

## INTRODUCTION

by Aggie Birdwell and Jane LeFevre Teal

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~birdtracks/articles.html>

THE BIRDWELL GENEALOGY Some traditions and legends of the Birdwell history have our start in Holland and our name as VOGELWOHL, VOGELVELD or VOGELWALL. The legend states that the first Birdwell emigrated from Holland to England and changed his name from Wogelwohl to Birdwell. The legend at this date is not documented.

In 1912, Rev. Russell J. Birdwell, a Methodist Evangelist, resided in Weatherford, Texas. Rev. Birdwell told his cousin, Judge J.W. Birdwell of Mineral Well, Texas, that he had crossed the waters three times and that on his last trip back to England, he saw the pictures of the two Birdwell immigrant brothers. These cousins are of the Joseph Birdwell line.....Joseph, a son of old George Birdwell of Virginia and Tennessee.

At this time, nothing has been found to connect us to the England Birdwells. However, there is a Birdwell hamlet in Worsbrough township, Darfield parish, W.R. Yorkshire, near the Sheffield and Doncaster railway, 4 miles SSE of Barnesley. It has a post office under Barnesley and a station jointly with Hoyland on the railway.

Again....Birdwell Flat, a hamlet in Swinton township, Wath-upon-Dearne parish, W.R. Yorkshire, 4 1/2 NNE of Rotherham. Maps show Birdwell town, county of Yorkshire, England. Records show: Norfolk Co., England, dates from 1583, BIRTWELL, BURDWELL, BERDWELL and BIRDWELL. Records from the Birdwell and Wombwell branch of Sheffield show birthplaces for a family, not named Birdwell, but being born in Birdwell town, county of Yorkshire, state or nation, England.

Friends of Kathy Birdwell of Chandler, Arizona, gave her pictures of Birdwelltown, England, that were made while they were traveling in England. Ed and Marilyn Birdwell of Clinton, Tennessee, were in England and visited the town of Birdwell and no one could tell them why the town was named Birdwell or who it was named for or when it was organized.

From all this, we do know there were Birdwells in England and I feel we are safe to assume that our first Birdwell came to America from England.

Halbert's Inc. show the Birdwell name as very rare, comparatively speaking, and appears to be location in origin. Their research indicates that it can be associated with the English meaning "one who came from or lived near the well frequented by birds".

The American traditon is: two Birdwell immigrant brothers entered the United States of America at Providence, Rhode Island, from which point they together went to Philadelphia, where they separated. One brother went westward and one went southward to Virginia. REMEMBER, this tradition is not documented. Researchers for the Birdwell genealogy have not found papers showing a Birdwell entry into the States. From the Complete Book of Emigrants by Coldham, I found a listing of a William BURTWELL.....in 1686, 27 July-28 August, Shippers by the Mary, Mr. James Smith, bound from London for New England.

COULD this be BIRDWELL? Again, from the same book: in 1697, 22-26 November, Shippers by the Friends Adventure, Mr. Michale Cole, bound from London for Carolina, BURTWELL and Walker. Sounds like partners in a business, or.....again, could this be BIRDWELL?

WHAT I find interesting about the Birdwell tradition and the two brothers entering the states at Rhode Island.... we do know our George Birdwell went into Virginia. There is a John Birdwell in Connecticut, early, that married into the Spencer family. Remember that Connecticut borders Rhode Island. This John appears to be a few years older than our George, even though we don't know our George's birthdate, which is usually shown as 1721.... this John may have been born around 1713-15. COULD this John and George be brothers? This is what needs to be researched and MAYBE we can tie into the Connecticut Birdwells. The 1790 census of Connecticut list three Birdwells and as far as I know, no one has worked their line.

Also, for our records...a Hannah Birdwell of Massachusetts married John Drake, 6 February 1766. The above John Birdwell and Hannah Birdwell have NO merit as to being on our line. They are listed just to show you what's out there. There is danger in assuming they are connected to us without proof. We have to build our tree on documentation.

