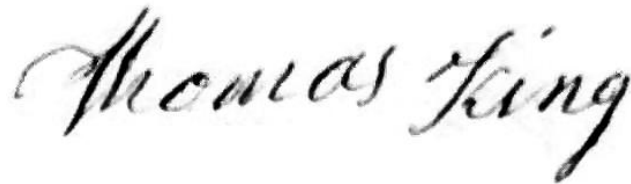


Thomas King **1768-1840**



Thomas King was born October 1768¹ on the waters of Morgan and Bolings Creek in Orange County in colonial North Carolina (NC). He was the youngest son born into the large family of John and Hannah King,² who had migrated from Virginia (VA) to the Carolinas circa (ca) 1753.³ The local area where the King family lived was just northwest of current day Chapel Hill, NC and was settled by many families including Davis, Baxter, Lloyd, Stroud, Morgan, Morris and Blackwood who had also migrated out of VA.

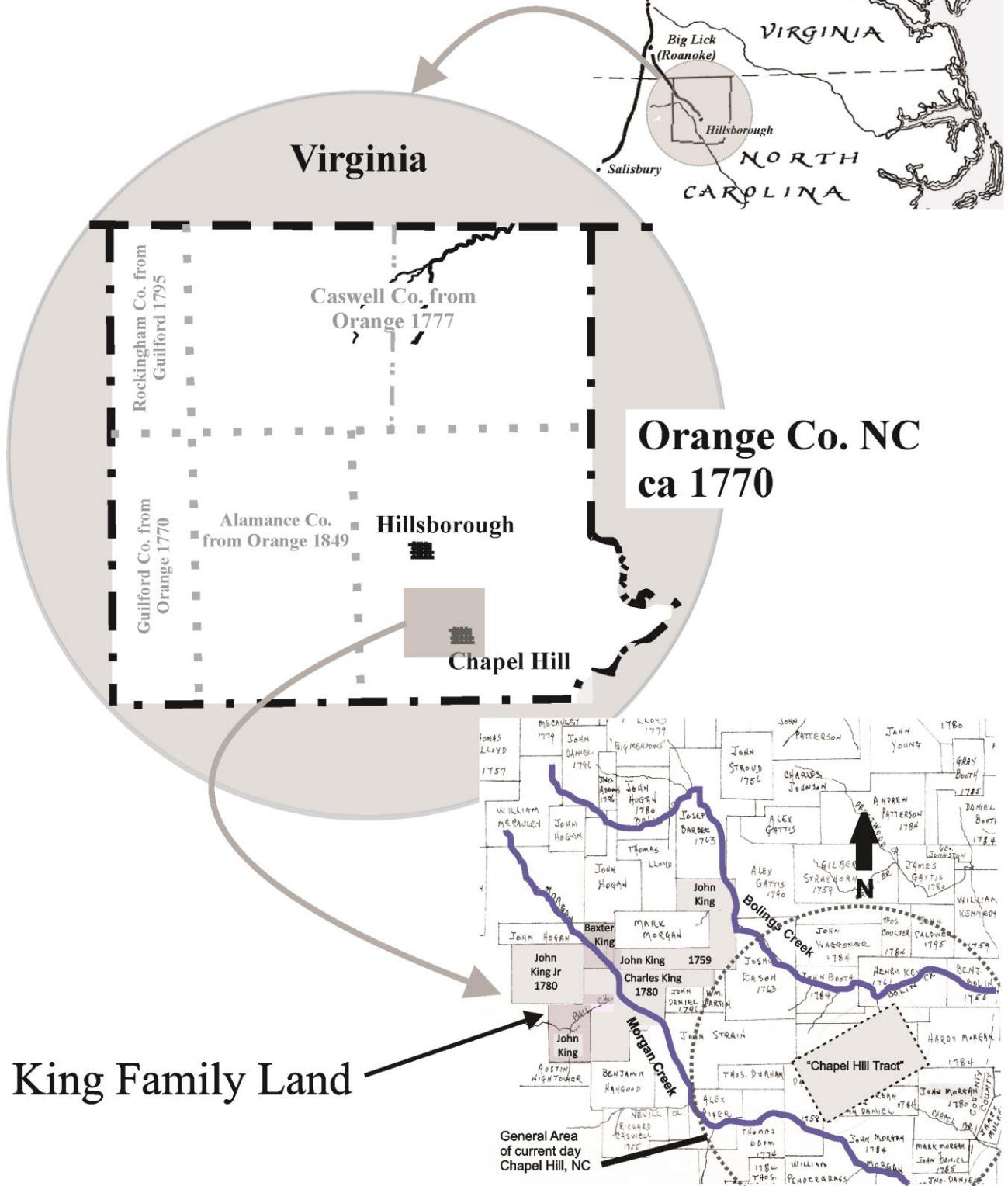
Thomas was roughly 20 years younger than his oldest siblings and by the time of he was coming of age his oldest brothers and sisters were marrying and starting their families. He was also a young boy who witnessed America's struggle in its war of Independence from Great Britain. While too young to be an active participant in the fighting, his father and several of his brothers were involved. Thomas however, was indelibly imprinted by the events of those turbulent years and retained lasting memories of that struggle. One such remembrance he documented was the engagement at Kirk's Farm which took place on September 12, 1781 when Thomas was almost 13 years old. This skirmish was initiated when a large group of Loyalists (British) rode to attack Hillsborough⁴ and was met by a Patriot force on the New Hope River located on Kirk's Farm.⁵ In Thomas King's own words (1832) he stated that he had...

*...a perfect & distinct recollection of the battle at Kirks Plantation near Hillsboro, at the time spoke of by the applicant, who was then in service in the "Whig" or American side in Captain Abraham Allen's company – he knows that the applicant George Wagner [sic] was wounded at that battle. The Lieutenant was mortally wounded & died shortly afterwards. The Captain was severely wounded. The Captain & first Lieutenant on the Tories side, were both killed in that battle. This Deponent was well acquainted with the officers & many of the men in both sides. The Company muster ground was in his father's land.*⁶

Death of a Father and Starting a Family

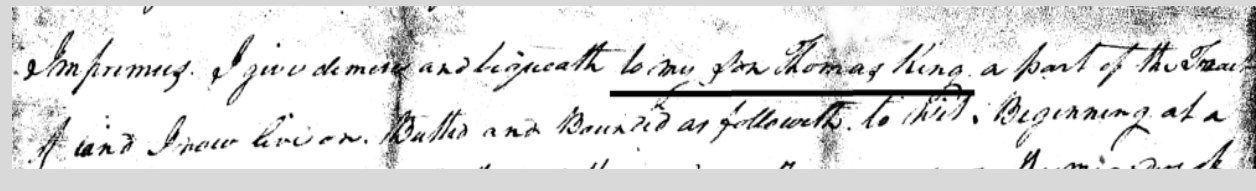
On July 22, 1782 prior to the end of the Colonial struggle for independence, John King, Thomas' father, penned his Last Will and Testament (LWT).⁷ In this document he bequeaths gifts of land and money to son Thomas and land only to his son William. Gifts of money were also bequeathed to Thomas's sisters, Anne [Anny], Elizabeth, Obedience, Hannah and Rebecca who were all under the age of eighteen (18) at the time. The remainder of the estate, comprised of land and a number of slaves, was to be held by wife Hannah and son (executor) William for the support of the of the younger children until they reached full age or married.

Orange Co., NC Property



King Family Land

Thomas King's Gift of Land from his Father



John King had older sons and daughters not mentioned in his LWT who had claim to the residue of the estate. In order to settle the process quickly and efficiently, all of the heirs (all of John King's children and wife Hannah) entered into an Agreement dated September 1, 1783⁸ which allowed for distribution of shares prior to the minors coming of age. This agreement is very important as it documents all of John and Hannah King's children.

A few years prior to John King's death and subsequent probate actions, the family of John Strother and his wife Jane (Fussell) migrated from VA to Bute Co., NC circa 1765. In 1776⁹ they migrated to Orange County and settled about 5 miles west of the Kings on Cane Creek. The Strother family can also be found enumerated on the 1779 and 1790 Orange County tax lists.

While there is no record of the exact date, Thomas King married Elizabeth Strother, the daughter of John Strother and his wife Jane ca 1788.¹⁰ It is assumed that the couple lived and started their family on the 200 acres north of Morgan Creek that Thomas inherited. Shortly following their marriage, a son Charles (ca 1790), named after Thomas' brother, was born.

Striking Out on His Own

In the early 1790's Thomas King owned property, but he also had twelve (12) older siblings all living in the same Orange County neighborhood. Many of these brothers and sisters were land-holders and well established in the community. One can easily imagine how a younger child in a large family might wish to 'make it' on his own.

At the same time very fertile lands to the south in Georgia (GA) were opening for settlement. These lands, west of Augusta, GA and originally Oconee Creek Indian territory, were experiencing increasing European American settlement. Even though the Creeks eventually moved west of the Oconee River, there was constant apprehension of Indian forays for a time.

