

George Dix

Federal census records indicate George Dix was born circa 1781 to 1783. His name appears first in Accomack County, Accomack Parish, in the 1810 census, when his age was given as 16 to 26 years. In 1820, he was 26 to 45 years of age. In 1830 he was 40 to 50 years old and in 1840, his age was given as 50 to 60 years. The 1850 census lists a George Dix, Sr., aged 69 years, as head of household #165, while in 1860, George Dix, Sr., head of household #514/515, was 79 years of age. No other George Dix appears in these census records until 1860. He would have been 86 to 87 years of age when he died testate in 1868 (Wills 1846-1883, p. 430). In fact, on 30 March 1857, The Accomack County Circuit Court exempted George Dix from paying taxes "by reason of age and infirmity" (Orders 1854-1857, p. 572). He would have been circa 75 years of age in that year.

George Dix married (1) by Somerset County, MD, license of 4 October 1805, Mary Hickman (Mar. Lic. Records 1796-1871, p. 27). The marriage record calls him George Dicks, but there is little doubt he was George Dix of Accomack County, for his bride was the daughter of Thomas Hickman (of Richard) of Accomack County, who died testate in 1821, leaving land to his grandson, William Dix (Wills 1819-1821, p. 343). Later records show that William Dix was the eldest son of George and Mary Hickman Dix (see account of William H. Dix at end of this section). George Dix married (2) by Accomack County marriage license bond of 30 October 1811, Betsy White, widow of Levin (MLB 1806-1932, p. 40), and (3) by bond of 7 March 1816, Sally Marshall, daughter of Thomas Marshall.

In 1810, George Dix had only one male in his household in addition to himself, a son under 10 years. In 1820, there were three other males, one aged 10 to 16 and two under 10 years. By the 1830 census, when his eldest son had married, there were six young males in his household, and in 1840, when two sons had married, there five young males in the household, two of whom were aged 5 to 10 years, one 10 to

15 years and two aged 20 to 30 years.

George Dix wrote his will on 10 May 1862 and it was recorded on 27 July 1868 (Wills 1846-1882, p. 320). He named his wife Sally and left the remainder of his property to his "three youngest sons, George, Revel and Levi". They would have been the three youngest males in the George Dix household of 1840.

While no tombstone for George Dix or either of his wives has been found, it is believed he is buried in a large cemetery plot on the land Thomas Hickman (of Richard) left left his grandson, William Dix. Only two stones stand in the cemetery, those of William H. Dix and his wife. It can also be concluded that George Dix lived his entire farming life on the Hickman land his son inherited, for the 1850 census shows his household only six households from that of Samuel S. Cary, steward of the Accomack County Poorhouse. The poorhouse was located at the intersection of present U. S. 13 and route 176 (road to Parksley). The Hickman/Dix land was approximately a mile west of this intersection, on the north side of route 176. The cemetery can be reached by a long field road to a house at the back of the property. It is located northeast of the house, in a field.

Census records indicate George Dix had seven sons. Only six sons have been found, The seventh could have died young, unmarried, or else was not called "son of George" in later records. George Dix's known children were:

1. William H. (Hickman?) Dix, born 6 July 1806, died 3 August 1891, according to his tombstone on the Hickman/Dix land. The tombstone also states he was a son of George M. Dix. His wife, Susan Dix, was born 24 September 1811 and died 8 February 1876. William H. Dix married, by Accomack County marriage bond dated 28 October 1826, Susan Rayfield, daughter of Major (MLB 1806-1832, p. 41).

The 1850 census lists William H. Dix, a 43-year-old farmer, with wife Susan, aged 38, 16-year-old Nancy Dix, 13-year-old Elizabeth Dix, 10-year-old Mary Dix, 6-year-old William Dix, and 3-year-old Virginia Dix. In 1860, there was an additional daughter, Margaret (Sallie?) Dix, aged 11 years. A daughter, Sallie Dix,

25, married William Justis, 25, on 22 October 1873 (Mar. Reg. #3, p. 37).

