-2, p. 9, Autauga Co AL Deed Book DE, p. 39, and Bibb Co AL Deed Book F, pp. 157 – 158), and in 1845 he named Amy Tucker as his daughter (Bibb Co AL Deed Book F, pp.14 – 15). Moreover, on 9 Sept 1819, in Cahawba (Cahaba) County, Alabama, Edmond Beaird was the security for Edmond Oliver Beaird on his marriage bond to marry Elizabeth Goodgame. These records plus the Bible information prove that these births are for the children of Edmond Beaird and his wife, Sarah Beaird. The entries in the Bible are:

William Beaird was born Sept 19, 1794
Elisabeth Beaird was born April the 12, 1789
Amy Beaird was born June the 6 1792
Sarah Beaird was born April the 9th 1797
Benjamin Beaird was born July the 30 1799
Edmond O. Beaird was born September 26th 1801
James Beaird was born August 10th, 1803
Sarah Beird died September 13th, 1840
Peyton John__?__ Died July 24 1846
Sarah Connell Died November 12, 1857

Mother

The records leave no reasonable doubt, but that William Beaird was the son of Sarah Walding Beaird, the daughter of Benjamin Walding of Wayne County, North Carolina. Walding wrote his will in 1789, but he lived until late 1794 (Wayne Co NC Will Book A, pp. 545 – 546). Walding named Sarah and her husband Edmond Beaird as his daughter and son-in-law, and he also identified Samuel Walding as his son and Mary and her husband Elias Grantham as his daughter and son-in-law. This information is crucial to proving that the Edmond and Sarah Walding Beaird of Wayne County, North Carolina is the same couple as Edmond and Sarah Beaird of Hancock and Jasper Counties Georgia and Bibb County, Alabama.

We know that William's father Edmond Beaird arrived in Hancock County between 1795 and 1797. The 1807 Baldwin County tax digest shows Edmond as paying taxes on property in Hancock County that he bought in 1801, land that adjoined property of Shy. The 1804 tax list shows James Shy as the adjacent landowner to Edmond Beaird. Then an earlier tax list, undated but apparently 1797 – 1799, shows Edmond Beaird listed next to Elias Grantham (Benjamin Walding's son-in-law) and James Shy. On 12 May 1804, Beaird sold 150 acres in Hancock County to Samuel *Walden*; this was undoubtedly his brother-in-law, Samuel **Walding**. Then in 1807, Samuel Walding is living in the same district in Baldwin County as Edmond, and by 1808 he owns his a farm there on Nancy's Branch, the same creek on which Edmond Beaird lived in 1807 and on which Stephen Dunn, Zilphia Dunn Beaird's father, lived until 1811.

Benjamin Walding's Wayne County will plus the connections of Edmond Beaird, Samuel Walding and Elias Grantham in Hancock and Baldwin Counties Georgia prove that Edmond Beaird of Jasper County, Georgia and Bibb County, Alabama married Sarah Walding, the daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Walding of Wayne County, North Carolina.

Maternal Grandparents & Relatives

As stated above, William Beaird's maternal grandparents were Benjamin and Sarah Walding. Nothing is currently known of their lives prior to 1779, when they lived in Dobbs County. Benjamin Walding died in late 1794 in Wayne County, leaving his plantation to his wife and son, Samuel. The two of them sold the farm on 12 September 1795 (Wayne Co NC Deed Book 5E, p. 538), and the next month on October 31st, Edmond Beaird sold his Wayne County land. At this point, the extended Walding family all left Wayne County, with the Beairds moving to Hancock County, Georgia along with Mary Walding Grantham and her husband, Elias. But Samuel Walding moved to neighboring Johnston County, where the 1800 census shows him living near numerous Oliver households. Although Sarah Walding's maiden name is currently unknown, circumstantial evidence points towards it being "Oliver." In his will, Benjamin Walding named John Oliver of Johnston County as one of his executors along with his wife Sarah and son Samuel. Moreover, the name Oliver appears frequently among Sarah Walding's descendants (in particular, her grandson was named "Edmond Oliver Beaird").

Although Samuel Walding was living in Johnston County, North Carolina, from his household enumeration, it does not appear that his mother Sarah was living with him, nor is it known when she died. By 1804, Samuel Walding had followed his sisters to Hancock County, Georgia, and he followed Edmond and Sarah Beaird to Baldwin County about 1806 or 1807. Walding remained there, living near the state capitol at Milledgeville, until 1817. I do not know where he went when he left Baldwin in 1817–1818, but by 1830 he was living in Dale County, Alabama with John and Benjamin Walding, presumably his sons. Elias Grantham had moved from Hancock to Montgomery County by 1804, but I have no further record of him in Georgia. There was a man by this name living in Jackson County Florida in 1830 who seems to be him, but I have not pursued this line further.

In the event that Sarah Walding was indeed an Oliver and related to the Olivers of Johnston County, here are the Johnston County Oliver wills. Possibly one of these men is Sarah Walding's brother.

- William Oliver, 1777, Johnston Co NC Will Book 2, p. 260
- John Oliver, 1792, Johnston Co NC Will Book 1, page 58; original at NC archives
- Thomas Oliver, 1799, Johnston Co NC Will Book 1, p. 115; original at NC archives
- John Oliver, 1803, Johnston Co NC Will Book 1, p. 152; original at the NC archives
- Henry Oliver, 1819, Johnston Co NC Will Book 1, p. 298; original at NC archives

Paternal Grandparents & Relatives

William Beaird's paternal grandparents are not known for certain at this time. However, circumstantial evidence points toward Edmond Beaird being the son of John Beaird of Wayne County.

There were several men by the name of "Edmond Beard" in Georgia during this period, including an older Edmond Beard whose wife was Keziah. Their relationship to our Edmond Beaird, husband of Sarah Walding, is currently unknown, although it appears to have been a close one. This Edmond apparently moved to Wilkes County, Georgia from another colony in 1777 or 1778 for the specific purpose of joining the military under Col. Elijah Clarke. They resided in Wilkes County until about 1787, when they moved to Burke County. Edmond must have died in the 1790s, either in Burke or Greene County. By 1802 Keziah Beard was living as a widow in Hancock County near our Edmond

Beaird. She moved to Baldwin County with him about 1806 and living in the same militia district as our Edmond Beaird, in the state capitol of Milledgeville. She later moved to Jones County with her children, where she died after 1820.

Residences

The records presented herein show that William Beaird, Sr. lived in the following locations during his lifetime:

1) Wayne County, North Carolina (1794 – 1795)
2) Hancock County, Georgia (c1796 – c1806)
3) Baldwin County, Georgia (c1806 – 1807)
4) Jasper (old Randolph) County, Georgia (1807 – 1818)
5) Bibb (previously Cahawba, today Chilton) County, Alabama (1818 – 1846)
6) Union Parish Louisiana (1846 – after 1885)

Marriage

William Beaird and Zilpha Dunn married on 4 January 1816, in Jasper County, Georgia (Jasper County Marriage Book 1808 – 1820, p. 96). I have several photocopies of this record, and the year is clearly **1816**. Moreover, I inspected the dates of other marriages on this page, and they were also in 1816. However, when in 1872 William Beaird applied for a pension based upon his military service during the War of 1812, he stated that he and Zilpha married in Jasper County, Georgia during the year **1814**. Of course, this discrepancy could be explained as an old man's poor memory: he was 78 years old when he supplied the information for the pension application. But despite his age, Beaird had obviously maintained his mental and physical capacities, for he wrote letters in 1875 and 1878 entirely in his own handwriting explaining his military service. In these letters, he reveals the first and last names of four of his comrades in service and the surname of another; in addition, Beaird gives several specifics of his service, mentioning where he enlisted, the river near which he served, etc. The letters give the impression of a man who pays attention to minute details, someone who would remember the year of his marriage to the woman who was his wife for more than 54 years. On the other hand, names and places are often easier to remember than dates, and Beaird's attorney filled out the form giving their marriage date, not Beaird himself.

To add to this confusion, both the 1850 and 1860 censuses give the same approximate year and place of birth for William Beaird, Sr.'s daughter Sarah Beaird Pierce: 1815 in Georgia. The 1870 census listing for Sarah is unclear and no information can be gleaned from it, and she has not been located in 1880. Thus, currently the only sources of information regarding her birth are the 1850 and 1860 census. Since census information is often incorrect and cannot be entirely trusted, we have no entirely reliable source for Sarah Beaird Pierce's date of birth.

It is quite possible that the censuses are a few years off and Sarah was the eldest child of William and Zilpha born in late 1816 or 1817 in Georgia prior to their removal in late 1818 to Alabama. However, if these censuses are correct and Sarah was born in 1815, then William must have married in 1814 to a different woman who was the mother of Sarah Beaird Pierce (although possible, I view it as unlikely that Zilpha gave birth to Sarah prior to her marriage to William in January 1816, considering the social implications surrounding out-of-wedlock births in that era; they occurred but were not as common as today). In this case, Zilpha was William Beaird's second wife and Sarah was not her daughter. But until further information regarding Sarah's precise year of birth becomes available, I think it is somewhat uncertain whether or not William Beaird married prior to his marriage to Zilpha.

Education

William Beaird always signed his name to the deeds he made in his life. His pension application contains two letters written by him to the pension commissioner explaining his military service. Although Beaird's spelling is

archaic, he clearly was educated beyond what most white Southerners were in those years. Also, in spite of his spelling, he appears rather fastidious in his letter writing and how he signed his name. On 5 October 1875, after explaining to the pension commissioner that he spelled his name *Beaird* whereas other spelled it *Beard*, he signed his given name as *Wiliam Beaird* (with one 'el' in his first name). To correct this, he inserted a carrot below his first name and wrote the second "l" above. A few years later on 15 May 1878, when signing a power of attorney, he signed his surname as *Beird*, and so again inserted a carrot with the "a" written above his name.

Beaird's sons could also all read and write just as he could, but Beaird's daughters could not, just like their mother Zilpha. This discriminating pattern of educating the males but not the females seemed prevalent in that era.

Beaird's Given Name

It is now prevalent to see the subject of this sketch, William Beaird, Sr., called *John William Beaird, Sr.* in records publicly posted on the internet. There are apparently various viewpoints as to which was his actual name. At this time, I do not know for certain what Beaird's full given name was. I have always believed it was *William Beaird*, with no middle name. In the numerous federal and local records made by or about William and his brothers Benjamin and James in their lifetimes, none give any indication of multiple given names. On the other hand, their brother Edmond Oliver Beaird frequently used his middle initial and apparently went by his middle name. William Beaird, Sr. left a long list of records in both Bibb County, Alabama and Union Parish Louisiana, including deeds, tax lists, guardianship records, road work orders, government land records, a military pension application, etc. These records are all transcribed or abstracted herein. In **every single such record**, Beaird's name is given as either *William Beaird* or *William Beaird, Sr.* (although the surname was variously spelled as *Beaird*, *Beard*, *Baird*, depending on the court clerk). According to the clerks, he signed his name to every deed in one of these two ways, and this is how he signed it himself on the two letters he personally wrote. The tax records for Union Parish exist for nearly every year between 1865 and 1900. In every year in which Beaird is listed, his name is given as William Beaird, Sr., never with an initial. In short, I have found no document that remotely suggests he had a middle name, with the notable exception of the 1840 census. That record lists *John W. Beard* as the head of the household that is obviously William Beaird, Sr.'s. However, census data is notoriously inaccurate, and given that William's eldest son was named *John Washington Beaird*, I hesitate to place too much value on this one document.

The best argument I have seen for William Beaird's full name being *John William Beaird* is from Max Williams. He says that his great-aunt Ethel Tucker Odom called her great-uncle William Beaird, Sr. *"Uncle John"* when she pointed to the Beaird place during a visit years ago. This is perhaps significant.

Still, however, I find it rather bizarre for William's name to be *John William Beaird* given the that neither he nor his son ever used an initial in their names, whereas his two eldest sons, John Washington and Stephen Jackson Beaird, always listed their initials.

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Zilpha Dunn's
Vital Statistics and Personal Information

Date of Birth

Zilpha Dunn was born about 1794 in North Carolina according to the statistics recorded by the 1860 and 1870 census enumerators. The 1880 census data for three of her children also gives her birthplace as North Carolina, but the 1850 data, while matching her age on the 1860 and 1870 censuses, puts her birth in Georgia. There were known problems with the 1850 census enumeration of Union Parish (for example, William's birthplace was given as South Carolina and several of their children were omitted from their household, besides other mistakes), so I believe that the evidence indicates she was born in North Carolina. Corroborating this is the 1850 census enumeration of her sister, Penelope Hicks: her enumeration in Bibb County, Alabama gave her birth in about 1798 as occurring in North Carolina.

Date of Death

Zilpha Dunn Beaird was alive in 1870, but the census enumerator listed her occupation as "Stay in House". Presumably she was quite feeble by this time, whereas the letters that William wrote on behalf of his War of 1812 pension application in 1875 and 1878 indicate he maintained his mental capacity well into his 80s, and the 1880 census enumerator gave no indication that Beaird was physically impaired in any way, as he did for one of Beaird's great-grandsons. There is no record of Zilpha's precise date of death, but she had died by the time that the 1880 census was taken.

Father

Stephen Dunn named Zilpha Beaird as his daughter on a deed in 1843 in which he gave her several slaves, leaving them specifically to his grandson John W. Beaird to be held in trust for Zilpha (Bibb Co AL Deed Book E, pp. 263 –264 and Union Par LA Deed Book A-1, pp. 54 – 55). Dunn also named three other daughters: Nancy, wife of Simeon Tucker, Penelope, wife of Richard Hicks, Susan, wife of William Phillips. Nancy Tucker died in Leake County Mississippi in 1884, Susan remained in Jasper County, Georgia and died there about 1871, and Penelope died in Chilton (formerly Bibb) County, Alabama in 1883.

The first record of Stephen Dunn in Georgia is the 1807 Baldwin County tax list, which showed that he owned 152.5 acres of land on Reedy Creek adjoining the property of Edmond Beaird. Although Dunn lived on this same farm through 1810, Beaird apparently moved a short distance away during the winter of 1807 – 1808, into the newly created Randolph (the county name was changed to Jasper in 1812) County. In late 1810 or early 1811, Stephen Dunn sold his Baldwin County farm, for he paid taxes on only one slave in 1811 and not on any land. By 1812 he had moved into Jasper County, where on July 14th, he purchased a 202½-acre farm there.

Edmond Beaird sold his Jasper County farm on August 8th and November 5th, 1818 and departed for Cahawba County, Alabama. At the same time, on November 3rd, Stephen Dunn sold his farm of 202½ acres of land in Jasper County. Nothing further is known for certain about Stephen Dunn until 1840, when he was living in Alabama. There was a suit in Jasper County, Georgia in 1822 involving Stephen Dunn: the person to whom Dunn sold his farm in 1818 failed to pay his note due in 1820. But it appears that Dunn's son-in-law William Phillips (who remained a resident of Jasper County) handled this legal matter and there is no indication that Dunn was personally present in Jasper County when the case was prosecuted in 1822. There was a man by the name of *Stephen Dunn* who lived in Henry County, Georgia in 1830, but this does not appear to be Zilpha's father. I believe that he probably left Georgia in 1818, moved to Alabama with his daughters, and lived near them the remainder of his life.

In 1840, Stephen Dunn was living near his daughters Zilpha Dunn Beaird and Penelope Dunn Hicks in Bibb County, Alabama. He was by then a widower aged between 80 and 90 living with only his 7 slaves (1 male aged 10 – 24, 2 females aged 10 – 24, 2 males under 10 and 2 females under 10). This record indicates that only one person in the household was engaged in agriculture; due to Dunn's age, this was presumably his older male slave. In the early months of 1843, Dunn distributed his slaves to his four daughters Zilpha, Nancy, Susannah, and Penelope, apparently in anticipation of his death. There are no further records of Stephen Dunn.

Stephen Dunn of Edgecombe County, North Carolina

It is difficult to precisely determine which of the North Carolina *Stephen Dunns* was Zilpha's father, as there were at least two men by this name living there in the 1790 – 1805 time period. Complicating matters is the lack of any mention whatsoever of Stephen Dunn's wife on a Georgia or Alabama record. As mentioned above, based upon the birthplaces of his daughters, I think it is clear that our Stephen Dunn lived in North Carolina at least until about 1800, and then moved to Georgia by 1806. Although perhaps not entirely conclusive, I believe that the records described below indicate that Zilpha Dunn's father was from Edgecombe County, North Carolina.

John Dunn, Sr. and his wife Esther lived in Isle of Wight County Virginia in the early 1700s. Their son John Dunn, Jr. was born there on 16 July 1725. About 1753 he married the daughter of Nicholas and Elizabeth Sessums, Anne, who was born on 17 July 1736. They moved from Virginia to Edgecombe County, North Carolina, where Nicholas Sessums died in 1764; the elder Dunns apparently remained in Virginia.

John Dunn, Jr. and Anne Sessums Dunn had many children, including a son Stephen Dunn. In his will dated 26 January 1793 (Edgecombe Co NC Original Wills), John Dunn left ***to my Son Stephen Dunn 110 acres of Land with the plantation Where He Now Lives***. Immediately after this provision, John Dunn also left ***to my gran Daughter Nancy Dunn one Cow to Be paid By my executors after my Death to Her and Her Heirs for Ever***. Dunn mentioned no other grandchildren in this will besides Nancy. And although he did not specifically state which of his sons was Nancy's father, the order of the provisions in the will strongly suggests that it was Stephen. The order of John Dunn's provisions was:

- wife Ann – their plantation
- daughters Milley, Luraney, and Mary – small amounts of money and furniture
- son Jacob – money
- son Nicholas – tools and livestock
- son Stephen – land
- granddaughter Nancy – a cow
- son Phillip – livestock and furniture
- son Burrel – livestock and furniture
- daughter Sealey
- sons Lamon and Jonas

John Dunn, Jr.'s son Stephen lived in Edgecombe County for the next decade. On 20 January 1804, Stephen Dunn sold the plantation left to him by his father for $400 (Edgecombe Co NC Deed Book 11, p. 370). This is the last record of him in Edgecombe County, so it is clear that Stephen sold out and moved away from Edgecombe. I have been unable to find any record of him elsewhere in North Carolina or in South Carolina.

Stephen Dunn married Martha Baker, the widow of Jesse Baker, between December 1787 and 1790. Martha's maiden name is unknown. Jesse Baker was the son of Moses Baker, whose 1781 will was probated in November 1786 (Edgecombe Co NC Will Book C, p. 28). Jesse Baker made his will in September 1787, naming his wife Martha and sons Jonathan, Moses, Aaron, and David; this will was probated in January 1788 (Edgecombe Co NC Will Book C, p. 64). An

inventory of Baker's estate was made on 3 December 1787, so he was dead by then. Various estate records prove that Jesse's widow Martha married Stephen Dunn, although it is not clear precisely when the marriage occurred. However, on the 1790 census Stephen Dunn had 4 young males and a total of 3 females living in his household; the four males are certainly his four Baker step-sons, and one of the females could have been his daughter Nancy. Since no daughters were named in Jesse Baker's will, these records suggest that Stephen Dunn had married Baker's widow Martha at least by 1790 and probably about 1788 or 1789, and moreover, their daughter Nancy was born by January 1793.

Zilpha Dunn was apparently born in Edgecombe County, North Carolina

The significant points about the Edgecombe County, North Carolina Stephen Dunn that relate him to our Stephen Dunn of Georgia are:

1. He was a resident of North Carolina until 1804 and then apparently left the state.
2. He apparently had a daughter Nancy born prior to January 1793.
3. His stepsons were Aaron, David, Jonathan, and Moses Baker.
4. In 1800 he had 4 females under 10 in his household.

Each of these points provides a precise match for known facts about Zilpha's father Stephen:

1. He lived in North Carolina until at least 1800, but he was in Georgia by 1807. I have found absolutely no records of anyone named *Stephen Dunn* in the Georgia records prior to 1807. The 1805 Georgia Land Lottery can basically be regarded as a type of census of Georgia, as it contains the names of *all* people in the state who registered for it. The absence of Stephen Dunn from this list strongly suggests that he was not living in the state when the registration was held: 1803 and 1804.
2. The eldest known daughter of Zilpha's father was Nancy; she later married Simeon Tucker. Conflicting information makes it difficult to precisely determine when she was born, but in 1875 on her application for a pension based upon her husband's War of 1812 military service, Nancy stated that she was 88 years old (placing her birth in 1787). She was illiterate and so I believe that her age was a few years off, as census data suggest she was several years younger. In any case, the available records indicate that she was born between 1787 and 1792, **before** John Dunn, Jr. wrote his will in January 1793.
3. Stephen Dunn lived in Baldwin County, Georgia between 1807 and 1811. Tax records exist for every year during this period, and they show David Baker living in the same district as Dunn every year. In 1811, the two were listed next to each other on the tax list.
4. The only known children of Stephen Dunn were Nancy (born about 1790), Zilpha (born about 1794), Penelope (born about 1796–1798), and Susan (born about 1800), all in North Carolina according to census records. Thus, in 1800 Zilpha's father Stephen Dunn should have had four young daughters in his household.

I believe these similarities point strongly towards Zilpha's father Stephen Dunn being the son of John Dunn, Jr. of Edgecombe County, North Carolina, placing her birth in Edgecombe County, North Carolina.

Mother

If the above is correct and Zilpha's father was the son of John Dunn, Jr. of Edgecombe County, North Carolina, then Zilpha's mother was named *Martha*.

Education

Zilpha Dunn was illiterate, just as her father and sisters all were. John Dunn, Jr. of Edgecombe County, North Carolina also could not sign his name.

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Religion

Edmond Beaird was Baptist, and apparently all of his children, including his son William Beaird, Sr., were all life-long Baptists. When the denomination split in the 1830s over the question of missions, the Beairds were on the missionary side of the issue. Unfortunately, the minutes of both Mulberry Baptist Church in Chilton (then in Bibb) County, Alabama and Zion Hill Baptist Church in Union Parish Louisiana, the two churches to which we know that the Beairds belonged, are not extant. At this time, I do not know what church they attended while they lived in Georgia; perhaps future research will yield this information.

Mulberry Baptist Church

When settlers from Georgia and the Carolinas moved into the Mulberry Creek region of central Alabama Territory between 1816 and 1820, they settled in virgin territory from their perspective. This region was the heart of the Creek nation's territory until their defeat by General Andrew Jackson in 1814, so the only white people to have spent any time there were traders, explorers, and families passing through on their way to Mississippi. On 7 February 1818, the Alabama Territorial Legislature put the Mulberry Creek region into Cahawba (Cahaba) County, one of the first counties to be created.

Sometime in the year 1818, those settlers living in the surrounding area of Mulberry Creek in Cahawba County organized the Mulberry Baptist Church. This region is located on the banks of Mulberry Creek in what became Bibb County when the county name was changed in 1820, and Chilton County when old Bibb was subdivided in 1868. In the same year that Mulberry Church was formed, a group of delegates from surrounding churches met and organized *The Cahawba Association of Baptist Churches*. Mulberry Church participated in the creation of the Cahawba Association on 2 October 1818 and held membership in the Cahawba Association for the next ten years.

Edmond Beaird and his family apparently arrived in the Mulberry Creek community during the winter of 1818/1819, just a few months after the creation of the Cahawba Association. They settled on vacant land on either side of Mulberry Creek in the vicinity of the Mulberry Baptist Church members. On January 25th and August 2nd of 1820, Edmond and his son William purchased land from the government at the Cahaba Land Office in Dallas County. Edmond Beaird bought 400 acres on either side of the creek. His farm surrounds the location of present-day Mulberry Church, which is just a few hundred feet from Beaird's farm. But in the earlier years, the church building was actually on Beaird's property. When he sold his farm to Minor Wooley on 29 January 1850, Edmond Beaird made this statement (Bibb Co AL Deed Book G, pp. 26 – 27):

> *The meeting house known as the Mulbery* [sic] *Church and a lot of ground around the same imposed* [sic*] to near one fourth part of an acre is not to be considered in this deed as sold as I give that up to the Church this 29th day of January 1850.*

The Cahawba Baptist Association met at Mulberry Church in 1820, and in 1822, it met at Canaan Church in Jefferson County. Edmund Beaird and Joshua Wood represented Mulberry Creek Church at the 1822 associational meeting. William Beaird represented Mulberry at either the 1827 or 1828 meeting.

Mulberry Church remained a member of the Cahawba Association until 1828, when she requested dismissal along with eight other churches to form a new association. These churches met at the *"Mulberry Meeting House Bibb County, Alabama From the 15th to the 17th November Inclusive A.D. 1828"* and created the Mulberry Baptist Association. At the close of this first session, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved that the gratefull [sic] *feelings of this Association be expressed to the inhabitants of the vicinity of Mulberry Church for the kind and hospitable treatment bestowed by them on the delegates composeing* [sic] *the present session.*

Considering the proximity of the Beaird farms to Mulberry Church, they undoubtedly housed and fed many of the visitors.

Benjamin Beaird was the delegate or messenger from Mulberry Church to the Mulberry Baptist Associational meeting held at Harmony Church in Autauga County from the 12th – 15th of September, 1829. The 1834 associational meeting convened on Saturday, September 27th, at Ebenezer Church in Bibb County, with Rev. J. M. Scott delivering the introductory sermon from Acts:16, *These men are the Servants of the most high God, which Shew unto us the way of Salvation*. The delegates from the various churches then convened, and after singing and prayer, the church letters were read and the messenger's names enrolled into the minutes. William Beaird was one of the messengers from Mulberry Church to the Association. In further business, the association appointed a committee to arrange the preaching during this session of the association; William Beaird was one member of this committee. This session had singing and preaching all day long, every day from Saturday through Tuesday.

The fourteenth session of the Mulberry Association met at Harmony Church in Autauga County between September 25th and 27th, 1841. William Beaird also represented Mulberry Church as this meeting, as he did at the 1844 associational meeting. The 1844 meeting was held at Kingston Church in Autauga County from September 21st through the 23rd. William Beaird represented Mulberry Baptist Church at an associational meeting for the final time in 1846, when the session was held at Shiloh Church in Coosa County from September 26th through the 29th. The fall following this associational meeting, William Beaird left Alabama and moved to Union Parish Louisiana. (The Mulberry Baptist Association minutes are on microfilm in the Special Collections Department of Samford University Library in Birmingham, Alabama.)

Zion Hill Baptist Church

When William Beaird arrived in Union Parish Louisiana sometime during the year 1846, he apparently settled on Bayou Cornie about three miles northeast of Shiloh and eight or ten miles northwest of Farmerville. He bought a 400-acre plantation at this location in the spring of 1847. However, by 1850 he had moved several miles northeast, to a location between Horse Trough and Boatwright Creeks near Zion Hill Baptist Church. The church was organized on 4 September 1841, supposedly in a split log schoolhouse located one-half of a mile east of the present-day church. In 1845, a committee was formed to locate a site on which to erect a new church building; this committee included Powhatan Boatright, a man whose family was closely connected with William Beaird's. This committee reported their selection, near what they called Cooley's Spring. There is no record of anyone donating land for the church, but the sites of both Zion Hill Church and the cemetery (they are located near, but not adjacent, to each other) are on government land William Beaird purchased in 1851 and 1854. Unless the present-day church is at a different location than the site chosen in 1845, the church was apparently built on what was then vacant government land that Beaird later purchased. In any case, just like in the Mulberry Creek community, William Beaird's home was extremely close to Zion Hill Baptist Church.

Due to the destruction of the early minutes, there is no record of William or Zilphia even belonging to Zion Hill Church, but family tradition, the activity of their children in the church, and the close proximity of their farm to the church leaves little doubt but that they were members from at least 1851 until their deaths. The few surviving records of Zion Hill regards the church officers and a few committee actions:

June 1859	William & Zilphia's son Stephen J. Beaird was elected as church clerk, serving until January 1862
Jan 1862	William & Zilphia's son-in-law William D. Regan replaced Stephen J. Beaird as church clerk; Beaird at that time at that time in the Confederate army operating in Mississippi and Tennessee
April 1866	Stephen J. Beaird was again elected church clerk, and he served for four years, until June 1870
Aug 1866	R. Agerton and S. J. Beaird were appointed to a committee authorized to erect a new church building.
July 1881	William D. Regan was ordained as a deacon of Zion Hill Church
Mar 1893	William D. Regan and E. Jefferson Lee were chosen as spokesmen for the church
Aug 1895	William & Zilphia's grandson William H. Regan was chosen as the church clerk
Aug 1897	William H. Regan was re-elected as church clerk
May 1903	William H. Regan was a member of a committee appointed to construct a new building

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Slaves

At least until William was 13 years old, his father Edmond Beaird did not own any slaves. But Edmond acquired several slaves sometime between 1807 and 1830. He owned a slave family in 1830: an adult male and female, plus six younger slaves. By 1840, the adult female slave was no longer a part of Edmond's household: only the adult male slave and four younger slaves were listed.

One of William and Zilpha's descendants, Max Williams, has a record obtained in the 1950s or 1960s by one of his relatives who corresponded with a Beaird descendent in Texas. This person owned the original Edmond Beaird Bible, and the slave births listed in Edmond's Bible were [1]:

Sisy born 5 Sept 1820

Jerry Beaird born 10 June 1822

July Beaird born 10 Feb 1825

Layor Beaird born 23 Dec 1826

General Jackson born 12 Aug 1828

David Connell born 12 Nov 1842

William Beaird did not own any slaves in 1840 [2], but on 29 March 1843, his father-in-law Stephen Dunn distributed his slaves among his four daughters. Dunn deeded Beaird's son John W. Beaird a female slave and her children to be held in trust for his daughter Zilpha Beaird. Dunn gave his daughter a female slave named Ginney, aged about 23 years old, and her three children: three-year old son Randall, two-year old daughter Lizar, and one-year old son David [3].

Ginney, Randall, Lizar, and David were all listed as the property of William Beaird in both 1850 and 1860. The slaves living with William Beaird in 1850 included an adult female aged 32, plus young males aged 10, 8, 6, and 3 years. The adult female is undoubtedly Ginney, and the older male children must be Randall and David. The younger males must be children of Ginney's born between 1843 and 1850, with Ginney's daughter, Lizar, presumably perishing between 1843 and 1850 (unless her gender was incorrectly recorded) [4].

By 1860, Beaird had two slave houses on his farm and was shown as the owner of eight slaves, including females aged 42, 17, 14, 12, and 4, as well as males aged 19, 17, and 7 [5]. Ginney is clearly the female aged 42 and Randall and David the males aged 19 and 17, respectively. The younger children are probably children of Ginney's, although one of the other females could have been Randall's wife. Census enumerators took little care with recording slave schedules, so it is quite possible that the gender of the younger children on either the 1850 or 1860 slave schedule was incorrect. This could account for the discrepancy between the genders of the younger slaves on the 1850 and 1860 records.

We do not know what became of Ginney and her younger children after the abolition of slavery, but Randall took the surname of his former owners and continued to live near William Beaird's plantation. He registered to vote in 1867 [6], and in 1870, Randall worked the farm of William Beaird's nephew, Francis Marion Tucker [7].

Randall Beaird proved an industrious man, acquiring his own farm of 80 acres adjoining that of William Beaird's during the 1870s. On 23 December 1882, Randall purchased an additional 240 acres, paying $200 in cash for this property [8]. By the end of 1883, at the age of only 44, Beaird's health had presumably declined. On 5 January 1884, he sold 120 acres of his farm to his neighbor, Thomas Jefferson Price, the grandson of William Beaird's neighbor Powhatan Boatright [9]. These documents show that Randall Beaird could not sign his name.

Randall Beaird died a few weeks after making that land sale, leaving a widow, Ellen, and children Willis, Jane, and Richard Beaird. He left behind property that included a farm of 280 acres, plus livestock and tools valued at over $900. The inventory of Randall Beaird's estate indicated that his land was worth $350 and one black mare was worth $75, which, together with other livestock and household property was worth a total of $908.45 [10]. This property is far more valuable than that owned by many middle-class white people during this period.

Unfortunately, Ellen was apparently unable to manage the farm and pay the taxes on it after Randall's death. On 30 August 1886, the sheriff seized and sold Mrs. Ellen Beaird's 280-acre farm to J. R. Kilgore to pay her taxes [11]. Ellen Beaird remarried on 3 February 1887 to Lewis Jones [12].

Randall Beaird's three children all married in Union Parish. Willis and Jane Beaird married in 1885 [13], and Richard married in 1898 [14]. It is not clear what became of Willis and Jane, but Richard and his wife settled in the Zion Hill Community and eked out a living working as sharecroppers into the 1930s [15].

Notes

1. Edmond Beaird Bible.
2. 1840 Bibb County AL Federal Census, p. , line #
3. Bibb County AL Deed Book E, pp. 263–264. Union Parish LA Conveyance Record A-1, pp. 54–55.
4. 1850 Union Parish LA Federal Census, Slave Schedule,
5. 1860 Union Parish LA Federal Census, Slave Schedule,
6. 1867 Union Parish LA Voter Registration.
7. 1870 Union Parish LA Federal Census.
8. Union Par LA Conveyance Record T, p. 228. Randall Beaird purchased the W½ of NE¼ & SE¼ of Section 6, Township 21 North, Range 1 West.
9. Union Par LA Conveyance Record U, p. 106. Randall Beaird sold Price the E½ of SE¼ & SW¼ of SE¼ of Section 6, Township 21 North, Range 1 West. This document shows that Randall Beaird could not sign his name, as he made his mark to the transaction.
10. Union Par LA Succession Book A-1, pp. 129 – 132 (Succession of Randall Beaird).
11. Union Par LA Conveyance Record V, p. 392.
12. Union Par LA Marriage Book 7 (1883–1889), p. 634.
13. Union Par LA Marriage Book 7 (1883–1889), p. 373 (Henry Gafford to Janie Beaird, 6 June 1885); p. 389 (Willis Beaird to Rachael Bohannon, 22 August 1885).
14. Union Par LA Marriage Book 9 (1894–1900), p. 674 (Richard Beaird to Rebecca Heath, 11 July 1898).
15. 1910 Union Parish LA Federal Census, Ward 4, ED #135, p. 188a, Household #12, line #12: Rich. Beaird (age 33, *"mulatto"*). 1920 Union Parish LA Federal Census, *"West Half Ward 4,"* ED #129, p. 74a, Household #74: Rich. Beard (age 42, *"black"*). 1930 Union Parish LA Federal Census, Ward 4, ED #56-9, p. 196b, Household #11: Richard Beard.

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Other Union Parish Beairds

There are records of another Beard male in Union Parish, Hugh M. Beard. According to the 1870 census, he was a white male born in Mississippi about 1845. He purchased 200 acres of land from Rebecka Poston on 21 October 1873 for $400, and two months later, on 27 December 1873, Beard sold this land to George A. Killgore for only $123 (Union Par LA Deed Book O, pp. 432, 490 – the land was described as the E½ of SE¼ of Section 35, the S½ of Section 36, and the NW¼ of SW¼ of Section 36, all in Township 22 North, Range 2 West). He paid Union Parish taxes in 1875 on only $110 worth of livestock, and I have not found him on any Union Parish record after that. There was a Henry Beard who paid 1873 taxes in Union Parish on only $87 worth of livestock, and to my knowledge there was no one by this name on any other Union Parish record. I believe this "Henry Beard" should have been "Hugh Beard", but it is difficult to make a conclusion based on this limited information. He presumably left Union Parish after 1875, as I have located no further records for him there.

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Children and Grandchildren of William Beaird Sr. & Zilpha Dunn

William and Zilpha Dunn Beaird both had long lifespans for the era in which they lived. William Beaird outlived his wife and lived at least to the age of 91 years. Long before their deaths, William and Zilpha had dispersed their property among their children and grandchildren. As a result, there are no probate records for either of them. Thus, appears that no contemporary record exists giving an accurate and comprehensive listing of their children. But with the census records, deeds, and various probate records of their relatives, it is possible to reconstruct their family.

Here is a listing of William Beaird, Sr.'s known children, with all of the children except possibly for Sarah were born to his wife Zilpha Dunn Beaird. Proof of each of these connections is presented in the list of records below:

1. **Sarah Beaird** (c1815–after 1875) married on 6 February 1838 in Bibb County, Alabama to Lucky N. Pierce.
2. **John Washington Beaird** (c1820 – 1877) married on 1850 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Martha Ann Regan (Reagan).
3. **Susannah Beaird** (c1822 – 1899) married on 1845 in Bibb County, Alabama to Riley Agerton.
4. **Stephen Jackson Beaird** (1823 – 1899/1902) remained single.
5. **Elizabeth Beaird** (c1825 – after 1901) remained single.
6. **Nancy Cessum Beaird** (c1827 – 1894) married on 1850 in Union Parish, Louisiana to William Daniel Regan (Reagan).
7. **S. Jane Beaird** (c1830 – 1861/1870) married about 1859 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Thomas D. Jones.
8. **William Beaird Jr.** (1833 – 1914) married on 1866 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Hannah L. Raborn.
9. **James Beaird** (c1835 – Apr 1862) remained single and died of typhoid fever while serving in the Confederate Army.

This section presents more detailed information on the children and known grandchildren of William Beaird, Sr. and Zilpha Dunn Beaird.

1. Sarah Beaird

born: c1815, Jasper County, Georgia
married: 6 Feb 1838, Bibb County, Alabama to **Lucky N. Pierce**
died: after 1875, when she lived in Hempstead County Arkansas

personal information:

- The date given here for Sarah Beaird's birth comes from the 1850 and 1860 census. The 1870 census data for her is clearly inaccurate and gives no information. If she was indeed born in 1815, then in all likelihood she was not the daughter of Zilphia Dunn Beaird, and so William Beaird, Sr. was apparently married before his 1816 marriage to Zilphia. On the other hand, if the 1850 and 1860 census data is slightly off by a few years and Sarah was born about 1817 or 1818, then she is Zilphia's daughter.
- Lucky N. Pierce died in 1855 in Union Parish Louisiana. Sarah Beaird Pierce continued to live in the Zion Hill Community of Union Parish with her family until the early 1870s. At that time her son Enoch J. Pierce moved to Hempstead County Arkansas, and Sarah followed him. In 1875, Enoch J. Pierce was murdered by a black man, and Sarah was a witness to the murder. Her affadavit regarding the murder is the last known record of her. No further information on any of the other Pierce boys is known.

children:

a) **Martha Jane Pierce** (c1839/1840 – after 23 Aug 1865) married about 1858 to **William Cleaton Boatright** (c1839 – 1 Nov 1861), who died of disease while serving in the Confederate Army. They had two children: **William Washington Boatright** (19 Sept 1859 – 15 Nov 1946) who married on 8 Dec 1887 to **Edna Callie Dudley** (4 Aug 1870 – 20 Dec 1935) and raised a large family in the Mount Union community of Union Parish, and **Sarah Jane C. Boatright**

(c1861 – after 1880) who married on 22 Dec 1880 to **John R. Rhodes**. It is not known whether Martha Jane Pierce Boatright remarried or died after 1865.

b) **Sarah Pierce** (c1841 – between 1850 and 14 Dec 1857), Union Parish Louisiana.

c) **William W. Pierce** (c1841 – July 1863/Aug 1885); soldier in Company C, 17th Louisiana Infantry Regiment, CSA.

d) **Enoch J. Pierce** (11 Jan 1842 – 20 Feb 1875), soldier in Company C, 17th Louisiana Infantry Regiment, CSA. He married on 7 January 1864 in Union Parish Louisiana to **Nancy Eleanor Price** (22 Feb 1848 – 24 July 1908), daughter of Peter Oliver Price and Charlotte Boatright. Enoch is probably buried in the Hanegan-Robinson Cemetery a few miles outside of Hope, Hempstead County Arkansas. Nancy is buried in the Murfreesboro City Cemetery, Murfreesboro, Pike County Arkansas.

- Enoch was working on the Hanegan farm in Hempstead County Arkansas in February 1875, when he was killed for unknown reasons by a sharecropper. Enoch's friend, J. H. Berry (16 Oct 1858 – 13 July 1885) was buried in the Hanegan-Robinson Cemetery, and it is believed that Enoch was also buried there.
- Nancy remarried on 30 March 1883 in Columbia County Arkansas to Samuel J. Purtell (13 Sept 1847 – 18 May 1935). Nancy died in Murfreesboro, Pike County Arkansas. Samuel died in Dallas County Texas but was brought back and buried beside Nancy.

e) **Wiley Newton Pierce** (c1844 – June 1865/Aug 1885); soldier in Company C, 17th Louisiana Infantry Regiment, CSA. He received his parole from Pine Bluff, Arkansas, but his residence was given as Union Parish.

f) **Stephen R. Pierce** (c1847 – after May 1865); soldier in Company C, 17th Louisiana Infantry Regiment, CSA.

2. John Washington Beaird, Sr.

born: c1820, Cahaba (later Bibb) County, Alabama

married: 1 May 1850, Union Parish Louisiana to **Martha Ann Regan (Reagan)**

died: 15 Feb 1877, Union Parish Louisiana

personal information:

Martha Ann Regan was born 4 Sept 1832 in Dale Co AL, the daughter of Joseph Regan and Olive Rozar. Her older brother William D. Regan married John W. Beaird's younger sister Nancy Cessum Beaird the *day before* John and Martha married. Martha Ann Regan Beaird outlived her husband by 32 years, dieing on 24 Jan 1909. She was interred in the Mount Union Cemetery. It is not known where he was buried, but it was probably at Zion Hill.

children: According to the 1900 census, Martha Ann Regan Beaird bore 11 children, 8 of which were living in 1900. Based upon census records and the 1898 Union Parish Voter Registration records, their known children were:

a) **James Madison Beaird** (7 Feb 1851 – 11 Sept 1910), married on 3 Aug 1869 to **Mary Ann Elizabeth McCowan**. They are buried in the Fellowship Cemetery near Spearsville.

b) **Stephen Jackson Beaird** (Jr.) (Apr 1856/1857 – 1932) married on 26 Jan 1898 to the widow of his first cousin William Absolom Jones, **Mrs. Elnora Sessions Jones** (Ella) (1868 – 1953).

c) **Mary Angeline Beaird** (29 Sept 1859 – 3 Apr 1931) was single in 1900 and living with her widowed mother. She is buried in the Mt. Union Cemetery.

d) **John Washington Beaird, Jr.** (28 May 1861 – 12 Dec 1934) married on 11 Sept 1881 to **Eligo (Eliza?) Belle Pickens** (7 June 1865 – 29 June 1941). They are buried in the Camp Creek Cemetery.

e) **(?) George W. Beaird** (c1864 – after 1870). He is not known to have been a son of John W. and Martha Ann Regan Beaird, but appears to have been a brother to James M. Beaird according to the 1870 census. On that census, Jim and George "Beard" lived in the household of Charity Bird, a widow. This Jim appears to have been James Madison Beaird, who was not living in his parents' household in 1870.

f) **Nancy Elizabeth Beaird** [Lizzie] (18 Mar 1866–5 Mar 1940) was single in 1900 and living with her widowed mother. She married in 1901, probably in Union Parish, Louisiana, to **James Caldwell Boozer** (30 Dec 1856–1 July 1910). Lizzie Beaird Boozer married on 13 September 1912 in Nevada County, Arkansas to **John William Tyner** (22 May 1870–5 June 1955). Lizzie

Beaird Boozer Tyner is buried in the Averys Chapel Cemetery, McCaskill, Hempstead County, Arkansas. James C. Boozer is buried in the Snell Cemetery, Emmet, Nevada County, Arkansas. John W. Tyner died in Cooper, Delta County, Texas and is buried in the Oaklawn Cemetery there.

g) **Joseph Franklin Beaird** (30 Jan 1870 – 25 July 1943) married on 12 Aug 1897 to **Della Pearl Rockett** (21 May 1878 – 30 Jan 1967). They are buried in the Mt. Union Cemetery.

h) **Richard Floyd Beaird** (24 Jan 1873 – 17 Mar 1949) married on 1 July 1899 to **Lonnie Holley** (5 Aug 1884 – 12 Apr 1963). He may be the Richard Beaird who married Rebeca Heath on 11 July 1898. He and Lonnie are buried in the Mt. Union Cemetery.

i) **Robert Louis Beaird** (3 June 1874 – 3 Dec 1945) married **Gertha Futch** (Gertie**)** (7 Jan 1886 – 30 June 1974) sometime after 1900. They are buried at Mt. Union.

3. Susannah Beaird *"Susan"*

born: Jan 1822, Bibb County, Alabama

married: 23 Oct 1845, Bibb County, Alabama to **Riley Agerton**

died: 3 April 1899, at her home in Carroll, northern Union Parish Louisiana

personal information:

- Susan's husband Riley Agerton was born on 5 July 1820 in Chesterfield District South Carolina. He died on Saturday, 25 January 1902. He served as a private in Company C, 17th Louisiana Infantry Regiment, joining in the fall of 1863 while the men were home on parole from their capture at Vicksburg
- From the the Farmerville *"Gazette"* issue of 7 April 1897:

  Mr. Riley Agerton, of the 6th ward, was in town Tuesday. He is one of the old settlers of Union parish, having lived here 52 years. During that entire time he says he has never had a case in court, either civil or criminal, and has not even been sworn as a witness before the courts.
- Susannah Beaird Agerton's death was chronicled by the Farmerville *"Gazette"* on 5 April 1899:

  A HORRIBLE DEATH. Mrs. Riley Agerton, an aged lady, who lived alone with her husband in the Carroll neighborhood, met with a sad and horrible death Monday afternoon. It is supposed that she was trying to kindle a fire in the stove for the purpose of cooking supper, and that in so doing her clothes caught fire. When her husband, who likewise is almost helpless from old age, reached the house he found his wife lying on the floor dead, her face downward. Her clothes were yet burning and Mr. Agerton reached the house just in time to save the building from being consumed. At the time she was found Mrs. Agerton was barely burned to the extent that death would have followed from the burns alone, and it is hoped that heart failure, produced by fright, might have been the cause of her death. At any rate, her fate was sad enough.
- The next issue of this paper, dated 12 April 1898, included this notice concerning Susan Agerton's death:

  Mr. Agerton informs us that he and his friends are now satisfied that his wife, who was found dead last week and her clothes burning, died from heart failure and not from the effects of burns. It is supposed that she fell dead in front of the stove after which a coal dropped on the floor and ignited her clothing.

children: According to his 1898 pension application, Riley Agerton had six children living then, four sons and two daughters. Census records prove their names:

a) **James Polk Agerton** (2 or 7 Aug 1846 – 8 or 9 Mar 1938) married on 27 May 1867 in Union Parish LA to **Margaret Ann Phelps** (11 Feb 1851 – 8 Feb 1929). He was a Confederate soldier, and he claimed to have enlisted in an artillery battalion in April 1863. Records verify that at the age of seventeen, he officially enlisted on 1 May 1864 in Farmerville as a private in Company F, 2nd Battalion Louisiana Heavy Artillery. Muster rolls show him as present at Pineville, Louisiana through the end of the War, although in late December he was sick in their camp. Polk Agerton farmed in the Zion Hill community until the late 1890s, when he moved his family to Strong, in Union County, Arkansas. At that time, he was the second oldest Confederate veteran of Union County. Polk and Margaret Agerton are buried in the New London Cemetery, Union County.

b) **William S. Agerton** (31 Aug 1848 – 3 Mar 1930) married about 1879 to **Mary G. Bates** (Mollie) (20 Feb 1854 – 30 Sept 1938) and lived in the Zion Hill Community. Both were buried in the Zion Hill Cemetery. His name was probably that of his nephew: William Stewart Agerton.

c) **George Gilmore Agerton** (3 Mar 1851 – 25 Feb 1946) never married. He is buried beside his brother and sister-in-law William S. and Mollie G. Agerton in the Zion Hill Cemetery.

d) **John Calvin Agerton** (14 Feb 1853 – 7 June 1929) married in Union Parish on 5 Sept 1883 to **Sarah J. McVicker** (Sallie) (17 Feb 1863 – 12 Mar 1944). They moved to eastern Union Parish at some point and are buried in the Liberty Cemetery 1.5 miles south of Linville.

e) **Nancy Agerton** (c1855 – 1860/1870) was not living with her parents in 1870. Presumably she died between 1860 and 1870. She could have married and been with her husband in 1870, but if so she was dead by 1898.

f) **Frances Ann Agerton** (3 Apr 1856 – 18 Sept 1918) married to **William A. Odom** (18 Dec 1852 – 25 Oct 1936) in the late 1870s and they raised a family in the Zion Hill Community. Both are buried in the Zion Hill Cemetery.

g) **Zilpha E. Agerton** (17 Mar 1860 – 22 Feb 1925) married in Union Parish on 18 Dec 1884 to **James D. Odom** (12 Oct 1860 – 9 Mar 1925). They also lived in the Zion Hill Community and raised their family there. Both were buried in the Zion Hill Cemetery next to William A. Odom and Frances Ann Agerton Odom.