Under this backdrop on January 28, 1794, Thomas King sold his Orange County property to his brother Baxter King...

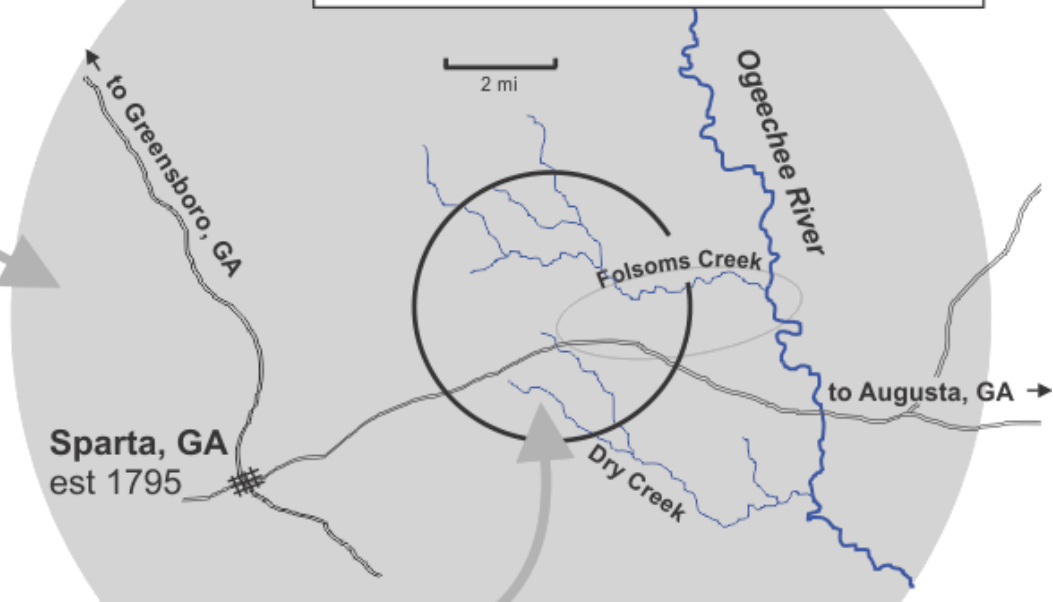
*...by estimation 136 acres ...it being a tract of Land devised to the said Thomas King by his father John King in his last Will and Testament*¹¹

...packed up his family and began the migration to Hancock Co., GA. They followed father-in-law John Strother, his grown sons,¹² Mark Stroud¹³ and other neighboring Stroud family members who had migrated into Hancock County a few years before.¹⁴

These families settled on the waters of Folsoms (Fulsome) Creek just west of the Ogeechee River in Hancock County which had been formed in 1793. The Oconee River formed the county's western boundary and the Ogeechee was on the east. It was a large county and contained many varieties of soil. There



The Road to and from
Hancock County, Georgia
1794-1804



General Area of Settlement
of Thomas King, the extended Strother
and Stroud families in Hancock County, Georgia
circa 1794

were the rich red hills, fertile valleys along the rivers and creeks, areas heavily timbered with oaks and hickories, and wide stretches of gray post-oak land and pine-barrens. Tobacco was the staple crop.

The King family probably arrived in Georgia in the spring of 1794 and began settling land. It is assumed that Thomas King and his family raised tobacco, corn and kept small herds of cattle, sheep and hogs as was the custom of the day. A subsistence garden would have been essential also.

George Strother	Hancock	100
Thomas King	do	100

**Thomas King
1796 Hancock Co., GA Tax List**

Thomas King was enumerated in Capt. Daniel Bankston’s Militia District, along with his extended Strother and Stroud family, on the 1796 Hancock Co. tax rolls with 100 acres and one slave.¹⁵ During the stay in Hancock County, the King family continued to grow with the births of sons William (ca 1796),¹⁶ Jesse (ca 1798)¹⁷ and Davis (1800).¹⁸

Family Tragedies in Hancock County, Georgia

In spite of new land on a new frontier and the birth of several children, tragedies visited the Thomas King family a few years after their arrival in Georgia. In early 1796, Elizabeth Strother King’s father, John Strother, died intestate. The loss of the Strother family patriarch, who perhaps was the driving force for the migration to Hancock County, undoubtedly produced unsettled times within the entire extended family.

On June 11, 1796, Thomas King and his brother-in-law, John Strother Jr., posted a £1000 security bond to facilitate the administration¹⁹ of the estate of John Strother, deceased.²⁰ Elizabeth King’s mother, Jane, and her brother Richard Strother were appointed co-administrators of the estate.

1801	Thomas Shivers receipt for	22 = 7 1/2
Sept 17	John Strother's do for	187 = 00
	George Strother's do for	176 = 50
	John Strother do for	176 = 50
	Thomas King - do for	176 = 50
	Jane Strother's Receipt for	176 00
	Patty Stroud's ditto for	163 00
	Saron Strother's ditto for	176 50
	Joel Moody's ditto for	176 50
1801	July 8 th paid David Strother of receipt	10314-17
1812	Jan 16 " Richard Strother " "	2. 176-50
1813	Apr 9 " Patty Stroud " "	3. 14-50
		505-17

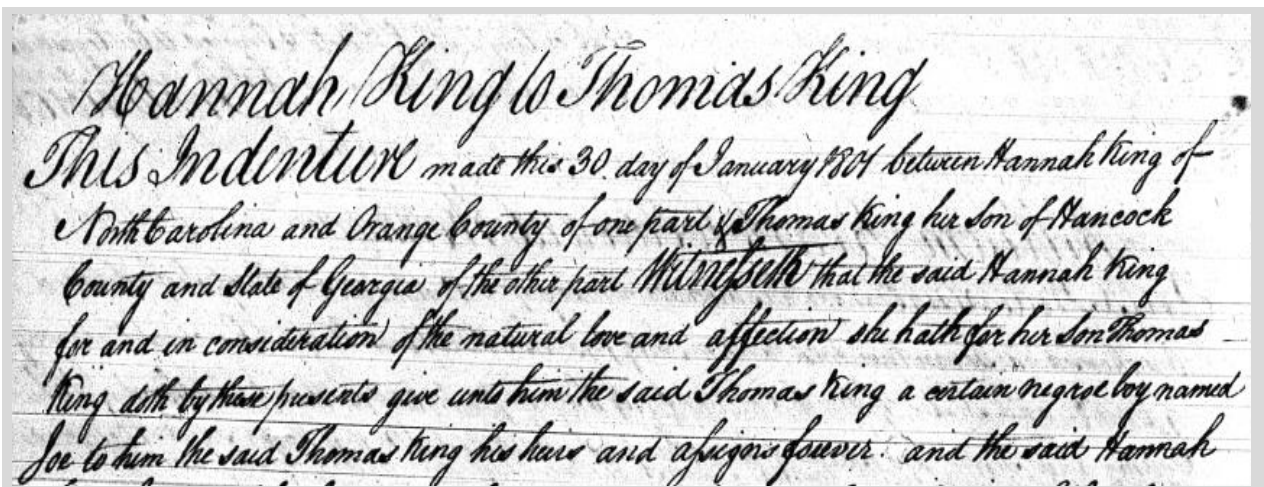
Elizabeth Strother King's Share

John Strother’s estate was not completely finalized until 1813; however, on September 1, 1801 the bulk of the estate was settled with the heirs. Thomas King, Elizabeth Strother’s husband is recorded as receiving £176-50 shillings as Elizabeth’s portion of the estate.²¹ Of interest, analysis of this distribution allows the reader to identify all of the children of John and Jane Strother.²²

During this time period Thomas and Elizabeth King's brother-in-law and Orange Co., NC immigrant, Mark Stroud, also tragically died in Hancock Co. (1798).²³

A Gift from Mother and Leaving Hancock Co., GA

In January of 1801, Thomas' mother Hannah King of Orange Co., NC deeded "for and in consideration of the natural love and affection she hath for her son" Thomas King of Hancock Co., GA a slave named Joe.²⁴ This is a King Family lynch-pin evidentiary document that provides proof that Thomas King, the son of John and Hannah King of Orange Co., NC, and Thomas King of Hancock Co., GA, the man named in various Strother estate documents, were one AND the same. It also subsequently proves that Thomas King of Orange Co., NC married Elizabeth Strother.



Hannah King to Thomas King
This Indenture made this 30 day of January 1801 between Hannah King of North Carolina and Orange County of one part & Thomas King her son of Hancock County and State of Georgia of the other part Witnesseth that the said Hannah King for and in consideration of the natural love and affection she hath for her son Thomas King doth by these presents give unto him the said Thomas King a certain negro boy named Joe to him the said Thomas King his heirs and assigns forever and the said Hannah

**Thomas King in Hancock County, Georgia
Orange Co., NC Deed BK 9 Page 227**

By 1801, Thomas' mother Hannah King was approaching her late 70s. Additionally, the likely impetus for his migration to Hancock Co., GA, father-in law John Strother, had died. Amidst these factors, it appears Thomas King and his family migrated back to Orange Co., NC.²⁵ There seems to be no question that he left Hancock Co., GA. The real question is why did he leave the new frontier and go back to the locale he left in Orange Co., NC? That was an atypical move for a young man in the early 1800s who had stepped out on his own, but it appears likely he did.