### GEORGE BIRDWELL IN AMERICA

In the early 1950's, two Birdwell descendants, Mrs. LeFevre and her cousin, Sue Mann, hired a genealogist to research the early Birdwells. The report came back that George Birdwell was of Stafford County, Virginia. They were sent a list of Birdwells from the Overwharton Parish Register. Sometime later, another Birdwell researcher saw the Overwharton Parish papers and discovered that name in the records were BRIDwell, not BIRDwell.

When I started my research in 1962, I pulled the tax and land records, also the tobacco tenders and the 1790 census of Virginia. I studied the Stafford Co., Virginia area and the Overwharton Parish Register. The name in all those reports were BRIDwell, not BIRDwell. In collecting data for Birdwell Genealogy, I was sent the BRIDWELL Family History.

This report, by General Erbon W. Wise, of Sulphur, Louisiana, a BRIDWELL descendant, connects his family to the Stafford Co., Virginia BRIDWELL's. General Wise states that the BRIDwells are of English descent. There is a recorded coat of arms for the BRID-VILL family of England, a spelling quite probably an ancient variant for the current spelling BRIDwell.

The BRIDwell report goes on: BRIDEWELL is from the place-name, "dweller by the well, dedicated to St. Bride, or near a spring or stream frequented by birds". There can be no reference to Bridewell as a prison. The London Bridewell was a lodging built by Henry VIII near St. Bride's well and later given by Edward VI as a hospital. The modern meaning arose later when the hospital was converted into a house of correction. The surname has been noted in 1297.

This report by General Erbon W. Wise of Sulphur, Louisiana, a BRIDwell descendant, connects his family to the Stafford Co., Virginia BRIDwells. His mother was Eula Estelle BRIDwell, she married Edmond Wesley Wise.

The BRIDwells want their own identity, they do not want to be listed as BIRDwell. NOW...what can be documented on our George Birdwell? I understand that he is listed in Orange Co., Virginia in 1745, testifying against a possible murder. I have not seen this court record, but do know that some other Birdwell researchers have. At this time, in 1997, May, this is the first listed that most researchers are aware of on our George. 1745.....did he live in Orange Co., Virginia at that time, or did he travel there to testify?

Augusta Co., Virginia was formed from Orange Co., Virginia in 1745. Before that, Orange Co., Virginia was part of Beverley's grant, which he obtained from Lt. Governor William Gooch, a grant that covered 118,491 acres "between the great mountains, on the river Sherando". Beverley marketed his land aggressively to help populate the area. He attracted additional settlers by circulating notices in Pennsylvania, describing his valley holdings and by hiring sea captain James Patton to solicit emigres and indentures from Ulster. Orange Co., Virginia was organized in 1734. On November 1, 1738, two new counties were created, stretching from the Blue Mountains "to the utmost limits of Virginia". The new county of Augusta encompassed all of what is now southwest Virginia, most of West Virginia, and the states of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and part of western Pennsylvania. Frederick and Augusta counties were to be administered by Orange County until such time as their populations were justified their own courthouse.

In studying this statement about the courthouse, was our George in Augusta Co. in 1745, made his statement about the possible murderer there and it was filed in Orange Co. since Augusta Co. did not have a courthouse in 1745? This is six years before our George bought his land in Augusta Co. in 1751.

Did our George come down from Pennsylvania after seeing the notice circulating in Pennsylvania describing the valley or was he one of those that came across with Capt. James Patton? I wrote a genealogist in Augusta Co., Virginia and asked about a list of passengers on Patton's ship...she answered that there was no list. So..we still do not know, at this time, if our George came to Rhode Island, which is the Birdwell tradition, made his way into Pennsylvania, and later came down the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road into Virginia. We do know that he was in the area of Augusta County in 1745 because of the court record. WHERE DID OUR GEORGE COME FROM BEFORE HE WAS IN AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA? AT THIS TIME, WE DO NOT KNOW....1997

Is it possible that our George Birdwell was in the Orange-Augusta Co., Virginia as early as 1745. The only early record of him being there is the 1745 court record. How did our George make a living? No land earlier than the 1751 land transaction has been found...was George living with his wife's family...when did George marry?

