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Family History
Gardner Family Records
Richmond and Columbia Counties, Georgia

History of the Garner Families from Jason Gardner (1772 - 1826) of Georgia,
North Carolina and Alabama, from his father John Gardner of Richmond and Columbia
Counties, Georgia.

In possession of: Washington Memorial Library
Genealogical and Historical Room
Macon, Georgia

REDUCTION: 12
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REEL NO. _____

WHICH JASON GARDNER?

Like other families, the Gardners have their share of common given names, as James, John, Thomas, and William, which create difficulties in distinguishing among contemporaries. Then there are less usual names: Alexander, Jacob, Jesse, and Lewis. We may wonder, however, where the early Gardners got the relatively uncommon names of Ashel, Etheldred, and Jason. Also confusing to the family historian are variant spellings, by some of the early record keepers, of the same individual's surname, as Gardener, Gardiner, Gardner, Garner, or Guardner.

Grace Moran Evans (Mrs. Burrell, B.), Nevada, Texas, in her Gardner, Wheeler, Moran and Herndon Families (n.p., 1959, pp. 9-10) specifies a Jason Gardner (1772-1826), supposedly being successively in Georgia, North Carolina, again Georgia, then Alabama, as son of a Lewis Gardner of Richmond and Columbia Counties, Georgia, whose will, recorded in the latter county in 1799, does name a Jason as one of six sons. Mrs. Evans sets forth some biographical details purporting to relate to one individual of this name:

"Jason Gardner, born Jan. 9, 1772, Augusta, Ga., died Aug. 25, 1826, Dallas County, Ala. He was noted for his elegant and courtly manners. He moved to Alabama in 1809. He married first, Sarah Stucke [sic] July 12, 1791, Columbia County, Ga. . . . second, Sarah Harrell in Bertie County, N. C., Feb. 15, 1796, . . . third, Mrs. Mary K. (Minter) Napier March 10, 1804. She was born July 30, 1778, died April 20, 1866. . . . In 1834, Sarah Gardner, a sister of Jason, who evidently never married, bought at a Sheriff's sale 294 acres belonging to Jason Gardner. The land was purchased by Stephen Hoge for Sarah Gardner. Jason Gardner drew in the land lottery number 199 in Beck's District in 1827 [sic] from Houston County, Ga."

There is reason to believe that Mrs. Evans has gathered some data relating to at least two, probably three, contemporary Jason Gardners and then ascribed the information to the Jason who died 1826 in Dallas County, Alabama - making him a composite Jason Gardner, widely traveled and much married.

Between the Revolution and the Civil War, the name Jason Gardner (or Gardiner) appears in the South in such widely separated places as Southampton County, Virginia; Bertie County, North Carolina; Richmond, Columbia, Washington, Jones, and Houston Counties in Georgia; Dallas, Chambers, and Henry Counties, Alabama; and Jefferson County, Mississippi. Some connections of Gardners in the South may have an interest in reviewing these data.

Jason Gardner of Southampton County, Virginia:

In Nottoway Parish of Southampton County, Virginia, a Jason Gardner in 1802 is on the personal property tax roll, for the first time, and is then assessed for only a poll. He married Salley Moore in Southampton May 16, 1803 (bond), with Etheldred Gardner as surety (Southampton Co., Va., tax list for 1802, p. "G"; Register of Marriages, p. 154).

This Jason is son of a James Gardner, Sr. (earlier, James, Jr.), who died about 1803 without a will in Southampton, and Henry Gardner was appointed administrator of the estate. In December of 1803 the Court named Etheldred Gardner as guardian of six minors, "orphans of James Gardner decd". At the same term of court is a chancery suit, "Ann Gardner widow and relict of James Gardner decd vs Jason Gardner, of full age, and Nancy, Lydia, Abraham, Susannah, Irish & James Gardner, infants Co-heirs &c Against Henry Gardner adm of James Gardner decd". With "Etheld Gardner" added to the list of complainants, on behalf of the minors as "their guardian and next friend", the suit continues through several terms of court. Commissioners are appointed who set apart 35 acres as the widow's dower out of 318 acres, with the remaining property to be sold and the proceeds "equally divided amongst the Complainants and defendant". Such a division of "1/9 to the widow in fee simple and the balance to the children as above . . ." indicates this Henry Gardner, administrator of the estate, as being an older son of James (Southampton Co., Va., Order Book 1803-1805, pp. 14, 18-19, 65-66, 236-37).

James Gardner, deceased husband of Ann and father of the above eight children, appears to have been the son of a James Gardner (also Sr. and Jr., at appropriate times) who died testate in 1793. In the 1803 personal property tax rolls are assessments for "Gardner James Senf est" and for "Gardner James (of Jn2)", indicating the latter as son of a John Gardner. Checking the prior six years' tax rolls and comparing the property listed, we find that "James Senf" is also identified as "James of James" and his contemporary as "James (So/uth/ Quay)", in 1802. They are distinguished in 1798 as "James of James" and "James of John", and so again in 1797. These two cousins are among the numerous Southampton descendants of a James Gardner (and Garner) who died in Southampton in 1754, mentioning in his will land granted to him in Nansemond County by Governor Alexander Spotswood (Southampton Co., Va., Will Books 1, pp. 155-56, and 4, pp. 588, 599-600; personal property tax books for years as cited).

As Jason Gardner was "of full age" in 1803, he would have to be born not later than 1782. Jason is named as head of family in the censuses, 1810-1840, in Southampton. His age categories in these four returns, if accurately set down, indicate his birth as between 1775 and 1780 (Censuses of 1810, p. 130; 1820, p. 117; 1830, p. 269; and 1840, p. 73).

