

SOME PIONEER DELAWARE FAMILIES

GENEALOGICAL DEPARTMENT
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

By

Donald Odell Virdin

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Donald O. Virdin Aug 19, 1977

BACKGROUND

After The Virdins of Delaware and Related Families was published in 1976, new information was developed. With this data, and with unpublished family history which had not been used in the original book, it seemed that an effort should be made to publish that which has been collected. The years of work involved will benefit no one unless it is printed. Accordingly, the writer has again attempted to publish a genealogy, or rather a compilation of genealogical facts, knowing that it is incomplete and that it primarily covers the early periods of our history.

There are many missing links in this book. Further, in an undertaking of this kind, with so many individuals and dates to be verified, there is always a possibility for error. The writer believes that such errors are few; certainly, none are intentional.

For much of the material on the Virdin family credit must be given to James R. Virden, Russia, Ohio, and his sister, Mrs. Ruth (Virden) Shoup, Chula Vista, California. Most of the census data, and much of the data on the Virdin family in the Midwest and the West, has been contributed by James R. Virden as the result of almost twenty years of research. Without his gift of time and information this book would not have been as complete.

Some of the family histories concerning the other Delaware families was prepared by Mr. Herman Carter before 1900 with the assistance of Mr. John C. Gooden of Wyoming, Delaware. They were given to Samuel A. Virden with a note which said:

"The source of information in these sheets is found in county records, public documents, church records, family bibles, and tombstones...Mr. John C. Gooden, genealogist and historian, made this subject the study of his life. To him are due the credit for much of the data here arranged. He does not strain lines to make family connections, but is truthful and records only such data for which he has positive evidence."

It will be noted that some of these family records are incomplete and do not give dates and citations. However, by making a spot check of several of the families from public records, it appears that the work of Mr. Carter and Mr. Gooden is accurate, and they are included with the hope that they will enable someone to find a family tree.

There is additional data concerning the Virdin family of Mississippi (who are descendants of John and Ellinor (Sipple) Virdin of Kent County) available in a manuscript prepared by Mrs. Edythe W. Thoesen

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of Boulder, Colorado, in 1963. This document, the writer understands, is available in the Delaware Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

The two illustrations in this book were prepared by Thomas Wayne Major (a direct descendant of John and Ellinor (Sipple) Virdin) of Wilmington, Delaware. "By-Fields", located near Dover, Delaware, was the birthplace of Ceasar Rodney, signer of the Declaration of Independence. The Lowber House, Magnolia, Delaware, was built in 1774 and is presently owned by the State Archives Commission of Delaware. It is on the National Register of Historical Places.

THE VIRDIN FAMILY

Insofar as the writer has been able to determine, the Virdins mentioned in this book (with two or three exceptions specifically discussed) are descendants of HUGH VIRDEN and his wife Elizabeth (White) Virdin who were in Sussex County, Delaware, in 1719, or JOHN VIRDIN and his wife Ellinor (Sipple) Virdin who were in Kent County, Delaware, in 1732. Although extensive research has been conducted, both in America and in England, no records have been found to determine when Hugh Virden and John Virdin arrived in America.

However, the conclusion must be reached (based upon the known facts) that Hugh Virden and John Virdin arrived in America sometime prior to 1720. It is quite likely that they were brothers. Although there have been many stories written and printed as to how the first Virdins arrived in America, none that have come to the attention of the writer have been more than theories, unsupported by facts. The two most logical stories are these: According to Mrs. Samuel Warren Hall, who was a descendant of John Virdin of Kent County and a professional genealogist, three Virdin brothers who served in the English Navy went from England to Holland. From there they took a ship to America, landing at Jamestown, Virginia. The other story was told by William Virdin (son of Matthew Lowber Virdin) who was born in 1807, and died in 1888. According to William Virdin there were three Virdin brothers who left Liverpool, England, after 1700 and came to America, finally arriving at Lewes, Delaware.

Notwithstanding the genealogical axiom that any "three brother" story is untrue, it seems to the writer that in this instance there may be some element of truth. However, it is probable that there were two brothers rather than three. Indeed, ENGENIOR VIRDEN, who was in Virginia in 1760, is probably the son of Hugh Virden of Sussex County, Delaware, or John Virdin of Kent County, Delaware. Engenior Virden had to be at least 21 years of age when he witnessed the will of John Wright in Augusta County, Virginia, on September 27, 1760. Thus, he was probably born between 1730 and 1740--a decade when he could have been a son of either Hugh Virden or John Virdin. He may have left home upon reaching maturity, or prior to that time, and moved from Delaware, his place of birth, to nearby Virginia.

ENGENIOR (ENGENIAR, AGENIAH) VIRDEN was probably born between 1730 and 1740 since he had to be 21 years of age on September 27, 1760, when he witnessed the will of John Wright in Augusta County, Virginia. He was one of the two persons who proved the will on November 18, 1762. Further records of Engenior Virden in Augusta County, Virginia, show that: (1) On December 10, 1764, he witnessed a document transferring a large tract of land at Snodons Spring from Daniel Young to Samuel Beard; (2) On May 23, 1765, he witnessed a document concerning a tax exemption for Robert McGee because of great age and infirmity. Engenior Virden was shown on the land records of Wilkes County, Georgia (the parent county of Warren County) as early as 1783, so one can assume that after

the Revolutionary War he moved from Virginia to Georgia. He was in that war; his grave in Warren County, Georgia, is marked by the DAR. In 1793 both Engenior Virden and William Virden appeared on the tax rolls of Wilkes County, afterwards known as Warren County, Georgia. Engenior Virden and William Virden were also listed on the 1794 tax records of Warren County. In 1805 Engenior Virden, William Virden, and John Virden, were listed in the Land Lottery. Engenior (Ageniah) Virden owned at one time some 300 acres of land on Rocky Comfort Creek, Georgia. On land records in 1784 Engenior Virden's wife is listed as Jane Virden, but in his will dated in 1808 his wife is listed as Winney. Thus, it must be assumed that he was married twice and that his second wife was much younger than he was, since records of Houston County, Georgia, as late as 1830 indicate that Winney Virden was still living.

The will of Engenior (Engeniar) Virden, dated August 14, 1808, lists his wife Winney Virden, and sons James Virden, John Virden, and William Virden. In the will he refers to his very old age and low state of health, so it is quite likely that he is the same Engenior Virden who is shown in the early Virginia and Georgia records rather than being father and son by the same name. William Virden, born in 1791 in South Carolina, who spent most of his life in Georgia, is reportedly the son of Engenior Virden. John Virden, who was born in South Carolina, and later listed in Georgia records, and James Virden, who was born in South Carolina, could have been sons of Engenior by his first wife. Both John Virden and James Virden were listed in the 1790 census of South Carolina.

Will of Engeniar Verdan of Warren County, Georgia

"IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN:

I Egeniar Verdan of the State of Georgia and County of Warren being verry old and in a low State of health but in my proper Senses which I thank God for the same I will to my wife Winney Verdan her first choice bed and furniture also one Bay Mare and Saddle and Bridle also one dud Side cow and her own calf also five head of hogs and one Sow and four one year old also Seventy five Bushels of corn and Eight hundred Weight of fodder also one hundred Weight of See Cotton also one pair of Trunks also one dutch oven and the small pot also her choice Pewter Dish and Boson and Three Earthen plates also one Earthen pitcher I give the said mentioned thing to her and her heirs forever also one spinning Wheel and a pair of Cards and her first two choice chairs and also Seventy Dollars in cash and then

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"all the Rest of my Estate Both Real and
Personal Shall be Equally Divided amongst
my two Sons James and John Verdan also I give
to my Son William Verdan three hundred
dollars, one hundred Dollars, on a note upon
Thomas Davis due the first January 1809 and
Two hundred Dollars on the Note due the first
of January 1810 - After my Son John Verdan
paying all my Just debts I give the Ballance
of the Note to him Namely one note due Last
January to the Amount of one hundred and
Twenty Dollars and one hundred due on a
Note the first of January 1809 and Twenty
Dollar Note due the Same time and Twenty
Dollars due on a note 1810 Also I devise
my wife and my son John Verdan to Executor
to my Will and being my last Will Testament
In Witness Whereof I have set my hand and
Seal this 14th of August 1803."

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Egeniar X Verdan (Seal)

mark

Test

Reuben Reese

Edw. Mathews his

Aaron Aldred X

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PROBATE

GEORGIA

WARREN COUNTY

Personally appeared in open Court Reuben Reese
Edward Mathews and Aaron Aldred and being duly
Sworn Saith that they Saw the within named
Egenia Verdan Sign Seal and heard him publish
and declare the Within Instrument of Writing
to be his Last Will and Testament and that at
the time of his So doing he was of Sound mind
and memory and that at his Request and in his
presence and in the presence of Each other they
Subscribed their Names as Witnesses to the Same

Sworn to in Open Court 5th of September 1808

Septimus Weatherby
C.C.O.W.

