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September 8, 2003

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Honorable Delores Schmidt
Super Executive
Cousins Properties Incorporated
2500 Windy Ridge Parkway, Suite 1600
Atlanta, Georgia 30339

RE: Proposed Resolution in 2004, General Assembly of Georgia,
to name the bridge over the Starnes Creek on Seven Hills Parkway,
Starnes Bridge in honor of the famous Daniel & Mary Miller Starnes

Dear Mrs. Schmidt:

I truly enjoyed the nice, informative conversation with you today by telephone. I am pleased you may name the new road—Seven Hills Parkway. The natural scenery there is very beautiful and contains seven hills or more. Rome, Italy, one of the most famous cities in the world, means: City of Seven Hills.

The heirs of B.M. Jones and the pulpwood companies applied for zoning to create a 3,500 acres land fill in the area where the beautiful BentWater Subdivision is being developed.

I have known Mr. Thomas Cousins for many years. He is a nephew of Judge James T. and Mary Cousins Manning. He developed Lee's Crossing in Marietta which is located on the Judge James T. & Mary C. Manning Plantation.

[Your planning and development of BentWater in Paulding County is excellent and adding great beauty to the area and its residents are middle and upper class. This is, indeed, a great blessing to Paulding County and its people.]

[The McMillan and Starnes families were early pioneers and moved to the area while Cherokee Indians resided there prior to the tragic Trail of Tears, 1838-1839. A brief history of both families is enclosed. As is shown, the McMillan Bridge over Pumpkinvine Creek on Harmony Grove Church Road was named in honor of the McMillan family.]

[Daniel and Mary Miller Starnes and their descendants were very honorable, intelligent people. They were co-founders of the Harmony Grove Church and Harmony Grove School in 1840 and established the Starnes Grist Mill on Little Pumpkinvine Creek which later was named Starnes Creek in their honor.]

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October 29, 2003

Honorable Don Thomas
Senator, General Assembly of Georgia
184 Haig Mill Road
Dalton, Georgia 30721

RE: Proposed Resolution in 2004, General Assembly of Georgia, to name the new bridge over Starnes Creek on Seven Hills Parkway, Daniel Starnes Bridge in honor of the famous **Daniel & Mary Miller Starnes**

Dear Senator Thomas:

It is my understanding that you are one of the most outstanding senators ever to serve in the General Assembly of Georgia. Mr. Darryl F. Starnes, famous historian and author, advised me recently that you have agreed to introduce the aforesaid resolution and you are a descendant of Daniel and Mary Miller Starnes who were early pioneers and co-founders of the Harmony Grove School and Church in 1840 and the Starnes Grist Mill on Starnes Creek as stated in the attached copy of letter from Mr. Darryl F. Starnes to me.

Mrs. Delores Schmidt, Executive, Cousins Properties Incorporated, advised me that Mr. Thomas Cousins is pleased that the new bridge will be named the Daniel Starnes Bridge by resolution of the General Assembly of Georgia in 2004. Mr. Cousins paid the cost to grade and pave the Seven Hills Parkway and build the new bridge over Starnes Creek. The new parkway and bridge are well-designed and very beautiful and cost a million dollars or more to grade, pave and build.

Mr. Jerry Shearin, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Paulding County, advised me recently that the cost to construct the new bridge exceeded \$500,000. Mr. Thomas Cousins should be commended very highly for the excellent planning and development of the Bent Water and Seven Hills subdivisions, sewage treatment plant on Pumpkinvine Creek, many roads and bridges and other improvements made in Paulding County. He is motivated by the Golden Rule and the famous adage: Think not what your fellowman can do for you but what you can do for your fellowman.

It is hoped you will name Mr. Thomas Cousins in the resolution as the builder of the new bridge and require the Georgia Department of Transportation to erect metal signs at the bridge: **DANIEL STARNES BRIDGE** and deliver a copy of the resolution to Mr. Cousins.

Mr. Darryl F. Starnes has written several books on the genealogy of the famous Starnes Family, one being entitled: *GRANDFATHERS OF THE STARNES FAMILY*. He wants the resolution to name the bridge: **DANIEL STARNES BRIDGE** as stated in the attached copy of his letter to me. In the resolution please name him and his book in a manner similar to the paragraph about Jeannette Holland Austin and her sister and their book contained in the resolution which named the bridge over Raccoon Creek the Archibald Holland Bridge in H.R. No. 564-1512 in 1980.

Darryl F. Starnes
7306 McClellan Rd.
Mechanicsville, Virginia 23111

Dear Hubert:

I thought I would write you a brief biography of Daniel Starnes in case it might be of some help in our quest to have the bridge over the "Starnes" Creek in Paulding County named for this early Georgia pioneer.

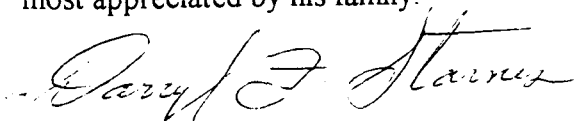
Daniel Starnes was born in the year 1800 in South Carolina. He came to Georgia Jones/Jasper County at the age of seven along with his parents and two brothers.

He married Mary Miller in 1822 who was called Polly all of her life and moved to that portion of Cobb County that is now Paulding County in about 1836 along with Polly and their seven children. When Daniel brought his family to Paulding County and settled along what is now the Starnes Creek this area was a wilderness. The few roads/trails into this area were little more than deer paths. There were only a few scattered white families in the area and several families of Indians. He came with nothing but a wagon, a few household belongings and his children.

Upon his arrival and enduring many hardships he built a cabin big enough to hold his family by cutting and splitting logs. The day before Christmas in 1840 Daniel and a few of his scattered neighbors organized and began building the only church and school in the area, Harmony Grove ~~Methodist~~ Church and School. Daniel and Mary remained committed supporters of the Church and school until their death.

