

## **RATIONALE FOR MY THEORY THAT CASEY ASKEW OF VIRGINIA (VA ca. 1750s – GA ca. 1817) WAS MY FIFTH GREAT GRANDFATHER**

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(1) It is a given that our Askew family is descended from the family of my gggg grandparents Joshua Askew and Aley Alford, who were well documented residents of Hancock and later Morgan Co., GA in the early 1800s. Joshua Askew died in Morgan Co., GA 1828 and Aley in 1834.

(2) By about 1900, after exhaustive research, one James Burnette Dunn (1848-1915) of Americus, GA, a son-in-law of my ggg grandfather Spire Warren Askew (spouse of his daughter Annie Elizabeth Askew (1849-1918)), had determined that there were eight different adult male Askews living the Hancock/Morgan Co, GA area ca. 1790-1815. These were: John, James, Uriah, Josiah, William Sanford, Henry, Joshua, and Casey. Because Casey stood out as the oldest of the lot, J. B. Dunn reasonably grouped all the younger Askews to be sons of Casey. He developed a beautiful and detailed graphic family tree based on Casey being the father of the other seven Askews. This research was passed down to my first cousin Ann Wear Jacob and to myself about 2002 by Gladys Thames, J.B Dunn's grand-daughter. This intriguing work prompted my interest in Casey, who apparently had not ever been noticed by some of our well known cousins--descendants of other sons of our Joshua, i.e., the Askew families of Marengo Co., AL.

Apparently based on pp. 91-93 of a publication entitled *The Chalk Family Book*, published by Minna Chalk Scott Hyman in 1942, the Marengo folks, have attributed our Joshua's birth to Josiah Askew (1739 – bef 1790) & Priscilla Lee of Bertie Co., NC.

Official looking, authoritatively published "family books" or even government-sponsored "notable citizen" biographies are very impressive and often quite useful, but if taken completely at face value they can lead one seriously astray-- I have been the victim of this more than once. What I would make sure to ask is exactly how the compiler of this Chalk family history determined that the Joshua Askew associated with the Chalk family (there very likely was one) is the same Joshua Askew who married about 1800 our Aley Alford, likely in Greene or Hancock Co., GA. Being that some members of the Chalk-related Bertie, NC Askew family *did* for sure finally settle in North Georgia (see Chalk History information, on the Rev. Josiah Askew), it would not be unreasonable for a Bertie researcher to start browsing around north Georgia looking for a possible Joshua Askew of the right age to match up to.

(3) However, if one did that matching as a first guess, I then would want her to show me some other family relationships to prove out her theory... and that is where this Chalk family business bogs down. One would need to visit/study the geographical entry points into Georgia for the Bertie, NC Askews AND for the Askew families (ours) that we know for certain were in Hancock and Morgan Co., GA by 1800.

I have carefully tracked the family of the prominent Rev. Josiah Askew (1765-1845), purported **brother** of the *Chalk* candidate for our Joshua, from his arrival in Habersham Co., GA about 1822 (*at least 20 years later than our Joshua was known to be in the state*) all the way into the 1940s, **and I see no relationship whatsoever of that Rev. Josiah Askew family to our Askews (or to any other early Askew clans in Georgia).**

Habersham Co., GA is about ninety miles north of where our Askews settled in Georgia. Why would a newbie Askew family come down from another state 20+ years late and then not have any proximity to, or even mix with close relations in an existing Georgia family?

(4) In 1988, the late Alice Ann Askew of Bartlesville, OK published an excellent family history entitled [\*Josiah Askew of Edgecombe County, North Carolina: Ancestors and descendants\*](#), which thoroughly and carefully describes her own forefather and his descendants. She presents substantial proofs that the above John, James, Uriah, Josiah, Jr., and William Sanford Askew of Hancock Co., GA were actually sons of Josiah Askew, Sr. of Edgecombe (1740-1818), who never migrated to Georgia with his sons (accounting for the fact that there was only one *elder* Askew in early Hancock GA). There is **nothing at all** described in Ann Askew's very detailed history about a Casey, Joshua, or Henry Askew; the implication being that they were on their own.

(5) After my own 2007 visits to, and study in, Hancock and Morgan Co., GA courthouses, and subsequent research of land deeds, etc., I determined that Edgecombe Josiah's sons lived in the Beaver Dam Creek area of Hancock Co., just north of the county seat at Sparta. Casey, Joshua, Henry, and possibly a William (not William Sanford), however, lived further west in the Fort Creek area of Hancock Co. After studying a lot of other sources—wills, descendant trees, etc.—I can find no relationship whatsoever between the Edgecombe Josiah Askew descendant families and those of Casey, Joshua, and Henry Askew. [It should be noted that it was fairly common for early Georgia settler families from North Carolina not to mix with families from Virginia—they came from rather different cultures. So it might be reasonably expected that even though the two Hancock Co. Askew clans had the same surname, they basically would keep to themselves.]