1804-1808 Back Home in Orange Co., NC and Looking Westward

Thomas King purchased 143 acres from Henry Lloyd, near original King ancestral property in 1804. While other Thomas Kings lived in the county, it can be logically assumed that the grantee was 'our Thomas King'.²⁶ This location was near his living brothers and sisters once again but most importantly his aged mother, Hannah King. It can be logically assumed that the King family matriarch died during this period prior to her son's move to middle Tennessee.²⁷ During this period several more children were born to Thomas and Elizabeth King...daughter Hannah (ca 1802)²⁸, son Anderson (ca 1804)²⁹ and son Thomas (ca 1806).³⁰

In 1805 and 1806, the claims of the Cherokees and Creeks to the land south of the Duck River to the southern boundary of the Tennessee were purchased. U.S. Indian agents Meigs and Smith paid the Creeks \$14,000 for their claims, and Secretary of War Henry Dearborn negotiated the Treaty of Washington of 1806 with the Cherokees to obtain their claims for \$10,000, a gristmill, a cotton gin, and a \$100 annuity for Chief Black Fox. These two treaties opened middle Tennessee for white-Anglo settlement. Soon after these treaties were secure, the United States Congress passed legislation allowing Tennessee control over these lands within its bounds and the Tennessee State Assembly established the first of seven Surveyor's Districts.³¹ In 1807 both Warren and Franklin Counties were established.

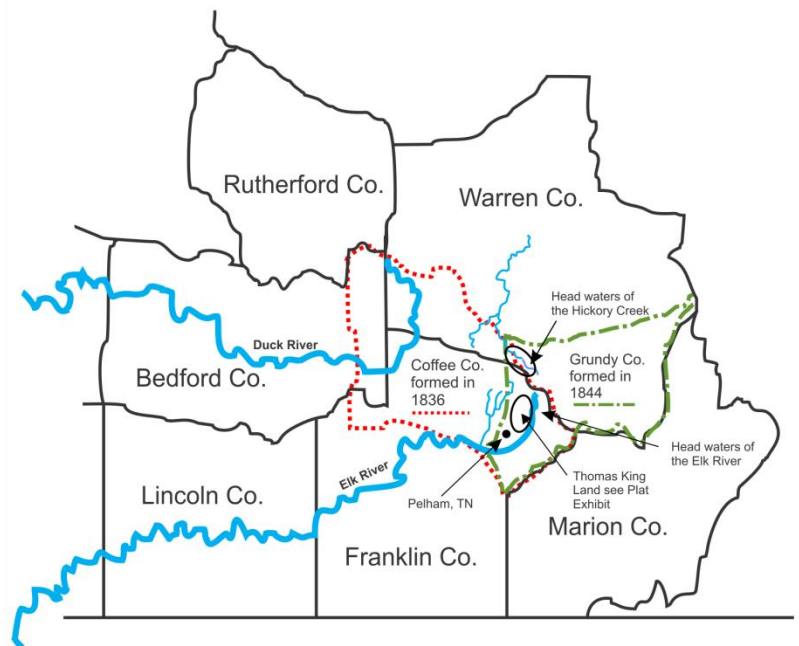
It was with this backdrop that Thomas King migrated with his family into middle Tennessee ca 1808.³² He followed closely or migrated with his nephew John King (1779-1851, son of Baxter King), Lloyd, Stroud and other allied families out of Orange Co., NC³³ into an area in the 3rd Surveyors' District near the newly established Warren/Franklin County border near the headwaters of the Elk River (Franklin) and West Hickory Creek (Warren).

County Formation and Boundary Changes

Prior to further discussion, it is important to understand the county boundary changes that occurred over the first-half of the 19th century in the area where the King family lived. Illustrated at right, the original Franklin and Warren County boundaries are shown in solid black lines.

The King and allied families settled near the headwaters of both the Elk River and Hickory Creek.

However, on May 2, 1836 Coffee County, Tennessee was organized³⁴ out of Bedford, Warren and Franklin Counties as denoted in a dotted red outline.³⁵ The headwaters of the Elk River were now situated in Coffee Co. but Hickory Creek remained in Warren Co. Finally, in 1844 Grundy Co., TN was formed³⁶ from Coffee and Warren Counties as shown in green dash-dot outline. This new county took in both the headwaters of the Elk River and Hickory Creek as shown. As a result, it should be noted that the area in which Thomas King lived during this period was located in three different jurisdictions near the location of current-day Pelham, TN.³⁷



**The Evolution of Tennessee County Lines
Around the Thomas King Family
1808-1855**

Settling on the Head Waters of the Elk River

The State of Tennessee Land Registers are very thorough for the period. Land entries, warrants, surveys and grants were meticulously recorded. Franklin Co. deed records are also present for the period. The Franklin Co. land transactions are recorded in great detail giving the full metes and bounds property descriptions, adjoining land owners, other informative locators and generally (during this early period)

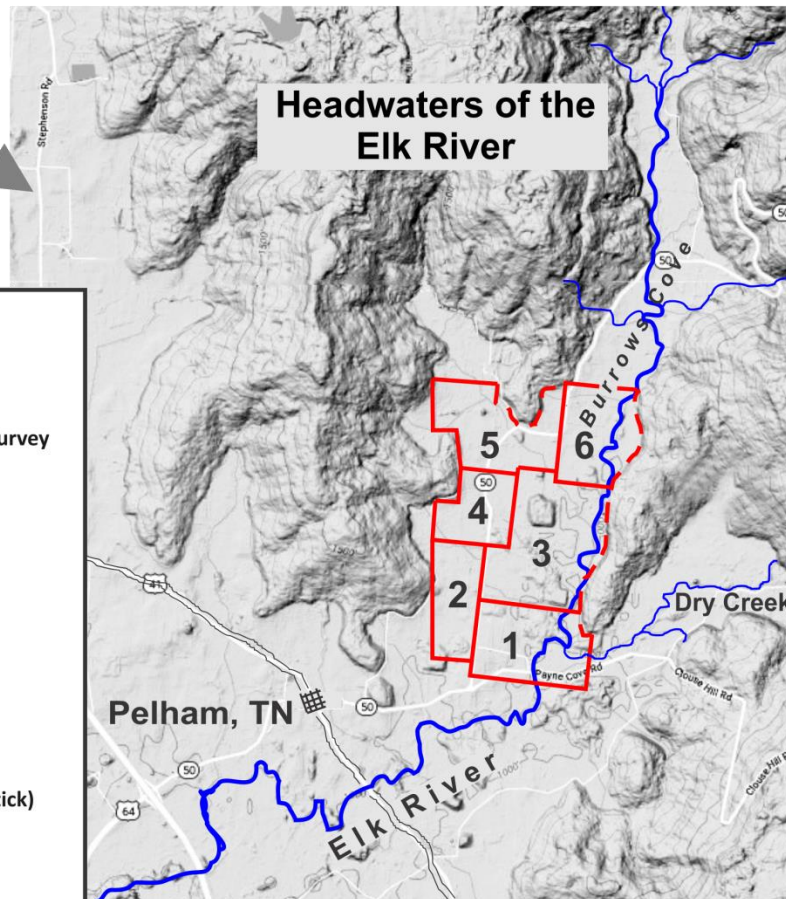
identify the original TN grant from which the land emanated. With this information (and a little persistent effort), it can be determined precisely where Thomas King and his family lived. The following graphic shows the 'Cumberland Mountain' valley just northeast of current day Pelham, TN (marked) with six (6) original surveys (red) and the Elk River (blue as it flows from its headwaters) overlaid.

From Chapel Hill, NC to the Tennessee Frontier ca 1808



A 550 mile journey, likely on a southern route, via Charlotte, NC to Tugaloo, GA, connecting to the Federal Road northwest into TN via Chattanooga

A 35 day trip
by wagon caravan



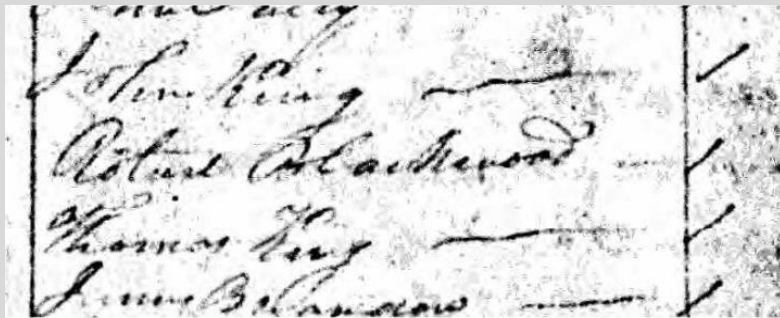
State of Tennessee Land Grants

- 1 Daniel Havender (Hofner) Survey
300 acres
surveyed 13 May 1808
- 2 John Graham Survey
208 ¼ acres
surveyed 5 June 1808
- 3 Mitchell & Dyers Survey
470 acres
surveyed 3 Sept 1808
- 4 David Gaines Survey
200 acres
surveyed 7 June 1808
- 5 John Young Survey
(transferred to William Bostick)
300 acres
surveyed 26 August 1808
- 6 Mathew Jones Survey
300 acres
entered 1 August 1809

While the property in this valley has changed hands and has been subdivided over a period of 200+ years, the original boundaries can be seen to this day via satellite images in the form of field fence lines and roads.

