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26 July 2007

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

OBJECTIVES

- Learn more about the children of John Dowell (born 1775) and his wife, Sally. In particular, prove that the couple had a son, John, born 1810.

RESULTS

- Followed one vein of the Dowell family, which included a John F. Dowell (born between 1800 and 1810), from North Carolina to Indiana, but disproved this John as ancestral. It is nonetheless highly probable that there is a close tie between this line and the ancestral one based on their migration patterns.
- Found death and burial information for the ancestral John Dowell (husband of Phebe Owens). With this and census information we now know John was born in January or February of 1809/1810.
- On the ancestral line, it is clear that Margaret Dowell, who married in Washington County, Indiana in 1831, is almost certainly a sister to John. The family may also have a Tennessee connection based on the 1880 census entry of the ancestral family and a Missouri connection based on the 1860 census entry. This would be consistent with the migration patterns demonstrated during this research period.
- Found a John "Doughal" in Washington County, Indiana in the 1840 census. The children in this family closely match that of the ancestral family. This is the best possibility for John in 1840 since John F. Dowell was disproved as ancestral.

FUTURE RESEARCH

1. Attempt to learn what happened to John and Sally by looking for evidence of additional siblings to the ancestral John.
2. All Dowells in the 1850 census born in North Carolina should be identified and the process of tying them into the Phillip Dowell descendency begun. The records of the various locations of these families should be searched, using earlier census records to provide guidance as to locations.
3. Pensions for soldiers from North Carolina were known to include land in Tennessee. Records there need to be looked at more closely.
4. Research should continue in the probate, land and church records of the counties of Rowan (first), Wilkes, Iredell, Burke (and perhaps Surry) Counties to attempt to piece together the family there. A determination of all existing church records in these counties

along with their locations needs to be made. Only those churches in locations where the Dowells were known to live based on land records should be searched first.

5. If previous research documents, calendars and reports are available on this family, they need to be provided by the client for analysis.

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RESEARCH REPORT

The objective of this research period was to prove that John Dowell (born 1810) was the son of John Dowell (born 1775). The latter John Dowell was the son of John Dowell who was the son of Peter Dowell. A secondary objective was to learn more about the children of John (born 1775) and Sally Dowell. It was anticipated that in the process of proving the ancestral connection of John Dowell to his proposed parents John and Sally, that information on their children would be obtained.

In terms of what was known at this point, information provided included two websites http://tecsolve.com/Dowells/Maryland_Dowells_Chart.htm and www.Dowells.info/Genealogy, the latter of which has been moved or removed as it was not a valid page address. The former website provided the following:

That line of the family is not referenced elsewhere in Dowell family tree research. My ggf John, born in 1810 in North Carolina, fits the profile of the John and Sally Dowell family so far documented.

John Jr. is listed in the 1800 Rowan Cy NC census with Sally and one male under 10. John Sr. is still in Rowan cy in the 1810 census, but William and James are listed in Iredell. In the 1820 census John Jr is listed in the Iredell census with a family of 2 males and 3 females under ten, 1 male and female under 16, 2 females under 26, a male over 45 and over, female under 45* and a female slave under 14.

We do not find John and Sally in the Iredell census of 1810 -- most likely because they are living in Wilkes Cy, NC. Land transactions in 1813 list John Jr. being from Wilkes Cy (probably where he was living during the 1810 census), and receiving a tract of land in Rowan Cy.

I suspect that my ggf John (III), who in 1831 married Phebe Owens in Washington Cy, IN, is one of John Jr's children. From another source I suspect that his younger brother is Philip who was born in Wilkes Cy in 1811.

*Both John and Sally were born in 1775. The age category for the 1820 census breaks at 45 years. An explanation is that John's birthday was before and Sally's after the census was taken.

No information was provided on John Jr. other than the fact that he was born about 1810 and married Phebe Owens in Washington County, Indiana. Also, no mention was made of what happened to his reported parents John and Sally after 1820.

