

My Ancestors and Their Ties To Spring Garden Community

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My great-great-great-grandfather was **1**Joseph Anderson THOMAS who was born in Virginia in 1801^{A,B,C,D} and spent most of his life as a Blacksmith^{B,C} before becoming a Farmer later in life^{D,E}. Joseph married **2**Mary JOHNSON (born in Virginia in 1806^{A,B,C}) on September 15, 1825 in Jefferson County, Tennessee^G where they lived for several years^{A,H}.

The known children born to Joseph and Mary THOMAS are as follows:

3Henry Cueford THOMAS was born in Tennessee in 1830^{B,C,K}.

4Wesley THOMAS was born in Jefferson County, Tennessee in 1833^{B,C,H,K}. Wesley is my great-great-grandfather.

5John Edward THOMAS was born in Jefferson County, Tennessee in 1836^{B,C,D,H}.

6James O. THOMAS was born in Tennessee in 1838^B.

7Elizabeth Ann THOMAS was born in Missouri in 1844^B.

8Mary Jane (THOMAS) DRISKILL was born in Missouri in 1845^B.

9William B. THOMAS was born in Pulaski County, Missouri in November of 1849^{B,D}.

10Anderson THOMAS was born in Missouri on April 18, 1855^{C,D,L,M,N,O}.

Sometime before 1844 Joseph and Mary THOMAS relocated to Missouri^B. By 1850 they were known to be near the city of Waynesville, Missouri^B. Unfortunately the Pulaski County courthouse burned down in June of 1903 which was even more devastating than our own courthouse fire here in Tarrant County. All records from Pulaski County prior to 1903 are completely gone so there are no tax records or land deeds to pinpoint this family's arrival and departure from that area.

It is interesting to note that the family of **11**John DRISKILL (born in Coles County, Illinois in 1814^{B,C,D,P}) was also in Pulaski County, Missouri at that time. John and his wife, Catherin SALSMAN (born in Kentucky in 1817^{B,C,D,L}), had eight children that I know of and two of them ended up marrying children of Joseph THOMAS. John's son, **12**William Henry DRISKILL, married **8**Mary Jane THOMAS and John's daughter, **13**Mary Parilee DRISKILL, married **4**Wesley THOMAS. The latter marriage makes John another one of my great-great-great-grandfathers.

1Joseph THOMAS and **11**John DRISKILL also shared Pulaski County, Missouri at the same time as Colleyville's namesake Lilburn H. COLLEY^B.

John and his brother, **14**William Franklin DRISKILL, are known to have had a part in settling the area around the Spring Garden, Pleasant Run, Grapevine area. They might possibly have ties to Spring Garden itself which I will get into later. For now I should mention that William had a survey named after him along Big Bear Creek that was only

separated from S.C.H. WITTEN's survey by a couple of surveys to the northeast of WITTEN's. John and William's mother, **15**Christina (EATON) DRISKILL, is the first known person to be buried in Parker Memorial Cemetery on Hwy 121 and Hall Johnson Road.

From Missouri all of these families began making their way to Tarrant County around the same time. Below is a timeline that shows what I know about my ancestors and their possible, or known, links to the Spring Garden area.

1858

14William Franklin DRISKILL arrives in the county^R. It is not known if he settled in Spring Garden at this point but it is possible giving the information listed under 1860.

1859

Two of the THOMAS brothers appear to have arrived in Tarrant County. At this time they do not own any land and it is not known if they are in Spring Garden yet. They are **3**Henry and **4**Wesley^J.

1860

14William Franklin DRISKILL owns 83 acres that lists Israel COX as the original grantee^J. I'm not sure if this is the same land that was a part of the Liberty J. TEETER survey but it is a possibility. William's brother, **11**John DRISKILL, appears to be living with William on this property^J.

1Joseph THOMAS appears in the county for the first time^J. He is the owner of 100 acres of land that lists either a J. HOOD or J. HARRIS as the original grantee. It is difficult to read and an online source says it is HOOD although it looks more like HARRIS to me. Either of these names are not ones that I recognized from your survey.

3Henry THOMAS remains in the county but now has 40 acres of land that lists himself as the original grantee^J. Again, I am not sure if this land is near Spring Garden either. In February of this year Henry's son William Albert THOMAS was born somewhere in Texas according to census records.

