

Book 6, Chapter 19

Thomas Family

(Revised & Expanded)

The Thomas family is connected to the Wingard family [Chapter 1] by the marriage of Fannie Almeda Thomas to John Robert Wingard on 14 November 1890 in Grimes County, Texas.

The Thomas family is one of the most difficult, if not *the* most difficult, families I have attempted to research. There are multiple reasons for this difficulty, including:

- Thomases were literally *everywhere*, and John Thomases are figuratively a “dime-a-dozen.” There were more Evan Thomases than one might think in the 18th century (1700s) America.
- It now appears that our Thomas family were closely associated with a group of Separatist^a Baptists, who prior to, and just after, the American Revolution were among the persecuted dissenting religions, and who were shunned by about everyone of the established religions. This history of persecution may have contributed to the fact that our Thomas family kept an unusually low profile, had strong inter-family associations with other Baptists, and always seemed to be on the fringe of the frontier, where records were sparse and inaccurate.
- It is our unfortunate luck that our Thomas family lived and moved through areas where records have been lost, poorly kept, inaccurately kept^b, or practically nonexistent.
- Because there were so many Thomases – and so many with the same names – what one will find on the Internet and in second-source published Thomas family histories is almost all wrong; I can cite many examples of cross-connected Thomas families. Very few people have even attempted to do “down-in-the-weeds”, in-depth research on any Thomas line, and certainly no one else has attempted to do so with Thomas families that appear to be possible candidates for matching with our family. Example of this confusion can be readily see at the on-line results page of the Thomas DNA Study,¹ where if one studies the results shown, one will find multiple examples of people claiming the same ancestor but who have very different DNA test results – some even of different haplogroups (essentially a haplogroup can be thought of ethnicity grouping, or identity). The bottom line is that I have found no published or Internet source that I believe can be deemed reliable or can be trusted, including claimed lineages in the Thomas DNA Study.

For the record only one known descendant of Evan Thomas – our ancestor – has taken the DNA test: Walter William Thomas, kit #203367, in pedigree group #80. He is matched by two other people, one of whom claims an earliest ancestor named Jonathan Thomas, “born

^a “Separatist” Baptist is a difficult term to define. At a later date, they evolved into what were called “Primitive” Baptists, and today would probably be referred to as “Fundamentalist” Baptists. “Separatist” Baptists grew out of what history now refers to “The Great Awakening” that occurred in the 1730s, and started around the Connecticut and Rhode Island areas. Missionaries from this area and movement carried their religion south to Virginia, then North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Our Thomas family, when they first emerged in the records in Union County, South Carolina, were found living among, and interacting with, the heart of this Baptist movement in South Carolina.

^b We will have to deal with several examples of inaccurate records in the narrative that follows.

in Virginia.” In the latter case a little investigation reveals that the “born of Virginia” source is the 1880 census in which his children claimed that their father was born in Virginia – and this as a source is notoriously unreliable. The other match comes from an individual who claims that his ancestors were from a Thomas family in Maryland through a Giles Thomas who came to Montgomery County, *Virginia*, from Charles County, Maryland, and his Revolutionary War Pension Application² supports this Maryland-origin contention. His family was originally from Harford County, Maryland, which was created from Baltimore County, and is located just below the Maryland-Pennsylvania state line. It is therefore possible that different branches of this family *may have* lived in Pennsylvania and Maryland. However, this line’s DNA in a 25-marker test, differs from our line by 4 markers, so it is not a good match at all.

To date no qualified descendant of our own John Thomas has been found who is willing to take the test and be a participant in the Thomas DNA study.

- Finally, we have been plagued by false legends within our own family history, the three most egregious of which will be discussed next.

“James Avery Thomas made shoes in Alabama for the Southern soldiers during the Civil War.”³ This seemingly innocuous piece of information turned into a major mislead for a while, because it suggests that James Avery Thomas, son of John Thomas, was still in Alabama during the Civil War. He was not! He was married in 1842 in Montgomery County, Texas, and he and his family arrived in Texas in 1832. But in my early research, I made a trip to Marengo County, Alabama, to find records that he left there; needless to say I found none.

David Thomas, son of John, was a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence. This legend is totally groundless, but often repeated. One can find biographies of David Thomas, the Signer, in several easy-to-find sources such as *The Handbook of Texas*, Sam Houston Dixon’s *The Men Who Made Texas Free*, and even the Internet source *Wikipedia*. All sources confirm that David Thomas, the Signer, was the son of William and Elizabeth (Purviance) Thomas of Wilson County, Tennessee,^a and that he was a lawyer. When he signed the Declaration of Independence, he represented the municipality of Refugio. He died of an accidental gunshot wound on or about 16 (or 22) April 1836 (the date is somewhat disputed because there are various versions of when he was really shot and how long he lingered before he died). The fallacy of this legend is illustrated in several fact comparisons:

- David Thomas, the Signer, was from Tennessee; as will be proved herein the John Thomas family was from Georgia, and David, John’s son, was almost certainly born in Georgia.
- David Thomas, the Signer, was born 10 December 1795 or 1801 (sources differ); David Thomas, son of John, was born ca. 1816
- David Thomas, the Signer, was an accomplished lawyer (*The Handbook of Texas* states that he drafted the Texas Constitution) and was certainly literate; David Thomas, son of John, was illiterate as were his father and brothers.
- At the time of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence, David Thomas, the Signer, represented the municipality of Refugio^b; David Thomas, son of John, was living in what became Montgomery County, and more specifically in the Lake Creek Settlement area, just southeast of the present town of Montgomery, Texas.

^a William Thomas was the son of Jacob Thomas and Margaret Brevard of Rowan County, North Carolina. Jacob Thomas’ Revolutionary War Pension Application, and that of his four sons: William, Henry, James and John Thomas can all be found quite easily on the Internet.

^b Located about equidistant from Victoria and Corpus Christi, Texas.

- David Thomas, the Signer, died in April 1836; David Thomas, son of John, is on record as selling land 10 January 1837,⁴ and was listed in the Montgomery County tax list of 1839 with his father John and brother James.

John Thomas married Phoebe Springer. I do not know the origin of this legend, but it has certainly been around a long time and repeated often. I suspect that someone guessed that John's wife, Phoebe, was a Springer because of the close relationship between the Springer and Thomas families (which is certainly true). But as will be shown, and discussed, below, John Thomas married Phoebe Gheslin on 26 June 1801 in Warren County, Georgia.⁵

In spite of all the false leads, missing and erroneous records, etc., our Thomas family has been traced back to our progenitor, Evan Thomas, who is first found in a jury list in the Ninety-Six District of South Carolina in 1779. The progress that has been made in tracing the family back to Evan Thomas has been largely because of the recognition of the correlation of our Thomas family with several other associated families, which recognition helped considerably in discriminating our own family from other Thomas families who lived in the same area and had similar or identical names. Not only have we been unable to determine at this time where Evan Thomas might have come from, much less the names of his parents and siblings, but there are lots of unanswered questions remaining about the family. For this reason the documentation of the Thomas family provided herein will take the form of a research study report, with the known genealogy included, to aid any future researcher in picking up and following the correct trail(s). To this latter end, it will be necessary not only for my readers to evaluate the credibility of the information contained herein, but also for the future researcher's aid, to understand – briefly – what is known about the families that have been found to be closely associated with our Thomas family. The following brief summary, or “introduction,” of these associated families is therefore primarily intended to alert my readers to the names of these families when encountered in the narrative of the Thomas family that follows.

It should be observed at the outset that most, if not all, of the following families were avid Baptists, and that their religious preferences may have had as much to do with their associations including inter-marriages and co-locations, as anything.

Breed Family At this time, there is no known direct connection between the Breed and Thomas families, but there are definitely a few clues that suggest there might have been some common history as well as possible relationship by marriage. There are even more clues that the Breed and Springer families might have been related as will be shown in the records provided in our narrative. One clue that makes this family particularly interesting is the name “Avery” – no other family using the name Avery has surfaced in research so far, and our John Thomas named one of his sons James Avery^a Thomas.

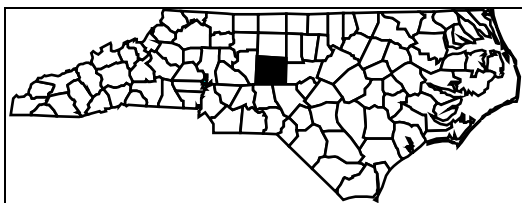


Fig. 1 Randolph County, North Carolina

Joseph Breed married Priscilla Avery on 2 June 1737 in Groton, Connecticut. About 1744 Joseph and Priscilla Breed were caught up in the Great Awakening, becoming missionary Separatist Baptists, and about 1753 went into upstate New York to act as missionaries to the Iroquois Indians. With

^a “Clue” is the relevant word here, and it may be a “false” clue. People often named children after unrelated people who they admired.

the threat of the French and Indian War looming, they moved south to near Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia, arriving there by 1755. In Frederick County they were joined by Shubal Stearns – also from Connecticut – and about 10 other Baptist families. By 1756 they had moved further south to the Sandy Creek area of what is now Randolph County^a, North Carolina, and established a church church there. And from there, and in about the same year, they moved even further south to form a daughter church of the Sandy Creek church at Deep River (still in what is now Randolph County) where they remained until about 1759. They and a number of the members of the Sandy Creek and Deep River churches then moved even further south into that area of South Carolina that became Union County in 1783, establishing a Baptist Church and community at Fairforest Creek. (It is in this community that we first find Evan Thomas, and members of the Springer family – below.) Priscilla is thought to have died there after 1786 and Joseph to have preceded her in death.

“Joseph Breed was living in Frederick Co., Va., on 6/15/1755, when he was granted a patent to 149 acres of land lying in Frederick Co., by the Hon. Thomas, Lord Fairfax, Proprietor of the Northern Neck of Va.”⁶

“Joseph Breed, Sr., was living in the Fairforest settlement in July, 1768, when he was granted power-of-attorney to his friend, John Hayes of Frederick Co., Va., to sell land he still owned there: ‘said land, 149 acres, lying on the east side of Back Creek, the same which was granted from the Hon. Thomas, Lord Fairfax, etc., Proprietor of the Northern Neck of Va., by patent bearing date 15 June in the 28th year of the Reign of the late Sovereign Lord George the Second of most Glorious Memory, in the year 1755.’ Set my hand and Seal this 4 July, 1768. Joseph Breed (Seal)

In presence of:

John Abiell
Azariah Pugh
Peter Ruble
Ellis Pugh
Thomas Reagan”⁷

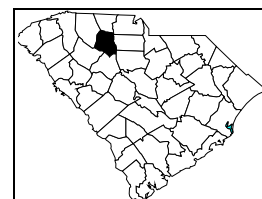


Fig. 2 Union County, South Carolina

Known children of Joseph and Priscilla (Avery) Breed were:

I. Joseph Breed, b. Groton, Conn., 4/1/1738, d. Warren Co., Ga., probably May, 1807, m. Catherine Lee, who d. Warren Co., before May, 1807. The will of Joseph Breed proved in Warren Co., Ga.⁸

II. Avery Breed, b. Groton, Conn., 11/24/1739, d.s.p., 1801, Barren Co., Ky. His will left estate to brothers and sisters, unnamed, and to ‘my dearly beloved brother, Nathan Breed.’^b Witnesses: David Hardin, Christopher Howard, William B. Gist. Administrators: Nathan Breed (brother), and Joseph Gist, whose first wife was *Hannah Breed*. Legatees: Joseph Breed, John Wood, James Wood, *Obediah Howard*, and *George Harlan*.

III. Priscilla Breed, b. Groton, Conn., 10/14/1742, d. Barren Co., Ky., 1808, m. *Obediah Howard*.

IV. Nathan Breed, b. Groton, ca. 1744, d. Barren Co., Ky., m. in Union Co., S. C., *Mary Harlan*, dau. of Aaron and Sarah (Hollingsworth) Harlan.

V. Hannah Breed, b. probably in Frederick Co., Va., d. Barren Co., Ky., m. in Union District 96, S. C., 1/25/1773, Joseph Gist. He m. as his second wife, *Elizabeth (Belew) Springer*.

^a Randolph County was created in 1779 from Guilford County. Guilford County was created in 1771 from Rowan and Orange counties. Since Sandy Creek is in the eastern edge of Randolph County, nearest Orange County, this area was almost certainly a part of Orange County in the 1750s.

^b Though Avery Breed apparently died without heirs, it is not known whether he ever married, or not. It seems possible that from records provided herein that he might have married a sister of Job Springer, or else Job Springer married an unknown daughter of Joseph and Priscilla Breed.

VI. Sarah Breed, b. Union Co., S. C., m. *Samuel Harlan*, d. 11/1/1831. He m. secondly, Sarah Belew. He was a son of Aaron and Sarah (Hollingsworth) Harlan, and brother of Mary, wife of Nathan Breed.

VII. Anna Breed, b. Union Co., S. C., m. Union Co., *George Harlan*, brother of *Mary* and of *Samuel Harlan*.

The reader should note especially the marriage of Priscilla Breed to Obediah Howard, the multiple marriages between Breed children and Harlan children, and the fact that Joseph Gist who was first married to Hannah Breed, married as his second wife a widow of a Springer. All of those names will appear and reappear in the records that follow.

Burson Family The Burson family *does* have strong connections to the Thomas family. Evan Thomas bought his first land in Union County, South Carolina, from Joseph Burson, and Evan's son, David, married Hannah, the granddaughter of Joseph Burson; her father Isaac Burson was a next-door neighbor of Evan Thomas in Warren County, Georgia, as will be shown below. The Isaac Burson family moved to Jackson County, Georgia, at the same time that Evan Thomas' three children did, and lived in the same neighborhood with them there.

By 1750 Joseph Burson (Jr.) and his wife Mary Shaw had moved from Pennsylvania to the Catoctin Creek^a area of present-day Loudoun County^b, Virginia with his father, a brother and two sisters:

"Joseph Sr. rocf Buckingham MM, Pa. for self & 3 ch, Rachel, Benjamin & Deborah, August 25, 1753; Joseph Jr., adult s, also roef same mtg, same dte"⁹

The Joseph Burson (Jr.) family moved south to the area that became Union County, South Carolina by 1768, and it was there, apparently, that Quaker Joseph Burson was converted to a Separatist Baptist by one of the leaders of Fairforest Creek Baptist Church

"...Became a Baptist minister in South Carolina. Joseph was converted to Baptist belief during the big religious awakening under the leadership of Rev. Philip Mulkey. Fairforest is of peculiar interest as the oldest Baptist Church in the back country and as a separate Baptist group from North Carolina. The Lawsons Fork branch of Fairforest is described as having a little meeting house in 1772 thirty-five miles northwest of Fairforest where Rev. Philip Mulkey preached for a time, assisted by Joseph Burson. Rev. Joseph Burson and Rev. John Webb ordained John Cole March 9, 1783..."

"*Joseph Burson*, 150 acres in Berkley County in the Fork between Broad & Saludy Rivers & on a small branch of Fair Forrest Creek called Buffalo Creek, not four foot broad nor one deep, 29 April 1768. Plat certified 7 Nov 1767."¹⁰

The following record is interesting because it begins to show the close neighbors that one will find in close association with the Thomas family. John Hayes is apparently the same John Hayes mentioned in the Breed family introduction who was given the power of attorney to sell Joseph Breed's land in Frederick County, Virginia. "Joseph" *Ghiselin* (who is probably, in reality, "*Samuel*" *Ghiselin*) is of the mysterious Ghiselin family next to be discussed. It is also

^a Catoctin Creek's headwaters are on the eastern slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains, almost due east (but on the other side of the mountain) about 15 miles from Winchester, VA – where the Breed family lived. It flows easterly to empty into the Potomac River.

^b Loudoun County was created in 1757 from Fairfax County.

worthwhile to point out at this point that the name “Burson” is frequently found misspelled as “Busson” in both South Carolina’s and Georgia’s early records.

“John Hayes, 250 acres in Berkley County in the fork between Broad and Saludy Rivers on a branch of fair forrest called Buffalow branch, waters of Tyger River adj. *Joseph Busson*^a, *Joseph Ghiselin*^b, Wm. Giss, 19 Aug 1774. Plat certified 16 March 1773.”¹¹

Sometime after the Revolution the family moved on to Wilkes County, Georgia, and to that area that became Warren County in 1793, where Joseph and two of his sons continued to be active in the local Baptist Church:

“After moving to Georgia he pastored Brier Creek Baptist Church in Wilkes County, with Isaac and Jonathan serving as associate pastors.”¹²

Joseph Burson died in Warren County, Georgia, in 1801-1802:

“IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN:

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE present that I, Joseph Burson, now being weak and low in health but in perfect mind and memory expecting shortly to depart this life and resolved to make this my Will and Testament. First, I recommend my soul into the hands of the Almighty, who gave it and my body to be buried in a Decent and Christian Burial.

WHEREAS, I make this my last Will and Testament that at my decease that my Executors first may pay my lawful debts.

SECONDLY, I give and bequeath to my well-beloved Companion, Mary Burson, all my lands, horse, creatures, cattle, sheep, hogs and household furniture with my reasonable debts to be given up by my Executors to her own benefit and disposal at my decease; that she may enjoy and possess during her life.

THIRDLY, that my Executors, at her decease, shall pay themselves out of my estate for the care and managing and keeping together the estate.

FOURTHLY, that, at her decease, my Executors shall give out of my estate to my eldest son, Jonathan, or his heirs fifty cents also to my son, *Isaac*, fifty cents, to daughter, Lydia, fifty cents, to daughter, Phoebe, fifty cents, to my daughter Rachel, fifty cents, to my daughter, Peggy, fifty cents, to my daughter, Polly, fifty cents, and the remainder part of my estate to be equally divided between my sons, Joseph and Jesse, and my daughter, Alse (spelling ?), and my granddaughters, Polly, Sally, and Nancy, who now reside with me in my present dwelling house.

NOW, WHEREAS, acknowledging this to be my last Will and Testament, that every Will and Testament heretofore made is null and void and of no effect and as this written in my own house and in the presence of God I assign and acknowledge this to be my last Will and Testament this 28th day of October, 1801.

Witnesses: Charles Tharp, William Bloodworth, Matthew Basler

Joseph Burson {seal}

Executors: Mary Burson and Joseph Burson

Note: February 9, 1802 - Mary Burson and Joseph Burson, Jr offered this Will of Joseph Burson for Probate and was duly proved and qualified as Executors.

March 28, 1802 property appraised at goods and chattles \$477 with notes \$542”

Joseph’s son Isaac Burson was born about 1752 and married Sarah Shaw, probably in Union County, South Carolina. Isaac was the father of Hannah, who married David Thomas, son of Evan Thomas, about 1804 in Warren County, Georgia. Isaac Burson lived on adjacent land to Evan

^a In early records of both Union County, SC, and Warren County, GA, the name “Burson” is frequently misspelled as “Busson.”

^b There are two records that name “Joseph” Ghiselin in Union County. But these are only abstracts and subject to transcription errors. According to a Geeslin/Ghiselin researcher who looked for these records in their original form in the South Carolina archives, the name on the original document was “Samuel” Ghiselin.

Thomas in Warren County, and many of the records that mention him will be provided below when Evan Thomas is discussed. I will skip ahead at this point to provide the Jackson County, Georgia, will of Isaac Burson.

“Isaac Burson, Snr. Will dated 28 Sep 1829, probated 5 Jul 1830, recorded pp. 130-131. ‘I give & bequeath unto Sylvania Shipp \$50 & also Penelope Brazeal \$50 to be paid out of my money from my estate not heretofore disposed of.’ To the lawful heirs & wife of David Burson, deceased, \$1.00 only to be paid from the estate.

“‘It (is) my will & wish that my wife Sarah Burson to be decently supported out of my money arising out of my estate & to have control & use of all the household furniture & stock of cattle & sheep she is in possession of during her life & then to be disposed of as hereinafter mentioned.’

“Just debts to be punctually paid, Residue of estate ‘which consists in money, notes & papers, &c. & some personal property designated in the 4th Item, to wit, Cattle, sheep & household furniture, to be divided among the following names of my children, share & share alike, to wit, Joseph Burson, Hannah Thomas, Isaac Burson, Sally Hinton, Delila Shaw, Elisha Burson, Brookfield Burson.’

Executor: Sons, Joseph Burson & Elisha Burson

Witnesses: Wm. Shaw, John H. Johnson & Barnabas B. Johnson.”¹³

“1830 (16 Oct) – receipt signed by David (D) Thomas for a share of the estate of Isaac Burson Sr., deceased.”¹⁴

Ghiselin Family The Ghiselin family is the most mysterious of the families that connect with our Thomas family – no one seems to know where they might have come from, or even what the origin of the name “Ghiselin” is. None of the Ghiselin men with whom Evan and John Thomas were associated were literate, and the clerks of the day (and transcribers thereafter) were unfamiliar with the name – so the name’s spelling is literally butchered in almost every record one will find naming them. “Ghiselin” appears to be the correct form in older records, but one will find it spelled in every conceivable phonetic variation: Geeslin(g), Geaslin(g), Geezlin(g), and even Gusslin, and Gosely.

As will be shown below, John Thomas, son of Evan, married Phoebe Ghiselin in 1801, and to this day we do not know which of the Ghiselin men was her father, though William Ghiselin is as good a guess as any. We will find that William and Charles Ghiselin served with Evan Thomas, and in the same regiment, during the Revolutionary War. Samuel Gheslin is mentioned in at least two Union County, South Carolina deeds implying that he was a near neighbor of Evan Thomas. There is a Surry County, North Carolina, will of David Thomas that will be discussed below in which a Charles “Geasley” was one of the deponents. And Evan Thomas’s land in Warren County was adjacent to the grant of William Ghiselin, as will be shown below.

The Union County, South Carolina records that clearly place Joseph/Samuel Ghiselin in the same neighborhood as Evan Thomas, the Joseph Burson family, the Joseph Breed family, and even the Springer family are the following:

“John Hayes, 250 acres in Berkley County in the fork between Broad and Saludy Rivers on a branch of fair forrest called Buffalow branch, waters of Tyger River adj. Joseph Busson, Joseph Ghiselin^a, Wm. Giss, 19 Aug 1774. Plat certified 16 March 1773.”¹⁵

^a There are two records that name “Joseph” Ghiselin (see 1 Feb 1775 deed from John Hayes, below, for the other one) in Union County. But these are only abstracts and subject to transcription errors. According to a Geeslin/Ghiselin researcher who looked for these records in their original form in the South Carolina archives, the name on the original document was “Samuel” Ghiselin.

“John Hayes, 1 Feb 1775: 250 acres in Berkley County in fork between Broad and Saludy Rivers on a branch of Fair Forrest called Buffalow Branch, waters of Tyger River. Bounded SW by *Joseph Busson* and vacant land; NE by land held by *Joseph Gishelin*; N vacant land. Survey certified 16 Mar 1773. Also, 300 acres, as above, on a branch of Tyger River called Pagets Creek. Bounded E by land laid out to Enoch Pearson; N by land laid out to William Giss; NW by Enoch Pearson; W and S vacant land. Survey certified 17 Mar 1773; granted 19 Aug 1774. Quit rent in 2 years. Enoch Pearson, DS. Delivered 7 Feb 1775 to Enoch Pearson.”¹⁶

Springer Family The Springer family is another mystery family, but one that appears to be very important to our Thomas family history. Four Springer men are found in the Union County, South Carolina records in close association with our Evan Thomas, and two of them – Job (Sr.) and Thomas Springer – were close neighbors in Warren County, Georgia. The Job Springer Sr. family moved to Marengo & (adjacent) Greene counties, Alabama, about the same time that John, son of Evan, did, and the grandson, John May Springer, of Job Springer Sr. was closely associated with the John Thomas family when they first arrived and settled in the Lake Creek Settlement of present-day Montgomery County, Texas.

It will be proved below, that despite the long-time legend that John Thomas married Phoebe *Springer*, he actually married Phoebe *Ghiselin*. But there certainly appears to be a family association between the Springer and Thomas families that cannot be explained by being mere neighbors. *I strongly suspect that it was Evan Thomas who married a Springer^a*, i.e., a sister of one, or all, of the Springer men who appeared to be closely associated with Evan in Union County, South Carolina, and Warren County, Georgia. This theory would certainly provide a convenient explanation for why David Thomas, son of Evan, named one of his sons John *Springer* Thomas. It would also help to explain why when Thomas Springer moved to Warren County, Georgia, he located on land adjacent to Evan Thomas, and perhaps provides a clue as to why he named a son McCuller Springer (Evan Thomas’ daughter Debby/Deborah married David McCullers).

An additional problem comes about from the fact that we do not even know the relationship of the four Springer men – Job, Ezekiel, John, and Thomas – who are mentioned numerous times in close association with Evan. Job, John and Thomas appear as though they *might have been* brothers, but even that cannot be confirmed as yet. Ezekiel Springer might have been a fourth brother, or possibly a son or nephew of one of the other three.

The Springer-Thomas association becomes much more complex when both families arrived in Marengo County, Alabama. There, we find John Gilmore (below) marrying the widow of Job Springer, Jr. And we find John May Springer, son of Job Springer, Jr., marrying Elizabeth Landrum (daughter of Zachariah Landrum, below). In fact, the multiple marriages between Springers, Thomases, Landrums, and Gilmores in Alabama and Texas will tax the mind to keep the relationships straight.

^a If Evan Thomas married a Springer, then he must have married her (she is never named in any record) prior to his arrival in Union County, South Carolina. The first record we have for Evan Springer in South Carolina is dated 1779 when he served on a jury. However, by working back with the estimated dates of birth of his children, he appears to have been married about 1775, or before.

Job Springer is the first of the Springer men to appear in a record that has been found in either Georgia or South Carolina, when he witnessed a deed in what became Wilkes County, Georgia in 1774:

“John Dovor of Wrightsborough^a Township, St. Paul’s Parish, to Richard Boosley of same. Deed dated 6 Dec 1774, conveying 50 acres in middle fork of Upton’s Creek^b in Wrightsborough Township, adjoining Moses Powell’s line and other sides on John Dovor’s creek, granted grantor 3 July 1770. Witnesses: **Job Springer** and *Seth Howard*^c. Probated by **Springer** before Joseph Maddock, J.P.”¹⁷

It is a perhaps interesting (and perhaps misleading) observation that none of the Springer men – Job, John, Ezekiel, or Thomas – has been found on any roster of men fighting for the Patriots during the American Revolution. Job’s appearance here, in Wrightsborough/Wrightsboro, which was founded as a Quaker community, is a tantalizing possible clue as to why none of the Springers fought during the Revolution, i.e., they might have been Quakers prior to converting to Baptists.

DNA testing has revealed that these four Springer men are closely related to a Dennis Springer family who appeared in Frederick County, Virginia, before the Joseph Breed family arrived in the same area. Descendants of the Frederick County Springer family, however, adamantly assert that they have all the Dennis Springer descendants accounted for, and that the southern Springers are not of that family. It might be possible, then, that the southern Springers are descended from a brother or close cousin of the Dennis Springer family to account for the DNA matches. Much work needs to be done on researching the relationships of the various Springer families.

As will be shown below in the Landrum discussion, Job Springer was a resident of Washington County, Alabama, when he was granted land in Alabama in 1816.¹⁸ And in 1816 Job Springer Sr. and Job Springer Jr. signed a very lengthy petition from the “inhabitants of the Alabama Territory residing near the waters of the Mobile...” “That your petitioners have heard with the most serious alarm that applications are about to be made to your honorable body by the new state of the Mississippi for an extension of the boundaries of the said state so as to include at least the whole of the settlements on the western side of the Mobile & Tombigby rivers ...” Other familiar names who also signed this petition were: John Gilmore Sr., Z. Landrum, Jesse B. Landrum, “Aver Landom,” Jno. “Landom,” and William Landrum.

Job Springer, Jr. (m. Lydia (Bishop) May, widow of James May of Warren County, GA) died prior to March 1827^d, when his widow married John Gilmore (below) in Greene County, Alabama:

[Greene] “*Gilmore, John and Lidia Springer* – 17 March 1827; executed April 9th by Thomas F. Moody, J.C.C.; both of age.”¹⁹

^a Wrightsborough was founded as a Quaker community.

^b Both the Springer and Landrum families are found along Upton’s Creek, Warren County, in later records.

^c Seth Howard was a brother of Obediah Howard, the latter of whom married Priscilla Breed, daughter of Joseph and Priscilla (Avery) Breed.

^d The best clue I have found regarding the children of Job Springer Jr. and Lydia (Bishop) May comes from a query run in the Montgomery County, Texas *The Herald* [Vol. 3, No. 1, Spring 1980], p. 81: “About 1840 Mrs. Thancy Springer Weir and her husband, Isaac H. Weir (m. 24 Apr 1824 Greene Co., AL) with several children moved to Montgomery Co., TX, to be near her three brothers: John May Springer, Alfred Ezekiel Springer, and Alford Uriah Springer...”

[Marengo] "Marriage Contract between *John Gilmore* and *Lydia Springer*. 7 June 1830. He agrees not to claim any of the lands of *Job Springer*, deceased. Witnesses: *John M. Springer*, *Elizabeth Springer*."²⁰

Job Springer Sr. died in Greene County, Alabama, in 1832:

[Greene] "*Job Springer*. Last will and testament, dated 16 January 1832 ... Wife, two cows in Tuscaloosa County which she owned before I married her; to Nancy Jackson, my oldest Daughter; to Anna White, my second Daughter; to Mary Norsworthy, my third Daughter; to Keziah Elder, my fourth Daughter; to John Springer; to heirs of *Job Springer*^a; Executor, Ezekiel Miller. Witnesses: *John Gilmore*, Solomon McAlpin, John Springer. *(*Lydia Springer* m. in Greene Co. 1827 *John Gilmore*, marriage contract, he agreed not to claim any of Estate of *Job Springer*)*"²¹

Landrum Family I think the Landrum family came to Georgia from Orange or Rowan County, North Carolina. They were early arrivals in the Wilkes County, Georgia area (about 1774), and had no known contact with our Thomas family until Evan Thomas moved to Warren County, Georgia from South Carolina. The head of the family in which we are concerned was Joseph Landrum, Sr.; he had six sons but only three of them concern us: John, Zachariah, and Joseph, Jr.

Joseph Landrum, Jr., moved to Jackson County, Georgia, at about the same time that John and David Thomas, and their sister, Debby (Thomas) McCullers, did, i.e., about 1805-1807. Joseph Landrum Jr. appears in almost all the records that name our Thomases in Jackson County, and records show that he was a close neighbor there.

John and Zachariah Landrum left Georgia in 1803 to move to Washington County^b, Mississippi Territory (as did John Gilmore, below).

[Mississippi Territory – Washington Co.]

"1804	Zachariah	Zachariah	114 acs	Waters of	Pre-emption	3 Mar 1803	252	Allowed	D	14"	²²
Mar 24	Landrum	Landrum		Laura's Creek							

[Mississippi Territory]

"*Zachariah Landrum's* case, No. 127 on the docket of the Board, and No. 86 on the books of the Register.

"*Claim* – A right of pre-emption of one hundred and fourteen acres, under the third section of the act.

"The Claimant presented his claim, together with a surveyor's plot of the land claimed, in the following words and figures, viz.:

"*To the Commissioners appointed, in pursuance of the act of the Congress passed the 3d day of March, 1803, for receiving and adjusting claims to lands south of the Tennessee, and east of Pearl river.*

"Please to take notice, that the following tract of land, situated on the west side of Tombigbee, Washington county, on the waters of Laura's creek, butted and bounded on all sides by vacant land, beginning on a red oak, and runs, north, seventeen degrees west, crossing a small branch at eight chains fifty links, another at nine chains fifty links, in all twenty-eight chains fifty links, to a stake with two post oaks and a sweet gum, pointers; thence, north, seventy-three east, forty chains, to a stake with a Spanish oak and two hickory pointers; thence, south seventeen degrees east, twenty-eight chains fifty links, with a post oak and maple pointers; thence to the beginning; having such marks, natural and artificial, as are represented in the plot

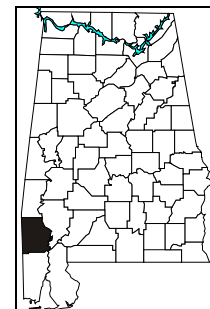


Fig. 3 Washington County, Alabama

^a This is Job Springer Jr., who predeceased his father, and whose widow married John Gilmore.

^b The area they settled in is now Washington County, Alabama, in the southeastern part of the state.

annexed, containing one hundred and fourteen acres: is claimed by *Zachariah Landrum*, under and by virtue of the third section of the above recited act; and now exhibited unto the Register of the Land Office established east of Pearl river, to be recorded as directed by said act. To all which he begs leave to refer, as also to the copy of the plot herewith filed.

Zachariah Landrum

“22 March 1804.

[Plot omitted.]

“Surveyed 22d March 1804, by T. Malone. Chain carriers, John Gordon and Isaac Stanley.

“Entered into record of claims, vol. 1, page 252, by Edward Lloyd Wailes, for

Joseph Chambers, *Register*

“John Walker and Samford McClendon^a were presented as witnesses, and being duly sworn and interrogated by the Board, they deposed, that they were not interested in this claim.

“The said McClendon testified, that he knew that *Zachariah Landrum* inhabited and cultivated the land in question on the 3d of March 1803, and before that time, and ever since; and that he was at that time the head of a family.

“The said Walker testified, that he left this country in February 1803, at which time *Zachariah Landrum* was in the habitation and cultivation of the land in question; that when he, Walker, returned in the winter of the same year, he found *Landrum* in the possession of the same land, which had the appearance of having been cultivated during the time that he, Walker, was absent; that said *Landrum* was, before and after the month of February, 1803, the head of a family.

“Thomas Malone, surveyor, was presented as a witness, and, being duly sworn, deposed that the surveyed the land in question, and made said plot, which exhibited a true and correct view of the land claimed, with such marks, natural and artificial, as were therein laid down that he know of no interfering lines; and that said land lay on the west side of the Tombigbee river, and below the old Choctaw boundary line.

“The Board ordered that the case be postponed for consideration.”²³

“*Zachariah Landrum*’s case: commenced in page 667.

“One due consideration, the Board is of opinion that this claimant is entitled to a right of pre-emption to one hundred and fourteen acres of land, to be located as follows, to wit:

“Beginning at a red oak, being the same described in the plot returned to the Register’s Office, as his beginning corner; thence, north, seventeen degrees west, twenty-eight chains fifty links; thence, north, seventy-three degrees east, forty chains; thence, south, seventeen degrees east, twenty-eight chains fifty links; thence, direct to the place of beginning. And the Board doth order that a certificate be granted to him accordingly.”²⁴

I cannot find a Laura’s Creek on a modern topographical map, but it must have been somewhere in the vicinity of old St. Stephens on the Tombigbee River, as that was where the early land office and the Choctaw Trading Post was located, and the only place even approaching a town or a center of civilization in the area at that time.

1808 Census, Washington County, Mississippi Territory²⁵

Name	White Male Over 21	White Male Under 21	White Female Over 21	White Female Under 21	Slaves
John Landrum	2	5	3	2	1
Zachariah Landrum	2	4	2	3	2
John Gilmore	1	4	2	3	0

^a John Walker was a similar claimant (same date), with Tandy Walker, to 419 acres, and Samford McClendon was one of the witnesses to that claim. Thomas Malone was also the surveyor. Samford McClendon had his own claim (same date) for 99 acres on Laura’s Creek; *Zachariah Landrum* was one of his chain carriers. John Gordon made a similar claim (same date) for 113 acres on Laura’s Creek; *Zachariah Landrum* was one of his chain carriers.

By the time of the 1810 census, John Landrum and John Gilmore had moved east across the Tombigbee River to what became Clarke County, Alabama, where the first court of Clarke County was held at John Landrum's house, but Zachariah Landrum remained in Washington County:

“Clarke County, Mississippi Territory
1st Monday, Feb 1813
Court at *John Landrum's*...”²⁶

“Clarke County, Mississippi Territory
25 Mar 1814
Court at *John Landrum's*...”²⁷

1810 Census, Washington County, Mississippi Territory²⁸

Name	White Male Over 21	White Male Under 21	White Female Over 21	White Female Under 21	Slaves
Zachariah Landrum	3	2	1	3	1

An intriguing footnote to the Landrum sojourn in Washington County, Alabama, is provided by Mr. Robert Adams, a descendant of Mary (Thomas) Henson, daughter of John and Phoebe Thomas:

“...Polly Thomas Henson scrawled a note in the margin of her son Asa's cattle tally book much later in Texas, that she was ‘borned’ on a farm near Warren, Georgia in 1807 and later lived near Milry, Alabama...”

Millry, Alabama, is in the northern part of present-day Washington County, as shown in the accompanying map, so it appears that at some time in the fuzzy years of the Thomas family's arrival in Alabama they had lived in Washington County.

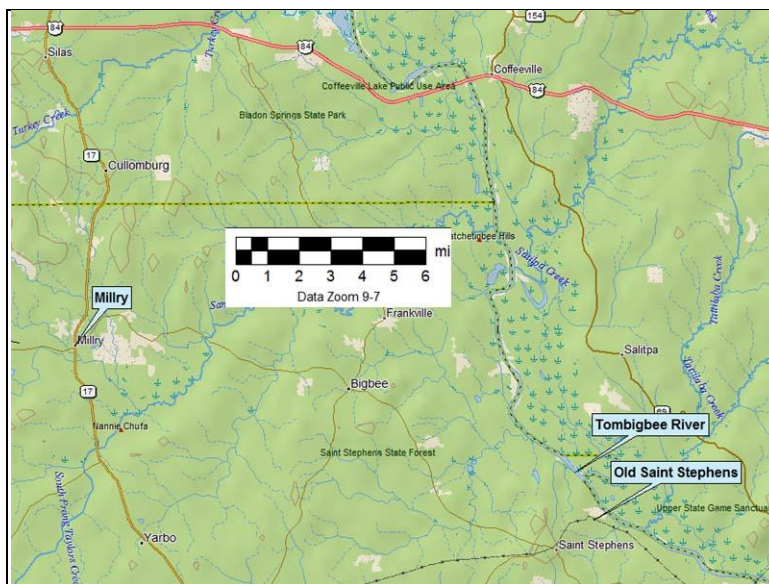


Fig. 4 Northeastern part of Washington County, Alabama

Beginning in 1811 we find a series of Alabama land patents to some very familiar names:

Land Grants in Alabama

Name	Residence	Township	Range	Date
Zachariah Landrum	Washington Co.	8	3W	9/4/1811 ²⁹
Joab ^a Springer	Washington Co.	9	4W	2/16/1816 ³⁰
Jesse B. Landrum ^b	Clarke Co.	8	2	1/29/1816 ³¹
Henry Landrum ^c	Greene Co.	4	5W	2/5/1822 ³²
John Landrum ^d	Marengo Co.	17	2	3/6/1822 ³³
John Gilmore	Marengo Co.	16	2	10/24/1823 ³⁴
John Gilmore, Sr.	Marengo Co.	16	2	8/30/1825 ³⁵
Job Springer	Greene Co.	19	1	2/20/1830 ³⁶

John Landrum, brother of Zachariah, died in Clarke County, Alabama before August 1818:

“1st Monday Aug 1818 ... Estate of *John Landrum*:
Administrator: James Daniel discharged”³⁷

Zachariah Landrum and his family eventually moved to Marengo County, Alabama. By early 1831, he and at least a couple of his sons had moved to the area that became the Lake Creek Settlement in later Montgomery County, Texas, and where they each received a land grant of one League (4,428.4) acres on 10 April 1831.

Zachariah Landrum died about 1833, in Texas, when he wrote his will:

“Landrum, Zachariah, deceased Letitia Landrum, Executrix

“I, Zachariah Landrum of the jurisdiction of Austin in Texas being sick and wishing to dispose of my worldly estate do make and ordain the following as my last will and testament in manner and form as follows, to wit:

“I give and bequeath unto my wife, Letitia Landrum all my estate both real and personal except such as herein after excepted, to be disposed of by her, at any time in such manner and upon such terms as she may think proper to do so.

“It is my will and desire that the League of land granted to me by the authorities of the State of Coahuila & Texas on which I now reside be equally divided by a line running North and South, and that the West half thereof be divided into four equal divisions according to quantity, and that my son John Landrum have his portion laid out on the North end of the said half League.

“William M. Rankin the second lot adjoining John Landrum’s tract on the south side this League.

“William Landrum the third lot adjoining William Rankin’s tract on the south side thereof and Jeremiah Worsham the fourth lot on South end of the said half League of land, except he shall prefer the North end of the last half of my said League of Land in that case he shall have a quantity of land equal to that herein bequeathed to my other heirs granted him of the North end of the East half of my said league of Land.

“And my wife Letitia Landrum shall retain the lot or tract herein before mentioned as intended for him on the south end of the West half of my said League of land.

