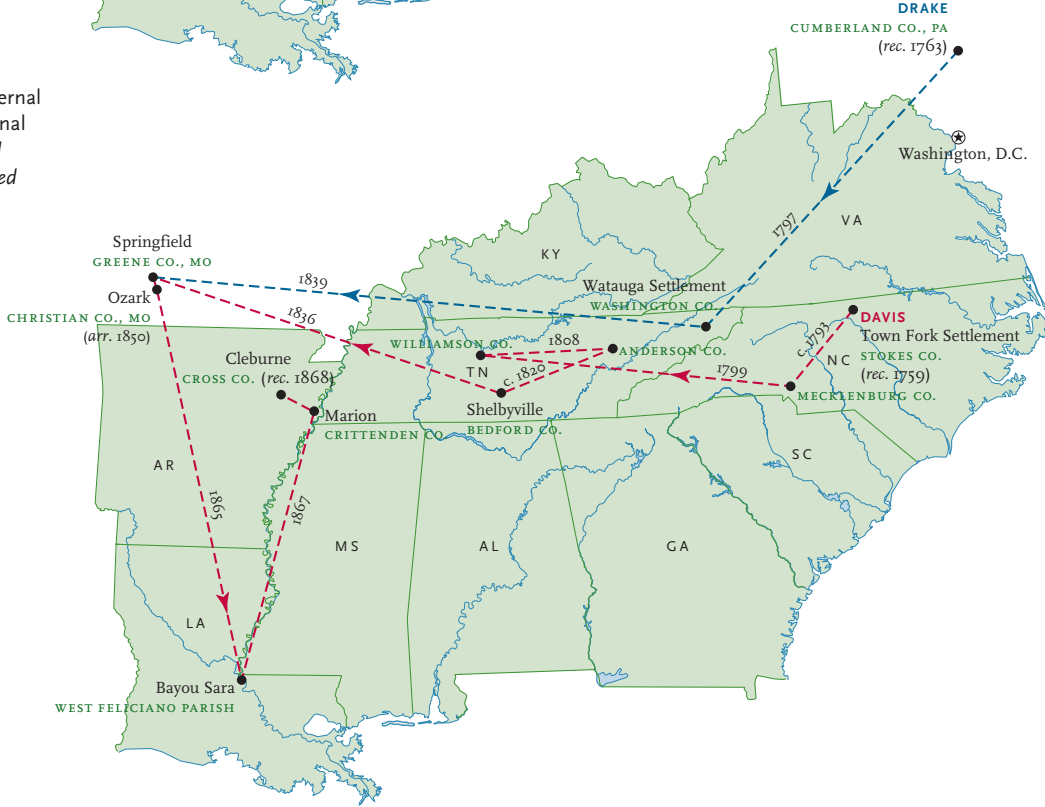


MIGRATION | FRIERSON/PAINE AND DAVIS/DRAKE



BLUE is maternal
RED is paternal
arr. = arrived
rec. = recorded



DR. CHARLES CALVIN FRIERSON AND MILDRED NICHOLSON PAINE

In September 1831, at age twenty, **Charles Calvin Frierson (1811–1879)**, Neville’s great-great-grandfather, married nineteen-year-old **Mildred Nicholson Paine (1812–1874)** in Maury (pronounced “More-e” or “Murray,” not “Mawry”) County, Tennessee.

Neville’s Frierson heritage¹ can be traced back to her fifth great-grandfather **William Frierson Sr. (c. 1700–1773)**. It is believed, though not documented, that he came to America in the 1730s with a group of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians from County Down or County Antrim in Ireland, near Belfast; they settled in the Williamsburg District of South Carolina, near Charleston. Recent research has uncovered two Irish Frierson families who lived in County Antrim, near Belfast, in Northern Ireland, in the seventeenth century.² These families likely include Irish antecedents of William Frierson Sr.

William Frierson Sr., Neville’s immigrant Frierson ancestor,³ may have sailed in 1732 to America with **Roger Gordon (1694–1750)**, also Neville’s fifth great-grandfather. Captain Roger Gordon⁴ founded the settlement of Williamsburg, later called Kingstree, in South Carolina, seventy-five miles north of Charleston. Both Roger Gordon and his wife, **Mary Campbell Gordon (1694–1766)**, left wills that are recorded.

*The Williamsburg District
in the colony of South Carolina,
where William Frierson Sr.
and Roger Gordon, Neville’s fifth
great-grandfathers, immigrated
to and settled, c. 1732.*



William Frierson Sr.'s third son, **Capt. William Frierson Jr. (1733–1803)**, was a military leader, statesman, and lifelong South Carolinian.⁵ He married **Margaret Gordon (1740–1810)**, the daughter of Roger Gordon, in about 1758 and fought in the American Revolutionary War, serving under General Francis Marion (1732–1795), the Swamp Fox. Capt. William Frierson Jr., with two of his brothers and two nephews, participated in the Battle of Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780.⁶



Moses Gordon Frierson (1775–1813) was the youngest child of Capt. William Frierson Jr. In 1805 he was the Frierson family's first migrant to Tennessee.⁷ In 1797 he married **Mary Jane Dickey (1777–1862)**, with whom he had seven children. Moses Gordon was a captain in the Tennessee Militia in the War of 1812 (1812–15). He died in 1813, at age thirty-seven.

Mary Jane Dickey, through her mother, **Mary Wilson (1748–1821)**, was descended from Witherspoon and Wilson antecedents⁸ who immigrated to Williamsburg, South Carolina, at about the same time as William Frierson Sr. and Roger Gordon. It is through this Witherspoon/Wilson lineage that Neville is directly descended from **John Knox (1514–1572)**,⁹ the Scottish founder of the Presbyterian Church. Neville is thus a thirteenth-generation Presbyterian.

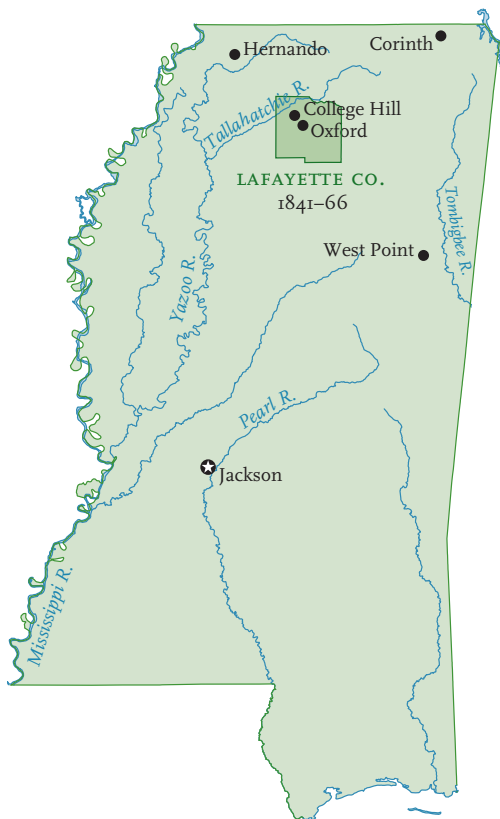
In 1805 Moses Gordon Frierson was the head of one of the four original families to migrate from Kingstree, South Carolina, to Middle Tennessee.¹⁰ In 1806 a second wave of ten families (mostly Friersons) came to Tennessee from the Williamsburg District in South Carolina.¹¹ In 1807 the Friersons and their fellow churchmen

formed a religious society called Zion. They bought land near Columbia, Tennessee, in Maury County, and founded the Zion Presbyterian Church.¹² In 1808 the third wave of Frierson relatives, including Moses Gordon Frierson's sixty-five-year-old uncle, **Robert Frierson (1743–1808)**, made the trek to Tennessee.¹³

Charles Calvin Frierson, the youngest child of Moses Gordon and Mary Jane Dickey Frierson, became a medical doctor and practiced in Columbia, Tennessee. He and his wife, Mildred Nicholson Paine Frierson, had eleven children, the first five of whom were born in Tennessee.¹⁴ Around 1841, at age thirty, Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson and his forty-two-year-old brother, **Edward Livingston Frierson (1798–1865)**, migrated to Lafayette County in north-central Mississippi.

Lafayette County, Mississippi, where Charles Calvin Frierson and his family migrated and settled in 1841.

James Gordon Frierson lived there for twenty-five years, from 1841 to 1866.



Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson and his family came to live in College Hill,¹⁵ a community located five miles northwest of Oxford, Mississippi. He was an early member of the College Hill Presbyterian Church and a substantial landowner, with a large white framed house just north of the church. The house was torn down in 1941.

Sometime in late 1860, Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson's oldest son, **Edward Livingston Frierson Jr. (1834–1860/61)**, was the victim of a premeditated murder committed by his father-in-law (and perhaps others). His head was split open by an axe.¹⁶

When the Civil War began in 1861, Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson was fifty years old, too old to be drafted. While family records refer to him as a surgeon in the Confederate Army, there are no official records to confirm that. We know that he did serve as a civilian doctor in military hospitals and encampments in northern Mississippi during the war. The Civil War came dramatically to College Hill in December 1862, when

Major General William Tecumseh Sherman (1820–1891) set up headquarters in the Frierson House in College Hill during an encampment there.¹⁷

Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson died in 1879, at age sixty-eight, in College Hill, where he is buried.



There has been erroneous conjecture about the heritage of Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson's wife, Mildred Nicholson Paine.¹⁸ We now know that Neville's Paine ancestry emanates from an English doctor, **Dr. James Paine Sr. (1722–1783)**, who immigrated to America in 1740 and soon after settled in North Carolina.¹⁹ His son, **James Paine Jr. (1752–1808)**, was a Revolutionary War soldier.

At age two, in 1814, Mildred Nicholson Paine accompanied her parents from Warren County, North Carolina, to Maury County, Tennessee. Her father, **James Paine III (c. 1776–1818)**, left North Carolina after siring an illegitimate child. He died when Mildred Nicholson was six years old, after which her stepfather, Gerrard Van Buren (1793–1856), became her guardian. One year after Mildred Nicholson Paine married Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson, they filed suit in Maury County against Mildred Nicholson's stepfather, mother, and three stepsisters. They were seeking to gain Mildred's inheritance (mostly slaves) from her father. This 1832 lawsuit²⁰ was the key to discovering her ancestry.

Mildred Nicholson Paine Frierson died in 1874, at age sixty-two. She and her husband, Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson, are buried in unmarked sites within the Frierson plot in the College Hill Cemetery, next to College Hill Presbyterian Church.



DR. CHARLES CALVIN FRIERSON | MILDRED NICHOLSON PAINE

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1. NEVILLE'S FRIERSON HERITAGE

William Frierson Sr. (c. 1700–1773)	m. c. 1725	Mary (c. 1705–after 1773)
Capt. William Frierson Jr. (1733–1803)	m. c. 1758	Margaret Gordon (1740–1810)
Moses Gordon Frierson (1775–1813)	m. 1797	Mary Jane Dickey (1777–1862)
Dr. Charles C. Frierson (1811–1879)	m. 1831	Mildred N. Paine (1812–1874)
James G. Frierson (1837–1884)	m. 1868	Emma G. Davis (1847–1899)
Charles D. Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)	m. 1901	Charlotte Gallaway (1878–1968)
Charles D. Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)	m. 1931	Margaret Purifoy (1908–1973)

Neville's Frierson lineage is well documented as far back as her fifth great-grandfather **William Frierson Sr. (c. 1700–1773)**. However, there is uncertainty and speculation about her earlier Frierson heritage.

In 1996 Meade Frierson III (1940–2001), a Birmingham, Alabama, lawyer and a fifth cousin of Neville's father, **Charles Davis Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)**, published a two-volume book entitled *America's Friersons*. In this extremely useful and extensive tome, over six hundred pages are devoted to a listing of the descendants of William Frierson Sr. and his wife, Mary, who lived in the Williamsburg District of South Carolina in the 1730s. These descendants, over five thousand of them, are called the "Main Line"; they are all Neville's cousins.

Meade Frierson III also researched extensively to determine which country the Friersons came from before they immigrated to South Carolina. Were they Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who perhaps escaped persecution in Scotland in the late seventeenth century and went to Northern Ireland? Were they Huguenot Protestants from Northern Europe? Or did the Friersons come from southern Ireland or England? Meade Frierson's research is frustratingly inconclusive with regard to all these questions.

Elizabeth Myers Queener (b. 1937), a fourth cousin of Neville's from Columbia, Tennessee, has also extensively researched the Frierson family. She has been most helpful in our research. She said, "*Our bunch came to the U. S. from Lancaster [in the northwest of England]. There is no record of them being from Ireland, so I don't think they were Scotch-Irish.*"

After several years of considering the question of where the Friersons came from, I have reached the following conclusions: It is highly likely that William Frierson Sr. came from Belfast, Ireland, to Charleston, South Carolina, in the 1730s. The recent discovery of two generations of Frierson families born near Belfast in Northern Ireland in the late seventeenth century is a strong confirmation of this assumption, which has been held by most family members for many years.

While the Friersons were what we in America today call Scotch-Irish, I think their pre-Irish heritage was probably English rather than Scottish. In our research, we have not found the name Frierson in any record in the history of Scotland. Thus, the Irish Friersons were perhaps English Protestants sent to Ireland from England by King James I (1566–1625) around the time of the Plantation of Ulster* in Northern Ireland. It is also quite possible that the Irish Friersons were French Huguenot Protestants who had come to England in the late sixteenth or early seventeenth centuries as a result of religious persecution by the Roman Catholic Church in France.

**The Plantation of Ulster describes the organized colonization of Ulster, a province made up of northern counties in Ireland. The plantation, which began in 1609, occurred during the reign of King James I, who ruled Great Britain from 1603 to 1625. The colonization was intended to "civilize" and control the native Gaelic Catholic population. The settlers totaled about 100,000 by 1630. They were mostly Presbyterian Scots and English Protestants.*

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2. SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY IRISH FRIERSONS: NEW RESEARCH

After spending about two years searching for Irish families with the surname Frierson, we found records for twelve Friersons dated between 1669 and 1685 in a small book entitled *Blaris Church of Ireland Register*.