4Wesley THOMAS is not on the tax rolls for this year and is now living in Hopkins County, Texas^{D,J}.

6James THOMAS is in the county but is not a land owner. It looks as though he is living with his father, **1**Joseph THOMAS^J.

1861

In 1860 **11**John DRISKILL was not a property owner but now he owns 160 acres and lists himself as the original grantee^J. The location is unknown but in the 1880 US Census John is living on land that has himself listed as the original grantee and his household is nearby other families living just outside of the area that you focused on for your survey.

1862

1Joseph THOMAS is listed as the owner of 100 acres with the original grantee being G. TEETER. Joseph also owns $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre that has A.?. LEONARD listed as the original grantee^J.

Joseph's son, **3**Henry THOMAS, owns one acre of land that also lists A.?. LEONARD as the original grantee as well as 40 acres listing MOOREHEAD as the original grantee^J. This 40 acre size matches what Henry had paid taxes on the previous two years but in those years he listed himself as the original grantee. It might be separate land.

1864

1Joseph THOMAS now appears as a slave owner for the first time with one slave. He still lists 100 acres originally granted by TEETER but now has 40 acres originally granted by J.L. FOSTER and 175 acres originally granted by A.?. LEONARD^J.

3Henry THOMAS now has 100 acres^J but I do not have recorded who the original grantee was. I will have to go back and record this information.

1865-1869

I have not researched this time period but I know that by the 1867 Voters List was compiled the only person still known to be in the county from the list of above names was **14**William Franklin DRISKILL^R.

1870

Census year so a good bit of information is available

1Joseph and **2**Mary THOMAS are living in McDonald County, Missouri with their son **10**Anderson THOMAS. Joseph is working as a Blacksmith^C.

Right next door is **3**Henry THOMAS and his family. Henry is also working as a Blacksmith^C.

5John THOMAS is in Liberty, Pulaski County, Missouri with his family^C.

11John DRISKILL is working as a Farmer in Benton County, Arkansas with his family^C.

14William DRISKILL is still in Tarrant County but I don't believe him to be anywhere in the direct vicinity of the Spring Garden area^{C,R}.

1871

3Henry THOMAS is known to be back in Tarrant County^{J,K}.

1872

4Wesley THOMAS is known to be back in Tarrant County^{J,K}.

11John DRISKILL is known to be back in Tarrant County^J.

1873

1Joseph THOMAS is known to be back in Tarrant County^J.

A James THOMAS shows up in Precinct 3 of Tarrant County that is most likely **6**James O. THOMAS^J.

1874

3Henry THOMAS is living on 50 acres of land originally granted by T.J. CHRISTIAN^J. This survey is to the west of the G.W. TEETER along Little Bear Creek. Immediately to the east of the G.W. TEETER survey are the Simon COTRIL and David R. TEETER surveys that were in your survey's primary focus.

1875

1Joseph THOMAS is living on 35 acres originally granted by T.J. CHRISTIAN. Living with Joseph are his sons, **9**William B. THOMAS and **10**Anderson THOMAS^J.

1876

1Joseph THOMAS is living on land originally granted by L.L. McLAIN with his sons **9**William and **10**Anderson^J. The L.L. McLAIN survey's east side is adjacent to the Liberty J. TEETER survey.

4Wesley THOMAS is living on land originally granted by A. CHRISTIAN. The A. CHRISTIAN survey is immediately to the west of the L.L. McLAIN survey^J.

January 3, 1876

4Wesley THOMAS purchased 20 acres of land on the A. CHRISTIAN survey from Sarah A. ANDERSON^S.

May 16, 1877

1Joseph THOMAS, several of his children, and a KIRK family sold 50 acres from the northwest corner L.L. McLAIN survey to Emily S. ANDERSON. The signature of the following individuals appear as sellers of this land: **1**Joseph THOMAS, **4**Wesley THOMAS, **5**John THOMAS, **9**Wm B. THOMAS, **6**James THOMAS, **3**H. THOMAS, Mary J. DRISKELL, Joseph B. KIRK, Mauriene(?) E. KIRK, **10**Anderson THOMAS^T.

May 16, 1877

4Wesley THOMAS purchased 21 acres of land on the L.L. McLAIN survey from Emily S. ANDERSON^U.

Oct 29, 1877

I have notes that **4**Wesley THOMAS sold land to T.B. ALLEN but no details about the actual land. I will need to go back and complete my notes.

