

**Jeremiah Dungan  
1730-1813  
Watauga Settler**

Thomas P. Dungan

**Jeremiah Dungan**  
**1730-1813**  
**Watauga Settler**

**Farmer, Miller, and Stonemason**  
**of**  
**Washington County, Tennessee**

Thomas P. Dungan  
2005

**Jeremiah Dungan  
1730-1813  
Watauga Settler**

24 March 2005

Thomas P. Dungan  
P. O. Box 1309  
Dandridge, TN 37725  
(865) - 484-0467

## Introduction

### How it all started

While living in southern Maryland and traveling to western North Carolina where I owned property I frequently drove through Johnson City, Tennessee. So it was inevitable that I would eventually visit the St. Johns Mill. I already knew that it was built by Jeremiah Dungan at the end of the colonial era. At that time I only had a few notes on the place. Because I had published some of my work in the late 1980's a few people had written to ask about Jeremiah and the mill. At that time I had to explain that the greater majority of my research efforts went into the early history of the family, and that generally did not include much on the colonial era. My primary efforts were confined to the origins of the family in England and Ireland during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and earlier. However, in time that changed. My curiosity about the history of the family in colonial America soon grew into a large collection of references. I tried to confine my notes to that period of history, but in a few cases it went beyond that. The case of Jeremiah and the mill were among these notes. On a trip to North Carolina in 1997 I made my first visit to the mill. Unfortunately, I only had time to take a few photographs. Another correspondent who was interested in the mill also sent photographs and information. In time my interest dropped off and other projects took priority. Then in 2001 I retired when my wife's job took her first to Ashville, in western North Carolina and then, almost immediately, to Knoxville in east Tennessee. We settled in nearby Jefferson County, Tennessee. After getting settled in our new home I became a volunteer at the Jefferson County archives. This job sparked my interest in east Tennessee and I soon learned more about the early history of the area and Jeremiah's place in it. By 2003 I had a greater opportunity to enlarge my collection of notes on Jeremiah and the "stone house" and mill that he built. Early in 2004 I started making research trips to many resource locations. These included the library of Carson Newman College, which is very near my home; the Archives of Appalachia at the Sherrod Library on the campus of East Tennessee State University in Johnson City; The University of Tennessee; The McClung Library of East Tennessee in Knoxville; the Carter County court house, and the Washington County court house. I then started putting these notes and references together for a possible article. By the end of 2004 it had grown far beyond the size of an article. Later in 2004 and early 2005 I visited the mill and I spoke with Mr. St. John and his son-in-law, Ron Dawson. I also visited the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville, as well as making follow-up visits at many of the same research repositories. I had hopes of further research before producing this booklet, but fate has intervened. My wife has been promoted and transferred to Albuquerque, New Mexico, so we must move again. Therefore, I leave any additions and corrections to others.

## Acknowledgements

Writing anything like this small publication rests on the work of other researchers. The Boles' exhaustive work is still the best published account that relates to George and Jeremiah Dungan. More recently, I have gained a tremendous amount of information from Mr. George W. St. John of the St. John Milling Company, and from his son-in-law, Ron Dawson. Without their help this would be a much shorter work. Special thanks go to Mrs. Mildred Kozsuch for putting me in touch with Mr. Robert Nave, a descendant of Jeremiah. His corrections and additions have been invaluable. I am in his debt.

Privately Published  
Knoxville, Tennessee  
2005

Limited to 24 copies  
Copy No. 4

Published works  
By Thomas P. Dungan

*John Dongan of Dublin; An Elizabethan Gentleman and his family.*  
Baltimore, MD; Gateway Press, 1996 (HB) 246 pages

*A Quest for Origins; The Search for the parentage of William Dungan,  
Perfumer of St. Martin-in-the-Fields.*  
Prince Frederick, MD; privately published, 1997, (SB) 65 pages

*Richard Dungan, Master Plasterer of London in Shakespeare's Time.*  
Knoxville, TN; Tennessee valley Publishing, 2003, (HB) 134 pages

# Jeremiah Dungan

Watauga Pioneer  
1730-1813

By Thomas P. Dungan

Jeremiah Dungan has always been known for the mill that he built sometime shortly before 1778 in Washington County, Tennessee. As presented herein, it has been established that the mill was actually built earlier, probably in 1776. It has been in continuous operation since its completion in 1777 or 1778. In fact, it remains the oldest continuously operated business in Tennessee. It is now on the National Register of Historic Places. More recently it has been known as the St. John Milling Company and it is situated north of Johnson City near the Watauga River in Washington County. The business is now operated by Mr. Ron Dawson, the son-in-law of Mr. George W. St. John whose family has operated the mill since 1866. This work further recreates the life of the original builder and it sheds light on the late colonial period as well as the earliest period of Tennessee and the new republic of the United States.

There are no surviving portraits or drawings of the Jeremiah. However, from one significant fact concerning the height of a rifle rack in his home we can say that he was almost certainly a big man, probably over six feet tall. Other than the estimation of his height, we only have estimated ideas what he looked like. For example, he was probably a strong man because stonemasons had to be in top physical condition. Given the way others remained close to him, we can say that he probably had a commanding presence.

Jeremiah was more than just the builder of a mill in Tennessee. The available evidence suggests that he was first of all a stonemason who became a miller, while farming and raising a family along the way. Verification of his craft as a stonemason may be seen in the arched lintels over the windows on the house he built as it stands opposite the mill. This architectural innovation is distinctly Pennsylvanian. As he built other grist mills he learned the milling trade. He was also a pioneer who was just behind the long hunters and explorers of the expanding colonial western frontier. As a young man he was among the first settlers of Lancaster and York counties in Pennsylvania. More than likely he studied as an apprentice under a master stonemason while living there. Most of these master craftsmen were German immigrants who gave rise to the Pennsylvania German architectural style of stonework. As a young married adult he was one of the founders of a town in Northern Virginia. There can be no doubt that some of the stone houses and mills in the same area of northern Virginia were Jeremiah's creations. Later he was one of the very first settlers in the Watauga Settlement in what was to become the state of Tennessee. The story of Jeremiah's life is a biography, a genealogy, as well as a history.



Perhaps unusual for his time, Jeremiah Dungan had many talents. He was a skilled craftsman and woodworker, a farmer, a miller, a millwright, a pioneer, a plantation owner and a very gifted stonemason. Countless stories have been written about him in articles, books, and flyers, yet none of them present a coherent overview of his entire life. Some writers have done a good job of presenting his story while others have only glossed over his life. Many accounts contain errors while others have serious omissions.

From a genealogical standpoint, Mr. Justice in his 1922 Dungan genealogy ignored Jeremiah; yet he identified his parents and his brother.<sup>1</sup> More recently, Harold and David Boles reveal much more about him in their detailed study of several colonial families.<sup>2</sup> Superbly researched, but poorly written, their account is nevertheless an outstanding resource for the Dungan family historian. Research by other related families have also added to the knowledge of Jeremiah and the Dungans. For example, the Hendricks family printed abstracts of their research.<sup>3</sup> Other works relating to the Hendricks (Hendrix) family have also been useful to Dungan family researchers.<sup>4</sup> Some accounts of the Lucas family also shed light on the Dungans. Perhaps the most detailed documented accounts of the Dungan family in Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee has been compiled by the late Roger M. Dungan of Panorama Village, Texas.<sup>5</sup> Roger was a retired petroleum geologist who had a large computerized database of references on the Dungans in Virginia and Kentucky. In any case, the intention here is to present all of the available information on Jeremiah's life, with a more complete account of his family and his association with the mill that he founded.

Throughout his life his name was mangled in many ways. His first name has been found as J., Jer, Jere, Jese, Jerry, Zachariah, and possibly as John. On occasion he was simply referred to as mister (Mr.) or as denoted by the capitol M letter. His last name was even more fantastically spelled. In addition to the correct spelling, he appears on occasion as Dangan, Dengens, Dugan, Duncan, Dunjains, Dunjigs, Dungenes, Duggan, Dungings, and Dungan. Anyone who has researched the Dungan surname or ancestry should recognize the problem of variant spellings.

Today, Jeremiah's ancestry is relatively well known.<sup>6</sup> Although the Dungan ancestry extends well back into the early medieval period in Ireland, the Dongan family

<sup>1</sup> Alfred Rudolph Justice, *Ancestry of Jeremy Clarke and Dungan Genealogy*. Philadelphia, 1922 (pp. 134-135).

<sup>2</sup> Harold W. Boles and David B Boles, *Foster Ancestors*. Decorah, Iowa, The Anundsen Publishing Co., 1990 (pp. 236 - 248).

<sup>3</sup> Col. Meredith E. Hendricks, *The Frontier Hendricks Family Association*. Ca. 1990 - 1993 (Defunct - no longer in print).

<sup>4</sup> Florence Hendricks Moore, *Albert(us) Hendricks(on), From Generation to Generation: Descendants of Albert(us) Hendricks(on) 1673-1984*. (Where ?) 1984.

<sup>5</sup> Portions of his collection are in the collection of the present writer, Thomas P. Dungan.

<sup>6</sup> Thomas P. Dungan, *Richard Dungan, Master Plasterer of London in the Time of Shakespeare*. Knoxville, TN, 2003.

has its origins in a marriage that occurred shortly after 1328, probably in Newcastle-Lyons, near Dublin. At that time Sir William O'Doughan, a knight from the ancient O'Dugan Kingdom of Fermoy in County Cork, married Siobhan O'Donegan, a daughter and heiress of Gilla na Og O'Donegan, the last king of the ancient Kingdom of Ara, in County Tipperary.<sup>7</sup> Subsequent generations in Dublin and Kildare primarily adopted the name as O'Dongan, Dongan, Dungan, and on occasion as Dougan or Dowgan and other variants. A direct line has been established from this marriage down to Richard Dungan, a London plasterer who died in 1609. Although in terms of research, his family life is cloudy, there is no doubt that the line continued, if vaguely, to William Dungan a merchant perfumer who died in 1636. Circumstantial evidence and conjecture allow for this acceptable genealogy. Metaphorically speaking, it is as if a long thread can be seen in its entirety from beginning to end except for a vague portion in the middle.

Jeremiah's more immediate family descends from the Rev. Thomas Dungan (1635-1684) a son of the London merchant perfumer. Although born in London, and named for his grandfather, he was raised in colonial Rhode Island. Thomas Dungan was raised by his step-father, Captain Jeremiah Clarke, a prominent figure in the early history of Rhode Island. In 1639 the Clarkes and Dungans were among the founders of Newport, Rhode Island. Many accounts proclaim that Thomas studied for the ministry under the founder of the colony, Roger Williams. However, it was more likely that he studied under Williams' brother, or possibly under the Rev. Vaughan. The latter individual was a second stepfather to the Rev. Thomas Dungan. After King Philip's War, in which he served, Thomas settled in Bucks County, becoming the first Baptist minister in the colony of Pennsylvania. His land there bordered that of Governor Penn. The good reverend's youngest son was named after his step-father. This son, Jeremiah Dungan (1673 -1763), had a large family from whom many Dungan families descend, including the writer of this biography. One of Jeremiah's son's was George Dungan (Ca. 1703 - Ca. 1783). In turn, George was our Jeremiah's father. He figures prominently in the early life of the family as they left Pennsylvania and moved into Virginia.

George Dungan was a farmer and pioneer, frequently moving ahead of advancing civilization, for which, at one time, he paid a price in his first settlement. The story of his life begins in Northampton, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. George was a son of Jeremiah and Deborah (Drake) Dungan. His exact year of birth has never been satisfactorily determined, but it was probably around 1703.<sup>8</sup> Mr. Justice speculates that he was named after his grandfather, George Drake. Nothing has been learned of his youth, yet he must have remained near his father in Northampton Township. According to Mr. Justice, George was a witness to the 1720 marriage of William Smith to Rebecca Wilson. George himself was married around 1729 to Mary Hellings, a daughter of Nicholas Hellings (or Hellins). As a yeoman, Nicholas Hellings initially resided near the town of

<sup>7</sup> New York Public Library, Rare Book and Manuscript Division, The Metcalf Papers - vellum manuscript composed on 1 May 1599 by John O'Hogan, the last Prior of Lorrha in County Tipperary.

<sup>8</sup> Op cit. Justice, *Clarke and Dungan*, p. 134 (#28).

Freehold, located in Monmouth County, New Jersey. He later purchased land in Bristol Township in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. It would appear that Nicholas was in the county sometime between 1713 and 1724. In 1701 Jeremiah had purchased two lots within the town of Bristol.<sup>9</sup> So it would seem that George and his wife first met somewhere in Bristol. While residing in Northampton George is confused with another man of the same name. This other George Dungan has never been placed in the Dungan genealogy. There is some speculation that this other George was a son of William, the Rev. Thomas Dungan's elder brother. In time it seems that William's family may have changed their surname to the particular spelling of Duncan. In any case, this other George Dungan (or Duncan) first appears in 1702, about a year before our George was born.<sup>10</sup> However, this earlier George resided in Bensalem and Buckingham Townships. One reference that apparently does relate to our George was dated on 25 September 1732. At that time, he appears as a witness to the will of his uncle, Clement Dungan of Northampton Township.<sup>11</sup> In July of 1738 the mortgage of Robert Cuming of Northampton Township mentions that a 240 acre tract of land was bounded in part by the land of George Dungan.<sup>12</sup> In a subsequent deed relating to the same property dated in 1746 it again mentions the 1738 mortgage and George Dungan's land.<sup>13</sup> Yet again in 1756 and 1757 the same George Dungan and his land are mentioned in relation to the same 240 acre tract of land.<sup>14</sup> In the 1756 deed he is recorded with his father, Jeremiah and his brothers of Northampton Township.<sup>15</sup> Most importantly, there was no other George Dungan residing in Northampton at that time. Based upon some of the later dates it has been suggested that this is not our George, but all indications are this is in fact our man. It seems hopelessly confusing because it is evident that George had left the county sometime in the early 1740's in order to settle on land in Lancaster County. George and Mary were still in Bucks County on 31 March 1739 because they were supposedly baptized at the Pennypack Baptist Church. Here again this may actually relate to another George Dungan.

In any case, it seems probable that George physically remained in Bucks County until at least 1740. Perhaps George retained an interest in the land in Bucks County until he and his family moved. This second move took them from York (Lancaster) County,

<sup>9</sup> Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Deed Book A, vol. 3, p. 55.

<sup>10</sup> Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Deed Book A, vol. 3, p. 82 - Deed of Margaret Atkinson, widow, to Joseph Biltert, witnessed by George Dungan and others.

<sup>11</sup> Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Will Book A, vol. 1, p. 175 - the will of Clement Dungan dated 26 August 1732, proved 25 September 1732 - in the will he appoints his brother Jeremiah as his sole executor.

<sup>12</sup> Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Deed Book B, vol. 2, p. 264.

<sup>13</sup> Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Deed Book A, vol. 3, p. 320.

<sup>14</sup> John David Davis, *Bucks County Pennsylvania Deed Records 1684-1763*. Heritage Books, Bowie, MD, 1997, p. 349.

Cf. Bucks County Deed Book A, vol. 9, p. 469.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*, pp. 337-338, 8 December 1756, Clement (George's brother) & Eleanor his wife of Northampton mortgaged 260 acres of land in Northampton to three individuals from Philadelphia County. Jeremiah (who died in 1761), George, and David (another brother) signed as witnesses.

Pennsylvania, into Frederick County, Virginia. Perhaps the land in Bucks County was still held in his name as a legal fiction even though he was no longer in the county. The fact that Bucks County was only about a day's ride from Lancaster would also seem to support the contention that these were references to our George Dungan.

Opportunity for land was a major reason for the movement south and west into the newly created county of Lancaster. This large county was initially formed from Chester County in 1729, but it was sparsely settled until much later. In 1749 York was formed from Lancaster and it appears that George was settled on land in that part of Lancaster that became York County. Whatever the case, George was certainly in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania before 1748, perhaps as early as 1740 as suggested. However, the family of George Dungan was physically settled there from 1748 until at least 1758. This is the time period that documentation mentions them.

The first reference to George in Lancaster was about the time the county was split in two, thus forming York County. On 4 November 1749 the Sheriff of Lancaster County was commanded to summon George Dungan, yeoman, "late of your County," (because his land was actually in York) to appear before the Lancaster Court of Common Pleas to be held in February to answer Isaac Shaver on a plea of trespass. Shaver had received a deed for 175 acres on Bermudian Creek dated 11 April 1749 which had been warranted by the colonial proprietors as "formerly" surveyed by Shaver, but it had been earlier occupied and possessed by George Dungan. Apparently George had not formerly filed a claim for the land, or possibly, he owed someone for the land. On 24 October the land was supposedly sold at auction out from under the Dungans. The Boles' made an assessment that is probably correct.

"Bermudian Twp., where the land lay, had been in Lancaster co., but on 19 Aug 1749, that area became part of York co. Perhaps GEORGE DUNGAN thought that the change absolved him from payment, but he obviously did not move as Shaver charged him with trespass in November."<sup>16</sup>

Because of this court case, some writers have portrayed George as a scoff-law, but the Bucks County Courts of Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas make no mention of him there when he was a young man. Since these court records survived in some detail since 1684 it would seem to indicate that George never got into trouble while living there. Why he immediately failed to address his legal problem regarding his land in Lancaster remains unclear. However, he did have later occasions to end up in court. Whatever his immediate problem with his land, he apparently did solve it because he remained there for a short time afterwards as a few references confirm as indicated below.

<sup>16</sup> *Op cit.*, Boles', *Foster Ancestors*. P. 251.

Because of the legal trouble faced by George Dungan there has been a series of erroneous stories generated and repeated over and over again as if these were fact. The most recent example has been repeated in a newspaper article about the St. John Mill. This article assumes that it was Jeremiah who was in trouble and not his father George.

"Dungan left Lancaster, Pa., on the run, with a summons trailing him. His crime had been hunting King George III's deer."<sup>17</sup>

Although this is a great story, there is absolutely no evidence to substantiate it.

Other bits of evidences confirm that George and his family maintained a presence in the area. For example, on 21 January 1749 (1750) George Dungan witnessed the will of John Hendrickson of Dover Township, in York County.<sup>18</sup> On 22 January 1753 (1754) property sold by Joseph and Eva Christiana Steely of Paradise Township mentions the land as bounding that of George Dungan on the "Great Conewago" River.<sup>19</sup> This is now the Susquehanna River that runs south into Maryland. Therefore it would seem that his land was along this river in the eastern portion of present-day York County. It is curious to note that Burmudian Township was evidently east of the town of York near what is today a small stream known as "Dugan's Run" which empties into the Susquehanna River. Could this have been 'Dungan's Run' at one time? Was there ever a mill there? We may never know with any degree of certainty. Anyway, this area where the Dungans resided is not far from the Maryland line. Moreover, it was near the great "Indian Warpath" migration route south and west into "Manacozy." This Indian name was used by migrants for the area comprising what is now Frederick and Washington counties in Maryland. The same route extended across the Potomac River into the Great Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. On 10 November 1757 George was a witness for Andreas and Eve Bailie of Warrington Township on the sale of land on Burmudian Creek.<sup>20</sup> Curiously, an Alexander Dungan was taken into custody in the April term of 1757 as a defendant in a case brought by William Williams.<sup>21</sup> Probably this name should have been Duncan. In the April term of 1758 the Court of Common Pleas recorded that "Geo. Dungan & Jerea. Dungan" were defendants in a case brought by "Cookson's executors, Assignee."<sup>22</sup> This case has not survived in full, but from existing information there was not much that remains beyond the case title. Most cases in the Court of Common Pleas were usually civil actions concerning debt. As the case title suggests, George and Jeremiah were

<sup>17</sup> Fred Brown (Appalachian Journal) "Run of the Mill" *News Sentinel*, Knoxville, TN., Monday, 1 November, 2004, Section B, pp. B1- B4.

<sup>18</sup> York County, Pennsylvania, Will Book A, p. 8.

<sup>19</sup> York County, Pennsylvania, Deed Book AA, vol.1, pp. 47-48.

Cf. Alguire, comp., *York County Pennsylvania Deeds*, 1982, Vol. 1, p. 64.

<sup>20</sup> York County, Pennsylvania, Deed Book AA, vol.1, pp. 226-227.

<sup>21</sup> David Hively, *Abstracts from Common Pleas Docket, York County, Pennsylvania April term 1757 through July term 1762*. The South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, 1991, p. 3.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, Court of Common Pleas., p. 23.

probably indebted to an estate. As a matter of course, administrators routinely initiated court cases to force compliance of unpaid debts due to an estate, especially when the debtor was unknown to the administrator. Anyway, no settlement of the case is known to exist. Also in 1758 during the July term of the court Jeremiah appears as a creditor among others who charged one Garrard Enoch with unspecified sums.<sup>23</sup> The court found in favor of Jeremiah and the other creditors. From 1758 until 1762 there are no references to Jeremiah or the rest of the family in Pennsylvania. So about 1762 the call to move again probably came back to them from reports of the pioneers in Virginia.

Jeremiah, the eldest son of George, married while in Pennsylvania. He was married about 1754 but historians and genealogists alike cannot seem to agree on the name of his wife. Early references stated that she was Rebecca Hendry. Indeed a Hendry family followed Jeremiah into the Watauga Settlement. Information developed by other researchers now discounts this possibility. Still others maintain that she was Rebecca Hendrix or Hendricks. This was another family that stayed close to the Dungans. Moreover, the particular name of Rebecca can be eliminated, but she may have been from this same family Hendrix/Hendricks family. These same researchers have suggested that she was named Mary \_\_\_\_? The bottom line is that her name remains elusive. Jeremiah's second wife was Mary Whitton (or Whitten). Sources differ on exactly when they married. One uncorroborated and undocumented source maintains that they were married on the specific date of 24 November 1762. Yet others have always suggested that they were married between 1770 and 1774 in Virginia. Another possibility is that Jeremiah only had the one wife. In any case, Jeremiah "Duning" was recorded in the tax list of York County in 1762 as residing near Paradise Township.<sup>24</sup> This was evidentially close to the Burmudian property of George Dungan.

George and Mary had a large family. Unfortunately, it is possible that some of them cannot be fully accounted for by normal genealogical means. Mr. Justice mentions sons but he only cites Elisha as a son. In the Boles' account they cite nine children.<sup>25</sup> In any case, some of the children of George Dungan were born in Bucks County, and some were born in Lancaster County. It is very doubtful if any were born in Virginia. However, most of his grandchildren were born there. Most writers have relied upon the memory of descendant family members, family histories, land records, and the overall circumstantial context of when, and where, they were recorded.

George had a large family as indicated on the following pages. Much of the information on his children has been taken from secondary sources. Therefore, caution is recommended for anyone reseaching this family.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, Court of Common Pleas. p. 28.

<sup>24</sup> The South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, *An Abstract Listing the Assessed Inhabitants of York County, Pennsylvania for the year 1762*. 1978, p. 4.

<sup>25</sup> *Op cit.*, Boles', *Foster Ancestors*. p. 250.

## The Family of George Dungan

George Dungan = Mary Hellings.

1703 – ca. 1782 (Other accounts state that George died earlier, but most accounts seem to agree that he was buried in the Middle Fork Cemetery, now in Smyth County, Virginia).