To begin, considering the early time period and location with which we are dealing, it was imperative that as much as possible be learned about John Dowell (1810) in order to tie him to his correct parents. It was suspected that his move from North Carolina to Indiana was not done alone and that he may have migrated with siblings and/or parents. Therefore research began in the 1850 census of Indiana by looking for all Dowells. A list of thirteen was obtained, all from Jackson, Washington County, Indiana (document #1). All came from the ancestral family of John and Phebe Dowell. As expected, John's age calculated to a birth of 1810 and he was born in North Carolina. Phebe was born about 1818 in Kentucky. All children were born in Indiana.

The same family was sought in the 1860 census and identified in Howard, Washington County (document #2). John's age continued to point to a birth in 1809/10 in North Carolina. His daughter Lavina was listed as being born in Missouri rather than Indiana. If this were accurate, John would have been in Missouri about 1845.

Continuing the census work, John and Phebe were next found in the 1870 census of Prairie Creek, Vigo County, Indiana (document #3). The information regarding John was consistent with what had been noted previously.

In Prairie Creek in 1880, Phebe was found with children Albert C., Mary, Isaac, and Samuel and was listed as a widow (document #4). Curiously, these children listed their father's birthplace as Tennessee rather than North Carolina. This is notable because perhaps their grandparents ended up in Tennessee, leading them to believe their father was born there. Phebe was not found in the 1900 census.

To continue learning about John, a *Landowner's Atlas of Townships of Vigo County, Indiana 1874* was consulted. John was noted in Prairie Creek Township section 21 with about

40 acres of land (document #5). *Genealogical and Historical Sketches of Vigo County, Indiana* identified his death date as 16 October 1877 and his burial in Brown Cemetery (document #6). A published cemetery record for Vigo County included Brown Cemetery and indicated that it is in Pierson Township. Three Dowells are buried there including John, who was listed with the reported age of 64 years and 9 months (document #7). This would put his birth date in January or February of 1813. It is more likely the family was correct with the day and month rather than the year so it is believed he was probably born in January or February but that the year is more likely 1809 or 1810. An Elizabeth, wife of John, was buried in 1868. Someone wrote a question mark by this entry in the book and we do not yet know the identity of this Elizabeth. John's son Albert was also buried there in 1912; his son Benjamin was likely buried in the nearby Fletcher Chaple (sic) Cemetery (document #7).

The Vigo County index to estates and guardianships was consulted to see if a will could be located for John, but none was listed. To determine what happened to his land, the grantor indexes were checked for the years around 1877 and a sale of his land to his sons Albert and Charles was found—dated a few weeks before his death (document #8). There was probably no other real property to be concerned with and personal property was likely handled by the family— thus no probate record.

We next turned to the pre-1850 time period by starting with a search of a published list of Washington County, Indiana marriage records. The marriage of John Dowel to Phebe Owens was noted in 1831 as was the marriage of a Margaret Dowel to Thomas Simpson that same year (document #9). The information provided by the client indicated that John likely had a brother Philip. It also now seems likely he had a sister Margaret. We reviewed the original marriage records and found that John married Phebe with her father's consent and the couple was married by a minister (documents #10-11). Margaret's marriage was performed by a Justice of the Peace. The Washington County marriage index was searched for the years 1833 to 1847 without finding any other Dowell marriages.

Other Washington County, Indiana sources were also searched, including a book of published obituaries, a history, and a book of abstracts to wills (1808-1902), without finding the Dowell surname.

A relatively recent development in genealogical research is a compilation of family maps divided by county, which lists the earliest land patent holders in an area. A volume exists for Washington County and John Dowel was noted to be in the county as early as 1837 (document #12). In 1838, he moved to property bordering Benjamin Owens, who was perhaps his father-in-law.

Census records were returned to and a search for all Dowel(l)s in Indiana in 1840 uncovered three John Dowells, although none were in Washington County (document #13). After review, we learned that a John F Dowell, recorded in LaGrange County, was actually residing in Lawrence County, which borders Washington County. Peter and Philip Dowell were also residing there and their records were reviewed along with that of John F Dowell. John and Philip were enumerated side by side and Peter was recorded just two pages away (document #14). We became interested in John F Dowell as a possibility for the ancestral John (born 1810), as the client had stated John likely had a brother Philip. However, we also noted some inconsistencies with this John—his family listed no young sons and two young daughters, while we know that by 1840 the ancestral John had two sons and three or four daughters. There were actually five adults listed in the home in this census record, two of whom would have been John and his wife. Philip appeared to be recently married as he was in his thirties with no children. Peter was in his twenties with two young boys. The other two John Dowells both appeared to be in their fifties.