4. Stephen Jackson Beaird

born: 21 July 1823, Bibb County, Alabama
died: 1899 – 1906, Union Parish Louisiana

personal information:

Stephen J. Beaird never married. He enlisted in July 1861 in the Phoenix Rifles, the same company in which his younger brother James Beaird joined as well as his Pierce nephews. He served for about eighteen months before he was discharged due to age in December 1862. After the fall of Vicksburg, he rejoined his former command along with his brother-in-laws Riley Agerton and William Daniel Regan and served until the close of the war. He lived with his parents, sister Elizabeth, and orphaned nephew William A. Jones after he returned from the war. He was alive in 1898 and probably in 1899, and he was included on a list of deceased Louisiana Confederate Pensioners in 1906. Deeds suggest that he died between 1899 and 1901, but no precise date of death has been located.

5. Elizabeth Beaird

born: c1825, Bibb County, Alabama
died: after 8 Apr 1901, Union Parish Louisiana

personal information:

Elizabeth Beaird never married. She and her brother Stephen J. Beaird lived with their parents until their deaths. Beginning in the mid 1860s, her nephew William A. Jones, the orphaned only child of her sister S. Jane Beaird, lived with Elizabeth, William and Zilphia, and Stephen J. Beaird. William Beaird deeded his entire plantation jointly to Elizabeth, her brother Stephen, and his orphaned grandson William A. Jones in 1869. Elizabeth later deeded her portion to William A. Jones. Following his marriage in 1888, Elizabeth lived with her brother Stephen J. Beaird.

6. Nancy Cessum Beaird

born: c1827, Bibb County, Alabama
married: 30 April 1850, Union Parish Louisiana to **William Daniel Regan (Reagan)**
died: 27 April 1894, Cherry Ridge, Union Parish Louisiana
buried: Zion Hill Cemetery

personal information:

- William Daniel Regan was born in April 1825, Pulaski Co GA, the son of Joseph Regan and Olive Rozar. His younger sister Martha Ann Regan married Nancy C. Beaird's older brother John Washington Beaird. William D. Regan was perhaps a soldier during the Mexican War (a soldier from Louisiana by the name of "William Regan" did serve, and it appears to have been William Daniel Regan), and he was definitely a Confederate soldier between 1863 and 1865. He was a private in Company C, 17th Louisiana Regiment, Confederate States Army; he served in the Vicksburg campaign during the spring and summer of 1863, and then until the close of the war.
- William and Nancy lived their entire married life in the Cherry Ridge community of Union Parish Louisiana. Although the pronunciation of his surname has remained the same, it was spelled "Regan" throughout the 1700s and 1800s, but most of his children used the spelling "Reagan" after 1900.
- From the Wednesday, 2 May 1894 issue of the Farmerville *Gazette*:

Mrs. Reagan, the wife of Mr. Wm. D. Reagan, who lives near Cherry Ridge in this parish, died last Friday and her remains were interred Saturday. She had been in ill health for some time with an attack of the la grippe. She was an aged Christian lady and leaves a host of friends, a husband and several children and grand children to mourn her loss.

- Five months after Nancy's death, William D. Regan remarried on 16 Sept 1894 to Mrs. Lou Fenton.
- Family tradition states that Regan died in 1904, but the only contemporary evidence of his date of death is a 1906 list of Louisiana Confederate Pensioners, which lists him as dead. He was buried in the Mount Union Cemetery. Supposedly, he was away from home when he died and buried at Mount Union due to high waters that prevented travel to the Zion Hill community.

children:

a) **William Henry Regan** (Feb 1851 – 21 May 1936) married first to **Sarah Ann Franklin Seale** (c1853 – 21 Nov 1887) on 4 Nov 1874 and had four children; married second to **Martha Ann Hunt** (24 Nov 1851 – 3 Aug 1921) on 30 Sept 1888 and had one son who died as an infant; they divorced on 25 Jan 1906; he married thirdly to **Mrs. Mittie Wroten** (c1885 – 1910/1936) on 1 Mar 1906 in Union Co AR. He is buried with his first wife in Zion Hill Cemetery.

b) **Susannah Catharine Regan** (29 Mar 1852 – 17 Feb 1929) married first to **Simeon Perry Ward** (22 Dec 1845 – 16 Dec 1891) on 21 May 1868 and they had a family. She married secondly on 21 Dec 1899 to **William A. Stone** (22 Jan 1850 – 27 July 1905), and thirdly on 5 Mar 1912 to **William Madison Crow** (7 Feb 1844 – 23 Nov 1927). She is buried in the Zion Hill Cemetery.

c) **George F. Regan** (Oct 1853 – 12 Nov 1938) married on 21 Jan 1875 to **Sarah Ann Murry** (Sallie) (26 July 1856 – 16 Sept 1935), and they had one son, Perry Regan (12 Oct 1876 – 28 Aug 1881), who was disabled in some unknown manner. All three are buried in Zion Hill Cemetery.

d) **Mary Elizabeth Regan** (Bettie) (11 Feb 1855 – 30 Oct 1937) married on 21 Jan 1875 to **George Washington Carroll** (Watt) (14 Oct 1853 – 26 July 1930) and had a large family. They are buried in the Bernice Cemetery.

e) **Zilphia Melinda Regan** (2 Nov 1856 – 19 Mar 1955) married on 6 Jan 1881 to **Jonas Berry Murry** (4 Sept 1851 – 10 Mar 1932). He is buried in the Mount Union Cemetery. She moved to Miami, Dade Co FL after his death and died there.

f) **S. J. Regan** (female) was born about 1858 according to the 1860 census. This census was dated 17 July 1860, just over a month before the birth of Stephen Jackson Regan. This female child must have died between 1860 and 1870.

g) **Stephen Jackson Regan** (29/30 Aug 1860 – 6 Sept 1941) married first on 14 May 1885 to **Clementine Tubb** (25 Sept 1870 – 26 Feb 1930) and they had seventeen children. He married second on 8 Aug 1938 to **Nannie Tucker Andrews** (c1875 – after 7 Jan 1941); they separated on 7 Sept 1939 and divorced on 7 Jan 1941. He is said to have committed suicide. Steve and Clemmie are buried in the Zion Hill Cemetery.

h) **James Regan** (Jim) (19 Feb 1862 – 12 Feb 1846) married on 20 Nov 1890 to **Charlotte E. Moore** (Dollie) (19 June 1872 – 22 Sept 1924). They are buried in the Zion Hill Cemetery. His tombstone gives his year of birth as 1864, but the 1870, 1880, and 1900 censuses indicate he was born in 1862. Moreover, nine months prior to Feb 1864, William D. Regan is known to have been with the Confederate Army defending Vicksburg from Grant's horde. Thus it would appear that he was indeed born in 1862.

i) **Joseph Daniel Regan** (25 Feb 1866 – 5 July 1888) married on 27 Jan 1887 to **Genetta C. Hudson** (23 Feb 1867 – 22 Oct 1952). He is buried in the Zion Hill Cemetery; she in the Spearsville Cemetery.

j) **Alabama Regan** (Bama) (11 Feb 1868 – 28 Sept 1957) married on 23 Feb 1888 to **Michael/Mitchel Ralph Odom** (2 May 1855 – 15 Feb 1935). They are both buried in the Zion Hill Cemetery.

k) **Richard Regan** (c1868 – Nov 1869) was probably a twin to Alabama. He died of whooping cough.

l) **Willis Regan** was born in February 1870. He was listed on the 1870 census dated 30 July 1870, but not on the 1880 census dated 18 June 1880, so he must have died between those dates.

7. S. Jane Beaird

born: c1830, Bibb County, Alabama

married: 1859, Union Parish Louisiana to **Thomas D. Jones**

died: 1861 – 1870, Union Parish Louisiana

personal information:

I do not know much about S. Jane Beaird Jones. Her brother Stephen J. Beaird stated that she married Thomas D. Jones in 1859, but on the 1860 census she was living with her parents, whereas he was living with William Beaird, Jr. in the household of Sidney H. Griffin (Griffin died a few years later during a Yankee attack on Vicksburg while a Lt. Colonel in the Confederate army). Perhaps William and Thomas were working together at the time that the 1860 census enumerator visited the Beaird household. S. Jane Beaird Jones' only child known was William Absolom Jones. Both Jane and her husband Thomas D. Jones had died by 1 Sept 1869 when her father William Beaird, Sr. deeded William A. Jones property. I believe that Thomas D. Jones died in the Confederate army, but I have been unable to locate any military record for him.

child:

William Absolom Jones (c1861 – 21 May 1896) married on 12 Jan 1888 in Union Parish to **Elnora Sessions** [Ella] (1868 – 1953). They had three children before Jones' death in 1896. In January 1898, Ella Sessions Jones remarried to William A. Jones' first cousin, Stephen Jackson Beaird, Jr. From Farmerville's *"The Gazette"* 27 May 1896 (Wednesday), p. 3, column 1:

Mr. William Jones, of ward six, died last Thursday after a brief illness

8. William Beaird, Jr.

born: 2 Jan 1833, Bibb County, Alabama
married: 1865 or early 1866, Union Parish Louisiana to **Hannah L. Raborn**
died: 3 May 1914, Minden, Webster Parish Louisiana
buried: Bethel Cemetery, Union Parish Louisiana

personal information:

- William Beaird, Jr. was the overseer for Sidney H. Griffin's plantation in 1860; working with him there was Thomas D. Jones, who had married Beaird's sister Jane in 1859. Griffin later raised a company of soldiers in northern Union Parish for the Confederacy, initially being elected captain but rising to the rank of Lt. Colonel later in 1862; he was killed during the Siege of Vicksburg from Yankee gunfire on the Confederate entrenchments.
- William Beaird, Jr. was a Confederate soldier, joining the first company group of soldiers who left Union Parish for the war in the spring of 1861. He served with the Army of Northern Virginia from 1861 until 1865; his service in 1862 and 1863 was with General Stonewall Jackson. Beaird fought in nearly all of the famous battles in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvannia, was captured twice and sent to Yankee prisons, and was exchanged twice.
- William Beaird, Jr. moved his family from Union to Webster Parish in the 1890s, where he was a mail carrier for a while. In 1907 he lived at Carroll in Red River Parish, but by 1909 was back at Minden in Webster Parish.
- William's wife Hannah L. Raborn was born on 6 June 1843 and died 27 Oct 1914, just a few months after her husband's death. Both presumably died in Webster Parish, but were brought back to Union Parish and buried in the Bethel Cemetery beside their eldest son, William Louis Beaird.

children:

a) **William Louis Beaird, Jr.** (30 Sept 1866 – 28 Aug 1870) is buried in the Bethel Cemetery in Union Parish Louisiana.
b) **James Francis Beaird** (Jim) (6 Oct 1868 – 24 Jan 1946) married 24 Jan 1895 to **Eula Catherine Green** (Jan 1875 – after 1900). He lived in Webster Parish in 1900 and 1910.
c) **Stephen Anthony Beaird** (Steve) (19 Dec 1869 – 25 Sept 1959) married 24 Dec 1891 in Webster Parish LA to **Rosa Monzingo**. He died and was buried in Dallas, Texas.
d) **Benjamin Franklin Beaird** (May 1873 – 3 Nov 1960) married about 1905 to **Ida L. Green** (c1877 – after 1910). He married secondly (date unknown) to a **Ms. Nealy**.
e) **Mary Elizabeth Beaird** (Betty) (c1878 – after 1910) married 1 Feb 1900 to **Van Oliver Miller**.

9. James Beaird

born: c1835, Bibb County, Alabama
died: 29 March 1862, near Corinth, Mississippi, of typhoid fever contracted while in the Confederate Army

personal information:

James Beaird did not marry. He enlisted as a private in the *Phoenix Rifles* in July 1861 with his brother Stephen and nephews William W. and Wiley N. Pierce; this unit became Company C, 17th Louisiana Infantry, Confederate States Army in September. In early September the company left Union Parish and traveled south to Camp Moore, just north of Lake Pontchatrain, where they trained until November. James Beaird was sick with the measles during part of October, but recovered and made a trip home in November from Camp Moore, presumably to carry the body of his neighbor and nephew William Cleaton Boatright (husband of Martha Jane Pierce) home to Union Parish. In February 1862 the regiment was sent from south Louisiana to Corinth, Mississippi to help defend northern Mississippi from General Grant's army approaching from the north. Five days of marching in knee-deep mud and water around Corinth caused widespread sickness throughout the regiment. James Beaird's sergeant wrote home on 29 March 1862:

> *James Beaird died this morning of Typhoid Fever. He was sick about twelve days. We hated to give him up but his case seemed to be an unquorable* [incurable] *one…*

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Wayne County, North Carolina

1780s – 1795

The first record of Edmond Beaird in Wayne County is in 1787 when his father-in-law gave him 75 acres of land. Beaird did not appear on the 1786 tax list; the only Beairds listed were John Beard, Sr. and John Beard, Jr. One of them was likely Edmond's father or uncle. Here are the records I have of Edmond Beaird and his father-in-law Benjamin Walding in Wayne County:

1786

Event: The Wayne County, North Carolina tax list showed the following:

- John Beard Senr. 1 poll 450 acres of land
- John Beard, Junr. 1 poll
- Benjamin Walding 2 polls 200 acres of land

Comment: The second poll for which Walding paid a tax must have been his son, Samuel Walding.

Reference: Treasurer and Comptroller, State Archives of North Carolina. Box 8, Tax Records, 1786 Wayne County NC Tax List, p. 1, #6: John Beard Sen; #7: John Beard Junr; p. 12, #10: Benjamin Walding.

8 Oct 1787

Event: **Benjamin Walding**, a carpenter, gives 75 acres of land to **Edmund Beard**, a blacksmith, both residents of Wayne County, North Carolina:

> *Witnesseth That the Said **Benjamin Walding** for divers Consideration & good causes him Thereunto moving Hath given Granted Aliened and Confirmed and by these Presents doth give, Grant, Alien and Confirm unto The said **Edmund Beard**… a certain plantation Tract or parcel of Land lying and being in The County aforesaid on the upper side of Little river Begining* [sic] *on The river bank at Two Water Oake* [sic] *and a pine at the upper end of **Thomas Coars** Same place runing* [sic] *Thence… to Walding's line Thence reversing The said line & runing* [sic] *with the river the various Courses thereof to the Begining* [sic]*… part of a Tract of Land Conveyed from **Jesse Jernigan** to **Stephen Blackman** & from said **Blackman** to said **Walding**.*

Witness: **John Kennedy**, **John Fellow**

Reference: Wayne Co NC Deed Book 4, pp. 17 – 18.

Comments: Benjamin Walding signed his name to this deed.

5 June 1789

Event: **Jas. Jernigan** ordered the surveyor of Wayne County to prepare a survey for **Edmund Beard**:

> *State of No. Carolina, Wayne County. No. 339. To the Surveyor of Said County, Greeting. You are hereby Commanded to Lay of* [sic] *for **Edmund Beard** one Hundred and fifty acres of Land lying on the No. Side of Nuse River Joining **Willis Jone*** [sic]***, Arthur Coars, George Jernigan, Henrey Howell** & **Thomas Coar** Lines and that you Make Due Returne of Such Survey According to Law Given under my hand this 5th of June 1789.*
> [signed] ***Jos. Jernigan***
>
> *Issued 17 Nov 1790*
> *Surveyed for **Edmond Beard** a Plantation Containing of Eighty Acres lying on the No. Side of Neuse River Joining **Willis Joneses, Arther Coors, George Jernigans, Henry Howell** & **Thos Coors** Lines Beginning at a red oak and runs No. 79/86 pole to a Black Jack the Beginning of **Henry Howells** old Survey then So. 18 pole to a pine in **Willis Jones** line then So. 15/40 pole To a Black Jack in **Willis Jones** line then Wt. 105 poles to a pine in or near **John Mortons** line then with the same to the Beginning.* [signed] ***B. M. Kime**, Surr.*

Reference: North Carolina State Land Grants Vol. 76, p. 103: Edmond Beard. Wayne County File No. 448, entry #339.

28 Sept 1789

Event: **Benjamin Walding** wrote his will while living in Wayne County, North Carolina:

In the Name of God Amen the Twenty Eighth day of September one thousand Seven hundred and Eighty Nine, I ***Benjamin Walding*** *of Wayne County in the State of North Carolina Being of perfect mind and Memory thanks be given unto God, therefore Calling unto mind the Mortality of my Body and Knowing that it is Appointed for all men Once to die, Do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament that is to Say principally and first of all I Give and Recommend my Soul into the Hands of God that Gave it and for my Body I Recommend it to the Earth to be buried in A christian like and Descent* [sic] *manner at the discretion of my Executors hereafter Named, Nothing Doubting but at the General Resurrection I shall Receive the Same again by the Might Power of God, and as Touching such Worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to Bless me with in this life, I Give Devise and dispose of the Same in the following Manner and form.*

Impremis.
I give and bequeath unto my Son ***Samuel Walding*** *all my Land Plantations with all the Improvements after the Decease of my Beloved wife* ***Sarah Walding*** *to him and his heirs forever, Also, I give to my Son* ***Samuel Walding*** *all my Carpenters and Jointers Tools.*

Item. I leave the Land and Plantation whereon I now dwell unto my Beloved Wife ***Sarah Walding*** *for the Term of her Natural Life as also I leave to my Said wife the use of all my Personal or Moveable Estate During of* [sic] *her Life, and after her Death to be Equally Divided among my Children* ***Samuel Walding***, ***Elender Walding***, ***Patience Walding*** *and not to be Sold after my Death but to be Equally Divided between them three.*

Item. I give and bequeath unto my well beloved Son in Law ***Edmund Beird*** *and* ***Sarah*** *his wife five Shillings Specie.*

Item. I give and bequeath unto my well beloved Son in Law ***Elias Grantham*** *and* ***Mary*** *his wife five Shillings Specie.*

Also. I Constitute and appoint my Beloved wife ***Sarah Walding*** *Executors and my Son* ***Samuel Walding*** *Executors and* ***John Oliver*** *of Johnston County Executors of this my Last will and Testament and do hereby Utterly Disannal* [sic] *Disallow and Revoke all and Every other Wills and Legaces(?) Bequeaths and Executors by me bequeathed, Ratifying and Confirming this and no other to be my Last will and Testament.*

In Witness whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and affixed my Seal the day and year first above written. Signed Sealed Published and Pronounced by the said Benjamin Walding to be his Last Will and Testament.

In presence of us *Interlined before assigned*
the Subscribers [signed] ***Benjamin Walding***

Stephen Sasser
George Jernigan
John Slator January Term 1795

Reference: Wayne County NC Will Book A, pp. 545–546.

Comments: Walding lived for several years after making this will, as it was not filed for probate until January 1795. No inventory or other estate records exist, just his will.

3 Dec 1789

Event: **Jas. Jernigan** ordered the surveyor of Wayne County to prepare a survey for **Benjamin Walding:**

State of No. Carolina, Wayne County. Entered December the 3d 1789 In No. 3l63. To the Surveyor of Said County, Greeting. You are hereby Commanded to Lay of [sic] *for* ***Benjn. Walden*** *[sic] one Hundred acres of Land lying on the So. Side of Little River Joining his owne* [sic] *Lines* ***Pollox*** *Old purchase patent Lines &* ***Theophilus Jones*** *lines And that you make due Return of Such Survey According to Law Given under my hand and Seal this 8th of March 1790.*
[signed] ***Jos. Jernigan*** *Entry*

Surveyed for ***Benjamin Walden*** *a track of land in Wayne County Containing 10 acres lying on the So. Side of little Rive [sic] Joining his own lines and* ***Pollox*** *old Purchase patent lines and* ***Theopilus Jones*** *lines Beginning at a Stake in lame* ***David Jernigan*** *line and runs wt 88 pole to a white oake in* ***James Jones*** *line then No. 19 pole to a pine* ***Hardy Jones*** *Cornar [sic] then Et 90 pole to a hicory [sic]* ***Walden*** *own Cornar [sic] and from thence to the furst [sic] Station Chane Br. [chain bearers:]* ***Willis Jones*** *and* ***John Howell.*** [signed] ***J. Danson****, D.S.*

Reference: North Carolina State Land Grants Vol. 75, p. 451: Benjamin Waldin. Wayne County File No. 361, entry #363, Grant No. 422, issued 4 Jan 1792.

Comment: The original survey order was for 100 acres, but the grant was issued for only 10 acres.

5 Dec 1789

Event: An order was issued to the Wayne County surveyor to prepare a survey for **Fred K. Jernigan** for 300 acres on the north side of the Neuse River and south side of Little River. His land adjoined the lands of **Thomas Coor, Junr.**, **Willis Jones**, **Edmund Beard**, **Henry Howell**, and **Benjamin Howell**.

Reference: North Carolina State Land Grants, entry #369/370.

5 Dec 1789

Event: An order was issued to the Wayne County surveyor to prepare a survey for **Willis Jones**. His land adjoined the lands of **Edmund Beard** and **Theophilus Jones.**

Reference: North Carolina State Land Grants, entry #370/371.

5 Dec 1789

Event: An order was issued to the Wayne County surveyor to prepare a survey for **Jesse Ammons** for 150 acres on the north side of the Neuse River. His land adjoined the lands of **David Jernigan**, **Bena. Walden**, **Theophilus Jones**.

Reference: North Carolina State Land Grants, entry #401.

1790

Event: **Edmond Bierd** was listed next to **Benjamin Walden** and **Samuel Walden** on the Wayne County census.

4 Jan 1792

Event: **William Jones** was issued a state land grant in Wayne County for 85 acres adjoining the land of **Edmund Beard.**

Reference: Wayne Co NC Deed Book 5, p. 443. State Land Grant #443.

4 Jan 1792

Event: State land grant was issued in Wayne County for 125 acres on Little River adjoining the land of **Thomas Coor** and **Benjamin Walden**.

Reference: Wayne Co NC Deed Book 5, p. 351.

20 Aug 1792

Event: For love and affection, **George Jernigan** of Wayne County gave to his daughters **Elizabeth Jernigan** and **Zilpha Jernigan** furniture and other household possessions.

Witness: **Edmund Beard**

Reference: Wayne Co NC Deed Book 5, p. 319.

12 Sept 1795

Event: **Samuel Walding** and **Sarah Walding** sell land to **John Coar Pender**, all residents of Wayne County, North Carolina. For £135 in silver or gold, the Waldings sold Pender several tracts of land patented by **Benjamin Walding** in Wayne County, North Carolina (I have maintained the grammatical errors in the original):

> *…begining at **M. Pollock** line on the west side of Little River at an Oak runing W 179 poles to a pine thence E 179 pole to a Oak then Southerly the Various Course of the River to the first station by Estimation Two Hundred Acres & one Hundred & Twenty five Acres of sd. Land We Warrant 7 defend forever which is the upper of said Land lying at a pine on the river Bank and runing a long a row of marked Treese Through **Edmund Beard** plantation to the first line of said patten Which 75 Acres of Land was given to sd. **Edmund Beard** out of the patten by **Benjamin Walden** the father of sd. **Samuel** & Which One hundred & Twenty five Acres of Land lying on the upper part of said patten I warrant and forever Defend be the same more or less And also one other tract of land Containing Ten Acres pattend by **Benjam. Walden** begn. at a Stake in my field & lyes Joining **James Mustgroves** land and Which Two Hundred acres was pattend by **Wm. Windores*** [Winsors ?] *& bares date Sixth of April 1745 And has been Conveyed to Sundrey persons, etc. Together with all land singular the Appertunances there unto belonging or in any wise appertaining to have & to Hold the sd. One*

Hundred & forty five Acres of Land… we the sd. ***Samuel Walden*** *&* ***Sarah Walden*** *for ourselves our heirs… hath in ourselves a good Right Tittle Estate in primesses in fee simple hath full power lawfull Authority to sell & dispose of in manner as before said unto the sd.* ***John Coor Pender****…*

Witness: **Thomas Atkinson**, **James Musgrove**, **Abraham Musgrove**

Reference: Wayne Co NC Deed Book 5E, pp. 538–539.

Comments:

- From the precise wording of the deed given above, it is difficult to determine exactly how many acres of land was conveyed. Edmond Beaird did not sell the 75 acres Walding gave him back in 1787; in the following record, Beaird only sold the 75 acres patented to him by North Carolina. This explains the difference between the 200 acres and the 125 acres mentioned in the above record. But then there is the 10 acres and the 145 acres mentioned, all of which makes this record confusing.
- The precise relationship between Samuel Walding and Sarah Walding is not stated. During this early statehood period in North Carolina, dower relinquishments were not required, and so wives seldom signed deeds with their husbands; even when they did, the relationship was always identified; thus I do not believe Sarah was Samuel's wife. Based upon Benjamin Walding's will (that had just been probated earlier that year in January), I believe it is clear that Sarah Walding is Benjamin's widow, presumably Samuel's mother.
- According to the clerk who recorded this deed, Samuel Walding signed his name to it, whereas Sarah made her mark.

31 Oct 1795

Event: **Edmund Beaird**, blacksmith, sells land to **Ralph Howell**, planter, both of Wayne County, North Carolina. For £36, 10 shillings, Beaird sold Howell land in Wayne County described as

…on the North side of Nuse River joining ***Willis Jones*** *&* ***Henry Howells*** *lines, Begn. at a red Oak…to* ***Ralph Howells*** *Line, then with his line…to the line of the patent then South to a Blackjack in* ***Jones's*** *Line then W… to* ***Jones's*** *line, then with his line to the Begn. Containing Seventy three Acres patented by sd.* ***Beard*** *bearing date the 17th of November 1790…*

Witness: **B. Robin Hood**, **Lazarus Howell**

Reference: Wayne County NC Deed Book 5E, p. 301.

Comments: According to the clerk who recorded it, Edmond Beaird signed his name as "Edmond Beaird" to this document.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

On the Georgian Frontier

1796–1818

Edmond and Sarah Walding Beaird moved their family from Wayne County, North Carolina to Georgia between 31 October 1795, when he sold his land in Wayne County, and 9 April 1797, when their daughter Sarah was born. Edmond obtained around 200 acres of land in Hancock County on Buffalo Creek from Benjamin Thompson in 1796 or 1797, but the deed was not made until early 1799 (he paid taxes on this land in 1797 and 1798). In 1797, Edmond Beaird was listed next to his brother-in-law Elias Grantham and neighbor James Shy on the Hancock County tax list (see the section on early Georgia tax records). Edmond Beaird made several land transactions beginning in 1799. Edmond and Sarah remained in Hancock County until 1806, when they moved onto new lands recently acquired by Georgia from the Creek nation. The Georgia Legislature put this huge region into Baldwin County in 1803.

In 1807, Edmond Beaird paid taxes on a Baldwin County farm originally granted to S. Long in 1805 or 1806; presumably he purchased this farm from Long, although he could have rented it for the year. Beaird's farm adjoined that of Stephen Dunn, purchased from Thomas Phillips about this same time. However, later that year Beaird moved a short distance into Jasper County (then called Randolph, but the name was changed in 1812 to Jasper). Dunn remained in Baldwin on his farm through 1810, but by 1811 he had sold the farm and was preparing to follow Beaird to Jasper County. Beaird and Dunn lived near George Tucker, whose sons married their daughters; Tucker remained in Baldwin with Dunn through 1811, but he had also moved into Jasper County by 1812. Edmond Beaird and Stephen Dunn lived on their Jasper County farms until the fall of 1818, when both sold out and left Georgia for Alabama.

Hancock County

Enticed by the prospects of cheap and abundant new land, settlers poured into Georgia following the Revolutionary War, and the population grew faster than Georgia's political structure could handle. Wilkes and Washington Counties were centers of settlement, being in the direct path of migration from the Carolinas and the site the new state's capitol. The northern portion of Washington was cut off into Greene County in 1786, but the continual influx of white settlers forced the Georgia legislature to subdivide this area again. On 17 December 1793, a portion of Greene and Washington Counties was taken to form Hancock County. So during the 1790s and early 1800s, Hancock, Greene, and Washington Counties formed the western frontier of Georgia, with the Creek Nation retaining possession of the land directly to the west. Numerous Indian depredation claims were filed in the early 1800s for livestock and property supposedly stolen by the Creeks from farms in this region during the tumultuous latter post-Revolutionary War period (1784–1800). In particular, the Revolutionary War veteran Edmond Beaird's widow Keziah Beaird applied for a claim against the Creek nation in 1802, stating that in 1793 the Creeks stole a mare from her valued at $66.00. I do not know the precise nature of Edmond and Keziah's relationship with our Edmond and Sarah Walding Beaird, but Keziah apparently moved into Hancock County between about 1798 and 1803. Edmond had previously lived in Wilkes County between approximately 1778 and 1787, but by 1788 he had moved to Burke County. He apparently died between 1788 and 1802, when Keziah filed her Indian Depredation Claim. She was living very close to our Edmond according to the 1804 and 1807 tax lists, so undoubtedly Keziah's husband Edmond was a close relative to our Edmond Beaird, perhaps his uncle.

There is no indication that Keziah's husband lived in Hancock County in the early years of the county, between 1794 and 1804. The Georgia Archives has incorrectly identified two early tax digests for Hancock; what is actually a combination of the 1794 tax list plus the 1797 tax list identified by the Georgia Archives as the *"1794 Hancock County Tax Digest."* This incorrectly cataloged tax list was published in *An Index to Georgia Tax Digests, 1789–1799*, Volume I,

R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation, The Reprint Company, Spartanburg, SC, 1986, and it suggests that an Edmond Beard lived in Hancock County, Georgia in 1794. However, I have examined the original record in excruciating detail, and it is clearly **a combination of two different tax digests**. One is the actual 1794 list, and the other is a tax list from a few years later, undated, but after 1796 and prior to 1799. The 1794 list, as well as the separate 1796 list, contains no Beaird taxpayers. The second, undated tax list shows one Beaird taxpayer: Edmond Beaird owning 200 acres of land and living next to James Shy, who lived next to Beaird on an adjoining farm, and Elias Grantham, his brother-in-law. A careful analysis of the deeds and other court records of Hancock prove that this second, undated tax record is actually the 1797 Hancock County tax returns.

These tax records clearly indicate that there were no adult male Beards living in Hancock prior to 1797, so Keziah's husband must have lived elsewhere. Thus, I firmly believe that all of the following records of Edmond Beaird in Hancock County are for **our** Edmond Beaird, the husband of Sarah Walding, and not Keziah's husband. Although Edmond Beaird left Hancock for Baldwin County by 1806 or certainly, early 1807, there is no recorded deed indicating precisely when he sold the bulk of his Hancock County plantation or to whom.

1796

Event: On the Hancock County tax list, the following were assessed taxes in Captain Kirk's District:

John Barron – later bought land from Edmond Beaird
John Grantham – Beaird's brother-in-law was Elias Grantham
John Patteson – owned land granted to James Britain, near where Beaird bought land in 1801
William Grantham – Beaird's brother-in-law was Elias Grantham
Samuel Shy – apparently James' father and future neighbor of Beaird's
James Shy – future neighbor of Edmond Beaird's in Hancock County – didn't yet own land

Reference: The 1796 Hancock Co GA Tax Digest available at the Georgia Archives.

Comment: Captain Kirk's District is the location in which our Edmond Beaird was living in the next few years. This indicates he had not yet arrived in Hancock County by 1796.

1797

Event: On the "undated" Hancock County tax list that has been dated as 1797, the following were assessed taxes in Captain Kirk's District:

- page 2, #18 Benjamin Thompson (5 slaves and 420 acres land)
- page 4, #16 Elias Grantham (one poll only)
  Note: #17 was the bottom taxpayer on this page, so one person separated Grantham from the following.
- page 5, #1 James Shie (one poll only – no land)
- page 5, #2 Edmond Beard (200 acres of land originally granted to Thompson)
- page 5, #11 Henry R. Jernigan (Beaird lived near the Jernigans in Wayne Co NC)

Reference: This tax list is microfilmed together with the 1794 Hancock Co GA Tax Digest by the Georgia Archives, and it is incorrectly cataloged and filed as the "1794 Hancock County, Georgia Tax Digest". See the section on tax lists for a full explanation for why this list was miscataloged.

Comment: Clearly Beaird had purchased 200 acres of land from Benjamin Thompson by 1797. Notice that James Shy was Beaird's neighbor although he did not yet own land himself.

1798

Event: On the Hancock County tax returns, the following were assessed taxes in Captain Kirk's District:

- page 99, #3 Benjamin Thompson (6 slaves and 635 acres land)
- page 99, #8 John Barron (2 slaves and 400 acres land)
- page 99, #9 Benjamin Bryan

- page 99, #10 Edmund Beard (275 acres of land originally granted to Thompson)
- page 100, #9 Samuel Shye (200 acres land)
- page 100, #12 James Shys (one poll only)

Reference: These tax returns were microfilmed by the LDS library along with the 1802 returns for Hancock and are cataloged as LDS Microfilm #0007131, labeled the "1795 & 1802 Hancock County, Georgia Tax Records". The originals were not filmed, on typed versions made in 1942 by the local DAR chapter. Unfortunately, there was no date given on the records, but the DAR somehow decided it was for the year 1795. However, this impossible, for several men were assessed taxes on property in Jackson County, which did not even exist in 1795 (it was created in 1796). Moreover, several taxpayers were listed here who are known to have been in the state of North Carolina in the year 1795, including Edmond Beaird. On the other hand, this tax list was definitely made prior to 1799, for one man who was dead by Feb 1799 is listed here. It was not the 1796 tax returns, which exist and are not these records. This leaves 1797 or 1798, and by studying the tax assessments of various men and comparing them with the 1797 list, it becomes apparent that this is actually the 1798 Hancock County tax returns.

24 Apr 1799

Event: **Edmond Beard** sells land to **John Barron**, both of Hancock County. For $200 "lawful money of Georgia to him in hand well and truly paid at or before the signing and delivery of these presents the Receipt is hereby acknowledged…" Beard sells Barron 100 acres of land in Hancock County

> *…on the waters of Litle Ogechee bounded North by **Barrons** and **Patersons** land westwardly by **Shelby's** Land and S.E. by **Gillelands** Land…the said Tract of Land Originally granted to **Benjamin Thompson** the sixth day of February one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine..*

Edmond Beard signed the document by making his mark to it.

Witness: **Wm. Gilleland**, **James Gary**, **Solo. Phillips**

Reference: Hancock Co GA Deed Book D, pp. 281 – 283.

3 May 1799

Event: **Benjamin Thompson** sells land to **Edmond Beaird**, both of Hancock County. For $200, Thompson sells Beaird 233 acres in Hancock County on the waters of Buffaloe Creek, land originally granted to Benj. Thompson on 29 July 1785.

Witness: **Joseph Bertrill**, **James H. Grayman**, **David Dickson**

Reference: Hancock Co GA Deed Book C, pp. 268 - 269.

Comment: One wonders if this is the land on which Beaird paid taxes in 1797 and 1798.

4 June 1800

Event: **Allen Whatley** of Green County, Georgia sells land to **Edmond Beard** of Hancock County, Georgia. For $400, Whatley sells Beard 200 acres in Hancock County bounded by **John Lewis** (?) & **Castleburys** lands.

Witness: **Wm. Gilleland, J.P.**, **James Thomas**

Reference: Hancock Co GA Deed Book E, pp. 112 – 113.

30 Nov 1800

Event: **Edmund Beaird (Beirde, Beird)** sells land to **Benjamin Thompson**, both of Hancock County, Georgia. For $350, Beaird sells Thompson 233 acres

> *…on the Waters of Buffalow, originally granted to **Benjamin Thompson** by his Excellency **Edward Telfair**, bearing date 29th day of July 1785…bounded S by the **Widow Walkers** land, S.E. by **Robertsons** land, and on all other sides by **Thompson's** land…*

The deed book indicates that Beaird signed his name to this deed, rather than mark to it.

Witness: **Jno. Sherman**, **Wm. Gilleland, J.P.**

Reference: Hancock Co GA Deed Book E, pp. 201 – 202.

Comment: Notice here that Edmond Beaird sells back to Benjamin Thompson the land he officially purchased from him on 3 May 1799.

9 Dec 1801

Event: **Martin Martin** sells land to **Edmund Baird**, both of Hancock County, Georgia. For $210, Martin sells Baird 141½ acres of land

> *…on the Waters of Buffalo Creek, Beginning at a pine corner, and running with **James Britain's** old line South twenty degrees West, forty five chains, to a Post oak Corner, thence South Seventy degrees East thirty one chains, and fifty links, to a Red Oak corner on the old line: thence North twenty degrees East, forty five chains, to a lightwood Stake: thence North Seventy degrees West, to the beginning: being part of a Tract of land originally granted to said **James Britain** by a grant bearing date the ninth day of February one thousand Seven hundred and ninety…*

Witness: **Jno. Wm. Deverrux, J. P.**, **James Bogue**, **Jno. M. Sherman**

Reference: Hancock Co GA Deed Book E, pp. 347–349.

Comment: The 1807 Baldwin County, Georgia tax list proves that this is our Edmond Beaird, as he paid taxes on this land while a resident of Baldwin County.

30 Jan 1802

Event: At a court of Ordinary for Hancock County, Georgia held on Saturday, **Edmond Beard** was one of those ordered to appraise the estate of **John Castleberry**:

> *Ordered that **Peter Boyle Esq.**, **John Buckner Sen'r**, **Francis Lewis Sen'r** & **Edmond Beard** or any three of them be and they are hereby appointed to appraise the personal property of **John Castleberry**.*

Reference: Hancock Co GA Ordinary Court Minutes, 1799 – 1817, pp. 51 – 56.

1803

Event: **Edmond Beaird** is mentioned several times in the estate records of **Nathaniel Parham**:

- Negros hired 1 Jan 1803 belonging to the heirs: **Aberdeen** hired by **Edmd. Beard**, security: **Benjamin Hill**
- 26 Jan 1803: **Benj. Thompson**, administrator of the estate, files the inventory and appraisement of the estate made by **William John**, **Greenberry Pinkston**, and **William Gilliland**. Included in the inventory was: *Notes on **Edmond Beard***

Reference: Hancock Co GA Wills & Estates, Vol. B, 1802 – 1815, pp. 38, 56 – 60.

Comment: Notice that the estate was administered by Benjamin Thompson, the man who was originally granted land owned by Edmond Beaird between 1797 and 1804, and who made several land transactions with Beaird in Hancock County. Also notice that William Gilliland was one of the appraisers; he witnessed several deeds of Beaird's. This estate was not settled until after 1819.

1804

Event: The following paid taxes in Hancock County, Captain Taliaferro's District, p. 2:

- #19 Henry Beard 1 white poll
- #21 Keziah Beard 6 slaves
- #22 Francis Beard 1 white poll
- #23 William Beard 1 white poll

The following were assessed taxes in Captain Barksdale's District, page 1:

- #1 Benjamin Thompson 10 slaves, 1050 acres
- #7 James Shy 272 acres of land on Buffaloe, granted to Robinson, adjoining Bierd
- #23 Edmond Bierd 385.5 acres of land on L. Ogechee, granted to Robinson, adjoining Shy

Reference: 1804 Hancock County GA Tax Digest.

1804

Event: Registration is held for the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery. The following were listed in Hancock County:

Edmond Beard	William Beard
Frances Beard	John Giles
Henry Beard	William Giles
Keziah Beard	Daniel Grantham
Joshua Grantham	William Grantham
Elijah Jiles	

Another Edmond Beard was listed in Lincoln County, and Elias Grantham was in Montgomery County.

Reference: *1805 Georgia Land Lottery*, Ralph V. and Virginia S. Wood, The Greenwood Press, Cambridge, MA, 1964.

Comment: There was also a Samuel Walden in Jefferson County who registered for this lottery, but this was **not** our Samuel Walding. There was a group of Walden males who remained in Jefferson throughout this period when our Samuel Walding lived in Baldwin County. This Samuel Walden was a soldier during the War of 1812.

12 May 1804

Event: **Edmond Baird** (signed as **Beaird**) sells land to **Samuel Walden** (also **Walding**), both of Hancock County, Georgia. For $230, Baird sells Walden 150.5 acres on the waters of Buffalow Creek,

> *Begining* [sic] *at a pine corner, and runing* [sic] *thence South, twenty degrees West, thirteen chains to a Stake corner, thence South forty six degrees West, seventeen chains 86 links to a post oak corner, thence South twenty two degrees East, 86 links to a Black jack corner, on* ***James Shy's*** *line; thence South, thirty nine degrees East, ten chains to a pine corner, on* ***James Shy's*** *line, thence South twenty West, eleven chains to a post oak corner, thence south seventy degrees East, thirty one chains and fifty links to a red oak corner, thence North twenty degrees East, forty one chains to a lightwood Stake, thence North seventy degrees West to the Begining* [sic], *being part of a tract of land originally granted to* ***James Britain*** *bearing date the 9th February, seventeen hundred & ninety…*

Witness: **Wm. Gilliland, J.P.**; **B. Shivers, J. P.**

Reference: Hancock Co GA Deed Book G, pp. 121 – 122.

Comments:

- The clerk who recorded this record indicated that Beaird ***signed*** the deed rather than making his mark to it.
- The clerk also spelled Edmond Beaird's surname as "Baird" in the body of the document, but the signature was given as "Beaird". Walding's surname was spelled variously as "Walding" and "Walden", even in the same sentence.
- This deed in which Edmond Beaird sells land to his brother-in-law gives clear evidence that the Hancock County Edmond Beaird was indeed the son-in-law of Benjamin Walding of Wayne County, North Carolina.

6 Jan 1806

Event: **John Barron** of Jackson County sells land in Hancock County to **John Dixon, Junr.** of Hancock County, Georgia. For $400, Barron sold Dixon 200 acres of land on Turkey Creek bounded by land of **Blount** and **Wood**.

Witness: **Edmond Beaird**, **Samuel John**, **Richard Blount, J. P.**

Reference: Hancock Co GA Deed Book G, pp. 121 – 122.

Comment: We have no indication of the precise date of Edmond Beaird's move to Baldwin County. Since we know he moved there still owning land in Hancock County, he certainly would have had cause to return to Hancock from time to time. This deed suggests that Beaird remained in Hancock until early 1806 and then left for Baldwin County.

Baldwin County

Prior to white encroachment beginning in the mid-1700s, the Creek nation considered much of present-day Georgia their homeland. But little by little, the whites pushed the Creeks westward, forcing them to find new hunting

grounds, construct new villages, and eventually, to make land cessions to Georgia. The Creeks were staunch allies of the British during the Revolution, and there was fierce fighting between the patriots and the Creeks during the war, especially at the Sieges of Augusta and Savannah. The aftermath of the Revolution saw a massive migration into the new state of Georgia as state officials used offers of large land grants to entice former patriot soldiers to settle there. The influx of white settlers pushed the frontier further westward into Creek lands, resulting in much friction during the 1790s. The Creeks continually raided white farms along Georgia's western frontier of counties of Greene, Hancock, Washington, etc., usually for livestock and property, but with occasional loss of life. Still, though, this situation did not erupt into a general state of war between the whites and Indians as it did in Kentucky and Ohio during this period. But as is the story throughout the history of the New World, friction between the European descendants and American Indians resulted in the loss of their ancestral lands for the Indian nations. For a small pittance, in 1802 and 1805 the Creeks ceded vast tracts of their land west of the Oconee River to the state of Georgia.

The Georgia legislature put this area into Baldwin County in 1803. They also ordered that this land be dispersed to the settlers via a *land lottery*. This began Georgia's unique method of making lands obtained (i.e., *stolen)* from the Indian nations available to settlers. Georgia conducted registration for the lottery in 1804, with the actual lottery held in 1805. Those fortunate drawers in the 1805 lottery paid the grant fee, if they could afford it, received a state grant for their new property, and either moved onto it or else sold the land. The prospects of new land created another boom, and beginning in 1804 and 1805, settlers poured into Baldwin County.

Edmond Beaird and Stephen Dunn both moved into Baldwin County by 1807, when they paid taxes as residents of Baldwin. Beaird witnessed a deed in Hancock in January 1806, but there is no record of his selling the bulk of his Hancock County farm. In 1807, he paid taxes on the 150.5 acres in Hancock that he had sold to his brother-in-law Samuel Walding in 1804, so Beaird may have traveled back and forth between Baldwin and Hancock for a while. It appears that both Beaird and Dunn also purchased farms in Baldwin, but the deed records of Baldwin were destroyed so we have no idea if they bought their farms or rented them. The only Beaird and Dunn records in Baldwin are the tax lists. The earliest, 1807, shows Beaird and Dunn living on adjoining farms on Nancy's Branch and Reedy Creek, near Beaird's brother-in-law Samuel Walding and (presumably) Dunn's stepson David Baker. Also living nearby is George Tucker, whose son Simeon married Zilpha's sister Nancy, and Thomas Tucker, who married Beaird's daughter Amy. This area was quite near the new state capitol of Milledgeville, where Keziah Beard and her son Francis lived.

