

WILLOUGHBY TILLIS 1808-1895

Researched and compiled by Richard M. Livingston, P. O. Box 3749, North Ft. Myers, Fl. 33903. Comments and queries on this family are welcomed.

Tahly (Tapley) Tullos and John Tellis received land grants in the Burke County, Georgia area in the 1790's. John Tullos later settled in Effingham County and is shown there in the early 1800's with his children Temple, Stephen and Willoughby Tullis.

Tapley A. Tullis was in Tattnall County in 1805 with his son, Richard Teillos. Tapley died in Camden County, Georgia in 1818 and his heirs were named in a land transaction after his death: Tapley A. Tullis, Jr., Richard Tullis, Joseph Tullis, Leonard G. Jackson and Israel Barber (the last two being sons-in-law).

Willoughby Tillis/Tullis was born in Camden County, Georgia on December 10, 1808. This family used "Tullis" until about 1850 when the census listed them as "Tillis". It is believed that Willoughby was the son of one of the three sons of Tapley A. Tullis since that group was residing in Camden County at the time of his birth. Tapley, Jr. had a son named Wiloby born 1839. Joseph had no sons born prior to 1815. Therefore it is very possible that Richard Tullis born about 1785 is the father of Willoughby Tillis/Tullis. Willoughby had one known brother, Richard Tillis/Tullis, born in Camden County on January 5, 1818.

Willoughby served several enlistments during the Indian wars in the early 1800's in Florida. He was a private in Capt. McLemare's Company of Florida Volunteers from Dec. 4, 1835 to March 26, 1836. He served as sergeant in Capt. Robert Brown's Company of Florida Volunteers from May 22 to Sept. 22, 1836. He enrolled Sept. 23, 1836 at Ft. Reed as a private in Capt. William M. Reed's Company, 1st Regiment (Warren's) Florida Mounted Volunteers and served until January 27, 1837, when he was discharged at Ft. Gilliland. He was 1st Lieutenant in Capt. James Edward's Company, 1st Regiment (Warren's), Florida Militia. He enrolled January 27, 1837 at Ft. Reed and was mustered in at Ft. Beckham on March 27, 1837. He was mustered out with the company at Ft. Beckham on June 5, 1837.

Willoughby Tillis married Mary Hinson about 1832. They had two children:

1. Lafayette Tillis, born c1833; died in Confederate service.
2. Dempsey Tillis, born c1835; mustered in to Company F, 2nd Florida Infantry in Jackson County, Florida; wounded at Gettysburg July 3, 1863 and later died.

Mary (Hinson) Tillis left Willoughby and returned to Telfair Co., Georgia apparently to her father's home. On May 2, 1838 Willoughby Tillis filed the following Bill of Complaint:

To His Honour Robert Raymond Reid, Judge of the Superior Court for the Eastern District of Florida. In chancery.

Humbly complaining to your honour sheweth your orator