

Family of George M. Thomas & Sarah Ann Keown

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, KY, 1995

George M. Thomas was born about 1819. Sources vary on his place of birth. Four records were found that reported he was born in Virginia (1860 & 1870 Ohio County, KY censuses, marriage of his son Dixon in 1898, and the listing for his son, William P., in the 1900 Henderson County, KY census). Three other records gave Kentucky as the place of his nativity and in two others Tennessee was reported. He appears to have moved to Ohio County, KY about 1846-1847. He is first listed in the annual tax lists there in 1847, he would then have been about 27 years old. Since he was not listed in Ohio County in the years immediately following his 21st birthday he must have not then been a resident of the county.

George M. Thomas was not a son of any of the Thomas households listed in the 1840 census of Ohio County, KY. At that time and in the previous 40 years of Ohio County's existence, there had been four different Thomas families residing there:

1. Massey Thomas, a Revolutionary War soldier, was living there when the county was formed in 1799. He was born in Culpepper County, VA on 23 March 1760, married Dicey Tolbert on 3 June 1783, and died in Ohio County on 24 March 1818. He had five children who lived to adulthood: Rhoda (w/o Joseph Gentry), James, Benjamin, John & William. All of Massey Thomas' grandchildren have been identified except for those (if any) of his son, Benjamin, who left Ohio County between 1810-1820.
2. In 1827 Christopher "John" Thomas moved his family to Ohio County from Henrico County, VA, where he was born in the 1780's. He died in Ohio County in 1835 and his wife, Anna Ellis, in May 1846. They had seven children, four attaining adulthood - Peter, David Ellis, Sarah M. & James A.; several descendants of this family became successful and prominent residents of Hartford, Ohio County's county seat.
3. Nathaniel Thomas, born about 1793 in Virginia, and was a resident of Ohio County by 1819. In that year he was married there to Sally Underwood on 5 August 1819, following her death, he married Martha Daniel 18 April 1833 Ohio County, KY. He died in Ohio County during the years of 1850-1858. By his first wife he had three children - Emily C. (w/o Killian Renfrow), Mary Ann (w/o William Leach) and James Mitchell Thomas. Four children were born to Nathaniel and his second wife - Sarah, Coleman, Catherine & George.
4. During the 1840's the family of William Thomas settled in Ohio County. He was born in Maryland in about 1808 and had previously been a resident of the Catholic Rolling Fork settlement in Marion County, KY.

If George M. Thomas was related to any of these families it appears to have been most likely that of Nathaniel Thomas. The two families lived in the same community and Nathaniel had a son named George (born c1845, married Judith E. Miller).

George M. Thomas may have had a sister, Mary Ann Thomas, who like him has no apparent -connections to the above Thomas families of Ohio County. In Ohio County she married on 14 December 1840 William S. Keown, a brother of George M. Thomas' wife. William S. & Mary Ann Keown were listed in the 1850, 1860 & 1870 censuses of Ohio County, they suggest she was born in Kentucky about 1823. On the marriage licenses of some of the children of Mary Ann Thomas Keown it was reported that she was born in Meade County, KY.

George M. Thomas on 29 January 1848 married Sarah Ann Keown in Ohio County, KY. Bond on the marriage was by her brother, Thomas M. Keown. Their marriage is not listed in a book of pre 1880 Ohio County marriages by Michael Cook - the reason being that it does not appear in the master index volume of marriages at the Ohio County Courthouse. There are numerous marriages that do not appear in the bound volumes of marriages from which the master index was compiled (largely pre 1860). From the original loose marriage documents, found in file drawers, this writer has previously compiled a list of about 100 previously un-indexed and unpublished marriages. The marriage of George M. Thomas & Sarah Ann Keown will now be added to the master index.

Sarah Ann Keown, wife of George M. Thomas, was born about 1828 in Warren County, KY, where her parents Nathan Lusk Keown & Nancy Ann Likens had married in 1809, and where they had been listed in the 1810, 1820 & 1830 Federal censuses. She moved to Ohio County with her parents during 1830-1833. In the 1850 Ohio County census George M. & Sarah Thomas were living in the household of her parents; listed immediately after their household was the family of her brother, William S. & Mary Ann (Thomas) Keown. Sarah's father was the son of Thomas Keown & Elizabeth Young, and was born in Abbieville, South Carolina about 1787 and died in Ohio County in 1873. Sarah's mother, Nancy, was the daughter of William & Mary Likens, and was born in Botetourt County, VA about 1790 and died 1860-1870 in Ohio County, KY. (See: Genealogy of the Keown Family, by Larkin C. Keown, 1908 and unpublished volume of papers on the Keown family compiled by Marcus Whitler of Cloverport, KY, copies at Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY).