Jason and Henry Gardner were witnesses, on Feb. 15, 1806, to Etheldred Gardner's sale of 20 acres of land to Joseph Buxton. By deed of Feb. 10, 1807, Jason bought from Joseph Buxton 97 acres bounding on Etheldred Gardner, who was a witness to this deed. In 1809 Jason Gardner is on the personal property

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tax list for a poll, two slaves, and two horses, and so continues with minor variations for many years. Listed for only his poll was a Lewis Gardner in 1817, and he thereafter disappears from the local tax rolls. (Southampton Co., Va., Deed Book 11, pp. 169-71, 226; tax lists for years as cited)

During the War of 1812 Jason Gardner (also spelled Gardener and Guardner in pay and muster rolls) served six months as a private under Lieut. Thomas Applewhite, Capt. Ephraim Raines, and Capt. Edward S. Holt in succession, May 24 to Nov. 26, 1814. He was stationed at Norfolk in the 6th Light Infantry Regiment, Virginia Militia, variously commanded by Lieut.-Cols. Dickinson, Scott, and Coleman. Jason's last muster roll, at "Norfolk Nov 26, 1814", lists 80 miles for his "Mileage returning home". Uriah "Gardener", Jason's brother, was also a private in the same regiment. Etheldred Gardner was a lieutenant in Capt. A. Holleman's company of infantry in Magnien's 8th Virginia Regiment. (War of 1812, carded index and compilation of service records, National Archives, Washington) There does not appear to be on file any bounty land application in the name of Jason Gardner. An Etheldred Gardner is head of family in Walton County, Georgia, in 1820 (p. 256).

We do not know Ann Gardner's maiden surname. Her will, drawn July 15, 1831, and proved Aug. 18, 1834, "lends" to son Jason a slave, and on Jason's death "to my Grandson Everett Gardner". A slave is given to son Abraham L. Gardner. The balance of the estate is to be sold and "proceeds equally divided in Six parts" for distribution to Jason, "Abram L Gardner", her Beeman(?) grandchildren, Buxton grandchildren, Booth grandchildren, and "my grandson Dempsey Gardner". (Southampton Co., Va., Will Book 11, p. 281)

The will of Jason Gardner of Southampton County was drawn Dec. 1, 1846, and proved Feb. 15, 1847; witnesses were Joseph Buxton (Buxton), Jesse Johnson, and Parma Darden. No wife is mentioned, and she is presumed dead. After several specific bequests, including 98 acres to son James R. Gardner, the will directs that the remaining property be divided "... between My children Lilly Gardner Everett Gardner James R Gardner Ann Gardner and My Grand daughter Caroline Susan Daughtrey". Sons Everett and James R. Gardner are named executors. (Ibid., Will Book 13, pp. 664-65)

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Jason Gardner of Bertie County, North Carolina:

In February 1791 "Jason Gardner appeared in Court and chose Balus House his Guardian", for whom Shadrack Holmes and Ezekiel Thomas provided bond of \$200 (Bertie Co., N.C., Minute Book 1789-1792, p. 294A). On Feb. 17, 1795, Baliss House, on behalf of Jason Gardner, sold to Thomas Veal two tracts of land in Bertie: for \$90 a tract of 44 acres joining Bryant (Bryan) Gardner, Bartholomew Gardner, and Isaac Gardner, and for \$15 18 6/7 acres joining Thomas Veal and Bryant Gardner. Witnessing both deeds are Wm. Ruffin, Richard Veal, and Maurice Veal. Attached to the deeds is Jason's power of attorney, dated Feb. 14, 1795 (and we may conclude that Jason is now of age): ". . . also I Jason Gardner Impower the said House to make a Lawfull deed unto Thomas Veal . . . of Lands belonging to my Father John Gardner Decd . . ." This is signed by Jason Gardner and Baliss House and witnessed by Richard Veal and Robert Douglass. Also a part of the recordation: "I Baliss House stands security for Jason Gardner for his part of his Brother Samuel Gardners part of the sd Land . . ." (Bertie Co., N.C., Deed Book Q, pp. 298-302). Presumably brother Samuel had died intestate, with no wife or child, after his father's death.

John Gardner died without a will before Feb. 17, 1790, when the Bertie Court appointed Cader Powell administrator "on the Estate of John Gardner decd"; bond of \$1000 was provided by Benjamin Harrell and James Hayse. "A true Inventory of the Estate of John Gardner Decesd taken March the 5th 1790" by Cader Powell includes ". . . 284 acres of Land & 3 negroes . . ." and was returned to May Court. In August 1790 the Court ordered that William Ruffin, Thomas Bond, Allen Purvis, and John King, or any three of them, divide the "Lands of John Gardner Decd among his Legal Representatives", and this was returned to the Court in May 1791. In November 1790 Henry Hill, Absalom Carney, William Ruffin, Allen Purvis, or any three, are named "to auditt & settle accounts of the Adm^r of John Gardner decd who was Guardian to Jimmey James Harrell & make return to next Court". In November 1791 "Henry Hill, Allen Purvis, Absalom Carney & Fredk Wimberly . . . [are named to] settle the accounts of the adm^r of John Gardner decd and Divide the sd decd personal Estate among his Legal representatives", and the order is repeated in the following February by the Court. (Bertie Co., N.C., Inventories and Sales of Estates, 1775-1790, Part II, pp. 9-10; Minute Book 1789-1792, pp. 267, 273A, 280, 280A, 284-84A, 304, 318, 326A)

In addition to their inheritance of John Gardner's land, his heirs were also beneficiaries, in part, of a confusing devise of land in James Gardner's will, drawn Sept. 12, 1790, and proved in Bertie Court in November 1790: "Item I give and Bequeath My land that lies on the north side of Cashy swamp being by estimation 540 acres to be Equally Divided among me and the heirs of my Three Decsd brothers William, Martin and John Gardner to be equally Divided By my Executors and after the Division to be one half Divided between my two sons Namely William and Avret Gardner." The executors were Baliss House, Josiah Harrell, and Allen Purvis. James' children, as named in his will, are sons Averet (Everett), Alexander, and

William (a minor) and daughters Phereby Holmes, Mary Harrell, Elizabeth Harrell, Winny Gardner, Patience James, and Celia Gardner. This James Gardner is described as "my younger Son" in the will of the Martin Gardner (Sr.) who died about 1759 in Bertie (Will Book D, pp. 141-46; N.C. Wills, v. 11, pp. 25-26, N.C. Archives, Raleigh). If the DAR Patriot Index is correct in giving this James Gardner's birth as "c. 1720" (p. 259), we may assume that his three brothers - William, Martin (Jr.), and John - were born still earlier. The children of brother Martin, Jr. (Sr. at the time of his death in 1784), are named in his will as sons John, Martin, Bryan, and James and daughters Sarah and Anna (Bertie Co., N.C., Will Book A-C, p. 83; also v. 3, p. 48). Of the heirs of John Gardner, who died about 1789 without a will, two of his sons, Jason and Samuel, have already been identified from the Bertie land records.