Blaris is a parish, or church district, located in County Antrim and County Down. The parish includes the city of Lisburn, which is nine miles south of Belfast in Northern Ireland, called Ulster. Lisburn is the third-largest city in Northern Ireland today, with a population of about 70,000. It is located on the Lagan River, which serves as the border between County Antrim and County Down. Two other notable parishes that adjoin Blaris are Derriaghy in County Antrim and Lambeg, which, like Blaris, is located in both County Antrim and County Down.



The area around Belfast and Lisburn in Northern Ireland.



Friersons were recorded in three Northern Ireland parishes—Blaris, Derriaghy, and Lambeg—in the seventeenth century.

In the seventeenth century, the Church of Ireland, an Anglican church, conducted its affairs as an extension of the state of Ireland. It was the church of the Anglo-Irish ruling class. As the official church of the land, the Church of Ireland kept records on the baptisms, marriages, and burials of its members, as well as records for people of other religious affiliations.

The Friersons for whom we have seventeenth-century records were most likely Protestants who emigrated from England in the early seventeenth century, during the Plantation of Ulster. After several generations spent living amongst and marrying Presbyterian Scots in Northern Ireland, they became devout members of the Presbyterian Church. Today in Northern Ireland, about 50% of the population is Protestant (20% Presbyterian, 15% Anglican, and 15% other) and about 40% of the population is Catholic.

There is one recorded Frierson burial in the *Blaris Church of Ireland Register*. The register states, “*Grace Feiarson of Lisburne—widow—January 22, 1685.*”

There are twelve recorded Frierson baptisms in the *Blaris Church of Ireland Register*. The entries are sorted by the names of the fathers of the children being baptized, and the dates are the baptism dates.

<i>Mary, daughter of</i>	<i>William Frierson of Derriaghy</i>	<i>20 September, 1666</i>
<i>Ann, daughter of</i>	<i>William Frierson of Derriaghy</i>	<i>13 June, 1669</i>
<i>Ann, daughter of</i>	<i>William Frierson of Derriaghy</i>	<i>20 July, 1676</i>
<i>Thomas, son of</i>	<i>William Frierson of Derriaghy</i>	<i>6 May, 1680/81</i>
<i>John, son of</i>	<i>William Frierson of Lambeg</i>	<i>17 August, 1678</i>
<i>Samuel, son of</i>	<i>William Frierson of Lambeg</i>	<i>14 February, 1684</i>
<i>Margaret, daughter of</i>	<i>John Fairson of Lisburn</i>	<i>30 September, 1672</i>
<i>Margaret, daughter of</i>	<i>Thomas Frierson of Lisburn</i>	<i>10 April, 1672</i>
<i>Francis, daughter of</i>	<i>Thomas Frierson of Lisburn</i>	<i>17 October, 1680</i>
<i>Robert, son of</i>	<i>Thomas Frierson of Lisburn</i>	<i>28 January, 1683</i>
<i>Margaret, daughter of</i>	<i>Thomas Frierson of Lisburn</i>	<i>25 January, 1684</i>
<i>Thomas, son of</i>	<i>Thomas Frierson of Blaris</i>	<i>5 March, 1685</i>

We have found no documented linkage between any of these Friersons and Neville’s fifth great-grandfather **William Frierson Sr. (c. 1700–1773)**, who was first recorded in South Carolina in 1736 and is the progenitor of Neville’s Frierson lineage in America. However, the existence of these burial and baptism records greatly affirms the hypothesis that William Frierson Sr. came to America from Belfast, Ireland, in the early 1730s. The most likely candidate to be his father, based upon names and dates, is John Frierson, born in 1678. If he was indeed William’s father, John Frierson would be Neville’s sixth great-grandfather, and her seventh great-grandfather would be William Frierson of Lambeg. Perhaps someday we will know for sure.

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3. WILLIAM FRIERSON SR.: IMMIGRANT AND PROGENITOR

According to most accounts, **William Frierson Sr. (c. 1700–1773)** and his wife, **Mary (c. 1705–after 1773)**, were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who emigrated from Belfast, Northern Ireland, to America around 1732. They possibly came with a group led by **Roger Gordon (1694–1750)** in 1732. Without records, however, we just do not know for sure.

What we do know is that before 1736 the Friersons were settled in what was then called the Williamsburg District (now Williamsburg County) in South Carolina. They lived in a town called Williamsburg (now Kingtree) on the Black River, about seventy-five miles northwest of Charleston. The British colony of Carolina had been divided into North Carolina and South Carolina in 1729.



Kingtree, South Carolina, was founded in 1732 by Neville's fifth great-grandfather Captain Roger Gordon. William Frierson Sr., also Neville's fifth great-grandfather, is recorded there in 1736.

William and Mary Frierson had six children—five boys and one girl. The first two boys were born in Ireland and immigrated to America with their parents. The children were:

- **JAMES E. FRIERSON (c. 1725–1778)**, who married a woman whose last name was Davis, and had four children.
- **JOHN FRIERSON (1727–1797)**, who married Mrs. Margaret King Smith (1731–1800) in 1747 and had eleven children.

- **CAPT. WILLIAM FRIERSON JR. (1733–1803)**, who married **Margaret Gordon (1740–1810)**, with whom he had six children. They are Neville's fourth great-grandparents.

- **THOMAS FRIERSON (1741–c. 1775)**, who married **Mary Wilson (1748–1821)**, with whom he had four children. Mary and her second husband, **John Dickey, Esq. (1747–1807)**, are Neville's fourth great-grandparents.

- **ROBERT FRIERSON (1743–1808)**, who married Elizabeth McCauley (1746–1822) in 1766 and had eleven children.

- **AGNES FRIERSON (1745–1797)**, who married James Bradley (1752–1790) and had five children.

On July 2, 1736, William Frierson Sr. was among eighteen men who, under the leadership of John Witherspoon (1670–1737), met in Williamsburg, South Carolina, and formed the Williamsburg Presbyterian Congregation. That organization continues today as the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church in Kingstree, South Carolina. In October 2011, the church celebrated its 275th anniversary.

In the 1740s, William Frierson Sr. was an indigo farmer. Indigo was the leading cash crop in the Williamsburg District throughout the mid-eighteenth century. Indigo is a plant whose leaves are crushed and processed to produce a vivid blue dye. From the seventeenth to the nineteenth century, indigo dye was used to color fabric, and most of it was exported to England. Indigo production became unprofitable during the American Revolutionary War (1775–83), and the market did not recover after the war.

In 1747 William Frierson Sr. was one of the highway commissioners for Williamsburg Township. On July 10, 1766, he was recorded as an executor of the will of **Mary Campbell Gordon (1694–1766)**, the widow of Roger Gordon, with whom William and Mary Frierson may have emigrated from Northern Ireland. Mary Gordon had a relatively large estate.

Roger and Mary Gordon, like William and Mary Frierson, are Neville's fifth great-grandparents, because William Frierson Jr. married Margaret Gordon, Roger and Mary Gordon's daughter.

The will of William Frierson Sr. was recorded and dated on September 4, 1773. He left his wife, Mary, an inheritance of fifty pounds annually and a "*negro wench*"* named Maria. He left nothing to his forty-year-old son, William Frierson Jr.

*In the eighteenth century, wench was a common term for a female servant.

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4. CAPTAIN ROGER GORDON, SOUTH CAROLINA COLONIST

Capt. Roger Gordon (1694–1750)	m. c. 1725	Mary Campbell (1694–1766)
Margaret Gordon (1740–1810)	m. c. 1758	William Frierson Jr. (1733–1803)
Moses Gordon Frierson (1775–1813)	m. 1797	Mary Jane Dickey (1777–1862)
Dr. Charles C. Frierson (1811–1879)	m. 1831	Mildred N. Paine (1812–1874)
James G. Frierson (1837–1884)	m. 1868	Emma G. Davis (1847–1899)
Charles D. Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)	m. 1901	Charlotte Gallaway (1878–1968)
Charles D. Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)	m. 1931	Margaret Purifoy (1908–1973)

Neville's fifth great-grandfather **Captain Roger Gordon (1694–1750)** was an early South Carolina colonist recorded today on a prominent marker in Kingstree, South Carolina.



This marker honoring Neville's fifth great-grandfather Captain Roger Gordon was erected by the South Carolina Society, Daughters of American Colonists, in 1999 in Kingstree, South Carolina.

According to various accounts, Roger Gordon came to America from County Down, Northern Ireland, though he was probably born in Scotland. In 1732 he sailed with his family and eighty-five passengers from Belfast, Ireland, to Charleston, South Carolina, on a ship called *Happy Return*.

A grandson of one of Roger Gordon's followers (a descendant of the Irvine family) wrote an account of that journey to America in 1732:

[My grandfather's] family were amongst those who, in 1732, blazed the trail for other footsteps to follow. This colony of some dozen families, under command of Roger Gordon, sailed from Belfast and endured the hazardous passage of over two months across the Ocean, beset by tempest, perils, and untold suffering and sickness. One Irvine son perished and was confined to the bosom of the deep.

After their arrival in Charleston, the Roger Gordon Colony traveled by small vessel up the Black River, trekked through a primeval forest, and chose to settle in a place called Kingstree. There the settlers selected home sites near streams or springs, erected crude shelters, and founded a town they named Williamsburg.

The original settlers of Williamsburg Township did all their pioneer work with their own hands. Then in 1736 Roger Gordon imported the first African slave to Williamsburg. The slave's name was Dick, and he is mentioned in Roger's 1750 will. By the time of the American Revolutionary War (1775–83), there were more African slaves than whites in Williamsburg.

Roger Gordon was made captain of the Militia Company at Kingstree, probably in the 1730s. He is also recorded as a colonel of the Craven County Regiment. Contrary to some reports, Roger Gordon did not serve in the French and Indian War (1754–63).

Roger Gordon married **Mary Campbell (1694–1766)** in Northern Ireland; they had three sons—James, John, and Moses—before coming to America in 1732. After their arrival, they had five daughters, named, in order of birth, Elizabeth, Sarah, Margaret, Jean, and Mary. Their third daughter, **Margaret Gordon (1740–1810)**, is Neville's fourth great-grandmother; she married **William Frierson Jr. (1733–1803)**.

Captain Roger Gordon died at age fifty-six, in 1750. In his will, he left 250 pounds to his ten-year-old daughter, Margaret Gordon. His wife, Mary Campbell Gordon, died sixteen years later, in 1766. Her will, which is also on record, added to Margaret Gordon Frierson's inheritance.

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5. CAPTAIN WILLIAM FRIERSON JR.: A LIFELONG SOUTH CAROLINIAN

Neville's fourth great-grandfather **Capt. William Frierson Jr. (1733–1803)** was the third son of **William Frierson Sr. (c. 1700–1773)**. Capt. William Frierson Jr. lived a relatively long and eventful eighteenth-century life and participated in historically significant events. Throughout his entire life, he dwelt in Kingstree, South Carolina, in Williamsburg County.

Around 1758 William Frierson Jr. married **Margaret Gordon (1740–1810)**, the daughter of Captain **Roger Gordon (1694–1750)**, who brought the first colony of settlers to the Williamsburg District in 1732. William and Margaret Gordon Frierson had six children:

- **MARY AGNES FRIERSON (1759–1837)** married James Armstrong (1764–1837) in 1785. They had eight children and migrated to Middle Tennessee in 1805.
- **ISAAC FRIERSON (1764–before 1806)** married Mrs. Sarah McCauley (1755–) in 1791. She was the widow of Major John McCauley (1750–1790), a soldier who fought with General Francis Marion (1732–1795) in the American Revolutionary War (1775–83). Isaac and Sarah Frierson had two sons. Isaac died before his brothers migrated to Tennessee in 1805 and 1806.
- **SAMUEL FRIERSON (1765–1815)** married Sarah Wilson (1768–1820) in 1787 and had eight children. Samuel was buried as an elder in the Zion Church Cemetery in Tennessee.
- **WILLIAM FRIERSON (1767–1820)** married Jane Frierson (1773–1817), his first cousin, in 1792. They had ten children.
- **ELIAS FRIERSON (c. 1770–1843)** married Charlotte McCauley (1774–1819) in 1800. She was the daughter of Isaac Frierson's wife, Sarah McCauley, and her first husband. They had seven children.
- **MOSES GORDON FRIERSON (1775–1813)** married **Mary Jane Dickey (1777–1862)** in 1797. They are Neville's third great-grandparents.

In 1780–81 Capt. William Frierson Jr., who was in his late forties, fought in the American Revolutionary War and earned the rank of captain of his militia company. He was a devout and pious Presbyterian, who undoubtedly played a leadership role in a well-documented schism that occurred in the 1780s at the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church in Kingstree. In 1782 the Presbyterian Church employed a pastor who openly denied the divinity of Christ. This created

major discord, and the minority of church members faithful to the Bible (including the Friersons) joined with their slaves to burn down the church. Under court order, the arsonists rebuilt the church, but they reorganized themselves into a new church called Bethel. This schism lasted for forty years. During that time, many of the Friersons, including Neville's ancestors, moved to Tennessee in the early nineteenth century.

In 1788 Capt. William Frierson Jr. was a delegate to the South Carolina convention called to ratify or reject the newly written United States Constitution, adopted in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on September 17, 1787. In his first vote at the convention, on May 13, 1788, Capt. Frierson voted against the Constitution. The central issue at that time, as perhaps it is today, was states' rights. Thus, the 1788 convention passed the following resolution: *"This convention doth declare that no section or paragraph of the said Constitution warrants a construction that the states do not retain all powers not expressly relinquished by them and vested in the General Government of the Union."* After the adoption of this resolution, on May 23, 1788, Capt. Frierson Jr. and a majority of his fellow delegates (149 to 73) voted in favor of ratification.

Capt. William Frierson Jr. died in 1803 in South Carolina. A few years after his death, in 1805 and 1806, his entire family moved to Tennessee, including his wife, Margaret Gordon Frierson; his daughter, Agnes; and his four sons, Samuel, William, Elias, and Moses Gordon. His younger brother, [Robert Frierson \(1743–1808\)](#), also migrated to Tennessee in 1808.

