



Cherokee "Cherry" Gilstrap, ca 1850

Meet Our  
Vivacious Cousin

# Cherokee "Cherry" Gilstrap 1830-1860

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While researching our Pollard ancestry I learned of our 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin 6X removed, **Cherokee "Cherry" Gilstrap**. What a great name...exotic...warm...fuzzy...kinda makes me wanna settle into my teepee, take a hit off the communal peace-pipe, then cuddle up under the buffalo hides to ride out the winter.

After years of searching I located this picture of the lovely, raven-haired, Cherokee "Cherry" Gilstrap lying peacefully lakeside with her pet wolf. Cherokee was exactly as I had imagined her. Everyone should have a cousin like Cherokee "Cherry" Gilstrap!

Cherokee was born in 1830 in Georgia to **Levin & Elizabeth Betsey Bynum Gilstrap**. She was the Great Granddaughter of **Peter & Rachel Aydolett Gilstrap, Sr.**

Peter Gilstrap was born in 1700 in London, England. Rachel Aydolett was born in Somerset, Maryland, in 1710. We don't know exactly when Rachel died, but her youngest child was born in 1855. Those were the formative years for our country, and the Aydolett family formed strong bonds and marriages with many families of some renown. Through Rachel Aydolett...and assuming other researchers were accurate when ancestry.com linked us to their data...we are related to

Humphrey Bogart  
First Lady Frances Folsom Cleveland  
First Lady Mamie Doud Eisenhower  
Louisa May Alcott  
William Faulkner  
Frank Lloyd Wright  
Mary Edwards Walker

To those of my generation...

- Cherokee was a 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin 1X removed to our 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandmother, **Mary Gilstrap Pollard**.
- **Mary Gilstrap** was married to **Joseph Pollard**. She was the 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandmother to **Evalyn Pollard Leshler**.
- Cherokee is a 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin 6X removed to my generation off the **Leshler/Jenny/Duffie** clan.

Cherokee married **James M. Adams** on 10 Dec 1848, in Jackson County, Florida. They had three children: **William, James, and Colson**.

Levin Gilstrap	56	m		Farmer ✓	- N Carolina
Elizabeth	45	f			- S Carolina
Frances	16	f			Florida
Matthew Adams	21	m		Farmer ✓	- Georgia
Charles	20	f			- Georgia
William	1	m			Florida

The Only Documentation I've Found Of Cherokee Gilstrap: 1850 Census, Jackson County, Florida

Cherokee died in Jackson County, Florida, in 1860. James died on 31 May 1918.

The only descendants of Cherokee that we may be able to track down are through...

**Leonard E. (22 Feb 1870) & Hattie Adams (10 Oct 1879) Steadham:** m 3 Nov 1895, Pensacola, Florida. Hattie was the daughter of Colson & Sarah Adams. Leonard & Hattie had 12 children, most located in and around McCullough, Escambia County, Alabama, and Jack Springs, Escambia County, Alabama.

Hattie died 16 Oct 1962, in Bay Minette, Baldwin County, Alabama

Leonard died 23 Dec 1937 in Summerdale, Baldwin County, Alabama

I don't know the origins of Cherokee's name. There are rumors of Cherokee blood in the Gilstrap family, but nothing conclusive.

**Be that as it may...from the first time I saw the name Cherokee "Cherry" Gilstrap, I have said that it was the greatest name in the history of the Gilstrap/Pollard/Lesher family.**

**Doesn't it just make you feel like running off on a buffalo hunt?**