Reuben Reese
Edward Mathews
Aaron X Aldred
his mark

• WILLIAM VIRDEN (son of Egenior and Jane Virden) was born February 27, 1791, in South Carolina, and died November 13, 1841, in Georgia. He is buried in the Virden-Moore Cemetery near Topeka Junction, Upson County, Georgia. On June 3, 1809, he married Elizabeth--who was born June 9, 1793, in North Carolina. The William Virden homestead was located in the northeast corner of Upson County, Georgia, near the Pike County line. His daughter, Julia Ann (Virden) Adams inherited the property and lived there until her death in 1905. The cemetery in which he is buried is located on property that was a part of the Virden homestead. In addition to the graves of William Virden and his wife, Elizabeth Virden, graves of several of the children are there: Julia Ann (Virden) Adams and her husband, Jeremiah Adams; Priscilla (Virden) Elliott and her husband, Thomas Elliott; Thomas G. Virden and his wife Zilphia (Brown) Virden; and Elizabeth (Virden) Corley. William Virden was listed in the 1820 Census of Warren County, Georgia. He also drew in the Land Lottery of 1827, and in the Cherokee Lottery. William Virden appeared on the 1830 Census of Pike County, Georgia, but records show him to be a resident of Upson County prior to 1835. He appeared on the 1820 Census of Warren County, Georgia, with a wife and five children--one son and four daughters. During the War of 1812 he served as a soldier and after that war returned to Warren County. The 1818 tax records of Warren County show that he owned 71 acres of land on Big Briar Creek.

The 1860 Census of Upson County, Georgia, shows that his widow, Elizabeth Virden, was 67 years of age and was born in South Carolina. The 1850 Census of Upson County, Georgia, shows that there were four persons in the household: (1) Elizabeth Virden, age 56, born in North Carolina; (2) Thomas Virden, age 18, born in Georgia; (3) Priscilla Virden, age 16, born in Georgia; and (4) Benjamin Virden, age 14, born in Georgia. The last two children were not in the bible records supplied by Mr. Jason Eugene Virden (wife: Flora Virden), such records being verified and enlarged upon in History of Upson County, Georgia, 1930.

The will of William Virden, dated January 21, 1839, mentions children Eliza Virden, Samuel Virden, William Virden, Mary Virden, and Martha Virden. (Upson County Wills, page 253.) His wife, Elizabeth Virden, was given certain land to use during her lifetime, and then to her children. Will was probated January 21, 1842.

The children of William and Elizabeth Virden, all born in Georgia, were:

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- (1) Samuel Virden, born February 17, 1811;
- (2) Mary C. Virden, born April 5, 1813;
- (3) Martha Virden, born July 11, 1815;
- (4) Elizabeth Virden, born February 9, 1821;
- (5) James Virden, born October 31, 1822;
- (6) William Virden, Jr., born September 18, 1824;
- (7) Sarah Virden, born May 28, 1825;
- (8) John Virden, born May 27, 1826;
- (9) Julia Ann Virden, born October 12, 1828;
- (10) Thomas G. Virden, born October 4, 1831;
- (11) Priscilla Virden, born April 5, 1834; and
- (12) Benjamin Virden, born December 15, 1835.

SAMUEL VIRDEN (son of William and Elizabeth Virden) was married twice. He married his first wife, Laura Ann Wood, the daughter of Rev. David Wood, a Baptist Minister, on December 20, 1843, in Pike County, Georgia. The name of his second wife is not known, nor is there proof that the following are all the children he had:

- (1) Alexander G. Virden, born June 24, 1846. He was born in Barnsville, Georgia. He married Martha Ann Swann. He died in Victoria, Texas, September 19, 1926;
- (2) Nancy E. Virden, born about 1848;
- (3) Samuel Virden;
- (4) Thomas Virden;
- (5) John Virden; and
- (6) William David Virden, born near Atlanta, Georgia, January 26, 1854. He married Willie Lenora Youngblood in Bell County, Texas, and they lived in Winters, Texas.

Alexander Virden, William David Virden, and Thomas Virden went to Texas together. Thomas Virden was buried in the same cemetery in Texas with his uncle, Benjamin Franklin Virden, and his headstone reads "Uncle Tom Virden", having been put up by his brother's children. The 1850 Census of Pike County, Georgia, lists: (1) Samuel Verdin, age 38, born in Georgia; (2) Laura A. Verdin, age 24, born in Georgia; (3) Alexander Verdin, age 3, born in Georgia; and (4) Nancy E. Verdin, age 1, born in Georgia.

Mary C. Virden (daughter of William and Elizabeth Virden) married _____ Woodall.

Martha Virden (daughter of William and Elizabeth Virden) married Richard Brown in Upson County, Georgia, on December 25, 1838.

Elizabeth Virden (daughter of William and Elizabeth Virden) married John Corley on December 21, 1843. She died June 14, 1847, and is buried in the Virden-Moore Cemetery. She was referred to as Eliza in her father's will.

JAMES VIRDEN (son of William and Elizabeth Virden) married Maria (or Monah) Stephens. He is listed in the Warren County, Georgia, Census of 1870 with this family: (1) James N. Virden, age 46, born in Georgia; (2) Monah Virden, age 34, born in Georgia; (3) Willie L. Virden, age 13, born in Georgia; (4) Fannie Virden, age 12, born in Georgia; (5) Milton Virden, age 11, born in Georgia; (6) Jenny Virden, age 7, born in Georgia; (7) John Virden, age 5, born in Georgia; and (8) James Virden, age 1, born in Georgia.

WILLIAM VIRDEN, JR. (son of William and Elizabeth Virden) married Patience McDaniel on December 9, 1846, in Upson County, Georgia. William and Patience (McDaniel) Virden had two children:

- (1) John James Virden, born June 15, 1853, in Georgia. He married Julia Octavia Densen. John Virden died January 29, 1919, in Cedartown, Georgia. Julia Virden died April 28, 1928. John and Julia Virden had nine children: (1) William P. Virden; (2) James A. Virden; (3) Oscar C. Virden; (4) a son who died as a baby; and five girls, one of whom was Mrs. Minnie Suratt of Baylor, Mississippi. (The information concerning John James Virden was furnished by James R. Virden, who obtained it from Oscar C. Virden, Alhambra, California.)
- (2) William Virden was killed in the Civil War.

JOHN VIRDEN (son of William and Elizabeth Virden) married Mary on March 7, 1850, in Pike County, Georgia. The 1870 Census of Warren County, Georgia, shows these family members: (1) John Virden, age 44, born in Georgia; (2) Mary M. Virden, age 40, born in Georgia; (3) Martha A. Virden, age 17, born in Georgia; (4) Christopher C. Virden, age 15, born in Georgia; (5) John W. Virden, age 13, born in Georgia; (6) Mary C. Virden, age 11, born in Georgia; (7) Nancy A. Virden, age 7, born in Georgia; (8) William Virden, age 5, born in Georgia; (9) Emma Virden, age 3, born in Georgia; and (10) James P. Virden, age 1, born in Georgia.

Julia Ann Virden (daughter of William and Elizabeth Virden) married Jeremiah Adams on December 21, 1843, in Upson County, Georgia. She died in 1905 and is buried in the Virden-Moore Cemetery.

THOMAS G. VIRDEN (son of William and Elizabeth Virden) married Zilphia (or Zelphey) Brown in Pike County, Georgia, on January 7, 1853. She was born October 8, 1835 and died October 12, 1913. Thomas G. Virden died June 13, 1903. He was a veteran of the Civil War. Both are buried in the Virden-Moore Cemetery.

Priscilla Virden (daughter of William and Elizabeth Virden) married Thomas D. Elliot on March 10, 1853. They had one son, Eugenia F. Elliot, born November 28, 1866, and died November 28, 1889. Both Priscilla and Thomas Elliot died in Georgia and are buried in the Virden-Moore Cemetery.

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BENJAMIN FRANKLIN VIRDEN was born December 15, 1835, probably in Barnsville, Georgia, in the Pike-Upson County area. He was the youngest child of William Viriden (who was born in 1791) and Elizabeth Viriden (whose maiden name is unknown). William and Elizabeth were married either January 3 or June 3, 1809. William Viriden is listed in the 1820 Census of Warren County, Georgia. Elizabeth Viriden was called "Queen Elizabeth" by her family. Benjamin Franklin Viriden died February 14, 1903.

