

SARAH THOMAS  
FIRST WIFE OF ROLING WILLIAMSON

SARAH THOMAS WILLIAMSON'S GRANDFATHER--JOHN THOMAS, SR.

The line of Thomases from which Sarah Thomas is descended probably came from Hanover County, Virginia. In the records of that county are many Thomases with similar first names, as well as names from families who lived near and intermarried with the Thomases, such as the Hopkins, Taylors, Moormans, Clements, and Bowles.

John Thomas Sr. of Virginia moved his family to Ebenezer, Georgia, in the 1750s. In 1757 he was appointed Justice of the Peace and made an Esquire for the District of Ebenezer. One of John Thomas's daughters, Sarah, (not the same Sarah above), married John Hopkins on 21 March 1759. Other children of John Thomas Sr. were Matthew Anderson Thomas, John Thomas, Jr., Cecilia Thomas, Mary Thomas Strother, James Thomas, and Sarah Thomas Shelton.

John Thomas Sr.'s family and the Hopkins then moved to St. Mark's Parish, SC, which is in lower Richland Co. A Deed of Gift from John Thomas Sr. to two of his children was recorded 7 Dec. 1767.

John Thomas, Sr., of the Parish of St. marks, SC, planter, to Matthew Anderson Thomas and James Thomas, of parish aforesaid and sons to said John Thomas Sr., for and in consideration of the natural love and affection we have for said beloved sons, Matthew Anderson and James and also for L 20 currency--800 acres of land on the north side of Santee River, which John Thomas Sr. obtained. Witnessed by David Hay and Mary White.

John Thomas Jr. made out his will on 27 June 1767, naming his father John Thomas Sr. as one of the executors. When the will was proved on 14 June 1768, John Thomas Sr. did not qualify as an executor, presumably because he also had passed away.

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SARAH THOMAS WILLIAMSON'S FATHER--JOHN THOMAS, JR.

Wills, Craven County, 1767-71 SC Archives, Vol 12, p. 416  
Expanded Abstract of the will of John Thomas Jr.

...The Twenty Seventh day of June in the year of our Lord Christ 1767. I John Thomas Junr of Craven County...I give devise and dispose of the same in manner and form following...I give and bequeath unto my dear and well beloved wife Mary Thomas, One negro man named George and the fourth part of my Horses, Cattle, Hogs and Sheep...I lend to my said wife my Plantation whereof I now live on during her Widowhood and after her marriage One Third during her Life of the said Place, and the Fourth of my Household Furniture.

Item--I give and bequeath to my well beloved Son John Thomas the tract and plantation whereon I now live containing 200 acres and the tract and plantation adjoining to such tract and known to be the Tract bought of Mr. John Taylor Senr. It containing 300 acres land 99 acres joining said tract, in all 599 acres and one Negro boy named Peter and one young mare known by the name of Flagg.

Item--to my well beloved daughters Mary Thomas and Sarah Thomas 2 tracts of land--one by the name of Pencushing 250 acres and the other known as Reese's old place that I bought of Mr. John Hopkins equally divided when they come to age or marry.

Item--to my 3 well beloved children John, Mary, Sarah, all the rest of my Negroes (named Robin, Abraham, Phillis, Tomm, Affa, Kate, Tappa, Agga, Mogga, Grace, and Doll) with the rest of my personal estate...with the increase...to be equally divided by my executors as my children come to age or marriage...

Wishes estate to be kept together while children come to age or marries--that it not be sold...as stock increases, sell and use the money to buy more Negroes for the children. If a child dies without heirs, that portion to be equally divided between survivors.

Executors named: Mary Thomas, John Thomas Senior, Thomas Taylor, and John Hopkins

Witnesses: John Elders, John Taylor, Matthew Anderson Thomas

SARAH THOMAS WILLIAMSON'S MOTHER--MARY TAYLOR? THOMAS HEATH

John Thomas Jr. is the father of Sarah Thomas Williamson. I believe that her mother is Mary Taylor, daughter of John Taylor who originally came from Amelia Co., Va., and the sister of Thomas and James Taylor who sold the land which became Columbia to the SC government. However, my belief contradicts Green's History, below.

According to Green's History of Richland County, South Carolina, p. 61, John Taylor's daughter Mary married 1. William Hay 2. Thomas Heath. I maintain that either this information is inaccurate, or that there was an additional marriage to John Thomas Jr. One reason that this record may be inaccurate is that Mary did marry an Ethel Heath after John Thomas Jr.'s death. (Incidentally, Ethel Heath calls his wife Mary "the widow of John Thomas" in his will of 1796--Will Book C, p. 141, Richland Co., SC.)