Capt. William Frierson Jr. was buried in the cemetery at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church in Kingstree. He lies in an unmarked grave. Margaret Gordon Frierson, the family matriarch, died in Maury County, Tennessee, at age sixty-nine. In a book, *Historical Sketch of Zion Church*, written in 1907 by W. S. Fleming (1861–1929), a Frierson descendant, the author explains:

On the 17th day of January 1810, died Mrs. Margaret Frierson, aged near 70 years. She had immigrated from South Carolina in 1806 with her sons. She had seen her children all settled in Tennessee, and had her children and grandchildren all about her. By a long course of usefulness she had rendered herself precious to her children and all her acquaintance, and when she served her generation here, her body was gathered unto her people and laid in Zion Churchyard.



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6. REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIER, CAPTAIN WILLIAM FRIERSON JR.

In 1780, at about age forty-seven, **William Frierson Jr. (1733–1803)** became a soldier in the American Revolutionary War (1775–83), along with his four brothers, one son, and five nephews. He served for a total of 238 days.

The American Revolutionary War was mostly fought in the Northern colonies prior to 1780. However, in about 1779, with the war at a stalemate, the British adopted a new strategy, taking the war to the Southern colonies, where a larger percentage of the population was sympathetic to the British crown.

Captured by the British in 1778 and successfully defended thereafter, Savannah, Georgia, provided the British Red Coats with a base from which to launch their offensive.

After conquering much of Georgia's interior, the British turned their attention to Charleston, South Carolina, the largest and most important Southern city during the eighteenth century. Led by the Lieutenant General Sir Henry Clinton (1730–1795), the British laid a European-style siege on Charleston for six weeks in the spring of 1780. Charleston fell on May 12, 1780, as Major General Benjamin Lincoln (1733–1810) surrendered over five thousand United States soldiers (the third most in the nation's history*) to the British. The defeat was a disaster, for it destroyed the Continental Army in the South and gave the British control of all of Georgia and much of South Carolina.

The victory at Charleston, however, did not have the desired effect for the British, for there was no uprising of Loyalist support in South Carolina, especially in the Williamsburg area. Instead, the occupation by the British seemed to inspire resistance, and a period of chaos and guerrilla-like warfare ensued. It was during this time that the Friersons actively participated in the war. The Friersons' environment during the American Revolutionary War is especially well depicted in the movie *The Patriot*, produced in 2000 and starring Mel Gibson (b. 1956).

On July 6, 1780, about two months after the fall of Charleston, William Frierson Jr. and his youngest brother, **Robert Frierson (1743–1808)**, joined with others to form a company of

**About twelve thousand United States Army prisoners were taken by General Stonewall Jackson (1824–1863) at Harper's Ferry during the Civil War in 1862, and about twelve thousand American soldiers were captured on the island of Bataan during World War II in 1942.*

patriots that became known as Mouzon's Company. It was led by the Kingstree plantation owner Capt. William Henry Mouzon (1741–1807). The company soon joined with a brigade led by Lieutenant Colonel Francis Marion (1732–1795), who was to become a Revolutionary War hero called "The Swamp Fox."*

Francis Marion was a South Carolina military leader, best known for leading a series of successful nighttime guerrilla-style raids against British supply lines in the period after the fall of Charleston.



It has been reported that eleven Friersons fought with Francis Marion during 1780–81. In September 1780, the brigade led by Marion defeated the British at the Battle of Black Mungo in Williamsburg County. Captain Henry Mouzon was severely wounded during that battle and subsequently retired.

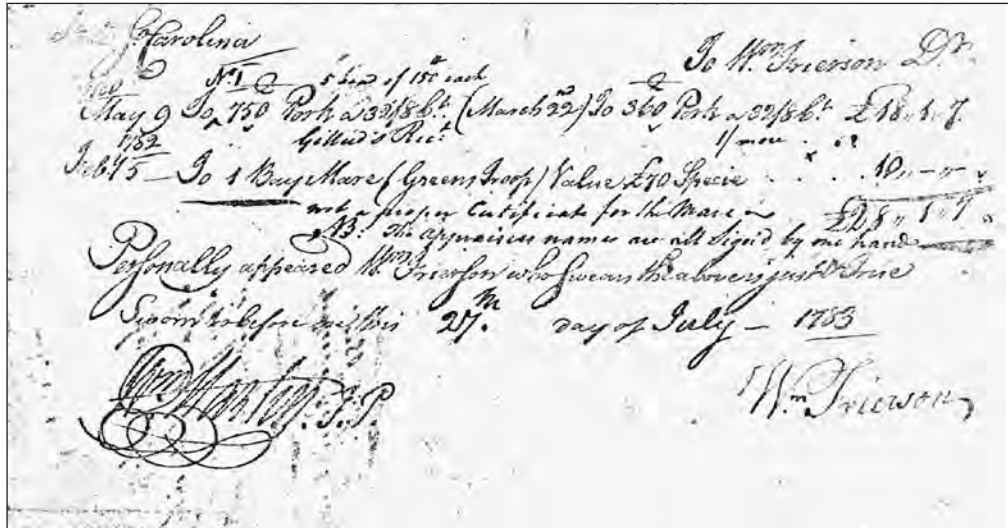
We believe that William Frierson Jr. attained the rank of captain during 1780, while he was fighting with Francis Marion. There are indents** listing his name from that time in records in the office of the Historical Commission of South Carolina. The document "Stub Entries to Indents Issued in Payment of Claims Against South Carolina Growing out of the Revolution" includes one such entry.

N ^o 544. } Book S }	Issued 20 June 1785 to Mr. Will ^m Frierson Jun ^r . for £10..7..1½ for militia Duty in 1780. 1781 and 1782 p 2 acco ^s . audited Principal £10..7.. 1½ Interest £0..14..5
	5:12:10¼
	4:14:3¼
	£10: 7: 1½

A record of indents, or promises to pay, issued to William Frierson Jr. for his service in the American Revolutionary War.

*Francis Marion became a brigadier general in December 1780. The name "Swamp Fox" was given to Marion by British General Banastre Tarleton (1754–1833), who tried but failed to track him down in the swamps of the Carolinas during the war.

**Indents, also known as indentures, were certificates issued at the close of the American Revolution for principal and interest due on public debt.



A receipt for a total of £28 (pounds)-1s (shilling)-7d (pence) for livestock (five hogs and a bay mare) and provisions (pork) issued by the state of South Carolina to William Frierson Jr. on July 27, 1783, five weeks before the end of the American Revolutionary War. This document represents an attempt by Captain William Frierson Jr. to get payment for sales he made in 1780 and 1782 in support of South Carolina troops. The document is signed by William Frierson and notarized by William Martin, a justice of the peace.

Frierson family records include copies of original receipts (effectively IOUs) given to William Frierson Jr., who was selling provisions and livestock to the state of South Carolina for the troops of Brigadier General Francis Marion's brigade.

There were no Tories in Williamsburg, South Carolina, after the British took control of Charleston, so the British occupation forces were particularly harsh to the people in the area. On the night of August 20, 1780, a British major, James Wemyss (pronounced "Weems") (1748–1833), on direct orders from General Lord Charles Cornwallis (1738–1805), burned and destroyed the home, indigo vats, crops, cattle, and sheep of Robert Frierson, William Frierson Jr.'s youngest brother. Around that same time, the same British major burned the home of **John Frierson (1727–1797)**, William Frierson Jr.'s older brother. John, his wife, and their son barely escaped death in the attack.

Probably because of these horrendous events, about seven weeks later, William Frierson Jr. and his brothers Robert and John Frierson fought at the Battle of Kings Mountain, a decisive and pivotal American Patriot victory. The participation of the Frierson brothers at Kings Mountain is not documented,* but it is supported by a very strong oral tradition that has been sustained through the descendants of James Frierson Jr. (c. 1756–1829), who also fought at Kings Mountain and was one of Captain William Frierson Jr.'s nephews.

*There are several rosters listing American Patriots who are "proven" to have fought at the Battle of Kings Mountain. They all list Captain William Frierson Jr. and his four brothers, John, James, Thomas, and Robert. However, we think it is unlikely that all five were at Kings Mountain; we believe that James and Thomas were deceased at the time of the battle.



Map of North and South Carolina noting the general area of the Battle of Kings Mountain.



Map enlargement showing the exact location of the Battle of Kings Mountain in South Carolina.

The Battle of Kings Mountain was fought for about one hour on October 7, 1780. The battleground is in South Carolina, though, ironically, it is nine miles south of the town of Kings Mountain, North Carolina.

The combatants at Kings Mountain were essentially all American colonists. There were about one thousand Patriot militiamen set against a similar number of Loyalists. In fact, the only Brit in the battle was Major Patrick Ferguson (1744–1780), a young Scotsman who led the Loyalist troops. The battle concluded when Major Ferguson, while surrounded and heroically shouting to rally his troops, was shot from his horse. As he lay dying, the victorious American militiamen ignominiously stripped him and urinated on his body. After that they buried him in a shallow grave. Oddly and remarkably, Major Patrick Ferguson is remembered today as a hero of the Battle of Kings Mountain by both the British and Americans.

Kings Mountain was a decisive victory for the Patriots, and unquestionably, it was the battle that turned the tide. Just one year later, in October 1781, the Patriots won a glorious victory at the Battle of Yorktown, the event that secured America's independence.



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7. MOSES GORDON FRIERSON, MIGRANT TO TENNESSEE

Neville's third great-grandparents **Moses Gordon Frierson (1775–1813)** and **Mary Jane Dickey (1777–1862)** married at ages twenty-two and nineteen, respectively, in the Williamsburg District of South Carolina on May 2, 1797. In 1805, at age thirty, Moses Gordon Frierson and Mary Jane Dickey Frierson were among the four Frierson families that migrated from South Carolina to near Columbia, Tennessee, in Maury County. They were accompanied by their four children, ages seven, five, two, and a newborn.

In an early 1811 listing of the first communicants of the Zion Presbyterian Church, Moses Gordon and Mary Jane Dickey Frierson are enumerated along with their first six children. Only the last child, Neville's great-great-grandfather **Charles Calvin Frierson (1811–1879)**, was not listed in that account. All seven of their children are, however, listed in the Moses G. Frierson family register at the Zion Church.

- **MAJOR EDWARD LIVINGSTON FRIERSON (1798–1865)** married Sarah Elvira Stephenson (1800–1868) in 1820. They had eight children and moved to College Hill, Mississippi, in about 1841. Their sixth child was Charles Currin Frierson (1838–1897), who fought in the Civil War alongside Neville's great-grandfather **James Gordon Frierson (1837–1884)**.
- **DR. ISAAC EDWIN FRIERSON (1799–1837)** married Frances "Fannie" Harding (1813–1890), but they had no children. In 1837 a widowed Fannie remarried Isaac's first cousin Samuel Gordon Frierson (1805–1857), an Alabama politician with whom she had eight children.
- **AMARINTHA SUSANNAH FRIERSON (1802–1875)** married William Gordon Armstrong (1795–1868), her first cousin, in 1818. They had migrated to Tennessee as children in 1805. They had eight children, the fourth of whom was George Dickey Armstrong (1829–1862), the great-grandfather of Elizabeth Myers Queener (b. 1937), who has assisted me with this research.
- **MARGARET AMELIA FRIERSON (1805–1861)** married James Armstrong Frierson (1802–1858), her second cousin, in 1823. They were both great-grandchildren of **William Frierson Sr. (c. 1700–1773)**. They had seven children, but only two of them lived to maturity.
- **JOHN DICKEY FRIERSON (1807–)** presumably died young.
- **ELIAS CURRIN FRIERSON (1809–1883)** married Martha J. Wilson (1823–1865) and had eight children.

• **DR. CHARLES CALVIN FRIERSON (1811–1879)** was Neville’s great-great-grandfather.

In 1809 Moses Gordon Frierson is recorded as a captain in the Tennessee Militia. He is also listed as a soldier in the War of 1812, a thirty-two-month conflict that began in June 1812 and ended in February 1815, when the American Senate ratified the Treaty of Ghent.

Moses Gordon Frierson died on June 13, 1813. We do not know the cause of death. The records of the Zion Church note: “June 19th, 1813. Moses Gordon Frierson departed this life, greatly lamented by all the congregation, . . . an entire resignation to the will of Heaven. He was a useful citizen, both to Church and State. He was 38 years of age the tenth of last January.”

An 1815 inventory of Moses Gordon Frierson’s estate appears in a book of wills in Maury County, Tennessee. The record shows that he owned twenty-one slaves valued at between \$90.00 and \$450.00 each.

Moses Gordon Frierson was buried in the churchyard of the Zion Church, near Columbia, Tennessee. His tombstone is one of the earliest in that cemetery. It is set beside the tombstone of his wife, Mary Jane Dickey Frierson, who outlived him by about forty-nine years.

The original obituary notice announcing the death of Mary Jane Dickey Frierson is in the archives at the Zion Church in Maury County. A copy was recently found by Elizabeth Myers Queener. The document is quite faded, and some of the words are unreadable.

The opening words of that obituary are:

Died on the 25th day of August A.D. 1862. Mrs. Mary Jane Frierson consort of Capt. Moses G. Frierson deceased, who with his family immigrated to this state in the year 1805; and was one of the first families of Maury County.

Mrs. Frierson was born in Williamsburg District So. Carolina on the 10th day of September A. D. 1777 . . . [and] at the time of her death was in the 85th year of her age. She was the daughter of John Dickey Esq. For many years he was an official delegate to the Legislature of So. Carolina.



*Left: Mary J. Frierson
Born in Williamsburg Dist
Jan 1777
Died August 29, 1862
(often read as 1863)*

*Right: Moses G. Frierson
Born in Williamsburg Dist
Jan 1775
Died June 13, 1813*



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8. MARY JANE DICKEY: HER WITHERSPOON AND WILSON HERITAGE

Rev. James A. Witherspoon (1610–1649)	m. 1635	Lucy Welsh (1613–c. 1650)
Rev. James A. Witherspoon Jr. (1640–1691)	m. c. 1664	Helen Welsh (1644–1702)
Jane Witherspoon (1672–1731)	m. 1698	William Wilson (c. 1670–1750)
Robert Witherspoon Wilson (1710–1785)	m. 1739	Mary Gordon (1714–1748)*
Mary Wilson (1748–1821)**	m. 1775	John Dickey, Esq. (1747–1807)
Mary Jane Dickey (1777–1862)	m. 1797	Moses Gordon Frierson (1775–1813)
Dr. Charles C. Frierson (1811–1879)	m. 1831	Mildred N. Paine (1812–1874)
James G. Frierson (1837–1884)	m. 1868	Emma G. Davis (1847–1899)
Charles D. Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)	m. 1901	Charlotte Gallaway (1878–1968)
Charles D. Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)	m. 1931	Margaret Purifoy (1908–1973)

Mary Jane Dickey (1777–1862), Neville’s third great-grandmother, married **Moses Gordon Frierson (1775–1813)**, her second cousin. Mary Jane Dickey was the granddaughter of **Mary Gordon Wilson (1714–1748)**, the sister of **Capt. Roger Gordon (1694–1750)**, Moses Gordon’s grandfather.