As stated earlier, Thomas King was in the area as early as 1808;³⁸ however, he did not procure an early middle Tennessee land grant or purchase property until 1814.³⁹ On August 12, 1814, he acquired 300 acres from Daniel Hofner⁴⁰ (Havender Survey 1) for \$625; however, it is certainly possible that Thomas King and his family had lived on this property prior to 1814.⁴¹ It can also be logically speculated that Thomas King's oldest sons came into adulthood on this property and possibly started families at that location.⁴² During this period the youngest children were born to Thomas and Elizabeth King...daughter

Mary (ca 1808)⁴³, son John (ca 1810),⁴⁴ daughter Elizabeth (1811)⁴⁵ and son Richard S. (ca 1813).⁴⁶



1812 Franklin Co., TN Tax List

Thomas King enumerated with his nephew John King

Despite the growth of towns, Tennessee remained mostly rural. Log cabins remained the most common type of housing. Eighty percent of Tennesseans were farmers, and most worked simply to supply the food needs of their families. However, income could be made from selling certain cash crops. In Middle Tennessee the cash crop was corn and hogs. Farmers converted corn,

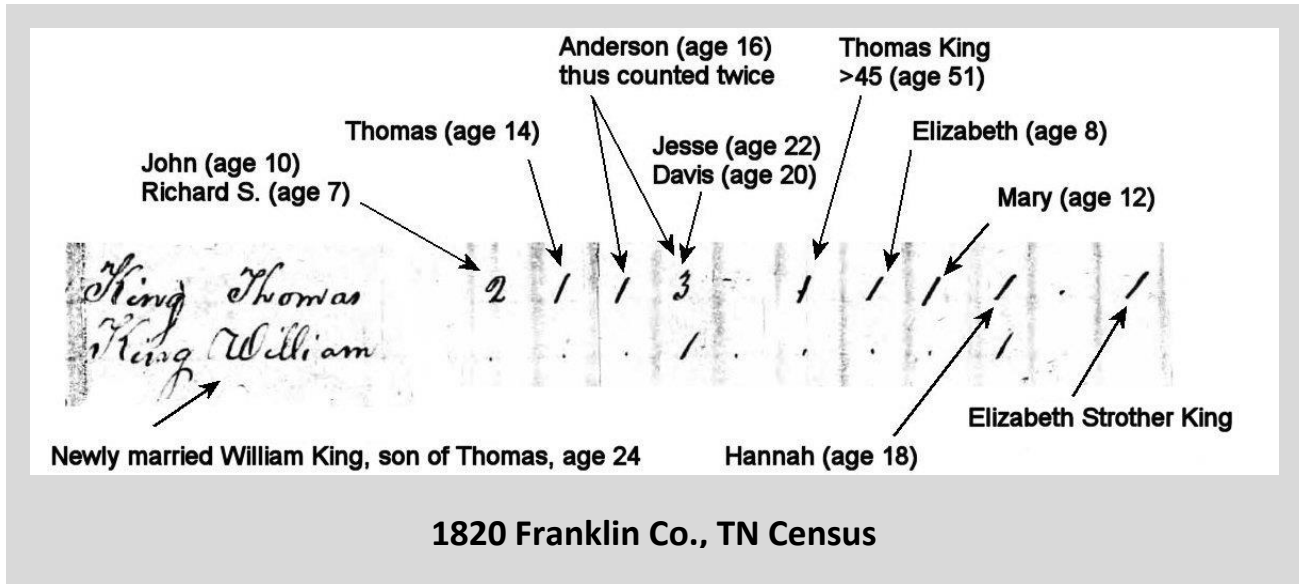
the state's most important crop, into cornmeal and whiskey. They also fed corn to hogs which were then butchered to produce cured pork. Because of generally poor roads, Franklin County residents relied mainly on rivers to move their crops to market. Products were taken to local markets (likely Winchester, the county seat) shipped by keelboat or flatboat on the Elk River⁴⁷ to Natchez and New Orleans on the Mississippi River.

Most types of manufacturing, like spinning cloth, soap-making, and forging tools, were done in the farm household. Household chores were mostly divided by gender. Women were generally responsible for preserving food, cooking, producing cloth and clothing, and caring for children. Men cleared fields, planted crops, forged tools, and cared for animal herds. Children performed many chores such as gathering eggs, milking cows, and working alongside their parents.⁴⁸

The hardworking settlers had little time for recreation. As a result, the settlers found ways to combine work and recreation. All able-bodied men were required to serve in the militia. The days when the militia mustered, or gathered for duty, served as festive social occasions for the whole county. There was little opportunity for organized religious services in the early days and few ministers to preach. Instead, itinerant, or traveling, ministers held camp meetings. Because travel was so difficult, frontier families would camp near the meeting site for several days. The Methodists and Baptists gained many converts through the camp meetings. Because many of Tennessee's early settlers were Scots-Irish, Presbyterianism was also very popular.

The extended King family can be seen enumerated in the 1820 Franklin Co., TN federal census⁴⁹ and the exhibit below delineates the children of Thomas King who were living at home at the time. Oldest son

Charles King had married several years prior (ca 1815)⁵⁰ and was enumerated as a nearby family unit. Son William King, who had recently married local resident Sarah Boone (ca 1820)⁵¹ was listed below the Thomas King household in the record.



The 1820 census was unusual as it had a special column listing males 16-18 years of age for the purpose of gathering militia statistics. The census also had the normal 16-25 age column. Census Marshals and their assistants were specifically instructed to record any male between the ages of 16-18 in both columns. Thus, Anderson King, born ca 1804 and 16 at the time, can be seen recorded in both columns. The elder King was also enumerated with 3 slaves.

On April 27, 1827 Thomas King sold the west ½ of his 300 acres... *“land where King now lives”* to Benjamin Reed and shortly thereafter purchased an additional 200 acres (David Gaines Survey 2) from neighbor Silas Tucker.

Franklin Co. TN Land Deeds				
Date	Grantor	Grantee	BK/PG	Notes
1814 Aug 12	Daniel Hofner	Thomas King	J157-8	\$625 for a 300 acre tract of land in the 3rd Dist, both sides of the Elk River. Attest John King [nephew] and William Forseth.
1827 Apr 27	Thomas King	Benjamin A. Reed	FK427-8	\$1300 for a 150 acre tract of land where King now lives in the County of Franklin , west side of the Elk River.
1827 Feb 3	Davis King (son)	Benjamin Neville	L392-3	\$462 for a 77 acre tract on the north side of the Elk River.
1828 Feb 20	Silas Tucker	Thomas King, Senr	L19-20	\$600 for a 160 acre tract of land granted [originally] to David Gaines by the State of Tennessee Grant #1569 dated 30 June 1802, conveyed from said Gaines to Silas Tucker.

1829 May 13	Silas Tucker	Thomas King	N 499	\$400 for a parcel of land 40 acres on the waters Perari [Prairie] Creek of the Elk River.
1831 Jul 29	Benjamin Hollingsworth & A.E. Patton	Thomas King, Senr	N 498	\$195 for a parcel of 40 acres on the waters of the Elk River, part of an original tract to David Gaines #1569
1831 May 7	Thomas King, Senr	William Greenlee	M506-7	\$1050 for two tracts of land, 177 acres on the waters of the Elk River beginning in the road leading from Coldwell's Bridge to the Stone Fort
1831 May 7	Thomas King, Senr	William Greenlee	M507-8	\$50 for a tract of land lying in Franklin Co., on the north side of the Elk River on Perari [Prairie] Creek.

As the end of the 1820's approached, Thomas King still lived at the headwaters of the Elk River. Older sons Charles and William had relocated their families out of state.⁵² Son Davis King had married an 'across-the-fence' neighbor, Mary 'Polly' Sartain (ca 1821), and migrated west to Hardeman Co., TN. Son Anderson King had married (ca 1828) but lived nearby.⁵³ Son Thomas King had married a neighbor, Albena Stanley (ca 1826), and also still lived in the county.⁵⁴ Daughters Hannah King and Mary 'Polly' King had married NC natives and neighbors William Partin (ca 1821) and Pleasant H. Neville (ca 1826) respectively and also lived nearby.⁵⁵ In spite of these changes in family dynamics, there was still a core of capable local family members living in the valley to assist the King patriarchs should the need arise.