Reasons I believe that Mary Thomas Heath's maiden name was Taylor:

1. John Thomas Jr.'s will was both witnessed and executed by Taylors. Of course, this does not prove that they were related to his wife, but it does indicate a closeness and familiarity.
2. Mary Thomas Heath's will dated 1807 (Will Book E, p. 81, Richland Co., SC), was witnessed by John Taylor, William Taylor Sr., and William Taylor Jr. Again, this does not prove a family tie, but it is another indication of closeness.
3. I looked in the Archives for William Hay's will (Kershaw Co., Vol. 1, Book A-1, p. 81; Richland Co., Vol. 1, Book C, p. 8--surprisingly, both these wills were exactly the same.) There was no mention of a wife in this will, there were no references to the Taylors, nor were there any familiar family names. Of course, there may be another William Hay, but this was the only one at the Archives.
4. Her great-granddaughter was named Mary Taylor Heath. This may seem like a long shot, but I have discovered no other linkage to the Taylor family that would cause a child to be named after a great-grandmother. Mary Taylor Heath's older brother was named John Thomas Heath, showing that their parents wanted to carry forth the old family names as was the Southern custom.

SARAH THOMAS WILLIAMSON'S SISTER AND BROTHER

Mary Thomas Heath's will mentioned above lists one of her three children, Mary Thomas, who married John Threewits (listed as one of her executors). Her other two children, John Thomas III and Sarah Thomas (who married Roling Williamson) must have preceded her in death. However, Sarah's only daughter Mary Williamson who married Thomas Heath was mentioned in the will. Mary Thomas Heath also lists Mary Williamson Heath's children: John Thomas Heath, Thomas Heath, Mary Taylor Heath (notice the name Taylor), Rebecca Heath, and Ethel Heath.

Another document that lists the three children of John and Mary Thomas is a conveyance dated 25 June 1782, found on p. 115 of Some South Carolina Genealogical Records compiled by Janie Revill:

THOMAS, JOHN JR. Gr. 100 acres "whereon Mary Threewits now liveth...on Mills Creek. N-S Congaree. Mary Threewits, Sarah Williamson, wife of Roling Williamson, sisters of John Thomas. Conv. by John Threewits to Roling Williamson." Fairfield Co. I-165

Mary Thomas and John Threewits were witnesses to the will of Joel Threewits in 1836. Joel was John's brother. John Thomas was also listed as a witness. I cannot account for this, since I thought John Thomas, brother of Mary Thomas Threewits, had died prior to 1807, the date of his mother's will, which did not mention him.

According to the "South Carolinian," a Columbia, SC newspaper, Major John Threewits died at his residence in Lexington District on 22 July 1842. He was 89 years old (born in 1753). He served first as a Lieutenant, then Captain in the militia during the Revolutionary War. He was a member of the convention which adopted the SC constitution, and was a longtime Senator. I do not know when Mary Thomas Threewits died. They did not have any children at the signing of her mother's will in 1807. Perhaps they were childless.

SARAH THOMAS WILLIAMSON

Sarah Thomas was born before 1768, the date of her father's will which mentions her by name. She married Roling Williamson (born 14 Nov. 1753) prior to 1782, according to the record found in Some South Carolina Genealogical Records. Sarah died prior to 1807, the date of her mother's will.

According to Alice America Walker of Winnsboro, Sarah Thomas Williamson died in Virginia. "Not liking the associates of this section of the states, being dissatisfied with the society of Richland or the vicinity, Roland and his wife returned to Virginia, to come back later in 1772 to settle at the homestead six miles south of Winnsboro, at the station called Simpson, the large grants of land to them running far south through what is now Ridgeway town." On another page, Ms. Walker writes that it was Roling Williamson's second wife Alice Wyche who went back to Virginia with him.

Sarah and Roling had one daughter, Mary Williamson.

SARAH THOMAS WILLIAMSON'S DAUGHTER--MARY

Sarah Thomas and Roling Williamson had one daughter Mary Williamson who married Thomas Heath on 3 Mar. 1796, according to Marriage and Death Notices from Columbia, SC, Newspapers, 1792-1839 compiled by Brent H. Holcomb.

Thomas Heath of Virginia was born in 1774. In the 1850 Richland Co. census (p. 87) he lived next to Wade Hampton Sr. and his son Ethel Heath. His estate was valued at \$23,000 (Hampton's was valued at \$90,000)

Mary Williamson Heath apparently died prior to 1824. Her father Roling Williamson left a legacy to "Mary Heath's heirs" (whom he does not list by name) in his will dated 1824 (Will Book 8, Vol. 2, pp. 107-108, Fairfield Co., SC). By this terminology it can be deduced that his daughter Mary Williamson Heath had passed away.

Thomas Heath evidently did not marry again after Mary's death. He left a will with extensive holdings, appointing a trustee for each of his children's legacies. (Will dated 1854, Vol. 3, Book L, pp. 324-332, Richland Co. SC). In this will he mentions a family graveyard which must be in the area of Wade Hampton's plantation.