Years have been spent searching for George's two wives maiden names, we know the second wife was named Mary. NOTHING has been found to document either marriage. Just recently this notice came out in my genealogical newsletter. THE STATE CHURCH OF VIRGINIA Until 1786, all children born in Virginia, regardless of religious affiliation, were required to be baptized in the Episcopal Church, which was the state church. Parish registers giving names, date of birth and names of parents are located in the Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia. From Ancestors Unlimited & Fuqua Foundation News, Vol. 4, No. 4

I almost had a heart attack, I thought surely this is too good to be true. I wrote the Virginia State Library and had to wait over six weeks to hear from them. It was too good to be true!! The reply:

"Printed statements that all Virginians were baptized as Anglicans or Episcopalians are untrue.

There are also published statements in various sources to the effect that all early Anglican Church records have been preserved and are available in our collection. This is also untrue.

Although it is true that originals or photocopies of a number of early Vestry Books and Registers are available for research here, most early record books have been lost. Although we have custody of a number of these records, we cannot undertake an examination of them for family data. You or a researcher in your hire would be most welcome to view the records. It should be noted that all extant Colonial Church Registers have been transcribed and published."

The search to find George Birdwell's marriage records continues.

Between the court record of Orange Co., Virginia in 1745 until the land record of Augusta Co., Virginia in 1751, nothing at this time has been found on our George Birdwell, NOTHING!

From the court records in Augusta Co., Virginia, we find the indenture between Col. James Patton and George BURDwell for 140 acres of land in a Bent of James River (sometimes referred to as Bend). I got a copy of this during my trip to Augusta Co., Virginia in 1995, and found it very interesting. I could not understand the measuring part of George's land, so Grady Birdwell of Irving, Texas, outlined it for me:

Beginning on a high bank above the river at two black oaks and a Locust and running thence south 30 degrees East 42 poles (693 ft.) to the river at a Spanish Oak and a Hickory, thence up the several courses of the river 282 poles (app. 7/8 miles) to an ash on the bank, thence South 70 degrees West on a high bank above the river, thence along the top of the high bank 120 poles (abt. 3/8 mile) to the beginning.

Grady also pointed to the fact that: if the bank is really high it would not be a normal place for a river crossing; up the several courses of the river, we have to assume up would be up stream, not downstream; George lived near Spreading Spring Creek and the James River. According to these facts and assumptions, we would have to find a place on the river, south side, and from the first check point the line runs south 30 degrees east. This would definitely have to be in a bend. Grady states that "I can see two bends where this could be possible".

When I was in Augusta and Botetourt Counties in 1995, I did not get a survey for George's land. I did get a Historical Map of Botetourt Co., Virginia, and it shows the BEND (BENT) of the James River. We (my husband and I) toured the river close to the Bend and visited with people who tried to help us locate old George's land. I've written several letters back to Augusta Co., Virginia, to a genealogist, trying to locate a survey for the 140 acres, she wrote that George did not have a survey. I found in books statements that John Reid (Reed) had 90 acres that borders George BURDwell's in 1769, the genealogist wrote me that there was no survey for John Reed, but that John Reed bought his land from Joshua Hadley in 1762 through Joshua's heir, Jeremiah Hadley, and the genealogist sent me a survey...but it was the wrong survey. She told me on the phone that not every land transaction was surveyed.

I was determined to find a survey for George's land. I knew, or thought I knew, that the land at one time had to have a survey. We know that George sold his 140 acres to Rev. Edward Crawford and that the Rev. added acres to George's 140 until the Rev. Crawford had over 800 acres of land....so George's 140 acres were lost in those transactions. Rev. Crawford sold his 800 acres to Robert Ritchey in 1800. Robert Ritchey's heirs got his land, and in 1834, Robert Richey had a survey for 680 acres of his land, but again, we do not know where our George's land was. I have copies of these land transactions, also one in 1854 where the heirs of Robert Ritchey's deeded six acres, three rods and thirty one poles to the James River and Kanawha Company of Virginia for the purpose of constructing a Tunnel about eight miles from the town of Buchanan. In 1996, my husband and I stood on top of this tunnel overlooking the James River, but we still did not know if this was at one time George's land or if his 140 acres were on the other side of the Bend. I kept getting the answer that George's land was not surveyed.