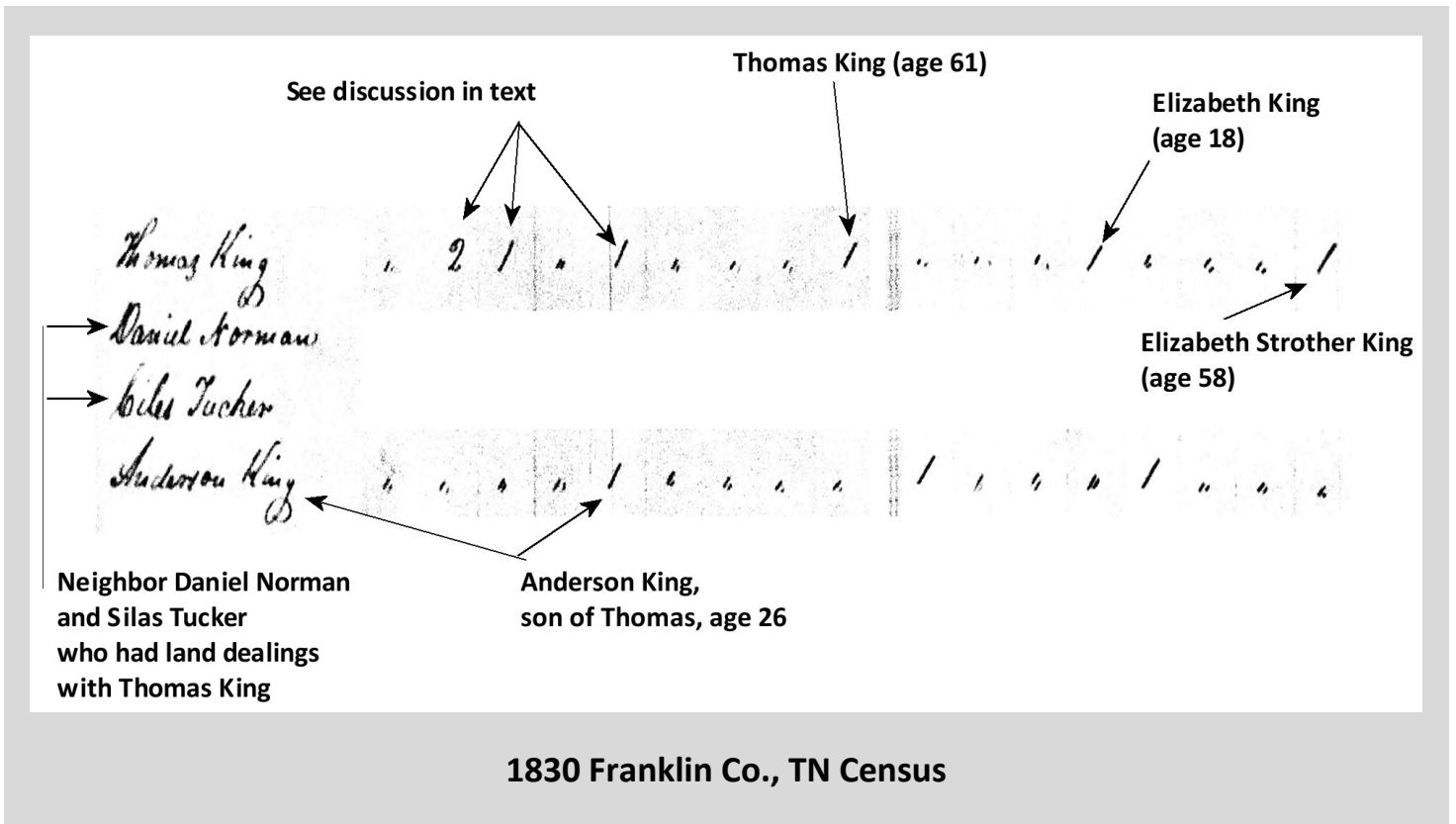
Elizabeth Strother King's Mother Dies

By the Spring of 1830, it had been roughly 25 years since Thomas King and Elizabeth Strother had migrated out of Hancock Co., GA leaving Elizabeth's family behind. One can only speculate and wonder if Elizabeth had kept-up, visited or even received letters from her family who had remained back in Georgia.⁵⁶ It is a difficult concept to grasp in today's world of easy and instant communication. Perhaps completely unknown to Elizabeth, on 25 April 1830, Jane Fussell Strother, Elizabeth King's aged mother, who was sick at the time, penned her LWT in Hancock Co., GA. In spite of the many years of separation,

**Elizabeth Strother King's Legacy from her Mother
Hancock Co., GA Inferior Court,
Wills and Estate Records, Book M 1827-1831, pp. 545-6**

Jane Strother left a bequest of five dollars to her "daughter Elizabeth King".⁵⁷ Jane Strother died a few days later⁵⁸ and it is fascinating to think about how Elizabeth might have received the sad news and her five dollars from that distant locale.

When the 1830 census was rendered, Thomas (age 61) and Elizabeth King (age 58) can still be found living in the Elk River Valley; however, the household make-up is difficult to precisely decipher. Daughter



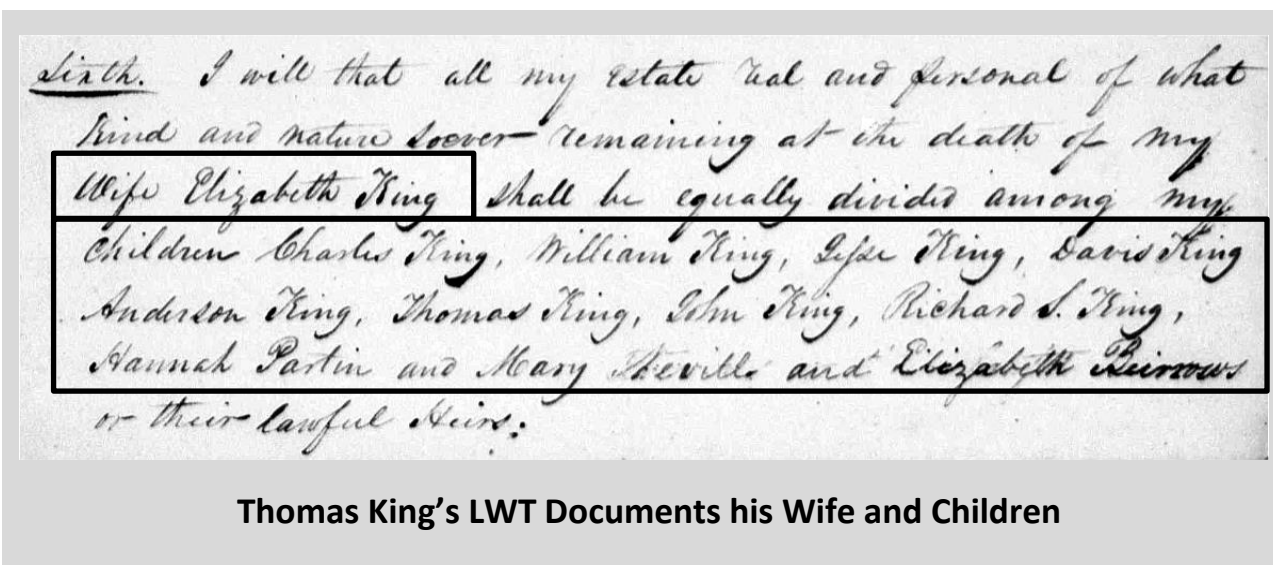
Elizabeth (age 18)⁵⁹ can be seen in the household and sons John (age 20) and Richard S. (age 16) were still single and could/should have been living at home also. The entry for Richard S. King is likely mis-marked in the 10-15 year column.⁶⁰ Additionally, there are two younger males, age 5-10 years of age, enumerated in the household. These entries could have represented anyone staying or visiting with the family when the census taker dropped by. At this time the author has no information that would initiate discussion regarding who these individuals might be. Son Anderson King can be found living nearby along with neighbors Silas Tucker and Daniel Norman. The elder King was also enumerated with 7 slaves.⁶¹

By 1836 the record indicates that Thomas King began to think about his mortality. At age 67, on June 8, 1836 Thomas King, “being of sound and perfect mind and memory,” penned his LWT as a stated resident of Franklin Co., TN.⁶² The Franklin County boundaries were changing at the time and it is quite possible that the elder King actually lived in newly formed Coffee County but knew nothing about those transformations. In his LWT he stated that all of his estate both “real and personal” was to go to his wife Elizabeth.⁶³ He gave an interest in his plantation to his son Richard S. King for the purpose of helping Elizabeth manage the estate; however Thomas warned that Richard should not use any profits for “extravagant or profligate purposes.”⁶⁴ Next, Thomas gave specific bequests to his daughter Hannah Partin (a Negro girl Ann 18 months old) and then to his younger sons John and Richard S. (bed, furniture, cow & calf, etc.) to make them “equal” with his other children “who have gone to housekeeping.”⁶⁵

Finally, the elder King closed his LWT and stated that at the death of his wife, the residue of his estate should be divided equally among his children whom he named. In essence he was writing or co-opting Elizabeth's need for a LWT also, which was not an unusual practice during that period. On the same day Thomas King "in consideration of the natural love and affection which I bear for my son Richard S. King" also gifted two slaves, Nathan (4) and Isaac (2) to his youngest son by separate conveyance.⁶⁶

What Can be Learned from Thomas King's Will

First and foremost, he gives us the name of his wife... Elizabeth. As researchers in the 20th/21st century, we can piece together the puzzle of Thomas King's marriage by documents left behind; however, this is the only record where HE states the name of his wife.



