

THE THREE ELIZABETHS; BORN CIRCA THE 1780'S

We know that there were 3 Elizabeth Thames all born before 1788 from records. Elizabeth Thames who married Enoch Hollingsworth, Elizabeth Thames who gave birth to Aaron Thames and Elizabeth Thames McAllester the daughter of Joseph Thames.

Thames - McAllester Cemetery Tombstone Inscriptions: Beaver Dam Township

Mrs. Sarah Thames, W/O Col. Joseph Thames, died Jan. 1801 aged 41 years 2 months 27 days.

Colonel Joseph Thames, died 1 August 1819 aged 60 years 11 ½ months

Mrs. Mary Gilmore, W/O Stephen Gilmore died 29 February 1804 in the 16th year of her age.

Mrs Elizabeth McAllester, W/O Col. Charles McAllester died 21 August 1830, aged 44 years ___ months

Colonel Charles McAllester, died 25 August 1840 aged 66 years

This accounts for one of the Elizabeth's.

You must accept the premise that the Elizabeth who married Enoch Hollingsworth was a Thames. This is according to the Hollingsworth family Bible. They say she was born between the years 1774 & 1780 probably based on the census. Her age according to the census is consistent throughout. She was probably born in 1780 or a year or two earlier. **I now accept and believe that I have proved she was a Thames.** I believe she appears on the 1786 Bladen Co. tax list of Jesse Thames. I have noted that below.

Jesse Thims

White Males from 21 to 60 - 1 (Jesse age 33)

White Males less than 21 & over 60 - 3 (John b. 1783/84, Amos b. 1785/86, unknown not on 1790 census)

White Females - 4 (wife Elizabeth 36, daughters Elizabeth, Sarah, Nancy)

Blacks over 50 & under 12 - 1

I also believe she appears on Jesse's 1790 Cumberland Co. Census

Theams, Jesse - 1 male 16 years and upward - 2 males under 16; -- 4 females - 1 slave

I don't believe you can tell much from the 1800 Cumberland Co. Census of Jesse's widow Elizabeth except the older females are fewer. I doubt seriously that the two males and one female under 5 are the children of the widow who would be 50 years old in 1800.

Thames, Elizabeth, two males -5 years, one -16 years; one female -5 years, one - 16, one 45+; one slave

Enoch's 1800 Cumberland Co. Census gives us an idea of the age of Elizabeth his wife. It also shows he had a son (William) by 1800.

Hollingsworth, Enoch one male -5 years, one male 16 -26; one female 16 -26

Enoch has died in 1809

Elizabeth's Cumberland Co. Census of 1810.

Hollingsworth, Eliz, four males -10, one male -16; one female -10, one female -45

Elizabeth's 1820 census shows her listed in the 26 -45 age category.

Jesse Thames owned no land when he died CC- DB. 16 Pg. 251 Robinson Mumford Sheriff to Samuel Wilson deed executed 12 April 1797. We think he died intestate with no estate except some interest in improvements on land that was owned by his brothers and mother. Jesse died leaving his wife and children penniless and without a home. It was Martha Thames and her sons that came to their rescue.

The following two deeds show a connection between the widow Elizabeth, wife of Enoch Hollingsworth, daughter Mary and the Thames family. The first shows Martha et al reserving 50 acres with improvements, which I presume, is a house from the sale. This I believe was done for Jesse's widow to have a place to live.

Cumberland Co. D.B. - 18, pg. 199; 6 May 1799 - Martha Theams and others to Wm. Barry Grove May 6, 1799

Martha Theams Senr, Thomas Theames, Malica Barges (sic) & Martha his wife, John Theames & Samuel Theames of Cumberland to William Barry Grove of - whereas Joseph Theames, Senr, decd. Late of Bladen County - by his last will and testament bequeathed among other things to his wife Martha and his children Thomas, Martha, John & Samuel - a tract of land which he the said Joseph purchased from John Stevens & wife 15 November 1771, registered in Bladen Book A, page ___ & Cumberland Book __, page 216 part of a patent to Henry Sims & by him conveyed to ___ Gray between Gray's & Dunn's ... beginning at Newberry's lower ...

Newberry's upper back corner ... to Dunn's line to include all the wt (west) part ... Sims old survey containing about 400 acres... for 250 dollars ... 50 acres of above land to be laid off of the above tract so as to include the improvements made by Champion now owned by Elizabeth Theames widow of Jesse Theames.

Witness Neill Beard. Signed: Martha (X) Theames, Thomas Theames, Malacha Burges, Martha Burges, John Theames, Samuel Theames

Proved by Neill Beard July 1800

The next deed shows this exempted 50 acres being given to Mary Hollingsworth the 5-year-old daughter of Enoch and Elizabeth (Thames) Hollingsworth by her great uncle John Thames.

