

9b: THE COTTER/COATES

Personal Note: *Of all the family branches that I tried to trace, this one was most problematic and so the most satisfying to solve! A newspaper article recounting Leonidas Coates Sr.'s adventures in the California Gold Rush quotes Leonidas Jr., as saying his grandfather Wm. Cotter fought in the Revolutionary War. Following that lead I found a list of Revolutionary War veterans buried in Greene County, IL, claiming that one of them, a Wm. Cotter, was a Revolutionary War soldier descended from Wm. Cotter and Mary Catherine (Vance) Cotter from VA. That proved to be a futile search when I discovered that that particular family moved into Georgia and Alabama. I then discovered that Wm. and Anna Cotter, parents of John and Emeline (who married Leonidas Coates Sr.), were listed in the 1850 Census in Greene Co., IL. Both born in VA, John Cotter (age 40) is listed with his family numerically just before the Wm. Cotter (also born in VA) family, indicating that they lived on adjoining farms. According to the census, there was a 19-year gap in their ages, so they could have been brothers, uncle/nephew or cousins. With no other information, I was stuck. Cindy Fitch then brought me the **Cotter family Bible**, passed down through Emeline Cotter Coates. In it were some birth dates and a poignant account of Wm. Sr.'s death in the Cumberland River (see below). That gave me a clue that they had come via Tennessee, but I still had no way of connecting the names or making sense of the dates. Beth Savoie found a family tree on Ancestry.com--the O'Shea family tree—with the same names and closely-matching dates. That enabled me to fill in the names of a generation missing between the Wm. who died in the Cumberland River and the names of his grandchildren who were listed in the Bible. While I was sure that the O'Shea names and dates list was at least very close to being correct, he/she had not listed any sources for his/her information. (It appears that quite a number of Cotter descendants are using the same names and numbers, but without corroboration other than each other!) Edna Seacrest, author of several books on Greene County, IL genealogy, who also descended from these Cotters, had not been able to figure out where they came from either. I believe the family Bible which we have in our possession might have given Seacrest the key she needed to figure it out, but Ms. Seacrest died about five years ago. While I do not have any of Seacrest's books, I'm wondering if O'Shea's names and dates came from her research. We do know from the 1850 Census that Wm. of Greene County IL was born in VA and his wife Anna was born in NC. O'Shea mentioned Rutherford and Greene Counties in Tennessee in his/her family tree, so I did a bit of digging through Rutherford County's genealogy sites and did indeed find our family in abstracts of old wills! Using the O'Shea family tree from Ancestry.com, the information from the Family Bible and the data I have taken from censuses, marriage records, and the wills, I have tried to puzzle out some answers. **Undocumented information from the O'Shea tree that is new or different from my own research will be printed in RED.** Information from the family Bible which **matches** the O'Shea tree will have a red asterisk * beside it. Please note that this is a working document and is subject to revision which is why it looks so messy! I have tried to include all documentation of my sources. I wonder if it was an unwritten rule that Irish families had to use the names of Wm., John, Anna, and Mary! Because the family was prolific and used the names liberally, I have developed the lines of both the John and William Cotter families in each generation because it's a job keeping the Cotters of Greene County, IL straight—and just in case one of you wants to research it further!*

Inscriptions from the Cotter Family Bible:

Births:

Polly Cotter 1807[or 9?] ("Polly" was a nick-name for several names, so this isn't a whole lot of help); William Cotter 1811; Cathrin Cotter 1815; Nancy Cotter 1818 Oct 2 (or 4?) Johanner Cotter Jan 24, 1821; Rebecky Cotter (June ?) 1823; Beedle Cotter March __ 1827 [or29?] Emeline Cotter April 5th 1836 near Whitehall [different penmanship]; John Cotter 1830

Deaths:

