

THE THOMAS FAMILY
OF
GEORGIA, LOUISIANA, AND TEXAS¹

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JOHN R.¹ THOMAS was born about 1797 in Georgia;² died between the 1860 and 1870 censuses.³

John married 8 January 1823, Hancock County, Georgia; REBECCA BRANTLY.⁴ She was born about 1803 in Georgia;⁵ died sometime after 25 June 1880, at which time she was living with her son Benjamin Thomas.⁶

In 1830, John R. was enumerated in the federal census in Troup County, Georgia with two males under 5 (William B. and Benjamin F.), one male 30-40 (John), two females 5-10 (unknown), and one female 20-30 (Rebecca).⁷

In 1840 a John R. Thomas and family were enumerated in the federal census in Heard County, Georgia. Heard County borders Troup County. If this is the John of Troup County then there are a few female additions to the family who are not known. The household included two males 10-15 (William and Benjamin), one male 30-40 (John), three females under 5 (Reasa, Dorotha, and Tabitha), 3 females 5-10

¹ Researched by Marcia Wyyett.

² 1850 federal census, John R. Thomas household, Georgia, Troup Co., 800 District, p. 107, #702-129; 1830 federal census, J.R. Thomas household, Georgia, Troup Co., Capt. Watts District, p. 50; 1840 federal census, J.R. Thomas household, Georgia, Heard Co., District 939, p. 306.

³ 1860 federal census, J.R. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, 3 Ward, Homer, p. 695/131, #868-868; 1870 federal census, Rebecca Thomas household, Louisiana Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, Homer, p. 34, #245-245.

⁴ Marriage record, John R. Thomas and Miss Rebecca Brantley, 8 January 1823, Ga., Hancock Co. Marriage Book 1 (1808-1879) no page number listed, FHL 222074.

⁵ 1850 federal census, John R. Thomas household, Georgia, Troup Co., 800 District, p. 107, #702-129; 1860 federal census, J.R. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, 3 Ward, Homer, p. 695/131, #868-868.

⁶ 1880 federal census, Ben F. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, e.d. 11, p. 45B, #350-357.

⁷ 1830 federal census, John R. Thomas household, Georgia, Troup Co., Capt. Watts District, p. 50. John R. Thomas might have obtained land in Troupe County in the 1827 Georgia land lottery. A search of the *Reprint of the Official Register of Land Lottery of Georgia, 1827*, finds no John Thomas with the middle initial R. There was a John G. Thomas, a veteran (1827 lottery gave special consideration to veterans), who at the time of the lottery was living in Hancock Co., Ga., where John and Rebecca married in 1823. Was this John G. Thomas any relation to John R. Thomas and did John inherit land in Troupe Co., or did he possibly buy land from John G. Thomas? Also in the register was a James Brantly, a veteran living in Hancock Co. Might he be any relation to Rebecca, and did John R. and Rebecca receive land from him?

(Mary P., Rebecca, and unknown), two females 10–15 (unknown), one female 15–20 (unknown), and one female 30–40 (Rebecca).⁸

In 1850, John and Rebecca were enumerated in the federal census in Troup County, Georgia. He was fifty-three, born in Georgia. She was forty-seven, born in Georgia. John was a farmer owning \$2,000 in real estate. Their household included the following, all born in Georgia, Wm. B. (twenty-four), Benj. F. (twenty-two), Mary P. (seventeen), Rebecca (sixteen), Reasa (fourteen), Dorotha D. (twelve), Tabitha (ten), Frances P. (nine), Arthur (seven), and Zeforah (five).⁹

In 1850 and 1851, John's 228½ acres of land in Troup County, Georgia, were rated second quality oak and hickory upland.¹⁰ In June 1850, John was assessed a tax of \$3.78, and had five mills on his land, six slaves, and one sulky or buggy.¹¹ John's tax assessment increased to \$4.41, with five mills in June 1851. He still owned the same amount of land, and one sulky or buggy, but he now owned seven slaves.¹²

John was named to the Troup County Superior Court grand jury for the May term 1854.¹³

On 31 March 1857, John R. Thomas sold 228 acres of land in Troup County, Georgia, for \$2,850. According to the deed, when this land was originally purchased, it was then in Carroll County, Georgia.¹⁴

Then on 17 January 1859, John purchased from James McCarthy Jr., Emily McCarthy, and Matilda McCarthy 306 24/100 acres in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana. On that date, John paid \$1,000 cash with the balance of \$1,000 to be paid in two installments of \$500 each with 8 percent interest. The first installment was due 1 January 1860, and the second was due a year later on 1 January 1861.¹⁵

In 1860, John and Rebecca were enumerated in the federal census in the #3rd Ward of Homer in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana. He was a farmer, fifty-nine, born in Georgia. She was fifty-seven, born in Georgia. Others in the household, all born in Georgia, were D. (female, seventeen), S. (female, fifteen), R. Shugan (female, twenty-six), D.T. Schugan (female, four), and A.M. Schugan (male, two).¹⁶

In 1860 John valued his farm at \$1,500, with \$100 in farming implements and machinery. His livestock included a horse, four asses or mules, nine milch cows that produced one hundred pounds of butter, three other cows, and fifteen swine. Ninety acres of his farm were improved land on which he grew 300 bushels of Indian corn, about twenty-six bales of ginned cotton, each bale weighing 400 pounds, and a few bushels of peas and beans, and forty-six pounds of honey.¹⁷ To help with the production of the farm,

⁸ 1840 federal census household, J.R. Thomas household, Georgia, Heard Co., District 939, p. 306.

⁹ 1850 federal census, John R. Thomas household, George, Troup Co., District 800, p. 107, #702–129.

¹⁰ John R. Thomas, 1850 Tax Digest, 800th District, Troup Co., Ga., FHL 159184; John R. Thomas, 1851 Tax Digest, 800th District, Troup Co., Ga., FHL 159184.