William H. Dix wrote his will on 28 October 1886 and it was recorded on 31 August 1891 (Wills 1882-1901, p. 210). He left personal property to daughter Virginia C. Tull, wife of John W. (S?) Tull; to daughter Sally Justis, wife of William Justis; and to daughter Mary Collona, wife of Alfred Collona. The land "I inherited from my grandfather Thomas Hickman" to son William T. Dix and at his death it was to go to William T's son, James Henry Dix, or other children of son William T. Dix. He named Edward White and Jacob White as grandsons (daughter Nancy Dix had married James H. White in 1851). He named granddaughters Mary Groton, Susan Hall, Missouri Marshall and Virginia E. Townsend. William T. Dix, 24, son of William H. and Susan, married Margaret J. Hope, 21, on 20 December 1866 (Mar. Reg. #3, p. 19).

2. Thorogood T. Dix, born 20 January 1811, died 18 May 1861 (tombstone).

Since George Dix married for the second time after 30 October 1811, this son was also by his first wife, Mary Hickman. These dates suggest that his mother died when Thorogood Dix was born, or soon thereafter. See next section.

3. Thomas Dix, born 15 January 1815, died 1 April 1889 (tombstone), married by Somerset County, Maryland, license of 29 November 1849, Margaret Bundick (Mar. Lic. Records 1796-1871, p. 39). Thomas Dix (of George) bought, on 1 January 1854, 25 acres "near News Town" from John W. Taylor and wife Elizabeth for \$715 (Deeds 1858-1850, p. 360). The acreage included the Elizabeth Barnes lot and the Mary Bundick ^{lot} and had belonged to George Baker (of William). On the same day, Thomas Dix and wife Peggy mortgaged this land to John Savage, Sen^r, for \$500 (p. 361).

The 1860 census shows Thomas Dix, a 43-year-old shoemaker, in household 149/148, with wife Peggy, 10-year-old Polly, and 5-year-old John. Later censuses show they had no other children. Thomas Dix's tombstone stands today near what was News Town, in a field southwest of the intersection of the Seaside road (route 679) with the road going east from the Owl Restruant (route 677). John Dix (of Thomas)

married 9 January 1875, Julianna A. Barnes at Wookstock (Mar. Reg. #3, p. 45).

4. Mary Dix, born circa 1825, was a 35-year-old seamstress in the household of George Dix, Sen^r, and wife Sally in the 1860 census. Mary Dux, 63, daughter of George and Sally, married 12 September 1888, George Bundick, 73 (p. 97).

5. George M. Dix, born circa 1827, died 6 August 1890 (Pen. Ent. , 30 August 1890 issue), married (1) by bond of 14 December 1853, Catherine Berry, daughter of James (MLB 1850-1854, p. 3), (2) 18 December 1887, Sinah Onley, aged 25 (Mar. Reg. #3, p. 94). He gave his age as 50 on this licence, which is obviously wrong for then he would have been only 16 when he married the first time. The 1860 census lists George Dix of G, a 33-year old farmer in household 564/565 in Accomack Parish. His wife Catherine was 36, son George 6 years old, son Alfred 5 years and daughter Emily 3. In 1870, George and Catherine Dix also had a son Leny, aged 5 years. He had apparently become Lenard Dix, age 15, in the 1880 census and the census of that year shows son George, aged 26, still unmarried in his father's household. Alfred J. Dix, aged 25, is shown head of a household in 1880. His wife was Anna Dix, aged 21, and there were three boys in the household named Colona, who were identified as Anna's brothers.

6. Revel Dix, born circa 1830, married by bond of 31 December 1855, Nancy Taylor, daughter of Justis B. Taylor (MLB 1853-1858, p. 3). The 1860 census shows Revel Dix, a 31-year-old master shoemaker, head of household 711/709 in Accomack Parish, with wife Nancy, aged 23 years, and two daughters, Eliza S. Dix, aged 4 years and Arinthia T. Dix at 2 years. The family was not found in the 1870 census. In 1860, the household of Benjamin and Eliza S. Young included a Thorogood Dix, aged 18, and Bettie T. Dix, aged 22. They were identified as Eliza T. Young's brother and sister. Thorogood J. Dix, 22, son of Revel and Nancy, married Sarah B. Shreaves, 19, on 13 February 1884 (Mar. Reg. #3, p. 80). Arinthia T. Dix, 21, daughter of Revel and Nancy, married John W. Dix, son of John W. and Mary A., on 19

June 1881 at Leemont.

