

Young Harris College in 1930. My parents were Walter Jones and Ellen Bowen Sasser. I was the oldest of 8 children. I finished High School in Waycross, Georgia, in 1928. Curt always called me his "Swamp Rat", because I was not born in the mountains. After being married to Curt for 48 years he passed from this life June 18, 1984. He is buried in Memory Gardens in Tiger. I am 80 this year and have a place beside him - waiting. Curt built us a home on Screamer Mountain and I live there now. Curt was a kind and gentle man. Submitted by Jo Sasser Dotson

DOTSON-HABAN

I was the first born grandchild of Curt and Jo Dotson, so my mother named me Curtis Dotson Haban. I was born November 16, 1967. I called my grandfather, PaPa. I was 17 years old when he died in 1984, and I remember him well. He and Granny lived on Screamer Mountain and they taught me much about mountain living. He served in World War II and my grandmother was Public Health Nurse in Rabun County. Both my great-grandfather Fate Dotson and great-grandmother, Irene Donaldson Dotson, were born in Rabun County. Irene died when PaPa was 13 years old. Fate later married Gladys Vincent. They both practiced law in Atlanta. My great great grandfather, Henry Berry Dotson, was married to Rebecca Speed of the Warwoman Community. They lived in Mountain City. He was one of the founding fathers of Mountain City and deeded land through Mountain City for right of way for the Tallulah Falls Railroad.



L-R Joey Haban, Netty Nixon, Jo Dotson, GiGi Haban, Curt Haban, Nancy Haban, Joe Haban

My maternal grandmother, Jo Sasser, was born in Thomas County October 26, 1911. She and PaPa met while attending school at Young Harris College. They were married October 11, 1936. Twin girls were born September 30, 1947, named Netty Joan and Nancy Jean. Nancy is my mother. They finished Rabun Gap-Nacoochee in 1965. This is where my mother met my Dad, Joe Haban. They both graduated there in 1965 and were married March 20, 1966. I have a brother, Joey Haban, who is ten years younger than I and at present he is attending school, 9th grade, at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee. My Dad was born in Decatur, Georgia, April 1947. He is a special agent with the Federal Government. When we lived in Rabun County he worked for Foxfire. My paternal grandfather, Rudolph Joseph Haban, died when my Dad was 13. He served in World War II. My maternal grandmother was Lulu Mitchell. My mother has worked at CDC for several years.

I graduated from Rabun County High School in 1985. I married GiGi Missildine, July 29, 1989. We both graduated from the University of Georgia in 1988. She has a position at Macy's and I with Allstate. We have a home in Snellville, Georgia. We love to escape on weekends to the mountains where my grandmother Jo still lives in the house on Screamer Mountain that my PaPa built in 1969.

GiGi's parents are William and Rita Missildine. They are from Marietta and Columbus, Georgia. He is a retired Army Colonel and she is a retired Real Estate Broker.

I love my Rabun County heritage and GiGi and I hope to retire there someday — and perhaps live in the same house my PaPa built on Screamer. Submitted by Curtis Dotson Haban

DOTSON-DILLARD

My name is John Earl Dillard, born July 27, 1968 at Rabun County Memorial Hospital. My father is John Pete Dillard. He and my mother, Netty Dotson, were married in August, 1965. I am their only child. I attended school in Athens, Georgia at Prince Avenue Baptist Church School and graduated in their first high school class in 1987. I then went to the University of Georgia. I majored in Business and Hotel Management and graduated in 1991. I took this major in order to work with my Dad at the Dillard House and John and Earl's Restaurant. At present that is where I am employed.



1/r Nancy Jo and Michael Nixon, John Earl Dillard

My mother, Netty Joan Dotson, was born in Atlanta, Georgia September 30, 1947. She has a twin sister, Nancy Dotson Haban, who lives in Atlanta and works at C.D.C. My mother was later married to Robert Michael Nixon of Athens, Georgia. I have a half-brother, Michael, born October 1, 1977 and a half-sister, Nancy Jo, born July 28, 1980. Both of them are attending school in Athens, where my mother and step-father live.

