

Charles A. Dennis

1787 - 1844

At the time of his death in 1844 at the age of 57, Charles A. Dennis was Judge of the County Court of Pike County, Alabama, having been elected and posted bond in January of 1843. Survived

by his wife Esther and ten children, two of whom were minors at the time, the administration of his property continued at least until 1859 under his sons John W. Dennis and Michael M. Dennis and his son-in-law Simeon R. May.

Charles A. Dennis and Esther Maddox were married in October of 1805, probably in Hancock County, Georgia, as in September of that year, Esther's father, Michael Mattox, gave to Esther a hundred acres. As evidenced in another earlier Hancock County Deed record of 1801, the wife of Michael Mattox was Jane Thomas. Mention of Michael Mattox and Jane Mattox is also found in the minutes of the Island Creek Baptist Church of Devereux, Georgia.

Charles and Esther evidently moved soon to Putnam County, as evidenced by various property transactions and clearly stated in the record of his service in the War of 1812 from Feb. 5 to Aug. 5 of 1815. In March, Lieut. Charles A. Dennis of Major Broadnax's Battalion of Georgia Militia received compensation for transportation to Fort Hawkins from Eatonton and back to Eatonton (Putnam Co., GA).

In the records of Autauga County, Alabama, Chas. A. Dennis first appears Feb. 1, 1819 as a Major, Seventh Regiment, Autauga County Militia. Then in September of 1819, he appears as a Representative from Autauga in the Legislature of the First General Assembly. Subsequently on Dec. 11, 1820, Charley A. Dennis appears as Justice cty Court, Cahawba. Cahawba was renamed Bibb County in late 1820 and Charles A. Dennis was a Senator from Bibb Co. 1821-2 and a Representative 1823-4. By 1826, Charles A. Dennis was in Pike County whence he was elected to the Legislature in 1826-7, 1827-8, 1829-30 and 1835-6. In August of 1828 Charles A. Dennis along with Abraham Miles and Benjamin Baldwin constituted the Commissioners of Monticello which subsequently in 1839 gave way to Troy.

Returning to September of 1844 on the occasion of dealing with the appraisal and administration of the estate of Charles A. Dennis, the Court issued Citation to appear to Esther Dennis, Widow of Charles A. Dennis and Michael Dennis, John Dennis, Joseph F. Dennis, William L. May in right of his wife Martha J., Simeon R. May in right of his wife Linna A., C.W. Pitts in right of his wife Mary A., Thomas Cargil in right of his wife Lucinda, and Levi Yon in right of his wife Nancy E. Not named are Serena M., age fourteen, who later married Daniel McCall and Charles A. who was eleven years old at the time.

Charles A. Dennis lies buried at the Dennis Family Cemetery located southeast of China Grove. According to her tombstone at Orion Cemetery of the Baptist Church at Orion, Esther was born 15 May 1790 and died 5 Feb 1870 at Orion. Interestingly, at the time of the U.S. Census of 1860 Esther appears at China Grove, Pike County in the household of her grandson, John W. Dennis, who was the oldest child of Esther's son, Michael M. Dennis.

On the 10th of September 1859 the Probate Court of Pike County authorized Simeon R. May and M.M. Dennis to dispose of real estate near China Grove in order to provide continued support for Esther and distribution of the estate to the remaining heirs in addition to Esther: M.M. Dennis, William M. May husband of Martha, Linna wife of (Simeon R. May), Joseph F. Dennis, Charles A. Dennis Texas, Nancy wife of Levi Yon Florida, S. McCall wife of D.A. McCall, and the minor heirs of W. Pitts dec'd Florida, also the minor heirs of Thomas Cargill Dec'd whose names are unknown residence supposed to be in Barbour County. John W. Dennis, one of the original administrators, is not mentioned because he had died in 1853.

That Charles A. Dennis had brothers in Putnam County, Georgia, is known from the will of Joseph Dennis, Jr. which was recorded in Putnam County Estate Records in 1815. Joseph Dennis gives land to his sons Matthias and Simeon Dennis with provision for his wife Ellenor during her lifetime. He also names his sons Charles A. Dennis and Matthias Dennis executors of his last Will and Testament.

