



RFA Dispatch

Reynolds Family Association

1892 - 2024

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Tommy Joe Reynolds



Greetings, Cousins!

I've been very glad to see many of you during our roughly monthly RFA Chat meetups. In those sessions we've usually had a good turnout and folks have shared their Reynolds family history stories, brickwalls and shared suggestions. Hope to see you join us for an upcoming session. We're holding them the first Sunday of most months. Info to join the next one is included in this issue. Hope to see you then.

Wishing you all the best,

Tommy Reynolds
Your President,
Living in Fairfax County, Virginia

If you celebrated a birthday this quarter and it was not listed, we do not have it. Please send your birth date to Joe Reynolds at Joe.Reynolds@ReynoldsFamily.org!

We would like to wish Happy Birthday to:

3546 – William Joseph Reynolds, Jr.....	01 Jul
3474 – Julia A Broeders	02 Jul
3592 – Christopher Reynolds	02 Jul
2096 – Stephen Charles Reynolds	03 Jul
3051 – Pamela Jean Adams	03 Jul
3451 – Judith Carole Augspurger	05 Jul
2247 – Ilse Landa Reynolds	06 Jul
3296 – Donna Marie Hughes	06 Jul
2285 – Barbara Crew Hutton	07 Jul
3374 – Maria Kim Hong	07 Jul
3613 – Janet Ewing Deaton	08 Jul
3596 – Donald Clifford Lemen Jr.....	09 Jul
3542 – Weston Blake Miller	10 Jul
2603 – Emily Stokes Rowe	12 Jul
3391 – Gary Scott Reynolds	12 Jul
3590 – David Franklin Reynolds	12 Jul
3422 – Randall Jay Reynolds	14 Jul
3426 – Shirley LaRee Olson	14 Jul
3516 – Don Wilson Conover Reynolds	14 Jul
3602 – Ruth Emily Reynolds	14 Jul
3463 – Robert Seaholm Bayers	15 Jul
3353 – Rebecca Lynn Redmann	16 Jul
3510 – Nathan William Reynolds	17 Jul
3271 – Larry Joe Reynolds	18 Jul
3347 – Jeffrey David Hendricks	19 Jul
2809 – Rolfe Eric Reynolds I.....	20 Jul
3460 – Della Reynolds Woods	20 Jul
3494 – Mary Louise Ormerod Eppers	20 Jul
3620 – Michael B Caron	20 Jul
3288 – Don Edmund Reynolds	21 Jul
3464 – Janice Marie Reynolds	21 Jul
3600 – Marnie Reynolds-Bourque	21 Jul
3628 – John Frederick Woodward Jr.	21 Jul
3313 – Elaine Thurman Belyea	23 Jul
3388 – Mary Amanda Johnson Hofferbert	24 Jul
3401 – Larry Jago Stetson Jr.....	24 Jul
3614 – John Timothy Reynolds	25 Jul



WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS!