“I will and bequeath unto *John Springer*^e a portion of land equal in quantity with my other heirs herein provided for to be laid out on the south end of the East half of my League in such manner as to include his present residence and improvements, but not so as to include my improvements whereon I now reside nor any part thereof.

“I nominate and appoint my wife Letitia Landrum sole executrix of this last will and testament.

^a “Joab” is a misspelling of “Job.”

^b Son of John Springer.

^c Son of John Springer.

^d John Landrum (Sr.) died in 1818, so *this* John Landrum might have been the son of either John Landrum Sr. or of Zachariah Landrum.

^e John May Springer, son of Job Springer, Jr. and Lydia (Bishop) May-Springer, married Zachariah Landrum’s daughter Elizabeth.

“In witness I hereunto set my hand & seal the 11th day of Jul A.D. 1833.

Zachariah /m/ Landrum

“Signed & Sealed in presence of: Raleigh Rogers, Thos J. Smith, Wm. W. Ford, Mat. Hubert, Ezekiel Springer, Polly Ann Rogers, Jesse Grimes.”³⁸

“Filed 27th day of May, Recorded 27 day of June 1840. Record of wills, pages 222, 3 7 4.

“22 Oct 1833 -- Department of Bexar, Jurisdiction of Austin. ‘To James B. Miller first Constitutional Rigidior of said jurisdiction, the petition of Letitia Landrum respectfully represents her husband Zachariah Landrum died on the 19th of Jul last [1833], and leaving a will and herself as executrix the will she presents and prays that it may be admitted to record and that letters may be granted to her as executrix. Letitia /m/ Landrum Matthew Hubert and *Ezekiel* (?Alfried E.) *Springer* certify as to the validity of the will, as they were witnesses to same.’”

Children of Zachariah & Letitia (Tynes?) Landrum were:

- a. Elizabeth Landrum; m. John May Springer^a [m. bond 9 December 1825, Marengo Co., Alabama]
- b. Sara Landrum; m. William Rankin
- c. John Landrum; m. 1) Martha Curry 2 Jul 1824 in Marengo Co., AL, 2) Mary Wells
- d. William Landrum; m. Nancy Gilmore^b 24 Sep 1825 in Marengo Co., AL
- e. Catherine Landrum; m. Jeremiah Worsham

Gilmore Family The Gilmore family had minimum contact with our Thomas family until they both arrived in Marengo County, Alabama. But the Gilmore family was also from Warren County, Georgia – at least to an extent. John Gilmore, who seemed to have accompanied Zachariah and John Landrum to the Mississippi Territory, lived for a while in Wilkes County, Georgia, before Warren County was created. His brother, James Gilmore, though, was a reasonably close neighbor of the Evan Thomas family in Warren County as will be shown in the tax records below.

John Gilmore’s life history is best summarized in his Revolutionary War Pension Application, which he filed in Marengo County, Alabama, in 1836:

“State of Alabama, Marengo County

“On this 24th day of March in the year of our Lord 1836, personally appeared in Open Court, before the Circuit Court of said County and State, now sitting, John Gilmore, who being 1st duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath, make the following Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832: To wit:

“I, John Gilmore, was born in the County of Lancaster in the then Colony of Pennsylvania, on the 8th day of November A.D. 1759 – (according to an entry made in the family Bible by my father which is now, I believe, in North Carolina and cannot be procured by me) – I was 76 years old on the 8th day of November last – at the time, I went into service was a resident of the County of Cumberland and North Carolina – a few years after the Revolutionary War, removed to Lincoln County in the State of Georgia – (though first to Wilkes County in the same State) – from Lincoln, I moved to Washington County in the Territory of Mississippi, now the State of Alabama – in which State I have remained until the present time – and I am now a citizen of Marengo County in the same State.

“In the month of April, in the year 1777, or 1778, (I cannot now certainly say which, while I resided in the County of Cumberland in North Carolina, I was employed as a substitute by one John Cole of the same County, who had been drafted to serve 3 months in the company of one Capt. Joshua Guess, (or Giss or Guest) whose company, I accordingly joined, said Company was stationed in camp, on Cape Fear River, a few miles below Cross Creek, now called Fayetteville in North Carolina – did not act in connection with

^a The oldest daughter of Elizabeth Landrum and John May Springer was Lydia Springer, who married William Thomas, son of John Thomas.

^b Nancy Gilmore was the daughter of John Gilmore (discussed next).

any other body of troops – and was not (I believe) under the command of any other officers than those of the company – I served in said company, encamped all the time at that place, as nearly as I can recollect and as I firmly believe, about 3 months – during all which time I pursued no civil occupation – and was then dismissed without any written discharge – I was a private soldier in the said company – and never received an officers commission – I was then a youth --

“In the month of September (I think) in the year following the one when I was employed as a substitute as aforesaid, I turned out as a volunteer and joined the company of one captain Nathan King, in which Thomas Armstrong was Lieut. -- which formed a part of the 2nd Regiment of North Carolina militia, of this Regiment one Col. Brown was (I believe) the commander – though he left it about the time I joined and went home – so that the command devolved on one Major (perhaps Brigade Major) McIntosh. This Regiment and the first were subject to the orders of Gen. William Arrington. From Cross Creek (the place of rendezvous) we were marched to the East Side of Pedee River in South Carolina, opposite to what were called the Cheraw Hills, where we were stationed in Camp. There I remained in service until the 3 months for which I volunteered had expired, engaged in no civil pursuits – and then received there a written discharge from Gen. Arrington. But that has been lost many years. At this time, when Capt. King’s Company was discharged, I was employed by one Nathaniel Caruthers, a private in the company of Captain Page, to act as his substitute. In his place I served during 12 days, and was then discharged with the whole company. Said company belonged to the same regiment as the former, and was stationed at the same place.

“During these two periods of three months each, I was not in any engagement, or otherwise employed them as above described. But I was afterwards attached to parties under the command of Colonel Philip Alston, Major Edward Winslow and Captain Henry Gaster – in which we had some skirmishes with parties of Tories – and killed and wounded some of them. But my memory is now so impaired that I cannot make a statement of those services with as much particularity as the War Department requires.

“To the above declaration to the truth of which I freely swear, I know no witnesses, whom I could now procure --

“I further, hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present and declare that my name is not on the list or Pension Roll of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Gilmore

[Henry Collier, a clergyman, and William C. Lipscomb gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

“The following interrogatories, prescribed by the War Department – were propounded to Mister John Gilmore and open Court, and answered as follows:

“Int. 1st When and in what year were you born?

“Ans: In the County of Lancaster in the Colony of Pennsylvania, on 8 November, A.D. 1759

“2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

“Ans: I have not – though I have at my house in this county, a copy of the Bible, in which is a transcript made many years ago, of the record of my birth – in a family Bible of my father’s.

“3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

“Ans: When I entered the service, I resided in Cumberland County North Carolina – after the Revolution, I moved into Wilkes County, Georgia, thence into Lincoln County in the same State – thence to Washington County in the Mississippi Territory (now the State of Alabama) thence to Clark County in the same – and afterwards into this County of Marengo – where I now reside.

“4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

“Ans: During my first term of three months service, I was a substitute for one John Cole of Cumberland County North Carolina – afterwards I volunteered for the space of three months – and immediately after, was a substitute for 12 days, for one Nathaniel Caruthers.

“5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

“Reply—The first Company in which I served was (I believe) an independent company, which had no connection with any other bodies of troops – the Captain’s name was Joshua Guess, or Giss or Guest. The second Company to which I attached myself composed a part of the 2nd Regiment (I believe) of a Brigade (or Division, I don’t know which) of General William Arrington. The third Company I belonged

to, formed a part of the same Regiment – during each term of service, I was stationed in Camp. And when the company was marched during the second term of service to the Pedee in South Carolina, I recollect that we arrived about the time of gathering corn – Captain Conyers is the only officer of the regular army I recollect.

“6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

“Ans: I received one from General William Arrington; but I have now no idea of what ever became of it --

“7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

“Reply — John Collier, Wm. C. Lipscomb, George Keller, Reuben Hildreth, David Curry, Richard Whitehead—Charles Pistole-- and others.

S/ John Gilmore

“Sworn and subscribed in open court this 25th day of March 1836

S/ Thomas Ringgold, Clerk

State of Alabama, Marengo County

“On this the 7th day of October in the year of our Lord 1835 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Henry W. Collier Judge of the Circuit Court of the County aforesaid John Gilmore a resident of said County of Marengo aged 76 years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath made the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832 --

“That he was born in the State of Pennsylvania in Lancaster County in the year 1759, and that the record of his age is in his family Bible which is now in his possession – that when he was called into Service he lived in the County of Cumberland in North Carolina from thence he removed to Wilkes and afterwards to Lincoln County in the State of Georgia: from thence he came to the State of Alabama and first resided in Washington County then in Clark, then in Wilcox and now in Marengo where he has been living many years: He first was in service under Captain Joshua Guest as a Substitute for one John Cole for three months in Cumberland County North Carolina in the Fall of 1778. After the expiration of this Service in the Fall of 1779 he volunteered and served as a foot Soldier for three months under Captain Nathan King of the Second Regiment under General Arrington from whom he got a discharge which he has lost. On the same day that he was discharged he became a substitute for one Nathaniel Carruthers for 12 days in the same regiment under Captain Page. Soon after his time was out – he became a volunteer under Colonel Robert Roane and Major Winslow to act against the Tories in Cumberland County and had a brush with them at Jacob Mathews' just above Cross Creek Killed two that day and wounded four killed two more next day. In his company there were 18 in the Tory company 25: he served in this tour one month. After this served one month against Tories in different trips under Colonel Phil Alston in same county – He served afterwards to trips against the Tories under Captain Gaster in all about 12 days. The Tories were numerous in Cumberland and at one time had the upper hand. The last service he performed was under one captain Teal after Tories five days. --

“He hereby relinquish his every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State.

“The following answers were given to the interrogatories propounded by the Court as are prescribed by the War department

“1st I was born in Lancaster County in Pennsylvania in the year 1759

“2nd I have a record of my age in our family Bible which is now in my possession

“3rd I lived when called into Service in Cumberland County in North Carolina; from thence I removed to Wilkes and then to Lincoln County in the State of Georgia, from Georgia I removed to Alabama and lived first in Washington, then in Clarke then in Wilcox and then in Marengo County where I now live.

“4th was first a Substitute one John Cole for three months and the Fall of 1778, and the Fall of 1779 I volunteered as a foot Soldier for three months. I then was a Substitute for one Nathaniel Carruthers for 12 days. I then volunteered several times against the Tories.

“5th My Services were for the most part and Cumberland in putting down the Tories. There were two regiments at one time raised I belonged to place second, these were under General Arrington. The only officers I recollect were Colonel Roane, Major Winslow, Colonel Phil Alston --

“6th I received a discharge from General Arrington one which I have lost

“7th William Dorse lived in the neighborhood at the time & those of my services. Honble F. L. Lyon, Thomas Ringgold Esquire and many others I could name if it were necessary.
S/ John Gilmore

Sworn and subscribe the day & year aforesaid”³⁹

As shown above in the Springer “introduction” John Gilmore married secondly, in Greene County, Alabama, Lydia (Bishop) May-Springer, the widow of Job Springer, Jr.

[Greene] “*Gilmore, John and Lidia Springer* – 17 March 1827; executed April 9th by Thomas F. Moody, J.C.C.; both of age.”⁴⁰

[Marengo] “Marriage Contract between *John Gilmore* and *Lydia Springer*. 7 June 1830. He agrees not to claim any of the lands of *Job Springer*, deceased. Witnesses: *John M. Springer*^a, *Elizabeth Springer*^b.”⁴¹

John Gilmore died in Marengo County, Alabama in 1841-1842. A very terse abstract of his will is as follows:

“John Gilmore’s will dated 29 March 1841, probated January Term 1842, names:
son, James Gilmore^c, son, John Gilmore^d, daughter Elizabeth Robin,, son Thomas Gilmore^e, daughter, *Nancy Landrum*^f, son, William Gilmore, daughter, Anny Henson^g.”⁴²

Evan Thomas is, for now, our Thomas progenitor. He is estimated to have been born about 1750-1755. At this time we do not know who his parents might have been, or where he came from prior to his arrival in what became Union County, South Carolina. His wife was never named in any record that has been found, but I strongly suspect at this time that she was a Springer, and a sister of one, or all, of the four Springers – Job, John, Ezekiel, and Thomas – with whom Evan Thomas came in contact in Union County, SC, and in Warren County, GA. Based on what is known about Evan Thomas’ children, it would seem that Evan was married about 1775, and this precedes his first known appearance in South Carolina by four years – so he *might have been* married elsewhere (and possibly some other state).

The first South Carolina record in which our Evan Thomas is found is a 1779 petit jury list for the “Spartan District” (actually sub-district) of South Carolina’s Ninety-Six District. This sub-district covered the counties of present-day Union, Spartanburg, and Cherokee. And in this listing

^a John May Springer, son of Job Springer, Jr., and Lydia (Bishop) May-Springer.

^b Elizabeth (Landrum) Springer, daughter of Zachariah Landrum, and wife of John May Springer.

^c Mary, a daughter of James Gilmore, married John and Phoebe Thomas’s youngest son, Simeon. James Gilmore was the surety to the marriage of Nancy Thomas (dau. of John and Phoebe) to Samuel Smith on 18 Jan 1821 in Wilcox County, Alabama.

^d John Gilmore was the bondsman for the wedding of Lucinda Thomas (dau. of John and Phoebe) and William Morris on 25 Jan 1830 in Marengo County, Alabama.

^e Thomas Gilmore was the bondsman for the marriage of Joseph Henson and Mary Thomas on 22 Jan 1829; he married Caroline Hill 7 Jan 1830 in Marengo County, AL, with John Gilmore acting as bondsman. See records below; he was witness to a number of Montgomery and Grimes County deeds involving the Thomases.

^f Married William Landrum, son of Zachariah Landrum.

^g “Anny,” here is almost certainly the Hannah Gilmore that married William Henson in 1829 in Marengo County, AL. William Henson was the brother of Joseph Henson that married Mary (Polly) Thomas in 1828 in Marengo County. Mary Thomas was the daughter of John and Phoebe Thomas.

of petit jurors we find a number of familiar names: “15. *Joseph Breed* ... 82. *George Harlin* ... 83. *Aaron Harlin* ... 87. *Obediah Howard* ... 89. *Thomas Springer* ... 118. **Evan Thomas** ... 120. *James Gray*^a ... 126. *Avery Breed* ...”⁴³ To qualify to serve on a jury one had to be of good repute, and a land owner (technically, to have paid some property tax).

The list of men who served in the South Carolina 2nd Spartan Regiment (under Col. Brandon) during the Revolutionary War, but mostly after the “fall of Charleston” (May 1780), is equally interesting and revealing:

After 12 May 1780 (the fall of Charleston, SC)

“*Breed, Joseph*

b. 1 April 1738

d. Before May 1807

m. Catherine Lee

“He served in the militia under Col. Brandon. Patriotic Index Supplement; A.A. 726; X2571”⁴⁴

“*Breed, Nathan*

b. c. 1748

m. *Mary Harlan*

“He served in the militia under Col. Brandon after the fall of Charleston. A.A. 727; X2750”⁴⁵

“*Burson, Isaac*

“He served as an express rider. A.A. 945; X725”⁴⁶

“*Geeseling, Charles*

“He served in the militia under Col. Brandon after the fall of Charleston. A.A. 2749; X2848”⁴⁷

“*Geeseling, William*

“He served in the militia under Col. Brandon after the fall of Charleston. A.A. 2750; X2849”⁴⁸

“**Thomas, Evan**

“He served in the militia under Capts. Blessingham, Putnam and Col. Brandon after the fall of Charleston. A.A. 7721; X88; X3147”⁴⁹

“*Thomas, John*^b

“He served in the militia under Col. Brandon. X3149”⁵⁰

“*Thomas, Joseph*^c

“He first served in Virginia and North Carolina units. While residing in Ninety Six District (Union District), he enlisted during 1782 under Col. Brandon. He was a guard over Tory prisoners sent from Unionville to the Pee Deed River. (Moved to Ga.)”⁵¹

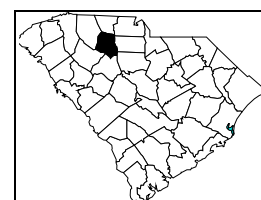


Fig. 5 Union County, South Carolina

Evan Thomas, as the following deed records will clearly show, was living in that area of Union County, South Carolina, where the Separatist Baptist Church was first established on Fairforest Creek. The exact location of the original church has been lost. It is also interesting in the enclosed map how many Quaker Monthly Meetings were also located in the same area.

^a James Gray will appear prominently in Warren County, Georgia, records as a nearby neighbor of Evan Thomas. He became the brother-in-law of David McCullers, the latter of whom married Debby Thomas, daughter of Evan Thomas.

^b This is thought to be the John Thomas who signed his name with a mark, and who was an adjacent land owner to Evan Thomas.

^c This Joseph Thomas lived adjacent to Evan Thomas – see narrative to follow – and seems to have been closely related, though how, and if, is yet to be determined.

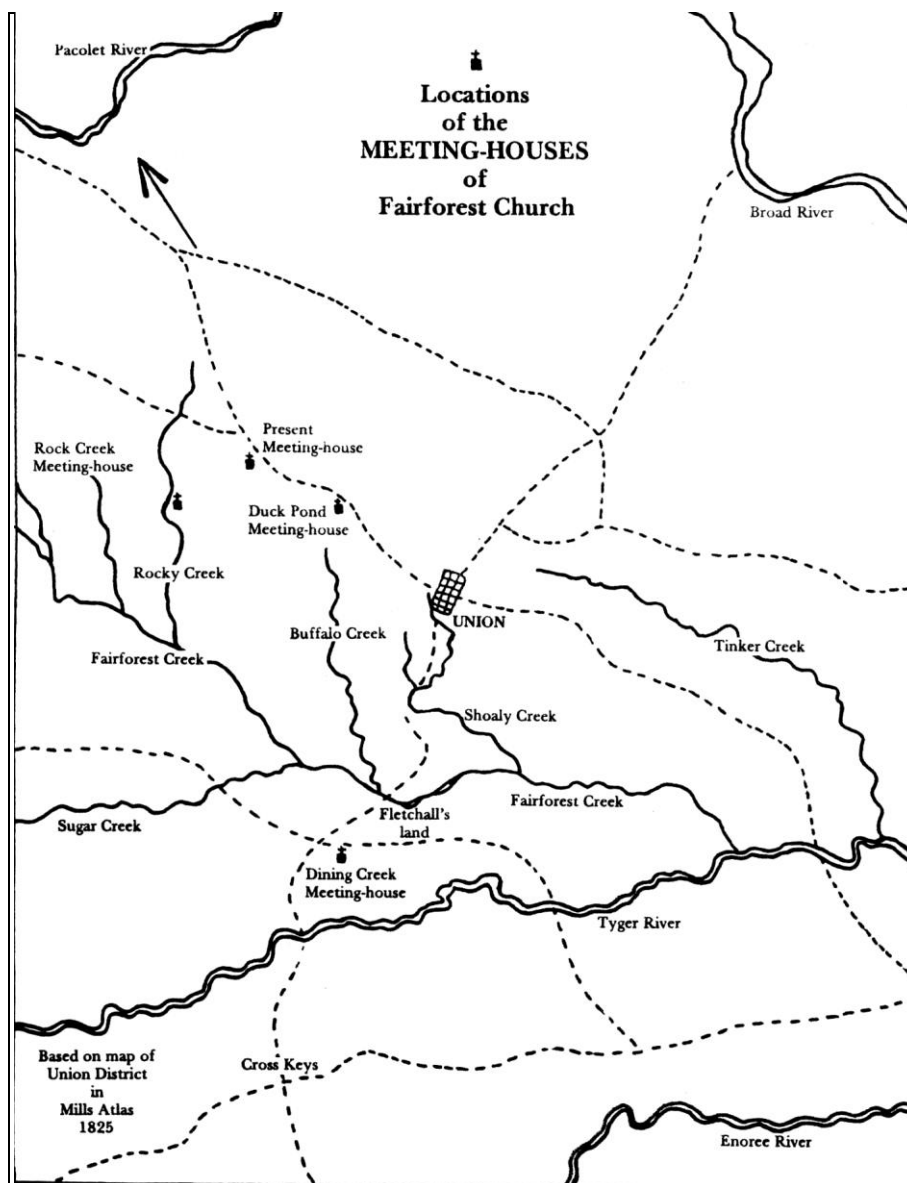


Fig. 6 Fairforest Creek area of Union County, South Carolina

A Union County deed that does not mention Evan Thomas, but nevertheless appears to hold important clues about the relationships of some of the families that are closely associated with Evan Thomas is the following:

[Union] "27 May 1783, *Joseph Breed*^a of South Carolina, planter, and Catty his wife, to *Avery Breed* of Ninety Six District, planter, for £16 sterling, 150 acres in Craven County^b on a small branch of the waters of Fairforrest granted to said *Joseph Breed* by George III 23 June 1774. *Joseph Breed* (Seal), Catherine Bred (X) (Seal). Wit: *George Harlin*, *Job Springer* (X), *Obediah Howard*, *Thomas Scales*, *Elizabeth Simmons* (X). Recorded 26 June 1787."⁵²

^a Joseph Breed and Avery Breed were brothers; Obadiah Howard and George Harlan were brothers-in-law of Joseph and Avery Breed.

^b South Carolina's evolution of judicial districts and counties is a complex subject. But before Union County was created in 1783, it was considered a part of Craven County.

George “Harlin” and “Obediah” Howard were brothers-in-law of Joseph Breed Jr. and Avery Breed. For Job Springer (Sr.) to have appeared in this list of witnesses – as he does again in another deed to follow – *suggests* that he, too, might have been a brother-in-law of Joseph Breed, George Harlan, and/or Obadiah Howard. Supposedly all the sisters of Joseph Breed Jr. are known (but I have my doubts about this). And as has already been pointed out in the “introduction” to the Springer family, Seth Howard (believed to be a brother of Obadiah Howard) signed as a witness to a 1774 deed with Job Springer in the area of Wilkes County, Georgia.

The first deed in which Evan Thomas is named is the following in which he bought the 150-acre grant of Joseph Burson:

[Union] “Lease and release. 18 Dec 1783, *Joseph Burson* and *Mary*^a his wife to **Evan Thomas** of State of South Carolina, planter, for £400 SC money, 150 acres on a branch of Fairforrest Creek called Buffolow’s Creek, granted to said *Joseph Burson*, 29 April 1768, recorded in Secretary’s Office Book CCC, page 178, in Auditor’s Office, Book H, page 450. *Joseph Burson* (Seal), *Mary Burson* (Seal), Witt: *Isaac Burson*, Wm. Nix (X), Wm. Little (+). Recorded 28 March 1786.”⁵³

David Thomas Will Excursus: We know that our Evan Thomas had a son named David, and a daughter named Debby (Deborah). So those name appearing in the following Surry/Stokes County^b, North Carolina records provides us with a tantalizing and possible clue about Evan Thomas’s family. A David Thomas (possible brother of Evan Thomas?) appeared in the Townfork Creek area of what was then Surry County, but is now in southern Stokes County, in the following deed:

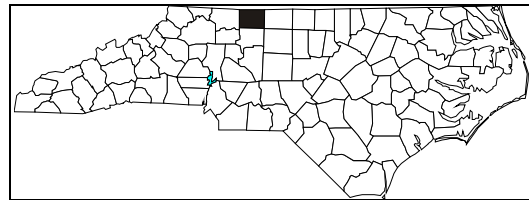


Fig. 7 Stokes County, North Carolina

[Surry, NC] “30 July 1782, Isaac Garrison to *David Thomas* 12 pds 200 ac both sides Lick Creek, water of Townfork Creek^c, adj. sd. Garrison, Richard Goode, Thomas Goode, & Thomas Goode, Junr. Ambrose Blackburn) S/ Isaac Garrison James Hampton) Samuel Hampton)”⁵⁴

David Thomas died the following year – in 1783 – leaving the following nuncupative (oral) “will”:

“State of North Carolina } This Came before me a Justice of the Peace for said County, **Deboreth**
Surry County } **Thomas**, and **Sarah Thomas** and made oath upon the holy Avangelist of Almighty God to the Last will and Testament of **David Thomas**, then being in his proper Senses to the best their Knowledge, which Dec^d the 25 of Nov 1783.

“**Deboreth Thomas** (Deposeth and Sayeth that she heard **David Thomas** in his last Sickness call John Martin to his bed side: and told him the said Martin that if he would Come and live with him that he

^a Joseph and Mary Burson were the parents of Isaac Burson (a witness to this deed). Isaac Burson was the father of Hannah Burson, who married David Thomas, presumed son of Evan Thomas.

^b Stokes County was created in 1789 from Surry County, North Carolina.

^c Townfork Creek has its headwaters in almost the center of present-day Stokes County. It flows generally southward to cross the Stokes-Forsyth County line, then bend back upwards to cross the county line again to empty into the Dan River in the south central part of Stokes County. I cannot find a Lick Creek, but there is a Leak Branch that empties into Townfork Creek just below the Stokes-Forsyth County line.

would give the Said Martin one hundred acres of Land Lying at the Lower End of his tract and that no person shall ever take it from him, and further Requested the said John Martin to give him his hand upon the promise which the said Martin Did and further sayeth not.

“**Sarah Thomas** Sayeth upon her oath that she heard her father **David Thomas** on his death sickness Call John Martin to his bed side and told him the Said Martin that if he would come and live and Live [sic] with him that he would give the said Martin one hundred acres of Land lying at the Lower End of his tract of Land and that no person shall ever take it away from him and further Requested of the said John Martin to give him his hand upon the promise which the said Martin Did and further sayeth not.

Proved before me

Richard Goode J.P.

Nov 2nd 1783.

Deboreth T Thomas

Sarah S Thomas

“**Charles Geasley** upon his oath declares that he was at the house of **David Thomas**, when he was dying with his death sickness, and heard **David Thomas** tell John Martin that if he could Come & live with him that he would give him the said John Martin one hundred acres of Land at the lower End of his tract of Land, and that no person should interrupt him and Call^d upon John Martin to give him his hand to confirm the Bargain as he understood, which the said Martin did, and that he believes the said **Thomas** was in his proper senses at the time, and further sayeth not.

Sworn Before me

Richard Good

} Nov the 3rd 1783
}”⁵⁵

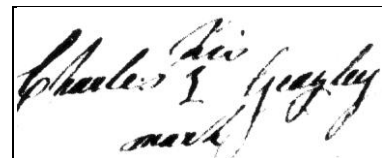
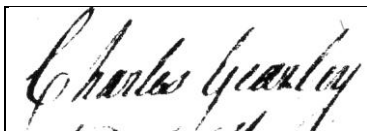
Charles I Geasley

And then three years later Deborah and *an* Evan Thomas sold the remaining 100 acres that was not given to John Minor:

[Surry, NC] “9 November 1786. **Even** and **Deborah Thomas** to Isaac Garrison, 40 pounds, 100 acres waters Lick Creek adjoining John Branson and Garrison being half 200 acres surveyed for *David Thomas*, deceased. Witnesses: Andrew Robinson and John Martin. Signed: **Evan Thomas** and **Deborah (X) Thomas**.”⁵⁶

In the “will,” which is really a series of three depositions, Sarah Thomas was explicitly named as a daughter of David Thomas. But the identity and relationship of “Deboreth” Thomas is not stated. Clearly from the 1786 deed, she and Evan Thomas were heirs of David Thomas, else they would not be selling the remaining part of David Thomas’s land. Was “Deboreth” a wife, or a sister of David Thomas, or was she the wife of Evan Thomas? And is the above Evan Thomas “ours,” i.e., the Evan Thomas of Union County, South Carolina?

There is yet another very important and interesting clue in the above “will,” and it involves the third deposition. In the easy-to-find abstract of the above will,⁵⁷ the author says that the third deposition was made by “Charles Yearley.”^a Other people on the Internet have speculated that the third deposition was made by “Charles Beasley.” I found the original on microfilm, and made my transcription, above, from that. The name, as written, in both places actually appeared as:



^a “Charles (L) Yearley also swore on 3 Nov 1783.”

I maintain that the name is actually “Charles Geasley/Geazley”!

So who is Charles “Geasley/Geazley”? I cannot find anyone who has anything close to that name in Surry or Stokes County records. But I ask my readers to recall that the name “Ghiseling” is almost always corrupted in the records. And confirmation that the above Charles Geasley/Geazley *might* well be the Charles “Geeseling” who appears with Evan Thomas in the Union County militia listing, and who later appears as a next door neighbor in Warren County, Georgia, comes from Charles Geeslin’s Revolutionary War Pension Application:

“State of Alabama, Tuscaloosa County: To wit

“*Charles Geeslin* [could be Guslin] a native of North Carolina and at this time a citizen resident of the said County of Tuscaloosa and State of Alabama makes the following declarations on oath, in order to obtain a pension from the United States of America. He states that he entered into the service of his Country during the revolutionary war and was enlisted as a regular soldier during the war by Captain Sharp (give the name of said Captain not now recollected) of the North Carolina line of regular Troops, and that the Company commanded by said Captain Sharp was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Little [sic, Archibald Lytle ?] of said North Carolina Continental Establishment, and that Colonel Lytle was commanded by General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], the said *Charles Geeslin* states that he served in the Army of the United States during the revolution for the term of six years and about six months and that whilst he so continued he was in several engagements with the British Army, particularly in the Battles of Eutaw Springs, in General Gates defeat and in the Battle of Camden, that he received a wound in the month Battle of Eutaw Springs, by a musket ball passing through his thigh which wound has more or less disabled him through life. He declares that since the revolution he has resided, chiefly in the States of Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina and that lately he moved to the State of Alabama where at present he lives in poverty and want. He states that he is now nearly 80 years of age, infirm and entirely unable to do any kind of labor for a subsistence and that his necessities on urging him to ask of his government a maintenance which heretofore whilst able to do any thing for himself he was opposed to do. He declares that he was regularly discharged at the close of the American Revolution by Captain Sharp near Charleston in the State of South Carolina and at the time he was so discharged he secured regularly his discharge which has since been destroyed by fire at a time when he had his dwelling House burned down. He declares that he is the identical same *Charles Geeslin* who was discharged as aforesaid and that he does not know of any one in this state at this time who will either identify him or prove his services as aforesaid, and he is too old, infirm and poor to obtain testimony to these facts from other states, and he hereby relinquishes all claims to previous pensions from the United States of America. In testimony whereof the said *Charles Geeslin* has hereunto set his hand and seal this 19th March 1824.

S/ *Charles Geeslin*, X his mark {seal}

Sworn to and Open Court this 19th day of March 1824.

S/ John M. Jenkins, Clk”

The North Carolina endorsement included with the above pension application is especially interesting:

“State of North Carolina, Secretary’s Office 4th of March 1825

“I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify that it appears from the muster rolls of the Continental line of this State and the Revolutionary war at *Charles Goseley* a private Soldier in Captain Sharp’s Company of the 10th Regiment, was mustered in the year 1782 for the term of 18 months, and no remark being made opposite his name on said rolls, it is believed he served out the time for which he enlisted. Given under my hand at Office in Raleigh the date above.

S/ Wm Hill

“I have no doubt the *Charles Goseley* above named, is the same person whose Declaration accompanies this Certificate, and whose name is spelt *Geeslin* in said Declaration.

S/ Wm Hill”⁵⁸

Captain Sharp of the 10th NC Regiment recruited all over the middle part of North Carolina, but most of his recruits came from the Salisbury, Rowan County, area. So we have evidence that Charles Geeslin was originally from North Carolina, and that his name was spelled in North Carolina records with a “ley” ending, and that he was probably living in the middle North Carolina area when he was first recruited.

We will need more information or clues before we can conclude that the Evan Thomas involved in the sale of David Thomas’s remaining land was “our” Evan Thomas. But I will leave the reader with the thought that I think there is a strong possibility that he was, and my best guess as to his possible relationship to David Thomas was that of a brother.

End Excursus

Evan Thomas was appointed a constable of Union County in 1785:

[Union] “24 Mar 1785 ... Ordered by the Court that William White, **Evan Thomas** & Nathaniel Henderson be and is hereby appointed Constables who took the Oath of Office Required by Law.”⁵⁹

And he was a witness to a couple of fairly unremarkable records that same year:

[Union] “Lease and release. 30 Oct & 1 Sep 1785, John Brandon of District of Ninety Six, planter, and wife Mary, to William Kenedy of same, esquire, for £600 SC money, 260 acres on west side of Broad River on the south fork of Browns Creek, part of a tract which said John Brandon holds by a North Grant 25 Sep 1766 laying below Joseph Pearson’s land. John Brandon (Seal). Mary Brandon (M) (Seal), Wit: Thomas Vance, Elias Hollingsworth, **Evan Thomas**.”⁶⁰

[Union] “28 Sep 1785 ... An Indenture of Lease and Release Between John Brandon and Mary his wife of the One part and William Kennedy Esquire of the Other part, for two hundred acres of Land, proved by the Oaths of Thomas Vance and **Evan Thomas** Witness thereunto and Ordered to be Recorded.”⁶¹

At this point I will “introduce” John Thomas, who I think is the same John Thomas that served in the Revolution with Evan Thomas, above, and who in the second record below is identified as living adjacent to Evan and Joseph Thomas:

[Union] “27 Jan 1786, George Little of Ninety Six District, Gent., to Joseph Little of same, by grant dated 23 Sep 1765 by SC to George Little, 100 acres in Craven County on a branch of Fairforrest called Dining Creek, recorded in Book FFF, page 171, now conveyed for £250 SC money. George Little (+) (Seal), Wit: *John Thomas* (X), Samuel Little (X). Recorded 26 June 1787.”⁶²

[Union] “Lease and release, 1 Feb 1786, Edmond Hays and Jemima his wife of Union Co., Ninety Six District, planter, to *John Thomas* of same, for £40 SC money, 125 acres on a branch of Fairforrest called Buffalows Branch not five feet Broad nor one foot deep, waters of Tygar River, adj. land of **Evan Thomas**, Jesse Fore, John Hays^a, *Joseph Thomas*, by patent dated 16 March 1773, memorial entered in Book M, No. 13, page 267, 1 Feb 1775. Edmond Hays (X) (Seal), Jemima Hays (X) (Seal), Wit: Elijah Palmer, Uriah Paulk, John Palmer, **Evan Thomas**.”⁶³

[Union] “7 Mar 1786 ... An Indenture of Lease and Release Between Edmond Hays and Jamima his wife of the one part, and John Hames [sic] of the other part, for One hundred and Twenty five acres of Land proved by the Oaths of **Evan Thomas** and John Palmore Witnesses thereunto and Ordered to be Recorded.”⁶⁴

^a Probably the same John Hays who was given a Power-of-Attorney to sell Joseph Breed’s land in Frederick County, Virginia.

[Union] “28 Mar 1786 ... An Indenture of Lease and Release Between *Joseph Burson* and Mary his wife of the one part and **Evan Thomas** of the other part, for One hundred and fifty acres of Land, proved by the Oaths of William Little and William Nix Witnesses thereunto and ordered to be recorded.”⁶⁵

The above record appears to be the final release of the land that Evan Thomas bought from Joseph Burson in 1783. As the following record shows, he was appointed a constable again in 1786:

[Union] “27 June 1786 ... Elishia Green, **Evan Thomas**, William Savage, John Little and James Mabray be and is hereby appointed Constables in and for the County of Union Ordered that they take the Oaths Required by Law.”⁶⁶

I will skip now to Wilkes County, Georgia, where some of the names in which we are interested appear on the tax list (Warren County was created in 1793 from mostly Wilkes County land):

1786 Wilkes County tax list:

	Capt Newsom’s Dist ^{67a}	acres
018	Job Springer	200
059	James Gilmore	200
062	Jn’o Landrum	750
068	Elizabeth Landrum	200
074	W’m Landrum	200

Returning to Union County, South Carolina, we now see that an Ezekiel Springer was living in the same general area of Evan Thomas. When Evan Thomas left Union County to go to Georgia about 1791-1792, the same George Crosley bought his land:

[Union] “14 Aug 1786, George Crossley Senior of State of Georgia, to George Crosley Junior of SC, Union County, for £100 sterling, 100 acres in Union County on waters of Fairforest and Browns Creek, part of a tract of 450 acres granted by patent to Walter Holmes by Gov. Bull of SC, and conveyed by deed to said George Crosley Senior in 1779. George Crosley (Seal). Wit: Urias Paulk, *Ezekial Springer*. Recorded 25 Sep 1786.”⁶⁸

[Union] “25 Sep 1786 ... An Indenture and Deed of Conveyance Between George Crosley Senior of the One part, and George Crosley Senior [sic – Junior?] of the other part, for one hundred acres of Land proved by the Oaths of Uriah Paulk and *Ezekiel Springer* witnesses thereunto and Ordered to be Recorded.”⁶⁹

[Union] “25 Sep 1786 ... The Petit Jury Called by the Sheriff, Jacob Paulk, Benjamin Darby, John Townsend, Philip Anderson, *John Thomas*, Joseph Gault, John Burgess, William Cooper, Robert Clover, Benjamin Hawkins, John Cane.”⁷⁰

While the following records show that another Springer – this one John Springer – was also living in the same area:

[Union] “Lease and release, 11 & 12 Jan 1787, *Obediah Howard*^b of Union County, to Zachariah Bell Senr. of same, for £75 sterling, tract of land where *John Springer* now lives, 150 acres being part of 450

^a Captain Newsom’s District, designated OO, is in that part of what became Warren County, just east of the town of Warrenton.

^b Obadiah Howard married Priscilla Breed, daughter of Joseph Breed and Priscilla Avery, and sister of Avery Breed. Joseph Breed was one of the founders of Fairforest Baptist Church, along with Joseph Burson.

acres granted to said *Obediah Howard* by SC 23 June 1774. *Obediah Howard* (Seal), Prissilla Howard (mark) (Seal), Wit: John Ewart, John McCool, Joseph Jones. Recorded 26 March 1787.”⁷¹

[Union] “29 Jan 1787, *Joseph Breed* and Catherine his wife of Wilks County, Georgia, to John Birdsong of Union County, SC, for £35 sterling, 100 acres in Union County on the east side and adjoining the creek of Fairforrest, part of tract granted to Sameul Young in 1753, 520 then in Anson County, North Carolina, and lately in Mecklingburg, and now Tryon County, said tract of 520 acres was conveyed by Samuel Young to Daniel Plummer 2 Dec 1764, recorded in Mecklinburgh County. *Joseph Breed* (Seal), Catherine Breed (X) (Seal), Wit: *George Harlin*, *Job Springer* (X), *Avery Breed*.”⁷²

[Union] “29 Jan 1787, *Joseph Breed* and Catherine his wife of Wilks County, Georgia, to John Birdsong of Union County, SC, for £30 s14 Sterling, 100 acres in Union County on the east of Fairforrest. *Joseph Breed* (Seal), Catherine Breed (X) (Seal), Wit: *George Harlon*, *Job Springer* (X), *Avery Breed*.”⁷³

The following two records again suggest a close relationship between Evan and Joseph Thomas. The two of them, on the same day, bought two parts of the same original tract from John Palmer. Notice that the second tract and deed is described as adjacent to Edmond Hays – the same Edmond Hays who sold a tract of land to John Thomas that was described as being adjacent to Evan and Joseph Thomas.

[Union] “22 June 1787, John Palmer of Union County to **Evan Thomas** of same, by grant to said John Palmer, 392 acres on Buffalow Creek a branch of Fairforrest 4 April 1785, now for £10 lawful money, conveys part of said tract, 150 acres. John Palmer (Seal) [no wit]. Recorded 26 June 1787.”⁷⁴

[Union] “22 June 1787, John Palmer of Union County to *Joseph Thomas* of same, by grant to said John Palmer, 392 acres on Buffallow Creek a branch of Fairforrest 4 April 1785, adj. Edmond Hay’s land, now for £20 lawful money, conveys part of said tract, 242 acres. John Palmer (Seal), Patty Palmer (X). [no wit.] Recorded 26 June 1787.”⁷⁵

[Union] “26 June 1787 ... A Deed of Conveyance from John Palmore and Patty his wife to **Evan Thomas** acknowledged in Open Court by John Palmore and his wife being privately examined by Thomas Brandon Esqr. who Report to the Court she freely without any fear or Dread of her heirs being Renounce her Right her Right of Dower to the said Tract of Land which was ordered to be Recorded.”⁷⁶

[Union] “26 June 1787 ... A Deed of Conveyance from John Palmore & Patty his [wife] to *Joseph Thomas* acknowledged by John Palmer and his wife being privately examined by Col. Thos. Brandon who reports to the Court that she freely and voluntarily renounce her Right of Dower to the Said Land & Ordered to be Recorded.”⁷⁷

[Union] “26 June 1787 ... A Deed of Conveyance from George Little to Joseph Little proved in open Court by the oaths of *John Thomas* and Samuel Little and ordered to be recorded.”⁷⁸

This Joseph Thomas lived to a very advanced age, and in his pension application for Revolutionary War service we can find some interesting clues about where he came from that might be applicable to our Evan Thomas, as well, if they were related.

