

Jeremiah Ezell (c1770-c1839)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky. 1985

April 26, 1985

Randi S. Reece
8F92 Park Lane, No. 140
Dallas, Texas 75321

Dear Ms. Reece:

I have checked most of the major source records at the Ohio County Courthouse for information on the Ezell family. This includes not only a check for the name "Ezell" but for all possible derivative spellings under the letters of "E" and "I".

First, I checked the estate records, which include wills, inventories, sale bills, and settlements. Found only one Ezell appearing in these records prior to 1900. In 1842 an inventory and sale bill of the estate of Jeremiah Ezell was recorded in will book C, page 191. They were delivered by Jesse Rains, James Ezell, and Benjamin Duvall. This is Jeremiah, Jr., he married Elizabeth Keown, 25 March 1834, appears in the 1840 Ohio County census, and disappears from the tax records in 1842. His widow, Elizabeth Ezell, appears as a purchaser on the estate sale bill, along with; James Ezell, Lewis Ezell, Jesse Rains, William Keown, Frances Earp, Chesterfield J. Cole, Benjamin Duvall., and Joshua Stevens, The following year Jeremiah's widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Ezell, married Elijah Craig, 4 October 1843.

The first Ezell appearing as a decedent in the Administrator Bond books was Burrell A. Ezell. On 5 Feb. 1867 William C. Shields was appointed administrator of his estate. In the Circuit Court records checked for any equity suits involving Ezell heirs, found none prior to 1900. No Ezell land deeds, grantor or grantee, were recorded prior to 1850. Found no land transactions for Jeremiah Ezell, Sr. or for your great-great-great grandfather, Thomas Ezell.

Enclosed is a listing of all Ezells appearing in the seven Ohio County censuses from 1820 to 1870. Checked all Ezell marriage records, and enclosed are abstracts giving vital information appearing on marriage records down to 1880.

In checking the original loose marriage documents, which are stored in file boxes. I finally made a major discovery. These records include the marriage bond, license, and minister's return. Occasionally there are also consent slips to be found in these files.. These are the original notes signed by the parents or guardian giving their permission for their child who was still a

minor under the age of 21. Since few males married under the age of 21 in those days it is rare to find a consent slip for the groom. However, in the case of your ancestor, Thomas Ezell, there indeed was a consent slip.

Enclosed is a xerox of the three separate marriage papers regarding the marriage of Thomas Ezell to Elizabeth Autry: 1). Bond made by Thomas Ezell and John Autry on January 11, 1823. 2). License and minister's return, License granted by clerk on January 11, 1823 and marriage was performed on January 16, 1823 by William Hart. And, 3). Consent slip for the groom, Thomas Ezell. The consent slip reads, "January the 11, 1823 this is to certify that I Jerimiah Ezel and Sarah Ezel is willing for their son Thomas to marry Elizabeth Autry, this given under my hand this Eleventh day of January", signed by Jeremiah Ezell (he signed his name with an "X"). Thomas I believe was probably age 20, several records indicate he was born circa 1802, and if he was born in that year he would have been age 20 at the time of his marriage.

Thomas Ezell, thus, was indeed the son of Jeremiah Ezell. Thomas I believe was born in South Carolina, not North Carolina as the 1850 census indicates. On December 23, 1862 in Butler County, Ky. Thomas married a second time to Miss Fanny E. Goodall. On the bond he reported he was age 48, a resident of Ohio County, Ky., and born in South Carolina. Thomas married a third time August 1, 1872 in Ohio County to Miss Lida Baize. On the bond is recorded he was age 65, born South Carolina, and Father was born South Carolina. These two marriage records as well as the 1860 census indicate that Thomas Ezell was born in South Carolina, Lewis Ezell most likely a brother of Thomas was also born in South Carolina (ca 1801) according to census records.

I estimate that Thomas' parents Jeremiah and Sarah Ezell married about 1798-1800. Since Thomas was one of their older children and since he was born in South Carolina I think it is likely his parents married in that state. I would suggest looking for the marriage of Jeremiah and Sarah Ezell there, and also try to locate Jeremiah in the tax records of South Carolina during that time period.

Jeremiah Ezell I believe left South Carolina shortly after 1802 and by about 1807 was in Tennessee. James Ezell another likely son of Jeremiah was born in Tenn. circa 1807. Jeremiah left Tennessee and came to Ohio County, Ky. by 1813, residing there at least until 1817, and by 1820 returned to Tennessee. Jeremiah is listed in the 1820 Sumner County, Tenn., census under the name "Izzard" (Observation - "Izzard is the spelling that seems to be commonly used in South Carolina records, whereas "Ezell" is most often used in the North Carolina and Virginia branches of the family).