Henry Gardner of Chowan County, N.C., on June 15, 1791, for \$44 sold " . . . to Baliss House for the use of William Gardner orphan of James Gardner Decd" two lots, joining Avret(?) Gardner, James Gardner, deceased, John Gardner, and William Gardner, near Cashy Swamp; witnesses are Allen Purvis and William Pountiss(?). This conveyance would be a result of the codicil to James Gardner's will of Sept. 12, 1790, to the effect that son William is not of age and money is to be applied from the estate to buy a tract of land belonging to the estate of John Gardner, deceased. On July 18, 1795, Henry (X) Gardner of Chowan County sold to Thomas Veal for \$18 18 3/4 acres, " . . . it being the sd Henry Gardners part or Share of Lands belonging to his Father John Gardner deceased on Rockwest", joining Thomas Veal, Jason Gardner, and Bryant Gardner; witnessed by Baliss House, Richard Veal, and James Gardner. (Bertie Co., N.C., Deed Books P, p. 237; Q, pp. 382-83)

On May 12, 1794, Bryan Gardner was appointed guardian to Bartholomew Gardner; Allen Purvis and John Gardner gave bond of \$500. By deed of Nov. 11, 1797, "I Bryan Gardner of Sumner County and State of Tennessee" on behalf of Bartholomew Gardner sold two tracts to Thomas Veal, for "Eighteen Spanish Milled Dollars and 3/4 of a dollar" 18 3/4 acres in Bertie "which said Land is a part of Bartholomew Gardner land which fell to him by the death of his Father John Gardner", cornering with Jason, Bryan, and Isaac Gardner and Thomas Veal on Rocquist Swamp; and for "thirty Six actual Silver dollars & a quarter to me in hand paid" 44 acres, "a part of Bartholomew Gardners land which fell to him by the death of his Father John Gardner", near "the alligator marsh" and joining Jason and Bryan Gardner. Both deeds are witnessed by James Ruffin and Richard Veal. (Bertie Co., N.C., Minute Book 1793-1801, p. 76; Deed Book R, pp. 150-53) It is reasonable to assume that Bartholomew went to Tennessee between 1794 and 1797 with his guardian and first cousin, Bryan Gardner, son of the Martin Gardner who died 1784.

On Nov. 10, 1798, Jason Gardner of Bertie, with James Cotton (X) Gardner's power of attorney in hand, dated Nov. 6, 1793, sold to Thomas Veal for \$18.75 18 3/4 acres in Bertie, " . . . which said land was part of James Cotton Gardners land which fell to him by the death of his Father John Gardner", bounded by Thomas Veal and Thomas, Bryan, and Henry Gardner.

Witnessing this deed were Noah Thompson, Morice Veal, and Thomas Pugh. The power of attorney is included in the recordation, six months later: "Know all men by these presents that I James Cotton Gardner have constituted . . . my true and loving Brother Jason Gardner my true and Lawful attorney for me and in my name and stead and to my use to ask demand . . . and receive . . . money Debts Rents goods wares . . . which are or shall be due owing payable and belonging to me . . . and in my name to do Execute and perform . . . as I myself might or could do if I was personally present . . . I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 6th day of Novr 1793. . . Test Noah Thompson State of No. Carolina Bertie County". In May term of Court, 1799: "The annexed power of attorney from James Cotton Gardner to Jason Gardner was proved in open Court by the oath of Morris Veal by proving the handwriting of Noah Thompson decd the subscribing witness, & ordered to be Registered." (Bertie Co., N.C., Deed Book 3, pp. 76-78)

Terms of relationship in the previously cited Bertie land records explicitly identify five sons of the John Gardner who had died intestate before Feb. 17, 1790: Jason (who came of age between 1791 and 1795), Samuel (who presumably died unmarried between 1790 and 1795), Henry (living in Chowan County in 1791 and 1795), Bartholomew (not of age in 1797), and James Cotton (possibly the Cotton Gardner who was in Augusta, Georgia, in 1798; National Genealogical Society Quarterly, v. 53, p. 38). Joining in conveyances and each also selling "dividends" of 44 acres and 18 acres (presumably one derived from the division of the elder John Gardner's landed estate and the other from James' bequest of 540 acres to "the heirs of my Three Decd brothers William, Martin and John Gardner") are John, Thomas, and Isaac Gardner. Although their deeds do not recite descent of title, the likelihood of their also being sons of John Gardner must be kept in mind.

John and Thomas Gardner, in deed of May 12, 1791, joined James Cotton Gardner, all then of Bertie, in selling to Thomas Veal for \$132 a tract of 132 acres (44 acres apiece); this land joined James Gardner, Thomas Veal, and Ezekiah(?) Wimberly. On Feb. 17, 1795, John and Thomas Gardner sold to Thomas Veal for \$36 37½ acres (two 18 3/4-acre interests) joining Bryant and Isaack Gardner (Bertie Co., N.C., Deed Books P, pp. 194-95; Q, pp. 329-31).

Isaac Gardner of Beaufort District, South Carolina, appointed Henry Gardner of Bertie "my Lawfull attorney", dated May 5, 1803; certified by Barnwell Deveaux, "Justice of the Quorum &c . . . Town of Beaufort"; but not recorded in Bertie until November 1808. On Nov. 17, 1808, on behalf of Isaac Gardner, Henry (X) Gardner of Chowan County sold to Richard Veale of Bertie for \$50 two tracts in Bertie, 44 acres along Roquist pocoson and 18 acres adjoining William and Richard Veal. (Bertie Co., N.C., Deed Books U, pp. 585-86; V, pp. 17-18)

If we assume James Gardner's devise to be somewhat less than 540 acres, "by estimation", so that a fourth to brother John's heirs (if so divided) is actually 131 or 132 acres, instead of 135, then a seven-way division would give each of seven surviving sons a "divident" of a fraction over 18 acres of this particular inheritance. Obtaining 44-acre tracts by dividing 284 acres, more or less, becomes an even more speculative venture. If John Gardner left a wife or daughters, they are unknown to the compiler. A widow's dower rights would complicate division and distribution of the land. Of interest in this connection, and of presently uncertain application: On Jan. 13, 1796, Asa Hollowell et ux for \$130 sold to Thomas Veal (residence and acreage unspecified) "... one Tract or parcel of Land ... it being the thirds of Land of John Gardner Decd as my wife Ann Hollowells Dower former Relict of the said John Gardner Decd I hereby warrant and defend the said Land during my wifes Life time". (Ibid., Deed Book R, p. 83)

Still unresolved are the connotations of Lewis Gardner's 1793 power of attorney in Georgia to Alexander Gardner for sale of two tracts of land in Bertie, with no specifications as to acreage, descent of title, or relationships. (Columbia Co., Ga., Superior Court, Deed Book B, p. 202) Possibly this Lewis Gardner is another son of John Gardner; also he may well be an heir of the presently missing brother William.