Cumberland Co. D.B. -34, pg. 220; 11 October 1805 -John Theames to Mary Hollingsworth

This indenture made the eleventh day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and five between John Theames, Sr. of the county of Cumberland and state of North Carolina of the one part and Mary Hollingsworth daughter of Enoch Hollingsworth of the other part. Witnesseth that the said John Theames as well for and in consideration of the natural love and affection which he hath and beareth unto the said Mary Hollingsworth as also for the better maintenance and preferment of the said Mary Hollingsworth hath given granted aliened enfeoff and confirmed and by these presents doth give grant alien enfeoff and confirm unto the said Mary Hollingsworth all that tract of landlying and being in the aforesaid county on both sidesof the main road between Dunns Creek and Greys creek West side of Cape Fear beginning at a stake in the edge of a pond John Leggetts upper back corner formerlyjesse Newberrys and runs South 70 West 88 poles to a stake Hickory and oak pointers on Simms upper line now Wm. B Groves line then with that line South 81 East to said Leggetts corner thence to with his line to the Beginning containing Fifty acres of land it being a part of a grant of Six hundred acres granted to a certain Simms and being the fifty acres of land reserved by said John Thames in a sale given by him to Wm. B Grove bearing date 6th May 1799 with all and singular the appurtunances thereunto belonging to the said premises etc.

Signed Sealed and delivered in presence of}
Samuel Theames & D. Averit}

John Thames

North Carolina

This day at Fayetteville in Cumberland County before me appeared John Thames the Grantor in the within Deed of conveyance to Mary Hollingsworth and acknowledge that he had executed the same as his act and deed for the purposed therein declared.

The 1st day of May 1822. Let it be registered. Geo E. Badger F.S. C.L.V. E

It is important to note that Samuel Thames the brother of John and a signer of the first deed witnesses the above deed in question. He is also the brother-in-law of Enoch Hollingsworth.

The above two deeds show what I think is a bid by John Thames to keep from paying the tax on the property. He still doesn't record it and probably has the intent, at sometime in the future, to reclaim it. It also protects the residence of Elizabeth the widow of Jesse since Mary is her granddaughter. It is inconceivable that Enoch could sell this property and leave his mother-in-law the widow homeless. It also protects the property from lawsuits against John Thames or Enoch Hollingsworth. Except in the situation of unpaid taxes against the property. I think that all of John Thames intentions with this land were good. It is just that he was a businessman and was keeping his options open.

This brings us to the third Elizabeth who was the mother of Aaron (Simms) Thames. The Reverend William Thames claimed three daughters Nancy (Ann) born 1782, Martha (Patty) born 1784 and Lucy born 1795. Note only two of his daughters were born before 1787.

William's 1786 Bladen Co. Tax list shows

White Females – 3 (wife Lucy age 26 with daughters Nancy Ann and Martha Patty)

1790

Theams, William – 1 male 16 years and upward – 4 males under 16; - 4 females – 0 slaves

1800

Thames, Wm. one male –5 years, two –16, one –26, one –45, one 45+; two females –5, one –26, one 26 –45; no slaves

1810

Thames, William, one male –16, two –26, one 45+; two females –10, one –16, one 45+; no slaves

Martha Patty has married Jonathan Cooper 23 February 1807 so has probably left home.

I believe these censuses show that Elizabeth the mother of Aaron Thames is **not** the daughter of Rev. William Thames. All of William's daughters are named in his estate papers and the will of his brother Joseph.

Thomas shows two daughters on the 1790 Cumberland Co. Census. Elizabeth the mother of Aaron Thames was very probably the daughter of Thomas.

1790

Theams, Thomas 1 male 16 years and upward, 2 males under 16; 3 females, 0 slaves

John and Samuel don't appear on the 1790 census individually, they are still with their mother Martha.

The 1800 census indicates that Thomas is the only one of the three who could have a daughter old enough to bear a child in 1802/03

Thames, Thomas, two males -5 years, one -16, one -26, one -45; two females -5 years, one -16, one 26 -45 no slaves

Thames, John, one male 5 years, one 26 -45 years; two females 5 years, one 16 -26 years; three slaves

Thames, Samuel, three males -5 years, one -16, one -45; one female -5 years, one 26 -45; two slaves

Again my conclusion is that Thomas was the father of Elizabeth Thames and grandfather of Aaron Thames.

We can make some further assumptions from the 1830 and 1840 censuses shown below.

1830 Cumberland Co. Census

Thames, Elizabeth, one male 20 -30 years; one female 50 -60 years

Thames, David is living in the house next to Elizabeth and Aaron; census details not relevant to this document.

1840 Cumberland Co. Census

Thames, Elizabeth, one male 30 -40 years; one female 50 -60

Name Illegible -----

Thames, David is living two houses from Elizabeth and Aaron; census details are not relevant to this document.

The assumption is that David and Elizabeth who is his cousin are close friends. Elizabeth and son Aaron were probably living in a house on David's property and were sharecropping or employed by him. She may very well been in touch with her brother Thomas Jefferson Thames of Crawford County GA and was the reason David's son William went there in 1835.

Walter S. & Maxine C. Gabennesch
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