On my own, I hunted in our library here in Lubbock, Texas, for anything that could aid us in finding George's land. Going through Kegley's Virginia Frontier, I found on page 68 a list of survey's done by James Trimble in 1747. I noticed that on February 9, 1747, Tract 22 was for 140 acres in the bend of the James River. THIS HAS TO BE GEORGE'S LAND! I again wrote back to the genealogist in

Augusta Co., Virginia, asking for this survey. I wrote to her 22 April 1997 and heard nothing for two months. On the 28th of June 1997, I called her at home. She still had not found the survey that I was needing. She said they were not numbered in the book, like Kegley's book stated. I asked her to keep hunting. I hope we can find George's land, I know everyone would like to walk on the grounds that George Birdwell and his family lived on.

We THINK George was married when he bought his land in Augusta Co., Virginia. Not knowing the birthdates of his first three children, by his first wife, we have to assume they were born around 1750, Robert being the oldest. We know Robert was the oldest because of George's will, he listed his children by the order of their births. Two girls follow Robert, Sarah and Ann. It is shown in some researchers papers that Sarah and Ann were born after 1750. We have no knowledge of their birthdates. They COULD have been born after 1750. Robert is mentioned in the court records of Botetourt Co., Virginia as serving on Jury Duty and doing road work, I've found nothing on Ann but do have a court record for Sarah BURDwell. I DO NOT KNOW IF THIS IS OUR SARAH BIRDWELL or not!!! This Sarah BURDwell is found in Augusta Co., Virginia, Book 8, p 491, 24 April 1764.

SARAH BIRDWELL From court records of Augusta County, Virginia; pril 24, 1764, Book 8, pg 491:

At \_\_\_\_\_ Court held at Augusta Court House April 24, 1764 for the examination of Sarah Birdwel who stands committed to the goal of this county charged with the Feloniously receiving sundry stolen goods, the property of William Bowyer and Thomas Bowyer.

Present: John Christian Archibald Alexander John Poage and Felix Gilbert  
Gentlemen Justices

The above named Sarah Birdwell being brought to the barr denied the fact where with he stands charged whereupon M\_\_\_\_ Gardner was sworn and examined as a Witness and the prisoner heard in her defence on consideration of which the court are of opinion that she is guilty of the facts wherwith she stands charged but the good being of small Value and the said Sarah consenting to receive corporial punishment t\_\_ ordered that she receive at the Public Whippingpost of this county thirty lashes on her bare back well laid on and t\_\_ said to the sherif that execusion thereof be done immediately.

Then the court did rise John Christian

This page is very hard for me to read...I typed it as I thought it was meant, but anyone is welcomed to read and retype this...the meaning is the same...Sarah Birdwell received thirty lashes...this Sarah is unknown, George Birdwell did have a daughter Sarah, but we cannot prove this was his Sarah.

IS THIS SARAH BURDWELL our George's daughter? She could be...in all my years of research, since 1962, the only BURDWells I found in Augusta and Botetourt Counties, Virginia were George's family. How old was this Sarah? If she was George's daughter... did the family watch this...30 lashes...we laid on... what did she take...the stolen goods? All this is lost to us, but I can't help but think about it.

## GEORGE BIRDWELL'S FAMILY

Children by his first wife: Robert, Sarah and Ann. Robert was in the Revolutionary War. He is traced to Giles Co., Tennessee, where he died and is buried. Nothing is known about the two girls. Robert is thought to have John, William, Alexander, Joseph and Elizabeth as children, also the James in Kentucky. Not proved.

Children by the second wife, Mary:

(4) George, born 18 October 1760, married Jane Russell. George died in Davidson Co., Tennessee. His children: Hugh, Isaac, Andrew, Patsy, Jinney, Polly, Samuel and Milton.

(5) Elizabeth, born 1 June 1764. No further record.