Original Baldwin County was sub-divided in late 1807 to form several new counties, including Randolph and Jones. Randolph County's name was changed four years later to Jasper County, but the region surrounding Nancy's Creek near Milledgeville remained in Baldwin County. In late 1807 or early 1808, Edmond Beaird moved from his farm in this area into the newly formed Randolph (now Jasper) County, leaving Stephen Dunn, Samuel Walding, David Baker, and the Tuckers in Baldwin. Dunn lived there until 1810/1811, when he sold his 152½-acre farm. Along with George Tucker, Dunn still resided in Baldwin in 1811, owning just one slave but no land, but by 1812 they had followed Edmond Beaird to Jasper County. Samuel Walding remained behind in Baldwin County through 1817. He had left Baldwin by 1818, apparently moving to Alabama (he was in Dale County, Alabama in 1830).

Jasper (old Randolph) and Putnam Counties

Many sources state that Jasper County was created in 1812, but this is incorrect. It was created under the name of Randolph County on 10 December 1807 when original Baldwin County was subdivided into Jones, Morgan, Putman,

Randolph, and a smaller Baldwin. Precisely four years later, on 10 December 1812, the Georgia Legislature changed the county name from Randolph to Jasper.

Between about 1807 and his departure from Georgia in late 1818, the records indicate that Edmond Beaird resided in Jasper County. However, sometime during this period he obtained possession of a 202½-acre tract of land in Putnam County. It is unclear when he obtained the Putnam land or how long he owned it. Here are the records involving Edmond Beaird and Stephen Dunn in Jasper (old Randolph) and Putnam Counties:

1 Jan 1808

Event: **Daniel Tucker** sells land to **Edmund Beaird**, both of Baldwin County. For $400, Tucker sells Beaird 120 acres, the lower part of Lot 180 in District 13. It bordered Lots 173, 179, and 205.

Witness: **Martha Brown**, **James Brown**

Reference: Jasper Co GA Deed Book 1, pp. 352 – 353.

Comment: Future deeds prove that this land was technically then in old Randolph County, which had been created a few weeks earlier on December 7th by the Georgia Legislature. This purchase indicates that Beaird actually moved from his previous farm in Baldwin County next to Stephen Dunn, where he was living in 1807.

20 Feb 1809

Event: **George Tucker** of Baldwin County sells land to **Edmund Beaird** of Randolph County. For $200, Tucker sells Beaird 75 acres of land in the north part of Lot 173, bounded north by Lot 108, west by Lot 148, east by Lot 174.

Witness: **Thomas Tucker**, **Henry Graybel, Jr.**

Reference: Jasper Co GA Deed Book 1, pp. 354 – 355.

Comments: This land adjoined that Beaird bought the previous year. This gave him a total of 195 acres in Lots 173 and 180.

7 Jan 1811

Event: **Edmond *"Beard,"*** Burwel Greene, and **Thomas Tucker** made $500 bond to the Randolph County Court of Ordinary to secure Beard's being appointed administrator of the estate of **Barnaba/Barnaby Shuffield**, deceased:

> *State of Georgia*
> *Randolph County*
> *Know all men by these presents that we* ***Edmond Beard Burwel Greene*** *and* ***Thomas Tucker –*** *am held and firmly bound unto their honours* [sic] *the Judges of the Court of Ordinary for the time present and their Sucksessors* [sic] *in office for the county afforesaid* [sic] *in the sum of five hundred dollars for which payment well and truely* [sic] *to be made we bind ourselves our heirs Execr. Admrs. and assigns firmly by these presents – in Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 7th day of January 1811.*
>
> *The condition of the above obligation is such that if the above bound* ***Beard*** _____ [left blank] *to the goods Chattles and Credits of* ***Barnaba Shuffield*** *(Deceased) do make a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the goods and chattels and credits of the said Decd. which have or shall come into your hands possession or knowledge of the said* ***Barnaby Shuffield*** *or into the hands or possession of any other person persons for him and the same so made do exhibit unto the said Court of Ordinary when you shall be thereunto required and such goods chattels and credits do well and truely* [sic] *administer according to law and do make a Just and true account of your actings and doings thereunto when required by the said Court and all the rest of the goods chattels and Credits which shall be found remaining upon the account of the said administration the same being first allowed by the said Court – shall Deliver and pay to such persons respectively as are entitled to the same by law and if it shall hereafter appear that any last will and testament was made by the said Deceased and the same be proved before the said court and the Executors obtain a certificate of the probate thereof and the said* ***Edmond Beard*** *do in such case if Required render and deliver up the*

said letters of administration then this obligation to be void Otherwise to remain in full force power and virtue.

Subscribed and acknowledged in open court.

John Collier, C. C. O

Edmond X Beard [his mark]
Burwell Greene
Thomas Tucker

Reference: Jasper Co GA Bond Book A, pp. 32 – 33.

Comments:

- Thomas Tucker had married Edmond Beaird's daughter Amy a few years earlier in 1808. I do not know the connection of Burwell Greene.
- Note that these events occurred in what was then called "Randolph County". In 1812, the Georgia State Legislature changed the county name to "Jasper", so these events are recorded in the records of Jasper County.

12 Jan 1811

Event: An inventory of the estate of **Barnaby Shuffield**, Dec. was made in Randolph County. The estate sale was recorded immediately after the inventory in the record book, but the date of the sale was not given.

Ordinary Office Randolph County
An Inventory & appraisment [sic] *of the Estate of Barnaby Shuffield Dec. by the under named appraisers after being Duly Sworn according to law taken January 12th 1811.*

to 2 sows & pigs	*9.00*
to 2 sows & 11 Shoats	*20.00*
to 1 sow & 17 Shoats	*30.00*
to 1 Cow & Calf $10 one Cow $10	*20.00*
to 1 Cow $11 one Cow $12 one Cow $12	*35.00*
to 1 Cow $12	*12.00*
to 2 Stears & one bull	*13.00*
to 1 Bay Mare $80 one filley 35	*115.00*
to 1 lott of Carpenters tools	*1.50*
to 1 hand saw 1 auger & 1 Chissel	*1.50*
to 1 lott of Iron tools	*3.50*
to 1 pott & hooks & 1 Skillet	*2.50*
to 1 Bedsted	*1.00*
to 1 lott of ___ (?) ware	*4.50*
to 1 lott of puter Cookerware & Knives	*3.50*
to 2 Bells	*.50*
to 1 sifter & boot	*.75*
*to 1 wheal & Cards & ree*l [spinning wheel]	*3.00*
to 1 whomans [woman's] Saddle	*6.00*
to 2 chirs [chairs]	1.00
to 1 Bed & bedsted & furniture	*42.50*
	325.75

[signed] *John Knight*
Thomas Jackson
John Hie (? – Hu?)

Account of Sale of the Estate of Barnaby Suffield Dec.

Elizabeth Shuffield 1 Bed & Sted & furniture	*20.00*
Edmond Beard 1 Bedsted	*1.00*
Elizabeth Suffield to Sundries	*6.50*
" " 1 Churn tub & pale	*3.00*
" " 1 pot & skillet	*3.25*
" " 2 chirs	*1.00*
Edmond Baird 1 spinning wheel & Cards	*2.75*
Charles Warren 1 saw auger Chissel & rule	*2.75*
Wright Hill 1 lott of Carpenters tools 3 plaining 3 Squars 2 gages Mallet & rule	*5.62½*

Elizabeth Suffield 1 womans saddle..... 9.75
Richmond Carrel 1 bell..... 0.56¼
Asa Hill 1 bell..... 0.56¼
Edmond Beaird 1 Matton [mallet ?]..... *1.00*
" " 1 ax..... 2.00
Thomas Tucker 1 weding hoe..... 1.00
Richmon Carrel 17 head of hogs first lott.....31.00
Richard Hudson 1 Cow & yearling & calf.....19.00
John Wright 1 Cow 7 Yearling.....13.00
Elizabeth Shuffield 1 Cow & Calf..... 9.75
David Smith 1 Cow & Calf.....10.12½
Elizabeth Shuffield 1 Cow & Calf.....10.00
Asy Hill 1 Cow & Calf.....14.31¼
Edmond Baird 1 Bull & Steare.....13.00
Francis O'Kelley Second lott of hogs.....27.31¼
Wright Hill 2 sows & ten pigs.....12.62½
Elizabeth Shuffield 1 Bay Mare.....76.00
Edmond Baird 1 Bay filley.....66.00
352.87¾

[signed] ***Edmond Baird**, Admr.*

Reference: Jasper Co GA Wills, Appraisements, Returns Book C, pp. 124–125.

Comments: Unfortunately these records do not state the precise relationship between Edmond Beaird, Barnaby Shuffield, and Elizabeth Shuffield. However, clearly the majority of Shuffield's property went to Beaird and Elizabeth Shuffield, implying that she was Shuffield's widow. I believe it quite likely that she was Edmond's daughter, Elizabeth Beaird, born 12 April 1789.

14 July 1812

Event: **Charles Warren** of Franklin County sells land to **Stephen Dunn** of Randolph County. For $900, Warren sells Dunn 202½ acres of land in District 13, Lot 178.

Witness: **Simion Tucker**, **Martin Slaughter**

Reference: Jasper Co GA Deed Book 6, pp. 437 – 438.

Comments:

- This was land that Warren had drawn in the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery. Since he remained a resident of Franklin County between 1804 and 1812, he probably never lived on it.
- Dunn's plantation either adjoined or was within a mile of Edmond Beaird's plantation.

8 Aug 1818

Event: **Edmund Beard** sells land to **Benjamin King**, both of Jasper County. For $2100, Beard sold King Lot 177 in District 13, Jasper County, containing 202½ acres of land. Beard signed this deed by making his mark to it.

Witness: **Danl. H. Willis**, **John Giles**, **Jas. Phillips J.P.**

Reference: Jasper Co GA Deed Book A, pp. 150 – 151.

Comments:

- There is no recorded deed showing Edmond Beaird purchasing Lot 177 in Jasper County.
- King failed to pay Beaird for this land; see the court suit dated October 1822 below.

21 Aug 1818

Event: For $2500, **Edmund Beard** of Jasper County and State of Georgia sells to **Clement Hancock** of Putnam County Lot 144 in District 10, Putnam County, containing 202½ acres of land.

Witness: **Turner Hurst**, **Simeon Tucker**, **William Beard**

Reference: Putnam County GA Deed Book H, pp. 272–273. Edmond Beaird signed this deed by making his mark to it.

Comments: William Beaird is of course Edmond's eldest son, whereas Simeon Tucker is the brother of Edmond's son-in-law, Thomas Tucker. Simeon was also the husband of Nancy Dunn, sister of Zilpha Dunn Beaird.

3 Nov 1818

Event: **Stephen Dunn** sells land to **Dred Rodgers**, both of Jasper County, Georgia. For $2500, Dunn sells Rodgers 202½ acres of land, originally in Baldwin but now Jasper County, known as Lot 178 in District 13. Dunn made his mark to this deed.

Witness: **Turner Hunt**, **Simeon Tucker**, **Thomas King**

Reference: Jasper County GA Deed Book B, pp. 510.

Comment: In the court case filed below regarding this purchase, he signed his name "Drd. Rogers", and the court recorded it as "Dread Rogers."

5 Nov 1818

Event: **Edmund Beard** sells land to **Joshua Harris**, both of Jasper County. For $4600, Beard sold Harris 175½ acres in Lot 173 and 180. He also sold 75 acres of land in Lot 173 bounded by Lots 180, 148, and 174, and 10 acres in Lot 172. The total acreage sold was 260½ acres. According to this record, Beard actually signed his name to this deed.

Witness: **Daniel H. Willis**, **William Tripp**

Reference: Jasper Co GA Deed Book A, pp. 150 – 151.

Comments:

- Notice that Edmond Beaird makes his mark to the deed in August but signed the one in November. Based upon the other records for Beaird, I believe that this is a clerk's error and he did not sign this deed.
- There is no recorded deed showing Edmond Beaird purchasing the 75 acres in Lot 173 nor the 10 acres in Lot 172.

Feb–Apr 1822

Event: A case was heard in Jasper County, Georgia Superior Court for **Stephen Dunn** for the use of **William Phillips** against **Dread Rogers**. Apparently Rogers failed to pay Dunn the remaining amount of money for the land he purchased in 1818, resulting in this suit. The six pages in this file are:

- Original Petition (not dated):

  Georgia, Jasper County. To the Honorable the Superior Court for the County and State aforesaid. The petition of Stephen Dunn for the use of William Phillips, humbly sheweth that Dread Rogers of the County aforesaid owes to and unjustly detains from your petitioners the sum of Nine hundred dollars besides interest. For that whereas the said Dread and one Turner Hunt Junior on the third day of November in the year eighteen hundred and eighteen made their certain joint and several promissory note in writing signed with their hands, dated the same day and year aforesaid and then delivered the same to your petitioner which is here in court shown whereby the said Dread and Turner did promise that they or either of them would pay the said Steven on or before the twenty fifth day of December then next. the just and full sum of Nine hundred dollars for value received of him. Yet altho so indebted and often requested the said Dread and Turner have not nor hath either of them paid your petitioner the sum of money aforesaid or any part thereof but the same to pay have refused and still do refuse to the damage of your petitioner Eighteen hundred dollars. Whereof your petitioner prays process may issue requiring the said Dread Rogers personally or by his attorney to be and appear at the next Superior Court to be held in and for the County aforesaid then and there to answer your petitioner in an action of Debt, etc.

  [signed] *William Cook Ptffs Att.*

  October term 1822. Whereupon it is considered by the court that the Plaintiff do recover of the defendant the sum of three hundand [sic] and forty four dollars and fourteen cents of principal, the sum of fifty one dollars and twenty two cents interest thereon and the further sum of [blank] for his costs in this behalf expended, and the defendant in mercy, etc.

- Citation to Defendant to Appear:

  Jasper County, Georgia
  Stephen Dunn for the use of William Phillips vs. Dread Rogers.
  To the Sheriff of said County. Greeting. The Defendant is hereby required personally or by his Attorney to be and appear at the Superior Court to be held in and for said County on the third Monday in April next then and there to answer the Plaintiff demand in an action of Debt, etc. as in default thereof the said Court will proceed thereon as to Justice shall appirtain. Witness the Honorable Christopher B. Strong Judge of said Court. February 25 1822.

[signed] John Willson, Clk.

Georgia Jasper County Superior Court office. Recorded in Book B, Fol. 551 & 2. December 11th 1823.

- Sheriff's Return:
  Servd the defendant with a copy from the original. 26 Feby 1822.
  [signed*] William H. Putchen, Shff.*
- Evidence:
  - *On or by the Twenty fifth Day of December Next we or either of us Do promise to pay unto Steven Dunn the Just and full Sum of Nine hundred Dollars for value Received of him This the 3rd day of Nov. 1818.* [signed] *Drd. Rogers*
    Turner Hunt, Jr.
  - *January the 5th 1820. Received of the within one Hundred and forty Dollars*
  - *January the 12th 1821. Receivd of the within Note five hundred & sixty dollars*
- Jury Verdicts:
  The two different undated verdicts from a jury foreman shown below indicate that there were two jury trials with two different juries in this case:
  - *We find for the Plaintiff Two hundred dollars with interest & cost of suit.*
    [signed] *Thos. W. Many, forman*
  - *We the Jury find for the plaintiffs two hundred dollars with Interest and Costs and ten percent damages on the principal for a frivolous ___?___.*
    [signed] *B. Crawford, for___*
  - *October term 1823. Whereupon it is considered of the defendant the Sum of three hundred and forty two dollars principal and the Sum of Twenty Six dollars Interest Ass. to the twenty fifth Instant and the further Sum of thirty four dollars and twenty cents damages and the further Sum of Sixty two & a half Cents for his Costs in this be half laid out and Expended and the defendant in mercy, etc.*
    [signed] *Nathan Warren, Ptffs Atty.*
  - *Recd. from Mr. T. Hunt the amount of the within Judgement in full March 8th 1825.*
    [signed] *John Willson for himself & Nathan Warren*

Reference: Jasper County GA Superior Court, Case #41: Stephen Dunn for the use of William Phillips vs. Dread Rogers. The microfilm at the Georgia Archives containing this suit is found in record group #179 – 1 – 1, Box 34L or 4285-34.

Comment: William Phillips was Stephen Dunn's son-in-law, the husband of Susannah Dunn. It is not clear what the phrase "for the use of William Phillips" means, but apparently Phillips was handling the suit for Dunn. I do not believe this suit implies Dunn was in Jasper County in the year 1822.

21 Oct 1822

Event: **Edmund Beaird** "of Jasper County" sued **Benjamin King** and **Winburn Odom** of Putnam County, Georgia for a debt of $2160 that was due 25 Dec 1821. The court found in favor of Beaird and it ordered King and Odom to pay Beaird principal and an interest of $220.44.

Reference: Jasper Co GA Inferior Court Declarations, 1820–1823.

Comment: Note that on 8 Aug 1818, Edmond Beaird sold 202.5 acres of land to Benjamin King of Jasper County, with the deed indicating the price as $2100. King obviously failed to pay his debt to Beaird, forcing Beaird to apparently return to Jasper County and initiate court proceedings against King. I have not seen actual copies of these documents, so it is not clear to me whether or not Beaird himself was present in court or if an attorney represented him.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

The Bibb County, Alabama Years

1819–1850

The thirty years following the end of the Revolutionary War was an extremely tumultuous period for the Creek Confederacy. They were once the most influential American Indian nation of the Deep South, feared, admired, and respected by both other Indian nations and the whites. The active participation of the Creeks in support of the British and Tories during the Revolution led to hostilities in the 1780s between them and the white Americans in Georgia. Continual white migration into the state of Georgia and encroachment into Creek lands pushed the eastern boundaries of their territory in Georgia further westward in the 1780s and 1790s, resulting in large cessions of land west of the Oconee River in 1802 and 1805. At the same time, the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations, less powerful than the Creeks, ceded much of their territory in present-day southern Alabama and Mississippi to the United States in the early 1800s. Eager to settle these virgin lands, white traders and pioneers applied to the Georgia governor for passports authorizing them to travel through the Creek nation along the Federal Road towards Mississippi Territory. Eventually, some whites settled deep in Creek territory in what is now Alabama, further angering the Creeks.

By about 1811–1813, this situation caused a practical civil war within the Creek nation, as many desired to live peacefully with the whites, whereas others, following the lead of the Shawnee prophet Tecumseh and encouraged by British agents (who wanted to created problems in the west for the United States, forcing them to fight the War of 1812 on the sea, the eastern seaboard, and in the west), insisted on driving all whites from their territory by force. Some of the hostile Creeks organized a war party and threatened scattered white villages surrounding Pensacola, Florida; a Florida militia group attacked them in early 1813, resulting in the Battle of Burnt Corn Creek. This began the 1813 – 1814 war between the Creek nation and the United States. The war was actually between the United States and the *Red Sticks*, as the hostile Creeks were known, for their habit of using red clay from *Red Mountain* in present-day Birmingham as dye and paint to cover themselves and their weapons.

Soon afterwards, many of the friendly Creeks appealed for help to the United States and the governor of Georgia on 5 July 1813, warning them of an impending attack by the Red Sticks in Alabama; the attack plan was to be a coordinated effort, with the British to reduce Savannah and together, the Creeks and British would destroy all white settlement in Georgia. Either this plea was ignored or else poor communication prevented any help from being sent to support the friendly Creeks. On August 30th, the hostile Creeks under Red Eagle attacked Fort Mims, butchering all two hundred and fifty white men, women, and children in the vicinity. Now the United States and the Georgia governor listened.

General Floyd's Georgia militia as well as General Andrew Jackson's Tennessee and General Claiborne's Mississippi militia responded quickly, as did Choctaw and Chickasaw warriors who supported the whites. General Andrew Jackson was placed in overall command; incidentally, Davy Crockett and Sam Houston were among Jackson's men. Jackson made a whirlwind invasion of present-day Alabama, the heart of the Creek Confederacy. The Red Sticks were put on the defensive by several early defeats, including Tallushatchee on November 3rd and Talladega on the 9th. Jackson was nearly defeated by desertions and a lack of supplies, but somehow managed to hold his own in January 1814 at the Battles of Emuckfaw and Enotachopco.

Consolidating their troops following these battles, the Red Sticks gathered their one thousand warriors during the spring of 1814 and fortified at the horseshoe bend on the Tallapoosa River. They erected very formidable breastworks of logs across the narrow peninsula of land between the two points on the river. On 27 March 1814,

Jackson's army, now emboldened by new recruits and supplies, surrounded the Red Sticks' position and stormed the breastworks, beginning the action that would become known as the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. During the several bloody hours of hand-to-hand combat in which over eight hundred Creeks perished, Jackson's army crushed the Red Sticks, ending forever the Creek nation's power and resistance against the European invasion of their ancestral homelands.

The United States government authorized General Jackson to make a treaty with the Creek Confederacy in July 1814 at Fort Jackson. The Creeks agreed to cede the majority of central Alabama to the whites, an area that includes thirty-three present-day counties, including Bibb County. The Creeks only retained possession of a thin strip of land extending the length of the present-day Alabama/Georgia state line, including the Alabama counties of Henry, Barbour, Elmore, Talledega, and most of Macon, Russell, Lee, Coosa, Tallapoosa, Chambers, Randolph, Clay, Cleburne, and Calhoun.

Opening of the Alabama Land Offices

Until about 1908, the United States government supported itself by the sale of land to its citizens. Once *new* land was obtained from the American Indians by purchase or conquest, it had to be surveyed, land offices set up, etc., so often families settling on western lands were legally "squatters". Until 1820, United States citizens could buy land government on credit. Title was given to the settler with payment only of the first "installment", typically one-quarter of the value of the land. This policy created an incredible paper trail, and abuses of this system and the massive paperwork involved with cases of nonpayment caused Congress to change the system in 1820. Beginning in that year, the government required settlers to purchase land with cash. When a man went to buy land at the government land office, the legal record created was called a ***Cash Entry*** ("entry" probably coming from the fact that the official had to "enter" the settler's name in the land tract book). The standard reference for these and other facts about early land purchases from the government is ***History of Public Land Law Development,*** by Paul W. Gates, United States Government Printing Office, 1968. This work can be found in any large library.

General Andrew Jackson's military victory against the Creek nation removed the "Indian problem" that had previously prevented white settlement in Alabama. Once the treaties were finalized and it became clear that the government would encourage American settlement in the former Creek lands, massive white migration followed over the next few years. Settlers from Georgia and the Carolinas began pouring into the former Creek lands. To reach central Alabama, they had to cross the Federal road through central Georgia and into Alabama, across the lands retained by the Creek nation, but few if any incidents were reported. These pioneers eagerly awaited the government putting this land on the market. Surveying began in 1816, and on 4 August 1817, the government put the first portion of this new Alabama land on the auction block in the Georgia state capitol of Milledgeville. All land office records were later transferred to the Cahaba Land Office, which opened on 10 October 1818 in the town of Cahaba on the Alabama River in Dallas County. Numerous Georgian men bid on and paid the first installments on their Alabama land, sight unseen. Many of them were engaging in land speculation and had no intention of moving westward. They merely held title to their land, and when demand for the land increased in a few years, they ***assigned*** it, or sold their rights and title to the land, to someone else. This resulted in an incredible amount of paperwork for the land offices and created the need for documents called ***Declarations*** and ***Relinquishments*** found below among the records left by Edmond and William Beaird.

Stephen Dunn sold his Jasper County, Georgia plantation on November 3rd and Edmond Beaird sold the last of his on November 5th, 1818. Edmond Beaird and his family moved to Alabama, as did, presumably, Stephen Dunn (we have found no records of him in either Georgia or Alabama between 1818 and 1840). The Beairds settled on the reaches of Mulberry Creek, the region incorporated by the Alabama Territorial Legislature into Cahawba County earlier on 7 February 1818. Alabama Territory became the State of Alabama the next year on 14 December 1819. Some six months later, in July 1820 Alabama Governor Bibb died as a result of falling from his horse. That autumn the Alabama legislature honored the prematurely deceased governor by changing the name of Cahawba County to Bibb County.

Beaird Records in Alabama

The documents transcribed below constitute all known records of Edmond Beaird and his immediate family in Bibb County, Alabama. Most of these are government land records held by the National Archives and not the county. In the following transcriptions, I have used the spelling and punctuation of the original documents, however arcane they may be.

The surname *Beaird* is spelled in a variety of ways in the original records, and I have always used whatever spelling the clerk making the record used. In particular, the officials at the Cahaba Land Office where William and his father Edmund bought their land in the 1820s and 1830s from the United States government seemed to repeatedly spell their surname as *Baird*. But many of these records contain their original signatures, which read *Beaird*. In several instances, William Beaird signed his surname as *Beaird*, only to have it written over as *Baird*. I presume that when Edmond and William first purchased land in Bibb County in January 1820, the land office clerk recorded the surname incorrectly as *Baird* (on that early purchase no signature was required). Then in later records, apparently the clerk insisted upon spelling the surname as *Baird* to make his records match up, even though the signatures were all spelled *Baird*.

9 Sept 1819

Event: In Cahawba County, Alabama, **Edmond Oliver Beaird** and **Edmond Beaird** went on $200 bond to Alabama Governor William Bibb for the purpose of securing a marriage between Edmond Oliver Beaird and **Eliza Goodgame**. Edmond O. Beaird's original signature is on this marriage bond, but Edmond Beaird made his mark to it. William Harrod celebrated the rites of matrimony between Beaird and Goodgame on 7 Oct 1819.

Reference: Bibb County AL original marriage bonds.

2 Nov 1819

Event: **William Baird** purchased land in Alabama for the first time.

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Relinquishment #1480, dated 29 June 1829. This record proves that William Beaird of Bibb County, Alabama bought the following land on 2 Nov 1819:

SE¼ of Section 7, Township 7, Range 8

This tract lay in Monroe County, and Beaird owned it between 1819 and 1829, when he relinquished it back to the government. From the description, it was quite a distance from his residence in Bibb County.

25 Jan 1820

Event: **Edmund Baird** of Cahaba County paid $40.0675 cash as the first installment for 80.1375 acres of land. He purchased the

E½ of SE¼ of Section 5, Township 21, Range 13

for $2.00 per acre. Arithmetic made by John Taylor of the Receiver's Office indicated that he owed a total of $160.27 and he paid $40.0675, leaving a balance due of $120.20¼ for this tract of land.

Reference: Cahaba Receiver's Office, #9555.

25 Jan 1820

Event: **Edmund Baird** of Cahaba County paid $80.1375 cash as the first installment for 160.27½ acres of land. He bought the

NW¼ of Section 5, Township 21, Range 13

for $2.00 per acre. Arithmetic made by John Taylor of the Receiver's Office indicated that he owed a total of $320.55 and he paid $80.1375, leaving a balance due of $240.41¼ for this tract of land.

Reference: Cahaba Receiver's Office, #9556.

25 Jan 1820

Event: **William Baird** of Cahaba County paid $261.14 as the first installment for 159.47½ acres of land.

Reference: Cahaba Receiver's Office, #9566. He bought the

NW¼ of Section 7, Township 21, Range 13

for $6.55 per acre. Arithmetic made by John Taylor of the Receiver's Office indicated that he owed $1044.56, paid $261.14, leaving a balance due of $783.42 on this tract of land.

7 Feb 1820

Event: **Edmund Beaird** of Cahaba County paid $40.06½ cash as the first installment for 80.1375 acres of land. He bought the

W½ of NE¼ of Section 5, Township 21, Range 13

for $2.00 per acre. Arithmetic made by John Taylor of the Receiver's Office indicated that he owed a total of $160.26 and he paid $40.06, leaving a balance due of $120.10 for this tract of land. The front page of this document gives precisely how Beaird paid for this land. We tend to believe that in this era, people were afraid of banks and kept their cash at home. Clearly this is untrue in Edmond Beaird's case, for he paid for this land from accounts at five different banks:

Bank of the State of Geo.	10.00
Planters Bank	10.00
Union Bank of SC	10.00
Bank of the State of SC	5.00
Bank of Augusta	5.00
Specie	.06½
(total)	40.06½

Reference: Cahaba Receiver's Office, #10157.

July 1820

Event: **William Beaird** served as a juror on the Bibb County Court.

Reference: Bibb County Court Minutes, abstracted in *Bibb County, Alabama: The First Hundred Years, 1818 – 1918*, by Rhoda Coleman Ellison, The University of Alabama press, 1984, p. 235.

2 Aug 1820

Event: **Edmund Beaird** of Cahaba County paid $99.89¼ cash as the full price for 79.91¼ acres of land. He bought the

E½ of SE¼ of Section 31, Township 22, Range 13

Reference: Cahaba Receiver's Office, #28. Beaird paid the standard $1.25 per acre for this land.

Comment: Notice that Beaird paid the full cash price for this land. Due to the many problems associated with the previous credit system under which the government land offices had operated, in July 1820 Congress mandated that all land purchases must be made with cash payments. This is the first time Beaird bought land under this new law.

17 Sept 1821

Event: **William Beaird** acted as the attorney for "**Edmund Baird**" of Cahaba County by signing the following declaration. This was a standard document authorized by Congress relating to the purchase of government land by settlers.

*I **Edmund Baird** of Cahaba as purchaser do hereby declare my consent to the provisions of the act of Congress, passed…"* 2 Mar 1821 *"entitled An act for the relief of the purchasers of the Public Lands, prior to the 1st day of July, 1820; and request that I may have a further credit…on the balance (exclusive of interest accrued) due or to become due from me as purchaser on account of the purchase money of the following described tract of land, (the payment of which has not been completed) held by me and purchased of the United States, in the District of Lands offered for sale at Cahaba… In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 17th day of Sept 1821.*

[signed] ***Edmund Baird by his Attorney William Beaird***

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Declaration #755. The land purchased is described as

Date of Purchase	#	Original certificate surrendered	Tract Purchased
1820 Jany 25	7444	1820 Jany 25	E½ of SE¼, Sec 5, Twp 21, Ran 13
1820 Jany 25	7445	1820 Jany 25	NW¼, Sec 5, Twp 21, Ran 13
1820 Feby 7	7706	1820 Feby 7	W½ of NE¼, Sec 5, Twp 21, Ran 13

Comments:

- Edmund's name is spelled *Baird* throughout this document. Moreover, on the signature line, apparently the receiver wrote *Edmund Baird by his Attorney*, and under this William Beaird signed his name, spelling it "Beaird".
- William Beaird's signature on this document is nearly identical to documents that William Beaird signed in the 1870s regarding his application for a pension based upon his War of 1812 military service. The only noticeable difference is that the 1870s signatures are "shakier" than this one in 1821, as one would expect from a man then in his 80s.

17 Sept 1821

Event: **William Beaird** (Baird) requested an extension on the money he owed for land purchased the previous year. This was a standard document authorized by Congress relating to the purchase of government land by settlers:

"I William Baird of Cahaba Co as purchaser do hereby declare my consent to the provisions of the act of Congress, passed…" 2 Mar 1821 *"entitled An act for the relief of the purchasers of the Public Lands, prior to the 1st day of July, 1820; and request that I may have a further credit…on the balance (exclusive of interest accrued) due or to become due from me as purchaser on account of the purchase money of the following described tract of land, (the payment of which has not been completed) held by me and purchased of the United States, in the District of Lands offered for sale at Cahaba viz:"*

Date of Purchase	#	Original certificate surrendered	Tract Purchased
1820 Jany 25	7448	1820 Jany 25	NW¼, Sec 7, Twp 21, Ran 13

"In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 17th day of Sept 1821."

[signed] ***William Beaird***

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Declaration #637.

Comment: William Beaird's signature on this document is identical to the signature on the Edmund Baird document above. It also is clearly the same signature as the man who applied for a military pension from Union Parish Louisiana in the 1870s.

22 Mar 1825

Event: **Edmund Baird** of Cahaba County paid his debt of $162.08 to the United States government, the remainder due from him for 160.27 acres of land purchased earlier:

*"Received of **Edmund Baird** of Cahaba Co"* $162.08, *"which, with the sum of"* $97.25 *"being the amount of discount allowed at the rate of 37½ per centum, by the 2d section of the act of 18th May, 1824, is in full of the balance due, or to become due on the"*

NW¼ of Section 5, Township 21, Range 13.

containing 160.27 acres, at the rate of $2.00 per acre. Purchased 25 January 1820:

"Amount of principal due:.....$240.41
Interest due on $90.15 for 3 years, 6 months: $18.92
Total due:.....$259.33
Discount thereon at the rate of 37½ per centum $97.25
Cash in full as above stated:.....$162.08"

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office, Receiver's Office #1743.

22 Mar 1825

Event: **Edmund Baird** of Cahaba County paid off his account with the government for the land he first agreed to purchase in 1820, and he received his final certificate for the purchase of this 160-acre tract of government land.

"UNDER THE ACT OF 18TH MAY, 1824. Land Office at Cahawba, It is hereby certified, That pursuant to several Acts of Congress, providing for the Sale of the Public Lands of the United States, ***Edmund Baird of Cahaba Co****. did, at the date hereinafter specified, purchase of the Register of the Land Office aforesaid, the following described lands, viz: being the*

North West ¼ of Section 5 Township 21 Range 13

on which further credit has heretofore been granted, and to complete the payment due on the said land, ***Edmund Baird of Bibb Co****. has availed himself of the relief granted by the Act of Congress of the 18th May, 1824, entitled "An Act to provide for the extinguishments of the debt due to the United States by the purchasers of public lands." The account for said tract has, therefore, been finally settled and closed on the books of this office, as will more fully appear from the following statement, thereof…*

Date	Purchase $$	Mode of Payment	Total Amount Paid
25 Jan 1820	320.55	1st installment:	$80.14
22 Mar 1825	18.92 interest	By cash: $162.08	
		Discount: $97.25	259.33
			339.47

Now, therefore be it known, that on presenting this Certificate to the Commissioner of the General Land Office ***Edmund Baird of Bibb Co*** *shall be entitled to receive a patent for the land above described. Alex. Pope Register of the Land Office."*

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Final Certificate #1418.

28 Mar 1825

Event: **Edmund Baird** assignee of **Wm. McCullers** paid his debt of $120.32 to the United States government, the remainder due from him for 160.20 acres of land.

"(Class No. 1 Under Act of 20 March 1821) Received of ***Edmund Baird*** *assignee of* ***Wm. McCullers*** *the sum of"* $120.32, *"which, together with the discount hereinafter stated and allowed… and the sum of"* $79.66 *"heretofore paid on land relinquished, is in full of the balance due or to become due on the"*

SW¼ of Section 32, Township 22, Range 13.

containing 160.20 acres, at the rate of $2.10 per acre. Purchased 26 January 1820, viz:

"Amount of principal due:.....$252.31½
Interest due on $94.61 for 3 years, 6 months: $19.85
Total due:.....$272.16½
Cash heretofore paid on land relinquished:.....$79.66¼
Discount on $192.50.....$72.18¼ $151.84½
Cash in full as above stated: .....$120.32"

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office, Receiver's Office #1987.

28 Mar 1825

Event: **Edmond** (Edmund) **Baird** of Bibb County signed a declaration regarding his consent to an 1824 act of Congress regarding his debt to the United States resulting from his purchase of 320 acres of land in 1820:

"I Edmund Baird of Bibb Co. do hereby declare my consent to the provisions of the act of Congress, passed on the 18th day of May, 1824 entitled An act to provide for the extinguishment of the debt due to the United States, by the purchasers of Public Lands…and wishing to avail myself of the relief granted…I do hereby relinquish to the United States all my right and title to, and interest in the following described tract and legal subdivision of tract of land, (the payment of which has not been completed,) held by me and purchased in the District of Lands offered for sale at Cahaba

Purchased	Certificates of further credit	Land relinquished
26 Jany 1820	#1924; 1 Sept 1821	NE¼ Sec 34, Twp 22, Ran 13

"And request that the sums paid on account of the purchase money of said lands relinquished, be transferred and applied towards completing the payment of the following described tract and legal subdivision of a tract, of land not relinquished, (the payment of which has not been completed) held by me and purchased as aforesaid viz:

Purchased	Certificates of further credit	Land not relinquished
26 Jany 1820	#2240; 1 Sept 1821	SW¼ Sec 32, Twp 22, Ran 13

"In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 28 day of March 1825. In the presence of Alex. Pope, R.L.O." [signed] ***Edmond Baird***

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Relinquishment #987.

Comments:

- This document indicates that "Edmond Baird" signed this document himself. However, I am convinced that this document was actually signed by **William Beaird**, Edmond's son. In 1821 William had signed a land office document as the "attorney" of Edmond "Baird", and although the document was filed under the Baird surname, it was signed as "William Beaird". Well, the signature on this document is **identical** to William Beaird's signature and other handwriting, especially the "Baird" part of it. William Beaird made very distinctive upper-case "B" letters, and also very unique final "d" letters in his surname.
- The purpose of the above relinquishment records was to help erase the enormous debt owed to the government by Alabama settlers. The price at which the government sold this land between 1817 and 1820 was too high, and settlers could not afford to pay off their debts. This was one of the hottest debates in Congress during this period between the easterners and westerners, resulting in numerous laws passed for the relief of settlers. This particular law allowed for settlers to relinquish a part of their purchase back to the government. This reduced the settler's debt to the government by putting the money originally paid towards the payment of the land of which the settler chose to retain possession.

28 Mar 1825

Event: **William Beaird** (Baird) of Bibb County signed a declaration regarding his consent to an 1824 act of Congress regarding his debt to the United States resulting from his purchase of 160 acres of land in 1820:

"I William Baird of Bibb Co. do hereby declare my consent to the provisions of the act of Congress, passed…" 18 May 1824 *"entitled An act to provide for the extinguishment of the debt due to the United States, by the purchasers of Public Lands…an wishing to avail myself of the relief granted…I do hereby relinquish to the United States all my right and title to, and interest in the following described tract and legal subdivision of tract of land, (the payment of which has not been completed,) held by me and purchased in the District of Lands offered for sale at Cahaba*

Purchased	Certificates of further credit	Land relinquished
25 Jany 1820	#2066; 1 Sept 1821	E½ of NW¼ Sec 7, Twp 21, Ran 13

And request that the sums paid on account of the purchase money of said lands relinquished, be transferred and applied towards completing the payment of the following described tract…of land not relinquished, (the payment of which has not been completed) held by me and purchased as aforesaid viz:

Purchased	Certificates of further credit	Land not relinquished

25 Jany 1820	#2066; 1 Sept 1821	W½ of NW¼ Sec 7, Twp 21, Ran 13

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 28 day of March 1825. In the presence of Alex. Pope, R.L.O. [Receiver of Land Office] [signed] ***William Baird***"

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Relinquishment #984.

Comments:

- Note that this document was made at the Cahaba, Alabama Land Office on the same day that Edmond Beaird made several land transactions at the same land office. They undoubtedly traveled from Bibb County down to Cahaba in Dallas County on the Cahaba River together.
- William Beaird's signature was originally "Beaird," but the "e" and "a" have been written over by a larger "a" to make the signature "Baird." What presumably happened was that when the land was purchased in 1820, the surnames were written as "Baird" by the receiver at the Land Office. It would seem that this made it necessary for the name to be spelled "Baird" on the later records as well.
- If not already clear, the purpose of the above relinquishment records was to help erase the enormous debt owed to the government by Alabama settlers. The price at which the land was sold between 1817 and 1820 was too high, and settlers could not afford to pay off their debts. This was one of the hottest debates in Congress during this period, resulting in numerous laws passed for the relief of settlers. This particular law allowed for settlers to relinquish a part of their purchase back to the government. This reduced the settler's debt to the government by putting the money originally paid towards the payment of the land of which the settler chose to retain possession.

28 Mar 1825

Event: **Will Baird** of Cahaba County paid his debt of $182.48 to the United States government, the remainder due from him for 160 acres of land:

*"Received of **Will: Baird** Cahaba Co"* $182.48, *"which, together with the discount hereinafter stated and allowed… and the sum of $261.14 heretofore paid on land relinquished, is in full of the balance due or to become due on the"* W½ of NW¼ of Section 7, Township 21, Range 13 containing 79.73¾ acres, at the rate of $6.55 per acre. Purchased 25 January 1820, viz:

"Amount of principal due:	*$522.28*	
Interest due on $146.89 for 3 years, 6 months:	*$30.82*	
Total due:	*$553.10*	
Cash heretofore paid on land relinquished:	*$261.14*	
Discount on $291.96	*$109.48*	*$370.62*
Cash in full as above stated:	*$182.48"*	

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office, Receiver's Office #1984.

28 Mar 1825

Event: **William Baird** of Cahaba County paid off his account with the government for the land he first agreed to purchase in 1820, and he received his final certificate for the purchase of this 80-acre tract of government land.

*It is hereby certified, That pursuant to several Acts of Congress, providing for the Sale of the Public Lands of the United States, **Will: Baird of Cahaba Co**. did, at the date hereinafter specified, purchase of the Register of the Land Office aforesaid, the following described lands, viz: being the*

NW¼ of Section 7 Township 21 Range 13

*on which further credit has heretofore been granted, and to complete the payment due on the said land, **William Baird of Bibb Co**. has availed himself of the relief granted by the Act of Congress of the 18th May, 1824, entitled "An Act to provide for the extinguishments of the debt due to the United States by the purchasers of public lands." The account for said tract has, therefore, been finally settled and closed on the books of this office, as will more fully appear from the following statement, thereof…Now, therefore be it known, that on presenting this Certificate to the Commissioner of the General Land Office **William Baird of Bibb Co** shall be entitled to receive a patent for the land above described. Alex. Pope Register of the Land Office.*

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Final Certificate #1761. The statement given provides no interesting information not contained in the previous documents relating to this purchase. It merely reiterates that Beaird first bought 159.475 acres of land on credit on 25 Jan 1820 for $1044.56. At that time, he

paid $261.14 as his first installment. Due to his relinquishment and discounts, he was credited $522.28 on 28 March 1825, and received another discount of $109.48 on that same day. He paid $182.48 in cash to close the account.

29 June 1829

Event: **William Beaird** of Bibb County signed a declaration regarding his consent to an 1824 act of Congress regarding his debt to the United States resulting from his purchase of 240 acres of land in 1819 and 1820:

*"I **William Beaird of Bibb Co.** do hereby declare my consent to the provisions of the act of Congress, passed…" 2 March 1821 "entitled An act for the relief of the purchasers of the Public Lands, prior to the 1st day of July,1820, and wishing to avail myself of the relief granted…I do hereby relinquish to the United States all my right and title to, and interest in, the following described tract and legal subdivision of tract… of land, (the payment of which has not been completed,) held by me and purchased in the District of Lands offered for sale at Cahaba viz:*

Purchased	Certificates of further credit Surrendered	Land relinquished
26 Jan 1820 2 Novem 1819	#2972; 1 Sept 1821 #4351; 1 Sept 1821	E½ of SW¼ Sec 21, Twp 22, Ran 13 SE¼ of Section 7, Twp 7, Range 8

And request that the sums paid on account of the purchase money of said lands relinquished, be transferred and applied towards completing the payment of the following described tract…of land not relinquished, (the payment of which has not been completed) held by ____ [left blank] *and purchased as aforesaid, viz:*

Purchased	Certificates of further credit Surrendered	Land not relinquished
26 Jan 1820	#2972; 1 Sept 1821	W½ of SW¼ Sec 21, Twp 22, Ran 13

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 29 day of June 1829. In the presence of Alex. Pope, R.L.O. [Receiver of Land Office] [signed] ***William Beaird***

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Relinquishment #1480.

Comment: This is the only record indicating that William Beaird purchased land in the year 1819, and the 320 acres he bought on 2 November 1819 was quite a distance from Bibb County. I have found no other record of this government purchase from the National Archives, nor have I found a purchase of the other 160 acres he bought near his other farm in Bibb County. However, this is obviously the same William Beaird, as his signature is identical to the signature of Edmond Beaird's attorney in 1821 and to the signature on the letters to the U.S. War Department in the mid-1870s.

27 Mar 1830

Event: For $600, **William Beaird** sold 80 acres of land to **James Reid**, both of Bibb County. **Zilpha Beaird**, relinquished her rights of dower to the land:

The State of Alabama, Bibb County. Known all men by these presents that I Zilpha Beaird wife of the said William Beaird who has acknowledged & delivered the foregoing an annexed deed of Bargain and sale to James Reid… Do hereby relinquish all my right and title to dower in the lands conveyed in and by said deed in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the twenty seventh day of March in the year of our Lord one Thousand eight hundred and thirty.

Test: Benja. Beaird [signed] ***Zilpha X Beaird*** [her mark]
L. Kennedy

…Personally appeared before us Wm. R. Deshazo & Benjamin Beaird justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid the above named Zilpha Beaird wife of William Beaird who made the foregoing conveyance to James Reid and the Zilpha Beaird being examined by us separately and apart from her said husband acknowledged that she signed sealed and delivered the said foregoing relinquishment of Dower freely without any fear threats or compulsion of her said husband…

The land sold was described as the W½ of the NW¼ of Section 7, Township 21, Range 13, on the waters of Mulberry Creek. The land was *"entered by and patented in the name of the said **William Beaird.**"*

Witnesses: **W. R. Deshazo** and **L. Kennedy**.

Benjamin Beaird and **William R. Deshazo** served as the officiating Justices of the Peace.

Reference: Bibb Co AL Deed Book A, pp. 95 – 97.

May 1831

Event: **William Beaird** was a member of a jury to "make and lay out a road as contemplated to commence at Maplesville, thence in a direction to Prices Living on the line of Shelby County, to intersect the road leading from Thence to Columbia in Shelby County."

Reference: Bibb County AL Minutes of the Commissioner's Court, 1828-1831, p. 77.

30 June 1831

Event: A patent order was issued for 80 acres of land purchased in 1820 by **William Baird** of Cahaba Co, now in the possession of **James Reid** of Bibb County. On 25 January 1820, William "Baird" of Cahaba County bought 79.74 acres at $6.55 per acre, described as the

E½ of the NW¼ of Section 7, Township 21, Range 13.

The document states that

> *James Reid of Bibb Co (Assignee of the possession from William Baird, the original purchaser & relinquisher) has availed himself of the provisions of the Second Section of the Act of Congress of the 25th February, 1831, entitled An Act supplementary to the Act of the 31st March, 1830 entitled 'An Act for the relief of the Purchasers of Public Lands, and for the suppression of Fraudulent Practices at the Public Sales of the Lands of the United States' and has made payment in full for the said Lands, as will more fully appear from the following statement…*

James Reid paid $130.52 cash on 30 June 1831 for this land.

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office PreEmption Final Certificate #3869.

Comment: The legal description of this land indicates that it adjoined the 80 acres William and Zilpha Beaird had sold James Reid the year before, on 27 March 1830. As "William Baird" of Cahaba County originally purchased this land from the government in 1820, these documents prove that this man was actually William Beaird, the husband of Zilpha Dunn Beaird.

14 Aug 1832

Event: **William Beard** of Bibb County, Alabama witnessed the signature of Jonathan Clower on his application for a pension based upon his Revolutionary War service.

Reference: Revolutionary War Pension Application file of Jonathan Clower

1 Oct 1832

Event: **William Beard** of Bibb County, Alabama bought 40.11 acres of government land for $50.14. The land was described as the

NE¼ of NW¼ of Section 28, Township 22, Range 13

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office, Cash Entry #13031.