Mary Jane Dickey descended from two notable Scottish families, the Witherspoons and the Wilsons. Neville’s Witherspoon heritage is deeply rooted in two seventeenth-century Scottish preachers—**Rev. James Alexander Witherspoon (1610–1649)** and **Rev. James Alexander Witherspoon Jr. (1640–1691)**, both disciples of and the latter a descendant of **John Knox (1514–1572)**, the great reformer who founded the Presbyterian Church.

The progeny of these Presbyterian preachers emigrated westward in a clannish way. In the late seventeenth century, religious persecution (and perhaps some economic problems) led them to

**Mary Gordon, Neville’s fifth great-grandmother, was the sister of Roger Gordon, one of Neville’s fifth great-grandfathers.*

***Mary Wilson, Neville’s fourth great-grandmother, was first married to Thomas Frierson (1741–c. 1775), a brother of Capt. William Frierson Jr. (1733–1803), Neville’s fourth great-grandfather. Mary Wilson next married John Dickey, Esq. She is buried at the Zion Church Cemetery in Maury County, Tennessee.*

sail across the Irish Sea to Northern Ireland. It is because of the years they spent in Ulster, Ireland, that many Americans of Presbyterian heritage are forever known as Scotch-Irish.*

In the early 1730s, **William Wilson (c. 1670–1750)** and his son **Robert Witherspoon Wilson (1710–1785)**, both born in Scotland, moved from Ulster, Ireland, to the Williamsburg District of South Carolina. In Williamsburg in 1739, Robert Witherspoon married Mary Gordon, the sister of Neville's fifth great-grandfather Capt. Roger Gordon. Their daughter, **Mary Wilson (1748–1821)**, first married **Thomas Frierson (1741–c. 1775)** and had four children. She then married **John Dickey, Esq. (1747–1807)**, with whom she had four more children, the oldest of whom was Mary Jane Dickey.

The Witherspoons and Wilsons, like the Friersons and Gordons, were called Nonconformist immigrants.** They were attracted to America by economic incentives (land grants) offered by the British, as well as by the promise of religious tolerance in the Anglican colony of South Carolina. The British had a very clear motive for encouraging this migration: they hoped to build settlements around the port city of Charleston and, thus, create protection against the Native Americans in the area.

There is an excellent record of the 1734 journey to America of two of Neville's early Witherspoon relatives, John Witherspoon (1670–1737) and his wife, **Janet Witherspoon (1670–1734)**, his first cousin.*** Their journey was one of three that brought the Witherspoons and Wilsons to South Carolina in the mid-1730s. The following first-hand account—written in 1780 by one of John Witherspoon's grandsons, who traveled with him on the ship that brought him to America—appears in William Boddie's *The History of Williamsburg, South Carolina* (1923):

John Witherspoon and Janet Witherspoon were born in Scotland about the year 1670. They lived their younger years in Glasgow, at a place called Bergadie, and were married in 1693. In 1695, they left Scotland and settled at Knockbracken, in the Parish of Drumbo, County of Down, Ireland, where they lived in comfortable circumstances and good credit until the year 1734. He then removed with his family to South Carolina.

*Scotch-Irish is an American term; it is not used in England, Ireland, or Scotland. People from Scotland are called Scots, not Scotch (scotch is an alcoholic drink). The term Scotch-Irish was coined by nineteenth-century Americans whose Presbyterian ancestors had come from Ireland in the early eighteenth century. They wanted to distinguish themselves from the large number of Catholic Irish who migrated to America during the Great Potato Famine in the 1840s.

**In England, after the 1662 Act of Uniformity, a Nonconformist was a non-Christian or a Christian who belonged to a non-Anglican church.

***John Witherspoon is the son of David Witherspoon (1635–1675), the brother of Rev. James Alexander Witherspoon Jr. Thus, John Witherspoon is a first cousin of Neville's sixth great-grandmother Jane Witherspoon. John Witherspoon's wife, Janet Witherspoon, is the sister of Jane Witherspoon, Neville's sixth great-grandmother.

We went on board the ship THE GOOD INTENT on the 14th of September, and were detained by headwinds for 14 days in the Lough [bay] at Belfast. On the second day after we set sail, my grandmother, Janet, died and was interred in the boisterous ocean, which was an affecting sight to her offspring.

We were sorely tossed at sea with storms, which caused our ship to spring a leak; our pumps were kept incessantly at work day and night for many days together and our mariners seemed many times at their wits' end. But it pleased God to bring us all safe to land, except my grandmother, about the 1st of December.

John Witherspoon, who was a weaver, is considered the leading spirit in the 1736 founding of the meetinghouse that became the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church in Kingstree, South Carolina. This group of founders included three of Neville's direct antecedents. Writing in 1780, John Witherspoon's grandson commented on the founding fathers of the Williamsburg settlement:

Indeed, God blessed the settlement at first with a number of eminently pious and devoted men out of whom I chose to set down some names, viz. William Wilson [Neville's sixth great-grandfather], David Allen, William Hamilton, John Porter, William James, David Wilson, John James, Robert Wilson [Neville's fifth great-grandfather], J Robert Paisley, James Bradley, John Turner, William Frierson [Neville's fifth great-grandfather] to whom I add my father and my three uncles, David, Robert, and Gavin. These were men of great piety in their day, indeed they were men of renown. May the glorious King and Head of the Church for his glory still maintain and keep up men of piety and holiness as a blessing to this place and congregation to the latest posterity is the heart request of the unworthy scribe.

John Witherspoon died of "rose-in-the-leg," a bacterial infection, in 1737. He was the first person buried in the Williamsburg Presbyterian churchyard.

Incidentally, the most notable of Neville's Witherspoon relatives was John Knox Witherspoon (1723–1794), a Scottish Presbyterian minister who was a signatory of the Declaration of Independence. He came to the colony of New Jersey from Scotland in 1768 and became the sixth president of the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University. John Knox Witherspoon, is the only clergyman or university president to sign the Declaration of Independence. He is a first cousin of **Robert Witherspoon Wilson (1710–1785)**, Neville's fifth great-grandfather, and thus is Neville's first cousin, seven times removed.

9. NEVILLE'S TENTH GREAT-GRANDFATHER JOHN KNOX

John Knox (1514–1572)	m. 1564	Margaret Stewart (1547–1612)*
Elizabeth Knox (1570–1622)	m. 1594	Rev. John Welsh of Ayr (1568–1622)
Lucy Welsh (1613–c. 1650)	m. 1635	Rev. James A. Witherspoon (1610–1649)
Rev. James A. Witherspoon Jr. (1640–1691)	m. c. 1664	Helen Welsh (1644–1702)
Jane Witherspoon (1672–1731)	m. 1698	William Wilson (c. 1670–1750)
Robert Witherspoon Wilson (1710–1785)	m. 1739	Mary Gordon (1714–1748)
Mary Wilson (1748–1821)	m. c. 1775	John Dickey, Esq. (1747–1807)
Mary Jane Dickey (1777–1862)	m. 1797	Moses Gordon Frierson (1775–1813)
Dr. Charles C. Frierson (1811–1879)	m. 1831	Mildred N. Paine (1812–1874)
James G. Frierson (1837–1884)	m. 1868	Emma G. Davis (1847–1899)
Charles D. Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)	m. 1901	Charlotte Gallaway (1878–1968)
Charles D. Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)	m. 1931	Margaret Purifoy (1908–1973)

Neville's tenth great-grandfather **John Knox (1514–1572)** was a major figure of the Protestant Reformation. A fiery orator and a rabid revolutionary, he founded the Church of Scotland, also called the Presbyterian Church. His legacy has endured for over 450 years.



John Knox, founder of the Presbyterian Church and Neville's tenth great-grandfather.

Neville is a thirteenth-generation Presbyterian, for she has an unbroken line of direct Presbyterian ancestors in every generation since John Knox founded the denomination. Our four children were baptized in the Presbyterian Church, but, as of this writing, none of our thirteen grandchildren have Presbyterian credentials.

John Knox was born in the Scottish county of East Lothian, near Edinburgh, and was educated at St. Andrews University, an institution founded six hundred years ago.**

*Margaret Stewart is the eighth great-granddaughter of Robert the Bruce (1274–1329), king of Scotland and the country's greatest warrior hero. Thus, Neville is the twentieth great-granddaughter of Robert the Bruce.

**In 2001 Prince William of England matriculated at St. Andrews University, where he earned a master's degree in geography.

John Knox was ordained as a Catholic priest in 1536. In 1545 he publicly professed the Protestant faith, and for the next ten years, he lived in exile, mostly in England. After that time, John Knox spent several years in Switzerland, where he studied with John Calvin (1509–1564), the French theologian. Martin Luther (1483–1546), John Calvin, and John Knox were seminal figures of the Protestant Reformation.

In 1560 the Scottish Parliament enacted the Scots Confession, a document that abolished the Pope and forbade the celebration of Mass. Thus, the Church of Scotland was born. There were well-documented clashes between John Knox and the Catholic royals of his time. John Knox even called for the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots (1542–1587), who had abdicated the Scottish throne in 1567. Mary, Queen of Scots, was executed twenty years later by her first cousin (once removed) Elizabeth I of England (1533–1603).

At age fifty, in 1564, John Knox, a widower, married **Margaret Stewart (1547–1612)**, the seventeen-year-old daughter of his friend **Andrew Stewart (1521–1591)**, known as Lord Ochiltree. They had three children: Martha, Margaret, and **Elizabeth Knox (1570–1622)**.



The John Knox House in Edinburgh, Scotland, is reputed to be the house where John Knox lived and died.

John Knox died at age fifty-eight, in 1572, and was buried in the churchyard of St. Giles Cathedral, the principal place of worship for the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh.

John Knox's daughter Elizabeth Knox, Neville's ninth great-grandmother, married **John Charles Welsh of Ayr (1568–1622)** in 1594. He was the son of a well-to-do family from Dumfriesshire, a southern border county in Scotland. John Charles Welsh became an important Scottish Presbyterian minister, known in history as John Welsh of Ayr.



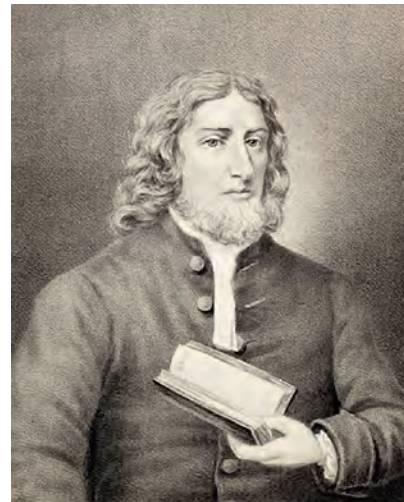
Statue of John Knox (cast in 1904) in St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh.



John Knox's final resting place is located under parking space 23 in a parking lot next to St. Giles Cathedral.

John Welsh of Ayr never knew his father-in-law, John Knox, who died when the younger man was only four years old. However, it is said that John Welsh of Ayr was John Knox's rival in genius, piety, and zeal. The preaching of John Welsh of Ayr ultimately resulted in his imprisonment on the order of King James VI of Scotland (1567–1625). In 1606 John Welsh of Ayr was exiled to France, where he preached among the persecuted Huguenots and French Protestants.

John Welsh of Ayr and Elizabeth Knox Welsh had six children, the last of whom was **Lucy (Luys) Welsh (1613–c. 1650)**. She was born in Jonzac, France, a town about fifty miles north of Bordeaux in southwestern France. John Welsh of Ayr died in London in 1622, at age fifty-four, after being allowed to return to England. He is buried in the graveyard of St. Botolph, Bishopgate, a church near the City area of London. There is no monument to mark his grave.



Neville's ninth great-grandfather John Welsh of Ayr, depicted in about 1600.

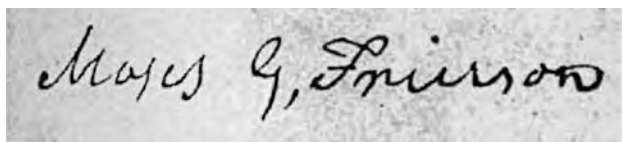
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10. MOSES GORDON FRIERSON—THE FIRST MIGRATION, 1805

Moses Gordon Frierson (1775–1813), the youngest son of **Capt. William Frierson Jr. (1733–1803)**, is Neville’s third great-grandfather. He was the head of one of the first four families to migrate from the Williamsburg District of South Carolina to Middle Tennessee. These families traveled from March 25 to May 8, 1805. The heads of the four migrant families were:

- **MOSES GORDON FRIERSON**, age thirty, who was accompanied by his twenty-seven-year-old wife, **Mary Jane Dickey (1777–1862)**, and four children: **Edward Livingston Frierson (1798–1865)**, age seven; **Isaac Edwin Frierson (1799–1837)**, age five; **Amarintha Susannah Frierson (1802–1875)**, age two; and **Margaret Amelia Frierson (1805–1861)**, an infant.



The signature of Moses Gordon Frierson from Zion Church records.

- **JAMES ARMSTRONG (1764–1837)**, a forty-one-year-old veteran of the American Revolutionary War (1775–83), who was married to Moses G. Frierson’s forty-five-year-old sister, **Mary Agnes Frierson**

(1759–1837). They traveled with their eight children, ages two to nineteen. Only their nineteen-year-old daughter, Martha Montgomery Armstrong (1785–1844), was married at the time.