George M. Thomas in the 1850 census was listed as being a school teacher. The 1860 & 1870 censuses reported his occupation as being that of a farmer. At the time of all three censuses his family was living in the southeastern part of Ohio County, KY, in the area bounded by the communities of Rob Roy, Select and Horton. At Select there is an old Keown family cemetery where two of Sarah Thomas' brothers, Thomas Madison & John Harrison Keown, have – monuments),

George M. Thomas is first shown in the Ohio County tax lists as owning land in 1859, when he was assessed on 22 acres on Muddy Creek. In Ohio County deed book Q (p145) a deed dated 6 October 1857 was recorded by which this land was entered in the name of "Dickson" Thomas, it was transferred by Henry D. McHenry, who had bought it at a court ordered auction on 3 November 1856. It was described as bordering on the property lines of Alexander H. Davis, William H. Sorrells, Mrs. Christena Ferguson & John W. Leach, who appear as neighbors of George M. Thomas in the 1860 census. The Dickson Thomas whose name it was entered in apparently was George M. Thomas' son, Dixon Thomas. Since Dixon H. Thomas was only 7 years old when the deed for the land was recorded in 1857 it is not obvious why it would have been recorded in his name. George M. Thomas is shown as paying the taxes on this property, 22 acres, thru 1871. On 27 December 1871 the same 22 acres was transferred from Dixon H. Thomas to Benjamin F. Jenkins (Ohio County deed book W-p370). The said Jenkins was a Baptist minister, who pastored several nearby churches, including Mount Pleasant & Zion. Rev. Jenkins lived at Rob Roy, near the junction of the Sandefur Crossing Road and the Rosine-Mount Pleasant Road (road is shown on an 1886 plat map of Ohio County).

After moving from the farm in the Rob Roy community George M. Thomas located his family at a site about half way between Horton & Rosine, and between what is now Highway 62 and the Vine Hill Road. Their neighbors in the 1870 Ohio County census suggest he may have already moved to this new home. Listed immediately after the Thomas family was the home of John J. Monroe, who lived a short distance west of Rosine; John J. Monroe is the grandfather of the legendary Bill Monroe, father of Bluegrass Music. Nearby George M. Thomas on 13 January 1872 purchased 125 acres on the Elm Lick Creek (Horton was formerly called Elm Lick), paying Quintus C. Shanks \$250 for it (Ohio County deed book R-p174). The farm bounded on the Hartford-Leitchfield Road (? now the Vine Hill Road) and the property lines of William Wilson, Hoover, Frederick & Henry Schroader. On 25 September 1873 the same property was sold by George M. Thomas to Ashford Woodward for \$257 (Ohio County deed book X-p175). After this date no other deeds were recorded by George M. Thomas. He may have continued to lease and live on the same farm he sold in 1873. The 1871-1875 tax lists show him paying taxes on 128 acres.

Between 1875 & May 1881 George M. Thomas died. In the Ohio County Circuit Court Richard B. Thomson & Elijah Dudley Walker brought suit against the heirs of George M. Thomas, deceased in May 1881 (suit #5485). The suit was over title to a tract of 218 acres, bounded by Mark Kuykendall & William Wilson (the latter had been listed as an adjoining property owner on the 125 acre farm sold by George M. Thomas in 1873). The plaintiffs in their petition claimed that George M. Thomas leased the 218 acres from them and while living there damaged the property by cutting timber for his own benefit. In the suit the heirs of George M. Thomas were listed as Sarah Thomas, his widow, and children, Dixon H., Price & Nancy Thomas. A summons issued during the suit, on 1 September 1881, for the preceding four heirs

was delivered to the sheriff of Daviess County, KY to serve it. This suggests that they were then residents there.