“State of Georgia, County of Union

“On this first day of June A.D. 1854 Personally appeared before me John Davidson a Justice of the Inferior Court within and for the County and State aforesaid *Joseph Thomas* aged 95 years^a a Resident of the County of Union in the State of Georgia who being first duly Sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

^a 1854 – 95 = 1759. So he was certainly a contemporary of our Evan Thomas.

That he volunteered in the Army of the United States in the year 1782 from the State of Virginia and Served a tour of three months in the Company Commanded by Captain James Gaines^a, and in the Regiment Commanded by Colonel __ [blank in original] and that he volunteered for a Second Tour of three months from Surry County in the State of North Carolina^b in the same year and Served in the Company commanded by Captain __ [blank in original] in the Regiment of Infantry Commanded by Colonel __ [blank in original] and that he volunteered the third time for three months from Union County in the State of South Carolina and served in the Company Commanded by Captain __ [blank in original] and the Regiment of Infantry Commanded by Colonel Brandon and that during the periods of his Services as above named he marched to Moravian town as guard of prisoners and in the latter part of his services was ordered by Col. Thomas Brandon as a guard to Convey some Tory prisoners from Union County South Carolina across the Pedee River and he further States by Reason of old age and the Consequent loss of memory that he cannot swear positively as to the names of all the officers that he served under and the dates of his Services but according to the best of his Recollection he served not less than the periods above mentioned.

“He hereby Relinquishes every Claim to a pension and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll or Agency of any State. And states that he is the identical *Joseph Thomas* named in the Certificate of discharge of which a certified copy is herewith presented (the original being filed in the pension office of the United States in the year of 1853 on his application for Bounty Land).

“And he furthermore by these presents Constitutes, appoints and fully empowers and authorizes irrevocably William R. Query and Henry H. Walker of Stork Hill Georgia his True and lawful Attorneys for him and in his name and Stead to examine into to prosecute demand ask and receive from the Government Officers of the United States, all his Rights in any manner of Claim to pension or annuity that he is or may be entitled under the act aforesaid hereby Confirming whatsoever my said Attorneys shall or may legally do in and about the premises. Witness my hand and seal.

S/ John Davidson, JIC
April the 27th 1783

S/ Joseph Thomas, X his mark {seal}

“Sir/ Be pleased to pay Mr. James Floyd two pounds Virginia Specie and three Shillings for your corn tax the two pounds is for your Debt owed my Class for hiring a Soldier and shall be your discharge from said Class. Given under my hand &c

To Mr. *Joseph Thomas*
Received this 7th Oct. 1853”⁷⁹

S/ James Gaines, Capt.

Returning to Wilkes County, Georgia, for the tax list of 1787...

1787 Wilkes County tax list:

	Capt Hugh Rees's Dist ^{80c}	acres
008	Job Springer	200
015	Zachariah Landram	
050	John Landram	550
074	Joseph Landram	

And in Union County, Evan Thomas was appointed one of the overseers of a road:

[Union] “24 Sep 1787 ... Moses Collier resigned his appointment of being Overseer of the Road and **Evan Thomas** appointed in his Room by the Court.”⁸¹

^a Captain James Gaines was a resident of Culpeper County, Virginia, but he probably drew recruits from several counties surrounding Culpeper County – to include, possibly Frederick and Loudoun counties, Virginia.

^b The coincidence that he served for a short time in Surry County, *North Carolina*, and at about the same time that David Thomas died there whose land was sold by *a* Evan Thomas is too much not to notice!

^c Captain Hugh Rees's District, designated OO, is the same district as Capt Newsom's District the previous year.

I cannot be sure if the following records refer to the John Thomas who I suspect is closely related to our Evan Thomas (there were at least two others in the area), but I tend to think that it does:

[Union] “25 Sep 1787, Thomas Brandon of Union County to *John Thomas* of same, by grant 15 July 1768 to Benjamin Gist^a, 500 acres on Fairforest Creek a branch of Tygar River, and said Benjamin Gist did convey to William Wafford a part of the above tract, and William Wafford to Robert Woodson, 50 acres, adj. James Finley, land possessed by John Goodwin, Woodson’s, and Sugar Creek, now for £30 conveyed to *John Thomas*. Thomas Brandon [no wit.]”⁸²

[Union] “25 Sep 1787 ... A Deed of Conveyance from Thomas Brandon to *John Thomas* acknowledged in Open Court & Ordered to be Recorded.”⁸³

[Union] “15 Dec 1787, Joseph Jones of Union County to *John Springer* of same, for £20 sterling, tract on Buffalow Creek, a branch of Fairforest, 306 acres granted to said Joseph Jones 4 Nov 1786, containing 346 acres. Joseph Jones (Seal), Sarah Jones (S) (Seal) [no wit].”⁸⁴

[Union] “27 Dec 1787 ... A Deed of Conveyance from Joseph Jones to *John Springer* for three hundred and forty six acres of Land acknowledged by the said Joseph Jones and Ordered to be recorded.”⁸⁵

[Union] “25 Sep 1788 ... It is Ordered that John Birdsong, Thomas Blasingame Esquires, Samuel Jackson & *John Springer* lay out a road from Jordon Jackson to William Plummers ford on Fairforest by Renny Ballews, Joseph Littles and there to Union Court House and make their report to our next Court.”⁸⁶

[Union] “25 Sep 1788 ... **Evan Thomas** is appointed Constable for this County and was duly Qualified according to Law.”⁸⁷

[Union] “24 Mar 1790 ... Ordered that Zachariah Ballew be Overseer of the Road from Rockey Creek to Elisha Greens in the Room of **Evin Thomas**.”⁸⁸

Going back to Wilkes County for the 1790 tax list, we start to see that some of the Union County families were moving to the area that would soon become Warren County.

1790 Wilkes County tax list:

	Capt Neil’s & Abbott’s Dist ^{89b}	acres
097	Joseph Burson	350
098	Ennock Burson ^c	
101	Jonathan Burson	300
105	Samuel Gheslin	
113	William Landrum	200
123	Isaac Burson	200

^a A Joseph Gist married Hannah Breed, daughter of Joseph Breed Sr. How Benjamin Gist is related to Joseph Gist is not known; Benjamin *may be* a son of Joseph.

^b “The tax returns for Captain Neil’s Company [OO] and Captain Abbott’s Company [PP] were recorded together without notation as to which company a person named belonged. The compiler has been able to identify the company applicable to the majority of persons resident in the two company districts in 1787. Since tax records for Captain Neil’s Company are missing for 1791, and since there was some movement between the companies, the combined companies are maintained herein as found in the original records, with the arbitrary designation of the combined companies as OO.” I think everyone who is included on my listing, *except* Etheldred Thomas, was in Capt. Neil’s Company, which was the same area it was earlier, i.e., due east of Warrenton.

^c Enoch Burson was a son of Joseph Burson Sr. Enoch died before Joseph wrote his will in 1801. The granddaughters Polly, Sally, and Nancy that Joseph mentioned in his will were children of Enoch. When Joseph’s wife Mary wrote her will in 1810, she mentioned heirs of son Enoch.

130	Jobe Springer	200
148	James Gilmore	
149	John Gilmore	
169	Defaulters: Benjamin Geesling	

Note especially that the Burson clan had moved to Georgia by this date, that Samuel and Benjamin Gheslin/Geesling were there, and that John and James Gilmore were in this list.

While back in Union County Evan and John Thomas were named to serve on juries:

[Union] “27 Sep 1790 ... Ordered that the Petit Jury be drawn to serve next Court and that the Sheriff Summon them accordingly Towit. William Sharp, Joseph Howard, David Leak, William Lee, Isham Prince, Moses Collier, Henry Trevilla, John Green, Joseph Cowen, John Bennit, William Brandon, Charles Brock, John Jasper, Sion Murphey, James Randol, Jacob Segar, Richard Thompson, Isaac Edmondson, Nehemiah Norton, William Buckhannon, Rainey Ballew, John Steen, James Guthries, Robert Crinshaw, Benjamin Hawkins, Page Puckett, Robert Gregory, **Evin Thomas**, John McWhorter & Thomas Cox.”⁹⁰

[Union] “27 Dec 1790 ... Also the Pettit Juror to serve next Court which are as follows Towit. Philip Holcome, Jos. Hopkins, William Goldsmith, James Ellit, Lott Wood, *John Thomas*, Jonathan Cudd, Wm. Lawson, John Parks, Edward Prince, John Greffin, Robert Wallace, Patrick Moore, Robert Millhouse, George Cowen, Robert Glover, John Kennedy, John Murrell, James Woodson, Robert Gault, Obadiah Howard, Thomas Kedwell, John Clark, Charles Humpharies, George Crossley, Henry Hooff, William Jinkins, Saml. Kelso, John George Junr. & Richard Cannon.”⁹¹

And the following two records suggest a close relationship between Joseph Thomas and John Springer:

[Union] “16 Aug 1791, *Joseph Thomas* of Union County, planter, to John Palmore, for £9 SC money, 121 acres on waters of Buffalow Creek, a branch of Fairforest in Union County, part of tract of 392 acres granted to John Palmore Senr 4 April 1785, adj. Jonas Little, recorded in Book DDDD, page 110. *Joseph Thomas* (Seal), *Keziah Thomas* (K) (Seal). Wit: *John Springer*, Joseph Jones, Samuel Quinton. Recorded 6 Sep 1791.”⁹²

[Union] “5 Sep 1791 ... Proved in Court a Deed of Conveyance from *Joseph Thomas* & wife to John Palmore, by the oath of *John Springer*, Joseph Jones & Samuel Quinton. Ordered to Record.”⁹³

As the following record will show, Evan Thomas made the move to Wilkes (later Warren) County, Georgia, in 1791:

“THIS INDENTURE made this 28th September one thousand seven hundred and ninety one and in the sixteenth year of American Independence Between John Moses of the State of Georgia and Wilkes County, planter of the one part and **Evan Thomas** of the same State and County planter of the other part WITNESSETH that the said John Moses for and in Consideration of One hundred pounds Sterling to him in hand paid at and before the sealing and delivering of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have bargained and sold unto said **Evan Thomas** a Certain Tract or parcel of land Containing Two hundred acres in Said County being part of a four hundred acres Tract granted Robert Moses honorable Samuel Elbert Esq^r Governor &c the 29th day of March 1785 lying on the waters of Beaverdam Creek of Bryer Creek Bounded – Eastwardly by Soleman Newsome and Petty Pules^a & vacant land and on all other sides by vacant land as a plat of the same will fully set forth it[?] was Surveyed the 23^d day of February 1785 as is to the said Grant annexed, and Registered in the Secretaries office in Book GGG of 369 the 29th day of March 1785 which the said John Moses has purchased of Robert Moses by deed bearing date the 24th day of



Fig. 8 John Moses to Evan Thomas plat

May 1788 said Grant & Deed being had will more fully appear said two hundred acres lying on North and West line of said four hundred acre Tract and on the North west Side of Said Beaver dam Creek Begining at a Corner Hickory in said West line at said Creek is to run N.10.E. 19.50 to B. Oak Station thence on said line to W. Oak Corner 21.50 bounded by *Sam Geezeling* Land then to run at .80.E 17.50 to pine Station then on 36.60 to pine Station ____ a Corner for said four hundred acre Tract Bounded by Peter Hodo and Robert Moses land then to run .23. 23.0 to pine Corner then to run S37W to Water Oak Corner and said Creek then up the said creek or main Stream to the Begining Hickory Corner as the above platt sets forth Together with all ther rights titles Claims interest or demand to in or out of the same to have and to hold the said land & premises aforesaid unto the only use benefit and behoof of him the said **Evan Thomas** his heirs and assigns and the said John Moses & his heirs warrant &c Tract of land and ____ aforesaid the said **Thomas** and his heirs against him the said John Moses and his heirs and every other person or persons whatsoever make and forever defend by these presents IN WITNESS whereof John Moses has hereunto set his hand and Seal the day and date first above written.

Sealed signed and delivered }
in the presence of } John Moses
L. Preuitt J.P.

acknowledged in the presence }
of Jn^o Torrence J.P. } Received the day and date within mentioned of and from the within
mentioned **Evan Thomas** One hundred pounds Sterling being the Consideration within mentioned be paid by him to me.

Test Jn^o Torrence J.P. _ray rec^d of him John Moses

Registered 29th May 1792⁹⁴

It should be noticed that the above land was described as being adjacent to land owned by Samuel Geezeling. But as the following plat will show, William Geesling was apparently the original landowner whose land abutted that of Evan Thomas. It should be noted that in this survey plat, dated 1 August 1791, Evan Thomas is clearly shown as an adjacent landowner, and he and David McCullers are shown as chain carriers for the survey.

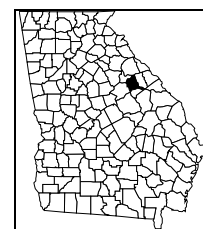


Fig. 9 Warren County, Georgia

^a A terrible corruption of Pettipool.

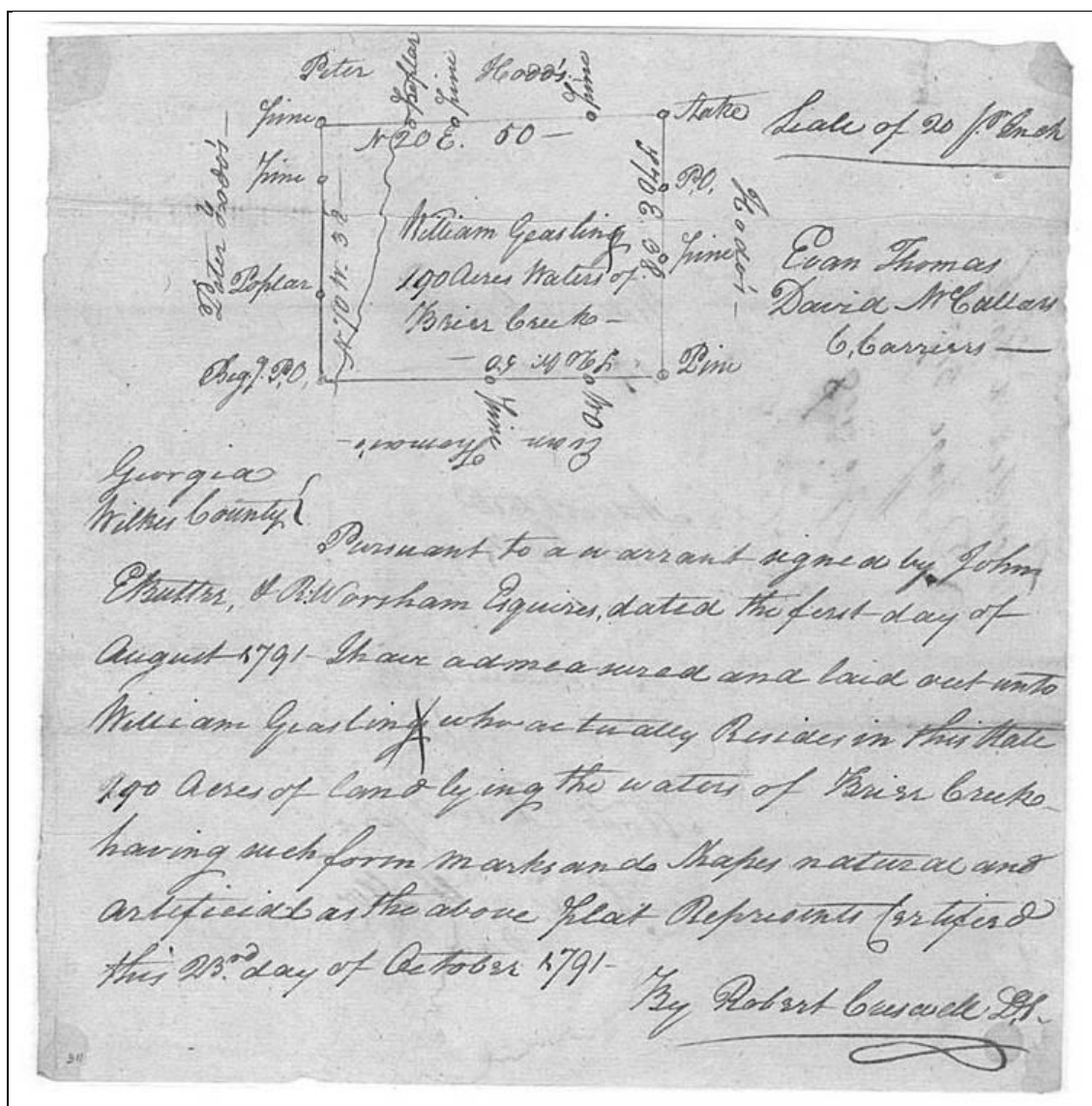


Fig. 10 William Geasling survey plat, 1 Aug 1791

I presume that William Geasling in the above plat was the same William Geeselin who served with Evan Thomas in the Union County militia. As the reader will see, this tract is referred to in the records that follow as being owned by different Geeslin people (Warren County records are very confusing). The reader is advised in evaluating the above plats that the orientation is *not* the normal north-south orientation in which we are accustomed to see with such maps. The key to the orientation is in the top line(s). In the case of the plat immediately above the top boundary line is labeled N 20° E, which means that the whole plat should be rotated counter-clockwise such that that line is aligned 20 degrees east of north.

Mr. Daniel Nathan Crumpton in his *Warren County, Georgia Land Records, Vol. 1* has compiled a map of original landowners of Warren County with each of the survey plats shown in

relation to the others. Unfortunately he split the page at a critical location for us, and through the magic of photo software, I have attempted to splice together the relevant parts of two pages.

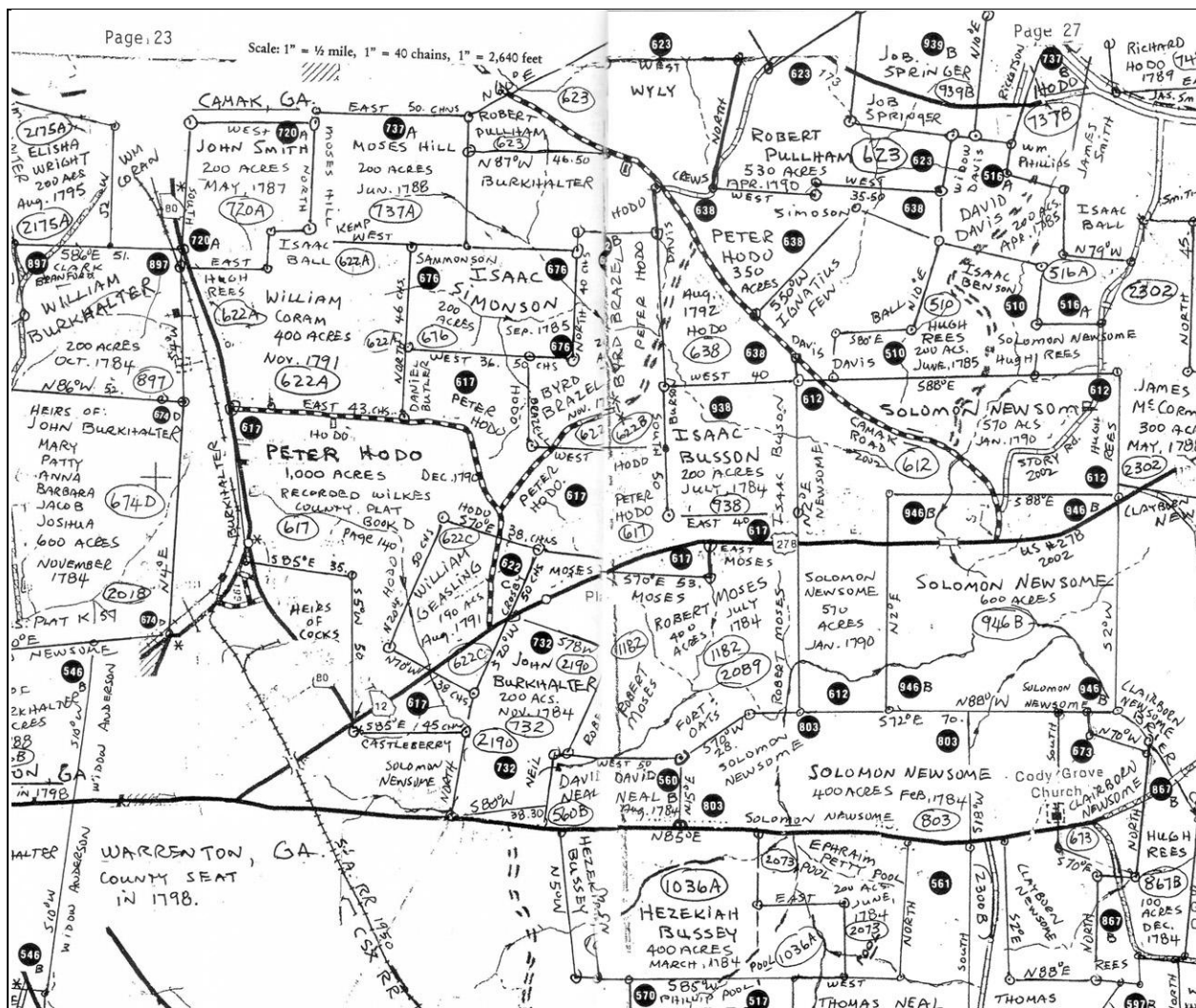


Fig. 11 Brier Creek area of Warren County, showing original landowners.

Evan Thomas's land is not shown in the above map – because he was not an original landowner. But near the center of the above map and slightly to the left (west) of center one can easily spot the William Geasling tract of 190 acres (properly oriented). Just to the east of the William Geasling tract, and across the page split one can see the land (consisting of several tracts) of Robert Moses. It was part of this land that Evan Thomas bought from John Moses. Slightly to the north of Evan Thomas's land, and right (or east) of the center, is the land of Isaac Burson (whose name has been corrupted to "Busson"), who was the father of Hannah Burson, the wife of Evan's son, David Thomas. And up near the top edge, and to the right of center is shown part of the tract of Job Springer. Somewhat later (about 1798) Thomas Springer moved to Warren County, and bought part of the Peter Hodo tract north of Evan Thomas, and between the William Geasling tract and the Isaac Burson tract. From this map it is easy to see that both of Evan Thomas's sons – John and David – married daughters of families that were on adjacent land in Warren County, and who had been acquainted with Evan Thomas in Union County, South Carolina. The fact that when Thomas

Springer moved to the area in 1798, he purposely situated himself adjacent to Evan Thomas is another strong clue to me that Evan Thomas *might have* married a sister of Thomas Springer.

The following deed confirms much of the above:

[Wilkes] “_ Mar 1792, Robert Moses, Senr., to Robert Moses, Junr., both of Wilkes Co., for £100, on Brier Creek, the north part of 400 acres granted to Robert Moses, Senr., 29 Mar 1785, adj. Solomon Newsom, **Evan Thomas**, Peter Hodo, 110 acres. (signed) Robt. Moses. Wit: David Neal, Jas. McCormick, J.P. Plat: 100acres, adj. N by Hodo & **Thomas**, W. by old tract, E. by Peter Hodo, S. by Solomon Newsom. Regd. 5 Sep 1792.”⁹⁵

And the final icing-on-the-cake is provided by something that John and Phoebe Thomas’s daughter Mary (m. Joseph Henson) wrote late in her life:

“... was bornd in Wam Co George, 3 miles east of the city of Wam”⁹⁶

...which translated, means “[I] was born in Warren County, Georgia, 3 miles east of the city of Warrenton.” The reader should notice the location of the town of Warrenton in the above map, in the lower left corner.

Much of what else we know about Evan Thomas is found in some very erratic deeds, with sloppy clerical errors, that are included below. To help my reader to wade through all this confusion, I will point out that the above 200-acre tract was the *only* land that Evan Thomas purchased in Warren County. He apparently began disposing of it almost immediately when he gave his daughter and new son-in-law, David McCullers, fifty acres of the tract – probably as a wedding gift. The remaining 150 acres was split evenly and given to each of his sons (probably as their wedding gifts). We can only deduce this dispersal of the 200 acres by following deeds that were generated over a number of years, and not without the clerk of the court throwing us a curve-ball by referring to Evan Thomas as Aaron Thomas in the most important deed of all – as will be shown below.

For some reason, despite the fact that Evan Thomas had clearly purchased the above land in 1791, his name did not appear on the 1792 tax list:

1792 Wilkes County tax list:

	Capt Neal’s Dist ^{97a}	acres	Waters	Joins
012	Jn’o Landrum Sr.	350	Uptons Crk	Ansley
013	Jn’o Landrum Jr. ^b			
015	Isaac Busson	200		
028	James Gilmore	250		Joseph Hodgins
034	W’m Geeshing			
050	Samuel Geesting			
051	Charles Geesting			
052	W’m Landrum	200		Hodo
054	Jobb Springer	200		Hodo
055	Ja’s Mays ^a	600		

^a District OO – east of Warrenton.

^b “Return of Poll only for Jn’o Landrum, J’r. by Jn’o Landrum, Sen’r.”

077	Zachari Landrom			
092	Eliza Landram	200		Howard
	Capt Tharp's Dist ^{98b}	acres	Waters	Joins
083	Benj Geesling	100		Eli Mash

The reader should notice the appearance of Charles "Geesting" in the above tax list.

Returning now to some Union County, South Carolina, records that are relevant:

[Union] "6 Jan 1792 ... Ordered that *Ezekiel Springer* be overseer of the Road from this Court house along the road that leads to Plummers ford on Fairforest as far as the cross Road that Leads to Grendal Shoals in the Room of Jonas Little who Resigns."⁹⁹

[Union] "15 March 1793, Richardson Rountree and Mildred his wife of Union County, to Thomas Welborn of same, for £110 sterling, tract on a branch of Fairforest called Buffelow Creek, part thereof being part of a grant to William Bishop 23 June 1774, 300 acres, adj. land laid out for said Rountree, adj. Aron Harling's land, William Bishop and **Evan Thomas**, the other part being 316 acres granted to said Richard Rountree 3 April 1786, adj. Crook's line. Richardson Rountree (Seal), Mildred Rountree (Seal), Wit: Joseph West, Ephram Wilborn. Proved by the oath of Ephram Welborn 21 April 1794 before Andw Torrance, J.P. Recorded 22 April 1794."¹⁰⁰

[Union] "26 June 1793, George Crossley of Union County to Elijah Wilbourn of same place, by grant dated 1785 to John Palmore a tract of land on Buffalow, 392 acres adj. land of Henry Holland, Jonas Little, **Evan Thomas**, recorded in Book DDDD, page 110, conveyed 23 June 1787 by deed from John Palmore for 150 acres, a part of said tract to **Evan Thomas** and conveyed by **Evan Thomas** 28 Aug 1792^c to George Crossly, now for £50 to Elijah Wilbourne. George Crossley (Seal), Lydia Crossley (X) (Seal), Wit: Jno. Brandon, Thos. Wilbourn, Rachel Paulk (X). Proved in Union County 1 June 1794 by the oath of Thomas Welburn before Benj. Woodson, J.P. Recorded 1 May 1795."¹⁰¹

[Union] "17 July 1793, Jesse Fore and Elizabeth his wife of Union County, planter, to Abraham Jones of same, for £20 sterling, 100 acres on a branch of Fairforest called Bufflaow Creek, part of tract of 650 acres grant to said Jesse Fore 1 May 1786 adj. Edward Hay, Joseph Jones, **Evan Thomas**. Jesse Fore (Seal), Elizabeth Fore (X) (Seal). Wit: Joseph Jones, Jeremiah Thompson. Recorded 1 April 1793."¹⁰²

[Union] "15 Feb 1796, Thomas Wilbourn and Sarah his wife of Union County to Stephen Howard of same, for £100 sterling, tract on a branch of Fairforest called Buffelow Creek, part of two tracts granted to William [sic] 23 June 1774 and the other part being part of a tract granted to Richardson 3 April 1786, at the corner of a survey called Lindses, a dividing line made by Richardson & Jas. Rountree, a line agreed upon by Thos. Wilbourn & Ephraim Wilbourn, a line made by **Evan Thomas** and William Bishop, 140 acres. Thomas Wilbourn (LS), Sarah Wilbourn (X) (LS), Wit: Daniel Holder, Isaac Land (+). Proved in Union County by the oath of Daniel Holder 23 Feb 1796 before Thos. Vance, J.P. Recorded 11 Dec 1796."¹⁰³

[Union] "Jacob Harlan of Union County for \$300 to *George Harlan* of same, tract of 205 acres, part of two tracts: one of 125 acres granted to William Bishop and 80 granted to Aaron Harlan on a creek call'd Buffelow, waters of Fairforest and known by the name of Seigler's old place, adj. line agreed upon by Jacob Harlan and *George Harlan*, a line agreed on by **Evan Thomas** & William Bishop, dated 21 Nov 1798. Jacob Harlan (Seal), Wit: Solomon Spann, Samuel Harlan, Stephen McPherson (X). Proved by the oath of Stephen McPherson 2 Jan 1799 before Thos Brandon, J.U.C. Recorded 2 Jan 1799."¹⁰⁴

^a "Return for Estate of Ja's Mays by Jobb Springer." Job Springer, Jr. married the widow, Lydia (Bishop) May, of James May.

^b District PP – south of Warrenton.

^c I have been unable to find this deed.

[Union] “Stephen Howard of Union County for \$320 to Joshua Wilbourn of same, tracts on both sides Buffalow Creek, a branch of Fairforest at the corner of the great survey called Lindsey’s land, a dividing line agreed upon by Thomas and Ephraim Wilbourn, dividing line made by **Evan Thomas** and William Bishop, 140 acres; the second tract on the still house branch, 50 acres ... dated 11 Dec 1798. Stephen Howard (LS), Wit: B. Birdsong, Jas. Davis. Proved in Union District by the oath of Batte Birdsong 11 Dec 1799 before Joseph McJunkin, J.P. Recorded 11 Dec 1799.”¹⁰⁵

The above deeds are the last Union County records in which I have found Evan Thomas mentioned, and all of the deeds above refer to him only because of his prior residency there. I have been unable, so far, to find the deed where he sold the 150-acre tract that he bought from Joseph Burson, and I have been unable to find the sale of the 150-acre tract that he bought from John Palmer in 1787, though in the latter case, it is clear that he had sold the latter land on 28 August 1792.

Evan Thomas *did* appear in the 1793 tax list of Wilkes County (the last one in which Warren County was included in Wilkes County). It should be noticed that he was credited with the 200 acres that he purchased above.

1793 Wilkes County tax list:

	Capt. Neel’s Dist ¹⁰⁶	Acres	Waters	Joins
003	Zechariah Landrum			
015A	Peter Hodo, Jr.	370		Burson
016	Job Springer	200		Hodo
017	Isaac Burson	200		Clifton
042	Matthew Gilmore			
053	James Gilmore	245		Cox
056	Jonathan Burson	500		Pruitt
088	John Landrum Sr.	350		Owensby
089	John Landrum Jr.			
090	Joseph Landrum Sr.			
100	William Landrum	200		Moore
101	Timothy Landrum	116		Shelton
119	Elizabeth Landrum	100		Howard
132	Evan Thomas	200		Moses
135	Samuel Gesling			

“15 July 1793, Robert Moses Senr. of Wilkes Co. to Peter Foodwin of Columbia Co. for 130 pounds, 160 acres adj. **Evan Thomas**, Ephraim Pool, John Moses, part of 400 acres granted to sd. Moses 29 May 1785 ... Robert Moses (Seal). Wit: Peter Hodo, Robt. Moses Junr. Rec. 1 July 1799.”¹⁰⁷

The next record, below, is an important one. It is the only record in which David McCullers’s wife is named: Debby (probably a pet name for Deborah). And it proves that David McCullers had married Evan Thomas’s daughter, Debby or Deborah, prior to 22 July 1793.

“THIS INDENTURE made the 22nd day of July in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety three and in the Eighteenth Year of America’s Independence BETWEEN Drury^a and *David McCullers* *McCullers* of the State of Georgia and County of Wilkes planters of the one part and James Gray and John

^a Drury and David McCullers were brothers, the sons of David McCullers, Sr.

Sallis^a of the said State and County planters of the other part WITNESSETH that the said Drury McCullers and David McCullers and Debby his wife for and in consideration of the sum of Two hundred pounds Sterling well and Truly paid by the said James Gray and John Sallis before the signing and Delivery of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged to be well Satisfied and paid they the said Drury and David McCullers and Debby the wife of David, hath bargained and sold and by this Indenture doth bargain & sell make over convey and confirm unto the said James Gray and John Sallis and to their Heirs and Assigns forever All that plantation or Tract of Land Containing four hundred acres situate Lying and being in the County of Wilkes of the said State and butting and bounding Northwesterly by Land of the widow Thomas and Widow Anderson – Southwestwardly by Coopers Land Southeastwardly by Charles McCullers Land and on all other sides by land Vacant and Hath such shape form and Marks as appears by a platt of the same as is to the grant annexed, as was granted to the said Drury & David McCullers, by the Honorable John Houston Esqr. Gov^r &c the twenty third day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty four, as Registered in Secretarys Offices in Book DDD Fo 515 the 25 September 1784 Together with all and Singular the Houses Fencings Orchards Gardens Timbers & Timber Trees ways waters and watercourses Rights Members and appurtenances thereof whatsoever to the said Tract of four hundred acres of Land belonging or in any wise appertaining and all the Estate Right Title Interest Claim and demand of them the said Drury McCullers and David and Debby McCullers aforesaid of in to or out of the same To have and to Hold the said four hundred acres of Land more or Less and all and every of their rights members and appurtenances unto the said James Gray and John Sallis their Heirs and Assigns to them and their own proper Use and behoof, will warrant and defend against themselves their Heirs Executors Administrators and all and every other person and persons will warrant and Defend forever. In fee simple &c - In Witness whereof the said Drury and David McCullers & Debby his wife Hath hereunto set their hands and Seals the day and year first above written

Signed Sealed and Delivered	}	Drury X McCullers (LS)
In presence of us —	}	David X McCullers (LS)
Jn ^o Hamell J.P.		Debb + McCullers (LS)
Ja ^s McCormick J.P.		

“Received the day and year first within written of the within named James Gray and John Sallis the within mentioned two hundred pounds Sterling being in full for the within mentioned premises of four hundred acres of Land as witness our hands —

Jn ^o Hamell J.P.	Drury X McCullers
	David X McCullers

“Registered the 28th day of May 1794”¹⁰⁸

Returning to Union County, South Carolina, records, and after a long absence, Thomas Springer reappears in 1794 with the following:

[Union] “4d of January 1794 ...
 Jesse Birdsong } T A B
 Vs } Continued at the defendants cost. Ordered that Col. Brandon & Jno. Comer
 Thos. Springer } Exr. Danl. Comer decd. bring the orphans of said decd. in order to have them
 bound according to Law.”¹⁰⁹

[Union] “3 Jun 1794 ...
 Jesse Birdsong by John Murrell } Dismissed at the Pltff cost except the defendants
 Vs } attorneys fee & six dollars
 Thos. Springer }”¹¹⁰

^a James Gray married Amy McCullers; John Sallis married Faitha McCullers – i.e., James Gray and John Sallis were brothers-in-law of Drury and David McCullers.

The 1794 tax list of Warren County, Georgia, looks much the same as the previous one, but it includes some very subtle new information:

1794 Warren County tax list:

Name	Acres	Water & who adjoining
John Thomas	125	Middle Creek – George & Beasley ¹¹¹
Joseph Burson Joseph Burson, Jr.	400	Ogechee waters – Wadsdon & Parkins ¹¹²
John Landrum Joseph Landrum Joseph Landrum, Jr John Landrum	350	Uptons Creek – Ansley & Hodgens ¹¹³
Isaac Burson	200	Brier Creek - Clifton ¹¹⁴
Job Springer	200	Brier Creek – Davis & Hodo ¹¹⁵
William Landrum	200	Rocky Comfort – Beasley & Moore ¹¹⁶
Elizabeth Landrum	100	Rocky Comfort – Howard & Moore ¹¹⁷
Jonathan Burson	500	Whites Creek – Williams & Co. ¹¹⁸
Evan Thomas	200	Brier Creek – <i>McColours</i> & Hodo ¹¹⁹
William Gesling	100	Brier Creek – Thomas & Hodo ¹²⁰
Samuel Gesling Benjamin Gesling	100	Brier Creek - Thomas ¹²¹

The John Thomas, 1st in the list above, will be discussed below in connection with Evan Thomas’ son, John; it is only important now for the reader to note that he lived on Middle Creek in 1794.

In the listing for Evan Thomas, it should be noted that an adjacent land owner was “McColours,” a corrupted spelling for McCullers. And this is undoubtedly David McCullers who was living on the 50 acres that Evan Thomas had given him (which will be proved in deeds to follow). And it should be noticed that there were three “Gesling” men now living adjacent to Evan Thomas – William, Samuel and Benjamin – each entry being 100 acres – which is probably a round-off of the 95 acres in each parcel if the original William Gesling tract of 190 acres was divided into two parts.

The following deed is only remarkable because it unexpectedly invokes two of the names that are of interest to us:

“Ga., 21 Jan 1795, Benjamin Rose & Sarah Rose (his wife) of Columbia County, Ga., of the one part and *Zachariah Landrum* of Warren Co., the other part for 30 pounds sterling paid by *Zachariah Landrum* for a tract of land 100 acres, situated in Warren Co., joining what is call the old line parth, dividing formerly Wilkes & Richmond Countys, Ben Reese & Jacob Burkhattars land, the same being a part of twelve hundred & fifty acres tract, formerly run for and claimed by Governor Jams. Wright, and sold by confiscation & deed of conveyance to John Garrett the 13th day of Sep 1785 and from the said John Garrett unto the said Ben Reese by indenture dated 27 June 1796 ... Benja. Reese, Sarah Reese. Wit: *Charles Gusling* (-), Thomas White, J.P. Rec. 14 July 1795.”¹²²

One can almost make a game out of trying to find alternate spellings for Ghiseling:

“Ga., 1 Sep 1795, John Moses Junr., of Warren Co., Planter, and George Clifton of same, 100 pounds for 220 acres between the road leading from Mitchell’s Mill to Watson’s Mill on Little Sweet Water and Bever

Dam Creek of Briar bounded by Peter Goodwin's land, **Evan Thomas**, *Ben Gheaslin*, Peter Hode. John Moses (Seal). Wit: Jas. McCormick JP. Rec. 25 Sep 1795.¹²³

The following deed is the first one that names David Thomas, son of Evan Thomas. It should be noted that the land described here is in the same neighborhood as Evan Thomas' land on Brier Creek, and that David Thomas was now old enough to witness a deed^a:

"22 Sep 1796...John Moses Sr. to William Howard, both of Warren Co GA...for £40 current money, 200 acres, 'beginning at a post oak joining Samuel Neal's land, SW thence to a post oak station, thence to a black jack station, thence to a pine corner, SE by John Moses Jr.'s land, thence along said Moses til it interferes with the old line of said tract above mentioned, joining land laid out for Hodo, SW by Harbuck's land to a black jack corner, NW by Michael Burkhalter's, thence along said line to a black jack station, thence to a pine station, thence to the beginning corner"...Wit: John Moses Jr., **David (X) Thomas**...acknowledged before James McCormick J.P. 30 Sep 1797...recorded 9 Oct 1798...transcribed from Book D, pp. 218-19, 12 Jul 1853"¹²⁴

"18 May 1797, Joseph Armstrong from William Corum for \$30, 50 acres, part of 420 granted to Wm. Corum, 16 May 1797, on Brushy Fork of Cold Brier Creek ... Wm. Corum (Seal). Wit: **Evan Thomas**, *Benja. Gusling* (X), Robert Willis. Rec. 2 Nov 1797."¹²⁵

"24 Jul 1797...John Moses to William Howard...for \$10, 15 acres, "being part of a tract of land taken up by 'Kiah Bussey, sold to Robert Moses, which said land John Moses bought of his father, it being and lying within the lines of a tract taken up by John Moses Sr., now in the possession of the said Howard, beginning where Bussey's interferes with Howard's land as the said Howard bought of John Moses Sr., thence along said Moses' land to a pine station, thence to a black oak corner by the big Road, a corner for the 200 acres laid out for John Moses Sr., thence along said line til it interferes with Bussey's line to the beginning corner"...Wit: **Evan Thomas**, Nathan (X) Castleberry, P. Hodo J.P...recorded 25 Oct 1798...transcribed from Book D, pp. 219-20, 13 Jul 1853."¹²⁶

Just for completeness, I am including the following deed that proves that Job Springer (Jr.) married Lydia, widow of James May. This deed names all of James May's children by a previous marriage, i.e., none of these children of James May were Lydia's. In her father's 2 November 1802, Edgefield County, South Carolina will he named only Drury and William May as *his* May grandsons, neither of whom are named in the following.¹²⁷

"This indenture made the twenty-eighth day of December one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven between *Job Springer* and *Lydia* his wife, late the wife of James May, deceased/ now the said wife of *Springer*, Joseph Davidson and Winny his wife and one of the heirs of the said James May deceased of one part and Jacob Burkhalter (planter) of the other part all of the county of Warren and the state aforesaid. Witness thereof for the consideration of the sum of three hundred dollars in hand paid by the said Jacob Burkhalter unto the above named claimants of James May deceased. The recipient whereof is hereby acknowledged, hath granted, bargained, sold and conveyed by these presents all our respective shares, Dowers or parts of land or real estate that ought to belong to us of the lands or real estate of James May deceased of the county of Wilkes, now Warren of Bryer Creek. Except one tract or parcel of land sold to Edmond Ferris by the said James May deceased for which he James May deceased never made title to; the land lies on Bryer Creek in the said state and the county of Warren in different tract grants to the said May deceased. Together with all and singular, the rights, titles and claims, interests, titles and demands on them of the said *Job Springer* and *Lydia* his wife, the widow of the said James May deceased, Joseph Davidson and Winny his [wife], Dorcus May and Lydia May the heirs or claimants of the said James May deceased,

^a I do not know what the legal age for witnessing a deed in Georgia was – it was 16 in Virginia. From our estimate of when David Thomas was born, he was about 18-19 years old on the date of the deed.

unto the only use or benefit the _____ of him the said Jacob Burkhalter, his heirs or assignees forever and the above mentioned tract past or _____ of land that may or ought to fall to us by heirship or Dower will vacate forever _____ of all encumbrances unto the said Jacob Burkhalter his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns against them the said *Job Springer, Lydia* his wife, Joseph Davidson, Winny, his wife, Dorcus May and Lydia May or their heirs or any other person whatsoever.