3651 – Mark Reynolds Blanding

Lowell, MI

Robert Reynolds 1720-1774

mrblandin@gmail.com

3652 – Paul Deleon Reynolds III

Raleigh, NC

pauldreynoldsiii@gmail.com



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3647 – Casey Anne Cloud	25 Jul
3424 – Mary G. Reynolds	26 Jul
3372 – Albert Allen Reynolds Jr.	27 Jul
3384 – Frances Marlene Langley Ellsworth ...	29 Jul
3440 – Valerie Ann Black	29 Jul
3625 – Jerry Edward Reed	29 Jul
3311 – Sharla Marie Reynolds Gardner	30 Jul
2709 – Ursi Barbara Lorine Reynolds	31 Jul
3358 – Carol Jean (Goodwin) Smith	01 Aug
3583 – Ann Cornelia Stanford	01 Aug
3390 – Leanne Reynolds ha	02 Aug
3557 – Kevin Malcolm Reynolds	02 Aug
3511 – Ron Larsen	03 Aug
3617 – William Charles Jones Sr	03 Aug
3317 – Benjamin Marshall Reynolds	05 Aug
3140 – James Smith Miller	07 Aug
3400 – Todd Neal Theis	08 Aug
3429 – James Edward Phillips	08 Aug
3339 – Diane Ellen Isaacson	09 Aug
3301 – Marc Allen Reynolds	10 Aug
2218 – Ella R. Emery	11 Aug
3441 – Harold Chatfield Reynolds III	11 Aug
3447 – Maria Suzanne Ashmore	11 Aug
3477 – Janet L. Smith	11 Aug
3497 – Brian Alan McCullough	12 Aug
3574 – John M Reynolds	12 Aug
3505 – Edward Reynolds III	13 Aug
3031 – John Michael Reynolds	16 Aug
3365 – Eric C Koch	17 Aug
3417 – Laurie Cathleen Conner	18 Aug
3131 – Susie Helen Reynolds	19 Aug
3601 – Nona Marie Smith	19 Aug
3330 – Harold Wayne Whitten	21 Aug
3624 – Caroline Anne Cannon	22 Aug
3285 – Cynthia Louise Reynolds Murdock ..	23 Aug
3327 – Bernard Charles Smith Jr.	23 Aug
3522 – Roberta Reynell McCarter	24 Aug
3619 – Bruce Clayton Reynolds	24 Aug
3459 – David Todd Reynolds SPC	26 Aug
3604 – Cheryl Lynn Jensen	26 Aug
3485 – Clay Courtney Reynolds	27 Aug
3586 – Donna Joyce Shunkey	27 Aug
3618 – Susan Reynolds	29 Aug
3064 – Barbara Jane Jones	30 Aug
3437 – Nancy McGuff Thomas	01 Sep
3570 – Michael Ray	01 Sep
3375 – Rita Reynolds Steele	02 Sep

3323 – John Willis Streeter	03 Sep
3373 – Gardiner Bannister Reynolds VIII	04 Sep
3379 – Joel Clint Reynolds	05 Sep
3319 – Kathleen "Kathy" Suzann Johnson	06 Sep
3520 – Linda Irene Reynolds	06 Sep
3232 – Donna Jean Reynolds Harding	07 Sep
3309 – Marie Antionette Elizabeth Yerzy	08 Sep
3433 – Richard Anthony Meredith	09 Sep
3490 – Richard Paul Green	09 Sep
3565 – Brenda Alice Slaughter Reynolds	09 Sep
3486 – Theresa Marie Reynolds	10 Sep
3509 – Terry Gene Reynolds	10 Sep
3552 – Michelle Joann Carroll	10 Sep
2460 – Shirley Ann Keister	14 Sep
3273 – William Grover Bates	15 Sep
3370 – Rebecca Reuben Dyer	15 Sep
3419 – Robert Rey Reynolds	16 Sep
3404 – Burton Charles Reynolds	19 Sep
3499 – Barron Wayne Tenney	19 Sep
3548 – Wayne Allen Reynolds	20 Sep
3282 – John Hughes Reynolds IV	25 Sep
3385 – David Johnson Reynolds	25 Sep
2893 – Janetta "Jan" Jane Wilson	26 Sep
3423 – Nancy Beth Wallander	26 Sep
3530 – Elizabeth Diane Schafer Ph.D.....	26 Sep
3588 – Ross Howard Reynolds	28 Sep
3364 – Jane Reynolds Landreth	29 Sep
3348 – Paula Kathryn Boone	30 Sep



WANTED

REYNOLDS MALE FOR YDNA TEST

Some Reynolds history hunters are looking for other collaborator-cousins to share traditional research and test YDNA hypotheses.

One Reynolds ancestor that remains a bit of a mystery is the William Reynolds that married Martha Cole in Culpeper Co., VA, and left a will naming over a dozen children in Pittsylvania Co., VA, in 1791. While strong evidence exists connecting William as the son of John Reynolds—

whose will was proven in Culpeper Co. in Aug 1784.