7. Levi Dix, born circa 1833 (1850 census), married 23 January 1856, Matilda Berry, 28, when he was 24 years old (Mar. Reg. #3, p. 4). The 1860 census shows him as a 25-year-old farmer, with wife Matilda, aged 30 years. There were no children in the household. Neither were there children listed for this couple in 1870.

Mary Frances Carey

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Thoroood T. Dix

Thoroood Dix, son of George Dix and his first wife, Mary Hickman Dix, was born on 20 January 1811 and died on 19 May 1861, according to his tombstone on the Dix Farm at Bullbegger. His name first appeared on Accomack County records on 17 March 1830, when he was issued a marriage bond to marry Nancy Wefsel (Wessells) (MLB 1806-1832, p. 41). Thoroood Dix was called "son of George Dix" on the marriage bond.

Nancy Wessells' parents are not known with certainty. It appears she had an only sister, as, on 2 August 1832, Margaret Wefsel sold to Thoroood Dix one-half of 27 acres "in the neighborhood of Gilford" for \$60 (Deeds 1832-1834, p. 1). This land was bordered on the northeast by land of Isaac Wefsel and the heirs of William Justice, southeast by the heirs of Arthur Wefsel and Major Mason and southwest and northwest by the heirs of Arthur Wefsel. When Thoroood Dix sold the same 27 acres on 29 November 1847, to John Parkes, he owned two-thirds in fee simple and the other one-third was to go by revision to his three children by his deceased first wife, Nancy Wessells Dix, showing they inherited through her (Deeds 1846-1848, p. 636). On 27 May 1850, Thoroood Dix was appointed guardian of his older children, John W. Dix, Isaac J. Dix and Anna Dix, likely as a result of this sale (Orders 1845-1851, p. 330). He posted a \$2000 bond and gave James H. Fletcher and William S. Horsey as securities.

It appears then, that Nancy Wessells Dix was the daughter of Arthur Wessells, Sr., who died testate in 1810, naming his wife as Margaret, an underage daughter Nancy, an unborn child, and a grandson as Arthur West (Wills 1809-1812, p. 183). Arthur Wessells had married Peggy Fruit by bond of 3 June 1803 (MLB 1798-1806, p. 11). Their daughter Nancy would have been born circa 1804 and been 26 years of age when she married Thoroood Dix in 1830. This checks with the 1840 Federal Census, which gives his age as 20 to 30 (he would have been 29) years and his wife's as 30 to 40 years (she would have been 36). The census shows two other males in the

household, one under 5 years and one aged 5 to 10. There were also two girls in the household, both under 5 years.

On 31 May 1837, Thoregood Dix petitioned the Accomack County Court for two roads (Orders 1836-1840, p. 181). A road was requested through the lands of John Wessells and Isaac Wessells "for convenience of traveling to Mrs. Ann Bagwell's mill" and another through the lands of Thomas Clayton and Ephraim Wessells as a shorter route "to the Courthouse". This petition establishes that Thoregood Dix and his family were living near Guilford in 1837.

Thoregood Dix, widower, married secondly, on 25 July 1843, Julianna Tayler (Mar. Reg. #3, p. 67). Her father, William Tayler of M, died testate by 30 June 1845, when his will was recorded (Wills 1828-1846, p. 551). He named his wife as Hesse Tayler and children as: Peggy Parkes, wife of Raymond Parkes, Jr.; Nancy Tayler; Julia Ann Dix, wife of Thoregood Dix; Eliza Tayler; Polly Tayler; and John Tayler. He owned land in the Guilford area and directed that at his wife's death, the home place be divided among all his children. He left land called Paradise Lands to his son John Tayler. William Tayler had married Hesse Annis by bond of 2 July 1814 (MLB 1806-1832, p. 127). Custis Annis and James Annis were witnesses to his will, made on 25 May 1845, as was Dr. Gillet F. Watson.