July 1879

4Wesley THOMAS dies from bronchitis at the age of 46. At the time of his death he was working as a Blacksmith^K. His place of burial is unknown. It seems like his death is just beyond the point when the Spring Garden Cemetery was in use. Due to the ties to the DRISKILL family and the proximity of Parker Memorial Cemetery I have suspected that he might be buried there.

April 1880

3Henry THOMAS dies from pneumonia at the age of 50^K. Burial place for Henry is also unknown.

June 1880

US Census for Tarrant County:

1Joseph THOMAS is a Farmer and lives with his sons 9William and 10Anderson^{D,E}. Mary Parilee THOMAS, widow of 4Wesley THOMAS, is living with 11John DRISKILL with her three children^D.

Post 1880

- The county tax rolls no longer separate individuals by precinct which makes it difficult to differentiate my THOMAS ancestors versus other THOMAS families that were in the county.

- Likewise, there are becoming a lot of THOMAS people showing up on these tax rolls around this time and most of them are only identified by their initials.

- 9William B. THOMAS is the owner of land originally granted by L.L.McLAIN until at least 1882 (the farthest my research has gone)^J. In 1880 he was living with his father and was not a land owner^{D,E}.

- It appears as though 1Joseph THOMAS and his son 10Anderson THOMAS are no longer in the county in 1881 although it is hard to tell for sure about Anderson^J. With Joseph being around 80 years of age by that point I was hoping to find the sons that were living with him in 1880 (William and Anderson) on the tax roll without Joseph to give good evidence that Joseph died in the Spring Garden area. However, with Anderson's apparent absence from the tax lists it is possible that Joseph and Anderson left the area after 1880.

- The widow of 3Henry Cueford THOMAS, 16Martha Jane (ROGERS) THOMAS, is the owner of land originally granted by ??? until at least 1882 where my research stopped^{E,J}.

- According to Ancestry.com researchers 11John DRISKILL died around 1880 in Pulaski County, Missouri.

Wording of land deed for land purchased from Sarah ANDERSON by Wesley THOMAS

January 3, 1876

Tarrant County Land Deeds, Volume J:1152

Know all men by these presents that I Sarah A. ANDESON of the County of Tarrant and state of Texas for ? in consideration of the sum of One hundred (\$100) Dollars to me paid by Wesley THOMAS of the County of Tarrant and state of Texas the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have Granted Bargained Sold and Release unto the said Wesley THOMAS the following described piece parcel or track of land lying and fully situated in Tarrant County on the waters of the west fork of Trinity River ? part of the A. CHRISTIAN assign(er?) of L.L. McLAIN. Beginning at the NW corner of the A. ALLEN 120 acres out of said survey. Thence North a sufficient distance to include Twenty acres of land. Thence East to a stake in the west line of Mrs. L. TRIMBLE ? place. Thence south

to a stake in the North line of the HUNLEY(?) tract. Thence West to the place of beginning so as to include twenty acres of land out of the South West Corner of a hundred acre tract sold to me by William GREENSEP(?) & Wife on the 25th day of August A.D. 1863.

Wording of land deed for land purchased from Emily S. ANDERSON by Wesley THOMAS

May 16, 1877

Tarrant County Land Deeds, Volume E:176

Know all Men by these Presents, THAT I Emily S. ANDERSON of the county of Tarrant and State aforesaid, in consideration of the sum of One hundred dollars, to me paid by Wesley THOMAS of the county of Tarrant State of Texas, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have GRANTED, BARGAINED, SOLD AND RELEASED, and by these presents do GRANT, BARGAIN, SELL AND RELEASE, unto the said...

Wesley THOMAS all that tract of land lying and being in Tarrant County on the waters of little Bear Creak and drainage fork of the L.L. McLAIN 320 acre survey and begins at the N.W. Cor of a 120 acre survey on the L.L. McLAIN survey owned by Allen THENCE north 249 s to a stake. Thence East 475 s to a stake in Loucinda TRIMBLE's place, on the same survey. Thence south 249 varas(?). Thence West 475 s to the beginning containing twenty one acres more or less except one acre on the S.W. Cor owned by H. ALLEN estate.

Selected biographies

1Joseph Anderson THOMAS. Most of the above information is focused on his life and time in Spring Garden.