William Cotter Senior was drowned in the Cumberland River 8th day of December 1827 & lay in the water until the 18th of Dec was found & brought home on Dec 20th 1827. [This inscription about Wm. was written in 3 places in the Bible—the first two were faded or water-stained. It was clear that someone wanted this bit of family history recorded—so I'm glad we found it!] Catherine his wife departed this life October the 26th day 1830. Catherine Cotter daughter of William Cotter and Ana his wife departed this life the 14th day of July anno domini 1838. Johanner B Shaw Died June 2d 1892. Emeline Cotter Born April 5th 1836 in Greene Co Ills

G-1: Married:

William¹ Cotter Sr. (Born: Unknown, probably VA; **Died: 08/12/1827 [O'Shea] OR, note that the numbers are transposed, so perhaps he used the day/month/year method** : Drowned 12/08/1827 in the Cumberland River, brought home 12/20/1827 [Cotter family Bible] The year matches in both lists.) This would be the William Cotter who fought in the Revolutionary War according to the newspaper quote by his grandson Leonidas Coates Jr. The article quotes Leonidas as saying his grandfather fought in the war, but dates would make it clear that it would have to be Leonidas Jr.'s **great-grandfather**.

TO: Catharine [The spelling in Rutherford, TN wills & documents] (Died: 10/26/1830* [Cotter Family Bible] Will was probated 11/15/1830 [Rutherford Co. Records.] **O'Shea also lists an 1830 date.** Catherine is listed on the 1830 census. In several of the legal records of Rutherford County that I found, there was a **Beal Bishop** mentioned. Since one of their grandsons was named "Beale," I'm wondering if Catharine's maiden name might have been Bishop. Of course, Beal Bishop might have been just a good family friend and I see that Mary, daughter of William and Catherine, married (2nd marriage) a Sterling Bishop. The Wm. Cotter Jr. family moved to Greene County, IL in 1827. The 1830 Greene County Census does indeed show Wm. living there. It also lists 8 Bishop heads of household in the county, proving that there was a close connection between the two families.

William Cotter Sr. is listed on the 1810 and 1820 Censuses for Rutherford Co., TN.

William Cotter's name [I think this would be William¹ Cotter Sr.] was on the Rutherford County petition to the General Assembly of Tennessee in **1812** calling for a general vote to decide the location of the county seat.

We read in the Cotter family Bible that William Sr. drowned in the Cumberland River on Dec. 8, 1827. I found the following abstracts for documents from the Rutherford County, TN Historical Society "Publication" which fit perfectly with that date of death (The references to slaves made my heart ache!)

Dowry Right: "William Cotter 01/30/1828 [about a month after his death] **Widow: Catharine Cotter;** Commissioners; S. Barter, **Beal Bishop**, Jane S. Armstrong." [Record Book 7, #1361, p. 49]

"Inventory and Sale [of the estate of] William Cotter 8-Feb-1828 Administrators: David H. Jarratt and William Powell. Buyers: **Catharine Cotter, Nathan Hall, William Cotter, David H. Jarrett, Thomas Cotter, John Cotter, Beal Bishop, John L. Jeeton, Joel Barber, Charles Ivy, David Baxter, John Beck, David Hall, Jos. HcCracken, John Yearwood, Elizabeth Dement, John Yardell, William Adams, J.B. Beasley, James S. Armstrong, Hodica Lillard, Wallace Steward, James Smith, E. Newman, Jno HcCracken, David Green—Slave: girl sold to Benjamin Knox, \$161; Woman & 3 children to Catharine Cotter, \$800.**" [Record Book 7, #1373 p. 58]

At another inventory/sale: "Deceased was J. Alexander; no date; Administrator: Jacob Wright; **Buyers Were John Cotter.... William Cotter... Thomas Cotter**... Slave boy Washington sold to **John Cotter.**" [Record Book 7, #1373, page 58.]

The inscription in the family Bible reads that Catharine died October 26, 1830:

Catharine's Will (remember that I had only the abstract): **Catharine Cotter**, Date of Will 10/24/1830; refers to herself as being "low in body," and makes her bequests to "**My children: Thomas Cotter, William Cotter, Elizabeth Murry, John Cotter, Sally Hall,**" and to her "**grandchildren: children of my daughter Polly**" Executors: **John Cotter, Nathan Hall;** Witnesses: Henry Trott, R.C. Price; James Roberson, William Hall." [Record Book 8, #115, P. 151]

Catharine's will was probated 11/15/1830.