17 Dec 1832

Event: **Edmund Beard** of Bibb County, Alabama bought 40.07 acres of government land. He paid $50.09 for 40.07 acres of land, described as the

NW¼ of NE¼ of Section 5, Township 21, Range 13

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office, Cash Entry #14223.

Dec 1832

Event: **William Beaird** was a member of a jury to "review a road from State road near John Wilson's, thence East to intersect Coosa Valley road, near Coker's Old Camp meeting ground." The court ordered the jury to mark out the road as they saw proper and report to the next court.

Reference: Bibb County AL Minutes of the Commissioner's Court, 1828-1831, pp. 117 – 118.

25 April 1834

Event: **Benjamin Beaird** of Bibb County sold 80.14 acres of land in Bibb County to **Phillip J. Weaver** of Dallas County for $250.

Witnesses: **Wm. Tredwell**, **William Beaird**

Reference: Bibb County AL Deed Book B, pp. 149–150.

9 Dec 1834

Event: **Edmund Beard** of Bibb County, Alabama bought 40.07 acres of government land. He paid $50.09 for 40.07 acres of land, described as the

SW¼ of NE¼ of Section 5, Township 21, Range 13

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office, Cash Entry #20465.

9 Dec 1834

Event: **William Beard** of Bibb County, Alabama bought 40.11 acres of government land for $50.14. The land was described as the

NW¼ of SE¼ of Section 28, Township 22, Range 13

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office, Cash Entry #20466.

27 June 1836

Event: **William Beard** of Bibb County, Alabama bought 80.16 acres of government land for $100.20. The land was described as the

E½ of SW¼ of Section 21, Township 22, Range 13

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office, Cash Entry #30153.

Jan 1838

Event: **William Beard** appointed guardian Ad Litum (?) of the minor heirs of **Aquippa Atkinson**, deceased: **Julian**, **Harriett**, & **Caroline Atkinson**:

> *This day came **William Riggins** by **Lewis Kennedy** his attorney and presented a petition as executor of the last will and testament of **Aquippa Atkinson** deceased showing that the said **Aquippa Atkinson** deceased by his last will & testament Devised unto **Julian Atkinson**, **Harriett Atkinson** & **Carolina Atkinson** so much of his lands as he died seized & possessed of in fee simple as is situated & lies between the North line of **Littleton Rigginses** land and the forks of Jackson's Road running through the lands of **Aquippa Atkinson** decd. and near the late residence of said **Aquippa Atkinson** Decd. and that an equal division can not be made without a sale of the aforesaid lands & it appearing to the court that the said **Julian Atkinson**, **Harriett Atkinson** & **Carolina Atkinson** are minors under the age of twenty one years It is therefore ordered by the Court that **William Beaird** be & he is hereby appointed…guardian ad litum (?) of the said minors to defend herein. It is therefore ordered by the court that a citation issue to the sheriff commanding him to cite & notify the said **William Bearid** personally to be & appear before the Honorable the Judge of Bibb County Court at a sitting & return ___?___ of processes to be held at the Court House the seat of Justice for said county on the first Monday of March next then and there to shew cause why a commission should not be appointed to sell said lands to make division & distribution of the lands amongst the heirs aforesaid…*

The Bibb County sheriff, **Edward Lee**, returned the citation to court issued to **William Beaird**, and **William Beaird**, **Sinclair D. McCary**, and **James Davenport** were appointed commissioners to sell the land at public auction the highest bidder after first giving 40 days notice of such sale.

Reference: Bibb County AL Orphan's Court Minutes, pp. 185 – 187.

6 Feb 1838

Event: **Lucky N. Pearce** and **Sarah Beaird** in Bibb County, Alabama by **A. Whatley**, J.P.

Reference: Bibb County AL Marriage Book D, p. 88.

27 Feb 1842

Event: **Edmond Beaird** of Bibb County, Alabama gives his slaves **Kizziah** and her child **Davie** to his grandson **Jesse M. Connell** to be held in trust for his daughter **Sarah Connell**:

I Edmond Beaird… for and in consideration of the love and affection which I have for my Daughter Sarah Connell do this day grant unto my Grand Son Jesse M. Connell in trust for the sole benefit and use of my Daughter a Negro woman by the name of Kissiah and her Child Davie and her increase the Negro woman is about twenty one years old and her Child Davie is an infant to have and to hold the said Negroes to her and her heirs forever…

Witnesses: **David E. Davis**

Reference: Autauga County AL Deed Book D2, p. 9. Edmond Beaird made his mark to the transaction.

29 Mar 1843

Event: **Stephen Dunn** of Bibb County, Alabama gave slaves to his grandson **John W. Beard** for the use of Dunn's daughter **Zilpha Beaird**:

*State of Alabama, Bibb County. Know all men by these presents that I **Stephen Dunn** of the County and State aforesaid for and in consideration of the Love and affection that I have for my daughter **Zilphia Beaird** do this Day Grant unto my Grand Son **John W. Beard** in trust for the Sol* [sic] *Benefit and use of my Daughter forever certain negres* [sic] *to wit: **Ginney** a woman about twenty three years old **Randal** a Boy about three years old **Lizar** a Girl about two years old **David** a boy about one year old to have and to hold the said Negroes to her and her heirs forever. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this the 29th day of March 1843…*

Witness: **David C. Davis**

Reference: Bibb County AL Deed Book E, pp. 263 –264 and Union Par LA Deed Book A-1, pp. 54 – 55.

Comment: On the Bibb County, Alabama version, her name was spelled *"Zilphy Beaird,"* but the Union Parish version had it as *"Zilphia."*

23 Jan 1845

Event: **Edmond Beaird** of Bibb County, Alabama gave his slave **Tamsy** to his daughter **Amy Tucker** and, after her death, to Amy's youngest sons **Daniel Tucker** and **Francis Tucker**.

I Edmond Beaird… for and in consideration of the natural Love & affection which I have to my Daughter Amy Tucker have given and granted… unto the said Amy Tucker for her use and benefit during her natural Life and not to be subject to her husbands debts a certain Negro girl named Tamsy and her Increase and after the death of my daughter Amy Tucker I do give and grant the said Negro girl and her Increase to her two youngest sons forever Daniel Tucker and Francis Tucker for Themselves and their heirs for ever against the claim of him the said Edmond Beaird…

Witnesses: **James Whatley**, **Wiley Whatley**

Reference: Bibb County AL Deed Book F, pp. 14–15. Edmond Beaird made his mark to the transaction.

20 Oct 1845

Event: **Riley Agerton** and **Martin Giles** posted bond to Alabama Governor **Benjamin Fitzpatrick** to secure a marriage license for **Riley Agerton** and **Susannah Beaird**. The marriage was officiated on 23 October 1845 by **J. D. McCary**, a justice of the peace.

Reference: Bibb County AL Marriage Book D, p. 324.

7 Feb 1846

Event: **Edmond Beaird** of Bibb County, Alabama sold land to **Sinclair D. McCary**, also of Bibb. For $42, Beaird sold McCary 14 acres of land described as

…being subdivided from Edmond Beairds quarter Section it being the East End of" E½ of SE¼ of Section 31, Township 22 Range 13 East "and also a Small Part of Section 32 it being laid off the North End of Both quarter Sections…

Witnesses: **David E. Davis**

Reference: Bibb County AL Deed Book F, pp. 97–98. Edmond Beaird made his mark to the transaction.

22 Aug 1846

Event: **Edmond Beaird** (Baird) of Bibb County, Alabama again legally gives his female slave **Kizziah** and her children **Davie**, **Abram**, and **July** to his grandson **Jesse M. Connell** to be held in trust for **Beaird's** daughter **Sarah Connell**:

I Edmond Beaird… for and in consideration of the love and affaction [sic*] that I have for Sarah Connell do this day Grant unto my Grand Son Jesse M. Connell in Trust for the sole benefit and use of my daughter a negro woman by the name of Kizziah and her three children the first by the name of Davie about five years old the next named Abram about three years old the next a Girl child named July about one year old and all their future Increase to have and to hold the said negro to her and to her bodily heirs forever…*

Witnesses: **Daniel Ward**

Reference: Bibb County AL Deed Book F, pp. 157–158 and Autauga County AL Deed Book DE, p. 39. Edmond Beaird made his mark to the transaction.

Comments:

1. This deed was recorded in both counties, but the clerks made different interpretations of the record when recording it. The above transcription is from Bibb; the Autauga clerk included the words "my daughter" before the first instance of Sarah's name, and he also recorded and filed this document under the surname "Baird" rather than the correct "Beaird."
2. This is the second time Edmond Beaird gave Kizziah to his daughter Sarah Connell – see the document above dated 27 Feb 1842.

16 Mar 1848

Event: **Edmond Beard** (Baird) again sells land to **Sinclair D. McCary**, both of Bibb County, Alabama. For $200, Beaird sold McCary 94 acres of land described as the

E½ of SE¼ of Section 31, Township 22, Range 13 and also "a part" of the SE¼ of Section 31, "it lying on the west side of Said Section containing fourteen acres…"

Witnesses: **William P. Cobb**

Reference: Bibb County AL Deed Book F, pp. 303–304. Edmond Beaird made his mark to the transaction.

Comment: Edmond Beaird had already sold McCary 14 acres earlier – see the document dated 7 Feb 1846. The descriptions make it appear as though Beaird was now selling a different 14 acres.

29 Jan 1850

Event: **Edmond Beaird** of Bibb County, Alabama sold 136 acres of land to **Minor Wooley** of Bibb County for $325. The land sold was described as "…the Lands Lying on the West side of Mulbey [sic] Creek in the…" NW¼ of Section 5, Township 21, Range 13. The recording clerk indicated that Beaird made his mark to the deed. Following the deed, Beaird added this item:

The meeting house known as the Mulbery [sic] Church and a lot of ground around the same imposed [sic] to near one fourth part of an acre is not to be considered in this deed as sold as I give that up to the Church this 29th day of January 1850.

Test: David E. Davis [signed] ***Edmond X Beaird*** [his mark]

Witnesses: **David E. Davis**

Reference: Bibb County AL Deed Book G, pp. 26–27.

Comment: This is the last record of Edmond Beaird recorded in Bibb County, Alabama. On the 1850 census, he was living in Autauga County with his daughter Sarah Beaird Connell. He supposedly died in 1851, but no record has been located in either Bibb or Autauga Counties to confirm his date of death.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Beaird Records in Union Parish, Louisiana

1846–1907

In this section, I have abstracted or transcribed all known Union Parish court records of William and Zilpha Beaird and their relatives, including their children and their spouses as well as several of their grandchildren.

29 Mar 1843

Event: **Stephen Dunn** of Bibb County, Alabama gave four slaves to his grandson **John W. Beard** for the use of Dunn's daughter **Zilpha Beaird**. **Dunn** gave his daughter his female slave **Ginney** aged 23 and her three children, **Randall** aged 3, **Lizar** aged 2, and **David** aged 1.

Witness: **David C. Davis**

Reference: Bibb Co AL Deed Book E, pp. 263 –264 and Union Par LA Deed Book A-1, pp. 54 – 55.

Comments:

- On the Bibb Co AL version, her name was spelled "Zilphy Beaird," but the Union Parish version had "Zilphia."
- Although there was no date on the Union Parish version to indicate when this deed was recorded there, William and Zilphia Beaird must have had it recorded as soon as they moved to Union Parish Louisiana.

1844 – 1846

Event: **William Beaird** and his family began moving from Bibb County, Alabama to Union Parish Louisiana in this period. William Beaird's sons and son-in-law made the following statements on their Louisiana Confederate Pension Applications in answer to the question: *How long have you been a resident of the State of Louisiana next preceding the date of this application? Where have you resided during that period?"*

Stephen J. Beaird on 3 Oct 1898:
I have lived continuously in the State of Louisiana since the year 1844.

William Beaird, Jr. on 20 Dec 1907:
Since the year 1846. resided in Union Parish the greater part of the time.

Riley Agerton on 28 Sept 1898:
I have resided in La. nearly 53 years, near Farmerville, La.

Reference: Louisiana Confederate Pension Applications of Stephen J. Beaird, William Beaird, and Riley Agerton on file with the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Comment: Agerton's statement of "nearly 53 years" on 28 Sept 1898 suggests that he moved to Union Parish shortly after his marriage in Bibb County, Alabama in October 1845. This matches William Beaird, Jr.'s statement as well. Either Stephen J. Beaird got the year mixed up, or else he came to Louisiana to find appropriate farmland on which to settle prior to the entire family's moving to Louisiana.

19 Mar 1847

Event: **William Beaird** bought two tracts of land in Union Parish from **Thomas Van hook** as agent for **William C. Dozier** of Alabama:

> *I **Thos. Vanhook**… acting as agent for **William Dozier**… being orthorised* [sic] *and empowored* [sic] *by Said Dozier… for his power of Atorney* [sic] *dated on the 19th day of March 1846… have for and in consideration of eight hundred Dollars ther* [sic] *of paid in hand money on the Bank in the State of Alabama and One hundred to be due and to be paid on the first day of march 1848 and two Hundred Dollars therof* [sic] *to be paid on the first day of March 1849 for which Said Amount promissary* [sic] *Notes are maid* [sic] *and delivered have barganed* [sic] *Sold Transferred and delivered… to **William Beaird** of said Parish…*

The land Beaird bought was described as originally purchased from the government in Receipts #7193, 7194 and was the

NE¼ of Section 11, Township 21, Range 2 East [sic – West] (158.25 acres)
NE¼ & W½ of the NE¼ of Section 12, Township 21, Range 2 West (237.87 acres)

Witness: **Henry Reganburg**, **H. R. Bryan**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book A-1, pp. 101 – 102.

Comment: The deed lists the first tract as being in Range 2 **East**, but this is obviously a recording error. When Beaird sold this tract of land on 28 April 1854 (see the deed below), it was described as being in Range 2 **West**.

23 Apr 1850

Event: **William D. Regan** as principal and **Joseph D. Regan** as his security went on a $2500 bond to secure a marriage of W. D. Regan and **Nancy C. Beard**. The marriage was performed on 30 April 1850 by D. M. Harris, J.P.

Witnesses: **Joseph D. Regan**, **C. C. Smith**

Reference: Union Par LA Marriage Book 1, p. 49.

Comment: Joseph D. Regan was the first cousin of William D. Regan, and Daniel M. Harris was the husband of Sarah Ann Regan, also William D. Regan's first cousin: he married Joseph D. Regan's sister Sarah A. Regan.

1 May 1850

Event: **John W. Beaird** was married to **Miss Martha Ann Regan** by Justice of the Peace D. M. Harris.

Witnesses: **Joseph D. Regan**

Reference: Union Par LA Marriage Book 1, p. 64.

Comment: Martha Ann Regan was the sister of William D. Regan, and of course John W. Beaird was the son of William and Zilphia Dunn Beaird. Note that William D. Regan married Nancy C. Beaird on 30 April 1850, and the very next day, Martha A. Regan married John D. Beaird. Both couples were married by their first cousin Daniel M. Harris.

26 Oct 1850

Event: **William D. Regan** of Union Parish Louisiana purchased 39.93 acres of land in Union Parish Louisiana:

> *"I, William D. Regan, being desirous of locating the"* NW¼ of NW¼ of Section 29, Township 22, Range 1 West *"in the District of Lands subject to sale at the Land Office at Monroe, La with the attached Military Land Warrant Certificate, No. 4460 issued under the provisions of the ninth Section of the Act of Congress, approved February 11th, 1847, do solemnly Swear that from my own knowledge of the fact, after actual inspection of the said tract of land, on or about the 24th day of October A.D. 1850, there was not at that time an actual settlement and cultivation upon any part of said land, except my own – nor was there any person or persons residing upon it; except myself & family – And I do verily believe that there is no actual settlement and cultivation except as above Stated or any person or persons residing upon any part of said land at this time except as above Stated.* [signed]
> ***William D. Regan"***

James Martin assigned his right and title to the land warrant to **William D. Regan** for an unspecified sum paid by Regan on 26 June 1849.

Reference: Monroe, Louisiana Government Land Office, Land Warrant #4460, Register and Receiver's #933. This land warrant was issued on 5 May 1849 by the government's General Land Office to Private **James Martin** of Captain Stewart's Company, 6th Regiment of Louisiana Volunteers, as per the act of 11 Feb 1847.

Comments:

- This document provides a sample of the original signature of William D. Regan.
- To raise an army to fight Mexico in 1847, the United States government gave every soldier a land warrant of 160 acres redeemable at any government land office. Martin redeemed his warrant at the Monroe Land Office and sold his 40 acres to William D. Regan. The transaction was a private one between Regan and Martin, so no record of the price is included in this record. But the land was patented to William D. Regan as the "assignee" of Private James Martin.

26 Oct 1850

Event: **William D. Regan** of Union Parish Louisiana purchased 39.93 acres of land in Union Parish Louisiana. This document is nearly identical to the previous document, except that the land warrant

was issued to Sergeant **Henry J. Bruce** of Company K, 1st Regiment Louisiana Volunteers, dated 5 June 1850. Regan again swore that he personally inspected the land on 24 Oct 1850, and that there was no cultivation on it save his own nor was anyone residing on the land except for him and his family. He purchased the

SW¼ of NW¼ of Section 29, Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Private **Henry J. Bruce** assigned his right and title to this 40 acres of land to **William D. Regan** on 20 June 1850.

James Martin assigned his right and title to the land warrant to **William D. Regan** for an unspecified sum paid by Regan on 26 June 1849.

Reference: Monroe, Louisiana Government Land Office, Land Warrant #5830, Register and Receiver's #932.

5 Nov 1851

Event: **William Beaird** bought land from **J. E. Jones**, administrator of the estate of **Martha Brown**. Beaird purchased the 40-acre tract of land that had been the residence of Martha Brown for $190. The land was described as the

SE¼ of NE¼ of Section 32, Township 22 North, Range One West

For payment, Beaird issued a "promissory Note payable on the first of March 1852 to said Administrator the said J. E. Jones…"

Witness: **John Reid**, **Thos. W. Ryesinger**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book D, p. 557.

28 Apr 1854

Event: **William Beaird** sold land to **George A. Killgore**, both of Union Parish Louisiana. For $1400, Beaird sold two tracts of land to Killgore. The first tract consisted of 237.84 acres described as the

NW¼ & W½ of the NE¼ of Section 12, Township 21, Range 2 West.

The second tract was 158.25 acres described as the

NE¼ of Section 11, Township 21, Range 2 West

Witness: **R. F. Rabun**, **S. L. Beaird**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book 23, p. 88.

Comment: The second witness was almost certainly supposed to be ***S. J. Beaird***, who was William Beaird's son Stephen Jackson Beaird. This deed was recorded in 1910, some 56 years after it was made, and it was typed when recorded from the original document.

24 Oct 1854

Event: **William Beard** purchased government land in Union Parish Louisiana at the Monroe, Louisiana Land Office. He bought 119.86 acres of land for $59.93. The land was described as

SW¼ of NE¼, SE¼ of NW¼, NW¼ of SE¼, all in Section 32, Township 22, Range 1 West

To make this purchase, Beaird was required to sign an affidavit concerning land he already owned. Throughout this record, his name was spelled "Beard", and he signed this affidavit as "**William Beard**", without an 'i' in his surname. This record was signed before William Thurman, Register of the Monroe Land Office on 24 Oct 1854.

> *I, William Beard, claiming the right of pre-emption under the provisions of the Act of Congress, entitled "An Act to graduate and reduce the price of the public lands to actual settlers and cultivators", approved August 4th, 1854…do solemnly swear that I am entering the above described land for the use of an adjoining farm owned and occupied by myself and together with said entry I have not acquired from the United States, under the provisions of this Act, more than Three Hundred and Twenty Acres, according to the established surveys;* [signed] ***William Beard***

Reference: Monroe, Louisiana Government Land Office, Cash Entry #13995.

Comment: This tract of land is the location of Zion Hill Cemetery and Zion Hill Baptist Church.

24 Oct 1854

Event: **Riley Agerton** purchased government land in Union Parish Louisiana at the Monroe, Louisiana Land Office. He bought 79.88 acres of land for $39.94. The land was described as

SE¼ of NE¼, NE¼ of SE¼, all in Section 29, Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Reference: Monroe, Louisiana Government Land Office, Cash Entry #13996.

8 Sept 1855

Event: **William D. Ragan** (sic – Regan) purchased 40 acres of government land in Union Parish Louisiana at the Monroe, Louisiana Land Office for $20. The land was described as

NE¼ of NW¼ of Section 29, Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Reference: Monroe, Louisiana Government Land Office, Cash Entry #15891.

13 May 1857

Event: **Stephen J. Beard** purchased government land in Union Parish Louisiana at the Monroe, Louisiana Land Office. He bought 79.80 acres of land for $19.97. The land was described as

N½ of NE¼ of Section 32, Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Reference: Monroe, Louisiana Government Land Office, Cash Entry #17159.

Comment: There is no record of Stephen J. Beaird or anyone in his family owning this land after 1865. He must have sold it without the deed ever being recorded.

5 Oct 1857

Event: **Riley Agerton** purchased government land in Union Parish Louisiana at the Monroe, Louisiana Land Office. He bought 119.94 acres of land for $29.99. The land was described as

SW¼ of NW¼ & NW¼ of SW¼, all in Section 28, and the
SE¼ of SE¼ of Section 29, all in Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Reference: Monroe, Louisiana Government Land Office, Cash Entry #17580.

14 Dec 1857

Event: **Sarah Pearce** petitioned the 12th District Judicial Court for Union Parish to be appointed tutor for her children, the minor heirs of **Lucky N. Pearce**, deceased. She stated:

> *Your petitioner **Sarah Pearce** a resident of your said Parish of Union State of Louisiana respectfully represents unto your Hon. Court that her husband **Lucky N. Pearce** late a resident of your said Parish and State departed this life sometime in the month of [blank] 1855 intestate leaving a small Estate also leaving the following minor children the issue of the marriage of your petitioner with the said **Lucky N. Pearce** decd. To Wit: **Martha J.**, **William W.**, **Enoch J.**, **Wiley N.**, **Stephen R. Pearce**. Petitioner represents that no Tutor has been appointed to represent said minors. She avers that it is to the interest of said minors to have a Tutor & Under Tutor appointed Wherefore she prays that your Honor confirm & appoint her natural Tutrix to said minors and that **S. W. Ramsey** be appointed under Tutor…* ***Sarah*** **X** Pearce [her mark]

The court ordered Sarah Pearce appointed Natural Tutrix to the heirs and that S. W. Ramsey be appointed under Tutor.

Reference: Union Par LA Succession Book O, pp. 463 – 466.

8 Mar 1858

Event: **William D. Regan** purchased 120 acres of government land in Union Parish Louisiana at the Monroe, Louisiana Land Office for $30. The land was described as

SE¼ of NW¼ and NW¼ of SW¼ of Section 29, and the
NE¼ of SE¼ of Section 30, all in Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Regan signed an affidavit stating that he was purchasing this new government land as an adjoining farm to one he currently owned (W½ of NW¼, NE¼ of NW¼ of Section 29, Township 22 North,

Range 1 West). On his current farm, he had 36 acres in cultivation, besides a dwelling house and other appurtenances.

Reference: Monroe, Louisiana Government Land Office, Cash Entry #17883.

5 Jan 1859

Event: **John W. Beard** purchased government land in Union Parish Louisiana at the Monroe, Louisiana Land Office. He bought 79.88 acres of land. The land was described as…

Reference: Monroe, Louisiana Government Land Office, Cash Entry #19487.

18 July 1860

Event: **John W. Beaird** sold **William Beaird**, **Senior** 120 acres of land for $210. The land was in Union Parish and was described as follows:

NE¼ of NE¼ in Section 31
SE¼ of SE¼ of Section 30
SW¼ of NW¼ of Section 32, all in Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Both John W. Beaird and William Beaird signed their names to the deed.

Witness: **Riley Agerton**, **Wm. D. Regan**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book M, p. 476.

Comment: The deed was signed on 18 July 1860. On 1 September 1869, before W. C. Smith, recorded of deeds for Union Parish, **Wm. D. Regan** appeared and

> …on oath deposeth that he saw the vendor & vendee to the within deed sign the same for the purposes therein mentioned and that he signed it himself as a witness & saw his cowitness sign and that all the signatures thereto are genuine…

20 Oct 1866

Event: **William Beaird** bought 240 acres of land from **Denisa A. Aycock** for $250. The land was described as the

SW¼ of Section 28 in Township 23 North, Range 3 West and the
N½ of NW¼ of Section 33 in Township 23 North, Range 3 West

Witness: **Wm. H. Ponder**, **Isaac Rabun/Raburn**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book N, pp. 496 – 497.

Comment: Tax records verify that William Beaird, Jr. was the man purchasing this 240 acres of land. Isaac Rabun was William Beaird, Jr.'s brother-in-law, the brother of Beaird's wife Hannah L. Rabun Beaird.

24 Dec 1867

Event: **John W. Beaird** sold 200 acres of land to **Richard F. Rabun** for $400. The land was described as the

SE¼ of SW¼, SW¼ of SW¼, and the NE¼ of SW¼ all in Section 29, and the
N½ of NW¼ of Section 32, all in Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book N, p. 515.

Witnesses: **Stephen J. Beaird**, **William Beaird, Sr.**

27 Oct 1868

Event: **John W. Beaird** bought 320 acres of land from **E. H. Hardin** for $600. The land was described as the

NE¼ and the E½ of NW¼ of Section 4, Township 22 North, and the
E½ of SE¼ of Section 33 in Township 23 North, all in Range 2 West

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book N, p. 116.

19 Dec 1868

Event: **John W. Beaird** bought 200 acres of land from **William H. Lowe**, administrator of the Estate of **Henry D. Lowe** for $225. The land was described as the

N½ of SW¼ and the SE¼ of SW¼ of Section 3, and the
N½ of SE¼ and the SE¼ of SE¼ of Section 4 in Township 22 North, Range 2 West

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book M, p. 324.

25 Jan 1869

Event: **John W. Beaird** sold 40 acres of land to **Samuel W. Cobb** for $65. The land was described as the

NW¼ of SE¼ of Section 4 in Township 22 North, Range 2 West

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book N, p. 1.

1 Sept 1869

Event: **William Beaird**, **Sen**. sold land to **Stephen J. Beaird**, **Elizabeth Beaird**, and **William A. Jones**, a minor. For $300, William Beaird sold 320 acres in Union Parish described as follows:

SW¼ of Section 32
SE¼ of NW¼ of Section 32
NE¼ of NE¼ of Section 31
SE¼ of SE¼ of Section 30
SW¼ of NW¼ of Section 32, all in Township 22 North of Range One West

Witness: **J. R. Booles**, **M. L. McFarland**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book M, p. 477.

Comments:

- William Beaird Sr. and S. J. Beaird signed their names to this deed, whereas Elizabeth Beaird made her mark to it.
- On the same day that the deed was signed, J. R. Booles appeared before W. C. Smith, Union Parish Recorder, and after being sworn, *"…deposeth that he saw Wm. Beaird Sr. & Stephen J. Beaird & Elizabeth Beaird whose signatures appear to the within Deed sign the same for the purposes therein mentioned (Elizabeth Beaird signing by making her ordinary mark) and that he signed it himself as a witness…"*

26 Oct 1869

Event: **J. R. Booles** sold 120 acres of land to **Enoch J. Pierce** for $200. The land was described as the

NE¼ of SW¼ and the SE¼ of SW¼ of Section 19 and
NE¼ of NW¼ of Section 30, both in Township 22, Range 1 West

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book M, p. 539.

Witness: **John F. Peterson**, **S. J. Beaird**

Comment: Enoch J. Pierce was the son of Lucky Pierce and Sarah Beaird, making him the grandson of William Beaird, Sr. He is the only one of the Pierce sons to have left any record in Union Parish following the close of the war.

7 Jan 1870

Event: **J. W. Beaird** sold 240 acres of land to **G. L. McCowin** for $500. The land was described as the

NE¼ and the E½ of NW¼ of Section 4 in Township 22 North, Range 2 West

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book N, p. 89.

8 Aug 1870

Event: **Stephen J. Beaird**, **Elizabeth Beaird**, and **William A. Jones** (a minor) of Union Parish Louisiana bought land from **Simpson W. Ramsey** of Union Parish, acting in the capacity of agent and attorney for **Martha H. Ramsey** of Arkansas. Ramsey sold the Beairds and Jones 160 acres of land in Union Parish for $416 (paid by a note to Martha Ramsey), described as follows:

E½ of Section 31 (except for the NE¼ of NE¼)
SE¼ of SW¼ of Section 31, in Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Witness: **Jesse Boatright**, **B. Franklin Tubb**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book N, p. 197.

10 Nov 1870

Event: **Riley Agerton** bought land from **Martha M. Tabor**, the wife of **Sterling C. Lee**. For $500, Martha M. Tabor Lee sold Agerton 140 acres of land in Union Parish described as follows:

E½ of SW¼, and the SW¼ of SW¼ of SW¼, and the
S½ of NW¼ of SW¼ of Section 28, all in Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Witness: **E. J. Lee**, **J. C. Manning**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book N, p. 274.

25 Nov 1871

Event: **Riley Agerton** joined Liberty Hill Primitive Baptist Church by *experience of grace* at the church conference held after services on this Saturday.

Reference: Liberty Hill Primitive Baptist Church minutes, 1870 – 1877.

8 Dec 1871

Event: **William D. Regan** purchased 80 acres of land from the estate of **John B. Burford**, deceased, at a public auction conducted by **John M. Lee**, sheriff of Union Parish on Monday, 27 Nov 1871, "at the late residence of John B. Burford…after reading in a loud voice to those present…I proceeded to offer at public outcry the following property…"

Regan purchased two 40-acre tracts of land at $4.00 each, described as

SE¼ of SW¼ & SW¼ of SW¼ of Section 20, Township 22 North, Range 1 West.

Regan also purchased one old horse mill for $5.00

Witness: **Jno. L. Barrett**, **A. F. Lott**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book O, p. 53.

1871 – 1874

Event: The Estate of **Thomas D. Jones** and his wife **S. Jane Beaird** was settled in Union Parish Louisiana, including the guardianship of their minor son **William A. Jones**. The records are quoted precisely below:

26 Dec 1871 – Stephen J. Beaird files a petition through his attorney J. E. Trimble as follows:

> *The petition of Stephen J. Beaird a resident of your said Parish of Union & State of Louisiana would respectfully represent that about the year 1859 Thomas D. Jones was legally married to S. Jane Beaird the sister of your petitioner. That William Absolom Jones a minor was the issue of said marriage. That both Thomas D. Jones and his wife S. Jane Beaird are now dead and at the time of their decease were residents of the aforesaid Parish & State. Your petitioner further represents that there are certain rights and credits belonging to the said minor William A. Jones and that it is necessary that a tutor and undertutor be appointed by your honorable Court with the advise and consent of a family meeting. Wherefore your petitioner prays that a family meeting be Convoked to advise and ___?___ relative to the interests of said minor and to recommend a tutor and undertutor. That said family meeting consist of the following relatives and friends to wit: S. J. Beaird, Wm. Beaird, Jr., John W. Beaird, E. J. Pierce, Wm. D. Reagan, J. N. Boatright and Jesse Boatright… And further than an inventory of the property of said Minor be made…*
>
> *In response to the petition, Parish Judge T. B. Tompkins ordered the prayer of the petitioner be granted and that a family meeting be held and inventory be made.*

30 Dec 1871 – Family meeting held to consider the affairs of the minor William A. Jones.

- *I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and impartially give my advise [sic] and recommend with regard to the appointment of a Tutor and under Tutor for the minor William A. Jones to the best of my Judgment and information so help me God…*
  W. C. Smith, Recorder [signed] ***S. J. Beaird***
  W. D. Regan
  E. J. Pierce
  Jesse Boatright

John N. Boatright

- *Be it remembered that pursuant to an order issued by his Honor T. B. Tompkins Parish Judge authorizing and commanding me to Convoke a family meeting for the purpose of advising and recommending with regard to the appointment of a Tutor and under tutor for the minor William A. Jones, I caused to come before me at my office in the town in the capacity of a Family Meeting the following named persons, Stephen J. Beaird, William D. Regan, Enoch J. Pearce, Jesse Boatright and John N. Boatright relatives and friends of said minor William A. Jones and the said parties being first duly sworn by me the according to Law proceeded to deliberate and advise and recommend… and after mature deliberation they advise and recommend that Stephen J. Beaird be appointed Tutor and John W. Beaird under Tutor for said minor Wm. A. Jones in complying with the requirements of law in such case provided. And they further recommend that one hundred and twenty acres of the tract of Land in which said minor has an undivided 1/3 interest be sold and that Stephen J. Beaird in his official capacity as Tutor be authorized to make the sale on such terms as in his Judgment he may think to the interest of said minor. In testimony whereof I have caused said family to sign this process verbal on this 30th day of December AD 1871 in presence of J. E. Trimble and R. C. Webb witnesses called for the purpose.*

  Attest: [signed] ***S. J. Beaird***
  J. E. Trimble ***W. D. Regan***
  R. C. Webb ***E. J. Pierce***
  Jesse Boatright
  W. C. Smith, Recorder ***John N. Boatright***

- Jesse Boatright and Enoch J. Pierce were appointed to appraise the property of William A. Jones. The property belonging to the said minor was as follows:

  - The minor owned an undivided one third interest in the 320 acre tract of land described as the

    SW¼, SE¼ of NW¼, SW¼ of NW¼ all in Section 32, NE¼ of NE¼ of Section 31, and the SE¼ of SE¼ of Section 30, all in Township 22 North, Range 1 West.

  - The minor owned the entire 160 acre tract of land lying east, south, and southeast of the Creek known as Horse Trough Creek described as the

    E½ of Section 31 (except the NE¼ of NE¼) and the SE¼ of SW¼ of Section 31, Township 22 Range 1 West

  The land was valued at $1.50 per acre making the sum of $340 belonging to William A. Jones. The inventory was signed by Jesse Boatright and E. J. Pierce and witnessed by D. C. Morrison and John N. Boatright.

2 Jan 1872 – Judge T. B. Tompkins appoints S. J. Beaird Tutor and John W. Beaird under tutor to the minor William A. Jones. He ordered the proceedings of the family meeting be approved and homologated according to law, and that the land be sold as advised in the family meeting.

29 June 1872 – Stephen J. Beaird and John W. Beaird took their official oaths as tutor and under tutor for Wm. A. Jones, heir of Thomas D. Jones. Stephen J. Beaird posted bond of $500 to Parish Judge T. B. Tompkins to secure the fulfillment of his duties as tutor to William A. Jones. William D. Regan was the security for the bond.

10 Jan 1874 – Stephen J. Beaird files a petition to hold a family meeting to decide about selling land of William A. Jones. Note that the clerk spelled the surname ***Beard*** throughout this record:

To the Honorable the Judge of the Parish Court of Union Parish State of Louisiana. The petition of Stephen J. Beard (Tutor of Wm. A. Jones a minor) resident of Union Parish aforesaid and of Elizabeth Beard of the same residence respectfully shows that the said minor is Joint owner with S. J. Beard [and] Elizabeth Beard in a certain tract of land situated in Union Parish La. to wit. The SW¼ and the S½ of NW¼ of Section thirty two and the SE¼ of SE¼ of Section (30) thirty and NE¼ of NE¼ of section thirty one and all the remainder of Section (31) thirty one lying East of Horse trough Creek all in Township Twenty two north of Range one west 480 acres more or less & being in Union Parish La. That the joint owners do not longer wish to hold this land in common but have an opportunity [to] sell the land advantageously at private sale. Wherefore petitioner prays that a

family meeting composed of the Relatives of said (and of friends in default of Relatives to advise and recommend with regard to the sale of the said minors interest in said land. And in case a sale is decreed advisable to the minor the terms of sale to be fixed by the said meeting. That Wm. C. Smith notary be ordered to convoke the said meeting and make due return thereof to your Honorable Court. For all orders and deems necessary in the premises and for general relief, etc.

[signed] *Jno. L. Barrett*

[Court's response:] *The premises considered. It is hereby ordered adjudged & decreed that William C. Smith Recorder & notory* [sic] *proceed to convoke a family meeting composed of the relatives, of age, of Wm. A. Jones a minor & of friends in default of relatives to advise & recommend with regard to the property of disposing of said minors Interest in the land described in the foregoing petition at private sale by the Tutor and if they deem advisable that they fix the terms of sale and the appraisement of the property, and made due return thereof* [to] *this court. Done and signed in chambers this Jan 10th 1874.* [signed] *Thos. C. Lewis, Parish Judge*

17 Jan 1874 – Family meeting held as ordered:

Do you and each of you solemnly swear that you will give your advise touching the interest of the minor W. A. Jones, with regard to the sale of certain Land in which he has an interest, to the best of your judgment and information. So help you God. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17 day of January AD 1874, W. C. Smith, Recorder.

W. C. Smith, Recorder *[signed]* ***W. D. Regan***
F. Freeman
J. P. Agerton
J. M. Beaird
V. A. Rabun

Be it remembered that on this the seventeenth day of January AD One thousand Eight hundred and seventy four at 11 o'clock A.M. I caused to come before me the following named persons of the parish of Union, James M. Beaird, William D. Regan, James P. Agerton, V. A. Rabun, Franklin Freeman, relatives and friends of the minor William A. Jones convoked as a family meeting by order of His Honor Thos. C. Lewis Parish Judge for the purpose of giving their advise [sic] *with regard to selling certain lands belonging to said minor W. A. Jones said parties being first sworn proceeded to give their opinion & advise [sic] and after mature deliberation they advise and recommend that Stephen J. Beaird tutor be authorized to sell at private sale all or any portion of the following described tract of Land to wit: The SW¼, and the S½ of NW¼ of Sec 32, and the SE¼ of SE¼ of Section 30, and NE¼ of NE¼ of Section 31, and all the remainder of Section 31 lying east of Horse trough Creek all in Township 22 North Range One West, 480 acres more or less, at a sum of not less than two dollars cash per acre. In testimony whereof I have caused said parties to sign their names hereto in presence of J. M. Smith & T. J. Heath witnesses and me Recorder & notory* [sic], *John W. Beaird under tutor being also present and approving the above proceed signed also officially the day & date above written.*

Attest: [signed] ***W. D. Regan***
J. M. Smith ***F. Freeman***
T. J. Heath ***J. P. Agerton***
J. M. Beaird
V. A. Rabun
John W. Beaird *Under tuter* [sic]
W. C. Smith*, Recorder*

19 Jan 1874 – Petition to sell land of William A. Jones filed by Jno. L. Barrett, attorney for petitioners; Note that the clerk spelled the surname ***Beard*** throughout this record:

To the Honorable the Parish Court of Union Parish Louisiana. The petition of Stephen J. Beard Tutor of the minor Wm. A. Jones and of Elizabeth Beaird all of your parish and respectfully shows that pursuant to an order of your Honorable Court a Family meeting of the relatives and friends of the minor Wm. A. Jones has been held by Wm. C. Smith Recorder & notory [sic] a process verbal of the proceedings of said meeting being hereto annexed and made a part hereof. Wherefore petitioners pray that said proceedings be approved and homologated and in accordance with the recommendation of said meeting Stephen J. Beard Tutor be authorized on behalf of said minor

to sell the land described in said proceedings at private sale or any part thereof at not less than two dollars per acre.

[The court's response:] In the matter of the family meeting Pet. To Homologate: The premises considered and the law authorizing the same, It is hereby ordered adjudged & decreed that the proceedings of Family [meeting] annexed be approved and homologated and that in accordance therewith Stephen J. Beard Tutor of the minor Wm. A. Jones, be authorized to sell at private sale any and all the land described in said process verbal of Family meeting at not less than two dollars per acre in case. Done read and signed in chambers on this Jan 19th 1874.

[signed] Thos. C. Lewis, Parish Judge

7 Feb 1874 – Account of the minor William A. Jones paid by S. J. Beaird, Tutor:

Tutorship of the minor Wm. A. Jones

1874	*To J. W. Reid, Clerk*	
To fil [sic – file] *Pet for fam meeting*		*10*
Order same		*50*
Order and re order to convoke		*50*
Fil [sic – file] *P.V. fam meeting*		*10*
Order homologating same		*50*
Order for sale		*50*
Order with Tutor to make		*50*
Recording above		*2.50*
Recd. Payment of S. J. Beard Tutor		*$5.20*

Reference: Union Par LA Succession Book G, pp. 345 – 349 and Book H, pp. 156 – 158 and Mortgage Book B, pp. 226 – 227. The above material was transcribed from photocopies of the original papers filed in the Union Parish Clerk of Court office. These papers contain the original signatures of the persons involved.

18 July 1872

Event: **W. V. Bruce** sold 720 acres of land to **E. J. Pierce** for $2880. The land was described as the

E½ of Section 34,
W½ of Section 35,
SW¼ of SW¼ of Section 26, and the
NE¼ of NW¼ of Section 2, all in Township 21, Range 2 West

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book O, p. 137.

Witness: **J. R. Goyne**

Comment: The records I have studied leave no indication as to why Pierce decided to purchase 720 acres of land for such a large amount of money. None of his known relatives owned anywhere near 840 acres of land, and the 1870 census indicates he did not have the proper farming tools or equipment to farm such huge acreage. Moreover, why would anyone make a loan in 1872 for $2880 to someone whose personal estate in 1870 was merely $100 and whose 1869 – 1870 annual farm production was valued at $607? The record of 6 June 1874 below indicates that Pierce failed to pay Bruce, Bruce sued Pierce, the land was sold at public auction, and Bruce bid highest on it, thus once again obtaining his 720 acres of land.

21 Jan 1873

Event: The heirs of **Lewis Rabun** [sic] sold 220 acres of land to **Milly Raborn**. The deed was signed by **M. A. Ponder**, **J. A. Raborn**, **Savilla Barron**, **H. L. Beaird**, **Isaac Raborn**, **Louis Raborn**, **M. F. Raborn**, **H. M. Raborn**.

Witnesses: **Isaac Raborn**, **William Beaird**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book O, p. 290

Comment: Hannah L. Raborn was the wife of William Beaird, Jr.

1 Dec 1873

Event: **William Beaird, Jr.** bought land from **A. M. Hollis**. For $250, Hollis sold Beaird 185 acres of land in Union Parish described as follows:

S½ of SE¼ of Section 33, Township 23 North, Range 3 West and the
NW¼ of NE¼, SE¼ of NE¼, and NE¼ of NE¼, all in Section 4, Township 22 North, Range 3 West

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book Q, p. 97.

13 Feb 1874

Event: **Stephen J. Beaird** and **Elizabeth Beaird** of Union Parish Louisiana sold land to **Geo. A. Kilgore**. Stephen J. Beaird acted both for himself and also as tutor to the minor **William A. Jones**. The Beairds sold Kilgore 80 acres of land described as

SE¼ of SE¼ of Section 30 and the
NE¼ of NE¼ of Section 31, Township 22 North, Range 1 West.

Stephen J. Beaird signed the deed, but Elizabeth made her mark to it.

Witness: **B. F. Tubb**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book O, p. 562.

6 June 1874

Event: By court order resulting from Suit #2286 of **W. V. Bruce** vs. **E. J. Pierce**, 720 acres of land belonging to **E. J. Pierce** was seized and sold at public auction. Bruce was the highest bidder, so the sheriff sold the land to him. The land description was precisely that bought by Pierce on 18 July 1872.

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book O, p. 631.

Comment: Enoch J. Pierce paid the taxes on his 720 acres of land in 1873, but apparently left the state in late 1873 or early 1874 and moved to Hempstead County Arkansas. He was murdered there in 1875.

22 Aug 1874

Event: **Riley Agerton** was chosen as one of the delegates of Liberty Hill Primitive Baptist Church to the South Ouachita Primitive Baptist Association meeting to be held on the first weekend of October at New Harmony Church in Claiborne Parish Louisiana.

Reference: Liberty Hill Primitive Baptist Church minutes, 1870 – 1877.

26 June 1875

Event: **Riley Agerton** was chosen as one of the delegates of Liberty Hill Primitive Baptist Church to District meeting.

Reference: Liberty Hill Primitive Baptist Church minutes, 1870 – 1877.

21 Aug 1875

Event: **Riley Agerton** was chosen as one an alternate delegate of Liberty Hill Primitive Baptist Church to annual meeting of the South Ouachita Primitive Baptist Association meeting to be held at Ephesus Church in Nevada County Arkansas.

Reference: Liberty Hill Primitive Baptist Church minutes, 1870 – 1877.

22 Apr 1876

Event: **Riley Agerton** was one member of a committee appointed by Liberty Hill Church to examine the church books. The other members were the church pastor, Elder Henry Archer, J. L. Tugwell, and John Russell.

Reference: Liberty Hill Primitive Baptist Church minutes, 1870 – 1877.

2 Oct 1876

Event: **Simeon P. Ward** mortgages his growing 1876 crop to **William D. Regan**:

> *I… do hereby obligate myself to deliver to William D. Regan… my entire growing crop of corn, cotton and other produce which I may raise for a supply of groceries and money advanced to the amount of One hundred and Eighty Dollars furnished and to be furnished during the ensuing year up to the first of December 1876 at which time furnishing ceases and the crop has to be delivered.*
>
> *I further grant to said Regan from this date forth full privilege on my entire growing crop of cotton, corn, and all other produce until any amount due to him by me shall be fully paid.*

I also promise that in case of my indebtedness to said W. D. Regan has to be sued for collection I shall pay the usual attorney fee of 10 percent for collection…

[signed] ***S. P. Ward***

Reference: Union Par LA Mortgage Book D, p. 131.

Witnesses: **S. Welsh**, **G. F. Regan**

Comments:

- Simeon Perry Ward was William D. Regan's son-in-law, his having married William D. Regan's and Nancy C. Beaird's daughter Susannah Catharine Regan in 1868.
- G. F. Regan was William Beaird's grandson, the son of his daughter Nancy Beaird Regan and her husband William D. Regan.
- It is rather odd that Ward would mention his *growing crop of corn, cotton, and other produce which I may raise…* in the month of October. Surely the corn for the 1876 growing season was already harvested, even if all the cotton was not yet picked. However, this mortgage was indeed signed by Ward on October 2nd, and on the same day his brother-in-law George F. Regan swore that he saw Ward sign it.

24 Nov 1877

Event: **William Beaird** of Union Parish Louisiana sold 185 acres of land to **T. J. Henderson** for $400. The land was described as the

S½ of SE¼ of Section 33, Township 23 North, Range 3 West,
NW¼ of NE¼, SE¼ of NE¼, NE¼ of NE¼ of Section 4, Township 22 North, Range 3 West

Witness: **T. H. Land**, **David Henderson**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book Q, p. 440.

Comment: This is a deed of William Beaird, Jr.