Sarah Keown Thomas, widow of George, had Likens cousins living in Daviess County, KY. In the 1880 Daviess County census, near Curdsville, Dixon H. Thomas, was enumerated in the household of Samuel Likens (age 34). Samuel had moved to Daviess County from Ohio County during the 1850's with his parents, Thomas & Dorothy (Ford) Likens. Thomas was a first cousin of Sarah Keown Thomas, her mother Nancy, being a sister of his father, Mark Likens. No other members of George M. Thomas' family were found in the 1880 censuses of Daviess or Ohio Counties or in the soundex for the 1880 Kentucky census. Possibly the others were missed while moving from one location to another. Sarah Keown Thomas, as suggested by the Ohio County Circuit Court suit referred to before, was in 1881 living in Daviess County, KY. She may have died prior to 1900 - she was not found in the soundex to the 1900 KY census and she was not living with or near any of her 3 children in 1900. Her death may have occurred near Robards, Henderson County, KY, where two of her children had located by 1886. In Ohio & Daviess Counties no wills, administrator bonds or estate papers could be located for either George M. or Sarah Thomas.

Dixon H. Thomas was born in April 1850 in Ohio County, KY. He was first listed in the Ohio County tax lists in 1869, this list and the 1870 & 1871 lists record that he was not yet 21 and was enrolled in the militia. The 1870 tax list shows him with 22 acres on Muddy Creek - this is the same property that was recorded in his name when it was purchased in 1857. The 1859-1869 & 1871 tax lists show his father as being taxed on this land. It was sold by Dixon H. Thomas on 27 December 1871. The same day he paid Alexander H. Davis \$9.00 for 6 acres on Muddy Creek (Ohio County deed book W-p124); no deed was indexed by which Dixon sold this property. On 4 January 1876 he purchased 44 acres on Elm Lick Creek for \$100 from Thomas Jefferson & Angeline Watson (Ohio County deed book Y-p293). Jeff Watson lived along what is now the Vine Hill Road, about 2 miles west of Rosine (he is the 3rd great-grandfather of this writer); in 1898 he married a first cousin of Dixon Thomas, Narcissus F., a daughter of John Harrison Keown. A 1901 deed by Watson describes his property as bordering on the property line of Dixon Thomas.

In the 1880 census Dixon Thomas was enumerated in the household of his second cousin, Samuel Likens, near Curdsville, in Daviess County, KY. By 1898 he was again living in Ohio County (he was not shown in an 1890 tax list there). In Ohio County on 8 November 1898 at the home of Mat Keown he married Amanda Jane Bratcher. Their marriage bond reported that it was his first marriage, was age 48, born & resides Ohio County, farmer, his father was born VA & his mother was born in Warren County, KY (Ohio County marriage book 11-p490). His wife, a daughter of Wesley Hendrix Bratcher & Nancy C. Rains, was born in Ohio County in about 1863. She married Leecrasus Baize on 6 July 1884 in Ohio County; between 1892-1895 they were divorced and she returned to her maiden name.

In the 1900 census of Christian County, KY (p150) Dixon Thomas was listed as a patient at the Western Kentucky Asylum in Hopkinsville. The entry recorded that he had been married two years. His wife, Amanda J. Thomas, was a resident of the Cromwell Precinct in the 1900 Ohio County, KY census (p94) - it reported that she was widowed. She married John Wesley Ezell in Ohio County on 17 August 1902. At the time of the 1910 Ohio County census (p242) she was living near Olaton. Four children had been born to her, three by her Baize marriage and one by Ezell. Dixon H. Thomas was not listed in the soundex of the 1910 or 1920 Kentucky censuses.

Nancy (Nannie) Elizabeth, daughter of George M. Thomas & Sarah Ann Keown, was born on 12 November 1852 in Ohio County, KY. In Henderson County, KY she married Robert Thomas Garthright. Their marriage bond reported that he was born in Virginia and she in Ohio County, KY (Henderson County marriage book 19-p551). They were married by Dr. George L. Compton, who resided at Corydon. Also residing in Henderson County was the family of Nannie's uncle, Mariassa H. Keown. Not long after their marriage R. T. & Nannie located near Robards, where they were enumerated in the 1900 Henderson County census. At the time of the 1910 census they were living in Sebree, Webster County, KY. Nannie died on 7 April 1918. Her husband, a house painter, was born on 8 September c1854 & died 12 August 1912. Four children were born to them: R. C. (5 February 1887 - 7 July 1887), Edward Dixon (16 June 1888 - 21 December 1927), Thomasie Blanche (25 February 1891 - 11 September 1967, married Fred M. Reuter), & Virginia M. (22 June 1894 - 21 November 1895.). All members of the family, except Blanche, were buried in the McMullin Cemetery, just outside of Robards, KY.