(6) Benjamin, born 21 December 1765. Married Mary Perry, he was in the Revolutionary War. He died 17 October 1767 in Sullivan Co., Tennessee. Children: George, David, Jesse, Elizabeth, Mary, Benjamin, Jane, Nancy, Joseph, Rowland and Reuel.

(7) Joseph, born 19 February 1767, married Rachel Russell. He died 1 August 1801 in Knox Co., Tennessee. Children: Mary, Elizabeth, Sally, George, Rachel, Jinney, and Russell.

(8) Moses, born 15 October 1769, not know when he died. Lived in Madison Co., and Marshall Co., Alabama. Married (2) Hannah Falkindon after he left Georgia. Children: George, Zachariah, John, James, Joseph, Henry L., possibly Marshall and Sam. Daughters are thought to be Nancy, Margaret and Rebecca.

(9) John, born 24 September 1770, married Mary Allen. John died in Rusk Co., Texas in 1854. Children: Allen, Lucinda, Ann, Moses, Sally, Tabitha, John, Nancy, Susan, Jane and Elizabeth.

(10) William, born 10 February 1772, died before 1840, married Betsy \_\_\_\_\_. Lived in Jackson Co., Tennessee. Children: John, Joseph, George and Mary. Not proven, but think Joab, Melvina and Serena are William and Betsy's children.

(11) James, born 29 August 1775. He may have stayed in Sullivan Co., Tennessee. He is still listed in the deed books there for years. Nothing known about him. Some think he is the James in Kentucky. I think the James in Kentucky is Robert Birdwell's son. Nothing proven on either James.

(12) Joshua, born 4 November 1777. Lived in Roane and Blount Co., Tennessee. Wife (2) Mary Jeans. Children: Patsy, Dicy, Elizabeth, Nancy, Sellers, and Rufus, others? Joshua died in 1839.

(13) Mary, born 24 July 1779. Being researched.

(14) Jane, born 17 March 1781. Nothing.

## WHAT THE RECORDS SHOW ON OUR GEORGE BURDWELL IN VIRGINIA

George BURDwell bought his land in 1751. We think he was married, I THINK he more than likely married as early as 1745 or 46. I also feel that his son, Robert, was born about 1746...but without proof, we cannot document our records. The next records are of George doing jury duty and roadwork. The earliest record I've found after George's land transaction was in August, 1756: Augusta County

Militia List.....List of Capt. Mathew's company: George BURDwell. This is found in Virginia's Colonial Soldiers by Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, p 323.

From "A SEED-BED OF THE REPUBLIC" by Robert D. Stoner, p 89, we see that George BURDwell furnished beef for the use of Buchanan's Company. This company was at Fort Fauquier, the fort above the mouth of Looney's Creek and on the south side of the James River. The fort is now gone, but a historical marker stands close by and --- the marker mentions Looney's Ferry.

Our George stayed busy, first as a Colonial Soldier, doing his jury duty and road work, plus raising his family. How many beef did George have? He only had 140 acres of land, his house on this land and a river running through it. You would think he had a garden and orchards on this small plot of land. Did he only furnish beef for the fort one time? The fort required the allowance to be for each soldier one pound and a half of beef or one pound of pork and one pound of flour per day. Again, all this is lost to us.

The roadwork George was required to do was within five miles, each way, of his land. From this we learn who his neighbors were. His son Robert lived close by. George was appointed Constable in the room of Hugh Allen, 12 August 1773.

The last records of George and Mary BURDwell in Botetourt Co., Virginia were: George sold his 140 acres to the Rev. Edward Crawford and his wife, Jane McDonald Crawford on 2 March 1779, some records show 7 April 1779.

In my research, I found a record dated 9 September 1779, Deed Bk 2, p 501, in Botetourt Co., Virginia. Remember, George sold this land in March-April. Were the still in Botetourt Co., Virginia in September of 1779? George bought land in Sullivan Co., North Carolina, later Sullivan Co., Tennessee, on February 22, 1780. Read the next page and think about when they moved into NC/TN.