Benjamin Franklin Viriden married Nancy Thomas Mathews July 10, 1854, probably in Calhoun (formerly Benton) County, Alabama. Nancy Thomas Mathews was born January 29, 1835, and died January 9, 1881. She was the daughter of John T. Mathews and was shown with her parents in the 1850 Upson County, Georgia, Census. Her father was listed in the 1860 Polk County, Texas, Census. Benjamin F. Viriden was also listed in the 1860 Polk County, Texas, Census with three children, William, Queen Elizabeth, and Mary, all born in Alabama.

Benjamin Franklin and Nancy Thomas (Mathews) Viriden had nine children:

- (1) William Hamilton Viriden, born May 20, 1855, in Alabama;
- (2) Queen Elizabeth Viriden, born May 11, 1857, in Alabama. She died April 29, 1955. On August 15, 1873, she married Leonard Covington, and reared the family in Mills County, Texas. She was known by her nieces and nephews as "Aunt Queenie." She had a daughter, Nettie Covington, who married William Jackson Hall. (He was a grandson of Jackson J. Hall who was born in 1815 in Jackson County, Illinois, and moved to Texas about 1829 with his father, James Hall, Jr.;
- (3) Mary Daniel Viriden, born July 4, 1859, in Alabama. On November 7, 1867, she married Edward Parker, and had a son, Benjamin Parker, who married Ida Henson. She died April 20, 1931;
- (4) John Josiah Viriden, born November 18, 1861, in Polk County, Texas. On December 24, 1885, he married Alice Carey Thompson in Mills County, Texas, and had a son, Edward Franklin Viriden, who married Ava Susannah Henson, a sister of Ida Henson;
- (5) Benjamin Thomas Viriden was born April 30, 1864, in Texas;
- (6) Henry Hill Viriden was born May 8, 1866;
- (7) Julius Allen Viriden was born March 9, 1869;
- (8) Martha Caroline Viriden was born September 21, 1871. She married John N. Keese on December 2, 1898; and
- (9) James Mathews Viriden was born May 4, 1874.

Benjamin Franklin Virden, after the death of his first wife, married Mary E. Giles in Mills County, Texas, in 1884. They had five children: (1) Ennis E. Virden, born in 1885; (2) Edna Priscilla Virden, born November 16, 1886, who married _____ Fry and lived in Abilene, Texas; (3) Joseph Marion Virden, born September 12, 1888; (4) Tommy Terrell Virden, born September 12, 1890; and (5) Virginia Bell Virden, born March 28, 1893, who married Charles Boyd.

JOHN JOSIAH VIRDEN and Alice Carey (Thompson) Virden had nine children:

- (1) William Francis Virden, born November 16, 1894, in Mills County, Texas;
- (2) Nellie Pearl Virden, born March 15, 1897;
- (3) Mary Elizabeth Virden, born March 15, 1897;
- (4) Martha Bell Virden, born September 6, 1899;
- (5) Georgia Mae Virden, born June 12, 1904;
- (6) Eliza Thomas Virden, born November 17, 1891;
- (7) Alice Laura Virden, born March 27, 1902;
- (8) Nora Edward Virden, born June 23, 1909; and
- (9) Edward Franklin Virden, born June 23, 1909. He married Ava Susannah Henson and had two sons, John Wesley Virden and Edward Franklin Virden, Jr. John Wesley Virden had two sons: Robert Wesley Virden (who also had two sons, Robert Virden and Ryan Virden, and a daughter, Rita Virden) and Glenn Virden. (The information concerning Benjamin F. Virden and descendants was furnished by James R. Virden, Russia, Ohio, based upon data supplied by Mrs. T.H. Corley of Houston, Texas, whose mother was T. Cora Henson, a sister of Ava Susannah Henson.)

● JAMES VIRDEN (VERDEN, OR VERDIN) SR., was born in South Carolina on August 25, 1756. In August 1784 he married Sarah Cater (or Caten) also of South Carolina. They had eleven children, all born in South Carolina. James Virden and a brother, John Virden, are listed in the 1790 Census of Newberry County, South Carolina. James Virden died in Illinois on June 18, 1843, and Sarah Virden died on September 3, 1845. James Virden served for 15 months (from June 1777 until September 1778) in the Revolutionary War. He filed a pension application for that War from South Carolina in 1790, No. W-22485. He also filed a claim for a pension from Missouri in 1827, stating that he had never filed a claim before. However, the Missouri claim indicates that it is an Original Claim. In the claim filed from Missouri he stated that 6 children were living, all outside the state of Missouri. In fact, there were 7 children living when he filed the application, probably all living in Illinois. After James Virden died, his widow, Sarah Virden, filed a claim for a widow's pension in the State of Illinois.

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On March 17, 1846, Levi Verden and Isaac Verden, son of Levi, filed a claim for benefits for the surviving children of Sarah Verden, a pensioner. The surviving children listed were: (1) Elizabeth Davis and (2) Radford Verden of Montgomery County; (3) William Verden and (4) Jane Gordon of Christian County; (5) James Verden and (6) Charity Cisco of Shelby County; and (7) Levi Verden of Fayette County, all of Illinois.

James and Sarah (Cater) Virden had eleven children, according to family Bible records:

- (1) Elizabeth Verdin, born July 4, 1785. She married George Davis;
- (2) James Verdin, born November 8, 1787. He married Nancy _____ who was born in 1790 in South Carolina. Her name is listed as Nancy on her tombstone, but as Elizabeth in the 1850 Census;
- (3) Jane Verdin, born November 3, 1789. She married John Gordon (Gorden);
- (4) Sarah Verdin, born December 28, 1791. She died prior to 1827;
- (5) William Verdin, born March 23, 1794. He married Nancy _____;
- (6) Levi Verdin, born April 4, 1796. He married as his first wife, Rachel _____, who died in Illinois in 1826. As his second wife he married Catherine Reese, who was born in 1812 in South Carolina;
- (7) Margaret Verdin, born June 13, 1798. She died prior to 1827;
- (8) Mary Merick Verdin, born October 14, 1800. She died prior to 1827;
- (9) Charity Cater Verdin, born May 5, 1803. She married Daniel Francisco on January 10, 1822;
- (10) Ann Cater Verdin, born September 25, 1805. She died young; and
- (11) Hugh Radford Verdin, born in 1807. He married Margaret Wilson on April 10, 1828. She was born in 1807 in South Carolina.

(Note: Sarah (Cater) Virden in her application for a pension after the death of her husband, James Virden, attached to her file a page torn from her bible in which were listed the names and dates of birth of all the above children except James Virden (November 8, 1787) and Hugh Radford Virden (1807).)

Original Claim of James Verden for Revolutionary War Pension

"Declaration to be placed on the pension list under the act of the 18th of March 1818. State of Missouri, County of Scott, S.S.: On the fifteenth day of October in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and twenty-seven personally appeared in open Court in the County Court for the said County of Scott, being a Court of Record, and State aforesaid, James Verden, a resident of said County aged seventy three years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of Congress on the 18th of March 1818 and the 1st of May 1820. That the said James Verden enlisted as a private for the term of fifteen months on or about the first day of June A.D. 1777 in the State of South Carolina and Charlestown in the company commanded by Frank Boykin the second regiment of Riflemen commanded by Colonel William Thompson in the line of the State of South Carolina in the continental establishment, that he continued to serve in the said corps until on or about the first day of September A.D. 1778 during the full term of fifteen months from the said time of his enlistment when he was honorably discharged from the service in Charlestown in the State of South Carolina. That he hereby relinquished every claim whatever to a pension except the present, that his name is not on the roll of any State except that made by this application, and that the following are the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension. I lived... where I could obtain but little information and did not know what to do to obtain a pension, thinking it more trouble and expense to take the necessary steps to obtain the pension than it would be worth. But the increased feebleness of my body and debility owing to my more advanced age making me less able to support myself by manual labour compels me to endeavour to obtain the pension.

And in pursuance of the Act of the 1st day of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale, or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof

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with the intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled 'An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land or naval services of the United States in the Revolutionary War', passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, securities, contracts, or debts due to me, nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed consisting of one horse of the value of thirty dollars and two heifers each of the value of five dollars lately bought and not by me or yet paid for. That since the 18th of March 1818 the following changes have taken place. I then owned one horse of the value of forty dollars and three cows each of the value of ten dollars, and I swapped the horse for the horse I now have when a colt and fifteen dollars, and from necessity have lived on the money as far as it went. One of the cows died, another I killed for meat for the use of myself and family, the other from necessity I sold to one James Matley for ten dollars in meat for the use of myself and family. That I am by occupation a farmer and that from my advanced age am unable to persue it, that I have a wife and six children all of whom are married and do not reside in this State and are not in a situation to assist me...."

Sworn and subscribed to in open Court on the fifteenth day of October in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and twenty seven

His
Signed James Verdin X
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(Note: The file shows that his pension of \$8.00 per month began November 25, 1828, and he was sent \$26.63 on March 4, 1829. The file also shows that his widow, Sarah Verden, received a pension of \$50.00 per year after his death. He died June 19, 1843.)