The 1820 Sumner County, Tenn. census listing for Jeremiah Izzard is as follows:

2 males age 0-10	2 females age 0-10
2 males 10-16	1 female 10-16
1 male 16-18	1 female 26-45
2 males 16-26	

1 male over 45

While in Sumner County, Tenn. Jeremiah's daughter, Kessiah, married Jesse Rains, June 12, 1821. Bond on the marriage was by Lewis Izzard. From family records of Lewis' descendants I found out that his wife was Eleanor Rains. I could not find a marriage record for Lewis and Eleanor. They married about the time (ca 1823) that the Ezells were moving from Tennessee to Ohio County, Ky., and their marriage may have been anywhere along the trail. Kessiah and Lewis Ezell were almost certainly brother and sister, who married brother and sister, Jesse and Eleanor Rains.

The Rains family was closely interrelated with the Ezell families in Ohio County. They lived close together, appeared as witnesses on each others legal records, deeds, marriages, and they intermarried. Jesse and Kessiah Rains son, Virgil, married Thomas Ezell's daughter, Sally C.; their daughter, Josephine Rains married William Craig a son of Jeremiah Ezell's widow by her second marriage; and their granddaughter, Amanda Jane Bratcher, married John Wesley Ezell a son of Jeremiah Jr.

About 1822 Jeremiah Ezell and his family left Tennessee for the second time and returned to Ohio County, Ky. Shortly after returning his son, Thomas, married Elizabeth Autry.

The 1830 Ohio County census listing for Jeremiah Ezell closely corresponds to the 1820 Sumner County, Tenn, census listing. The two census listings suggest that Jeremiah Ezell had 9 or 10 children. Eight of Jeremiah's children I believe can be identified or deduced from Ohio County records. Jeremiah Ezell's family was the only Ezell family to come to Ohio County at this early date. All of the other Ezells appearing in Ohio County censuses and marriages were all minors when Jeremiah came to Ohio County, and they can all be accounted for in the household of Jeremiah Ezell in the 1820 and 1830 censuses, which suggests they all came with him and were his children.

Children of Jeremiah and Sarah Ezell: Lewis (c.1801), Thomas (c.1802), Kessiah (1804-1810), James (c.1807), Jeremiah, Jr. (1810-1815), Greenberry (c.1810), Mary (c.1815), and Luvisa (1810-1820). Enclosed is a family group chart showing what information I have found on each.

1. ? Benjamin Ezell born 1794-1803, married Rhoda Hampton, 9 April 1823 Sumner County, Tenn.
2. Lewis Ezell, born c.1801 S.C., married Eleanor Rains, c.1824, in 1870 lived Ohio County, Ky.
3. Thomas Ezell, born c.1802 S.C., married Elizabeth Autry, 16 January 1823 Ohio County, Ky., Fanny E. Goodall, 23 December 1862 Butler County, Ky. and Miss Lida Baize, 1 August 1872 Ohio County, Ky.; died 1872-1880.
4. Kessiah Ezell born 1804-1810, married Jesse Rains, 12 June 1821 Sumner County, Tenn.

5. James Ezell born c.1807 Tenn., married Martha Iler, 29 October 1829 Ohio County, Ky., in 1870 lived Ohio County, Ky.
6. ? son born 1804-1810
7. Jeremiah Ezell born 1810-1815 Tenn., married Elizabeth Keown, 28 March 1834 Ohio County, Ky., died 1842 Ohio County, Ky.
8. Greenberry Ezell born c.1810 Tenn., married Elizabeth Earp, 22 November, 1832 Ohio County, Ky.; Elizabeth was the daughter of Walter Earp, and she was an aunt of Wyatt Earp, a celebrated Western lawman and an American folk hero.. Elizabeth Earp Ezell's brother, Nicholas F. Earp, married Victoria Ann Cooksey 27 July 1840 in Ohio County. Nicholas Earp and his family left Ohio County after 1840 and went out west where their son, Wyatt, was born and grew to fame. Greenberry Ezell disappears from the Ohio County tax records after 1846.
9. Mary Ezell born c. 1815 Ky., married Burrell Dockery, 2 October 1834 Ohio County, Ky. Information coming down through the Dockery family establishes that Mary was a daughter of Jeremiah Ezell. On their marriage Jeremiah Ezell paid the bond.
10. Luvisa Ezell born 1810-1820, married Chesterfield Cole, c.1835, could not find their marriage record. A biography of their son, William S. Cole, appears in Kentucky: A History of The State, by J. H. Battle, W. H. Perrin & G. C. Kniffin, c.1885. In this biography It stated that Luvisa was the "daughter of Jerry Ezell, of Ohio County". The biography follows:

SQUIRE WILLIAM STEWART COLE, Ohio County, was born September 7, 1837 in Butler County, Ky., and in infancy removed with his parents to Ohio County, where he grew to manhood and still resides. In 1861, he enlisted in the Seventeenth Kentucky Infantry and in the capacity of blacksmith remained with the regiment until near the close of the late war. His father, Chesterfield Cole, was born in Butler County, and died about 1843, aged about thirty-two years. He was the son of William S. Cole, also a native of Butler County, who was a soldier in the war of 1812, a high sheriff and also a Cumberland Presbyterian minister; he died at Bloomfield, Ind., about 1870, at an advanced age. Chesterfield married Luvisa, daughter of Jerry Ezell, of Ohio County; she died in 1845; their children are Sarah A., died in infancy; William Stewart: Martha, married first to Kessinger, who died in Andersonville prison, and afterward to Evans; and Nelson H., died in his thirteenth year. April 5, 1860, Squire Cole was married to Martha L., daughter of William M. and Mary (Mitchel) Miller, of Ohio County; she was born February 19, 1837, and to them have been born Joseph N., John S., Chesterfield M., Mary L., Arminta M., Nora F., James E., Jonathan L., Dorcas E., William O, Henry W., and Charles W. Squire Cole served one term as a magistrate of his district. He is still a blacksmith, and also farms, owning 116 acres of fair land in a good state of cultivation. He is a member of the United Baptist Church; also of the A. F. & A. M., and in politics a Republican.

In Compendium of American Genealogy, Vol. VI, appears mention of another Jeremiah Ezell, who would have been a contemporary of Jeremiah Ezell of Ohio County. Page 634:

Jeremiah Ezell (b.1775) married Susan (b.1779), son Lafayette Ezell (1800-1852) married Luvica J. Baker, 9 Oct. 1833 (in Davidson County, Tenn.), m.2nd 1848 Eliza Jane Johnson. (1816-1899). This appears to be the Jeremiah Ezell b. 27 Sept. 1775 Sussex County, Va., son of Balaam Ezell, of whom you have information on.

At the Owensboro Library found the name of another Ezell researcher; Mrs. George F. Stoltz, 10339 Bay Hills Dr., West, Largo, Fl. 33540. Her great-great grandfather was a William Ezell, b.1816, and who appears in the 1850 Henderson County, Ky. census. Also appearing in the same census was Burwell Ezzell, age 23, b. Ky, laborer, in the household of Elenor Pendra (p.307, #542). This is the Burrell Ezell who appears in the 1847-1848 tax lists of Ohio County, disappears from Ohio County 1849-1851, and returns in 1852. I don't know if Mrs. Stoltz has any further back than William Ezell or any information that may tie into the Ohio County Ezells, but on the possibility that she might I would suggest writing her.

Another active researcher you may want to write to is Mr. Jesse Berkley, Route 1, Box 92, Olaton, Ky. 42361. He lives in Ohio County and is a descendent of Burrell Dockery and Mary Ezell. On a family group chart of the Dockerys at the Owensboro Library, a copy of which is enclosed, he wrote that Jeremiah Ezell's wife was an Indian. I have not had a chance to contact him yet, but I would like to for I am very curious from where he derives this conclusion.

That is about all I have to report for now. Would you like me to continue to see if I can uncover any more on the Ohio County Ezells or Autrys. There are some random periods in which vital statistics were recorded for Ohio County, 1852-1861 and 1873-1874, which I have not yet checked, and were one of Jeremiah Ezell's children may have appeared. Would you like me to compile information on your ancestor, Thomas Ezell's family, and on the families of his brothers and sisters. I will await your reply. If you have any questions about any of the information I have included please feel free to ask about it. Bye for now.

Yours truly,
Jerry Long
Owensboro, Ky.

.....

Note: Information compiled by Jerry Long, of Owensboro, KY on Jeremiah Ezell and his children, was published in the book, The Ezells On The Move, by Tony & Beverly Ezell (Neosha, Mo., 1987; on pages 4 and 5).