Susan Daniel of the Rutherford Co. Historical Society tells me that "Polly" may have been deceased (I guess that's why the bequest went to Polly's children.); also that John Cotter and Nathan Hall refused to qualify as executors, so David M. Jarret and Joseph McCracken became administrators with the will annexed.

Generation II:

Children Born to William¹ Cotter Sr. and Catharine Cotter *Much of my information for this generation came from the Ancestry.com member O'Shea but it was borne out by the names in Catharine's will. However, #3William and #5John, are positively identified from both the Cotter Bible and from Greene Co., IL census records. I have placed the birth order as they were listed in Catharine's will. O'Shea offered no dates for Mary/Polly or Elizabeth.*

1. Thomas² Alexander Cotter (*Born: 1779*) [*O'Shea and Catharine Cotter Will*] Thomas is on the 1820 and 1830 censuses for Rutherford Co. The 1860 Census of Rutherford Co., TN lists a T. Cotter, born in VA, 1779 (age 81). If O'Shea's information is correct, this must certainly be the right one. T. Cotter is married to a Jane with 8 children at home – 6 girls and 2 boys, ranging in age from 19-35 I can't tell if any of them are married-- two sons could be married and living with their wives in their parents' home. Compare note at end of G-III, Children born to John². The use of "Thomas Alexander Cotter" in the next generation is an indication that we are indeed on the right genealogical track! Thomas would have been born about half-way through the Revolutionary War.
2. William² Cotter Jr.* (*Born: 10/01/1786 VA [O'Shea]; OR Born: 1791 VA [1850 & 1860 Greene Co., IL. Censuses]*) William Jr. is listed on the 1820 Rutherford Co., TN census.
3. Elizabeth² Cotter (*Married to a Mr. Murry according to Catharine's will.*)
4. John² Cotter* (*Born: 08/07/1797 VA* [O'Shea & John's tombstone in Cotter Cem., Greene Co., IL. Only John and wife Rebecca Rawlins Cotter were buried there. The stones were destroyed in 1976 but a record was preserved] OR: Born: 1810 VA [1850 Census] Greene Co., IL; Died: 12/22/1865, *Patterson, Greene Co., IL [O'Shea] OR: 12/26/1862 [tombstone, Greene Co., IL]*)
6. Sally² Cotter (*Born: 1807 TN [O'Shea]*) "Sally Hall" of Catharine's will? May have been married to "Nathan Hall," listed after Catharine in the Sale of William's property and was named executor of Catherine's will.)
7. Mary² (Polly?) Cotter [*O'Shea and Catharine Cotter Will*] Rutherford Co., TN marriage records show that James Tucker married Mary Cotter on 01/18/1806. Mrs. Mary "Polly" Tucker then married Sterling Bishop on July 25, 1816. The 1830 Greene County Census lists "Starling Bishop" as a head of household.

G-2: Married:

2. William² Cotter Jr. (*Born: 10/01/1786* VA [O'Shea and Edna Seacrest] OR: Born: 1790/1791 VA [1850 and 1860 Greene Co. Censuses] Died: 12/26/1865, 79 years, 2 months, 26 days, served in War of 1812 [Cemetery Book: Patterson Township, Compiled by Edna Seacrest; O'Shea, year only]*)

TO: Anna (?) (*Born: 1790/1791 NC* [O'Shea, 1850 and 1910 Censuses];*

Wed: Before 1809, in VA or TN [William and Anna must have married in VA, NC or TN before 1809 when their first daughter was born; They moved to Greene Co., IL ~1827. see note under William M. Cotter, below]

No Death Date available for Anna)

The 1860 Census for Greene Co. is the last one that William and Anna appear in. Both 70 years old and evidently still farming, they were living two farm-houses down the road from their son John and wife Mary.