7 Jan 1878

Event: **Stephen J. Beaird, Senior** and **William A. Jones**, a minor (with Beaird acting as a tutor to Jones) sell 40 acres of land to **George A. Killgore, Sr.** for $140. They are the sole owners of the land, with Beaird owning two-thirds interest and Jones' one-third interest. The land was described as the

SE¼ of NE¼ of Section 31 in Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book Q, p. 508

9 Jan 1878

Event: **Stephen J. Beaird, Senior** swaps land with **Elizabeth Beaird**, both of Union Parish Louisiana. Stephen J. Beaird gives Elizabeth Beaird his one-third interest in the 320 acres of land described as

SW¼, SE¼ of NW¼, SW¼ of NW¼ of Section 32, and
NE¼ of NE¼ of Section 31,
SE¼ of SE¼ of Section 30, all in Township 22 North, Range 1 West

in consideration for her undivided one-third interest in 160 acres of land described as

E½ of Section 31 except for the
NE¼ of NE¼ [this description from the original deed is missing something]
SE¼ of SW ¼ of Section 31, in Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Stephen J. Beaird, Sr. signed the deed, but Elizabeth Beaird made her mark to it.

Witness: **John N. Boatright**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book Q, p. 429.

24 Dec 1878

Event: Oath of office of **W. D. Regan** as Justice of the Peace of Ward 6:

State of Louisiana.
I W. D. Regan do solemnly swear or affirm that I accept the civil and political equality of all men and agree not to attempt to deprive and person or persons on account of race color or previous condition or any political civil right privilege or immunity enjoyed by any other class of men. That I will support the Constitution and Laws of this state and that I will faithfully and

impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me as Justice of the Peace for the Sixth Ward of the Parish of Union according to the best of my ability and understanding, So help me God. [signed] ***W. D. Regan***

Sworn to and subscribed before me at Farmerville La this 24th day of December 1878.
[signed] ***W. W. Heard***
Clerk of the District Court

Reference: Union Par LA Oath Book, p. 103.

Comment: Recall that William Daniel Regan was the husband of William and Zilphia's daughter Nancy Cessum Beaird.

4 Feb 1879

Event: **Stephen J. Beaird, Sen.** acting for himself and as tutor for **William A. Jones** sold to **Mrs. Charity Price** 60 acres of land for $130. The land was described as the

SE¼ of SE¼, and
all of the SW¼ of SE¼ lying East, South, and Southeast of Horse Trough Creek
in Section 31, Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Witness: **John N. Boatright**, **G. W. Boatright**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book R, p. 98.

Comment: Charity Price was Charlotte Boatright Price, widow of Peter O. Price. Her father Powhatan Boatright was a neighbor of the Beairds from the time of their arrival in the Zion Hill Community in 1846 until Powhatan's death in 1880. The witnesses John N. and George W. Boatright were Charity's nephews, sons of her brother James Boatright.

7 Feb 1879

Event: **Martha Ann Beaird** sold land to **G. A. Kilgore, Jr.**, both of Union Parish Louisiana. Beaird sold Kilgore land that was the "residence of **Madison Beard** who has the use of the Place during the year AD 1879…" The land was described as the

E½ of SE¼ of Section 33, Township 23 North, Range 2 West

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book R, p. 180.

Comment: Martha Ann Regan Beaird was the widow of John Washington Beaird, Sr., so the daughter-in-law of William and Zilphia Beaird. James Madison Beaird was the eldest son of John W. and Martha Ann Beaird.

6 Mar 1879

Event: **Elizabeth Beaird** and **William A. Jones** sold 40 acres of land to **George A. Kilgore, Sr.** for $80. The land sold was described as the

E½ of SE¼ of Section 3_ and
½ of the NE¼ of NE¼ of Section 31, Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Witness: **John N. Boatright**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book R, p. 128.

10 Jan 1880

Event: **Riley Agerton** of Union Parish Louisiana sold 120 acres of land to **M. R. Odom** for $285. The land was described as the

E½ of SW¼ and the E½ of W½ of SW¼ of Section 28, Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Witness: **T. J. Rabun**, **T. J. Tabor**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book S, p. 106.

23 Apr 1880

Event: Another oath of office of **W. D. Regan** as Justice of the Peace of Ward 6:

State of Louisiana.
I W. D. Regan do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and laws of this State and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me as Justice of the Peace for the Sixth Ward of the Parish of

Union according to the best of my ability and understanding, So help me God.
[signed] ***W. D. Regan***

Sworn to and subscribed before me at Farmerville La this 23rd day of April 1880.
[signed] ***W. W. Heard***
Depty Clerk Dist Court

Reference: Union Par LA Oath Book, p. 144.

21 Mar 1881

Event: **S. J. Beaird, Sr.** acting for himself and as tutor for **W. A. Jones** sold to **Oliver Easterling** 55 acres of land for $130. The land was described as the

NE¼ of SE¼, and
all of the NW¼ of SE¼ lying East, South, and Southeast of Horse Trough Creek except one and a half acres in the Southwest corner of land where the Grist Mill Now stands for the benefit of W. A. Jones and when the said W. A. Jones is done with the mill the land shall belong to the aforesaid Oliver Easterling, and all the SE¼ of SW¼ lying East, South, and Southeast of the creek in Section 31, Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Witness: **John N. Boatright**, **T. J. Price**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book S, p. 223.

Comment: John N. Boatright and Thomas Jefferson Price were grandsons of William Beaird's longtime neighbor, Powhatan Boatright.

6 Dec 1881

Event: **Martha A. Beaird** of Union Parish Louisiana sold 160 acres of land to **T. B. Doster** for $120. The land was described as the

N½ of SW¼, "all lying north of the Main Branch of" NE¼ of SE¼ in Section 3, and the
NE¼ of SE¼, "all lying North of the Main branch of SE¼ of SE¼ of Section 4,
all in Township 22 North, Range 2 West.

The deed itself was undated, but the witness statement was signed on 6 Dec 1881. A mortgage for the amount from Doster was due 1 Jan 1883.

Witness: **S. J. Beaird**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book S, p. 536.

Comment: Martha Ann Regan Beaird was the widow of John Washington Beaird, Sr. It is unclear whether the witness to the deed was her son Stephen Jackson Beaird or her brother-in-law.

25 Aug 1884

Event: **William Beaird** sold 160 acres of land to **W. Henry Dean** for $230. The land was described as the

SW¼ of Section 28 less twenty acres in the SW¼ of SW¼ angling, and the
E½ of the NE¼ of the NW¼ of Section 33 all in Township 23, Range 3 west

Witness: **D. H. Webb**, **H. H. Howard**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book X, pp. 587 – 588.

Comment: This was a deed of William Beaird, Jr.

9 June 1885

Event: **William Beaird** of Union Parish Louisiana sold 80 acres of land to **W. H. Mabry** for $280. The land sold was described as the

NW¼ of NW¼ of Section 33 and the W½ of NE¼ of NW¼ of Section 33 and also
20 acres in the SW corner of SW¼ of Section 28, Township 23, Range 3 West.

Witness: **J. W. Nicklas**, **G. P. Goss**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book X, p. 50.

Comment: This was a deed of William Beaird, Jr.

26 Sept 1885

Event: **William Beaird** bought 80 acres of land from **G. W. Burton, Jr.** for $340 in cash. The land was described as the

E½ of SE¼ of Section 33, Township 23, Range 2 West

Witness: **B. V. Hayes**, **B. F. Post**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book V, pp. 202 – 203.

Comment: This was another deed of William Beaird, Jr.

14 Dec 1886

Event: **William Beaird** and **H. L. Beaird** sold 80 acres of land to **Mrs. E. J. Shute** for $300 cash and one note for $50 due 1 Jan 1888 with 8% interest per year. The land sold was described as

E½ of SE¼ of Section 33, Township 23, Range 2 West

Witness: **B. V. Hayes**, **J. C. Cole**, **G. L. McCowen**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book X, pp. 135 – 136.

Comment: This was a deed of William Beaird, Jr. and his wife Hannah L. Beaird. A few years after this sale, William and Hannah Beaird left Union Parish for northwestern Louisiana, settling in Red River and Webster Parishes.

23 Dec 1887

Event: **William A. Jones**, "in consideration of the exchange, transfer, and delivery by **Elizabeth Beaird** of her undivided two thirds interest in and to the land hereinafter described & transferred by her," Jones "bargained, sold, transferred, conveyed, exchanged, and swapped to said Elizabeth Beaird all of my undivided one third interest in and to the 160 acres of land" described as:

N½ of SW¼, S½ of NW¼ of Section 32, Township 22 North, Range 1 West

"And I, the said Elizabeth Beaird, for and in consideration…of the above transfer…bargained, sold, transferred, swapped, exchanged, and delivered to said William A. Jones all my undivided two thirds interest in and to the following…" described 80 acres of land:

S½ of SW¼ of Section 32, Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Witness: **S. J. Beaird**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book W, p. 323.

23 Dec 1887

Event: **William A. Jones** of Union Parish Louisiana sold 80 acres of land to **Robert Abbott** (a colored man) for $100. The land Jones sold was described as the

S½ of SW¼ of Section 32, Township 22, Range 1 West

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book S, p. 324.

Comment: William A. Jones was the grandson of William and Zilphia Dunn Beaird. William Beaird, Sr. had given this land to Jones in 1869.

8 Aug 1891

Event: **William D. Regan** sells 120 acres of land to **James Regan** for $240. The land sold was described as:

NE¼ of SE¼ of Section 30, and the
NW¼ of SW¼ and SW¼ of NW¼ of Section 29, all in Township 22, Range 1 West

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book Z, pp. 495 – 496.

Witnesses: **J. C. Cargill**, **C. A. Callaway**

Comment: James Regan was the son of William Daniel Regan and Nancy C. Beaird.

29 Nov 1893

Event: **R. Frank Rabun** gives land to **William D. Regan** and **Jesse Odom**, Deacons of the Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church:

R. Frank Rabun who declared and acknowledged that for and in consideration of the interest he has and feels in the Missionary Baptist of the Zion Hill Community having a suitable site and place upon which they have already with the said donors permission erected them a church known as Zion Hill in which to Worship and for divers and sundry other good causes he has donated, given, granted, transferred and delivered… unto William D. Regan and Jesse Odom Deacons of the said Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church and to their successors in Office the following described lot of land… to have and to hold the herein donated property unto the said Deacons of said Church and to their successors in Office with full and complete warrantee title forever and the said Deacons

being present accept this donation in all of its parts for and on behalf of said church…

William D. Regan
Jesse Odom
Deacon of Zion Hill Baptist Church

Rabun gave the church a lot of land valued at $10, and the church property adjoined that of the local school. The land Rabun gave to the church was located in

NE¼ of SE¼ of Section 32, in Township 22, Range 1 West

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book 2, pp. 235 – 237.

Witnesses: **J. C. Cargill**, **C. A. Callaway**

3 Jan 1894

Event: **Miss Elizabeth Beaird** of Union Parish Louisiana gives 80 acres of land to **William A. Jones**:

…in consideration for the love and affection she has and bears for her nephew William A. Jones of the same residence and for his obedience and for the love and affection he manifests for her and for divers and sundry other good causes…

The land Beaird gave to Jones was described as the

N½ of SW¼ of Section 32, Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Witness: **S. J. Beaird, Sr.**, **B. F. Tubb**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book 2, p. 315.

28 April 1894

Event: **Miss Elizabeth Beaird** gave 80 acres of land to her nephew **William A. Jones** on 3 Jan 1894. The land was described as the

N½ of the SW¼ of Section 32, Township 22 North, Range 1 West

She expressly stated that this gift was not his share of her estate, but above and beyond his portion of her estate. She made her mark to the deed.

Witness: **S. J. Beaird**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book 2, p. 503.

10 May 1894

Event: The children of **William Daniel Regan** and **Nancy Regan** met to divide the community property between W. D. Regan and themselves:

*Be it remembered that on or about the 10th day of May A.D. 1894 we **William D. Regan**, surviving spouse, and **W. H. Regan**, **G. F. Regan**, **S. J. Regan**, **James Regan**, **Susan Ward** nee **Regan**, **Bettie Carroll** nee **Regan**, **Zylphia Murry** nee **Regan** and **Alabama Odom** nee **Regan** children of **Mrs. Nancy Regan** then dead met and caused all of the property belonging to the community formerly existing between **William D. Regan** and his wife **Nancy Regan** to be listed and appraised by **Elias Carroll** and **Rily Agerton** disinterested parties, and made a division of said community property one half to **W. D. Regan** and the other half to the above named children (it being thought at the time by all of us that **O. C. Regan** daughter of **J. D. Regan** son of **W. D.** & **Nancy Regan** was not entitled to anything) In this division the NW¼ of NW¼ of Sec 29 and the S½ of SW¼ of S20 T22N, R1W fell to **W. D. Regan** but we the above named heirs of **Mrs. Nancy Regan** never made any title of our interest in said land to **W. D. Regan**…*

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book 8, pp. 370 – 372

Comment: Nancy C. Beaird Regan died 27 April 1894, just two weeks before the above division of property took place.

20 Sept 1894

Event: **William A. Jones** married **Mrs. Ella Jones (Sessions)** on 11 Jan 1888. Since his marriage, his wife has received from her father **J. S. Sessions** property totaling $151. Jones spent the cash, and to make restitution to his wife, he bargains and sells to his wife 80 acres of land described as follows:

N½ of the SW¼ of Section 32, Township 22 North, Range 1 West

This land was donated to him by Mrs. [sic – Miss] Elizabeth Beaird on 28 April 1894.

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book 3, p. 51.

April 1895

Event: **W. D. Regan** mortgages120 acres of land to **Haas & Co** "a commercial firm doing business in the town of Farmerville La and composed of **Edmund Haas**, **M. Haas**, and **Jacob Haas**" to ensure payment of his note of $61.62 to them due 1 Oct 1895. The land mortgaged was the

NW¼ of NW¼ of Section 29, and the
S½ of SW¼ of Section 20, both in Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Witness: **S. C. Selig**, **Lizzie Miles**

Reference: Union Par LA Mortgage Book J, pp. 110 – 111.

21 July 1898

Event: **Riley Agerton** of Union Parish Louisiana sold 160 acres of land to **Benjamin Taylor**. The land was described as the

SW¼ of NW¼ of Section 28, and the
SE¼ of NE¼, and the E½ of SE¼ of Section 29, all in Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Witness: **W. S. Agerton**, **J. F. Ramsey**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book 5, p. 309

3 Feb 1899

Event: The heirs of **J. S. Sessions** sold 40 acres of land to **M. Ralph Odom**. The heirs were **Mrs. Susan Sessions**, widow of **J. S. Sessions**, **Mrs. Sallie Sessions Ward**, wife of **J. E. Ward**, **Mrs. Ella Sessions Beaird**, the wife of **Stephen J. Beaird, Jr.**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book 20, p. 128.

Comment: Stephen J. Beaird, Jr. was the son of John W. Beaird, Sr. and Martha Ann Regan Beaird; he married Ella Sessions Jones in 1898. She was the widow of his first cousin, William A. Jones.

23 Nov 1900

Event: **William D. Regan** and his surviving children by **Mrs. Nancy Regan** (deceased) sell 120 acres of land to **J. T. Davis** and **J. E. Davis** for $122.80. The land sold was the

NW¼ of NW¼ of Section 29, and the
S½ of SW¼ of Section 20, both in Township 22 North, Range 1 West

As surviving spouse, **William D. Regan** received one-half of the community property, and the other half was divided between the nine heirs of **Mrs. Nancy Beaird Regan**, giving one-eighteenth of the property to each heir. William and Nancy's deceased son **Joseph D. Regan** had one heir, **Ozella C. Regan**, who did not sign this deed, prompting this statement:

> *…it being understood that we do not guarantee title to one eighteenth interest in said land but do guarantee seventeen-eighteenths interest in same. W. D. Regan guarantees title to one half interest and each of the other vendors that is the children of Mrs. Nancy Regan warranting title to one-eighteenth interest…*

W. D. Regan made his mark to this deed on 23 Nov 1900. All the other parties signed their names to the document, with **G. F. Regan**, **James Regan**, **S. J. Regan** signing also on November 23rd and **W. H. Regan** signing on 11 Jan 1901. The remaining signatures are not dated: **Bama Odom** and her husband **M. R. Odom**, **M. E. Carroll** and her husband **G. W. Carroll**, **Zilphia Murray** and her husband **Jonas B. Murray**, and **Susie C. Ward**.

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book 8, pp. 370 – 372.

Witness: **T. H. Lockwood**, **W. L. Regan**

24 Dec 1900

Event: **Riley Agerton** of Union Parish Louisiana sold 40 acres of land to **J. D. Odom** for $30. The land was described as the

W½ of W½ of SW¼ of Section 28, Township 22 North, Range 1 West

The deed was signed by **George G. Agerton** and **W. S. Agerton** also. Riley Agerton made his mark to the document.

Witness: **P. A. Tatum**, **H. H. Ward**, **R. Futch**, **Riley Agerton**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book 20, p. 343

Comment: This is the last known court record of Riley Agerton prior to his death thirteen months later on 25 January 1902.

8 Apr 1901

Event: **Elizabeth Beaird** of Union Parish Louisiana sold 80 acres of land to **Peter P. Price** for $150. The land was described as the

S½ of NW¼ of Section 32, Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Elizabeth Beaird made her mark to the deed.

Witness: **S. J. Beard**, **J. A. Odom**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book 8, p. 538.

Comments:

- This is the last known record of Elizabeth Beaird. Her date of death is unknown.
- Technically, S. J. Beaird could have been either Elizabeth's brother or nephew, but I think it was her nephew. He apparently signed the deed, whereas on his 1898 Confederate Pension Application, Elizabeth's brother could no longer write his name and merely made his mark to it. I think there is a good chance that Elizabeth's brother was dead by 1901.
- Peter Powhatan Price is the grandson of William Beaird's longtime neighbor, Powhatan Boatright. Boatright's daughter Charlotte Boatright Price and her son Peter lived near the Beairds after Boatright's death in 1880.

8 Apr 1901

Event: **Ella Beaird, nee Jones**, of Union Parish Louisiana sold 80 acres of land to **Peter P. Price** for $80. The land was described as the

N½ of SW¼ of Section 32, Township 22 North, Range 1 West

Witness: **S. J. Beard**

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book 8, pp. 538 – 539.

Comment: In 1888, Ella Sessions married William A. Jones, the grandson of William and Zilphia Dunn Beaird by their daughter S. Jane Beaird Jones. Jones died in the 1890s, and Ella Jones married the first cousin of William Jones, Stephen Jackson Beaird, Jr., the son of John W. and Martha Ann Regan Beaird. In this deed, Ella sold the remaining land given to her first husband William A. Jones by his grandfather William Beaird, Sr. in 1869.

5 Sept 1902

Event: **Stephen J. Beaird** bought a lot in Bernice from **Sidney C. Selig**.

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book 12, p. 568.

30 Dec 1904

Event: **Stephen J. Beaird** bought several lots in Bernice from **W. E. Lowery**.

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book 16, p. 199.

4 Sept 1908

Event: **Stephen J. Beaird** bought several lots in Spearsville from **F. A. Hammons**.

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book 20, p. 292.

Comment: These last three deeds of Stephen J. Beaird certainly are for the *grandson* of William and Zilphia Beaird, not their son. Prior to 1901, he was referred to as "Jr." to distinguish him from his uncle by the same name. This was done for the last time in 1899, and beginning in 1901, he was merely referred to as "Stephen J. Beaird." This probably indicates that the elder Stephen J. Beaird, son of William and Zilpha, died between 1899 and 1901.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Beaird Farms in Alabama

Edmond Beaird and William Beaird bought adjoining tracts of government land on Mulberry Creek on the same day in January 1820. A few months earlier on 2 November 1819, William Beaird purchased 320 acres of land in another Alabama county, some distance from Bibb County. He apparently never lived on this other tract of land, although he owned it between 1819 and 1829, when he relinquished the title back to the government. The legal description of the lands that William and his father owned in Bibb County are given in the following charts. The property that Edmond Beaird purchased in 1820 surrounds the present-day location of Mulberry Baptist Church on two sides.

William Beaird's Bibb County, Alabama Land
1819 – 1846

Legal Description	Acres	Bought	From	Sold	To Whom
SE¼ of Section 7, Twp 7, Ran 8	320	2 Nov 1819	US	29 June 1829	United States
E½ of NW¼ of Sec 7, Twp 21, Ran 13	80	25 Jan 1820	US	28 Mar 1825	United States
W½ of NW¼ of Sec 7, Twp 21, Ran 13	80	25 Jan 1820	US	27 Mar 1830	James Reid
E½ of SW¼ Sec 21, Twp 22, Ran 13	80	26 Jan 1820	US	29 June 1829	United States
W½ of SW¼ Sec 21, Twp 22, Ran 13	80	26 Jan 1820	US		
NE¼ of NW¼ of Sec 28, Twp 22, Ran 13	40	1 Oct 1832	US		
NW¼ of SE¼ of Sec 28, Twp 22, Ran 13	40	9 Dec 1834	US		
E½ of SW¼ of Sec 21, Twp 22, Ran 13	80	27 June 1836	US		

Edmund Beaird's Bibb County, Alabama Land
1820 – 1846

Legal Description	Acres	Bought	From	Sold	To Whom
E½ of SE¼ of Sec 5, Twp 21, Range 13	80	25Jan 1820	US		
NW¼ of Sec 5, Twp 21, Range 13	160	25 Jan 1820	US	29 Jan 1850	Minor Wooley & Mulberry Church
SW¼ of Sec 32, Twp 22, Range 13	160	26 Jan 1820	US		
NE¼ Sec 34, Twp 22, Range 13	160	26 Jan 1820	US	28 Mar 1825	United States
W½ of NE¼ of Sec 5, Twp 21, Range 13	80	7 Feb 1820	US		
E½ of SE¼ of Sec 31, Twp 22, Range 13	80	2 Aug 1820	US	16 Mar 1848	Sinclair D. McCary
NW¼ of NE¼ of Sec 5, Twp 21, Range 13	40	17 Dec 1832	US		
SW¼ of NE¼ of Sec 5, Twp 21, Range 13	40	9 Dec 1834	US		

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Beaird Farms in Union Parish, Louisiana

The following tables show the land owned by William Beaird, Sr., his sons-in-law Riley Agerton and William D. Regan, and his son John W. Beaird. By plotting this land, one can easily see that all four men lived on adjoining farms. William Beaird, Sr. sold his farm in 1869 to his unmarried children Stephen J. Beaird, Sr. and Elizabeth Beaird and his orphaned grandson William A. Jones. William Beaird, Sr. continued to live on his farm until his death in the mid-1880s. After Jones married in 1888, Stephen and Elizabeth Beaird continued to live on the place, with Elizabeth giving much of her share to her nephew. However, Jones died prematurely in about 1897. In 1901 Elizabeth Beaird sold her remaining interest in the farm given to her by her father back in 1869. I was unable to determine when Stephen J. Beaird sold the remainder of his land.

William Beaird, Sr.'s & Zilpha Dunn Beaird's
Union Parish Louisiana Plantation
1847 – 1869

Legal Description	Acres	Bought	From	Sold	To Whom
NE¼ of Sec 11, Twp 21, Ran. 2W	158.25	19 Mar 1847	Dozier	28 Apr 1854	Geo. A. Killgore
NE¼; W½ of NE¼ of Sec 12, Twp 21N, Ran 2 W	237.87	19 Mar 1847	Dozier	28 Apr 1854	Geo. A. Killgore
SE¼ of NE¼ of Sec 32, Twp 22N, Ran 1 W	40	5 Nov 1851	Brown		
SW¼ of NE¼ of Sec 32, Twp 32N, Ran 1 W	40	24 Oct 1854	US		
SE¼ of NW¼ of Sec 32, Twp 32N, Ran 1 W	40	24 Oct 1854	US	1 Sept 1869	Beairds & Jones
NW¼ of SE¼ of Sec 32, Twp 32N, Ran 1 W	40	24 Oct 1854	US		
NE¼ of NE¼ of Sec 31, Twp 22 N, Ran 1 W	40	18 July 1860	J.W. Beaird	1 Sept 1869	Beairds & Jones
SE¼ of SE¼ of Sec 30, Twp 22 N, Ran 1 W	40	18 July 1860	J.W. Beaird	1 Sept 1869	Beairds & Jones
SW¼ of NW¼ of Sec 32, Twp 22 N, Ran 1 W	40	18 July 1860	J.W. Beaird	1 Sept 1869	Beairds & Jones
SW¼ of Sec 32, Twp 22 N, Ran 1 W	160	?	?	1 Sept 1869	Beairds & Jones
SW¼ of NW¼ of Sec 32, Twp 22 N, Ran 1 W	40	?	?	1 Sept 1869	Beairds & Jones

John W. Beaird's & Martha Ann Regan Beaird's
Union Parish Louisiana Farm
1850 – 1900

Legal Description	Acres	Bought	From	Sold	To Whom
---	79.88	5 Jan 1859	US		
NE¼ of NE¼ of Sec 31, Twp 22 N, Ran 1W	40			18 July 1860	Wm. Beaird, Sr.
SE¼ of SE¼ of Sec 30, Twp 22 N, Ran 1W	40			18 July 1860	Wm. Beaird, Sr.
SW¼ of NW¼ of Sec 32, Twp 22 N, Ran 1W	40			18 July 1860	Wm. Beaird, Sr.
SW¼ of SW¼ of Sec 29, Twp 22N, Ran 1W	40			24 Dec 1867	Richard F. Rabun
SE¼ of SW¼ of Sec 29, Twp 22N, Ran 1W	40			24 Dec 1867	Richard F. Rabun
NE¼ of SW¼ of Sec 29, Twp 22 N, Ran 1W	40			24 Dec 1867	Richard F. Rabun
N½ of NW¼ of Sec 32, Twp 22N, Ran 1W	80			24 Dec 1867	Richard F. Rabun
NE¼ of Sec 4, Twp 22N, Ran 2W	160	27 Oct 1868	Hardin	7 Jan 1870	G. L. McCowin
E½ of NW¼ of Sec 4, Twp 22N, Ran2W	80	27 Oct 1868	Hardin	7 Jan 1870	G. L. McCowin
E½ of SE¼ of Sec 33, Twp 23 N, Ran 2W	80	27 Oct 1868	Hardin	7 Feb 1879	G. A. Kilgore, Jr.
N½ of SW¼ of Sec 3, Twp 22N, Ran 2W	80	19 Dec 1868	Lowe	6 Dec 1881	T. B. Doster
SE¼ of SW¼ of Sec 3, Twp 22N, Ran 2W	40	19 Dec 1868	Lowe		
NW¼ of SE¼ of Sec 4, Twp 22N, Ran 2W	80	19 Dec 1868	Lowe	25 Jan 1869	Samuel W. Cobb
NE¼ of SE¼ of Sec 4, Twp 22N, Ran 2W	80	19 Dec 1868	Lowe	6 Dec 1881	T. B. Doster
SE¼ of SE¼ of Sec 4, Twp 22 N, Ran 2W	40	19 Dec 1868	Lowe		

Riley Agerton's & Susannah Beaird Agerton's
Union Parish Louisiana Farm
1850 – 1900

Legal Description	Acres	Bought	From	Sold	To Whom
SE¼ of NE¼ of Sec 29, Twp 22N, Ran 1 W	40	24 Oct 1854	US	21 July 1898	Benj. Taylor
NE¼ of SE¼ of Sec 29, Twp 22 N, Ran 1 W	40	24 Oct 1854	US	21 July 1898	Benj. Taylor
SW¼ of NW¼ of Sec 28, Twp 22N, Ran 1W	40	5 Oct 1857	US	21 July 1898	Benj. Taylor
NW¼ of SW¼ of Sec 28, Twp 22N, Ran 1W	40	5 Oct 1857	US	24 Dec 1900	J. D. Odom
SE¼ of SE¼ of Sec 29, Twp 22N, Ran 1W	40	5 Oct 1857	US	21 July 1898	Benj. Taylor
E½ of SW¼, SW¼ of SW¼ of SW¼, S½ of NW¼ of SW¼ of Sec 28, Twp 22 N, Ran 1 W	140	10 Nov 1870	Lee	10 Jan 1880	M. R. Odom

William Daniel Regan's & Nancy Cessum Beaird Regan's
Union Parish Louisiana Farm
1850 – 1900

Legal Description	Acres	Bought	From	Sold	To Whom
NW¼ of NW¼ of Sec 29, Twp 22 N, Ran 1 W	39.93	26 June 1849	Martin	23 Nov 1900	J.E. & J.T. Davis
SW¼ of NW¼ of Sec 29, Twp 22 N, Ran 1 W	39.93	20 June 1850	Bruce	8 Aug 1891	James Regan
NE¼ of NW¼ of Sec 29, Twp 22 N, Ran 1 W	40	8 Sept 1855	US	?	?
SE¼ of NW¼ of Sec 29, Twp 22 N, Ran 1 W	40	8 Mar 1858	US	?	?
NW¼ of SW¼ of Sec 29, Twp 22 N, Ran 1 W	40	8 Mar 1858	US	8 Aug 1891	James Regan
NE¼ of SE¼ of Sec 30, Twp 22 N, Ran 1 W	40	8 Mar 1858	US	8 Aug 1891	James Regan
S½ of SW¼ of Sec 20, Twp 22 N, Ran 1 W	80	8 Dec 1871	Burford	23 Nov 1900	J.E. & J.T. Davis

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

The 1875 Murder of Enoch J. Pierce

William Beaird's eldest known child, Sarah, married Lucky N. Pierce.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Original Beaird Letters

In pursuit of government pensions for their military service, both William Beaird Sr. and his son, William Jr., wrote letters in their own handwriting to various state and federal pension commissioners. Besides detailing some of their military service, the letters indicate that while both were certainly educated beyond the level of most white Southerners of that era, they were still unworldly enough to spell words phonetically.

In the transcriptions in these notes, I have retained all original spelling and punctuation.

William Beaird Sr.

Beaird applied for a pension in 1875 based upon his brief military service during the War of 1812, which he called the *Creek Indian War*. When the War Department could find no record of his service, Beaird wrote two letters in his own handwriting describing his service.

These letters suggest that William Beaird Sr. was extremely fastidious in signing his name. In the first letter dated 5 October 1875, after explaining to the pension commissioner that he spelled his name ***Beaird*** whereas others spelled it ***Beard***, he signed his given name as *Wiliam Beaird* (with one 'el' in his first name). To correct this, he inserted a carrot below his first name and wrote the "l" above.

When signing his power of attorney on 15 May 1878, Beaird mistakenly signed his surname as *Beird*, and so again inserted a carrot with the "a" written above his name.

1875 Letter

State of Loisiana Union Parish Oct 5th 1875

Mr. F. C. Mayo *in answer to the card that you sent to me I hereby certify that I belonged to the Georgia militia and no other my servis was on the frunter* [frontier] *line of Georgia on the Oakmulga River at the seven islands to build forts and gard the frunteers the Georgia militia was clast in three classes I belond to the first clas in captain McClentons company then was orders for so many men to be taken out of the first class to gard the frunters and I went out in that servis under Captain or Lieutenant* ***William Brown*** *and while I was out the first class was called out under Gineral Floyd my messmates was* ***Turner Hunt***, ***Thomas Bullard***, ***David Nix***, ***Stephen Venters***, *and one* ***Mr. Stafford*** *when I sine my name I sine it Beaird but when others sine it they spel it Beard.*

William Beaird

1878 Letter

July 15th, 1878

Mr. I. Shuster*, Farmerville, La.*

Mr. I. Shuster *I will sa to you that I belong'd 1st to the first class of Georgia malitia which was under Gineral Floyd I was taken out of that class and poot on the fruntier gards while* ***Gineral Floyd*** *took the remainder of my class and fought the caleba battle my servis was frunteer gard at the 7 islands on the Oakmulgee in the Creek Indian war in 1813. I was armed at Monticello in Jasper county Georgia and I receivd my pay and discharge at the same place the commander of my squad was a* ***William Brown*** *whoo was poot over us in the first class of Georgia Malitia under* ***General Floyds*** *command. I think* ***William Brown*** *was a under officer of General Floyds command ther fore Floyd was my Chief commander*

N. B. recollect my servis was in the Creeke Indian war of 1813

Yours truly ***William Beaird***

William Beaird Jr.

During the Civil War, Beaird served in the Louisiana Brigade of the Army of Northern Virginia. He belonged to General Stonewall Jackson's division under the overall command of General Robert E. Lee. Beaird participated in nearly all the major battles of the war except when in a Union prison camp.

Another soldier with a similar name, William A. Beard, belonged to a different company of the same regiment. William Beaird Jr. apparently did not know of this person or else forgot about him after the War. When he applied for

a pension in 1907, it seems that the Louisiana Pension Board confused the two men. They either initially rejected Beaird's pension application or else asked him to clarify certain aspects of it. This questioning by the Board obviously miffed Beaird, as he appears quite insulted that they questioned his war record.

I have preserved Beaird's archaic spelling and (lack of) punctuation.

February 1909 Letter

Minden La Feb 17 – 1909
the pension commissioners Dear Sirs
I never was so thunder Struck at the mistake you hav made agist me you say that I was capturd in Miss wich with an uplifted hand de nie the charge my redgement was never in Miss only traveld thru that State on our way from Camp More La to the Stat of Va. I went with Jackson in Merland on to in site of Washington fell back to Va. I went With my command to Pennsylvania back to Va and while I was with my command and that war all the time onley when I was a pisner then I was to point lookout on the chest peake bay I was sent to fortress Monrow ther our Boat met us and convaid us to Richmond Va. ther we wer ferlode thirty days come back Just in time to git in the Battle of the Wilderness. I was a prisner twice captured at rappahanock river the fist time the last time at fishers hill the last time but I was chaught with my gun in hand and the yanks in the rear and I went up with Seven or eight hundred and mout [might have] *bin more than that for tha got the bigist part of us the charge that Stands aginst mee in your letter is as big a fall hood as ever come from hell but I dont Blame the writer for doing his duty that is the kind of a man I am. I want that Stratend up I dont like for Such a thing as that to stand a ginst mee besides having the name of taking the oath and then triing to obtain a pention the thaught of dirty trick like that it makes mee feel like doing Something its now. I am well at Minden and if you can find a man here that can bring up Such a thing as that a ginst me her you could not git him to fase mee in it I am not afraid to meet any one ded or alive. I was forth Sargent a while and promoted to Second but I would not say any of that in in my apply cation as that was a Small thing. I went out to the war hi privet in the rear rank theas promotions cam a long to ward the last of the war now I think and want that Stratend out if I dont git a pesion dam the pension I would not hav had such a thing ledged a ginst mee for two pensions all tho I am needy but onesty* [honesty] *Stands overa head of poverty now I wat you to under Stand that my command was not in Miss nor I never was in ___?___ now all the time you will fine me absant was when I was a prisner or on ferlow. now the congress J. T. Wadkins noes mee but I went from Union Parish when the I went off to war in the Spring of 1861 now I want to her if this gits Strate if ther was any other Beaird in the 6th regtment I did not no him and I no ther wasent in Compy A now I want that looked up for I am hert over it I two of my compney is living near Farmerville Union Parish ther names Arnet Hays – John Howard*

William Beaird

May 1909 Letter

Minden La May the 20 1909
Pension Board Battenrouck
Dear Sirs. with rgard to my Servis in the war my mind aint So clear as it was at the time but I can give points Suffishent to Satsfy you. I left union parish some time about the first of May 1861 awent to New oleas. went to camp Waker [Walker] *Stade there a few days and went to Camp More there 3 company brok up be caus tha wanted them to go fore the war and tha wanted to inlist for 1 year 2 from union parish and 1 from Sabbean parish. So we got the 3 rembnts of the 3 comps and made one and went in the six La Regt with Semore Coul. Lay liuit Crnel James Magoe Company offers Mcather Capt. Calaway frst liuit Philips 2nd Smith 3rd. we then went to Va went out to Fairfax court Hous dun picket duty until first battle at Bull run we camped ther and around until the Spring of 1862 we rognized and was sent to the Shadoa Valley and Joind Stone wall Jackson the histree of the ware will Shoe wer I was till Jackson deth in a few day our lieutent Clol and mjor resined that brout about promotions our Capt Mcather come to be major and was kild at Wincheter in 62 our capt then was Calaway So we went on then till the Seven days fight at richmon Va ther we lost our old wite headed Col. Semore, then Strong was Col. until the Battle at Scarpburg Md. ther we lost Strong then and the last one Monegham a hole Soldier we lost him down near harpers fery in a little Scrurmmash with the caverley now Some time in 1863 November the last I was taken prisner I was Sent to point lookout Ma an in or about the last of Febuary 64 I was Sent to fortress Monroe there our boat took took [sic] us Richmond Va and ferload and when that was out I retund to my command Just in time fore the battle of the wilderness and Some time in fall of 1864 I was taken prisner at fisher hill and sent to point lookout agan and about the middle of Feb 1865 was Sent back to fort moroe and to richmon and ferload a gain and was with the command always was ther to git my grub and pay and when tha wanted mee tha found mee round the camps and I dont think if Stone wall had lived I would not bin capterd we was baged both times ther 6 or 8 hundred prisoners both times I was capturd now if ther air any other information that you want I will wlingly [willingly] giv it. I am old everthing aint in my mind but if the old war papers is looked up what*

I State will be found correct. I havent but little edgucatin and hate to try to write So I hope I will git the pention an I mad it and mad it bad if it is a small amount.

Yours respectfully
6 Louisian Regt ***William Beaird***
company A *Jackson Corps*
first Hays next Stafford Brigade

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Beaird Military Records

According to his own sworn affidavit and letter written in the 1870s, William Beaird Sr. served for two months in 1814 in the Georgia Militia under General Floyd. His service was in response to the attacks by the Red Sticks in 1813–1814 on white citizens in Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee, one of several fronts in the War of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain. Officials in Washington, D.C. rejected Beaird's application for a pension, as they could not find any evidence to corroborate his claims of service.

No other known relative of Edmond Beaird or Stephen Dunn served in any military capacity during the American Revolution, War of 1812, or Mexican War.

However, numerous members of William Beaird and Zilpha Dunn's family served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, including three of their sons and two sons-in-law:

William Beaird, Jr. – served in Company A, 6th Regiment, Louisiana Infantry between 1861 and 1865. This unit was helped to form General Stonewall Jackson's Brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia under General Robert E. Lee. Beaird fought in almost all of the famous battles in which the Army of Northern Virginia participated between 1862 and 1864. Beaird was captured twice (Rappahannock Station in November 1863 and Fisher's Hill in September 1864) and spent time in several Yankee prisons. After both captures, he was exchanged and returned to duty.

Stephen J. Beaird – served in Company C, 17th Regiment, Louisiana Infantry, serving in Louisiana, Tennessee, and Mississippi.

James Beaird – enlisted in Company C, 17th Regiment, Louisiana Infantry, and died of disease shortly prior to the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862.

Riley Agerton – enlisted after Vicksburg in Company C, 17th Regiment, Louisiana Infantry.

William D. Regan – enlisted in February 1863 in Company C, 17th Regiment, Louisiana Infantry. He saw service at the Battle of Grand Gulf in May 1863 and the Siege of Vicksburg, May–July 1863, and near Pineville in 1864–1865.

In addition, five of William and Zilpha's grandsons and one grandson-in-law served in the Confederate Army, including William W. Pierce, Enoch J. Pierce, Wiley Newton Pierce, Stephen R. Pierce, James Polk Agerton, and William Cleaton Boatright.

The military and pension files of these men are transcribed in this section.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

William Beaird Sr.

I have found no military record of Beaird's service during the War of 1812, and there is no record of his applying for a bounty land warrant application based upon his service. In 1875, Beaird applied for a pension as a veteran of the War of 1812.

Beaird's application for a pension was rejected due to lack of proof of his service. The pension commissioner could find no record of Captain McLenton under whom Beaird said he served. This was despite that fact that Beaird gave the names of several soldiers with whom he served, and also he gave details surrounding his service. I have made a search of an index to the War of 1812 soldiers from Georgia, and neither Beaird nor any of the five soldiers whose full names he gave are listed. They may have belonged to a unit that remained a part of the Georgia militia and was never inducted into the United States service. If so, perhaps further research in the Georgia archives will furnish more information on Beaird's brief military career.

His pension application file, #30271, is transcribed below from photocopies of the original records from the National Archives. The paperwork was lengthy, with many of the matters routine and uninformative. The reference for this document is: **William Beaird, War of 1812 Pension Application File, #30271**

The documents in his pension application file are transcribed below, in chronological order.

7 Aug 1875 William Beaird, Sr. appeared before James W. Reid, the clerk of the district court in Union Parish and provided information attempting to obtain a pension based upon his War of 1812 service under Capt. McLenton and Col. Floyd:

War of 1812
Declaration of a Soldier for a Pension

State of Louisiana, County of Union
On this Seventh day of August A.D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, personally appeared before me ***James W. Reid*** *Clerk of the 11th Judicial District being a Court of Record within and for the county and State aforesaid,* ***William Baired****, aged 81 years, a resident of the County of Union State of Louisiana, who, being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is married; that his wife's name was* ***Zilpha Dunn****, to whom he was married at Jasper County Georgia, on the ___ day of ____, 1814; that he served the full period of sixty days in the (1) Military who (2) enlisted in Captain McLenton's company, at Seven Islands on OakMulga River, on the ____ day of Jany & Feby 1814, and was honorably discharged at Montecella Georgia on or about the first day of March, 1814; that (3) Discharge lost – was in Infantry service was under General Floyed…that his post office is at Farmerville County of Union State of Louisiana that his domicile or place of abode is Union Parish La.*
Attest: ***William Beaird***
R. F. Rabun
Wm. Pearson

Also, personally appeared ***R. F. Rabun****, residing in Union Ph. La, and* ***Wm. Pearson*** *residing in Union Ph. La, persons whom I certify to be respectable and entitled to credit, and who being by me duly sworn, say: They were present and saw* ***Wm. Beaird****, the claimant, sign his name (or make his mark) to the foregoing declaration; that they have every reason to believe, from the appearance of said claimant and their acquaintance with him, that he is the identical person he represents himself to be; that at no time during the late rebellion against the authority of the United States did he adhere to the cause of the enemies of the Government, giving them aid or comfort; and that they have no interest in the prosecution of this claim.* ***R. F. Rabun***
Wm. Pearson

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 1st day of August…and I hereby certify that the contents of the above declaration, etc. were fully made known and explained to the applicant and witnesses before swearing…and that I have no interest, direct or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim. ***J. W. Reid****, Clerk Dist. Court*
Union Parish La

18 Aug 1875 Washington, DC attorney R. W. Walker filed the pension application of William Beaird, Sr. with the pension commissioner in Washington, DC. Beaird was applying for a pension based upon his War of 1812 service under Capt. McLenton and Col. Floyd.

21 Aug 1875 Pension Commissioner J. H. Baker requested official evidence of the *enrollment, muster, service, and duty of* ***William Beaird*** who served in Captain McLenton's Company, Georgia Militia.

25 Aug 1875 The Treasury Department, Third Auditor's Office, responded to the Commissioner of Pensions that there were no rolls of **Captain McLenton's** Company of Georgia Militia during the War of 1812 on file in their office.

28 Aug 1875 The Pension Office wrote to **R. W. Walker, Esq.,** the attorney handling the pension application of William Beaird:

Department of the Interior
Pension Office
Washington, DC August 28 1875

Sir: In pension claim of ***William Beaird*** *under Act of Feby 14 1871, No. 30271 You are informed that there are no Rolls of Captain McLenton's Company Georgia Militia on file. Claimant is required to state whether he belonged to the Georgia Militia, or the militia of some other State. His application is very obscure on this point. Also to give the name of the Captain or Colonel under whom he served. He writes his name "Beaird". Is that right?*

Please return this letter with the evidence.

Very respectfully,
H. M. Atkinson*, Commissioner*

5 Oct 1875 In response to the above letter from the Pension Office, William Beaird, Sr. wrote a letter to a Farmerville attorney apparently in contact with Mr. Walker in Washington DC. This letter was transcribed in the previous section.

17 May 1876 On the same form letter as the one dated 21 Aug 1875, the Pension Office again requested information on William Beaird's military service; as before, most of this form was left blank:

Department of the Interior
Pension Office
May 17th, 1876

Sir: You are respectfully requested to furnish official evidence of the enrollment, muster, service, and duty of ***William Beaird, or Baird****, who… in Captain McClinton or McCenton's Company Ga Mil…Claim No. 30721…*

[signed] ***J. A.*** ___?___, *Commissioner*

30 July 1877 William Beaird, Sr.'s pension application was rejected 30 July 1877. This information was written on the outside of the document:

Act of February 14, 1871: War of 1812.

#30271
No record of W
William Beaird*,*
Farmersville, Union Parish La
Cap. McLenton's *Co Ga. Mil.*
Received August 20th, 1875, R. W. Walker, Washington, DC
Rejected July 30, 1877.

This is a form letter response to applicants for a pension. Much of it was left blank since no record was found of Beaird's service:

War of 1812, Act February 14, 1871

Brief of Claim for a Survivor's Pension in the case of William Beaird, of Captain McLenton's Company, Georgia Militia.

Residence: Union Parish La.

Post-office address: Farmersville, Union Parish, La

Declaration and identification in due form, filed August 20, 1875

Rejected *for want of proof of service & presumptive abandonment. A call having been made for said evidence May 25, 1876; to which no answer has been returned. Third Aud. reports that there are no*

rolls of Capts. McLenton, McClinton, or McCenton's Cos. Ga. Militia, War of 1812. Bty Ld. Div. reports, no Evidence of application for Land warrant.

Rejected July 30, 1877, R. W. Walker, Esq. Present

G. A. Safford, Ex'r.

6 Aug 1877 Apparently acting on new information about his military service, the Pension Office again requests information on the military service of William Beaird. On stationary from the Pension Office, the following was handwritten:

Department of the Interior
Pension Office
Washington, DC Aug. 6, 1877.

Respectfully returned to Hon. Third Auditor with request that he will examine the Rolls of ***Capt. Wm. Browns*** *Co. Ga. Mil. for the service of "****William Beaird or Beard*** *relation is invited to enclosed letter.*

[Note: This form was stamped:] Third Auditor's Office, Collection Division, Aug 9, 1877
[Handwritten at the bottom:] No Rolls

11 Aug 1877 The Treasury Department responds, once again, that there are no rolls for the company to which Beaird claimed to have served:

No. 30271 Beaird or Baird
Treasury Department
Third Auditor's Office
Aug. 11th, 1877

Respectfully returned to the Commissioner of Pensions with the information that there are no Rolls of ***Captain Wm. Brown*** *Company of Georgia Militia, War of 1812, on file in this Office.*

15 May 1878 **William Beaird** gives his power of attorney to Gilmore & Company to attempt to obtain a pension for him based upon his War of 1812 service:

Power of Attorney

Know all men by these Presents, That I, ***William Beaird****, a resident of the parish of Union and State of Louisiana have made, constituted and appointed, and by these presents do make, constitute, and appoint Gilmore & Co., my true and lawful attorneys, for me, and in my name, place, and stead, hereby annulling and revoking all former powers of Attorney whatever in the premises, to prosecute, before any Executive Department, Court or Commission, my pention* [sic] *claim for service rendered in the State of Georgia in the Creek Indian War of 1812 in the Georgia Militia under General Floyd giving and granting to my said Attorneys full power and authority to do and perform all and every act and thing whatsoever requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as I might or could do, if personally present…*

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the fifteenth day of May, A.D. 1878.