Another Reynolds ancestor that we'd like a YDNA signature for is the Henry Reynolds that was born circa 1757 and lived on Camp Creek in Greene County, TN, in the early 1780s. He died there in before January 1835, when his will was proven naming wife Charity and children: Henry, Patsey, David, Sally, Ellander, William, Joseph, and Richard. Henry was the recipient of pension S4079 for Rev War service and is DAR patriot A095719. He had at least two wives (Catherine Skiles and Charity McNew).

We'd like to uncover the YDNA signatures of these groups of Reynoldses and to collaborate on further research. If you are connected to this Reynolds line, please be in touch with

tommyjoereynolds@gmail.com



HAMILTON-REYNOLDS AFFAIR

The Hamilton-Reynolds affair was the first major sex scandal in United States political history. It involved Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, who conducted an affair with Maria Reynolds from 1791 to 1792, during the presidency of George Washington. When he discovered the affair, Reynolds' husband, James Reynolds, subsequently blackmailed Hamilton over the affair, who paid him over \$1,300 in hush money, about a third of his annual income. In 1797, Hamilton publicly admitted to the affair after his political enemies attacked and accused him of financial corruption during his time as the Treasury Secretary. Hamilton responded by writing, "The charge against me is a connection with one James Reynolds for purposes of improper pecuniary speculation. My real

crime is an amorous connection with his wife, for a considerable time with his privity and connivance.

In the summer of 1791, 23-year-old Maria Reynolds allegedly approached the married 34-year-old Alexander Hamilton in Philadelphia to request his help and financial aid by claiming that her husband, James, had abandoned her. Hamilton did not have any money on him, so he retrieved her address to deliver the funds in person. Once Hamilton arrived at the boarding house at which Maria was lodging, she brought him upstairs and led him into her bedroom. He later recounted, "I took the bill out of my pocket and gave it to her. Some conversation ensued from which it was quickly apparent that other than pecuniary consolation would be acceptable." The two began an illicit affair that would last, with varying frequency, until approximately June 1792.

Over the course of those months, while the affair took place, James Reynolds was well aware of his wife's unfaithfulness. He continually supported their relationship to gain regular blackmail money from Hamilton.

In the Reynolds Pamphlet, Hamilton goes as far as to argue that James Reynolds, along with his wife, had conspired the scheme to "extort money from me." The common practice in the day was for the wronged husband to seek retribution in a pistol duel, but Reynolds, realizing how much Hamilton had to lose if the activity came into public view, insisted on monetary compensation instead. After Hamilton had shown unequivocal signs that he wanted to end the affair in autumn 1791, Hamilton received two letters on December 15, 1791, one each from Mrs. and Mr. Reynolds. The first letter, from Maria, warned of her husband's knowledge and of James' attempting to blackmail Hamilton. By then, Hamilton discontinued the affair and briefly ceased to visit, but both James and Maria were apparently involved in the blackmailing scheme, as both sent letters inviting

Hamilton to continue his visits. After extorting \$1000 in exchange for secrecy over Hamilton's adultery, James Reynolds rethought his request for Hamilton to cease his relationship with Maria and wrote inviting him to renew his visits "as a friend," only to extort forced "loans" after each visit, which the most-likely-colluding Maria solicited with her letters. By May 2, 1792, James changed his mind again and requested for Hamilton to stop seeing his wife but not before James had received additional payment. In the end, the blackmail payments totaled over \$1,300 including the initial extortion (equivalent to \$31,000 in 2023).

Hamilton had possibly become aware of both Reynoldses being involved in the blackmail and both welcomed and strictly complied with James' request to end the affair.