Quote from The history of Greene County: Its Past and Present by Clement L. Clapp (1879) p. 398.

*"From the statement of **William Cotter who settled in White Hall in 1832, and who is now living in the house built by him in 1835, I learn that as early as 1835, Michael Baker built a kiln and burnt stoneware in this vicinity [Whitehall had been quite famous for its pottery].***

Generation III:**Children Born to William² Cotter Jr. and Anna Cotter** (Names taken from Cotter Family Bible)

1. Polly³ (**Mary**) Cotter [Polly is a nick-name for Mary] (Born: 1809*; Died 1892)
2. William³* Marvin Cotter (Born: 10/18/1811* Rutherford TN; Died: 05/19/1895 White Hall, Greene Co., IL) 1880 Census says *both* his father and mother were born in NC which does not jive with other censuses.
3. Catherine³* Cotter (Born 02/07/1815; * Died: 07/14/1838 [Cotter family Bible])
4. Nancy³* Cotter (Born: 10/02 or 04/1818) [O'Shea gives no dates for Nancy]
5. Johanna³* Cotter (Born: 01/24/1821 TN * [O'Shea and family Bible]; Died: 06/02/1892 Greene Co., IL)
6. Rebecca³* Cotter (Born: 06/04/1823 TN; Died: 03/08/1888)
7. Beedle³ (**Beal**) Cotter (Born: 03/1827 TN*) Getting the hint from the O'Shea genealogy that "Beedle" was really "Beal" enabled me to trace this individual, and with him, his mother, father, and mother-in-law.
8. John³ Cotter [Wm², Wm¹]* (Born: 09/1830 [Bible & 1850 census] or 09/04/1835 [O'Shea & 1860 census])
9. **Emeline³ Cotter** (Born: 04/03/1836 [1850, 1870 & 1910 Censuses & Bible or 04/05/1839 Greene Co. IL; Died: 02/08/1917 Hillview, Greene Co., IL* [O'Shea & IL Deaths and Stillbirths] Buried: Edwards Cem.)

G-3: Married:

2. **William³ Marvin Cotter** (Born: 10/18/1811 Rutherford, TN; Wed: 07/1837; Died: 05/19/1895 White hall, Greene County, IL)

TO: Mary Dennis (Daughter of Matthew Q. Dennis)

Note William³ M Cotter: The following biographical paragraph regarding William M. Cotter, while not in our direct line, gives some family history by referring to his parents and gives us a date as to when the family moved from Tennessee to Illinois. Any children born to William² and Anna after 1827 were born in Illinois:

"Cotter, Wm Marble Agent, r cor. Bridgeport and South Main St., White Hall. Cotter, the oldest settler now living in White Hall, was born in the state of Tennessee in 1812 [I wonder if his father was away at war, see above], where he passed his earlier years upon the old farm homestead of his parents, William and Anna Cotter, who concluded to emigrate to the West in 1827, locating East of White Hall, in Greene County near Apple Creek, in 1827, where our subject received a good common school education in the primitive log cabin of the period. July, 1837 Mr. Cotter was united in marriage to Miss Mary Dennis, a daughter of Matthew Q. Dennis, by whom he has eight children ...Mary F., Charles S., Laura, Warren A [Adolphus] Martha A., Lettie L., Dennis B., and Lulu. [They evidently had another son who died in infancy: William M. Cotter, son of William and Mary H (or E). Cotter, Born 07/14/1840; Died 08/24/1841, is buried in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Cemetery, White Hall, IL. The Find-A-Grave photographer/researcher lists his mother as "Mary H. (Dennis) Cotter.] For a number of years Mr. Cotter followed the calling of a butcher, and in 1836 entered into the mercantile business and in retirement from this was elected constable of the town, holding this position for a period of twelve years. In 1850 he crossed the plains for California, where he roughed it among the mines for two years [did he leave his family or drag them with him?], when he again sought his old home in White Hall, where he has since been identified with the business interests of the place, and for the present seven years in the employ of H. Watson, the only marble manufacturer in the city. Biographies 1879: History of Greene County, Illinois, Its Past and Present.