JAMES VIRDEN (son of James and Sarah (Cater) Virden) was born November 8, 1787, in South Carolina. He married Nancy (Elizabeth) _____ about 1807 in South Carolina. Nancy was born in 1790 in South Carolina. The older children of James and Nancy Virden were also born in South Carolina. James and Nancy Virden moved from South Carolina to Kentucky, and may have spent some time in Missouri, but finally moved to Illinois between 1821 and 1823, where James younger brothers, Levi Virden and William Virden had already settled. James Virden died January 10, 1859; his wife, Nancy Virden, died August 13, 1860. Both are buried in Tolly Cemetery in Shelby County, Illinois. The children of James and Nancy Virden, were:

- (1) Margaret Virden, born in 1808 in South Carolina. She married Jonathan B. Howard, who was born in Maryland in 1803. They had several children, all born in Illinois:
(1) Dekalb Howard, born in 1834; (2) Palaskie Howard, born in 1836; (3) Nancy Howard, born in 1838; (4) Baltimore Howard, born in 1840; (5) Madison Howard, born in 1842; (6) Rachel Howard, born in 1844; (7) Randolph Howard, born in 1846; and (8) Thomas Howard, born in 1848;
- (2) Cynthia Virden, born in September 1809. She married Andrew South (or Smith) February 4, 1830;
- (3) Norman (or Naoman) Virden, born in Kentucky in 1815 or 1820. He married Ann _____, also born in Kentucky, and they had five children:
(1) Narcissa Virden, born in 1837; (2) Luiza Virden, born in 1840, in Illinois; (3) Elisha Virden, born in 1842, in Illinois; (4) James Virden, born in 1844, in Illinois; and (5) Jane Virden, born in 1848, in Illinois;
- (4) Nancy Virden who married William Templeton on January 6, 1840;
- (5) Sarah Virden, born January 13, 1821, in Kentucky. She died November 12, 1897, in Illinois. She married Levi Casey, Jr. (who was born July 23, 1817, and died March 6, 1893) and they had four children: (1) Elizabeth Casey, born in 1842; (2) Samuel Casey, born in 1844; (3) Ann Casey, born in 1847; and (4) James Virden Casey, born in 1849;
- (6) Hugh Virden, born in 1822 in either Missouri or Illinois;
- (7) Lucinda Virden, born April 17, 1823, at Shoal Creek, Illinois. She married William Smith. (He was born January 30, 1820, in Nicholas County, Kentucky, and was a son of Nathan Smith of Maryland.) on March 2, 1843. They had five children: (1) Sarah Smith who died at age 3;

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- (3) Nancy A. Smith who married R.H. Bullington;
- (4) Mary Smith who died in February 1867 at age 13; and (5) Elizabeth Smith;
- (8) Jacob Viriden, born in 1824. He evidently never married since he was living in the home of Elizabeth Gordon in 1850 and with a cousin, John Viriden, in 1880;
- (9) Willis Viriden, born April 17, 1825, and died September 18, 1901. His name was listed as Willis Viriden on his marriage certificate, as William Viriden on Census records, and as Willie Viriden on his tombstone. He married Sarah Jacobs, born in 1823 in Kentucky. William and Sarah (Jacobs) Viriden had seven children: (1) Lavina Viriden, born October 4, 1848, died September 6, 1867; (2) Margaret Viriden, born in 1849; (3) Nancy Viriden, born in 1857, died September 19, 1858; (4) George A. Viriden, born in 1867, who married Jane _____ in 1881; (5) William Jacobs Viriden, born in 1852, and died about 1872; (6) Willis Viriden, who married Sarah _____ in 1880; (7) Abner Viriden, who married Mary E. _____ as his first wife. She died January 6, 1879, and he married Sydia Hinkle as his second wife in 1889. Abner and Mary Viriden had a son, Willie Viriden, who died October 6, 1878. Abner Viriden died in 1931;
- (10) Elizabeth Viriden, born in 1829, in Illinois. She married Benjamin Gordon, a cousin, who was born in 1820 in Kentucky; and
- (11) Emiline Viriden, born in 1830 or 1831. She married Beverly Armstrong who was born in Illinois about 1828.

WILLIS VIRIDEN (son of Willis and Sarah (Jacobs) Viriden) married Sarah _____ in 1880 and had three children: (1) Charles Viriden, born in 1881, died in 1932. He married Cora Neighswander in 1903. (2) Ida May Viriden, born in 1882. She married Onily Little in 1903; (3) Eugene Viriden, born in 1888; and (4) Christopher Viriden, born in 1895. He lived in Upland, Nebraska.

Jane Viriden (third child of James and Sarah (Cater) Viriden) was born November 3, 1789, in South Carolina. She married John Gordon, probably in South Carolina or Kentucky, lived in Kentucky for a while, and then moved to Illinois between 1820 and 1825. It is likely that they moved at the same time James Viriden, her brother, moved to Illinois. The 1830 Census shows James Gordon with a wife and 5 sons and 2 daughters. The 1840 Census shows Jane Gordon with 5 sons and 2 daughters. The known children of John and Jane (Viriden) Gordon are:

- (1) Levi Gordon, born in 1819 in Kentucky. He married Mary _____ and they had three children:
(1) Nathaniel Gordon, born in 1845 in Illinois;
(2) Sariah Gordon, born in 1847 in Illinois;
and (3) Jane Gordon, born in 1849 in Illinois;
- (2) Benjamin Gordon, born in 1820. He married a cousin, Elizabeth Virden, who was a daughter of James Virden;
- (3) William Gordon, born in 1825 in Illinois. He married Mary _____ and had two children: (1) Melissa Gordon, born in 1848; and (2) Malvina (or Malida) Gordon, born in 1849;
- (4) Mary Gordon, born in 1827;
- (5) Pheby Gordon, born in 1828; and
- (6) Thomas Gordon, born in 1822.

WILLIAM VIRDEN (son of James and Sarah (Cater) Virden) was born in South Carolina, March 23, 1794. He was in Illinois as early as 1815 and was listed in the 1820 Census of Bond County, Illinois, as was his brother, Levi Virden. William Virden was also shown on the 1830 Census of Bond County, and on the 1840 Census of Christian County, Illinois. His will was dated March 7, 1848, naming his wife Nancy _____ Virden, four sons, and seven daughters. All of his children apparently were born in Illinois. The children of William and Nancy Virden were:

- (1) Elizabeth Virden;
- (2) Sarah Virden. (She may be the Sally Virden who married James W. Gordon.);
- (3) Susan Virden, born in 1821, married John D. Ishmael on September 23, 1841. They had these children: (1) Nancy S. Ishmael, born in 1842; (2) Julia A. Ishmael, born in 1844; (3) Polly Ishmael, born in 1846; (4) Amanda J. Ishmael, born in 1848; and (5) Patia M. Ishmael, born in 1850;
- (4) Charity Virden, born in 1823, married as her first husband, John D. Davis, on July 4, 1844. As her second husband she married John McKinza (or McKinzie) on December 20, 1849;
- (5) Minerva Virden, born in 1826, married James Card on May 23, 1844. They had these children: (1) Sarah Card, born in 1847; and (2) America Card, born in 1849. Minerva (Virden) Card died before 1855 and her husband, James Card, married as his second wife, Elizabeth _____ and they had two children: (1) Hester Card, born in 1855; and (2) Levi Card, born in 1857;
- (6) William Virden, born in 1827. He married Elizabeth _____ and they had one son, James Samuel Virden, born in 1849. It is likely that both William Virden and his wife, Elizabeth Virden, died in the 1850's;

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- (7) James Virden, born in 1829; and
- (8) Samuel Virden, born in 1831. He married Patience Meads on November 24, 1851. Samuel and Patience (Meads) Virden had a son, John Edward Virden, born November 16, 1853, and two other children, a boy and a girl. Samuel Virden died, probably a victim of cholera, and Patience (Meads) Virden married Andrew J. Oller as her second husband on October 30, 1859. Patience died, together with two of the children, leaving John Edward Virden an orphan before he was 10 years of age. He was raised by Gabe Durbin, a relative of his mother's;
- (9) Jane Virden, born in 1835;
- (10) John Virden, born in 1837; and
- (11) Nancy Virden. She married George McKinzie on May 30, 1853.