Sarah Jane May Thompson, a daughter of Simeon R. May and Linna A. Dennis May, was our Great-grandmother. Prepared by Byron F. Murphey, 12507 Greenwood Ave. N, Apt. A 211, Seattle, WA 98133 and Elizabeth H. Blackwell, 415 Oak Street, Greenville, AL 36037 Submitted by: Byron F. Murphey, 12607 Greenwood Ave. N, Apt. A211, Seattle, WA 98133

Sources: Court and U.S. Census Records, History and Sources for Charles A. Dennis 1787 - 1844: Pike County Alabama Deed Record C, page 142. Bond posted for Charles A. Dennis, Judge of the County Court of Pike County. 16 Jan'y 1843. Pike County Alabama Orphan's Court's Minutes 1844-1845, page 1; 13 Jan. 1844 Present and Presiding the Honorable Charles A. Dennis, Judge. *ibid* — pages 52-55; 12 Sept 1844 Will of Charles A. Dennis now deceased produced in court

R. May (in right of his wife Linna A.) appointed administrators. *ibid* . Vol. D 1849, page 55; John W. Dennis, Guardian ... of Charles A. Dennis minor. Pike County Alabama Probate Minutes Vol. F, page 220, Sept 10, 1859 appear Simeon R. May and M.M. Dennis, Executors of estate Charles Dennis dec'd. Hancock County Georgia Superior Court Deed Record G, page 254-6; 28 Sept 1805 Michael Maddox grants property Daughter Esther Maddox now Esther Dennis. Hancock County Georgia Deed Book E, page 161-2; 9 March 1801 sale of property to James Thomas by Michael Maddox and Jane Thomas otherwise known by the name of Jane Maddox. National Archives Veteran's Records, War 1812, _____ Dennis, Charles A. Putnam County Georgia Deed Book 1808-10, page 7-8; 28 Nov 1806 Charles A. Dennis buys a parcel of land for \$500. *ibid* — page 274-5; 15 Dec 1809 Charles A. Dennis sells the 20 1/2 acres for \$900. *ibid* — Book C 1812-14, page 238-9; 2 Oct. 181 Charles A. Dennis sells a parcel of land. *ibid* — page 245; 6 Jan 181 Charles A. Dennis buys a parcel of land. *ibid* — Book E 1816-17, page 98-9; 29 Nov 1814 Charles A. Dennis sells a parcel of land. *History of Alabama Vol. 1*, pages 77, 80, 127, 133. *Alabama Historical Quarterly Vol. VI*, pages 124, 135-6, 140. Pike County Alabama Deed Record / page 9; Aug 1828 Charles A. Dennis one of three commissioners of the town of Monticello in Pike County. *Alabama Historical Quarterly Vol XXXV*, page 102; Dennis family cemetery S.E. of China Grove. Putnam County Georgia Estate Records Book A, Folio 27; 3 July 1815 the will of Joseph Dennis is published, naming sons Charles A. Dennis and Matthias Dennis executors. U.S. Census Records - Alabama: 1830 Pike County, page 21, C.A. Dennis; 1840 Pike County, page 380, Chl's A Dennis, Barbour County, page 46, Thomas Cargile; 1850 Pike County page 180: Easter Dennis, Charles A. (age 17), William L. May (Martha page 165, M.M. Dennis; page 166, Simeon R. May (Linna); page 181 Mary Pitts; Barbour County, page 198, Joseph F. Dennis, D.A. McCall (Serena); Florida. 1850 Calhoun County, page 033, Levi Yon (Nancy), Alabama. 1860 Pike County, page 054, Esther Dennis, William L. May (Martha); page 167, Michael M. Dennis; page 364, Daniel A. McCall (Serena). Lowndes County, page 671, S.A. Dennis (wid of John), S.R May (Linna); Dallas County, page 816, J.F. Dennis.

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