Further, I discovered that Joshua and Henry Askew, possibly with the William Askew who lived on Fort Creek, relocated to Morgan Co., beginning in 1806. That coincides with our Joshua's winning a homestead in the 1805 Land Lottery mentioned below in (6). Also, Casey Askew is briefly recorded as witness to deeds, etc. in Morgan Co. up to 1816. None of the five sons of Edgecombe NC Josiah Askew, nor their descendants, were ever found in records of Morgan Co., GA. Again, the grouping of Casey, Joshua, Henry and possibly William Askew stands apart.

(6) In 2007, at the Morgan Co. Courthouse records archive, I was fortunate enough to locate the original 202.5 acre homestead property (Dist 5, LandLot #45) of my gggg-grandfather Joshua Askew. It was won by him in the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery, which distributed to white settlers lands stolen from the Indians. I was also able to locate the homestead land of Henry Askew who for as few years resided on Sugar Creek only about a mile north of Joshua, both quite near to the Morgan County seat of Madison, GA, which was founded in 1805.

Henry's father-in-law Stephen Nobles also owned several nearby properties on Sugar Creek. Stephen (1769-1820), a Virginian, before his removal to Mississippi in 1811, was an early land-holder in Wilkes Co., GA, a surveyor, appraiser, property buyer/seller, and notable jurist in several NE Georgia counties. In many ways he sounds like a younger version of Casey Askew.

(7) In late 1811, Henry Askew and several other pioneer families, including that of Stephen Nobles, received "passports" to venture through Creek Indian lands and removed

from Morgan Co., GA to settle in Mississippi and eventually in Texas by the 1840s. **The descendants of that Henry Askew have proof that Casey Askew was their forefather and some of their clan are quite obviously named for Casey.**

(8) As if (1) – (7) above were not enough to nudge one to the conclusion that Joshua and Henry were likely *both* sons of Casey Askew, in my 2007 to Hancock GA visit, I discovered the attached land sale deeds showing that only several weeks after Joshua Askew won the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery, and was planning to move to his new land in Baldwin (later Morgan) Co., he sold a small (and I suspect optimally situated) portion of his Hancock lands (that he had purchased nine months earlier) to none other than Casey Askew. **And**, he sold this land to Casey **at a considerable discount (i.e., 55% off)** compared to the pricing of the remainder of the land that he sold off to another buyer at the same time. Why would Joshua do this? I think that the matter speaks for itself. In some fifteen years of land records, our Joshua and Casey do not appear to have ever had any other transactions with other Askews— only this one between themselves. It seems quite remarkable to me that these two individuals would have interacted in such a way if they were not kin.

Of course, the above is not sufficient genealogical *proof* that our Joshua Askew is son of Casey, but it may well be the best that can be done. With the paucity of well kept records kept in frontier Georgia, there is very likely no existing will or written record that will show a direct relationship. However, looking carefully at geography, what we do know about various resident Askews, and the relationships that existed between individuals, a reasonably good case for this descendancy can be made simply by deductive reasoning and the process of elimination.

One way we might get a handle on this is to fund a DNA match-up. Unfortunately, there is no direct male line remaining within our own Askews (descendants of Spire Warren Askew). The last time I checked, though, I think there are living male descendants of our Joshua Askew (our Marengo, AL cousins – descendants of Hilliard Judge or Miles Green Askew) **AND** those of early Georgia's Casey/Henry Askew (now living in Texas). If we could get a sample from each group, a Y-DNA comparison might clear this up or at least point us in a new direction. I have a feeling that there would be some similarity in the DNA as both Bertie, NC Askews and the Casey Askew of VA may be descendants of the Isle of Wight, VA Askews-- many of the NC/VA Askew families seem to come from there. **But**, a *very close* DNA match would lend significant evidence that Casey is indeed our fifth great grandfather

I have spent a good part of the last six years studying *all* the old Askew families of Georgia in order to be able confidently to make the above deductions and eliminations. So, my pursuit of Casey Askew himself does not yet extend far beyond the Georgia border.

What we do know particularly about pre-Georgia Casey seems to be the following:

**From the graphical family tree representing the research of James Burnette Dunn – probably devised 1910-1915:**

father: John ASKEW of Goochland; died 1758

mother: Mary died 1769

son:

[CASEY ASKEW, born in Virginia, probably about 1740-45, member of Capt. William Morton's Company of VA Regulars, 4th VA., 1776-1783; living in Prince Edward Co., VA according to census of 1783; emigrated to frontier Georgia about 1787; name appears in various records of Wilkes and Hancock counties from then until 1812, in which year he made deeds transferring certain lands in Hancock County; name also appears on Tax Lists of Hancock County for that year, then no further record]

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I have recently (2016) made some progress in verifying Dunn's proposed parents of Casey Askew and his purported Revolutionary War Service. A Virginia unit of the above name appears to have fought Cornwallis' troops as they emerged from the Carolinas about 1782 after being beaten down by the likes of Francis Marion, Daniel Morgan, and Nathaniel Greene, and Casey appears in a Nov 1781 payments record for Morton's Company. If Casey actively fought in the Revolution as proposed by J.B. Dunn, I think it likely that he received some sort of land grant in frontier Georgia for his military service.