On 14 January 1847, Thoregood Dix bought, from Raymond Parkes and Peggy his wife, and from Nancy Tayler and Eliza Tayler, their undivided right in 112 acres that had belonged to William Tayler (Deeds 1846-1848, p. 306), and on 30 July 1849, he bought another part from John W. Tayler (Deeds 1849-1851, p. 4). On 14 February 1850, Thoregood Dix bought 70 acres of the Paradise land from John W. Tayler and wife Virginia C. for \$1000 (Deeds 1851-1853, p. 530). On 25 July 1853, he bought the final one-sixth part of the home farm from Polly Tayler (Deeds 1853-1855, p. 39). Thoregood Dix now owned the entire 192 acres that had belonged to William Tayler of M, his second wife's father.

On 20 September 1847, Thoregood T. Dix, for \$3400, bought what became known as

the Dix Farm at Bullbegger. It had been the property of George W. Arbuckle, deceased, and was sold at public auction at Jenkins Bridge by Edward O. Finney, commissioner for the Arbuckle heirs (Deeds 1846-1848, p. 631). The land consisted of 320 acres 3 roods and 23 perches of upland and 160 acres of marsh. It was bordered on the north by land of the heirs of Spencer Fletcher, on the south by land of Thomas R. Joynes, west by Pocomoke Bay and east by the County road. (See Whitelaw, p. 1286-7, for history of this land).

The 1850 Federal Census for Accomack Co., Accomack Parish, shows Thorogood Dix, a 39 year-old farmer with property valued at \$6000, living on the Dix Farm at Bullberger (HH #828). His family consisted of his second wife, Julia Ann Dix, aged 31, and children: John W. Dix, aged 19; Isaac Dix, aged 14; Anna (Nancy) Dix, aged 12; Mary Dix, aged 4 years; and Elizabeth Dix, aged 4 months. Nancy Taylor, aged 33, and Eliza Taylor, aged 25, were also in the household as were two black laborers.

Thorogood Dix and wife Julia Ann sold the 192 acres near Guilford that had belonged to her father on 27 November 1858, to Robert C. Parkes, for \$3500 (Deeds 1858-1860, p. 299). On 28 January 1860, Thorogood Dix bought 300 acres of land near Guilford that had belonged to John Wessells, deceased (Deeds 1860-1862, p. 376) and sold this land on the same day to Thomas P. Lewis (p. 377). One of the boundries was land owned by Robert Parkes. (See Whitelaw, p. 1195, for approximate location of William Taylor land).

In 1860, Thorogood Dix was listed in the Federal Census as a 49 year-old farmer (HH 36/37). His wife Julia A. Dix was 41, John W. Dix was 30, Isaac Dix was 25, Nancy Dix was 23, Mary W. Dix was 14 and Betsy Dix was 10. Julia Ann's sisters, Nancy Taylor and Eliza Taylor, were still in the household and there were six free blacks listed.

Thorogood Dix made his will on 13 May 1861 and it was recorded on 24 June 1861 (Wills 1846-1882, p. 326). He left his son John W. Dix \$500. He devised two slaves

to son Isaac J. Dix and one each to daughters Nancy Dix, Mary Dix, and Betsy Dix. He directed that the balance of his property, both real and personal, be sold by his executors, William S. Byrd, John W. Dix and Issac Dix (only the first two qualified). He named James H. Fletcher, William H. Dix (his full brother) and William S. Byrd as Special Commissioners to divide the land for sale and it was not to be sold "until a settlement of the present existing difficulties between the North and South" (Civil War). The balance of his estate, after payment of just debts, was to be divided equally between all his children. He did not name his wife in the will.