Witness our hands and seal this day and year written above.

Richard Hutchinson

R. Hodo J.P.

Job X Springer

Lydia X Springer

Joseph X Davidson

Winney X Davidson

Dorcus X May

Massy X May

James May

Lydia X May”¹²⁸

In the following deed, we find Thomas Springer who was last noted in 1794 in a Union County, South Carolina, record (above) buying land that is adjacent to Evan Thomas, Isaac Burson, and the William Ghiselin tract:

“THIS INDENTURE Ben maid this the fifth day of April the year of our Lord 1798, And the twenty four year of America independence, Between William Howard of the State of Georgia and Warren County of the One part, and *Thomas Springer* of the State & County aforesaid, WITNESS that the s^d. William Howard for & in the consideration of the Sum of One hundred & fifty dollars, in hand paid at or before the Signing & delivering of this Deed, the receipt is hereby acknowledged, hath bargained, Sold, a certain piece of Land unto *Thomas Springer*, it being a part of a Tract of Land taken on by John Moses Sen^r. ware on the S^d. Howard now lives, it being a two^a hundred acre tract Butting & bounding as follows, S^d. tract lying on the waters of bryar creek bever dam fork, beginning on a Black Jack, thence along s^d. line to a post oak, Joining Samuel Neals land, then along S^d. line Joining Mikeal Buchhalters land, thence to a black Jack corner, Joining Hairbuck, thence along s^d. line to a pine, Joining Land of James Smyth, then a strate course a cross s^d. track, to the begining corner, for one^b hundred acres, the Same be, more or less, together with all right, clames, Interest, or demand to, in, or out of the, to have and to hold s^d. Land & premises unto the s^d. **Thomas Springer**, his heirs & assigns for Ever from me & my heirs, or my assigns for ever, & all other person or persons whatsoever laying any lawful claim Right or title to s^d. track, & the s.d William Howard will, for ever support & defend the same in Law, unto *Thomas Springer* his heirs & assigns foever. sined Sealed & Delivered in the presents of us

John Mays }

W^m Howard

James Smyth }

Martha X Smyth }

“Georgia } Before me John Hardaway magistrate for this County, personally came & appeared
Warren County } James Smyth & Martha his wife of this County, who being duly Sworn maketh oath, & Saith, that they subscribing witnesses to the with in written indenture of bargain & Sail, saw the with in named William howard duly sign, seal & deliver the Same as his act & Deed, and as such to be Recorded. Sworn & Subscribed to before me this 10th day of February 1809.

James Smyth }

John Hardaway J.P.

Martha X Smyth }

^a Sic – later it says one hundred acres.

^b Sic – earlier in the same deed it said two hundred acres.

“Received of *Thomas Springer* One hundred & fifty dollars for the contents of the within mentioned Land, the 5th day of April 1798. I say Received by me.

James Smyth } W^m Howard
Martha X Smyth }

“Recorded in Book G, the 21st of Feb 1809.

Transcribed from Book G, Folio 553, 4, & 5 }
the 20th od Dec^r 1853 T.W. Shiver, Recorder } T. Persons D.C.”¹²⁹

One does not encounter coincidences too often in genealogy, and if the above move by Thomas Springer onto land adjacent of Evan Thomas is a coincidence, it is quite a coincidence. I think that it suggests that Thomas Springer was closely related to Evan Thomas, and one possibility is that Evan’s wife (who probably died prior to his move to Warren County) was a sister of Thomas Springer.

“25 Oct 1798...William Howard to Jacob Tomlin...for \$200, 100 acres, adj Samuel Neal, said Howard, *Thomas Springer*, said Tomlin, John Moses, and the main road from Warren Court House to Augusta...Wit: James Tomlin, Benjamin Howard.”¹³⁰

“21 Oct 1798, *Job Springer & Lydia* his wife, admr. & admx. of est. of James May, dec’d ... to Edmond Fears 487 ½ acres in Franklin County, granted to John Jarrett, conveyed to William Clark, then to Nicholas Bower ... *Job Springer* (X) (Seal), *Lydia Springer* (X) (Seal). Wit: H. G. Caldwell, Joseph Wright (X). Rec. 6 June 1799.”¹³¹

“13 Nov 1800, George Clifton to James Gray for \$2000, 2 surveys on each side of road from Warrenton to Watson’s Mill on Sweet Water, 448 acres, adj. **Evin Thomas** on Beaverdam Creek, Flinn, Moses ... Robert Moses ... George Clifton (X) (Seal). Wit: Thomas Dent, G. W. Cotton. Rec. 24 Feb 1802.”¹³²

1801 Warren County tax list:

Name	Acres	Grantee	Watercourse	Joiners
Joseph Landrum For John Landrum, Sr. For John Landrum, Jr.	350	John Landrum	Uptons Creek	Thomas Ansley ¹³³
Isaac Burson <i>Adm’r for Jonathan Burson, Sr.^a</i> <i>(deceased)</i> Jonathan Burson	200	J. Burson	Whites Creek	Robert Stanford ¹³⁴
Zachariah Landrum For John Pace For Mary Pace	100	G. Wright	Town Creek	Ben Reese ¹³⁵
Gidion George For John Thomas	65	Richard Whatly	Middle Creek	Gidion George ¹³⁶
Charles Geesling ^{137b}				
David Cullers	500 ^c	Kiah Bussy	Big Briar Creek	Evan Thomas ¹³⁸
William Geesling	100	To self	Big Briar Creek	Evan Thomas ¹³⁹
Benjamin Geesling	200	Solomon Springer	B. Briar Creek	Peter Hodo ¹⁴⁰
Evan Thomas	150 50	Hezechiah Busy Zach Matt	B. Briar Creek Butlers Creek ^a	James Gray William Hobbs

^a Brother of Isaac Burson.

^b “Captain John Breed’s District”

^c This *has to be* an error; it should read 50 acres – the amount of land that Evan Thomas gave his son-in-law, leaving Evan Thomas with 150 acres in Warren County, which is shown below in his own entry.

For Hannah Mays ^a	100	Isaac Emmons	B. Briar Creek	William Mays ¹⁴¹
David Thomas ¹⁴²				
Jacob Landrum ¹⁴³				
Jonathan Burson ^c	100	Isaac Burson	Big Briar Creek	Moses McKinsey ¹⁴⁴
Thomas Springer	100	John Moses	Rocky Comfort	Samuel Neal ¹⁴⁵
William Lancrum [sic]	200	To self	Rocky Comfort	Ben Moore ¹⁴⁶
Micheal Flynn	100	Castleberry	Briar Creek	Thomas Springer ¹⁴⁷
James Smith	300	Peter Hodo	B. Briar Creek	Thomas Springer ¹⁴⁸

“[Estate of] *William Geesland*; [Admrs] *Sally & Benj. Geesland*; [Date] 15 Aug 1804; [Sureties] John Moses, James Gray.”¹⁴⁹

The 1805 Georgia land lottery included quite a few familiar names from Warren County:

1805 Georgia Land Lottery

Number	Name	County ^d	Draw ^e	Prize ^f
285	Springer, Joel	Clarke	B B	
336	Springer, Job	Clarke	B	
726	Gilmore, John	Lincoln	B B	
734	Gilmore, John, Junr.	Lincoln	B B	
778	Springer, Benjamin	Franklin	B B	
803	Landrum, Timothy	Warren	B B	
815	Landrum, William	Warren	B B	
817	Landrum, Jacob	Warren	B B	
828	Landrum, Joseph	Warren	P B	Ba D1 L140
830	Landrum, John, Senr.	Warren	B B	
831	Landrum, John, Junr.	Warren	B P	Wi D3 L342
854	Thomas, Evan ^g	Richmond	B B	
909	Thomas, David ^h	Warren	B	
904	Thomas, John ⁱ	Warren	P P	BA D2 L259 ^j
	Capt. Breed’s dist.			Wi D4 L262 ^a

^b Butler’s Creek is in the eastern suburbs of present-day Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia. No record has been found of his buying this land or of his selling it, probably because many of the Richmond County records have been lost.

^a It is a mystery why Evan Thomas would be paying the tax for Hannah Mays.

^c Nephew of Isaac Burson; son of Isaac’s deceased brother, Jonathan.

^d “The county is the residence of participants at the time of the land lottery registration during the months of May 1803 through 1 March 1804.”

^e “This column includes the draw result as recorded by the lottery commissioners, with a ‘B’ for a blank draw (did not win) and ‘P’ for a prize draw (did win). For some people, the recorded draw results does not match the number of eligible draws.” “Male, 2 Draws: All men with two draws are white, 21 years old, citizens of the United States, and residents of Georgia from May 1802, with a wife and legitimate children under age 21.” “Male, 1 Draw: 1) White, 21 years old, citizen of the United States, and resident of Georgia from May 1802; 2) [same as “White, 2 Draws,” but registered for one draw]; 3) Orphan whose parents were both deceased, or whose father was deceased and mother remarried, citizen of the United States, and resident of Georgia from May 1802..”

^f “For fortunate drawers only, the prize record includes the county, district, and number of the land lot won by the participant. This information was added for reference purposes and does not appear on the original list.” Ba = Baldwin County; Wi = Wilkinson County.

^g It is not known who this Evan Thomas was, but an Evan Thomas appears at a later date in the southern part of Warren County on Big Creek who could be the same man.

^h This should be Evan Thomas’s son, David.

ⁱ This John Thomas is probably the one who was located on Middle Creek, and who will be discussed in connection with Evan Thomas’s son, John, below.

^j “Grant Book BaD2GB: 87”

908	Thomas, John^b	Warren	B B	
	Capt. Neal's dist.			
970	Landrum, John	Wilkes	B	
971	Landrum, Samuel	Wilkes	B	
972	Landrum, William	Wilkes	B	
973	Landrum, Thomas	Wilkes	B B	
986	Geezling, Benjamin	Warren	B B	
987	Geezling, Charles	Warren	B B	
988	Geezling, Sally, widow	Warren	B B	
1009	Geezling, Samuel	Warren	B B	
1787	Springer, Thomas	Warren	B B	
2161	Springer, Ann, widow	Wilkes	P B	Ba D2 L119 ¹⁵⁰

There are a few nuances in the 1805 tax list of Warren County:

1805 Warren County tax list:

Name	Acres	Grantee	Watercourse	Joiners
Charles Geesling	150	Hodo	Little Bryer Ck	Hody
Benjamin Geeslin	300	Springer	Little Bryer Ck	Taylor & Thomas
For the Widow Geesling	100		Little Bryer Ck	Taylor & Thomas ¹⁵¹
John Thomas ¹⁵²				
David Thomas	150	Bussee	Little Bryer Ck	Gray ¹⁵³
Jacob Landrum	100	Landrum	Rocky Comfort	Howard ¹⁵⁴
Thomas Springer	200	Springer & Moses	Bryer Creek	Hodo ¹⁵⁵
Timothy Landrum	116	Littleton	Rocky Comfort	Shelton ¹⁵⁶
Jonathan Burson For Eliza Davis	200	Davis	Bryer Creek	Cody ¹⁵⁷
Isaac Burson	100	Burson	Whites Creek	Duckworth
For Nancy Burson	182	Burson	Whites Creek	Standford ¹⁵⁸

It should be noticed in the above tax list that Evan Thomas is not listed, but David Thomas is, and he apparently paid the tax on the 150 acres remaining of Evan Thomas's land. This might indicate that Evan Thomas was infirm at that time.

At this point I am going to jump forward in our chronology to present an important deed first, and out of order. Though this deed names "Aaron" Thomas, it is really referring to Evan Thomas, as will be proved in later deeds.

"Georgia Warren } this Indenture made this thirtieth day of July Eight ... Hundred and Seven between
County } Washington Hardaway of the one part & Beverly Hesters of the other part, Witnesseth
that the s^d Washington Hardaway, for and in consideration of the sum of six hundred and fifty dollars to
me in hand paid by the s^d Beverly Hesters, and by this presents do give, grant, bargain & sell unto the said
Beverly Hesters, the following Tract or parcel of Land, Being part of a Tract of Land called Bussees old
Survey, the first lying in the County of fores^d being on Bryer Creek, being a tract sold by **Aaron Thomas**, in
behalf of his son in Law, to the said Hester, the Land above doth Join John Burkhalter, James Gray, and
David Cullers, beginning on at Pine, and running South twenty three degrees west to a pine corner, then
South thirty seven degrees west to a whight oak corner, by the Side of a creek, thence up the Said Creek to
an Ash Corner, then to run across the old Tract, to *Cullers* Land, to A Whight Oak Station, thence to a

^a "Grant Book WiD4GB: 23"

^b "Capt. Neal's dist." This is almost certainly the son of Evan Thomas.

black Oake Station, ~~... Branch ... North~~, thence up the Said Branch to a post Oake on the North side, thence along a line of marked Trees to a Stake on Grey's line then along said line S.80.d.E to the beginning corner containing fifty Acres more or less; it being the Land sold by Aren Thomas to John Moses in behalf of his son in Law David Cullers, the other tract being part of the Said old Tract, and sold by the aforesaid Aren Thomas in behalf of his son John. to the said John Moses, adjoining James Grey and Richard Coday, and the Heirs of *William Gisling*; beginning at a Hickory on Bryer Creek, and running North, adjoining the Land of the s^d. heirs of Gesling to a black Oak Station, thence to a black Oak corner, thence East to a pine corner, Joining lands of Cullers, Thence to a Stake, thence south to a stake adjoining James Gray, thence to a lightwood stake by the Creek Side, then up the s^d. Creek to the beginning corner, taking seventy five acres more or less, in the County Aforesaid I the Said Washington Hardaway for himself and his heirs, doth hereby Warrant & defend the s^d. Land, to the afores^d. with the appurtenances thereunto belonging unto the s^d. Beverly Hesters and his heirs from all persons whatsoever, in witness where of I have hereunto set my hand & seal, the day & year above written.

Sind in the Presents }
of us &c }
Amos Haris
James Coday
Radford Butt J.P.

Washington Hardaway (L.S.)

Recorded Dec^r 1st 1809

Transcribed from Book H, Folio 35-6 } John Lewis Clk
the 11th of Feb. 1854. Y.W. Shrivvers Reg^d }¹⁵⁹

The first tract mentioned in the above deed is the 50 acres that Evan Thomas gave to his son-in-law, David McCullers, as is explicitly stated. The second tract mentioned is the 75 acres Evan Thomas allotted to his son John as explicitly stated. That leaves 75 acres which went to David Thomas. I will identify the transactions confirming the above in the narrative that follows.

As we will see when we get to the discussion of John Thomas, Evan's son, John had started to make his move to Jackson County, Georgia, and, it seems, had asked his father to sell the 75-acre inheritance (which was probably a wedding gift). The following deed, then, represents Evan Thomas's sale of John's 75-acre portion:

"Georgia – This Indenture made this Twenty first day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and five – Between **Evan Thomas** of Warren County of the one part, & James Grey of the other part, Witnesseth, that the said **Evan Thomas** for and in consideration of the Sum of One hundred and fifty Dollars to him in hand paid by the Said James Grey, hath given, Granted Tract or parcel of Land, being in the County aforesaid, it being a part of a Tract of Land of One hundred and fifty acres (the south East end of s^d tract, begining at the Creek on a Oak corner, thence Norward to a post oak corner, thence West to a post Oak corner, thence Northward along a line of marked Trees to a Stake on a line of said tract, thence west Joining Land of David McColours to a pine corner on said line, it being a dividing corner between David & John Thomas, thence South adjoining **John Thomas** to a Stake, thence along a line of marked Trees to a stake at the Creek, thence down the said creek, adjoining James Grey to the begining corner containing Seventy five Acres, more or less, To have and to holde, the Land aforesaid, with the appertainances thereunto belonging unto the Said James Grey, and the Said **Evan Thomas** for himself and his heirs, do hereby warrant & forever defend the Land, aforesaid, unto the Said James Grey his heirs, Executors & administrators for every person whatsoever – In Witness whereof the said **Evan Thomas** has hereunto set his hand and Seal, the day & year above written.

Signed Sealed & delivered

In presence of –
Thomas Maddox

Evan Thomas

David Neal, J.P.	16 th May 1810
Transcribed from Book II, Folio 162	}
April 15 the 1854. T.W. Shivers Recdr.	} John Lewis Clk" ¹⁶⁰

At about the same time, David McCullers, *also* moved to Jackson County, and the following two deeds show him selling his land in Warren County. 50 acres of the following deed *may be* the land that David McCullers received from Evan Thomas and for which David McCullers paid the tax as shown above. But sometime shortly before this he must have acquired an addition 50 acres from somewhere; I have yet to find this second acquisition. On the other hand, and these Warren County deeds are very confusing, we have two records – one the deed provided above, and the other below – that asserts that Evan Thomas sold the 50-acre tract to John Moses on behalf of his son-in-law David McCullers. If those are to be believed, then the 100-acre tract described below is an *additional* 100 acres that David McCullers had acquired somewhere, sometime, and which I have not found the record for.

“Georgia }
 Warren County } THIS INDENTURE made this tinth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and six Between *David McCullers* of the County and State aforesaid of the one part, and Beverly Hesters of the County and State aforesaid of the Other part, WITNESSETH, that the said *David McCullers*, for and in consideration of the sum of One hundred and fifty dollars, to him in hand paid by the said Beverly Hesters, the Receipt whereof is hereby Acknowledged, have granted, bargained and sold unto the said Beverly Hesters, his heirs, Executors & administrators, for ever, all that or parcel of Land lying & being on the waters of Brier Creek, butting & bounding as follows (Viz) to begin at a Red Oak corner; and thence South 85° ~~degrees~~ East to a Stake, bounded by *Thomas Springer’s Line*, thence North 2° along a line of Marked Trees, bounded by *David Thomas*, thence along Said *Thomases* line to a Stake, thence North 70° West to a Stake bounded by Cody and Hodo. Thence to the begining corner on Harbuck’s line; Together with all and singular, the rights, members and appurtenances thereof whatsoever to the said Tract or parcel of Land; to have and to hold the said Tract or parcel of Land, containing One hundred Acres more or less, unto the Said Beverly Hesters, his heirs, from me and my Heirs, or any other person or persons, whatsoever; for the only proper use and benefit and behoof of the said Beverly Hesters –. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal, the day & date above written.

Signed Sealed & } his
 delivered in presents of } *David D McCullers*
 Witness } mark
 W^m D. Bunkley }
 A. E. Slatter } Georgia }
 Jeremiah Butt } Warren County } Personally came before me Jeremiah Butt, and made Oath that he saw *David McCullers* assign the above indenture, and also saw Abner Slatter assign as a Subscribing Witness. Sworn & subscribed to before me, this __ November 1809.
 Radford Butt J.P.

Recorded Nov 30th 1809
 Transcribed from Book H, Folio 33-4 }
 the 11th of Feb 1854. T.W. Shivers Recorder } John Lewis Clk"¹⁶¹

I do not understand what might have transpired between the above deed and the one that immediately follows, because the following deed shows David McCullers selling the same land again, this time to James Gray (his brother-in-law):

“Georgia }

Warren County } THIS INDENTURE mad this thirteenth day of July in the year of Our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and Eight, between *David McCullers* of the one part and James Gray, of the other part, both of the County and State aforesaid – WITNESSETH, that for and in consideration of the Sum of Two Hundred and fifty Dollars to me in hand well and truly paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have given, Granted, bargained, sold, and by these presents do bargain, Sell, alien convey and confirm unto the said James Gray his heirs or assigns, a certain Tract or parcel of Land, lying and being in the County aforesaid and on Big Brier Creek, bounded as follows, begining at a Maple corner, at the *Widow Gheesling* spring branch, & on John Burkhalter's line, runing thence South 4 chian to a pine corner, thence N. 70 W. 55 ch. to a white oak, thence N. 20 E. to a Maple, agreed on at the Said Branch (between John May & *David McCullers*) on the *widow Ghaesting's* line, thence down the said branch to the begining – bounded East by John Burkatters Land, south wardly[?] by John Moses & **Evan Thomas's** Land, and West by the *widow Gheesling's* land, Northwardly by Walken land, containing one hundred acres more or less, To him the said James Gray, his Heirs & assigns forever, with full & free & absolute right in fee simple and I the Said *David McCullers* do bind myself, my heirs, and assigns forever to warrant and forever defend the above described Land, and Every part and parcel thereof, to him, the Said James Gray, his heirs & assigns in fee Simple, In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal, the day and year above written –

Signed Sealed & delivered	}	his
In presence of	}	<i>David D McCullers</i>
William Porter	}	mark
James Gray Junr.	}	

Georgia } Before me John Handray a Magistrate for this County, personally came and appeared
 Warren County } William Porter of Said County, who being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith that he is a subscribing witness to the within Indenture, & he saw the within named *David McCullers* set his mark and deliver the ... as his act and Deed, and also saw James Gray Jun^r. subscribe his name as a witness thereto.

Sworn to before me	}	
this 11 th day of August 1808	}	
John Hardaway J.P.	}	John Lewis Clk
Transcribed from Book II, Folio 163 April 15 th 1854 by		
Ths. W. Shivers, Recorder ¹⁶²		

“THIS INDENTURE made the Twenty fifth day of October in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred & Six between Richard Coday of the County of Warren & State of Georgia, of the one part, and Beverly Hesters of the County and State aforesaid of the Other part WITNESSETH, that Richard Coday for ~~and~~ the consideration of the Sum of Two hundred dollars, to him in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hath Bargained, Sold, conveyed and Confirmed, unto the Said Beverly Hesters, his Heirs and assigns forever, All that tract or parcel of Land Situated lying, and being in the County & State aforesaid on the Waters of Brier Creek, Adjoining, Washington Hardaway, *Thomas Springer*, Beverly hester, Peter Hodo, and the *heirs of William Ghisline* – Begining on a P. Oak on W. Hardaways line, thence South to a Black Oak Station thence along Said line to a hickory Corner, by the Side of Brier Creek, thence along *Springers* line North West to a Poppler Station, Thence along Said line to a pine Station, thence along Said line to a Pine corner, Beverly Hesters line; Thence North to a poplar Station Peter Hodos line, Thence across Said Creek to a pine corner, adjoining Land of the *Heirs of William Ghislin*, thence a Strate course to the begining corner, containing One hundred acres more or less. Together with every privilege thereunto said Land belonging, or in any wise appertaining, to the only proper use and behoof of the said Beverly Hesters his Heirs and Assigns forever, and I the said Richard Coday for myself, my heirs and assigns do warrant and defend the right and title of the above bargained land & premises against the claim of any person or persons, claiming or holding the Same, or in part thereof. IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this day and date above written.

In presents of us -	Richard Coday
---------------------	---------------

D. Sturdivant

Benjamin x Ghislin

Georgia } Personally came before me, Daniel Sturdivant, and made Oath that he saw Richard
Warren County } Coday assign the within as his act and deed, and also saw *Benjamin Gesling* make his
mark as a witness. Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 4th November 1809.

Radford Butt, J.P.

Daniel Sturdivant

Recorded 30th Nov. 1809

Transcribed from Book H, folio 31 & 2 }

the 10th of Feby 1854. T.M. Shivers Register }

John Lewis Clk”¹⁶³

And with the following deed, we see David Thomas selling out his 75-acre inheritance/gift from his father, in conjunction with David’s move to Jackson County:

“Georgia } THIS INDENTURE made this fifth of November, the year of our Lord one Thousand
Warren County } Eight hundred and Six, between *David Thomas* of the County and State aforesaid of
the one part, and Beverly Hesters of the County and State aforesaid of the other part, WITNESSETH that
the said *David Thomas* for the consideration of the Sum of Sixty Dollars, to him in hand paid by the said
Beverly Hesters, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have Granted, bargained, and Sold unto Beverly
Hesters, his Heirs, Executors and Administrators for ever, all that Tract or parcel of Land lying and being
on the waters of Bryer Creek, Butting and bounding as follows (Viz.) begining *Springers* Stake corner, and
runing thence along said *Springers* line to a Stake corner on James Grays land, thence North 20° East to a
Hickory, bounded by Grays line, thence to a Stake corner agreed on by *David McCullers & David Thomas*,
thence along marked Trees, to the begining corner, containing Seventy five Acres more or less. Together
with every previledge there unto said Land belonging or in any wise appertaining, to the Only proper use &
behoof of the said Beverly Hesters his heirs and assigns forever, and I the Said *David Thomas* for myself my
heirs & assigns, do Warrant and defend the right and Title of the above Bargained land and premises,
against the Claim or any person or persons claiming or holding the same, or any part thereof. IN WITNESS
where of I have hereunto set my hand & Seal, this day and date first above written.

Signed Sealed & delivered }

his

in the presenents of us }

David X Thomas

D. Sturdivant

mark

Sampson Wilder

Georgia } Personally came Daniel Sturdivant and made oath, that he saw *David Thomas* assign

Warren County } the above Deed of conveyance to Beverly Hesters, and also saw Sampson Wilker
subscribe as a witness to the above Sworn and Subscribed to before me, this 4th No^r 1809.

Radford Butt J.P.

D. Sturdivant

Recorded 2nd Decr 1809

Transcribed from Book H, Folio 36-7 }

the 11th Feb 1854. T.W. Shivers Recodr }

John Lewis Clk”¹⁶⁴

With the above deed, all three portions of Evan Thomas’ original 200 acres were sold. And since all three of Evan’s children had moved to Jackson County, I think it is fairly safe to assume that Evan Thomas had died about 1805-1806, because I cannot imagine all three children moving away and leaving their father behind; Evan Thomas is never mentioned in any Jackson County record.

“Georgia } THIS INDENTURE made this twenty fourth day of December in the year of our Lord
Warren County } one thousand Eight hundred and Six; between Elijah Williams of the one part, &
Thomas Springer of the other part, both of the County & State aforesaid WITNESSETH, that for and in
consideration of the Sum of One Hundred and Seventy five dollars, paid to me in hand, by the Said

Thomas Springer the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged; that Elijah Williams hath granted, bargained, Sold and confirmed unto the Said *Thomas Springer*, all that tract or parcel of Land containing One hundred acres lying & being in the County Aforesaid, and on the head waters of Big Brier Creek, it being a part of 1000 acres of Land, Granted to Peter Hodo and by Said Hodo, Granted and Sold to John McNeese & by s^d. McNeese to William Mayes party to these presents, Butting & bounding as follows, by *McCullars*, William Mayes, John Mayes, *Widow Ghislin* & Peter Hodo Begining at a Stake and runing East 76 chains to a stake, thence North 8 chains to a B. Oak, thence East 27 chains & 50 links to a Stake, thence South 30 West 41chains 50 links to a pine, thence North 70 west, 30 chains to a Stake, thence North 30 East 22 chains to the begining, together with all and Singular the rights, titles, claims, Interest or demands of him the said Elijah Williams or heirs, to have and to hold the above tract of Land containing one hundred acres, unto the Only use benefit & behoof of him the S^d. *Thomas Springer*; his heirs, Executors, Administrators, and assigns forever, and the said Elijah Williams, the above mentioned tract of Land and premises, with all and Singular the rights members and appurtenances, will warrant and forever defend unto the Said *Thomas Springer*; his heirs, Executors, administrators & assigns against him the said Elijah Williams, his heirs, or any other person or persons whatsoever; In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, the day and date above written.

Signed Sealed & delivered

in presents of

L. Wright

D. Neal J^d.

his

Elijah **E** Williams

mark

Recorded April 28th 1809

Transcribed from Book G, Folio 585 & 6 }

the 28th Dec^r 1853 ... T.W. Shivers Regd. }

T. Persons D.C.”¹⁶⁵

Now if my readers will recall the important deed that I presented above out of sequence and the fact that if kept referring to *Aaron Thomas*, the following deed, which is a resale of the same land, makes it very clear that the reference to “Aaron” Thomas was a clerical error and that the correct name was *Evan Thomas*:

“Georgia }
Warren County } THIS INDENTURE made this Twenty Second day of December in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and Seven, between Beverly Hester of the County of Warren & State aforesaid of the one part & Francis Hardaway of the Said County & State, of the other part, Witnesseth, that the Said Beverly Hester, for and in consideration of the Sum of Two Hundred Dollars, to him in hand paid by the Said Francis Hardaway, at and before the Sealing and delivery of these presents, the rec^d. whereof is hereby acknowledged, have bargained, sold, and released, & by these presents ... Bargain, Sell and release unto the said Francis Hardaway, & his heirs and assigns forever, all that Tract or parcell of Land lying and being in the County Aforesaid containing fifty acres, be the Same more or less, being a part of a tract of Land, Bussey’s old Survey on Bryar Creek, being a Tract sold by **Evan Thomas** in behalf of his Son-in-Law to **John Moses**, & by John Moses to Washington Hardaway to the Said Hester, adjoining John Burkhalter, James Gray, & *David Cullers*. Begining on a pine and runing So. 23 W. to a pine corner, thence So. 37 W. to a White Oak by the Side of a Creek, thence up the Said Creek to an Oak corner, thence to turn across the old Tract to *Culler’s* Land to a white oak station, thenc to a blk Oak Station, thence to a Post Oak corner on the Side of a Branch, thence up the said Branch to a Post Oak on the South(?) Side, thence along a line of Marked Trees to a Stake in Grays line, thence along said line So. 80 E. to the begining corner: To have and to hold, the said tract of Land, to the said Francis Hardaway & his heirs & assigns forever, And the said Beverly Hester; the said Tract of Land with all the rights thereunto appertaining, unto the said Francis Hardaway and his Heirs forever against the claims of all & every person, doth by these presents warrant and defend – In Witness whereof the Said Beverly Hester hath Signed his name and affixed his seal, the day & year first above written.
Signed Sealed & delivered

In presents of -
Daniel Sturdivant
John Hardaway J.P.

Beverly Hester

Recorded 30th March 1810

Transcribed from Book H, Folio 113-114 }
the 27th Feby. 1854 T.W. Shivers Recorder }

John Lewis Clk^{”166}

And yet again...

“Georgia }
Warren County } Whereas I Francis Hardaway Stand Indebted to John Hardaway in the Sum of One hundred and Seventy nine Dollars, and fifteen cents, for whereas John Hardaway, by becoming obligated with me, Francis Hardaway in the payment of a certain promissory Note, to the amount of the above Sum (Viz.) Two Notes signed & delivered to George Hargroves to the amount of forty three dollars and thirty two cents, dated the 28th day of December 1808, one payable ten days after date, and one payable the 25th day of December 1809 – also three Notes signed & delivered to Bazill Wight to the amount of Seventy five dollars, dated in January last, Also Three Notes Signed & delivered to J & J Butt to the amount of Sixty dollars, & Eighty two & half cents, which said Notes are now payable to J & J Butt, with Interest as above; which Said Notes above mentioned make the Sum of one hundred Seventy nine dollars, fifteen cents as above first mentioned, and whereas the above mentioned Notes or obligations were given wholly & solely for debt, due to the above mentioned men by Francis Hardaway & the said John Hardaway Signed the said notes as Security for the said Francis Hardaway – Now Know all men, by these presents, that for the deminifying the ... John Hardaway and keeping him from all harm, respecting the payment of the above mentioned Notes, and also all trouble and costs he may be liable to respecting the Same, I the said Francis Hardaway have Granted, bargained, and Sold and by these presents do Grant, bargain and Sell unto the Said John Hardaway his Heirs, Executors, Admr^s and assigns forever all that Tract or parcell of Land, lying and being in the County aforesaid containing fifty acres, be the Same, more or less, being part of a Tract of Land called Busseys Old Survey on Bryar Creek, being a Tract of Land Sold by **Evan Thomas** in behalf of his son in law to John Moses, and John Moses to Washington Hardaway, and from Washington Hardaway to Beverly Hester, & from Beverly Hester to said Francis Hardaway – Adjoining John Burkhatther’s, James Gray’s, and *David Cullers’s*: begining, on a pine & runing West to a pine corner, thence So. 37 W. to a white oak corner by the side of a creek, thence up the Said Creek to an ash corner, then to turn across the old Tract to **Culler’s** Land to a white oak Station, thence to a black Oak Station, thence to a Post oak corner on the Side of a branch, then up the said branch to a post Oak on the North Side, then along a line of Marked Trees to a Stake on Gray’s Line, then along said line So. 80 E. to the place of begining: Together with all and singular the Rights & appurtenances thereunto belonging to the said Tract of Land, and the remainders, Rents, profits & ___ the ___, and every part thereof, to have and to hold the Said Tract of Land and premises, unto the said John Hardaway his Heirs, Executors Administrators & Assigns for ever – Provided Nevertheless, and be it known, that the true intent and meaning of these premises is, that if the said Francis Hardaway shall well and truly pay, or cause to be paid the Several Notes and Sums above mentioned, according to the true Intent and meaning thereof, and Save the said John Hardaway harmless and clear from all costs, Trouble, and the payment of all or any part of the above mentioned notes or Sums of money therein mentioned, then this Deed of Mortgage, and every, and thing therein contained, shall cease, det__mine and become void, or else to remain in full force and virtue...

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this 29th day of December 1808.

Signed seal’d & delivered }
In the presents of }
Prior Gardner J.P.

Francis Hardaway

Recorded March 31st 1810

Transcribed from Book H, Folio 114-115 & 16 }
the 27th of Feby 1854. T.W. Shivers Recorder }

John Lewis Clk^{”167}

From the above information we can conclude that Evan Thomas was the father of three children who survived to adulthood:

1. Deborah (Debby) Thomas; b. ca. 1776^a; d. ??; m. David McCullers Jr. ca. 1792

At this time it is not known where or when Debby (Thomas) McCullers died, nor when David McCullers died. And it is not known what children they might have had. There is an estate record filed in Warren County that *may be* for David McCullers, but since there were more than one David McCullers in eastern Georgia (and probably all related as cousins), we cannot be sure that these refer to our David McCuller.

“1823 - Warren Co GA (19 Nov) - William Ball, Tem & Debonis non^b of *David McCullers* dec’d (formerly of Wilkes Co)”¹⁶⁸

“1823 - Warren Co GA (4 Dec) - William Hall, Admr. of *David McCullers* dec’d”¹⁶⁹

2. David Thomas; b. ca. 1778; d. aft. 1850; m. Hannah Burson ca. 1804 in Warren Co., GA

“After David left GA, he moved every census year: 1820 in Jackson Co GA, 1830 in Coweta Co GA, 1840 in Randolph Co AL, 1850 in Dallas Co AR. Between AL and AR, they were in Pontotoc Co MS for a couple of years. Lewellen’s son James was born in MS c.1847 and daughter Mary married in Pontotoc Co MS in 1848. I’m not sure why the detour to AR before TX, chasing free or cheap land I guess. David, sons Lewellen and John *Springer*, and 2 daughters all were in Dallas Co AR for 1850 census. Oldest daughter Mary (wife of Ransom Shipp) was in Drew Co AR in 1850. Most of the clan were in Leon or Limestone Co TX by 1870 after taking various routes to get there. Rev. John *Springer* Thomas stayed in AR longer, but he was a traveling preacher. David’s youngest daughter Elizabeth (wife of William Downs) was, I think, the first to TX, came to McLennan Co and stayed in that area.

“I don’t know for sure when and where David died. 1850 AR census is the last record I have for him. In 1860, wife Hannah was living with youngest daughter Elizabeth Downs in McLennan Co TX, with Lewellen 2 houses away. Last record for Downs in Dallas Co AR was 1851 tax list. Lewellen stayed in AR through the 1859 tax list, so must have moved to TX just in time for 1860 census. Lewellen then moved on to Leon Co TX by 1863. I suspect David died in AR before Hannah moved to TX with daughter Elizabeth, but that is just a hunch. He could have come to TX also and died here before 1860.”¹⁷⁰

3. **John Thomas**; b. ca. 1782-1783 in Union County, South Carolina; d. aft 1850 in Montgomery County, Texas; m. **Phoebe Ghiselin** on 26 June 1801¹⁷¹ in Warren County, GA.

^a Estimate based on the assumption that she was 16 years old when she married David McCullers, and the further assumption that they were married ca. 1792, soon after the family’s move to Warren County.

^b Corruption of “De bonis non administratis: “De bonis non administratis, Latin for ‘of goods not administered,’ is a legal term for assets remaining in an estate after the death or removal of the estate administrator. The second administrator is called the administrator de bonis non and distributes the remaining assets. A longer title is administrator de bonis non cum testamento annexo (‘administrator of goods not administered with the will annexed’). In the Uniform Probate Code, these titles have been replaced by successor personal representative.

“The most common cause of a grant of de bonis non by a court is where the administrator dies. However, it can also be granted in cases where the chain of representation is broken. Such would happen, for example, when the executor of a will has obtained probate, but then dies intestate. (Normally, if the executor dies testate, the representation passes to the executor of the first executor’s estate upon probate of the latter’s own will. This is governed by Section 7 of the Administration of Estates Act 1925 in the United Kingdom, for example.)”

John Thomas, born about 1782-1783^a in Union County, South Carolina, was the son of Evan Thomas. There is no, and never has been an, issue that John Thomas's wife was named Phoebe/Phebe, as she was so named in Stephen F. Austin's Register of Families (below). But there is an issue about what her maiden surname was.

The following brief description of the John Thomas family was posted on the Internet at least 10 years prior to this study, and has been copied and cited by numerous researchers since. It is a combination of good facts, and utter confusion.

✧

"The Thomas ancestral line we descend from begins with John Thomas and his wife Phoebe Springer, both born about 1784.^b Their roots begin in the state of South Carolina. Three Thomas men, David, John, and John Nelson^c are recorded in censuses there and again in Georgia, Alabama and finally in Texas, all at the same times and places.^d Their relationship to each other has never been proven.

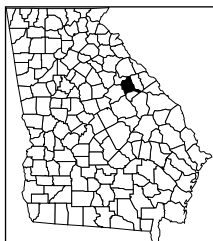


Fig. 12 Warren County, Georgia

"A Warren County, Georgia, deed of 1799 indicates that John Thomas and his wife Phoebe sold to James George, 120 acres on Middle Creek.^e Another er deed dated 1802 mentions a Widow Thomas as adjoining landowner to McCullers land.^f In 1806, McCullers sold land adjoining *Thomas Springer* and *David Thomas*.^g

"In 1805 the State of Georgia held a land lottery where land was given to encourage settlement. Land in Warren County was awarded to *David Thomas*, **John Thomas**, *John Nelson Thomas* and *Thomas Springer*^h. Both John Thomas' had two draws, indicating that they were married men. The John in Breed's District was number 904ⁱ, the *John* in Neal's District was 908; *David Thomas* was number 909^j. The same *David Thomas* family moved to Texas^k and ended up in the same area at the same time as our **John Thomas** family. It is likely that **John** and *David* were brothers, or at least cousins.^l

^a John Thomas reported his age as 67 in the 1850 Montgomery County, Texas, census (so born ca. 1783), and he was recorded as age 50 (as was his wife Phoebe) in an entry of Stephen F. Austin's Register of Families dated 1832 (provided below) (so born ca. 1782).

