**Revolutionary War Ancestors of the Southern Illinois Dorris Families**

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Dorris researchers have long known that the immigrant ancestor of the southern Illinois Dorris families was William Dorris, who died in Orange Co., North Carolina in 1795. The following sons of William Dorris had descendants in southern Illinois in the 19th century: the Rev. Joseph Dorris (Franklin & Randolph Cos.), John Dorris (Marion Co.), Samuel Dorris (Marion Co.), William Dorris (Jr.) (Gallatin and after 1847 Saline Co.), Benjamin Dorris (Williamson Co.), and Isaac Dorris (Williamson & Franklin Cos.). The purpose of this paper is to prove the descent of these six men from William Dorris and to document the Revolutionary service for William Dorris and five of these six sons acceptable to the Sons, Daughters, and Children of the American Revolution (SAR, DAR, and C.A.R.). It is not to trace these families into Illinois. Those interested in a more complete account of the life of these men, their wives, and other the other children of William should see ***A Dorris Family History*** by Carl Eugene Dorris.[[1]](#footnote-1)

William Dorris was in Cranbury, Middlesex Co., New Jersey in 1758. He pledged £0.8.8 on 6 February to build a new parsonage for the First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury and made a further pledge of the same amount on 16 January 1759.[[2]](#footnote-2) William was presumably in Hopewell Township of Hunterdon Co. in 1761 when William Dorris (Jr.) was born.[[3]](#footnote-3) In 1768 he successfully sued Tristam Hull for stealing a horse.[[4]](#footnote-4) William is the only Dorris of his generation found in New Jersey before, during, or after the Revolution.

Five of the seven Dorrises can be found in Fairfax or Loudoun Co., Virginia records in the early 1770’s. William (Jr.), who was not yet a teenager, and John, who may have remained in New Jersey, are not recorded. William and his son Samuel incurred a debt to William Carr Lane, who died sometime before 10 December 1770 in Fairfax Co. William himself and sons Joseph, Benjamin are found on a tithe list of Cameron Parish of Loudoun Co. in 1772; Isaac and Samuel are listed the following year, but the others are not present in 1773.[[5]](#footnote-5) William and Samuel were sued in Fairfax Co. for debt owed Carr’s estate on 20 May 1772 and ordered imprisoned until the debt was paid.[[6]](#footnote-6) The family began to scatter from Virginia.

William returned to New Jersey and leased lands from the John Stevens, a cousin of the John Stevens who received payments for the Cranbury parsonage.[[7]](#footnote-7) William is listed on the 1774 tax list for Newton Twp., Sussex Co., New Jersey with no land.[[8]](#footnote-8) William (Jr.) was too young to be this man. William was among the freeholders and inhabitants of Newton Twp. of Sussex Co. petitioned the New Jersey Legislative Council and General Assembly on 10 June 1780.[[9]](#footnote-9) The petitioners said that they had provided provisions and forage to the army, maintained teams in public service at their own expense, pastured Continental horses, and worked on highways at the direction of quartermasters and their agents. Some had received only a small part of the pay due them. Others had received nothing. The petitioners were unable to pay their taxes or other debts. Their grain was being seized for the taxes they owed. To relieve their financial distress they requested the discharge the public debts. The petitioners demonstrated strong support for the Revolution and established that they had provided supplies and services in support of the war, activity acceptable as evidence of Revolutionary service.

Genealogists and lineage societies must be careful that an ancestor of concern is identical with a person of the same name on another record. What evidence is there that William Dorris is identical with the William Dorris who signed the Newton Twp. petition? Looking for evidence that the residence of the ancestor is consistent with the record is important. Usually there is a match: the ancestors enrolled in the militia, took the oath of allegiance, etc. near their homes. This does not mean that the residence must match the location of the record establishing service. For example, Lafayette was commissioned not at all near his home, but information is available that explains why the locations do not match. However, a record independent of the evidence of service matching the location of the service is not necessarily meaningful. After all, if a person left record of service in a location, he or she could well have left a record of living there yet not have been the ancestor. Had the tax list been dated 1775 or even 1780, the question would remain: was the man in Newton Twp. identical with the ancestor, William Dorris, Sr. If residence does not match service location, what is the story?