¹¹ John R. Thomas, 1850 Tax Digest, 800th District, Troup Co., Ga., FHL 159184.

¹² John R. Thomas, 1851 Tax Digest, 800th District, Troup Co., Ga., FHL 159184.

¹³ Troup Co., Ga., Superior Court Minutes, Vol. 6, 1854–1858, FHL 295935.

¹⁴ Deed of sale, John R. Thomas to Lewis H. ?Heaver?, 31 March 1857 (recorded 20 April 1857), Troup Co., Ga., Deed Book N:600–601, FHL 295904. No John R. Thomas bought land in Carroll Co., but a John Thomas bought land there in 1827. That John Thomas lived in Upson Co., Ga., and the land purchased was lot #107, 6th district and #130, 10th district. It is uncertain if this is the same land, because the lot and district numbers changed when the county boundary did. "Our" John, however, used a middle initial, even in his marriage record, so the John Thomas who purchased land in Carroll could be a different John Thomas than the one from Hancock Co., Ga.

¹⁵ Deed of sale James McCarty Jr., Emily McCarty widow of Tandy Pate and Matilda McCarty wife of David Turner to John R. Thomas, 17 January 1859 (recorded 10 February 1859) Louisiana, Claiborne Parish Deed Book E:408–409, FHL 265976.

¹⁶ 1860 federal census, J.R. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, Homer, p. 695/131, #868–868.

¹⁷ 1860 federal census, agriculture schedule, J.R. Thomas farm, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, pp. 31–32, line 13, FHL 1549556.

John owned six male slaves, ranging in age from six to sixty-seven and two female slaves ages twenty-four and forty-six.¹⁸

On 30 November 1861, John was a deacon of the Missionary Baptist Church known as Union Church.¹⁹

In order to finance the Civil War, Congress levied a direct tax to be assessed on the value of land and/or lots with their improvements and dwelling houses. The tax was levied on those who owned or were caretakers of land. Individuals had twenty days to respond to the tax notice; if the tax was not paid within eighty days, then the tax collector could seize property or sell goods and chattels to pay the tax. Direct tax assessments for Louisiana were made in 1864 and collected in 1865. J. R. Thomas owed \$2.45 in direct tax.²⁰

In 1870, Rebecca was enumerated in the federal census in the 3rd Ward of Homer. Rebecca, head of household, was sixty, born in Georgia. The only other person living with her was a sixteen-year-old named Mary Hubbell (no occupation was listed for Mary). Rebecca owned real estate, but she was not listed as a farmer, just keeping house. She had a personal estate valued at \$500. (In the category labeled "month married within the year" was a W, which may have indicated she had been widowed within the year.)²¹ Living next door was son William.²² Rebecca still owned about three hundred acres, with seventy-five acres of improved land, in August 1870. The farm still maintained the same value of \$1,500 as it had in 1860. Rebecca, like John, had one horse, but only one mule or ass, two milch cows that produced forty pounds of butter, and four other cows. She still had fifteen swine and had added nine sheep and two working oxen. Rebecca did not plant spring or winter wheat but produced 150 bushels of Indian corn and fifteen bushels of sweet potatoes, and only two bales of ginned cotton.

It appears Rebecca's farm production was valued at \$510, but she paid wages of \$100. In order for Rebecca's farm to be so productive, she would have needed assistance. Son William's farm next door to Rebecca's had only fifteen acres of improved land, but produced nearly the same items as Rebecca. His production was valued at \$500. Did William and Rebecca share in the profits of her farm?²³

In 1880, Rebecca was enumerated in the federal census with her son, Ben F. and his family, in Ward #3 in Claiborne Parish. She was seventy-seven, born in Georgia, of parents born in Georgia.²⁴

Children of John and Rebecca (Brantly) Thomas:

- i. WILLIAM B. THOMAS, b. 3 May 1826, Georgia; d. 29 April 1884;²⁵ m. 22 October 1856, Troup County, Georgia, RACHEL E. CARTER.²⁶ She was b. 23 December 1835; d. 27 November 1924.

¹⁸ 1860 federal census, slave schedule, J.R. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, 3rd Ward, p. 14/53, lines 25-33, FHL 803428.

¹⁹ Deed of sale, J.R. Thomas, et al., to Martha A. McCarty, 30 November 1861 (recorded 24 December 1862), Claiborne Parish, La., Deed Book G:192, FHL 0265978.

²⁰ *The Civil War Tax in Louisiana: Based on Direct Tax Assessments of Louisiana* (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1975), 49.

²¹ 1870 federal census, Rebecca Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, Homer, p. 34, #245-245

²² 1870 federal census, Rebecca Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, Homer, p. 34, #245-245; 1870 federal census, William Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, Homer, p. 34, #246-246.

²³ 1870 federal census, agriculture schedule, Rebecca Thomas and William B. Thomas farms, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, Homer, pp. 5 and 6, lines 10 and 11, FHL 1549557.

²⁴ 1880 federal census, Ben F. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, 3rd Ward, e.d. 11, p. 46, #350-357.