William Price, son of George M. Thomas & Sarah Ann Keown, was born 28 December 1857 in Ohio County, KY. On 21 October 1884 Robertson County, TN he was married to Frances (Fannie) N. Adams. She was born in Tennessee in 22 April 1859. They were living in Henderson County, KY when their first child was born in 1885. In the 1900 Henderson County, KY census they were listed near Robards 11 households after his sister, Nannie Garthright. By 1910 they had moved, to Daviess County, KY, where they were enumerated in the 1910 & 1920 censuses. William P. Thomas' occupation in the 1900, 1910 & 1920 censuses was listed as handle maker, tobacco factory laborer, & farmer, respectively. Their home was about 5 miles west of Owensboro, near Stanley. He died there on 30 September 1926 and his wife died in Owensboro on 8 September 1932. They were buried in the Stanley (or Scherer) Cemetery, Stanley, Daviess County, KY.

Six children were born to William Price Thomas & Fannie Adams, four lived to adulthood, viz: Annie Elizabeth (born 20 October 1885), Zelma N. (born 28 January 1888), William Price (born in August 1891) & Walter Howell (born 16 December 1896). Miss Zelma Thomas died of measles at the age of 23 at her parents' home near Stanley on 25 March 1911, she was buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro. Annie Thomas married Howard Webb, they lived in Ohio County, KY for several years before locating in Owensboro. She died there on 12 March 1960; her husband was born 12 July 1882 & died 9 July 1945. They and three of their

four children were buried at Rose Hill Cemetery in Owensboro. Their children were: Laura "Katherine", born 7 August 1903 Ohio County, KY, married William A. Burns, died 16 September 1993 Owensboro; "Frances" Louella, born 7 August 1905 Ohio County, KY, married Joseph C. Burns, died 14 February 1957 Owensboro; William F., born 11 June 1912 Daviess County, KY, married Myril Christine Fulkerson, died 1 May 1955 Owensboro; and "Clara" Irene, born 8 January 1918 Daviess County, KY, married Hubert W. Farmer, living Owensboro.

William Price Thomas, Jr. married Bertha Burns in Owensboro, KY on 12 May 1917. He died near Stanley, Daviess County, KY, as the result of being kicked & dragged by a mule. He was buried at the Stanley Cemetery. His widow is now 97 and resides in Owensboro; a daughter of Silas & Mary E. Burns, she was a native of Hart County, KY. Three children were born to them: Mary Frances (born 15 May 1918, married Chester McKinney), Helen L. (born 31 March 1923, married a Reynolds) & Anna Lee (born 20 December 1925, married a Jeffries). Mary Frances & Helen live with their mother & Anna resides in Rockport, IN.

Walter H. Thomas, son of William Price Thomas & Fannie Adams, married Nola Catherine Young, in Rockport, IN on 19 May 1916. During the 1920's they moved to Chicago, IL, where he died about 1958. His wife, a daughter of Charles Calvin Young & Ella Rice, was born in Daviess County, KY on 3 June 1897 and died in 1984 at Lafayette, IN. Walter & Nola were buried in the Glen Oak Cemetery, at Oak Park, Cook County, IL. They had nine children: William (died infancy), Paul (died Alsip, IL), Walter (lives Hohenwald, TN), Leon (died Chicago, IL), Harold (died Demotte, IN), Donny (died Salt Village, IL), Shirlye (married Thomas Nichols, lives Michawaka, IN), Mary (married Archie McDaniel, lives Behallen, MS), and Jack Edward (married Wilma Trowbridge, lives Lake Village, IN).