Secondly, he gives us the names of all of his living eleven (11) children. Again, it is the only record to do such. Analysis of the document along with other known facts also helps us to understand how the children are segregated in the text. The author has reviewed and studied many such wills of this period and can state when a long list of children is named, they are often named in birth order. In this case the male children are segregated from the female in groups (not unusual either). Knowing the exact (or circa) birthdates of 7 of 11 of the individuals in question, enables the researcher to fill in the blanks with the others. They are segregated male oldest (Charles) to youngest (Richard S.) then female oldest (Hannah) to youngest (Elizabeth).

Lastly, the LWT lays out the probate process. Basically Thomas gives all of his real and personal property to Elizabeth, his wife (with exception of what needs to be sold to pay debts and a few gifts to younger children). It is then stipulated that whatever remains after Elizabeth's death should be distributed equally among the eleven children (or their heirs).

The Final Years and the Aftermath

It is assumed that Thomas King spent his remaining years farming as best he could and providing support for Elizabeth. He can be found enumerated, taxed for his 200 acres of land and 3 slaves on both the 1839 and 1840 tax rolls for District 13 of Coffee County⁶⁷. Son Richard S. King is also enumerated as a poll with no property.⁶⁸ As a final recorded act, on September 16, 1839, daughter Hannah Partin was

gifted the Negro girl Ann (about 5 at this time) by deed by her father, thus preempting his will in that regard.⁶⁹

In June 1840, Thomas King, a native of North Carolina, husband and father of eleven living children died in Coffee County, TN.⁷⁰ He was 71 years of age. While the elder King had written a LWT to take care of his wife and handle his business interests, the following decade proved difficult for the family and the settlement of the estate drag-on for several years.

At the time of Thomas' death his wife Elizabeth Strother King (~68 years of age) was still alive and is enumerated in the 1840 Coffee Co., TN census in the 60-70 age column.⁷¹ Their son Richard S. King (26 years of age) is noted living with her in the 20-30 column for males. She is also enumerated with 9 slaves.

When Thomas King died, at least four of his eleven children resided out-of-state. Charles King resided in Marshall County, Mississippi (MS), William King in Washington County, Republic of Texas, Davis King in Nacogdoches County, Republic of Texas and Thomas King [Jr] in Tippah County, MS.⁷² Difficulties started almost immediately when Thomas King's LWT was presented in open Court in Coffee County. While the LWT was not objected to and recorded, one of the appointed executors refused to act (declined his role) and the other was not present. As a result the probate process was ordered to lie over until the next Court.⁷³

The following is a chronology of documented events that took place over the next few years giving the reader a better understanding of 1) the issues that beset the family and 2) the difficulty in reaching final settlement. It should be remembered the children of Thomas King were not entitled to any distributive portion of the estate until Elizabeth Strother King died. They could however transfer or sell their shares of any potential distribution to others.

- 1840 July 31 Davis King from Nacogdoches, Republic of Texas sells his interest in the estate of his father, Thomas King [Estate], to David Muckleroy for \$400. Muckleroy in turn appoints Thomas King [Jr] his agent in Tennessee on Dec 28, 1842.⁷⁴
- 1840 Sept No executor will serve and son Anderson King is appointed Administrator of the Estate.⁷⁵
- 1840 Oct Anderson King presented an inventory of the Estate to the court to determine how much of the personal property would be sold to pay outstanding debts as required in the First Section of his LWT.⁷⁶
- 1840 Oct 12 John King sells his interest in the Estate, to Alexander E. Patton for \$150 and the release of two notes for \$55 and \$75.⁷⁷
- 1840 Dec 18 Charles King of Marshall Co., MS sells his interest in the Estate to Anderson King for \$250.⁷⁸
- 1841 July 2 Richard S. King sells his "2/11th" interest in the Estate to Anderson King for \$300. The deed states that 1/11th was his share and the other eleventh he purchased from Pleasant Neville and wife (Mary King).⁷⁹
- 1841 Oct Anderson King, the Administrator of the Estate has died... On motion of Lawson Rowe and it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that Anderson King of this County has "*departed this life Intestate,*" administration of his estate is granted to Lawson Rowe. Anderson King's estate Inventory is presented to the Court.⁸⁰
- 1841 Nov Anderson King, dec'd, property is sold⁸¹ by the administrator and Court provides provisions for Anderson King's widow and children.⁸²
- 1842 Jan A motion of Alex[ande]r E. Patton and it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that Thos. King [Sr] of this County has departed this life. Intestate administration of his Es-

- tate is granted to said Alexr E. Patton who made oath & entered into bond.⁸³ This event suggests that Elizabeth Strother King has died.
- 1842 Apr Alexr E. Patton Administrator of the Estate of Thos. King dec'd, produced in open Court an Inventory of said Estate which was qualified and received.⁸⁴
- 1842 Jun Anderson King's, dec'd, estate sale is accounted for and received by the Court.⁸⁵
- 1842 Sept 5 Richard S. King presents himself to the Court and it is ordered that a certificate of his honesty and proberty and good demeanor be granted him and that he is over the age of twenty one years he having made satisfactory proof to the court regarding his reputation and age.⁸⁶
- 1843 Jan 28 Thomas King [Jr, the son] assigns his Power of Attorney to Lawson Rowe in regard to the settlement of the Estate. He is empowering his lawyer (Rowe) to "*...sue for and receive the same or any part thereof. I do further empower my said attorney in fact for me and in my name to sell and convey...my distributive share of one tract of land lying in the County of Coffee & State of Tennessee which the said Thomas King died seized of...*"⁸⁷
- 1844 Mar 30 Administrator A.E. Patton sells the 200+ acres of land remaining in the Estate.⁸⁸
- 1844 Jun 4 Anderson King's estate is settled and documents presented to the Court.⁸⁹
- 1849 May 7 Jesse King (son of Thomas King [Sr]) has died. On the Motion of Pleasant Neville he is appointed guardian of Eliza King, Parelee King, James M. King, Dallas King and Hannah King minor heirs of Jesse King dec'd.⁹⁰

Summary of Estate Events

When Thomas King and Elizabeth Strother died, they had eleven living adult children, most with families of their own. Some lived nearby, some in other states and even some in other countries (Republic of Texas)! As with any large family the individual personalities of the siblings can vary greatly and it is safe to assume that Thomas King's children were no different. One can certainly speculate that there were differing opinions on what to do with the residue 200+ acres of land...we will never know.

We do know that the record is silent with regard to sons William King and Jesse King and the Estate.⁹¹ We know some were quite willing to sell or relinquish their shares. We don't have documents to fully understand the final distribution to the parties and to whom those distributions were transmitted. Unfortunately, those documents and details no longer exist. However to summarize the events and chronology from above:

- June 1840 Thomas King died in Coffee Co., TN
- Sept 1840 Anderson King (his son) was appointed Administrator/Executor by the Court
- Oct 1840 Anderson King (his son) presents an inventory to the Court for the purpose of selling only that portion of the Estate to satisfy debts. The remaining Estate passes to Elizabeth Strother King as stipulated by the LWT of Thomas King.
- 1840-1841 Some children of Thomas King relinquish and sell their future distributive shares of the Estate to others. Anderson King, Administrator/Executor of the Estate of Thomas King died.
- Late 1841 Elizabeth Strother King likely died in Coffee Co., TN.
- Jan 1842 As a result of the matriarch's death, the Estate of Thomas King can be finalized and distributed to those with shares (children and others). A.E. Patton is appointed Administrator of the Estate.

- March 1844 A.E. Patton sells the 200+ acres of land that was owned by the Estate of Thomas King effectively settling the Estate.
- June 1844 Anderson King's estate is settled. Since Anderson King, thus his heirs, owned shares of the Estate, it is logical that Anderson King's estate could not be settled until his father's was.