Both William and Rachel were buried in Lebanon Cemetery, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana.²⁷ William was assessed a poll tax of twenty-five cents in Troup County, Georgia, for the years 1850-1851.²⁸ William's farm in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, in 1880 had twenty apple trees, which produced 100 bushels.²⁹ In 1870, William and Rebecca [listed as W. and R.E.] were enumerated in the federal census in Homer, Claiborne Parish. He was forty-five, born in Georgia. She was thirty-six, born in Georgia. He was a farmer, who owned \$400 in real estate. Their household included S.R. (male, twelve, born Georgia), Overton (nine, born Louisiana), Lawrence (four, born Louisiana), and Ida (one, born Louisiana).³⁰

- ii. BENJAMIN F. THOMAS, b. 6 September 1828, Georgia; m. MARTHA CAROLINE — .
- iii. MARY P. THOMAS, b. 1833, Georgia.³¹
- iv. REBECCA THOMAS, b. 1834, Georgia.³²
- v. REASA THOMAS, b. 1836, Georgia.³³
- vi. DOROTHA D. THOMAS, b. 1838, Georgia.³⁴
- vii. TABITHA THOMAS, b. 1840, Georgia.³⁵
- viii. FRANCIS P. THOMAS, b. 1841, Georgia.³⁶
- ix. ARTHUR THOMAS, b. 1843, Georgia.³⁷
- x. ZEFORAH THOMAS, b. 1845, Georgia.³⁸

BENJAMIN F.² THOMAS (John R.¹) was born 6 September 1828 in Georgia;³⁹ died 24 October 1900 at his home near Blackburn.⁴⁰

²⁵ John Purnell Fraizer, comp., *Cemetery Inscriptions of Claiborne Parish, Louisiana* (Shreveport, La.: J & W. Enterprises, 1985-), 1:134. 1850 federal census, John R. Thomas household, Georgia, Troup Co., 800 District, p. 107, #702-129; 1860 federal census, J.R. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, 3 Ward, Homer, p. 695/131, #868-868.

²⁶ Merle Massengale Bruce, comp., *Early Marriages Troup County, Georgia, 1828-1900* (LaGrange, Ga.: M.M. Bruce, 1982), 319.

²⁷ Fraizer, comp., *Cemetery Inscriptions of Claiborne Parish, Louisiana*, 1:134.

²⁸ John R. Thomas, 1851 Tax Digest, 800th District, Troup Co., Ga., FHL 159184.

²⁹ 1880 federal census, agriculture schedule, William B. Thomas farm, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, e.d. 11, p. 25 line 6, FHL 1549559.

³⁰ 1870 federal census, W. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, 3rd Ward, Homer, p. 34, #246-246. William and or his family were also enumerated in the 1880 federal census, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, e.d. 11, p. 46B, #349-356; and the 1900 federal, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, e.d. 17, p. 19B, #327-327.

³¹ 1850 federal census, John R. Thomas household, Georgia, Troup Co., 800 District, p. 107, #702-129.

³² 1850 federal census, John R. Thomas household, Georgia, Troup Co., 800 District, p. 107, #702-129.

³³ 1850 federal census, John R. Thomas household, Georgia, Troup Co., 800 District, p. 107, #702-129.

³⁴ 1850 federal census, John R. Thomas household, Georgia, Troup Co., 800 District, p. 107, #702-129.

³⁵ 1850 federal census, John R. Thomas household, Georgia, Troup Co., 800 District, p. 107, #702-129.

³⁶ 1850 federal census, John R. Thomas household, Georgia, Troup Co., 800 District, p. 107, #702-129.

³⁷ 1850 federal census, John R. Thomas household, Georgia, Troup Co., 800 District, p. 107, #702-129.

³⁸ 1850 federal census, John R. Thomas household, Georgia, Troup Co., 800 District, p. 107, #702-129.

³⁹ 1850 federal census, John R. Thomas household, Georgia, Troup Co., 800 District, p. 107, #702-129; Fraizer, comp., *Cemetery Inscriptions of Claiborne Parish, Louisiana*, 2:119, 141; 1860 federal census, B.F. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Co., 3 Ward, Homer, p. 695/131, #869-869.

⁴⁰ Fraizer, comp., *Cemetery Inscriptions of Claiborne Parish, Louisiana*, 2:119, 141; death notice, Benjamin F. Thomas, *The Guardian Journal* (Claiborne Parish, La.), 7 November 1900, 3:2.

He married between 1850 and 1852, when a daughter was born in Georgia, **MARTHA CAROLINE** — .⁴¹ She was born 6 June 1833 in Georgia; died 27 March 1900.⁴²

Benjamin may have married a second time. According to cemetery transcriptions, Martha died 27 March 1900. The 1900 census entry taken April 27th listed Ben F. Thomas, born September 1828 in Georgia, with wife, Ellen, born December 1834 in Louisiana, parents born in Tennessee, but then recorded the couple as married for 49 years and that Ellen had no children. Benjamin and Martha would have been married about 49 nine years, but Martha had at least nine children.⁴³ There was an Ellen Thomas in 1910 listed as a widow, born in Louisiana.⁴⁴

Benjamin was assessed a twenty-five cent poll tax for the years 1850 and 1851 while living in Troup County, Georgia.⁴⁵ He moved his family from Troup County to Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, about 1858.⁴⁶ On 15 October 1859, Benjamin purchased 136 81/100 acres of land in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, from C.T. and Sarah Cauthon for \$180.05.⁴⁷ Francis P. Boulware and his wife, Mary E. Fraser, sold forty acres in Claiborne Parish to Benjamin in November 1859 for \$160, which was to be paid by 1 April 1861.⁴⁸ In August 1860, Benjamin's farm was valued at \$600.⁴⁹ Also in August, Benjamin purchased 36 81/100 acres from Joseph H. Murrell for forty dollars.⁵⁰

In 1860, Benjamin and Martha [listed as B.F. and M.C.] were enumerated in the federal census in the 3rd Ward of Homer, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana. He was thirty-one, born in Georgia. She was twenty-six, born in Georgia. Their household included S.C. (female, eight), R.B. (male, six), W.J. (male, four) all born in Georgia, and ?G.? C (female, one) born in Louisiana.⁵¹

In 1864, B.F. Thomas was assessed a direct tax of 75 cents payable in 1865.⁵² Benjamin was the last and highest bidder on forty acres of land about eleven miles west of the town of Homer, which belonged to the estate of F.P. Baulware/Boulware.⁵³

⁴¹ 1860 federal census, J.R. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, 3 Ward, Homer, p. 695/131, #868-868.