Presumed to be the oldest son of Martin Gardner, Sr. (died about 1759), is the William Gardner in Bertie in 1742, when his headrights are named as "Wm Gardener, Mary Gardener, Uselva Gardiner, Nehomi /Naomi ?/ Gardener Lewis Gardener Mary Gardiner whites, Pegg, black" (Bertie Co., N.C., Minute Book 1724-1743, p. 193), presumably William as head of family, wife Mary, their four children, and a slave. This Lewis "Gardener" may be the Lewis Gardner named in Needham Bryan's will of 1767 as one of "fore Gran Sons" who are cut off with a crown sterling each, worth 8 shillings, 4 pence when the estate was finally settled in 1777. (Bertie Co., N.C., Will Book 2, p. 8; Inventories and Sales of Estates, 1775-1790, Part I, pp. 18-19, in N.C. Archives, Raleigh)

To return to Jason Gardner of Bertie, he married Sarah Harrell in that county Feb. 15, 1796 (bond), with Henry J. W. Bate as surety. Jason was surety on marriage bonds for Gabriel Harrell and Bertie Harrell in December 1798 and for Lewis Bonds and Hannah Dawson in October 1799. (J.R.B. Hathaway, North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register, v. 2, pp. 370, 372-73) In May 1797 for \$600 Jason bought from Robert Lassiter, both of Bertie, four slaves. (Bertie Co., N.C., Deed Book R, pp. 396-97) The 1800 Census for Bertie (p. 46) names Jason "Gardiner", between 16 and 26 years old, with no other whites in his household, and with eight slaves. In the following year Jason appears as a witness to a deed from Allen and Anna (Gardner) Purvis to James Jordan. (Bertie Co., N.C., Deed Book S, p. 599) This compiler has no further reference to Jason Gardner's subsequent whereabouts. He is not named as head of family in the 1810 Census for Bertie.

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Jason Gardner of Jones County, Georgia, and Dallas County, Alabama:

In Georgia in the 1805 Land Lottery a Jason G. (sic) Gardner is named as resident of Washington County, with one draw (Virginia G. and Ralph V. Wood, 1805 Georgia Land Lottery, p. 120), indicating that he was of age, single, and living in Georgia in 1802. He should not be confused with another Jason Gardner in Columbia County at this time, who had two draws, and was therefore a family man, and who appears to have remained in Columbia County into the mid-1820's. We do not know if the Jason of Washington County is the Jason, and Jason H., Gardner who was in Jones County, Georgia, for several years after its creation in 1807 from Baldwin, just west of Washington.

In Jones County, Jason Gardner in 1808 and 1810 served on the Grand Jury and in 1815 was Justice of the Peace. During this time his name appears in the local records both with and without the middle initial "H". In the 1811 tax digest for Jones County Jason Gardner is listed with 430 acres in Caldwell's District and also as administrator of Thomas Gardner, deceased, with 202½ acres, although the widow Rebecca was administratrix in 1810. From the record of the administration and settlement of the estate, Thomas Gardner is assumed to have died intestate about 1809 or 1810, leaving a wife Rebecca, sons Jason, Alexander, Thomas (Jr.), Jacob, and John, and daughters Sarah, Mary, Rebecca, Elizabeth, and Martha Jane. (Jones County notes, files of Murray Gardner, Decatur, Georgia)

Presently uncertain are the parentage and other antecedents of the Thomas Gardner who died about 1809 in Jones County. The name of Thomas Gardner appears occasionally in Columbia County records between 1802 and 1820 (references from files of Murray Gardner, Decatur, Georgia; Mrs. J. H. Strother, Dadeville, Alabama; and the late Mrs. Dallas Scarborough, Abilene, Texas), but whether that Thomas was a resident of Columbia County is uncertain. Only two Thomas Gardners, one in Richmond and the other in Washington County, are named in the 1805 Georgia Lottery, cited above. As each had only one draw, we assume that neither had a wife, or child under 21, on May 11, 1802, the period of "twelve months immediately preceding the passage of this act," which was May 11, 1803, and a residency requirement for registration for the 1805 Lottery.

For the whereabouts of Thomas Gardner of Jones County, before 1802, we must apparently look elsewhere than Georgia. The tombstone of one of his sons, Jason Gardner in Dallas County, Alabama, gives the latter's birth as 1772, but unfortunately no birth place, and we do not know where, in 1804, Jason married the widow Napier, born Mary K. Minter. Jason's birthdate in 1772 allows us to postulate the elder Thomas Gardner's age as over 45 in 1800.

In the old Pendleton District, S. C., several Gardners are listed as heads of families in 1800, among them a Thomas Gardner, over 45, and a Lewis Gardner, 26-45, living near each other. (William C. Stewart, 1800 Census of Pendleton District, South Carolina, p. 119) The former

could well be the Thomas "Garner" named in 1790 in Pendleton County of Ninety-six District. (U.S. Bureau of the Census, Heads of Families . . . 1790, South Carolina, p. 83) No Thomas Gardner is named as head of family in Bertie County, N. C., in the Censuses of 1790, 1800, and 1810.