^b No. As shown above they were *both* born ca. 1782-1783.

^c Almost pure fantasy. No David Thomas was in the 1790 Union County census, and no John *Nelson* Thomas has been found at all. As discussed above, there was a John and Joseph Thomas who were in Union County, South Carolina, at the same time that Evan Thomas was there.

^d This statement is simply not true.

^e This deed and its ramifications will be discussed below.

^f True, but the Widow Thomas has not been identified, and is not thought to have been related to our Thomas family. There were several Thomas families in Warren County who were not related – see discussion below.

^g True, as documented above. The David Thomas here is the brother of our John Thomas, both sons of Evan Thomas as proved above.

^h The relevant 1805 Land Lottery results were provided earlier.

ⁱ The John Thomas in Breed's district was the *other* John Thomas, to be discussed below.

^j Our Thomas family was the one in Neal's district, and John and David Thomas there were brothers. See tax lists provided above.

^k Not true! John's brother David took a different route with most of his family ending up in Texas just before and after the Civil War.

^l Pure fiction, unless the author is referring to John's family who arrived in Texas in 1832, and the family of David, his brother, who did not come to Texas until just before and after the Civil War.

“Phoebe Springer’s parentage has not been discovered^a. The land information may be useful because people in that time frame tended to marry their near neighbors. It is therefore possible that Phoebe is the daughter or near relative of *Thomas Springer*.^b

“At least three of John and Phoebe Thomas’s older children list their place of birth as Georgia.”¹⁷²



It is the misdirection and false assumptions, stated as fact, in accounts like the above that have stalled the solid development of factual research on the Thomas family for years. The author of the above did not invent all the errors mentioned above; many of those assertions have been around for years and years, with source unknown, and no documentation as to where such assertions came from.

So now let me attempt to unravel and debunk some more of the above misleading “facts.” A John Thomas, with wife Phoebe, *did* appear in a deed dated 1799, selling land on Middle Creek of Warren County:

“THIS INDENTURE made the 2^d of February in the Year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Ninety nine, between John Thomas & Phoeby Thomas his Wife of the County of Warrant & State of Georgia of the one part, and James George of the County and State aforesaid of the other part, Witnesseth that we the said *John Thomas* and *Phoeby Thomas* his wife for and in consideration of the Sum of One hundred and fifty silver dollars, to us in hand paid by the said James George, the Receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge, hath bargained Sold and delivered, Infioffed and confirmed, And by these presents do bargain, sell, alien, Infeoff convey and confirm unto the said James George, his heirs & assigns a certain part or parcel of Land, situate, lying and being in the County and State aforesaid, and on the waters of Middle Creek Bounded as follows (Viz) Beginning at a red oak corner, running South East Eighty chains to a red Oak corner, thence North East to a pine corner, thence along a line of marked Trees until Striking *John Thomas’s* Spring Branch, thence continuing on various courses of Said Branch to a Maple corner, thence runing South Ten West to the beginning, containing one hundred & twenty five Acres (be the Same more or less) to him the Said James George his heirs and in fee Simple, and we the said *John Thomas & Phoeby Thomas* do warrant and Defend Tract or parcel of Land, and Every thereof to him the said James George his Heirs and assigns forever in absolute fee simple, IN WITNESS whereof the Said *John Thomas* and *Phoeby Thomas* have hereunto subscribed our names and affixed our Seals the day and Year above written.

in the presence of

John X Thomas

Gidien George }

Phoebe X Thomas

Joseph George }

Georgia } Personally Appeared before Mr. Gideon George, who being sworn says on Oath, that
Warren County } he saw *John Thomas* and *Phebe Thomas* seal and deliver the within Indenture to James George for the purposes therein Mentioned, and that himself and Joseph George were Subscibing witnesses thereto.

Sworn before Me the 29th Nov^r 1799

Sam^l Pruitt J.P.

Gideon George

Recorded Nov^r 30th 1799

Transcribed from Book E, Folio 30-31 }
the 11th of August 1853. F. W. Shiver Rec^d }

J: Tucker Clk^{”173}

^a This is because there was no Phoebe Springer! – as will be discussed below.

^b As mentioned above, I *suspect* that it was Evan Thomas, the father of John and David, who married a Springer, and she was *possibly* the sister of Thomas Springer.

It should be noted that this land was not in the area that we previously proved Evan Thomas, and his two sons, John and David, were living. But more to the point, the John Thomas of the deed immediately above, purchased the same land in 1796 as the following deed abstract will show:

“22 Sep 1796, Richard Whatley & Frances his wife of Warren Co. to *John Thomas* of same, for 50 pounds, 125 acres on Middle Creek ... Richd. Whatley (X) (seal), Frances Whatley (X) (seal). Wit: Gidion George, Richd. Carter. Rec. 23 Jan 1799”¹⁷⁴

I will certainly contend that a young man who had been born in 1782-1783 was not old enough to purchase land in 1796, when he was only 13-14 years old! And as I previously pointed out in the 1794 tax list (above), there was a John Thomas who owned 125 acres (!) of land on Middle Creek in that year, who appears to have been the same one addressed immediately above.

But since there is so much confusion on the subject, I will contend that there were *several* John Thomases in Warren County as the following records will show:

[Wilkes] “17 Jan 1789, *John Thomas* and *Elenor*, his wife, to William Huckaby, all of Wilkes Co., for £50, on Rocky Creek, 120 acres, adj. E. by Mary Whatley, N.W. by George Gresham, S.W. by Rocky Creek. (signed) *John Thomas, Elenor (x) Thomas*. Wit: Morrice Kain, Phillip Huckabay, John Eidson, Solomon (x) Thornton. Proved by Phillip Huckabay, B. Catching, J.P. Regd. 24 Nov 1794.”¹⁷⁵

[Wilkes] “23 Feb 1792, Allima Ivey to *John Thomas*, both of Wilkes Co., for £200, 183 ½ acres on Sherrils Creek, adj. Charles Ivey, Anthony Ivey, Jno. Williams & James Huckaby. (signed) Allima Ivey. Test: A. Bedell. Regd. 3 Sep 1792.”¹⁷⁶

“Church at Williams Creek:

“Church met 5th May 1792. And call’d a conference to settle some matters laid in against Brother _____. The Ministers call’d as helps were Brethern Silas Mercer, *John Thomas*, Jephtha Vining, John Henderson & William Lovel. The charge against him laid in by Caty Hill was his coming at an unseasonable time of the night her bed ** which she was lying & laying his hand in her face, 2nd on her breast, 3rd on her knee...”¹⁷⁷

[Wilkes] “S.C.: 24 Aug 1793, William Borroum and Fanny, his wife, of Edgefield Co., S.C., to Benjamin Simmons of Ga., for £100, in Wilkes Co., on Bigg Ogechee & Red Lick Creek waters, 200 acres, adj. John Winn, John Harvey, William Robertson, Lewis Powell, & Moses Powell, Junr., granted to said Moses Powell, 13 Dec 1785. (signed) Wm. Borroum, Fanny (x) Borroum. Test: *John Thomas*, Senr., *Roberds Thomas*, J.P. Proved by Rev. *John Thomas* & *Roberds Thomas*, Esq., 21 June 1794, Francis Lawson, J.P. Regd. 23 Nov 1794.”¹⁷⁸

“20 April 1799 – Frederick Daniel applies for administration on estate of *John Thomas*, and was duly granted 18 July 1799, with Wm. Mims, surety.”¹⁷⁹

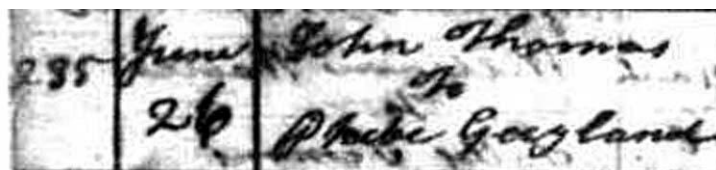
“Warren Co., Ga., Frederick Daniel, William Mims bound to Court of Ordinary, 18 July 1799 ... est. of *John Thomas*, dec’d. Frederick Daniel (Seal), Wm. Mims (Seal). Rec. 3 March 1800”¹⁸⁰

“6 Feb 1804, Gideon George & Tabitha his wife to Hugh Armstrong for \$250, 113 acres, adj. Miller, *John Thomas*, Hugh Armstrong, Dennis & Lewis, Gideon George (LS), Tabitha George (LS). Wit: Drury Banks, John Bayn JP.”¹⁸¹

As the following record will show, there were two John Thomases in Warren County who had wives named Phoebe, *and the following one is “ours”*:

| [Marriage – Warren Co.] “**Thomas, John & Phebe Gayland** 26 July 1801”¹⁸² |

There was no Gayland (or Guyland) family in Warren County records, so we have another case of creative spelling for the name Ghiselin (or Geeslin). This is proved in the actual Warren County marriage records retained in the Georgia Archives where the marriage is recorded as:



The handwriting of the original record is certainly difficult to read, but if one stares at it long enough, I think he/she will conclude that Phoebe's last name is spelled "Geezland." And since we already know that the Evan Thomas family was living on land adjacent to the William Geeslin tract, it is not hard to imagine that John Thomas might have married a girl whose family lived next door (as did David Thomas, when he married a daughter of Isaac Burson). I will also contend that the date of the marriage was June 26, not July 26 as the above abstract shows.

To help the reader to swallow the above contention, I will point out that John and Phoebe Thomas's first-born child, Senthia, was born on 24 March 1802 – *exactly* 9 months after the above marriage. John and Phoebe would have both been about 18-19 years old when they married.

The 1807 birth of daughter Mary (Polly) Thomas (previously mentioned, and below) is the last evidence we have of the John Thomas family being in Warren County, Georgia. As was previously mentioned, John, David, and their sister, Debby, and their brother-in-law, David McCullers all moved to Jackson County, Georgia in the 1805-1807 time period.

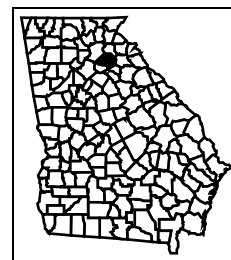


Fig. 13 Jackson County, Georgia

"1803 - Jackson Co GA (16 Apr, deed) - William (X) Kirkland to *David Colours*...for \$500, 100 acres on waters of Mulberry Fork, adj Dysort and Baswell, being part of tract originally granted to Buckner Harris...Wit: Elijah Shaw, *Joseph Burson*."¹⁸³

"1805 - Warren Co GA (21 Jan, deed) - *David (D) McCullers* of Warren Co GA to John Bagby...for \$300, 100 acres on waters of Mulberry Fork whereon James Brooks now lives, adj Joseph George, Brassell, and *Isaac Burson*, being part of a tract granted 14 Jun 1802 to Buckner Harris...Wit: James Brooks, George Hargraves...recorded 14 Feb 1805."¹⁸⁴

"13 Dec 1805, Jackson Co., Gideon George^a to Thomas Walker, both of said county, \$105 for part of a survey granted to John Torrence, conveyed to Hollingshead, from him to Dysort, & from Dysort to said Gideon George, containing 50 acres on the waters of the Mulberry fork, bounded by lands of Bender, Bagby, & the same survey. Signed: Gideon George. Wit: **John (X) Thomas**, Isaac Boring, J.P. Rec. 31 Jan 1811."¹⁸⁵

"8 Nov 1806, Gideon George & Tabitha George to **John Thomas**, \$500 for parcel of land originally granted to John Torrence on the Mulberry fork of Oconee River, adjoining lands of Thomas Walker ... Signed: Gideon George, Tabitha George. Wit: Joseph George, Lucy (X) Walker, Isaac Boring, J.P. Rec. 3 Aug 1809."¹⁸⁶

^a Gideon George was also a resident of Warren County, and the alert reader will have noticed that his name appeared in connection with the *other* John Thomas with wife Phoebe. Gideon George and his family were very active in buying and selling land all over eastern Georgia, so his name appearing here, and elsewhere, has no special significance.

[**Comment:** Researchers beware! There was another John Thomas in the Jackson County records. But unlike our John Thomas, who was illiterate, and signed his name with a mark, the other John Thomas was literate. The other John Thomas can also be recognized from his location, which was on the North Fork of the Oconee River. He, the other John Thomas – wouldn't you know it! – was the son of *another* Evan Thomas, the latter of whom lived in Chatham and Anson counties, North Carolina.]

I cannot be absolutely certain that the John Thomas in the following two records was our John Thomas, but since he signed with a mark, I am assuming for now that he was:

... [page missing] “November one thousand eight hundred & seven. /s/ Thomas (X – his mark) Morgan. Test. **John** (X – his mark) **Thomas**, Jamy Thompson.

“Received the twenty third of November one thousand eight hundred & seven four hundred dollars it being part of the sum within mentioned I say received by me. /s/ Thomas (X – his mark) Morgan. Wit: **John** (E – his mark) **Thomas**.”¹⁸⁷

“The petition of Philip Thurmond sheweth that Thomas Morgan in his life time made and executed his bond in writing on the twenty third day of November Eighteen hundred and seven to your petitioner, his own proper hand & seal being thereto subscribed bearing date the same day and year aforesaid and thus delivered the same to your petitioner, a copy of which bond is hereunto annexed, which bond was for the conveyance of a certain lot of Land lying & being in the thirteenth District of the County of Baldwin, known by number one hundred & sixty six in said district, and your petitioner having not been able to procure titles from the said Thomas Morgan in his life time, and he having departed this life without executing the same, or making any arrangement by will for the execution thereof, your petitioner prays that the honorable Court of Ordinary will direct the administrators of the said Thomas Morgan deceased, late of said County, to execute to your petitioner or his assigns, the titles aforesaid in terms of the law in such case made & provided, & as in duty bound your petitioner will ever pray. /s/ Walton Harris, Atty. for Philip Thurmond.

“Know all men by these presents that I Thomas Morgan of the State of Georgia & Jackson County, do bind myself, my heirs, Executors and administrators unto Philip Thurmond of the State of South Carolina & County of Edgefield in the Just and full sum of one Thousand dollars. The condition of the above obligation is such that the above mentioned Thomas Morgan is to make or cause to be made unto the said Thurmond, or his heirs, a good & lawful title to a lot of Land lying & being in the State of Georgia & County of Baldwin, & in the thirteenth district and known by the number One hundred and Sixty Six, at any time when said Thurmond shall pay said Morgan Eight hundred dollars, & if said Morgan does make good & lawful titles to the land, then the above obligation shall be void, otherwise to remain in full force & virtue in law. Given under my hand and seal this twenty third day of November, one thousand Eight hundred & seven. /s/ Thomas (X – his mark) Morgan (Seal). Test **John** (S – his mark) **Thomas**, James Thompson.

“Received the twenty third of November one thousand Eight hundred & seven, four hundred dollars it being part of the sum within mentioned. I say received by me. /s/ Thomas (X – his mark) Morgan. **John** (E – his mark) **Thomas** (witness)...”¹⁸⁸

Another familiar Warren County name who also moved to Jackson County, and in the same area as John and David Thomas, and David McCullers, was that of Joseph Landrum. This Joseph was the brother of Zachariah and John Landrum, the latter two of whom had moved to the Mississippi Territory in 1803.

“12 Feb 1808, Isaac Pennington to *Joseph Landrum*, both of Jackson Co., \$450 for 200 acres on the waters of Mulberry Fork, part of 250 acres granted to Isaac Pennington on 3 Dec 1801, joining lands of Sturges, Joseph George, Few & Wilson. Signed: Isaac Pennington. Wit: W. Pentecost, Philip Jackson. Sworn by William Pentecost on 19 Oct 1808 before Agrippa Atkinson, J.P. Rec. 21 Dec 1808.”¹⁸⁹

And members of the Burson clan moved to Jackson County as well:

“20 Feb 1808, *Isaac Bussen (Burson)*, Jun., to Jesse George, both of Jackson Co., \$100 for 20 acres on the waters of Mulberry River, bounded S by *David Burson*, W by *Isaac Burson*, Sen., N. by said George, E by Isaac Pennington, being part of a tract granted to Ignatius Few. Signed: *Isaac Burson*, Jun. Wit: Austin Fulcher, John Newton. Sworn by Austin Fulcher on 16 Oct 1808, before William Ship, J.P. Rec. 19 Dec 1808.”¹⁹⁰

“27 Feb 1808, **John Thomas** to *Joseph Landrum*, both of Jackson Co., \$120 for 50 acres, part of a tract originally granted to John Tarrance & beg. on upper hickory cor. of said survey on Mulberry fork, S5°W 32 chs. & 35 lks. to post oak cor., S75E 14 chs. to lightwood stake, N10E 35 chs. to maple cor. on Mulberry fork, up meanders of river to beg. Signed: **John (X) Thomas**. Wit: Isaac Brooks, Abrippa Atkinson, J.P. Rec. 21 Dec 1808.”¹⁹¹

“18 Oct 1808, Jackson Co., *Isaac Burson*, Sen. & wife of county aforesaid to *Joseph Landrum*, \$50 for 20 acres on waters of Mulberry fork, part of tract granted to Roderick Easley, on Few’s old line. Signed: *Isaac Burson*. Wit: W. Pentecost, Wm. Shipp, J. P. Rec. 20 Dec 1808”¹⁹²

“19 Oct 1808, Jackson Co., Jesse George to *Joseph Landrum*, both of the county aforesaid, \$50 for 20 acres on the waters of Mulberry fork of Oconee River, being part of a tract granted to Ignatius Few, Beg. on post oak cor. on said Few’s old line, S45E 9 chs. to pine cor., N45E till it intersects a certain branch E of said parcel of land, down meanders of branch till it intersects Few’s old line, along said line to beg. Signed: Jesse (X) George. Wit: William Pentecost, Agrippa Atkinson, J.P. Rec. 20 Dec 1808.”¹⁹³

The following deed is an important one in our reconstruction and narrative: it proves that our John Thomas, with wife Phoebe, was the one who appeared in Jackson County records, and that David Thomas, his brother, was there with him.

“3 June 1809, Jackson Co., **John Thomas & Phebe** his wife to Wm. Shipp, both of said county, \$1,100 for 231 acres being part of a tract originally granted to John Torrence & on the Mulberry fork of the Oconee river Beg. at a Wahoo on the said water course & running S5°W about 46 chs. & 50 links to a lightwood stake marked X, N85W to pine cor., N5°E along the line of Thomas Walker’s land untill it intersects the line of *Joseph Landrum* lands ... Signed: **John (X) Thomas, Phebe (X) Thomas**. Wit: Jacob Ferguson, *David (X) Thomas*, William Hayes. Sworn by *David Thomas* on 28 Mar 1812 before John Boring, J.P. Rec. 23 Jan 1813.”¹⁹⁴

“26 Jan 1810, Jackson Co., Thomas Walker to Elijah Shaw, \$100 for a certain part of a survey granted to John Torrence & conveyed to Hollinghead, from Hollinghead to Dysort, from Dysort to Gideon George, & from George to said Thomas Walker, & on waters of the Mulberry fork of Oconee River, containing 25 acres, bounded W by Adams land, SW by Dorcas Walker’s land ... Signed: Thomas (X) Walker. Wit: Austin Fulcher, **John (X) Thomas**. Acknowledged before John Boring, J.P. on 26 Sep 1810. Rec. 29 Jan 1811.”¹⁹⁵

“6 Feb 1810, Gideon George of Putnam Co., GA, to **John Thomas** of Jackson Co., \$80 for about 22 acres on waters of Mulberry fork of Oconee river beg. at a maple cor. on the Creek running nearly W to a pine cor., nearly N to a pine cor., nearly E to a wahoo on said Creek, up said Creek to the beg., being part of survey whereon Joseph George now lives. Signed: Gideon George. Wit: Woody Hinton, *Joseph Landrum*, J.P. Rec. 12 Nov 1814.”¹⁹⁶

The following two records reveal that there was something “funny” going on with the 22 acres in the above record, and that John Thomas may not have finalized the sale, because 2 ½ years later Joseph George appears to have sold the same land to Thomas Walker.

“15 Feb 1811, Jackson Co., quitclaim from Joseph George of said county to Gideon George of Putnam Co., GA, for parcel of land on which Joseph George now lives lying on the S end of the survey made to said

George, on 28 Dec 1809, & granted 10 Dec 1810, by D.B. Mitchell, Gov., containing in the whole 400 acres, out of which 157 acres is reserved for Joseph George ... With this relinquishment is the following conditions, the said Joseph George & Gideon George did previous to the date of the aforesaid survey purchase of John Dysort the aforesaid survey of land & did derive a title from the Grantee, John Tarrence, through the said Dysort & whereas the said Gideon & Joseph was doubtful of such title ... did resurvey said tract of land ... Now the true intent of this relinquishment is to restore to the said Gideon George ... the title he formerly held by the conveyance from Dysort ... Signed: Joseph (X) George. Wit: W. Pentecost, Jos. Landrum, J.P. Rec. 17 Mar 1812.”¹⁹⁷

“18 Oct 1812, Jackson Co., Joseph George to Thomas Walker, both of said county, \$60 for 22 acres on waters of the Mulberry fork it being part of a tract of 400 acres granted to Joseph George on 10 Dec 1810. Signed: Joseph George. Wit: John Ship, Richard Ship, *Joseph Landrum*, J.P. Rec. 12 Nov 1814.”¹⁹⁸

“7 Sep 1815, Jackson Co., *David Thomas* & Benjamin Kirklin of co. aforesaid to William Clinton of Clark Co., GA, \$50 for tract of land on the waters of Mulberry river ... being 37 acres bounded S by Wilson, W by Burson, N & E by *Landrum*, being part of tract granted to Ignatius Few. Signed: *David* (“T” his mark) *Thomas*, Benjamin (“B”) his mark Kirkland. Wit: E. Shaw, J.P., *Isaac Burson*, Jun., J.P. Rec. 15 Sep 1819.”¹⁹⁹

“1817 - Jackson Co GA (4 Jul, deed) - *David (D) Thomas* to John McGee, for the sum of \$250, a tract of land adj. said *Thomas*, said McGee, and *Isaac Burson*, being part of a grant to Ignatius Few on 4 Apr 1786... Wit: *David (D) McColours*, Elijah Shaw J.P.”²⁰⁰

The following record *suggests* that John Thomas was still living in Jackson County in 1818, but perhaps as a tenant on land he did not own. In any case, the following is the last record found that names John Thomas in Jackson County:

“15 Oct 1818, Jackson Co., Richard Shipp of said county to Micajah Bennett of Green Co., GA, \$200 for 200 acres on the waters of Beach creek whereon **John Thomas** now lives, described by a plat of the same hereunto annexed (small plat drawn on p. 155). ... Signed: Richard Shipp. Wit: *Isaac Burson*, Jun., B. Mayo, J.P. Rec. 14 Jan 1820.”²⁰¹

The records above are all Jackson County records. The Thomas, Burson, Landrum and McCullers families were all living on the western edge of the county where the Mulberry River forms the boundary between Jackson and present-day Barrow County^a. However, the many references to Beech Creek places the land on the western side of the river and current county line, and into present-day Barrow County.

We *think* we can next find the John Thomas family in Wilcox County, Alabama. At this time we have no information as to why the family left Georgia, and with whom (if anyone). But as the reader will soon see, they were located very near a number of other familiar Warren County families. The

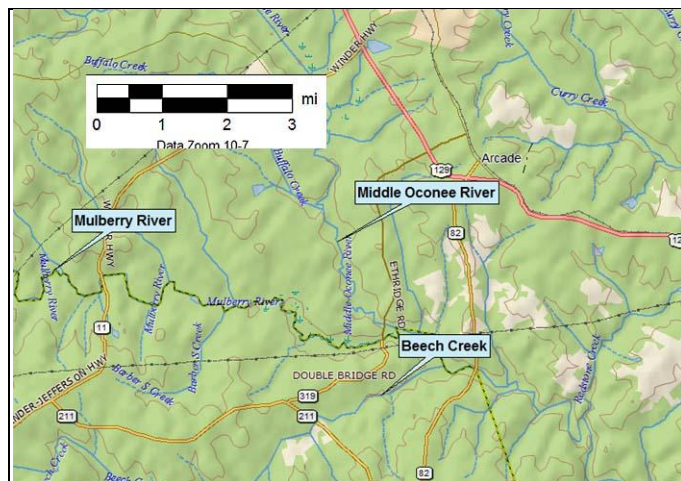


Fig. 14 Location of Thomas family in Jackson County

^a Barrow County was created in 1914 from parts of Jackson County.

Alabama state census of 1820 lists the John Thomas family in Wilcox County, Alabama²⁰² (which adjoins Marengo County)^a. There is no way to really prove that this is our John Thomas, but the enumeration of the family closely matches what we know about the family of our John Thomas. The John Thomas family was enumerated as: 1 male over 21 (John, Sr., age 37-38); 3 males under 21 (James Avery, age 7-8; John Nelson, age 5; and David, age 3-4); 1 female over 21 (Phoebe, age 37-38); 3 females under 21 (Betsy, age 14-15; Mary (Polly), age 12-13; and Lucinda, age 10).^b The oldest daughter, Senthia, was 18 at this time, and probably already married, or dead. There is a possible issue with the next oldest daughter, Nancy, who would have been 17-18 years old, however.

Most people who have studied this family assert that Nancy Thomas died in 1821. And she might well have, but another corroborating piece of evidence that this is our family is the fact that on 18 January 1821 a Nancy Thomas married Samuel Smith, and *James Gilmore provided security for the marriage*:

“Samuel Smith & Nancy Thomas by William Hays, J.P. with James Gilmore, Sec. 1/18/1821.”²⁰³

It is therefore possible, until we know more, that John & Phoebe’s daughter, Nancy, died later in the year 1821, possibly as a result of child birth with a first child. But then, where was she when the 1820 census was taken? Is it possible that she was living with another family, even possibly with her older sister, Senthia?

It certainly appears that the family counted in the 1820 Wilcox County census was that of our John Thomas, but the future researcher should be forewarned that there was another John Thomas who lived in Wilcox County, or least partly in Wilcox County, because an original land owner map shows a John Thomas whose land actually straddled the Wilcox-Dallas County line. He continued to appear mostly in Dallas County records, but also in some Wilcox records – long after our John Thomas had left Alabama to go to Texas.

The 1830 Federal census of Marengo County provides us with our next glimpse of this elusive family:

Head of Household	Males													Females												
	0-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70-80	80-90	90-100	100+	0-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70-80	80-90	90-100	100+
John Gilmore				2							1								1							
James Gilmore	1					1												1								
John Gilmore Junr.	1		1			1								1	2			1								
Jesse B. Landrum	1	1	1			1								1			1									
Samuel Landrum		1	1	1				1									1	1		1						
Joseph Hinson					1									1				1								
Thomas Gilmore					1													1								
John Thomas	2	3		1				1						1	1					1						
John Hinson		2	1	1				1								1			1							

^a A James Thomas (1-3-2-0) was listed immediately before John Thomas; I have no idea at this time who he might have been or if he was related in any way. John Gilmore was listed as 1-2-2-3 in the same Wilcox County state census on the previous page (p. 514).

^b Annie, Samuel, William and Simeon were not yet born. But our information indicates that Sylvania was born 19 March 1819, so she should have been counted as well.

[illegible]

When one does a comparison of the 1830 census information with the known children of John and Phoebe Thomas, one finds a reasonable comparison, and one which would be exact if the “3” in the 2nd census column was switched with the “1” in the 4th column.

1830 Alabama Census – Marengo County	
Enumeration	Known Children & ages
2 males under 5	Simeon (3), William (5)
3 males 5-10	Samuel (7)
1 male 15-20	James (18), John (15), David (14)
1 male 50-60	John
1 female 5-10	Annie (9)
1 female 10-15	Sylvania (10)
1 female 50-60	Phoebe

During my visit to Marengo County, Alabama, in October 1990, I could find no evidence of the Thomases in the deed records, except for the one deed dated 15 December 1846 from Sam M. Grigsby of Sumter County, Alabama, to John Thomas of Marengo for \$391.62½ for a tract of land containing 78.12½ acres.²⁰⁴ It was not until later that I learned that the Marengo County courthouse had burned in 1848, and that there is no hope of finding earlier records unless they had been re-filed by people still living there.

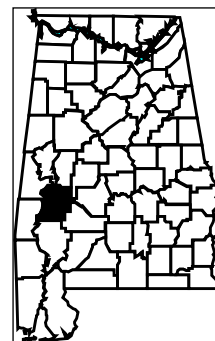


Fig. 15 Marengo
County, Alabama

By 1832 the Thomas family had moved to what was to become Montgomery County, Texas. In an entry dated 26 December 1832^a in Stephen F. Austin's Register of families, one will find the following names starting three entries after Sam Houston:

“Saml Houston 38 years of age from Tennessee”²⁰⁵

• • • • •

“**John Thomas** 50 years of age Moved from Alabama **Phoebe** his wife 50 year of age 6 male^b 2 female children^c

“Peter Cartwright 55 years of age From Alabama Elizabeth 50 years of age 7 male 4 female children

John Springer 27 years of age from Alabama Elizabeth 22 years of age 1 male 2 female children

"Wm. Morris, widower, 29 years of age From Alabama one female child Wants place on San Jacinto River called Cedar Point

“Ezekiel Springer 21 years of age Erises Springer 21 years of age

*"In the original Register, a marginal note applies to all the names from John Thomas through Ezekiel Springer: Want land in the San Jacinto District & have gone to examine it."*²⁰⁶

^a Stephen F. Austin was inconsistent with dating in his Register of Families, but the first entry preceding that of the Thomas family that includes a date is on the preceding page in which John W. Buckner (26 December 1832 took the oath...) All land grants that I can find for anyone listed on the same page with John Thomas indicate they arrived in December 1832.

^b James Avery, John N., David, Samuel A. J., William M., Simeon Thomas.

^c Sylvania and Annie Thomas.

Richard Breden 50 years of age unmarried 32
 moved from Kentucky

Albert Edgin 29 years of age unmarried
 moved from Kentucky

Mary Young widow of Adam Lawrence with
 1 male and 7 female children born in the County
 13 months. paid the Comm. expense of an acct.
 of his fees two more

Saml Bowsten 38 years of age from Tennessee

James Bradley 22 years of age from Tennessee

Wm W Rawkins 20 years of age from Missouri

John Thomas 50 years of age
 Phoebe his wife 50 years of age
 6 male & 2 female children moved from Alabama

Jehu Cartwright 55 years of age
 Elizabeth 50 years of age
 7 male & 14 female children from Alabama

John Springer 27 years of age
 Elizabeth 22 years of age
 1 male & 2 female children from Alabama

Wm Morris widower 29 years of age
 1 female child
 was the place on 10th Jacinto called Cedar point from Alabama

Ezekiel Springer 25 years of age
 Erice Springer 21 years of age

Wm's name in the San Jacinto
 District than you to examine

We find one (or two?) John Thomases listed with a character certificate in San Augustine and Nacogdoches, Texas, in 1835:

"#2031 **Thomas, John.** San Augustine. 13 May 1835. Certify Mr. John Thomas a native of gorge [Georgia] and was born in the county of Worn [Warren] and is a man of family.

John Bodine Alcalde pro tem

[Rev] Accepted in Vehlein. A Henrie"²⁰⁷

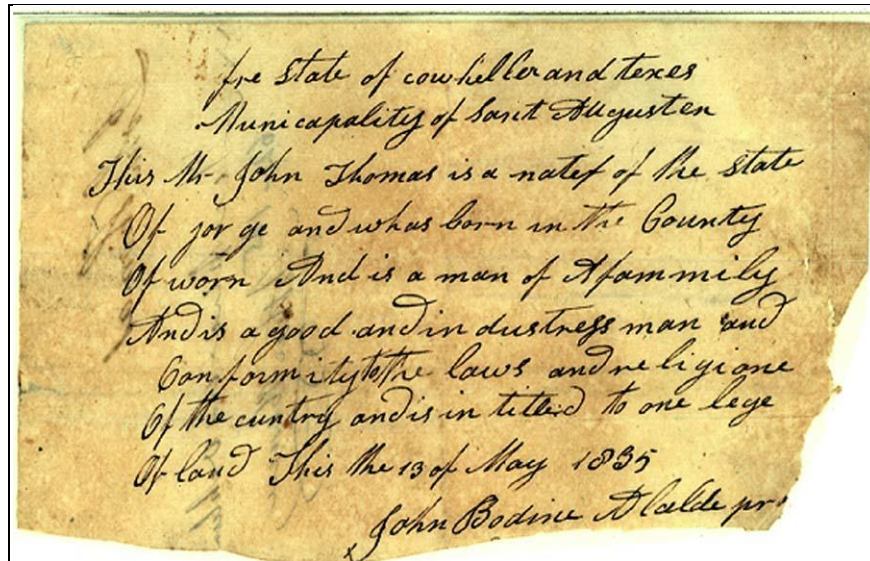


Fig. 16 Character Certificate for John Thomas

"#3171 Nacogdoches. 22 Sep 1835. No. 165 **John Thomas** native USA with wife."²⁰⁸

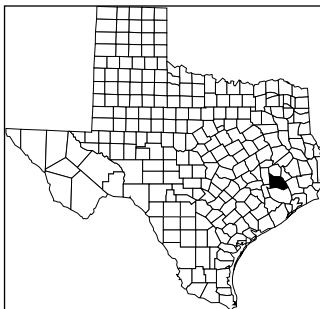


Fig. 17 Montgomery County, Texas

There were several John Thomases who entered the Mexican state of Coahuila & Tejas prior to 1836, and obviously not all of them were ours. But insofar as I know, after extensive research, there was only one John Thomas who could claim to have been from Warren County, Georgia – ours. Whether the second certificate refers to the same man, or not, is unknown (but probably not). Now the question is what was John Thomas doing in San Augustine in May 1835? The infamous runaway scrape where residents fled to the border of Texas from Santa Anna's armies did not occur until early 1836. I suspect the answer *might* be found in the land grant information provided below. Though we know that our Thomas family had come to Texas in August 1832, the land grant information says they arrived 15 December 1832. Were new settlers required to officially register themselves at a "port-of-entry," which San Augustine was, before they could receive a Mexican land grant? I strongly suspect that this might be the reason for John Thomas's appearance in San Augustine in May 1835.^a

^a According to the person with whom I talked at the Texas Land Office, on 10 September 2012, obtaining a character certificate was the first step in obtaining a land grant from the Mexican Government.

Another John Thomas did receive a first class land grant of one league, one labor in San Augustine County in January 1838, having arrived in March 1835.²⁰⁹ And the 1837 tax list for San Augustine County listed two Thomases, neither of whom is thought to belong to our family (indicating, again, that every juncture of the Thomas saga one will find multiple John Thomases):

“Thomas, J.A. 640 acres, value \$1250; 5 slaves, value \$3200, 1 poll”²¹⁰

“Thomas, John 9 slaves, value \$5100, 1 poll”²¹¹

We do know that our Thomas family eventually settled in what is now Montgomery County, Texas. Land grants listed for members of our family, and related families, include:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Arrived</u>	<u>Granted</u>	<u>Witnesses</u>
John Thomas #19	4605	15 Dec 1832	6 Jan 1838 ²¹²	Jesse Grimes, William Landrum ²¹³
James Thomas #30	1476	Dec 1832	6 Jan 1838 ²¹⁴	Jesse Grimes, William Landrum ²¹⁵
David Thomas #33	1476	Dec 1832	6 Jan 1838 ²¹⁶	William Landrum, Jesse Grimes ²¹⁷
John M. Springer #34	4605	Dec 1832		A. W. Springer, William Landrum ²¹⁸
A. W. Springer #35	3498	Dec 1832		John M. Springer, William Landrum ²¹⁹
Thomas Gilmore	4605	15 Dec 1832		Jesse Grimes, William Landrum ²²⁰
J. N. Thomas, <i>decd.</i>	1476	Dec 1832	Feb 1838 ²²¹	Jesse Grimes, William Landrum ²²²

William Landrum who signed as a witness in all of the above records was married to Nancy Gilmore, and he was the brother of John May Springer’s wife. “A. W.” Springer in the above listing was actually “A. U” Springer, i.e., Alford Uriah Springer, younger brother of John M. Springer, but because of this spelling error, the tract has been known as the “A. W. Springer” tract since (as shown in the enclosed map, below).

The following deed is one of the more important ones in understanding the early Thomas relationship with some of the other families. It shows that though John Thomas was awarded a full league and labor of land, he immediately sold his “rights” to this land (even before it had been officially granted – see above) to William Landrum, son of Zachariah Landrum, and to John Pyle. In a cash-strapped economy land “rights” were just as negotiable, if not more so, than cash, and land rights were traded in an almost open market. So, this tells us that John Thomas and family were not aspiring to becoming land entrepreneurs, but were rather in need of “cash” with which to buy necessities.

“Montgomery County Deed Book B 10 Jan 1837

“\$1,000 Contract between **John Thomas** & W. Landrum & J. Pyle. Republic of Texas, Lake Creek. **John Thomas** entitled to one league and labor as settler. Landrum and Pyle to select & survey land for ½ of land. /S/ **John Thomas**, Y.F.W. Johnson. Wit: J. Worsham, W. W. Rankin, Zacheus Wilson & William Keys.”²²³

Contract between John Thomas & W. Landrum & J. Pyle
 1. Republic of Texas
 Lake Creek January 10th 1837. 3 Thomas & John -
 Thomas a resident citizen of the Republic of Texas
 by the Constitution and Laws of Colonization &
 entitled to one league and labor of land as a set-
 tler. Now therefore the said John Thomas have
 bargained and agreed and by these presents do bar-
 gain and agree with William Landrum and John

I have learned from poring through a number of Montgomery County records, that it was customary for someone who had been granted land to turn over half his rights to the grant to a man who was willing to locate it, have it registered in the Land Office, pay whatever fees applied, including surveying charges, etc. It is very important, however, to notice that only ½ of the grant went to William Landrum and John Pyle – the other half was retained by John Thomas.

The following very lengthy will of William Landrum is necessary to understanding the record immediately following. In addition, the will provides us with some key information about David Thomas' land.

#239 Landrum, W. M., deceased.
 G. D. Gay & Nancy Landrum, Exrs.

WILL

"The State of Texas, County of Montgomery:

"I William Landrum of the State and County aforesaid though weak in body but of sound and disposing mind and memory do make and ordain this my last will and testament hereby revoking all other wills heretofore made.

"First. I direct that all of my just debts shall be paid as early as practicable so that my estate and heirs shall be relieved from interest & charges thereon and that the just and lawful claims of my creditors may be fully satisfied.

"Second. I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Nancy and my children John, Polly, Cynthia, Melissa, Zachariah and Willis, all of my estate both real and personal to be divided share and share alike equally among them saving such exceptions as may be herein after mentioned and made.

"I give to my wife Nancy the use and occupation of my plantation and the mill thereto appertaining – during her natural life or until she may think proper to dispose of the same, with the right and power to sell the working part of said mill separately and apply the same to her own use without charge as part of her share – meaning the irons, wheels, stones, running gear, & etc.

"Having given to Mr. Green D. Gay one of my negroes named Jack a boy about ten years old – he is excepted from the disposition of this will – this negro is to be taken by Mr. Gay for the use and as the property of my daughter and heir Polly. I also give to him for her use and property one horse and five cows and calves all of which are to be taken and considered as so much as a part of the share of my daughter Polly.

"It is my will that my negro property be kept together by my wife until my children successively come of age or marry in which case each child is to receive his or her part or share of negro property – all of my property being shared alike equally by my wife and children as before provided and expressed.

"Should my wife sell my plantation and the tract of land upon which the same is made – containing 553 acres or thereabouts the same being a tract given to me by my father. Should she sell the same or any part of this tract of land which she is hereby fully authorized to do the proceeds of the same shall be duly divided and set apart for my said heirs my wife taking her part and my married children or those of age taking their part, remainder in trust deposit until other my children come of age or marry.

"It is my will and I do hereby appoint my wife Nancy and my son in law Green D. Gay executors of this my last will and testament and hereby give to them or the survivor of them should one die full power

and authority to sell and dispose of so much of my property and from time to time as may be necessary to provide a proper and decent maintenance for my wife and children and for the education of my children with full power and authority to make and execute good and sufficient rights and titles for the property which they may dispose of for their purposes and with the same powers should it be necessary in making division among the heirs of my estate of their parts – they always exercising a just discretion in the exercise of those powers.

“Further I give to them full power as executors to act in all things in regard to the administration of my estate as their good judgment and consciences may direct – they or the survivor of them. It is my will that no further proceedings be had in the probate court save the probate of my will and registry of lawful and verified inventory of my estate – and that my said Executors shall not give bond, being satisfied that they will act justly.

“It is my will that my wife Nancy have and received free from any charge as her part of her share of my estate my household furniture ?heading Kitchen utensils & etc.

