

James Dillard was born in Culpepper County VA in 1755 or 1756. He moved at age 7 to Laurens District SC.

Captain James Dillard applied for a pension (FPA S6797) 11Jul1833 in Laurens District SC. In 1775 he was living at Ninety Six, also called Cambridge SC when he enlisted under Captain Peyer Imhoff and Colonel William Thompson's Regiment. In 1780, Dillard took refuge in North Carolina where he joined Colonel James Williams and was commissioned as captain. They were in the Battle of Kings Mountain. After Colonel Williams died from mortal wounds at Kings Mountain, Colonel Joseph Hayes took command of the regiment with Dillard continuing as captain.

During the time Col. Hayes commanded the Little River Regiment, James Dillard was engaged under Colonel William Washington of the Continental line in a battle in which the Tories were defeated at Bush River and at the taking of Williams' Fort 31Dec1780. He was also at the Battle of the **Cowpens on 17Jan1781 when he received a gunshot wound.** He was also in the Siege of 96 under General Greene in command of the same company. At the end of 1781 Col. Hayes was killed, and was succeeded by Col. Levi Casey. Under Casey the Little River Regiment proceeded under General Andrew Pickens to Edisto River where they defeated the Tories under Col. Cunningham and Dillard was again wounded. He also received two other wounds, saber cuts, in skirmishes with the Indians. After he recovered from his wound, Dillard was sent by Col. Casey with a part of his company to join Pickens in a deployment into the Cherokee nation where they captured Tories hiding there and made a treaty with the Cherokees.

Several soldiers testified in support of Captain Dillard and he was award a pension of \$513.34/annum. James died 04Oct1836 in Laurens District SC. His second wife, Mary Puckett Dillard died within a year. James Dillard's children were Samuel, Charles, James, Mary Garret, Priscilla Garrett, Jane Burke, Nancy Boyce, Narcissa Duckett, and Sarah Byrd.

From: Carolina Herald, March 1990.... by Thomas L. Wallis

Mary Ramage Dillard, a daughter of John and Jean (Jane) Adair Ramage of Laurens District, South Carolina, was born during the early 1760's. Mary was the wife of James Dillard, who was born in 1755 in Culpeper County, Virginia. James had settled in what is now Laurens County when he was seven years old. James and Mary lived near the South Fork Creek in the eastern section of Laurens County.

Both Mary's father, John Ramage, and maternal grandfather, Joseph Adair, Sr., were American Patriots in Laurens District. Mary's husband James Dillard served as a Captain in the American Revolution. Mary is considered a Revolutionary Heroine because of her midnight ride to warn the American Patriots of an impending attack. It seems that her husband, Capt James Dillard, was away from home at the time serving in the American Army. A group of British and Tory soldiers came to Mary's home and ordered Mary to prepare them a meal. While serving the meal, Mary overheard them discussing that they would attack the American Army. After they left, Mary mounted a horse, not even taking time to saddle it, and carried the information to the American Patriots. She had a baby son to deal with and having no time to find somewhere to leave him, Mary lifted the bed post and sat it down on the end of his dressing gown, keeping the baby from safe while he slept. Her effort is said to have prevented a Tory victory at Blackstocks which was Tarleton's first defeat in South Carolina. Tarleton later recalled seeing a woman on horseback among the

trees bordering his march and he believed that she reported him to Sumter.

On another occasion, Mary numbered the British Army while they marched down the road near her home. By counting the men in each file and then counting the number of files, she was able to calculate the number of British. She gave this information to her husband who passed it to the commander of the American Patriots. On two occasions during the Revolution the Dillard's home was burned but this did not discourage their desire for American Independence.

History records that Mary Ramage Dillard was a beautiful woman, remarkably little and very active. After the Revolution, James and Mary continued to live in Laurens County where they reared their family, They had seven children: John Dillard, George Washington Dillard, Priscilla Ramage Dillard, Mary (Polly) Dillard, Jane (Jennie) Dillard, Elizabeth (Betsy) Dillard and Samuel H. Dillard.

Mary was a member of a family who supported independence during the American Revolution. Mary Ramage dillard's father, John Ramage, her maternal grandfather, Joseph Adair, and her husband, Capt. Jamrs dillard, fought for American independence during the Revolution. Capt. James and Mary had a large home on the Enoree River, opposite the Musgrove plantation. On two occasions, Capt. James and Mary Ramage Dillard's home was burned by the British and/or the Tories but this did not discourage their desire for American independence.

Mary Ramage Dillard died at the age of 38 in 1795. Cause of death is unknown by this writer, but I suspect death came shortly after the death of her last child.

The date of death on her headstone is incorrect. She had been confused with the second Mary Dillard, wife of James Dillard. The headstone was moved from Mary Puckett Dillard's grave to the Duncan Creek Church cemetery because no one knows exactly where she was buried.