

So therefore, as I am not able to take charge of the suit, I hope you will conform and detect all such. He was also, when I was living with him, constantly after the said Mrs. "S", when at home misused me so that my life was almost a misery to me.

I am here, a matter of two hundred miles distant and am not able to come to court for it is all that I can do by my own labor to procure food for myself and my two little children. I will also cite to you some honourable ladies as the county of Columbia affords who can tell the entreatments that I have undergone. I would name Mrs. Caraway, Mrs. McClellan, Mrs. Roper and a number of others.

Therefore, I hope you will see a poor unfortunate woman righted in this all important matter.

I am Sir respectfully yours,

Mary Tillis

Seaborn J. Ross testified that "the conduct of said Willoughby Tillis towards his wife, was kind and affectionate, that she was plentifully provided for as much so as folks are in the county and that she had a comfortable home, that Willoughby was a man of as much peacableness as the common run of men and that he is industrious and thrifty." Other citizens of Columbia County concurred with Mr. Ross's opinion of Willoughby Tillis.

Willoughby was granted a divorce from Mary Tillis on Nov. 23, 1840. He later married Penny Smiley and it is believed that they had one child:

3. Matilda Tillis, born c1841; married Green Taylor Feb. 15, 1858.

Penny Smiley Tillis died in 1841/1842 in Columbia County, Florida.

Willoughby Tillis married Celia Elizabeth Durrance on Oct. 16, 1843 near Suwannee Springs in Columbia County, Florida. She was born April 24, 1813 (pension papers give April 24, 1814), in Tatnall County, Georgia daughter of Joseph and Cecelia (Tippins) Durrance. Their children:

4. Mary Ann Tillis, born April 22, 1845; died Oct. 14, 1861.
5. Twin who died at birth.
6. Twin who died at birth.
7. Richard Calhoun Tillis, born Jan. 29, 1848; married Martha Ann Hawthorn Oct. 25, 1874.
8. James Dallas Tillis, born Aug. 22, 1849; married on Dec. 31, 1884 Hattie Viola Powell, daughter of John Wesley and Sarah