My maternal grandparents are Curt and Jo Dotson. He was born in Rabun County, September 21, 1910 and died at their home on Screamer Mountain June 18, 1984. My grandmother was Public Health Nurse in Rabun County for several years and at age 80 still works part-time in her profession. She still lives at their home on Screamer. The rest of my Dotson lineage is documented in this history book — back to my great great grandfather, Henry Berry Dotson of Mountain City, Georgia.

My father, John Pete Dillard, was born in Rabun County and my Dillard history is well documented in this history book. He is married to Louise Smith from Gainesville, Georgia. They have one child, Natalie, who is 16 years of age and attends school in Chattanooga, Tennessee. My paternal grandparents were Earl and Lexie Rogers Dillard. They both were born in Rabun County and both worked at the Dillard House all their lives. Earl died in February 1985 and Lexie died in August 1985. They taught me much about how to work in the dining room even while I was very young. My great grandmother, Carrie Dillard Garrison, originated the Dillard House and I remember her very well.

I have two first cousins on my father's side and two on my mother's side. Jed and Will Gillespie are sons of my aunt, Helen Dillard Gillespie and Edward Gillespie. Curt Dotson Haban and Joey are sons of my aunt, Nancy Dotson Haban and Joe Haban.

I am proud of my Rabun County heritage, both Dillard and Dotson, and I hope to marry,

rear a family here and continue in the Dillard tradition. Submitted by John Earl Dillard

DOTSON

I recall many times, growing up, hearing my father, Jess Henry Dotson, (1900-1982) fondly speak of how his grandmother Dartha Bradley (1852-1928) helped raise he and his brother Fred Reno Dotson (1902-1974) and sister Annie Dotson Chapman (1904-1983). She kept the children at home while their mother Etta Dotson (1880-1946) worked in the fields to make a living, since their father Paul J. Dotson (1877-1904) had died when they were very young. My grandparents Paul J. Dotson and Etta Bradley were married in Clayton, Ga. in 1898. A widow for 27 years, my grandmother Etta Dotson married Albert J. Owens (d-1945) from Canon, Ga. in 1931. Etta Dotson Owens was a midwife here in Rabun County in 1930 and early 1940's. She loved her work and was well respected. My parents, Jess Henry Dotson and Cenna Bell Blair (1904-1984), were married in 1930 at Mtn. City, Ga. Their children were Etta Aline Dotson (b-1936), Henry Eugene Dotson (b-1940) and William Albert Dotson (b-1942). Etta Aline Dotson married Richard Lee Hilgen from Wayne, Pa. in 1960. Their son Richard Lee Hilgen, Jr. was born in 1964. Henry Eugene Dotson married Reba Carol Ramey in 1963. Born were sons Fredrick Eugene Dotson, 1963 and Hugh William Dotson, 1969, and daughter Cynthia Carol Dotson, 1966. William Albert Dotson married Geneva Lucille Ramey in 1964. Daughters, Mitzi Kay Dotson born 1971 and Debra Kay Justice born 1960. Cynthia Carol Dotson married Ralph Bass, III. Mitzi Kay Dotson married John Keener. Debra Kay Justice married Phil Gage and they have a daughter Brandy and sons Ryan and Casey.



Jess Dotson Family
L to R - Bill, Jess, Cenna Belle, Aline and Gene

I have many happy memories growing up in the mountains of Rabun County. Since my birth in a log cabin on Warwoman, to my present home in Smyrna, Ga., I have had a happy and much blessed life. Some of my most treasured memories of my childhood remain with me today. I recall: My happiness as a child, riding in a horse drawn wagon with my daddy and Uncle Fred, from Blacks Creek in Mtn. City. My mother's sweet voice calling us all home at dusk, and the safe and secure feeling we felt. Waking up to the smell of my mother's biscuits baking in the wood stove. The Christmas we got a red wagon, and there was a big snowfall during the night. The fun of staying overnight at my cousin Juanita's house. Visits from my Aunt Ann Chapman. Going to Sunday School and MYF at the Mtn. City Methodist Church, with special teachers, Mrs. Irene Jones and Mrs. Mary Adams. Going to first grade in 1941 in the five room school house at Mtn. City, and how my dear kind first grade teacher, Mrs. Story helped me be less afraid and anxious. Riding the train from Mtn. City to Dillard with my mother and brothers to visit Aunt Cora and Uncle Jim Bingham. Listening to the Grand Ole Copy