The census has been known to be inaccurate and considering the fact that John is clear about his children being born in Indiana at this time and the relative uncommonness of the Dowell surname, the John in Lawrence County was considered to be the best fit for the ancestral John.

The 1830 census for Indiana was next checked for all Dowel(l) heads of house. John F Dowell was found in Lawrence County (document #15). He was a single man age 20 to 30 and certainly appeared eligible for marriage in Washington County the next year. A map of Indiana counties as of 1830 was obtained to show the relationship between Washington and Lawrence Counties (document #16).

Lawrence County records were turned to for additional insight into John, Philip and Peter Dowell. A published book of marriages listed a marriage for John Dowel to Patsey Ray in 1828 (document #17). Perhaps she had died by the time the 1830 census was taken. Philip married a Margaret Ray, perhaps a sister to Patsey, and Peter married Florinda Hawkins. The original marriage records were reviewed for clues but no additional information was found (document #20).

Published probate abstracts for Lawrence County were checked next but no mention of the Dowell name was found. A burial record for the county also failed to list that surname.

Deed records were searched next. The earliest mention of John "Dawil" occurs in 1835 (document #21). John F. appears as a grantor (selling land) in 1838 and 1845. If John indeed left in 1845, this would coincide well with the ancestral John's daughter being born in Missouri about the year 1845. Left unexplained is the fact that John Dowell had land in Washington at about the same time.

An attempt was made to learn more about Philip and Peter by locating them in the 1850 census. A first check in Indiana failed to find them so the search was opened up to all states. Peter N. Dowell was found in Cass, Greene County, Missouri with wife Florinda (document #22). They had actually been indexed as "Powell" but they were found by using the name Florinda. Their two oldest children were born in Indiana. Peter was born in North Carolina about 1822, making him a very good candidate to be the brother of our John. A Ragsdale family was noticed a couple of households away as were Fosters, Hawkins and East. Most of these families also had children born in Indiana, indicating a possible group migration.

A Philip Dowell married to Margaret was sought next and again a good candidate was found in Greene County, Missouri in 1850 (document #23). They also had a child born in Indiana about 1843. If these were the brothers to the ancestral John, it would seem that John moved to Missouri about the same time (when daughter, Lavina, was born about 1845) and then went back to Indiana for some reason. Philip was born in North Carolina as well in 1811/1812, which perfectly matched information given by the client and made him an excellent possibility as a brother to the ancestral John.

The last possible sibling identified in Washington and Lawrence County records was Margaret Dowell who married Thomas Simpson in 1831. A Thomas and Margaret Simpson were found in Posey, Washington County, Indiana in 1850 (document #24). Margaret was age 34, putting her birth year at 1815/1816 and she was also born in North Carolina. She was the strongest candidate to be a sibling because she stayed in Washington County, and thus resided closest to John.

Having gathered the above information, research next turned to records for North Carolina. To begin, the 1810 census was searched for all Dowel(l)s. Expecting the ancestral John to come from Wilkes County based on notes from the client, those Dowells in the western part of the state were focused on. The 1810 census was checked first because this is about the year John was supposed to have been born and it was believed that his father would be one of the heads of house listed (he has not previously been found by the client in 1810). Two Dowells were listed in Iredell County and three in Rowan County (document #25-28). William and James were listed next to each other and based on the household sex and age distributions, William was older with no children at home and James was middle aged with four young children. The likely scenario is that William is James' father. For the three in Rowan County, Peter was the senior figure and was listed next to James who had the young children. A John was found a few pages away from them with two adult males in the house. Assuming John was the older one, then he likely had a young couple with a young daughter living with him.

The 1820 census was turned to next for similar information and analysis. No Dowells were found in Rowan County this year. There were three in Iredell, six in Wilkes County and

one in Burke County (document #29). A Ulyle (Wyle?) was noted in Rutherford County which is in the west but his household was not reviewed at this time. On first appearance, it would seem that the Iredell group had stayed relatively the same with a John Dowell added to the mix. It then seems as though the Rowan County group migrated to Wilkes County as the names Peter, James and John are found there with Joshua, Phillip and Richard added. In Burke County, a George was over 45 and appears to be with his wife and perhaps a young daughter and granddaughter (document #30).