⁴² 1860 federal census, B.F. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Co., 3 Ward, Homer, p. 695/131, #869-869; Fraizer, comp., *Cemetery Inscriptions of Claiborne Parish, Louisiana*, 2:119, 141.

⁴³ 1900 federal census, Ben F. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, 3rd Ward, e.d. 17, p. 19B, #329-329.

⁴⁴ 1910 federal census, Ellen Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Haynesville, e.d. 18, p. 13A, #100-100.

⁴⁵ Benjamin F. Thomas, 1850 Tax Digest, 800th District, Troup Co., Ga., FHL 159184; Benjamin F. Thomas, 1851 Tax Digest, 800th District, Troup Co., Ga., FHL 159184.

⁴⁶ Loyalty oath, Ben F. Thomas, 8 October 1868, Claiborne Parish, La., Oath Book 2:81, Clerk of the 2nd Judicial District Court, P.O. Box 330, Homer, LA 71040.

⁴⁷ Deed of sale, C.T. and Sarah Cauthon to Benjamin F. Thomas, 15 October 1859 (recorded 19 November 1859), Claiborne Parish, La., Deed Book E:653, FHL 265976.

⁴⁸ Deed of sale, Francis P. Boulware to Benjamin F. Thomas, 16 November 1859 (recorded 25 November 1859), Claiborne Parish, La., Deed Book F:189-190, FHL 265977.

⁴⁹ 1860 federal census, B.F. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, 3rd Ward, Homer, p. 695/131, #869-869.

⁵⁰ Deed of sale, Joseph H. Murrell to Benjamin F. Thomas, 8 August 1860 (recorded 4 June 1870), Claiborne Parish, La., Deed Book J:122, FHL 265980.

⁵¹ 1860 federal census, B.F. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, 3rd Ward Homer, p. 695/131, #869-869.

⁵² *The Civil War Tax In Louisiana: Based on Direct Tax Assessments of Louisiana*, 49.

⁵³ Deed of sale, Claiborne Parish Sheriff W.F. Aycock to Benjamin F. Thomas, 26 January 1867 (recorded 24 March 1870), Claiborne Parish, La., Deed Book J:48, FHL 265980.

Louisiana had seceded from the Union on 26 January 1861 and six weeks later joined the Confederacy. Louisiana was readmitted to the Union in 1868. On 8 October 1868 B.F. Thomas signed a Loyalty oath⁵⁴

Benjamin bought 160 acres in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, in September 1871 from T.J. Taylor for \$1,000. He paid for the land with two promissory notes of \$500. The first payment was due January 1872 and the second in January 1873. There was 8 percent interest due on the notes.⁵⁵ Benjamin then purchased three acres that bordered his sheep pen from Lucille E. Eason, wife of L.M. Grisby Sr., in January 1873.⁵⁶

In 1880, Benjamin, Martha, and family were enumerated in the federal census in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana. He was fifty-one, born in Georgia of parents born in Georgia. She was forty-six, born in Georgia of parents born in Georgia. Their children, all born in Louisiana but the oldest, who was born in Georgia, were William A. (son, twenty-four, farm laborer), Etheldred (son, eighteen), Ben Edgar (son, thirteen, laborers on the farm), John Jonny (son, ten, laborers on farm), Toombs (son, eight). Benjamin's mother, Rebecca was also a resident in the household. She was seventy-seven, born in Georgia of parents born in Georgia. There was also a servant in the household.⁵⁷

By 25 June 1880, Benjamin's farm consisted of 316 acres with a value of \$1,000. Seventy-five acres of the farm was improved land, where in 1879, he planted twenty-seven acres of Indian corn and eighteen acres of oats. He did not plant rice, wheat, tobacco, or potatoes. His seventeen acres of cotton netted ten bales. The remaining 241 acres of the farm was woodland and forest, but in 1879, it contained no orchards, and Benjamin did not sell any cords of wood. Benjamin's farm production was valued at \$600, which included what was sold, used, and still on hand. Benjamin had livestock valued at \$54, and included three horses; seven head of cattle, including three milch cows and two calves that were born in 1879; nine sheep, with five new lambs; twenty-one pigs; and fourteen poultry. He slaughtered one cow and one sheep and had lost two cows. In 1879 his poultry produced seventy-five dozen eggs, and the cows sixty pounds of butter, and for 1880, eleven fleeces were shorn. He paid \$164 for farm labor during the year 1879.⁵⁸

In October 1895, R.B. Thomas, W.A. Thomas, T.D. Thomas, E.D. Thomas, J.Y. Thomas, B.E. Thomas, Mrs. G.E. Kirkpatrick and her husband, J.H.C. Kirkpatrick, and Mrs. E.N. Lee and her husband, W.H. Lee, sold land of about 243 acres to their father, B.F. Thomas, for the transfer of other property.⁵⁹ Also on the same day, the above listed individuals each transferred an undivided one-ninth interest in the said land, valued at \$92.50, and sold thirty-seven acres of land for the "use and benefit of the minors heirs of Mrs. S.C. King deceased."⁶⁰

⁵⁴ Loyalty oath, Ben F. Thomas, 8 October 1868, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, Oath Book 2:81.

⁵⁵ Deed of sale, T.J. Taylor to Benjamin F. Thomas, 9 September 1871 (recorded 13 September 1871), Claiborne Parish, La., Deed Book J:499, FHL 265980.

⁵⁶ Deed of sale, Lucille E. Eason, wife of L.M. Grisby Sr. to Benjamin F. Thomas, 11 January 1873 (recorded 22 January 1873), Claiborne Parish, La., Deed Book K:45-46, FHL 265981.