JOHN EDWARD VIRDEN (son of Samuel and Patience (Meads) Virden) was born November 16, 1853, in Christian County, Illinois, and died in 1945 in Kenosha, Wisconsin. On July 1881 he married Mary Ellen Painter in Talorville, Illinois. She was born in Illinois June 28, 1863, the daughter of Christopher "Kit" Painter and Margaret Matilda (Durbin) Painter. Her father was a Civil War Veteran. She died in 1928. John Edward and Mary Ellen (Painter) Virden had these children, all born in Illinois:

- (1) Edward Virden, born March 1885, died October 1886;
- (2) Nonie Agnes Virden, born April 18, 1887, died February 17, 1954;
- (3) Effie Margaret Virden, born in 1888, died in 1974;
- (4) Christopher Elmer Virden, born May 19, 1890, died July 21, 1964;
- (5) Alice Virden. She died March 2, 1969;
- (6) Mary Freda Virden. She died in 1959;
- (7) and (8) Two sons, who were stillborn, one named Charles Leo Virden.

Nonie Agnes Virden (daughter of John Edward and Mary Ellen (Painter) Virden) married Jesse Berry on February 23, 1909. He was born about 1884 and died October 3, 1972. Jesse and Nonie Agnes (Virden) Berry had these children:

- (1) Everett Berry, born February 27, 1911. In June 1936, he married Rose Kreagle and they had these children, all being born in Kenosha, Wisconsin: (1) Frederick Berry, born January 4, 1937; (2) Barbara Berry, born June 29, 1938; (3) Robert Berry, born December 12, 1939; and (4) Thomas Berry, born January 29, 1943;

- (2) Ruth Berry, born June 6, 1913. On January 17, 1931, she married Oliver Shields, and they had a daughter, Audrey Shields, who married James Aceto on February 1, 1952;
- (3) Edward Berry, born April 22, 1917. He married Angelina Nacolazzi and they had these children: (1) Catherine Berry (an adopted daughter) born June 1, 1936; (2) Helen Berry, born August 22, 1946; (3) Patricia Berry, born October 20, 1948; (4) James Berry, born March 28, 1950; and Susan Berry, born January 11, 1952;
- (4) Gertrude Berry, born May 26, 1918. She married Harold John Horne and they had these children: (1) Judith Horne, born August 2, 1936; (2) Sharon Horne, born February 16, 1945; (3) John Horne, born November 5, 1946; (4) James Horne, born March 27, 1949; and (5) Sandra Horne, born June 11, 1951.

Effie Margaret Virden (daughter of John Edward and Mary Ellen (Painter) Virden) married Roy Deweese in 1908. Roy and Effie Margaret (Virden) Deweese had these children: (1) Eva Deweese, who married Harry Myers on December 24, 1938, in St. Charles, Missouri. They had no children; (2) Marjorie Deweese, who married Paul Oller, on March 9, 1940, at St. Charles, Missouri. They had no children; and (3) Ormand Deweese, who married _____ Oller--a daughter of George Oller. They had a daughter, Betty Deweese, who married Oscar Green.

Alice Virden (daughter of John Edward and Mary Ellen (Painter) Virden) married Francis H. Corr. They had no children.

Mary Freda Virden (daughter of John Edward and Mary Ellen (Painter) Virden) married Jerry Agazzi. They had no children.

CHRISTOPHER ELMER VIRDEN (son of John Edward and Mary Ellen (Painter) Virden) was married twice. As his first wife he married Alice Anderson on July 16, 1915. She was born in Salisbury, Missouri, about 1895. They had one child, Amy Virden, who only lived three months and 13 days. Alice (Anderson) Virden died from childbirth on July 18, 1916.

Christopher Elmer Virden was born in Clarksdale, Christian County, Illinois, May 12, 1890. During his early years he travelled a great deal. He worked on the railroad, lived in hobo "Jungles", helped lay railroad tracks, was a railroad detective, a justice of the peace, a telegrapher and agent on a number of railroads in the Midwest. He served in World War I. In his later years he was a carpenter. He moved many times during his life, living in Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, and California. His last residence was in Oakdale, California, where he moved in 1951, and where he died in 1964 while fishing--one of his favorite pastimes. He used the name "John Christopher" most of his life.

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As his second wife he married Cora Ellen Wells (daughter of John and Lillie Frances (Mitchell) Wells) who was born September 6, 1900, in Kingman, Indiana. Cora Wells Virden died in Yucca Valley, San Bernadino, California, July 15, 1975. Both she and Christopher are buried in Golden Gate National Cemetery, San Bruno, California. Christopher Elmer and Cora Ellen (Wells) Virden had nine children.

- (1) Ellen Frances Virden, born November 7, 1918, in Glenarm, Illinois, and died December 11, 1921, at Pawnee, Illinois;
- (2) Christopher Edward Virden, born January 17, 1920, at Glenarm, Illinois. He was in World War II. He lives in Yucca Valley, California;
- (3) Mildred Eva Virden, born July 6, 1921, in Glenarm, Illinois. She lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota;
- (4) Charles Laurence Virden, born May 19, 1924, at Kenney, Illinois. He died in December 1944 in Germany while serving in the U.S. Army during World War II;
- (5) James Robert Virden, born July 17, 1925, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He served during World War II. He lives in Russia, Ohio;
- (6) Joseph William Virden, born February 26, 1928, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He served in Germany during the occupation of that country after World War II. He lives in Hollywood, California;
- (7) John Edward Virden, born February 19, 1931, in Houston, Mississippi. He served for some 22 years in the Marine Corps during both the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He lives in Joshua Tree, California;
- (8) JoAnn LaVerne Virden, born September 13, 1937, in Garrett, Indiana. She lives in San Clemente, California; and
- (9) Ruth Ann Virden, born February 16, 1941, in Garrett, Indiana. She now lives in Chula Vista, California.

CHRISTOPHER EDWARD VIRDEN (son of Christopher Elmer and Cora Ellen (Wells) Virden) married Zella Lavonne Pulver on February 6, 1939. She was born January 20, 1922, in Indiana. Christopher Elmer and Zella Lavonne (Pulver) Virden had seven children:

- (1) Gwenlyn Yuvonne Virden, born July 27, 1939. She married Charles David Chenelle on August 9, 1959, and they had these children: (1) David Chenelle, born May 14, 1960; (2) Colin Chenelle, born December 2, 1961; (3) Francis Chenelle, a son, born January 31, 1962; and (4) Delsey Chenelle, a daughter, born August 31, 1964. The Chenelles live in Peru, South America;

- (2) Rochelle Marie Virden, born August 29, 1941. She married John Garcia on December 17, 1956, and they had these children: (1) John Garcia, born July 4, 1957; (2) Christopher Garcia, born August 19, 1958; (3) Lori Garcia, born August 14, 1960; (4) Robert Garcia, born August 1, 1963; and (5) Shelly Garcia, born December 25, 1967;
- (3) John Edward Virden, born July 11, 1943;
- (4) Michael Allen Virden, born July 13, 1947;
- (5) Noel Francis Virden, born December 27, 1948;
- (6) Mathew Virden, born December 21, 1961, a twin; and
- (7) Christine Virden, born December 21, 1961, a twin.

Mildred Eva Virden married James Durr on October 27, 1945. James and Mildred Eva (Virden) Durr had these children: (1) Charles William Durr, born January 29, 1947. He married Terry Stuart; (2) Mary Jean Durr, born September 12, 1948. She married Bill Bodine; and (3) Timothy Durr, born January 17, 1951.

JAMES ROBERT VIRDEN (son of Christopher Elmer and Cora Ellen (Wells) Virden) married Lucille Peltier on June 26, 1946. James Robert and Lucille (Peltier) Virden had three children: (1) Angela Virden, born November 28, 1947; (2) Christina Virden, born March 30, 1949; and (3) Dennis Virden, born February 25, 1954.

JOSEPH WILLIAM VIRDEN (son of Christopher Elmer and Cora Ellen (Wells) Virden) married Frances Arlene Hefty on May 17, 1945. Joseph William and Frances Arlene (Hefty) Virden had five children:

- (1) Judith Frances Virden, born August 28, 1946, and died September 22, 1946;
- (2) Gloria Ann Virden, born October 27, 1948, in Geissen, Germany. She married Willie Crider June 18, 1966. They had one son, William Crider, born October 13, 1973, in Deland, Florida. They were divorced in 1975;
- (3) Joseph Robert Virden, born December 9, 1949, in Winter Park, Florida. He married Pamela Jean Mounts on August 25, 1967, in Franklin, Kentucky. They had these children: (1) Joseph L. Virden, born August 18, 1967, in Kentucky; (2) Jeanne Frances Virden, born November 23, 1970, in Florida; (3) Jeffrey Virden, born July 29, 1972, in Florida; and (4) Jennefer Judith Virden, born January 20, 1974, in Florida;
- (4) Marilyn Frances Virden, born November 15, 1951, died December 9, 1951; and
- (5) Beverly Jean Virden, born October 24, 1952, in Los Angeles, California. She married Allen Rhoades May 1, 1970. They had no children. They were divorced in 1974.