The cultural historian Tilar J. Mazzeo has advanced a theory that the affair never happened. Outside of the Reynolds Pamphlet, there is no evidence that the affair actually occurred. Others connected with the scandal, from James Monroe, who held the papers relating to James Reynolds, to Maria Reynolds herself, said that it was a coverup for a financial scandal. Hamilton never produced the manuscript copies of Maria's letters, but both the newspapers and Maria suggested obtaining a handwriting sample. Hamilton said that they had been placed with a friend, who claimed that he had never seen them, which suggests that the letters may have been forged. The newspaper writers also pointed out that Maria's letters correctly spell long, complex words but sometimes misspelled simple words in a way that made no phonetic sense. As the Thomas Jefferson biographer Julian P. Boyd stated, the letters could resemble what an educated man believed an uneducated woman's love letters to look like. A Hamilton biographer also stated that the letters look like the letters between Alexander and his wife,

Eliza, which could explain why Eliza burned her letters.

In November 1792, after James Reynolds was jailed for participation in a scheme involving unpaid back wages intended for Revolutionary War veterans, he used his own knowledge about Hamilton's sex affair to bargain his way out of his own troubles. Reynolds knew that Hamilton would have to choose between revealing his affair with Maria or falsely admitting complicity to the charges. James Monroe, Abraham Venable, and Frederick Muhlenberg were the first men to hear of this possible corruption within the nation's new government, and on December 15, 1792, they decided to confront Hamilton personally with the information that they had received, supported by the notes of Hamilton's payments to Reynolds that Maria had given them to corroborate her husband's accusations.

Denying any financial impropriety, Hamilton revealed the true nature of his relationship with the Reynoldses in all of its unsavory details. He turned over the letters from both of them.

Observations on Certain Documents Contained in No. V & VI of "The History of the United States for the Year 1796," In which the Charge of Speculation Against Alexander Hamilton, Late Secretary of the Treasury, is Fully Refuted, commonly referred to as The Reynolds Pamphlet

Apparently convinced that Hamilton was not guilty of the charge of public misconduct, Monroe, Venable, and Muhlenberg agreed not to make public the information and documents on the Reynolds Affair. Monroe and his colleagues assured Hamilton that the matter was settled. However, Monroe sent the letters to his close personal friend, Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson and Hamilton were self-described nemeses, and five years after receiving the

letters, Jefferson used the knowledge to start rumors about Hamilton's private life.

Also in 1797, when Hamilton no longer held the post of Secretary of the Treasury, the details of his relationship with Maria and James Reynolds came to light in a series of pamphlets authored by the journalist James Thomson Callender. Included were copies of the documents that Hamilton had furnished to the Monroe commission in December 1792.

Hamilton confronted Monroe over the leakage of the supposedly-confidential documents. Monroe denied any responsibility. Hamilton came very close to calling Monroe a liar, and Monroe retorted that Hamilton was a scoundrel and challenged him to a duel. The duel was averted by the intercession of Aaron Burr. After writing a first draft in July 1797, on August 25, Hamilton responded to Callender's revelations by printing his own 95-page pamphlet, *Observations on Certain Documents*, later known as the "Reynolds Pamphlet," in which he denied all charges of corruption. However, he openly admitted his relationship with Maria Reynolds and apologized for it.

While his candor was admired, the affair severely damaged his reputation. While Hamilton's admitted affair served to confirm rival Jefferson's conviction that he was untrustworthy, it did nothing to change Washington's opinion of him, who still held him in "very high esteem" and still viewed him as the dominant force in establishing the federal law and government.



REYNOLDS IN THE CIVIL WAR

As many of you know, I'm a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Descendants of Confederate Veterans, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Military Order of Stars and

Bars, and in doing research I have found many Reynolds' that fought on both sides during the war. If you have any information on any Reynolds who was a soldier during this time, please contact me.

In the Western Theater, due to her exploits at the battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862, Belle Reynolds was commissioned as a major by the governor of Illinois. In the summer of 1861 her husband had joined the 17th Illinois Infantry as a lieutenant. (His initials may have been J.P., based on indirect evidence.) On August 20th, Belle joined her husband in camp at Bird's Point, Missouri. From then until the end of the war she kept a journal of her army life and adventures, from which the following extracts are taken.