⁵⁷ 1880 federal census, Ben F. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, 3rd Ward, e.d. 11, p. 46, #350-357.

⁵⁸ 1880 federal census, agriculture schedule, Ben F. Thomas farm, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Dist. #11, e.d. 11, p. 25A, line 7, FHL 1549559.

⁵⁹ Deed of sale, R.B. Thomas, W.A. Thomas, T.D. Thomas, E.D. Thomas, J.Y. Thomas, B.E. Thomas, Mrs. G.E. Kirkpatrick and her husband J.H.C. Kirkpatrick, and Mrs. E.N. Lee and her husband W.H. Lee to Benjamin F. Thomas, 14 October 1895 (recorded 15 October 1895), Claiborne Parish, La., Deed Book R:54, FHL 265988.

⁶⁰ Deed of sale, R.B. Thomas, W.A. Thomas, T.D. Thomas, E.D. Thomas, J.Y. Thomas, B.E. Thomas, Mrs. G.E. Kirkpatrick and her husband J.H.C. Kirkpatrick, and Mrs. E.N. Lee and her husband W.H. Lee to Benjamin F. Thomas, 14 October 1895 (recorded 15 October 1895), Claiborne Parish, La., Deed Book R:54, FHL 265988.

In 1900, Ben was enumerated in the federal census in Claiborne Parish. He was seventy-nine, born September 1828 in Georgia, of parents born in Georgia. His wife, Ellen, was sixty-five, born December 1834 in Louisiana of parents born in Tennessee. She had no children. The couple was married forty-nine years [sic]. Ben was a land owner.⁶¹

Two of Benjamin and Martha's sons married sisters: Benjamin married Lillian Mabry, and T. Dawson married Carry Mabry.⁶² Lillian and Carry's father, R.M. Mabry, was a witness on several land deeds involving the Thomas family.⁶³

Children of Benjamin and Martha Caroline (—) Thomas:

- i. S.C. THOMAS, b. 1852, Georgia.⁶⁴
- ii. R.B. THOMAS, b. 1854, Georgia.⁶⁵ An R.B. Thomas was in the 1880 census index, married with children, and living in Webster Parish, Louisiana. An R.B. Thomas was enumerated in the 1880 federal census in Webster County, Louisiana. He was twenty-five born in Georgia of parents born in Georgia. His wife, Amanda, was twenty-two, born in Louisiana of parents born in Georgia. Also in the household were, all born in Louisiana, Katie (daughter, four), Sally (daughter, two), and Jordan Brown (laborer, eighteen).⁶⁶
- iii. WILLIAM A. THOMAS, b. 14 September 1857, Troup County, Georgia;⁶⁷ d. 21 November 1944 of a heart attack and coronary thrombosis, Haynesville, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana;⁶⁸ m. about 1893, MAMIE — .⁶⁹ William and his wife were buried in Whitehall Cemetery, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana.⁷⁰ In 1900, William and Mamie were enumerated in the federal census in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana. He was forty-two, born September 1857 in Georgia of parents born in Georgia. She was twenty-seven, born August 1872 in Louisiana of parents born in Alabama. They had been married seven years and she was the mother of three children, all of whom were living. Their children, all born in Louisiana, were M.C. (daughter, six, born January 1894), Merrell (son, four,

⁶¹ 1900 federal census, Ben F. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, 3rd Ward, e.d. 17, p. 19B, #329-329. Ben F. and Ellen could not have been married 49 years since his wife was listed as Martha in 1880. A 49-year marriage surely referred to Ben and Martha, who died in March 1900. Ben and Ellen had not been married that long when the 1900 census was taken. The 1900 census was to reflect a household on 1 June 1900.

⁶² Farley, *Index: Claiborne Parish, Louisiana Marriage Records, 1849-1910*, 145-146.

⁶³ Claiborne Parish, La., Deed Book R:54-55, FHL 265988.

⁶⁴ 1860 federal census, B.F. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, 3 Ward, Homer, p. 695/131, #869-869.

⁶⁵ 1860 federal census, B.F. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, 3 Ward, Homer, p. 695/131, #869-869.

⁶⁶ 1880 federal census, R.B. Thomas household, Louisiana, Webster Co., 1st Ward, e.d. 49, p. 39/222C, #340-340.

⁶⁷ 1880 federal census, Ben F. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, e.d. 11, p. 46B, #350-357; death certificate, William A. [name unreadable] Thomas, 21 November 1944, file no. 51-71242, Louisiana Secretary of State, Vital Records, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125.

⁶⁸ Death certificate, William A. [name unreadable] Thomas, 21 November 1944, file no. 51-71242, Louisiana Secretary of State, Vital Records.

⁶⁹ 1900 federal census, William Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, e.d. 17, 19B, p. 19A, #324-324.

⁷⁰ Death certificate for William A. [name unreadable] Thomas, 21 November 1944, file no. 51-71242, Louisiana Secretary of State, Vital Records; Fraizer, comp. *Cemetery Inscriptions of Claiborne Parish, Louisiana*, 2:119, 141.