It appears now that Casey may have been the **grandson**, not son of John Askew (1710-1758) of Goochland, VA via John's son John Askew (ca. 1835-ca. 1788) of Hanover Co., VA. If so, it is likely that Casey's DOB was in the mid 1750s rather than 1740s as proposed by James B. Dunn.

In June, 2016 I located the conveyance deed for Casey Askew's Prince Edward Co. property which he sold in Oct 1787, apparently just before his removal to Georgia (where he appears in Wilkes Co., in Oct 1788). Casey's wife Elizabeth surrenders her dower rights to this property in this document.

Casey's name appears in the tax census of Prince Edward County, Virginia (just southeast of Appomattox) for the years 1783 and 1785. Casey had 11 members in his family household, so I think it perfectly reasonable to believe that he may have brought more sons to Georgia than just Joshua, Henry, and possibly a William (who seemed to disappear from Morgan Co. about the same time as Henry did). There were several candidate Askews of the right age living in adjoining counties, especially Jasper Co., GA who could have been sons of Casey, and they should be investigated as time permits.

**\*\*\* SEE HANCOCK CO. LAND SALES BELOW \*\*\***

**(1) Joshua Askew to Casey Askew November 1, 1805**

**(2) Joshua Askew to John Hamilton, Jr. November 1, 1805**

**LAND SALE –  
JOSHUA ASKEW to CASEY ASKEW**

Transcription -- Hancock Co. Deed Book H, page 158

GEORGIA  
HANCOCK COUNTY

This Indenture made this first day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and five, between Joshua Askew of the County and State aforesaid, of the one part, and Casey Askew of the State and County aforesaid, of the other part, Witnesseth that the said Joshua Askew, for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and seventy five dollars to him in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, Hath bargained and sold unto the said Casey Askew (one certain tract or parcel of land lying in the county aforesaid on the Waters of Fort Creek Beginning on a poplar on the big Branch, Brantlies corner, thence along a marked line to ??? pine on Wyatt Collier's line, thence along Colliers line to a red oak corner on Blakie's line, thence along said line to a white Oak corner, thence a line to a Willow corner near the Spring branch, thence down said branch to the Beginning poplar corner, containing fifty (50) acres, be the same more or less, it being a part of a Survey Joshua Askew now lives on), and the said Joshua Askew will for himself, his heirs and assigns, etc. warrant and defend the above mentioned land and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining thereunto unto the said Casey Askew his heirs, etc., forever, against himself, the said Joshua Askew, his heirs, etc. and against the claim or claims of all and any other person or persons whatsoever. With all and singular, the rights, members, and appurtenances thereunto belonging unto the said Casey Askew, his heirs and assigns forever. In Witness whereof I do hereunto set my hand and Seal the day and year first written.

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of:

Thos. B. Peterson  
Wyatt Collier  
D. Hamilton, J.P.

Joshua Askew SEAL

----- SEAL

Registered the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 1806  
Alex Martin, Clk, Supr Court

**LAND SALE –  
JOSHUA/ALEY ASKEW to JOHN HAMILTON, JR.**

Transcription -- Hancock Co. Deed Book H, page 156-157

GEORGIA  
HANCOCK COUNTY

This Indenture made this first day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and five, between Joshua Askew and Aley C. Askew , his wife, of the State and County aforesaid, of the one part, and John Hamilton, Jr. of the State and County aforesaid, of the other part. Witnesseth that the said Joshua Askew and Aley C. Askew, his wife, for and in consideration of the sum of one thousand dollars to them in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, Hath granted, bargained and sold unto the said John Hamilton, Jr. (one certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in the county aforesaid, on the Waters of Fort Creek, it being the land he now lives on and a part of a Survey granted to John Wall the sixteenth day of September 1785, and surveyed the sixth day of July of 1784.

Butting and bounding on following (viz) , Beginning on a small persimmon, running South eighty-nine Degrees East, twenty two chains and fifty links, to a pine, thence North sixty Degrees East, ten chains to a White Oak, thence North sixteen degrees West, Eighteen chains and fifty links to a Willow on the Spring branch, thence down the Meanders of said branch to ??? oak, thence South eleven Degrees East, forty four chains to the Beginning corner. Containing one hundred and sixty two acres, be the same more or less) and the said Joshua Askew and Aley his wife will for themselves their heirs, etc. warrant and defend the above mentioned land and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining thereunto unto the said John Hamilton, Jr. his heirs, etc., forever, against the claims of themselves, their heirs, Executors, Administrators, or assigns, and against the claim or claims of all and any other person or persons whatsoever. With all and singular, the rights, members, and appurtenances, including a still and seven Mobley stands, unto the said John Hamilton, his heirs and assigns forever. In Witness whereof the said Joshua Askew and Aley C. Askew hath hereunto set their hands and Seals the day and year first written.

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of:

Thos. B. Peterson  
Wyatt Collier  
Duke Hamilton, J.P.

Joshua Askew    SEAL

Aley C. Askew    SEAL  
her mark

Registered the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 1806  
Alex Martin, Clk, Supr Court