As for the pattern-of-names approach to genealogical conclusions, Thomas, Jr., is reported to have had a son and grandson named Lewis W. Gardner, and Jacob a son Jason C. Gardner. The latter would be "Jacent" C. Gardner named among the under-age heirs of Jacob Gardner in the administration of the latter's estate in 1838 and 1839 in Chambers County, Alabama (Minutes of Orphans' Court, Books 3, p. 321; 4, p. 22). In 1850 Jason C. is still in Chambers County, aged 20, born in Georgia, living with his older brother, Davis Gardner, and their widowed mother, Harriett Gardner. This is the Jason C. Gardner, and Garner, who enlisted in Calhoun County, Alabama, and served first in the 18th and later in the 58th Alabama Infantry, CSA, and was paroled May 10, 1865, at Meridian, Mississippi. (Notes of Mrs. J.H. Strother; carded index and compilations of Confederate military service records, National Archives, Washington)

In Dallas County, Alabama, "Jason Gardner is buried in a family cemetery at Riverdale, an antebellum home about ten miles east of Selma. His tombstone is still there with his dates. He was born Jan. 9, 1772 and died August 25, 1826. He married Mary K. Minter March 20, 1804 . . . daughter of John Minter and Joanna Rutherford Minter. The Minters came from North Carolina and the Rutherfords settled in Newberry, S. C., so I do not know exactly where she and Jason married. I do recall my great-grandmother telling me that Jason Gardner came to Alabama from Richmond County, Georgia, or Augusta . . ." (letter, W. Tarver Rountree, Jr., to Malcolm Gardner, May 24, 1960) This is the Jason H. Gardner named as head of family in 1820 in a State Census of Dallas County, Alabama. His enumeration was one white male over 21, one under 21, a white female over 21, and four under 21, with 56 slaves. (Alabama Historical Quarterly, v. 6, p. 379) That this Jason Gardner in Dallas County is the same person as the Jason previously in Jones County seems to be adequately established by an obituary of his son Garland T. Gardner (1810-1856) of Dallas County, giving the latter's birthplace as Jones County, Georgia. (Collection of newspaper clippings, filed by surname, Alabama Archives, Montgomery)

The will of Jason Gardner of Dallas County, Alabama, was drawn on Aug. 24, 1826; he died the next day; and probate was on Sept. 11, 1826. Executors were friend John Beavelly and son Virgil H. Gardner; witnesses were Gilbert Shearvers, William T. Minter, and John Harkey. (Dallas Co., Ala., Will Book A, 1821-1849, p. 24; verbatim copy in Evans, op. cit., pp. 16-17) Named in the will are wife Mary, children Louise Goff, Ann Weaver, Virgil H. Gardner, Garland T. Gardner, Mary M. Gardner, Mariah Gardner, and Rebecca Gardner, and sons-in-law George Goff and Phillip J. Weaver.

In addition to Jason Gardner's will, data from marriage records and 1850 Census returns for Dallas County and family papers in the possession of Tarver Rountree, Jr., of Selma, Alabama, provide some information about the children of Jason and Mary K. (Minter) Gardner:

- I. Louisa Cotton Gardner, m. in Dallas County May 7, 1822 (bond), George Goff who is presumably dead in 1850, as Louisa C. Goff, aged 46 and born in Georgia, is then living with her mother Mary K. Gardner, 73 and born in North Carolina (family 1041, p. 603).
- II. Ann Powell Gardner (1806-1881), m. in Dallas County May 8, 1823, Philip John Weaver (1797-1865). The 1850 Census for Dallas County shows P. J. Weaver as 54, a merchant, with real estate holdings valued at \$50,000, a native of Maryland; his wife is 40 and was born in Georgia (family 1050, p. 604).
- III. Virgil Homer Gardner, b. Aug. 6, 1808, in Georgia; m. Margaret Aylette; lived at Riverdale in Dallas County. He is there in 1850 (family 1042, p. 603), but the census taker listed him as 48 years old; his real property was valued at \$135,200.
- IV. Garland Thomas Gardner, b. Sept. 24, 1810, in Jones County, Georgia; d. July 29, 1856; presumably never married, as no wife or child is indicated for him in his household in 1850 (family 1037, p. 603). His will, probated in Dallas in 1856, provides information on his siblings and some of their children.
- V. Mary Ann Gardner, m. Peter Wycoff. (A marriage record for William B. C. Walker and a Mary Ann Gardner is dated Jan. 2, 1824, in Dallas County; that this is Jason's daughter and a first marriage for her seems doubtful.) In Dallas in 1850 is listed "Mrs M Wychoff", aged 35 and born in Georgia (family 1043, p. 603), probably a widow.
- VI. Maria Elizabeth Gardner, m. Oct. 23, 1834, Grey A. Chandler; no children of this marriage, according to Mr. Rountree.
- VII. John Morgan Gardner, said to have died young; he is not named in Jason Gardner's will.
- VIII. Martha Lynn Gardner, died young.
- IX. Rebecca J. Gardner, m. Jan. 20, 1841, Bartholomew Smith. She is probably a widow in 1850 when the Dallas County census taker lists her as head of family, aged 28, native of Alabama, with three young Smith children and other relatives in her household, including her sister Mary Wycoff and a niece Martha A. (Goffe) Lucy. Rebecca (Gardner) Smith's real property holdings were set down as \$64,000 (family 1043, p. 603).

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Jason Gardner of Richmond, Columbia, and Houston Counties, Georgia:

In Richmond County, Georgia, the names of Jason Gardner and his presumed older brothers, William and Abel, appear frequently between January 1787 and January 1790 as witnesses on various court records (Grace S. Davidson, Records of Richmond County, Georgia; Historical Collections of the Georgia Chapters, DAR, v. 2, pp. 74-129 passim). This family lived in the section of Richmond that was made into Columbia County in 1790. Jason's name continues in the records for that county through 1820. By deed of May 27, 1799 (recorded May 22, 1812, Deed Book P, p. 256), Jason conveyed to Joshua Wynn 250 acres in Columbia County "on waters of the great & little Kiokee", bounded by lands of Lewis Gardner, Young, and the Widow Smith. Columbia is Jason's residence when he receives two "draws" in the 1805 Land Lottery. In the tax lists of 1805 and 1806 Jason Gardner is assessed for a slave and 364 acres, adjoining Smith and Cobb on Uchee Creek, Capt. William Brane's District 7. By April 1816 some of Jason's debts apparently have caught up with him, and the Sheriff has "seized and taken 294 Acres of land on the waters of Uchee Creek in Columbia County, . . . as the property of Jason Gardner." At the Sheriff's sale of Aug. 6, 1816, this land was "purchased by Stephen Hoge [Jason's brother-in-law] for Sarah Gardner for the sum of \$125.50, being the highest sum bid" (recorded Sept. 10, 1834). Whether the purchaser was Jason's unmarried sister Sarah or his wife, Sarah (Stuckey) Gardner, with money in her own name not subject to a husband's debts, is uncertain.