- born Nov. 1895), and Lester (son, one, born October 1898). William was a farmer and owned his farm.⁷¹
- iv. GEORGIA E. THOMAS, b. 1859, Louisiana;⁷² m. 15 January 1879, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, J.H.C. KIRKPATRICK.⁷³ He was b. 1854, Louisiana.⁷⁴ Child: *William Gipson Kirkpatrick*, b. March 1880, Louisiana.⁷⁵ In 1880, Georgia and J.H.C. were enumerated in the federal census in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana. She was twenty-one, born in Louisiana of parents born in Georgia. He was twenty-six, born in Louisiana with his father born in Tennessee and his mother born in Georgia. Their household included, both born in Louisiana, William Gipson (three months, born March 1880), and James Oliver (black, twenty-three) who farmed on shares.⁷⁶
- v. ETHELDRED/E.D. THOMAS, b. August 1861, Louisiana;⁷⁷ m. 12 December 1888, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, MOLLIE KNIGHT.⁷⁸ In 1900, E.D. and Mollie were enumerated in the federal census in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana. He was thirty-eight, born August 1861 in Louisiana of parents born in Georgia. She was thirty, born February 1870 in Georgia of parents born in Georgia. They had been married eleven years. She was the mother of six children, all of whom were living. Children, all born in Louisiana, were Levie J. (daughter, nine, born July 1890), Nina (daughter, seven, born June 1892), Coda (son, five, born December 1894), Treba (daughter, three, born September 1896), Carla (daughter, two, born May 1898), and Baby (daughter, two months, born March 1900).⁷⁹
- vi. ELMINA NORA THOMAS, b. about 1865, Louisiana;⁸⁰ m. 12 January 1885, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, W.H. LEE.⁸¹
- vii. BENJAMIN EDGAR THOMAS, b. 20 April 1867, Louisiana; m. LILLIAN LETETIA MABRY.
- viii. JOHN Y. THOMAS, b. September 1869, Louisiana; m. about 1894, LOUISIANA – .⁸² In 1900, John Y. and Louisiana were living in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana near his brother, E.D. and his family. John was thirty, born September 1869 in Louisiana of parents born in Georgia. She was twenty-five, born August 1876 in Louisiana of parents born in Georgia. They had been married six years. She

⁷¹ 1900 federal census, William Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, e.d. 17, p. 19B, #328-328.

⁷² 1860 federal census, B.F. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, 3 Ward, Homer, p. 695/131, #869-869.

⁷³ Farley, *Index: Claiborne Parish Louisiana Marriage Records, 1849-1910*, 87.

⁷⁴ 1880 federal census, J.H.C. Kirkpatrick household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, e.d. 11, p. 46B, #347-354.

⁷⁵ 1880 federal census, J.H.C. Kirkpatrick household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, e.d. 11, p. 46B, #347-354.

⁷⁶ 1880 federal census, J.H.C. Kirkpatrick, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, e.d. 11, p. 46, #347-354.

⁷⁷ 1900 federal census, E.D. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Police Jury Ward 3, e.d. 17, p. 12A/84, #202-202.

⁷⁸ Farley, *Index: Claiborne Parish, Louisiana Marriage Records, 1849-1910*, 145.

⁷⁹ 1900 federal census, John Y. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Police Jury Ward 3, e.d. 17, p. 12A/84, #202-202.

⁸⁰ 1880 federal census, Ben F. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, e.d. 11, p. 46B, #350-357.

⁸¹ Farley, *Index: Claiborne Parish Louisiana Marriage Records, 1849-1910*, 90.

⁸² 1900 federal census, John Y. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Police Jury Ward 3, e.d. 17, p. 12A/84, #195-195.

was the mother of two children, one of whom was living. Also in the household was their daughter, Lizzie (one, born January 1899, Louisiana).⁸³

- ix. T. DAWSON THOMAS, b. March 1873, Louisiana;⁸⁴ m. 22 November 1896, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, CARRY MABRY.⁸⁵ She was b. September 1875, Mississippi.⁸⁶ In 1900, Dawson and Carrie were enumerated in the federal census in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana. He was twenty-seven, born March 1873 in Louisiana of parents born in Georgia. She was twenty-four, born September 1875 in Mississippi, with her father born in Louisiana and her mother born in Mississippi. They had been married three years, and she was the mother of one child. Also in their household was their daughter Winnie J. (one, born June 1898 in Louisiana), and a servant.⁸⁷

BENJAMIN EDGAR³ THOMAS (*Benjamin F.², John R.¹*) was born 20 April 1867 in Louisiana, probably Claiborne Parish as his family was there in 1860 and in 1868;⁸⁸ died of arteriosclerotic heart disease due to anemia, 14 August 1955 at his home at 508 First Street, Woodsboro, Refugio County, Texas.⁸⁹

Benjamin married 29 November 1893, Homer, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, **LILLIAN LETITIA MABRY**,⁹⁰ the oldest daughter of Roland Mabry and Lydia Hanna. Lillian was born on 3 March 1874, Pickens, Holmes County, Mississippi.⁹¹ Nearly six months after celebrating her 100th birthday, Lillian died of cardiac arrest on 26 August 1974 at Refugio Manor in Refugio, Refugio County, Texas, where she had been a resident for eight years. Before then her residence was in Woodsboro.⁹²

On 6 December 1899, Benjamin purchased from J.C. Baird 80 acres in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana. Payment for this land was to be made in the form of nine bales of class middlina lint cotton,

⁸³ 1900 federal census, John Y. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Policy Jury Ward 3, e.d. 17, p. 12A/84, #195-195.

⁸⁴ 1880 federal census, Ben F. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, e.d. 11, p. 46B, #350-357; 1900 federal census, Dawson Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, e.d. 17, p. 19A, #324-324.

⁸⁵ Farley, *Index: Claiborne Parish Louisiana Marriage Records, 1849-1910*, 146.

⁸⁶ 1900 federal census, Dawson Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, e.d. 17, p. 19A, #324-324; 1880 federal census, R.M. Mabry household, Mississippi, Madison Co., (Beat #5), Twp. 12, Range 4, e.d. 46, p. 24, #182-182.

⁸⁷ 1900 federal census, Dawson Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, e.d. 17, p. 19A, #324-324. Dawson and Carrie and their family were enumerated in the 1920 federal census, Texas, Refugio County, Pct. #2, e.d. 145, p. 3A, #43-44.

