

# David Ellis Thomas (1814-1855)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 1995

17 July 1995

Jerry Long  
1701 Alexander Ave.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

Dear Mr. Long,

Thank you for your letter of June 22, and the Cosby and Read obituaries. I appreciate your help, and knowing about the policy of the West Central Kentucky Family Research Association.. I'll be glad to donate a copy of the Arthur & Mary (Greber) Wallace family history when the time comes.

However, this is the most ambitious genealogy project I've undertaken, and it will probably be a few years before it's completed. Other family histories I've compiled have not gone back as many generations, nor had as many lines to research.

The chart I sent you for Arthur & Mary Wallace shows only the first three generations involved; all those lines have at least three more generations to trace. I'm a sixth generation, and the only one in Montana as far as I know. I've been fortunate to find living descendants from four lines so far people who are interested in family history and have supplied information. I get to research in microfilmed records at Salt Lake City, a couple times a year.

Only the early generations of John G. Wallace, William G. Wallace, and David Thomas (m. Nary Ann Wallace) families remained in Kentucky. The others went to Iowa, Texas, Oregon and Washington.

There may be another Owensboro connection; according to an Ohio Co., KY bio sketch about Mary Ann Wallace (m. David Thomas), her daughter Kate married W. H. Owen of "Owensborough, Ky". Kate (Catherine) was on the 1870 census with her mother in Ohio County; married W. H. Owen 30 Nov 1875 in Ohio Co. I haven't worked on their census history, but if there is anything about them in your local records, I would appreciate knowing, and will send you a check for further research immediately. I have books of Ohio County records published by the Cooks.

I requested an obituary for E. Helm Walker from the Louisville Public Library as you suggested, but they were unable to find one.

Thank you for your help. My SASE enclosed.

Sincerely,  
Marian Waters Challender

222 So. 13th Avenue  
Bozeman, NT 59715

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9 August 1995

Marian Waters Challender  
222 So. 13th Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Ms. Challender:

Sorry it has taken awhile to answer your enquiry of 17 July 1995. I wanted to wait until I had an opportunity to visit the Hartford, KY Cemetery so I could check on the Owen family members there.

William Henry & Kate Thomas Owen lived in Owensboro at the time of the 1880 and 1900 censuses (abstracts are enclosed). The latter records that Kate had had three children, all of whom were then single and still at home. They were: George Ellis (b. Sep 1876), Mary A. (b. June 1882) & David W. (b. Jan 1885). The Friday, 30 June 1882 issue of the Owensboro Semi-Weekly Messenger reported that a daughter was born on Tuesday to W. H. Owen - Mary A., thus, was born on 27 June 1882. Sometime between 1907-1909 W. H., Kate and their three children left Owensboro and moved to Chicago, IL.

In the Owensboro Messenger, 28 Nov 1913, it was reported that Kate Thomas Owen had died at her home in Chicago. She was interred at Oakwood Cemetery at Hartford, KY on 28 Nov 1913. I visited the cemetery and found the following monument in the Thomas family plot - "Katie T. Owen 1851-1913". There were no other Owen family members in the plot. I do not believe her husband or her children were buried there - there is no room on either side of her grave that is open. Katie was survived by her husband and their three children. The Owensboro Library has indexed the obituaries in the local newspapers for the years since 1910 and in these W. H. Owen or the three children are not listed.

Of the three children of William H. & Kate Owen only one married here before the family moved away. George Ellis Owen married Arria Griffith Hathaway on 16 Dec 1903 (Daviness Co., KY Marriage Bk 11-p394). In 1908 they divorced (Daviness County, KY Circuit Court Suit #1757). George Ellis Owen about this time left Owensboro but his ex-wife and their only child, Roy Hathaway Owen (born 31 May 1904 in Owensboro), remained in Owensboro. Arria G. Hathaway was born in Owensboro 22 June 1881 to Roy R. Hathaway & Lelia S. Schrader. She

married 2nd Joseph H. McShane and she died in Owensboro on 3 March 1932 and was buried at Elmwood Cemetery (obituary enclosed). Roy Hathaway Owen married twice - 1. Mary H. Rogers, circa 1927, & 2. Jounell (Forrest) Morgan 15 Oct 1949 (Daviness Co. KY Marriage BK 109-p236). Roy H. Owen died on 4 June 1968 at Tucson, AR and was buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro, KY. He had two children, both by his first wife. They were: Dorothy Jean Owen, born 23 July 1928 Daviess Co., KY, married Joseph Earl Masden, 9 Jan 1954 Owensboro, KY (Daviess Co. KY Marriage Bk115-p33), she is currently residing in Ohio Co., KY on Shinkle Chapel Road, phone 502-298-7981; Roy Hathaway Owen, Jr., born 11 Dec 1930, his address is 208 Hopkinsville St., Greenville, KY 42345 (phone 502-338-7093). Last year Roy H. Owen, Jr. visited the Owensboro Library and I helped him look up some info on the Owen side of his family - which he had little knowledge of or contact with.