- Jeremiah Dungan, born around 1730 - of whom our account is given below.
- Ruth Dungan, born about 1732 – married about 1753 to Nathaniel Hendrix (or **Hendricks**) in York County, Pennsylvania. She and her husband always remained close to Jeremiah. She died in Carter County, Tennessee, not far from Jeremiah's estate.
- Elisha Dungan, born about 1734 or 1735 – He married Margaret **Hendricks** around 1760, probably in York County, Pennsylvania. The Boles' speculate that the marriage took place in Virginia, but this seems very doubtful. However, in 1764 his wife was named Hannah (Borden) **Rogers**, so he obviously married again, possibly this marriage took place in Frederick County, Virginia. He was in Washington County, Virginia by at least 1780. He died 1 December 1808 in Washington County, Virginia, leaving a large family who in succeeding generations spread into Kentucky, Tennessee and elsewhere in Virginia.
- Thomas Dungan, born 16 March 1736. He first appears on 6 March 1754 when he had a warrant for land in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.<sup>26</sup> Supposedly he married an Elizabeth (?) about 1765 in Frederick County, Virginia. The Boles' estimate his death as being sometime around 1793. Documentation for this man is seriously lacking.
- Elizabeth Dungan born 22 January 1740 (1741). She was thought to have married an Elias **Brown** in New Jersey on 5 December 1774, but this has not been fully confirmed. If in fact that this is correct as reported by the Boles', she may have had an earlier marriage. Nothing further has been learned of her life.
- Sarah "Sally" Dungan, born on 15 August 1742. She married Robert **Lucas** about 1761, probably in York County, Pennsylvania.<sup>27</sup> Robert was born on 19 November 1740. He was a son of Edward and Mary (Darke) Lucas of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He and his wife remained close to Jeremiah. Robert was a man of many parts, serving at one time as a Major of militia and he was among the settlers of Watauga (now Washington County, Tennessee) and he was one of the

<sup>26</sup> Pennsylvania Archives, vol. 24, 2<sup>nd</sup> series, Warrantees of Land, vol. 1, p. 396 - 200 acres in Lancaster County.

<sup>27</sup> Virginia State Library, MSS 6:4 L 9625:1 Lucas Family Bible Record 1735-1929.

signers of the Cumberland Compact. About 1781 Robert was killed by Indians near Nashville, Tennessee. The Boles' brothers give a good account of his life.<sup>28</sup>

- Hellings Dungan, born 3 March 1745. According to the Boles' he was married to Mary (?) whose surname is unknown. However, in the land transactions of 1763 and 1764 in Frederick County, Virginia, his wife was named Sarah! So, perhaps he also had a second wife. He first appears in 1763 when they purchased land in Frederick County, Virginia. He and Elisha were the primary settlers in southwest Virginia. In 1771 Henis (Hellings) Dungan appears as a 'tithable' in Betourt County, Virginia (Fincastle County after 1772). So he was probably the first of the family to explore the southwestern frontier. He was firmly established in Fincastle County by 1774 when he bought 354 acres on the south side of the Middle Fork of the Holston River. Between 1776 and 1787 he appears in several records. The surviving records only indicate that he had one daughter but there is some suspicion that there may have been other children. He died sometime after 1787.
- John Dungan, (Dunkin?) supposedly born 12 March 1747 in Bucks County. The Boles' estimate his marriage in 1772, possibly in Frederick County, Virginia. They also estimate his death as being in June of 1780 in Washington County, Virginia. This earlier John Dungan or Dunkin appears in several early references in Fincastle County, Virginia, the parent county to most of southwest Virginia.
- Elijah Dungan born 24 September 1749. Little is known of him. In fact he was often confused with Elisha, his brother.

Sometime around 1762 the family of George Dungan answered to the call to migrate again. Soon they resettled in Frederick County, Virginia. There were probably many motives for the move. For most pioneers it was just the fact that there were religious freedoms, cheap land, and greater opportunities on the frontier. We cannot be sure but the move probably occurred in 1762. From the surviving records it was Jeremiah's brother Elisha Dungan who in 1762 first appears in Frederick County, Virginia. He was followed by his brother Hellings. Unfortunately several 'Duncans' also appear in the same area doing the same things. On occasion their names appear as Dungen, thus confusing the genealogical record of George Dungan's family. By the year 1763 the Dungan family appears in greater numbers, notably these were Elisha, Hellings, and Jeremiah Dungan. Other Duncans, such as John, Thomas, and Elijah, are conspicuously absent from surviving documents. Moreover, George appears infrequently, usually as a witness, so he apparently did not purchase any land. Perhaps he resided with one of his children.

<sup>28</sup> Op cit., Boles, *Foster Ancestors*, p. 256.



certainly reflect the original layout of the town.<sup>30</sup> The street names remain the same today and the lots where the Dungans settled may still be seen in the old residential area of the town. Today this town is Shepardstown, in Berkeley County, West Virginia.

The area of Mecklenburg (Shepardstown) was essentially a high valley plateau of rolling hills that lent itself to farming. Stones of limestone and shale are common and they were used for a multitude of purposes. Stone walls demarked boundaries and stones were also used for chimneys, houses, and foundations of wooden and timber log houses. Today many of these walls and foundations are still in evidence.

To process the grain from the increasing number of farms there were several early mills. Since there was a Mill Street in Shepardstown it suggests that a gristmill existed near the town. One mill of great interest was operated by Thomas Shepard. He died in 1776 and his mill appears on a local 1779 plat map. His mill was located about ten miles away from Shepardstown on Tuscarora Creek where the town of Martinsburg was later established. This raises a few questions. Did Jeremiah work for Shepard? Did he also learn the operation of mills from him?

There were several other references to George and his family in Frederick County. Mostly these were court cases, one of which was a long lasting case involving the estate of John Hendricks. In 1764 George was appointed guardian of orphans John and Soloman Hendricks. At the estate sale "Jerry," Elisha, and George Dungan were purchasers. Something did not set right with the situation because in 1771 George Dungan filed suit against Mary Hendricks. Whatever the issue - he won the case.<sup>31</sup>

The last reference to the family in Frederick County appears to have been in 1776. This probably has implications for when they settled in southwestern Virginia and in the Watauga settlement. By 1778 the family was firmly re-settled. Elisha was settled in Washington County, Virginia, and Jeremiah had settled in the Watauga Settlement.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid., map foldout, a portion of which is shown opposite.

<sup>31</sup> Frederick County, Virginia, Order Books 13, 14, & 15.

#### Documentation

- 1763 Elisha Dungan witnessed a deed along with Thomas Swearingen, John Duke and Jacob Cross. (21 April).<sup>32</sup>
- 1763 Hellen Dungan, grantee received 233 acres on Cabin Run and Howard's Marsh in the Barrens on 12 December.<sup>33</sup>
- 1764 George Dungan, Jeremiah Dungan and Elisha Dungan witnessed deeds on 1 August relating to property bordering the plantation of William Shepard.<sup>34</sup>
- 1764 Elisha Dungan witnessed several deeds issued by Shepard during the year.
- 1764 Elisha Dungan purchased lot #90 in Mecklenburg from Thomas Shepard.<sup>35</sup>
- 1764 Jeremiah Dungan purchased lot # 30 in Mecklenburg from Thomas Shepard.<sup>36</sup>
- 1764 Jeremiah Dungan purchased lot # 61 in Mecklenburg from Thomas Shepard.<sup>37</sup>
- 1767 Jeremiah Dungen purchased a three acre tract of land from Thomas Shepard.<sup>38</sup>
- 1769 Hellen Dungen purchased 233 acres from Jeremiah Stillwell. Hellen Dungen and Sarah his wife released some of this land back to the Stillwell family.<sup>39</sup>
- 1771 Elisha Dungan and Hannah his wife purchased 100 acres from Edward Rogers. George Dungan was among the witnesses (15/16 August).<sup>40</sup>
- (1772 Berkeley County is spun off from Frederick County).
- 1775 Elisha Dungan as a grantee received 151 acres in Dunmore County.<sup>41</sup>
- 1776 Elisha Dungan and his wife leased property to Edward Rogers. This property was bordered by Spought Run and the Shenandoah River.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>32</sup> Frederick County, Virginia, Deed book 5, p. 10.

<sup>33</sup> Virginia State Library, Northern Neck Grants, Book M, 1762-1765, p. 221.

<sup>34</sup> Frederick County, Virginia, Deed book 5, pp. 23-24.

<sup>35</sup> Frederick County, Virginia, Deed book 9, pp. 487-491.

<sup>36</sup> Frederick County, Virginia, Deed book 9, pp. 491-494.

<sup>37</sup> Frederick County, Virginia, Deed book 9, pp. 494-497.

<sup>38</sup> Frederick County, Virginia, Deed book 11, pp. 469-470.

<sup>39</sup> Frederick County, Virginia, Deed book 13, pp. 151 - 152 and pp. 152 - 153.

<sup>40</sup> Frederick County, Virginia, Deed book 15, pp. 380-381.

<sup>41</sup> Virginia State Library, Northern Neck Grants, Book P. p. 318.

<sup>42</sup> Frederick County, Virginia, Deed book 17, p. 166.

Since Elisha leased some of his land in 1776 it suggests that this was the year in which the family completely moved out of the area. As will be seen later, the records in Berkeley County, southwestern Virginia, and in the Watauga Settlement also seem to confirm that this was where they all moved. Certainly the War had an impact on their reasons for moving. Elisha later served in the Revolutionary cause.<sup>43</sup>

It is noteworthy that Jeremiah only had small tracts of land, usually the small lots in the town of Mecklenburg (Shepardstown). His largest tract was three acres, further underscoring his status as a craftsman rather than a farmer. On the other hand, Elisha was a farmer. He had 233 acres in Frederick County and 151 acres in adjoining Dunmore (Shenandoah) County. In total, his 384 acres of farmland supported a large family.

There was one particular Frederick County court case of great interest for Jeremiah even though it only mentions his brother. The case was dated on 7 August 1770 and the court ordered "that the church warden bind William Greenway, George Greenway, and Hannah Greenway, poor orphans unto Elisha Dungen until they come of age and that (they) learn the said George and William to read write and cypher and the *Trade of Mason* and the said Hannah to read."<sup>44</sup> Elisha was a farmer and stonemason. However, since the Greenway children later moved to Washington County, Tennessee, rather than to southwestern Virginia, we may see the influence of Jeremiah rather than Elisha.

A final note relates to three "Duncans" whose name frequently appears as Dungan in the same time and in the same place. These were Mathew, Seth, and William Duncan. They also came from York County, Pennsylvania and they settled in the same part of Frederick County that in 1772 became Berkeley County. This all happened in so much of a coincidental series that it at first led this writer to believe that they were somehow tied into the family of George Dungan. For example they appear as Duncans in the town of Mecklenburg at the same time as the family of George Dungan was doing the same thing. Nevertheless, research has verified that they were in fact, Duncans. They were a Scots family from Northern Ireland. They were also Presbyterians whereas the Dungenes were Baptists. In other locations where both surnames occur - the Dungenes were usually subsumed under the spelling of the more common surname of Duncan. The fact the opposite happened in this case leads to the conclusion that the Dungan's were very well known because the opposite happened and the Duncan's were recorded as Dungan's.

<sup>43</sup> NSDAR, *DAR Patriot Index*. Washington, 1966, p. 206.

<sup>44</sup> Watauga Association of Genealogists, *History of Washington County Tennessee 1988*. Johnson City, TN, 1988, p. 352.

## Family

See more fully on these family members in Appendix I

Jeremiah Dungan = (1<sup>st</sup>) Name unknown. (See page 6). Perhaps she was Mary \_\_\_\_?  
1730 - 1813 m. 1754 B. ca. 1734 - she d. (?)

Jeremiah Dungan = (2<sup>nd</sup>) **Mary Whitton**  
m. date is uncertain She d. 1823

### Children:

- Margaret b. 4 February 1755 m. Capt. James **Pierce** in Frederick County, Maryland d. 20 Feb. 1837
- Elizabeth / Rebecca b. 1757 m. Thomas **Gibson** d. ca. 1800
- Sarah b. 1759 m. Zebulon **Smith** d. 1818
- b. 1761 See below = (*Note the gap between Sarah and Mary*)
- Mary b. 1765 m. John **Houston**
- Orpha b. 1775 m. John **Love**  
d. 1827

Many accounts reveal that Jeremiah had only girls. But the rough gap in years between the birth-order of his girls raises some interesting questions. Birth intervals among married women are often very indicative. So, it should be asked if he had other children. Specifically, did he have a son? Although this is an unlikely possibility, a man named John (born about 1761 or 1762 in Virginia) fits only too well, but so far nothing can be verified. On the other hand this may have been when Jeremiah married his second wife as suggested earlier. The records of this man and his family are expanded on the following page (and in Appendix II).

In 1772 Berkeley County was formed from the western portion of Frederick County. The population density must have increased dramatically for this to have occurred. It appears that some of the Dungan land was in this new county. Perhaps the pressure of opportunity, population, compelled them to move from the county.

Although the family soon moved into southwestern Virginia, there is a possibility that the family did, in fact, leave one of their own in the county. This leaves us with something of a mystery. It seems that a Revolutionary War soldier named John Dungan from Virginia appears in the same region of Berkeley County. Later census records and

other information state that he was born about 1761 or 1762 in Virginia. From conflicting information apparently supplied by his family in Ohio it has been suggested that his birth took place in three different places. One indicates that his birth was in Ireland. Still another secondary source states that he was born in Pennsylvania. A third source states that he was born in Loudoun County, Virginia. The most consistent source (i.e., census records) simply states that he was born in Virginia. An extensive search in Loudoun County records discounts his birth there and there are good reasons to discount the other two sources. Therefore we are left with Virginia as his place of birth. Very possibly he was Jeremiah's son, but this is pure speculation. Only the time frame and the colony of his birth, and his settlement near former Dungan land in Berkeley County, suggest such a scenario.

1780 John Dungan (or Dungen) of Virginia appears in papers (1780 – 1781) of soldiers serving in the Illinois Department.<sup>45</sup> Curiously, he is absent from most published list of soldiers from Virginia. Perhaps some of those who served in the 'wilderness' were missed by historians. Or, more likely he was recorded as a "Duncan" who served from Virginia.

1782 John Dungan appears in Berkeley County, Virginia.

1782 "*Jeremiah Dungan of Washington County, Miller of the Commonwealth of North Carolina,*" sold lot number 30 in Mecklenburg to Thomas Hart Sr.<sup>46</sup> The Boles's discount this entry by saying that this must have been another Jeremiah Dungan. However, the wording of the document speaks for itself. It was our Jeremiah who sold this land.

1783 John Dungan marries Elizabeth Titus in nearby Hampshire County.<sup>47</sup>

1786 *Jeremiah Dungan and Mary his wife* sold three acres of land to William Brown. Jeremiah also sold him his lot # 62 in Mecklenburg (17 April & 20 November).<sup>48</sup>

1796 John "Duncan" purchased land on 26 September.<sup>49</sup>

1799 John Dungan purchased lands from Bryan McDonald (22 April).<sup>50</sup>

1802 John "Dunging" appears in the Berkeley County tax list as owning 100 acres of land.

<sup>45</sup> H. J. Eckenrode, Archivist (Virginia State Archives) *Revolutionary War Soldiers of Virginia*. Virginia state Library, 1912, p. 146.

<sup>46</sup> Berkeley County, Virginia, Deed book 6, p. 72.

<sup>47</sup> *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*. vol. 39, np.

<sup>48</sup> Berkeley County, Virginia, Deed book 7, pp. 196 and 199.

<sup>49</sup> Berkeley County, Virginia, Deed book 13, p. 71.

<sup>50</sup> Berkeley County, Virginia, Deed book 15, p. 262.

John's apparent eldest son Daniel appears in the following year. John is in the 1810 census of Berkeley County. However, sometime between 1812 and about 1815 he and his family resettle in Pickaway County, Ohio, where he appears with a large family in the 1820 census. A significant amount of information has been collected that relates to this man, but his parents have never been determined. At this time, there is nothing solid that ties Jeremiah and John together as father and son. Perhaps it is just a coincidence (see more of this man in Appendix II).

In any event, Jeremiah's family did not stay long in Berkeley County. Most of their lands were small, not something that would suggest farming. However, farming was certainly part of their lives. What the family did during this brief time of about ten years can only be conjectured. In all probability Jeremiah and the others were builders and craftsmen; workers in wood and stone as well as farmers. Very likely they worked for others. It would not be surprising to learn that many of the stone mills and houses in Berkeley, Frederick and Loudoun counties were built by the Dungans. Many of these structures were built in what might be called the Pennsylvania style. Such buildings are still to be found all along the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. For example, the stone Quaker Meeting House in Arden, Berkeley County, was built in 1770 and it still survives today. Perhaps the possibility for more building jobs arose as the migration continued southward. Obviously they had learned of greater opportunity and lands opening in Fincastle County in the far southwestern part of the colony. They would have learned of this from teamsters and provisionary of the earliest settlers to this area.



## Washington County Virginia

Like the move to northern Virginia earlier, the move into southwestern Virginia and the Watauga settlement probably took place over a period of years. Their move must have taken place by 1776 which was four years after Fincastle County was created. They were certainly there between 1771 and 1776. In the later year Hellings (Kellings Dungen) was recorded as signing a petition.<sup>51</sup> However, it is certain that they ended up in the area of Fincastle County which in December of 1776 it became Washington County. Much later it became Smyth County. Elisha was there by at least 1778.

“..... Below Marion the Dungen and Ferrises were the first to come.... They settled on part of Charles Campbell’s Patent at Seven Mile Ford and then moved nearer to the mountains, taking up lands, some of which are still owned by their descendants.”<sup>52</sup>

This account reveals that they settled along the Holston River on Seven Mile Ford near the present-day town of Marion. Curiously there were later mentions of a Dungan Mill on the Holston River in Smyth County. So, it would appear that others in the family were also millers and millwrights. Many of the same family names appear frequently with the Dungen. Basically these family names were Campbell, Copenhaver, Ferris, Gaskins, Gollehon, Headricks, Swearngen, and Wilsons. Unlike the other Dungan family members, Jeremiah moved further south into what he probably thought was still Virginia territory. It was actually territory claimed by North Carolina.

Within a generation of this southwest Virginia settlement some of the Dungan family had moved yet again. This out-migration began shortly after the beginning of the Nineteenth Century. A few families traveled through the Cumberland Gap and settled in the Kentucky territory just north of the town of Somerset. They settled in what became Pulaski County. One from this Kentucky family, “Colonel” George Dungan, moved frequently and married often. He and his family ended up in south-central Virginia in Prince Edward County.<sup>53</sup> About the same time, a John Dungan who married Abigail Brown in Washington County, Virginia, moved further south into Tennessee. He obtained grants of land in the newly opened Cherokee territory of the Hiwassee. He and his family first settled in Meigs County. Later they crossed the Tennessee River, moving into Rhea County where they remained for several generations.<sup>54</sup> Still another Tennessee settler was

<sup>51</sup> *The East Tennessee Historical Society*. Fincastle County Petition, June 10, 1776, Vol. XXI, 1949, p. 102, No. 160.

<sup>52</sup> Elizabeth Lemon Sayers, *Smyth County, Virginia: Pathfinders and Patriots, Prehistory to 1832*. Marion, 1983, vol. 1, p. 117.

<sup>53</sup> Thomas P. Dungan, ‘The Dungan View – George Dungan of Prince Edward Co. Virginia.’ Issue #19, winter 2002, & more on George Dungan in Issue 21, Fall 2002 In the *DOAS Newsletter*, ed, by Dick Dunagan, Beloit, WI.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*, ‘The Dungan View – Still another loose connection in Tennessee.’ Issue #25, Spring – April 2004, p. 9. In the *DOAS Newsletter*.

Colonel Robert Hellings Dungan who also settled in Washington County, establishing a school for young men in Jonesborough. Having no children of his own, his students became known as the “Dungan Boys.” Robert had an interesting military career during the Civil War.<sup>55</sup> He rose from private to become the regimental commander of the 48<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, CSA. Wounded several times during the war he commanded his brigade at Gettysburg when all of his senior officers were either killed or wounded. He was later with General Lee at the Appomattox Court House surrender. Shortly after this move into Tennessee, another Dungan family - - by grand nephews of Jeremiah - - moved from southwestern Virginia into nearby Carter County, Tennessee.<sup>56</sup> Like Jeremiah, they also built a mill just off the Watauga River in Hunter near the town of Elizabethton. Although it is in a bad state, this other Dungan mill is still standing on private property.<sup>57</sup> This Dungan family remained as prominent citizens in Elizabethton until about 1950. At one time they owned the local lumber company - now Paty Lumber Company in Elizabethton. They have since dispersed elsewhere.

A most important point for the future of the Dungan and St. John families was the marriage of Berry St. John to Hannah Dungan. This marriage took place on 23 March 1817 in Washington County, Virginia. The 1850 census of Smyth County reveals that their son, George W. St. John was 19 years of age. Sixteen years later he was to purchase the Dungan Mill near the Watauga River in Tennessee.

<sup>55</sup> *The Confederate Veteran*. Vol. XXXIX, Dec., 1931, No. 12, p. 445.

Cf. Robert K. Kirick, *Lee’s Colonels*. Dayton, Ohio, 1975, p. 112.

Cf. Goodspeed’s, *Washington County, History of Tennessee*, Nashville, 1887, pp. 20-21.

<sup>56</sup> Rozella Hardin, (Booklet) *From a Window on Hattie Avenue*. Johnson City, Royal Printing, n.d, but ca. 1998. This reference is through the curtesy of Walter P. Dungan of Roanoke, Virginia.

<sup>57</sup> Thomas P. Dungan, ‘The Dungan Mills of East Tennessee.’ in *Old Mill News*. Vol. XXVI, No. 3, Number 104, Summer 1998, pp. 23-24.

## Watauga

About the same time as the original Dungan settlement in southwestern Virginia was taking place, Jeremiah entered what became known as the Watauga Settlement. He was forty six years of age, a bit older than the average pioneer. This was the time of the first pioneers, buckskins, and Daniel Boone. Several sources confirm that Boone had contacts with many of the Wataugans and he knew the area well. His first visit there was about 1760. Although he and others had visited the area as hunters and explorers, the first permanent settler, William Bean, had established himself in this area by 1769. An earlier account differs with this and it states that the first white settlers came in 1766. More than likely the 1769 account is correct and the date in the other account should be 1776 and not 1766.

Mr. Greer was an Indian trader, and at a very early period perhaps 1766, came with Julius C. Dugger to the west. They are believed to be the first white men that settled south of what was afterwards ascertained to be the Virginia line. After them came the Robertsons, John Carter, Michael Hyder, the Seveiers, *Dunjains*, McNabbs, Mathew Talbot, the Hortons, McLinns and Simeon Bundy.<sup>58</sup>

These men recorded with Jeremiah "Dunjains" were strong characters. They had to be self-reliant. "Most of them wore moccasins instead of shoes. The men and boys wore short pantaloons and leather leggings reaching from the foot to above the knee. They had no coats, but wore hunting shirts. These were sometimes of heavy cloth, but usually of dressed deerskin, and were worn over the other clothing just as we wear coats. They were cut and made very much like an ordinary shirt, except that they were open the entire length of the front, and had a belt at the waist. In this belt the pioneer carried a small hatchet, or tomahawk, and a long, sharp hunting knife. He wore a cap of mink skin, or of the skin of some other small animal, very often with the tail for a tassel. He had a long, muzzle-loading, flintlock rifle, and a leather pouch suspended by a strap over his shoulder. In this pouch he carried his gun wipers, tow, patching, bullets, and flints, and fastened to the strap was a horn in which he carried his powder."<sup>59</sup> Perhaps as a stonemason, Jeremiah dressed slightly different, but basically the preceding description is accurate. The women were also of sturdy stock. They had to be strong in order to complete their many demanding chores around the home. Their appearance was modest. They wore long dresses with a high waist, bonnets, and shawls. Many of them went barefoot. The Watauga Association would not have survived without them.