Mary Williamson and Thomas Heath had children: John Thomas, Thomas, Mary Taylor, Rebecca, Ethel, and Eliza.

SARAH THOMAS WILLIAMSON'S GRANDCHILDREN

1. John Thomas Heath--(born before 1807) His great-grandmother Mary Thomas Heath left him the land she bought from Maj. John Goodwin. She also named him one of the executors of her will when he came of age. His father Thomas Heath appointed him in 1854 the trustee for Sally W. Nott's legacy. Sally was Thomas Heath's granddaughter, but I have not yet determined who her parents were.

2. Thomas Heath--born before 1807, died in 1828. In his will (Richland Co., Vol. 2, Book H, p. 99) Thomas left everything to his father Thomas Heath Sr. He was unmarried. Witnesses to the will were Jesse H. Goodwyn, John L. Chappell, and A.H. Reese.

3. Mary Taylor Heath--(born before 1807) married ? Harrison. They had a son named John. This family was not mentioned in her father's will of 1854. However, I found the following in the 1850 Richland Co. Census (p. 71):

Harrison, Mary, age 53  
George, age 17

(2 doors down)

Harrison, Mordecai, age 23  
Martha, age 24  
Benjamin, age 19  
George, age 4  
William, age 2  
Mary, 8 months

4. Rebecca Heath--born 1805 (according to the 1850 Fairfield Co. census, p. 249). She married John D. Kirkland who had died before 1850, because Rebecca was living alone, next door to her daughter Martha Kirkland Black. Rebecca and John Kirkland had three daughters:

A. Martha Kirkland (b. 1825) m. Sam Black (b. 1808), a lawyer of Richland Co. The 1850 Fairfield Co. census records that he was born in Abbeville. The children listed in the census:

1. Joseph, b. 1847
2. Thomas, b. 1848
3. Rebecca, b. 1850. She married Smith Chappell of Fairfield Co., according to Alice American Walker's records. Ms. Walker also lists the following children:
  4. Minnie Black m. John Ross of Charlotte, NC
  5. Alf Black m. 1. ? Smith 2. ? Bookhardt
  6. Eugene Black (moved to Texas)

7. Sallie Black--unmarried
8. Russell Black m. ? Bookman

B. Mary Kirkland

C. Eliza Kirkland

5. Ethel Heath-- born 1806. He was living, unmarried, next to his father in the 1850 census. His father appointed Gen. William Hopkins as the trustee for Ethel's legacy.
6. Eliza Heath--married William Owens. They had several children, including Heath Owens and a daughter who married a Lewis. Eliza's father Thomas Heath appointed son-in-law William Owens as trustee for his daughter Eliza's legacy. He also appointed Samuel H. Owens as trustee for the legacy of his granddaughter Mary Heath Owens.

I found Col. Samuel H. Owens (b. 1814) in the 1850 Fairfield Co. census (p. 218)

Mary A., born 1828

Mary H., born 1839 (Could this be Mary Heath Owens?)

Cornelia J., born 1847

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HUSBAND'S NAME David Anderson Thomas

When Born 1785 Where \_\_\_\_\_

Christened \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

When Died 1867 Where \_\_\_\_\_

When Buried \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

When Married \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

Other Wives (if any) Number (1) (2) etc. \_\_\_\_\_

His Father \_\_\_\_\_ His Mother's Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Husband's Full Name)

(Wife's Maiden Name)

This information obtained from Union Co Heritage # 197

WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME Ellen Frances Farr

When Born \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

Christened \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

When Died \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

When Buried \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

Other Husb. (if any) Number (1) (2) etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Her Father Col Wm Farr Her Mother's Maiden Name Eliz Taliaferro Scribbling

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Compiler \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Male or Female	CHILDREN (Arrange in order of birth)	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN			State or Country	WHEN DIED*			Married
		Day	Month	Year	Town or Place	County	Day		Month	Year		
	1 Susannah Thomas	ca		1820							Date _____ To <u>James J. Thomas</u>	
	2 Eleanor Farr Thomas			1823					1888		Date _____ To <u>William Hillman</u>	
	3 David A. Thomas Jr								1854		Date _____ To _____	
	4										Date _____ To _____	
	5										Date _____ To _____	
	6										Date _____ To _____	
	7										Date _____ To _____	
	8										Date _____ To _____	
	9										Date _____ To _____	
	10										Date _____ To _____	
	11										Date _____ To _____	
	12										Date _____ To _____	
	13										Date _____ To _____	

Family Group Sheet, Form F2  
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\*If burial date is known on children and not death date, write burial date, prefix (Bur). Use reverse side for additional info.