“It is my will that my debts due me be collected or paid over to those loaned just and lawfull claims against my estate in preference to selling property for this purpose unless it be necessary, so that my estate shall be relieved of my debts at the earliest possible moment.

“Finally it is my wish that my estate be kept together as much as may be useful with a proper regard to the benefit of my heirs.

“I have given Albert Perry my bond for four hundred acres of land or thereabouts for attending to the defense of a suit pending Blanchat against **John Thomas, Senior**. Which I wish my Executors to comply with – in the terms of said bond as their judgment may direct and they or the survivor of them is fully authorized to comply therewith and make to the owners of said bond the proper title for the land with it requires and which my executors may agree upon out of my part of the said **John Thomas’s** league.

“It is my will and my Executor Green D. Gay has and he is hereby fully authorized to settle and make division between myself of one part and Dr. E. J. Arnold & Ben or Alexander or James McCown on the other part of our claims & interests in **Jno Thomas** league and labor of land and to execute to them all the necessary letters and ?acquanstances in division and to receive the same from them each for their half parts.

“My executors may sell my part of said **Thomas** league & labor, or my part of David Thomas third league headright in Red River County and four hundred acres in James Rankins Junr. headright league at their discretion for the use & support of my family first, before other property if they think proper.

“Mr. Gay will own my bond for 400 acres of land or thereabouts on Winford Bailey’s as he may deem proper and take such property or close the same in such manner as he may deem best for the benefit of my heirs.

“Witness my hand & seal this the fifteenth day of October 1846 making my mark as I am too weak to write my name. His mark and seal: William Landrum. Signed and sealed in presence of : Israel Worsham & *John M. Springer*.

“This document includes affidavits of the subscribing witnesses as to the authenticity of the will and signatures and the oaths of Nancy Landrum & G. D. Gay dated 4 Dec 1846.

““In open Probate Court. This will of William Landrum being duly proven at this regular term in open court upon the oath of *John Springer*, ordered that the same be filed and recorded 4 Dec 1846. /s/ George W. Mason, Probate Judge, M. C.’

“11 Nov 1846 – Petition for Letters Testamentary Nancy Landrum and Green D. Gay state that Wm. Landrum, the husband and father-in-law of the petitioners died on the 15th of October last, leaving an estate. By the last will and testament of deceased, the petitioners were appointed sole executors. /s/ Nancy Landrum /s/ G. D. Gay. Recorded Book D:150.

“4 Dec 1846 – Inventory

1. 2357 acres of land, part of the headright of Wm. Landrum
2. 800 acres, part of the headright of Z. Landrum
3. Title bond for 400 acres, part of the headright of James Rankin in Polk Co.
4. Title bond for 2302 acres, part of the headright of **John Thomas** in Robertson Co.
5. Title Bond for 400 acres, part of the headright of W. Bailly in Milam Co.
6. Note on E. G. Collier for \$150.00
7. 3 notes on R. E. Pace – 1 for \$209.50 & 2 for \$75.00 each.
8. 5 Negroes: Booth age 28 yrs, Sally age 25 yrs, Elvira age 6 yrs, George age 5 yrs, Betty age 2 yrs.
9. Cattle & sundry personal property.

Separate property of Mrs. Landrum:

3 negroes – Stephen age 40 yrs, Netty age 40 yrs, little Stephen age 10 yrs. Recorded in Book D: 151-152.²²⁴

“**John Thomas**

To
Heirs of Wm. Landrum

The State of Texas
County of Montgomery

“Know all persons by these presents that I **John Thomas** of the State and County aforesaid in consideration of the sum of One dollar to me paid by William Landrum of said State and County in his life time and of the further consideration of his the said Landrum having cleared out my league and labor head right of land and procured and delivered me the Republic of Texas patent thereof or free of all charge cost expense whatsoever have granted bargained sold released and conveyed and by these presents do grant bargain sell release convey confirm and assure unto the heirs of the said William Landrum to wit Nancy Landrum, John Landrum, Polly Gay, Cynthia Landrum, Melissa Landrum, Zachariah Landrum and Willis Landrum all and singular all that certain half league and labor of land lying and being in the State aforesaid and County or land district of Robertson the same being the Eastern half of my said league and labor and which is held and contained within the following lines and bounds to wit beginning at the East Corner of said league and labor at a stake from a post oak 12 inches in dia. marked X bears South 40° East 5 ½ varas distant and a post Oak 10 inches in di. marked A bears North 58° West 11 6/10 varas distant Thence North thirty Degrees West 2345 varas Richland Creek 9 vs wide course East five thousand and ninety nine varas to the North Corner of my said Lea & labor a post from which a Post Oak 16 in. di. marked A bears So 38° West 6 2/10 varas and a post oak 18 inches in diameter marked (J C) X bears South 2° West 10 varas Thence South 60° West with the North West line of my said league and labor twenty five hundred and forty nine varas to a stake upon the same for West corner of this half league & labor Thence South 30° East five thousand and ninety nine varas to the So East line of my said ‘lea & labor’ to a stake upon the same for East Corner of this half lea & labor – Thence North sixty degrees East twenty five hundred and forty nine varas with the So East line of said Lea & Labor to the place of beginning containing one half League and labor or twenty three hundred and two acres of land more or less together with all and singular the rights members hereditaments and appurtenances to the same belonging or in anywise incident or appertaining to have an to hold all and singular the said premises unto the said heirs of William Landrum before named their heirs and assigns forever and I the said **John Thomas** do hereby bind myself my heirs executors and administrators to warrant and forever defend and assure all and singular the said premises against every person whomsoever claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof or any right or interest therein into the said heirs of said Landrum their heirs and assigns in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty seventh day of December A D Eighteen hundred and forty six 1846 making my mark as I do not write my name

Signed sealed and delivered in

his
John Thomas X (Seal)
mark

Presence of – Charles B Stewart”

The State of Texas }
County of Montgomery }

This day before me Wm. H. Fowler County Clerk in and for the State and County aforesaid personally came and appeared **John Thomas** the maker of the foregoing instrument of writing a citizen of said State and County and to me said Clerk well and personally known who acknowledge and recognised his signiture by mark thereunto and that he signed sealed and delivered the same on the day of the date thereof in the presence of the subscribed witnesses thereunto for the consideration and purposes therein expressed and contained and as a conveyance to the heirs of William Landrum of the Eastern half of his head right League and labor of land lying in Robertson County State aforesaid to all of which I certifie from under my hand and seal of Office this 27 day of December A D 1846 –

Wm. H. Fowler, Clk.C..C. & R. M.C.²²⁵

John Thomas' patent has been difficult to find. In abstracts of original landowners of Navarro County (Texas Land Commission microfiche) John Thomas is listed as a patentee (certificate #19, patent no. 235, vol. 4) of 4605 acres, granted 30 Sep 1845, in Robertson's 1st Colony. It is noted that 4587 of those acres fell into Freestone County when it was created. He originally was granted the land in Robertson County, but that county was subsequently subdivided several times, and as it turns out, the land was located in the part that eventually became Freestone County. But John Thomas' patent for his league and labor was not filed in the Freestone County, Texas, land records until 1897! The deed book margin notation was: "State of Texas To {Patent John Thomas Dated Sept 13 1845, Filed Mch 13 1897 at 10 oclock A.M.}" The actual record reads:

"No. 236 In the name of the Republic of Texas. Vol. 4. To all to whom these presents shall come Know ye. I Anson Jones, President of the Republic aforesaid by virtue of the power vested in me by law and in accordance with the Statutes of said republic in such case made and provided do by these presents Grant to **John Thomas** his heirs or assigns Forever One League and Labor of land situated and described as follows. In Robertson County on Richland Creek a branch of the Trinity River. Beginning in the North boundary of Richards Survey six hundred and seventy four varas South 60° West from its North East corner a post from which a Post Oak 12 inches diameter marked X bears South 40° East 5 5/10 varas and a Post Oak 10 inches diameter Marked A bears North 58° West 11 6/10 varas: Thence North 30° West twenty three hundred and forty five varas to Richland Creek 9 varas wide Course East five thousand ninety nine & 1/10 varas to 2nd corner a post from which a Post Oak 16 inches diameter marked A bears South 38° West 6 2/10 vrs and another 18 inches diameter marked X bears South 2° West 10 varas: Thence South 60° West at thirty one hundred and eighty varas Richland Creek 8 varas wide course South East. Five thousand ninety nine & 1/10 varas to 3rd Corner a post from which a Post Oak 12 inches diameter marked A bears South 7° West 2 varas and another 10 inches diameter marked X bears North 78° West 1 6/10 varas: Thence South 30° East one hundred ninety eight 6/10 varas to the North East corner of Hogans Survey Twenty eight hundred eighty six varas to the North East corner of Davis Survey at five thousand ninety nine & 1/10 varas intersected the North West Corner of Cawthan's survey a stake from which a Post Oak 15 inches diameter marked C bears North 65° East 9 varas and Hickory 6 inch diameter marked C bears South 67° East 10 varas: Thence North 60° East with said survey twenty eight hundred and eighty six varas to its North East corner and North West corner of Richards Survey five thousand and ninety nine varas to the place of beginning. Hereby relinquished to him the said **John Thomas** and his heirs or assigns forever all the right and title in and to said land heretofore held and possessed by the Government of said Republic and I do hereby issue this Letter Patent for the same.

{Seal} "In testimony whereof I have caused the Great Seal of the Republic to be affixed as well as the seal of the general land office. Done at the City of Austin in the thirtieth day of September One thousand Eight Hundred and forty five and the year of the Independence of said Republic the Tenth."²²⁶

The above land was easily located on a Freestone County map that shows all the original land grants. It straddled Richmond Creek, just a few miles upstream from where Richmond Creek empties into the Trinity River. It is located in the far-northern part of Freestone County, only a sliver of the grant is in Navarro County. On a more modern map Farm Road 416 cuts across the south-eastern part of the plat, and Texas Highway 488 is just east of the eastern boundary. A lot of the grant is now under the deepest part of the Richland-Chambers Reservoir.

John Thomas retained the other half of the League and Labor granted him. To date I have been unable to find when, where and how he disposed of this land, which still amounted to over 2,300 acres. It is customary to file a deed of sale in the same county in which the land is located.

So depending upon when he sold the land, the sale might be filed in either Freestone County^a, Limestone County^b, or Robertson County^c records – or even possibly in Navarro County^d (since a small part of the grant ended up in that county). Or if John Thomas sold the rights to the grant, before the grant was made, it could have ended up in any county's records (though it does not appear to have been recorded in Montgomery County).

The pattern of land transfers between John Thomas' sons and William Landrum and John Pyle(s) follows the same pattern as that of their father. Each of the sons, being unmarried, was entitled to a 1/3 League (1476.1 acres) grant. We now know from the above, that John Thomas immediately transferred half of his League (4428 acres) and Labor (177.1 acres) in Robertson County to William Landrum, and the 1/3 League grants in Montgomery County assigned to his sons, James, John N. and David, were immediately transferred to William Landrum and John Pyle for cash. Yet, shortly thereafter, John Thomas was buying small amounts of land from the same individuals and neighbors. One gets the definite impression that the Thomas family arrived in Texas cash poor, and needed to sell their grants to raise cash.

“John Thomas

To

John Pyle

Republic of Texas

County of Washington

“Know all men by these presents, that we and both of us individually are held and firmly bound unto John Pyles in the sum of One Thousand Dollars each, to be paid or caused to be paid by us individually to the said Jno. Pyles his heirs successors &c.

“The condition of the above is such that we the undersigned *John Thomas^e* and **James Thomas^f** have this day sold our separate head or citizen rights to a third League of Land under the Constitution of this Republic to the said Pyles, for the sum of One Hundred Dollars by each of us received in hand and the receipt of which we individually acknowledge, and we therefore renounce the Laws non numerata pecunia-No entrega and prueba and all the laws of barter trafic ‘lesion’ exchange sale and all other Laws which it is necessary to renounce to render this sale binding upon each of us individually – And we are held and firmly bound unto the said Pyles in the above penalty as aforesaid to make to him each of us individually good and lawful and sufficient titles to each of our respective grants or third League of Land, so soon and whenever the Government may grant us the said third Leagues of Land – And we authorize the said Pyles to locate the Land in our names and receive from Government the corresponding title to each of them and do all things therein that may be lawful or necessary to obtain the said third Leagues our respective headrights from the Government of this Republic – It being understood that we are to be freed from all charges or expences upon said Grants, and that so soon as we make each or individually the proper title agreed on to the said Pyle either or both of us as the Case may be, are to be freed from the above penal Bond of One thousand dollars each.

“Done at the house of William Landrum on Lake Creek on the 9th day of Jany. 1837 before the

Witnesses –

John N X Thomas

^a Created in 1850 from Limestone County.

^b Created in 1846 from Robertson County. The Limestone County courthouse burned in 1873 and no records survive from prior to that date.

^c Created in 1837 from Milam County.

^d Created in 1846 from Robertson County.

^e John N. Thomas, son of John and Phoebe Thomas.

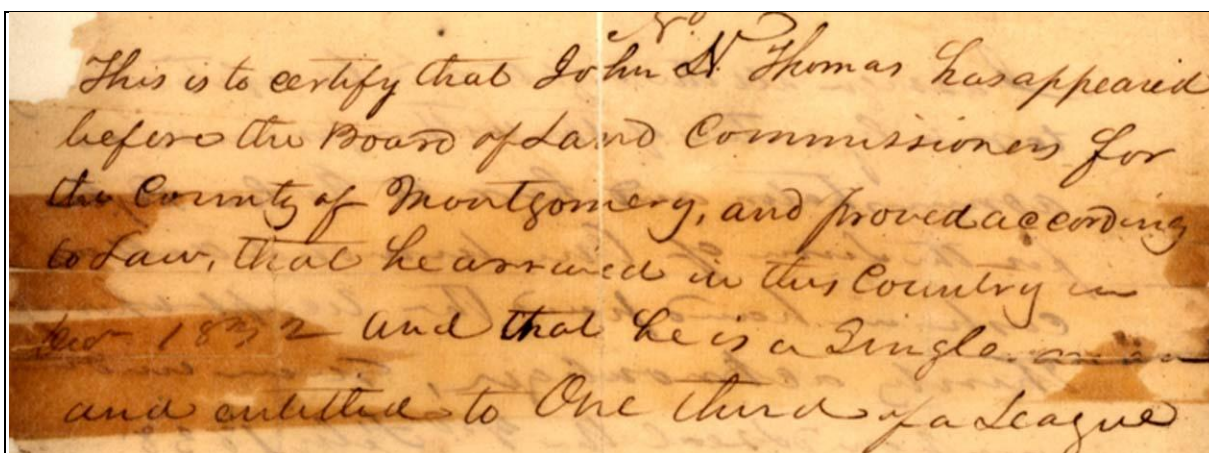
^f James Avery Thomas, son of John and Phoebe Thomas.

W.M. Rankin
William Landrum
Raleigh Rogers
Zacheua Wilson”²²⁷

James X Thomas

The actual Montgomery County record shows James Thomas’ name marked out. Overwritten on the above is a notation dated 10 Sep 1846 from John Pyle that he had returned the land to James Thomas. I do not know what the reason for the mark-out was, but it might have been because the initial survey for James Thomas’ grant was found to conflict with a previous survey, and, in fact, the certificate for a patent was not finally made into a patent of 1476 acres by John Pyle until 5 February 1873.²²⁸

The John N. Thomas certificate of grant:²²⁹



As the following will show the land was actually sold by John Thomas, father of John N. Thomas:

“I assign all the rights and benefits accorded to me by virtue of the within premises as administrator and heir to John Thomas for the Sum of One hundred dollars cash in hand paid the receipt whereof I hereby acknowledge, given under my hand & seal this 3rd Feby 1838.

attest
B. H. Good____

his
John X Thomas
mark
adminr & heir”²³⁰

I assign all the rights and benefits acc
to me by virtue of the within premises as
commissioner and agree to John & Thomas
for the sum of One hundred and fifty
cash in hand paid the receipt whereof
thirty acknowledge, given under
my hand & seal the 2nd July 1838.

John & Thomas Seal
commissioners their

Similarly, the certificate for James (Avery) Thomas's grant was:²³¹

1 1/2 miles S of Lake Creek
Survey of one third of a league of land for James Thomas
as being the quantity to which he is entitled by virtue
of a Certificate N^o 31 issued by the Board of Land
Commissioners for the County of Montgomery. Com=
=mencing at a pine in prairie marked A in prairie (sup=
posed to be 3 miles South of Lake Creek) from which
a pine 18 in. dia. marked B bears N 45° E 4.8 varas
and another pine 30 in. dia. marked X bears N 38° W
4 varas. Thence West

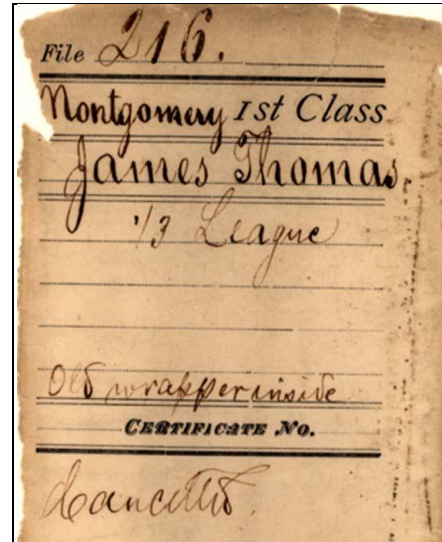
It is interesting that the beginning marker was located "3 miles South of Lake Creek," and that the marginal note above the certificate of survey indicated it was "1 1/2 miles S of Lake Creek" (presumably the southern and northern bounds, respectively).

But as the packet cover at the Texas General Land Office indicates, this original survey and grant was cancelled. The grant was not to resurface for quite a number of years when we find the following:

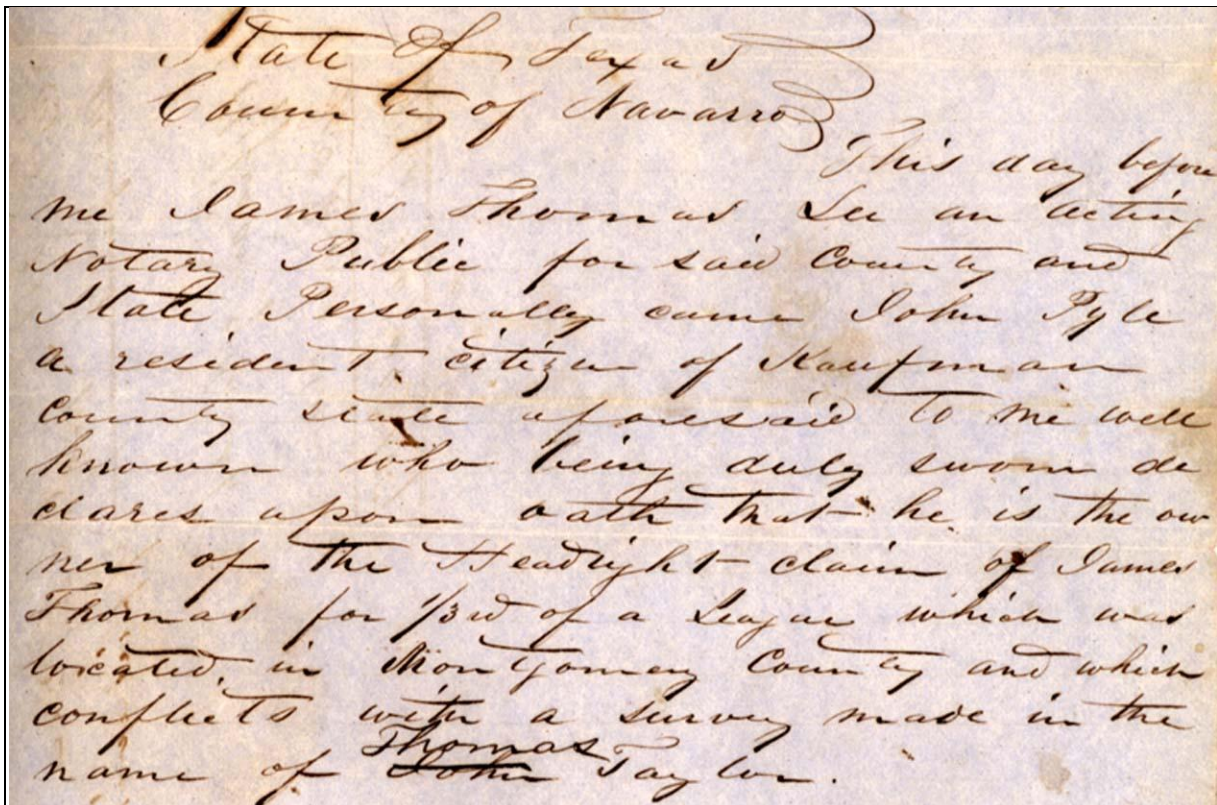
"State of Texas }
County of Navarro } This day before me James
Thomas Sec an acting Notary Public for said County and
State, Personally came John Pyle a resident citizen of
Kaufman County state aforesaid to me well known who
being duly sworn declares upon oath that he is the owner
of the Headright claim of **James Thomas** for 1/3 rd of a
League which was located in Montgomery County and
which conflicts with a survey made in the name of
Thomas Taylor.

"That he has not disposed of said Land certificate to
any other person but that he is the bona fide owner
thereof & further deponent saith not John Pyle

"To certify which I have this day signed my name
and affixed my Notarial seal at office in ____ this twenty
seventh day of November A D 1856



Ja^s Tho^s Sec
Notary Public
Nav Co Tex²³²



As noted above, the James Avery Thomas grant was not finally patented until 1873. The Texas General Land Office abstract of the final patent is as follows.²³³

County: Parker^a
Abstract Number: 1285
District/Class: Milam 1st
File Number: 001801
Original Grantee: **Thomas, James**
Patentee: Pyle, John
Patent Date: 05 Feb 1873
Patent No: 203
Patent Vol: 30
Acres: 1476''

Similarly for the David Thomas grant:²³⁴

“David Thomas^b

To
Wm. Landrum & Jno. Pyle

Republic of Texas
Lake Creek 10th. Jany 1837

“Know all men by these presents that I David Thomas a resident citizen of the Republic of Texas have for and in consideration of the sum of One Hundred Dollars to me in hand paid by William Landrum and John Pyle the receipt whereof I hereby acknowledge, bargained and sold and by these presents do bargain and sell unto the said Landrum and Pyle One third of a League of Land which I am entitled to as a Settler under the Constitution and laws of colonization – Hereby authorizing and empowering the said Landrum and Pyle to select have surveyed and title to the same obtain from the Govt. in my name; paying all fees in the same – And I further bind and obligate myself my executors administrators &c to make to the said Landrum and Pyle or their legal representatives a good and sufficient title to the same so soon after obtaining a Title from the Govt. as called upon by the said parties or their legal representatives – and the said Landrum and Pyle are authorised to take possession of and sale of the same make as a thing held under a legitimate Title – And it is further understood by the parties if the said Thomas is not entitled to the quantity aforesaid then and in that case he is to pay to the said parties the money received from them as herein stated –

“For the faithful performance of all which they bind themselves the one to the other in the sum of five thousand Dollars.

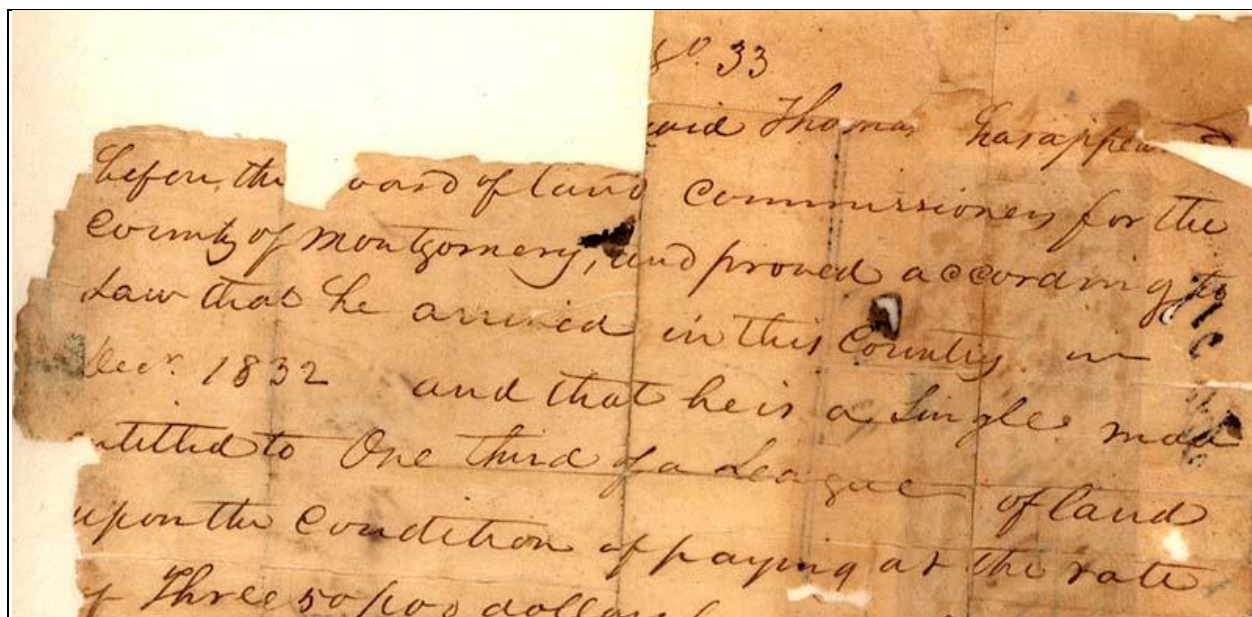
Done the day and date above –

Witness
J. Worsham
Wm. Gilmore
W.M. Rankin
William Patterson
Zacheaus Wilson’’²³⁵

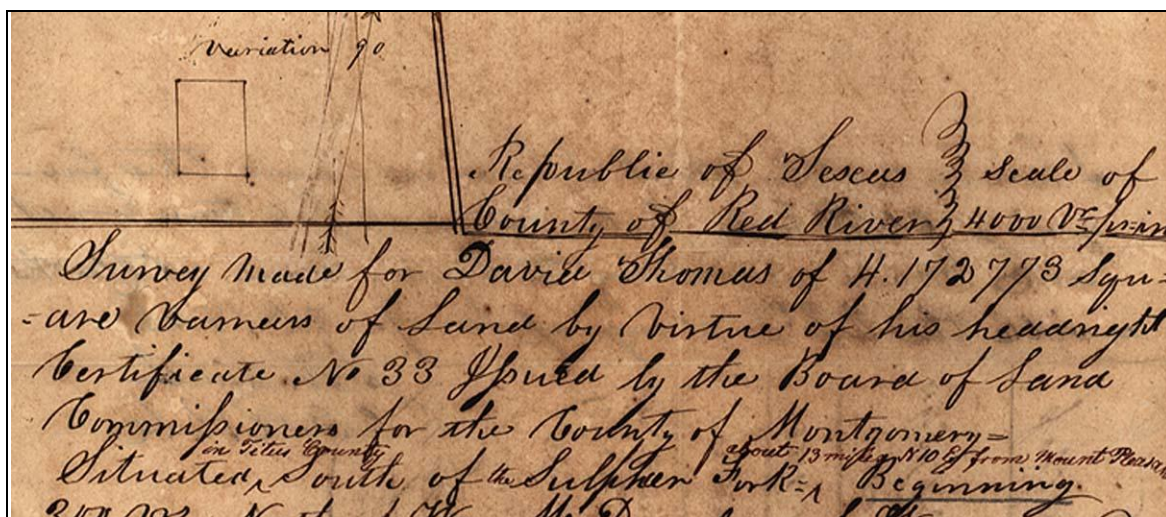
David Thomas
By F.W. Johnson

^a Created in 1855 from Bosque and Navarro counties.

^b David Thomas, son of John and Phoebe Thomas.



And confirming the words in the William Landrum will, above, part^a of the David Thomas grant did end up being located in Red River County:²³⁶



In the enclosed map of the original landowners of the Lake Creek Settlement,²³⁷ it is difficult to see, but the small tracts of "J. Thomas," "J.N. Thomas," and "David Thomas" can be found in the extreme lower right hand corner adjoining the larger tract of "A.W. Springer." A transfer of the approximate location of the original Thomas lands to a more modern map results in the map as shown below. The Thomas land was about 6 miles due west of Interstate 45, and about 8 miles southwest of Conroe.

^a In 1846 William Landrum apparently made a land swap with John Pyle, transferring William Landrum's share of 4 Labors for land in Red River County claimed by John Pyle.

In the original landowners map, it should be noted that the land of “T. Taylor” and “J. Thomas” are co-located, so this is the original survey for the James Avery Thomas grant.

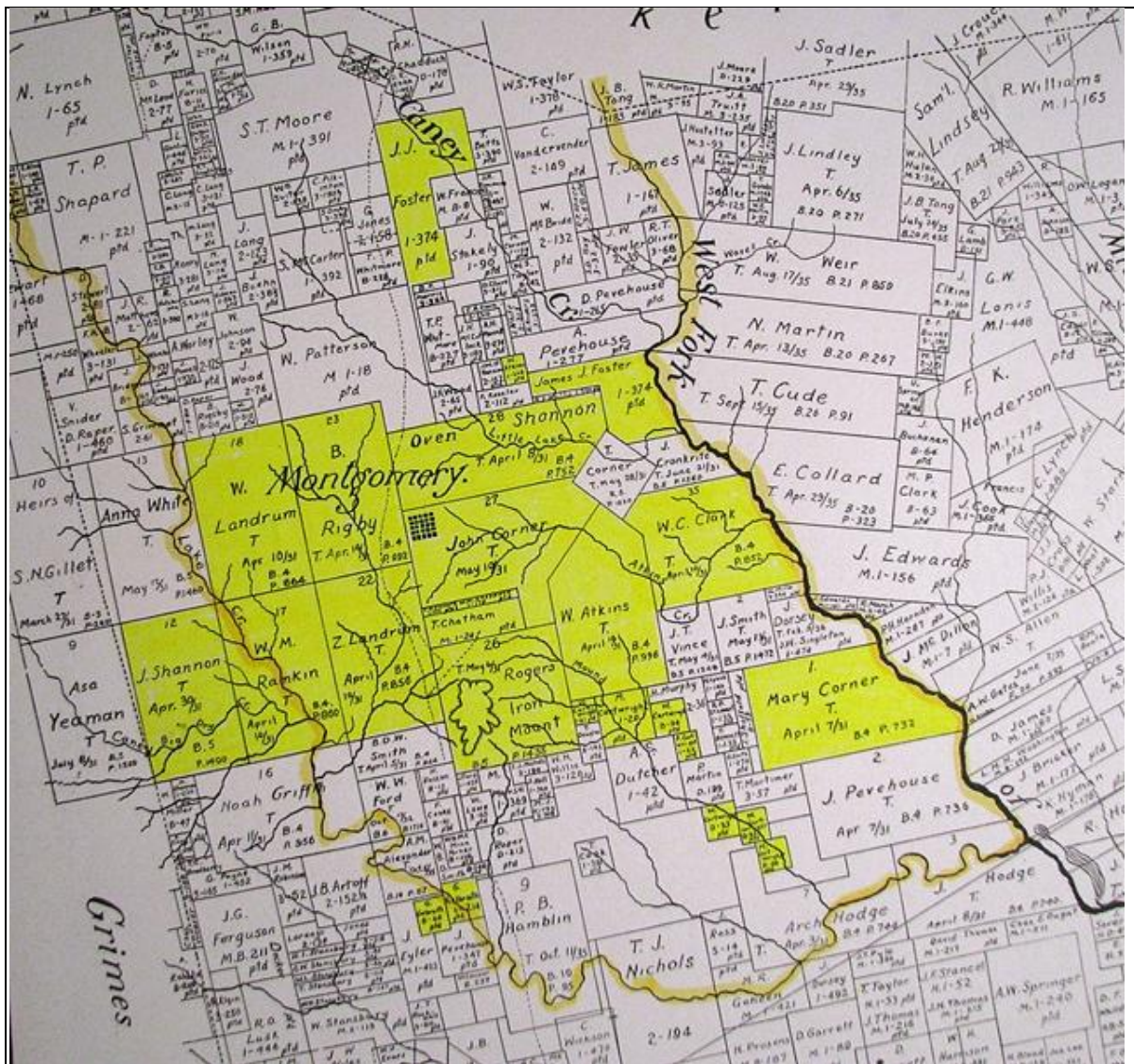


Fig. 18 Map of Lake Creek Settlement

Jumping ahead, it is also worthwhile noting the “W. Landrum” (William Landrum) tract, and the “B. Rigby” (Benjamin Rigby) tract beside it, and the “W. Patterson” tract above these. For several years, as will be shown below, John Thomas owned 260 acres of the Patterson tract^a. And shortly before John Thomas died he was living somewhere on the B. Rigby tract. The cross-hatched square in the north-west corner of the John Corner tract (adjacent to the B. Rigby tract) is, I think, the original location of the town of Montgomery (or Montgomery “under the hill”), while the

^a See the 5 November 1836 land agreement below between W. Patterson and Joseph Henson in which Joseph Henson (John Thomas' son-in-law) acquired ¾ of the Patterson survey.

present location of the town of Montgomery (or Montgomery “on the hill”) is in the southwest corner of the same tract, and labeled “T. Chatham.”

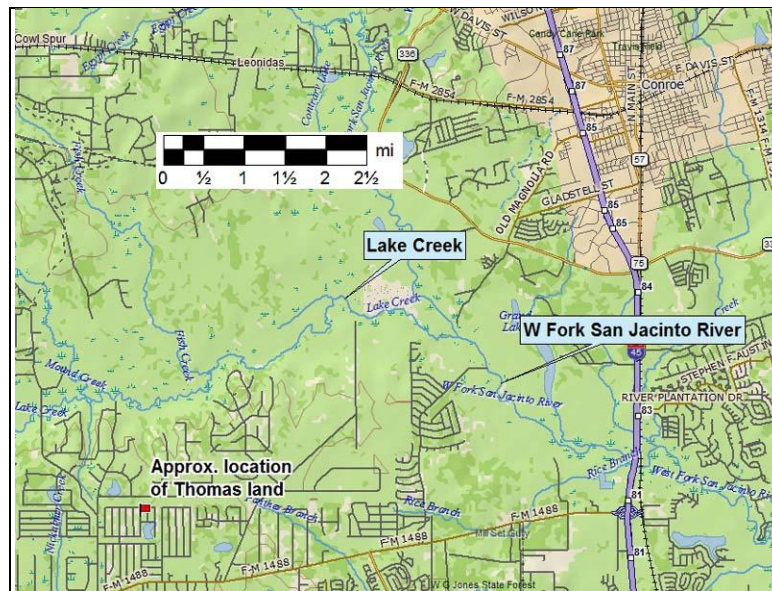


Fig. 19 Approximate location of Thomas sons' lands on modern map

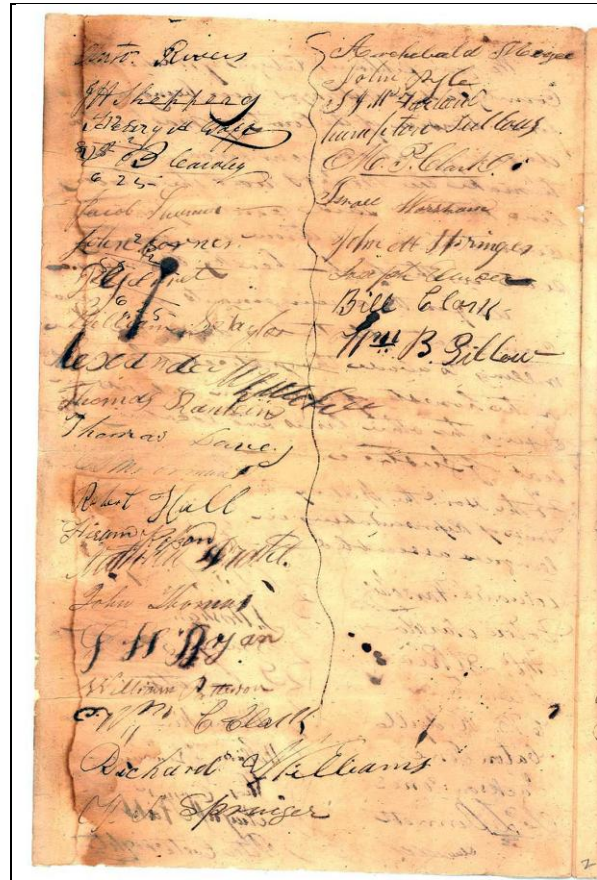
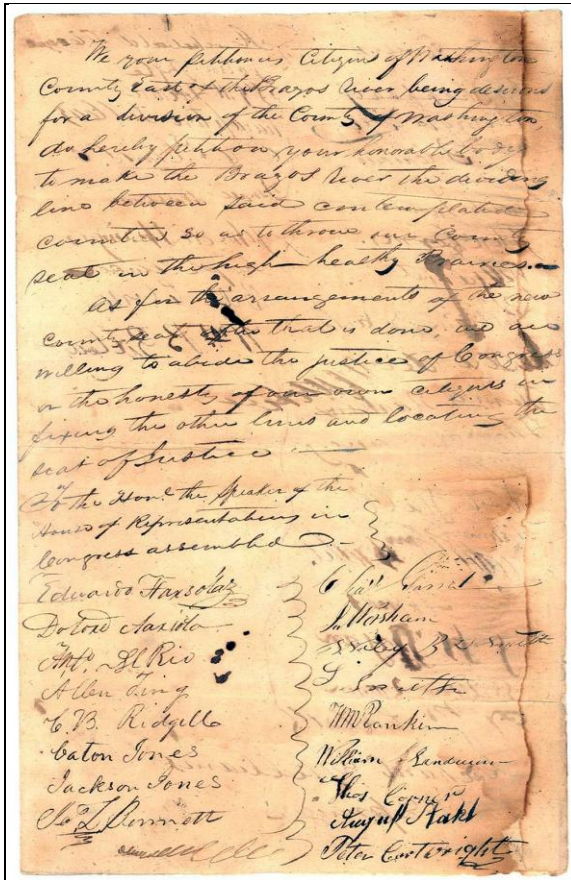
I think it is important to point out that though John Thomas's sons claimed land (and then almost immediately sold the rights) in the southern part of Montgomery County, and south of Lake Creek, the John Thomas family itself, actually lived northwest of the town of Montgomery in the area just north of the William Landrum and Benjamin Rigby surveys.

Montgomery County was created in 1837 from Washington County. As Mr. Kameron K. Searle describes the history of the creation of the new county of Montgomery:

“Montgomery County histories always mention how Montgomery County was created by an Act passed by the Congress of the Republic of Texas and signed into law by President Sam Houston on December 14, 1837. Few Montgomery County historians have bothered to go into any detail about the political process by which Montgomery County was created. This article will explain the most complete history of the creation of Montgomery County ever presented anywhere.

“The birth of Montgomery County was the result of a political battle that lasted over a year and involved the submission of four separate petitions to the Congress of the Republic of Texas. Two petitions signed by the citizens of Washington County on the east side of the Brazos River would request the creation of a new county from the territory of Washington County located east of the Brazos River. The citizens of Washington County west of the Brazos strongly opposed both of these petitions for the creation of a new county with petitions of their own...”

The third petition, dated 13 October 1837, was signed by our own John Thomas. His name is the sixth from the bottom in the left hand column of the second page.