<sup>58</sup> J. G. M. Ramsey, *The Annals of Tennessee to the end of the Eighteenth Century*. Charleston, SC, 1853, Reprinted 1926 in Kingsport, TN. P. 142.

<sup>59</sup> G. R. McGee, *A History of Tennessee From 1663 to 1914*. New York, 1914, p. 46.

In 1772 the Watauga Association essentially became a *de facto* state unto itself. They did not seek prior approval, nor did they seek recognition when they formed themselves into a political body. They created their own courts and enacted their own laws. They also set out their own punishments for infractions, some of them rather harsh. In any case, it seems to have worked. They were the first free and autonomous government in America. It only lasted from about 1772 until 1776.

History tells us that after 1772, a steady stream of settlers followed William Bean. As shown below Bean was one of the thirteen commissioners who officially organized of the Watauga Settlement. As an aside, it is interesting to note that from 1772 until 1775 the informal court sessions of the Watauga Association were held under a very large sycamore tree that 100 years later was on the property of Judge William P. Dungan of Elizabethton.<sup>60</sup> The thirteen were an interesting group of men, some of whom figure prominently in Jeremiah's life and the history of Tennessee.

#### COMMITTEE OF THIRTEEN

<i>John Carter</i> – Chairman	<i>Charles Robertson</i>	Zachariah Isball
<i>James Robertson</i>	James Smith	Jacob Womack
<i>John Sevier</i>	John Jones	<b><i>Robert Lucas</i></b>
<i>William Bean</i>	George Russell	William Tatham
Jacob Brown		

These men governed the Watauga Association from 1772 until about 1778. Until about the end of 1775 the settlement grew without disruption. The above list was dated in 1776.

The period from 1775 until 1776 were the formative years of the area that is now Washington County, Tennessee. The history of the Watauga is far more complex than related here, but a few points are worth mentioning very briefly. On 19 March 1775 the Watauga Association purchased the land from the Indian chiefs of the Cherokee Nation. Prior to that date they had only "leased" the land. But to the settlers it was essentially a purchase. Regardless of the method of settlement, the colonial establishment in the eastern seaboard essentially considered the Wataugans to be vulgar squatters. The reason for this attitude was that since 1763 royal authorities expressly forbid any western settlements beyond a certain "Proclamation Line." This was ignored and the settlement continued. If 1775 was a time of peace and stability, in 1776 it became a time of war.

With the onset of war in 1776 the Wataugans faced serious problems of safety and security, and there was a greater need for powerful friends. They decided to opt for acceptance of the new Continental Congress and the cause of independence. The result was a "Petition of Annexation" addressed to the Council of Safety for North Carolina.

<sup>60</sup> Mildred Kozsuch, ed., *Historical Reminiscences of Carter County Tennessee*, Johnson City, Overmountain Press, 1985, p. 8.

This document was delivered to the Council on 23 August 1776. It should be noted that one of the signers of this petition was Jeremiah's brother-in-law, a man we will meet again. In 1777 the Council accepted their argument for inclusion into the state. Thus the North Carolina "District of Washington" was created. It was a timely decision because the Cherokee War had erupted earlier. With the quick defeat of the Cherokee, they had room to grow. Moreover, by 1778 North Carolina converted the "district" into Washington County, North Carolina. The state also agreed to accept earlier deeds, thereby placing many families in a more secure position on their lands. To accomplish this in 1778 the state required settlers on the Watauga to take new titles, and they gave preference to those who purchased lands from Charles Robertson during the previous two years.<sup>61</sup> Evidentially the process of re-titling the land took several years to complete.

One of the men who moved and shaped the early history of the settlement outlined above was Robert Lucas. He was Jeremiah's brother-in-law. His presence probably explains how Jeremiah arrived in the settlement. His influence cannot be stressed enough. In 1772 Lucas was one of thirteen citizens elected as commissioners to govern the Watauga Association. On 19 March 1775 the Wataugans purchased their land from the Cherokee tribe. This was initiated at the treaty of Sycamore Shoals. Robert Lucas was instrumental in this arrangement. In April of the same year the lands were surveyed into large tracts. It is obvious that the commissioners carved out large tracts for themselves. In November of 1775 the land was parceled out. Lucas obtained five tracts from the Association.<sup>62</sup> His deeds were among the very few from the Watauga Settlement to have survived. The larger tracts in four deeds totaled 1860 acres and they were deeded by Charles Robertson, one of the leading figures of the settlement. Lucas also had a 30 acre tract which gave him a total of 1,890 acres. Although Jeremiah and Robert Lucas were brothers-in-law, they appear to have been close personal friends. As noted, The Watauga Settlement was relatively peaceful in 1775. There were some murders committed by the Indians, and the men of the settlement must have known that the British were behind these small attacks. This instability may have prompted Robert to plead for help from this family at large who were still in Virginia.

Despite some hostilities, the settlers lived in a relatively peaceful coexistence with the Cherokee. It was only in late 1775 and 1776 that the need for protection arose. The later was the year when the wooden stockade fort was erected at Sycamore Shoals on the Watauga River. History informs us that Robert Lucas *probably* built a stone fort in 1775 on land that was supposedly his own. However, there are several problems with this account. First of all there was no real *need* for a fort during most of 1775. Secondly, Robert Lucas was not a stonemason. Perhaps the leading question should be whether the fort was actually built in 1775, or did Jeremiah arrive there in 1776 to build the fort?

<sup>61</sup> Max Dixon, *The Wataugans*. Johnson City, TN, 1976, p. 53.

<sup>62</sup> Barbara, Byron, and Samuel Sistler, compl. *Tennessee Land Grants*. Nashville, TN 1998, vol. II. (recorded under - Lucas, Robert).  
Cf. Max Dixon, *The Wataugans*. Johnson City, TN, 1976, p. 33.

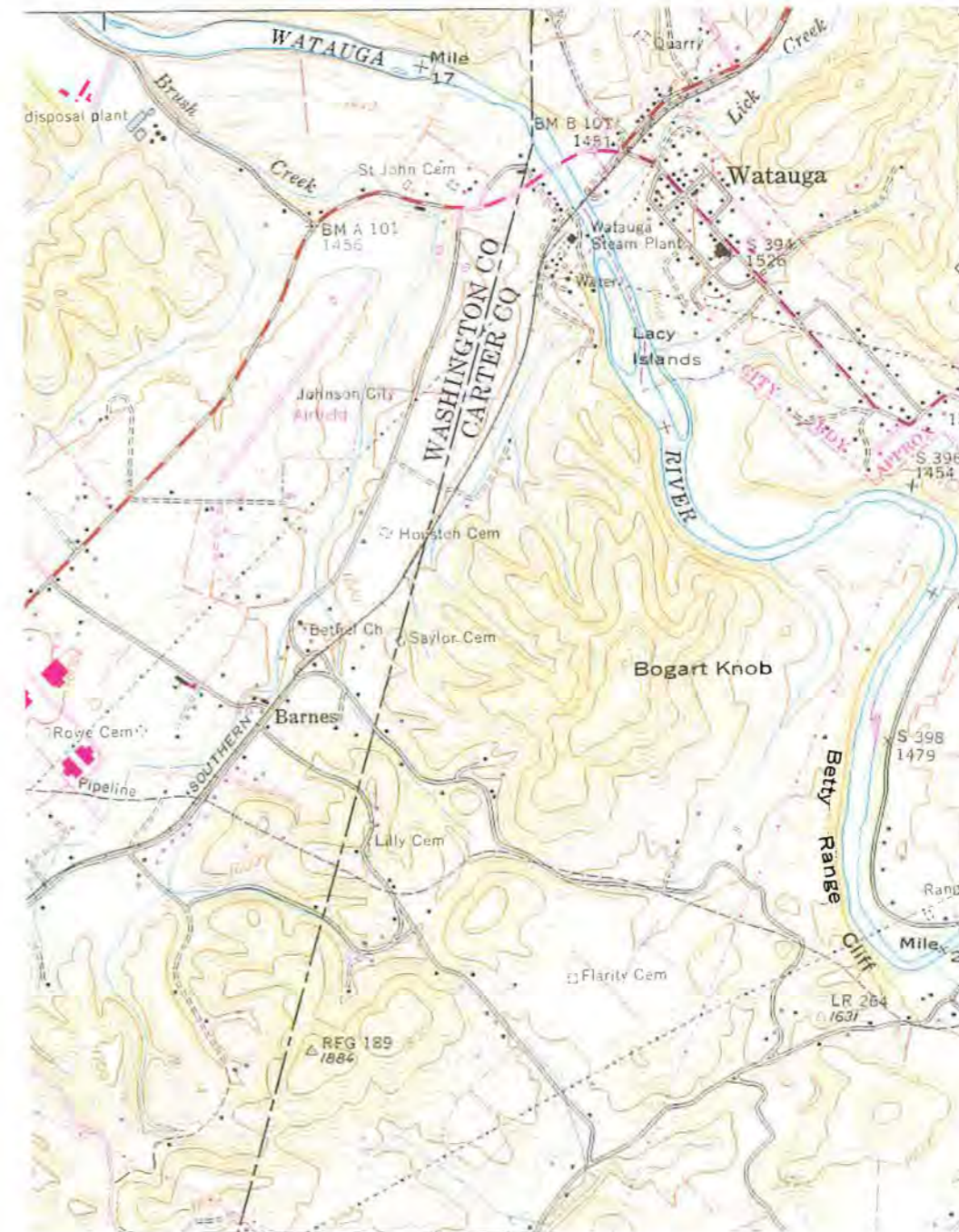
Structures have always been erected in order to fulfill specific needs. Since the fort was not needed *until* 1776; that must have been when Jeremiah built this stone structure. The fort is discussed in greater detail elsewhere.

As concluded above, it was more than likely within the year of 1776 that Jeremiah arrived in the area. Almost certainly he was induced to come by Robert Lucas. Although the migration route was south along the Great Indian Warpath (today's Route 11) there was also a two way traffic involving teamsters, pioneers and drovers, many of whom carried letters back and forth. Therefore a constant communication was available for Lucas to initiate a contact that prompted his brother-in-law to come as soon as possible.

A very likely scenario begins to emerge when history and the deeds of Robert Lucas are analyzed. Almost certainly Robert Lucas either gave or sold some of his lands to Jeremiah. Perhaps he had only reserved some lands for him. Let us suppose that Robert wrote to Jeremiah in December of 1775 saying that he has just acquired a tremendous amount of land - - a portion of which is perfect for a mill. He also states that a mill is specifically needed. Moreover, he may have pleaded for help because of the coming hostilities. Since the Dungan families had already decided to move into Fincastle County of greater southwestern Virginia, Jeremiah was moving in any case. When Jeremiah receives this communications he leaves his property in Berkeley County, Virginia in a hurry. It should be remembered that the Dungans can be documented in Berkeley County until 1776. That he and his family left in some haste may be seen in the fact that he didn't sell his lands there for many years afterwards.

Consider next that Robert Lucas was probably a small farmer who was actually more of a pioneer and soldier. His service on the frontier has been well documented. Maybe he realized that he didn't need that much land. He may have also needed family to look after his wife and children when he was off fighting the British and the Cherokee Indians. Next consider that two of Robert's four primary deeds mention his lands as being on the *Watauga River*. One of these deeds also mentions the *island* that was later described as being on Jeremiah's property. A third deed of 530 acres was described in the "Watoga Purchase" dated 23 November 1775 as "*lying on Brush Creek adjoining below the beaver dam.*"<sup>63</sup> Also consider that history claims that Robert built the fort on his lands when any reasonable person must conclude that it was Jeremiah the stonemason who built the fort on land that he held, and not Robert Lucas the soldier. This would certainly explain how Jeremiah came to the Watauga Settlement. Moreover, the evidence presented herein confirms that he must have been in the Watauga area sometime in the same year. Therefore it seems more than reasonable to conclude that Robert Lucas conveyed a portion of his estate to his brother-in-law, Jeremiah Dungan in 1776. At the

<sup>63</sup> Sherrod Library, East Tennessee State University, Watauga Deeds, Microfilm of "Old Book A," p. 38.



Tennessee Valley Authority topographic map (Johnson City - 7.5 minute series 1968) showing much of what would have been Jeremiah's land in the upper left. The Mill and the house are black dots on Rt. 400 just the right of Boundary Marker A 101 at 1456 feet elevation. The course of Brush Creek is plainly evident to the right of the Johnson City Airfield.

very least, he may have reserved lands that later became Jeremiah's. Unfortunately there is that no surviving documentation to confirm how it actually happened.

The evidence of the map on the preceding page is that these lands, held first by Robert Lucas and then a smaller portion by Jeremiah Dungan, were essentially a high fertile valley at elevations between 1400 and 1500 feet. The land was bordered by small mountains that range up to slightly over 1900 feet.

Robert Lucas did not remain long in the settlement. Historical accounts mention that about 1778 Robert Lucas sold out and moved into Middle Tennessee. When North Carolina took control in 1778 James Robertson (no relation to Charles Robertson) moved into middle Tennessee. Sometime late in that year he settled near present-day Nashville. Almost certainly Robertson was accompanied by Robert Lucas. Sometime prior to his departure around 1778 Lucas must have conveyed some of his land to Jeremiah. Exactly how or when this transaction was arranged may never be learned. It is only reasonable to assume that Jeremiah purchased his core holdings of 400 acres from Robert, probably in 1776, but there is nothing to support this contention. In 1781 Lucas was killed by Indians near James Robertson's home in middle Tennessee. After the death of Lucas, his two sons, George and William, came and lived with Jeremiah Dungan at the stone house.

As noted in the above scenario, Jeremiah and his family may have come in order to fill a need because *in 1775 there were no mills in the Watauga settlement*.<sup>64</sup> Although no date has been applied to it, the first mill was supposedly built on Buffalo Creek by Baptist McNabb. Buffalo Creek is now in Carter County. Perhaps it was completed in 1776. Official accounts relating to Jeremiah's mill always mention the year 1778, but he was certainly there years before this date. For example, his mill was first alluded to in the year 1777 during the Revolutionary War.<sup>65</sup> Given the fact that it may have taken at least a year in order to build the mill, we can see that he was there by sometime in 1776. The nearby stone fort ostensibly built by his brother-in-law, Robert Lucas, *supposedly* dates to 1775. Building a stone house, a stone fort, and the stone base of the mill did not happen overnight. Realistically, it probably took the greater part of two years to complete all construction. Since pioneer families frequently moved about the same time, or followed each other, it is another indication that Jeremiah arrived by 1776. Another factor relates to the labor and time to build. For example, the family only had themselves as labor; there were very few slaves present at that time. A crude log home could be constructed in a few months, but building in dressed stonework was labor intensive. It required a much longer time to complete. Another reason for his earlier arrival around 1776 is that in 1778 grants were made for the building of mills to specifically named individuals. Jeremiah was not among these early mill grants of 1778 *because his mill was already in operation!*

<sup>64</sup> Max Dixon, *The Wataugans*. Johnson City, TN, 1976, p.25.

Cf. Barbara, Byron, and Samuel Sistler, compl. *Tennessee Land Grants*. Nashville, TN 1998, vol. II. (recorded under - Lucas, Robert).

<sup>65</sup> Samuel Cole Williams, *Tennessee During the Revolutionary War*. Nashville, 1944, p.66 n (19).

A few sources mention that Jeremiah Dungan was a Revolutionary War soldier.<sup>66</sup> Given that all of the men in the Watauga Settlement were in the militia, this statement has some element of truth. The men in the settlement were armed and in military companies during and after the war. They may have served for a few weeks or a few months. They were always in a status that today would be called a ready reserve. These men could be called to arms at any time. Surviving militia rosters in the form of tax lists confirm Jeremiah's militia service. For many years he served in the same units as his son-in-laws, Thomas Gibson and Zebulon Smith. That Jeremiah was well versed in weapons may be seen from the fact that his house had a readily accessible place for his rifle.

Once North Carolina took over administrative control in 1778, the local affairs became clear. This is attested to by surviving records. For example, when the first County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions opened that year Jeremiah took the Oath of Allegiance there on 27 August of 1778.<sup>67</sup> The court also instituted a tax system. In the same year a tax list shows that his estate was valued at £575 English money. More importantly, the tax assessor's return of 1779 is also indicative of someone who had been established for some time. It reveals that "Jeremiah Dungan" held two sites (his house and the Mill) totaling 800 acres (the 397 acre tract and the 400 acre tract) with a value of £2,000, three horses worth £500, seven head of cattle worth £70, ready money totaling £2, no slaves and a total net assessed worth of £2,590.<sup>68</sup> This estate did not suddenly appear overnight in 1778. Probably the acreage was what Jeremiah purchased in 1776 from his brother-in-law or directly from the Watauga Association. Oral histories mention that he initially held only 400 acres and that may have been the case. It soon became 800 acres and then about one thousand acres. The thousand acres represents what he officially obtained in 1778 from North Carolina. All considered there can be little doubt that these references confirm his earlier presence in the county around 1776.

During the Revolutionary War their lives and settlement continued. On 21 July 1776 there was an Indian attack on nearby Fort Watauga located on Sycamore Shoals. This fort is about three miles southeast of the Mill. At the time of the 1776 attack all males over sixteen years of age were in the Watauga Militia, it is almost certain that Jeremiah and his son-in-laws and their families were there at one time or another. History tells us that at the time of the attack there were only forty militiamen in the fort. An authentically re-created wooden stockade Fort Watauga is now a state park near Elizabethton. Perhaps Jeremiah and his family stayed in their own stone fort but we cannot know for sure. Many of the surrounding settlements were destroyed. In any case, there has been no historical indication that the Indians ever attacked any part of Jeremiah's

<sup>66</sup> Watauga Association of Genealogists, *History of Washington County Tennessee*. 1988, p. 318.

<sup>67</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Court Minute Book, vol. 1, p. 44.

<sup>68</sup> Mary Hardin McCown, Nancy E. Jones Stickley & Inez E. Burns, compilers, *Washington County, Tennessee Records, vol. 1, Washington County Lists of taxables 1778-1801*, 1964, p. 25.

estate. However, as we shall see, the Indian depredations probably interrupted the building of the house and mill.

Despite the obstacles of warfare and the difficulties of frontier life Jeremiah persisted in building his mill and his house. Two things stand out in his early settlement in Watauga. First, he built in stone when others built in timber. This was unusual and it stood out among the contemporary structures. Secondly, he went to great pains to insure his possession of the land. To establish his possessions he evidentially made applications at an early date. Unfortunately many of these early Watauga deeds have been lost. As we have suggested, he probably made his initial purchase in 1776.<sup>69</sup> Or, more likely, land was conveyed to him by his brother-in-law. Jeremiah left nothing to chance when it came to recording his right to his land. When he realized that his title was not totally secure he must have made application to North Carolina as soon as practicable. He did not want to make the same mistake that befell his father in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, many years earlier. Tradition states that Jeremiah's first deed was for 400 acres. An additional 400 acres (actually 397 acres) soon increased his total acreage to about 800. Another tradition states that the land was supposedly granted in two tracts of 400 acres in 1778 by Landon Carter.<sup>70</sup> However, there is some confusion about this assessment. Surviving documentation states that it was actually 1784 when Landon Carter made the conveyance for North Carolina. This conveyance was for two deeds in tracts of 390 and 400 acres. The first deed was for land on both sides of the Watauga River "including an island and a cane Break." The second deed was for the 400 acres "including the plantation and grist mill on Brush Creek."<sup>71</sup> As noted above, an early tax list in the same year states that he already had an estate worth £575. By 1779 his estate was worth £2,590, a considerable increase from the previous year. In any case, the mill was almost assuredly being built between 1776 and 1777. The evidence verifies that the mill was known to others in 1777 and that it was in operation by 1778.

In late September of 1780 during the Revolutionary War another account, now lost, mentioned Mr. Dungan's stone house where the Over the Mountain men met on their way to Sycamore Shoals before marching to the battle of King's Mountain (7 October 1780). Jeremiah's son-in-law Captain James Pierce was among these men as were other relations. The account mentions Jeremiah's stone house because it was the only stone structure widely known to the Watauga settlers so that it would be an easily recognizable place to gather. The colonial victory at this battle was but one of a few that helped to win independence for the United States in 1783.

Historians have never precisely established the full extent of Jeremiah's Watauga Settlement. Some indicate that it probably never encompassed more than the present

<sup>69</sup> Interview with Mr. George W. St. John, on 6 January 2005, in which he suggested that Jeremiah was in the Watauga Settlement as early as 1774.

<sup>70</sup> Newspaper, *Elizabethon Star*, Sunday August 1995, Section C, front page.

<sup>71</sup> Loraine Rae, *Washington County, Tennessee Deeds 1775-1800*. Greenville, SC, 1991. p. 54.

counties of Carter, Washington, and Unicoi. Others indicate that it also included Johnson and Sullivan. Whatever its size, it was but one of several other settlements that were developing at the same time. For example, to the south there was the Nolichucky Settlement which was primarily Greene, Cocke and Jefferson Counties (although at one time Greene County covered most of East Tennessee). To the west were the Holston, and the Carter's Valley Settlements. These two settlements in their fullest extents included what are now the counties of Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hamblen, and Hawkins.

This large area of land was basically to become the "lost" State of Franklin. In 1784 the United States requested that states relinquish their claims to territory west of the mountains. North Carolina complied with an Act of Cession. To fill the vacuum the Watauga area comprising several counties tried to become independent by creating the State of Franklin. However, the land remained nominally under North Carolina as many land transactions verify. By 1788 the State of Franklin had failed.

During the dispute between those seeking to remain in North Carolina and those seeking a new state of Franklin there were fights for political control. In one case, a little shooting war erupted between the North Carolina faction known as "Tiptonits" and those seeking a new state known as "Franklinites." In the winter of 1788 the Dungan property was mentioned on two occasions as an open conflict seemed imminent. The first of these relates to an intelligence report. Apparently the confrontation lasted over a period of about three weeks and only a few men were killed. The first account was dated on 27 February 1788.

"Having gathered about 150 men from Greene, Sevier, and Caswell (Jefferson) counties at Greeneville, he (Sevier) marched to the home of Tipton on Sinking Creek, about a mile and a half from (the present Johnson City). Other men from Washington County joined the force as it passed. Towards evening William Cox came into the Sevier camp and gave information that the militia of Sullivan was emboldened to reinforce Tipton, and would that night cross the Watauga river at Dungan's mill ford, about six miles distant."<sup>72</sup>

"Col. John Tipton to General Joseph Martin, 21 March 1788. I received information that Colonel Maxwell, with the troops from Sullivan and a number from this county (Washington) had collected into one body at Mr. Dungan's about six miles from this place."<sup>73</sup>

<sup>72</sup> Samuel Cole Williams, *History of the Lost State of Franklin*. Johnson City, revised edition, 1993, pp. 198-202.