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JOHN EDWARD VIRDEN (son of Christopher Elmer and Cora Ellen (Wells) Virden) married Virginia Marques in December 1956. She was born October 30, 1935. She is the great-great-granddaughter of Pio Pico, the first Governor of California. John Edward and Virginia (Marques) Virden had three children: (1) Jonathan Virden, born July 13, 1957; (2) Ellen Virden, born October 20, 1958; and Roxane Virden, born August 21, 1963.

JoAnn LaVerne Virden married John Dwane Pirkle at Oakdale, California, on November 5, 1955. He was born October 20, 1939, in Oakdale, California. John Dwane and JoAnn LaVerne (Virden) Pirkle had four children: (1) Kathleen Ellen Pirkle, born May 12, 1956; (2) Gerald Dwane Pirkle, born March 17, 1958; (3) Robert Jeffrey Pirkle, born October 31, 1959; and (4) Brian Scott Pirkle, born December 7, 1964.

Ruth Ann Virden (daughter of Christopher Elmer and Cora Ellen (Wells) Virden) married Cecil Leroy Shoup on July 13, 1959. Cecil Leroy and Ruth Ann (Virden) Shoup had five children: (1) Edward Lawrence Shoup, born January 4, 1960; (2) Jennifer Aleen Shoup, born May 6, 1961; (3) Jeffrey Paul Shoup, born November 15, 1962; (4) Thomas Michael Shoup, born December 21, 1963; and (5) Kenneth Patrick Shoup, born February 22, 1965.

LEVI VERDEN (the son, and sixth child, of James and Sarah (Cater) Verden of South Carolina) was born April 4, 1796, in South Carolina. When he was 17 years of age he moved to Kentucky. Reportedly, he met his first wife, Rachel _____, in Kentucky. From there he moved to Illinois where he lived by 1818, probably the same year he married Rachel. Levi Verden is listed in the 1820 Census of Bond County, Illinois (as was his brother William Verden). Levi Verden was then listed in the Census of Shelby County, and afterwards in Fayette County, Illinois, until his death. He died after the age of 80. His first wife, Rachel, died in Shelby County, Illinois, in 1826. Levi and Rachel Verden had four children, all born in Illinois:

- (1) Sarah Verden, born in 1819. She married Thomas Ishmael on July 24, 1845. He was born in Kentucky in 1819. Sarah (Verden) Ishmael died young. Thomas and Sarah (Verden) Ishmael had four children: (1) Benjamin Ishmael, born in 1842. (Note: This son was probably a son of Thomas Ishmael by a prior marriage since he and Sarah did not marry until 1845.); (2) Rachel Ishmael, born in 1846; (3) Elizabeth Ishmael, born in 1847; and (4) Andrew Ishmael, born in 1849.
- (2) John Verden, born in 1822. He married Elizabeth _____ sometime before 1848. John and Elizabeth Verden had two children: (1) Melvina Verden, born in 1848; and (2) Levi Verden, born in 1849, died in 1941. John Verden died young and his widow, Elizabeth Verden, may have been the woman who married

- Wooten Harris on November 22, 1854. Levi Verden married Frances Sears (she was born in 1852 and died in 1920) and they had three children: (1) Amelda Verden, born in 1873, died in 1894; (2) William Eugene Verden, born in 1875, died in 1954; (3) Fonaire Verden who was born and died in 1877; and (4) Frederick Verden, born in 1879;
- (3) Isaac Verden, born in 1824. He died about 1864. He married Serilda (or Surrelda) Jane Ishmael on February 4, 1844. She was born in Illinois in 1846;
 - (4) Catherine Verden, born in 1825, died in 1854. She married John Massey on April 28, 1845, and they had a son, William Radford Massey, born after 1850. John and Catherine Massey died in 1854 leaving their son an orphan.

ISAAC VERDEN (son of Levi and Rachel Verden) and Serilda Jane (Ishmael) Verden had these children:

- (1) Samuel Verden, born in 1844. He married Sarah _____, who was born in 1846, and they had two children, a daughter, born in 1875 and a son, William Verden, born in 1877;
- (2) James F. Verden, born November 28, 1846, and died March 2, 1916. He had these children (wife's name unavailable): (1) Katie K. Verden, born in 1874, died June 9, 1949; (2) Orville Verden, born in 1879, died 1957; (3) Martin I. Verden, born January 21, 1881; (4) Ira Verden, born about 1888; and (5) Bessie Verden, also born about 1888;
- (3) Levi Verden, born in 1848;
- (4) Martha Verden, born in 1850;
- (5) John Verden, born in 1854; and
- (6) Radford Verden, born in 1856.

LEVI VERDEN, after the death of his first wife, Rachel Verden, married as his second wife, Catherine Reese, on October 30, 1828. She was born in 1812 in South Carolina. Levi and Catherine (Reese) Verden had these children:

- (1) Margaret Verden, born in 1830. She married James Ishmael about 1848 and they had two children, Catherine Ishmael, born in 1849, and Elizabeth Ishmael, born in 1850;
- (2) William Verden, born about 1831, died after he was 21, probably in 1854 when other members of the family died;
- (3) Mahala Verden, born in 1836, died in 1854. Since Catherine and John Massey died of cholera

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- in 1854, it is reasonable to assume that Mahala Verden, and other brothers and sisters who died about 1854, all died from the same disease;
- (4) Levi David Verden, born April 7, 1839, died February 5, 1917; and
 - (5) Eli Verden, born in 1841. He married Susan T. Price February 10, 1867. She was born April 20, 1839, and died November 23, 1888. Eli and Susan T. (Price) Verden had these children: (1) William H. Verden, born in 1868; (2) Joseph P. Verden, born in 1870; (3) Mandy G. Verden, born in 1875; and (4) Melvina Verden, born in 1789 or 1780.

LEVI DAVID VERDEN (son of Levi and Catherine (Reese) Verden) married Martha Thorpe, who was born May 13, 1844, and died March 20, 1884. Levi David and Martha (Thorpe) Verden had these children:

- (1) A child who died while an infant on February 18, 1873;
- (2) Emma Verden, born in 1875. She married Franklin Davis;
- (3) William Edward Verden, born January 24, 1877, died May 19, 1964. He married twice. His first wife was Bertha Lavina Hamblen who died in 1916. There were at least six children, four daughters and two sons, Donald Verden, and Luther Verden. Apparently the children were by his first wife. His second wife was Hazel _____;
- (4) Mary Verden, born in 1879;
- (5) Lulu Almira Verden;
- (6) Homer Levi Verden, born in 1883, died in 1947. He married Martha _____, who was born in 1888 and died in 1926; and
- (7) Mina Verden.

Charity Virden (the daughter, and ninth child, of James and Sarah (Cater) Verden) was born in South Carolina May 5, 1803. She probably went to Kentucky with her older brothers and sisters and then to Illinois, where she married Daniel Francisco on January 10, 1822. Her brother, William Verden, gave his consent. Daniel Francisco was born in Alabama and went to Illinois in 1813 as a young boy. He died November 18, 1859. Charity died November 30, 1853. Daniel and Charity (Virden) Francisco had fourteen children:

- (1) Zimeria Francisco, a daughter, who died in 1835;
- (2) Sarah Francisco, who died young;
- (3) Rachel Francisco, who died young;
- (4) Alfred Francisco, born in 1825. Served in Civil War. Died May 12, 1864. He married Mary _____ and they had three children: (1) Elsen Francisco, born in 1845; (2) Elizabeth Francisco, born in 1848; and (3) Elander Francisco, a daughter, born in 1849;

- (5) Allen Francisco, born in 1825, and probably a twin to Alfred. He married Mary Terry January 8, 1846. She was born in Kentucky in 1825, and died July 6, 1851. Allen and Mary (Terry) Francisco had three children, William Francisco, born in 1848, Elizabeth Francisco, born in 1849, and another child whose information is lacking. After the death of his first wife he married Ellen Waller on November 19, 1851;
- (6) Eli Francisco, born in 1826. He married Rosseline _____ who was born in 1830, and they had a daughter, Charity Francisco, born in 1849;
- (7) Izri (or Izah, or Jazah - Joseph) Francisco, born in 1829;
- (8) Daniel Francisco;
- (9) Levi Francisco, born in 1832;
- (10) Howard Francisco, born in 1835, died in 1927;
- (11) John Francisco, born in 1837, died in 1916;
- (12) Jacob Francisco, born in 1839, died in 1893. He married Susan J. _____, who was born in 1832 and died October 11, 1886;
- (13) James Francisco, born in 1841, died in 1904; and
- (14) Peter Francisco, born in 1842, died February 18, 1917. He married twice, his first wife being C.A. _____, who was born in January 1843 and died October 23, 1865. They had a son, Dennis Francisco who died August 6, 1861, when only 7 days of age. As his second wife Peter Francisco married Nancy E. _____, who was born in 1843 and died November 9, 1897. They had a daughter, Elizabeth Francisco, who died July 10, 1868, when only 1 day of age.