For my two hours of research time I will request \$10.00 plus \$2.00 for the copies and postage, or a total of \$12.00. Thanks again for your patronage. Good luck in your research.

Yours truly,  
Jerry Long

1701 Alexander Ave.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

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19 Sept 1995

Jerry Long  
1701 Alexander Ave.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

Dear Jerry Long,

Thank you for your letter of August 9 and the Owen family information. I appreciate the good reports that you prepare in response to a request about a family.

I've written to Roy Hathaway Owen, Jr.

I don't know if you are particularly interested in this Thomas family, but will enclose a census report for your information anyway. Most of the family lived in Ohio County on early census, but we haven't been able to determine how many of them stayed.

Do you have a counterpart in Hartford who would check death dates and get copies of obituaries for me? Is there an Ohio County Genealogical Society or Historical Society (although I haven't seen one listed in Everton's book)? I would think that someone in the locality would have further information about some of this Thomas family, particularly since the two brothers Peter and John C. Thomas (sons of Mary Ann Wallace Thomas) conducted a general merchandise store in

Hartford) as recently as May 1920. If nothing else, there would be ads) and probably some kind of writeup when they went out of business.

There is a lot of Ohio County data on microfilm at Salt Lake City, but no obituaries.

You must have received the note I wrote you from the Billings Deaconess Hospital (Billings, NT) in August where I was treated for acute leukemia. I was in the hospital for 33 days, and am now in remission. I've tolerated the chemotherapy very well, and feel good, although my strength isn't as good as it used to be, but that is to come back eventually also. I have three more chemo treatments to go through in October, November, and December (5 days each) and come home after each treatment.

It's good that genealogy isn't strenuous, because I can keep occupied with compiling, sorting, and organizing for several hours at a time.

That's all for now. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,  
Marian Waters Challender

222 So. 13th Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59715

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22 December 1995

Marian W. Challender  
222 So. 13th Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Mrs. Challender:

In your last letter you expressed interest in learning more about the family of David Ellis Thomas and Mary Ann Wallace of Hartford, KY. I have finally been able to spend some time working on their family. At Hartford I did some work at the courthouse and library, and also visited Oakwood Cemetery.

Enclosed is a family group sheet showing what I have found on the family of David E & Mary Ann (Wallace) Thomas. Also included are several articles pertaining to their family. For three hours of research I will request a total of \$15.00, which will include copies and postage. If you would like I can spend a little more time and try to uncover more on the subsequent generation and/or make copies of obituaries on the family from the Hartford newspapers. Bye for now.

Yours truly,  
Jerry Long

1701 Alexander Ave.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

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6 January 1996

Jerry Long  
1701 Alexander Ave.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

Dear Jerry Long,

Thank you for the Thomas family (of Ohio County, KY) material. The only information I had about them is started 1995 was from the Thomas Family sketches in the Kentucky History, which I had found at Salt Lake City. In the meantime I've developed a correspondence with five descendants (including the two you gave names and addresses for), who have provided more information, and with Dorothy Gentry of the Ohio County Historical Society.

I appreciate your report "Thomas Family Lot, Oakwood Cemetery, Hartford, KY", the copies of The Thomas Family (from the Kentucky History), the Thomas Bros business and the John C. Thomas home (Historic Hartford by Dorothy Gentry), and John C. Thomas obituary.

Is it alright to include your cemetery report in the Thomas chapter?

Enclosed is my check for \$15, an SASE, and the updated compilation for Mary Ann Wallace Thomas; lines I'm expecting further information from descendants are indicated.