Ohio County, KY tax lists:

1840-1846 George M. Thomas not listed
1847 George M. Thomas, 1 horse, total value \$40
1848 George M. Thomas, 1 " , \$50
1849 George Thomas, 2 horses, 2 cattle, total value \$40
1850 George Thomas, 1 horse, total value \$20
1851 George M. Thomas, blank
1852 George M. Thomas, 1 horse, 2 cattle, total value \$50
1853-1856 tax books missing
1857 George M. Thomas, 1 horse, 2 cattle, total value \$75, 1 child 6-18
1858 tax book missing
1859 George Thomas, 22 acres Muddy Creek, 1 horse, 3 cattle, total value \$200, 2 children 6-18
1860 George M. Thomas, 20 acres Muddy Creek, 1 horse, 2 cattle, total value \$200, 2 children 6-18
1861 George M. Thomas, 23 acres Muddy Creek, 1 horse, 2 cattle, total value \$200, 2 children 6-18
1862 tax book missing

1863 George M. Thomas, 22 acres Muddy Creek, 1 horse, 4 cattle,
 1864 George M. Thomas, 32 acres Muddy Creek, 2 horses, 4 battle,
 3 children 6-18
 1865 did not find listed
 1866 G. M. Thomas, 22 acres Muddy Creek, 2 horses, 2 cattle,
 3 children 6-20
 1867 tax book missing
 1868 George M. Thomas, 0 land listed, 2 horses, 3 cattle, total value
 \$50, 3 children 6-20
 1869 George M. Thomas, 22 acres Muddy Creek, 1 horse, 3 cattle, total
 value \$275, 3 children 6-20
 Dixon H. Thomas, 0 males 21, enrolled militia
 1870 George M. Thomas, 0 land listed, 1 horse, 4 cattle, total value
 \$100, 2 children 6-20
 Dixon H. Thomas, 22 acres Muddy Creek, 0 males 21, enrolled
 militia, total value \$100
 1871 George M. Thomas, 22 & 128 acres Muddy Creek, 1 horse, 4 cattle,
 total value \$775
 Dickson H. Thomas, 0 males 21, enrolled militia, 1 horse, total
 value \$75
 1872-1874 tax books missing
 1875 Rosine Precinct:
 George M. Thomas, 128 acres, 1 horse, 3 cattle, 19 hogs, 250
 bushels Of corn, total value \$680, 1 child 6-20

1850 Ohio County, KY Census, District 1:

#225	Keown, Nathan L.	62	m	farmer	S.C.
	Nancy	60	f		VA
	Harris, Harrison	18	m		KY
	Thomas, George	31	m	school teacher	TN
	Ann	22	f		KY
	Dixon	4 months	m		KY
	Hunter, James	2 months	m		KY
	Rogers, Milton	40	m		KY.
	Frances	35	f		KY
	Luther	13	m		KY

1860 Ohio County,, KY Census, Cromwell District:

#748	Thomas, George	38	m	farmer	VA
	Sarah A.	31	f		KY
	Darcus	10	f		KY
	Nancy E.	7	f		KY
	William P.	2	m		KY

1870 Ohio County, KY Census, Caney Precinct, p355 [Rosine area]:

#187	Thomas, George M.	53	m		VA
	Sarah A.	42	f		KY
	Dixon M.	20	m		KY
	Nancy E.	17	f		KY
	William P.	12	m		KY

1880 Daviess County, KY Census, Curdsville Precinct:

#366 In household of Samuel Liken, age 34:
 Thomas, Dixon 30 m servant KY-KY-KY

1900 Henderson County, KY Census, Robards Precinct, pp126 & 127:

#43-44	Garthright, Robert T.	Head	Sep 1852(48) m.	15yrs.	VA-VA-VA	housepainter
	Nannie E.	wife	Oct 1852(48) m.	4ch.2living	KY-KY-KY	(rents house)
	Eddie	son	Jun 1887(12) s.		KY-VA-KY	
	Thomasia B.	dau.	Feb 1891(9) s.		KY-VA-KY	
#54-55	Thomas, William P.	Head	Dec 1857(42) m.	15yrs.	KY-VA-KY	handle maker
	Frances N.	wife	Apr 1859(41) m.	6ch.4living	TN-TN-TN	(rents house)
	Annie L.	dau.	Oct 1885(14) s.		KY-KY-TN	
	Zelma N.	dau.	Jan 1888(12) s.		KY-KY-TN	
	William P.	son	Aug 1891(8) s.		KY-KY-TN	
	Walter H.	son	Dec 1896(3) s.		KY-KY-TN	

1900 Christian County, KY Census., city of Hopkinsville, p150:

"Western Kentucky Asylum for Insane":
 Thomas, Dixon patient Apr 1852(48) m. 2yrs. KY-unknown