William Beaird

Two witnesses who can write:
S. C. Lee
I. Shuster

State of Louisiana, Parish of Union
Personally appeared before me the undersigned a resident in and for said Parish and State, William Beaird, the identical person who signed the foregoing Letter of Attorney, and the same having been read over to him and the contents thereof fully explained, he acknowledged the same to be his act and deed.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this fifteenth day of May eighteen hundred and seventy-eight. ***Jas. M. Smith,***
Deputy Recorder and ex officio Notary Public in and for the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana

21 June 1878 The Pension Office requests that William Beaird clarify the name of his captain or colonel. They also ask if he ever received a land warrant for his military service. This note was written on letterhead reading: *Department of the Interior, Pension Office, Washington DC:*

William Beaird*, care of Messr. Gilmore & Co., Present*
June 21st, 1878

Sir: In your claim for pension under Act of Feby 14th, 1871, No. 31271 you are informed that there are no Rolls of Capt. McLenton's or Capt. Wm. Brown's Companies on file. The correct name of the captain or colonel must be given. Did you receive a Land Warrant for your service?

Very respectfully,

J. A. Bentley
Commissioner of Pensions

15 July 1878 In response to the above request, William Beaird, Sr. again writes a letter in his own handwriting. This letter was transcribed in the previous section.

22 Apr 1879 The following letter was written on letterhead of **Gilmore & Co**, successors to Chipman, Hosmer & Co., 629 F. Street, Washington, D.C. Part of the letterhead was this statement: *We procure patents in all countries, collect back pay and bounty, and secure pensions and increase of pensions for soldiers and sailors and their heirs….*

April 22, 1879

Hon. commissioner of Pensions:

Sir: We have the honor to request information in 1812 claim of ***William Beaird*** *who served in Capt. Brown's company.*

Power of attorney filed May 28, 78 & last evidence filed July 25 78.

Very respy
Gilman & Co.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

William Beaird Jr.

A group of about 40 young men, including William Beaird Jr., left Union Parish in the spring of 1861 for the war; these men were typically single and between 18 and 25 years old. These were not enough men to form a company, so they joined with about 40 men from Sabine Parish to form a company called "Union and Sabine Rifles." They trained at Camp Moore, Louisiana in Tangipahoa Parish just north of Lake Pontchartrain. This company was mustered into the Confederate service on 4 June 1861 at Camp Moore as Company A, 6th Regiment Louisiana Infantry. With a total of 916 soldiers, this unit was immediately sent to the front in Virginia.

Here is a brief chronology of the activities of this regiment once they reached Virginia:

1861

July 21	was guarding supplies during the Battle of 1st Manassas and did not participate in the fighting
winter	the regiment wintered near Centerville and Orange Court House

1862

spring	the regiment joined General Stonewall Jackson's army in the Shenandoah Valley in early 1862
May 23	regiment was held in reserve during the fighting at Front Royal
May 24	skirmished with the enemy at Middletown and captured two enemy flags
May 25	helped drive back the Yankees at the Battle of Winchester
June 9	fought in the Battle of Port Republic and had 66 men killed or wounded (Union Parish soldier Private James A. Dean was severely wounded in this battle and sent home to recover).
June 26	skirmished with the Federals at Hundley's Corner during the night
June 27	fought in the Battle of Gaines' Mill
August	the regiment marched with Stonewall Jackson's Corps into northern Virginia
Aug 26	fought at Bristoe Station on August 26th
Aug 27	fought in the Battle of Kettle Run
Aug 29 – 30	fought in the Battle of 2nd Manassas
Sept 1	fought at Chantilly
Sept 17	saw heavy fighting at the Battle of Sharpsburg on September 17, with 52 men in the regiment killed or wounded; Union Parish resident and Beaird's company commander Captain Allen M. Callaway was killed during this battle.
Dec 13	the regiment was held in reserve at the Battle of Fredericksburg on December 13th and suffered only a few casualties from Yankee artillery fire

1863

Apr 29	with the 5th Louisiana Infantry, they disputed the Union crossing of the Rappahannock River below Fredericksburg
May 3	the regiment was driven from Marye's Heights and had 27 men captured
May 4	fought in the Battle of Salem Church
June 14	helped drive the Yankees back from Winchester
July 1	assisted in the attack that routed the Federal XI Corps during the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg
July 2	participated in the attack on Cemetery Hill; 53 men in the regiment killed, wounded, or MIA
Oct 9 – 22	fought in the Bristoe Station Campaign
Nov 7	the brigade was overrun by the Yankees at Rappahannock Station and had 89 men captured, including William Beaird, Jr. He was sent to Point Lookout, Maryland and Fortress Monroe. Beaird was exchanged on 10 March 1864 and rejoined his regiment by May 1864

1864

May 5	the regiment fought at the Wilderness
May 9 – 19	fought at Spotsylvania
May 12	brigade helped to repulse the Yankee attack at the Mule Shoe that had overrun the army's other Louisiana brigade
June – Oct	the brigade accompanied General Jubal Early's army to the Shenandoah Valley and participated in all of the battles fought there
Sept 22	the regiment fought in the Battle of Fisher's Hill, where Beaird was again captured by the Yankees and sent to Point Lookout.

1865

Feb 6	the remnants of the regiment saw action at Hatcher's Run
Mar 25	fought at Fort Steadman
Apr 9	surrendered at Appomattox with only 4 officers and 48 enlisted men on duty

Overall statistics: 1145 men served in the 6th Louisiana Infantry Regiment, 219 were killed in battle, 104 died of disease, 5 killed in accidents, 1 drowned, 1 was executed for desertion, and at least 232 men deserted.

Compiled Military Service Record from the National Archives

William Beaird, Jr.'s combined service record gives the following information:

- he enlisted with the other men into the Confederate service on 4 June 1861 at Camp Moore, Louisiana
- he was present on all monthly muster rolls between June 1861 and October 1863
- on the Nov–Dec 1863 and the Jan–Feb 1864 rolls, he was listed as "Absent Prisoner."
- he was captured on 7 Nov 1863 at Rappahannock Station and sent as a prisoner of war first to Washington DC, where he arrived on November 11th, and then to Point Lookout Maryland
- he was exchanged on March 10, 1864 and was then sent to the General Hospital No. 9 in Richmond, Virginia, called the "Receiving and Wayside Hospital." He was issued clothing there on March 25th. He was admitted to the hospital again on May 3rd, listed as "on duty" on May 4th
- Beaird was again issued clothing on 17 Sept 1864
- he was again captured five days later at Fisher's Hill, 22 Sept 1864, by General Sheridan's forces
- he was sent as a prisoner of war first to Harper's Ferry in West Virginia, but on October 1st sent to Point Lookout, Maryland, where he arrived on October 3rd
- he was exchanged on 10 Feb 1865
- on 17 Feb 1865 he was present for duty on a muster roll of exchanged prisoners at Camp Lee near Richmond, Virginia. At that date, it had been nearly a year since he was paid, as the record stated that he was last paid by Captain Patterson on 30 Apr 1864

It does not appear that Beaird rejoined his regiment after his final exchange. His name was not found on the list of soldiers who surrendered with Lee on 9 April 1865. In his Confederate pension application, he stated that following the exchange, he received a furlough to return to Louisiana and that he was at home in Union Parish at the surrender.

Louisiana Confederate Pension Application

William Beaird applied for a Louisiana Confederate pension on 20 December 1907. At that time his address was Post Office Coushatta in Red River Parish. Some information from his file is difficult to read due to poor microfilming of the original records by the Louisiana Archives before they destroyed them. There are only four records in Beaird's pension file, (1) pension application form; (2) letter from the Louisiana Pension Board to the War Department; (3) response of the War Department to the Louisiana Pension Board; (4) two letters written in his own handwriting to the Louisiana Pension Board (transcribed in the previous section).

1. Pension Application Form:

   Note: The questions are printed on the application form, but the answers handwritten in. I have made his answers in bold font, and I omitted a few uninformative questions.

   *I **William Beaird a native of Bibb County Ala** and now a citizen of Louisiana, resident at **Carroll La** in the Parish of **Red River** in said State of Louisiana, and who was a soldier…in the Confederate States army…*

   - When were you born? **Jany 2 1833**
   - Where were you born? **Bibb County Ala**
   - When did you enlist in the Confederate service? **May 1861**
   - Where did you enlist? **Camp Moore**
   - In what Command? **6th Louisiana**
   - Give branch of service: Artillery, Infantry, Calvary or Navy: **Infantry**

- Give the names of the regimental and company officers under whom you enlisted, and under whom you were serving at the date of your discharge or parole? **Col. Seymour, Lt. Col. Lay, Maj. James, Capt. McArthur, 1st Lt. Callaway, 2nd Lt. Phillips, 3rd Lt. Fisher**
- Were you wounded? **No**
- If discharged or paroled from the army, where were you, and what did you do until the close of the war? **Richmond, Virginia. I reported to McEnery at Monroe, La and he extended my furlough 15 days at which time all troops were discharged about Mch 1865**
- Where were you at the surrender? **was at home on parole furloug Union Par La**
- If a prisoner, in what camp, and where were you released, and to where sent? **Yes, twice, Point Lookout Maryland and was transferred to Jamestown**
- Did you take the oath of allegiance to the Unites States Government at any time during the war? **No**
- How long have you been a resident of the State of Louisiana next preceding the date of this application? Where have you resided during this period? **Since the year 1846, resided in Union Parish the greater part of the time**
- Are you married, or have you been married? **Yes**
- If so, what is the size of your family? **Wife and four children**
- What are the respective ages of your wife and children? **Wife 65 years; 31, 24, 27, 39**
- How many children have you, and how many of each sex? **four boys and one girl**
- Are you engaged in any business? If so, what do you earn? **No business at present**
- Have you any estate in your own right, real or personal, and what is the value? **I have none**
- Has your wife any estate in her own right, real or personal, and what is its value? **No**
- How have you derived support for yourself, and family if you have one, for the last five years? **have been carrying the U.S. Mail but the rural Route done away with my__?___**
- What prevents you from earning a living now? **old age and inability to labor**
- Give name of two or more of your comrades with their post office addresses:
  John Howard Farmerville Union Par La
  Arnett Hayes " " " "

Witness my hand on this 30th day of Decr, 1907 [signed] **William Beaird**

2. Letter from the Louisiana Board of Pension Commissioners to the War Department
   This was an undated form letter requesting information on the service of William Beaird.

3. Response of the War Department to the President of the Louisiana Board of Pension Commissioners
   A typed memo dated 18 January 1908 in which the service of William Beaird is described. The details given are merely those from his Compiled Military Service Record given above.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

The Phoenix Rifles: Co. C, 17th Regiment Louisiana Infantry

Many relatives of William Beaird Sr. and Zilpha Dunn served in this company during the Civil War, including:

- son **Stephen J. Beaird**, enlisted in July or August 1861
- son **James Beaird**, enlisted in July or August 1861 and died while in the service
- son-in-law **Riley Agerton**, enlisted in October 1863
- son-in-law **William Daniel Regan**, enlisted in February 1863
- grandson **William W. Pierce**, enlisted in July 1861
- grandson **Enoch J. Pierce**, transferred to this company on 20 Nov 1862 from another regiment
- grandson **Wiley Newton Pierce**, enlisted in July 1861
- grandson **Stephen R. Pierce**, enlisted in 1863 or 1864
- grandson-in-law **William Cleaton Boatright**, enlisted in July 1861and died while in the service

The Seventeenth Louisiana Regiment and the Beairds:

A company of about 100 soldiers formed in Union Parish during July 1861 in response to the hostilities with the North. They termed themselves the *Phoenix Rifles*, elected Jordan G. Taylor their captain, and trained in Union Parish during August. In early September, the men left the piney hills for the Louisiana Confederate training grounds at Camp Moore in Tangipahoa Parish, located on the railroad line between New Orleans and Jackson, a short distance north of Lake Pontchartrain. They probably traveled down Bayou D'Arbonne to Monroe, and then went east to Vicksburg by train. The men stopped in Vicksburg for a while, and then apparently continued east towards Jackson, where they took the north/south railroad towards New Orleans. They arrived at Camp Moore's train depot at 5 o'clock on Thursday morning, September 12th. These Union Parish boys apparently had a rough first few days at Camp Moore, for they had no camp equipment. The next day, Captain Taylor left the military camp and went south into New Orleans to obtain supplies and equipment for the company.

As is typical in military camps, upon arrival at Louisiana's training camp, several soldiers immediately became sick. One Union Parish soldier wrote home on September 14th:

> *…some of the boys are sick of which I will give you their names,…W. A. Kirkpatrick, S. J. Beaird. The last two are going home…*

They were probably suffering from severe diarrhea, which plagued the company during the first few weeks at Camp Moore. When the Phoenix Rifles was officially inducted into the Confederate service at Camp Moore on 29 September 1861, James Beaird and his nephews William W. Pierce, Wiley N. Pierce, and William C. Boatright (husband of Martha Jane Pierce) were present for duty. Stephen J. Beaird was absent, presumably still recuperating in Union Parish. The Phoenix Rifles was assigned to the 17th Regiment, Louisiana Infantry. Its company designation was originally "D", but this soon changed to "C".

After its formation, the regiment trained at Camp Moore for several months, drilling every day. By October, they had regimental drill twice a day, with dress parade on Thursdays and Sundays. Sergeant E. Jefferson Lee served in the Phoenix Rifles and his letters home provide a fascinating glimpse into life in the company. On October 20th, he wrote home to Union Parish

> *Our Regt has got its flag and took it out this evening for the first time. I had the honor of bearing it in the Regt and Saluting old Tracy [commander of the left wing of the regiment] with it. Ours is the company that bears the flag in the Regt. I wish you could see us on our dress parade days. It is beautiful to see two Regts all uniformed with their guns and two fine flags in a march behind their Music. It makes a fellow feel like fighting…*

The same routine continued through late November, when Lee wrote

…we drill here all the time except when we are cooking and eating…

Camp Moore had opened only in May 1861. When he left Union Parish for the war earlier that spring, William Beaird, Jr. was originally sent to Camp Walker in New Orleans, but the poor conditions there (insects, no fresh water, no drainage, distractions due to the proximity to the city, etc.) brought about the need for a new camp on higher ground with fresh water. His company moved from Camp Walker to Camp Moore where he finished his training, and then was sent to Virginia. When the Phoenix Rifles arrived at Camp Moore in September, there were around two thousand men there, and by late October, about 185 men from Union Parish were training there.

Although the Camp Moore grounds were high, during the late summer and early fall of 1861, there was significant rainfall about which the soldiers complained profusely. The rainfall probably contributed to the misery of disease that swept through the ranks during October and November. One Union Parish soldier writing home on October 13th said that

> *…our boys are all taking the Measles. James Beaird, … are all down with them. There is a soldier buried here every day. They all die of Measles…*

A week later on the 20th, the same soldier wrote

> *…I am sorry to say that our company is not enjoying good health. The Measles is raging here Rapidly. We have about twelve cases in our company, but they are all able to be up if the weather was not so bad. It has rained here two days in succession. Here is a list of the sick, Viz. James Beaird, …, Wm. Pearce, … The above names have got the Measles...*

James Beaird and William Pierce and the others must have begun their recovery by the 24th, when Lee wrote

> *Our boys that have had the Measles are all getting on foot. We have Several new cases on hand… Cleat Boatright, and several others have Just began to change their color. They have been complaining for Several days but have just begun to break out…*

William Cleaton Boatright apparently never recovered from the measles, for he died on November 1st at Camp Moore. Boatright's nephew and William Beaird, Sr.'s neighbor James Evan Price died of disease a few days later, on the 4th. James Beaird recovered sufficiently from his bout of measles to make a trip home to Union Parish and return to Camp Moore by November 15th. It is likely that the main purpose of the trip home was to take the bodies of his nephew William Cleaton Boatright and neighbor James Evan Price home to Union Parish. Sergeant Lee wrote home to Union Parish on November 15th, saying

> *Your letter of 10th Inst. Came to hand this morning through James Beaird… One of Joel Heaths sons came down with James Beaird and Joined our Company…*

There was a hospital at Camp Moore, and other companies in the Seventeenth Regiment sent their sick there. On October 20th, Company A from Ouachita Parish had 25 of its soldiers in the hospital, and another company had about 40 there. But Sergeant Lee wrote

> *…We don't send our boys to the hospital… We nurse our sick boys very Close. I have learned to be a good nurse and a good Cook too. I have so much of both to do that I cant help learning how. Our orderly Seargeant is also Sick and I have all his business to attend to, and so when night come I can sleep as sound on the hard plank as I ever could on a feather bed…*

By mid-November, the measles had run its course in the Phoenix Rifles, as all the soldiers were fit for duty. However, reports of smallpox in the Yankee army and in New Orleans probably prompted the Camp Moore soldiers to be vaccinated against it in late November. Lee complained for several weeks about the sore on his arm where he was vaccinated.

For those who recovered from measles and diarrhea, camp life was apparently tolerable. Certainly, the boys from Union did not suffer from a lack of food. By October 20th, Sergeant Lee had gained twelve pounds and by November

15th, he had gained 22 pounds in his two months at Camp Moore; of course, his cooking for many of the men may have played a role in his weight gain. Excitement flowed through the camp during these months over the dress parades, minor Confederate victories, and the speculation and rumors regarding where the Seventeenth Regiment would be sent. Many anticipated defending New Orleans from a Yankee attack, whereas other reports indicated they would help garrison Columbus, Kentucky. On November 14th, the Confederate general commanding the defenses of New Orleans, Mansfield Lovell, reviewed the soldiers at Camp Moore. Lee wrote

> *The Soldiers all put on their uniforms and marched to Tangipahoa to meet him. We was there Drawn in lines and presented arms to him as he got off the cars. He come up here to take a view of the camp and to inspect our arms, and to see if we were well enough Drilled to fight the Yankees. He said we performed very well.*

On November 23rd, the regimental commander, Colonel S. S. Heard, was ordered to hold the Seventeenth *"…in readiness to March at an hour's warning to New Orleans."* They traveled by train to New Orleans and then marched on a *"warm evening"* ten miles south from the train depot to Camp Chalmette, arriving *"smartly wearied"* at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of November 27th. They camped on the battlefield where General Andrew Jackson had defeated British General Sir Edward Packenham in the Battle of New Orleans on 8 January 1815.

The *Phoenix Rifles* spent December and part of January at Camp Chalmette, until they were sent to Camp Benjamin for a few days before returning to Camp Chalmette. In February, Federal General U. S. Grant reduced the Confederate forts in Kentucky and headed into Tennessee with intentions of driving through Mississippi, thus splitting the Confederacy. To meet Grant, Louisiana native and Confederate General Pierre G. T. Beauregard requested troops from Louisiana to supplement his army. General Mansfield Lovell responded by ordering the Seventeenth Regiment to Corinth, along with several other Louisiana regiments; this left the state depleted of soldiers, and some blamed this for the fall of New Orleans the following spring.

The Phoenix Rifles left south Louisiana by railroad in late February headed towards Corinth, Mississippi, arriving on March 2nd after a layover at Jackson of one day and night. They camped at Corinth for a few days, and then moved forty miles north to Henderson Station, Tennessee for a week of picket duty before coming back to Corinth. After only one day's rest, they made a forced march back towards the Tennessee River, returning to the Corinth camps on the 17th. On March 29th, Sergeant E. J. Lee described the march:

> *We staid out five days, it was a trip of exposure, we waded mud and water all day (the first day). That trip is what made me sick. I have had the worst cold that I ever had. We are now in camps one mile from Corinth…*

Continuing, he wrote

> *I have been sick for the last 8 days, my health is now improving but I am very weak. I have had something like Measles. We have but two cases in our company that's any ways bad, but we have many puny boys unable for duty… That trip is what made me sick. I have had the worst cold that I ever had… I hope I will get stout again soon.*

One of the seriously ill soldiers was James Beaird; in this same letter Lee wrote

> *James Beaird died this morning of Typhoid Fever. He was sick about twelve days. We hated to give him up but his case seemed to be an unquorable* [incurable] *one…*

It is not known where Beaird was buried. While at Camp Moore, men frequently were given furloughs to take the corpses of dead soldiers home to Union Parish. But the situation at this time was critical for the Confederate Army: a surprise attack on the Federal army camped at Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River near Shiloh Church was imminent. Although it is impossible to determine for certain, considering these conditions I suspect Beaird was buried

in an unmarked grave near Corinth. But there is a possibility that Stephen J. Beaird or one of his Pierce nephews was granted a furlough to take James Beaird's body home to Louisiana.

The Confederate Army, including the 17th Regiment, quietly left Corinth on April 3rd on another forced march towards the Tennessee River and Pittsburg Landing. The next day, sick in camp back at Corinth, Lee again wrote to his relatives in Union Parish:

> *Our Regt started yesterday on another force march, towards the Tenn River. There was only about 400 of the Regt able to go. The balance are sick. They will be gone five Days. I was not able to go with them. We puny boys are left here in charge of the tents… The Yankees are on the river…Our forces are trying to get the Enemy away from the River. Gen Beauregard is in command of our forces that's gone on the force march. Gen's Johnson* [sic - Johnston] *and Bragg are here…*

The Confederate Army under Generals Albert S. Johnston and P. T. G. Beauregard made a surprise attack on the Federal forces in their camps at Pittsburg Landing at dawn on Sunday morning, April 6th. The 17th Louisiana participated in this action that became known as the Battle of Shiloh, often viewed as the bloodiest two days on American soil. Despite this moniker, the Phoenix Rifles did not suffer extensive casualties. They participated in several charges on Yankee positions in the morning, but in the chaos the regiment became divided. After regrouping, they participated in the last few Confederate charges against the famous Hornet's Nest in late afternoon on the 6th, as well as some of the fighting on the 7th. Many historians have written about the paralysis of many Confederate commands at Shiloh due to inefficient leadership and the lack of a battle plan by the Southern generals. It would seem that this applies to the 17th Louisiana, for they were relatively inactive in the initial attack on Sunday until late afternoon, whereas their fellow Union Parisians in the 19th Louisiana Regiment suffered extensively from the repeated ineffective charges on the Hornet's Nest ordered by the incompetent Confederate General Braxton Bragg.

Stephen J. Beaird and his nephews William W. and Wiley Newton Pierce were all present for duty throughout this period, but there is no possible way to know which of them actually participated in the Battle of Shiloh. All three very well could have fought there and probably did, but one or more could also have remained behind, sick in the camps with Sergeant Lee.

After Shiloh, the men returned to Corinth for a month before being ordered to help defend Vicksburg on 7 May 1862. Since many of the initial enlistments were for one year, the regiment was reorganized at Edwards' Depot on May 22nd, with the soldiers this time enlisting for the duration of the war.

Little is known of the activities of the Seventeenth Regiment between May and December of 1862. They remained stationed around Vicksburg throughout this period. In May and June, they camped at Edwards' Depot, on the railroad about eighteen miles east of Vicksburg, and then moved to Vicksburg itself for the summer during the initial Federal bombardment. In September 1862, they moved to Camp Ouachita outside the city and remained there for the rest of the year.

Army fare at Vicksburg proved lacking for the soldiers by the end of 1862. On December 7th, E. Jefferson Lee, wrote home to Union Parish from Camp Ouachita

> *…As you have nothing to do untill a new year you had as well come and bing* [bring] *me some meat. We dont get any thing to eat but corn bread and beef. The boys say that they have not had any flour or coffee since I left so you know it is hard liveing. Our beef is old and very lean, we Just have to boil it and it dont make any sop* [soup]. *Steve Beaird & Leander McFarland has written home for some hog meat, and we want you to put it all in a box and bring it to us. We will help pay expenses on you and the box…*

Lee must have had no response, for a few weeks later, he again wrote home to Union Parish

I have been looking for Jord for several [sic] *days. Tell him to come and bring us something to eat, for we are very near starved out on beef. He may be holding back on account of the Small Pox, but I tell you there is no Small Pox here, nor hasnt been. If you will send us some meat, I will send you and Mother some factory cotton.*

Enoch J. Pierce, Stephen J. Beaird's nephew and the brother of William and Wiley Pierce, had joined another Louisiana regiment in March 1862. On November 20th, he was transferred to the Phoenix Rifles by order of General Smith. Less than one month later, on December 18th, the Phoenix Rifles Captain Jordon G. Taylor discharged Stephen J. Beaird from the army due to his being over 40 years old. Beaird was paid $39.60 in soldiers pay from September 1st to December 18th ($11 per month), $11 travel allowance from Vicksburg, Mississippi to Farmerville, Louisiana (110 miles @ 10 cents per mile), and he received $50 for clothing. His discharge papers indicated that he was born in Bibb County Alabama, aged 40, his height was 5'7", he had a fair complexion, blue eyes, light hair, and he was a farmer. However, according to Beaird's statement years later in his Confederate pension application, he was not yet forty years of age. He stated that he was born in July 1823, so he would not turn 40 until July 1863, making him six months shy of the appropriate age for discharge. In any event, Beaird received a discharge and missed the action of the next several months at Vicksburg.

On 7 December 1862, General Joseph E. Johnston assumed overall command of all troops in the West, including those at Vicksburg. A few days later, President Jefferson Davis left the Confederate capitol at Richmond, Virginia on a trip west. After visiting Tennessee, he arrived in Vicksburg and inspected the defenses there. On Sunday, December 21st, Lee wrote

We was reviewed… by Jeff Davis and Gen Joe E. Johnson [sic–Johnston]. *I took a good look at old Jeff. He is a calm looking old fellow. Gen Johnson is a fine looking officer.*

The United States failed in its attempt to reduce Vicksburg by bombardment during the summer and fall of 1862, so General U. S. Grant decided to move his army south from Tennessee and attack Vicksburg from the north by land. Sherman was to move his troops down the Mississippi from Memphis, while Grant would swing south through north-central Mississippi, creating a multi-pronged attack on Vicksburg. Following the plan, Federal troops under General William T. Sherman sailed from Memphis on one hundred transport ships on Saturday, December 20th, headed for Chickasaw Bayou north of Vicksburg. Further east in Tennessee, Confederate Generals Nathan Bedford Forrest and Earl Van Dorn attacked Grant's supply lines, destroyed railroads, and fought numerous skirmishes in north Mississippi and southern Tennessee. Their success forced Grant to relinquish his plans for an overland campaign against Vicksburg in cooperation with Sherman.

On Christmas Day, 1862, Sherman's Yankee horde arrived at Milliken's Bend on the Mississippi River north of Vicksburg, and on the next day they landed on the Yazoo near Steele's Bayou. Sherman advanced towards the bluffs protecting Vicksburg on the north, his troops slowly picking their way across the swamps and bayous blocking their approach.

Confederate scouts reported the Yankee troop movements, and orders arrived at Camp Ouachita on Friday the 26th for the soldiers to make a hasty march towards Chickasaw Bayou, about five miles north of Vicksburg, to meet the enemy. The commander of the Seventeenth Regiment, Colonel Robert Richardson, was placed in command of the entire brigade. They decided to make their stand along the ridge of bluffs, just above Widow Lake's farm on Chickasaw Bayou. When the 17th Regiment arrived at the Lake farm, Richardson ordered the Phoenix Rifles and the Claiborne Invincibles from neighboring Claiborne Parish to advance as pickets towards the swamps on the other side of Widow Lake's old field at the base of the bluffs. After finding nothing in the swamp, the two companies from north Louisiana

marched to the Lake residence for shelter, as a torrential rainstorm had just begun. The rain continued throughout the night, flooding the lowlands and rendering them impassable for artillery. This forced General Sherman to concentrate his forces at the Lake farmhouse and follow the road thence to the bluffs, although it took him until Monday the 29th to realize this.

While on picket duty at the Lake farm on the 27th, the Phoenix Rifles became the first Confederate forces to exchange fire with Sherman's advance troops. Despite the fighting, the Seventeenth Regiment only suffered one fatality during this entire campaign, Private Joseph Clayton of the Phoenix Rifles:

> *…while we was on picket… Joe was the first man that fired a gun, and was killed that evening… Poor fellow he was a brave soldier. He dared danger. The last words that I heard him say was come on boys who is afraid of the Yankees. It was not long after he spoke those words before a six pound cannon ball struck him in the eye and tore off one side of his head. He never knew what killed him, for he never breathed…*

Fighting continued all the next day, Sunday the 28th, as Sherman attempted to find his way through the swamps. However, the 17th Regiment did not engage the enemy that day.

On Monday the 29th, Sherman emerged from the swamps, and about 2 o'clock, he formed his army into double columns, eight abreast, and marched them double time across Lake's old field. The columns divided, filed right and left towards the corners of the field, then fronted and charged the Confederate army's position along the bluffs. Major J. E. Gaskell of the Seventeenth wrote

> *They were within good rifle range from the time they reached the old field, and the slaughter was terrible. We rounded up many prisoners. Those who could get away did not stand upon the order of their going. We had no means of knowing just what Sherman's casualties totaled, but it was currently reported that he admitted a loss of fifty-five hundred men. Our loss in numbers was small… Within less than one week from the landing of General Sherman's army he had been ignominiously defeated and driven from the State by a much smaller force than his own, and Vicksburg, the key to the Mississippi River, for six months longer was saved to the Confederacy.*

Sergeant Lee said that during the main Yankee assault, he fired 36 rounds at the Yankees and the Phoenix Rifles took 400 prisoners. The following letter was published in the *Vicksburg Daily Whig* in the issue dated 14 Jan 1863:

> *Mr. Editor: It would seem that the Seventeenth Louisiana Infantry gained, on Saturday, December 27, not only "glory enough for one day," but enough to satisfy her ambition forever; for I see it nowhere stated what important part she took in the decisive battle on Monday evening.*
>
> *The facts are, briefly, as follows: Before day, on Monday, December 29, the Seventeenth Louisiana was ordered to the support of a four-gun battery on the extreme right, where an attack was momentarily expected. When the engagement commenced on the center, the left wing, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel [Madison] Rogers, was ordered to take position in the road in front of our whole force, to receive the first charge of the enemy. Colonel [Robert] Richardson was soon ordered, with the remainder of the regiment, to take position on the right of Colonel Rogers, also in the road, and in front of our batteries.*
>
> *Colonel Richardson behaved with great coolness and bravery, charging his men not to fire until the command was given, while he, being in front of the line and exposed to the fire of the enemy, as well as our own forces in the entrenchments in rear, endeavored to stop the firing from the trenches, where an incessant and useless fire was kept up long after the enemy had retreated.*
>
> *Colonel Rogers, in the meantime – placed in the most exposed position, had successfully disputed the passage through which the enemy attempted to break. The conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Rogers was truly heroic. He mounted an eminence in front and waved his hat, cheered his men, and directed the fire where they could do the best execution…*
>
> *About 200 of the enemy came forward and laid down their arms to Colonel Rogers' command, and by a detail were taken immediately to Vicksburg. The Seventeenth Louisiana had no assistants nor participants in the taking of these prisoners. She was in front and alone, and it is almost a miracle that she suffered so lightly.*
>
> *After the firing had nearly subsided, General [Stephen Dill] Lee rode up to Colonel Richardson and for the second time complimented the Seventeenth on the battlefield, saying: "Colonel, the Seventeenth are the bravest boys. I wish you to keep them in position. If the enemy return, I mean to charge them."*
>
> *The Seventeenth Louisiana truly had the post of honor that day.*
>
> *Justice.*

Following their defeat, Sherman's army retreated to their transport ships, and after lingering for a while, sailed north towards Memphis.

In mid-February 1863, Sergeant James M. Anderson of the Seventeenth Regiment went home to Union Parish from Vicksburg to recruit more troops. William Beaird's son-in-law William Daniel Regan joined the Phoenix Rifles on February 20th and immediately received a $50 bounty. His enlistment papers are unclear as to whether he enlisted at Farmerville or Vicksburg on the 20th. He was born in Pulaski County Georgia and was aged 37 years at his enlistment. Sgt. Anderson inspected Regan and recorded that he had yellow eyes, dark hair, light complexion, and was 5' 7.5" in height. Regan soon joined the regiment, which was spending the winter training and manning the garrison of Vicksburg.

The Seventeenth Regiment remained at Vicksburg until 1 May 1863, when they participated in the Battle of Port Gibson; the regiment was engaged from 12 p.m. until 6 p.m. that day and saw heavy fighting. The next day they retired back to Vicksburg. Later that month they were ordered out to Baker's Creek, but the regiment did not arrive in time to participate in that action. They joined the entire Confederate army as it retreated into the defenses of Vicksburg, beginning the Siege that lasted from May 19 until July 4.

The Yankees made a direct assault on the entrenched Confederate position on May 19th, which the Seventeenth Regiment helped to repulse. By this time, the regiment suffered from a lack of manpower and was not large enough to hold its own position along the Confederate lines. For the rest of the siege, they were held in reserve, constantly moving up and down the lines as needed. A soldier in this regiment from neighboring Claiborne Parish wrote that during this time, the soldiers of the Seventeenth Louisiana

> *…saw hard times and suffered some of the worst experiences of a soldier's life, harassed by shot and shell by night and day, constantly on the alert to repulse assaults, and never sure of an hour's rest. In addition to these discomforts, we were on short rations in the last days of the siege, the daily allowance running as low as seven ounces of bread and four of pork, and finally the ration of bread was reduced to four ounces per day for each man. It was at this time that mule steaks came into favor…*

Due to lack of provisions and with no indication that Confederate General Joseph Johnston would attempt to relieve them, the General Pemberton's Confederate army capitulated on 4 July 1863. The men were paroled to their homes following the surrender.

The soldiers remained at the homes during the fall of 1863, but the officers continued recruiting, with many joining in October. William Beaird's son-in-law Riley Agerton joined the Phoenix Rifles in October, and his son Stephen J. Beaird, discharged earlier due to his age, re-enlisted as well. Also joining his brothers and uncles was William Beaird's youngest Pierce grandson, Stephen R. Pierce.

In December 1863, some of the regiment reported to a parole camp ten miles south of Shreveport. Their official exchange was delayed (a successful tactical move by the Union Army intended to destroy unit cohesion), and they returned home until April, when they formed again at a camp near Minden. After two or three weeks, the regiment moved to Pineville on the Red River. They were assigned to General Allen Thomas' brigade and formed the garrison at Pineville along with the 31st Regiment. While in camp near Alexandria, on 26 August 1864, Union Parish soldier E. Jefferson Lee wrote home that

> *I have no news to write. W. D. Regan and Harvy Thomas are at the seminary Hospital…*

Lee referred to the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy near Alexandria, used by the Yankees as a military hospital during the Red River Campaign and probably as a Confederate hospital after the Yankees evacuated Alexandria. He continued:

> *We get a plenty of Beef and corn bread to eat, and sometimes a little bacon and Molasses. It is thought by a great many that the Trans-Mississippi army will be sent to Atlanta Ga, if we can cross the Miss River. I wish that all the troops in this department was over there, if so we could end the war in a short time…*

But the men were not sent across the Mississippi, but rather remained in central Louisiana for the remainder of the war. According to a soldier in the Claiborne Invincibles, the Seventeenth Regiment

> *…saw no other active service except marching and counter-marching up and down the Red River valley, with all the privations, discomforts, and amusements incident to a soldier's life. This period of our existence had its lights as well as its shadows. Blackberries were abundant and went a long way to relieve the bold scarcity of the Confederate commissary, while our duties were light and confined mainly to hearing rose-colored reports of Confederate victories on the other side of the 'Father of Waters'…*

By the early spring of 1865, Thomas's Brigade together with Bogg's Brigade formed Hays' Division. In February, the division marched to Bayou Cotile, where it remained for several months. On May 13th, the colonel of the Seventeenth Louisiana Regiment, Robert Richardson, was given command of the entirety of Hays' Division, the position of a major general. As one of his final actions as division commander, Richardson wrote the following report to Captain Semuel Flowers, Assistant Adjutant General of the Department of Louisiana. It described the somewhat inglorious end of the Hays' Division, but he singles out the Phoenix Rifles for especial praise:

> *Headquarters Hays' Div.*
> *Near Mansfield May 22, 1865*
> *Captain: I have the honor to respectfully submit for the information of the Maj. Gen'l comdg the reports of Boggs' and Thomas' Brigades. In conformity with instructions, I assumed command of the Division composed of __?___ Brigades on the 13th of May and took up the line of march from Natchitoches to Mansfield. If found these troops much demoralized and a spirit of disobedience very prevalent among them. Many from both commands had already deserted, and I had every reason to apprehend that many more would leave during the March. I adopted the most stringent rules and regulations for the government of the march and endeavored by every means in my power to enforce the discipline and obedience to orders and to protect the government property.*
>
> *The desertions during the march from Natchitoches to Mansfield (four days) were near six hundred, two-thirds of them being from Thomas' Brigade. During the march we lost no government property. In obedience to orders I encamped near Mansfield on the Kingston Road [*which leads to Shreveport] *about five miles from the former place. The desertions increased after we had camped. Yet the men were calm during the day and went off at night quietly without any demonstration or general outbreak, until the morning on the 18th Instant when a general outbreak was very apparent.*
>
> *Various rumors afloat in camp among which were: "General Smith has left Shreveport for Mexico." "Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Buckner had been sent to new Orleans enroute for Europe." "Boats were being ladened with Cotton at Shreveport for shipment to New Orleans, the proceeds of which were for the benefit of Generals Smith and Buckner." "Our cause had been abandoned by the general officers." "<u>The Department surrendered</u>." "All the government transportation seized for the purpose of conveying their baggage and treasure to Mexico." And many other reports served to incite them to such a degree that the exertion to enforce discipline and maintain order was perfectly futile.*
>
> *The Division became a mob and rabble, disregarding the authority of their superiors and governed alone by a spirit of lawless plunder and pillage. predatory bands were formed, and in many instances led by officers, for the seizure and appropriation of all public property. The Quartermaster, Commissary, and Ordnance depots, both with the Division and in Mansfield, were sacked, the mules and wagons forcibly taken and appropriated.*
>
> ***I succeeded in saving most of the Ammunition of Bogg's Brigade, that being guarded by Company C 17th Louisiana Infantry Commanded by Captain Jordan G. Taylor, this being the only company in the whole Division that performed their duty to the last. I placed myself this ordnance in their charge. Though several attempts were made to take it, they preserved it and it is now safe. Too much praise cannot be ascribed to the gallant officer (Capt. J. G. Taylor) and his meritorious company who, when all around them was riot and***

confusion, did not cease to obey my orders and to perform their duty as men and as soldiers. The amount of ammunition saved by them was 22,000 rounds.

When the excitement had somewhat subsided, and most of the rioters having left, I found the Division in quite a deplorable condition. I had no transportation and only one day's subsistence for those remaining – that having already been issued. I was aware of my utter inability to keep the few remaining in a state of organization as I could not feed them. I therefore made a virtue of necessity and issued an order temporarily disbanding those remaining. Under the circumstances I cannot see what other course was left me than that which I adopted.

I cannot but call attention to the following named field officers who with zeal performed their whole duty and used their best endeavors to maintain order and discipline and to quell the riot and confusion: Colonel W. Hall, Commanding Thomas' Brigade;… Lieutenant Colonel Draughan, 31st Louisiana; Major D. W. Self, 17th Louisiana;… and Lieutenant Colonel Logan, 2nd Louisiana Heavy Artillery… I enclose herewith a list of the officers who deserted…

I am Captain with high respect *R. Richardson, Colonel Commanding*

Many soldiers in Company C and the entire regiment had no military records indicating they served after Vicksburg, although sworn statements in later Confederate pension applications indicated they did. Few records made it from the Confederate command of the Trans-Mississippi Department (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas) to Richmond following the fall of Vicksburg, and that is what the National Archives had today: the records captured from Richmond. The Confederate officials in charge of the Trans-Mississippi Department burned all their records prior to their final surrender at Shreveport in June 1865. As a result, there are no military records to indicate that William D. Regan, William W. Pierce, and Enoch J. Pierce served following the fall of Vicksburg, and there are no military records to indicate Stephen J. Beaird enlisted again after Vicksburg, nor that Riley Agerton ever served at all. However, from a letter written home by a Union Parish soldier and from Confederate pension applications, we have proof that Regan, Beaird, and Agerton did serve after Vicksburg and until the end of the war. The Pierce boys did not survive to file pension applications, but since their older uncles served until the end, I view it as almost certain that William and Enoch Pierce did also.

At the end of the war, Wiley N. Pierce was in Pine Bluff Arkansas, for he received a parole there on 18 May 1865. His parole stated that he was a resident of Union Parish, was aged 21, dark eyes, dark hair, dark complexion, height was 6'2", and he was a farmer. This is the last known record of Wiley Newton Pierce.

Stephen R. Pierce was the only Beaird family member to receive a regular parole at Monroe, dated 17 June 1865.

Sources: In addition to the sources listed at the end of these notes, the above brief history of the 17th Louisiana Infantry Regiment also relies on:

- Compiled Military Service Records for Stephen J. Beaird, James Beaird, William D. Regan, W. W. Pierce, E. J. Pearce, W. N. Pierce, S. R. Pierce, and W. C. Boatright
- Confederate Pension Applications for Stephen J. Beaird, William D. Regan, and Riley Agerton on file at the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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Stephen J. Beaird's Louisiana Confederate Pension Application

The only papers in his file are the original application and a request from the Louisiana Board of Pension asking Beaird for more information on the company in which he served. He was allowed $13.74 quarterly as his pension, but there is no indication when this payment began nor when it ended. His name appears on two lists of the Pension Board that indicate he was awarded a pension and was alive in 1904 but dead by 1906.

In the transcription below, the questions are printed on the application form, but the answers handwritten in. I have made his answers bold. I have omitted a few questions that I think are uninformative.

*I **Stephen J. Beaird**, a native of **Bibb County Ala** and now a citizen of Louisiana, resident at [blank] in the Parish of **Union** in said State of Louisiana, and who was a soldier from the State of **Louisiana** in the Confederate States army in the war between the United States and the Confederate States…*

- In what town, county, State, country and year were you born? **I was born in Bibb Co, Alabama on July 21, 1823**
- When and where did you enlist, and in what command? **I enlisted in Union Parish La in the company of Capt. J. G. Taylor which formed a part in Reg. No. 17 La, Col. S. D. Heard**
- Give the names of the regimental and company officers under whom you enlisted, and under whom you were serving at the date of your discharge or parole? **Capt. of Company J. G. Taylor Col. of Regiment S. D. Heard – When discharged Robt. Richardson was Colonel**
- Were you wounded? **I was not wounded or other wise injured**
- If you have lost a limb or an eye, state when, where and how. **Have lost none. Three years ago I had sun stroke.**
- Were you discharged from the army by reason of wound, wounds, or from the effects of service? **I was first discharged Dec 18, 1862, the time of my enlistment having expired, again entered the service at the fall of Vicksburg and served to the close.**
- If discharged or paroled from the army, where were you, and what did you do until the close of the war? **As above stated, the time of my enlistment having expired Dec 18, 1862, I was not in the service from that time until after the fall of Vicksburg, and served till the close of the war & disbanded at Mansfield, La.**
- What was the name of the surgeon who attended you when discharged? **There was none**
- Where were you at the surrender? **Between Mansfield & Pleasant Hill La**
- If a prisoner, in what camp, and when were you released, and to where sent? **I was never a prisoner during the war**
- Did you take the oath of allegiance to the Unites States Government at any time during the war? **No**
- How long have you been a resident of the State of Louisiana next preceding the date of this application? Where have you resided during this period? **I have lived continuously in the State of Louisiana since the year 1844**
- Are you married, or have you been married? **I was never married**
- If so, what is the size of your family? **I have a younger sister with me**
- What are the respective ages of your wife and children? **I have none**
- How many children have you, and how many of each sex? **none**
- Are you engaged in any business? If so, what do you earn? **I can not work & therefore am engaged in no business**
- Have you any estate in your own right, real or personal, and what is the value? **I don't own any property whatsoever, real or personal**
- How have you derived support for yourself, and family if you have one, for the last five years? **I have been dependent on others and the parish for support. I am not able to work. I am ruptured.**
- Do you use any intoxicants to any extent? **No sin**
- Have you an attorney to look after this application? **Yes**
- Give his name, address, and the compensation agreed between you. **R. B. Dawkins. No compensation**
- Give names of two or more of your comrades with their postoffice addresses: **T. J. Price, Farmerville La**
  E. J. Lee " "
- Give your postoffice address and that of the two witnesses. **Farmerville, La. is the P.O. address of myself & witnesses**

Witness my hand this 3rd day of October, 1898 **Stephen J. X Beaird, Sr.** [his mark]
Witnesses: **Henry Archer** *Note: applicant too nervous to write his name*
T. J. Price

*State of Louisiana, **Union** Parish. Personally appeared before me, **Edw. Everett, Deputy** Clerk of the district Court of said Parish, the above named **S. J. Beaird** the applicant, with whom I am personally acquainted, and having the application read and fully explained to him as well as the statements and answers therein made, made oath that the statements and answers are true. Witness my hand and seal of office, this **3rd** day of **October 1898**.*
***Edw. Everett Dep'ty**. Clerk*

*State of Louisiana, **Union** Parish. Personally appeared before me, **Edw. Everett, Dy.** Clerk of the District Court of said Parish, the above named **T. J. Price** and **Henry Archer**, two of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing application, with whom I am personally acquainted and known to be citizens of veracity and standing in this community, and who make oath that they are personally acquainted with the foregoing applicant, and that the facts set forth and statements made in his application are correct and true, to the best of their knowledge and belief, and that they have no interest in this claim, and that said applicant's habits are good and free from dishonor. Witness my hand and seal of office, this **3rd** day of **Oct 1898***
***Edw. Everett, Dep'ty.** Clerk of Court*

Note: The above two statements were typed forms. The items in bold font are the information that was handwritten onto the forms.

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Riley Agerton's Louisiana Confederate Pension Application

The only papers in his file are the original application and a doctor's examination statement. He was allowed $13.57 quarterly as his pension, but there is no indication when this payment began nor when it ended. He died on Saturday, 25 January 1902.

In the transcription below, the questions are printed on the application form, but the answers handwritten in. I have made his answers bold. I have omitted a few questions that I think are uninformative.