MARY BIRDWELL From Court records of Botetourt Co., Virginia: September 9, 1779, Deed Bk 2, p 501

Commonwealth of Virginia George Skillern, Robert Poage, Gentlemen Greetings, whereas Geo Birdwell and Mary his wife by their Certain Indenture of lease and release dated the date \_\_\_\_ have sold and bargained to the Rev. Edward Crawford the \_\_\_\_ Estate of one hundred and forty Acres of land with the \_\_\_\_ lying and being in the county of Botetourt and whereas the said Mary cannot conveniently travel to our court of our said county to make acknowledgement of the said Indenture therefore we do give unto you or \_\_\_\_ or more of your power to release the acknowledgement when the said Mary shall be willing to make before you of the conveyance afore said contained in the said Indenture which is hereto \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ do therefore command you to personally go to the said Mary and receive her acknowledgement of the same and examine her privetally and apart from the said George, her husband, and weither she doth the same freely and \_\_\_\_ carliy with his permission as \_\_\_\_ and weather she be willing that the same shall be \_\_\_\_ in our said court and when you have received her acknowledgement examination her of \_\_\_\_ that you dist\_\_\_\_ and openly certify us thereof in our said court and your seals sending them here the said Indenture as this writ, witness David May, clerk of your said court this ninth day of September in the Court \_\_\_\_ of the Commonwealth. David May Sept. 9, 1799 \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ to us directed we personally went to the \_\_\_\_ Mary



Birdwell and examined her as \_\_\_\_\_. The conveyance & do certify the \_\_\_\_\_ has all \_\_\_\_\_ right \_\_\_\_\_ Title to land to the Rev Edward Crawford and that she is willing that her \_\_\_\_\_ may \_\_\_\_\_ in Botetourt County given under our hands & seal. Day and date above Geo Skillern seal Robt Poage seal This document with a certification of the Execution therefore was released to Court of Records to be recorded. Teste David May

What the records show is that George was in the Augusta-Botetourt area from 1745 to 1779. When he made his move to NC/TN is not known, but we do know he moved before 1780.

When George bought his land in Augusta/Botetourt, there were people there years before him. The records show George bought his land on November 29, 1751. This was one month before Christmas and more than likely very cold. I have to assume there were no buildings on this land...where did George's family stay until he could build them a home? Again, was the first wife's family near by? This area in 1751 was a "howling wilderness occupied by the Indians and wild beast." Was the home a log home? What did George's land cost him? In the documents I got in Augusta Co., Virginia, the Indenture says George paid Patton "the sum of five shillings, current money of Virginia." The next page says George paid Patton "the sum of seven pounds, current money of Virginia." I need to get someone to read this whole document and give me their thoughts on this.

In 1779, when George sold his 140 acres of land to Rev. Edward Crawford, the Indenture says "for and in consideration of the sum of five shillings, current money of Virginia, to him in hand". The next page says "the sum of five hundred pounds, current money of Virginia". The pounds is marked through. What does this mean? Nothing else is written in above the marked out pounds.

## TWENTY EIGHT YEARS IN AUGUSTA/BOTETOURT

Records show George BURDwell=BIRDwell lived in these counties of Virginia for twenty eight years. I think he was in this area longer, but without proof, we have to go with the records.

During these years, George served his country as a Colonial Soldier, 1756. This was, of course, under the King of England's rule. George raised all of his children here with the exception of the last few, who were still young children when they moved. the last child of George's was born in North Carolina. The children, for the most, during this time period, were usually educated at home. The books in the homes were literacy, historical, religious, and scientific. The Bible served as a "primer" for many children. Ministers provided most of the general education provided in Botetourt before the advent of the public school. Even though this was the method of education, we know nothing of George's children's early education. We do not know if George raised hemp or tobacco, hemp ranked first in production, followed by wheat, corn, hay and other grains. I have found nothing to show if George farmed or.....nothing.

George's first wife died sometime before 1758-59, he married his second wife, Mary, before 1760, their first son was born in October of 1760. All of these by Mary were born in what was called Augusta Co., Virginia, until 1769, Moses being the last born in Augusta Co., Virginia. Botetourt County was established in November of 1769...Moses was born in October of 1769.