In Iredell County, John, William and James Dowell are all listed within five households of each other (document #31). John and William are both over 45. John has five children under the age of ten listed in the household giving the appearance of an established middle aged family. This is likely the family believed to be ancestral by the client, and this could be the case. Concerning the other Dowell families in the area, William appears to be a widower with a female young adult and three small children. It could be a widowed daughter and her children or he could have married a much younger woman and started a family with her at a late age. James appears to have an established middle aged family—simply a continuation of the same family seen in 1810.

In Wilkes County, Joshua Dowell had eight children in the household under the age of sixteen; again a middle aged man with a family (document #32). The entry for John Dowell was extremely interesting. He was listed as age 26-45 with a wife age 16-25 and two young sons and a young daughter, all under ten years of age (document #33). Considering the Lawrence and Washington County, Indiana findings, it could be that this is John and Sally and that the two young boys are John and Philip and the young female is Margaret. Peter was not born until 1822 so he would not have been listed. A young female slave is also in the household. James could be the same James noted in 1810 although he would only have one child over the age of ten when there should be as many as five (document #34). The Phillip Dowell family is intriguing because it appears to be an older one, with a male and three females between the ages of sixteen and twenty five (document #35). He also had eight slaves indicating he had some wealth. Unlike the older Peter Dowell in 1810, this Peter had a young family; three children under the age of ten (document #36). Lastly, Richard Dowell had just a young daughter in the household

though he and his wife were over the age of 26 (document #37). As a side note, no conclusions could be drawn regarding who was related to whom based on their being listed near each other in the census because within Wilkes County it appears everyone was listed alphabetically by first letter of the given name.

The next item obtained was a map of North Carolina counties as of 1810 to give reference to the counties mentioned above (document #38).

To finish our census search of Dowell families in North Carolina, the 1830 census was checked in the same way as the others. No Dowells were found in Wilkes County, indicating a mass exodus reminiscent of the mass entrance in 1820 (document #39). There was a James Dowell in Burke County, a James Dowell in Iredell County and a Phillip Dowell in Rowan County. The James in Burke County was 40 to 50 years old, and based on the children's ages, fits well with the Wilkes County James of 1820 (document #40). He could also be a son of George who was in Burke County in 1820. The James in Iredell County was 50 to 60 years old and had a number of younger persons in the household (document #41). Perhaps he had a son(s) or daughter(s) living with him and their children. He fits well with the James found in Iredell County in 1820. Phillip Dowell of Rowan County was thirty to forty years old with three young daughters in 1830 (document # 42). He does not fit with the Phillip Dowell in the 1820 census of Wilkes County.

Based on what was learned from the census records, Wilkes County was turned to because it seemed to be an exit location for the family's westward migration. Published marriage records were available and searched first. In 1814, John Dowell married Sarah Shous (document #43). Since it is John and Sally that we are interested in this is an interesting entry because Sally was often a nickname for Sarah. Even more intriguing is the marriage of John to Sarah Hickman in 1797. It's a little earlier than expected but whereas there is much still unknown about the family, perhaps this is the ancestral marriage. As has been seen, the name of James is common enough and the marriage of James to Patsy Coffee must tie in to our census James in some way. The marriage of Polly Dowell in 1822 to Aaron Chambers was also interesting because the name seemed familiar.

Published probate extracts were next searched. Phillip Dowell Sr.'s probate is recorded where he lists sons Phillip, his oldest son John and a son Peter (document #44). This actually fits extremely well with the three Dowells who migrated to Lawrence County, Indiana and challenges the possibility that John F Dowell was ancestral. Phillip also had a daughter Sally who is probably the same person who married Aaron Chambers noted above.

The 1820 census was searched for Aaron Chambers in Wilkes County. He was located living single, age 16 to 26 (document #45). A search for Aaron Chambers in the 1830 census found him in Lawrence County, Indiana living right next to John F Dowell, who, as you'll recall, was single at the time (document #45). There is no question now that these children all belong to Phillip and Priscilla and thus John F Dowell could not have belonged to the family of John and Sally.