*I **Riley Aggerton**, a native of **South Carolina** and now a citizen of Louisiana, resident at **Carrol**l in the Parish of **Union** in said State of Louisiana, and who was a soldier from the State of **Louisiana** in the Confederate States army in the war between the United States and the Confederate States…*

- In what town, county, State, country and year were you born? **Chesterfield District South Carolina, U.S.A. July 5th 1820**
- When and where did you enlist, and in what command? **At Farmerville, La (recruit) in October 1863. Co. "C" 17th La Vol. Regt, Thomases Brigade, going into the regiment at Pineville La.**
- Give the names of the regimental and company officers under whom you enlisted, and under whom you were serving at the date of your discharge or parole? **Col. Bob Richardson, Capt. Jordan G. Taylor at date of enlistment & same officers at discharge other officers Regt. Lieut. Collonel W. A. Reddit, Major D. W. Self. 1st Lieut of Company W. A. Kirkpatrick: 2nd Lieut. Daniel N. Payne.**
- Were you wounded? **I was never wounded**
- If you have lost a limb or an eye, state when, where and how. **None**
- Were you discharged from the army by reason of wound, wounds, or from the effects of service? **Discharged at surrender of Smith**
- If discharged or paroled from the army, where were you, and what did you do until the close of the war? **The war had closed when I was discharged.**
- What was the name of the surgeon who attended you when discharged? **Curtis**
- Where were you at the surrender? **Stacked arms near Mansfield La**
- If a prisoner, in what camp, and when were you released, and to where sent? **Never a prisoner**
- Did you take the oath of allegiance to the Unites States Government at any time during the war? **I did not**
- How long have you been a resident of the State of Louisiana next preceding the date of this application? Where have you resided during this period? **I have resided in La, nearly 53 years, near Farmerville, La (P.O. Carroll)**
- Are you married, or have you been married? **I am married (6 children but not members of family)**
- If so, what is the size of your family? **Myself & wife (6 children but not in my family)**
- What are the respective ages of your wife and children? **Wifes age 77 in January next. age of children 52, 50, 48, 44, 42, 38**
- How many children have you, and how many of each sex? **4 sons & 2 daughters**
- Are you engaged in any business? If so, what do you earn? **Farming – with assistance of others (friends & relatives I barely earn a living**
- Have you any estate in your own right, real or personal, and what is the value? **I have 40 acres of land but I have transferred it as security for debt it is worth not more than 50 cents per acre (old field) 2 cows 8head hogs & pigs & 2 ponies. Small supply of household & kitchen furniture all worth, real & personal, seventy five Dollars.**
- Has your wife any estate in her own right, real or personal, and what is its value? **She has none**
- How have you derived support for yourself, and family if you have one, for the last five years, and what prevents you from earning a living now? **With assistance from others, friends & relatives. I have lived but have grown deeper & deeper in debt: old age, palsy, disabled left arm & general disability**
- Do you use any intoxicants to any extent? **I do not**
- Have you an attorney to look after this application? **Yes**
- Give his name, address, and the compensation agreed between you. **R. B. Dawkins, Farmerville La. No agreement**
- Give names of two or more of your comrades with their postoffice addresses: **E. J. Lee, Farmerville La**
  W. D. Reagan, Carroll La
- Give your postoffice address and that of the two witnesses. **Carroll La, E. J. Lee Farmerville, La, W. D. Reagan Carroll La**

Witness my hand this 28th day of Sept, 1898 [signed] ***Riley Agerton***
Witnesses: ***E. J. Lee*** ***Riley X Agerton (his mark)***
W. D. Regan

Note: Agerton's signature is very shaky and difficult to read; he both signed it and made his mark.

State of Louisiana, ***Union*** *Parish. Personally appeared before me,* ***Edw. Everett, De.*** *Clerk of the district Court of said Parish, the above named* ***Riley Agerton*** *the applicant, with whom I am personally acquainted, and having the application read and fully explained to him as well as the statements and answers therein made, made oath that that the statements and answers are true. Witness my hand and seal of office, this* ***28th*** *day of* ***Sept 1898.***
Edw. Everett D. *Clerk*

State of Louisiana, ***Union*** *Parish. Personally appeared before me,* ***Edw. Everett, Dy.*** *Clerk of the District Court of said Parish, the above named* ***E. J. Lee*** *and* ***D. W. Reagan****, two of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing application, with whom I am personally acquainted* ***& served with in the army*** *and known to be citizens of veracity and standing in this community, and who make oath that they are personally acquainted with the foregoing applicant, and that the facts set forth and statements made in his application are correct and true, to the best of their knowledge and belief, and that they have no interest in this claim, and that said applicant's habits are good and free from dishonor.* ***that they served with him in the army****. Witness my hand and seal of office, this* ***28*** *day of* ***Sept 1898*** ***Edw. Everett****, D. Clerk of Court*

Note: The above two statements were typed forms. The items in bold font are the information that was handwritten onto the forms.

Doctor's Statement

This handwritten letter was on letterhead reading M. Haas, General Merchant, Farmerville, La.

September 28, 1898

This is to certify that I have on this day examined Mr. Riley Agerton for a surgical disability, of the left arm. This injury rendering the arm almost useless, in performing any labor. *W. W. Barnes, Md.*

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William Daniel Regan's Louisiana Confederate Pension Application

The only paper in his file is the original application. He was allowed $10.94 quarterly as his pension, but there is no indication when this payment began nor when it ended. His name appears on two lists of the Pension Board that indicate he was awarded a pension and was dead by 1904.

In the transcription below, the questions are printed on the application form, but the answers handwritten in. I have made his answers bold. I have omitted a few questions that I think are uninformative.

*I **William D. Regan**, a native of **Pulaski County Georgia** and now a citizen of Louisiana, resident at **Carroll** in the Parish of **Union** in said State of Louisiana, and who was a soldier from the State of **Louisiana** in the Confederate States army in the war between the United States and the Confederate States…*

- In what town, county, State, country and year were you born? **Near Macon, Pulaski Co Ga in 1825**
- When and where did you enlist, and in what command? **Was recruited at Farmerville La & mustered into service at Vicksburg Miss 17th La Regt. Vols. Company C. Capt. Taylor**
- Give the names of the regimental and company officers under whom you enlisted, and under whom you were serving at the date of your discharge or parole? **Col. Robt. Richardson 17th Regt. & Capt. Jordan G. Taylor Co. "C" same at date of discharge**
- Were you wounded? **I was not wounded**
- If you have lost a limb or an eye, state when, where and how. **I lost none**
- Were you discharged from the army by reason of wound, wounds, or from the effects of service? **was discharged at the surrender of Kirby Smith**
- If discharged or paroled from the army, where were you, and what did you do until the close of the war? **Near Mansfield, La at the close of war was discharged**
- What was the name of the surgeon who attended you when discharged? **Curtis**
- Where were you at the surrender? **Near Mansfield La**
- If a prisoner, in what camp, and when were you released, and to where sent? **Was at capitulation of Vicksburg, was parolled & was sent to Shreveport in Parrol Camp**
- Did you take the oath of allegiance to the Unites States Government at any time during the war? **I did not**
- How long have you been a resident of the State of Louisiana next preceding the date of this application? Where have you resided during this period? **Near 54 years where I now reside, near Carroll Union Parish La**
- Are you married, or have you been married? **I am**
- If so, what is the size of your family? **Myself & wife (have 8 living children but none with me)**
- What are the respective ages of your wife and children? **age of wife 57 years (48, 46, 44, 42, 40, 37, 34, 30 as near as I can remember**
- How many children have you, and how many of each sex? **Eight Children – 4 boys & 4 girls**
- Are you engaged in any business? If so, what do you earn? **Farming, scant living by going in debt**
- Have you any estate in your own right, real or personal, and what is the value? **own ½ interest in 120 acres land, ½ interest worth $50.00 1 cow, 1 calf, 4 head hogs, small supply of household & kitchen furniture worth $25.00**
- Has your wife any estate in her own right, real or personal, and what is its value? **none**
- How have you derived support for yourself, and family if you have one, for the last five years, and what prevents you from earning a living now? **I have by going in debt – old age & being physically unable to do manual labor**
- Do you use any intoxicants to any extent? **I do not**
- Have you an attorney to look after this application? **I have**
- Give his name, address, and the compensation agreed between you. **R. B. Dawkins, Farmerville La. No compensation agreed on**
- Give names of two or more of your comrades with their postoffice addresses:
  Henry Archer, Farmerville La
  T. J. Price, Carroll La
- Give your postoffice address and that of the two witnesses. **My address Carroll La that of wits Farmerville La**

*Witness my hand this **28th** day of **Sept 1898*** *[signed]* ***W. D. Regan***
Witnesses: ***Jno. P. Odom***

J. M. Underwood

State of Louisiana, ***Union*** *Parish. Personally appeared before me,* ***Edw. Everett, D.*** *Clerk of the district Court of said Parish, the above named* ***Wm D. Regan*** *the applicant, with whom I am personally acquainted, and having the application read and fully explained to him as well as the statements and answers therein made, made oath that that the statements and answers are true. Witness my hand and seal of office, this* ***28th*** *day of* ***Sept 1898.***

Edw. Everett D. *Clerk*

State of Louisiana, ***Union*** *Parish. Personally appeared before me,* ***Edw. Everett, Dy.*** *Clerk of the District Court of said Parish, the above named* ***Jno. P. Odom*** *and* ***J. M. Underwood, Jr.****, two of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing application, with whom I am personally acquainted and known to be citizens of veracity and standing in this community, and who make oath that they are personally acquainted with the foregoing applicant, and that the facts set forth and statements made in his application are correct and true, to the best of their knowledge and belief, and that they have no interest in this claim, and that said applicant's habits are good and free from dishonor.* ***that he is old & feeble & cannot without assistance earn a support: that he is in needy circumstances****. Witness my hand and seal of office, this* ***28*** *day of* ***Sept 1898***

Edw. Everett, D. *Clerk of Court*

Note: The above two statements were typed forms. The items in bold font are the information that was handwritten onto the forms.

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James Polk Agerton

James Polk Agerton was born on 7 August 1846 near Farmerville in Union Parish, Louisiana, the eldest child of Susannah Beaird and her husband, Riley Agerton. This makes James Polk Agerton the eldest grandchild of William and Zilpha Dunn Beaird. His birth occurred one year after his parents' marriage in Bibb County, Alabama, and just a few months after his extended family had arrived in Union Parish from Alabama the previous winter.

"Polk" Agerton, as he was known, served in Col. George W. Logan's Battalion of Louisiana Heavy Artillery in 1864–1865. The battalion was authorized in October 1863 but did not complete its organization until February 1864, probably at Columbia, Louisiana. Agerton claimed that he joined in April 1863, which is possible, since his company could have begun its formation at that time.

There are very few records of this organization, as the Confederate records of the Trans-Mississippi Department of the Confederacy were destroyed at the end of the war. What we do know is that the unit was ready for action by early 1864. On 2 March 1864, the battalion was subjected to bombardment from six Federal gunboats at Harrisonburg, but they probably had no cannons with which to return fire. Several weeks later, they received two 24-pounder guns and remained near the Ouachita River in case Federal gunboats again moved up stream. In early April, they buried their cannons near Columbia and marched to Shreveport in anticipation of Yankee General Nathaniel P. Banks attack on the Confederate state capitol at Shreveport during his Red River Campaign. They manned Fort Boggs guarding the city for about a week. Once Banks' horde was defeated and the danger passed, the men returned to Columbia and retrieved its cannons. They operated near Pineville while the Union army occupied Alexandria. Following the Yankee evacuation of Alexandria, the battalion remained in that vicinity until early 1865, when they moved to Natchitoches. By the end of the war, the battalion apparently had no cannon and was attached to General Bogg's infantry brigade along with the Phoenix Rifles. They disbanded near Mansfield in May 1865.

James Polk Agerton Confederate Pension Application

James Polk Agerton of New London, Union County, Arkansas, applied for a Confederate pension from the State of Arkansas on 12 August 1908. The Union County Pension Board examined the application and recommended that he receive a pension of $100 per year. The following papers were included in his pension file:

Application

The application was dated 6 June 1908. Agerton stated that he enlisted in the 2nd Louisiana Artillery on or about 1 April 1863. He stated further that he was blind in one eye and that this

> *…incapacity (or disability) is the result of wounds received in the service, being the loss of my right eye in service. No other wounds worthy of mention.*

Proof of Service

*State of Arkansas, County of **Union**.*

*On this day personally came before the undersigned, a **Notary Public J.P.** within and for the County of **Union**, and State of **Arkansas, Jasper Story, and Thom. Patterson** citizens of **Union County, Arkansas,** whom I certify to be creditable persons and worthy of confidence, who, being duly sworn, state that they are each, personally, well acquainted with applicant **Mr. James P. Agerton** and have known him **45 and 40** years, respectively.*

*That he was a Confederate soldier, belonging to Company **F. 2nd. La.** Regiment of **Artilery**. That as such soldier he served from **the first of Apr. 1863** to **the 1st of Apr 1865**. That he was honorably paroled from such service and did not desert the same. That he is now and has been for the past twelve months a bona fide resident of Arkansas. That he is incapacitated for manual labor by reason of **Old age, and a bad Heart trouble, and in service lost right eye (the main trouble that I apply is because I am simply unable to work to make a honest living)**, and that such incapacity (or disability) is not the result of his own vicious habits still persisted in. That to the best of our knowledge, all property now owned by him and his wife, together, is not worth exceeding $400 (exclusive of household goods and wearing apparel). That neither he nor his wife is in receipt of any income, annuity, pension or*

wages for any services, or the emoluments of an office, in excess of $150 per year. That we have no interest in this claim.

Jasper X L. Story [his mark]
T. S. Patterson

*Subscribed and sworn to before me this **the 6th.** day of **June** 190**8.***

Note: The above statement was a typed form. The items in bold are the information that was handwritten onto the form.

Physician's Statement

A physician, Dr. E. Edwards, examined Agerton and stated that

No wound in service worthy of mention except the loss of right eye. But Physical condition is bad, owing to the fact that he has done quite a lot of hard work, and from such work is now incapacitated to do manual labor, and he honestly deserves a pension that will enable him, and wife to live, this statement is honest, and I am well acquainted with his condition, both physical, and _____?_____.

Dr. Edwards attributed his incapacity for manual labor to

old age, and disability to do manual labor, for self, and wife, also the loss of the right eye is disadvantageous to his work in various ways.

Furthermore, when asked if Agerton's disability was the result of his own vicious habits still persisted in, Dr. Edwards responded

No his habits are about normal, or about as that of any other man of a good average habit.

The extent of Agerton's disability was

Loss of right eye, and disability to do manual labor. Right Eye was lost in service, and as a matter of fact his physical condition was weakened from service, and his present condition is much worse from having done same.

Biographical Memoranda

The Arkansas legislature in 1911 required a statewide biographical form to be completed by all Confederate pensioners and applicants. This valuable information is given below. James Polk Agerton provided this data to the Assessor of Union County Arkansas W. H. Matthews, Jr. on 8 Oct 1912.

The form on which the information was recorded was standard. I have listed the questions with the handwritten answers in bold type.

- Full name (Do not use initials): **James Polk Agerton**
- Present P.O. (Give last address with date of death if dead): **Strong, Ark**
- Exact date and place of birth: **Aug. 2, 1845** at **Farmerville, La** in the **Parish** of **Union** State of **Louisiana**
  Note: This is an error: Riley Agerton and Susan Beaird married in October 1845 in Bibb County Alabama. That winter they moved from Alabama to Union Parish Louisiana, where census records indicate Polk Agerton was born in August 1846.
- Full name of the subject's father: **Riley Agerton** born…in the…State of **N. C.**
- He was the son of **Dempsey Agerton** and his wife **Martha Agerton** who lived at **Georgia**
- Remarks on Ancestry… **Riley Agerton, my father, moved from Georgia to Alabama. He married my mother Susan Beard in Alabama. Afterwards moved to Louisiana. He served with 17th La Confederate Volunteers.**
- Early Education – where obtained, incidents… **Jordon Taylor, Willam Fike, Jesse Ammouett, Teachers in Louisiana**
- Military Offices held – exact rank, name of command, and dates of service, as full as possible: **Private in Logan's Battalion of 2nd Louisiana Artillery Confederate Service**
- Political Party: **Democratic. Held no office.**
- Church Connection – with official position, if any: **Not member of any Churches**
- If a member of the masons, odd fellows, or other secret order, give names, with official position, if any: **Not a member of any secret order**
- Titles of books written or edited: **None**
- Maiden name in full of the subject's wife, with date and place of marriage: **Marguerite Phelps, married May 30, 1867** She was the daughter of **John Phelps** and his wife **Sallie Phelps**…
- Full list of the children (if any) of the subject of this sketch, with full names of husbands and wives of each, in case of marriage, with present place of residence and P.O., Numbering them in regular order, viz.:
  1) **James Stewart Agerton and his wife Minnie. P.O. New London, Ark**

2) **Geo. Gilmore Agerton & his wife Mamie. P.O. New London, Ark.**
3) **John Calvin Agerton & his wife Susie. P.O. New London, Ark.**

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Early Beaird Tax Records

1785–1848

In this section, I have transcribed all the extant early tax records mentioning Edmond Beaird, Stephen Dunn, Benjamin Walding, and Samuel Walding. What are called *tax lists* or *tax assessment rolls* in other states are known as *tax digests* in Georgia. The North Carolina and Alabama tax lists came from published sources, but I abstracted the Georgia data myself from the microfilmed copies of the original records.

In early Georgia, officials categorized land according to its quality, and this determined the tax rate. They described oak and hickory land in decreasing value as Quality 1, 2, or 3, whereas lands primarily covered in pine timber was taxed at the least rate.

Notice that Keziah Beaird, widow of an older Edmond Beaird, lived near our Edmond Beaird according to the 1804 and 1807 tax returns. Although one would expect some sort of close familial relationship between the two Edmonds, at this time their connection remains unclear.

Wayne County North Carolina Tax List

This tax list was abstracted from the version online at the USGenWeb website for Wayne County North Carolina in 2001. One of the John Beards is possibly his paternal grandfather, and there is evidence that one of them married a Carraway (Edmond and John Beard purchased property from the estate of Thomas Carraway in 1792). There were no Giles or Jiles taxpayers on this list. Benjamin Walding's son-in-law Elias Grantham was not listed, but perhaps one of these Grantham taxpayers was his father or mother. It is believed that Benjamin Walding's wife was an Oliver prior to her marriage, so Henry Oliver may have been some connection.

1786 Wayne County North Carolina Tax List

District		# acres of land	# of polls
1	John Beard, Sr.	450	1
1	John Beard, Jun.		1
1	Elizabeth Carriway	175	1
1	John Carriway	313	1
1	Adam Carriway	1106	1 poll, 5 slaves
2	Thomas Carriway	850	1 poll, 5 slaves
2	Willis Carriway		1 poll
2	Elijah Carriway	250	1 poll, 3 slaves
3	James Grantham		
3	Mary Grantham		
3	Jacob Grantham		
3	Joel Grantham		
3	Pheriby Grantham		
3	Jesse Grantham		
6	Henry Oliver	175	1 poll, 1 slave
6	Benjamin Walding	200	2 polls

Early Georgia Tax Digests

Since the beginning of the Georgia state government, the legislature has subdivided the counties into *militia districts*. Each county had a militia colonel in overall charge of the county militia, and each district had a captain in charge of maintaining a list of all able-bodied white males in the district capable of military duty. Besides the military aspect of the district captain, he was also in charge of collecting the taxes due by each person in the district. In the

beginning, the districts were only identified by the name of the district captain. Since the captains changed from time to time, the names of the militia districts changed frequently. It was only later that the militia districts were assigned numbers, regardless of the name of the district captain. In addition, during the period in which settlement was rapidly increasing Georgia's population, the boundaries of the militia districts changed from year to year as more and more people moved into the county.

Thus, the same district could have a different name on the 1797 tax digest than it did on the 1798 digest. In addition, Captain Smith's district on the 1797 digest might not be the same as Captain Smith's district on the 1798 digest; his district could have been subdivided after 1797, with some of his 1797 inhabitants put into another district by 1798.

Early Hancock County Georgia Tax Digests

The Georgia Legislature created Hancock County out of Greene and Washington Counties on 17 December 1793. The Georgia Archives microfilmed the earliest extant tax digests for Hancock, including what they identified and cataloged as the "1794 Hancock County Tax Digest." This tax digest was abstracted and published in the R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation's *An Index to Georgia Tax Digests*, Volume I: 1789–1799. However, after carefully studying and examining the original records on microfilm, I am convinced that this record was incorrectly identified and miscataloged by the archives. A careful analysis of what they claim is the "1794 Hancock County Tax Digest" is, in fact, a combination of **two different Hancock County tax digests!** One is indeed 1794, but the other one is a few years later, after 1796. This becomes clear when one notices that the same taxpayers are listed twice in their "1794" digest, and many of the same militia districts are listed twice. The later tax digest is not dated, but other evidence indicates it was a digest from 1797 or 1798.

There are **no** Beard or Beaird men or women assessed taxes in Hancock County in 1794; the published record mentioned above indicates that Edmond Beard was on the 1794 tax list, **but this is a mistake**. From the table below, the undated (1797 or 1798) tax digest lists Edmond Beard beside James Shy and Elias Grantham and near Benjamin Thompson. Grantham was Beaird's brother-in-law according to Benjamin Walding's will, and James Shy is a known neighbor of our Edmond and Sarah Walding Beaird; Beaird bought land from and sold it to Benjamin Thompson in 1799. Beaird, Shy, Grantham, and Thompson are all listed in Captain Kirk's District on the undated (1797 or 1798) tax digest. On the 1796 digest, we see find many of the same people with whom our Edmond Beaird made land transactions between 1799 and 1804, including John Barron and James Shy, but Edmond Beaird and Elias Grantham were not listed. This matches with what we know: Edmond Beaird was still in Wayne County North Carolina until he sold his property there on 31 October 1795.

1796 Hancock County Georgia Tax Digest

pg	#	taxpayer's name	acres	quality	county	adjoining	water courses	tax
Captain Michael Roger's District								
1	2	John Giles	100	2 – oak & hickory	Hancock	J. Mitchell	Town Creek	1.32.50
			550	3 – oak & hickory				
Captain Kirkes District								
2	11	Jno. Barrin	200	3 – oak & hickory	Hancock	S. Townson	Little Ogeechee	
		1 slave	250	pine – oak & hickory	Hancock	S. Shy	Little Ogeechee	1.2.20
	20	Jno. Grantham	100	pine – oak & hickory	Hancock	B. Tennell	Sand River	0.45.90
	21	Jno. Patteson	100	pine – oak & hickory	Hancock	J. Britan	Turky Creek	0.45.90
	28	Rich. Whatley	100	pine – oak & hickory	Hancock	J. Jiles	Town Creek	0.45.90

3	1	Wm. Grantham	250	pine – oak & hickory	Hancock	J. Henry	Town Creek	0.58.50
4	6	__ml. Shy	130	pine – oak & hickory	Hancock	J. Patteson		0.47.42
	7	J. Shy	1 white *pole*					0.37.50
Captain Daniel Bankston's District								
2	3	Agripa Adkerson	90	3 – oak & hickory	Hancock	B. Evans	Fulson's Creek	0.49.74

179_ Hancock County Georgia Tax Digest
(1797 – 1798)

pg	#	taxpayer's name	acres	quality	county	granted	water courses	tax
Captain Jas. Eiland's District								
5		Nicholas Sessions	100	pine	Hancock	himself	Buffalo Creek	$0.38¼
6	2	Thomas Giles	220	pine	Hancock	himself	Buffalo Creek	$0.4675
	3	William Giles	1 poll					$0.31¼
Captain Kirk's District								
2	18	Benjamin Thompson	300	2	Hancock	himself	*Buffilow*	$2.60
		5 slaves	120	pine				
4	16	Elias Grantham	75	pine	Hancock	Robertson	*Buffilo*	$0.36
	Note: #17 was the bottom of the page, so only one taxpayer separated Elias Grantham from the following taxpayers.							
5	1	James Shie	1 poll					$0.31¼
	2	Edmond Beard	200	pine	Hancock	Thompson	*Buffilo*	$0.45¼
	11	Hardy R. Jernigan						

1804 Hancock County Georgia Tax Digest

pg	#	taxpayer's name	acres	quality	county	granted	adjoining	water courses	tax
Captain Taliaferro's District									
2	19	Henry Beard	1 white poll						$0.312½
	21	Keziah Beard	6 slaves						$1.875
	22	Francis Beard	1 white poll						$0.312½
	23	William Beard	1 white poll						$0.312½
Captain Barksdale's District									
1	1	Benjamin Thompson	500	3	Hancock	himself	Pinkston	Buffalo Creek	
		10 slaves	550	pine	Hancock	himself	Pinkston	Buffalo Creek	$4.47½
	7	James Shy	272	pine	Hancock	Robinson	Bierd	*Buffaloe* Creek	$0.51½
	23	Edmond Bierd	385½	pine	Hancock	Robinson	Shy	L. Ogechee	$0.612½
---		Zacheriah Dunn	1 white poll						$0.312½
			Note: He was on an unnumbered loose page at the end of the tax record.						
Captain Corley's District									
		Charles Oliver	1 white poll						$0.312½

1807–1818 Baldwin County Georgia Tax Digests

The Baldwin County digests were different than those of other counties. Most counties had their landowners and the non-landowners intermixed throughout the district. But Baldwin militia district captains put the landowners first, with the non-landowners (those only paying taxes on slaves or white polls) listed together at the end of the landowners. The landowners were listed in random order, sometimes close to their neighbors, but the list of non-landowners was alphabetical.

These tax lists along with the deeds of Jasper County show that Edmond Beaird moved from near the state capitol at Milledgeville in Baldwin County by January 1808 into Jasper County, yet Stephen Dunn and Samuel Walding remained behind. Then Dunn sold his land between 1810 and 1811, and by 1812, he had followed Beaird into Jasper County. Notice that David Baker was listed in the same district as Dunn each year from 1807 through 1811, but then he disappears from the Baldwin County tax lists. I believe he is the stepson of Stephen Dunn. Notice also that Samuel

Walding was listed every year between 1807 and 1817. I do not know where he moved after 1817, but by 1830 he was in Dale County Alabama with sons John and Benjamin Walding.

1807 Baldwin County Georgia Tax Digest

pg	#	taxpayer's name	acres	quality	county	granted	adjoining	water courses	tax
		Captain Thomas' District							
1	3	Shadrach Goodwyn 5 slaves	50	2	Baldwin	T. Phillips	Dunn	Ridy Creek	$1.93.7½
	4	Edmund Beard	202½	3	Baldwin	S. Long	Dunn	Nancy's Branch	
			150½	pine	Hancock	J. Britton	Shy	Buffalo	67.875¢
	20	Francis Beard	1 white poll						37.2½ ¢
	21	Francis Beard as agent for Keziah Beard 7 slaves			Baldwin	1 lot in Milledgeville valued at $315			$3.17.1½
2	1	Thomas Jewell 11 slaves	202½	2	Baldwin	J. Partruk	Tucker	Nancy's Branch	$4.25.7¼
	4	George Tucker 3 slaves	202½	2	Baldwin	himself	Horton	Nancy's Branch	$1.75.7¼
	5	Stephen Dunn	152½	2	Baldwin	T. Phillips	Jewell	Reedy Creek	69.4¢
10	1	Samuel Walding	1 white poll						31.2½¢
11	26	David Baker	1 white poll						31.2½¢
	27	Daniel Tucker	1 white poll						31.2½¢
	28	Thomas Tucker	1 white poll						31.2½¢
		Captain Stephen's District							
13		Henry Beard	1 white poll						31.2½¢
		Captain Alexander's District							
7		Alex Dunn	131¼	2	Baldwin	Wiesinger	Griffin	Little River	64½¢
		Captain Bennett's District							
		Thomas Dunn	101¼	2	Baldwin		Flourney	Glade Creek	
			101¼	3					
		Joseph Dunn	1 white poll						31.2½¢

1808 Baldwin County Georgia Tax Digest

pg	#	taxpayer's name	acres	quality	county	granted	adjoining	water courses	tax
		Captain Henan's District							
6	3	Keziah Beard	7 slaves		1 lot in Milledgeville worth $300				$3.12½
	12	Francis Beard	1 white poll						$0.31¼
		Captain Smith's District							
1	3	Adam Robinson	1 slave						$0.62½
	4	Adam Robinson as agent for William Beard	141	pine	Baldwin		Bevins	Town Creek	$0.10½
			Note: Beard did not pay a poll tax, so he must not have been a resident in 1808.						
		Captain Robert's District							
1	2	Daniel Tucker	120	2	Baldwin	A. Short	J. Horton	Nancy's branch	$0.76¼
			202½		Wilkinson	himself			
	3	Samuel Goodwin							
	5	John C. Gallman 8 slaves	101¼	2	Wilkinson*	Joel Buckner	Dunn	Tobler's Creek	$3.69
			101¼	3	*				
		Note: The county was given as "Wilkinson" on the original record, but this is an error; it should have been Baldwin County.							
	11	Thomas Jewell 9 slaves	202½	2	Baldwin	Partruk	Dunn	Nancy's branch	$4.13½
			202½	2	Wilkinson	himself		Stone Creek	
	12	Stephen Dunn	152½	2	Baldwin	Thos. Phillips	Gallman	Reedy Creek	$0.69¼

2	9	George Tucker 4 slaves	202½	2	Baldwin	himself	J. Horton	Buck Creek	$2.06¼
	17	Shadrach Goodwin 5 slaves	50	2	Baldwin	T. Phillips	Dunn	Reedy Creek	$2.50½
			202½	2	Jones	himself	J. Cook	Hog Creek	
	20	Samuel Walding	85	3	Baldwin	A. Short	Partu	Nancy's br	$0.4175
5	2	David Baker	1 white poll						$0.31¼
		Simeon Tucker	1 white poll						$0.31¼

1809 Baldwin County Georgia Tax Digest

pg	#	taxpayer's name		acres	quality	county	granted	adjoining	water courses	tax
Captain Jarrott's District										
7	6	Keziah Beard	6 slaves			Baldwin	1 town lot in Milledgeville worth $300 lot adjoined land of Andrews			$2.81¼
Captain Sander's District										
1	12	George Tucker	4 slaves	202½	2	Baldwin	himself	Horton	Buck Creek	$2.0675
	15	Shadrach Goodwyn	6 slaves	50	2	Baldwin	Thos. Phillips	Walding	Reedy Creek	$2.31¼
	19	Stephen Dunn		152½	2	Baldwin	Thos. Phillips	Jewell	Reedy Creek	$0.69¼
	22	Samuel Walding		85	2	Baldwin	A. Short	Goodwyn	Nancy's branch	$0.52½
	23	John Gallman		101¼	2	Baldwin	J. Buckner	Dunn	Tobler's Creek	$0.56½
4	3	Daniel Tucker		120	2	Baldwin	A. Short	Horton	Nancy's branch	$0.61¼
5	10	Cathrine Jewel admr. of Thomas Jewell								
		9 slaves		202½		Baldwin	John Partruk	S. Dun	Nancy's branch	$3.63
				202½		Wilkinson	Thos. Jewell	--	Stone Creek	$0.50½
6	1	David Baker		1 white poll						$0.31¼
	30	Simeon Tucker		1 white poll						$0.31¼

1810 Baldwin County Georgia Tax Digest

pg	#	taxpayer's name		acres	quality	county	granted	adjoining	water courses	tax
Capt. Jarrat's District										
3	19	Keziah Beard		6 slaves		1 lot in Milledgeville, Baldwin County worth $300				$2.81¼
Capt. Sander's District										
1	11	Stephen Dunn		152½	2	Baldwin	Thos. Phillips	Jewell	Reedy Creek	$0.69¼
	12	Samuel Walding		85	2	Baldwin	Aaron Short	Dunn	Nancy's Branch	$0.52½
	14	Shadrach Goodwin	6 slaves	50	2	Baldwin	Phillips	Dun	Nancy's br	$2.37¼
	16	Daniel Tucker		115	2	Baldwin	A. Short	Horton	Nancy's branch	$0.60
				202½	pine	Wilkinson	himself			$0.15
	18	John Gallman		101¼	2	Baldwin	Buckner	Dun	Tobler's Cr	$0.56½
	21	Cathrine Jewell	9 slaves	202½	2	Baldwin	Partruk	Dun	Tober's Creek	$3.3175
3	15	George Tucker	4 slaves	202½	2	Baldwin	himself	S. Horton	Nancy's branch	$2.0675
5	2	Charles Oliver	1 slave	101¼	3	Baldwin	S. Hart	Genl. Clark	Oconee	$0.75
6	3	David Baker	1 white poll							$0.31¼
Note: Simeon Tucker did not appear on the 1810 Baldwin County tax list.										

1811 Baldwin County Georgia Tax Digest

pg	#	taxpayer's name		acres	quality	county	granted	adjoining	water courses	tax
Captain Gallman's District										
1	3	Charles Oliver	1 slave	101¼	3	Baldwin	S. Hart	Clark	Oconee	$0.90
				202½	pine	Twiggs	R. Ship	--	Cross Cr	
	5	Samuel Walding		85	2	Baldwin	A. Short	G. Tucker	Nancy's br	$0.52¼
	14	Shadrach Goodwin	7 slaves	50	2	Baldwin	Phillips	Walden	Reedy Cr	$2.62½
	24	George Tucker	6 slaves	202½	2	Baldwin	himself	S. Horton	Nancy's br	$2.69¼
	25	Daniel Tucker		115		Baldwin	A. Short	S. Horton	Nancy's br	$0.60
4	1	David Baker	1 white poll							$0.31¼
	2	Stephen Dunn	1 slave							$0.62½
Note: Neither Simeon Tucker nor Keziah Beard appeared on the 1811 Baldwin County tax list.										

1813 Baldwin County Georgia Tax Digest

pg	#	taxpayer's name		acres	quality	county	granted	adjoining	water courses	tax
Captain Little's District										
3	8	Charles Oliver	1 slave	101¼	2	Baldwin	Hart	Clarke	Oconee R.	
				202½	pine	Pulaski	Ship	--	--	$1.0275
4	8	Saml. Walden		85	2	Baldwin	Short	Capel	Nancy's Br & others	*[smugged]*
	10	Sterling Capel	5 slaves	120		Baldwin	Short	Waldin	Nancy's Br & others	$2.14½
Note: There were no Tucker taxpayers in Baldwin County in 1812, nor was David Baker listed.										

1814 Baldwin County Georgia Tax Digest

pg	#	taxpayer's name		acres	quality	county	granted	adjoining	water courses	tax
Captain Little's District										
1	9	Sammuel Walding		85	2	Baldwin	Short	Caple	Nancy's Br	$0.51½
	20	Sterling Capel	5 slaves	120	2	Baldwin	Short	Horton	Nancy's Br	$2.16½
	21	Charles Oliver	1 slave	101¼	2	Baldwin	Hart	Clark	Oconee	
				202½	pine	Pulaskey	Ship	--	Oakmulgee	$1.02½

1815 Baldwin County Georgia Tax Digest

pg	#	taxpayer's name		acres	quality	county	granted	adjoining	water courses	tax
Captain Little's District										
1	4	Saml. Walding		85	2	Baldwin	Short	Capel	Nanee's br	$0.52½
	9	James Horton								
	11	Sterling Capel	5 slaves	120	2	Baldwin	Short	Walding	Nanee's br	
2	15	Charles Oliver	3 slaves	101¼	2	Baldwin	Hart	Clarke	Oconey	
				202½	pine	Pulaski	Ship	Neaves	Cross Cr	$1.65½

1816 Baldwin County Georgia Tax Digest

pg	#	taxpayer's name		acres	quality	county	granted	adjoining	water courses	tax
Captain Wiggin's District										
1		Charles Olliver	3 slaves	101¼	2	Baldwin	S. Hart	Carter	Oconee River	
				202½	pine	Pulaski	R. Ship	--	Cross Creek	$1.66¼
2	5	Sterling Capel	5 slave	120	2	Baldwin	Short	Horton	Reedy Cr	$2.17½
	6	Samuel Walden		85	2	Baldwin	Short	Horton	Reedy Cr	$0.52½

1817 Baldwin County Georgia Tax Digest

pg	#	taxpayer's name		acres	quality	county	granted	adjoining	water courses	tax
Captain Wiggin's District										
2	2	Charles Oliver	2 slaves	101¼	2	Baldwin	Hart	Carter	Oconey	
				202½	pine	Pulaski	Ship	--	Oakmulgee	$1.34
	4	Saml. Walding		85	2	Baldwin	Short	Horton	Nanee's br	*[smugged]*
3	5	John Walding	1 white poll							$0.31¼

1818 Baldwin County Georgia Tax Digest

pg	#	taxpayer's name	acres	quality	county	granted	adjoining	water courses	tax
Captain Dozier's District									
2	1	Est. of Stephen Horton							
	7	Simeon Kemp	85	2	Baldwin	Short	Neeves	Nancy's branch	$0.50½

3		John Neeves							

Samuel Walding was not found on the 1818 tax list. By comparing the taxpayers in Captain Dozier's District in 1818 with those in Captain Wiggin's District in 1817, clearly Dozier replaced Wiggins as the militia district captain. Moreover, from the land description, Samuel Walding appears to have sold his land to Simeon Kemp before leaving Baldwin County. In 1830, Samuel, John, and Benjamin Walding are in Dale County Alabama. I do not know where Walding lived between 1818 and 1830.

1848 Bibb County Alabama Personal Property Tax Assessment

Edmond Beard was taxed for 1 clock and 2 slaves. This tax list was published years ago in some genealogical publication. I have not been able to locate the originals or a reference to them. This record suggests that Edmond Beaird was still living in Bibb County in 1848 and had not yet moved in with his daughter Sarah Beaird Connell.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Union Parish, Louisiana Tax Assessment Rolls

1865–1886

In this section, I have transcribed all the extant Union Parish Louisiana tax assessment rolls for William Beaird, Sr., and his relatives and close connections from these original records available on microfilm from the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge.

1865 & 1866

The 1865 and 1866 tax assessments appear incomplete in that only those owning large acreages were taxed. The 1865 and 1866 assessments were made at the same time. The names of the taxpayers were written twice if they were taxed in both years, once for 1865 and the second time for 1866. The taxpayers were grouped by the first letter of their surname, but within each group the names were apparently in random order. All of the "A" surnames and some of the "B" surnames were destroyed due to damage to the originals, which may explain why Riley Agerton and John W. Beaird are not found on these assessments. There were no Pierce taxpayers for either of these years other than George W. Pierce, whose relation to Lucky N. Pierce is unknown. The column abbreviations are:

- acres land: total number of acres of land owned
- acres uncult. the number of acres that are not in cultivation
- acres corn the number of acres planted in corn during the current year
- acres cotton the number of acres planted in cotton during the current year
- 1864 corn the number of bushels of corn produced in 1864
- 1864 bales the number of bales of cotton produced in 1864
- value lands the cash value of all lands and improvements
- total prop the cash value of all taxable property
- prop tax the property tax due
- sch tax the school tax due
- poll tax there was a tax of one dollar for each "poll", or white male aged 21 and over

1865 Union Parish Louisiana Tax Assessment Roll

#	taxpayer	acres land	acres uncult.	acres corn	acres cotton	1864 corn	1864 bales	value lands	total prop	prop tax	sch tax	poll tax
20	S. J. Beard	190	190					$480		$2.68	$2.40	$1
77	Wm. Bearden, Sr.	330	290	40		800		1265	1465	6.12	7.30	1
	amount of money loaned: $200											
	Note: He was listed next to P. Boatright on the assessment roll, a known neighbor of William Beaird, Sr.'s in Union Parish for over forty years. The acreage of this man is precisely the acreage owned by William Beaird, Sr. in 1867 and 1868. Finally, although there were Bearden families in Union Parish during this time period, there is no record of a Union Parish landowner in 1865 by the name of "William Bearden". There is no doubt but that the tax assessor recorded the name incorrectly and this should be our William Beaird, Sr.											
8	W. D. Regan	240	220	20		300		570		1.48	0.37	1
	total state tax: $3.05		parish tax: $2.96									

1866 Union Parish Louisiana Tax Assessment Roll

#	taxpayer	acres land	acres uncult.	acres corn	acres cotton	1864 corn	1864 bales	value lands	total prop	prop tax	sch tax	poll tax
20	S. J. Beard	190	171	7	7			$480		$2.68	$2.40	$1
77	Wm. Bearden, Sr.	330	265	40	25			1265	1465	6.12	7.30	1
	amount of money loaned: $200											
	Note: This should be our William Beaird, Sr. See the note in the 1865 table.											
83	Wm. Beard, Jr.	240	240					555		2.95	2.80	1
8	W. D. Regan	240						570		1.48	0.37	1

		total state tax: $3.05	parish tax: $2.96

1867, 1868, 1869

These are the earliest reasonably complete extant Union Parish Tax Assessment Rolls. The information given is similar to that of 1865 and 1866, with the addition of the values of livestock and vehicles. The column abbreviations are:

- acres land: total number of acres of land owned
- acres uncult. the number of acres that are not in cultivation
- acres cotton the number of acres planted in cotton during the current year
- acres corn the number of acres planted in corn during the current year
- 186x corn the number of bushels of corn produced the previous year (either 1866, 1867, or 1868)
- 186x bales the number of 400-pound bales of cotton produced the previous year (either 1866, 1867, or 1868)
- value lands the cash value of all lands and improvements
- value anim. the cash value of all livestock
- $ veh. the cash value of all carriages and other vehicles
- total prop the cash value of all taxable property
- prop tax the property tax due
- sch tax the school tax due
- cott tax there was also a tax of $1.00 on each bale of cotton produced

There was also a poll tax of $1.00 paid by all the men on these tax records. On the originals, the names were arranged by the first letter of the surname, but in random order within each letter. They were not numbered on the originals; I added the numbers, counting from the beginning of each letter.

1867 Union Parish Louisiana Tax Assessment Roll

#	name	acres land	acres uncult.	acres cotton	acres corn	1866 corn	1866 bales	value lands	value anim.	$ veh.	total prop	prop tax	sch tax	cott tax
22	Riley Agerton	180	110	30	40	350	3	$360	$435	$75	$870	2.17¼	0.87	$3
38	Jno. W. Beard	200	155	5	40	240	2	300	145	25	470	1.17¼	0.47	2
62	W. M. Beard, Jr.	240	240	--	--	200	1½	240	140	50	430	1.47½	0.43	1½
	Note: Clearly this was a mistake by the tax assessor and should have been "Wm. Beard, Jr." and not "W. M."													
82	S. J. Beard for Wm. Beard, Sr.	330	285	7	38	600	5	350	425	50	825	2.06¼	0.83	--
36	E. J. Pierce	150	150					187½	200	50	437	1.09¼	43¼¢	--
44	W. D. Ragen	240	190	20	30	400	3	240	230	40	510	1.27	0.51	$3

1868 Union Parish Louisiana Tax Assessment Roll

#	name	acres land	acres uncult.	acres cotton	acres corn	1867 corn	1867 bales	value lands	value anim.	$ veh.	total prop	prop tax	sch tax	cott tax
13	R. Agerton	180	110	30	40	350	3	$300	$435	$75	$870	2.17½	0.87	$3
	Note: The total amount of taxable property is incorrect, but this is what was recorded on the originals.													
47	Jas. P. Agerton	1 poll only												
45	Wm. Beard	330	275	14	41	--	2	350	425	50	825	2.00¼	0.82¼	2
46	Wm. Beard, Jr.	240	240			200	1½	240	140	75	455	1.13¾	0.45¼	1.5
47	Jno. W. Beard	200	150	10	40	300	2	300	445	25	770	1.92½	0.77	2
114	Randle Beard	1 poll					½							½

	Note: Randall Beaird was a black man, a former slave owned by William & Zilphia. In 1843 when he was 3 years old, Randall and his mother Ginney were given to Zilphia by her father, Stephen Dunn. Randall grew up with William Beaird as his owner, and at the end of slavery took the Beaird surname. He later bought a farm adjoining his former owner's plantation and became an extremely prosperous farmer. By his death in 1884, he had become one of Union Parish's wealthiest former slaves.													
122	S. J. Beard	1 poll					2							2
47	E. J. Pierce	150	150					190	200	50	440	1.10	0.44	
18	W. D. Ragin	240	190	15	35	450	2	240	230	40	510	$1.27½	0.51	2

1869 Union Parish Louisiana Tax Assessment Roll

#	name	acres land	acres uncult.	acres cotton	acres corn	1868 corn	1868 bales	value lands	value anim.	$ veh.	total prop	prop tax	sch tax	cott tax
20	Riley Agerton	180	115	20	45	350	10	$450	$325	$60	$835	$2.09	1.67	$10
50	James P. Agerton					150	2		90		90	0.22½	0.18	2
70	Wm. Beard, Jr.	240	215	18	7	200	2	300	200	50	550	1.38	1.10	2
71	Wm. Beard, Sr.	480	436	6	38	700	6	600	375		975	2.44	1.95	6
83	John W. Beaird	480	438	12	30	300	3	600	210	50	860	2.15	1.72	3
122	Randall Beaird						3		100			0.25	0.20	3
8	E. J. Pierce	190	163	8	19	200	1	300	180	50	530	1.32	1.00	1
32	W. D. Ragan	240	185	15	40	600	6	600	260	50	910	2.27	1.82	6
33	Chas. Ragin								100		100	0.25	0.20	
	Note: Charles Regan was a black man who lived near William D. Regan. He was not a former slave of Regan's and his relationship to William D. Regan, if any, is unknown.													
	Saml. Beard	1 poll												
	Note: After the regular taxpayers, there were several pages of additional names in random order. Included in this list was Saml. Beard. To the best of my knowledge, there was no man living in Union Parish during this period named "Samuel Beard". I believe this should have been William and Zilphia's son, Stephen J. Beaird.													

1870

The information recorded by Louisiana tax assessors in 1870 was almost identical to that of to that of 1867, 1868, and 1869. The only difference was that the cotton tax had been replaced by a tax to support the levees in the state. I have not shown the poll tax.

1870 Union Parish Louisiana Tax Assessment Roll

#	name	acres land	acres uncult.	acres cotton	acres corn	1869 corn	1869 bales	value lands	value anim.	$ veh.	total prop	prop tax	sch tax	levee tax
29	Riley A_____	*Note: His surname was destroyed by a tear in the paper on the original, but it should be "Agerton".*												
		180	120	20	40	400	8	$225	$423	$50	$698	2.19½	1.375	1.39
52	W. S. Agerton								75			0.30	0.15	0.15
74	J. P. Agerton								80			0.32	0.16	0.16
77	W. W. S. Agerton					100	3		160		160	0.64	0.32	0.32
64	Wm. Beaird	241	220	6	15	200	1	500	285		785	3.94	1.47	1.47
65	J. W. Beaird	240	202	14	24	200	4	500	203	50	753	3.01	1.30	1.30
77	S. J. Beaird	480	399	21	60	400	1	900	509	50	1459	5.83	2.91	2.91
59	E. J. Pierce	120	100	11	9	175	2	300	200	60	560	2.24	1.12	1.12
62	W. D. Ragan	240	155	20	55	500	6	500	362	40	902	3.60	1.80	1.80
	Note: The acreage owned and in cultivation by W. D. Regan do not add up properly, but this is what was recorded on the originals.													

1871

Louisiana residents were taxed for in at least six different categories during this year. In addition to the state tax and the tax to support the public schools, there was a tax to pay the interest on state bonds, a levee tax, and a special levee tax.