I would appreciate if you would continue researching the children I've circled (2, 3, 8) who apparently lived in Ohio County - and also look for obituaries for Ebenezer Peter Thomas and his wives, and whatever children remained in Hanford. Compilation for him is also enclosed; I'm expecting further family information from a descendant in Wisconsin, but she doesn't seem to have obituaries.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,  
Marian Waters Challender

222 So. 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59715

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17 April 1996

Marian W. Challender  
222 So. 13th Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Mrs. Challender:

Sorry I have delayed so long in getting this to you. I keep getting further behind all the time.

Enclosed is research requested in your letters of 6 Jan 1996 & 5 Mar 1 996g. I will look into your enquiry that I received today later. Sixteen pages are on the descendants of David Ellis Thomas & Mary Ann Wallace - including copies of 20 obituaries. I hope you can decipher my handwritten family group sheets for the three Thomas brothers. A granddaughter of Ebenezer Peter Thomas (1846-1934) is living in Warren County, KY - Mrs. Carroll M. (Elizabeth Schroeter) Upton, 558 Upton Road, Alvaton, KY 42122 (phone 502-842-1011) - I was told she was interested in family history.

Regarding your letter of 5 March 1996 I checked the Daviess County, KY Deeds and Circuit Court suits for Wallace. In both found records regarding the estate of David Harrison Wallace (1821-1856). None, however, listed the respective residences of each of his heirs (brothers & sisters). Enclosed are five pages from Daviess County Circuit Court suit #350 D. H. Wallace's administrator vs. D. H. Wallace's heirs (filed 11 May 1857). This record states that three of the heirs (Mrs. William O. Smith, William A. Wallace & John N. Wallace) were nonresidents of Kentucky. None of these appear in the indexes to the 1860 or 1870 Kentucky censuses. Arthur W. Wallace in 1857 was living in KY, but the above suit does not state where. In the 1860 Daviess County, KY census the following Wallace is listed (I thought it might be him, the initials are correct, & several of the Wallace s were carpenters):

1860 Daviess County, KY census, p.662:

Wallace, A.	42 m	carpenter	KY
M. E.	33 f		KY
Crutchfield, Delila	52 f		TN

In the 1870 or 1880 Daviess County censuses or the index to the 1870 KY census I could not find Arthur Washington Wallace.

I spent over five hours collecting and compiling the enclosed. The money you sent earlier will be okay to cover this (\$15.00 received 6 Jan 1996 & \$10.00 on 5 March 1996). If it is alright I will request an additional \$9.00 for some of my expenses (the Ohio County Library charges 250 per microfilm copy & the Owensboro library 20 c per copy - total of 18 at 25c, 5 at 20 c, & 25 xerox copies at 10 c per copy). Best wishes. You will be in my prayers.

Yours truly,  
Jerry Long

1701 Alexander Ave.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

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Thomas Family Lot

Oakwood Cemetery, Hartford, KY

Located in the section on the left side and towards the back of the cemetery, along the north side of the driveway. Copied by Jerry Long, Owensboro, KY, 7 August 1995:

Mary Ann Thomas (w/o David Ellis,Sr.)	23 Oct 1816	12 Dec 1893
Mary J. Thomas (w/o J. H. Harper)	27 Jan 1844	17 Aug1896
Katie T. Owen	1851	1913
Esther Woodward Thomas (w/o E. P.)	23 Sep 1856	2 Jul 1907
Juliet T. Pursley	1880	1925
Carrie L. Thomas (w/o E. P.) ("Born in Hancock Co.KY & died in Hartford, KY")	10 Nov1857	18 Jul 1881
Jennie Thomas (d/o E. P. & Esther)	21 Mar1885	22 Aug1886
Thomas child - unreadable	? 6 Apr1899	? 3 Mar 1899
Charlie Lynn Thomas (s/o E .P. & Ester)	29 Jan 1896	24 Nov1905
E. P. Thomas	20 Dec 1846	29 Nov1934
David Ellis Thomas	15 Jan 1854	24 Dec 1908
Mamie Williams Thomas (w/o D. E.) ("Born in Hartford,KY")	28 Jun 1858	17 Feb 1888
Infant s/o D. E. & M. W. Thomas	9 Feb 1881	20 Feb 1881

1840 Ohio County, KY census, town of Hartford, p.141:

David Thomas                      1 male 20-30                      1 female 20-30

1850 Ohio County, KY census, town of Hartford, p.45:

#631	Thomas, David	36	m	saddler, real estate \$1400	VA
	Mary	33	f		KY
	Sarah	9	f		KY
	John	8	m		KY
	Mary	6	f		KY
	Peter	3	m		KY
	Elizabeth	10/12	f		KY