⁸⁸ Death certificate, "Benjamin" Edgar Thomas, 14 August 1955, file no. 41254, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, P.O. Box 12040, Austin, TX 78711-2040; 1880 federal census, Ben F. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, e.d. 11, p. 46B, #350-357; 1860 federal census, B.F. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, 3 Ward, Homer, p. 695/131, #869-869; loyalty oath, Ben F. Thomas, 8 October 1868, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, Oath Book 2:81.

⁸⁹ Death certificate, "Benjamin" Edgar Thomas, 14 August 1955, file no. 41254, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

⁹⁰ Marriage certificate, B.E. Thomas and Lillian Mabry, 29 November 1893, Claiborne Parish, La., Marriage Records Book 6:480, FHL 265993.

⁹¹ 1880 federal census, R.M. Mabry household, Mississippi, Madison Co., (Beat #5) Twp. 12, Range 4, e.d. 46, p. 24, #182-182; 1900 federal census, B.E. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward #3, e.d. 17, p. 2A, #23-23; death certificate, Lillian Letetia Mabry, 26 August 1974, file no. 101263, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, P.O. Box 12040, Austin, TX 78711-2040.

⁹² Death certificate, Lillian Letetia Mabry, 26 August 1974, file no. 101263, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

weighing 500 pounds each, and to be paid over a three-year period. The first payment of three bales was due 1 November 1900, then three more bales were due on 1 November 1901, and the final three bales due 1 November 1902. To secure payment, a special mortgage was retained on the land.⁹³ Benjamin sold this eighty acres to Robert N. Lee in December 1900 for \$100 and taxes paid for the year 1900.⁹⁴

In 1900, B.E. and Lillian were enumerated in the federal census in the 3rd Ward of Claiborne Parish, Louisiana. He was thirty-three, born April 1867 in Louisiana of parents born in Alabama. She was twenty-six, born March 1874 in Mississippi of parents born in Mississippi. Lillian was the mother of three children, three living. They had been married six years. Benjamin was a farmer and their farm was mortgaged. Their children, all born in Louisiana, were Wilmer G. (daughter, five, born October 1894), Mary (son [sic], four, born April 1896), and Edgar C. (son, one, born April 1899).⁹⁵

Ben and Lillian sold two tracts of land in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, totaling eighty-seven acres, lying east of Caney Creek and south of the Minden and Haynesville roads to Willie M. Smith (female). The payment for the land was \$762 in cash and four promissory notes. The first note for \$148.50 was due 26 November 1908, the second for \$137.90 due 26 November 1909, third for \$137.30 due 26 November 1910, and the fourth for \$117.70 due 26 November 1911.⁹⁶

In about 1908 the family moved to Texas, first settling in the town of Alice in Jim Wells County; then within the year, they moved to Woodsboro, Refugio County, where they remained. They chartered a boxcar to bring their household goods and animals.⁹⁷

In 1910, Ben, Lillian, and their children were enumerated in the federal census in Refugio County, Texas. Ben was forty-four, born in Louisiana of parents born in Georgia. Lillian was thirty-six, born in Mississippi of parents born in Mississippi. She was the mother of six children, all of whom were living. The family lived on a farm, which was mortgaged. Children, born in Louisiana, were Wilna (daughter, fifteen), Mabry (son, fourteen, works on farm), Edgar (son, eleven, works on farm), Theo (daughter, six), Bargill (son, six), and Nita (daughter, four).⁹⁸

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South was organized in Woodsboro in August 1910. At that time Rev. S.H. Zook admitted eight charter members, and B.E. and Lillian Thomas were among these. B.E. was elected president. This church was the first Protestant church built in Woodsboro.⁹⁹

In September 1918, when son Edgar, who was living in Woodsboro, registered for the World War I draft, he listed his nearest relative as B.E. Thomas of R-1, Mahl, Nacogdoches County, Texas.¹⁰⁰

Ben and Lillian were renting a farm in May 1930 in Refugio County, with children Anita, Houston, and Bernard still at home. Ben was farming, and twenty-three-year old Houston was working for an oil company.¹⁰¹

⁹³ Deed of sale, J.C. Baird to B.E. Thomas, 6 December 1899 (recorded 6 December 1899), Claiborne Parish, La., Deed Book S:422, FHL 0265989.

⁹⁴ Deed of sale, Ben E. Thomas to Robert N. Lee, 14 December 1900 (recorded 14 December 1900), Claiborne Parish, La., Clerk of Courts, Homer, LA 71040.

⁹⁵ 1900 federal census, B.D. Thomas household, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish, Ward 3, e.d. 17, p. 2A, #23-23.

⁹⁶ Deed of sale, B. E. Thomas to Willie M. Smith, 26 November 1907 (recorded 24 December 1907), Claiborne Parish, La., Clerk of Courts, Homer, LA 71040.

⁹⁷ "Mrs. Thomas responds with appreciation for services," unidentified clipping.

⁹⁸ 1910 federal census, Ben Thomas household, Texas, Refugio Co., Pct. #2, e.d. 148, p. 12B, #238-239.

⁹⁹ Refugio County History Book Committee, *The History of Refugio County, Texas*, (Dallas: Curtis Media, 1985), 194.

¹⁰⁰ World War I Draft Registration, Edgar Claud [sic] Thomas, 12 September 1918, Refugio Co., Tex., FHL 1983581.

¹⁰¹ 1930 federal census, Ben Thomas household, Texas, Refugio Co., Pct. #2, e.d. 196-4, p. 5B, #84-94.

