

My History of Fulton Nathaniel Duren

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Fulton Nathaniel Duren was the patriarch of the Duren family in central Alabama. He moved his family from DeKalb County Georgia to Chilton County Alabama around 1893. Fulton hails from a large Duren family located all around Atlanta and areas west and southwest. The origin of the family in the United States was in the Augusta, Georgia area in the late 1700s. One of two known sons moved from Augusta into central Georgia about 1824 and began this family line.

The first documented appearance of Fulton is in 1860 and he is a five year old boy living with his family in the "Several Districts" section of Coweta County, using the Palmetto Post Office. His family includes his mother Emily Sarah Light Duren Hollis (age 30), older brother George W. (age 8), and younger sister Mary S. (age 3). Even though Fulton is very young, a lot has already occurred in his life. It appears his father has died and his mother has remarried to Samuel P. Hollis. They are also living with Samuel and his other children. Samuel is a railroad hand, and everyone in the household was born in Georgia. Samuel and Emily had been married within the year. Fulton's older brother was named after their father: George Washington Duren.

By August 1870 the family is living separately from the Hollis family members. However, the Durens are all listed with last name "Hollis" including a new family member, half-sister Jane Hollis (age 10). Others listed are Emily (age 30), George (age 17), Fulton (age 13), and Jane (later called Mandy E. or Jennie, age 10). They are living in the Goods District in Campbell County near the Powder Springs Post Office.

A historical note: Campbell County had been carved out of the original Coweta County about 1828 and is the neighboring county due north of Coweta. Campbell County was fully incorporated into Fulton County in 1932. Note that Palmetto (where Fulton resides in 1860) is in the section of Coweta County that was cut out to make Campbell County. Palmetto was in Campbell County in 1870 and is today in Fulton County. So, most likely, our Duren family DID NOT move

between 1860 and 1870 - just the county borders and names changed. This area is all west and southwest of Atlanta.

George Washington Duren, Jr., Fulton's older brother, married and raised a large family west of Atlanta. Most stayed in the Palmetto and Fairburn areas.

Mandy E. Hollis, Fulton's half sister, married Joel R. Miles in 1878, had a large family (12 children or so), lived, and died in Georgia. One late note was made of her in Fulton's obituary on January 4, 1940, where it said he had "one half-sister, Mrs. Jennie Miles of Georgia." Further research on her descendants has yielded few results.

I believe Fulton's sister (Mary S.) was later called Lottie and she seemingly never married. Lottie Duren and Mandy E. Hollis Miles are buried with their mother in the Wesley Chapel Cemetery, Snapfinger, DeKalb County, Georgia. Joel Miles is also buried there. Today, the church has been torn down and the cemetery is all that remains. The site is located at the intersection of Wesley Chapel Road and Snapfinger Creek Road in DeKalb County, which is about 12 miles east of Atlanta, just off of I20. The 1870 census may provide a clue how they went from living west of Atlanta to being buried east of Atlanta.

Interestingly, Fulton has two separate entries in the 1870 US Census. On the 8th of August 1870, he is listed with his family in Campbell County, as described above. However, also in the census, on the 1st of September, 1870, he is listed as age 15, at the Cross Keys Post Office, Shallowford District, DeKalb County, as a laborer on the farm of Noah and Nancy Dilda.

Fulton goes from his family at home to work with Noah Dilda in DeKalb County. It isn't unreasonable that his mother and sisters followed him a little later. In fact, his sister Mary continues to show up in the Stone Mountain area until her death on August 9, 1932.

On January 18, 1877 Fulton married Rebecca Elizabeth "Lizzie" Abbott (b. 1856, d 1911), daughter of Walton D. Abbott and Margret Adaline Blount. They lived in Georgia and started their family. They had eight children (7

daughters, 1 son) before they moved to Alabama sometime between May 1891 and July 1894. The first child born in Alabama was Essie Mae on July 4th, 1894. Altogether, they had 10 children: nine daughters and one son (Edgar). One daughter, Maud, died at age 15 (in 1902). Fulton, Lizzie, and most of their children (and their spouses) are buried in the Mars Hill Cemetery, outside of Jemison, Alabama.

In the 1880 US Census (June 7-8) Fulton is living with his wife and two daughters in the Panthersville District of DeKalb, Georgia. His wife is R. E. (age 23), and his daughters are Evarilla (age 2), and L C (age 1). Fulton is listed as working on a farm.

June 9, Fulton's entire family appears on the 1900 US Census in the Jemison precinct of Chilton County, Alabama. The parents are Fulton N. (45, Jan 1855), and Lizzy B. (44, June 1856), married 21 years, she has 10 children, all living. The children were: Eva (19, Dec 1880), Letcher (18, Jun 1881), Vannie (16, Sep 1883), Dony (15, Sep 1884), Maud (13, Nov 1886), Ros (12, Oct 1888), Edgar (10, May 1890), Georgia (9, May 1891), Essie (5, Jul 1894), and Eula (2, Dec 1897). Note that the birth years for the children are almost all off by one or two years in this census. Fulton is listed as a farmer.