“In the minutes from second meeting of the Washington County Commissioners Court which was held in the Town of Washington on July 3, 1837, we find the following references to the Lake Creek Settlement:

"At a meeting of the County Comrs, held this day, were present, Jno P. Coles, president: Shub Marsh Jno. Beaucham, S. R. Roberts, Jerry Washam, Geo McGuffin, J. G. Swisher, E. Roddy Geo: Galbraith Absent W. Roberts W Robinson Gid Walker and Jos: L. Bennett Resolved, that till the next meeting of this Court time be extended to the Commrs on the laying out the course of roads to make their reports in, and that the several persons hereafter named be added to those already named on the different Routes Viz Jno Millican, Dr. Hooton & Carey White on the route from Washington, by Millchams to San Antonio Road from Washington East to New Cincinatti, added Robt Ray W Sanders and Jno Tumbleston - from the town of Washington west to the County line, Clemt Raney & Adol. Hope, added---from Washington to City of Houston, E. Fuqui-[from] do[Washington] to San Felippi W. Townsend and Thos. Stephens - Lake Creek to Houston, W. Keys, **Jno. Thomas** & J. Landrum added- from Lake Creek settlement to New Cincinatti, Lewis Cox & - Mr. Daniel added;- from Millicans to San Felipe, added from Batiste village to New Cincinatti, added Capn Ware & Col.Crane —²³⁸

Turning now to the tax lists of Montgomery County, we find John Thomas included on the 1838 list with 200 acres, valued at \$400, and 1 poll.²³⁹ John Landrum (brother of William Landrum) was listed with 2783 acres, and John M. Springer was listed with 522 acres.²⁴⁰ A tabulation of selected excerpts from the (inconsistent) Montgomery County tax list for our Thomas family provides additional insight:

Year	Name	Notes
1838	John Thomas	200 acres, 3 horses, 15 cattle
1839	James Thomas David Thomas John Thomas	1 poll 1 poll 2 horses
1840	James Thomas	1 poll
1841	John Thomas James Thomas	260 acres ^a , 1 horse 1 poll
1842	John Thomas James Thomas	260 acres, 4605 acres in Robertson Co. headright 1 poll
1843	James Thomas John Thomas	1 poll 260 acres, 4605 acres in Robertson Co.
1844	John Thomas James Thomas	260 acres (land held by survey) 1 poll
1845	James Thomas John Thomas	1 poll, 3 cattle 1 poll
1846	Wm. M. Thomas John Thomas SAJ Thomas	1 poll, 2 horses, 6 hogs 60 acres (on grant of B. Rigsby) 1 poll, 1 horse, 3 cattle
1847	Wm. M. Thomas John Thomas SAJ Thomas	1 poll, 2 horses 55 acres (on grant of B. Rigsby), 3 slaves, 3 cattle 1 poll, 1 horse
1848	SAJ Thomas Wm Thomas	320 (?) acres (on grant of Wm. Johnson ^b) 1 poll
1849	SAJ Thomas M. W. (?) Thomas	220 acres (on grant of Wm. Johnson) 1 poll
1850	M. W. (?) Thomas SAJ Thomas Sim Thomas	1 poll 220 acres (on grant of Wm. Johnson) 1 poll
1851	Wm. Thomas Simeon Thomas	1 poll 1 poll
1852	D. P. Lang ^c SAJ Thomas Wm Thomas Simeon Thomas	1 house & lot (town) 220 acres (on grant of Wm. Johnson) 1 poll 1 poll
1853	William Thomas SAJ Thomas	150 (?) acres 220 acres (on grant of Wm. Johnson)
1854	SAJ Thomas William Thomas	220 acres (on grant of Wm. Johnson) 100 acres (on grant of Jno. Wood ^d)
1855	William Thomas Simeon Thomas	100 acres 1 poll

John Thomas (Sr.) was also named in the following Montgomery County records:

^a The land tax information of Montgomery County *does not* gibe with the deeds below. On 9 December 1837 John Thomas bought 300 acres from William Landrum, and was subsequently sold this land to Clinch Pikington on 6 December 1839 – see below. On 21 May 1841 John Thomas bought “part of the Headright League of Wm. Patterson 260 acres,” and sold the same land to Robert B. Martin on 16 August 1845.

^b This grant is shown on the enclosed map west of, and adjacent to, the northwest corner of the W. Patterson survey.

^c D. P. Lang married John Thomas’s daughter Sylvania Thomas. He was listed in the household of John Thomas in the 1850 census. This is his first appearance in the Montgomery County tax records; he was listed again in 1856 (as Daniel Lang) & 1857 (as Daniel P. Lang).

^d See the enclosed original landowner map – the J. Wood survey is located adjacent to, and due south of, the W. Johnson survey.

“Land Agreement

5 Nov 1836

“*Hinson* agrees to pay all expenses to clear the Headright of Wm. Patterson out of the Land Office. The Headright is a League and *Hinson* is to pay for dividing the League between them. He makes bond of \$5000.00. Wm. Patterson agrees to give *Hinson* one-half of his League and makes bond of \$5000.00. Wit: Wm. McNuner, Wm. N. Mock, /m/ **John Thomas**.

“Additional agreement between Wm. Patterson to *Joseph Hinson* – as the Headright League has been run and divided into four parcels by John Collard & Job Collard by the consent of Patterson & *Hinson*, it is agreed that *Hinson* is to have and retain the South End and North West Quarters of the League. Wit: Lewis Neal, Nat Hart Davis”²⁴¹

“Montgomery County Deed Book E

9 Dec 1837

“William Landrum of the county of Washington, and his wife, Nancy Landrum, sells to **John Thomas** a tract of land [300 acres²⁴²] situated in Washington County for the sum of \$200.00. The tract begins on the west side of the League granted to Landrum. Wit: W. W. Sheppard, William Gilmore.”²⁴³

“Margaret McIntire –vs- John M. Graham, #18

“March 1839. Petitioner states that early in 1838 she leased 1 acre for that year to defendant. Contract was verbal and the terms were that Graham was to clear the ground and have the use of same for the year; petitioner was to pay him for the rails he might make and put up in building a fence. Petitioner states Graham is indebted to her for house rent more than sufficient to pay for making the rails and building the fence. Petitioner states defendant retains possession of said parcel of ground ‘by force and by threats.’ She states the land is part of the Headright League granted to her by the Mexican Government and is near to her present residence. Since defendant keeps petitioner from possession, it has caused her damage in the amount of \$300.00 Petitioner sues and prays for judgment and such other relief as the Court deems fit.

/s/ Petty and Smith for petitioner. 20 Feb 1839.

“Defendant, by his attorney, states he is not guilty of the trespass and puts himself upon the county.

/s/ McFarland and Jenkins for Defendant.

“March 1839 – A jury is selected, consisting of Chas. B. Stewart, Benj. Rigsby, Robt. Fleming, James H. Collard, Dudley J. White, Hiram Rassin, Henry Murphy, Jesse Wilson, George Galbreath, **John Thomas**, Dand. Stewart, Thomas Corner. They find a verdict for the Plaintiff and \$1.00 damages and costs.

“29 Mar 1839 – Sheriff is ordered to take from possession of Graham the premises and put same in possession of Margaret McIntire.

“30 Mar 1839 – Writ executed by putting plaintiff in possession of disputed land.

/s/ A. McNeil, Deputy Sheriff”²⁴⁴

“Deed

18 May 1839

“W. W. Shepperd to Ezekiel Foster

“Letter signed by Joseph Nyman to W. W. Shepperd stating he has sold his claim and right to Lots #22 and #23 and fraction 5 and 6 of Block 5 A west tier of Lot town of Montgomery to Ezekiel Foster. He requests and authorizes that a title be made directly to Foster. He gives quittance to Shepperd for lots given him on 26 Apr 1838.

/s/ Joseph Nyman

Wit: /s/ Charles B. Stewart /m/ **John Thomas**

“In compliance with instructions from Joseph Hyman, W. W. Shepperd states that for the sum of \$70 Texas money paid him by Joseph Nyman, and the consideration of his obligation to Nyman, he sells and releases to Ezekiel Foster Lots 22 & 23 and fractions 4 & 6 Block 5 A Town of Montgomery.

/s/ W. W. Shepperd

Wit: Chas. B. Stewart, Thomas Gibbs”²⁴⁵

“30 Sep 1839

Estate of Isaac B. Brown (also called J.B. Brown in document)

Administrator: Lewis Cox

Buyers: Charles Garrett, John Landrum, A. Harper, J. L. Bennett, **John Thomas**, Lem Smith, Gwynn Morrison, A. McNeill.”²⁴⁶

“Bill of Sale 5 Dec 1839

“James H. Mitchell sells to **John Thomas** a Negro girl named Dicy, about 18 years of age; purchase price is \$1000.00. Wit: B. Briggs Goodrich, A. McNeil.”²⁴⁷

“Montgomery County Deed Book E 10 Dec 1839

“Clinch Pilkinton ... a tract on east side of Lake Creek. This is part of the Headright League of Wm. Landrum, transferred & sold by Wm. Landrum and his wife, Mary [sic] Landrum, to **John Thomas** on 9 Dec 1837; **Thomas** sold to Clinch Pilkinton on 6 Dec 1839 ... tract contains 300 acres.”²⁴⁸

“Deed

10 Dec 1839

“Clinch Pilkinton, ‘for the love, respect, and esteem which he has for Sarah A. Mitchell, wife of James H. Mitchell,’ and for her better maintenance and support, does give and grant for her ‘free, separate and apart from her husband and entirely independent from his interference and control,’ a tract or parcel of land on the east side of Lake Creek. This is a part of the Headright League of *Wm. Landrum*, transferred & sold by *Wm. Landrum* and his wife, Mary [sic] Landrum, to **John Thomas** on 9 Dec 1837; **Thomas** sold to Clinch Pilkinton on 6 Dec 1839; tract contains 300 acres.

Wit: E. R. Floyd, C. M. Conroe.”²⁴⁹

“Francis Cook –vs- William W. Ford

“Spring 1840. William W. Ford’s appeal to Peter Cartright, J. P., which states that in April last he made an entry on the book of Wm. Rankin, deputy surveyor, of 1 labor of land, being the Headright Labor of petitioner; that by said entry the survey was to commence at the SE corner of ¼ League, previously surveyed and deeded to petitioner. Since selection and entry, Francis Cooke has had the same surveyed for himself by ‘one Wade’ without regard of the entry of petitioner. 15 Apr 1839.\

Signed: W. W. Ford

“17 Apr 1839 Peter Cartright, J. P. orders Nathaniel Drake, Constable, to issue summons for Francis Cooke to ‘appear at Rolly Rogers’ to answer complaint.

“25 May 1839 – Jurors selected were Wm. Atkins, John Corner, **Jno. Thomas**, Wm. Young, Evan Corner & Samuel Smith^a. They returned a verdict for the plaintiff. Defendant appealed to the Circuit Court.

“25 May 1839 – Bond of \$400.00 of Francis J. Cooke J. P. McFarland & H. Rassin.

“Sept 1840 – Parties agree ‘to dismiss’ and no further prosecution of this suit and each party to pay his own cost.”²⁵⁰

“Document: List of Claims against Jas. C. Dewitt Estate. October 1840.

““A list of claims which have been presented and acknowledged within the time allowed by law against the Estate of Jas. C. Dewitt. \$1223.00’

“List includes these names: J. H. M. Hall, Geo. E. Hanter, Lee Powell, Franklin Holcomb, Wm. Sims, Robt. Fletcher, Margaret McIntire, H. M. Crabb, **John Thomas**, John K. Castleman, John Harpers, George Weedon, Lemuel Smitts, H. Farris, Wm. Dillard, Gwyn Morrison, James Skinner.

/s/ F. Pomeroy, Admr. 19 October 1840. Isaac Tousey, J. P.”²⁵¹

“Articles of Agreement 21 May 1841

“Lewis Neal and **John Thomas** agree for Lewis Neal to sell to **John Thomas** a part of the Headright League of Wm. Patterson 260 acres in Montgomery Co. for \$206. They further agree that Lewis Neal on the day following, shall receive from the Govt. of the Republic of Texas, a patent or deed for said land or a perfect title. Wit: N. H. Davis, *Thomas Gilmore*.”²⁵²

“**John Thomas** ... to ... Robert B. Martin ... \$100 ... part of the Headright League of William Patterson ... 260 acres ... 16 August 1845.”²⁵³

^a Is this the same Samuel Smith that married Nancy Thomas on 28 August 1821 in Wilcox County, Alabama?

[**Comment:** The above deed is significant because Phoebe was not called by the County Clerk, as was the custom, to acknowledge her relinquishment of her dower rights. This probably means that Phoebe had died by 1845.]

“31 Jan 1849

Estate of William Patterson

Administrator: R. B. Martin

Real property: 1028 acres, part of decedent’s headright league, which was deeded to him by the Government of the late Republic of Texas, dated 4 Aug 1841, situated in Montgomery Co. on Little Lake Creek, north of Riggly’s (?Rigby) survey. Remainder of league appears by deeds, title bonds, and contracts to have been sold by decedent as follows: to Jos. Henson^a – 2214 acres; to Wm. H. Fowler – 331 4/11 acres; to John Thomas – 260 acres; to Geo. W. Brooks – 98 acres; to Lem G. Clepper – 191 ¾ acres; to Clinch Pilkington – 200 acres; to Wm. R. Williams – 205 acres.

Administration petitions to sell the unsold part of league. Administrator is informed that deceased, in his lifetime, agreed to exchange lands with *John M. Springer* and was to receive 400 acres lying in Bexar Co.

”254

...

“26 Mar 1849

Estate of Wm. Patterson

Administrator: R. B. Martin

Account of sales of undisposed portion of SW quarter of decedant’s headright league, formerly estimated at about 215 acres, situated on Little Lake Creek, north of Ribsby’s headright; sold to James Moss for \$170.00; parcels of said SW quarter heretofore sold as follows: **John Thomas** – 260 acres, Geo. W. Brooks – 98 acres; Lem G. Clepper – 191 ¾ acres; Clinch Pilkington 200 acres; Wm. R. Williams – 205.”²⁵⁵

Though the following article which appeared in the Fall 1988 edition of Montgomery County’s *The Herald*, does not name our Thomas family, it is nonetheless informative of the general history of the early Montgomery County settlers (when taken with a “grain of salt” for some of the obvious literary licenses).



EARLY HISTORY OF MONTGOMERY

(Written for the Senior History Class by Mary Davis in Conroe, Texas, in May 1938)

“West of the San Jacinto, Montgomery County was a part of Stephen Austin’s fourth and last colony. This extended from the San Jacinto to the Brazos, and, on the north, to the old San Antonio Road. In his last report to the Mexican Government, Austin spoke of this colony as ‘the only settlements on the San Jacinto.’

“The majority of the colonists came from Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, some of the sons and daughters of the pioneers to those states. They came overland to Texas in long wagon trains, several families together, and they were weeks, some perhaps months, on the road. They traveled for days in the rain, bogging down in the muddy roads, sometimes having to cut a trail through the forest. There were long days of waiting for over-flowing rivers to fall. No matches then, and fires for their cooking had to be kindled by sticking flint rocks together. When at last they reached their journey’s end, how beautiful must have seemed the little group of log houses that was San Felipe.

“Many of these colonists came in 1830, and they applied at once for their land grants, but it took a long time to survey so much land in a wilderness, and it was a year later before they received their deeds. In May 1831 about thirty grants had been issued.

^a Joseph Henson was the son-in-law of John Thomas.

“In a short while there was a log house and cabins for negroes on every league, for every man helped his neighbor. These houses had wide, deep fireplaces, for all cooking was done on the fireplace. The windows were wooden shutters, which, when possible, were sheltered by overhanging eaves. Floors were made of puncheons, which are logs split in halves and laid with straight sides up. Lots of splinters for children’s bare feet in these floors, and can you imagine how they ever danced on them? Dancing was their chief amusement, and what fun those rollicking square dances must have been, with the clamping of heavy shoes, the clamorous calling figures, ‘Balance all!’, ‘Swing your partners!’, loud above the strains of ‘Old Dan Tucker’ and other lively tunes. Sometimes the stately Virginia Reel was danced on those rough floors.

“Conditions were incredibly hard for the first two or three years. The women spun, wove, and dyed the cotton homespun for their clothes, men’s, women’s, and children’s. Their lights were pine knots in the fireplace and tallow candles molded by the women. Their shoes were Indian moccasins, but there was a negro shoemaker among the slaves who made heavy shoes. The nearest source of supplies was San Felipe, fifty miles away. Flour, sugar and coffee were luxuries, bought, perhaps, only at Christmas. Honey from bee trees served as sugar. The only food they did have in abundance was fish and wild game – deer, turkeys, squirrels, quail, pigeons, ducks and geese. Sometimes a bear would stray near enough to be shot from the front door; then there would be bear steak for supper. Wolves and panthers often attacked the stock at the barns at night. Pioneer life had plenty of excitement.

“The country was full of Indians, but the settlers soon found that they were a friendly tribe. The name of the tribe, Bedias, is perpetuated in the town of that name, the site of their main encampment. There was a smaller village on Caney Creek, about six miles west of Montgomery, and there was much trading between these Indians and the colonists. They made baskets, wooden bowls, moccasins, and rattan and hickory chairs. The white boys bought bows and arrows from the Indians, and they soon became as good shots as the Indians themselves, able to bring down a squirrel from the highest treetop. Every fall and winter these Indians moved down to the prairies between here and Houston for hunting. The tall grass was nearly as high as the men, and they hid in it to stalk their game.

“Once in passing my grandmother’s house, some of these Indians went in and sat upon her nice white beds, and, as she was alone with only one or two small children, she dared not say anything. Sometime in the late thirties, there was an epidemic of typhoid fever among these Indians on Caney Creek, and their medicine man treated this by putting the patients on high scaffolds and keeping a dense smoke under them. Tradition does not say whether any of them survived. Mrs. Wise’s father, Dr. Price, wanted to help these Indians when they were sick, but they said, ‘Bad medicine, no good doctor.’

“When the colonists came, they found an Indian trading post on Town Creek,^a about half a mile north of the present site of Montgomery. This was owned by Jacob Shannon, the great-grandfather of the Shannons now living in Dobbin. These Indians dressed hides beautifully, and Jacob Shannon sold them in New Orleans and brought back supplies for the Indians. Later, he bought supplies for the settlers, and once he went to Kentucky and bought horses for them.

“This trading post became a meeting place for everyone, a kind of community center. The Shannons say that it was given the name of Montgomery for the family name of Jacob Shannon’s mother, Margaret Montgomery. It *was* called Montgomery, and there was a settlement large enough to be called a town, for the old settlers always spoke of it as ‘the old town under the hill,’ and Town Creek got its name from the fact that there was a town there. Montgomery is really one of the few oldest towns in Texas, but

^a The Jacob Shannon trading post is the stuff of legends, not history, as Mr. Kameron K. Searle so ably demonstrates at his Lake Creek Settlement web page (http://www.texashistorypage.com/Lake_Creek_Settlement.html), which I understand that he will eventually compile into a book. Mr. Searle is dealing with the same phenomenon that I encountered when researching the Wheeler family history [Chapter 31] – Montgomery County has a very active historical society, but for many years it has been dominated by local families repeating, and embellishing, family legends that have no, or little, basis in fact.

its age is usually dated from 1837, when the new town was founded. But it was already a municipality under Mexican rule, one of the twenty-five municipalities of Texas.

“Jacob Shannon later removed to his league of land not far from the Caney Creek village, and Miss Lula Shannon tells some interesting stories of the Indians’ superstitions. Shannon built here another trading post and a comfortable home with a large fireplace, where on cold winter nights some of the Indians would come to get warm. They thought it bad luck to be in the room with a clock striking, and there was a large, eight-day clock on the mantel that struck both the hour and half-hour. Fortunately the clock gave a little warning signal five minutes before striking. Sitting around the fire in stolid silence, some of them dozing, when the warning click came, every Indian bolted for the door. They stood shivering outside until the last stroke had sounded, when they solemnly filed back into the warm room, to repeat the performance twenty-five minutes later.

“The Indians were very superstitious about dreams, deeming them revelations made by their gods. They were afraid to disobey any they thought prophetic; that is, any about an event that they themselves could cause to happen. One morning the chief walked into Jake Shannon’s store with the announcement that he had dreamed a good dream. ‘And, Jeek,’ he said, ‘you know dreams must come true.’

“‘Yes,’ said Shannon, ‘dreams must come true.’

“‘Well,’ said the Indian, ‘I dreamed that you give me a suit of clothes and a fine saddle.’

“Shannon knew that he must keep the Indian’s friendship, so the chief walked out with the suit and the saddle, which he proudly exhibited to his people. His pride was short-lived, for the white man had a dream. Jake Shannon had long coveted a small piece of land owned by the Indians, which they refused to sell or exchange. One morning he greeted the chief with the information that he had had a good dream. He told him that he had dreamed the Indians gave him the land that he had been trying to buy.

“‘And,’ he added, ‘you know that dreams must come true.’

“The old chief was grimly silent. Finally he said, ‘Yes, dreams must come true. I’ll give you the land.’ He paused impressively. ‘But, Jeek,’ he said, ‘you dream no more. I dream no more.’

“Life became pleasanter for these colonists after the first hardships were over, except for the feeling of insecurity by Mexico’s attitude. When this reached its climax in the tragic spring of ’36, all the men hastened to join Houston’s army. When Houston saw that he must continue his retreat to Louisiana, he sent *John May Springer*, *Alfred Springer*, and *William Landrum* (with perhaps others) to take the women and children of this settlement to safety. They left their homes with everything they could carry, as they thought forever, and joined all the other Texans fleeing over the bad roads to the east. They had reached the Trinity River when the courier came with the news of the San Jacinto victory and the capture of Santa Anna.

“In 1837, an enterprising land owner platted a town on the present site of Montgomery, and agreed to give sixty acres of land to pay for a building, a courthouse, and a jail, if Montgomery should be selected for the county seat. It was known that Congress would organize new counties the following winter. The new town naturally took its name from ‘the old town under the hill,’ and a sale of town lots in the new Montgomery was advertised in *The Texas Telegraph* in July. This was several months before the county was created, yet historians say that the county and town were named for General Richard Montgomery, who was killed at the battle of Quebec in 1775...”²⁵⁶

❧

Grimes County was created in 1846, largely from Montgomery County. When the new county was formed some of our Thomas relatives ended up in Grimes, some in Montgomery. The 1846 poll list²⁵⁷ includes the following Thomas households in both counties:

Name	County
Thomas, James	Grimes
Thomas, John	Montgomery
Thomas, S. A. J.	Montgomery
Thomas, William M.	Montgomery

The 1850 census of Montgomery County listed the John Thomas household (dwelling #163, family #175) as consisting of: John Thomas, age 67, farmer, b. Georgia (it was noted that he could not read or write); Samuel, age 25, farmer, b. Georgia (cannot read or write), Simon, age 21, farmer, b. Georgia (cannot read or write); and D. P. Lang, age 28, blacksmith, b. Tennessee; Sylvia Lang, 30, female, born in Georgia; Simon Lang 3/12 years, male, born in Texas.²⁵⁸ This data, then, says that Phoebe had died before 1850. Sylvania (Thomas) Lang was John Thomas' daughter.



Fig. 20 Asa Henson family home at Jacksboro, ca. 1883. Lady seated is Mary Thomas. Left to right: George Jay (stepson of Asa and son of Asa's wife Julia by an earlier marriage), Asa's son James Isaac, Asa, Asa's daughter Louie, Asa's wife Julia Ann Dean Jay Henson, Asa's daughter Eula, Mira Lauderdale (Asa's niece whose father was killed by Comanche), Mary (Polly) Thomas Henson, and the boy who carried the children's books to school

Mary Thomas, the fourth child of John and Phoebe Thomas, apparently wrote the dates of birth and death, as she knew them, of her siblings, i.e., something of a family Bible record, in her son Asa's cattle tally book. Mr. Robert Adams of McKinney, Texas, was a descendant of Mary (Thomas) Henson, and kindly provided most of the following information to me prior to his death.

John and Phoebe (Gheslin) Springer were the parents of thirteen known children:

1. Senta Thomas; b. 24 Mar 1802 in Georgia²⁵⁹
2. Nancy Thomas; b. 22 Oct 1803 in Georgia;²⁶⁰ d. 28 August 1821²⁶¹

Nancy may have died 28 August 1821, as reported, but it certainly seems that she was married 18 January 1821 in Wilcox County, Alabama as revealed in the following record"

"Samuel Smith & *Nancy Thomas* by William Hays, J.P. with *James Gilmore*, Sec. 1/18/1821."²⁶²

3. Betsy Thomas; b. 10 Nov 1805 in Georgia²⁶³

4. Mary (Polly) Thomas; b. 10 Dec 1807; d. 30 Jun 1897;²⁶⁴ m. Joseph Henson 22 Jan 1829

“was bornd in Warn Co George, 3 miles east of the city of Warn”²⁶⁵

“Henson, Joseph and Mary Thomas, 22 Jan 1829; 22 Jan by John Gilmore, J.P.; Thomas Gilmore, bdn. (In 1830, both were 20-30 with 1 f under 5).”²⁶⁶

“married in Marengo Co., moved to Montgomery Co., then to Leon Co., then to Jack Co., where they both died.”²⁶⁷

5. Lucinda (Lucy) Thomas; b. 1 Aug 1810;²⁶⁸ d. in Alabama ca. 1831-1832; m. William Morris 30 Jan 1830

“Morris, William and Lucinda Thomas, 25 Jan 1830; 30 Jan. by Wm. Fluker; *John Gilmore*, bdn. (In 1830, he was 20-30, she was 15-20.)”²⁶⁹

6. **James Avery Thomas**; b. ca. 1812;²⁷⁰ d. 1865;²⁷¹ m. **Amanda Wheeler** 28 Apr 1842²⁷² [Chapter 31]

7. John N. Thomas; b. 18 Jan 1815; d. ca. 1838

“1 Feb 1838

Estate of *John N. Thomas*

Administrator: **John Thomas**

Bondsmen: William Landrum, John Pyle

Inventory – 29 Mar 1838”²⁷³

8. David Thomas; b. 27 Dec 1816; d. ca. or aft. 1839

The fate of David Thomas remains a mystery. I have a hunch that he died young (like his brother John N., above). He was listed, with one poll, in the 1839 Montgomery County tax list, and never appears again.

9. Sylvania Thomas; b. 19 Mar 1819;²⁷⁴ d. 1850-1851; m. Daniel P. Lang 11 Oct 1849²⁷⁵

Daniel P. Lang was born in 1823; died in 1879; and buried in the Willowhole Cemetery, North Zulch, Madison County, Texas. He was married 4 times: 1) Sylvania Thomas; 2) Sarah Ellis; 3) Louisa Gammons; 4) Mrs. Waller. He married Sarah E. Ellis, his second wife, in Grimes County on 4 Nov 1851, so Sylvania died between the time the 1850 census was made and this date. Daniel P. Lang was the father of two children who survived: Rebecca Ann (Lang) Land-McWhorter (5 Jan 1855-8 Feb 1938), and Alonzo Socrates Lang (9 Nov 1862-3 Feb 1938) – both children of his later marriage(s).

10. Annie Thomas; b. 13 Sep 1821;²⁷⁶ m. Alvin B. Woodward 18 Jun 1840²⁷⁷

I have been unable to verify the reported marriage of Annie Thomas to Alvin B. Woodward, or to find any trace of her.

11. Samuel Andrew Jackson Thomas; b. 8 Jun 1823; d. 23 Sep 1871;²⁷⁸ m. Hannah Jane Shipp (dau. of Ransom Shipp and Mary “Polly” Thomas [dau. of David^a and Hannah (Burson) Thomas])²⁷⁹ 16 Jul 1851²⁸⁰ (settled in Kosse, Limestone Co.²⁸¹)



Fig. 21 Mary (Thomas) Henson grave marker

^a David Thomas was brother of John Thomas and Phoebe Ghiseling.

“Served in Orrick’s band of Frontier Rangers in Jack County, Texas along with several of the Henson men, to protect the settlers from Indian attack during the Civil War years.”²⁸²

He is listed in the town of Centerville, Leon County, in the 1870 census as “Sam Thomas,” age 48, with wife “H. J. Thomas,” age 35, and seven children:

- a. M. J. [female], age 16
- b. Silvania, age 14
- c. A. E. [female], age 12
- d. T. J. [female], age 10
- e. J. W. [male], age 8
- f. J. A., age 6
- g. S. R., age 4

12. William M. Thomas, b. 15 Jan 1825; d. aft. 1870;²⁸³ m. Lydia Uman 20 Feb 1849²⁸⁴

He is listed in the 1870 census of Montgomery County, age 45, with wife Lydia, age 44, and five children:

- a. John, age 21
- b. Sylvania, age 14
- c. Eliza, age 12
- d. Julia, age 8
- e. Celia, age 6

13. Simeon Thomas; b. 27 Dec 1827;²⁸⁵ d. 1 Feb 1897; m. Sarah Gilmore²⁸⁶ (dau. of James^a and Mary Gilmore) 29 Dec 1853²⁸⁷



Fig. 23 Simeon Thomas grave marker in Bays Chapel Cemetery, Montgomery County



Fig. 22 Samuel Andrew Jackson Thomas grave marker

“Simeon Thomas came to Texas in 1832 at age 5 from Alabama, and died in 1897 at Montgomery, Texas, where he had driven his 2-wheel cart to get the mail. His horse shied, and Simeon suffered fatal injuries in the accident. He was to take the mail to Longstreet, old ‘Nubbin Town,’ named for a poor corn crop... Sarah remembered riding horseback with baby Mary in her lap and John behind her to visit her sister-in-law Mandy McAdams [sic - Wheeler!] Thomas, whose daughter, Kate, married John Morris.

“Simeon and Sarah lived in a dog-trot log house, two rooms and a porch across the front; later a kitchen was added. The corn cribs and rail fences were of logs, either whole or split; cracks in the log house were ‘chinked’ with clay and straw or rags...

“...Frances Gilmore [sister of Sarah Gilmore] ran away with her sister Sina’s husband, James Shipp, on a horse he stole from Sarah’s husband, Simeon Thomas!”²⁸⁸

He is listed in the 1870 census of Montgomery County as age 47, with wife Sarah, age 32, and three children:

- a. John S., age 15
- b. Mary, age 12
- c. Louisa, age 8

^a James Gilmore was the son of John Gilmore, the latter of whom married secondly Lydia (Bishop) May-Springer.

From the 1850 census data, we know that Phoebe (Ghiseling) Thomas died prior to 1850, and the 1845 land record provided above suggests that she died prior to that date. The 1850 census data tells us that John Thomas died after 1850. It is not known where either are buried.

There are many unanswered questions remaining about the life of John Thomas. But two of the biggest questions that I have been unable to resolve are:

- Where and when did John Thomas die? There is simply no record of his death in Montgomery County records. Is it possible that prior to his death, and after the 1850 census, he lived with one of his living children, and died in a different county? His last listing in the Montgomery County tax records was in 1847^a.
- What happened to the half of the League and Labor land that John Thomas retained? Where and when, and to whom, did he dispose of it? He paid taxes in Montgomery County on a League and Labor of land (4605 acres) in 1842 & 1843, but never again, implying that he sold his title or rights to this land in 1843-1844 (before it was formally granted).

James Avery Thomas, son of John and Phoebe (Ghiselin) Thomas, was born about 1812, probably in Jackson County, Georgia. On 28 April 1842²⁸⁹ he married Amanda Wheeler (b. 15 May 1827, d. 5 Sep 1896²⁹⁰), daughter of Henry H. Wheeler [Chapter 31] and Mary Ann Sawyer.

Much of the misinformation that I initially contended with is exemplified in the following excerpt from *The History of Grimes County, Texas*:

“**James Avery Thomas** (1812-1865) left Marengo County, Alabama with his brothers and sisters to come to Texas, leaving their mother and father, Phebe and John, in Alabama. They arrived in 1835, west of Conroe, in Stephen F. Austin’s colony. Friends from Alabama had arrived earlier. Some of the boys served in Sam Houston’s Army. David (his older brother) was a delegate to the convention at Washington-on-the-Brazos, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and the first Attorney General of the Republic of Texas.”²⁹¹

Regarding David, the “brother” who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence, I attempted to refute that legend in the introduction to this chapter; another researcher declares:

“No less than four Thomas family historians claim David Thomas, of Texas history fame, is the son of John Thomas. Each of the published histories vary slightly. A book detailing the life of David Thomas states that he was born in Tennessee and a friend of Sam Houston before coming to Texas in 1835 at the age of 35. He descends from a line of prominent politicians. A delegate to the convention at Washington-on-the-Brazos, he was a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence from Mexico. Elected Texas’ first Attorney General, he died two days before the Battle of San Jacinto aboard the ship *Cayuga* off the port of Galveston. He is buried in Zavala’s private cemetery across Buffalo Bayou from the San Jacinto battleground. A historical marker was placed there in

^a In the 1846 tax list he paid taxes on 60 acres of land which was located on the original grant of “B. Rigby.” In 1847 he paid taxes on 55 acres in the same location. See the original landowners map, above – the B. Rigby plot is located considerably northwest of where he previously lived, and is located between the grants of William Landrum (to the west), Zachariah Landrum (to the south) and Owen Shannon (to the east). Or said another way, John Thomas at this time was living northwest of the present town of Montgomery.

1938 to commemorate his importance in the struggle for independence. A painting of David Thomas hangs inside the San Jacinto Monument. The dates and movements of our Thomas family do not coincide with David Thomas until they arrive in Texas. However, John Thomas was only 15 years older than the historical David, plus our David Thomas (son of John Thomas) was only 14 years old when he came to Texas.”²⁹²

Another misleading piece of information which is readily found when researching the James Avery Thomas family is the following:

“James Avery Thomas made shoes in Alabama for the Southern soldiers during the Civil War.”²⁹³ He was given a grant of land in present Grimes County at Mustang Prairie in the eastern part of the county. He married Amanda Wheeler in 1842. They had eight children.”²⁹⁴

“James Avery Thomas was born in Marengo County, Alabama, in 1812. According to the 1850 and 1860 censuses, he was born in 1816 in Tennessee or 1818 in Georgia. Perhaps he did not know himself. James came to Texas before 1835. At Montgomery County in 1842 [28 Apr 1842²⁹⁵] he married Amanda Wheeler, daughter of **Henry B. Wheeler** and **Mary Ann Sawyer**, who were neighbors of the Thomas family in Alabama. It also appears that they were neighbors in Georgia, all having arrived in Texas within a short time of each other. James and Amanda settled in Roans Prairie in Grimes County though at the time they first came there, Roans Prairie was in Montgomery County. James was a farmer. Several family histories state that James made shoes for the soldiers during the Civil War. James died 28 April 1865 and is buried at Mustang Prairie. Amanda died 5 September 1896 at Mustang Prairie. The cemetery is located 10 yards from the Walker County line, 16 miles west of Huntsville, Texas, off Highway 30.”²⁹⁶

James Avery Thomas served on several juries in early Montgomery County, including the following:

“Andrew Montgomery –vs- Richard H. Chadduck

“March 1839

“29 Oct 1838 – Petitioner states that Richard Chadduck and Joshua Robbin are indebted to him in the sum of \$325.00 by a note dated 4 July 1838. Note shows that three months after date defendants promise to pay the amount to Andrew Montgomery, Administrator of Samuel Kelly

/s/ Perry & Smith, Attorneys

“30 October 1838 – George Morrison, Clerk issued summons.

“16 November 1838 – Served on Richard Chadduck. /s/ Joshua Robbins, Sheriff

“On petition of Perry, attorney for plaintiff, John Carothers was appointed by court as curator for defendants.

“Jury consisted of: M. D. Sandifer, **James Thomas**, Jesse Parker, James Edwards, James Bennett, Jesse Clary, W. Love, Robert Ray, Wm. B. ?Pillow, W. W. Shepherd, William Winters and Foster Babo. Jury finds for the plaintiff.

“14 November 1838 – Bond of R. H. Chadduck, Thomas ?P. Davis & Hezekiah Farris in the amount of \$700. Condition of the obligation is that inasmuch as judgment was obtained against Chadduck and Joshua Robbins, and said Chadduck has appealed to the next term of District Court, the outcome of appeal will decide the matter.

/S/ R. H. Chadduck, Thomas ?J. Davis, /m/ Hezekiah Farris.

Witness: Gwyn Morrison

“Mar 1839 – Judgment for plaintiff; trial by jury waived.”²⁹⁷

“Republic of Texas –va- Edward B. Fulsom, #30

^a This does not make sense, since it has been previously stated, above, that he came to Texas well before the Civil War.

“Grand Jury: W. R. Bowen, foreman, Edley Montgomery, John ?Carver [?Corner], William Clarey, William Gilmore, John Winters, Phillip “Goolred [?Goodhead], John J. Whitesides, Benjamin Robinson, Patrick M. Lynch, Evan Edwards, **James Thomas**, Robert Armour, Harper Spillers and William Winters. On 1 Oct 1838, the grand jury states, Edward B. Fulson (sic), without any authority or license from the County ‘kept an establishment for retailing wares, goods, and merchandise.’

“Defendant came into Court and pleaded guilty and was fined \$1.00 and costs of suit.”²⁹⁸

“Spring Term 1839

Republic of Texas –vs- William C. Clark, #5

“Grand Jury: Wm. R. Bowen, foreman, Edley Montgomery, John Corner, William Clarey, William Gilmore, John Winter, Phillip Goodbread, John Whitesides, Benjamin Roberts, Patrick M. Lynch, Evan Edwards, **James Thomas**, Robert Armour, Harper Spillers & William Winters – presents that William C. Clark, late of the county, on 10 Apr 1838 at the town of Montgomery, had a ‘certain pistol then & there loaded with powder & diverse leaden shot, which he in his right hand then & there feloniously unlawfully and maliciously did shoot with intent him the said Samuel McFall to kill & murder him ...’ M. C. Hudson, Solicitor

“19 Feb 1841. In this case no warrant of arrest is found among the papers on file when Chas. B. Stewart took possession of office.”²⁹⁹

“Republic of Texas –vs- Richard Smith

“Spring 1840. Grand jurors: Wm. R. Bowen, Edley Montgomery, John Corner, Wm. Clancy, Wm. Gilmore, John Winters, Phillip Goodbread, John J. Whitesides, Benjamin Robinson, Patrick M. Lynch, Evan Edwards, **James Thomas**, Robert Armour, Harper Spillers, William Winters indict Richard Smith for assault on George Clark, which occurred on 1 Nov 1839.

“Spring 1840 jurors Mathew A. Doyle, Evan Corner, Wm. Benjamin, John B. Tong, Phillip Martin, Thomas Moffitt, W. C. Moffitt, Jos. R. Mathews, James Jordan, Sam’l Grimmet, F. A. Cooke, & Wm. Patterson find the defendant not guilty.”³⁰⁰

One does not get far in researching the Thomas family without realizing how close the Thomas family was to the other families that came with them to Texas from Alabama. However, there were family squabbles as evidenced in the following record between James Avery Thomas and his brother-in-law, Joseph Henson.

“Montgomery County District Court Fall Term 1839

“**James Thomas –vs- Joseph Hinson**

“Petition of **James Thomas** states that assault and battery had been committed on him by *Joseph Hinson* on 27 May 1839. This occurred at or near Caney Creek. Petitioner states he was cut, stabbed, beaten and bruised, and asks damages of \$10,000.00.

“Filed 28 May 1839. /s/ **James Thomas**; Jasper Hooper, Attorney for Plaintiff.

“28 May 1839 – *Joseph Hinson* was arrested and brought before Justices of Peace Peter Cartright, E. M. Gray and W. R. Bowen. From evidence at trial, Justices’ opinion was that the assault, with intent to kill, did occur. They, therefore, order *Hinson* to give bond of \$10,000 for his appearance at next Circuit Court on 4th Monday in September, ‘And whereas there is no jail or place of safe keeping in the County of Montgomery,’ Matthew Drake, Constable, is ordered to deliver *Hinson* to the Sheriff of Harrison County for safekeeping, in the event he fails to give bond.

“April 1840 – The parties, by their attorneys agreed to dismiss suit and defendant is to pay costs of suit to plaintiff.”³⁰¹

Additional information on the above case was excerpted from actual court records. In these excerpts the following insight is offered:

“**Mr. Thomas**’ petition of March 20, 1839: ‘I was riding the road by *Joseph Henson*’s and stopped with the children, talking to them. *Joseph Henson* was ploughing near the house. When I was about to start off, *Joseph Henson* came running to the house and called out to me to stop. But believing that he was mad with me previous and from threats that I had heard of his making on me of taking my life, I thought proper to go on and *Henson* ran into his house and came out in the yard again with his gun in his hand and presented his gun at me. And I do verily believe that his gun missed fire or he would have shot at me, and by that means made my escape’

“**Mr. Thomas**’s petition of May 27, 1839: ‘I was riding on horseback in Montgomery County near Caney Creek, where I saw *Joseph Henson* in the vicinity. He was armed with gun, pistol, and butcher knife. When I came up to where *Henson* was, he commanded me to get down and said if I did not he would shoot me. I got down and, being forced by *Henson* to divest myself of a pocket knife the only weapon he had, *Henson* commenced the assault with blows. I was beaten to the ground and did not see *Henson* use a knife.’”³⁰²

“#135 Denman, Moses, deceased
C. H. Denman, Admr.

“10 Sep 1842 – Notice. Tapley (?Chapley) A. Denman has filed on the estate of ‘Mases Denmon,’ deceased.

“5 Sep 1842 – Petition. Chapley A. Denman ... shows ‘that his father Moses Denman ... departed this life on the last day of June 1842. The person legally entitled to Letters of Administration (towit) his wife is in delicate health & wishes me your petitioner to take upon myself the duties. Your petitioner is the son of the deceased and the wife next entitled.’ Prays for letters of administration. Chapley H. Denman by Atty. Sanders. Granted 6 Sep 1842.

“21 Sep 1842 - \$500 bond. Chapley H. Denman, principal. B. H. Jackson & **James Thomas**, securities. Recorded Book B, folio 93.

“26 Sep 1842 – Inventory & Appraisement. /m/ Chaley H. Denman. Appraisers: /s/ John F. McGuffin, B. H. ?Puckson, **James Thomas**.