- **JAMES BLAKELY (1775–1836)**, a thirty-year-old who was married in 1799 to **Sarah Gordon Dickey (1781–1860)**, the younger sister of Mary Jane Dickey Frierson.
- **PAUL FULTON (1776–1840)**, the twenty-eight-year-old son-in-law of James and Mary Agnes Frierson Armstrong. He was married to their oldest child, Martha Montgomery Armstrong. Paul and Martha Armstrong Fulton had no children at the time of their trip to Tennessee, but the first of their nine children was born about three months after they arrived.

These four families, as well as others who came to Tennessee in 1806 and 1808, were all members of the Bethel Congregation, a group of puritanical and progressive Presbyterians who had broken away from the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church about two decades earlier. They were a somewhat tribal people, and they engaged in a lot of intermarriage between first cousins.*

*Marriage between first cousins is stigmatized in the United States and prohibited in twenty-five states, including Arkansas and Mississippi. It is, however, not illegal anywhere else in the Western world. Marriage between people who are first or second cousins is reasonably uncommon in the United States, representing about two out of every one thousand marriages. In the world, about one out of ten marriages is between people who are first or second cousins.

The reason for their migration has been cited as economic, given the loss of the market for their most important crop, indigo, during the American Revolutionary War. But the Bethel migrants were essentially part of a great wave of pioneering Americans moving westward from the East Coast in the early nineteenth century. For so many reasons, it was the thing to do.

We do not know the exact route of the migrants' trek from the coastal plain of South Carolina to Middle Tennessee, but we do know that they traveled with just a few belongings, their horses, and their slaves. The trek lasted for forty-five days. Fortunately, there is a contemporary account of the first migration from 1805. It was written in an archaic style by "an old chronicler and original Elder of Zion Church, William Frierson." We presume that chronicler was [William Frierson \(1767–1820\)](#), who migrated in the spring of 1806 and was an older brother of Moses Gordon Frierson. This account is recorded in the church book of record, *History of the Origin and Progress of Zion Church:*

It was about the twenty-fifth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred and five, that Moses G. Frierson and family, James Armstrong and family, James Blakely and family and Paul Fulton and family emigrated from W'msburg, State of So. Carolina, being members of Bethel Congregation, part of the Rev. James W. Stephenson's charge.

These four men and their families withdrew themselves from a large circle of near and tender friends and relations, and became voluntary exiles from their native country. They shaped the course to the westward to seek a habitation in a country that had at that time been little explored. . . .

They had been born and raised in the neighborhood of the Atlantic where the whole face of the country was at a perfect level, when compared with those craggy heights which they now are about to ascend. . . .

Six long and tedious weeks pass over in this way; at length they arrive at their temporary habitations in the vicinity of Nashville on the 8th day of May. Now in view of the contrast, they left comfortable dwellings with sufficient furniture for comfortable living, and plenty of stock about them. They are now in vile, smoky, smutty huts, with not one load of furniture to the family, and no stock except their horses; everything to purchase and not one single acquaintance in the country, and strange to tell, they are highly pleased with the exchange they had made. . . .

They were kindly preserved by an indulgent Providence during their journey; not one serious accident nor death happened. They arrived at the time the purchase was made from the Indians of the land whereon they now live, which purchase they knew nothing of before their immigration.

In the fall of 1805, the four families moved to the neighborhood of Franklin, Tennessee, and rented temporary habitations.



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11. THE SECOND WAVE OF FRIERSON MIGRANTS, 1806

On March 6, 1806, a second wave of mostly Frierson migrants traveled to Tennessee to meet up with the four families who had moved there in 1805. This migration included about ten families. Most were Friersons or related to the Friersons.

- **JOHN DICKEY, ESQ.* (1747–1807)** and **MARY WILSON DICKEY (1748–1821)**, the fifty-eight- and fifty-seven-year-old parents of **Moses Gordon Frierson’s (1775–1813)** wife, **Mary Jane Dickey (1777–1862)**, and Neville’s fourth great-grandparents, made the trek to Tennessee in 1806. Traveling with the Dickey family were their two sons, twenty-eight-year-old **George Dickey (1778–1847)** and twenty-one-year-old **Benoni Dickey (1785–1827)**. In 1809 Benoni Dickey, who later became a major, married Margaret Gordon Frierson (1793–1815), Moses Gordon Frierson’s niece. In 1810 George Dickey, who later became a captain, married Sarah Way Armstrong (1791–1845), another of Moses Gordon Frierson’s nieces.

On January 11, 1807, a little over six months after they arrived near Franklin, Tennessee, John Dickey, Esq., died of influenza. He never reached the “promised land,” for it was later that year that the Zion community was founded. John Dickey, Esq., is buried near Sharp’s spring, about a mile from Franklin, Tennessee. His wife, Mary Wilson Dickey, who died fourteen years later at age seventy-three, is buried in the Zion Church Cemetery.

- **MARGARET GORDON FRIERSON (1740–1810)**, the mother of Moses Gordon Frierson, was sixty-six years old during her family’s 1806 migration from South Carolina to Tennessee. She is Neville’s fourth great-grandmother. She traveled with three of her sons, Samuel, William, and Elias.
- **SAMUEL FRIERSON (1765–1815)**, Moses Gordon Frierson’s older brother, was forty years old and married to Sarah Wilson (1768–1820) on the trek to Tennessee in 1806. They had five children, ages two to thirteen, and Sarah Wilson Frierson was seven to eight months pregnant with their sixth child on that trip. Samuel Frierson died at age forty-nine, and his wife died at age fifty-one in Maury County, Tennessee. They are buried in the Zion Church Cemetery.

**John Dickey, Esq., should not be confused with Captain John Dickey (1724–1808), a Scotch-Irish immigrant who fought in the American Revolutionary War (1775–83). The title esquire, which John Dickey used, is merely a courtesy title and is of no particular significance. Over many years, it has been occasionally adopted by lawyers and others seeking cachet in their communities.*

- **WILLIAM FRIERSON (1767–1820)**, another of Moses Gordon Frierson's older brothers, was on the second trek to Tennessee, and was thirty-eight years old during the trip. In 1792 he married his first cousin Jane Frierson (1773–1817), with whom he had ten children. William Frierson died at age fifty-two, and his wife died at age forty-three. They are buried at the Zion Church Cemetery in Maury County.
- **ELIAS FRIERSON (c. 1770–1843)**, another of Moses Gordon Frierson's older brothers, also made the 1806 trip to Tennessee. In 1800 he married Charlotte McCauley (1774–1819), the stepdaughter of his brother **Isaac Frierson (1764–before 1806)**. Elias Frierson and Charlotte had seven children. It is said that they moved to Alabama in 1819 because they disliked the Frierson tradition of marriage between first cousins.
- **WILLIAM JAMES FRIERSON (1775–1834)**, Moses Gordon Frierson's first cousin, was thirty years old when he migrated to Tennessee in 1806. In 1799 he had married his first cousin Elizabeth Martha Frierson (1780–1860), with whom he had nine children. William James Frierson died at age fifty-eight in Maury County and is buried in the Zion Church Cemetery.
- **SAM WITHERSPOON (1783–1854)**, another of the 1806 migrants from South Carolina to Tennessee, was possibly kin to the Friersons. He was twenty-three years old and married to Grace McClelland (1787–1852). Sam Witherspoon is listed with his wife and family as members of the Zion Church congregation in 1811. The Witherspoons migrated with Elias Frierson and his family to Alabama in 1819.
- **MARY FRIERSON FLEMING (1769–1830)** was another of Moses Gordon Frierson's first cousins. She was thirty-six years old and the widow of James Fleming (1757–1797). She traveled to Tennessee with three sons, ages seven, twelve, and fifteen. In May 1808, Mary married Rev. James White Stephenson (1756–1832) and had another son. She is buried at Zion Church Cemetery.
- **THOMAS STEPHENSON (1766–1848)** was thirty-nine years old at the time of the 1806 migration and married to Jennette Wilson (1764–1831), the sister of Samuel Frierson's wife, Sarah Wilson Frierson. Thomas Stephenson was a younger brother of Rev. James White Stephenson. Thomas Stephenson died at age eighty-one and is buried at the Zion Church Cemetery.
- **JOHN WHITE STEPHENSON (1785–1847)** was twenty-one years old and married to Mary McClelland (1789–1824), the sister of Sam Witherspoon's wife, when the couple migrated to Tennessee in 1806. They are recorded with two children in the membership rolls of Zion Church in 1811. John W. Stephenson died in Maury County at age sixty-two. His wife was about thirty-five years old when she died. They are buried in the Zion Church Cemetery in Maury County.



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12. CREATING ZION: “THE FRIERSON COMMUNITY”

After the second wave of South Carolina migrants arrived in Franklin, near Nashville, Tennessee, in 1806, the fourteen Frierson families founded a society to which they gave the name Zion. This name was taken from Mount Zion, a biblical place in Israel where “*God dwells with His people.*” A history of the Zion Church, entitled *Grace Will Lead Us Home*, notes that “*the Zion Community [was] often known as the Frierson Community.*”

The Zion Society initially organized religious services, but soon the members turned their attention to acquiring land upon which to build a settlement. As a result, in August 1807, the Zion Society purchased 5,120 acres about 6 miles west of Columbia, Tennessee, in Maury County. The society paid \$3 an acre for the land, for a total price of \$15,360. The society purchased this land from the heirs of General Nathanael Greene (1742–1786), who in 1785 had been given a 25,000-acre bounty grant by North Carolina (in present day Tennessee) for his service in the American Revolutionary War (1775–83).* The Greene family’s ownership of the land was resolved in 1806 as part of a treaty with the Cherokee.

There is oral lore that says that the negotiation and payment for this land was entrusted to **Capt. George Dickey (1778–1847)**, Neville’s fourth great-uncle, the brother of **Moses Gordon Frierson’s (1775–1813)** wife, **Mary Jane Dickey (1777–1862)**. According to accounts, Capt. George Dickey was sent as an emissary to Cumberland Island, Georgia, where he reached an agreement with Nathanael Greene’s heirs to buy the 5,120 acres of land. He later returned to Georgia with the \$15,360 payment. The book *Grace Will Lead Us Home* recounts: “*He carried the entire sum in his saddle bag and would carelessly drop it to the ground convincing any passerby that it was unimportant. When approached by Indians or other travelers, legend says that he played his fiddle for them, both entertaining and disarming robbers.*”

After purchasing the land in August 1807, the Zion Society settlers turned their attention to establishing homes and farms. By January 1808, they began to move onto the property. By 1809, after their minister, Rev. James White Stephenson (1756–1832), permanently moved to Tennessee,

*General Nathanael Greene comes in second only to George Washington (1732–1799) as the most remembered military leader of the American Revolutionary War. Countless counties and cities are named for General Greene, including Greensboro, North Carolina, and Greenville, South Carolina. Greene died of sunstroke in 1786, at age forty-three, in Savannah, Georgia.

the settlers of Zion turned their attention more deeply to their religion. In August of that year, fifty-four members of the Zion Society congregation celebrated their very first sacrament of the Lord's Supper. It was held in a log cabin with a small shed attached. In 1811 they replaced the log cabin with a permanent church building. The next year, Rev. James White Stephenson was engaged to be the first full-time pastor of the church at a salary of \$175 per year.

Notably, in October 1810, the slaves in the Zion Community were baptized and made members of the church. Their names are recorded on the church roster in 1811. The following record is from an 1812 church session included in *Grace Will Lead Us Home*:

To our shame, we have to confess, that the education of these people had, hitherto been criminally neglected—a great number of them had been the companions, and our nurses, of our infantile years. They had been doomed to hard slavery in order to secure our education, and let us live in ease: and yet we had not taken what pains and trouble which we ought to have done, in teaching them a proper knowledge of that God who made them.

Following this pronouncement, it is said that spiritual education and proper treatment of slaves became a top priority in the Zion Community.

The church at Zion was also involved in educating children from its beginning. In July 1813, James Knox Polk (1795–1849), who lived nearby, enrolled at the Zion Church. He was seventeen years old and had had no previous formal education. Polk went on to become the governor of Tennessee and the eleventh president of the United States.



The Zion Presbyterian Church in Maury County, Tennessee, founded in 1807 by Neville's Frierson ancestors.

The present-day Zion Church is a Greek Revival structure that has stood on the original church site since it was constructed in 1849. It stands beside a large churchyard cemetery, where the first of two thousand interments is **Robert Frierson (1743–1808)**, Neville's fifth great-uncle. There are about three hundred church members of the Zion Church today.

In the fall of 2012, Neville, our son John Henry Bryan III (b. 1960), and I went to see the Zion Church and cemetery. We were accompanied by Neville's distant cousin John Dawson Frierson Gray (b. 1949), who lives in Maury County.



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13. THE THIRD WAVE OF FRIERSON MIGRANTS, 1808

In April 1808, just after the Frierson migrants had organized themselves into the Zion Society, four more families arrived in Tennessee from South Carolina. The eldest of that group was **Robert Frierson (1743–1808)**, the sixty-five-year-old uncle of **Moses Gordon Frierson (1775–1813)**.

- **ROBERT FRIERSON** was married to Elizabeth McCauley (1746–1822), with whom he had eleven children. Robert made the trek to Tennessee with two of his sons. He died in Franklin, Tennessee, about two months after his arrival. He was the first person to be interred in the Zion Church Cemetery in Maury County, Tennessee. His wife, Elizabeth, is also buried there. A brief sketch of their life is captured in W. S. Fleming’s *Historical Sketch of Zion Church, Maury County, Tennessee, and Genealogy of the Frierson Family, 1730–1887*:

[In 1808] they arrived at their rented farms in the neighborhood of Franklin. Mr. Robert Frierson was in a low state of health. This venerable old man [age sixty-five] although comfortably settled, was far advanced in life. . . .

He was so anxious to have the society of his children, and also to be where there was a prospect of religion flourishing, and so he encountered the fatigue, expense, and peril of removal from South Carolina.

It pleased a propitious God to protract his existence until he had met with his children and friends, and then take him from this troublesome world. . . .

He requested that his body be laid in our Church Yard, and was the first tenant in that spot of ground. Which has been appropriated for that solemn purpose.