around the radio on Saturday nights.

Purple and pink morning glories blooming in the garden on a summer morning. "Truly God's Country". Submitted by Aline Dotson Hilgen, 3381 Prettly Branch Drive, Smyrna, Georgia 30080

HENRY BERRY AND REBECCA SPEED DOTSON

Henry Berry Dotson was born 18 Oct. 1851 in Georgia. He married Rebecca Speed 19 Feb. 1876. She was born in Rabun Co. 20 July 1850. They had seven children:

(1) Paul (1 Oct. 1877-27 Dec. 1904). He married Mary Etta Bradley 16 Jan. 1898. They had three children, Jess (1900-1982); Fred (6 Sept. 1902-3 April 1974) and Annie (21 Oct. 1904-4 Nov. 1983).

(2) Silas Henry (6 Dec. 1879-2 Mar. 1945) married Sarah Elizabeth Cathey, daughter of Wm. E.V. and Mary Singleton Cathey (7 May 1905). Silas and Sarah had five children: Ruby Ivalee (15 Sept. 1906) married Thomas A. Chapman 28 Sept. 1944. They have two sons Thomas Austin Jr. (14 March 1946) and Gary (9 July 1948) now deceased. Second child, Mary Pearl (15 Dec. 1908) married Dover Gillespie Oct. 25, 1939. They have one son, Amos Dover, born Oct. 3, 1942. William Herbert (25 May 1912-Jan. 2, 1977) married Helena McGuire on Oct. 21, 1933. They have two children, Patricia Lena (26 Aug. 1939) and Bill (10 May 1946). The second son born to Silas and Sarah Dotson is James Henry born Aug. 15, 1915. On Feb. 22, 1936, Henry married Vivian Parker, daughter of Vester and Nora Cope Parker. To this union were born three children; Barbara Joyce born May 31, 1937, James Henry Jr. (5 July 1939), and Jerry Lester born Jan. 8, 1941. The fifth child, Ora Mae (3 Jan. 1927) married Joe Massee on April 2, 1948. They have three children, Kay (15 July 1950), David (14 Feb. 1953) and Sarah (20 May 1962).



Front Row (l to r) Emmie, Henry B., Rebecca, Jess Fred, Etta, Annie Back Row: Tabitha, Lafayette, Reno, Lizzy, Silas, Sally

(3) Thomas Reno (1885-1937) married May Donaldson on March 31, 1907. To this union were born four children: T.R. Jr. (12 Aug. 1907-29 July 1915), Mary Rebecca (10 Nov. 1910-23 Feb. 1911), Earl Lee (16 Feb. 1913-19 Jan. 1989), and Thomas Lynwood (11 Sept. 1916-14 Oct. 1988).

(4) Lafayette C. (29 July 1888 - 1969) married Irene Donaldson Sept. 8, 1907. They had two children, Wallace (13 Mar. 1908-3 Nov. 1908) and Curtis Herbert (21 Sept. 1910-18 June 1984).

(5) Tabitha, (1883-1923), married Ferber Allen Bell on Nov. 3, 1907. This couple had five children, Jess (24 Sept. 1908-23 Nov. 1990), Cora (9 June 1912-17 May 1985), Hubert (1915-Jan. 1964), F.A. (12 April 1917-23 Sept. 1988) and Joseph L. (1922-1922).

