

More About...William Thames, born 1796

by Shirley Holland

In *Franklin Garrett's Necrology*, Atlanta Historical Society, we find an obituary for William Thames:

William Thames, b NC 27 Apr. 1796, and moved to GA when 12yrs. He married Rachael Taylor 22 Dec 1813 and joined the Missionary Baptist Church 1818, being baptised by Syrus White. Jan 1829 Bro. Thames and his wife joined the Sharon Church, Henry County, GA. He served as clerk of the church from June 1829 to Dec. 1837. On June 18, 1841 Mr. & Mrs. Thames joined Tanner's Church by letter. He served as clerk from 1852 to 1865. He was then ordained as a regular minister of the Gospel and Labored as long as his health would permit. William married Miss. Susan E. Weaver and died 28 Aug. 1892.

Author: W. D. Burton



The Reverend William and Susan (Weaver) Thames





Source: *History of Clayton County, Georgia*

HEADQRS. THIRD. DIV., TWENTY-THIRD ARMY CORPS, 31 Aug 1864

Maj. Gen. Schofield, Commanding Officer:

General: I am at Thames House. A little cavalry in front, making it necessary to deploy some skirmishers. It is one mile and a half to the railroad by nearest road, which forks about half a mile beyond to the left. It is half a mile further by the right fork of the road. I suppose you desire me to take the right fork so as to keep near 4th Corps. Mr. Thames says, Stanley cannot strike the railroad less than three miles below where I shall reach it by the right hand road.



Source: Thames Family-Clayton County

William Thames, War of 1812, owner of a saw and grist mill on Flint River, pastor of Tanner's Church.

Aug. 11, 1864 Troops of the Federal 23rd & 4AC, marching east from Red Oak, passed this house enroute to the Macon & Western (now C. of GA RR) which was seized at points above and below Quick Station (Forest Par). This move severed the last of the railroads entering Atlanta and forced Gen. Hood (C) to abandon the city-night of Sept.1st.

The seizure of the RR was coincident with the first of the two battles in Hardee's (C) defense of Jonesboro. (Sign located West of GA 85 at Thames Rd., (now Forest Parkway) and Clark Howell Rd.)



1861 Tax records digest: Personal Property value \$20,000. Real Property value \$4,500. Paid tax on 400 acres of land in Clayton County. Owned eleven (11) slaves.



William's property was sold to the Railroad, then to Georgia Power, and then to the State of Georgia. The Georgia State Farmers Market was moved from Murphy Ave., Atlanta, Georgia to this site. At the time of locating the Market to this area, the road was named "Thames Road". A new mayor was elected for Forest Park and he decided the name needed to be more sophisticated and it was changed to "Forest Parkway".



Trivia: Shirley Derrick Holland, g-g-grandaughter of William & Rachael Taylor Thames, married John S. (Jack) Holland, Jr. His uncle Sam Steele managed the Georgia State Farmers Market until he retired. Is this not a crossing of time that I became connected to this property in two ways?