Robert Frierson is the fourth great-grandfather of Neville’s sixth cousin John Dawson Frierson Gray (b. 1949), a Maury County attorney who has been especially helpful with this book.

- **REV. JAMES WHITE STEPHENSON** (1756–1832) was the fifty-two-year-old former pastor of the Bethel congregation in Kingstree, South Carolina. His first wife, Elizabeth James (1767–1793), died two years after they married in 1791. On May 26, 1808, after migrating to Tennessee, Rev. James White Stephenson married a widow, Mary Frierson Fleming (1769–1830), who had been part of the second wave of migrants in 1806. They had one son, John James Stephenson (1811–1838).

Rev. James White Stephenson was the spiritual leader of the Frierson clan, which came to settle in Maury County, Tennessee, in the first decade of the nineteenth century. He served this constituency beginning in 1790 for about forty-two years, eighteen in South Carolina and about twenty-four in Tennessee. He died at almost age seventy-six and is buried in the Zion Church Cemetery.

- **DR. SAMUEL MAYES** (1759–1842) was a forty-eight-year-old veteran of the American Revolutionary War (1775–83). He married Mary Frierson (1776–1855), who was the daughter of Robert and Elizabeth McCauley Frierson, and a first cousin of Moses Gordon Frierson. Samuel Mayes was almost eighty-three years old when he died in 1842. His wife was seventy-nine years old at her death in 1855. They are both buried in the Zion Church Cemetery.

- **JOSHUA FRIERSON** (1755–1817) was a fifty-two-year-old first cousin of Moses Gordon Frierson and an American Revolutionary War lieutenant. In 1805 he married thirty-year-old Elizabeth Bingham (1775–1830). They traveled with their eighteen-month-old son, Joshua Bunyan Frierson (1806–1876), on the 1808 trek to Tennessee. Joshua Frierson died at age sixty-one and is interred at Zion Church Cemetery.



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14. DR. CHARLES CALVIN FRIERSON, MILDRED NICHOLSON PAINE, AND THEIR ELEVEN CHILDREN

Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson (1811–1879), Neville’s great-great-grandfather, was the youngest of the seven children of **Moses Gordon Frierson (1775–1813)** and **Mary Jane Dickey Frierson (1777–1862)**.

Charles Calvin Frierson was born in Maury County, Tennessee, and was only two years old when his father died. He was raised by his mother, who never remarried, and he lived in the Zion community until he migrated to Mississippi when he was about thirty years old. In September 1831, Charles Calvin Frierson married **Mildred Nicholson Paine (1812–1874)**. Presumably in the 1830s, he trained to be a medical doctor, but we have no record of his training. He perhaps attended a medical college, but he may have only served as an apprentice to a local doctor. Charles Calvin Frierson and Mildred Paine Frierson had eleven children, and, remarkably, all of them lived into adulthood.

- **MARY ELIZABETH “BETTY” CURRIN FRIERSON (1832–1910/20)** never married. In the 1870 census, she is listed as thirty-two years old (although she was actually thirty-eight), and her occupation is listed as “*at home*.” She lived with her sisters Sallie and Pattie until her death, sometime after 1910 and before 1920; she was over seventy-eight years old when she died.
- **SALLIE WYATT FRIERSON (1833–1900/10)** never married and lived with her sisters Betty and Pattie. It is said that all three of them were talented pianists. Sallie Wyatt Frierson is listed in the 1900 census but not in the 1910 census; thus, she was between sixty-seven and seventy-seven years old when she died.
- **EDWARD LIVINGSTON FRIERSON JR. (1834–1860/61)** married S. Minerva “Minnie” McAlister (1841–) on January 13, 1859. In late 1860 (possibly early 1861), Edward Livingston Frierson Jr. was murdered by his father-in-law, who split his head open with an axe. Edward Livingston Frierson Jr. sired two daughters, who were both named Capitola Frierson. One was his child with a Frierson family slave, and the other was a daughter born in early 1860 to his wife.
- **JAMES GORDON FRIERSON (1837–1884)**, Neville’s great-grandfather, married **Emma Gwynne Davis (1847–1899)**.

- **ADELINE ARMSTRONG FRIERSON (1840–1863)** married Rev. Rufus Sanford McClamroch (1830–1886) on December 14, 1861, and she died on May 4, 1863. They had one child, Albert Sydney McClamroch (1863–1945), who became a minister in Louisiana.
- **EDWIN DICKEY FRIERSON (1842–1906)** married Martha Annette Frierson (1841–1915), his distant cousin, on November 25, 1869. Edwin Dickey Frierson entered the Confederate Army with Company B of the 30th Mississippi Infantry Regiment in April 1862, at age twenty. He was severely wounded in May 1864 in Dalton, Georgia, but survived the Civil War. He died at age sixty-three in Lafayette County and is buried in the College Hill Cemetery.
- **EUGENIA CAROLINE FRIERSON (1844–1875)** married Major Martin Linn Clardy (1844–1914) on April 5, 1866. At the time, Martin Linn Clardy was a law partner with James Gordon Frierson in Oxford, Mississippi. Martin Linn and Eugenia Caroline Frierson Clardy had three children. One was Pearl Clardy (1871–1934), who married her first cousin **James Gordon Frierson Jr. (1872–1951)**. Eugenia Caroline Frierson Clardy died at the birth of her third child in Missouri at age thirty on February 7, 1875.
- **EMMA SALINA RUTH FRIERSON (1846–1878)** married George Benjamin Peers (1842–1915) on September 12, 1865, in Lafayette County. They had one child, John Calvin Peers (1866–1934), who had a son, David Kennett Peers (1895–1918), who was killed in France during World War I (1914–18).
- **MARTHA “PATTIE” MATILDA DUDLEY FRIERSON (1849–1939)** never married and died at age ninety at her family home in College Hill. She is buried in the College Hill Cemetery.
- **IDA FOOTE FRIERSON (1852–1890)** married Albert Sargant Hurt (1852–1908). After Ida Frierson Hurt died in 1890, Albert Sargant Hurt married Lillie Grace Quarles (1857–1939).
- **ROBERT PAINE FRIERSON (1853–1914)** moved in 1884 to Union City, Tennessee. In 1886 he married Caroline “Carrie” Alexander Rice (1865–1929) in Brownsville, Haywood County, Tennessee; they had eight children.

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15. THE FRIERSONS IN COLLEGE HILL, MISSISSIPPI

In 1841 **Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson (1811–1879)** and his wife, **Mildred Nicholson Paine Frierson (1812–1874)**, migrated from the Zion Community in Maury County, Tennessee, to College Hill in Lafayette (pronounced “la-FAY-et”) County, Mississippi. They migrated with their five children, including Neville’s three-year-old great-grandfather, **James Gordon Frierson (1837–1884)**, and fifteen slaves.

On the two-hundred-mile trek to Mississippi, the Friersons traveled with **Edward Livingston Frierson (1798–1865)**, Charles Calvin Frierson’s older brother; Edward Livingston’s wife, Sarah Elvira Stephenson (1800–1868); their five children; and their twelve slaves.

The Frierson brothers were among Mississippi’s early pioneers, who came to claim land that had been ceded by the Chickasaws to the United States in 1830. The community of College Hill* was located about five miles northwest of Oxford, Mississippi. Coincidentally, the Friersons arrived in 1841, the very same year that the Mississippi legislature selected Oxford as the site for the University of Mississippi. The town of Oxford had been named for the famous English university in 1837 in order to influence that decision; the strategy worked.



In 1841 Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson and his family migrated from Maury County, Tennessee, to Lafayette County, Mississippi.

*College Hill was never an incorporated town in Mississippi, though it was an area with a significant population in the nineteenth century. Today College Hill has no recorded population and is known mostly as the site of a country store and a church. The site is surrounded by a large number of upscale residences and is a suburban part of Oxford, Mississippi.

The Frierson brothers moved to Mississippi, in large measure, to join some of their Presbyterian friends and family, who had already begun to establish an outpost or “daughter church” of the Zion Presbyterian Church. That church, College Hill Presbyterian Church, which still exists today, is the oldest Presbyterian Church in northern Mississippi.



College Hill Presbyterian Church in the 1890s.



College Hill Presbyterian Church in 2015.

The first documentation of the presence of Neville’s Frierson family in Mississippi is the listing of Edward Livingston Frierson and Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson as elders in College Hill Church records, dated July 20, 1842, and June 24, 1843, respectively. A listing of the church members from April 3, 1856, includes thirty-one white males, forty-one white females, and thirty-one slaves. Slaves had also been members of Zion Church in Maury County, Tennessee.

Among the Friersons on the early membership rolls at College Hill Church were Edward Livingston Frierson, Charles Calvin Frierson, Mildred Nicholson Paine Frierson, **Edward Livingston Frierson Jr. (1834–1860/61)**, **Mary Elizabeth “Betty” Currin Frierson (1832–1910/20)**, **Sallie Wyatt Frierson (1833–1900/10)**, and **Adeline Armstrong Frierson (1840–1863)**. Neville’s great-grandfather James Gordon Frierson was not received into the church until December 31, 1857, when he was twenty years old.

In the 1850 census, Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson is enumerated as a thirty-nine-year-old farmer with a North Carolina–born wife and nine children, five born in Tennessee and four born in Mississippi. He owned 770 acres of land at a value of \$3,000. He had \$750 of farm tools, and he produced 1,250 bushels of corn and 36 bales of cotton that year.

In the 1860 census, Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson is identified as a forty-nine-year-old physician with \$1,500 in real property and \$34,000 in personal property, an amount that included the value of his twenty-four slaves and other personal property. In Mississippi in 1860, the population was about 800,000, and over half of those people were slaves. Only about ten percent of the white population (about four thousand people) owned slaves, and the average number of slaves owned by a slaveholder was about ten. Dr. Frierson, thus, owned more slaves than was usual for his time.

Dr. Charles Calvin and Mildred Nicholson Paine Frierson's family home in College Hill was only a few yards from the College Hill Presbyterian Church. It has been described as a typical two-story Greek Revival-style home with spacious rooms, wide verandas, and white columns.

In 1936 a Works Progress Administration* representative visited Dr. Frierson's College Hill home and interviewed Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson's daughter **Martha "Pattie" Matilda Dudley Frierson (1849–1939)**, who was the oldest citizen in the community at that time. A newspaper later published excerpts from the interview in an article entitled "A Visit to the Home of Miss Pattie Frierson." The following is a description of the house from that article:

Miss Pattie, who is now eighty-seven, has lived most of her life here in this old Southern colonial home, with its setting of cedars and crepe myrtle.

The house must have been lovely once, but it is now showing signs of decay; the verandas and white columns are now gone from the front of the house, and time has washed away almost every trace of white paint from the old weather-boarding.

Inside the plaster is falling from the walls, but the wide floor-boards are spotlessly clean.

Five years after this interview, in 1941—exactly one hundred years after Dr. Frierson arrived in College Hill—the house was razed.

Across the road from the site of Dr. Charles Calvin and Mildred Nicholson Paine Frierson's house was a two-story wooden structure, the bottom floor of which was a mercantile establishment. According to local tradition, Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson maintained his medical practice on the second floor, which was destroyed by fire many years ago; the bottom floor is still in use.

*The Works Progress Administration was a federal government agency created in 1935 as part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal (1933–38). The program provided three million government jobs but was discontinued in 1943.

Built in 1836, the College Hill Store is the oldest commercial structure in Lafayette County, Mississippi. Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson's medical office was located on the second floor (now razed) of this building. This picture was taken by our daughter Margaret Purifoy Bryan French when we visited College Hill in mid-November 2014.



In the 1870 census, following the emancipation of his twenty-four slaves, the value of Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson's personal property is recorded as \$400 (reduced from \$34,000 in 1860), and his land is listed as worthless.

Mildred Nicholson Paine Frierson died at age sixty-two, on September 13, 1874, and Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson died at age sixty-eight, on April 23, 1879. They are both buried in the College Hill Cemetery in a plot of ground marked Frierson. It is very near the College Hill Presbyterian Church.



The Frierson burial plot at the College Hill Cemetery, near Oxford, Mississippi, is adjacent to the College Hill Presbyterian Church. Neville's great-great-grandparents Dr. Charles Calvin and Mildred Nicholson Paine Frierson are buried there in unmarked graves. Our daughter Margaret also took this picture in 2014.

Today one of Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson's most important legacies is his name. He was the first of Neville's Frierson ancestors to be named Charles, and his name has been adopted in each of the following six generations: Charles Currin Frierson (1838–1897), Charles Calvin's nephew; **Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)**, Charles Calvin's grandson; **Charles Davis Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)**, Charles Calvin's great-grandson; Charles Davis Frierson III (b. 1932), Charles Calvin's great-great-grandson; Charles Frierson Bryan (b. 1970), Charles Calvin's third great-grandson and our son; and Charles Martin French (b. 1994), Charles Calvin's fourth great-grandson and our grandson.



16. THE MURDER OF NEVILLE'S GREAT-GREAT-UNCLE EDWARD LIVINGSTON FRIERSON JR.

Edward Livingston Frierson Jr. (1834–1860/61) was the oldest son of **Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson (1811–1879)**, Neville's great-great-grandfather. He was named for his uncle **Edward Livingston Frierson (1798–1865)**, who is often called Edward Livingston Frierson Sr.* Edward Livingston Jr. was also the older brother of **James Gordon Frierson (1837–1884)**, Neville's great-grandfather. Thus, he is Neville's great-great-uncle.

Born in Maury County, Tennessee, Edward Livingston Frierson Jr. moved to College Hill, Mississippi, at age seven, in 1841. On September 17, 1853, at age nineteen, he was admitted to membership in the College Hill Presbyterian Church, along with Siah, a slave belonging to his uncle Edward Livingston Frierson Sr.

Edward Livingston Frierson Jr. is listed as a member of the class of 1856 at the University of Mississippi. He was among a number of students who did not graduate that year. It has been reported that he attended the New Orleans School of Medicine soon after it opened in 1856. The school closed in 1870.

In the College Hill Church records, Edward Livingston Frierson Jr. is called a hothead. The following appears in the April 2, 1854, church minutes:

Rumor and common fame have charged E. L. Frierson, Jr., who acknowledged that he assaulted Mr. S. R. Phillips unjustly, but was sincerely sorry for his un-Christian and unbecoming conduct and asked forgiveness. Whereupon, the Session unanimously suspended him from Communion at this time and until he showed by his conduct and conversation that he had repented.