There is good evidence that William Dorris the ancestor was the Newton Twp. resident. New Jersey tax lists have been published. Not only are no Newton Twp. lists extant from 1775-1783, but this is the only tax entry for a William Dorris in New Jersey during the decades of the Revolution. He disappears from Virginia after ordered to jail for debt in 1772. Returning to New Jersey and leasing land from a wealthy family with which he had a relationship prior to moving to New Jersey was a very reasonable course of action. William Dorris (Jr.) will be shown below to be the son of William Dorris. We know that in 1777, the year he turned 16, he served in the militia in New Jersey. One would expect a living father of a young man that age to be nearby. SAR has accepted the evidence that William Dorris the ancestor was the inhabitant of Newton Twp. in 1780 and has approved applications through his sons Samuel and Isaac.[[10]](#footnote-10)

William (Jr.) and John Dorris also performed Revolutionary service in New Jersey. William (Jr.) served a half a dozen tours of duty in the militia in starting in 1777.[[11]](#footnote-11) John Dorris, who was listed on New Jersey tax lists in Hunterdon County from 1779 through 1781, provided wood to the Continental Army on 2 February 1780.[[12]](#footnote-12) William, John, and William (Jr.) left New Jersey, moving to Orange Co., North Carolina by 1792, where they rejoined Isaac and Joseph.

Joseph removed to the eastern shore of Maryland about the same time that William returned to New Jersey. His son John Irwin Dorris was born there on 22 October 1773.[[13]](#footnote-13) Joseph moved to North Carolina in 1778, settling in the part of Orange Co. that is now Alamance Co. He filed land entry #773 on 24 November 1778 for land on the north side of the Haw River, followed by entry #940 on 29 December 1778 for land on Stoney Creek.[[14]](#footnote-14) When North Carolina established its land office, it required “…every Person except a Guardian who shall claim for an Orphan child, and except for Persons absent in Service of this State, or the United States, before he shall enter a Claim for any of the Lands aforesaid, shall take and subscribe the Oath, or Affirmation, of Allegiance and Abjuration, prescribed by the Law of this State, which Oath the Entry Officer is hereby impowered [*sic.*] and required to administer….”[[15]](#footnote-15) SAR, DAR, and C.A.R. all accept that North Carolina land entries provide indirect evidence that the claimant took the oath of allegiance to North Carolina, a Revolutionary service.

Benjamin, whose only appearance on a public record is on the same page of the 1772 Loudoun Tithe List as William and Joseph Dorris, also returned to New Jersey. Joseph Cockrill of Fairfax Co., Virginia, bequeathed to the children of his daughter Ann Dorriss £20.[[16]](#footnote-16) The wives of the other Dorris men old enough to marry in this time period had other names.[[17]](#footnote-17) Dr. William Dawson Dorris wrote immediately after saying that his grandfather, Joseph Dorris, moved to Orange Co., North Carolina, “His brother, Benjamin, died there. He was cradling oats and died suddenly.”[[18]](#footnote-18) An obvious candidate for the household in which Benjamin’s children resided was that of Mary Dorris on the 1800 Orange Co. census with one female over 45 and 2 male and 2 female members aged 16-25.[[19]](#footnote-19) Mary could have been either the second wife of Benjamin or the widow of his father, William, with her grandchildren. Through an analysis of other records, Gene Dorris identified Margaret Foster, Thomas Dorris, and John Dorris as children of Benjamin, and established their birth places from census records for them or their children in 1880 as Virginia, New Jersey, and New Jersey.[[20]](#footnote-20) Revolutionary service has not been found for Benjamin.

Samuel Dorris remained in Loudoun County as late as 1776, when he and Isaac signed a petition of 8 June 1776 from the inhabitants of Loudoun County to the 5th Virginia Convention.[[21]](#footnote-21) The petitioners requested relief from the high rents due to proprietors of the land which they could no longer afford due to a decline in the market for grain and flour, leaving it to the Convention to propose a solution. Isaac Dorris had leased land from Thomas Ludwell Lee.[[22]](#footnote-22) No record has been found of Samuel leasing land.

The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) has accepted the petition to the 5th Virginia Convention as evidence of Revolutionary service. SAR accepts petitions that recognized the authority of the revolutionary governments, Continental, provincial/state, and local. This includes petitions that requested measures to make the Revolutionary governments function more efficiently and/or fairly. Petitions recognizing the power but not the authority of the revolutionary governments are not accepted.[[23]](#footnote-23) The Daughters of the American Revolution is more restrictive, accepting “…petitions which recognized authority of the new state governments and demonstrated loyalty to the cause of American independence from England.”[[24]](#footnote-24) The absence of explicit endorsement of independence disqualifies this petition as evidence of Revolutionary service for DAR.