1900 Ohio County, KY Census, Crowell Precinct, p94:

#175-175	Thomas, Amanda J.	Head	Jun 1866(33) w.	3children	KY-KY-KY	washing
	Baize, John W.	son	Feb 1886(14) s.		KY-KY-KY	(rents house)
	Cathy	dau.	Sep 1888(11) s.		KY-KY-KY	
	Pearlee E.	dau.	Jan 1892(8) s.		KY-KY-KY	

1910. Webster County, KY Census, town of Sebree, p72:

#43-43	Garthright, R. T.	Head	55 m.	24 years	VA-VA-VA	house painter
	Nannie	wife	56 m.	4 children-2 living	KY-VA-KY	(rents house)
	Eddie	son	21 s.		KY-VA-KY	
	Blanche	dau.	19 s.		KY-VA-KY	

1910 Daviess County., KY census, Lowertown Precinct, Fifth Street Road, p6:

#129-129	Thomas, Price	Head	52 ml	25 yrs.	KY-KY-KY	tobacco fac.lab.
	Fanny	wife	51 ml	6child.4living	TN-TN-TN	(rents house)
	Zelna	dau.	22 s		KY-KY-TN	

Price son	18	s	KY-KY-TN
Walter son	13	s	KY-KY-TN

1920 Daviess County, KY census, Lowertown Precinct, River Road, p1:

#18-18 Thomas, W. P.	Head	60 md.	farmer	KY-TN-KY rents
Frances	wife	58 md.		TN-TN-TN
Walter	boarder	23 md.		KY-KY-TN.
Nola	boarder	21 md.		KY-KY-KY
James	boarder	2 months		KY-KY-KY

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16 September 1994

Imogene Graves
3025 Chimney Hill
Waco, TX 76708

Dear Mrs. Graves:

Sorry it has taken so long to return your favor and get this data to you. I was thrilled with what you sent on my Taylor cousins there in Waco. I was very surprised.

The reason I delayed so long was I wanted to find proof of your great-grandmother, Sarah Ann Thomas' identity. Sometime ago I had developed a theory but could not prove it until two weeks ago when I found her marriage to George M. Thomas. It had been in Ohio County all along! We had not been able to locate it earlier because it had been unpublished and unindexed.

When you visited the Owensboro Library I had thought that some of the names of your Thomas family sounded familiar but could not then recall the connection. It later dawned on me that they and my third-great-grandparents, Jeff & Angeline Watson, had been close neighbors and lived on adjoining farms near Rosine, Chic County, KY. They had been friends and there were several family connections. Jeff Watson's second wife, Narcissus. F. Keown, was a first cousin to your grandmother, Nannie Garthright. Your great uncle, Dixon Thomas, and my great-great-grandmother, Thenie Ann Watson, were close friends, and a child was born to them in 1877 but died a few weeks later. Dixon Thomas' later married another Ohio County girl, Amanda Jane Bratcher, who was related to me several ways.

You have eight surviving 2nd cousins on the Thomas side! Three of them and a widow of one of your mother's first cousins live here in Owensboro. Your great-uncle, William Price Thomas (1857-1926) later lived and died here in Daviess County. He had three children who lived to marry and have families. I have talked to children of all three. Some of these knew that their grandfather had previously lived in Henderson County, KY but none knew of his Ohio County, KY roots or the names of his parents or any of his siblings.

The first I contacted was (on July 30) Clara Webb Farmer, 2205 Bluff Ave., Owensboro (684-9332), born 1918 she is the last of 4 children of Annie Thomas Webb (1885-1960), She has been ill and we were able to talk only briefly. I talked to her nephew, Bernard Burns, 3313 Grist Ct., Owensboro (684-1274), a son of her sister, Katherine Webb Burns (1903-1993). On August 1 I interviewed Helen Thomas Reynolds, born 1923, she lives with her older sister, Mary Frances McKinney and her 97 year old mother, Bertha Burns Thomas Knott, at 128 W. 19th St., Owensboro (685-1877). Her mother is no longer able to tell us anything. She told me of a Burns-Thomas family reunion that was scheduled for August 14 at Legion Park here in Owensboro. I attended, most there were of the Burns family, I met three of your 2nd cousins, and also several of my relatives. Helen, Mary Frances & their mother were there. I met Jack Thomas, RR1, Box 190, Lake Village, IN 46349 (219-992-3329) at the reunion. Born 1931 he is the youngest of 9 children of Walter Thomas (a cousin to your mother) & Nola Young, a 2nd cousin to my grandmother, Anna Mae Young Long). While there I also interviewed Allen K. Young, another 2nd cousin of my grandmother - he is not a Thomas descendant; the Thomas, Young & Burns families had all been neighbors & friends in the Stanley neighborhood of Daviess County.