On Feb. 15, 1819, for \$1800 Jason Gardner sold 40 acres on Babryes Mill Creek and 70 acres on the Uchee Creek to Lewis Gardner (Columbia County deed abstracts in the files of Mrs. Dallas Scarborough, Abilene, Texas). This would be Jason's eldest son, Lewis Gardner (1793-1865), third of that name in Columbia County.

Jason Gardner is named in the 1820 Census in Columbia County (p. 18); he is then listed in the 26-45 age category, indicating a birthdate of 1775 or later, which seems inconsistent with his witnessing legal papers in 1787. We do not know his birthplace or date of his birth, but in 1830 in Houston County (p. 278) the census taker placed him in the 70-80 age group, that is, 1750-1760, probably 10 years too old.

The Jason Gardner who is in the Richmond-Columbia area records from 1787 on through 1820 is a son of the Lewis Gardner who bought land in St. Pauls Parish, later Richmond County, Georgia, in September 1776 and July 1777, served in the Revolution, and held public office from 1781 to 1798 in Richmond and Columbia Counties (Davidson, op. cit., pp. 9, 123, 135, 228, 287-89; Lucian L. Knight, Georgia's Roster of the Revolution, pp. 92, 260, 382; Allen D. Candler, Revolutionary Records of Georgia, v. 2, pp. 274, 674-76, 686, 780; v. 3, p. 16). Lewis Gardner's undated will was recorded Oct. 12, 1799 (Columbia Co., Ga., Will Book A, pp. 108-11), wife Verlinda, son Lewis (Jr.), and "my trusty friend Anderson Crawford" are executors. Bequests are made to his older daughters Sarah, Hannah, Mary, and Ann; "my young children, Lewis, Verlinda Harris, Gray Bynum and Rachel Allison"; sons Lewis and Jesse; and ". . . as for my sons William Abel & Jason I leave them Nothing as I have given them in

times past what I intended for them". An undocumented suggestion is that John and Thomas Gardner may be sons of this Lewis Gardner (Davidson, op. cit., v. 2, p. 135); as to this conjecture, if true, we must assume both of them to have been dead, without wife or child, when the elder Lewis Gardner drew his will, presented for probate on Aug. 16, 1799.

The parentage and birthplace of this Lewis Gardner are not certain. However, he appears to have had some connection with Bertie County, N. C. On Oct. 9, 1793, Lewis Gardner of Columbia County gave a power of attorney to "my trusty friend Alexander Gardner" to sell lands in Bertie County, "the one parcel lying, joining or near lands belonging formally [sic] to the Tuscorora Indians, the other lying the East Side of Casky Swamp in the said County . . ." Witnesses were Ashel and John Gardner and A. Crawford (Columbia Co., Ga., Book 8, p. 202). Needham Bryan's will of Sept. 3, 1767, in Bertie County, makes a bequest to grandson Lewis Gardner (Bertie Co., N. C., Wills, 1749-1804, v. 2., p. 8), without further identification as name of a parent or place. This compiler presently has no other information concerning a daughter of Needham Bryan having married a Gardner. Of uncertain significance is a Jason Bryan in nearby Northampton County, N. C., in 1790. One supposition has been that Lewis Gardner may have been a son of the Martin Gardner who died testate in 1784 in Bertie County; but Lewis' name is not among the children listed as legatees in Martin's will.

Ashel Gardner (1767-1832), son of Lewis, Sr., and brother of the Jason of Richmond, Columbia, and Houston Counties, married Sarah Andrews in 1792 and by 1806 had settled in Jefferson County, Mississippi. Among Ashel's nine sons is a Jason Gardner, May 24, 1810-Jan. 26, 1833 (record from Ashel Gardner's Bible, inclusive dates 1767-1945, in possession of George D. Gardner, Monroe, Louisiana; typescript in DAR Library, Washington).

To return to the elder Lewis Gardner's son Jason, who in 1820 was in Columbia County, Georgia, by 1827 he was in Houston County when he received a "fortunate draw" in the 1827, or fifth, Georgia land lottery. "Jason Gardner of Beck's district Houston County" drew Lot 199, which was 202 1/2 acres "in the Twelfth District, of the FIFTH Section, in the County of CARROLL". (Martha L. Houston, Reprint of Official Register of Land Lottery of Georgia: 1827, p. 34; "CARROLL - District 11-12", p. 119, original grant book in Surveyor General Department, Georgia Archives, Atlanta). This grant was finally issued by Governor Schley on Dec. 2, 1836.

Jason Gardner was witness to a deed on Jan. 5, 1829, whereby his son Thomas acquired a half interest from William Coppedge in Lot 114, District 15, Houston County. Jason's other son Lewis also witnessed this deed. In March 1835 Jason and Lewis Gardner certified to the transfer of this property. In February 1836 Thomas Gardner sold the south or improved half of Lot 114 to James A. Everett (Houston Co., Ga., Book 2, pp. 323, 705; abstracts from Mrs. Scarborough's files).

Jason "Gardner", his sons Lewis and Thomas, and his sons-in-law Sandy Alford, David L. Morris, and John Smith are heads of family in the 1890 Census in Houston County (pp. 276, 278), but none of these is named there in 1840. John Smith's will is dated March 28, 1831, and presented for probate March 5, 1832. Bequeathed "to my beloved wife Ann Smith" were life rights in Lot 85 in Houston County, no district given. Children in the order named are "... daughter Sarah Ann Wrydice ... son John Gardner ... Son Joseph Andrews ... and as to my two oldest sons Thomas L. Smith and Daniel W. Smith ... I have given them a full Shear by deed of gift previous to my making this will and I do nominate ... my well beloved wife and her brother Thomas Gardner my Executrix and Executor ...". The entire original will is in the handwriting of Jason Gardner, except the signatures of the testator John Smith and two of the witnesses David L. Morris and Elias Bryan. Jason Gardner was a third witness. (Photostat of original will, not the recordation, is in possession of the compiler).

