

Capt. Thomas Dixon, son of Thomas & Mary Dixon
b. 1720
d. 22 March 1769
of James Is.

May 5, 1957
Pierson, Fla.

Dear Reverend Peeples;

I received your reply to my inquiry in the South Carolina Historical Magazine and wish to thank you for your generous offer to contribute to my Dixon family records.

I am more concerned with my own particular branch of the Dixon family. I realize that to trace each line of the children of Dixon, would be a tremendous and almost impossible task.

I wish to learn more of the early history of Capt. Thomas Dixon and his parents; who they were, when they came into the colony of South Carolina and where they came from. Recently, we had a professional research worker check the records in Charleston for Dixon and Smith data. She located a Thomas and Mary Dixon who owned property on James Island and in the city by 1720, the year our Thomas was born. We believe this couple to be the parents of Capt. Dixon but would like to verify this.

I also desire dates and information on the children of Capt. Dixon by his second wife, Emilie DeSaussure-

- 1- John Dixon married Mary Wilkinson Dec. 6, 1805.
- 2- Amelia Magdalene married ----- Scott. Had issue.
- 3- Harriet (Henrietta) married 1st. Wm. James Knight, 2nd. James Smith. Issue by both husbands.
- 4- Ann m Jonathan Norton: 5 daughters

I should like very much to obtain the dates of birth of the above children and the dates of marriage of Harriet to Knight and Smith, especially the latter.

I understand Annie E. Miller's "Our Family Circle" gives considerable data on the family of Capt. Dixon by his first wife but little or none by his marriage to Emilie DeSaussure.

Harriet Dixon was also known as "Henrietta". James Smith, in his will, refers to her as "My dear wife, Henrietta." And this from the will of Harriet---

"I own eight shares in the bank of South Carolina, five stand on the books of the said bank in the name of DeSaussure and Ford, in trust for Harriet Smith and her children named Knight. I give these five shares to my children James D. Knight and Wm. K. Knight, to be equally divided between them.-----" This will was signed "Henrietta Smith" She died in 1840.

Our DeSaussure records state that Capt. Dixon was "traditionally a Baptist minister." I do not know if he was ordained or not. I do know that he was prominently connected with the Baptist church on the Ashley river. According to Leah Townsend, this church was extinct by the time of the Rev. War. It was here that he married Elizabeth Smith. He was also active in Baptist work and church on James Island.

Do you know where Capt. Dixon and his wives are buried? We have tried to locate the old Dixon burial ground on his plantation on James Island without success. We are told that very few of the private burial places still exist.

Do you where Thomas Dixon acquired the title of "Captain"? Is it possible that he served in that capacity during the ~~Rev.~~ ^{Colonial War?}

I am decended from Harriet Dixon by her marriage to James Smith. I have been unable to learn who his parents were or when he was born. I hope to contact some decendant of the Dixons who may have family records which will shed some light on my Smith line.

James Smith died at his residence on Beaufain St. in Charleston. I have a copy of his will which was proved Nov. 1813. His children were baptised in the Circular church in Charleston. They were----

- 1- Elizabeth Henrietta, bapt. 1799. Married Rev. Samuel K. Hodges. Descendants named Bruce, Patten, Jordan, Harrison live in Clumbus, Ga.
- 2- Amelia Magdalene, bapt. 1799
- 3- John Bacot, bapt. 1801
- 4- Henry bapt. 1803.
- 5- Lewis Augustus, bapt. 1805.
- 6- Henry William, bapt. 1807. Married Sarah A. Taylor of Chas. (My grandparents) Left descendants. Their son James Magill Smith of Charleston and Savannah, was my father.
- 7- Cornelia Sidney, bapt. 1810. Married Count Charles P. Westendorff Prussian Consul to Charleston. Left descendants in Charleston, Savannah and Atlanta, named Westendorff, Lucas, Kingman, Powell and David.

Only three of the above children lived to adulthood. It is possible that my James Smith was connected with the Landgraves family. Many of them were closely associated with the Circular church, also.

If you are interested, I shall be most happy to send you the little I have acquired on the Dixon family.

If you are not in a position to advise me on my Dixon line, perhaps you can suggest someone to whom I may write for information. Thanking you again for your kindness in answering my inquiry,

Cordially yours,

Eveena Smith Bishop
(Mrs. Albert Bishop)