By 1845 the Estate was likely settled. However, there were remnant distributions to minor heirs of Anderson King and Jesse King that continued for many years, but the record is silent regarding any relationship to the Estate.⁹²

Family Epilogue⁹³

As the 1850s rolled around, several of the Thomas and Elizabeth's children can be confirmed to have died. The following is a summary of where the children were in 1850 and beyond:

Charles King had migrated into northern MS perhaps as early as the mid-1820's had likely died in Marshall Co., MS ca 1845.

William King had migrated to Jackson Co., AL ca 1827, Tishomingo Co., MS ca 1836 and the Republic of Texas in 1839. He resided with his family in Leon Co., Texas (TX) in 1850 and died there in 1856.

Jesse King had died by 1849 but his whereabouts was unknown. He left minor children who were placed in the home of Pleasant Neville (guardian) and his wife Mary King Neville. These children have not been located beyond this date by the author at the time of this writing.

Davis King had migrated to Hardeman Co., TN prior to 1828, to Tippah Co., MS prior to 1836 then into the Republic of Texas, with his brother William, in 1839. He resided with his family in Nacogdoches Co., TX in 1850 and died there in 1861.

Hannah King Partin resided with her family in Grundy Co., TN in 1850. She died a few years later and most remnants of her family had migrated to Nacogdoches Co., TX by 1854.

Anderson King died in 1841 in Coffee Co., TN. He left a wife Letha (Lethy) and several children. Anderson's widow, Letha King, married James Harrison ca 1846 and the couple along with the King minors can be found in living in Grundy Co., TN in 1850. By 1858, much of this family had migrated to Nacogdoches Co., TX. Only daughter Martha Jane King, who married James M. Bell, remained in Tennessee.

Thomas King migrated to Hardeman Co., TN ca 1835, then south into Tippah Co., MS by 1839. He resided with his family in Tippah County in 1850 and died there ca 1866.

Mary 'Polly' King Neville (Nevill, Nevil) lived the rest of her days in the valleys and hills of Coffee Co., TN. She died after 1880 and was the only child of Thomas King whose descendants principally stayed in the area.

John King migrated to TX prior to 1850 and was living with his family in Lamar Co., TX in 1850. He died there about 1853.

Elizabeth King Burrows resided with her family in Grundy Co., TN in 1850 before migrating to Nacogdoches Co., TX ca 1851. She died there in 1889 outliving all of her siblings.

Richard S. King, who had an uncle name Richard Strother, seemingly lived a life where the demons took control. He enlisted to fight in the Mexican-American War and served from 1846-48. He followed his Colonel and Franklin County neighbor, James Patton Anderson, to the Memphis area and began to study law. He never married and lived in DeSoto Co., MS in 1850. He migrated to Cass Co., TX ca 1853, became a ward of the county by 1860 and died there ca 1862 noted as "*insane caused by drinking.*" Perhaps his father had recognized the proclivities of his son when he admonished Richard not use any profits (from the Estate) for "*extravagant or profligate purposes.*"

Thomas King and Elizabeth Strother, colonial Americans out of NC and VA raised a large and vibrant family who witnessed the expansion of the frontier in Georgia and Tennessee with their own eyes. Along with their children they spent their formative family years in the shadow of the Cumberland Plateau in middle Tennessee. They were likely laid-to-rest in that fertile cove at the headwaters of the Elk River. Most of their descendants migrated westward after 1850 and very few descendants remain in Tennessee today

The Children of Thomas King and Elizabeth Strother⁹⁴

THOMAS² KING (*JOHN*¹) was born Oct 1768 in Orange Co., NC, and died Jun 1840 in Coffee Co., TN. He married **ELIZABETH STROTHER** Abt. 1788 in Orange Co., NC, daughter of JOHN STROTHER and JANE FUSSELL. She was born Abt. 1772 in VA, and died Bet. 1841 - 1842 in probably Coffee Co., TN.

Children of **THOMAS KING** and **ELIZABETH STROTHER** are:

- i. **CHARLES³ KING**, b. Abt. 1790, Orange Co., NC; d. Aft. 1845, probably Marshall Co., MS; m. UNKNOWN.
- ii. **WILLIAM KING**, b. Abt. 1796, Hancock Co., GA; d. 31 Mar 1856, Leon Co., TX; m. SARAH BOONE, Abt. 1820, Franklin or Warren Co. TN; b. 05 May 1804, Adair Co., KY; d. 12 Mar 1882, Limestone Co., TX.
- iii. **JESSE KING**, b. Abt. 1798, Hancock Co., GA; d. Abt. 1848, unknown.
- iv. **DAVIS KING**, b. 04 Jun 1800, Hancock Co., GA; d. 24 Jan 1861, Nacogdoches Co., TX; m. MARY 'POLLY' SARTAIN, Abt. 1821, Franklin Co. TN; b. 11 Feb 1804; d. 18 Apr 1886, Nacogdoches Co., TX.
- v. **HANNAH KING**, b. Abt. 1802, Orange Co., NC; d. Bet. 1850 - 1860, possibly Nacogdoches Co., TX; m. WILLIAM PARTIN, Abt. 1821, Franklin Co., TN; b. Abt. 1798, North Carolina; d. Bet. 1850 - 1860, Tennessee or Nacogdoches Co., TX.
- vi. **ANDERSON KING**, b. Abt. 1804, Orange Co., NC; d. Bef. Oct 1841, Coffee Co., TN; m. LETHA UNKNOWN, Abt. 1828, Franklin Co. TN.
- vii. **THOMAS KING**, b. Abt. 1806, Orange Co., NC; d. Abt. 1866, Tippah County, MS; m. ALBENA STANLEY, Abt. 1826, Franklin Co., TN; b. Abt. 1808, Georgia; d. Bet. 1870 - 1880, Tippah County, MS.
- viii. **MARY 'POLLY' KING**, b. Abt. 1808, stated NC (1850) stated TN (1860 and 1880); d. Aft. 1880, Franklin or Coffee Co., TN; m. PLEASANT H. NEVILLE, Abt. 1826, Franklin Co., TN; b. 05 Sep 1806, Orange Co., NC; d. Bet. Jun 1864 - Apr 1865, Coffee Co., TN.
- ix. **JOHN KING**, b. Abt. 1810, Franklin Co., TN; d. Aft. 1853, probably in Lamar Co., TX; m. RACHEL, Abt. 1836, probably Franklin Co., TN; b. Abt. 1815, TN.
- x. **ELIZABETH KING**, b. 29 Dec 1811, Franklin Co., TN; d. 26 Aug 1889, Nacogdoches Co., TX; m. DAVID BURROWS, Abt. 1834, probably Franklin Co., TN; b. 27 Oct 1810, Grundy Co., TN; d. 05 Oct 1873, Nacogdoches Co., TX.
- xi. **RICHARD S. KING**, b. Abt. 1813, Franklin Co., TN; d. Abt. 1862, probably Cass/Davis Co., TX.

Endnotes

¹ Orange County NC, County Court Minutes 1782-1785, [26 August 1783 \[no page nos\]](#); Thomas King was a minor when his father died. These court records detail the ages of each of the King minors. ***“Thomas King aged 14 years last Octo”***, Obedience King 16 last March, Hannah King 12 last Octo. came into Court & chose their mother Hannah King for their Guardian. John King, Baxter King, Charles King & Nathl King Securities of 100£ for each Orphan. Hannah King is appointed Guardian to Rebecca King Orphan of Jno King decd same Securities as above £100.

² John King, Last Will and Testament dated July 22, 1782. [Original Will](#). Wills (Orange County, North Carolina), 1782-1968; Author: North Carolina. Probate Court (Orange County); Probate Place: Orange, North Carolina. Thomas King’s birth order can be specifically determined by the LWT of his father John King.

³ Orange Co., NC Register of Deeds, 1752-1768. Transcribed by Eve B. Weeks. 1984. The sale of 380 acres of land by Mark Morgan to John King was registered September 13, 1753.

⁴ Hillsborough was the county seat of colonial Orange Co., NC and the seat of the district government.

⁵ The Patriots at Kirk’s Farm were part of the Orange County Regiment of Militia under the temporary command of Col. John Hinton, Jr. Two companies of Patriots stopped at Kirk’s Farm to rest - under Major William Gholson. Major Gholson was under the wrong assumption that there were no Loyalists anywhere near their camp.

Capt. Richard Edwards and his company of Loyalists arrived at this location around sunrise on September 12th, and they quietly began to surround the farm. A Patriot sentinel spotted them and he immediately fired his gun. Capt. Edward’s men killed him, but the remaining Patriots were now alerted to their presence. However, the Patriots were too slow in reacting and this gave Capt. Edwards and his men time to hide themselves in a thicket.

Capt. Abraham Allen then rushed out of the farmhouse with his Patriot force, and the Loyalists took aim. His Lieutenant Joseph Young’s men put up a fierce defense. During the fight, British Capt. Edwards and ten of his men were killed. The Patriots Capt. Allen and Lt. Young were wounded - Lt. Young died a few days later.