By 1910, Fulton's household has shrunken. He is living with his wife and six children. Maud has died and three have married and moved out. By now some names have evolved: Dony is listed as Donnie, Ros as Rossie, Lester as Celeste (Lech to some), and Georgia as Sennie. Essie and Eula remain the same. Celeste married Joel T. Childress and is living next door with their son Rufus (age 5). They have been married seven years. Eva Rilla married John Franklin Lowery on October 28, 1897 and has three children and is living in Shelby County. John is listed as a foreman on the railroad. Vannie married Richard William Wilkes (listed as a merchant) in 1904. They are living in Montgomery (with no children yet).

Unfortunately, Lizzie Abbott Duren dies the next year, December 18, 1911. She is buried at Mars Hill Cemetery. The cause is unknown because there is no death certificate and no obituary has been found.

Fulton continues to live in the Mars Hill area as a farmer into the 1920s. On the 1920 US Census (January 17) he is listed as widowed and living with his daughters Essie Duren and

Donnie Allen (married Jack Allen), and two of Donnie's children; Joel Allen (age 7), and Estell Allen (age 3 10/12). Rossie has married James J Sims, is living nearby, and has two daughters. Joel and Celeste Childress and children are still living next door. Sennie married Joseph Smitherman and is also a neighbor. Eula has married Ruben W. Mims. Along with their son and daughter, they are living with Ruben's parents in Mignon, Talladega County. Ruben is a spinner in the cotton mill there. Edgar has married Fannie Mae Scott and is living next door to his in-laws in the Mars Hill area. Edgar and Fannie have four children: Richard, Roland, Linnis, and Fulton (Snook). Edgar is a laborer in a lumber mill.

Fulton and his daughter, Donnie Allen, and her son, Joel, move to the Columbiana (Shelby County) area by 1930, and both are listed as widowed. Fulton is 72 years old. Edgar continues to live, with all of his ten children, in the Mars Hill area as a farmer.

According to his death certificate, Fulton N. Duren died on December 27, 1939 due to pneumonia from influenza at the age of 84 years, 11 months, 17 days. His birth date is listed as January 10, 1855. The informant for the death certificate was E. D. Duren (Edgar). Note that Fulton's headstone has contradictory information to this, but it is believed to be in error and the above dates are considered to be the most accurate.

Fulton's father, George Washington Duren, was one of ten brothers and one sister. Their father was George Duren (middle name unknown). This Duren family was well represented during the Civil War with all

males (that were living) seeing service. Apparently Fulton's father, George Washington, was dead by the time of the war. Two brothers died in the war: John G. Duren at Richmond, Virginia, and Griffin T. Duren at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The highest ranking brother was Corporal James Andrew Jackson Duren who served in the Georgia Cavalry. He is buried in the Confederate Cemetery in Stone Mountain.

Fulton's grandfather, George, was one of two (known) Duren brothers from Augusta; the other was Thomas. Thomas leaves the Augusta area and isn't further known. Their father was from the north of Ireland of Scotch-Irish ancestry and settled in Augusta as a skilled blacksmith and lived out his life there. As a young man, George drove stage coaches from Augusta into central Georgia. Eventually he bought land and settled in Gwinnett County (just north of Atlanta) around 1824. As described above, the Duren family then slowly settled more and more to the west and southwest.

The census research was very difficult due to spelling and transcription problems. Some examples of troublesome spellings or mis-transcriptions are Duson, Dewran, Darin, Durin, and Duran. Also, for Fulton, he and his siblings are listed in his step-father's name "Hollis" at least once.

Of Fulton's children, only Edgar continued the Duren surname; his siblings were all sisters and contributed to the surnames Lowery, Childress, Wilkes, Allen, Sims, Smitherman, Martin, and Mims.

When Fulton moved from Georgia to

Alabama, he apparently came as part of a group of extended family and friends. At least three of Lizzy's siblings moved to the Jemison area at the same time: her sister Dulcinea (married Thomas Parker), her brother John W. (married Francis E. Treadwell) and her sister Frances Emma (married George C. Shaw).

Finally, an interesting point: at least four of Edgar's children moved from Alabama back to Georgia and lived very near the area where Fulton grew up. Their families and descendants still live there today.

Upcoming Dates

Clanton Library, 2:00 PM:

- **Jan 26, 2014 – THIS SUNDAY! CCGS Meeting** – Kim Gillespie is speaking on the Digitizing of Chilton County's Tax Assessor Records.
- **Also:** BRING ANY OLD PICTURES AND RECIPES TO SCAN!

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