Samuel Dorris moved to Washington Co., Maryland, where he took the oath of allegiance to Maryland in 1778 and is found on the Washington County 1783 Supply Tax List in Wills Town and Sandy Creek Hundreds District with no land.[[25]](#footnote-25) SAR, DAR, and C.A.R. all accept such records as evidence of patriotic service. He then moved to Hardy Co., Virginia, where he is on the tax rolls in 1789.[[26]](#footnote-26) In 1794 he was on the Orange Co., North Carolina tax list[[27]](#footnote-27), joining other family members already there.

Isaac was the last Dorris to leave Loudoun County, appearing on a Cameron Parish Tithe list in 1777.[[28]](#footnote-28) On 19 November 1778 he was issued a warrant for 400 acres in Guilford Co. and on 28 December 1778 he filed a land entry for 200 acres on Scrub Creek in Orange County, for which a warrant was issued on 4 August 1779.[[29]](#footnote-29) He sold the Guilford land on 15 December 1782 and appears on the Chatham Twp., Orange Co. tax list for 1782.[[30]](#footnote-30) Isaac is listed on two rolls of Capt. John Johnston’s Company of Col. John Collier’s Regt. of North Carolina Militia for service from 29 July 1780 to 16 December 1780.[[31]](#footnote-31) The name was “Dores” on the muster roll and “Dorriss” on the pay roll.

Revolutionary Service has now been documented for six men of the seven men and evidence that all seven were in Orange County, North Carolina in the 1790’s has been found. Let us now turn to the evidence that William Dorris was the father William (Jr.) and John. There were only two men named William Dorris on the Orange County tax lists. The 1792 and 1794 Orange Dist. lists of Orange Co. are the most complete for the Dorrises, listing two Williams, two Johns, Isaac, and (1794 only) Joseph, with one William and one John designated as junior on each. The Orange County Court of Pleas and Quarter sessions on the 4th Monday of November 1795 granted letters of administration for the estate of William Dorris: “Administration of the estate of Wm. Dorris decd. is granted Mary Dorris the widow -illeg.- and Wm Dorris the sun [sic.] -illeg.- who enters into Bond with James Morrow & Tobias Stalcup in the sum of £300 and took the oath”.[[32]](#footnote-32) The administrators’ bond refers to the deceased as “Wm Dorris, Sen.”[[33]](#footnote-33) William Dorris (Jr.) testified, “I shortly after the war moved from New Jersey to North Carolina Orange County & from there to this county [Sumner Co,, Tennessee] about thirty years ago.”[[34]](#footnote-34) Orange County records also show that John Dorris was a son of William Dorris. Two men named John Dorris are listed on early Orange County early tax lists: John in 1787 in the Chatham District, and in the Orange District John “Son of Wm” in 1791, and John and John Jr. in 1792 and 1794.[[35]](#footnote-35) John, son of William, cannot be the son of William (Jr.). Pension File W916 includes a family record that records the birth of William (Jr.)’s son John as 10 January 1790, much too young to be head of a household in 1791.[[36]](#footnote-36)

Samuel, Joseph, John, Isaac, and William Dorris moved to Tennessee close to 1800.[[37]](#footnote-37) Dr. William Dawson Dorris’ account of the family identifies Dorris relatives back to his great grandfather William, William’s sons as William, Samuel, Isaac, John, James, Josef, Benjamin, and Robert, his grandfather as Josef, and his father as John Irwin Dorris.[[38]](#footnote-38)

Was William Dawson Dorris in a position to know his grandfather and his grandfather’s brothers? Dr. Dorris’ was born on 23 August 1802 and died on 30 January 1892.[[39]](#footnote-39) John I. Dorris, his father, is listed on an 1812 enumeration of men in Robertson Co., the 1820 census of Robertson Co., Tennessee.[[40]](#footnote-40) Dr. Dorris reported that his father and his family moved to Nashville (Davidson County) in 1820 and Dr. Dorris is listed on the Davidson Co. censuses of 1830, 1840, and 1850.[[41]](#footnote-41)