On April 3, 1856, two years later, Edward Livingston Jr. was readmitted to communion after an expression of repentance.

However, at age twenty-three, in 1858, Edward Livingston Frierson Jr. was once again charged with un-Christian conduct, using profane language and cowhiding (whipping) a Mr. Denton.

*Edward Livingston Frierson Sr., Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson's older brother, was an elder at the College Hill Presbyterian Church. The following note about Edward Livingston Sr. is recorded in the church minutes: "December 30, 1853. Edward L. Frierson, Sr. presented himself before the Session and frankly acknowledged that since the last communion, he had been once taken over by temptation and was intoxicated with ardent spirits for which, he was truly sorry and heartily repented of his sins, and promised by God's grace he would never do it again."

Four meetings were held regarding these charges. On January 30, 1858, six church elders (including his uncle Edward Livingston Frierson Sr.) unanimously voted that Edward Livingston Jr. be suspended from the privileges of the church.

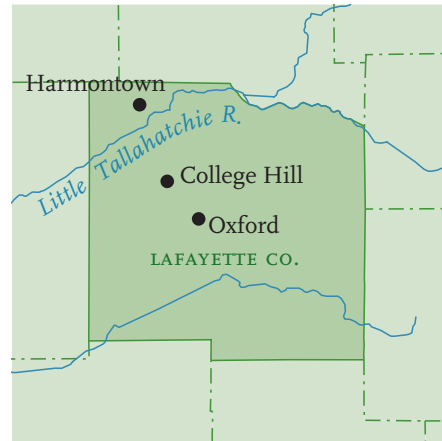
On January 13, 1859, Edward Livingston Frierson Jr. married S. Minerva “Minnie” McAlister (1841–), the fifth child of Thomas Milton McAlister (1806–1871) and Margaret Daniel Keown (1809–1878), who were born and married in South Carolina.

The McAlisters lived on a farm in Harmontown, north of the Little Tallahatchie River (now Sardis Lake*), in the northwest corner of Lafayette

County, Mississippi. They were the parents of seven daughters and one son, and were apparently a relatively well-off family.

In January or February 1860, Edward Livingston Frierson Jr. and S. Minerva “Minnie” McAlister Frierson had a daughter named Capitola Frierson (1860–). In September 1860, E. L. and S. M. Frierson are enumerated in the Lafayette County Census of 1860 with a seven-month-old daughter named Capitola.

According to family lore, sometime in late 1860 or possibly early 1861, Edward Livingston Frierson Jr. was summoned to his father-in-law’s house, about nine miles northwest of College Hill, just on the north side of the Little Tallahatchie River. Edward Livingston Jr. traveled by horseback and crossed the river on a ferry. It was in Harmontown that Thomas Milton McAlister, age fifty-three, murdered his son-in-law by splitting his head open with an axe. He likely had help with this ghastly, premeditated act.



Map of Lafayette County, Mississippi, showing the locations of Oxford, the county seat, and two unincorporated communities, College Hill and Harmontown.

*Sardis Lake, which is today between College Hill and Harmontown, was created between 1935 and 1940 by the construction of Sardis Dam on the Little Tallahatchie River.



Thomas Milton McAlister murdered Neville's great-great-uncle Edward Livingston Frierson Jr. by splitting his head open with an axe. Thomas Milton McAlister died at age sixty-four, about eleven years after the murder, and he is buried in the Free Springs Cemetery in Harmontown.



Margaret Daniel Keown McAlister, the wife of Thomas Milton McAlister, who murdered Edward Livingston Frierson Jr., died at age sixty-eight, about seventeen years after the murder, and is buried in the Free Springs Cemetery in Harmontown.

Other than family and community lore, the only confirmation of this murder is a statement made by Chancellor William S. Fleming (1861–1929) in a 1907 publication entitled “Historical Sketch of Zion Church and Genealogy of the Frierson Family”: *“Edward, killed by his father in law and perhaps others.”*

In family records, there is no mention of when or why Edward Livingston Frierson Jr. died. He simply disappeared after the census in September 1860; there is nothing recorded about a life thereafter or a place of burial.* A veil of silence apparently fell on the large and prominent Frierson family of College Hill.

To further research the fate of Edward Livingston Frierson Jr., we began looking for information about his wife, S. Minerva “Minnie” McAlister Frierson and his daughter, Capitola Frierson.

The Lafayette County census, dated September 1860, includes this listing:

<i>E. L. Fergerson</i> [Frierson]	<i>age 25</i>	<i>Born in Tennessee</i>	<i>Physician</i>
<i>S. M. Fergerson</i> [Frierson]	<i>age 20</i>	<i>Born in Alabama</i>	
<i>Capitola Fergerson</i> [Frierson]	<i>age 7/12</i>	<i>Born in Mississippi</i>	

**The most likely burial place for Edward Livingston Frierson Jr. is the bottom of the Little Tallahatchie River, which, coincidentally, is where the body of fourteen-year-old Emmett Till (1941–1955) was placed after he was killed in August 1955. Till was murdered after being falsely accused of flirting with a white woman in Money, Mississippi, which is located downriver from Harmontown.*

In the 1870 Lafayette County census, dated October 22, 1870, S. Minerva “Minnie” McAlister Frierson is recorded as S. M. Byrd, the wife of Samuel H. Byrd (1844–), whom she married, according to the census, in December 1869. In this census, Capitola is listed as T. C. Byrd, a ten-year-old daughter attending school.

<i>S. H. Byrd</i> [Samuel H. Byrd]	<i>Male</i>	<i>age 25</i>	<i>Born in Mississippi</i>	<i>Farmer</i>
<i>M. Byrd</i> [Minnie McAlister Frierson Byrd]	<i>Female</i>	<i>age 29</i>	<i>Born in Alabama</i>	
<i>G. Byrd</i> [Francis George Byrd]	<i>Male</i>	<i>age 1</i>	<i>Born in Mississippi</i>	
<i>T. C. Byrd</i> [Capitola Frierson]	<i>Female</i>	<i>age 10</i>	<i>Born in Mississippi</i>	<i>at school</i>
<i>William Byrd Jr.</i> (brother)*	<i>Male</i>	<i>age 17</i>	<i>Born in Mississippi</i>	

In the 1880 Lafayette County census, dated June 22, 1880, S. Minerva “Minnie” McAlister Frierson Byrd, who divorced Samuel H. Byrd in 1876, is listed as Mariah Friason. She is enumerated as the head of a household that included her twenty-year-old daughter Capitola and three younger children from her marriage to Samuel.

<i>Mariah Friason</i>	<i>age 40</i>	<i>Born in Alabama</i>	<i>Parents born in SC and SC</i>	<i>Divorced</i>
<i>Capitola Friason</i>	<i>age 20</i>	<i>Born in Mississippi</i>	<i>Parents born in TN and AL</i>	<i>Daughter</i>
<i>George Bird</i>	<i>age 11</i>	<i>Born in Mississippi</i>	<i>Parents born in MS and AL</i>	<i>Son</i>
<i>Nannie Bird</i>	<i>age 9</i>	<i>Born in Mississippi</i>	<i>Parents born in MS and AL</i>	<i>Daughter</i>
<i>Wattie Bird</i>	<i>age 4</i>	<i>Born in Mississippi</i>	<i>Parents born in MS and AL</i>	<i>Son</i>

We have found no further records for S. Minerva “Minnie” McAlister Frierson Byrd. There are, however, several other records in which Capitola Frierson is recorded. In the College Hill Presbyterian Church minutes, there is a record stating that a woman named Capitola Leona Frierson joined the church on October 6, 1871, and moved to Waterford, Mississippi, in 1883. Family records dated 1911 in the files of **Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)** state: “*Edward Livingston Frierson had one child, Capitola, who married a Mr. Sanders, and had one child Pattie Ruth. (Oxford, Miss).*” According to Meade Frierson III (1940–2001), who published *America’s Frierson Ancestry Book* in 1996, Edward Livingston Frierson Jr. and S. Minerva “Minnie” had a daughter named Capitola; she married a man with the surname Saunders, and they had a daughter named Patti Ruth Saunders.

*William Byrd Jr. was a half brother of Samuel H. Byrd, the second husband of S. Minerva “Minnie” McAlister Frierson. William is also the great-great grandfather of Howard Darel Brown (b. 1951), an amateur historian and genealogist from the town of Como in Panola County, Mississippi. Darel made us aware of and interpreted the census data for Capitola Frierson in 1860, 1870, and 1880.

Our search for Capitola Frierson in Mississippi led to the discovery of another Capitola Frierson (1859–), an eleven-year-old African American living in Hernando County, Florida, just north of Tampa. She is listed in the 1870 census, dated September 15, 1870:

<i>Allen Frierson</i>	<i>age 44</i>	<i>farmer</i>	<i>born N.C.</i>
<i>Juddy Frierson [Judy]</i>	<i>age 31</i>	<i>keeping house</i>	<i>born S.C.</i>
<i>Capatola Frierson [Capitola]</i>	<i>age 11</i>	<i>attending school</i>	<i>born Fla.</i>
<i>Ivander Frierson</i>	<i>age 7</i>		<i>born Fla.</i>

According to a Frierson descendant, Elizabeth Myers Queener (b. 1937), the Judy Frierson noted above was a slave owned by the Frierson family. In the 1860 Lafayette County census, Edward Livingston Frierson Jr. is listed as a twenty-five-year-old with personal property (mostly slaves) worth \$4,500. It is believed that Judy was one of those slaves and that she became pregnant with his child either shortly before or after he married S. Minerva “Minnie” McAlister in January 1859. Judy was then sent to live in Brooksville, Florida, where she resided on the plantation of Frierson relatives. In Florida, Judy married another Frierson slave.

There are other records of this African American Frierson family, including an 1877 document stating that Capitola Frierson was a teacher at Mt. Pleasant Colored School in Hernando County. She was paid \$130.86 for sixty-five days of work that year. On April 27, 1878, the *Sunland Tribune*, a weekly Tampa newspaper, also reported that three African Americans drowned in Brooksville, Florida: Allen Frierson (1826–1878); his son, Ivander Frierson (1863–1878); and Nero Evans.

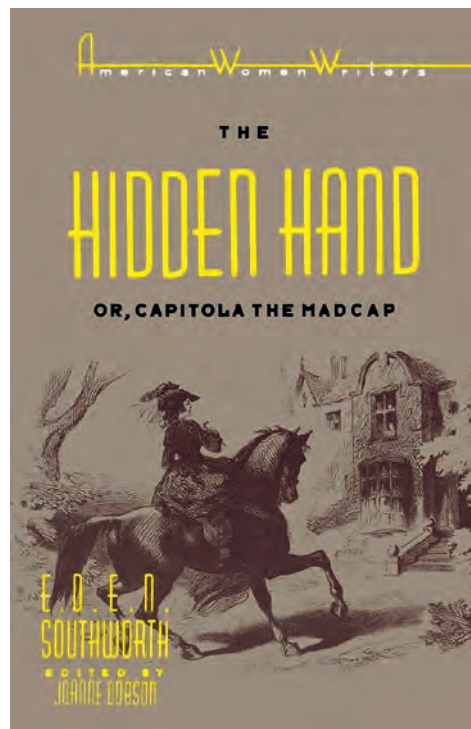
And so we now know there were two documented Capitola Friersons—one white and one mulatto—both likely sired by Edward Livingston Frierson Jr. If that is so, they are both first cousins of Neville’s grandfather Charles Davis Frierson Sr.

Sex between slave owners and female slaves was quite common in Southern plantation society prior to the Civil War. Mulatto offspring were frequently born and generally accepted. Thus, the fact that he had sired a child with a slave was certainly not the motive for Edward Livingston Frierson Jr.’s murder and the subsequent cover-up by the Frierson family.

So why was Edward Livingston Frierson Jr. murdered, and why did the community and the Frierson family keep quiet about it? It may have been the way he handled his affair with Judy Frierson or the fact that he was a hothead and a maverick; or he may have done something else, perhaps heinous or shameful. I doubt that we will ever know.

We do know that one of Edward L. Frierson Jr.'s maverick acts was giving two daughters, born perhaps within months of each other, the name Capitola. How did that happen?

The name Capitola first appeared as the name of a character in a fictional piece called *Hidden Hand*, which was serialized in the *New York Ledger*, a weekly New York story newspaper, beginning in February 1859. *Hidden Hand* was written by E. D. E. N. (Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte) Southworth (1819–1899) and became her most popular novel. The main character in *Hidden Hand*, Capitola Black, is a tomboyish and irreverent orphan who engages in myriad adventures. The setting for the novel is a Virginia plantation in the antebellum period. Capitola became a popular girls' name because of this character and remained so for a generation or two.



The Hidden Hand (or Capitola the Madcap) is a serial novel by E. D. E. N. Southworth. It was first published in 1859. The book sold nearly two million copies. Capitola Black is the protagonist of the novel and an orphan whose origins are unknown. Because of this book, Neville's uncle Edward L. Frierson Jr. gave the name Capitola to his two daughters.



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17. THE CIVIL WAR COMES TO COLLEGE HILL

In April 1861, when the Civil War began at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, **Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson (1811–1879)**, Neville’s great-great-grandfather, was fifty years old. He was a respected physician and substantial planter in College Hill, Mississippi. Two of his sons joined with at least seventy-two other College Hill men to fight in the Civil War.

Numerous family records refer to Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson as a surgeon in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. However, we have found no documents to confirm his military service. Undoubtedly, he tended to sick and wounded soldiers throughout the war, for there was considerable military action in northern Mississippi. For example, he surely served at a makeshift Confederate hospital set up in Oxford after the Battle of Shiloh (April 6–7, 1862).

On December 1, 1862, the Civil War came dramatically to College Hill. On that day, General William Tecumseh Sherman (1820–1891) and his troops took complete possession of the area. According to Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson’s daughter, **Martha “Pattie” Matilda Dudley Frierson (1849–1939)**, who was thirteen years old during the Union occupation of College Hill, General Sherman set up his headquarters in the Friersons’ home. Her reminiscences of the Civil War were recorded in a newspaper article recalling a 1936 interview with her:

She [Martha “Pattie” Matilda Dudley Frierson] was just a little girl when the war began but she remembers looking out one morning just after breakfast and seeing the hills and yards covered with “Blue-Coats”. General Grant’s army camped in her yard on its way to Oxford, and a little later on General Sherman had his headquarters in this old home of hers.