An inventory of the personal estate of Thero good Dix was filed in Accomack Co. Circuit Court on 22 October 1861 (Inventories & c 1861-1865, p. 104). It consisted of a number of bonds and four pages of double columns of other personal property. A list of articles set aside for the widow was included. It was signed by appraisers Frederick A. Tull, George T. Feddeman and John Burton, also John W. Dix and William S. Byrd, executors. Most of the personal property was sold on 25 December 1861 (Inventories 1861-1865, p. 232) and the balance on 26 December 1861 (p. 447). Four slaves were sold at Drummond Town (Accomac) on 27 January 1862 (p. 447).

On 28 October 1861, the court ordered that William H. Marshall, William J. Aydelott and John S. Robins, "do lay off and assign to Julia A. Dix her dower in the lands of her late husband", Thero good Dix, on the motion of John W. Dix and Isaac J. Dix, two of his heirs (Orders 1860-1862, p. 265).

William S. Byrd, Special Commissioner, sold the Dix Farm on 6 August 1864, at public auction, to George T. Feddeman, for \$10,100, but a deed was not given for the land until 28 December 1871 (Deeds 1871-1872, p. 324). By this time, George T. Feddeman had died, so the deed was made to his heirs, Charles W. Feddeman, Florence V. Feddeman and Mary E. Feddeman. The deed called for 320 acres, 3 roods, 2 perches and 160 acres of marsh. It was signed by John Neely, a local lawyer.

While the estate of Thero good Dix was being settled, his widow, Julia Ann Dix,

met with a fatal accident. Family history tells that she was shot through a window while sitting in a rocking chair. On 30 December 1861, Accomack Co. records show: "An Inquisition over the dead body of Julia A. Dix taken by James S. Corbin a Justice of the Peace in and for the County acting as Coroner was returned and ordered to be filed" (Orders 1860-1862, p. 474). She was buried ^{beside} by her husband on the Dix Farm. Her tombstone reads: In memory of Julia Ann Dix, wife of Thoregood Dix, born December 19, 1819, died December 20, 1861.....Farewell, my children, my sisters and my brother dear. I had not long to stay with you here. It was not sickness that hurried me away from here. It was my enemies and the Balls and my enemies without a cause. I have gone to rest in heaven above. I am not dead but sleeping here. Prepare for death for die you must. And with your mother and sister sleep in dust".

The known children of Thoregood Dix, the three eldest by his first wife, Nancy Wessells Dix, and the younger three by his second marriage to Julia Ann Tayler, were:

1. John William Dix, born circa 1830, aged 30, unmarried, in the 1860 census. No marriage record has been found, but it is known he married before 1869, Mary A. Bloxom, daughter of David and Lucretia Bloxom, for they signed deeds in that year, selling her father's lands. He has not been located in the 1870 census or that of 1880.

2. Isaac J. Dix, born 25 October 1835, died 18 May 1915, married 28 January 1863, Virginia W. Bloxom (1837-1919), daughter of David and Lucretia Bloxom (Mar. Reg #3, p. 14). Isaac and his wife are buried in a cemetery near Mappsville, with her parents. They and their children lived on farms southwest of Mappsville, on land that had belonged to her father.

3. Anna M./Nancy Dix, born 22 June 1838, died 14 November 1905, married 17 October 1861, William Thomas Bloxom (1835-1925), son of David Bloxom and wife Lucretia (Mar. Reg. #3, p. 12). She and her husband have tombstones on the south

side of Holdens Creek. *Their descendants lived in Sanford, Hinton, Horry, Oak Hill and*
Atlantic.

4. Mary Ann Dix, born 1846, married 29 August 1861, John Edward Brittingham, 32, a widower. He was a merchant, born in Accomack Co., Va., the son of Elizabeth Brittingham (Mar. Reg. #3, p. 12). They lived near Cedar Hall, Md., ~~on a farm on the north side of Pitts Creek.~~

5. Elizabeth J. Dix, born 1850, m. 24 April 1872, George W. Laskey.

6. James H. Dix, born 17 October 1852, died 21 November 1856. His tombstone is with those of his parents on the Dix Farm.