1870 Census lists him as "stock dealer."

1880 Census lists him as "tombstone agent." Daughter Alice. 23 and living at home had an infirmity in her eyes the day the census was taken.

G-3: Married:

5. **Johanna³ B. Cotter:** (Born: 01/24/1821; Wed: 12/30/1839; Died 06/02/1892 [see inscription from family Bible, above; Buried in Williams Edwards Cemetery, Roodhouse])

TO: David Shaw (Born: 10/30/1819; Died: 10/10/1877). Buried in Williams Edwards Cemetery, Roodhouse, Greene County, IL. Children: Ada Shaw (Born: 12/29/1860; Died: 05/03/1864); Julia Shaw (Born: 05/10/1853; Died: 01/15/1854; Martha F. Shaw (Born: 1848 [1850 census] Died: 10/08/1854; the three children are buried in the Veteran of Foreign Wars Cemetery, Greene Co., IL [From "Find-A-Grave" on-line])

G-III: Married:

7. Beedle (Beal*, Beale)³ Cotter: (Born: 03/1827 TN* [*O'Shea and Family Bible*] **OR:** 1833 [1860 Census, Greene Co.]) *Beal was born in March of the same year that William and Anna moved to IL and the same year that William²'s father (Beal's grandfather) drowned in the Cumberland River that December--presumably in TN—so William and his family were not present for that event.* **WED:** 10/30/1850, Greene County, IL [IL State Public Record Office 1860-1905—I know, but that's the title that was on the file!] **DIED:** No dates found but before 1880 when wife Mary is listed on the census as “widowed.”

TO: Mary E. Davis (Born: 1832 KY [1860 Greene Co., Census])

Census Records for Beedle (Beal) and his wife/widow, Mary E. [Davis] Cotter

1850 Census, Greene Co., IL for Beale Cotter: He is listed as William Cotter, 22 years old (born 1827 in TN), working as a “Grocery Keeper” and married to Mary E. Cotter 18 years old (born 1832 KY), with no children. Except for his first name, everything else matches to Beedle/Beal. I wonder if middle name was William! I am certain that this is the right individual when I compare it to the 1860 and 1880 censuses.

1860 Census, Greene County IL for Beale Cotter: He is 27 years old, born 1833 in TN, [pretty close to the right age!] *Beal, a farmer, is married to Mary [Davis], born in 1832 KY, age 28, with three children: 1. Elbert, age 8, born in IL; 2. Julia (note this name and birthdate!) age 5, born 1855 IL; and 3. Ella S., 2 years old, also born in Illinois. In this same census, just two farm houses away we find William² Cotter, a farmer, age 70 (born 1790 in VA), married to Anna Cotter, age 70 (born 1790 in NC.). Living with William² and Anna is their son John³ Cotter, also a farmer, age 22 (Born 1835 IL), and John's wife Mary Cotter, age 22 (Born 1838 in England—this would be Mary Swindon—see G-III-8: Married, John³ Cotter, below)*

1880 Census, Kansas City, Jackson County, MO: *Beal died before 1880 as the 1880 Census finds Mary (Davis) Cotter living with her daughter Julia Bellchambers in Kansas City, MO:*

Married: Julia [Cotter] (Age 25, born 1855 in IL, Married 06/04/1871 in Jackson Co., MO)

TO: Edward Bellchambers (Head of family, Age 35, born 1845 in England, a “broom maker” by trade. In the 1870 census he was single, living in Peoria IL in a boarding house.)

1. Child (Mary's Grand-son): Bertie Bellchambers (Albert Charles? Age 8, Born 1872-73, MO)

2. Child (Mary's Grandson): William Bellchambers (Age 6 Born 1875, MO)

Living with them are 3 young men, one a laborer, the other two also broom-makers.