1860 Ohio County, KY census, town of Hartford, p.788:

#1425	Thomas, Mary	42	f	widow	KY
	John	17	m	saddler-apprentice	KY

Mary	16	f	school teacher	KY
Peter	13	m	saddler-apprentice	KY
Fanny	11	f		KY
Catharine	9	f		KY
David E.	6	m		KY

note: James H. & Sarah (Thomas) Martin not listed

1870 Ohio County, KY census, town of Hartford, p.501:

#23	Thomas, Mary A.	45	f		KY
	John C.	28	m	saddler	KY
	Peter E.	23	m	saddler	KY
	Katie	19	f		KY
	David E.	16	m		KY

note: Sarah Thomas Martin, Mary Jane Thomas Harper, & Frances Elizabeth Thomas Johnson not listed

1880 Ohio County, KY census, town of Hartford, p.501:

#4-4	Thomas, Mary A.	63	f	widowed	KY
	John C.	36	m	son - retail, grocer	KY-VA-KY
	David E.	26	m	son - married - retail grocer	KY-VA-KY
	Mamie	21	f	daughter-in-law	KY-MASS-KY
	E. Peter	33	m	son - married - retail grocer	KY-VA-KY
	Carrie	22	f	daughter-in-law	KY-KY-KY
	James P.	3	m	"son of E. Peter"	KY-KY-KY

note: Sarah Thomas Martin, & Frances Elizabeth Thomas Johnson not listed

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**Kentucky: A History of the State** (Ohio County section), J. H. Battle, W. H. Perrin & G. C. Kniffin, eds., F. A. Battey Publishing Co., Louisville & Chicago, 1885, p.1008:

THE THOMAS FAMILY is descended from Christopher J. Thomas, a gentleman of English extraction, who came to this county from Henrico County, Va., in 1828, and brought up a family consisting of four boys and one girl. David E. Thomas was born in Virginia in 1814, where his education was acquired. He assisted his father in opening and improving a farm after coming to Kentucky, and at twenty-one years of age, engaged with his brother in saddlery business in Hartford, and continued the business by himself until his death in 1885. He was married May 12, 1840, to Miss Mary A., daughter of Arthur and Mary (Graver) Wallace, of Ohio County. Mrs. Thomas, with her husband, early united with the Methodist Church, and being left a widow with a family of eight children, her life has been one of great care and labor, and to her kind nature and moral precepts is largely due the prosperity of her children, seven of whom are still living: Sarah A., wife of James H. Martin, of Eatontown, N. J.; John C. ; Mary J., widow of J. H. Harper, now teaching in the public schools of Hartford ; E. Peter; Fannie E., wife of E. W. Johnson, Terre Haute, Ind. ; Kate, wife of W. H. Owen, of Owensborough, Ky., and David E. The eldest son, John C, learned the saddlery trade with his uncle and, in 1853, was given a half interest in the business. Soon after he bought the entire stock, and a year later formed a



partnership with his brother, E. Peter; they were afterward joined by their brother, David E., and have since continued in the business together. The second son, E. Peter, was born December 20, 1846. By great application, perseverance and study, and seven years' attendance at school, he acquired a good practical business education. November 23, 1875, he married Miss Carrie Jarboe, a Catholic lady, who survived but six years; she left two children: James P. and Mary J. His second marriage was October 31, 1883, to Miss Esther Woodward, a member of the Baptist Church. The third son, David E., was born January 15, 1854, learned the saddler's trade with his brothers, and is still associated with them in business He was married, October 31, 1878, to Miss Mamie, daughter of W. H. and Caroline (Barrett) Williams, of Hartford. They have been blessed with two children, one son, Tyler Griffin and one daughter, Mary Caroline. These three brothers comprise the firm of Thomas Bros., which ranks with the best in the county in business prosperity. In 1876 they bought a light stock of second-hand groceries at their present stand and combined these with their saddlery stock with an aggregate value of \$235.35, their first day's receipts were \$6.35.

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Above and other research on the Thomas & Wallace families by Jerry Long was published in the book, Arthur & Mary Wallace And Their Descendants, by Marian Waters Challender (Bozeman, MT, 1996, pages 10, 37-39, 136-144, 568, 571-572, 576, 579-586, 593-595, 600-605, 608- 610-612, 625, 628, 650-652).