Throughout the fall and winter of 1861-1862, Belle stayed with the regiment, sometimes riding in a army wagon or ambulance, and sometimes on a mule. At other times she marched in the ranks with the soldiers, carrying a musketoon (a short, large-bore musket) on her shoulder. While in camp along the Mississippi River in southern Missouri, it was a picturesque scene, and a romantic period for the recently married couple. The regiment was involved in the battle of Belmont, Missouri, on November 7, 1861, led by a new brigadier general named Ulysses S. Grant. They wintered over in Cape Girardeu.

In February, 1862 Grant captured Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, opening middle Tennessee to invasion by Union Forces. On April 6, threatened by Grant's army near Corinth, the Confederates attacked the Union camp at Pittsburg Landing (Shiloh), Tennessee. Belle wrote in her journal for April 4th:

"The long roll has called the regiment out, and we know not what an hour may bring forth. Pickets have been driven in, and skirmishing is going on at the front. Distant musketry and the rumbling of artillery past my tent give the situation a look of reality which I had not dreamed of an hour ago. Although so near

the enemy's lines, we feel no fear. Mrs. N. and myself are the only ladies in camp, and our tents are adjoining."

The battle broke full force at daybreak Sunday, April 6th, lasting through the next day after an overnight interruption. A sudden attack in force in the early morning hours caused half-awake Union troops to flee their camps. In her next journal entry dated April 17th, Belle reported her experiences when the Union camps were overrun:

"At sunrise we heard the roll of distant musketry....[About an hour later] while preparing breakfast over the campfire, which Mrs. N. and I used in common, we were startled by cannonballs howling over our heads. [The soldiers were ordered to fall in.] Knowing my husband must go, I kept my place before the fire, that he might have his breakfast before leaving; but there was no time for eating, and though shells were flying faster, and musketry coming nearer, compelling me involuntarily to dodge as the missiles shrieked through the air, I still fried my cakes, and rolling them in napkins, placed them in his haversack, and gave it to him just as he was mounting his horse to assist in forming the regiment."

Lieutenant Reynolds asked her what she would do, but there was no time to think. "Shells were bursting in every direction about us. Tents were torn in shreds, and the enemy, in solid column, was seen coming over the hill in the distance." As they fled, they saw cavalry soldiers forming on the parade ground near the camp. "Balls were flying and shells bursting among the terrified horses and fearless riders."

Before they had gone far, Belle and Mrs. N. came upon ambulances from which the wounded were being carried out and laid on the ground. "We stopped, took off our bonnets, and prepared to assist in dressing their wounds," she said. But an orderly

dashed up, shouting orders to move the wounded immediately to the river. The rebels were closing in, and they were not safe where they were. Making their way to the river, Belle and her friend boarded the EMERALD, one of the steamers that served as Captain Norton's headquarters. Soon the wounded came pouring in, and they were busy for the next thirty-six hours doing what they could to comfort the soldiers.

By nighttime, the EMERALD alone had 350 wounded aboard. "I dared not ask the boys if my husband was unharmed." she wrote, "and feared each moment to see him among the almost lifeless forms that were being brought on board the boat."

All day long they heard the thunder of artillery, and spent bullets fell like leaden hail on the deck of the boat. Shells directed at the ammunition ship nearby whirled over their heads. Near sunset the retreating Union army crowded the scene, many seeking shelter on the already crowded boats, some swimming to the opposite shore. Just as it seemed their position would be overrun, the gunboats LEXINGTON and TYLER steamed upriver and unleashed a deadly fire on the Confederates. Union reinforcements could be seen on the opposite shore, approaching at the double-quick. As the transports were pressed into service to ferry the soldiers across the river, officers rushed around trying to rally the dispirited army to join in a counterattack.

"At the Landing it was a scene of terror, " Belle reported. "Rations, forage, and ammunition were trampled into the mud by an excited infuriated crowd.... Trains [wagons] were huddled together on the brow of the hill and in sheltered places. Ambulances were conveying their bleeding loads to the different boats, and joined to form a Babel of confusion indescribable. None were calm, and free from distracting anxiety and pain, save the long ranks

of dead, ranged for recognition or burial, at the hospital on the hill-side."

