

richest and most influential people of this section. They settled in what is now Crisp County.

Mrs. Gillis' children by her first husband were Washington, Stringer, Rosa, Jim, Ann (married a Mauldin) and Betsy. After the death of Mr. Calhoun she married John Gillis. Their children were Dan, who died in Sylvester, Norman, Nancy and Claris. Norman lost an arm while serving in the Confederate Army. He was a very popular school teacher and greatly admired by the people of this county. He was never married. Nancy, who was said to be one of the most beautiful women of Worth County, married Henry Houston. Claris, the youngest, married Hiram Aultman.

### THE JETER FAMILY

The first of the Jeters to come to Worth was "Buck" Jeter. He came from England to this country and settled west of where the Jeter filling station is now, on the road to Cordele. He was a big slave owner, he had several sons, Joseph and Jerry. —————.

Jerry Jeter was born February 19, 1841. He was killed in the Confederate Army May 22, 1864. He married Mary Elizabeth Britt November 13, 1859. She was born September 27, 1832. They had two children, Bill Jeter and Ella Jeter.

After the death of Jerry Jeter, his wife, Mary Elizabeth (Britt) Jeter, married Reverend J. S. Fillyaw May 10, 1866. He was born February 21, 1844 and died in March, 1926.

### THE RIDLEY FAMILY

The Ridleys of Worth County are descended from an ancient and distinguished family of Southampton, England. A history of the family now in possession of the descendants of the late Dr. J. N. Ridley, of Warwick, Ga., gives the lineage of the family as far back as Bishop Nicholas Ridley, one of the martyrs of England, and thence back to the days of Cromwell, when Ridley Hall, the old manor estate of the family, was lost to the main line of descent by falling into possession of a female heir, Margaret Ridley, who married Richard Egerton. The manor continued in the Egerton family until it was burned in 1700.

The name Ridley has undergone several changes. Originally

it was spelled Ryedale. The ears of rye and sheaves of grain found on the coat of arms of the Normandy family is proof of this origin. The name meant rye field. The Scottish families spelled the name Riddell, Riddel and Riddle. Later the name was changed to Ridleigh, or Ridley.

Some look to their ancient coat of arms to prove their claim that the name was derived from a place in Cheshire owned by the ancestors of the family, where reeds grew. The shield in the coat of arms represented a field, and this had an ox passing through reeds. The name signified Reedfield. Another writer gives the name and its derivation thus: "To clear away or make clean." "leigh or ley" field meaning "clean land."

Three brothers, supposed to have been the sons of Christopher Ridley, of Batterson, England, Robert, Nathaniel, and William, came to America in 1635 on the ship "Dorset," Captain Flowers, Master, and settled in Southampton County, Virginia. Robert Ridley emigrated to Georgia and settled in Wilkinson County. He married Nancy McKay, daughter of William and Rebecca McKay, who went from Virginia to Georgia at the same time. Seven children were born to this union: Jonathan, born in 1805; Milley, born in 1806; William, born in 1808; Sarah, born in 1810; Everett, born Feb. 8, 1813; David, born July 17, 1814, and Robert, born March 31, 1817.

### ROBERT RIDLEY

The following records copied from the Ridley Book, are now in possession of Miss Alice Tipton, Sylvester, Ga.

#### Ridleys of Wilkinson County, Virginia Branch

Robert Ridley I, descended from an ancient family in Southampton County, Va., was born about 1780, and his parents having died when he was a small boy, he emigrated to Georgia in company with other families from Virginia and settled in Wilkinson County. The old members of the family in Virginia were aware that some kinsmen emigrated to Georgia, but not having returned to his native state, lost intercourse with him. His parents' names are not certainly known. He married Nancy, daughter of William and Rebecca McKay, who went from Virginia to Georgia at the same time, and had seven children.

NOTE:—Miss Alice Tipton, Sylvester, Ga., would like to know names of parents of this Robert Ridley.

## SECOND GENERATION

### Children of Robert Ridley I

Jonathan Ridley II, eldest son of Robert Ridley, born in Wilkinson County in 1805, married, moved to Florida. Died in 1863, leaving a widow and several children.

Milley Ridley, eldest daughter of Robert I, born in 1806.

William Ridley I, second son of Robert I, born 1808, married Nancy Holly. Resided on farm near Hawkinsville, Ga. Had issue of fifteen children. (See Ridley Book)

Sarah Ridley, second daughter of Robert I, born 1810, was married.

Deacon Everett Ridley, third son of Robert I, born Feb. 8, 1813, was a great Christian; occupation farming; had issue of eight children. (See Ridley Book)

Deacon David Ridley, fourth son of Robert, born in Wilkinson County, July 17, 1814, married Aug. 10, 1837, to Dillie Stinson; moved to Worth County in 1852; was in comfortable circumstances; Civil War reduced him financially. His children were favored with educational advantages. His wife died Feb. 24, 1853. He married the second time to Elizabeth Piety Cox, of Worth County.

The Ridley residence stood near old Mount Horeb Church, and is beautifully located. He had issue of fourteen children.

Robert Ridley II, youngest son of Robert I, was born March 31, 1817, married Mary Jane Manning, emigrated to Alabama and settled near Shackelville, Butler County. Had issue of eight children. (See Ridley Book)

## THIRD GENERATION

### Children of Deacon David Ridley

Mary Jane Ridley, eldest daughter of David, born in Thomas County, July 2, 1838. Never married.

Zilphia Delaney Ridley, second daughter of David, was born in Thomas County, Feb. 5, 1840. Never married.

Martha Jane Ridley, third daughter of David, was born in Thomas County, October 30, 1842, married to William Spillers. Had four children.

Jonathan Ridley, eldest son of David, was born in Thomas County, May 4, 1844, enlisted in Company G of the "Yancy

Independents," the first company to be organized in Worth County, in the spring of 1861, under command of Capt. W. A. Harris. Jonathan died of measles in Virginia in the autumn of 1862. This company became a part of 14th Ga. Reg.

Jesse Ashley, second son of David, born in Thomas County, Oct. 21, 1845, died Nov. 23, 1856.

Sarah Frances Ridley, fourth daughter of David, was born in Thomas County, Nov. 4, 1847, married Charles G. Tipton.

Dr. James Nicholas Ridley, third son of David, was born in Thomas County Nov. 10th, 1849. Dr. Ridley resided a Warwick.

John Shelby Ridley, eldest son of David by his second wife, was born in Worth County, Sept. 12, 1854, died Oct. 1, 1855.

Iverson L. Ridley, fifth son of David, was born in Worth County, Dec. 25, 1858.

Nancy Elizabeth Ridley, fifth daughter of David, was born in Worth County, March 2, 1861.

Jackson Mathias Ridley, sixth son of David, was born in Worth County, March 5, 1863.

Robert Lee Ridley, seventh son of David, was born in Worth County, July 11, 1865;

Theophilus David Ridley, eighth son of David, was born in Worth County, Feb. 17, 1867.

Amanda Beatrice Ridley, sixth daughter of David, was born in Worth County, May 6, 1870.

## TIPTON FAMILY

The Tiptons belong to an old English family. Tradition is to the effect that four brothers left the port of Southampton for America. Three of them settled in Baltimore, and the fourth located in Boston.

The Worth County branch of the family is thought to be descended from one of the brothers in Baltimore, who moved from there to Virginia; settling in Southampton County. In the early colonial period, prior to the Revolutionary War, a branch of this Virginia family migrated to Georgia and settled in what is now known as Wilkinson County. The Tiptons were among the suffering patriots of Georgia at that period. From that day down, they have been contributing useful citizens to this State.

The Wilkinson County records show that there were four