Five of the six sons of William Dorris with an Illinois connection resided in Robertson Co. or in the adjacent county of Sumner. Dr. Dorris reported that Joseph died of cancer on 12 August 1818 at the home of John Irwin Dorris, Dr. Dorris’ father.[[42]](#footnote-42) Isaac Dorris is listed on the 1820 census of Robertson Co. (p. 12) and died in Robertson in 1824.[[43]](#footnote-43) Samuel Dorris resided in Robertson Co. when he purchased land in 1809 and he appears to have been living in 1812 when there was evidently a need to distinguish a younger man of the name on the Roberson Co. enumeration listing him as “Jr.”[[44]](#footnote-44) William Dorris (Jr.) resided in Sumner Co., Tennessee, a county adjacent to both Robertson and Davidson. William (Jr.) said in his pension application that he moved to “this county” [Sumner] about 30 years before his affidavit of 16 August 1832 and his widow testified in applying for a pension on 19 November 1844 in Sumner Co. that he died on 22 Nov. 1842. John Dorris is listed on the same page as William Dorris (Jr.) on the 1820 Sumner Co. Census, but removed on Marion Co., Illinois by the time of the 1830 census when he was aged 70-79.[[45]](#footnote-45) Only Benjamin was not a Tennessee resident, but two of his children resided in Davidson and Robertson Counties. His daughter Margaret married William Foster in Davidson County in 1803 and the family resided in Davidson in 1820. Benjamin’s son Thomas resided in Davidson Co. at the time of the censuses of 1820 (p. 17) and 1840 (p. 356), and in Robertson Co. in 1850 (p. 106).

Dr. William Dawson Dorris was in a position to know personally the five men he identified as sons of William Dorris and to know his relationship to them—to Joseph as his grandfather and the others as his granduncles. Three of the five resided in Robertson Co., Tennessee, where Dr. Dorris resided until 1820: his grandfather Joseph, and his granduncles Isaac and Samuel. Two resided in Sumner Co., adjacent to both Robertson and Davidson: John Dorris and William Dorris (Jr.). Of the five, two are established as sons of William Dorris through North Carolina records: John by a 1791 tax list identifying him as son of William, and William (Jr.) by 1795 court minutes naming him co-administrator of the estate of William and son of the deceased. SAR has approved applications on William’s service through Isaac Dorris and Samuel Dorris, accepting the lineage to William and the Revolutionary service. SAR has also accepted applications descendants on the services of William, Samuel, Isaac, and William (Jr.). DAR has accepted applications on the services of Samuel, Isaac, William (Jr.), and John.[[46]](#footnote-46)

1. Dorris, Carl Eugene: ***A Dorris Family History: The Life and Times of William Dorris of Middlesex, New Jersey, 1715-1795,*** Dorris Family Publications, Hillsboro, NC, 2016. I thank Gene for his comments on a draft of this paper, and to him and Betty (Dorris) Davis for our fruitful collaboration going back some forty years. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Parsonage Subscription Lists, 1758-1759, First Presbyterian Church, Cranbury, NJ, Rutgers University Library. <http://records.cranburypres.org/FPC/R3/D10/ParsonageSubscriptionLists1758-1759.pdf> John Stevens was one of three men who received the payments. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Pension File R916, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, National Archives.