Nightfall brought a temporary halt to the infantry clashes, and both sides tried to rest. But throughout the night the gunboat cannonade continued, and the rain came pouring down. The storm increased in fury as the night wore on. Toward morning the EMERALD slipped downstream to Savannah and unloaded the wounded. Morning found Belle and her friends at work again, dressing the wounds of a new group of soldiers who had just been brought in from the field.

(continued in next issue)



ANSWERS AND QUESTIONS ON MY REYNOLDS OF KENTUCKY

*Mrs. Bert Rohrer (Ernaline Reynolds),
112 Hallow Dr., Nicholasville, KY 40356*

I am the daughter of Lindsay Reynolds who's father was Hilliam Levi, his father Lindsay Beaumont, his father Hillis, his father Thomas Reynolds who was a Rev. Har soldier. I have failed to connect Thomas to any of the VA Reynolds. A distant cousin found Thomas' record in the National Archives in Hashington DC. In it his name is spelled Renolls and shows the following: Pvt 2028, 7th VA Reg. of Foot from July 1777 through Feb. 1778 Capt. Thos Posey's Company, Commanded by Col. Alexander McClanachan. The story has been handed down in the family that he was a Rev. Har soldier, but the family did not know any details.

As to Mr. S. F. Tillman, he is not accurate. I am also descended from Henry Reynolds of Jessamine County that married Elizabeth Hillis, the dau of Sherod Willis and his wife Mary Ann. Elizabeth was

the sister of Catherine Willis who married my Thomas Reynolds. Henry was the son of Henry Reynolds, Sr and Eliza Henry Sr. was born in VA as was his wife and he left a will which was settled in 1826 (Henry died in 1824). In his will he names his sons Henry Jr., Moses, Thomas (not mine, this one settled In Madison Co.) and David. Moses was the first birth found in that County, 1780 and David was born in 1785. Henry Jr. was born in VA in 1774 as Old Henry in 1739. David and Moses stayed in Garrard where Henry Jr. came to Jessamine Co.

Henry Reynolds(l) did not name his daughters but from an estate settlement of his son Moses, who died intestate and childless, I have been able to establish many names, assisted by marriage records from that time that gave parents names. Old Henry had a daughter, Rachel, who married Joseph Jones, probably in VA. They had children who were listed as heirs of Moses Reynolds. One of Rachels dau's was Mariah, who first married Samuel Brown and had two daughters. She then married Willis Reynolds in 1828. Their son Lindsay B. was my great grandfather who died after I was born. I have a copy of Henry Reynolds Sr. 's will, Moses deed, showing his heirs, cemetery records, marriage records, and numerous deeds.

Sherod Hillis estate was settled in 1812. A notation on the back shows my Thomas Reynolds listed as receiving money as were others being sons or husbands of Hillis daughters. The notation stated that all the Legatees but Henry Reynolds met at the house of Thomas Reynolds and decided that said Henry should receive the whole benefits of (Bairds? Bond?) for his part. Thomas' son, Thomas Jr., married Henry Jr.'s daughter, Nancy. These two children of Thomas are listed as heirs in Moses Reynolds deed, but they were both married to grandchildren of Old Henry. I think Henry Sr.'s children were Nancy Barlow,

Rachel Jones, a dau who married a Williamson, Thomas, David, Henry and Moses.

From a deed in the Jessamine Co. court house I have pretty well established that Henry Jr.'s children were: Henry A. (Tillman's #6017) b 1800 md. Patsy Goins, Moses md. Araminta Potts, John W. M. md. Caroline Pilant, Nancy M. md. Thomas Reynolds Jr., Elizabeth M. md. Chas. Murphy, Lucinda M. md. Henry Wylie and Polly never married.