<sup>73</sup> Walet Clark, ed., *The State Records of North Carolina*. Goldsboro, NC, 1907, vol. xxii, p. 697.

Jeremiah himself did not participate in these struggles. If he had an opinion, it may have been to 'not rock the boat.' In fact, his signature was conspicuously absent from the petition for the creation of the State of Franklin delivered to the State of North Carolina.<sup>74</sup>

As noted previously the greater amount of surviving documentation started in 1778 when North Carolina took control of local administration. For example, the first legal accounts of the Washington County court in May of the year 1778 mentions Jeremiah Dungan. Later re-grants of land from North Carolina are very specific, recording each parcel of land that he held earlier. Basically these were three tracts of 400, 397, and later 200 acres mentioned earlier.<sup>75</sup> Some publications indicate the date for his land surveys were 31 December 1778.<sup>76</sup> Others indicate dates in 1783, 1784 or 1786. Unfortunately, most of these earlier deeds have long since been lost. Beginning in 1783 the property of Jeremiah was re-confirmed in official grants from the State of North Carolina.

1783 Jeremiah Dungen, 397 acres on both sides of the Watauga River.<sup>77</sup>

1783 Jeremiah Dungs, 400 acres on the waters of the Watauga River "including the plantation and grist mill on Brush Creek."<sup>78</sup>

1786 Jeremiah Dungan, Washington County, 200 acres on Caney Run and Brush Creek.<sup>79</sup>

These three large tracts of land formed the bulk of Jeremiah's estate. In total it was almost one thousand acres. In fact, several tax lists record his land holdings at 1,000 acres. One confusing point mentions a grant of 400 acres granted to Thomas "Dungens."<sup>80</sup> In all probability this actually related to a Thomas Duncan who also settled in the area. Although in Tennessee Deed books, the land grants to Jeremiah were recorded as coming from North Carolina often repeating the same information on the same tracts of land over and over again in repetition. The bulk of these lands were obviously held by Jeremiah before 1778. Jeremiah was determined that his claim to the land was never disputed. So, the grants that we see dated between 1783 and 1786 were for lands already in his possession. Therefore the later grants from the state of Tennessee record the same lands but back-dated the grants from those of North Carolina. It is noteworthy that the same 400, 397 and 200 acres appear in several Tennessee land grant books as indicated below.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid. pp. 199 & 201.

<sup>75</sup> Betty Goff Cook Cartwright & Lillian Johnson Gardiner, compl., *North Carolina Land Grants in Tennessee*. Memphis, TN, 1959, pp. 13, 14 & 17.

<sup>76</sup> Pruitt, *Tennessee Land Entries Washington County 1778-1796*, p. 197.

<sup>77</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Deed Book 1, pp.279-280 (dated 10 November 1784).

<sup>78</sup> Ibid., Deed Book 1, pp. 280-281 (dated 10 November 1784).

<sup>79</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Deed book 1, pp. 405-406. (dated 26 October 1786).

<sup>80</sup> Goldene Fillers Burgner, Compl., *North Carolina Land Grants in Tennessee, 1778-1791*. Southern Historical Press, 1981.

1784 Jeremiah Dungs, Washington County, 397 acres  
(N. Dist, Book 6, p. 183, g#590)

1784 Jeremiah Dunion, Washington County, 397 acres  
(N. Dist, Book 4, p. 385, g#558)

1784 Jeremiah Dunion, Washington County, 400 acres  
(N. Dist., Book 4, p. 386, g#536)

1784 Jeremiah Dungs, Washington County, 400 acres  
(N. Dist., Book 6, p. 184, g#535)

1786 Jeremiah Dungen, (Dungen & Dungeon) of Washington County, received 200 acres of land on "Cany River and Brush Creek" in consideration for 50 shillings per 100 acres.<sup>81</sup> (N. Dist., Book 6, p. 238, g# 741) (N. Dist., Book 4, p. 435, g#741)

By 1790 the United States accepted control from North Carolina, creating the territory of Tennessee. In 1796 it finally became Washington County in the new state of Tennessee. When statehood arrived in 1796 Carter County was formed from Washington, and the new boundary bisected a portion of Jeremiah's land.

From about 1778 until about 1796 the surrounding lands were held by family and friends. Initially his brother-in-law Robert Lucas lived nearby, some of his land was eventually inherited by his sons. Also living close were son-in-law John Love, and grandson Thomas Price. Other close neighbors were John Humphreys, William Ward, James and Jonas Little, James Chambers, Mathew Talbot, and Thomas Maxwell.

Between 1796 and 1812 Jeremiah also purchased other land. For example, on the first of February 1796 he obtained an additional 40 acres of land on Sinking Creek bordering along "Humphrey's conditional land."<sup>82</sup> This deed was from James Chambers (but indexed as Chamberlain). It was witnessed by Jesse Humphrey, John Wild, and George Lucas (Jeremiah's nephew). Jeremiah followed up on this purchase the same day with another 100 acres from the same James Chambers.<sup>83</sup> Sinking Creek was aptly named. It meanders towards the Watauga in a steep "sinking" ravine. By and large, the surrounding lands along the creek are mostly marginal and unproductive for farming. In Jeremiah's day it may have been partially suitable for livestock.

<sup>81</sup> Op Cit., Rae, *Washington County Deeds, 1775-1800*, p. 59.

<sup>82</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Deed book 6, pp. 28-29.

<sup>83</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Deed book 6, pp. 40-42.

Jeremiah's last purchase of land was from John Brown. The land was situated near the county seat of Jonesborough. It was in three tracts totaling 100 acres for which Jeremiah paid one thousand dollars. Unfortunately the land was encumbered in a law suit and it took a subsequent deed from his son-in-law to rectify the situation. Initially John Brown sold the land to Jeremiah on 8 January 1803.<sup>84</sup> Almost immediately this transaction came into dispute, the full details of which have not been unraveled. It took a subsequent deed from John Houston to "Jerry Dungan" on 1 November 1804 (registered on 21 or 25 August 1806) to "satisfy judgments against John Brown" in order to firmly establish the Jonesborough purchase.<sup>85</sup> At this point all of the lands held by Jeremiah totaled over 1,200 acres, a considerable amount of land for those times.

In later years his holdings were mentioned in grants of lands adjoining his own. For example in 1786 John Humphreys obtained a tract of land of one hundred acres that in part was "opposite to Jeremiah Dungs line."<sup>86</sup> Two similar grants in 1786 and 1789 went to a William Ward that touched "Jeremiah Dungs corner."<sup>87</sup> In 1791 William McNabb and his wife Elizabeth sold adjoining land to Solomon Headrick "Being in county Washington and territory of the United States of America south of the river Ohio on the waters of the Watauga bounded at a white oak sapling - and black oak three perches to a hickory near the grist mill that leads from McNabb to Dungs mill..."<sup>88</sup> In 1803 a subsequent tract of land went to a Henry Massingill.<sup>89</sup> In 1807 the same 200 acres tract of land mentions Jeremiah's lands. There were also other transactions that make mention Jeremiah Dungan's land.<sup>90</sup>

The character of the man comes through the pages of documentation as well as reading between the lines of history. In the terms of the times he would have been described as a man of many parts. Contrary to many wildly false stories he was probably a good shot and rifles were part of his life and household. When survival on the frontier depended on being able to shoot, all of them, including Jeremiah, learned to shoot well. Intellectually, he obviously knew geometry, mathematics, weights and measures, and some aspects of surveying. The superb stone craftsmanship of his house is a testimony to his skill. The house is very reminiscence of houses still seen today in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. In fact, when photographs of his house are compared to some Pennsylvanian homes built at the same time, they cannot be distinguished. His character comes through in another way also. His daughters, both single and married, moved with him when he left Berkeley County, Virginia. At one time or another they all lived in his household or they settled nearby. He was the rock around which his family gathered.

<sup>84</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Deed book 9, p. 178.

<sup>85</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Deed book 11, pp. 2-3.

<sup>86</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Deed book 3, pp. 6-7.

<sup>87</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Deed book 3, pp.39 & Deed book 4, p. 16.

<sup>88</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Deed book 4, p. 229.

<sup>89</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Deed book 5, p. 194.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid. see Deed books 6, p. 468, Deed books E, H, & I, p. 277.

His character may also be seen in the fact that all five daughters named a son Jeremiah; four of them actually named their sons Jeremiah Dungan. One of these, Jeremiah Dungan Houston, usually went by the name Dungan Houston. Initially the family of his eldest daughter and her husband Captain James Pierce resided in the "stone house." With their large family they eventually settled in nearby Greene County. If the chronological sequence of the yearly tax lists is to be believed; the family of Sarah and Zebulon Smith resided with Jeremiah until sometime after 1781. They soon settled in nearby Sullivan County. Rebecca and the Gibson family remain more obscure. At one time they also resided in the "stone house." That they resided close by may be seen from the fact that their son Jeremiah Dungan Gibson resided on the Dungan farm from the time he was a youth until he was a grown man. Orpha and her husband John Love always remained close in nearby Carter County. Of all the daughters it was Mary who with her husband John Houston always remained close by Jeremiah. In 1783 on the death of his brother-in-law Robert Lucas, the children of his sister also came to live with the Dungan family at the mill.

Another early settler was Mathew Talbot of Virginia. He supposedly formed the first Baptist church located on nearby Sinking Creek where Jeremiah later acquired property. The presence of the Baptist in the area may have been another draw for Jeremiah to move into the settlement. The dates of Talbot's arrival conflict widely. The same reference stated that he was there about 1775, while later it states that the church itself did not start until sometime before 1780.<sup>91</sup> It would not be surprising if he arrived about 1776 with Jeremiah and his family, almost all of whom were Baptists.

Jeremiah primarily occupied his time by running the grist mill and farming. As a miller he took a small portion of the grain being milled as payment for the milling process. He also must have derived an income from his own crops and livestock. There is some indication that the mill was also used as a saw mill. He also continued to purchase additional land. By the time documentation solidly places him beyond 1790 it seems probable that his children were grown with their own families. Although some of them resided in other counties; they were all within a days ride.

After much traveling in his youth, and learning his trade, Jeremiah had finally established a permanent home. Published accounts of the population of Washington County in 1790 indicate that there were only a little over one thousand adult males over the age of twenty-one. The total population itself was only slightly over five thousand. So it was a small inter-related and inter-dependant society. All men over sixteen were in the militia and this would have included Jeremiah and his son-in-laws. All were required to serve in some civic capacity at one time or another.

Recently, two very brief accounts of Jeremiah establish his place in Washington County history.

<sup>91</sup> WPA, *Sketch of Sinking Creek Baptist Church*. 1938, pp. 1-2.



"Tennessee's oldest business, the Dungan gristmill located in the Watauga area of Washington County, is now known as the St. John Milling Company. The site also includes a stone manor house, one of Tennessee's oldest homes. Jeremiah Dungan, the original owner of the gristmill of Brush Creek, was listed in Carter's Entry Book on December 31, 1778, to have 400 acres surveyed, "including the plantation where he lives and grist mill on Brush Creek."<sup>92</sup>

Dungan was a stonemason and miller and had built a gristmill on Brush Creek by 1778. He also built his stone house, which still stands near the mill. There was a fort located on a hill near his house, which was *probably* built by Robert Lucas about 1775 for protection from hostile Indians. Dungan had about 1,000 acres on the Watauga River and Brush Creek. Later he purchased farms on Sinking Creek and outside Jonesborough. He was a slaveholder and considered on of the wealthiest men in the county.<sup>93</sup>

As a stonemason Jeremiah Dungan was essentially a builder. He built a stone fort, a stone house, and the stone base of the mill. Each of these three places reveal interesting aspects of the times in which Jeremiah worked. He may have built other places as well.

The history of the stone fort remains cloudy. Who built it and when has been satisfactorily determined in preceding pages. To reiterate, the fort was probably not *needed* until 1776, therefore it must have been built then, and not in 1775 as others have estimated. Moreover it was almost certainly built by Jeremiah Dungan the stonemason and not by Robert Lucas the soldier and pioneer.

There are several remaining problems regarding this "fort." First of all it was not a true fort. Instead it was essentially a small square blockhouse designed to protect a few families. There is one like it that survives in nearby Cocke County. It is known as Swaggerty's Fort and it is located on Rt. 3221 near Parrottsville. These "forts" were probably no more that twelve feet square with an overhanging cantilevered second story. Jeremiah's stone fort was probably built of stone on the first level and finished in logs above. Something that was built completely in stone seems unlikely given the situation of the times. If it had been built entirely of stone, more of it would have remained. Almost certainly he started building the house and the mill before construction started on the fort. Another problem is learning the exact location of the fort. It has never been satisfactorily determined. One account indicates that it was near Sinking Creek on land owned by "Dunjain."<sup>94</sup> This seems highly unlikely. Jeremiah did not own this land until much later. However, others have indicated that it was closer to the stone house on land that later

<sup>92</sup> Joyce & W. Eugene Cox, eds., *History of Washington County Tennessee: a Contribution to the Centennial Celebration of Tennessee Statehood*. Johnson City, Tenn., 2001, p. 662.

<sup>93</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 715.

<sup>94</sup> J. G. M. Ramsey, *The Annals of Tennessee*. Johnson City, 1999 Reprint of the 1853 edn., p. 141.

belonged to Jeremiah. In an interview in January of 2005, Mr. St. John said that he thought that it was situated between the house and the river, probably on the slight rise, no more than several hundred feet behind the house.<sup>95</sup> Strategically, this makes sense because it would have been readily accessible to those living close by. If built there, it would have a commanding view. Earlier, Mr. St John's unpublished pamphlet dated in January of 1993 speculated on several other locations. "*Some sources list it as fort Womach and other as fort Watauga. The name has not been agreed upon but there is much evidence the fort was there around 1776 when Old Abraham and his Cherokee Tribe laid siege on the Watauga settlements. The foundation of the chimney and three long trench mounds of graves were evident some years ago.*" In actuality, the fort probably did not have a name. It was simply 'the stone fort.' The speculative names of the fort can all be discounted as being located elsewhere. A confusing point is that there were two forts designated as Fort Watauga. Several histories indicate that "Old Fort Watauga" was a small wooden fort located on Boone's Creek several miles away. The large stockade fort at Sycamore Shoals was initially called "Fort Caswell." Later it was known as Fort Watauga. "Fort Womack" was located on the Holston River. Perhaps Jeremiah's fort should correctly be denoted as being 'on the Watauga.' Judging by surviving forts (and drawings of forts) of the same time period, it was not very large.

Jeremiah built a stone foundation to his mill that was meant to last. The base has remained as he built it. Perhaps he laid the foundation as soon as he arrived in 1776. The location of the site was well chosen because of the steep bank into which it is built. Consisting entirely of dressed field stone the base measures about two feet thick with dimensions of 40 feet by 40 feet with a height of about 18 feet at its maximum. The stone (actually limestone) was laid up to the level of the road in the front of the mill. The quality and duration of his work is a testimony to his skill as a stonemason. However, the most impressive feature is not the stone but the massive hand hewn main support timber. It is forty feet in length. This 40 foot hand hewn oak timber still shows the original adz marks. We can be sure that this was part of the original because the connection joists were cut by a saw mill. The saw marks are still in evidence. So when the mill was later extensively repaired by Henry Bashor, this main support beam remained. Since then the basic structure remained unaltered until the 1930's when electricity replaced water power. Today the mill is built on the base to two additional stories with an attic loft and a cupola.

Initially, the power for the mill was provided by a millrace crossing the stream behind the mill. It remains uncertain whether or not a small dam insured an adequate supply of water. For example, some sources mention a mill pond (known as Dungan's Mill Dam) but all traces of it have long since disappeared.<sup>96</sup> Judging by the terrain, the millrace originally crossed the stream and then followed the contours of the land upstream. As related by Ron Dawson, the millrace more recently cut into and across the knoll diagonally up to the further reaches of the stream. As an overshot mill, the water drove a sixteen

<sup>95</sup> Interview with Mr. George W. St. John, 6 January 2005.

<sup>96</sup> *Op cit.*, Cox, eds., *History of Washington County Tennessee*. 2001, p. 718.

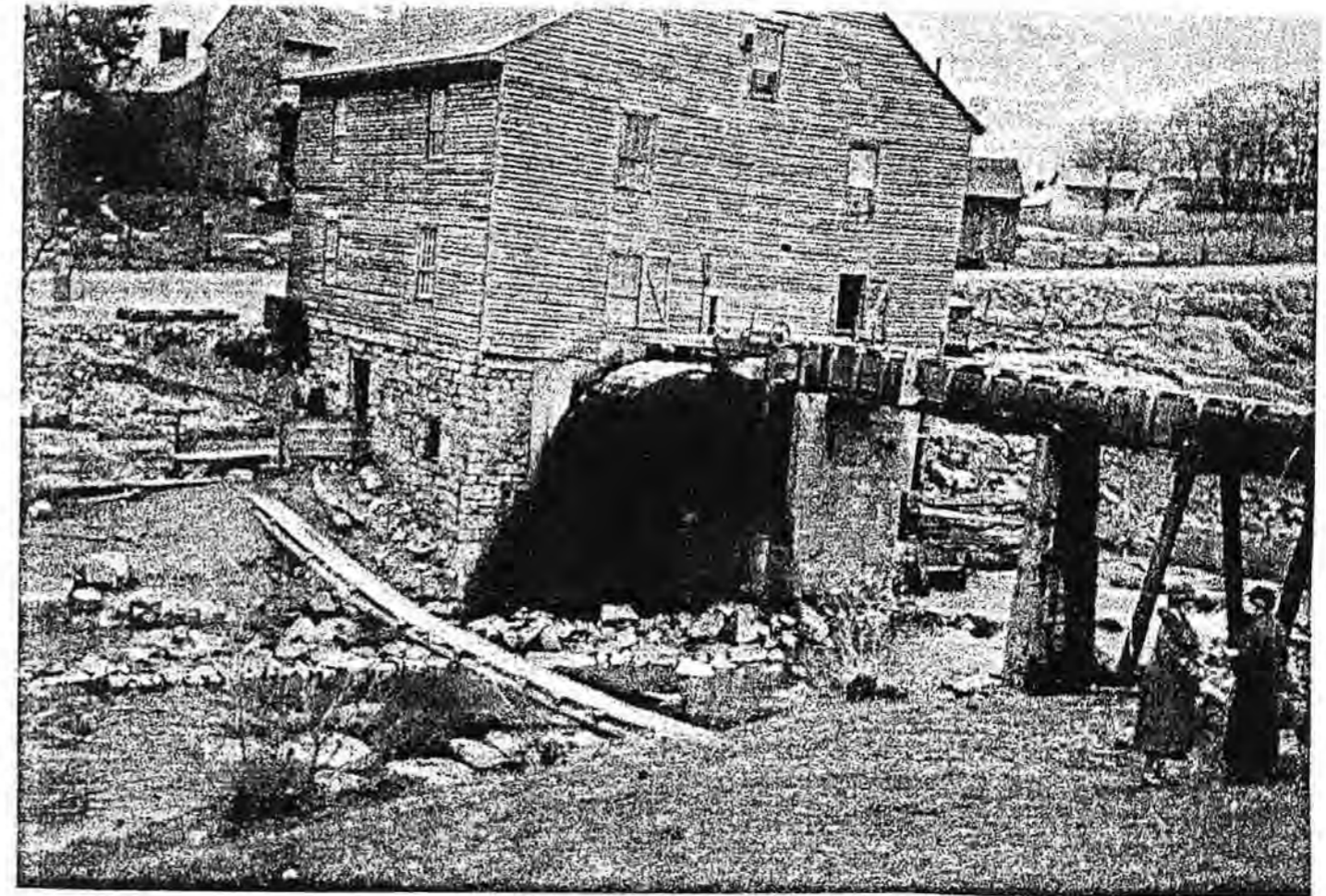
foot diameter water wheel. Some question remains as to the size of an earlier wheel which may have been slightly smaller.

According to historical accounts, "the water wheel was connected by dogwood trunnel-head gearing to two fifty-four inch diameter stone buhrs—one stone for grinding corn and one for grinding wheat. Beef and mutton tallow were produced on the farm to lubricate the gears and bearings."<sup>97</sup> Today the mill has been greatly enlarged and it bears little resemblance to its earlier appearance. Opposite the mill stands the house.

Jeremiah's house was also built to last. As previously noted, it is now on the National Register of Historic Places as the oldest stone house in Tennessee. Thanks to a recent tour of the house, graciously provided by Mr. Ron Dawson, several interesting details of the construction became readily evident. There are also published architectural descriptions and photographic interpretations of the house that have been useful.<sup>98</sup> In the overall design, the façade is simple and symmetrical. The house is 27 ½ feet on the front and 21 feet on the sides and it is banked into the hillside. Considering the external and interior walls - it is roughly a three story 1,500 square foot home. Externally the framework was entirely constructed of stone. Technically the dressed stone is known to architects and builders as *ashlar*. The mortar holding it together is composed of clean sand and freshly burned lime and salt. This is a strong mortar and it was unusual for those times. A curious observation is that the stonework seems to have been interrupted. The base, about two and a half to three feet thick, was laid up to about six feet and then stopped. This level horizontal line is only noticed in a certain light and it may be seen on some photographs. Closer inspection reveals that when construction resumed it was with a slightly different stone (see the photo on page 35). This leaves us with questions. Was it intentional? Or, was the interruption caused by the Indian depredations in July of 1776? It may have been the time when the fort was built. It could account for the very slight abnormality in the stonework. It is a very interesting possibility. The resumption of the building started as an indentation of about two inches on the horizontal level at about six feet. The upper level was about one to one half foot thick. As noted elsewhere, the windows had distinctive arched lintels of the Pennsylvania German style. Apparently a crude plasterwork consisting, in part, of red mud and animal hair and straw covered the interior walls. Such walls were usually white-washed. Originally the roof was probably done in wooden shake shingles. Early photographs, and the roof replacement described by Mr. George St. John, seem to confirm this assumption. The front porch and a bathroom have been later additions to the original house. However, the position of the double doors on the second floor strongly suggests that the original house had some kind of porch or stairs. In the early part of the twentieth century the porch had steps leading down from the front as seen in some early photographs. Today the porch is more

<sup>97</sup> Ibid., pp. 662-663.

<sup>98</sup> James Patrick, *Architecture in Tennessee 1768-1897*. Knoxville, 1981, pp. 23 & 63.



An earlier photograph of the Mill

The house and mill are both shown in the photograph - - courtesy of the Archives of Appalachia, Sherrod Library, East Tennessee State Library, in the Clifford Maxwell Collection.

enclosed. It is a three story house, but four stories if the attic is counted. On the first floor, in what today would be called the basement, the kitchen has two fireplaces, one corner fireplace being very distinctive, if not innovative. It is on a raised stone hearth which would have required less bending while cooking. This fireplace also has an arched lintel with a keystone. On the second floor there is a large bedroom or parlor with another fireplace. On a joist over the main front door are two wooden twigs that served as a rifle rack. Either Jeremiah was a very tall man of at least six feet, or a stool must have been used to get to the rifle. The former estimate is probably more correct because in those times of life and death a gun had to be readily available. Searching for a stool would have been unthinkable. The third floor has two bedrooms bordered by a hallway. This partition or hallway is apparently a later addition. All floors and the attic are connected by a winding spiral stairway in a corner.<sup>99</sup> Over the years the present wooden addition to the house was added in order to increase the total living space. In more recent years the house has been restored. Most notably the roof has been replaced. An interesting account of the house and its restoration appeared in a well written 1981 newspaper article.<sup>100</sup> Although the house is livable it is still in need of some restoration.