1900 Census, Kansas City, Jackson County, MO: *Mary E. Davis Cotter is now age 66, widowed and the head of the household—listed as having given birth to 4 children with only one still living. She is living with her grandson Charles Bellchambers, age 27 (1872-73), a broom-maker, and grandson William Bellchambers, age 25 (1875) who has been married for two years to Anna Bellchambers, age 23 (1876). William and Anna have a two-year-old son Bert (1898). Julia and Edward are listed in another household.*

1910 Census, Rosedale, Wyandotte Co., KS *has Mary E. Cotter, age 76 living with Grandson Albert Bellchambers [Bertie or Charles in previous censuses], his wife Mary [or May] and great-grandchildren William (2), Donald (14 mos.) and Julia (1 mo.)*

G-III: Married:

8. John³ Cotter [*William² Cotter; William¹ Cotter*] (Born: 1835, IL; Wed: 01/11/185 Died: 02/22/1892 [*O'Shea*].)

TO: Mary Swinden [1860 Census] (Born: 1836, England; [IL Marriage Records and the 1850 and 1860 Censuses])

G-III: Married:

9. **Emeline³ Cotter** (Born: 04/03/1836, near Whitehall, IL; Wed: 11/30/1854 [Illinois Marriage Index]) *The 1860 Census shows Emeline no longer in her parents' home. Died: 02/08/1917 Hillview, IL [O'Shea & IL Death and Stillbirth Records]*

TO: Leonidas Coates Sr. (Born: 08/09/1829 or 30, SC; Died 05/21/1908) *See Coates Genealogy, Generation V*

G-2: Married:

4. **John² Cotter** (Born: 08/07/1797 VA* [O'Shea and John's Tombstone in Cotter Cemetery before tombstones were destroyed in 1976] **OR:** 1810 VA [1850 Census: It was this date that caused me such confusion; it makes more sense that William and John would be separated by 11 years [1897] rather than 19 years[1850], although either is possible. While his brother William is listed on the 1830 Census for Greene County, IL, John is not—indicating that he had not yet moved to IL. He married Rebecca in Greene County in 1834. Died: 12/26/1862* Green County, IL [O'Shea and Tombstone in Cotter Cemetery, now destroyed])

TO: ^{Wife #1}Rebecca Rawlins (Born: 05/27/1810 KY [Date on tombstone in Cotter Cemetery before tombstones were destroyed in 1976;] Wed: 03/17/1834 Greene Co. TN [IL Marriage Records]; Died: 01/27/1849 tombstone) *A cousin of this family moved to and pioneered settlement of the area now known as Lancaster, TX. John and Rebecca are buried in what is named "Cotter Cemetery" in Greene County. Theirs are the only two recorded burials there--although it is thought that their baby daughter might have been the first to be buried there--and their gravestones were destroyed in the 1976—but not before there was a record of what was inscribed on them. John Cotter had a son named William in the 1850 census and William had a son named John—so the names and generations of Cotters become quite confusing!*

TO: ^{Wife #2}Unidillian (Spelling varies) Nealis Densmoor (Born: 1820 IL daughter of Hugh Nealis; Wed: 02/28/1850 [IL Marriage Records] Died: 08/06/1865, buried in Scott County, IL) *A widow, she brought four children to add to John's family of 7children, [his first child died in infancy] Marrying just a year after Rebecca died, I'm sure that joining forces made good sense!*

Generation III:

Children Born to John² Cotter and ^{Wife #1}Rebecca Rawlins Cotter (All names and dates from 1850 Census)

1. Lydia³ Catherine (Born 02/05/1835; Died: 02/28/1835, burial unknown, but some think her parents were buried beside her unmarked grave—Cotter Cemetery—See above.)
2. Elizabeth³ Jane Cotter (Born: 1836; Wed: John Langley)
3. Nancy³ Ann Cotter (Born: 1840; Wed: ¹John Wilkinson; ²Marion Jones; ³Solomon Kessinger)
4. William³ Cotter [John², William¹] (Born: 1840; Wed: Emily Jackson)
5. Sarah³ Caroline Cotter (Born: 1843; Wed: Cyrus Peck)
6. Mary³ Adeline Cotter (Born: 1843; Wed: ¹George Langley; ²Nathaniel Taylor)
7. John³ Cotter [John², William¹] (Born: 1845; Wed: Henrietta Hardt)
8. Tabitha³ Cotter (Born: 1846; Wed: Amos Lovelace)