   <https://www.fold3.com/image/246/16982309> William (Jr.) will be shown to be the son of William below. His testimony documents his move from New Jersey to Orange Co., North Carolina, to Sumner Co., Tennessee. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. New Jersey Supreme Court Case #10307, May 1780, New Jersey State Archives. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Hyatt, Marty & Craig Roberts Scott, ***Loudoun County Virginia Tithables, Vol. 2,*** Iberian Publishing Co., Athens, Ga., 1995, pp. 631, 681, 682. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Fairfax County Court Order Bk, 1772-1774, p. 37. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. These leases were not recorded. ***Calendar of Stevens Family Papers. Vol. 2***, Stevens Institute of Technology Library, p. 135 <https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/24791/images/dvm_GenMono006275-00385-0?ssrc=&backlabel=Return&pId=377> William Dorris apparently did not stay on the original leased land. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Tax Ratables, Sussex Co. (NJ), 1773-1822, New Jersey State Archives, Newton Twp. List, p. 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. “Petition of the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the Township of Newton to the Legislative Council and General Assembly for Payment of Supplies Furnished to the State, 10 June 1780,” New Jersey State Archives. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. DAR did not approve an application on this service for William the ancestor, maintaining that the 1774 tax list was one year too early and the move from Virginia to New Jersey did not seem plausible. The reviewing genealogist suggested that deeds be searched. Not only had that been done, but the 1774 tax list showed that William Dorris of Newton owned no land and had little property. He had no land to sell and little prospect of earning enough money to buy land during the Revolution. Had another William Dorris been found in New Jersey, Virginia, or North Carolina during this time period, the decision would have been more understandable. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Pension File R916. The militia company was from Hunterdon Co., where John Dorris resided and adjacent to Sussex Co., where William Dorris lived for at least part of the Revolution. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. “Certificates Issued at Princeton by Robert Stockton, Q.M., 1779-1780,” Department of Defense Records, Revolutionary War Series, Ser. 4288, New Jersey State Archives. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. “Dr. W.D. Dawson Narrative”, p. 3. William Dawson Dorris, M.D. was born on 2 August 1802 and died on 30 January 1890 (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/8956895/william-dawson-dorris>). He prepared this account of the Dorris family starting in 1879 (p. 2). A copy of which was in the possession of the late B. Webster, M.D. Betty Dorris Davis obtained a photocopy from Adrienne (Webster) Robertson, a daughter of Dr. Webster, in 2015 and has made a copy available to the Robertson Co., Tennessee Archives and several Dorris researchers. More will be said about this important document below.. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Orange County, North Carolina Land Entries, 1778, North Carolina State Archives, Entries 773 & 940. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Clark, Walter (ed.), ***The State Records of North Carolina, Vol. 24, Laws 1777-1788,*** Goldsboro, 1905, pp. 43-44. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Fairfax County Will Bk. G, pp. 92-93, will signed 5 Jan. 1793, proved 21 April 1795. Bequests were made directly to his other daughters rather than their children, suggesting that Ann was deceased. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Of those found in Virginia: William m. Mary (Orange Co. Court Minute Bk. 5, 4th Mon, Oct. 1795); Samuel m. Martha (Loudoun Co. Court Order Bk. E, p. 255); Isaac m. Susannah (Rockingham Co., NC Deed Bk. C, p. 236; Joseph m. Mary then Katherine (Dr. W.D. Dawson Narrative, p. 3. William (Jr.) and Robert were almost certainly in their father’s household in Virginia, but far too young to marry. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. “Dr. W.D. Dawson Narrative”, p. 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. 1800 Orange County Census, p. 504. Mary could be either a second wife of Benjamin or his widowed mother. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. See ***A Dorris Family History*,** pp 16-17, 236 and ***Dorris-Net***, Vol. 13, Issue 4 (31 Dec. 2007), pp. 11-12. I do not believe, however, that a Sally of Rockingham County, North Carolina was a second wife of Benjamin. I read her surname on the 1800 census, p.460, as Dorsy, not Dorris. Thomas was 67, born in New Jersey on the 1850 Robertson Co., TN census. Margaret married William Foster on 20 January 1803 (Davidson Marriage Bk. 1803-1804, p. 76). The eldest female in the household was over 45 on the 1820 Davidson Co. Census (p. 13). The 1880 Davidson Co., Tennessee census gives the birthplace for the mother of William S. Foster as Virginia (p. 318), as does the Obion Co., Tennessee census for I[saac]. C. Foster (p. 203). Thomas, aged 67 on the 1850 Robertson Co., Tennessee census, was born in New Jersey (p. 106). John Dorris was 50-60 on the 1830 Union Co., Kentucky census (p. 44). The father of B[enjamin] F[ranklin] Dorris according to the 1880 Webster Co., Kentucky census (p. 137). This is consistent with Benjamin moving from Virginia to New Jersey after 1772. Demonstrating the lineage for Benjamin to these children and grandchildren remains needed for a rigorous proof. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Proceedings of the 5th Virginia Convention, Library of Virginia. A transcript of this petition is published in Tarter, Brent & Robert J. Scribner: ***Revolutionary Virginia: The Road to Independence, Vol. 7,*** University of Virginia Press, 1983, pp. 325-326. Unfortunately, Isaac Dorris’ name is erroneously transcribed as “Davis.” [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Loudoun Deed Bk. K, pp. 31-35. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. ***Genealogy Committee Policies,*** Sons of the American Revolution, Louisville, Kentucky, February 2020, Policy 2.3002 (p. 4). [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. ***Application Papers: Instructions for Their Preparation,*** Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington, DC, 2006, p. 16. The Children of the American Revolution followed DAR policy. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Oaths of Allegiance and Oaths of Fidelity Collection 1775-1778, Maryland Historical Society, List of Andrew Bruce, Box 2 Folder 63. “Copy of Assessors Certificates of Valuation of Property in Washington County in Pursuance of the Act of Assembly for Raising Supplies for the Year 1783,” MSA T68-30-18, Maryland State Archives, p.16. <https://www.mdssar.org/sites/default/files/archives/1783taxlists/Washington_Co_MD1783OPT.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Hardy Co. 1789 Tax Booklet B, Library of Virginia, p. 4. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Orange County Tax Lists, 1780-1801, North Carolina State Archives. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Hyatt & Scott, p. 866. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Guilford Co. Land Entries (Warrant 609) & North Carolina Land Grants (File 462); Orange Co. Land Entries 1778 (Warrant 692) & North Carolina Land Grants (File 2266), North Carolina State Archives. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Rockingham Co. Deed C, pp. 235, 236. The second deed named Susannah as his wife. Orange County Tax Lists. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Revolutionary War Rolls, National Archives. The pay roll appears to be for only part of the tour of duty on the muster roll. <https://www.fold3.com/browse/246/hHIyH7ONFBtojOi6k4lgRIj-LDsXLjh_F> [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. Orange Co. Court Minute Bk. 5, pages unnumbered. Following the name of each administrator is two letter abbreviation which I cannot discern. [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. Orange County Estates, William Dorris (1795) File, North Carolina State Archives. [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. Pension File R916. [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. Orange County Tax Lists. The other John Dorris was the right age to be the son of Isaac, who was also in the Chatham District in 1787 and the Orange District in 1791.. [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. Pension File R916. John Dorris, Jr. was the son of Isaac Dorris. [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. The 1800 federal census lists only one household in the state headed by a Dorris: the Mary Dorris household in Orange County on page 504. See ***Dorris-Net*** Vol. 13, Issue 4, p. 11 for the removal to Tennessee. [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. Dorris, William Dawson: “Dr. W.D. Dorris’ Narrative,” pp. 2, 3, 8. A handwritten copy of the manuscript was in the possession of the late B.H. Webster of Nashville, TN. A photocopy is now in the Robertson Co., Tennessee Archives. The conventional spelling “Joseph” is used in this paper, consistent with public records. [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. Tombstone in Nashville City Cemetery. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/8956895/william-dawson-dorris#view-photo=78594566> [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. 1812 Enumeration of Robertson Co., Tennessee, Capt. Binkley’s List, #68. Although this list is sometimes referred to as a tax list, including at ancestry.com, it in fact was an enumeration which omitted women and old men. 1820 Robertson Co., TN Census, p. 25. Like many early Robertson Co. records the handwritten capital “J” and capital “I” are identical, leading many to misread the name as “John J. Dorris.” [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. Op. cit., p. 9. Pages 280, 290, and 136 of the 1830, 1840, and 1850 federal census of Davidson Co., Tennessee respectively. [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. Dorris, William Dawson pp. 5-9. [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. Robertson County Minute Bk. 7, pp. 564, 571. [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. Robertson County Deed Bk. G, pp. 151-152. Robertson County Court Minute Bk. 3, unnumbered pages between 130 & 131. The suffix is overwritten and unclear in the state copy found at ancestry.com. The date of death of Samuel Dorris is not known. Dr. Dorris said he was 84 at the time of his death. Samuel may have moved to Sumner Co., where some of his children were living in 1820. [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. 1820 Sumner Co., Tennessee Census, p. 149. 1830 Marion Co. Illinois Census, p. 202. There is evidence that John resided in Smith Co., Tennessee between 1800 and 1818. [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. Regrettably DAR did not accept evidence of the linage from Samuel to William. The state registrar evidently did not understand the significance of proving that Dr. Dorris was in a position to know his relationship to Granduncle Samuel personally. She apparently submitted only the Dr. Dorris’ account of his family. The reviewing genealogist responded that Dr. Dorris was not in a position to know his great grandfather personally. Additional evidence cited in this article was provided along with a genealogical proof argument explaining the reasoning. No comments about that material were provided to the applicant other than to say the analysis was not in the standard DAR format. [↑](#footnote-ref-46)