Despite learning a great deal about the house and the mill, questions remain about the estate. For example, there must have been early out-buildings. These would have been a privy or outhouse, sheds, and a barn. This would have been normal. Then as now, these are necessities for the orderly running of a farm. There also remains some question about whether or not there was an earlier and smaller mill further upstream. Or, that the mill was only partially finished when it was put to use as both a saw mill as well as a grist mill. The reason for this conjecture is that the joist beams in the present mill bare the saw teeth marks that could have only come from a saw mill. However, these may have been from a later renovation.

Of course it all had to be taxed. Starting in 1778 these taxes have already been referenced to elsewhere, but they continued for the rest of his life. The surviving tax records of the later period have been revealing; particularly those in the decade of the 1790's. In total they show that Jeremiah eventually purchased slaves. They also reveal that all men in the county remained in established militia companies. These companies were the basis from which all adult males who were heads of households were taxed.

The following tax list presented in a chronology established Jeremiah's place in the county.<sup>101</sup> In the year 1792 Jeremiah appears in "Tully's (or Tullis') old company." It records that he held 1140 acres, no polables (because he was over 60 years of age he was

<sup>99</sup> Mildred S. Kozsuch, ed., *Washington County Historical Association Speeches 1987-1988*. Johnson City, 1993, p. 119.

<sup>100</sup> Dorothy Hamill, "Newlyweds moving to old family home." *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*, Sunday, December 13, 1981. (There are also other good newspaper articles on the house and mill).

<sup>101</sup> Nashville, The Tennessee State Library and Archives, Microfilm No. 639 (Tax Lists 1778-1846).



A recent photograph of the Stone House

not recorded as a voter) and he held three blacks.<sup>102</sup> The total acreage may be more easily visualized when it is considered that this area was almost two square miles of land. Perhaps the largest pasturage is on what is now the Johnson City Airport. All of the following tax years shown below give a similar account. In some cases it only shows 1,000 acres while in others 1,100 acres are indicated. In the 1795 account it shows an additional reference to 75 "scalps" (i.e., tanned hides). Each of the tax lists reveals something about Jeremiah. He appears consistently in the following years within his militia company.

1793 Maxwell's	1797 Morrison's Company
1794 Taylor's Company	1798 Morrison's Company
1795 Taylor's	1799 Morrison's Company
1796 (not identified)	1801 Morrison's Company

The most disturbing aspect of Jeremiah's life was the issue of slavery. To some plantation owners slaves had become an economic necessity. By 1798 Jeremiah had acquired an additional slave, giving him a total of four which he maintained up to the year of 1801.<sup>103</sup> He later acquired additional slaves. For example, on 1 May 1806 in Carter County Jesse Whitson sold Jeremiah "a certain negro woman named Dian and two children of the said negro woman," for the sum of \$250.<sup>104</sup> In the following year, in the same county, on 17 January and on 26 March 1807, two sales conveyed another two slaves to Jeremiah. This occurred because his son-in-law, John Love, found himself in legal difficulties from his father's estate and he sold Jeremiah "two negroes, two cows and calves, and one year old heifer. Said named Negroes named Peter and Bit bought at a constable's sale and was sold as the property of Joseph Love, deceased, to satisfy a judgment." The second bill of sale was a "judgment against John Love before the justice of the peace" naming the same Peter and Bit and the livestock.<sup>105</sup> As abhorrent as the sale of another human being is today, it was a common occurrence in Jeremiah's time. At his death in 1813 he had at least nine slaves.

By about 1798 the tax lists were not referenced by the militia companies and we find more simple accounts as abbreviated below.<sup>106</sup>

1798 Jeremiah Dungan, Carter County  
 1810 Mary Dungan, Washington County  
 1814 Mary Dungan, Washington County

<sup>102</sup> Op cit., McCown, et al., compilers, *Washington County, Tennessee Records, vol. 1; Washington County Lists of Taxables 1778-1801*, 1964. p. 94.  
<sup>103</sup> Op cit., McCown, et al., compilers, *Washington County, Tennessee Records, vol. 1; Washington County Lists of Taxables 1778-1801*, 1964. pp. 94, 106, 130, 147, 164, 196, 219 & 238.  
<sup>104</sup> Carter County, Tennessee, Deed book B, p. 4.  
<sup>105</sup> Carter County, Tennessee, Deed book B, pp. 56-57.  
<sup>106</sup> Byron & Barbara Sistler, *Index to Early Tennessee Tax Lists*. Evanston, IL, 1977.

On occasion the introduction of other Dungans has created some confusion. In all cases it has been found that they either relate to a "Duncan" or perhaps as a "Dugan."

1812 William Dungan, Washington County  
 1814 William Dungan, Washington County

The problem is that these two entries actually relate to the Rev. William Dugan, not Dungan. There was also a William Duncan in the county.

In 1810 Jeremiah Dungan appears in the reconstructed census of Tennessee. He also appears under the particular spelling of Jeremiah Dungan.<sup>107</sup>

As with almost all men in the area, the County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions required their time. Jeremiah was no different. He served frequently as a juryman, grand juryman, and as overseer of the roads. We have already mentioned his first appearance to take the Oath of Allegiance in 1778. In the same year he was called to serve on a jury.<sup>108</sup> On 8 February 1783 he served again. His name appears as "Jese" or "Jere Duning." The "Duning Mill" was also mentioned in the same reference.<sup>109</sup> In 1784 "Jeremiah Dungs" made an oath as witness in a Power of Attorney from Jacob Chamberlain to Masherk Hail (Hale).<sup>110</sup> "Dungons Mill" was mentioned again in May of 1787 when the court ordered "that Jeremiah Dungan be appointed overseer of the great road from said Dungons Mill to the Sullivan line up Lick Creek."<sup>111</sup> By August of the same year Jeremiah was released of the duty of overseer of the road.

Ordered that William Ward be appointed overseer of the road from M(r) Dungan's to the Sullivan Line up Lick Creek in the room (or place) of Jeremiah Dungs who is discharged by law.<sup>112</sup>

In February 1788 "Zachariah Dungan" was again serving on a jury.<sup>113</sup> Curiously, in August of the same year a "John Dungan" was summoned to jury duty.<sup>114</sup> This may have been Jeremiah, but in all probability it relates to a John Duncan because a man of that name resided in the county. In 1788 Jeremiah was among thirty men who were called to jury duty.<sup>115</sup> In 1789 the sheriff's return of fifteen names included Jeremiah "Dungans."<sup>116</sup>

<sup>107</sup> Charles A. Sherill, *The Reconstructed 1810 Census of Tennessee*. Pvt pub., Mt. Juliet, TN, 2001.  
<sup>108</sup> WPA, *Washington County, Tennessee County Court Minutes 1778-1785 & 1787 - 1798*, Nashville, 1938, p. 16 (p. 45 of the original document). The original court papers, in poor condition, are on microfilm at the Tennessee State Library and Archives (Manuscript reel 224).  
<sup>109</sup> Ibid., p. 96 (p. 204 in the original document).  
<sup>110</sup> Ibid., p. 113, (p. 241 in the original document).  
<sup>111</sup> Ibid., p. 135 (p. 286 in the original document).  
<sup>112</sup> Ibid., p. 139 (p. 290 in the original document).  
<sup>113</sup> Ibid., p. 143 (p. 304 in the original document).  
<sup>114</sup> Ibid., p. 158 (p. 334 in the original document).  
<sup>115</sup> Ibid., p. 167 (p. 389 in the original document).  
<sup>116</sup> Ibid., p. 189 (p. 394 in the original document).

On 26 January 1790 "Jeremiah Dungans" was serving on a jury of view to "mark and lay off a road from the fork of Lick Creek to the Sullivan (Line) on the way to Colbeck (by the nearest and best way."<sup>117</sup> In May of 1790 he was appointed to serve in August.<sup>118</sup> He served again in November.<sup>119</sup> Jeremiah Dungan appears again in November of 1794 when he appears in the sheriff's return of twenty seven men to serve as jurors.<sup>120</sup> Throughout this same period the Dungan mill or "dungans foard" were mentioned frequently.

It is noteworthy that Jeremiah was not mentioned in the local Court of Common Pleas as a defendant, or plaintiff. He was also not mentioned in the appellate court known as the Superior Court of Law and Equity.<sup>121</sup> Therefore it is easy to assume that he dealt honestly with others and others did not try to defraud him.

A small number of accounts suggest that Jeremiah Dungan died in 1812, yet it is hard to argue with the primary evidence of his tombstone which shows 1813 as the year of his death. The Boles's indicate that he died in August of 1812, but this is highly unlikely. Court documentation records him lastly in September of 1812. It is inconceivable that the family would wait four or five months before administering an estate for a man who died in August or September. From all available information he evidentially died early in January of 1813, or perhaps in late December. He was eighty- two years old. For the sake of consistency we will maintain that Jeremiah died in 1813 as shown on his tombstone.

Jeremiah's estate inventory was commenced sometime in February of 1813.<sup>122</sup> Highlights of the account reveal that he had slaves, an abundance of household goods, personal items including a razor, a bible and books. Hew also had farm and mill implements, livestock including horses, cows, sheep, and hogs. He also had many kegs of food and provisions, guns and gun implements and numerous other interesting items. The estate sale commenced on 9 March and continued 22 March; ending on 1 May.<sup>123</sup> The last account of the sale was presented to the court at the May session of 1813. Specifically it was filed on 7 May.<sup>124</sup>

<sup>117</sup> Ibid., p. 21x (?) (p. 439 in the original document).

<sup>118</sup> Ibid., (p. 442 in the original document, now in the Tennessee State Library and Archives, hereinafter as TSLA).

<sup>119</sup> Ibid., (p. 467 in the original document, now in the TSLA).

<sup>120</sup> Ibid., (p. 511 in the original document, now in the TSLA).

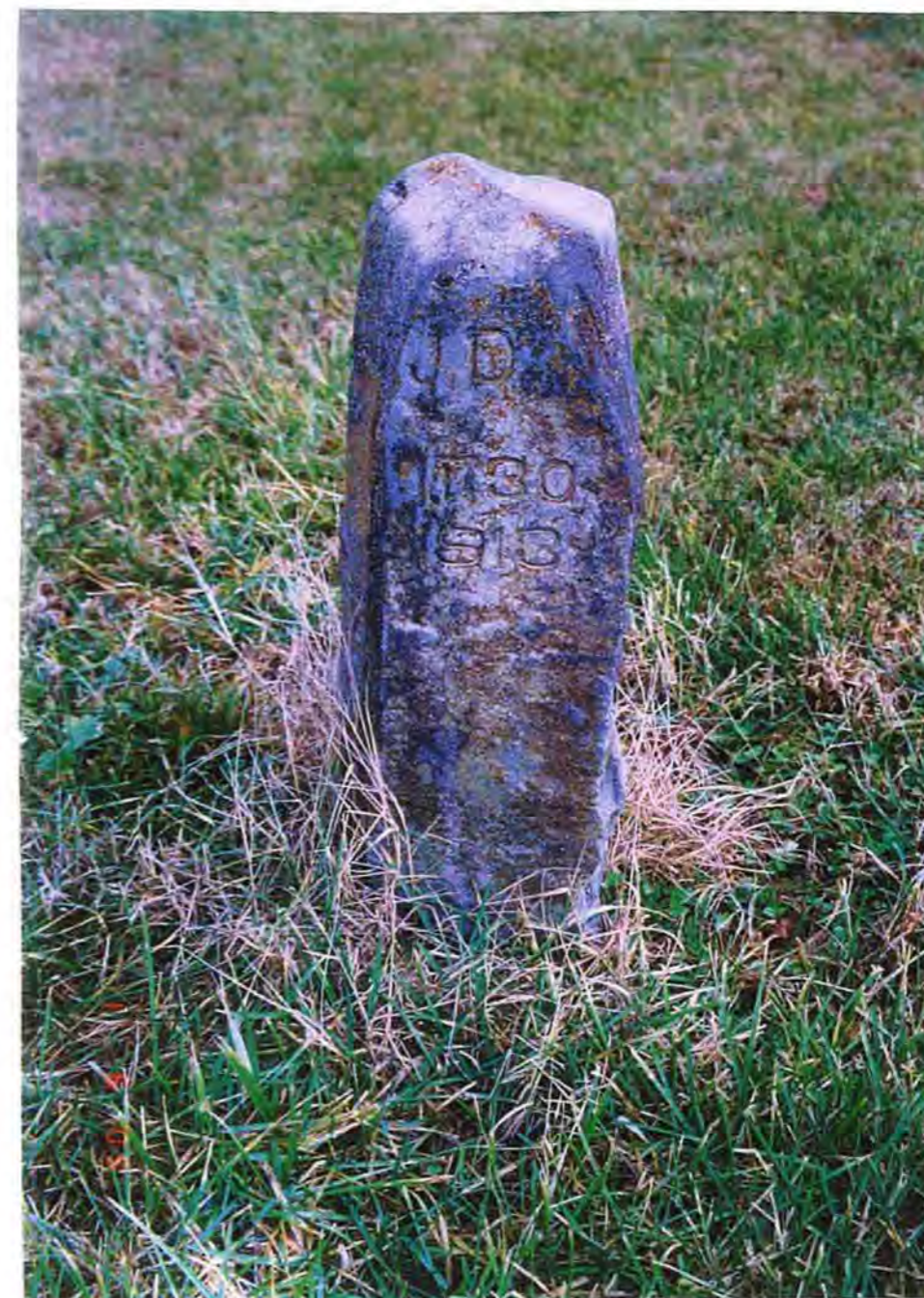
<sup>121</sup> WPA, *Washington County Superior Court Minute Book 1793-1809*, 1936.

Cf. WPA, *Washington District Superior Court of Law and Equity Minutes 1804-1815*.

<sup>122</sup> Sherrod Library, East Tennessee State University, Washington County, *Inventory of Estates*, vol. 00, microfilm reel number 113, pp. 275-277.

<sup>123</sup> Ibid., reel number 113, pp. 282-290.

<sup>124</sup> Ibid., p. 443.



A recent photograph of Jeremiah's tombstone

Located just outside of the St. John cemetery, towards the house, a small crudely-cut tombstone marks his grave on what was once his property.<sup>125</sup> It bears only the initials J.D. and the dates 1730 - 1813. It is no more than about two feet high.

<sup>125</sup> Charles M. Bennett & Loraine Bennett Rae, Compilers. *Washington County Tennessee Tombstone Inscriptions*. Nashville, TN., 1979. Dungan - 87.

Unfortunately, Jeremiah died intestate. Within months of his death the greater part of his land was sold to his heirs. Remnants of his estate were merged with that of his wife who lived until 1823. The inventory of his estate in 1813 revealed that his assets - - not including the land - - totaled \$2,103.73¾. When his widow died ten years later the entire estate was worth \$4,128.86¾. It was divided into five shares of \$632.43 and a small fraction. The residue of over \$900 dollars went into the liquidation of debts and expenses.<sup>126</sup> Jeremiah's property in Carter County was also sold. On 10 May 1813 son-in-law John Love was the purchaser of this land (see appendix III).

Deed 100 Acres. Heirs of Dungan to John Love "between John Houston and Mary his wife, Zebulon Smith and Sarah his wife, James Pierce and Margaret his wife, Jeremiah D. Gibson, Thomas Gibson and Orpah Gibson - Heirs of Jeremiah Dungan deceased on the one hand and John Love and Orpah his wife - heirs of the said Dungan, deceased of the other part."<sup>127</sup>

By the summer of 1813 Jeremiah's entire personal estate was all divided among the heirs.

After 1813 Jeremiah's widow was recorded in his place in the tax records. For example, the tax book for 1814 to 1819 has survived in the Washington County court house.<sup>128</sup> It shows Mary Dungan as having 133 acres of land in each tax year. She was frequently recorded next to the above Rev. William Dungan (not Dungan) who was no relation. At that time widows had few rights and she had to rely on the benevolence of the five heirs.

As in so many large estates, it came into dispute among the heirs. After Jeremiah's death in 1813 his widow and her daughters and their husbands and families maintained the place, but all was not well. The lawsuit probably started sometime in 1813, but records to it commence in 1814. Portions of the case survive in the archives of East Tennessee at the Sherrod Library on the campus of the East Tennessee State University. Evidentially Jeremiah's grandson, Jeremiah Dungan Gibson, claimed that his grandfather had made certain promises regarding compensation for his work and labor while he resided on the farm. One source states that after his mother's death his grandfather had promised him the mill after his death. However, the case actually revolved around horses and slaves, and perhaps property, but not the mill itself.

The case was entitled briefly as *Mary Dungan verses J. D. Gibson*. The full title of the case should be *Mary Dungan et al., - Vs - Jeremiah Dungan Gibson*. It continued for many years under different headings and names. Fortunately portions of the case

<sup>126</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Inventories of Estates, vol. 00, pp. 36-40.  
(Also published by Byron Sistler & Associates, *Washington County Tennessee Settlements of Estates, Vol. 00 1790-1841.*, pp. 24-27.)  
<sup>127</sup> Carter County, Tennessee, Deed book C, pp. 284-285.  
<sup>128</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Tax Book 1814-1819, pp. 22, 48, 59, & 88.

survive. One of the lengthiest of these was Gibson's affidavit.<sup>129</sup> It was primarily in reference to the sale of slaves and horses that Gibson took as his compensation that he claimed his grandfather had promised to him shortly before his death. Gibson's affidavit appears in the legal jargon in common usage at the time. His testimony seems reasonable, but Jeremiah's widow and the rest of the family did not agree. The civil suit followed has been expanded in full elsewhere (see Appendix IV).

The case continued for years. Documents of sheriff's summons in September 1815 and into March of 1816 have also survived.<sup>130</sup> One source repeated an oral traditional account that the case went all the way to the Tennessee Supreme Court. However, research does not bear this out. The Tennessee State Library and Archives has no record of this case in their collection of Supreme Court cases! If in fact this case was appealed, it almost certainly went to the Superior Court of the District of Washington. Unfortunately tracking down this case has proven to be very difficult. Initially the case would have been among other cases stored in the Superior Court House Building in Knoxville. Supposedly, they have since given these records to the Tennessee State Library and Archives. However, they cannot be found there today. In any event, the same oral traditional account that mentioned the Supreme Court case stated that in the end Gibson lost the case and Mary Dungan remained on the property.<sup>131</sup> More on this case and another are presented elsewhere.

The estate settlement began when the administrators were appointed by the court. As usual in such cases family members were appointed (or volunteered) for the task of sorting out the estate.

February Session 1813. John Houston and John Love allowed administration of the estate of Jeremiah Dungan dec.d and given bond and security as the law directs - -<sup>132</sup>

Within the same session they produced the initial inventory "of the estate of Jeremiah Dungan decd."<sup>133</sup> Later they initiated the sale, distribution, and accounting of the estate effects (see Appendix III).<sup>134</sup>

<sup>129</sup> Sherrod Library, East Tennessee State University, Archives, Box 3, folder 3, p. 26.  
<sup>130</sup> Sherrod Library, East Tennessee State University, Archives, Box 3, folder 4.  
<sup>131</sup> Joyce & W. Eugene Cox, eds., *History of Washington County Tennessee: A Contribution to the Centennial Celebration of Tennessee Statehood. Johnson City, Tenn., 2001, p.715.* The source of the traditional account originally came from Mr. Robert T. Nave of Johnson City, a descendant of Jeremiah Dungan. However, at a later time Mr. Nave had also been unable to locate the case.  
<sup>132</sup> Historical Records Survey, WPA, *Tennessee Records of Washington County, Minutes of Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions 1809-1817.* Nashville, 1939, p. 105.  
<sup>133</sup> *Ibid.*, *Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions.* p. 106.  
<sup>134</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 109.

In May of 1813 the mill and other property features prominently in the estate distribution.

May Session 1813. A bill of sale from John Houston to John Love administrators of Jeremiah Dungan dec'd to James Pearce Junr for a negroe girl named Sall dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March 1813 acknowledged in court by said Houston & Love.<sup>135</sup>

As shown below, there was another transaction in May of 1813 that has a bearing on a second court case involving the estate. In their later suit (1824) the Gibsons claimed that they were left of much of the estate. If the 1813 information below is any indication, they were being less than honest. It looks as if the administrators made every effort to include them in all aspects of the estate distribution. (see Appendix V).

5/10/1813 John Love & his wife, Orfie/Orfah, John Houston/Huston and his wife, Mary; Zebulon Smith and his wife, Sarah; James Pierce and Margaret his wife, - - heirs of Jeremiah Dungan, dec'd to Jeremiah D. Gibson, Thomas Gibson and Orfah Gibson, heirs of Jeremiah Dungan, dec'd; all their rights title & interest in 388 acres on both sides of Watauga River known in division of the land as lot # 1. Cons: ng. Signatures: John Houston, Mary X Houston, John Love, Orpah X Love, James Pierce, Margaret X Pierce. Witnessed by James Thorp Junr, Francis Rockholt, Mary Dungan. Given in court November 1813, Registered 12 August 1814.<sup>136</sup>

At the same time the heirs conveyed other property to themselves, which was later confirmed by the court.

5/10/1813 Heirs of Jeremiah Dungan, dec'd to Zebulon Smith and wife, Sara; heirs of Jeremiah Dungan, dec'd; all rights and interest in 121 acres of Brush Creek, known in the division of land as lot # 2.

5/10/1813 Heirs of Jeremiah Dungan, dec'd, to John Houston/Huston and wife, Mary, heirs of Jeremiah Dungan, dec'd; all rights, claim, etc to 247 acres on Brush Creek and the Watauga River, known as lot # 3, including the dwelling house and part of the improvement. Adjacent to lot # 4 and lot # 2, Signature - John Love, Orpah X Love, James Pierce, Margaret X Pierce, Zebulon Smith, Sarah Smith, Jeremiah D. Gibson, Thomas Gibson, Orpah X Gibson.<sup>137</sup>

<sup>135</sup> Ibid., p. 114.

<sup>136</sup> Loraine Bennett Rae, *Washington County, Tennessee Deeds, 1797-1817, Volume 2*. 1993, p. 165.

<sup>137</sup> Ibid., pp. 165-166.