“Filed Jan term 1843 – Petition on C. H. Denman to be released as administrator of estate of Moses Denman. Book B, folio 95. Granted.”³⁰³

The children of James Avery Thomas and Amanda Wheeler were:

1. Phebe Marian Thomas; b. 11 Jul 1843; d. 24 Nov 1883³⁰⁴; m. Willis Fulton 9 Jan 1861^{a305}
2. John Henry Thomas; b. 26 Jun 1845; d. 23 Dec 1928;³⁰⁶ m. Elizabeth (Betty) Thornton^{307 308} (b. 5 Feb 1848, d. 8 May 1937³⁰⁹)

“From Jerome E. Thomas manuscripts on *John Henry Thomas* of the James William Foster family. Compiled by J.T. and Joy Montgomery in 1981 friends of Jerome E. Thomas. Mr. Bookman [Book 6] of Bookman Inn made a speech at a square dance regarding a visit by former Governor Sam Houston. Please read the following for the narration of the event.

“In the early part of 1866, John and Rebecca Carpenter Thornton migrated to Texas from Pike County, Alabama, where they lived a number of years after they had moved there from South Carolina. They bought a farm 15 miles west of Mustang Prairie near the Navasota River. John Thornton was a half Alabama Indian, and his wife, Rebecca was of Scotch-Irish descent. They had married in Alabama and brought their five children with them to Texas. Their sons were named John



Fig. 24 Amanda (Wheeler) Thomas

^a In her marriage record, she is listed as “M. P. Thomas.”

and Turs, and the daughters were Betty, Bedie, and Holly. Betty was 18 years-old with olive colored skin, dark hair and flashing dark eyes that showed her Indian heritage of which she was very proud. Very soon after they were settled in their new home, *John Henry [Thomas]* was introduced to Betty at a local ‘shindig’ at Red Top. ‘In the Old-fashion way,’ news was circulated through the settlements of upcoming celebrations, with square dancing held at the Bookman Inn. Beginning the event with a speech of welcome by Mr. Bookman, owner of the Inn, became a custom. He told them about the times General Sam Houston had ‘spent the night there’ at the Inn, and on one occasion, Mr. Houston was present while a square dance was in progress. There were several Indian men and women present from the nearby Alabama and Coushatta tribes. Houston was dressed in the regalia of a Comanche Chief and the local Indians did not like this manner of dress. The Comanche tribe was their enemy and they proceed to raise the question of why the General, as Governor of Texas, had failed to establish an Indian Reservation near Huntsville. He told them that he was doing everything in his power to secure the necessary land. (Mr. Houston died in 1863 and the Reservation was established near Livingston east of Huntsville some years later.) Houston assured the Indians present, that the reason he was wearing the regalia was to show that the relationship between the leaders of Texas and all Indians should be kept in a peaceful vein. **James Avery [Thomas]** had talked to Sam Houston on several occasions at Red Top, and he told his family that Mr. Houston was very pleased in knowing a brother of David Thomas,^a one of his old friends. *John Henry*, **James Avery**’s son, did not return from the Civil War soon enough to meet General Houston before Mr. Houston’s death.

“*John Henry*’s fancy was caught by Betty’s (Thornton) outspoken manner, and he asked a friend to introduce him to ‘that fiery-spoken Indian maid,’ as she stood surrounded by her friends and relatives expounding on her dislike for General Sam Houston. At this time, her entire Thornton family shared her distrust for Mr. Houston. After the introduction, Betty and John Henry danced the first square dance set together. Later, they walked together in the cake walk. They failed to win the cake but sat together the rest of the afternoon, and thus began their acquaintance. Thereafter, they saw each other as often as *John Henry* could spare the time away from his duties about the farm. They were married April 16, 1867.”³¹⁰

3. **Samuel A. J. Thomas**; b. 22 Oct 1848; d. Dec 1888;³¹¹ m. **Sarah Jane Reed** 6 Dec 1866³¹²

4. Amanda Catherine Jane Thomas; b. 19 Jan 1850; d. 12 Jan 1938;³¹³ m. John William Morris in 1867³¹⁴)

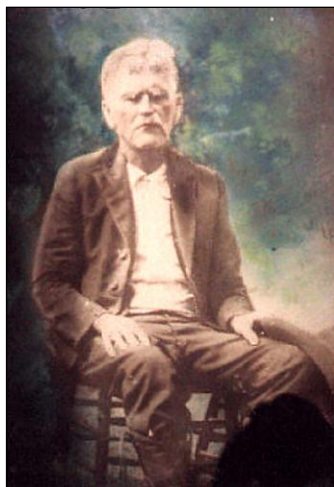


Fig. 26 Francis Marion Thomas

5. Francis Marion Thomas; b. 9 Aug 1852; d. 20 Jan 1922;³¹⁵ m. Susan Barbara Mullens (dau. of Mathew S. Mullens and Mary Ann Edwards)³¹⁶ (b. 29 Feb 1857, d. 27 Dec 1928³¹⁷)

6. Charles David Thomas; b. 29 Mar 1855; d. 23 Jan 1942;³¹⁸ m. Mary Malvina (“Mallie”) McGilberry³¹⁹ on 21 Mar 1878³²⁰

7. McGowan (Mack) Thomas; b. 16 Sep 1857; d. 8 Jan 1937;³²¹ m. Virgin-

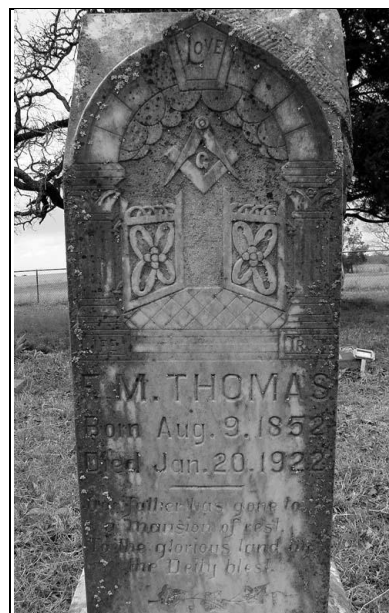


Fig. 25 Francis Marion Thomas grave marker

^a Unfortunately, this statement makes the whole narrative less credible. It is a very old family legend that James Avery Thomas was brother of David Thomas of Tennessee, a wealthy lawyer who was killed during the Texas Revolution. These legends are simply not true.

ia (“Jennie”) Thompson³²² (b. 4 Apr 1860; d. 28 Aug 1919³²³) on 22 Jan 1878.³²⁴

[**Comment:** Jennie Thompson was the daughter of George Cumberland Thompson [Chapter 21], and was the cousin of Sarah Jane Reed [Chapter 20] who married Samuel A.J. Thomas.]

8. Archibald (Archie) Anderson Thomas; b. 9 Feb 1860; d. 7 Feb 1945;³²⁵
m. Mollie Coleman³²⁶ (b. 7 Jun 1867,
d. 31 Mar 1931³²⁷)

James Thomas, age 34, was listed in the 1850 census of Grimes County. He was listed as a farmer with a net worth of \$500, *born in Tennessee*, and unable to read or write. Members of his household consisted of: Amanda (age 24, born in Tennessee), Phebe M. (age 7, born in Texas), John (age 4, born in Texas), Samuel A. S.[J?] (age 2, born in Texas), and Amanda C. J. (age 6 months, born in Texas). Others who were listed in the Thomas household were Amanda’s father, H. H. Wheeler (age 50, born in NC), and Mary Ann Wheeler (age 15, born in Alabama).



Fig. 27 Archibald Anderson Thomas & Mollie Coleman ca. 1930

“Mary Ann Wheeler is Amanda’s niece, daughter of her brother, John Wheeler. John lives two farms away from his sister Amanda with his wife Elizabeth and son, Joseph, Jr., but he denied paternity of the daughter living with Amanda. John listed his occupation as ‘none.’ Henry Wheeler’s wife, Mary Ann Sawyer, does not appear on any census.”³²⁸

The 1860 Census listed the Thomas family in Bedias, Grimes County. Listed were J. Thomas, age 42, *born in Georgia*, with real estate valued at \$480, and personal property valued at \$700. Members of his household were Amanda, (age 31, born in Georgia), Pheoby (age 17), John (age 14), Samuel (age 12), Catherine (age 10), Jane (age 8), Charles (age 4), McGowan (age 2), Archie (age 9 months), Willis Fulton (age 21 [married Phoebe]), and Elizabeth Wheeler (age 35, born Alabama, “Insane, Pauper”).

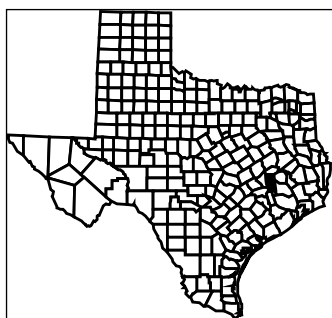


Fig. 28 Grimes County, Texas

The following are Grimes County records that name James Avery and/or Amanda Thomas:

“Thomas Gilmore ... for \$140 ... from **James Thomas** ... parcel on Lake Creek ... 100 acres ... 4 Nov 1847”³²⁹

“1 Feb 1851 ... Elizabeth Ford to **James Thomas** ... \$50 ... 40 acres ... Wit: Thomas Gilmore, **H. H. Wheeler**.”³³⁰

“**James Thomas** and **Amanda C. J. Thomas** his wife ... \$500 ... to James P. McCown ... 2 tracts ... 100 acres [1st above] ... 40 acres [2nd above] ... 26 June 1855 ... signed **James X Thomas, Amanda C. J. X Thomas**”³³¹

“Patent ... 3rd Class ... 150 acres ... #528 ... 22 Aug 1856 ... State of Texas ... J.W. Throckmorton Governor of the state ... grant to **James Thomas** ... in Montgomery District Grimes County ...”³³² [see survey below]

“Elias Newsom ... for \$150 ... to **Amanda Thomas** ... 38 acres ... part of 640 acre patent of John Jones ... 8 Sep 1873”³³³

The actual survey for the Texas land grant to James Thomas is as follows:

James Thomas

June 12th, 1856

State of Texas

Land dist of Montgomery

“Survey for **James Thomas**, of 160 acres of land situated in Grimes County North of Washington Road being the quantity to which he is entitled under, the preemption law of the State of Texas. Beginning at the N. W. corner of Robt. L. Brooks survey at a stake from which a post oak 14 in dia mkd R. B bears S 85 E 13 vas dist and a post oak 6 in dia mkd K bears West 6 vas dist;

Thence North

210 vas to S E. line of Lindleys labor a stake for corner;

Thence S 50 W with said survey

764 vas to a corner of heirs of Jones survey, stake from which a black jack 9 in dia bears S 7 E 8 vas dist;

Thence S 20 E with said survey

768 vas to a stake on said line for corner;

Thence East

707 vas to S. W. corner of Robt. L. Brooks, survey a stake from which a post oak 14 in dia mkd R B bears S 72 E 12 8/10 vas dist;

Thence North with said survey

1050 vas to beginning.”³³⁴



Fig. 29 James Avery Thomas house in 1913 (Archie O. Thomas & Jason Williamson on horseback)

According to W. D. Morris, “James Avery Thomas, after contracting pneumonia, died on May 10th, 1865.”³³⁵ Amanda (Wheeler) Thomas died 5 Sep 1896.³³⁶ At this time it is not known where James Avery Thomas is buried; Amanda Thomas is buried in the Mustang Cemetery.

Samuel A.J. Thomas, son of James Avery Thomas and Amanda Wheeler, was born 22 October 1848³³⁷ in Grimes County, Texas. Samuel and Sarah Jane Reed [Chapter 20] were married on 6 December 1866,³³⁸ when he was 19, she only 14!

The 1880 census for Prairie Plains, Grimes County, lists **Samuel J. Thomas**, age 33, as a farmer who was born in Texas, and whose father and mother *were born in Alabama*. His wife was listed as **Sarah Jane**, age 29, born in Texas, and whose mother and father were born in Louisiana. There were five children listed: Alice G., age 13; Laura Ann, age 10; **Fanny Almeda**, age 7; Hattie Leroy, age 5; and Archie T., age 2.³³⁹

[**Comment:** Also listed in the 1880 Grimes County census, and as close neighbors of Samuel J., were Samuel M. Thomas (wife Virginia, age 18), age 23, who was born in Texas, but whose mother and father were born in Alabama; Charles D. Thomas (wife Mary M., age 19), age 25, who was born in Texas, and whose father and mother were born in Alabama, and the household of John H. Thomas, age 35, born in Texas, *father born in Alabama*, mother born in Georgia. I do not know who Samuel M. Thomas was. But Charles D. and John H. Thomas were the sons of James Avery Thomas, and the brothers of Samuel A. J. Thomas.]

According to Mrs. Lillian Fay Wingard, they were the parents of seven daughters and one son:³⁴⁰

1. Alice G. Thomas; b. 1867; d. 1883;³⁴¹ m. Robert Williamson
2. Laura Ann (Pink) Thomas; b. May 1870;³⁴² m. Johnnie Curry
3. **Fannie Almeda Thomas**; b. 18 Aug 1873; d. 6 Sep 1958; m. **John Robert Wingard** 14 November 1890
4. Hattie Leroy Thomas; b. Mar 1874;³⁴³ m. Walter Rankin
5. Arch [Archie T.] Thomas; b. May 1878;³⁴⁴ m. Alma Vinson
6. Claudia Thomas^a
7. Alma Thomas
8. Maggie Thomas; b. 1880; d. 1896³⁴⁵

For a long time we did not know precisely when Samuel A.J. Thomas died. There is a single family plot in the Mustang Cemetery in northern Grimes County marked with a single stone inscribed “The Sam Thomas Family” – no dates, and no individual grave markers. However, we know from the following record that Samuel died in, or shortly before, August 1889, and that his widow was still alive at that time:

^a I cannot confirm Claudia, Alma, or Maggie as children of Samuel and Sarah Jane Thomas. I have found no records that prove their existence.

“The State of Texas }
County of Grimes } Know all men by these presents That I **S.J. Thomas**
administratrix of the Estate of **Sam Thomas** Deceased, a female of the County of Grimes State of Texas in
consideration of the sum of Three Hundred and Seventy five Dollars to me cash in hand paid by C. D.
Thomas^a, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and by virtue of the order of the County Court of
Grimes County State of Texas which said purchaser has fully complied with and which is entered in the
minutes of said court and which is in substance as follows to wit: “No 272 Estate of **Sam Thomas** Decd.
“SS 23rd day of August A.D. 1889, Be it remembered that on this at the regular August Term of the County
Court of Grimes County, State of Texas, sitting as a Court of probate, came on to be heard the report of
sale of one hundred acres of land out of the Jno. F. Jones 640 acre survey in Grimes County State of Texas
to C. D. Thomas of said County & State filed on the 13th day of August A.D. 1889, and the court having
inquired into the manner in which such sale was made and having heard the evidence in support of same
there being none against same and the court being satisfied that said sale was fairly made and in conformity
with law it is therefore considered by the Court that such sale be and the same is hereby in all things con-
firmed, and such report of sale is ordered to be recorded by the Clerk of this Court and the Administratrix
of said estate is ordered to make the conveyance of said property to the said purchaser C. D. Thomas upon
compliance by him with the terms of sale recorded Book U pp. 332 & 333 of said Minutes have granted,
sold and conveyed and by these presents do grant, sell and convey unto the said C. D. Thomas of the Coun-
ty of Grimes and State of Texas, all that certain tract or parcel of land described as follows to wit. Situated
in Grimes County and State of Texas being part out of the survey of 640 acres granted to John F. Jones
deed by Patent No. 16 dated Feb 6 1854. Beginning at the South west Corner of said grant of 640 acres at
a stake from which a post oak 14 inches diameter marked X bears S. 37° E 7 varas distant. Thence N. 20°
N with John Fishers east line 792 varas to its North East corner at a stake from which a post oak 10 inches
diameter, marked H bears N 17° E 10 varas distant, Thence N 67° E 698 varas to Greys West line a stake
from which a post oak 14 inches diameter is marked G.S.T bears N 36°E 4 ½ varas distant and a post oak
8 inches diameter marked ST bears S 50° W 8 ½ varas distant. Thence S. 20° E with Grays west line 790
varas to its S.W. corner a stake from which a black Jack 10 inches diameter marked G bears N 90° E 4
7/10 varas distant and a black Jack 6 inches diameter marked G bears S 75° E 7 varas distant. Thence S.
70° W 694 varas to the place of beginning, containing one hundred acres of land. To have and to hold the
above described premises together with all and singular, the rights and appurtenances thereto in anywise be-
longing, unto the said C.D. Thomas his heirs and assigns forever, and I do hereby bind myself my heirs, ex-
ecutors and administrators to Warrant and Forever defend all and singular the said premises unto the said
C.D. Thomas his heirs and assigns against any person whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same or
any part thereof , as fully and absolutely as I as such administratrix of said estate can convey the same. All
erasures and interlineation were made before signing.

Witness my hand at Prairie Plains this 7 day of September AD. One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty
nine.

S. J. Thomas, Administratrix
of the estate of **Sam Thomas** deceased

Witness at the Request of the Grantor

J. H. Goren

L.H. Franklow³⁴⁶

[**Comment:** I checked Grimes County Probate Minutes Book U, pp. 332-333, and it appears to be exactly
worded as the above deed shows, i.e., there is no additional information to be had from the probate minutes.]

According to the Reed family Bible, Sarah Jane (Reed) Thomas died 1 October 1890;³⁴⁷ her
grave marker in Mustang Cemetery says 1 November 1890.³⁴⁸ It is now known that both are buried
in the family plot in Mustang Cemetery (their grave markers had been buried under about 3 feet of

^a C. D. Thomas was Charles Davis Thomas, Samuel's brother.

dirt and found by Mr. Dennis Morris in early March 2005). Samuel A. J. Thomas's grave marker says he died in December 1888.

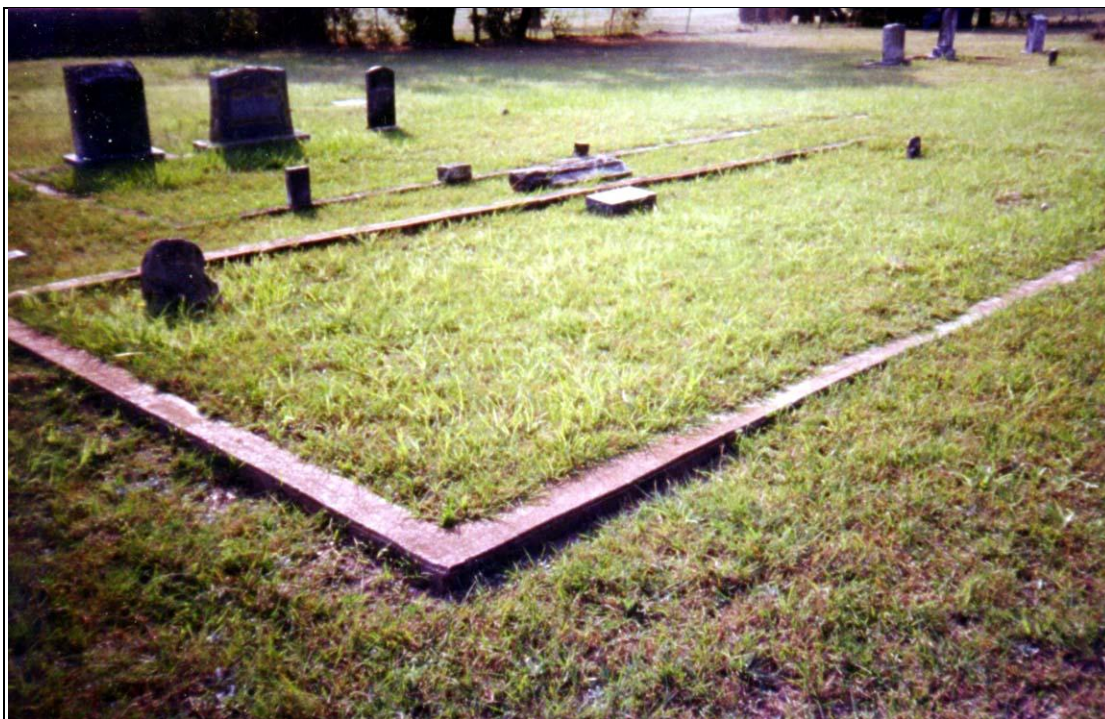


Fig. 30 Sam Thomas family plot Mustang Cemetery

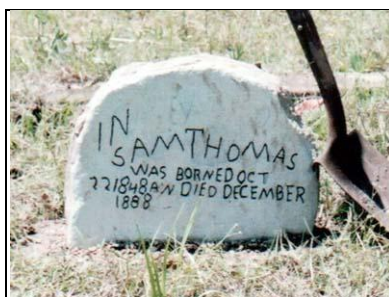


Fig. 31 Sam Thomas grave marker
(found buried in March 2005 by
Dennis Morris)

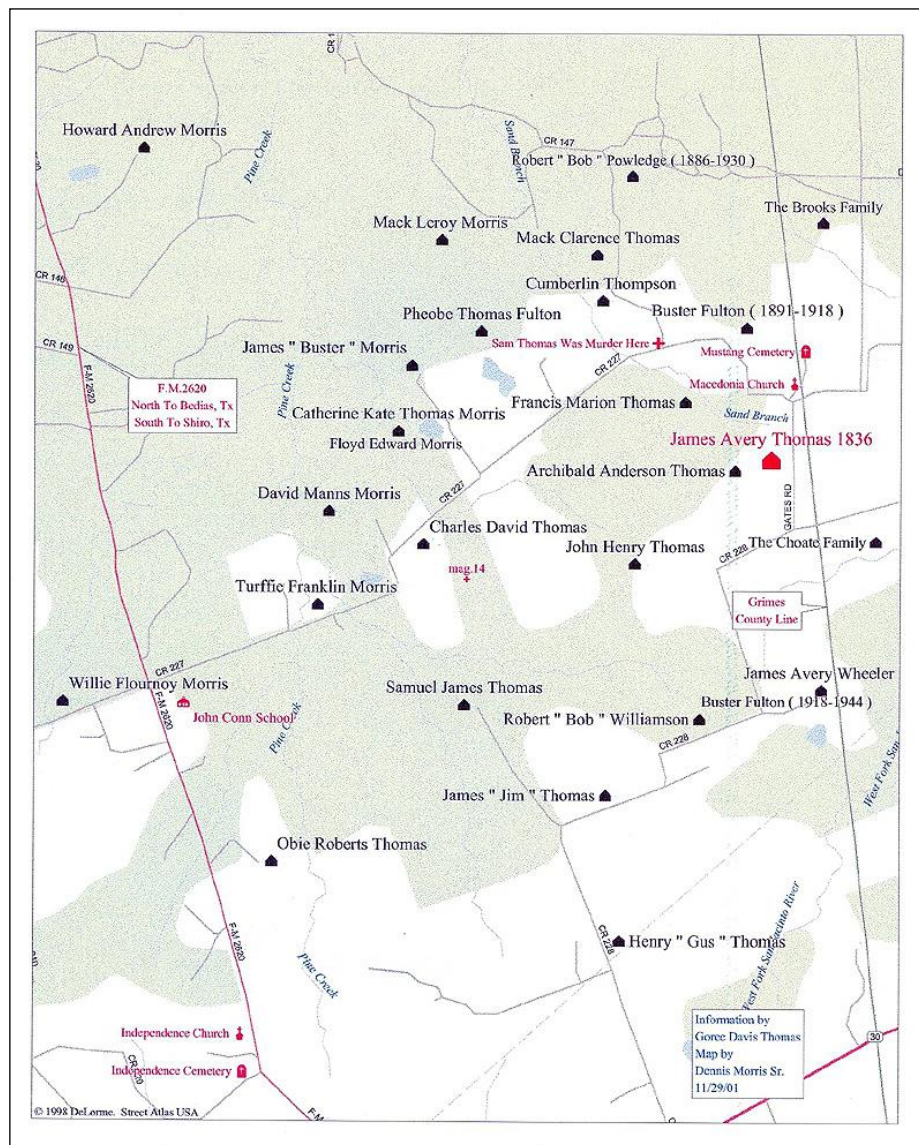
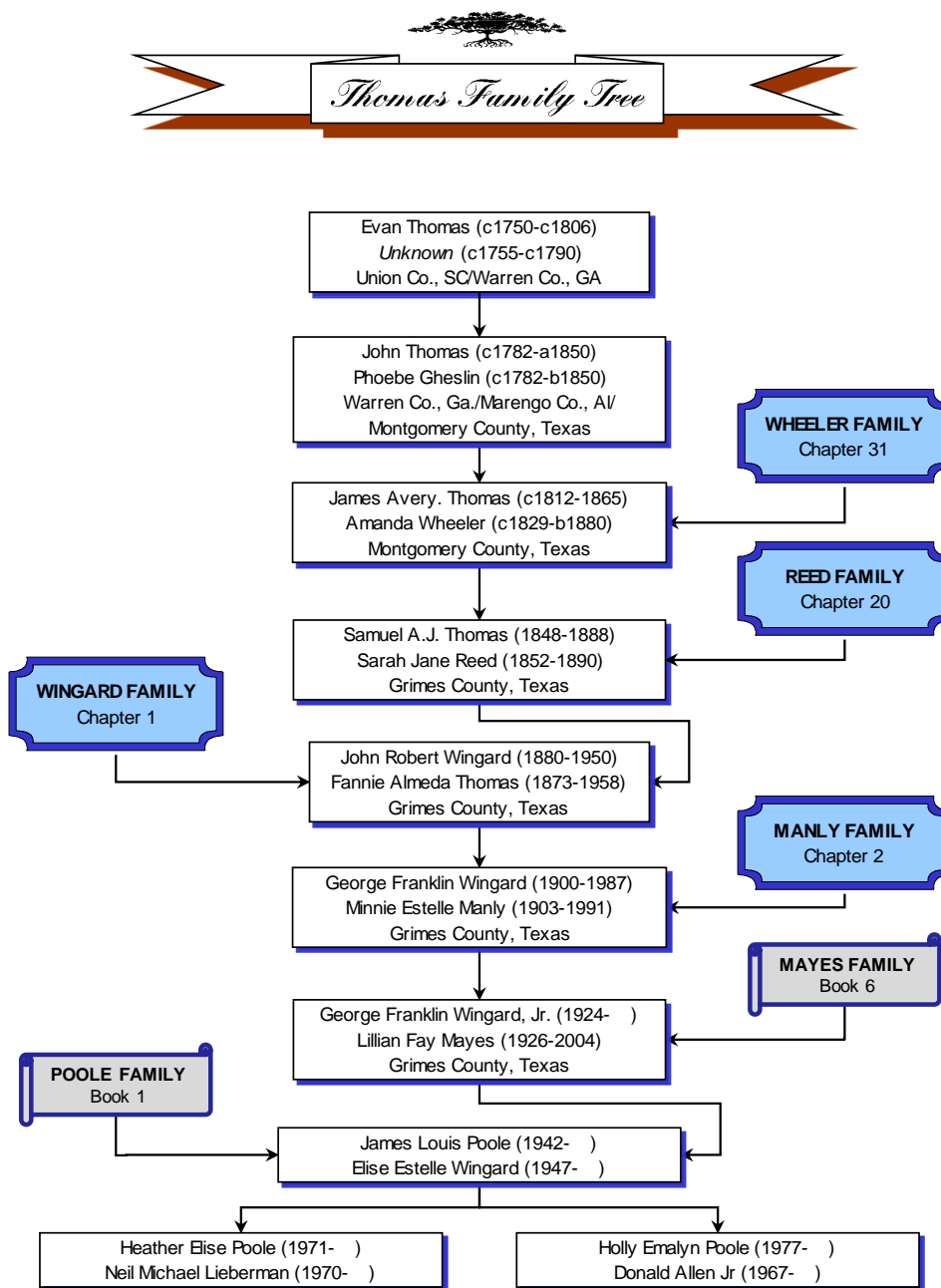


Fig. 32 Location of Thomas lands

Jannie Almeda Thomas, daughter of Samuel J. and Sarah Jane (Reed) Thomas, was born 18 August 1873, and married **John Robert Wingard** [Chapter 1] on 14 November 1890.

[See the Wingard family history, Chapter 1, for a continuation of the Thomas lineage.]



Notes & References

- 1 <http://thomasdna.org/ThomasDNASite/results.aspx> - or Google "Thomas DNA Results"
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- 4 Montgomery County Deed Book L, pp. 357-358.
- 5 Georgia Pioneers, *Warren County, Georgia: Early Marriage Records*, p. 49; Ingmire, Frances T., *Warren County, Georgia Marriage Records 1789-1849*, p. 49; Lucas, Rev. Silas Emmett, Jr., *Some Georgia County Records, Vol. 1*, p. 188. See image from Georgia archives (provided herein) for corrections.
- 6 Frederick Co., Va., D.B. 11, p. 500, 1765-1769.
- 7 Frederick Co., Va., Deeds, 1765-1769, Vol. 11, p. 500; Frederick Co., Va., Deeds, 1765-1769, Vol. 12, p. 608.
- 8 Warren County Wills, 1798-1803, p. 85.
- 9 *Encyclopedia of Quaker Genealogy*, Vol. VI, Fairfax Monthly Meeting, Page 478.
- 10 "South Carolina Grant Book 16, p. 385" – Holcomb, Brent H., *South Carolina's Royal Grants, Volume Two: Grant Books 10 Through 17, 1760-1768*, p. 296.
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- 14 Jackson County, GA, Will Book A, p. 237 – provided by Barbara Thomas in an email dated 21 July 2012.
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- 16 "13-267:3" – Motes, Jesse Hogan III, & Motes, Margaret Peckham, *South Carolina Memorials: Abstracts of Land Titles, Volume 1, 1774-1776*, p. 225.
- 17 "P. 468" – Huxford, Folks, ed., *The Georgia Genealogical Magazine*, No. 7, January 1963, p. 362.
- 18 Hahn, Marilyn Davis, *Old St. Stephen's Land Office Records & American State Papers Public Lands, Vol. I, 1768-1888*, p. 20.
- 19 "P. 60" – Gandrud, Pauline Jones, *Alabama Record, Volume 17, Greene County*, p. 61.
- 20 "Marengo County Deed Book B, p. 169" – Gandrud, Pauline Jones, *Alabama Records, Volume 29, Marengo County*, p. 94.
- 21 "Greene County Book B, p. 91" – Gandrud, Pauline Jones, *Alabama Records, Volume 14, Greene County*, p. 43.
- 22 *First Settlers of the Mississippi Territory*, p. 44; Lowrie, Walter, *Early Settlers of Mississippi As Taken from Land Claims In The Mississippi Territory*, p. 587.
- 23 Lowrie, Walter, *Early Settlers of Mississippi As Taken from Land Claims In The Mississippi Territory*, p. 667.
- 24 Lowrie, Walter, *Early Settlers of Mississippi As Taken from Land Claims In The Mississippi Territory*, p. 723.
- 25 Strickland, Ben & Jean, *Records of Choctaw Trading Post, St. Stephens, Mississippi Territory, 1803-1816, Volume 1*, p. 85.
- 26 Hageness, MariLee Beatty, *Probate Book A, 1813-1828, Clarke County, Alabama*, p. 2.
- 27 Hageness, MariLee Beatty, *Probate Book A, 1813-1828, Clarke County, Alabama*, p. 2.
- 28 Strickland, Ben & Jean, *Records of Choctaw Trading Post, St. Stephens, Mississippi Territory, 1803-1816, Volume 2*, p. ?.
- 29 Hahn, Marilyn Davis, *Old St. Stephen's Land Office Records & American State Papers Public Lands, Vol. I, 1768-1888*, p. 12.
- 30 Hahn, Marilyn Davis, *Old St. Stephen's Land Office Records & American State Papers Public Lands, Vol. I, 1768-1888*, p. 20.
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- 34 Hahn, Marilyn Davis, *Old St. Stephen's Land Office Records & American State Papers Public Lands, Vol. I, 1768-1888*, p. 25.
- 35 Hahn, Marilyn Davis, *Old St. Stephen's Land Office Records & American State Papers Public Lands, Vol. I, 1768-1888*, p. 32.
- 36 Hahn, Marilyn Davis, *Old St. Stephen's Land Office Records & American State Papers Public Lands, Vol. I, 1768-1888*, p. 36.
- 37 Hageness, MariLee Beatty, *Probate Book A, 1813-1828, Clarke County, Alabama*, p. 7.
- 38 Probate Packets, basement of Montgomery County Courthouse, Conroe, Texas – Packet #612.
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- 41 “Marengo County Deed Book B, p. 169” – Gandrud, Pauline Jones, *Alabama Records, Volume 29, Marengo County*, p. 94.
- 42 Marengo County Will Book A, p. 229.
- 43 Transcribed from the handwritten original in the South Carolina Archives by Phil Norfleet.
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- 45 Moss, Bobby Gilmer, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution*, p. 97.
- 46 Moss, Bobby Gilmer, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution*, p. 126.
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- 55 Surry County, NC, Will Book 2, pp. 30-31 – transcribed from the original on microfilm.
- 56 “Page 63” – Absher, Mrs. W. O., *Surry County, North Carolina, Deeds – Books D, E, and F, 1779-1797*, p. 8.
- 57 Linn, Jo White, *Surry County, North Carolina, Wills, 1771-1827*, p. 53.
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- 72 “Union County Deed Book A, pp. 367-368” – Holcomb, Brent H., *Union County, South Carolina, Deed Abstracts, Volume I: Deed Books A-F*, p. 28.
- 73 “Union County Deed Book A, pp. 368-369” – Holcomb, Brent H., *Union County, South Carolina, Deed Abstracts, Volume I: Deed Books A-F*, p. 28.
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- 273 “Book A, pp. 6-7” – Montgomery County Genealogical & Historical Society, *Montgomery County, Texas Probate Minutes, 1838-1851*, p. 1.
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- 275 Grammer, Norma Rutledge, *Montgomery County, Texas, Marriage Records, 1842-1879*, p. 5.
- 276 Notes of Mrs. Lillian Fay Wingard; information provided by Mr. Robert Adams as obtained from Mary (Thomas) Henson’s records.
- 277 Information provided by Charlotte Sandel Beck in an email message dated 8 Feb 1999.
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- 280 Information provided by Robert D. Thomas in an email dated 4 March 2003.

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- 282 Information provided by Mr. Robert D. Adams.
- 283 Notes of Mrs. Lillian Fay Wingard; information provided by Mr. Robert Adams as obtained from Mary (Thomas) Henson's records.
- 284 Grammer, Norma Rutledge, *Montgomery County, Texas, Marriage Records, 1842-1879*, p. 5.
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- 286 information provided by Mr. Robert Adams as obtained from Mary (Thomas) Henson's records; Grimes County Marriage Records, Book H.
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- 291 Grimes County Historical Commission, *History Of Grimes County*, pp. 446 & 555.
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- 297 "District Court Records, Book A, pp. 24-27" — Montgomery County Genealogical & Historical Society, *Montgomery County, Texas, District Court Records, Book A, Fall Term 1839 – Fall Term 1845*, pp. 9-10.
- 298 "District Court Records, Book A, p. 32" — Montgomery County Genealogical & Historical Society, *Montgomery County, Texas, District Court Records, Book A, Fall Term 1839 – Fall Term 1845*, p. 11.
- 299 "District Court Records, Book A, p. 37" — Montgomery County Genealogical & Historical Society, *Montgomery County, Texas, District Court Records, Book A, Fall Term 1839 – Fall Term 1845*, p. 13.
- 300 "District Court Records, Book A, pp. 136-137" — Montgomery County Genealogical & Historical Society, *Montgomery County, Texas, District Court Records, Book A, Fall Term 1839 – Fall Term 1845*, p. 30.
- 301 "Montgomery County, Texas, District Court Records, Book A, pp. 53-55" — Montgomery County Genealogical & Historical Society, Inc., *Montgomery County, Texas, District Court Records, Book A, Fall Term 1838 – Fall Term 1845*, p. 17.
- 302 Information provided by Robert Adams in an email message dated 23 February 1999.
- 303 "Probate – Black Box Documents" — Montgomery County Genealogical & Historical Society, *Montgomery County, Texas, Probate Records, Black Box Documents, 1838-1848, Volume I*, pp. 50-51.
- 304 Date of birth and death from her grave marker in Mustang Cemetery.
- 305 Grimes County marriage records, volumes H-J, FHL US/CAN Film 1006280.
- 306 Information from his headstone in the Mustang Cemetery in northern Grimes County.
- 307 Information (as of 6 February 1999) provided by Charlotte Sandel Beck on her Internet web page at <http://www.fortunecity.com/tinpan/nirvana/621/thomas.htm>.
- 308 Household #98, p. 177, 1880 Federal Census, Prairie Plains, Grimes County, Texas — Dallas Public Library microfilm files.
- 309 Information from her headstone in the Mustang Cemetery in northern Grimes County (next to J. H. Thomas).
- 310 Found on the Grimes County Rootsweb Internet site. Posted by "Alamo62" on 17 November 2003.
- 311 Information obtained from Dennis Morris in a private email dated 6 Mar 2005. Mr. Morris found Samuel A. Thomas's headstone buried in Mustang Cemetery.
- 312 Grimes County Marriage Records, Book I, p. 265.
- 313 Dates of birth and death from her grave marker in Mustang Cemetery.
- 314 Grimes County Historical Commission, *History Of Grimes County*, p. 446: Information provided by Dennis Morris.
- 315 Information from his headstone in the Mustang Cemetery in northern Grimes County.

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- 316 Information (as of 6 February 1999) provided by Charlotte Sandel Beck on her Internet web page at
http://www.fortunecity.com/tinpan/nirvana/621/thomas.htm.
- 317 Information from her headstone in the Mustang Cemetery in northern Grimes County (next to F. M. Thomas).
- 318 Dates of birth and death from grave marker in Mustang Cemetery.
- 319 Grimes County Historical Commission, *History Of Grimes County*, p. 554; Full name provided by Dennis Morris in an
email dated 12 May 2005.
- 320 Grimes County marriage records, volumes K-L, FHL US/CAN Film 1006281.
- 321 Information from his headstone in the Mustang Cemetery in northern Grimes County.
- 322 Information (as of 6 February 1999) provided by Charlotte Sandel Beck on her Internet web page at
http://www.fortunecity.com/tinpan/nirvana/621/thomas.htm.
- 323 Information from her headstone in the Mustang Cemetery in northern Grimes County (next to Mack Thomas).
- 324 Grimes County marriage records, volumes K-L, FHL US/CAN Film 1006281.
- 325 Information from his headstone in the Mustang Cemetery in northern Grimes County.
- 326 Information (as of 6 February 1999) provided by Charlotte Sandel Beck on her Internet web page at
http://www.fortunecity.com/tinpan/nirvana/621/thomas.htm.
- 327 Information from her headstone in the Mustang Cemetery in northern Grimes County (next to Arch A. Thomas).
- 328 Information (as of 6 February 1999) provided by Charlotte Sandel Beck on her Internet web page at
http://www.fortunecity.com/tinpan/nirvana/621/thomas.htm.
- 329 Grimes County Deed Book B-2, p. 214.
- 330 Grimes County Deed Book B, p. 181.
- 331 Grimes County Deed Book B-2, p. 216.
- 332 Grimes County Deed Book D-3, p. 183.
- 333 Grimes County Deed Book H, p. 453.
- 334 Grimes County Survey Book, p. 449.
- 335 Information provided by W. D. Morris in an email message dated 10 Mar 1999.
- 336 Information from the headstone of "Mrs. Amanda Thomas" in the Mustang Cemetery in northern Grimes County.
- 337 Information obtained from Dennis Morris in a private email dated 6 Mar 2005. Mr. Morris found Samuel A. Thomas's
headstone buried in Mustang Cemetery.
- 338 Grimes County Marriage Records, Book I, p. 265. The marriage is recorded in *both* Grimes County and in Montgomery
County.
- 339 1880 Federal Census, Grimes County, Prairie Plains — microfilm records of Dallas County Public Library.
- 340 Information provided by Mrs. Lillian Fay Wingard.
- 341 Dates of birth and death from her grave marker in Mustang Cemetery. Her marker was found buried under several feet of
dirt in 2005.
- 342 Listed in the 1900 census as the wife of John Curry.
- 343 Date of birth from 1900 census of Eastland County (birth place, etc., may indicate that this is not her).
- 344 Date of birth from 1900 census; he was not yet married.
- 345 Dates of birth and death from her grave marker in Mustang Cemetery.
- 346 Grimes County Deed Book 33, p. 566.
- 347 Reed Family Bible.
- 348 Information obtained from Dennis Morris in a private email dated 6 Mar 2005. Mr. Morris found Samuel A. Thomas's and
Sarah Jane (Reed) Thomas's headstones buried in Mustang Cemetery.