1871 Union Parish Louisiana Tax Assessment Roll

#	name	acres land	value land	value anim	value vehic.	total prop	polls	state tax	school tax	bond tax	levee tax	special tax
7	Riley Agerton	320	$400	$200	$40	$640	1	$2.26	$1.25	$2.58	$0.96	$1.60
22	J. P. Agerton			125		125	1	0.50	0.25	0.56	0.18½	0.312½
24	W. S. Agerton			100		100	1	0.40	0.20	0.45	0.15	0.25
28	G. G. Agerton			100		100	1	0.40	0.20	0.45	0.15	0.25
30	Randall Beaird			100	40	140	1	0.56	0.28	0.63	0.21	0.35
38	J. W. Beaird	280	500	110	25	635	1	2.54	1.27	2.85½	0.952½	1.58½
148	Mrs. S. J. Beard	*Note: Elizabeth Beaird must have paid the taxes this year; there was no "Mrs. S. J. Beaird".*										
		480	1000	275	40	1315	--	5.26	2.63	3.91½	1.97½	3.28½
169	William Beaird	240	400	230	60	690	1	2.76	1.38	3.10	1.43	1.72
10	W. D. Ragan	240	360	325	50	735	1	2.94	1.47	3.80½	1.10½	1.85½
Note: Neither William Beaird, Sr. nor Stephen J. Beaird were found on this tax assessment roll.												

1872

Numerous pages on this tax assessment roll were destroyed and the microfilming was exceptionally poor. It is basically illegible.

1873

No new interesting was provided in this year.

1873 Union Parish Louisiana Tax Assessment Roll

#	name	acres land	value land	value livestock	vehicles/ carriages	total property	polls
17	G. T. Argerton *[sic – G. G.]*			$100		$100	1
32	W. S. Argerton			75		75	1
76	Riley Argerton	320	$400	151	$40	591	1
15	S. J. Beard	480	$700	$259	$50	$1029	1
37	J. M. Beaird			$90		$90	1
76	William Beard	240	$415	$290	$40	$730	1
85	Henry Beard			87		87	1
45	E. J. Pierce	720	1100	90	75	1165	1
87	Charles Regan						1
101	W. D. Regan	320	480	340	70	890	1
119	W. H. Regan, Jr.						1
Note: James Polk Agerton and John W. Beaird were not listed on this assessment roll.							

1874

In 1874, Louisianans were taxed for five items:

- poll tax
- general fund tax (the state tax)
- the tax to support the public school
- an interest tax to help pay the state bonds
- levee construction and levee repair tax

1874 Union Parish Louisiana Tax Assessment Roll

#	name	acres land	value land	value livestock	veh	total	poll	state tax $	sch tax $	bond tax $	levee tax $	total tax $
1	R. Agerton	320	$480	$160	$25	$665	1	2.66	1.33	3.65½	1.97	9.642½
12	J. P. Agerton			100	30	130	1	0.52	0.26	0.715	0.38	$1.885
67	G. G. Agerton						1					
68	W. S. Agerton						1					

3	Randall Beard	80	200	155	60	415	1	1.66	0.83	2.282½	1.245	6.017½
17	William Beard	180	300	270	75	645	1	2.58	1.29	3.547½	1.935	9.352½
41	William Beard, Sr.						1					
49	S. J. Beard	440	660	208	40	908	1	5.635	1.815	4.995	2.725	13.166
74	J. M. Beard			90		90	1	0.36	0.18	0.495	0.27	1.305
158	J. W. Beard for two years	240	728	376	80	1176	1	4.704	2.552	6.465	5.525	17.352
2	W. H. Regan			75		75	1	0.30	0.15	0.418½	0.225	1.087½
91	W. D. Regan	320	480	335	60	875	1	3.50	1.75	4.812½	2.62	12.6875

1875

On this assessment roll, only the total tax was provided.

1875 Union Parish Louisiana Tax Assessment Roll
Ward 3

#	name	acres land	value land	value livestock	vehicles/ carriages	total property	total tax	polls
34	Riley Agerton	320	$400	$210	$50	$660	$9.57	1
35	W. S. Agerton			20		20	0.29	1
36	A. P. Agerton [sic – J. P.]			65	60	125	1.81	1
37	G. G. Agerton							1
190	J. M. Beard			60		60	0.87	1
191	J. W. Beard	160	200	152	25	377	5.46	1
192	H. M. Beard			110		110	1.60	1
193	Randol Beard	80	100	55	60	215	3.11	1
194	William Beard, Jr.	182	225	100	50	375	5.44	1
196	S. J. Beard	440	550	110	30	690	10.00	1
198	J. M. Beard	80	100	50		150	2.18	1
330	William Beard							1
	Note: This must have been William Beaird, Sr.							
1826	W. D. Regan	320	410	219	40	759	11.00	
	cash value of all money loaned or in possession: $100							
1827	W. H. Regan			50		50	0.73	1
1834	Charles Reagan	80	100	75	50	225	3.26	1

1876, 1878, 1879

The 1876 tax assessment roll does not exist. The entire assessment rolls for 1878 and 1879 are also not extant, although partial supplemental or revisions to these assessments do. However, they provide no additional information.

1877, 1880, 1881

The assessments for these years all provide the same information. The tax amount due was not indicated.

1877 Union Parish Louisiana Tax Assessment Roll
Ward 3

#	name	acres land	value land	value livestock	vehicles/ carriages	total property	polls
39	G. G. Agerton			$75		$75	1
43	J. C. Agerton						1
44	W. S. Agerton			75		75	1
45	R. Agerton	320	480	220	50	750	1
46	J. P. Agerton	80	100	75		175	1
140	Madison Beaird	80	200	80		280	1
149	Mrs. Martha Beard	160	190	195		385	
163	S. J. Beaird	440	550	185		735	1
185	Wm. Beard			95	40	135	1
1608	Charles Regin	80	160	60	20	240	1
1609	W. D. Regan	320	400	165	30	595	1
1616	G. F. Regan	120	180	75		255	1

1617	W. H. Regan	80	160	100		260	1

1880 Union Parish Louisiana Tax Assessment Roll
Ward 3

#	name	acres land	value land	value livestock	vehicles/ carriages	total property	polls
7	G. G. Agerton			60		60	1
8	J. C. Agerton			45		95	1
	cash value of money based on interest or in possession: $50						1
11	J. P. Agerton	80	120	80		200	1
13	Riley Agerton	200	300	140	35	575	1
	cash value of money based on interest or in possession: $100						1
16	W. S. Agerton	140	140	57		197	1
19	William Beaird	80	250	158	60	468	1
41	Randall Beard	80	120	253	20	393	1
45	S. J. Beard	280	280	200		480	1
48	M. A. Beard	160	380	112		492	1
	Note: Either Martha Ann Beaird must have paid a poll tax for one of her sons, unless this was a mistake on the tax assessor's part.						
3	G. F. Regan	120	240	92		332	1
4	W. D. Regan	320	320	283	40	643	1
9	W. H. Regan	240	360	90	25	475	1

1881 Union Parish Louisiana Tax Assessment Roll
Ward 3

#	name	acres land	value land	value livestock	vehicles/ carriages	total property	polls
3	Riley Agerton	200	$400	$170	$30	$600	1
4	J. C. Agerton			50		50	1
5	J. P. Agerton	80	120	70		190	1
6	W. S. Agerton	80	80	55		135	1
9	G. G. Agerton			55		55	1
12	S. J. Beard	240	400	113		513	1
17	William Beard	80	200	145	50	395	1
26	Madison Beard			45		45	1
32	Randall Beard	155	310	234	30	574	1
44	Mrs. Martha Beard	160	250	85		335	
15	W. D. Roggers	320	320	210	40	570	1
	Note: This should have been W. D. "Regan". The legal description o f the land given by the tax assessor is precisely the land owned by Regan.						
17	G. F. Regan	120	250	65		315	1
21	W. H. Regan	240	500	130	30	660	1
	S. P. Ward	94	150	131		281	1

1882

This assessment requested information the value of guns and pistols (GP) as well as the value of *Household goods, furniture exceeding $500, including statuary, paintings, pictures, books, diamonds, jewelry, watches, or silverware* (HG).

1882 Union Parish Louisiana Tax Assessment Roll
Ward 3

#	name	acres land	value land	value livestock	vehicles/ carriages	HG	GP	total property	polls
3	J. C. Agerton			$25			$18	$43	1
4	Geo. Agerton			25			5	30	1

6	J. P. Agerton	80	100	37			5	142	1
7	Riley Agerton	200	250	146	25	15		436	1
16	S. J. Beaird	240	240	74		6	10	330	1
	W. S. Agerton	120	120	42				162	1
	Note: He was not listed on the assessment roll, but rather on the supplemental roll, in Ward 6. About this time, the ward numbers changed, which probably explains this difference.								
19	S. J. Beaird, Jr.			47		5	7	59	1
31	Randall Beaird	160	200	142	40	25	10	417	1
35	Mrs. Martha A. Beaird	160	200	50		2		252	1
49	Wm. Beaird	80	150	200	40	5	15	410	1
54	J. M. Beaird			50		5		55	1
8	Henry Ragan	240	500	220	25		5	756	1
23	S. J. Regan			40				40	1
27	W. D. Ragan	320	320	150	40	5	5	520	1

1883, 1884

As in 1882, these assessments included a category titled: *Household goods, furniture exceeding $500, including statuary, paintings, pictures, books, diamonds, jewelry, watches, or silverware*, which I have labeled as HG on the following tables. No information on guns or pistols was collected as in 1882, but there was a new category merely titled *Cash value of all other property subject to taxation*, which I have labeled "other" below. These were the only two years during this period in which no information about carriages or other vehicles was recorded.

1883 Union Parish Louisiana Tax Assessment Roll
Ward 3

#	name	acres land	value land	value livestock	HG	other	total property	polls
5	J. C. Agerton	200	$200	$40	$12		$252	1
10	J. P. Agerton	80	100	53	20	5	178	1
11	R. Agerton	200	250	96	30	35	411	1
16	G. W. Agerton [sic - G. G. Agerton]			25	5		30	1
9	J. W. Beaird			46	8		54	1
21	Ran Beaird	400	400	81		60	541	1
26	S. J. Beaird	240	420	94	40		554	1
32	J. M. Beaird			90	25	5	120	1
36	Mrs. M. A. Beaird	160	160	40			200	
45	S. J. Beaird, Jr.							1
	Wm. Beard	80	250	221	16	35	522	1
	Note: He was only listed on the supplemental roll, in Ward 7, #2.							
17	G. F. Regan	123	300	96	7		403	1
21	James Regan			30			30	1
22	W. D. Regan	320	320	120	2	190	632	1
24	Chas. Regan	80	80	71		15	166	1
29	S. J. Regan			40			40	1

1884 Union Parish Louisiana Tax Assessment Roll
Ward 3

#	name	acres land	value land	value livestock	HG	other	total property	polls
8	Robert Agerton *[sic]*	200	$300	$170	$6	$25	$561	1
	Note: This should have been "Riley Agerton"; it was clearly a mistake by the tax assessor, for land description matches that owned by Riley Agerton precisely.							
9	J. P. Agerton	80	120	100	5		225	1
10	J. C. Agerton	250	200	70	20		292	1
11	W. S. Agerton (Taxes due for '82)							
		200	320	100			420	1
	W. S. Agerton	120	120	42			162	1

	Note: The first assessment was from the regular list, but the second was on the supplemental roll, in Ward 6. I cannot explain the discrepancy in the acreage.							
12	J. W. Beaird			50		5	55	1
13	Madison Beaird			85		5	90	1
14	G. W. Burton, Jr.							
17	Mrs. Ellen Beaird	120	400	190	10	15	615	1
23	Mrs. Martha A. Beard	160	200	90	4	6	300	
45	W. B. Beaird	640	800	175	5	42	1022	1
	Note: I do not know who this person is. There was no landowner in Union Parish by the name of "W. B. Beaird" during this time period. I think perhaps the surname was incorrectly written on the assessment roll by the tax assessor.							
68	S. J. Beaird, Jr.							1
69	A. J. Beaird							1
	Note: I do not know of any Union Parish male resident with these initials during this era. I believe this was another mistake by the assessor, and it should have been "S. J. Beaird", Stephen J. Beaird, Sr. (uncle of #68).							
9	W. A. Jones	240	400	100	4	5	519	1
	Note: This is the first year in which William Absolom Jones appears on a tax list. Prior to this, his uncle Stephen J. Beaird paid the taxes for him.							
3	Jas. Reagan			50			50	1
12	W. D. Reagan	320	320	152	2	145	619	1
21	W. H. Reagan	520	800	350		35	1195	1
30	Chas. Reagan	80	100	105		10	215	1
33	G. F. Reagan	123	300	102			402	1

1885

The police jury changed the ward lines in the early 1880s for tax purposes. What had been Ward 3 was now subdivided into three or four different new wards. The Cherry Ridge or Zion Hill community in which the Beairds and others lived was now divided by Wards 6 and 7. The only new category from 1883/1884 is a return of the vehicles information, titled *Cash value of all wagons, carts, buggies, carriages, and all other vehicles.*

1885 Union Parish Louisiana Tax Assessment Roll

Ward	#	name	acres land	value land	value livestock	other	vehicles	total property	polls
1	389	W. H. Reagan	180	$270	$153	$10	$50	$483	1
3	796	Mrs. L. J. Reagan, B. Reagan agt.			90	10		100	
	797	Beverly Reagan							1
		Note: I do not know who these Reagans were.							1
6	1582	J. P. Agerton	80	120	125	7	16	268	1
	1583	Riley Agerton	200	300	165		15	480	1
	1584	W. S. Agerton	80	150	67	8		225	1
	1585	J. C. Agerton	250	400	90			490	1
	1586	G. G. Agerton							1
	1587	Mrs. Ellen Beard Tutrix	280	400	12		15	427	
	1588	Beard, Wm & S. J. Jr.			55	600	10	665	
	1589	S. J. Beard, Sr.							1
	1637	W. A. Jones	240	480	135	5		620	1
	1685	G. F. Reagan	123	300	61			361	1
	1686	W. D. Reagan	320	320	245		105	670	1
	1687	James Reagan			75			75	1
	1688	S. J. Reagan							1
7	1738	Wm. Beard	80	250	221		35	522	1
		Value of household goods, silverplate, jewelry, etc. not exempt from taxation: $16							
	1739	J. M. Beard			110			110	1
	1740	Mrs. Martha A. Beard	160	300	65			365	
	1741	Jno. W. Beard			68			68	1
	1769	S. J. Beard, Jr.							1
	1770	Willis Beard (colored)							1
	2005	Thomas Reagan (colored)			50			50	1
	2006	Charlie Reagan (colored)	80	230	80		25	335	1

1886

The amount of the tax assessed was shown in this year for the first time since 1875.

1886 Union Parish Louisiana Tax Assessment Roll											
Ward	#	name	acres land	value land	value anim.	veh	other	total pro p	polls	parish tax	state tax
1		W. H. Reagan	180	270	30		10	610	1	$6.10	$3.66
		cash value of all bonds liable for taxation. Notes, Judgements, and other credits: $300									
3	4	Mrs. L. J. Reagan			113		10	123		1.23	0.738
	17	Beverly Reagan (colored)							1		
6	1	Riley Agerton	200	300	115	20		435	1	4.35	2.61
	3	J. P. Agerton	80	160	115		8	283	1	2.83	1.69
	4	G. G. Agerton			50			50	1	0.50	0.30
	5	J. C. Agerton	160	160	96			270	1	2.70	1.62
		cash value of all bonds liable for taxation. Notes, Judgements, and other credits: $14									
	8	W. S. Agerton			100		10	110	1	1.10	0.66
	1	Beaird & Burton			50	15	800	865		8.65	5.19
	2	S. J. Beaird, Jr.			25		6	31	1	0.31	0.18
	3	G. W. Burton			32		5	37	1	0.37	0.22
	7	S. J. Beaird, Sr.							1		
	1	W. A. Jones	240	300	105		3	408	1	4.08	2.44
	1	G. F. Reagan	123	300	75			375	1	3.75	2.25
	2	W. D. Reagan	320	320	200	100		620	1	6.20	3.72
	3	S. J. Reagan			50	30	5	85	1	0.85	0.51
	4	James Reagan							1		
7	17	Wm. Beaird	80	250	179	35	28	492	1	4.92	2.95
	18	J. M. Beaird	100	125	100			225	1	2.25	1.35
	19	J. W. Beaird	100	125	31		8	164	1	1.64	0.98
	37	Willis Beard (colored)							1		
	2	Thomas Reagan (colored)	80	80	115			195	1	1.95	1.17
	20	Charlie Reagan (colored)							1		

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Early Beaird Records in Georgia

1778–1830

In this section, I have abstracted all early Georgia records of *the other* Edmond Beard, the husband of Keziah Beard. As close as she was living to our Edmond in both 1804 and 1807, there had to be some close connection between them. However, at this time I can only speculate as to what the nature of their relationship was.

Beaird/Beard/Bairds in Early Georgia Records

Edmond Beard and wife Keziah

This older Edmond Beard lived in Wilkes County, 1778–1787, and in Burke County in 1788. His widow, Keziah, lived in Hancock County at least between 1802–1806, Baldwin County 1807–1809, and in Jones County from 1810 until after 1820. I do not know where they lived between 1789 and 1802, but he may have been the Edmond Beard in Greene County in 1789. It appears Keziah lived in Greene County in 1792, when she had property stolen by the Creek Indians.

Francis/Frances Beard

It is unclear whether this person was male or female, but they were closely connected to Edmond and Keziah Beard, who had apparently had a son named "Francis." This person received a grant of land in Wilkes County on 24 May 1787, and a few days later, on May 31st, Frances and Edmond Beard sold this land together. It is odd that the land was granted to Frances Beard, but sold by Frances and Edmond. If a female, this could have been Edmond's mother. There is no record of a Frances Beard in Georgia between 1787 and 1804, when Keziah's son Francis Beard was living near her in Hancock County.

Benjamin Beard

He was in Wilkes County between 1785 and 1792.

William Beard

He took an oath of allegiance to the state of Georgia in 1784 and lived in Wilkes County between 1791 and 1805. He lived very near Benjamin Beard, suggesting a close connection between them.

Jonathan Baird and wife Leannah

He signed his name "Baird," so he may have been unrelated to the Beards in Wilkes. He was granted land in 1785 and 1787. He was in Greene County from 1788 through about 1809. His estate was being settled in 1809 and 1810. There was a younger Jonathan Baird who was a medical doctor in Greene in 1811 and 1812 who is probably the older Jonathan's son.

Georgia Land Grants

Georgia land grants are complete between 1783 and the present. The table below gives the recorded grants for the Beaird, Giles, and associated families. Grants between 1733 and 1775 are not complete, but the gaps are identified and the actual recorded grants are believed to have survived. All of these grants, 1733 – 1775 and 1783 – present are available at the Georgia Surveyor General Department. However, the Georgia grants between 1775 and 1782 are controversial. The Surveyor General's office has no grants recorded for this period. Some researchers have stated that no grants were issued due to the Revolution, although recent research indicates this is incorrect. Robert Scott Davis found a document that gives a list of fees paid for 1775 and 1778 land grants in Georgia. It is a list of receipts for land grants; however, no actual grants survive for any of these receipts. Here is what Mr. Davis wrote in his original article describing the records he found:

> *The following document from the Georgia Surveyor General is further proof that Georgia land grants were issued during the American Revolution. Apparently this record is a list of receipts issued for land grant fees paid by individuals in 1775 and 1778…but for…all of the 1778 grants, no further record can be found in the Surveyor General Department [emphasis was his]. Possibly the individuals named on this list received their grants or were to have had their grants sent to them but for some unknown reason the grants were not recorded or the books of records in which they were recorded were lost long ago. Many researchers in using this list will be surprised to discover ancestors they believed did not come to Georgia until after the Revolution were in the State during the war…*

Ledger, Fees Paid, Headright Grants,
February 1775 – December 1775, January 1778 – November 1778

Grants Paid for or Charged 1778:

Edmond Beaird, 200 acres, paid 28 Jan 1778, Wilkes County

Edmond Beard, 50 acres, paid 28 Jan 1778, Wilkes County

Edmond Beard, 200 acres, paid 19 Oct 1778, Wilkes County

The following information comes from the published index to Georgia land and headright grants. These grants were separate from the land lottery grants given below.

Grantee	County	acres	year	grant book	page
George Beaird	St. John's Parish	300	1772	F	804
Edmund Beard	Washington	287½	1785	FFF	290
Edward Beard	Franklin	287½	1785	HHH	427
Edmund Beard	Wilkes	200	1787	NNN	73
Francis Beard	Wilkes	200	1787	NNN	311
Jonathan Beard	Wilkes	250	1785	FFF	762
Jonathan Beard	Franklin	200	1787	NNN	218
Matthew Beard	St. John's Parish	200	1774	M	158
John Giles	Wilkes	200	1784	DDD	466
John Giles	Washington	650	1797	ZZZZ	454
Thos. Giles	Wilkes	200	1790	UUU	29
Wm. Giles	Franklin	287½	1785	FFF	655
Thos. Jiles	Washington	221	1792	XXX	200

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Certificate of Edmond Beard's Revolutionary War Service

This document proves that Edmond Beard moved into Georgia from out of state for the purpose of serving as a minuteman in the Georgia militia. This is a transcription of the original record from the Georgia Archives:

State of Georgia
This is to certify that ***Edmond Beard*** *was* ***Enlisted*** *to serve as a* ***Soldier*** *in the Battalion of Minute-Men, raised for the Defence* [sic] *of this State, by Resolve of Assembly, passed the 3d June, 1777; and that the said* ***Edmond Beard*** *was not, at the Time of his* ***Enlistment*** *an Inhabitant of this State, nor had he resided in any part thereof for* ***six*** *Months preceeding* [sic] *his* ***Enlistment****. And further, That he was in Service at the Time the said Battalion was reduced by a subsequent Resolve of March, in 1778.*
Given under my Hand, at ***Wilk*** *this 5th Day of April 1784.* [signed] *Elijah Clark, St. Col.*

To the Honourable [sic] *the President & members of Council now sitting in August in Order Granting Lands in the Two New Counties of Frankling* [sic] *& Washington the petition of Edmond Beard Humbly Shewish that your petitioner is Entitled to 287½ acres of Land as per Certificate Which he prays may be granted Him in the County of Frankling* [sic] *& your petitioner will ever pray, etc.* [signed] *Edmond Beard*
April the 7th 1784

1784 Oath of Allegiance to the State of Georgia

In the Telamon Cuyler Collection, Special Collections, University of Georgia Libraries is a document that is apparently an oath required of foreign citizens (foreign meaning non-Georgian residents) in Georgia until the legislature could pass a naturalization act. Mr. Robert Scott Davis states that many of the men listed appear to have been born in Georgia, left during the Revolution, and then returned, seeking citizenship in Georgia. This list was published in several of his books.

One of the men signing this document was **Will. Beard**.

Early Georgia Deeds

Here are abstracts of the early Georgia deeds involving Edmond, Keziah, Benjamin, William, and Jonathan Beard. I am uncertain of Jonathan Beard's surname; he appears to have signed in "Baird", so he may have been unrelated to Edmond and the other Wilkes County Beards.

11 Feb 1787

Event: **John Autry** sells 287½ acres of land in Greene County to **Phillip Hunter**, land bounded by **Norris**, **Harris**, **Beard**.

Reference: Greene County Georgia Deed Book B, p. 122.

15 Apr 1787

Event: **Edmund Beard** and wife **Kezia** sell 190 acres of land to **William Florence**, all of Wilkes County, for £95. Land granted on 15 Mar 1787 to Beard, registered in Book NNN, folio 73. Land was on Beard Springs and bounded by vacant land. **Kezia Beard**, wife of **Edmund Beard**, relinquished her dower rights on 17 May 1787.

Witnesses: **William Nolan**, **Jno. Merrell**, **Heze. Bussey**

Reference: Wilkes County Georgia Deed Book GG, pp. 548 – 550.

19 Apr 1787

Event: Accounts of the estate of **George Walton**, late of Wilkes County, included a note on **Benjamin Beard**.

Reference: Wilkes County Georgia Deed Book EE, pp. 44 – 49.

31 May 1787

Event: **Frances Beard** and **Edmund Beard** sell 160 acres of land in Wilkes County to **William Florence**, all of Wilkes County. Land was granted on 24 May 1787 (Book NNN, folio 34) to **Frances Beard**, bounded by **Dunivan** and **Edmund Beard**, **Smith**, and it was on Soap Creek and Fishing Creek.

Witnesses: **William Stokes**, **Jno. Merrell**, **James Paredice**.

Reference: Wilkes County Georgia Deed Book GG, pp. 550 – 552.

Comments:

- This deed was signed as "Frances Beard" and "Edmund Beard".
- The land was granted to Frances Beard, so why did Edmond Beard sign it also?
- Was Frances Beard a male or female?

31 May 1787

Event: **William Potts, Gent**. sells 344 acres of land in Wilkes County to **Moses Potts**, planter, both of Wilkes County. Land was on the North Fork of Little River and adjoined land of **James Thompson** & **Jonathan Beard** and land of **William** and **Moses Potts**.

Witnesses: **Josiah Cole, J.P.**, **Wm. Hammett, J.P.**

Reference: Wilkes County Georgia Deed Book KK, pp. 144 – 146.

8 Mar 1788

Event: **Isaac Perry** and his wife **Mary** of Burk County Georgia (Depty Suryr) sell 301 acres of land to **Edmond Beard** of the same place for £350. The land was "in Wilk County in the Fork of Cherokee Creek & Little River" bounded by lands of **Robert Jimmerson**, **Henry Smith**, **Nicholas Ware**, Cherokee Creek and Little River.

Witnesses: **John Fryer**, **Joseph Red** (Reid ?), **Mary Goyns**

Reference: Lincoln County Georgia Deed Book D, pp. 110 – 112.

30 Apr 1788

Event: **Edmond Beard** and **Keziah** his wife of Burke County Georgia sell land to **Smith Williamson** of Rockledge County Virginia. For £150, Beard sells 300 acres in Wilks County in the fork of Cherokee

Creek and Little River, bounded by **Robert Jimmerson**, **Henry Smith**, **Nicholas Ware**, Cherokee Creek, Little River.

Witnesses: **Nicholas Ware**, **Robert Jimmerson**, **John Williamson**

Reference: Lincoln County Georgia Deed Book D, pp. 103 – 105.

Comments:

- Edmond Beard signed his name to this deed, but there was no indication by the clerk that Keziah signed or made her mark to it, despite her being specifically mentioned in the deed.
- Why did Edmond pay £350 for 300 acres of land, and then sell it seven weeks later for only £150?

13 Aug 1789

Event: **Robert Wells, Senior** and his wife, **Esther**, sell 200 acres of land to **William Ratlif**, all of Wilkes County. Land was granted to Wells on24 Sept 1788 and adjoined **Beard**, **Oliver**, **Jones**, and **Perkins**.

Witnesses: **James Smith**, **Drew Smith**

Reference: Wilkes County Georgia Deed Book HH, pp. 77 – 79.

7 Nov 1789

Event: **Michael Gilbert** and wife **Sally** of Greene County sell 200 acres formerly in Wilkes, now in Greene County to **Joseph Cooper** of Wilkes County. The land was located south of Beaver Dam Creek.

Witnesses: **Henry Graybill**, **Edward Beard**

Reference: Greene County Georgia Deed Book B, p. 315.

14 Jan 1790

Event: **Basil Jones** of Richmond County Georgia sells 300 acres of land on Newford Creek bounded by **Benjamin Beard** to **Jacob McClendon** of Wilkes County.

Witnesses: **Jonathan Gouldsbrough**, **John Freeman**

Reference: Wilkes County Georgia Deed Book II, pp. 343 – 344.

2 May 1790

Event: **John Brown** sells 287½ acres of land in Greene County bounded by **Hudson**, **Allen**, **Beard**, **Moore** to **William Hogg** of Greene County.

Reference: Greene County Georgia Deed Book D, p. 484.

22 Nov 1790

Event: **Jonathan Baird** and wife **Leanah** of Green County Georgia sell 250 acres of land in Wilkes County granted to Baird on 10 Feb 1785 to **Charles Smith** of Wilkes County. Land was on a branch of Buffilo Fork of Long Creek, bounded by **Thomas Rutledge**, **Alexander Brown**, **Stephen Potts**, and **Joshua Davis**.

Witnesses: **John White**, **William Forster**.

Reference: Wilkes County Georgia Deed Book GG, p. 117.

Comment: According to the clerk who recorded the deed, Jonathan Baird signed the record as "Jonathan Baird", whereas his wife Leanah made her mark to it.

13 Jan 1791

Event: **Jonathan Harralson** of Greene County sells 212.5 acres of land in Greene County to **Herchael Dickson** of Washington County for £100. Land was bounded by **Jonathan Baird**, **Dickson**, **Harralson**.

Reference: Greene County Georgia Deed Book E, pp. 575 – 576.

2 Aug 1791

Event: **Jacob McClendon, Junr.** sells 300 acres of land to **John Slack**, both of Wilkes County.

Witnesses: **Isaac McClendon**, **Wm. Baird**. Deed proved by the oath of **Wm. Baird** on 28 Jan 1797.

Reference: Wilkes County Georgia Deed Book PP, pp. 122 – 124.

17 Oct 1791

Event: **Joseph Phillips**, **William F. Patrick**, **John Stroud**, **George Clough**, **Norris Fenley**, and **Tizzia Fenley** of Greene County sell 575 acres of land in Greene County to **Andrew Armor** for £260.

Witnesses: **O. Porter**, **Jonathan Baird**

Reference: Greene County Georgia Deed Book D, pp. 528 – 530.

17 Oct 1791

Event: **Thomas Wootten** sells 300 acres of land in Wilkes County to **William Beard**. Land was "on head of Richard Woods Branch."

Witnesses: **Joseph Burks**, **John Neill**, **John Burks**, **Holeman Freeman**.

Reference: Wilkes County Georgia Deed Book KK, pp. 91 – 92.

30 Dec 1791

Event: **Robert Hobbs** and **Mary** his wife sell 100 acres of land in Greene County to **John Adam Miller** of Greene County.

Witnesses: **James Beard**, **Joseph Call**

Reference: Greene County Georgia Deed Book E, p. 556.

23 Feb 1792

Event: **Robert Smith** of Washington County Georgia to **Moses Jones** of Wilkes, 200 acres of land on Fishing Creek waters bounded by **Beard**, **Henry Duke**, and **Duke's** orphans.

Witnesses: **Peter Smith**, **Balaam Bently**.

Reference: Wilkes County Georgia Deed Book MM, pp. 348 – 349.

23 Apr 1792

Event: Bond for **William Caskly** to execute a marriage **Sarah Wallace**. **Caskly's** security on the bond was **Jonathan Baird**.

Reference: Greene County Georgia Deed Book E, pp. 737.

Comment: The bond was signed by Caskly and "Jonathan Baird".

16 July 1792

Event: **Seth Stublefield** and his wife **Mary** sells 200 acres of land on Buffalow Fork of Long Creek in Wilkes County to **Stephen Potts**, planter, all of Wilkes County. Land adjoined **Robt. Boyd** and **Jonathan Beard**.

Witnesses: **Jno. Lumpkin**, J.P.

Reference: Wilkes County Georgia Deed Book LL, pp. 86 – 88.

24 Nov 1795

Event: **Jacob McClendon** sells 300 acres of land to **William Carter**, both of Wilkes County. Land was on Newford Creek and adjoined **Benjamin Beard**.

Witnesses: **Nipper Adams**, **James Carter**.

Reference: Wilkes County Georgia Deed Book NN, pp. 212 – 213.

4 Oct 1797

Event: **Azariah Anderson** of Pendleton County South Carolina sells 100 acres of land on Newford Creek to **Thomas Richardson** of Wilkes County. Land was in Wilkes and adjoined **Mrs. Beard**, **Enock James**, **Summers**, and **Richardson**.

Witnesses: **William Bostick**, **William Bailey**.

Reference: Wilkes County Georgia Deed Book PP, pp. 347 – 348.

14 Mar 1799

Event: The Executors of the estate of **James Adams** of Hancock County sell 287½ acres of land to **William Johnson**.

Witnesses: **Robert Epperson**, **Robert Baird**, **John Coulter**

Reference: Greene County Georgia Deed Book P, p. 18.

13 July 1799

Event: Bond executed with **William Lesley** of Oglethorpe County as principal and **Jonathan Baird** of Greene County as surety. Bond of **William Lesley** as administrator of the estate of **Alexander Wiley**.

Reference: Greene County Georgia Deed Book P, p. 262.

22 Mar 1800

Event: **Joseph Collins** sells land to **Dudley Pool**, both of Wilkes. Land was on Newford Creek, adjoining **Collins**, **William Baird**, **Henry Woodard**.

Witnesses: **William Binns**, **A. Bailey, J.P.**

Reference: Wilkes County Georgia Deed Book SS, pp. 313 – 314.

22 Oct 1802

Event: **Charles Quinn** sells 200 acres of land in Greene County for $600 to **Jacob Boon**, both of Greene. Land was originally granted to **Edward Beard** and **Henry Thomsand** on 3 Jan 1785.

Reference: Greene County Georgia Deed Book AA, p. 675.

11 Jan 1803

Event: **Charles Quinn** sells 65 acres of land in Greene County for $160 to **Moses McGuire**, both of Greene. Land was bounds property of **Edward Beard** and **Henry Thomsand**.

Reference: Greene County Georgia Deed Book BB, p. 111.

18 Nov 1803

Event: **Moses McGuire** sells 65 acres of land in Greene County for $200 to **Daniel Burford**, both of Greene. Land was originally granted to **Edmond Beard** and **Henry ____?____** on 3 July 1785.

Reference: Greene County Georgia Deed Book BB, p. 608.

9 Jan 1808

Event: **James Butts** sells 114 acres of land to **Arthur Foster**, both of Greene County, for $340.

Witnesses: **A. M. Calpin**, **Benjamin W. Beard**

Reference: Greene County Georgia Deed Book CC, p. 312.

15 Oct 180x (either 1808 or 1809)

Event: **Dixon Felks** sells 91 acres of land in Greene County to **John Hunt** for $300. Land was originally granted to **Edward Beard** and **Henry Townsend**.

Reference: Greene County Georgia Deed Book CC, p. 128.

18 Jan 1816

Event: **Kezia Beard** of Jones County Georgia "in consideration of the natural love and affection and also for the further consideration of the sum of One dollar to me in hand paid…" gave slaves and property to her son **Matthias H. Beard** of Jones County. The slaves were **Dick**, **Rachel**, **Cherry**, and **Primous**. For the same consideration, she also gave to her son "two grey horses, fifteen head of cattle, two feather beds and bed Steads, and furniture…"

Witnesses: **Saml. Quarles**, **Edwd. Shurley, J.P.**

Reference: Jones County Georgia Deed Book H, p. 211.

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Early Wilkes County Georgia Tax Digests

Edmond Beaird, husband of Keziah, was granted land in 1784 and 1785. He is found on the tax digests of Wilkes in 1785, 1786, and 1787. I do not know the relationship of Benjamin and William Beard of Wilkes County to Edmond and Keziah, nor to our Edmond Beaird at this time. However, there was likely a fairly close family relationship.

For about the past thirty years, Mr. Frank Parker Hudson has studied and cataloged the early tax digests of Wilkes County Georgia. He arranged the digests by years, plotted maps of the militia districts, and had the Georgia archives re-film the tax records in an orderly fashion. He published the 1785 – 1804 tax digests in a two-volume work: *Wilkes County Georgia Tax Records, 1785–1804*. Some portions of these tax lists have been previously published in several other works, but these previous transcriptions contain serious errors. Mr. Hudson's publication is the definitive work on the tax digests of Wilkes County Georgia.

The frame numbers below are used to locate the specific record on the microfilm of the originals available at the Georgia Archives in Atlanta. The # column merely gives the order of the taxpayers in each district as given on the original returns. The district letters were assigned by Hudson to relate the districts with the map he has prepared:

District A	Captain Richard Heard's District in 1786
District C	Captain Harrington's District in 1785
District D	Captain Douglas' District in 1785, Captain Ware's in 1786
District E	Captain Yorke's District in 1787

William Beard was listed in Wilkes County throughout this period, but I have not abstracted his entries.

Wilkes County Georgia Tax Digests

Year	District	Frame	#	Name	Property	
1785	C	46/170	65	Benjamin Beard	200 acres Quality 1, 300 acres Quality 2	2 slaves
	D	86/212	5	Edmund Beard	300 acres Quality 1	1 slave
	U	248	65	Jonathan Beard	250 acres Quality 1 land in Wilkes County	
					287½ acres of Quality 2 in Washington Co	
1786	D	322	5	Edward Beard	300 acres Quality 1, 400 acres Quality 2	
	A	400	118	Benj. Beard	200 acres Quality 3	2 slaves
1787	E	548	2	Edmond Beard	1 white poll	
1791	A	796	33	Benjamin Beard	1 white poll	
			35	Wm. Beard	300 acres Quality 3 land	
1792	A	50	104	Benjamin Berd	1 white poll	
			114	William Berd	300 acres Quality 3 on Pistol Creek; adjoining Henry Woodard	
1793	FF	51B		James Hines	100 acres Q2, 125 acres Q3; Greene County; adjoining Jonathan Beard	
	A	217	59	William Beard	300 acres of Quality 3 land on Pistol Creek; adjoining Jno. Meal	

Early Greene County Georgia Tax Returns

Greene County was created on 3 February 1786 from Washington County, although some people who considered themselves Wilkes County residents in 1785 and 1786 found themselves in Greene by 1787. The Creek Indians destroyed the courthouse in 1787, probably resulting in the loss of some records, but there have been no serious courthouse fires or loss of Greene County records. Numerous early tax digests for Greene County exist, but I have only studied those listed below. There are many between 1789 and 1809, in particular the 1793 and 1796 – 1799 digests may provide interesting information.

I cannot identify the Edmund Beard on the 1789 Greene County tax digest. Edmond and Keziah were residents of Wilkes County between 1778 until late 1787. By the spring of 1788, they had moved south and were residents of Burke County. I have found no further record of them until 1802 when Keziah filed a Creek Indian depredation claim, prior to the 1802 treaty with the Creeks. The 1802 claim appears to indicate that Keziah lived in Greene County in the year 1793 when the Creeks stole a horse from her, but this is not entirely clear. It may well be that Edmond and Keziah moved from Burke to Greene County between 1788 and 1789, given that Edmond is not on the 1788 Greene digest. Hopefully, further information will be found in the 1793 and 1796 – 1799 tax digests.

I do not know the identity of Jonathan Beard of Greene County. From the deeds of him in Wilkes County given above, he signed his name "Baird", and so may have been unrelated to the Beards.

Greene County Georgia Tax Digests

Year	District	Name	Property
1788	Capt. Davis Greshman	Jonathan Beard	487½ acres of Quality 2 Oak land in Greene; no slaves amount of property: £146, s5 tax: £1, 3 shillings, 3½ pence
1789	Capt. M. Gilbert	Edmund Beard	1 white poll, 1 slave tax: 8 shillings
	Capt. Gresham	Jonathan Beard	487½ acres of Quality 2 land in Greene; 2 slaves amount of property: £140, s5 tax: £1, 6 shillings, 7½ pence
1809	Capt. Browning	Henry English, Esqr. Exc. of Jonathan Baird, Dec.	
		187½ acres of Quality 2 land in Greene adjoining Greir on T. Creek; 2 slaves tax: $1.09¼	
	Capt. L. Jenkin's District	Edmund Baird	1 poll 31¼¢
1810	Capt. J. Browning	Henry English, Esqr. Exr. of Jonan. Baird, dec'd	
		187½ acres of Quality 2 land in Greene County on the waters of T. Creek land granted to Baird, adjoined land of Swanson 2 slaves tax: $1.10	
1811	Capt. Lewis Jenkins	Jonathan Baird, Docr.	0 white polls, 0 slaves, no land 1 practitioner of Law and physic tax: $4.00
1812	Capt. William Perkins	Jonathan Baird, Dcr.	0 white polls, 0 slaves, no land 1 practitioner of law & Physic tax: $4.00

Early Lincoln County Georgia Tax Returns

Lincoln County was created in 1796 from the eastern portion of Wilkes County. This Edmond Beard lived in Lincoln for quite a while, and his wife was Elizabeth Adcock. I do not know his relation to either Edmond and Keziah Beard or Edmond and Sarah Walding Beaird.

1801 Lincoln County Georgia Tax Digest, Captain Norman's District: #54 Edmond Beard, 1 white poll

1802 Lincoln County Georgia Tax Digest, Captain Smith's District: #85 Edmond Beard, 1 white poll

1805 Georgia Land Lottery

Georgia was unique among all other states in its system for distributing newly acquired Indian lands to its citizens. Beginning with the Creek Indian cession in 1803 and lasting until the Cherokee cessions of 1832, Georgia held a serious of *land lotteries* to randomly distribute the land. People registered in their respective counties of residence, normally a year or two before the lottery was held. The laws changed from lottery to lottery regarding eligibility, how many draws (chances) one could get, etc. By paying a grant fee to the state, fortunate drawers received a grant for the

land. Often, the person had no intention of moving to the new land and sold it. The deed would have been recorded in the county in which the new land lay.

The Creek nation ceded a large tract of land in central Georgia west of Hancock County to the state of Georgia in 1802, followed by another cession in 1805. The legislature put this land all into Baldwin County in 1803, and immediately began the registration process for a statewide lottery to disperse this land to residents. Registration was held in 1803 and 1804, with the actual lottery held in 1805. A single man or his orphans received one draw, a married man or widow received two draws. In the table below, "B" stands for a "blank" whereas "P" stands for "prize", indicating that particular draw of the lottery entitled the person to obtain a grant for 202½ acres in Baldwin County, after paying the grant fee. Since all residents were eligible to register, this lottery list forms something of an early census for Georgia. This lottery is the only one for which the names of all people who registered exist, rather than just the fortunate drawers.

1805 Georgia Land Lottery		
Alexander Beard	Jackson	B
Edmond Beard	Hancock	B B
Edmond Beard	Lincoln	P B
Frances Beard	Hancock	B B
George Beard	Liberty	P
Henry Beard	Hancock	P B
Jane Beard (widow)	Jackson	B P
John Beard	Elbert	P B
Jonathan Beard	Greene	B
Keziah Beard	Hancock	B B
Robert Beard	Liberty	B
Thomas Beard	Jackson	B B
Washington Benjamin Beard	Warren	B B
William Beard	Hancock	B
William Beard	Jackson	B
William Beard	Wilkes	B P
no Stephen Dunn listed		
Jacob Giles	Warren	B B
John Giles	Hancock	B B
John Giles	Oglethorpe	B B
John Giles (orphans of)	Warren	B
Thomas Giles	Wilkes	B B
William Giles	Hancock	B
Ann Grantham	Glynn	B
Daniel Grantham	Hancock	B B
Elias Grantham	Montgomery	B B
John Grantham	Glynn	B B
Joshua Grantham	Hancock	B
Mathew Grantham	Warren	B B
Robert Grantham	Glynn	B
William Grantham	Hancock	B B
Elijah Jiles	Hancock	B
Samuel Jiles	Greene	B B
Thomas Jiles, Sr.	Greene	B P
Thomas Jiles, Jr.	Greene	B
William Jiles	Greene	B
Alexander Walden	Greene	B P
Charles Walden	Greene	B

Henry Walden	Jefferson	B P
James Walden	Greene	B
John Walden	Jefferson	B
Nancy Walden	Greene	B B
Richard Walden	Clarke	B
Samuel Walden	Jefferson	B B
Richard Waldin	Warren	B B
Reubin Waldon	Jefferson	B B

A man named "Samuel Walden" lived in Jefferson between about 1796 and, at least, 1815. He was a soldier during the War of 1812 and a different person than our Samuel Walding who later moved to Baldwin County Georgia from Wayne County NC.

1807 Georgia Land Lottery

Unlike the 1805 lottery, the names of only the fortunate drawers have been preserved from the 1807 lottery. Eligibility requirements changed somewhat from the first lottery. For those fortunate drawers listed below, a 202½ - acre tract of land cost them only the grant fee, $12.15. According to the lottery rules, the only way for a female Georgian to register was for her to be a widow or a minor orphan whose father was dead. I do not know how strictly the county officials enforced these rules.

Fortunate Drawers	County	Militia District	Land Drawn
Alexander Beard	Jackson	Johnson	Wilkinson
Keziah Beard	Baldwin	1	Wilkinson
William Beard	Jackson	Johnson	Wilkinson
Nathaniel Giles (orphans)	Warren	Devereuxs	Wilkinson
John Giles	Clarke	Harpers	Wilkinson
Samuel Giles	Greene	Armors	Wilkinson
Thomas Giles, Jr.	Greene	Armors	Wilkinson
Mary Jiles (widow)	Baldwin	3	Baldwin

1820 Georgia Land Lottery

This lottery distributed land ceded to Georgia by the Cherokee and Creek nations. The lottery was authorized by acts dated 15 December 1818 and 21 December 1819. Registration was held during the year 1819, but the actual drawings were conducted in 1820. Thus, the appearance of the names below **does not** mean these persons were living in Georgia in the year 1820. The years 1817 – 1820 saw massive migration from Georgia westward into the old Creek nation lands in central Alabama. Numerous people registered for the lottery in 1819 and then left the state before 1820. What can be said with certainty is that the fortunate drawers below were residents of their respective Georgia counties in 1819 when they registered.

Unlike the 1805 lottery, the names of only the fortunate drawers have been preserved from the 1820 lottery. Eligibility requirements changed somewhat from the 1807 lottery. According to the lottery rules, the only way for a female Georgian to register was for her to be a widow or a minor orphan whose father was dead. I do not know how strictly the county officials enforced these rules. This was the first lottery to recognize soldiers of the Revolution. Invalid or indigent Revolutionary War soldiers were given an extra draw in the lottery. All that was required from them was an oral oath made before the county court. All of the following fortunate drawers were eligible to receive a

grant of either 250 or 490 acres of land (depending on the county in which they drew land) by paying the grant fee of $18.00 to the state of Georgia.

There were numerous Giles winners in this lottery, but I have not abstracted them.

Fortunate Drawers	County of Registration	Militia District	County of Land Drawn
Archibald Beard	Morgan	Parkers	Appling
Benjamin W. Beard	Morgan	Campbells	Irwin
Edmond Beard	Jones	Permenters	Appling
Hannah Beard (widow)	Morgan	Walkers	Early
Henry Beard	Jones	Permenters	Irwin
James Beard	Jones	Permenters	Rabun
John L. Beard	Madson	Bone's	Irwin
John Beard	Jones	Samuels	Irwin
Jos. Beard (orphans)	Jones	Wallers	Irwin
Jos. Beard (orphans)	Jones	Wallers	Early
Mary Beard (widow)	Jones	Wallers	Appling
William Beard	Walton	Greens	Walton

1832 Georgia Gold Land Lottery

This lottery distributed a portion of the land ceded by the Cherokee nation in northwest Georgia.

Edmund C. Beard Bibb County
Benjamin W. Beard Morgan County

1832 Georgia Cherokee Land Lottery

This lottery distributed the remainder of the land ceded by the Cherokee nation in northwest Georgia. Edmund C. Beard must have registered for one lottery in Bibb County and then registered in Stewart County for the other lottery.

Edmund C. Beard Stewart County

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