Her father, Dr. Charles C. Frierson, had a large practice in College Hill and surrounding territory. The federal officers never tried to stop his practice, but gave him passes to go anywhere he wanted to in his territory.

Very often they [the Federal officers] called on him when they were sick and wounded, and he was always ready to help them when they were in pain, but at no other time would he assist a Yankee.

Dr. Frierson owned several families of slaves, one of which ran away during the war. Two of them stayed on and made a crop on his place for many years after they were free.

General Sherman left College Hill on December 9, 1862, and marched to Memphis, Tennessee. From there he and his army sailed down the Mississippi River for their assault on Vicksburg, Mississippi.

During General Sherman's brief occupation of College Hill, the town was ravenously pillaged and plundered. Bewildered by this catastrophe, the God-fearing College Hill Presbyterians blamed themselves and vowed to repent their sins.

In January 1863, the Presbyterian congregation made an extensive record of the experience and adopted a resolution. Some excerpts follow:

RESOLVED that those present deem it their duty to place on record for the benefit and instruction of posterity some facts as history which will show the dealings of God with us, as a church and congregation, during the year 1862 which disclosed. . . .

But, December the 1st, 1862, God, in His wise but inscrutable providence, permitted the enemy to enter our quiet community, with a force of more than 30,000 strong. . . .

Before the first tent was stretched or a single campfire was lighted, from twenty to thirty were in every house, appropriating to themselves such articles as gratified their fiendish dispositions. . . .

They would enter dwellings at a late hour of the night, arouse the sleeping inmates and, with the most profane and blasphemous language, demand money, and search ladies trunks and private drawers, and, enraged at not finding nothing which they desired, they would deface, destroy, puncture with their sabers and bayonets. In some instances they forced worthy citizens to leave at once their homes and then set fires to their domiciles. . . .

They made close and confidential companions of our servants [slaves], exchanging hospitalities with them in the most social and familiar manner. They used every act that deceptive falsehood and flattery could invent to induce them to leave their masters at home and accompany them to the land of freedom.

Such is a mere outline of the heavy calamity which God, in his providence, has seen fit to inflict upon our community. . . .

Not only instructions of the Bible, but the dealings of God with nations and with individuals teach us that the sin for which punishment is inflicted in this life is brought to our knowledge by the penalty inflicted upon us. Then our sins, in some measure, at least are not in honoring God to the full extent of our duty. . . .

And it is our duty, . . . to humble ourselves, repent . . . plead for His mercy . . . [and] devote ourselves, our powers of body, and facilities of mind, and our property, to the services of the church and the benefit of the world. AMEN.

College Hill never really recovered from its ravishment during the Civil War.



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18. MILDRED NICHOLSON PAINE: CONJECTURES ABOUT HER HERITAGE

Mildred Nicholson Paine (1812–1874), Neville’s great-great-grandmother, was married to **Dr. Charles Calvin Frierson (1811–1879)**. She bore and raised eleven children who lived to maturity, including **James Gordon Frierson (1837–1884)**, Neville’s great-grandfather.

The following biographical sketch from *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas: 1889* was written fifteen years after Mildred Nicholson Paine Frierson’s death.*

Miss Mildred Payne, of West Tennessee, of English descent, numbering among her progenitors some of the pioneers of the State, and among her kindred some of the best people of Tennessee and Mississippi, counting among their cherished possessions many relics of the Revolutionary days, and pointing with pride to the record of their family. Among these are the Van Burens, the Taylors, the Alexanders, and others. Thomas Paine, the noted political and deistic writer of early times, was a member of the family and was spoken of with mingled feelings, in which pride of race did not predominate.

This historical account is mostly an erroneous boast.

Mildred Nicholson Paine had no Mississippi antecedents. Her only antecedents who ever lived in Tennessee were her father, **James Paine III (c. 1776–1818)**, and her mother, **Mary W. Alexander Paine (c. 1790–after 1833)**, who brought her there in 1814. They left North Carolina after James Paine III was charged “with having begotten a bastard child.”

Mildred Nicholson Paine Frierson was not related to the Van Burens. Her stepfather, from whom she was estranged, was Gerrard Van Buren (1793–1856). Her mother’s maiden surname was Alexander, but we know almost nothing about her. Any familial relationship between Mildred Nicholson and Thomas Paine (1737–1809), the Revolutionary-period pamphleteer, is unlikely. Thomas Paine was an only child, and he had no descendants. He was from England and came to the American colonies in 1774. Thus, any relationship to the Paines would have been deeply ancestral.

Mildred Nicholson Paine Frierson did have a prominent immigrant great-grandfather, **Dr. James Paine Sr. (1722–1783)**, who came from London, England, to North Carolina in about 1740. Her grandfather **James Paine Jr. (1752–1808)** was a Revolutionary War soldier and died with a considerable estate in North Carolina.

*This note appears on page 331 of the *Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs*.

19. NEVILLE'S PAINE HERITAGE

Dr. James Paine Sr. (1722–1783)	m. 1745	Mary Harden (1726–1782)
James Paine Jr. (1752–1808)	m.	Esther (1752–1814)
James Paine III (c. 1776–1818)	m. c. 1808	Mary W. Alexander (c. 1790–after 1833)
Mildred N. Paine (1812–1874)	m. 1831	Dr. Charles C. Frierson (1811–1879)
James G. Frierson (1837–1884)	m. 1868	Emma G. Davis (1847–1899)
Charles D. Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)	m. 1901	Charlotte Gallaway (1878–1968)
Charles D. Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)	m. 1931	Margaret Purifoy (1908–1973)

We have found several variants of the surname Paine (for example, Pain, Pane, and Payne). The family rarely used the spelling Payne; the most commonly used spelling was Paine. In Neville's Paine heritage, there are three generations of James Paines, all of whom lived in North Carolina.

- **DR. JAMES PAINE SR. (1722–1783)** was the patriarch of the Paine family. He was a London medical doctor who immigrated to America in 1740. We believe that he came first to Massachusetts and then to North Carolina, where he married **Mary Harden (1726–1782)** in 1745.

Dr. James Paine Sr. soon moved near the town of Oxford in Granville County, North Carolina, on the Virginia border. His first son, **Robert Paine (1748–1808)**, was born in nearby Person County. He went on to become a captain in the American Revolutionary War (1775–83). Three more sons were born to James Sr. and his wife, including their youngest child, named James Paine Jr.

Dr. James Paine Sr. served in the colonial militia from Granville County. He is listed on October 8, 1754, as Major James Paine. He also served as a justice of the peace and sheriff in Granville County. From 1754 to 1759, James Paine Sr. was a member of the North Carolina Colonial Assembly, representing Granville County. It is said that he was a “large land owner with a large and distinguished family.” He died at age sixty-one, in 1783. His will is on record in Caswell County, another of the North Carolina counties bordering Virginia.

- **JAMES PAINE JR. (1752–1808)**, the youngest son of Dr. James Paine Sr., received land on Six Pound Creek in Warren County, North Carolina, in 1767 as a gift from his father. In the Daughters of the American Revolution records, James Paine Jr. is recorded as a colonel in the Warren County Militia.

Importantly, we have James Paine Jr.'s will, which was written in 1807 and probated in November 1808 in Warren County. The will reflects a sizeable estate, including land, furniture, slaves, money, and horses. The beneficiaries were James Jr.'s seven children; the oldest child, who was named James III, is the first child mentioned in the will.

- **JAMES PAINE III** (c. 1776–1818),* Neville's third great-grandfather, lived in Warren County and married **Mary Worsham Alexander** (c. 1790–after 1833), about whom we know little. They had three children: **Robert Paine** (1810–1823), who died at age twelve in Tennessee; **Mildred Nicholson Paine** (1812–1874), Neville's great-great-grandmother; and **Sarah W. Paine** (1813–1830), who died at age sixteen.

James Paine III was a constable in Warren County in 1812 and 1813. During that time, two bonds were posted to ensure the faithful discharge of his duties in the Six Pound District, one for 1,000 pounds in 1812 and one for 500 pounds in 1813. One of the bondsmen was George Nicholson (1776–1855), thought to be a brother-in-law of James III.

On November 24, 1813, James Paine III had to post another bond, this time for 150 pounds. The bond is signed by him, Dudley Clanton (1770–1817), and one other bondsman. It was executed in open court and ordered to be recorded. It reads, in part:

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas the above bondsman James Paine stands charged with having begotten a Bastard Child on the body of Polly Adams, a single woman.

Now therefore if the said James Paine shall and do from henceforth keep harmless and indemnify the County of Warren from all costs and charges with respect to the maintenance of the said child, and shall also comply with the orders of the County Court of Warren at all times with respect to the support and maintenance of the said Bastard Child: Then this obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force.

*Another James Paine (1776–1840), a first cousin of Neville's third great-grandfather James Paine III, migrated from Person County, North Carolina, to Giles County, Tennessee, in 1814. He was a highly regarded justice of the peace in both North Carolina and Tennessee. He had two wives and around twenty children.

In 1814 James Paine III; his wife, Mary Worsham Alexander Paine; and their three young children migrated west from Warren County, to Maury County, Tennessee, a distance of over six hundred miles. In 1817, at around age forty, James Paine III prepared his will. He died the following year, leaving his widow with three young children.

On March 5, 1822, Mary Worsham Alexander Paine, married Gerrard Van Buren (1793–1856), who became a guardian to the three Paine children: Robert Paine, age twelve; Mildred Nicholson Paine, age ten; and Sarah Paine, age eight. In 1823 twelve-year-old Robert died, and in 1830 Mildred's sixteen-year-old sister, Sarah, also died. Mary and Gerrard Van Buren had three daughters together: Caroline Matilda Van Buren (1822–), Martha Ann Van Buren (1825–), and Lucy Robertson Van Buren (1828–).

In 1830 Mildred Nicholson Paine became estranged from her stepfather and mother, and the court in Maury County removed Gerrard Van Buren as her guardian. A year later, in 1831, Mildred Nicholson Paine, age nineteen, married **Charles Calvin Frierson (1811–1879)**, a twenty year-old who lived in the nearby Zion community. The next year, in the Chancery Court of Maury County, Charles Calvin and Mildred Nicholson Paine Frierson filed a lawsuit against Mildred's mother, step father, and three stepsisters.



20. MILDRED PAINE FRIERSON'S 1832 LAWSUIT

In 1832, one year after **Mildred Nicholson Paine (1812–1874)** married **Charles Calvin Frierson (1811–1879)**, the young couple (she was twenty and he was twenty-one years old) filed a lawsuit in the Chancery Court of Maury County, Tennessee, against Mildred Nicholson's stepfather and former guardian, Gerrard Van Buren (1793–1856); her mother, **Mary Worsham Alexander Van Buren (c. 1790–after 1833)**; and Mildred's three stepsisters.

The court records from this lawsuit were discovered by Mygenealogy.com, a professional genealogy group based in Salt Lake City, Utah. The following is an abstract from the records of the Chancery Court of Maury County:

CHARLES C. FRIERSON & WIFE
 vs
 GERRARD VAN BUREN W/ HIS WIFE
 CAROLINE M. VAN BUREN
 MARTHA A. VAN BUREN &
 LUCY R. VAN BUREN

Charles C. Frierson and wife Mildred (formerly Mildred M. Pane) versus Gerrard Van Buren and wife and others filed 3 September 1832. . . .

James Pane, the father of Mildred, died with considerable property. . . .

8 June 1817 made will and left everything to Mary W Pane his wife during her life or widowhood. . . .

They were the parents of three children: Mildred N., Robert A., and Sarah W. Pane, the last two dead. . . . Robert Pane died 23 January 1823 at 12 years and Sarah W. Pane died February 1830 at 16 years and both were unmarried. . . .

The will said that if Mary remarried she was not to share in division or share of any child who died. . . .

She married Gerrard Van Buren in 1819 or 1820 and he took possession of the property left to her by Pane. (Negroes names and ages)

She has had three children by Van Buren Caroline, Martha, and Lucy. Van Buren says in his answer that "Pane may have left a will". His children by Mary were Caroline Matilda Van Buren, born 1 December 1822, Martha Ann Van Buren, born 31 December 1825, and Lucy Robertson Van Buren, born 23 March 1828.

He married Mary on 5 March 1822. . . .

He quotes survivorship law 1784 of N.C. He says his children are heirs of the half blood of the two Pane children that died. Among the bills enclosed are bills charged to Sally W. Pane and in 1829 a cherry cough and . . . was purchased for eight dollars.

Van Buren said Polk (later Pres. Polk) was his attorney, “but attorney left for Washington” before he prepared bill.*

Will of James Payne: beloved wife . . . executors John Alexander, John Taylor, Richard Taylor, and Phemmes [?] Willis. . . . Signed 8 June, 1817. . . . Witnesses: James Turnstall, E. D. Hardaway. . . . Will signed in Robertson County and recorded in Clarksville, Montgomery County, Tennessee.

Among many accounts and notes included there is mentioned cash received from N.C.

About one year after this lawsuit was filed, a decision was rendered by the Maury County Chancery judge. The transcript of the judge’s decision is one of the most complex word puzzles I have ever encountered. We have a copy of it in our Frierson family archives.

As best we can determine the court decision secured most of Mildred Nicholson Paine Frierson’s inheritance rights based upon her father’s will. However, the court did give Mildred’s step-siblings some inheritance from Mildred’s two deceased full siblings.

The real significance of this decision today is, of course, not how the court divided up the slaves and money as a result of this intra-family lawsuit. Rather the lawsuit is important because it unlocked Mildred Nicholson Paine Frierson’s previously unknown ancestry.

**James Knox Polk (1795–1849), the eleventh president of the United States, was a member of the United States House of Representatives from Tennessee in 1832. Interestingly, he is a descendant of William Knox, the older brother of John Knox (1514–1572), the Scottish reformer who is Neville’s tenth great-grandfather.*