(See also: Moultrie County Heritage, Vol. 1, No. 2, February 1974.)

HUGH RADFORD VIRDEN (a son and the last child of James and Sarah (Cater) Verden) was born in South Carolina in 1807. He married Margaret Wilson on April 10, 1828. She was born in South Carolina in 1807. Hugh Radford Virden was in Illinois early in his life and settled in Montgomery County, Illinois. All of his children were born in Illinois. Hugh Radford and Margaret (Wilson) Virden had eight children:

- (1) James Virden, born in 1830. He married Edith Wilson, born in 1838 in Kentucky. They had two children: (1) Hiram Virden, born January 9, 1859, died March 13, 1930. (He married twice. His first wife's name is unknown. As his second wife he married Mrs. Barbara _____ Massey, the widow of William Massey who died in 1902.);
- (2) Nettie Virden, who married _____ Ishmael;

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- (2) John Virden, born in 1833, who married Ester _____. They had three children: (1) Addie Virden, born in 1872; (2) Mary Jane Virden, born in 1873; and (3) John R. Virden, born in 1876;
- (3) Hiram Virden, born in 1836;
- (4) Elisha Virden, born in 1837;
- (5) Joseph Virden, born in 1839;
- (6) Rutha Virden, born in 1841;
- (7) Martha Virden, born in 1843. (This Martha Virden married William Hinson on July 3, 1872; if it was not her that married, then it must have been the daughter of Isaac Virden who married him.);
- (8) Bub Virden, born in 1849 or 1850. (This is probably a nickname.)

Cecil Leroy Shoup, Jr., born December 22, 1937, in Washington Township, Pennsylvania, married Ruth Ann Virden on July 13, 1959, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Oakdale, California. (He was the son of Cecil Leroy Shoup and Nora B. (Serafine) Shoup.) She was born February 16, 1941, in Garrett, Indiana, the daughter of Christopher E. and Cora E. (Wells) Virden. Cecil Leroy and Ruth Ann (Virden) Shoup have five children: (1) Edward Lawrence Shoup, born January 4, 1960, in San Diego, California; (2) Jennifer Aleen Shoup, a daughter, born May 6, 1961, in La Mesa, California; (3) Jeffrey Paul Shoup, born November 15, 1962, in La Mesa, California; (4) Thomas Michael Shoup, born December 21, 1963, in La Mesa, California; and (5) Kenneth Patrick Shoup, born February 22, 1965, in La Mesa, California.

JOSEPH WILLIAM VIRDEN, born February 26, 1928, in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, married Frances Arlene Hefty, May 17, 1945, in Garrett, Indiana. (He was the son of Christopher Elmer Virden and Cora Ellen (Wells) Virden.) She was born January 1, 1929, in Auburn, Indiana, the daughter of Otto Earl and Ethel Lenore (Stone) Hefty. Joseph William and Frances Arlene (Hefty) Virden have five children:

- (1) Judith Frances Virden, born August 28, 1946, in Auburn, Indiana, and died September 22, 1946;
- (2) Gloria Ann Virden, born October 27, 1948, in Geissen, Germany. On June 18, 1966, she married William Crider and they had one child, William Mathew Crider, born October 13, 1973. They were divorced in 1975;
- (3) Joseph Robert Virden, born December 9, 1949, in Winter Park, Florida. On August 25, 1967, he married Pamela Jean Mounts in Franklin, Kentucky. Joseph Robert and Pamela Jean (Mounts) Virden live in St. Petersburg, Florida, and have four children: (1) Joseph Lee Virden, born August 18, 1967, in Franklin, Kentucky; (2) Jeanne Frances Virden, born November 23, 1970, in Orlando, Florida; (3) Jeffry David Virden, born July 29, 1972, in Orlando, Florida; and (4) Jennifer Judith Virden, born January 20, 1974, in Ft. Myers, Florida;

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The following information was furnished by James R. Virden,
of Russia, Ohio, by letter dated February 10, 1977

- EGENIOR VIRDEN - of Augusta County, Georgia. His name was found in many spellings: Egniar, Egenior, Ezemah, Ajemiah, etc.
- Sept. 27, 1760 - Egenior Virden was a witness to the will of John Wright, and was one of the executors of the will which was probated Nov. 18, 1762.
- Dec. 10, 1764 - Egeniah Virden was a witness to a document transferring land (260 acres at Snodons Spring) to Samuel Beard.
- May 13, 1765 - Egenior Virden was a witness to a document exempting Robert McGhee from levy (evidently a tax levy) because of his great age and infirmity.

"I find mention of Egenior Virden in South Carolina will briefs. No county is mentioned. Egenior had to be twenty-one years of age to witness a will in 1760; so he was born prior to 1740 in South Carolina."

- Dec. 11, 1770 - Engenior Virden was a witness to the will of Frederick Imer of the fish dam ford, Broad River, near Little St. Simons Island, which will was probated this date.
- 1793 - 1794 - Engenior Virden appeared on the tax roll of Wilkes County, Georgia, in 1784. In 1793 he and a William Virden appeared on the tax rolls of Wilkes County.

Egenior Virden was in the American Revolution as his grave is marked in Warren County by the DAR of Georgia. He was married twice. Land records in 1784 show his wife's name to be Jane. But his will named his wife as Winny. She was apparently a young woman since she appeared in records in Houston County, Georgia, after 1830. She disappeared from Warren County after the death of Egenior.

- 1805 - Engenior Virden was in Warren County, Georgia, in 1805. John Virden was also living in that county. (This may be the John Virden of Newberry County, South Carolina, as shown in the Census of 1785 and 1790.)
- Jan. 24, 1795 - Ezemah Virden and wife Jane Virden, of Warren County, Georgia, deeded land to James Osborne.

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- 1803. - The will of Engenior Virden mentions three sons, William Virden, James Virden, and John Virden.
- 1830 - A James Virden is shown on the 1830 Bibb County, Georgia, Census, age 40-50.
- 1805 - A William Virden appeared on a land lottery in 1805 and received 2 draws given to man and wife, or child. A requirement was a one year residence in Georgia and U.S. citizenship. (This could not be Engenior's son since he was born in 1791 and married in 1809.)

Engenior Virden could possibly be the father of James Virden and grandfather of John Virden of Newberry, South Carolina, but it seems unlikely that he named two sets of sons the same name. I am more inclined to think James Virden and John Virden of Newberry were sons of the William Virden in Wilkes County, Georgia, in 1793, or sons of another brother. I have found no further mention of Engenior Virden and son John Virden, and James Virden listed in Bibb County is probably the son James Virden, although the date is off a little.

It appears that the older William Virden was the father of three sons: (1) Samuel Virden, born in 1789; (2) Hugh A. Virden, born in 1798; and (3) William Virden, born in 1805, that migrated to Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Hugh A. Virden migrated to Arkansas prior to 1850.

The older William Virden appeared on the 1793 and 1794 tax rolls. William Virden appeared on the 1805 land lottery with Engenior Virden and son John Virden. The older William Virden does not appear any more.

WILLIAM VIRDEN, son of Engenior Virden, was born February 27, 1791, in South Carolina. He died November 13, 1841, age 50 years. He is interred in the Virden-Moor Cemetery near Topeka Junction, Upson County, Georgia. On June 3, 1809, he married Elizabeth _____, who was born June 9, 1793. Bible records show that they had twelve children:

- (1) Samuel Virden, born February 17, 1811. He married Louisa Ann Wood in Pike County, Georgia, December 20, 1843. He was married a second time. He had fifteen children but all data is not available. His known sons were: (1) Alexander G. Virden, born June 24, 1846, in Barnsville, Georgia, was the oldest son. He died September 19, 1926, in Victoria, Texas; (2) Samuel Thomas Virden; (3) John Virden; (4) William David Virden, born January 26, 1854, near Atlanta, Georgia. He married Willie Leona Youngblood in Bell County, Texas, and later moved to Winters, Texas. Alexander Virden and William David Virden went to Texas together.
- (2) Mary Virden, born April 5, 1813. She married a Mr. Woodall.