An article on my findings on the Thomas family are enclosed. I have also included a handwritten family group sheet on your grandparents, Robert T. & Nannie (Thomas) Garthright and of my Waco cousins, Peter G. & Eva (Carter) Taylor - if you can make any additions (or corrections) to these I would greatly appreciate it. Would you please check for the obituaries of Roy M. Taylor (died 24 April 1957) and Robert Harold Taylor (died 6 March 1963)? I would like to have copies if possible. And if it is not too much to ask could you compare the names of their survivors to the current Waco phone book or city directory to see if any may still be living there in Waco?

Again thank you for all the great items you sent. Bye for now.

Yours truly,
Jerry Long

1701 Alexander Ave.
Owensboro, KY 42303

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24 March 1995

Imogene Graves 3025
Chimney Hill
Waco, TX 76708

Dear Mrs. Graves:

Enclosed is a copy of the listing for your parents, Fred M. & Blanche Reuter, in the 1922-1923 Owensboro City Directory. For 1919-1921 we have no editions and in the 1918 directory they were not listed. Your mother last appears in the 1950 volume. Subsequent to your father's death

(24 February 1949) I checked the "Birdies' Breezy Bits" columns all the way through the end of July 1949. I did not find the item on your dad in the "BBB" columns of this five month period. Could it have been published prior to his death?

No death notice for either of your grandparents, Robert T. & Nannie Garthright, was found in the Owensboro Messenger newspaper. I rechecked the Register of Kentucky Deaths for them. I went thru all the C's & C's, thinking the last name may have been misspelled. I could not, however, locate them in it. There appears to be three possibilities for why they were not found therein: 1. Their name was grossly misspelled. 2. They died here in Kentucky, but no death certificate was ever recorded for them. In the early years this was occasionally the case. Sometimes a doctor was never present or the attendant, who was aware of the requirement to record the death, did not want to bother with it. And 3. The death occurred outside of Kentucky. I would bet that #2 is likely the case here. It is highly probable that they died in Webster County, KY. They were enumerated there in the 1910 Federal census two years before Robert T. Garthright's death and subsequent to their deaths members of the family continued to reside in Webster County. Later this year I will be in Henderson and Evansville and while there I will check their newspapers to see if your grandparents had a death notice in them.

Recently on a trip to Owensboro's Elmwood Cemetery I ran across the monument for your mother's first cousin, Zelma N. Thomas ("d/o W. P. & N.F."), born 25 January 1888 & died 25 March 1911. It is located near the northwest corner of section B, 20 feet or so from the drive.

I checked for the death of your great-uncle, Dixon Thomas, in the Register of Kentucky Deaths (1911-1969) and his name did not appear. He was also not listed in the deaths published in the Owensboro Messenger after 1910. At the Owensboro library I am currently working on indexing the decade of 1900-1909 Owensboro Messenger editions and I have just completed thru September 1902. If I run across it in the future I will let you know. The soundex for the 1910 and 1920 Federal censuses of Kentucky I checked all the Thomases for Dixon H. but did not find him. He appears to have either died prior to 1910 or moved out of Kentucky. I will check the Evansville, IN death and obituary records for him later.

Thank you for all the great items you have sent on the Taylor family! If you ever have occasion to revisit the cemetery where Peter G. & Eva Taylor were buried could I ask you to check for another family member. I recently learned that their nephew, Herman Taylor (born 1880's) also went to live at Waco, Texas. Please do not go to any extra trouble or detail. I would be satisfied with just finding his death and possible an obituary if he died at Waco. I will be trying to put together some pages on your Keown and Likens ancestors to give you on your visit here later this year. Bye for now and good luck in your research.

Yours truly,
Jerry Long

1701 Alexander Ave.
Owensboro, KY 42303