

## GILLIS, ANGUS (of Montgomery Co., Georgia)

b. 1770–1780, Scotland

m. [1]

[2] Katharine Carmichael, c. 1818

d. July–September 1842

There have been numerous Angus Gillises in the Montgomery, Emanuel, and Treutlen counties area. Although the one mentioned here was not an ancestor of the author, he is certainly of enough interest to include among the biographies. What relation, if any, he may have been to my ancestors Murdoch, Hickory John, and Roderick Gillis is not known. They were all of the same vintage and all came from Scotland by way of North Carolina. Angus came to Georgia in the 1820s. Angus also lived in South Carolina for a while, where some of his children were born before the move to Georgia.

There are several reasons for mentioning this particular Angus Gillis. He was the progenitor of a very large number of people. He had eight daughters and six sons—and his tribe of descendants is truly of biblical proportions. They have helped to populate several counties of south Georgia and there is considerable information about them. Angus was one of the first pioneer Gillises to reach wiregrass Georgia. Finally, he left a will that gives us considerable information about his family.

After emigrating from Scotland, Angus lived first in North Carolina, where at least his first four children were born, 1800 to 1810. It has been reported that his first wife was a Morrison, but no documentation was offered. Sometime between 1810–1819 the family moved to Marion County, South Carolina, where son Dougal was born in 1819. Dougal was the first child of Angus and his second wife. Her name has been reported by descendants, and recorded by Huxford, and by Metcalf, as Katharine Carmichael. After 1823 and before 1828, the family moved to Montgomery County, Georgia, where son Angus was born in 1828. Altogether Angus and Katharine had nine children between 1819–1835.

Angus is listed as a head of household in the census of Montgomery County, Georgia, for 1830. At that time he was in the age range of 50–60 years. The oldest female in the family, presumably Katharine, his second wife, was 30–40 years old. There were eight children in the home—none more than fifteen years old. Clayton Gillis Metcalf has collected extensive information on Angus Gillis' descendants which he has recorded in his book, *Scots and Their Kin*, pages 57–61, which is cited in the references below. He does not give references or documentation but apparently corresponded with members of the family.

Angus Gillis made a will shortly before his death in 1842. A copy is included in the Appendix. It was signed 9 July 1842 and produced for probate 7 September 1842. This will makes interesting reading; it presumably mentions all of his surviving children and his wife. It is remarkable because of the wide discrimination he makes between his heirs. He mentions his wife, Katharine, and bequeaths her “the sum of one dollar and no more”! Apparently Katharine's children also got the same short change, “one dollar and no more.” The bulk of his estate went to his sons John Gillis and Norman Gillis, and to the daughter Nancy Phillips. The heirs of daughter Christian Phillips also came in for a “distributive share.” Apparently illiterate, Angus signed his will with a “mark,” the letter X. He must have left the phrase “one dollar and no more” ringing in the ears of his wife and many of his children as he departed this world.

Some of Angus' sons, including Dougal, Murdoch, and Angus, moved farther south in Georgia to Coffee County, and are sketched in Huxford's *Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia*, cited below, and in Metcalf's book. The son Norman married Samuel Miller's widow, Pheraby Pate Miller, my great-great-grandmother, and lived on in Montgomery County, becoming a large landowner. See sketch on Samuel Miller [18] and Pheraby Pate [19] in this book. Also see separate sketches on Norman and Pheraby. The son John married twice, the second time to the widow Roseanna Hamilton Calhoun. Elsewhere in this book I have discussed this John Gillis and his second wife. More on this couple can also be found in the reference cited below by Mrs. Garland Crowe DuPree. The son Neill Gillis who married Penelope Davis has sometimes been confused with another Neill Gillis who was a son of Roderick Gillis. Neill and Penelope are buried in Red Bluff Cemetery.

It is safe to say that many Gillises in Georgia and other states, as well as descendants with other family names, trace their heritage back to Angus Gillis, who died in Montgomery County in 1842.

Angus' second wife Katharine (Carmichael?) Gillis was listed as head of household in the Montgomery County census of 1850. Her age was 56, making her birth date about 1794. She was born in Scotland. In 1850, her children Murdoch, Angus, Margaret, Rachel, and Sarah Ann were living with her. Murdoch and Angus were listed as farmers.

*The Children of Angus Gillis*

(according to the best information available)

1. John b. 1800-1810, NC m. [1] [2] Roseanna Hamilton Calhoun, 18 November 1831	8. Christian b. c. 1821, SC m. Patrick Phillips, 3 October 1839
2. Nancy b. c. 1805, NC m. Mark Phillips, Sr., 10 March 1833	9. Murdoch b. 22 Dec. 1823, SC m. [1] Mary Rebecca Miller, 12 January 1856 [2] Charity Eubanks (?)
3. Katharine b. c. 1809, NC m. Benjamin Hampton, 9 September 1831	10. Jane b. c. 1825 m. William Davis, 11 April 1850
4. Norman b. 1810, NC m. Pheraby Pate Miller, 17 August 1831	11. Angus b. 14 June 1828, GA m. Mary Faler (Fowler?), or Fales d. 17 September 1896
5. Mary b. c. 1814 m. Bryant Dawson	12. Margaret b. 1829, GA No further data
6. Dougal b. 7 Apr. 1819, SC m. Annie Davis d. 8 Jan. 1897	13. Rachel b. 1832, GA m. Joseph Rickerson d. 20 May 1870
7. Neill b. c. 1820, SC m. Penelope Davis, 30 May 1844 d. 3 November 1897 Buried: Red Bluff Cemetery	14. Sara Ann b. 1835, GA m. Thomas J. Tanner

## References

1. Census of the U.S., Montgomery Co., GA, 1830, 1840, 1850.
2. Gillis, Angus, Last Will and Testament, signed 9 July 1842, Probate 7 Sept. 1842, Montgomery County, Georgia. See Appendix.
3. Huxford, Folks, *Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia*, Vol. 2 (Homerville, GA: published by compiler, 1954), p. 118.
4. *Ibid.*, Vol. 5 (1967), p. 169.
5. Metcalf, Clayton G., *Scots and Their Kin*, Vol. 1 (Enterprise, AL: published by author, 1984), pp. 57-61.

6. Census of Marion County, SC, 1820. National Archives Photocopy 33, Roll 121, page 9.

7. DuPree, Garland Crowe (Mrs.), *People of Purpose; Crowe-Crowe and Related Families; A Family History*. Vol. I, pp. 329-331; Vol. II, pp. 119-120 (Fitzgerald, GA: Published by author, printed by Walker Printing Co., 1988).