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- (3) Martha Virden, born July 11, 1815. She married Richard Brown in Upson County, Georgia, December 25, 1838;
- (4) Elizabeth Virden, born February 9, 1821. She married John Corley (Colley) on December 21, 1843. She died June 14, 1847, and is buried in the Virden-Moore Cemetery at Topeka Junction, Upson County, Georgia;
- (5) James Virden, born October 31, 1822. The 1870 Census of Warren County, Georgia, shows him with the following family, all having been born in Georgia: (1) James Virden, age 46; (2) Monah Virden, age 34; (3) Willie Virden, age 13; (4) Fannie Virden, age 12; (5) Milton Virden, age 11; (6) Jenny Virden, age 7; (7) John Virden, age 5; and (8) James Virden, age 1;
- (6) William Virden, Jr., born September 18, 1824. On December 9, 1845, he married Patience McDaniel of Upson County, Georgia. (See letter from Mrs. Minnie Surratt, great granddaughter of William Virden.) He was killed in the Civil War on the Confederate side. James John Virden, a son, had nine children, born in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi;
- (7) Sarah Virden, born May 28, 1825;
- (8) John Virden, born May 26, 1826. The 1870 Census of Warren County, Georgia, shows him with the following family, all born in Georgia: (1) John Virden, age 44; (2) Mary M. Virden, age 40; (3) Martha A. Virden, age 17; (4) Christopher C. Virden, age 15; (5) John N. Virden, age 13; (6) Mary C. Virden, age 11; (7) William Virden, age 5; (8) Emma Virden, age 3; and (9) James P. Virden, age 1;
- (9) Julia Ann Virden, born October 12, 1828. She married Jeremiah Adams of Upson County, Georgia on December 21, 1843. Part of this family went to Texas;
- (10) Thomas G. Virden, born October 4, 1831. He was in the Civil War. He married Zilphey N. _____, who was born October 8, 1855, and died October 12, 1913. Thomas G. Virden died June 13, 1903, and is buried in the Virden-Moore Cemetery in Upson County, Georgia;
- (11) Pricilla Virden, born April 5, 1834. She married a Mr. Elliot (probably Thomas D. Elliot) and she and her husband are buried in the Virden-Moore Cemetery, which is also known as the Salem Cemetery. They are believed to have had a daughter, Eugenia B. Elliot, born November 28, 1866, who died November 28, 1889; and

- (12) Benjamin Virden, born in 1835. (see separate information relating to Benjamin Virden.) The Hamilton County, Texas, Census for 1880 shows him with the following family, all born in Texas except where specified here: (1) Benjamin Virden, age 45, born in Georgia, while his father and mother were born in South Carolina; (2) Nancy T. Virden, age 45, born in Georgia; (3) William Virden, age 25, born in Alabama; (4) John J. Virden, age 18; (5) Benjamin T. Virden, age 16; (6) Henry M. Virden, age 14; (7) Julius F. Virden, age 11; and (8) James M. Virden, age 6.

The 1850 Upson County, Georgia, Census shows this

Elizabeth Virden - age 56, born in North Carolina.
Thomas Virden - age 18, born in Georgia.
Pricilla Virden - age 16, born in Georgia.
Benjamin Virden - age 14, born in Georgia.

These last two children were not shown in the original Bible records. I have contacted several descendants of this line, but all are too busy to do anything, or just don't want to fill in the blank spaces.

The 1850 Census of Pike County, Georgia, shows the following relating to Samuel Virden, the oldest child listed

Samuel Virden - age 38, born in Georgia.
Laura A. Virden - age 24, born in Georgia.
Alexander Virden - age 3, born in Georgia.
Nancy E. Virden - age 1, born in Georgia.

The 1850 Census of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, shows the following

Samuel Virden - age 61, born in Georgia.
Fanny Verden - age 49, born in North Carolina.
William Verden - age 23, born in Missouri.
John Verden - age 22, born in Missouri.
Enoch Verden - age 20, born in Missouri.

Ajeniah Verden - age 18, born in Missouri.
Lyrilda Verden - age 18, born in Missouri.
Sarah Verden - age 17, born in Missouri.
George Verden - age 15, born in Missouri.
Annie Verden - age 12, born in Missouri.

Records of Tolly Cemetery, Shelby County, Illinois

James F. Virden, son of _____ and M.J. Virden, died February 28, 1887,
age 6 days.

J.T. Virden, died March 5, 1881, age 20 years, 3 days.

Elizabeth Virden, died October 2, 1881, age 63 years, 22 days.

Mary E. Virden, wife of Arne Virden, died January 6, 187_, age 19 years,
2 days.

Willie Virden, son of A. and M.E. Virden, died October 6, 1878.

James Virden, died January 10, 1859, age 71 years, 6 months, 2 days.

Nancy Virden, wife of James Virden, died August 13, 1860, age 70 years.

Records of Linwood Cemetery, Christian County, Illinois (No Dates)

Elizabeth Virden
William J. Virden
Bertha Mae Verden
Catherine Virden
Mary Helen Virden
Lilly Ried Virden
Ivy Budds Virden

Records of Jacobs Cemetery, Christian County, Illinois

Nancy J. Virden, daughter of W. and S. Virden, died September 19, 1858.

Lovina Virden, daughter of W. and S. Virden, died September 6, 1867, age
18 years.

Willie Virden, born April 17, 1825, died September 18, 1901.

Tolly Cemetery, Flat Branch Township, Illinois, records

Levi Casey, born July 23, 1817, died March 6, 1893. Private in Illinois
Mounted Militia, Military Volunteers, Black Hawk War.

Sarah (Virden) Casey, wife of Levi Casey, born January 13, 1831, died
November 12, 1897.

April 1855, age 45
Marriage index shows
is probably in error.)

March 6, 1881, age

22 days.

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, 1865, age 22 years,

, died July 10, 1868,

August 6, 1861, age

, 1851, age 29 years,

born October 16, 1893,

October 11, 1886, age

Jacob Francisco, Company K, 126th Illinois Infantry.

Jacob Francisco, son of J. and _ Francisco, died June 13, 1864, age
2 years, 5 months.

Daniel Francisco, died August 22, 1879, age 24 years, 8 months, 4 days.

Mary Francisco, wife of Allen Francisco, died July 6, 1861, age 25 years,
8 months.

Charley Francisco, son of L. and M.J. Francisco, died April 16, 1864,
age 2 years, 4 months, 28 days.

Martha A. Francisco, February 22, 1845 - October 8, 1927.

John Francisco, 1837 - 1916.

Mary J. Francisco, daughter of J. and M.A. Francisco, died January 7,
1897, age 3 years, 7 months, 22 days.

Mabel F. Francisco, 1894 - 1959.

Margaret I. Francisco, Mother, 1867 - 1948.

Peter L. Francisco, Father, 1862 - 1935.

Flossie Francisco, Daughter, 1904 - 1918.

Ramsey Cemetery, Fayette County, Illinois, Records

Bertha Virden, February 1, 1885 - October 26, 1916.

Freda Farber Virden, 1893 - 1953.

William Edward Virden, 1877 - 1964.

Eli M. Virden, July 19, 1900 - December 23, 1955.

Julia Elizabeth Virden, 1876 - 1958.

Marian A. Virden, 1919 - 1956.

Homer L. Virden, 1883 - 1947.

Martha Virden, his wife, 1888 - 1926.

Levi David Virden. His death certificate shows that he was born
April 7, 1839, the son of Levi Virden who was born
in Kentucky, and Catherine (Reese) Virden, who was

born in North Carolina. He died February 5, 1917, age 77 years, 9 months.

William Edward Virden. His death certificate shows that he was born January 24, 1877, in Ramsey, Fayette County, Illinois, the son of Levi David Virden and Rachel (Thorpe) Virden. He died May 19, 1964. His wife was Hazel Virden.

Catherine Virden. She was born in 1830, and died September 22, 1855, in Fayette County, Illinois. She was the daughter of Levi D. Virden (who was born in 1796 in Kentucky) and Catherine (Reese) Virden, who was born in 1812 in North Carolina. Catherine Virden married John William Massey (born 1830, died September 22, 1855, in Fayette County, Illinois). John William and Catherine (Virden) Massey both died of cholera and are buried in a common grave. They left only one son, William Radford Massey.

Records of Bethel Baptist Cemetery, Buckhart Township, Sharpsburgh, Illinois

Alemeda Virden, 1873 - 1894.
Eugene Virden, 1875 - 1954.
Frances Sears Virden, 1852 - 1920.
Levi Virden, 1849 - 1941.
Melvina Virden Cearlock, wife of J.R. Cearlock, 1852 - 1888.

Greenwood Cemetery, Decatur, Macon County, Illinois, Records

Hiram P. Virden, 1859 - 1930
Emma J. Virden, his wife, 1863 - 1915.
Jesse P. Virden, 1888 - 1900.

Old Shedd Cemetery, Ramsey, Fayette County, Illinois, Records

Susan T. Virden, wife of E.T. Virden, April 20, 1839 - November 23, 1888.
Infant son of L.D. and M.A. Virden, died February 18, 1873, 1 month, 2 days.
Catherine Virden, daughter of J. and S.J. Virden, died September 30, 1854, 2 years.
Levi Virden, April 7, 1840 - February 5, 1917.
Martha Virden, his wife, May 13, 1844 - March 20, 1884.