The research performed to this point was critical to understanding the Dowell family in North Carolina, and the possibility that John F Dowell fit into that family had to be explored. It now seemed likely that the ancestral John was in Washington County, Indiana in 1840 and perhaps 1830, even though he had not yet been found there in census records. Also, it must be less than coincidental that the ancestral John was in this part of Indiana and Dowells also appeared in Monroe and Henry Counties, Indiana which are believed to have North Carolina connections. These cousins much have been in touch with each other in some way.

With the time remaining, a few additional searches were conducted in Wilkes County. A record of some pioneers from Wilkes County listed Richard Dowell, who was buying land in the county in the late 1700s and early 1800s (document #47). Peter Dowell is also mentioned for marrying Susannah Younger in Wilkes County in 1812 and is named prominently in her father's will. There is no mention of any John Dowell.

A search of church records had specifically been requested and the remaining time was spent in searching these. The Baptist Church is clearly the dominant religion in the area. Structurally, the church is very decentralized so it can be sometimes difficult to identify and

track congregations. An old volume titled the *Universal Register of the Baptist Denominations in North America* from the 1790s was consulted. There were numerous “particular” congregations in North Carolina. These were organized roughly by county and listed numerous churches for Burke, Iredell, Rowan and Wilkes Counties (document #48). The two associations related to the congregations were Yadkin and Sandy Creek.

For Wilkes County, records for three congregations are available at the Family History Library (document #49). It should be noted that this doesn’t include congregations formed after 1794. The membership records of the Reddies River Church were searched but no Dowells were listed.

The records of Brier Creek Baptist Church were searched next. Church minutes 1810 to 1822 and a membership list from 1829 failed to list any Dowells (document #50). Lastly, the records of the Three Fork Baptist Church were reviewed. The minutes were not read because of the time it would consume and there were no membership lists between 1790 and 1832. The Dowell surname was not found in these records.

After searching church records without much success, we turned once again to a search of the 1840 census in the hope of finding a match for John. All Johns in Washington County, Indiana were examined and one possible ancestral match was found (document #51):

Locality			1840, Vernon Township, Washington County, Indiana											
Pg.	Head of Family		0 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 +	Slaves
154	John Doughal	M	1	1			1							
		F	2	1			1							

Although it seems unlikely that “Dowell” could be listed as “Doughal,” we do have to keep in mind that the census was recorded by someone who could have received the information from a neighbor or who could have heard the name incorrectly when it was said. Also, the census was copied by hand after being originally recorded by the census taker, so additional errors could have been introduced at that time. In 1840 John would have had one son (Ormsby)

age two or three, and one son (Jesse) age four or five. He would have had a daughter (Elizabeth) under one year old, another daughter (Nancy) age six or seven, and a daughter (Julia) age seven or eight. This fits rather well (although not perfectly) with the family above.

Due to time constraints, research was halted at this point. We were disappointed to have disproved John F Dowell as ancestral, but this was necessary in learning more about the ancestral John, especially since it is believed he had a brother, Philip. Through searching Indiana records we learned it is very likely the ancestral John had a sister, Margaret, who also married in Washington County in 1831 and was born 1815/1816 in North Carolina. We have also found that there may be a Tennessee connection based on the 1880 census entry of the John Dowell family. Research thus far in North Carolina records has not revealed much about the ancestral Dowell family but there is still a great deal of work to do.

Future research should take two directions. First, we should attempt to learn what happened to John and Sally by looking for evidence of additional siblings to the ancestral John and by seeking this couple in later census records. Also, research should continue in the probate, land and church records of the counties of Rowan (first), Wilkes, Iredell, Burke (and perhaps Surry), North Carolina in order to piece together the Dowell family. A determination of all existing church records in these counties along with their location needs to be made. Those churches existing in locations where the Dowells were known to live (based on land records) should be searched first. If previous research documents, calendars and reports are available, they need to be provided for analysis, as this will greatly speed up the required research in North Carolina. Military records may also provide some insight.

It has been a pleasure to be of assistance in researching the Dowell family and we look forward to continuing research in the future according to the client's direction.

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