In the November session of the court a deed of conveyance from John Love, Orpah Love, James Pierce, Margaret Pierce, Zebulon Smith, Sarah Smith, Jeremiah D. Gibson, Thomas Gibson, & Orpha Gibson to John Houston for two hundred & forty seven acres of land proven in court by the oaths of Francis Rockhold and Mary Dungan.<sup>138</sup> In October of 1816 James Pierce and his wife, Margaret, then living in Sevier County, conveyed by deed another 290 acres of the old estate to John Houston.<sup>139</sup> These two particular transactions of the estate had important implication for the history of the stone house and the mill. From the above account we can see that John Houston, Jeremiah's other son-in-law and his wife Mary received 247 acres including the house and mill as their portion of the estate settlement.<sup>140</sup> The additional 290 acres increased their estate considerably. Houston was also a miller, slave-owner and wealthy farmer with a lager family. In 1825 he sold a portion of the estate to his eldest son.<sup>141</sup> The deed itself still refers to the estate boundaries as "Jeremiah Dungan's line." On 21 December 1827 he sold the larger tract of the estate to his son, William Houston, which contained -

"...two hundred and forty seven acres including the dwelling house and part of the improvements where Jeremiah Dungan lived."<sup>142</sup>

A few days earlier John Houston also sold the slaves and livestock to his son.<sup>143</sup> Evidentially these were part of the estate. William Houston held the estate with the house for almost twenty years selling a portion to Henry Bashor on 10 August 1846.<sup>144</sup> William died about this time, and the estate evidentially reverted back to his father. A year later, in 1847 John Houston sold the entire estate to Henry Bashor. It was recorded the next year on 5 April 1848.<sup>145</sup> Bashor and his sons operated their own mill, and they also ran the old Dungan-Houston mill. Their operation continued until 1866 when two legal instruments conveyed the mill and the larger portion of the old Dungan estate to George Washington St. John, a relative of old Jeremiah Dungan. G.W. St. John was a son of Berry and Hannah Dungan St. John and he was also a nephew of Henry Bashor. The first document was a transfer bond (TB) initiated on 3 May 1866 when Isaac Taylor, Henry Bashor's attorney, agreed to the sale to G. W. St. John.<sup>146</sup> The "saw and grist mill" was specifically mentioned in this document. The second document was the actual sale which was finalized on 16 November 1866.<sup>147</sup> Moreover, the agreed price of \$2,500 was mentioned in the deed. Confusingly, the deed itself was not recorded until 21 May 1870.

<sup>138</sup> Op cit., WPA, *Tennessee Records of Washington County - Minutes of Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions 1809-1817*. Nashville, 1939, p. 120.

<sup>139</sup> Op cit., Rae, *Washington County, Tennessee Deeds 1797-1817*. vol. 2, p. 187.

<sup>140</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Deed book 14, pp. 96-102.

<sup>141</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Deed book 17, p. 530.

<sup>142</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Deed book 18, p. 99.

<sup>143</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Deed book 18, p. 98.

<sup>144</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Deed book 27, pp. 25-26.

<sup>145</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Deed book 30, pp. 360-1.

<sup>146</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Deed book 40, p. 187.

<sup>147</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Deed book 42, p. 158.

Important as the history of the mill has been, the further distribution of the estate continued in 1816 at the October session of the court when each share of the land became finalized.

Ordered by court that Nathan Shipley, Jonathan Coreathers, Moses Humphreys, James Harvey and Abraham Hendrey be appointed to divide the real estate of Jeremiah Dungan, dec'd., amongst the several heirs and representatives of the said Jeremiah, dec'd.<sup>148</sup>

Several deeds followed their appointment at the same sessions as shown below.<sup>149</sup>

A deed of conveyance from James Pearce & Margaret Pearce to Zebulon Smith and Sarah Smith for eighteen acres and one quarter & thirty poles, dated the 26<sup>th</sup> day of October 1816. Acknowledged in court by said James & Margaret.

A deed of conveyance from James Pearce, Margaret Pearce, John Houston, Mary Houston, Zebulon Smith, Sarah Smith, Jeremiah D. Gibson, Thomas Gibson, Seth Thompson, Orpha Thompson & John Love to James Harvey for one and a half acres of land, dated the 26<sup>th</sup> day of October 1816. Acknowledged in open court by the parties subscribing the same.

A deed of conveyance from Zebulon Smith & Sarah Smith to James Pearce & Margaret Pearce for sixteen & one half acres of land dated the 26<sup>th</sup> day of October 1816. Acknowledged in open court by the said Zebulon Smith.

Also in the same court there were distributions of two sections in the town of Jonesborough each divided into five lots each.

Whereas we Nathan Shipley, Jonathan Carathers, Moses Humphreys, James Harvey, and Abram Hendry being appointed by the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of Washington at October Sessions 1816 to divide the real estate of Jeremiah Dungan Decd., between the heirs of said Decd. Do hereby certify that we have divided two small tracts or parcels of land ajant to the town of Jonesborough in the following manner & form (Viz).<sup>150</sup>

Lot No. 1 One acres and a half drawn by Gibson's heirs.  
Lot No. 2 Two acres drawn by John Love & Heirs.

<sup>148</sup> Op cit., WPA, *Tennessee Records of Washington County - Minutes of Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions 1809-1817*. Nashville, 1939, p. 190.

<sup>149</sup> Ibid. p. 193.

<sup>150</sup> Ibid., pp. 193-195.

Lot No. 3 One acre and one fourth drawn by John Houston & wife.  
Lot No. 4 Two acres and a half drawn James Pearce & wife.  
Lot No. 5 Three acres drawn by Zebulon Smith.

The second tract on the North West side of the town was divided similarly.

Lot No. 1 Sixteen and a half acres drawn by Zebulon Smith & wife.  
Lot No. 2 Seventeen acres and a half drawn Gibson's heirs.  
Lot No. 3 Eighteen acres drawn by James Pearce & wife.  
Lot No. 4 Sixteen and a half acres drawn by John Houston & wife.  
Lot No. 5 Sixteen and a half acres drawn by John Love and heirs.

John Love also received some of the Carter County property.

These land transactions were going on as the case against Jeremiah D. Gibson continued in the courts.

Of the widow Mary (Whitten/Witton) Dungan, nothing remains. Aside from the court case, the widow apparently lived quietly at the stone manor house until her death in 1823. She left no papers for herself or for Jeremiah. From the estate settlement we know that there were family papers that she kept but it appears that they have been lost. No trace of her grave remains. Perhaps a wooden cross marked the spot, and in time it rotted away. In all likelihood, she is buried near Jeremiah's small tombstone near the enclosed St. John cemetery. The reason for their burial outside of the St. John cemetery has never been determined.

The only other lingering aspect of Jeremiah's life was in the form of two court cases. Basically these involved Jeremiah Dungan Gibson. In the first case Gibson had taken some valuable slaves and horses out of the estate and sold them in North Carolina to his own benefit. Everyone else in the family then sued him, including his own brother, Thomas Gibson. He apparently lost the case. From the surviving records it would appear that the administrators had included Jeremiah D. Gibson in every aspect of the estate proceeding. Yet in 1824 he initiated the second court case, suing the administrators, John Houston and John Love. Gibson claimed, rather disingenuously, that Houston and Love left him and his siblings out of their fair share of the estate. Perhaps there was some lingering animosity between the administrators and Gibson, but we may never know for sure (see Appendix IV and Appendix V).

In the final analysis it is safe to say that Jeremiah Dungan left us with a historical presence well worth reviewing in detail. During his lifetime his contemporaries would have characterized him as a "man of many parts." In hindsight today we can see him as a father, frontiersman, husband, juryman, militiaman, pioneer, farmer, miller and stonemason. He eventually accumulated a large plantation of well over one thousand acres on which he had every imaginable kind of livestock. He also grew various grains.



Judging by items in the estate, there were also various fruit trees on the plantation. Beehives also feature in his estate. His mill was prosperous. We cannot be sure, but judging by his tools, he may have also continued a business as a stonemason in his later years. After his death his estate was found to be unusually large for those times. A writing stand and books also feature in his estate, so he was obviously literate. His character may be seen in his relations with his family who remained close to him and named children after him. Perhaps the most impressive fact of his life is the stone house that he built at a time when it was the only stone structure for many miles. In fact, for a time it was the only stone house in the greater Watauga Settlement. The fact that the stone house has survived is an even greater testimony to his skill as a stonemason. Today it is recognized as the oldest stone house in Tennessee. Even Jeremiah's contemporary, Governor John Sevier, only built log homes. That the stone house still stands and the mill is still in business also says a lot about the man.

The mill and the old stone house have remained in the St. John family until the present day. To their credit the St. John family has kept the history of the mill alive. The first G.W. St. John passed the mill to his son James, and in turn, he passed it to his son, another George Washington St. John. He ran the mill until 1975 when he turned over the operation of the mill to his son-in-law, Ron Dawson. They have been good stewards of the estate (see appendix VI).

### Afterworld

As in any such composition there are bound to be errors and omissions. These mistakes are all mine. I had hoped to spend more time on this work, but a pending relocation to Albuquerque, New Mexico precludes this possibility. I will miss Tennessee.

What of the future of the house and the Mill? There are forces of progress and taxation at work that may alter the history of the area. For historical purposes it should be asked what will be preserved? Will the county or local Johnson City authorities market the site for its historical importance? Other than the tax that it generates, they have almost ignored the site. Moreover, what would an archaeological dig around the house reveal? Such excavations have already been undertaken at the old home site of Governor John Sevier in Knox County. Also, would an architectural investigation and detailed drawings reveal more than we know today? More could be learned of other local stone work that was probably completed by Jeremiah. The North Carolina Archives could also reveal more on the man. I leave it to others to complete the work.

Thomas P. Dungan  
24 March 2005



**The mill and the house**  
January 2005



**Jeremiah Dungan's Stone House**

## Appendix I

### The Children of Jeremiah Dungan and their Families

Most of the following references have been taken from secondary sources and little effort was made to verify the information. Therefore it is highly recommended that anyone doing family research should verify everything by conducting their own search.

As previously noted, some controversy remains over the surname of Jeremiah's first wife. Early on, as we have noted previously (page 6) it was reported that she was Rebecca Hendry. An Abram Hendry settled close to Jeremiah in the Watauga Settlement and, indeed, he was an appraiser of Jeremiah's estate. However, this can now be discounted. A more likely possibility is that she was from the Hendrix/Hendricks family. It should be remembered that George Dungan was a witness to the 1749 last will and testament of John Hendrickson (or Hendricks). This was while they were living in York County, Pennsylvania. Since the Hendricks family had a larger connection to the Dungans, some researchers have assumed that she was from the Hendricks family. However, their family history does not mention such a marriage. The Hendrix's or Hendricks family does record the marriages of Jeremiah's sister Ruth to Nathaniel Hendrix. Moreover, Jeremiah's brother Elisha married a Margaret Hendricks as his first wife. So there could have been a marriage between Jeremiah and a Hendricks, but there is no solid information to confirm it. However the Hendricks family primarily settled in southwestern Virginia while some Hendry's settled in the Watauga area. In any case, neither argument is satisfactory.

It is interesting to note that all five of Jeremiah's daughters named a son Jeremiah, four of them were actually named Jeremiah Dungan as in Jeremiah Dungan Gibson.

The expanded list of Jeremiah's family family appear on the following pages.

### Jeremiah Dungan's family

Jeremiah Dungan = (1<sup>st</sup>) Mary \_\_\_\_\_? -  
1730 - 1813 m. 1754

Jeremiah Dungan = (2<sup>nd</sup>) Mary Whitten (d. 1823)

m. (?) One source indicated 1762 other suggest that it was between 1770 and 1774.

A fuller account of these children appears in Harold and David Boles's book entitled *Foster Ancestors*, which is cited elsewhere.

**Margaret Dungan** b. 4 February 1755, m. 1771 James Pearce. Because she was a minor, they married in Frederick County, Maryland. She d. 20 Feb. 1837. James was born 24 March 1748 in Frederick County, Virginia.<sup>151</sup> James and Margaret Pierce (Pearce) had a large family which totaled thirteen children.

George Pierce

b. 10 March 1772 (supposedly in the Watauga Settlement)

m. 10 July 1794 in Greene County, Tennessee to Nancy

"Agnes" *Robertson*

d. 22 May 1842 in Sangamon County, Illinois

Elizabeth Pierce

b. 17 June (in the Watauga Settlement)

m. Adam *Miller* in Washington County, Tennessee

d.

John Pierce

b. 15 May 1776 (Supposedly in the Watauga Settlement)

m. 19 November 1801 to Mary *Fain*

d.

Mary Pierce

b. 20 April 1778 in Washington County, North Carolina (Watauga)

m. 11 October 1804 to John *Fain*

d.

Sarah Pierce

b. 30 August 1780 Washington County, North Carolina (Watauga)

m. 20 September 1806 in Greene County, Tennessee to Thomas

Gibson (son of Thomas Gibson who m. Rachel Dungan ????)

d.

Rebecca Pierce

b. 2 March 1783 in Greene County, Tennessee

m. (?) Pleasant Henry *Collins*

d. (?)

Margaret Pierce

b. 19 April 1785, probably in Greene County, Tennessee

m. (?)

d. (?)

Solomon Pierce

b. 14 February 1787 in Greene County, Tennessee

m. (?) Mary *Bartlett*

d. (?)

James Pierce

b. 14 March 1789 in Greene County, Tennessee

m. 21 March 1814 to Rachel *Dinsmore*

d. (?)

Orpha Pierce

b. 20 September 1791, probably in Greene County, Tennessee

m.

d.

Jeremiah Pierce "Jerry" Dungan Pierce?

b. 26 December 1793 in Greene County, Tennessee

m. 19 November 1813 to Sally *Parker* in Davidson County, TN

Ca. 1861 in Dyer County, Tennessee.

d.

Thomas Pierce

b. 2 March 1796 in Greene County, Tennessee

m.

d.

Charlotte Pierce

b. 10 April 1800 in Greene County, Tennessee

m.

d.

**Elizabeth Dungan** (Her name was recorded erroneously as Rebecca in previous accounts)

b. 1757

m. ca. between 1775 - 1780 Thomas **Gibson** ( b. ca. 1754 ) Thomas Gibson "came from Dublin Ireland, settled in Washington County, Tennessee at the "stone house" near Carter's Depot. He married a Miss Dungan, daughter of Jeremiah Dungan a prominent citizen of his time, and owner of a mill and other property, including the "Stone House."<sup>152</sup> She evidently died young; possibly soon after her last child was born. In a court case filed by her sons in 1824, her name was given erroneously as Rebecca. She and Thomas had three children.

<sup>151</sup> Several references confirm that in 1779 Captain James Pearce raised a company of men for service against the British and the Cherokee. They were the "Over the Mountain Men" who won the battle of King's Mountain.

<sup>152</sup> William S. Speer, *Sketches of Prominent Tennesseans*. Nashville, 1888, p. 314.

Jeremiah Dungan Gibson

b. ca. 1778 - He was orphaned by sometime around 1800, or earlier.

m.

d. after 1826

Thomas Gibson

b. ca. 1780

m.

d. after 1826

Orpha Gibson

b. ca. 1783

m. ca. 1816 to Seth *Thompson*

d. after 1826

**Sarah Dungan**

b. 1759

m. Zebulon **Smith** (b. ca. 1759 d. ca. 1841 at age 82)

d. Sarah's death was sometime after 1833

Zebulon Smith and his wife Sarah Dungan resided in that part of the Washington District that became Sullivan County, Tennessee.

Their known children are recorded below:

Rachel Smith

b. ca. 1781

m. Thomas *Smalling*

d.

Ruth Smith

b. ca. 1783

m. George *Smith*

d.

Solomon Smith

b. ca. 1785

m.

d.

Jeremiah Dungan Smith

b. 27 October 1788 in Sullivan County

m. Elizabeth *Arrants*

d. 13 November 1846 in Johnson County, Indiana

**Mary Dungan**

b. 1765

m. John **Houston** (Son of James Houston).

d. - Perhaps she is buried in the Houston Cemetery which is located within a mile of the mill. John Houston and his wife Mary (Dungan) had a large family.

Nancy Houston

b. ca. 1790

m. Benjamin *Reno* (Reneau?)

d.

William Houston

b. ca. 1792

m. Jane *Jenkins*

d. 1847

Jeremiah Dungan Houston (usually known as Dungan Houston)

b. 1794

m. Rebecca *Pharez*

d.

Orpha Martha Houston

b. 1796

m.

d.

James Houston

b. 1798

m. 1. \_\_\_\_\_ *Carathers* 2. \_\_\_\_\_ *Humphries*

d.

John Houston

b. 1800

m. 1. \_\_\_\_\_ *Kelly* 2. \_\_\_\_\_ *Rose*

d.

Deborah Houston

b. 1802

m. 1. \_\_\_\_\_ *Floyd* 2. \_\_\_\_\_ *Rose*

d.

**Orpha Dungan**

b. (?) 1775

m. John Love (m. twice, she d. 1851 in Monroe County, Tennessee) Love was appointed a Captain in a Carter County militia regiment on 16 June 1801.

d. On or about 1827

Eliza Love

b. ca, 1797

m. ----- Snodgrass

d.

Mary T. Love

b. ca, 1798

m. - John Blair

d.

John M. Love

b. 1799

m.

d. 1836

Jeremiah Dungan Love

b. 1801

m.

d. 1866

Robertus Love

b. 1804

m.

d.

John Love = 2. Sarah Robinson

Byler Love

b. 1811

m - Martha Jane McCallman.

d.

David Love

b. 1812

m. Harriet \_\_\_\_

d.

**Appendix II**

**John Dungan**

of

**Berkeley County, Virginia**

and

**Pickaway County, Ohio**

As remote a possibility as this may seem, it needs to be asked if this man is a 'lost' son of Jeremiah Dungan. The records relating to this man leave us with a mystery. Who was he? **Primary records created during his lifetime indicate that he was born in Virginia**, yet his descendants created several stories that are all over the map. For example, he was born in Ireland and brought to America by his widowed mother. In another account he was born in Pennsylvania. In still another account it states that he was born in Loudon County, Virginia (which has been disproved). Any one of these stories should normally carry some weight but they do not hold up to critical examination.

If not Jeremiah, exactly who was his father? Why does he appear in the same county shortly after the other Dungans had left? Or, was it all just a coincidence? By a process of elimination there are only a few possibilities. The first possibility is that he was an orphan son of an Irishman as one account would have us believe, or secondly perhaps he was a son of the John Dungan who lastly appears in 1760 as residing in Prince William County, Virginia. Nothing much is known of this other John Dungan of Prince William or even if he had a family. Thirdly, there is the possibility that he was a son of Hellings Dungan. Or fourthly, that he was a son of our Jeremiah Dungan. Although very unlikely, a fifth possibility is that he was George Dungan's youngest son, therefore Jeremiah's brother. There is also the possibility that none of these men represent his father. In all of these cases there is nothing in the way of solid evidence to substantiate any particular possibility. It should also be understood that only a very limited amount of research has gone into trying to identifying this person's parentage.

John Dungan and Elizabeth Tytus had several children. When Elizabeth died has not been determined. The full name of his second wife Mary has also not been determined. The family evidentially moved to Pickaway County, Ohio about 1815. The 1810 census of Berkeley County shows that he had four sons. In the 1820 census of Pickaway County, Ohio, he is only shown with three sons and four daughters. Since William and Titus were recorded separately, perhaps Daniel and John Jr. plus another son (or grandson) is shown. The 1820 census also shows four daughters.

The children of John Dungan:

- Daniel b. ca. 1784. He first appears in 1803. Nothing more is known of him.
- William b. ca. 1786. He died in 1824 leaving a wife and minor children.
- Titus b. Ca, 1792
- Jane
- Margaret
- Rebecca
- John Jr. b. 1814

The Will of John Dungan  
of  
Pickaway County Ohio<sup>153</sup>

In the name of God Amen, I John Dungan of Pickaway County State of Ohio considering the uncertainty of this mortal life, and being of sound mind and memory, blessed be almighty God for the same, do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following to wit, first I give and bequeath to my son John Dungan and my daughter Rebecca Dolbee one hundred acres of land, to be laid off on the north end of my tract of land lying on yellow bud, (creek?) to be laid off(f) adjoining Ebenezer Evretts, Philip Mc(?)esner and Titus Dungan's lands. My son John is to have forty acres laid off on the north end of said hundred acres and my daughter Rebecca is to have the residue of said hundred acres of land. I do also bequeath unto my son Titus Dungan all the balance or residue of my freehold estate together with the improvements on the same. I also bequeath to my beloved wife Mary Dungan, one horse saddle and bridle one cow and all the household furniture that she may want for to make her comfortable. Also she is to have one third of the proceeds of all the improved lands, together with the use of the Mation home bequeathed to my son Titus Dungan during her natural life, the balance of my movable property I bequeath to be equally divided between *my sons and daughters, Titus Dungan, John Dungan, Jane Bethards, Margaret Hornack and Rebecca Dolbee*, after all my just debts is paid, and one years provision for my beloved wife is taken out of the same. I hereby appoint Titus Dungan and John Dolbee my executors of this my last will and testament hereby revoking all former wills by me made. In witness hereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this twenty seventh day of July One thousand, eight hundred and thirty three.

John Dungan

Witnessed by  
James Moore  
John Sisk

Proved 14 March 1835

No mention was made in the will of the children of his eldest son Daniel Dungan or his deceased son William Dungan. William had children, but nothing is known of Daniel. As the eldest son, Daniel left home early. What happened to him, and where he went has not been learned. Obviously Mary \_\_\_\_\_ was John's second wife. Unfortunately, there is nothing here to indicate the names of his parents. Only the names of his children are suggestive of a possible connection. Ther are just as many reasons to consider him Jeremiah's son as there are to argue against such a conclusion.

<sup>153</sup> Pickaway County, Ohio, Old Will Book, vol. 2, pp. 193-195.



## Appendix III

### Jeremiah's Estate Settlement

The following references were taken from either the original court books (some on microfilm) as well as three published accounts.<sup>154</sup> In a few instances there were some very slight differences between the original Court House book and other publications. For example, one capitalized all the letters of the personal names while another is exactly copied as in the original. What is represented here reconciles the few minor flaws in the accounts of Jeremiah Dungan's estate settlement, but of and in itself is also slightly different. Not to be confused, there are actually two estates; that of Jeremiah in 1813 and later that of his widow, Mary Dungan in 1823.

For clarity sake the page numbers and abbreviations have been eliminated. Spelling has been conformed to modern usage. Punctuation has also been added for clarity sake. In the originals there often was no punctuation to be found. Also key words that should have been capitalized in the original have been corrected for greater readability. Question marks have been inserted where the text is un-readable. In some cases the original spelling was retained even though the word was un-recognizable.

Although the estate administration was probably rendered to the best of the ability of those appointed to the task, there appears to be some errors and inconsistencies. These were small problems that a modern accountant or lawyer would find objectionable. For example, there are errors in math and there is also double expensing. In any event, it probably would not change much of the final outcome. The final account after Mary's death in 1823 mentions the earlier court case. Unfortunately, the civil suit only had the effect of bleeding the estate. In the end all family members were the losers.

As in so many estates, liquidities of cash, insurance, and investments were very often invisible to the accounting procedures of the administrators. In this accounting we see only a little more than two dollars. Obviously there was much more. Distribution of liquidities, if there was to be any, was generally made within the family. In English law, upon which our laws were based, a widow, if pressed in law, could rightly claim at minimum of a "widows thirds" of the estate, whether in cash or real property. Since we do not see this, and Mary Dungan had a reserve of cash, she had obviously retained what

<sup>154</sup> Washington County, Tennessee, Court House, Settlement of Estates. (book) vol. 00, pp. 36-40.  
Cf. WPA edn. *Washington County, Tennessee, Settlement of Estates. vol. 00, pp. 36-40.*  
Cf. Byron Sistler's edn. of the same title. pp.24-27.  
Cf. Rev. Silas Emmett Lucas, Jr., Compiler, *Washington County, Tennessee, \*\* Settlement of Estates. 1790-1867, pp. 22-25.*

was rightly hers to take. That she had retained a significant amount of cash may be seen from the fact that she was the principal purchaser of items at the initial estate sale in 1813. She also retained a number of slaves that were not accounted for in the estate. Perhaps these were the largest economic assets to be withheld. The main point is that several things were not accounted for in the estate.