In the 1850 census Henry A. and Patsy Goins Reynolds are listed as having the following children: Eliza B. (md. John Jefferson Reynolds, son of Willis), Susan, Sulda (named for her Aunt Saluda Willis), John W. (named for his uncle), M. Francina Baker, William and Twins Louise and Louisa (md. Paris Hager grandson of my Thomas Reynolds).

You can see the two families of Thomas and Henry were they came here in marriages, exchanges of property, proof that Thomas and Old Henry were related. closely related after but I have found no I have found that most of the people I have' researched in my lines,

Reynolds, Willis, Burton, Underwood, Miller, Stinnett, and Masters all seemed to have come here about the same time and from (the few references) Virginia. I would say they came mostly from Culpeper, Albemarle, Orange. They all settled in S.E. part of Jessamine Co. and across the river in Madison and Garrard Counties. I wonder if they could have come with Lewis Craigs Traveling Church, in which he gathered up 200 Baptists and 400 other pioneers in the aforementioned area of VA and settled a few miles from what is now Lancaster, in Garrard County.

I find no William Reynolds listed as being a son of Henry Sr. or Jr. Thomas did have a son William who married Polly Stinnett, and had children: Absalone, Harrison, Lindsay, Hugh, A.R.M. (is Marshall),

Fronia, and Bella. My father personally knew some of these children when they were old. William must have been one of Thomas younger children, possibly the youngest. I remember Fronia as being-very old and I was born in 1911.

Henry Reynolds (#6018) is listed by Tillman as the son of #6012, but I have proof that he was the son of Henry, Sr. Henry Jr. had no son William, and I find Guy Moreton is too young to be their child, possibly could be the son of Henrys feeble minded sister. Moses (Tillman's #6018) is married to Araminta Potts, not Samantha. Children are correct. John W. seems correct.

Pat Smith has sent me some things to check, as she is also descended from Thomas. As far as I know she is not descended from Henry, as I come into that family by the marriage of Thomas' son, Willis to Mariah Jones, the dau. of Rachel Reynolds Jones (Rachel was the dau. of Henry Sr.).

From the Chronicles of Scotch-Irish Settlement ~ Virginia, I found that on the 25 May 1762 Mary Renald, 16, orphan of James Renold, chose Nathaniel Evans as guardian. I realize that I am "reaching", but since the names are similarly spelled to Thomas on his war record, he was born in approximately 1762. Mary becomes an orphan in that year, and I have wondered if Thomas could be an orphan, perhaps a nephew of Henry Sr. and came here when they came. Did that James have any children besides Mary? Who were his brothers? Who was Henry Sr.'s father? I feel that somewhere someone has the answer to these questions and may want to know what became of these people. The last Reynolds names in my particular line from my great grandfather Lindsay, is carried by three sons of a cousin of mine One in Denver CO, one in St. Petersburg, FL, and one in Atlanta GA.



The Reynolds Family Association
Originally Organized 1892 - Incorporated in Delaware 1977

RFA Chat

RFA President Tommy Joe Reynolds

What?

Reynolds Family Association "RFA Chats" are monthly no-agenda sessions that provide an opportunity for RFA members and others with interest to meet up virtually and share Reynolds family history research topics and ask questions about RFA, Reynolds lines, and related topics. If we have a large turn-out, we can create breakout groups that participants can join to discuss specific Reynolds lineages or specific geographic areas.

When?

(First Sunday of the month)

Sunday, September 1st, 2pm Eastern

Where?

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89255538486?pwd=GglcpsyAD3m3CMbam0a7YqPNslE6Vw.1>

Meeting ID: 892 5553 8486

Passcode: 046649



WILLIAM AND ESTHER GARDNER REYNOLDS

William Reynolds was a descendant of James and Deborah of Rhode Island (line 14): James to Joseph to Joseph to Joseph to George to Joseph and Experience Davids all of Rhode Island. William was the fourth son of Joseph and Experience Reynolds born in 1777 in Stephentown, NY.