In 1930, Ben and Lillian were enumerated in the federal census in Refugio County. Ben was sixty-two, born in Louisiana of parents born in Georgia. Lillian was fifty-seven, born in Mississippi of parents born in Mississippi. They were renting a farm, where Ben did general farming. Family members included daughter, Anita (twenty-three, born Louisiana), son, Houston (nineteen, born Texas, employed at an oil company), and son Bernard (sixteen, born Texas).¹⁰²

Lillian adhered to the Methodist faith all of her life. She taught Sunday School in the junior department at church.¹⁰³ Lillian was honored for her many years of Christian service and also as the only living charter member by Methodist Episcopal Church South at a dedication ceremony on 28 June 1959.¹⁰⁴ Lillian was an active member of the Woodsboro Parent Teacher Association and for many years, was active in civic organizations.¹⁰⁵

Benjamin and Lillian were both buried in LaRosa Cemetery, Woodsboro, Refugio County, Texas.¹⁰⁶

Children of Benjamin and Lillian (Mabry) Thomas:

- i. WILNA GLOVER THOMAS, b. 20 October 1894, Louisiana;¹⁰⁷ d. 18 October 1986, Refugio County, Texas;¹⁰⁸ m. about 1913, probably in Refugio County, Texas, CHARLIE TUTTLE.¹⁰⁹
- ii. JACKSON "MABRY" THOMAS, b. 23 April 1896, Blackburn, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana;¹¹⁰ d. 21 December 1965, Refugio County, Texas;¹¹¹ m. November 1915, VIVA O. BORDEN.
- iii. EDGAR CLAUDE THOMAS, b. 12 April 1899, Homer, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana; m. LACOLIAN EASTHAM.
- iv. THEO GLADYS THOMAS, b. 22 February 1902, Louisiana;¹¹² d. 9 March 1983, Refugio County, Texas;¹¹³ m. CURTIS BARTLETT.¹¹⁴
- v. PHILIP "CARGILL" THOMAS, b. 26 October 1903, Louisiana;¹¹⁵ d. 24 August 1996, Harris County, Texas;¹¹⁶ m. JIMMIE WILLIAMS.¹¹⁷

¹⁰² 1930 federal census, Ben Thomas household, Texas, Refugio Co., Pct. #2, e.d. 196-4, p. 5B, #84-94.

¹⁰³ "Mrs. Thomas responds with appreciation for services," unidentified clipping.

¹⁰⁴ Refugio County History Book Committee, *The History of Refugio County, Texas*, 195.

¹⁰⁵ "Mrs. Thomas responds with appreciation for services," unidentified clipping.

¹⁰⁶ Death certificate, "Benjamin" Edgar Thomas, 14 August 1855, file no. 41254, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics; death certificate, Lillian Letetia Mabry, 26 August 1874, file no. 101263, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

¹⁰⁷ Two handwritten pages listing the family of B.E. and Lillian Thomas, no author or date; Wilna Tuttle, SSAN 467-74-3129, Social Security Death Index.

¹⁰⁸ Wilna Tuttle, SSAN 467-74-3129, Social Security Death Index; Texas Deaths, 1964-98, Ancestry.com, Texas Department of Health.

¹⁰⁹ Obituary, Lillian Thomas, unidentified clipping; handwritten paper titled "Thomas," which lists the children and grandchildren of Ben E. Thomas and Lillian (Mabry) Thomas.

¹¹⁰ Two handwritten pages listing the family of B.E. and Lillian Thomas, no author or date; Jackson Thomas, SSAN 464-50-9955, Social Security Death Index; Texas Deaths, 1964-98, Ancestry.com, Texas Department of Health; World War I Draft Registration, Jackson Mabry Thomas, 5 June 1917, Refugio Co., Tex., FHL 1983581.

¹¹¹ Jackson Thomas, SSAN 464-50-9955, Social Security Death Index; Texas Deaths, 1964-98, Ancestry.com, Texas Department of Health.

¹¹² Two handwritten pages listing the family of B.E. and Lillian Thomas, no author or date.

¹¹³ Theo Bartlett, SSAN 435-07-0205, Social Security Death Index; Texas Deaths, 1964-98, Ancestry.com, Texas Department of Health.

¹¹⁴ Handwritten paper titled "Thomas," which lists the children and grandchildren of Ben E. Thomas and Lillian (Mabry) Thomas; obituary, Lillian Thomas, unidentified clipping.

- vi. NITA THOMAS, b. 10 October 1905, Louisiana;¹¹⁸ m. LEWIS BRYAN.
- vii. Dr. JAMES HOUSTON THOMAS, b. 1 June 1910, Texas; d. 21 October 1976, Jim Wells County, Texas;¹¹⁹ m. BELL — ¹²⁰
- viii. BERNARD FRANKLIN THOMAS, b. 30 November 1913, Texas;¹²¹ d. 30 September 1997, Hamilton County, Texas;¹²² m. EVA FRANCES RENFROE.

¹¹⁵ Two handwritten pages listing the family of B.E. and Lillian Thomas, no author or date; Phillip C. Thomas, SSAN 453-03-1686, Social Security Death Index.

¹¹⁶ Phillip C. Thomas, SSAN 453-03-1686, Social Security Death Index; Texas Deaths, 1964-98, Ancestry.com, Texas Department of Health.

¹¹⁷ Handwritten paper titled "Thomas," which lists the children and grandchildren of Ben E. Thomas and Lillian (Mabry) Thomas.

¹¹⁸ Two handwritten pages listing the family of B.E. and Lillian Thomas, no author or date.

¹¹⁹ James Thomas, SSAN 455-76-8839, Social Security Death Index; Texas Deaths, 1964-98, Ancestry.com, Texas Department of Health.

¹²⁰ Handwritten paper titled "Thomas," which lists the children and grandchildren of Ben E. Thomas and Lillian (Mabry) Thomas.

¹²¹ Two handwritten pages listing the family of B.E. and Lillian Thomas, no author or date; B.F. Thomas, SSAN 453-03-1268, Social Security Death Index.

¹²² B.F. Thomas, SSAN 453-03-1268, Social Security Death Index; Texas Deaths, 1964-98, Ancestry.com, Texas Department of Health.