The first child of George and Mary Birdwell to be born in what is now Botetourt Co., Virginia was John, born 24 September 1770.

## LEAVING VIRGINIA

We know George and Mary Birdwell arrived in Sullivan Co., North Carolina before or by 1780. From the land office in Nashville, Tennessee, records show that George Birdwell, on the 22 of February 1780, enters one hundred acres of land adjoining Wm. Blythe's line on the north side of the Holston River and Fall Creek.

Also, grants number 253, 254, and 255, dated March 3, 1780, George Birdwell enters one hundred acres of land on the south side of the Holston River on Kendricks Creek, where the Watauga Road crosses said road. He also enters land on the south side of the Holston River opposite the mouth of Fall Creek.

When I was in Sullivan Co., Tennessee in 1995 and 1996, I copied the index of the deed book there. I also copied some of the early Indentures of the Birdwells. I did not order any surveys, but plan to when I have time to visit Sullivan Co., Tennessee again.

After George and Mary Birdwell left Virginia and made their move into North Carolina, no much is known about them. We know Robert, from George's first marriage, stayed in Virginia for a few years. It is not know if the two daughters by his first wife, Sarah and Ann, who would surely be married by then, stayed in

Virginia or moved to North Carolina with George and Mary. It is known that Mary had the last child, Jane, just a few months before George died.

### BACK IN VIRGINIA

We know George Birdwell went back to Virginia, maybe on business or to see some of his family or for other reasons. WE DON'T KNOW WHY. George was in Bedford Co., Virginia in September of 1781. Bedford County borders Botetourt County.

George was in Virginia on his black mare, according to his will. He must have known he was dying...was he sick, did he have an accident? He wrote his will, dated September 14, 1781 and this will was probated 26 November 1781, just two months after George wrote it. Who was with George on this trip, his son George? Who were the Slaughters and C. Clay that witnessed the will? Relatives or friends? Why were the horses released to some of the family, a means of transportation? The estate was to be divided among the children in 1796 when baby Jane was fifteen.

Is George buried in Bedford Co., Virginia, where he died, or did son Robert, still living in Botetourt Co., Virginia, take him "back where he lived for over 28 years and bury him there?" UNKNOWN. Did Mary and the children get to be with George before he died? UNKNOWN.

The children started releasing a Quit claim for the estate in 1797. The records were proven and acknowledged in 1810-1811. These records are found in Deed Book 1, pgs 1, 6, and 77, and Robert's release is recorded in Will Book 2, 1794-1805, pg 108, all in Davidson Co., Tennessee.

When did Mary die? It is believed by some that Mary lived with son George in Davidson Co., Tennessee. She must have been alive when the releases were made in 1811. Son George died in 1816, his Mother is not mentioned in his will. She may have died between 1811-1816. Did Mary have an estate.... if so...where is it filed? From all accounts, Mary was some years younger than George, her husband. She had eleven children by George. Where is Mary buried? Not known. A historian, in the 1950's, did a report on the Birdwells, and stated that it was believed that Mary lived with her oldest son, George, and that a search of George's land in Davidson Co., Tennessee had been made to locate Mary's grave, but nothing was recovered. The historian stated that there was a graveyard on George's land, but there were no headstones showing Birdwell, so, it is therefore not established that any Birdwells are buried there.

A PERSONAL NOTE: It's sad to me that we do not know where George and Mary are buried. There is still so much left to find on our earlier Birdwells. I hope the younger generations will pick up the Birdwell story and continue it.

I'm enclosing George's will and a Bible record that only list the eleven children of George and Mary. Thank goodness we have this one record on the eleven. It is not known who's Bible this was. George's dates or either wife or the first three children are not listed in the Bible.

Enjoy reading what I've compiled, with the help of others, and please add to it. I started this data in May of this year and finished it, more or less, June 29, 1997. I

will continue to add to this, but wanted to have something to take to the reunion in Virginia. We will have discussions at the reunion and each will have an opportunity to tell what they know about our history.

PLEASE ADD TO THIS,  
Thanks, Aggie Birdwell  
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St. Lubbock, Texas 79413