Daniel also built and owned a Grist Mill, a Carpenter shop and a Black Smith shop. He supported the community with his Mill to grind the corn grown in the area (primary crop) a carpenter shop to supply lumber for new homes as well as construct furniture, and a Black Smith shop to care for the horses and mules in the area. We also find that Daniel was one of the leading citizens in this early community in another way. At the County Court house we find numerous accounts where Daniel signed the Bonds that were required for the County Sheriff and other County administrators. If these trusted tax paid employees absconded with any funds Daniel had to make good the stolen money.

Daniel Starnes represents the essence and spirit of the North Georgia pioneer family in Paulding County. As an early entrepreneur and contributor to the spiritual and educational needs of this community Daniel Starnes was paramount to the founding and growth of this early settlement. His name remains remembered and highly esteemed in the Starnes family. My Grandfathers, Father, brother, nephew and great nephew all have or currently bear the name Daniel Starnes. There has been a Daniel Starnes now for over two hundred years. All of which sprang from this original pioneer. Any consideration given to naming of the bridge over the Starnes Creek in honor of Daniel Starnes would be most appreciated by his family.



STARNES FAMILY OF HARMONY GROVE



The above photograph is of the new tombstones in the Old Harmony Grove Church Cemetery.

The ancestors of Peter Starnes were born in England. Peter was born in Reading, Massachusetts in 1710 and died in Fairfield, South Carolina, in 1791. He and Hannah had six children, one being Levi Starnes who married Mrs. Elizabeth Carter. Peter served in the South Carolina Military during the American Revolutionary War, File #AA7320, South Carolina Archives and Levi Starnes also served in the South Carolina Militia, File #AA7329V20.

Daniel Starnes, son of Levi and Elizabeth Starnes was born in South Carolina in 1800. He married Mary Miller in 1822 in Jasper County, Georgia. He and Mary had seven children: Thomas P. who married Susannah Roberts, Mary Ann married Thomas Tant, Martha Ann married William Siniard, Jr., Susannah Moriah married Greenberry Bates, Elijah T. married Sarah Kennedy, George C. married Comfort Carnes and D.F.M Starnes married Mary Catherine Easterlin.

Daniel and Mary M. Starnes moved to a farm near the Pumpkin Patch Indian Site. This Indian site had a huge black walnut tree, several peach and apple trees, fields and an Indian mound thereon. It was located on Pumpkinvine Creek where Little Pumpkinvine Creek (later named Starnes Creek in honor of Mr. Daniel Starnes and his descendants who operated the Starnes Mill powered by the water of this famous creek) enters it. This was near the gold mines of Tay Lee Shee, a Cherokee Indian, according to the 1835 U.S. Census of the Cherokee Indian Nation. This area was located in Cobb County, Georgia, from December 3, 1832 until annexed into Paulding County, Georgia, in 1852. Daniel and Mary M. Starnes, Richard and Nancy Ruff Carnes and other pioneers founded the Harmony Grove Church and Harmony Grove School in 1840. The area is now known as the Harmony Grove Community. The road which extended from Peachtree Trail in Marietta, Georgia, to the site of the Burnt Hickory Campground was known as Burnt Hickory Road. The part of it which extends by the Harmony Grove Church building and across the McMillian Bridge over Pumpkinvine Creek to Cedarcrest Road is now known as the Harmony Grove Church Road.

Thomas P. Starnes was born in 1823 and died in 1895. He married Susannah Roberts, daughter of Rev. James Roberts who was a co-founder of the Pumpkinvine Baptist Church and served as pastor of it from 1845 to 1848. He and Susannah had eight children: James Daniel who married Nancy Harriett Ruff, Winnie married (?), Sarah Jane married George W. Armstrong, Thomas Cornileus married (?), Tobius, Edith Ann married J.F. Tibbitts and Mary Ann married Maston Green Tibbitts. The Starnes-Tibbitts Memorial Bradford Ornamental Pear Tree was planted in the Old Harmony Grove Church Cemetery, Dallas, Georgia, by Mr. Hugh Wilson on February 14, 1989. Hugh planted the tree in honor of the memory of Maston Green and Mary Ann Starnes Tibbitts.

The bodies of Daniel and Mary M. Starnes, Thomas P. and Susannah R. Starnes, D.F.M. and Mary Catherine Starnes, James Daniel and Nancy R. Starnes, James Tibbitts, Joseph and Matilda F. Tibbitts, Dave and Jane J. Tibbitts, Maston Green and Mary Anne S. Tibbitts and other of their relatives are interred in the Old Harmony Grove Church Cemetery.

The Harmony Grove Church Memorial Fund, a public supported 501(c)(3) historical preservation trust, was founded in 1983. Since 1983 the trust has purchased inscribed tombstones for the graves of Daniel and Mary M. Starnes and 83 other graves in the New and Old Harmony Grove Church Cemetery. The purpose of it is to provide perpetual care for the cemeteries, church grounds and building when donations to the principal become sufficient in amount to pay for the same. Donations now total \$8,920.99 of a needed \$100,000. Tax deductible donations to the Harmony Grove Church Memorial Fund should be sent to: Trust Department, SouthTrust Bank, P.O. Box 1001, Atlanta, Georgia 30301.

For additional data about the Starnes Family, a copy of the excellent book: *GRANDFATHERS OF THE STARNES FAMILY* written in 1997 by Mr. Darryl F. Starnes is located in the Georgia Room of the Paulding County Public Library, Dallas, Georgia.

This article was written by Atty. Hubert G. Holland, on January 8, 1999, from data furnished by Mr. Darryl F. Starnes and the National Archives. /End/