An affidavit dated July 3, 1883, in Ashley County, Arkansas, was made by a son of Lewis and Keziah Gardner, "Thomas B Gardner who on oath says that the Family Bible Published in 1827 is & has been in the possession of the Family ever since he can remember. The ages - births & deaths, were entered therein by my Grand Father, Jason Gardner, with probably one or two exceptions - he lived with my Fathers Family a long time - and I saw him make some of the entries - ... I was fifty six years old Last Feb -" (supporting papers, Keziah Gardner's application for pension as widow of a soldier in the War of 1812, WO 42 884, National Archives, Washington). This Thomas Bynum Gardner (1827-1894), with his father Lewis (1793-1865) and numerous other relatives, was in southeast Arkansas, Ashley and Drew Counties, by 1857. Among Thomas' sons was a Jason Everett Gardner (1871-1957) who carried the name west to Oklahoma.

The similarity in the pattern of names indicates that the Gardners of Houston County are the same as those previously identified as having lived in the Columbia-Richmond area. However, more persuasive evidence is at hand. An old letter from Elizabeth B. Davis, dated July 12, 1831, in Twiggs County, Georgia, addressed to "Jason & Sarah Gardner", with the salutation "Dear aunt and uncle", has long been laid away and preserved in the old Jason and Lewis Gardner Bible (inclusive dates 1793-1906). The writer of the letter says "I never think of you dear uncle but what I think of my dear father thats now lying in the dust ..." and refers to "Cousen Nancy Smith" and to "Aunt Mary Evrit", daughter and sister, respectively, of Jason Gardner of Columbia and Houston Counties. Elizabeth B. (Gardner) Davis (1806-1853), writer of the letter, was wife of William Davis and only child of Lewis Gardner, Jr., whose will was recorded in 1810 (Columbia Co., Ga., Will Book H, pp. 199-202). Also, the military record of one of Jason's grandsons, Jesse Gardner (1825-1899), 6th Alabama Cavalry, CSA, gives his birthplace as "Columbia Ga" (carded index of Confederate service records, National Archives, Washington). Among Jesse's sons was a Jason F. Gardner, born May 22, 1855, and living in Henry County, Alabama, in 1879. This Jesse remained in Henry County instead of joining his father Lewis Gardner and other relatives in moving to Ashley County, Arkansas in the winter of 1856/57.

The marriage bond for Jason Gardner and Sarah Stuckey is dated July 12, 1791 (Columbia Co., Ga., Index to Marriage Bonds; certified copy in compiler's possession). On the page for "Deaths" in the old Bible in Jason's hand, while he is still living in Houston County: "Sally Gardner wife of Jason Gardner died April the 26 day: 1835". The entries for the births of the older 10 of son Lewis' 11 children are Jason's writing, the last in his hand being that of Dec. 19, 1837, for his grandson, John W. S. Gardner (Bible in possession of the compiler, inclusive dates 1793-1906; photostats in the Georgia Archives, Atlanta, and DAR Library, Washington). From the above Bible record and the previously quoted affidavit of Jason's grandson, Thomas S. Gardner, we may assume that this Jason Gardner died about 1840; probably in the home of his son Lewis, by then a resident of Randolph County, Georgia. Also in Jason Gardner's hand in this Bible register are the names and birth dates of his and Sarah's six children and a daughter-in-law, "Kisiah" Gardner:

- I. Lewis Gardner, oldest son of Jason and Sarah, b. Sept. 3, 1793, in Georgia; d. Aug. 22, 1865, at Oak Ridge (Pea Ridge) on the Bayou Bartholomew in southeast Arkansas; m. Kesiah Yon (March 13, 1798-July 23, 1883) in South Carolina, according to her pension application of 1883. In Henry County, Alabama, in 1850 and 1855 Lewis Gardner applied for bounty land for military service in the War of 1812 and the "War with the Seminoles Indians . . . in 1818". On both occasions he served with militia drafts called up from Columbia County, Georgia (WO 42 884 and Bounty Land Warrant 72-40-55, National Archives, Washington). On April 20, 1826, a Lewis Gardner and "Kisiah Yon" were married by John Megahay, J. P., in Columbia County (Marriage Records, Book A, p. 278). The oldest son of Lewis and Kesiah (Yon) Gardner was Jason Franklin who was born Sept. 12, 1822; married 1844 Susanah Baker in Henry County, Alabama; and supposedly later went to Texas. We may assume him to be the Jason who was legitimized and whose surname was legally changed from Yon to Gardner by Act of the Georgia Legislature, approved Dec. 26, 1826, which identified Lewis Gardner as Jason's "reputed father" (National Genealogical Society Quarterly, v. 55, p. 186; Journal of the House of Representatives . . . Georgia . . . 1826, pp. 3, 35; Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia . . . 1826, pp. 139-40). Some of the migrations of this Lewis Gardner are briefly covered in an affidavit of July 3, 1883, in Arkansas by "Martha Anne Gardner now Mrs Rice . . . that her father Lewis Gardner & Mother Kesiah Gardner . . . resided in Henry County Alabama . . . to 1856 - previously living in Houston & Randolph Co. Georgia . . ." (WO 42 884, National Archives). Federal Censuses show Lewis as head of family in Houston in 1830, Randolph 1840, Henry 1850, and Westerly to Ashley County, Arkansas, by 1860.
- II. Hannah Gardner, b. Jan. 17, 1796; m. David L. Morris Dec. 30, 1817, in Columbia County. This couple was living in the Georgia counties of Houston in 1830 and Randolph in 1840.

III. Dicy (Eurydice) Gardner, b. April 9, 1798; m. 1. John A. Fleming Aug. 27, 1818, and 2. Handy Alford Nov. 13, 1823 (Columbia Co., Ga., Marriage Records, Book A, pp. 132, 204); one child of the first marriage and nine children of the second. The license for "Dicy" Gardner's first marriage is dated Aug. 27, 1818, and the ceremony was performed the same day by "S. Hoge JP", whose return gives the bride's name as "Uridice". The Clerk did not record this marriage until "22nd Aug 1820", which has sometimes been given in error as date of the marriage. (In Jefferson County, Miss., a Dicey Gardner married William Robinson Oct. 13, 1822; the bride's identity is not known to this compiler.) Handy and Dicy Alford were in Houston County, Georgia, in 1830 and Columbia County, Florida, in 1861.