Generation III:

Children Born to John² Cotter and ^{Wife #2}Unidillian Densmore: (From a transcription of the 1860 Greene County Census)

9. Lonora³ Cotter [aka Clynira] (Born: 1850)
10. Thomas³ Alexander Cotter (Born: 1853 IL; Married Elizabeth Sherwin, born in PA; Children: Charles, Atlas (Pete), and Florence.
11. Mathew³ Cotter (Born: 1856)

1860 Census I could find only a transcription of this census so I could not view the actual form. It's not a perfect match, but the names on it make me think that it is the right family. It listed John Cotter, farmer, age 60, living with wife Unice (I believe it's a transcription error from "Unidillian" or maybe she just got tired of having to explain her name!), age 44 and born in KY. Children in the home were Mary A. (17, daughter of John and Rebecca), Tabitha (12, daughter of John and Rebecca), and the three children born to John and Undillian: **Lonora** (10), **Thomas Alexander** (7) [See Generation II for the one he was named after—another indication that we are on the right track in this family!] and **Mathew** (4). Instead of separating the last few columns of the census, the census compiler combined them so they contained everything from "can't read/can't write" to "insane, idiotic, blind, pauper." This section of the census was checked off for both Jon and Unidillian. With such little ones in the household, I'm hoping there was a huge mistake!

Oral History: I have had e-mail correspondence with a ggcoates who also descended from these Cotters. His great-grandfather was Thomas³ Alexander Cotter (ggcoates confirmed that 'Alexander' was his middle name) and Atlas (Pete) Cotter his grandfather. Atlas (Pete) told ggcoates about his ancestors living in Bishop's Dell [a small settlement north of Hillsborough settled by a James Bishop, see note below] and that they lived in tents. [See reference to Bishops under Generation I.]. There were 8 Heads of Households named Bishop in the 1830 Greene County Census. This gives credence to the idea that the Cotters and the Bishops had a strong relationship and that Wm. Cotter moved with them to Greene County, IL around 1827.

Taken from "The History of Hillview," Illinois Valley Cultural Heritage Association Website. No sources were given for this information.

"William Shelton, a ranger from Ft. Russell, Edwardsville [Greene County, IL] chose the alcove at the mouth of Hurricane Creek...in 1826 to build a cabin. He left no record except [for the names] Shelton's Hill, Shelton's Spring, and Shelton's Graveyard. A back water lake bore the name of another settler, Bucks Lake, for Joseph Buck, 1825. Another family name is **Bishop's Dell for James Bishop, 1830**. The farm where Bishop's Dell was located is bordered on the South by Trimley Creek and the barn that James Bishop constructed using wooden pegs still stands as well as the foundation of his one room stone home built against the bluff. Seely and Hodge built a mill on the creek in 1833...."

Generation III:

Children of Undillian Nealis Densmore from previous marriage (all names and dates from 1850 Census and living in the John Cotter household—but before John and Undillian's 3 children [above] were born.)

1. Daniel Densmore (Born: 1835)
2. Parmelia Densmore (Born: 1839)
3. David Densmore (Born: 1841)
4. James Densmore (Born 1843)

G-2: Married:

7. Mary "Polly" Cotter

TO: ^{Husband #1} **James Tucker** (Wed: 01/18/1806 Rutherford Co., TN [Rutherford Co., TN marriage records])

TO: ^{Husband #2} **Sterling Bishop** (Wed: 07/25/1816 Rutherford Co., TN) The 1830 Census lists "Starling Bishop" as a head of household.

See 13a: Coates-Alexander/Dyson/Lindsay/Fitch Genealogy, Generation IV