Mary Frances Carey
Certified Genealogist #237

September 10, 1988

WILL OF THOROGOOD DIX

In the name of God Amen I Thorogood Dix being of sound and disposing mind do make and publish this my last will and testament as follows to wit. Item First, I grant give and bequath unto my son John W. Dix the sum of Five Hundred Dollars in cash, to be paid him by my Executors here in after named provide that the said Son John W. Dix shall not bring in against my estate any claim for amounts due him for anything or in any way then in case he the said John W. Dix shall bring in any claim. I revoke the above Legacy and instead thereof give him the sum of Five Dollars. Item Second, I grant give and bequeath unto my Son Issac J. Dix, my negro man, Southey and my Negro Boy Bob, to have and to hold the same for ever provided however that he the said Isaac J. Dix shall not bring in against my estate any claim for any amount due him for any thing or in any way then in case he the said Isaac J. Dix shall bring in any claim against my Estate, I hereby revoke the above Legacy of Negroes and give him instead thereof the sum of Five Dollars. Item Third, I grant give and bequeath unto my Daughter Nancy Dix my Negro girl Sarah to her or her heirs forever, Item Fourth, I grant give and bequeath unto my Daughter Betsey Dix, my Negro girl Meriah to her or her heirs for ever. Item Fifth, I grant give and bequeath unto my Daughter Mary Dix my Negro girl, Easter, to her or her heirs for ever. Item Sixth, the ballance of all my Property both real and personal I leave to be sold by my Executors here-in after named, and in the following manner and on the following conditions to wit all my slaves and bound negroes time together with all and every other species of Personal property of which I die seized of and possessed, not heretofore given off, to be sold, to the highest bidder upon such terms as may be thought best by my executors. My land I will and desire shall be devide in four parts as follows to wit, all the Lands lying on the East side of the County Road to be equally divided in two tracts or parcels, kind quality improvement and timber considered, also all my land lying on the West side of the County road (upon which stand my dwelling House &c) to be equally divided in two part or/parces, quality, marsh timber and improvement considered, the division of these land to be made by, James H. Fletch, Wm. H. Dix and Wm. S. Byrd, who are hereby constituted and appointed Special Commissioners for that purpose, and I further desire that my Executors will not sell the above parcels of Land until a settlement of the present existing difficulties between the North and South as it is terms is made, and when ever a sale is made I desire the Judge of the Circuit Court to fix the terms of the payment for said Land as he may think best for the Interest of all interested, Item Seventh, the ballance of my Estate not heretofore disposed of, after paying all my Just and lawfull debts, I will shall be Equally divide between all my children, each one to share and share alike and Lastly, I hereby constitute and appoint Wm. S. Byrd, John W. Dix, and Isaac Dix, Executors of this my last will and testament, and I do hereby revoke and make void all former and other will and wills by me at any time or times heretofore made and do hereby declare these presents, to be and contain my last Will and testament.

In witness whereof I, the said testator, Thorogood Dix have to this my last will set my hand and seal this the 13th day of May, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-One (1861.)

his
Thorogood X Dix
cross

SEAL

Signed Sealed published and declared by the testator Thorogood Dix as and for his last will and testament, in the presence of us who in his presence, at his request and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses.

Littleton P. Ewell
Henry E. Byrd
James H. Feddeman

At a court held for the County of Accomack, on the 24th day of June 1861 - This last will and testament of Thorogood Dix deceased was proved by the Oaths of Littleton P. Ewell, Henry E. Byrd, and James H. Feddeman, witnesses thereto, and ordered to be recorded - and on the motion of William S. Byrd and John W. Dix two of the executors therein named taking Oath and giving Bond according to Law in the penalty of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.), with Joseph W. Matthews, George W. Matthews, William Pettitt, John W. Gladding, Alfred Gladding and Thomas Long, sureties thereto, - certificate is granted them for obtaining a probate thereof in due form and the said Bond having been acknowledged by the obligors therein, it is ordered that the same be recorded.

Test: J. W. Gillet. C.A.C.

ACCOMACK COUNTY WILL BOOK 1846-82, PAGE 326-327