3Henry Cueford THOMAS was born in Jefferson County, Tennessee in 1830 and died in Spring Garden in April 1880 of pneumonia. He and his wife, **16**Martha Jane ROGERS, first appear in the Spring Garden area possibly as early as 1859 before returning to Missouri by 1870. Prior to returning to Missouri they had a son, Andrew Jackson THOMAS, presumably in the Spring Garden area in 1860. As early as 1872 they were back in the Spring Garden area.

Following Henry's death his wife, Martha, and their children stayed in the Spring Garden area until at least 1882.

4Wesley THOMAS was born in Jefferson County, Tennessee and died in the Spring Garden area in July of 1879 from Bronchitis. He may have been in Spring Garden as early as 1859 although by 1860 he and his first wife, Berthina "Betheny" CAMPBELL of Pulaski County, Missouri, were in Hopkins County, Texas. It was there that he joined the 9th

Brigade of the Texas State Militia in 1861. Later (in 1864) he may have also been a part of Captain A. A. Rutherford's Company of unattached Texas Infantry but no exact verification of this has been found to date.

Around 1866 Wesley and his first wife had divorced and he was married to Mary Parilee DRISKILL who was the daughter of **11**John DRISKILL and granddaughter of **15**Christina (EATON) DRISKILL. They moved to the Spring Garden area in 1872 and had a daughter, Arminda Catherine THOMAS, in the area on October 16, 1876.

In June of 1879, just a month prior to his death, Wesley was forced to concede 320 acres of land literally in the northeast corner of Tarrant County to a M.A. Bonner in a legal decision. This land was bordered both Denton and Dallas Counties.

5John Edward THOMAS was born in Jefferson County, Tennessee in 1836 and died in Sherman, Garyson County, Texas on January 4, 1886. On June 18, 1857 he married Martha Jane GIBSON in La Clede, Pulaski County, Missouri. Together they had nine children between the years 1858 and 1880.

The arrival of John and his family to the Spring Garden is not exactly known. It is possible that he was in the area during the Civil War but it is known that his family was there by the 1880 US Census.

According to his descendants he was a Blacksmith by trade and served in the Civil War making saddles and doing leatherwork for the Confederate Army.

9William B. THOMAS was the seventh of eight children born to **1**Joseph and **2**Mary THOMAS. William was born in November of 1849 in Pulaski County, Missouri and was last known to be alive in the Spring Garden area in 1882.

William first appeared in the Spring Garden area with his father, **1**Joseph Anderson THOMAS, and his brother, **10**Anderson THOMAS, in 1875. In 1880 he was still living with his father and brother on the Allen CHRISTIAN survey but in 1881 he was the owner of 40 acres on the L.L. McLAIN survey. His older brother, **4**Wesley THOMAS, had previously owned 40 acres on that survey before dieing in 1879 so I am suspecting that William took over that land. There are no probate records or land deeds to support this, however.

William is known to have occupied this land in Spring Garden until my research stopped in the year 1882.

10Anderson "Ance" THOMAS was the youngest of eight children born to **1**Joseph and **2**Mary THOMAS. Anderson was born on April 18, 1855 in Missouri and died on October 6, 1932 in Centrahoma, Coal County, Oklahoma. He married Mollie Marie Lee Spain in Linn, Oklahoma on October 19, 1889. Together they had seven daughters and three sons.

Anderson is known to have been in the Spring Garden area between 1875 and 1880 living with his father, **1**Joseph THOMAS. Following the 1880 US Census, however, Anderson and his father are no longer accounted for until Anderson shows up in Oklahoma in 1889.

Sources

- A – 1830 US Census
- B – 1850 US Census
- C – 1870 US Census
- D – 1880 US Census
- E – 1880 US Census Agriculture Schedule
- G – Tennessee State Marriage Licenses
- H- Jefferson County, Tennessee Tax Rolls
- J – Tarrant County, Texas Tax Rolls
- K – 1880 US Federal Mortality Schedule
- L – 1900 US Census
- M – 1910 US Census
- N – 1920 US Census
- O – Coalgate Record-Register Obituary
- P – 1840 US Census
- R – 1867 Voters List from Tarrant County, Texas
- S – Tarrant County, Texas Land Deeds Vol J:1152
- T – Tarrant County, Texas Land Deeds Vol Q:435
- U – Tarrant County, Texas Land Deeds Vol E:176