IV. Elizabeth Gardner (twin), b. Nov. 28, 1800.

V. Nancy (Ann) Gardner (twin), b. Nov. 28, 1800; m. John Smith whose will was probated 1832 in Houston County, Georgia.

VI. Thomas Gardner, b. July 22, 1803. He appears in Houston County records between 1829 and 1836, and is named as head of family there in 1830, but not in 1840. He was executor of the will of his brother-in-law John Smith. Thomas and Sarah Gardner, with eight children, are in Baker County, Georgia, in 1850.

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In summary, we have reviewed data presently at hand appearing to relate to four contemporaries named Jason Gardner who can be individually identified with Southampton County, Virginia; Bertie County, N. C.; Jones County, Georgia, and Dallas County, Alabama; or Columbia and Houston Counties, Georgia. So far, we have found no documentary proof of relationships, one to another, among these four -- or three -- Jason Gardners. Chronologically, Jason of Bertie could have moved soon after 1800 to the Lower South and be identical with the Jason who is first identified in Jones County, Georgia. However, this would be in direct conflict with data indicating the latter Jason as son of the Thomas Gardner who died about 1809 in Jones. Lacking documentation of relationship, we can still suggest, on the basis of repetition of the unusual given name Jason, that these Gardners may all be descended in common, directly or collaterally, from a Jason three or four generations earlier than those we can presently identify. Whether future research might find this hypothetical ancestor Jason to bear the surname Gardner, Bryan, Cotton, Lewis, or maybe Jones or Smith is indeed uncertain. The compiler cheerfully sets forth these numerous fragments of the Jason Gardner jig-saw puzzle in hope that others may come forward with significant pieces of information to provide a more coherent picture of these Gardners and their many relatives.

Malcolm E. Gardner
1201 South Scott Street
Arlington, Virginia 22204

December 27, 1968 (second edition)

SOME GARDNER RECORDS FROM DALLAS COUNTY, ALABAMA

Seventh U.S. Census, 1850, Dallas County

| Name | Age | Sex | Occupation | Real Estate | Birthplace |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|------------|-------------|------------|
| (family 1037, p. 603) | | | | | |
| G T Gardner | 40 | M | Farmer | (\$)19000 | Geo |
| J C Taylor | 35 | M | Overseer | | Tenn |
| J D " | 6 | M | | | Ala |
| (family 1041, p. 603) | | | | | |
| Mary K Gardner | 73 | F | | 1800 | N C |
| Louisa C Goff | 46 | F | | | Geo |
| (family 1042, p. 603) | | | | | |
| V H Gardner | 48 | M | Farmer | 135200 | Geo |
| M L " | 40 | F | | | N C |
| M L " | 17 | F | | | Ala |
| A F " | 14 | M | | | " |
| Robt " | 12 | M | | | " |
| A H " | 5 | M | | | " |
| (family 1043, p. 603) | | | | | |
| Mrs R J Smith | 28 | F | | 64000 | Ala |
| Jas " | 6 | M | | | " |
| Batt " | 5 | M | | | " |
| Garland " | 3 | M | | | " |
| Mrs M A Lucy | 26 | F | | | " |
| Smith " | 8 | M | | | " |
| Mrs M Wychoff | 35 | F | | | " |
| Thos G Gardner | 9 | M | | | Geo |
| | | | | | Ala |
| (family 1050, p. 604) | | | | | |
| P J Weaver | 54 | M | Merchant | 50000 | Maryland |
| A P " | 40 | F | | | Geo |
| P J " | 19 | M | Student | | Ala |
| V G " | 8 | M | | | " |

The above data were abstracted from the original census returns in the National Archives, Washington. Microfilm prints are available in the Alabama State Archives, Montgomery.

NEPG: 2/1968

"Dallas County, Alabama, Marriage Records" (Book 1, 1818-1845), compiled by Genealogical Records Committee, Alabama Society, DAR, v. 3, pp. 3-33, DAR Library, Washington; also in Alabama Genealogical Register, v. 2, pp. 131-146.

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|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------|
| May 7, 1822 | George Goff | Louisa Gardner | p. 70 |
| May 8, 1823 | Phillip J. Weaver | Ann Gardner | p. 68 |
| Jan. 2, 1824 | William B. C. Walker | Mary Ann Gardner | p. 72 |
| Feb. 25, 1824 | Thomas N. Gardner | Rebecca Garrett | p. 59 |
| Nov. 9, 1840 | Jones C. Lucy | Martha A. Goff | p. 194 |
| Jan. 20, 1841 | Bartholomew Smith | Rebecca J. Gardner | p. 205 |

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Flora England, Dallas County, Alabama, Genealogical Records, v. 1 (Willis Publishing Co., Tuscaloosa, Ala., 1963).

1856. Will of Garland T. Gardner. Heirs: Rebecca J. Smith; Ann, wife of Philip J. Weaver; Virgil H. Gardner; Mary, wife of Peter R. Wyckoff; Maria, wife of Gray A. Chandler; the children of Louisa Goff, to wit: Louisa, wife of R. H. Burton; Elizabeth, wife of Rutherford Nance; Florence, wife of Richard Randolph; Helen Goff; and Smith Lucy, res. with his gdn., Sam M. Hill. p. 44

*** Will of Basdale Gardner, p. 40; widow Nancy, & her estate. p. 52

1863. Will of Batt Smith Lucie, filed by Mary K. Gardner.

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Dallas Gazette, Aug. 8, 1856 (Alabama Archives, Montgomery).

DIED,

At Shelby Springs, on the 29th inst., Mr. Garland T. Gardner, of Dallas.

He had an attack of fever on his plantation, from which he had not fully recovered, and the exertion of his trip up the country caused a relapse. He was a highly esteemed citizen, remarkable for his charity and unbending integrity. His death is mourned by a large circle of relations and friends. - Montevallo Herald.