On a beautiful morning of the first of September, 1800, the family set out for Ohio with one small

wagon and three horses (according the 1874 autobiography of William's older brother, The autobiography of Elder Matthew Gardner: a minister in the Christian Church sixty-three years, pp. 10-11):

The country we had never seen. The route was new, and to us unknown until we approached it. There was then little communication with the wilderness west. Not only railroads and steam-boats, but even turnpikes, were unknown . . . The mountains were difficult to climb, the streams were dangerous to ford, the undertaking was hazardous, and the journey was long. The weather was pleasant, and the journey as prosperous as we could expect. We reached Pittsburg, on the Ohio River, by the first of October, just one month from the time of starting. Pittsburg was a small village. We waited two weeks before we found a boat going down the river. Then we embarked on a flat-boat — the boats then used — with four other families; furniture, wagons, horses, and all, crowded on one small flat-boat. The river was low: the progress was slow: sometimes have floated rapidly and sometimes we were long aground. We were nearly four weeks coming down to Limestone — a little village on the Kentucky side of the river. It had but few houses then. Limestone is now called Maysville. Here, Henry Hughs, a land-trader, came to the boat to sell us land in Ohio. Father went with him to see it. He liked it, and traded him two horses for one hundred acres. We then proceeded on with the boat down the river, about twelve miles, till we came opposite our land, at a landing two miles below where Ripley now stands. There we disembarked, and the boat and its other passengers went on down the river. There was no town then where Ripley now stands. We landed within a few miles of our land, and

soon reached our future home, where everything seemed new and strange . . . My father rented a little cabin to move into, while he and my two older brothers built a cabin on our own land. It was now about the last of November — the most pleasant and delightful Autumn I have ever known before or since. This fine weather continued till after Christmas. So, my father and brothers having completed our new house, we moved into it about the first of January, 1801. The fine weather continued that year all winter, there being no weather to prevent out-door work.

Steve Roth's wonderful compilation "A genealogy of James and Deborah Reynolds of North Kingstown, Rhode Island, and descendants" (now online at HathiTrust) made an argument that the wife of William Reynolds was Esther (sometimes spelled Ester) who was believed to be the daughter of Benjamin Gardner (Volume 1, p. 625) and his first wife:

"(1) The oldest child of William and Esther Reynolds, born in 1799 in Rensselaer County, New York, was named Gardner (it was the practice in those days to give a child the mother's maiden name);

(2) The Gardner (or Gardiner) family lived in Exeter, Rhode Island, moved to Albany (now Rensselaer) County, New York in about 1770, where he served in that state's militia during the Revolutionary War as did William's grandfather's family;

(3) Benjamin Gardner, born c 1760, moved to Albany (now Rensselaer) County, New York, in about 1770, where he served in that state's militia during the American Revolution. William's father, Joseph Reynolds, also migrated from Exeter, Rhode Island, to

Albany County, New York, during the same time frame; and

(4) In 1800, Benjamin Gardner moved his family to Adams (now Brown) County, Ohio, settling but only a few miles from William's father, who had also migrated to Ohio in 1800. The evidence suggests that Esther may have been a Gardner; perhaps a daughter, or even a younger sister or niece of Benjamin Gardner."

To the above I would add that Reynolds researchers Marshall Sellman (a former history professor) and Jan Stevenson looked at the same evidence in the 1980s and came to the same conclusion that Esther was most likely Benjamin Gardner's daughter. William and Esther had nine children.

During the War of 1812, he served in Captain Abraham Shepherd's Company of Ohio Militia as a drummer boy; his father William Sr. was a Sergeant in the same unit (Roth, p. 626). William served two tours (2 September to 2 October 1812, and again 29 July to 22 August 1813).

In 1834, he and his family moved west, first to Illinois before settling in Mosquito Creek, Muscatine, Iowa Territory by 1837. He died there in September of the next year.

William and Esther are buried at the Klein Cemetery there. The cemetery record for Esther, who is buried with William, has her listed as "Esther G. Reynolds" probably indicating that her maiden name began with a G (as her middle name was reportedly Ruth).



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