There were also claims against the estate. For the most part, it was family members who had claims against the estate. Some of these claims were reasonable and normal for the execution of the estate. However, some claims seem to be unusually high. Zebulon Smith claimed a total of \$645, an amount far out of line with the expenditure of John Love and John Houston who were the administrators. Jeremiah D. Gibson also claimed almost \$300 which also seems a bit high.

The estate appears in three segments: the **inventory**, the **estate sale**, and the **final account** of both estates. They are presented on the following pages in that order.

## The Inventory

Inventory of the goods and chattels of Jeremiah Dungan deceased. The following article contain a correct account of the goods and chattels received and accounts of the aforesaid estate as appears to us his administrators – nine head of horses, fifteen head of cattle, seven feather beds, fourteen bed quilts and cover beds, four blankets, nine sheets, twelve pillows, seven (?) with boards thru cables, and one stand, one case of drawers, one desk, two looking glasses, one warming pan, one walnut box, twelve chairs, one chest, one pair of (?) one hand billows, three little wheels, one big wheel, one (?) four pots, two ovens, and lids one oven without any hol(e) two skillete (?) one ha killte(?) (live?)(?) sixteen cups, ten tea spoons, one glass (?), one stock glass, one layer board, three counters, two bowls, two pepper boxes, and tea pot, six (?) (?), two pewter basons, eighteen pewter plates, six knives, four forks, one loom quill wheel, one pan washing bars (?) one spool rake, nine rods, four pair of guns, one gun maul and shot, four earthen crocks, three lugs, one funnel, one coffee box, two pot racks, two pot hooks, one greadle, two smothey (?) three pounds of brassture(?) two candle stands, one large bible, one hymn book, three spellezy(Spell easy?) books, one testament and spellezy book, two small books, one lamp, one pair of speks(eyeglasses?), one pair of fire tongs, seven (?), one mason hammer, one sledge hammer, three mason trowels, two crowbars and iron poker, two pair of cotton cards, one pair of wool cards, one pair of (?) cards, one razor, one coffee mill, one (?) and vise, two screw plates, two pair of loops(?), two eye w(?), two punches, three cold chisels: one nail ha(mmer?), one (?) (?), one hand hammer, one small hammer, one hand hammer, one (kettle?) one lash, one large pair of compasses, one cross and jointer, three drawing knives, one broad axe, one saw and cross cut saw, two hand saws, one ladle, one pair of hand dogs, one pair of mill shears, two grind stones, one watering pot, one pair of timber wheels, four new wagon wheels with the old iron sheave, one follow harrow, one plow harrow, three bar shave plows and stroking (?), three old bar shears, one shovel plow, one matex(?), four pair of drawing chains and (?), two collars, two pair of double trees (?) tree, three weeding hoes, four adzes, two foot adzes (?) broken(?) iron, some bar iron, six head of sheep, five (?) stands (?) to bee fifteen bushels of corn, one spade, four augers, three bushels of dried apples. Three mill puks, four cla(?) (?) (?) chisels, three gauges manual and screw and gallisser, three box (of) hides, one sheep skin, sixteen g(?), two water pails and wash tubs, one half bushel puk and half puk, seven barrels five double barrels, one forty gallon cask, one hogshead, two cooling tubs, one flour cask, one flax tub, two oar(?) keg, one salt keg, five open headed casks, supposed to be 230 gallons cider, one cutting (?) and knife, one iron hay fork, supposed to be six (?), supposed to be seventy five bushels rye, supposed to be (?) bushels of wheat, supposed to be fifteen bushels of oats, one small hay stake, one apple mill, six tin cups, one half (?) (?), one plumb and square, one ink stand, one plow plain, one (?) (?), twenty three (acb?) (hoggs) and four in the pen, one pen money seals, nine Negroes, cash two dollars twenty six cents – Thus ends the account of (the) goods and chattels of the deceased Jeremiah Dungan.

John Houston  
John Love

A review of the estate is revealing. There are evidentially items missing in the above account that do appear later in the estate sale, most notable the sale of Bee Hives. A quick read of both lists reveal other missing items. The most noteworthy aspect of the contents of the estate must be the sheer size. This is a very large estate! To have acquired so many items is almost beyond belief for the time in which Jeremiah had to collect them. Almost certainly a large portion of the items were brought with them when they first entered the Watauga Settlement. Most households in the early nineteenth century only contain a fraction of what Jeremiah had acquired. Most revealing is that he had nine slaves. His provisions were enormous: he had 75 bushels of rye, 15 bushels of oats, 15 bushels of corn in addition to many bushels of wheat. He also had a salt keg, 230 gallons of cider (the sale also confirms that he had brandy), honey, coffee, tea and pepper. His livestock herd was small but diverse. However, it was sufficient for the needs of his family. He had nine horses, fifteen head of cattle, six sheep, and at least twenty three hogs. The sale indicates that he probably had geese and perhaps chickens were included as an item that was undecipherable. The large list of tools confirms his trade as both a stonemason and miller. His household items reveal that he could accommodate many adults under his roof. Items like eyeglass, ink stands, and books are also interesting. It certainly indicates a household of literacy. The number of guns is also interesting. In all, this is a most interesting estate account.

As seen below, it was mostly family who bought items from the estate. The list also includes the Hendry family into which Jeremiah had first married, as well as the families into which his grandchildren married.

<sup>155</sup> Sherrod Library, ETSU, microfilm reel #113, Washington County, Tennessee, Inventory of Estates, vol. 00, pp. 276-277.

## Estate sale of the property of Jeremiah Dungan

Memorandum of the goods and chattels of Jeremiah Dungan deceased sold this ninth day of March 1813 at public sale by virtue of letters of Administration to with John Houston and John Love.

Mary Dungan – one black mare	\$11 --
Jeremiah D. Gibson – one bat mare	40 --
Zebulon Smith – One black gelding	30 --
Mary Dungan – one brown mare	40. 1-
John Humphreys – one small bay colt	5. 35
(?) Humphreys – one bay colt	14. 30
George Humphreys - Roan filly	16. 25
(?) Humphreys – one black filly	15. 25
Samuel Watson – three ewes and lambs	6. 6 1/4
Samuel Watson – two wethers(?)	3. 81
Mary Dungan – one cow with the bell	8. 25
Sarah Nutor – one ripled cow	9. 50
Samuel Smalling – one black and white hefer	6. 62
Mary Dungan - one black and white hefer	7 --
Solomon Smalling – one dun cow	8. 40
Solomon Smalling – one bundle (?) hefer	6. 33
Solomon Smalling – one red hefer	6. --
Thomas Smalling – one spotted (?)	4. 1 –
Bayles Miller – One red (?)	6. --
James Barnes – four calves	9. 35
John W. Himming – one anvil, vise, billows and all smithy tools	73. --
Thomas Gibson – one stone hammer	1. 50
Mary Dungan – one pair timber shuls	8. --
Francis McFall Sr. – one bar shear	1. 19
Billy F. King – three old bar shears	1. 3 –
George Humphreys – one shovel and pough(?)	1. 31
Moses bush – one matlock	1. 50
Jeremiah Smith – one set of coopers tools	5.
John Mc(?) – one drawing knife and square	1. 2 –
John Houston – harrow tuth	1. --
Mary Dungan – one big wheel	1. 31
Jeremiah Smith – one bedstead bed and furniture	12. 25
Sarah Nuton – one bedstead bed and furniture	19. 15
John L. Williams – one bedstead bed and furniture	19. 64

Orpha Gibson – one bedstead bed and furniture	19. 25
George Williams – one bedstead bed and furniture	26. 50
Jeremiah Smith – one bedstead bed and furniture	39. 39
Mary Dungan – one bedstead bed and furniture	10. --
John McE(?) – six hides of skins	6. 51
A true record of the first days sale certified by Hy King, Clerk	
March 19 <sup>th</sup> 1813 the aforesaid sale continues - - - -	
Mary Dungan – one case of drawers	3. --
Mary Dungan – one small box	1. --
John Love – one desk	17. 30
John Houston – one falling box table	4. --
Mary Dungan – 3 pewter dishes, 9 plates (&) knives	5. 1 –
Orpha Gibson – 3 pewter dishes and 9 plates	6. 2 –
Moses Humphrey – one square table	1. 80
John Joston – one warming pan	1. 12
Mary Dungan – one wheel and oul(?)	1. 50
James pierce – one Truin(?)	1. 40
Orpha Gibson – one spinning wheel	1. 2 –
Solomon Smalling – one spinning wheel	1. --
Mary Dungan – furniture on the chimney shelf (?)	1. 1 –
William Houston – one looking glass	2. 51
Mary Dungan – one looking glass	1. 1 –
Mary Dungan – one large bible	1. 6 1/4
Mary Dungan – one pewter basin	1. 6 1/4
William King – a pail of brassware	6. --
William Scott – one coffee mill	1. --
James Tharp – six (?) guns pouch and horn	7. 61
Moses Humphreys – one cross cut saw	4. --
John Houston – one arm chair and 5 others	2. 2-
Mary Dungan – six chains	1. 50
Mary Dungan – one table, 2 smoothing irons and 1 (?)	2. --
John Houston – 1 negro named Sham	307. --
Nathanial Taylor by J. J. P. Taylor – one negro girl named Ruth	261. --
James Pierce Jr. – one negro named Sal	307. --
Nathanial Taylor – one negro woman named Dian	353. 25
Jeremiah D. Gibson – one negro man named Len	82. 51
William Scott – part of a mill saw	2. 35
William Scott – one hand bellow	2. 26
Solomon Smalling – one foot adz	1. 56
Mary Patton – one foot adz	1. 84
Thomas Gibson – one plow plane	1. 3 –
Moses Humphrey – one crow bar	1. 88
Mary Patton – one hand saw	1. 60
John Houston – one loom working bar and other (?)	10. 50

Thomas Gibson – one plow and irons double tras and (?) tug	5. 3 –
Zebulon Smith – one black stud colt	30. --
Moses Humphrey – sixty nine wrought of iron	5. 1 –
Mary Dungan – one bee hive	5. 50
Moses Humphrey – one bee hive	1. --
William Massingill – one bee hive	2. --
John Hoss – one bee hive	2. 35
William Massingill – one bee hive	2. 25
The sale continued on the 20 <sup>th</sup> day of March 1813	
Mary Dungan – one set curtains	3. --
John Love one large pot	1. 50
Charles Rennoe – one skillet	1. --
Mary Dungan – one small pot	1. 51
Mary Dungan – one small oven	1. 63
Mary Dungan – one small oven	2. 27
Charles Rennoe – one large oven	1. 50
Mary Dungan – one skillet	1. 1 –
Mary Dungan – one pot	1. 51
Mary Dungan – two pot trammels	1. 51
Mary Dungan – two ladles	1. 26
Mary Dungan – one pair of pot hooks	1. 6 1/4
John Love – one pair of pot hooks	1. 50
Mary Dungan – one pot and hooks	1. 27
Mary Dungan – one pail	1. 6 ¼
Mary Dungan – one pail	1. 6 ¼
Mary Dungan – one meal tub	1. 6 ¼
Moses Humphrey – one meal tub	1. 25
John Love – one old tub and churn	1. 26
Thomas Smalling – one small keg	1. 31
Moses Humphrey – one pail	1. 5
John Love – one brier layth (?)	1. 28
William Houston – one shovel	1. 13 ½
James Barnes – a pasel of mason tools	1. 78
Mary Dungan – two small cleaves	1. 54
Zebulon Smith – one fror (?) and lesser tub	1. 13
Mary Dungan – one pair of horse gurs	3. 50
Mary Dungan – one pair of horse gurns and breach bands	3. 76
Mary Dungan – one small stulyards (?)	1.
John Love – one pair (heavy?) chairs and back band	2. 99
Jeremiah Smith – one pair (?) chairs and back bands	2. 50
Zebulon Smith – one double (?) and (?)	1.
James Barnes – one pair fire irons	1. 3
John Love – four augers	1. 25
Samuel Evans – four leythes	1.

John Houston - two forks and saw mill straps	1. 87
James Barnes - one drawing knife	1. 30
Moses Humphrey - one pair (?) hoses (?)	1. 29
Jeremiah Smith - one coopers crag	1. 26
Mary Dungan - old locks and keys	1. 50
James Barnes - one reed and gurs - six hundred	1. 50
Moses Humphrey - one reed and gurs - seven hundred	1. 26
James Barnes - one reed and gurs - nine hundred	1. 35
James Barnes - one reed and gurs - two hundred	1. 50
James Barnes - one reed and gurs - ought thousand (?)	1. 60
Moses Humphrey - one reed and gur - six hundred	1. 61
Moses Humphrey - one reed and gur - five hundred	1. 51
Mary Dungan - five books	1. 26
Mary Dungan - one plough iron and (?)	2. 1
John Love - one plough iron and (?)	2. 2
Abraham Hendry - one double barrel	2. 60
Mary Dungan - six barrels	3. 1
Abraham Hendry - one double barrel	3. 75
Mary Dungan - one double barrel	3. 76
Moses Humphrey - one barrel	3. 76
Mary Dungan - One pickling tub	3. 25
Abraham Hendry - one barrel	3. 54
Mary Dungan - one double barrel	3. 64
Mary Dungan - one (?) tub	3. 12 1/2
Moses Humphrey - one vinegar cask	1. 3
Mary Dungan - one vinegar cask	1. 50
John Houston - one double barrel	1. 86 1/2
John Love - one 40 gallon cask	1. 90
John Love - some fragments of leather	1. 75
Jeremiah Smith - some fragments of leather	1. 61
Mary Dungan - one hog together with the bacon	1. 1
Jeremiah Smith - two grind stones	1.
Jeremiah D. Gibson - one pair of mill stones	5. 25
Jeremiah D. Gibson - four mill puks	5. 3
Moses Humphrey - parcel of old irons	5. 63
Mary Dungan - one stone lug	5. 6 1/4
Moses Humphrey - one stone lug	5. 7
Moses Humphrey - one stone lug	1. 21
Mary Dungan - one stone lug	1. 26
Mary Dungan - some oil	1. 1
John Houston - tea table stand	1. 50
Charles Rennoe - a quantity of nails	1. 4
Orpha Gibson - one box or small chest	1. 87
Jeremiah Smith - one wetting tub	1. 14

Mary Dungan - all the tacts on the upper loft	1. 1
Andrew Taylor - one wheel of a wheelbarrow	1. 43
Abraham Hendry - one wheel of a wheelbarrow	1. 90
Moses Humphrey - one weeding hoe	1. 76
Moses Humphrey - one weeding hoe	1. 25
Mary Dungan - one adz	1. 25
Mary Dungan - one hoe	1. 31
John Love - one adz	1. 8 1/4
Frances McFall - one adz	1. 72
Moses Humphrey - one spade	1. 30
Moses Humphrey - one bushel of flax seed	1. 57
Andrew Taylor - one bushel of flax seed	1. 52
Charles rennoe - one bushel of flax seed	1. 51
Andrew Taylor - one bushel of flax seed	1. 51
Mary Dungan - one bushel of flax seed	1. 51
Mary Dungan - one bushel of flax seed	1. 51
Abraham Hendry - one tub	1. 91
John Houston - one tub	1. 80
Moses Humphrey - one tub	1. 81
Mary Dungan - all the rye v bushel	1. 25
Moses Humphrey - one flour barrel	1. 12 1/2
William Houston - one cutting box knife and steel	3. 1
Mary Dungan - five bushels oats @25 per bushel	1. 25
Moses Humphrey - one gum	1. 33
John Love - one half bushel puk and half measures	1. 2
John Houston - one iron poker and pan handle	1. 72
John Houston - one crow bar	2. 30
Mary Dungan - one pair of tongs	2. 25
Moses Humphrey - one neb grass maul	2. 6
Mary Dungan - one pair of cotton cards	2. 25
James Barnes - one pair cotton cards	2. 29
James Pierce Sr - one pair wood cards	2. 36
James Barnes - one pair wood cards	2. 27
Mary Dungan - twenty three hogs	2. 5.
Mary Dungan- sixteen gres (Geese?)	3. 2
John Houston - one tea table cask	3. 6 1/4
James Pierce sr - money seals	1. 51
Zebulon Smith - one portrait book	1. 51
Jeremiah Smith - one stork buckle	1. 81
John Houston - one pair knee buckles	1. 31
March 22 <sup>nd</sup> 1813 Sale continues -	
John Love - one couthe of hay	1. 25
Mary Dungan - one apple mill and trough	2. 25
May 1 <sup>st</sup> Sale continues	

Zebulon Smith – ten weathered plank	1. 25
Jeremiah D. Gibson – one ink stand	1. 6
Mary Dungan – one iron (?) one (?)	1. 18 ¼
John Houston – one (?)ukle	1. 7
John Love – one hand saw	1. 56
Jeremiah Smith – one harro	2. 61/4
Jeremiah D. Gibson – one razor	2. 25
John Love – some pine planks	2. 89
John Houston one gum	2. 12 ½
Mary Dungan – some oak plank	3. 1
Jeremiah D. Gibson – some leather	1. 75
Mary Dungan – 13 ¾ bushels the aforsaif (?)	3. 43 ¾
John Love - 6 bushels rye at 25 per bushel	1. 25

A true record of all the goods and chattels of Jeremiah Dungan sold the above dates. Certified by Hy Kink, clerk of the said Sale. May 7<sup>th</sup> 1813

A memorandum of (?) account found in the papers of said Jeremiah Dungan, deceased. Leonard Hart Due in the year 1812. 450 feet plank at \$1 per hundred 4. 50  
July 27 – John Smith to (?) plank due 134 feet .50 cents per hundred  
67

May 12 <sup>th</sup> 1809 John Houston due to Brandy and cyder	2. 33
Due Aug 21 <sup>st</sup> 1807 John Houston due by a (?) (?)	1. 16 ½
A note of hand on James Thorpe due payable in the year 1813	25.
One note on James Tharp payable in the year 1814	25.
February 17 <sup>th</sup> 1807 Joseph Brother due 51/2 bushels flax (?)	
(?) Joseph Brother by 3 quarts oil	
Filed at May Sessions 1813. <sup>156</sup>	

October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1813 (ink blot) This day was sold the property of Jeremiah Dungan deceased by John Love and John Houston administrators of the said Dungan deceased due the following (?) (?)

John Love (bought?) one negro man by the name of cooly at	325.
(?) Hart bought one negro woman by the name of Elie	
and a male child by the name of Benjamin at the price of	750.
James Cyonly bought one negro boy by the name of Thomas at the price of	380.
Zebulon Smith bought one negro girl by the name of Eliza priced	333.
Thomas Hart bought one negro boy by the name of Carby priced	236.

This is a true statement of the sale of the above named property kept by Moses Humphrey clerk at the sale. A true return made by John Love and John Houston administrators of Jeremiah Dungan, deceased.

Filed at January Sessions 1821.<sup>157</sup>

<sup>156</sup> Sherrod Library, ETSU, microfilm reel #113, Washington County, Tennessee, Inventory of Estates, vol. 00, pp. 282-290.

<sup>157</sup> Ibid. vol. 00, p. 445.

## Expenses paid from Jeremiah's estate

### STATE OF TENNESSEE

Whereas the worshipful Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Washington County at the July term 1823 appointed and ordered James W. Young and Henry King two of the acting Justices of the peace for said County of Washington to be a committee to settle with John Love and John Houston administrators of Jeremiah Dungan deceased. In pursuance there of we the said James W. Young and Henry King attended at the house of John Houston in said County on Thursday the ninth day of October AD 1823 and then and there made the following settlement with John Love and John Houston the aforesaid administrators and we find the goods and chattels sold by the said administrators at public sale in the year 1813 amounted to \$2103.73 ¾

And the amount of the estate of Mary Dungan deceased to be 2025.12 1/2  
Amounts \$4128. 86. ¼ \*

And the administrators have distributed the following sums to different persona as per vouchers.

To Joseph Bowman for making Jeremiah Dungan's coffin	\$8 --	
To Richard Kelley	12 --	
To Nathan Shipley	30 --	
To Seth Thompson	10 --	
To Jeremiah D. Gibson	30 --	
To James Pearce	301 --	
To Jeremiah D. Gibson	60 --	
To Henry King, Clerk at the sale.	6 --	
To Moses Humphreys	12 --	
To Thomas Gibson	8.66	
To George Humphreys	2 --	
To James Sevier, clerk of the County Court.	2.50	
To Andrew Taylor	7.21	
To Abraham Hendry	13.50	
To Jonathan Caruthers	10 --	
To Zebulon Smith	2.13	
To Zebulon Smith	1.33 1/3	
To Zebulon Smith	18 --	
To Zebulon Smith	14 --	
To Zebulon Smith	26.22 ½	
To James Pearce	3.75	
To James Pearce	10 --	
To Zebulon Smith	90.65	697 15
The amount of what John Houston bought at sale	330.96	

The amount of the property that John Love bought		
At sale	74.31 ½	
The amount of property sold on fifth day of sale		
For which there was no notes given to Mary Dungan	3.74 ½	
To Zebulon Smith	4.56	
To Jeremiah D. Gibson	2 --	
To Seth Thompson	2 --	
To Charles Rennoe (Reneau) per Ditto	15 --	
To Thomas Gibson	4 --	
To James Harvey	3 --	
To George William, clerk of Carter City Court	1 --	
To Nathan Shipley for dividing Dungan's land	10 --	
To Seth Thompson	134 --	
To Seth Thompson	6 --	
To Seth Thompson	35 --	
To Seth Thompson	2 --	
To Seth Thompson	2 --	
To Seth Thompson	5 --	
To Seth Thompson	12 --	
To Jeremiah D. Gibson	20 --	
To Thomas Gibson	65 --	
To Thomas Gibson	10 --	
To Thomas Gibson	20 --	
To Thomas Gibson	2.66 ½	
To Thomas Gibson	4 --	
To Thomas Gibson	5 --	
To Zebulon Smith	15 --	
To Zebulon Smith	38 --	
To Zebulon Smith	100 --	
Zebulon Smith (note for)	333 --	
To James Pearce	20 --	
To Mary Dungan to cash by John Love	52.40	
To John Love's expenses as administrator	25.25	
John Love on business as administrator - 93 at 1 dollar per day.	93 --	
To Andrew Taylor per order in full for his services	2.66	
To Mary Dungan	5 --	
To Jeremiah D. Gibson (note for)	87.98	
To Jeremiah D. Gibson (note for)	40 --	
To Mary Dungan's (note for)	52.26 ½	
To Zebulon Smith (note for)	38.98	\$1766 45 1/4
To Orpha Gibson her note for	19.25	
To Orpha Gibson her note for	7.1	
To Mary Dungan her note for	84.57	

To James Pearce his note for	2.27	
To Seth Thompson	12 --	
To Samuel Hunt, sheriff for tax the year 1818	2.92 ½	
To Samuel Hunt, sheriff for tax the year 1819	1 --	
To Samuel Hunt, sheriff for the heirs of Jerry Dungan	1.6	
To Samuel Hunt, Sheriff - tax for the year 1820	2.95	
To James Pearce for the use of William Bales per order	1 --	
To George Smith for making Mrs. Dungan's coffin	8 --	
To Henry King, esquire, for taking depositions	3.96	
To Seth Thompson upon Eleanor Copper's account	3.66	
To John Hoss his note for	2.55	
To William Carter for taking depositions in Dungan heirs - Vs - J. Gibson	4.37 ½	
To Samuel Hunt, Sheriff on the case Jerry D. Gibson - Vs - Mary Dungan and others.	216.92	
To Peter Parsons, clerk of the Court or errors and Appeals of the first Circuit of the State of Tennessee in a suit where in John Love and John Houston, administrators of Jeremiah Dungan, Deceased, were plaintiffs and Jeremiah D. Gibson and others, defendants	135.42 ½	
To John Blair, Attorney at law, his fees in a suit In equity wherein John Love and John Houston were Plaintiffs and Jeremiah D. Gibson and others (were) defendants.	12.50	
To John Houston, administrator of Jeremiah Dungan, deceased - for his services as administrator 116 days at \$1 per day.	116 --	
To John Houston proven account against Mary Dungan, deceased.	40.83	
To John Houston for cutting 25 acres of grain at 50 cents per acre.	26.75	
To Joseph Brown, Sheriff for taxes for the years 1811 and 1812	22.72	
To Thomas Stevens, Constable for summoning witness.	.50	
To James Pearce his note	22.50	
To John Kennedy his fees in the suit against Jerry D. Gibson	55	801 25 1/2
The Services and expenses of John Houston and John Love, administrators of Jeremiah Dungan, deceased, of a law suit with Jeremiah D. Gibson and drew off by the commissioners at settlement to be deducted from the amount of the estate.	---	

John Love's expenses as administrator	22.25
John Love 93 days on business as administrator at \$1 per day.	93 --
Henry King, esquire, for taking depositions in said suit	3.96
William Carter for ditto in Carter County.	4.37 ½
Samuel Hunt, Sheriff, on an execution in	
Jerry D. Gibson - Vs - Mary Dungan and others	216.92
P. Parsons, Clerk of Court of errors and appeals costs	135.42 ½
John Blair, attorney at law his fees in said suit	12.50
John Houston, administrator for services 116 days at \$1 per day	116 --
John Kennedy's fees and other advice about said suit	55 --
John Huston's to the said committee 5 days	5 --
Mary Brown's bill for expenses dividing the Jonesborough land.	6 --
Henry King's services, 4 days	3 --
To the Clerk of the Court of Pleas	<u>1.10</u>
	\$675.53
And it appears that John Houston has disbursed To several persons the sum of	\$435.25
And received of money due the said estate	<u>434.21</u>
Remains due Houston	\$ 1.04
And paid out of his own money the sum of	<u>290.14</u>
Which is to come out of the estate	
And the amount of the estate is	\$4128.86 ¾
The cost of the law suit fee	<u>675.53</u>
	\$3452.33 ¾
The amount that John Houston has paid in his cash	<u>290.14</u>
	\$3162.19 ¾
Each persons share	632.43 4/5

A true settlement agreement to the vouchers and other documents presented to us certified the day and date first above written.