(6) Elizabeth (1891-) married Lucas Donaldson on Oct. 15, 1916. They had seven children; James (1917-), Louise (1919-), Robert (1921-), Harold (1923-), and Lewis (1926-)

), Elise (1928-), and Juanita (1934-)

(7) Emmie (6 April 1894-16 April 1917) was married to Dill Farmer. Submitted by Vivian P. Dotson.

JAMES HENRY DOTSON FAMILY

Silas Henry Dotson, my father, was the 2nd child of Henry Berry and Rebecca Speed Dotson. Silas was born in Mountain City, Georgia and married Sarah Elizabeth Cathey May 7, 1905. He was in the general store business most of his married life. He built his last store building in Mountain City in 1928, which is still stands today on Highway 441. My father died with a heart condition May 2, 1945. My mother lived until October 1, 1970.

On Feb. 22, 1936, I married Vivian Parker and we have three children all born in Rabun County. Our children are Barbara Joyce (31 May 1937), James Henry Jr. (5 July 1939), and Jerry Lester (8 Jan. 1941). We moved to Atlanta in the fall of 1941. It was there we raised our family. Joyce married Thomas Pritchard on Feb. 16, 1956 and they have four children. Tommy, Jr. (17 Jan. 1960) is married and has a daughter Karen (10 Mar. 1979). Pamela Joyce (13 Feb. 1963) is married and has two sons, Kristopher Henry (16 Nov. 1980) and Kevin (31 Aug. 1984). Andrea Suzane was born Aug. 27, 1966 and Todd Andrew was born March 13, 1969. Joyce and her family reside in Jonesboro, Georgia.

James Henry Dotson, Jr. (5 July 1939) married Betty Hawkins on Feb. 10, 1960. At the time of Jim's marriage, he was in the US Navy stationed at Whiting Field, Florida. Jim continued to serve in the Navy for twenty-two years before retiring. Jim and Betty had three children, Bonita Jane (5 Oct. 1960), James Henry III (11 Feb. 1963-March 9, 1964) and Gerald Wayne (24 Mar. 1966-18 July 1983). Jim and Betty live in Milton, Florida.

Henry and Vivian's third child, Jerry Lester (8 Jan. 1941) married Diane Campbell of Melbourne, Florida on April 29, 1967. Jerry served in the US Navy four years prior to his marriage. He and Diane have two sons. Christopher Allen was born August 3, 1969 and married Amy Lorell Noland on September 14, 1991. Steven

Parker Dotson was born on February 22, 1972 and is attending college in Melbourne where the family is living. Submitted by James Henry Dotson.

DOTSON/TURPIN

Henry Eugene Turpin (01/04/06 - 4/25/91) married Esta Carolyn Dotson (8/25/09) on March 1, 1936. They had two children, James Pearson (10/30/36) and Dewey David b. (3/28/39). James Pearson Turpin married Bessie Lee Eller b. (5/9/36) on May 22, 1964. They had one son, Timothy Gene Kilby b. (5/22/70). Tim has three children.



(Back Row) Sarah Ollie, Laura Belle, James Alvin, and Amanda Josephine Turpin (Front Row) Henry Eugene, Homer Houston, and John Ervin Turpin

Dewey David Turpin married Carolyn Janet Lovell b. (4/4/42) on January 2, 1963. They had two daughters, Donna Lisa Turpin Dills b. (6/4/63) and Ronda Lynn Turpin Gerrells b. (9/13/66). They have two grandsons, Mark Anthony Gerrells, II b. (10/2/86) and David Ashley Gerrells b. (11/15/89).

Henry Eugene was one of seven children born to Pearson Monroe (2/23/1861 - 42) and Talitha Smith Turpin (9/10/1867-8/22/59). His brothers and sisters were: (1) James Alvin Turpin (10/29/1891-3/11/39) married Sadie Rebecca Dutton. They had five children: (a) Lillian Mozel Turpin (1922-1961) married and had three daughters. (Brenda, Carol, and Suzie) (b)



James Henry and Vivian P. Dotson