James W. Young  
Hy King  
Commissioners

## Appendix IV

### The First Court Case

#### Mary Dungan et al., - Vs - Jeremiah Dungan Gibson

It is unfortunate that only a portion of this case remains. Contrary to the oral tradition about the case going all the way to the Supreme Court of Tennessee, it was probably resolved in the local courts. It is further unfortunate that no final disposition has been found. Very often any appeal or final decree would have been bound together with many other cases and they are very hard to identify. The story about the Supreme Court may have gotten its start from the fact that a suit involving the Houston family did make it to the Supreme Court, but that was in the 1840's and had nothing to do with Jeremiah.

The largest portion from the surviving records relates to the defendant's deposition as shown below. Oral tradition also stated that Jeremiah had promised the mill to the defendant. This cannot be substantiated. Instead, Jeremiah evidently made promises to the effect that he would leave him a portion of his estate equal to his other heirs. That does not equal a promise of the mill.

The Defendant's deposition:

The answer of Jeremiah D. Gibson to the bill of complaint of Mary Dungan, James Pearce and Margaret his wife, Zebulon Smith & Sarah his wife, John Houston & Mary his wife, John Love and Orpha his wife and Thomas Gibson complainants.

This defendant serving and reserving to himself now and all times hereafter all and all manner of benefit and advantage of exception that or may be had or taken to the many errors uncertainty & insufficiency in the said bill contained for answer thereto or unto so much thereof as this defendant is advised it is anymore material to him to make answer unto answering saith that he admits it to be true that his grandfather Jeremiah Dungan departed this life about the time stated in complainants bill but he expressly denies that he used the horses mentioned in complainants bill to dispose of for the benefit of his said grandfather but on the contrary his said grandfather gave him said horse to dispose of on his own account in consideration of works and labor don(e) by the defendant for said Jeremiah & for the purpose of promising the defendant to continue to live with him & on which account & no other this defendant did hurry. This defendant further answereth that he lived with his said grandfather



from the times he was five years old or thereabout until his said grandfather's death and during that time industriously (?) worked for him & from the time he got old enough had the sole management & use of his farm stocks etc., & faithfully attended thereto until the fall of 1811 when he began (insertion - on that land of his grandfather & by administrative agreement between him and his grandfather to crop for himself, but still continued to live with his said grandfather & attended to his business as far as he could devote his time thereto without neglecting his own, and the said grandfather of this defendant both before and after this defendant was twenty years of age promised this defendant that of he xxx intended to live with him *till his death he would amply pay him for his service & would give him as much of his estate as would be equal in value to what any of his own children would receive.* And at the time the horses mentioned in complainants bill was put in the possession of this defendant to take to North Carolina to sell. His said grandfather then told him he was to receive said horses for the work and labor done for him (---) & that also told this defendant to dispose of them to the best advantage he could & appropriate the proceeds to his own use, this defendant at the time he received said horses was about twenty four years of age and he admits that he finished said years mentioned in complainants bill with one of the said horses & (120 dollars) part of the proceeds of the others and took a bill of sale therefore in his own name as he conceiving (?) he had a right to do, he further states that he took said negroes bound with him to his said grandfathers & left them there till his said grandfathers death but he denies that he ever delivered them to his said grandfather as his property or ever done any act respecting them which would (?) his said grandfather to believe this defendant ever considered them as his said grandfathers property for from the time he got said negroes until the death of this defendant's said grandfather they were usually called this defendant's negroes (-----) & this defendant expressly (?) that his said grandfather ( ? ) that he had taken a bill of sale for said negroes in his own name & never to the knowledge or belief of this defendant (expressed?) and dissatisfaction therewith, this defendant further answereth that he faithfully worked for his said grandfather until he was twenty six years of age & never received any thing therefore except his vests & clothes & six horse (?) (?) the horses mentioned in complainants bill all of which were not worth more than about 420 dollars which this defendant (?) would not be more than a reasonable compensation for the service (?) he rendered his said grandfather (even after he was 21 years of age) and not near equal in value to what his said grandfather had promised him to wit a child's part of his estate. This defendant admits that Exhibit A is a true copy of the bill of sale for the aforesaid Negroes - This defendant further answereth that he (?) believes if his said grandfather had made a will he would have complied with his aforesaid promise & left his sufficient great reward (?) (?) the aforesaid Negroes and horses but his said grandfather died suddenly without making any will whereby his intentions to provide for the defendant as he had often promised

said defendant. This defendant further answereth that some time in the month of September 1812 as well as he recollects he came to a settlement with his said grandfather (?) (?) that he had given this defendant the said horses for work and labor done & service performed & then gave him a receipt in full for that same which receipt this defendant has/was ready (?) to provide when that may be required and at this time said settlement took place this defendant's said grandfather (will?) (have?) the bill of sale for said Negroes was taken in this defendant's (name?) for this defendant told him as soon after he returned from North Carolina & his said grandfather neither then nor at any other time to the (?) or belief of this defendant set up any claim to said negroes as his property or (?) any dissatisfaction respecting the manner in which (X?) bill of sale may (?). This defendant (--- ? ---) wherewith he stands charged without that any other matter or they material or injury for this defendant to make answer unto & not herein will and sufficiently answered unto (?) or avoided having or denied in to the knowledge or (?) of this defendant all which matters & things this defendant is ready to (?) & as far as this honorable court shall order & humbly prays to be (?) dispose with his reasonable costs in this (-?-)

State of Tennessee  
Washington County

This 21<sup>st</sup> day of November 1814 .....

---

**Supporting references to the initial Court Case**

Archives of Appalachia, Sherrod Library, East Tennessee State University (ESTU)

Box 3, folder 3, # 26

Mary Dungan & others

Vs

J.D. Gibson

J. D. Gibson's Answers

Filed 6 of December 1814

Things this defendant is (?) to airrangment (?) from (?) this Honorable Court shall direct & humbly prayeth to be hence dispensed with his reasonable costs in this (?) wrongfully (?)

State of Tennessee  
Washington County

This 21<sup>st</sup> day of November 1814 Jeremiah D. Gibson personally appeared before (?) John Patton one of the Justice of the Peace for said county (?) that the facts stated in the forgoing answer is of his own knowledge are true and those facts stated are not of his own knowledge he believes to be true.

(Signed)  
Jeremiah D. Gibson  
John Patton

---

Box 3, folder 3, #21

Mary Dungan, James Tharp (Washington County); subpoena; John Houston vs. Jeremiah Gibson February 23, 1815

"Subpoena  
John Houston and others  
Vs  
Jeremiah D. Gibson

Summoned per plaintiff

John McFall  
Baptist McNabb  
And Benjamin Reno

The 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1816  
To March 7<sup>th</sup> 1816

Came to hand the 27<sup>th</sup> February 1816  
Executed by me  
Sam Hensley, Deputy Sheriff  
29<sup>th</sup> February 1816."

Served on John McFall and Baptist McNabb  
February the 28<sup>th</sup>  
1816  
Andrew Taylor  
Sheriff

State of Tennessee to the sheriff of carter County Sept 1815  
To summon John McFall, Baptist McNabb and Benjamin Reno

Same

State of Tennessee to the sheriff of Carter County to summon William Garland and Samuel Irvin, Sr.

September 1815

Same

State of Tennessee to the sheriff of Washington County to summon Mary Dungan and James Tharp.

---

Box 3, folder 4, # 62

John Love (Washington County); Subpoena; Houston Vs Gibson; March 4, 1816

Mary Dungan, John Houston and others Vs Jeremiah D Gibson summoned for the plaintiff, John Love.

Box 3, Folder 4, # 56 - 57

James Tharp (Washington County); *dedimus potestatem*; John Houston Vs/ Jeremiah Gibson

September 1816 (*Dedimus potestatem was a writ or commission issuing out of court empowering the person named therein to perform certain acts such as to administer oaths to the defendant and take his answers. It was essentially a commission to take testimony*).

John Houston and Mary Dungan and others Vs Jeremiah D Gibson  
Subpoena in equity

The summons was directed to Moses Humphrey, Deputy Sheriff  
14 September 1816  
And second subpoena was directed to James Tharp,

As seen above, the surviving records end in late 1816. There is no surviving final decree. There are no references to an appeal. The appellate court known as the Superior Court has no record of the case up to 1817. What happened to the case is anyone's guess.

#### Summary:

As we have previously noted, this case was reported by one historical account to have been appealed to the Supreme Court of Tennessee. It now seems that this was based entirely upon an old oral tradition. However, prior to establishing this traditional story an extended search at the State Library and Archives it is safe to say that there are absolutely NO records to support this contention. A search was made under all of the relevant surnames in the case with no luck. However, there was a Supreme Court case involving Mary Houston and her sons in the 1840's. So this may be an indication of how the oral tradition got started. At this point it cannot even be verified if, in fact, the case in question was actually appealed. If it was, it was almost certainly appealed to the local Superior Court of the Washington District. This would have been the normal appellate procedure.

Research on this case by this writer has gone down a convoluted path. The Archives of Appalachia in the Sherrod Library on the campus of the East Tennessee State University has some early records from 1813 to 1816 as shown above. However, no final decree and no record of an appeal have been found. The microfilm collection in the Sherrod Library has the Superior Court cases for the Washington District up to 1817 and there is no mention of the case therein. The Johnson City Court House only has the later records of the Chancery Court. The Court House in Jonesborough does not have any cases for the Superior Court. The McClung Library in Knoxville has no records relating to the case. The staff there suggested that these records were in the Superior Court House in Knoxville. To an extent this has been verified. For a time these records were kept there. Unfortunately they no longer have them. Instead they reported that all of these early records were "sent to Nashville." This implies that they were sent to the Tennessee State Library and Archives. After a trip to the State Archives and a search by the Archives staff, no reference has been found relating to this case in either the Supreme Court cases or the few Superior Court cases. Surprisingly, they claim that they do not have the Superior Court cases beyond 1804! As indicated above, the Sherrod Library at ETSU has them from 1804 to 1817. So, whatever happened to the cases of the Superior Court of the Washington District beyond 1817 is not known. Either the Superior Court in Knoxville did not send these cases to Nashville, or the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville cannot locate them.

According to the account of Mr. St. John, a local woman found this court case in Knoxville. She supposedly had (or has) a copy of the entire case. "Who" she is has not been determined.

## Appendix V

### The second Court Case<sup>158</sup>

Jeremiah D. Gibson, Thomas Gibson; petition filed may 26, 1824

To the worshipful the Court of Pleas for Washington County now sitting. July 18, 1824

The petition of Jeremiah D Gibson and Thomas Gibson respectfully requests to your worship that their grandfather Jeremiah Dungan died in this county some years ago intestate leaving large real and personal estate to be inherited by his heirs, viz Your petitioners state further that the said Dungan at his death left the following named persons as his heirs who are entitled to distribution of his effects to wit John Houston who married with Mary Dungan daughter of the deceased, John Love who intermarried with Orphra Dungan daughter of the deceased, Zebulon Smith who intermarried with Sarah Dungan daughter of the deceased, James Pierce who intermarried with Mary Dungan daughter of the deceased and your petitioners with Orpha Thompson who are the children of Elizabeth\* Gibson daughter of the deceased who intermarried with Thomas Gibson both of whom died in the lifetime of the said Jeremiah Dungan, deceased, leaving your petitioners with the said Orpha Thompson to inherit that portion of their grandfather's estate to which their mother, one of he heirs of the said Jeremiah Dungan deceased was entitled. *\*(It was Rebecca Dungan who married Thomas Gibson, and NOT Elizabeth)*

Your petitioners father state that at the February Court of Washington County in 1813 as will as they recollect, John Love and John Houston two of the sons in law of the said Jeremiah Dungan deceased administrators on the estate of the said Jeremiah Dungan deceased and in the month of March thereafter sold a part of the personal estate of said Dungan for between two and three thousand dollars as will more fully appear by reference to the inventory of sales returned by said administrators which your petitioners will have ready to produce when required - They state farther that two thirds of the one fifth part of the amounts of said sales (?) thirds of their mothers share. They are by law entitled to ask for and receive of said administrators. But notwithstanding they have respectfully called on said administrators to pay them their proportion of the estate. They hereunto have to a large amount been unsuccessful and more (?) your petitioner Thomas who has received but a small portion of his part of the said estate these petitioners well knew that said administrators have long since (used?) the money as if that they have not, it has been (?) to their own neglect what has been (?) except what they have paid out to distributions. *Your petitioners believe said administrators have apportioned to their own private purposes and hence they always refused to make distribution to your petitioners to the extent of*

<sup>158</sup> Archives of Appalachia, Sherrod Library, ETSU, Box 4, folder 1, #46.

their claim. And (sayeth?) your petitioners to the trouble and expense of calling in the aid of this court in their behalf. They state farther that they are advised and believe that said administrators have wasted large portions of the monies of said estate in lawyer's fees court costs and other (?) which by law said administrators must (?). But a portion which they now set up as a demand against your petitioners and claim to be allowed. Therefore an settlement with your petitioners. All which your petitioners are advised is contrary to equity and good conscience - *Your petitioners further state that their grandfather at his death owed little or nothing but had debts to a considerable amount due him of which after paying funeral expenses (?) and what debts he paid if any they claim to be allowed their share* - Your petitioners prays your worship the premise compound to grant to them a subpoena and that copies of this petition may appear calling said administrators to appear at our next Court of Pleas and answer this petition and in doing so your petitioners pray that they mat be compelled to shew particularly how they have managed said estate, how much the estate sold form how they have (?), it, how much they have paid your petitioners and what reason have they for withholding the balance respectfully due them (?) and that your worship will an a full and fair examination of the (?) (?) to them whatsoever portions they in honesty and good conscience according to the laws of this land they are entitled to - And your petitioners farther represent to your worships that said administrators after the death of their grandmother who died a few years ago. *The widow of Jeremiah Dungan deceased took into their proportions several negroes (?) five or six as they believe who had been left with said widow at the first sales to labor for her subsisting which (?) were also subject to distribution among the heirs of said Jeremiah Dungan deceased and said administrators sold 10 negroes and they brought upwards of two thousand dollars which money as well as the proceeds of the first sale, these petitioners pray to be allowed by the court their share thereof it being two thirds of one fifth of the whole amount thereof said one fifth being the part their mother would have inherited had she survived her father* - *Your petitioners pray that said administrators may be compelled to answer the statements in this petition to show what they have done with this money, how divided, it and what your petitioners are entitled to and why they withhold distribution. Viz: your petitioners pray viz. Jeremiah D. Gibson and Thomas Gibson*

State of Tennessee

To the sheriff of Washington County greetings. You are hereby commanded to summon John Houston to appear before the justices of our Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Washington County at a court to be holden at the court house in Jonesborough on the second Monday in July next then and there to answer a petition filed in said court by Jeremiah D. Gibson and Thomas Gibson against him and John Love administrators of Jeremiah Dungan, deceased for the purpose of allowing a decree of said court for their distributed share of the estate of the said Jeremiah Dungan, deceased. Herein fail not and have you then there this writ. Witness James Sevier, clerk of our said court at office the second Monday in April 1824

John Seveir, clerk

Subpoena the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 1824  
Came to hand the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 1824 executed on John Houston and left a copy of plaintiff's petition on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1824

Same for John Love

Samuel Hunt, Sheriff

Apparently John love had left the county because a second summons for John Love was addressed to the sheriff of Monroe County.<sup>159</sup>

Jeremiah Gibson, Thomas Gibson Vs. John Huston, John love; Judgment, *pro confessor*, September 15, 1826.

*Pro confessor is a term that applies to a bid in equity and the decree founded upon it where no answer is made to it by the defendant(s) or for a default for want of prosecution.*

Jeremiah D. Gibson  
And  
Thomas Gibson  
Vs  
John Houston  
And John Love

Petition for distribution of estate (?) to the (?) of the court that a subpoena together with a copy of the petition filed in the case have been regularly served upon the defendants ten days before the October term of this court 1824 and said defendants having failed to appear and plead answer or demure but have made default. It is therefore commanded by the court that judgment pro confesso be entered against said defendants and that the facts stated in said petition be taken as true and decree accordingly - April sessions 1825. Continuance - July sessions 1825 (?) shall the judgment *ni ci* be filed again and that the answer be received and filed and the cause be set down for hearing at this term. [*Ni Ci* (Latin - Nisi- which means unless) a conditional decree or an interim decree or order which will ripen into a final decree unless something changes - a conditional decree.]

State of Tennessee  
Washington County

I James Sevier, clerk our said county Court of Pleas do humbly certify that the foregoing is the balance of the (?) in the suit of Gibson against Houston and Love given at office the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 1826

Jas Sevier, Clerk

<sup>159</sup> Archives of Appalachia, Sherrod Library, ETSU, Box 4, folder 3, #43.

## The Appeal<sup>160</sup>

Jeremiah D. Gibson, Thomas Gibson vs. John Houston, John Love; appeal; September 1826

State of Tennessee

Washington County Know all men by these presence that (?) Jeremiah D. Gibson and J.P. Taylor are held and firmly bound unto John Houston and John Love in the just and full sum of two hundred dollars and twenty eight cents to be paid to the said Houston and Love their (heirs?) or administrators to which payment will and truly to be made (?) bind ourselves our heirs executors and administrators firmly by these presents sealed with our seals and dated the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 1826.

The contention of the above obligation is such that whereas the above bound Jeremiah D. Gibson and Thomas Gibson have this day (placed) and an appeal to the circuit court for Washington County from a judgment this day rendered against John Houston and John Love in favor of said Gibsons for the sum of one hundred and three dollars and twenty eight cents debts and       dollars       cents for cost of suit in the behalf (?) now if the said Gibsons shall will and truly prosecute said appeal with effect and (absolutely and purposefully?) the judgment which said circuit court shall render in said cause then this application to be words otherwise to remain in full force and virtue in law.

Jeremiah D. Gibson by  
J. P. Taylor (seal)  
Thomas Gibson by  
J. P. Taylor (seal)  
J. P. Taylor Attorney  
J. P. Taylor (seal)

<sup>160</sup> Archives of Appalachia, Sherrod Library, ETSU, Box 4, folder 3, #22.

## Appendix VI

### Historic Markers and Placenames

The state of Tennessee, through the historical Commission, has kept the story of the mill alive with historical markers located across from the mill near Jeremiah's old house. An outdated booklet described the site as follows:

#### DUNGAN'S MILL

6.5 miles northwest (i.e. of Watauga Fort) at the mouth of Brush Creek, is a mill built by Jeremiah Dungan in 1779, and continuously operated since then. East of it was a stone fort erected by the pioneers of the Watauga settlement? Dungan and other pioneers are buried in the vicinity.<sup>161</sup>

The marker in front of the manor house across from the mill was replaced in 1996 giving another, more realistic, account.

#### DUNGAN – ST. JOHN MILL

This stone manor and mill were built in 1778 by Jeremiah Dungan on property purchased from the Watauga Association. It was taxed in 1779 by North Carolina in the first year the state levied a property tax. Dungan's family ground grain until 1866, at which time they sold the mill to George W. St. John. The mill has been operated by the St. John family since that time. In 1996 during the Tennessee's Bicentennial celebration the mill was honored as the state's oldest business with more than 200 years of continuous operation

The physical location of the Mill is a few miles north of Johnson City on Watauga Avenue extended (Rt. 400). Approaching from the south, the Johnson City Airfield is on the right just before the mill is reached. The mill is also on the right side of the road. Opposite the mill is the sturdily built old stone manor house. The craftsmanship in the stonework is still very much in evidence even to the casual observer. Beyond the mill and house the road crosses the county line into Carter County which is located just before a bridge over the Watauga near the town of the same name. Brush Creek which once powered the mill via a millrace flows northward until just above the mill it turns and plunges downward to the west. The millrace and water wheel have long since been removed and the mill greatly expanded.

<sup>161</sup> Tennessee Historical Commission, *Tennessee Historical Markers*. Nashville, TN, 7<sup>th</sup> edn., 1980, p. 99.

As a placename, a ford on the Watauga River is still known as Jeremiah Dungan's Ford or Dungan's Mill Ford. It is situated to the west just beyond the bridge (Rt. 400) that spans the Watauga River. Steamplant Road still follows what may have been the original road down to the shoals and the ford. Unfortunately recent USGS topographical maps reference it as "Dugan's Ford." Curiously an apartment complex in Jonesborough was known as the Dungan Aparetments.