Capt. Edwards’s brother, Edward Edwards, took command of the Loyalists and they finally defeated the Patriots. Nearly one third of all the men in this skirmish were killed or wounded. Eleven of Capt. Edwards’s men were killed and several others died within a few days. The fate of the prisoners has not been recorded. Capt. Edward Edwards hurried back to Col. David Fanning’s army.

https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_kirks_farm.html . Online.

⁶ [Affidavit of Thomas King of Franklin Co., TN](#) dated 5 Sept 1832, stating he was a native of Orange Co., NC in support of George Waggoner’s Revolutionary War Pension Application; Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files; Survivor’s Pension Application File, Archive Publication No. M804, Roll 2468, Images 320/21 of 1137.

Unfortunately, Thomas King’s affidavit for Franklin Co., TN neighbor and old acquaintance George Waggoner fueled speculation in the 1980’s that Thomas King MIGHT BE somehow related to this George Waggoner and thus Thomas King’s wife was a Waggoner. She was not a Waggoner, she was Elizabeth Strother, which is documented in this report. Additional information of this can be found in the Appendix to this Chapter.

⁷ John King, Last Will and Testament dated July 22, 1782. [Original Will](#). Wills (Orange County, North Carolina), 1782-1968; Author: North Carolina. Probate Court (Orange County); Probate Place: Orange, North Carolina. Also clerically recorded Orange Co., NC Will Book A, pp. 255-56.

⁸ Agreement Between the King Executors and King Legatees dated September 1, 1783. [Original Agreement](#). Wills, 1663-1978, Estate Papers, 1754-1944 (Orange County); Author: North Carolina. Division of Archives and History; Probate Place: Orange, North Carolina. Also clerically recorded Orange Co., NC Will Book A, pp. 290-92.

⁹ Orange Co., NC [Deed BK 2 p12](#). Robert Cate(s) to John Strother, Jan 29, 1776, 200 acres.

¹⁰ Implied and proven by Hancock Co., GA estate records which are discussed, referenced and cited in the body of this work.

As discussed in an earlier endnote, Thomas King’s affidavit for Franklin Co., TN neighbor and old acquaintance George Waggoner fueled incorrect speculation regarding his wife’s family. Thomas King’s wife was not a Waggoner. Unfortunately, this speculation has insidiously morphed into ‘fact’ over the past 40 years. Ancestry.com’s system (and the internet in general), facilitates the easy copying of information from one tree to another, which has resulted in the circular proliferation of this erroneous data. This proliferation can give the ap-

pearance of legitimacy where none exists. Thomas King's wife was not a Waggoner. She can be proven by documentary evidence as Elizabeth Strother. For those descendants who have done Autosomal DNA testing you will also have scores, if not hundreds, of Strother matches from this specific Strother family. See further discussion in the Appendix of this chapter.

¹¹ Orange Co., NC [Deed BK 5, pp211-12](#). Thomas King to Baxter King, January 28, 1794.

¹² John Strother and his sons John [Jr], George, Richard, James, Aaron and David all can be found in Hancock Co., GA by 1796.

¹³ Orange Co., NC neighbor Mark Stroud married Martha 'Patty' Strother in Orange Co. ca 1780 and migrated to Hancock Co., GA with the group.

¹⁴ Other Stroud family members including John Stroud can be confirmed in Hancock Co., GA at the time.

¹⁵ [Hancock Co., GA, Ordinary Tax Digest, 1796](#). Returns in Capt. Daniel Bankston's District for the year 1796.

¹⁶ William King stated his birthplace as Georgia in the 1850 Leon County TX Federal Census. [1850 Leon County, Texas Federal Census](#), Roll: 912; Page: 321A; Seventh Census of the United States, Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

¹⁷ Jesse King's birth order can be estimated from the LWT of his father Thomas King. It is assumed he was born ca 1798. If so he was certainly born in Hancock Co., GA.

¹⁸ Davis King stated his birthplace as Georgia in the 1850 Nacogdoches County TX Federal Census. [1850 Nacogdoches, Texas Federal Census](#), Roll: 913; Page: 65A; Seventh Census of the United States, Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

¹⁹ The administrator was required to post bond, approximately equal to the value of the estate, as a guarantee both to the prudent management and preservation of the estate and to its accurate distribution.

²⁰ Hancock Co., GA. [Deed BK AB, 1794-1798, pp. 298-99](#).

²¹ Hancock Co., GA. [Wills and Administrations of Estates, Vol A, p 58](#).

²² This document is the 'Rosetta Stone' for the family of John Strother and Jane Fussell. It shows the wife (Jane), each son (James, George, John, Aaron & Richard Strother) and two daughters' husbands (Thomas King for wife Elizabeth Strother and Joel Moody for Anna Strother receiving for their spouse) and daughter Patty Stroud (whose husband Mark Stroud was deceased) all receiving their proportionate share of the remainder of the estate of John Strother. It is equivalent to a 'family record' in a Bible.

²³ Hancock Co. GA Wills and Inventories Records, 1794-1807, Vol AA, pp. 22-3, 71-2. Confirmed by Mark Stroud's LWT and subsequent probate of his estate.

²⁴ [Orange Co., NC Deed BK 9 p. 227](#) (unindexed); Hannah King of Orange Co., NC to son Thomas King of Hancock Co., GA.

²⁵ The lack of any record of Thomas King in Hancock Co., GA beyond 1801 makes it clear that he left the county at some point. However, it is not clear exactly when he left. He can be shown selling 50 acres of land on December 2, 1800 (Hancock Co., GA [Deed BK G p182](#)) and receiving the above referenced gift from his Mother as a resident of Hancock Co., GA in January 1801. After those dates there is no definite document that confirms he is a resident of Georgia. His receipt of Elizabeth's (his wife) inheritance on September 1, 1801 does not specifically state he was living in Georgia at the time. Lawrence Westbrook King assumed he moved back to Orange Co., NC based on an 1804 deed where a Thomas King purchased land in Orange Co., NC near the Lloyd family. Census records suggest Thomas King's children, born between 1802 and 1808 were born in NC. As a result, the record, while certainly not clear, does suggest he moved back to Orange Co., NC at a time prior to his mother's death.

²⁶ Orange Co., NC [Deed BK 20, pp. 401-2](#). This land was near, if not adjacent to, ancestral King property in Orange Co., NC. There is no 'sale deed' for the property; but, it can be determined by description that it was owned by Thomas's brother Nathaniel King Sr. when he sold it to his son Nathaniel King Jr. on 1 Feb 1820. See Orange Co., NC Deed BK 20 p303. Therefore, it is logical that 'our Thomas' purchased and lived on this land in Orange Co., NC circa 1804-1808. Both deeds were recorded in 1823.

²⁷ Hannah King is not enumerated in the 1810 Orange Co., TN census nor can she be identified living with any of her surviving children in the county. It is assumed she has died.

²⁸ Assumed year of birth based on multiple census statements.

²⁹ Assumed year of birth based on Thomas King's LWT list of children and census analysis.

³⁰ Assumed year of birth based on multiple census statements.

³¹ Smoot, Frederick, McGee & Moore. Mapping Tennessee's 2nd Surveyors' District. 1998. TNGenWeb Project; online <https://www.tngenweb.org/tnland/tn2dmap.htm>.

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- ³² In the above referenced 1832 affidavit given for the [Revolutionary Pension Application](#) of Franklin Co., TN resident George Waggoner, Thomas King states he moved to Franklin Co., TN “*about 22 years ago.*” Daughter Mary King Neville bca 1808 states her birthplace as TN in the 1860 census.
- ³³ The families of William Stroud, James Lloyd and Owen Lloyd, Orange Co., NC natives can be found in land records and enumerated on the 1812 Franklin Co., TN tax list.
- ³⁴ <http://genealogytrails.com/tenn/coffee/history.html> .
- ³⁵ The southeastern boundary of newly formed Coffee Co., TN extended to the Marion Co., TN line.
- ³⁶ <https://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entries/grundy-county/> .
- ³⁷ Pelham, TN was established April 4, 1832 when a U.S. post office was located there.
- ³⁸ The first enumerated list of individuals available for Franklin County is the 1812 Tax List illustrated on this page. Tax List, Franklin Co., TN for 1812, p. 81. Early Tax Lists of Tennessee. Microfilm, 12 rolls. The Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.
- ³⁹ It was not unusual for an individual to live in a newly settled area for many years before purchasing suitable property. No Tennessee State Land Grants or County Land transactions have been found or are suggested by any extant records.
- ⁴⁰ Franklin Co., TN deed records list his surname as Hofner, TN State Land Registers record the surname as Havender (and variants), federal census records enumerate this individual as Heifner. He was never a resident of Franklin Co., TN.
- ⁴¹ It was not unusual for an individual to make arrangements and live on vacant/unimproved property prior to eventual purchase.
- ⁴² Family bible records confirm that William King’s (ca 1796-1856) son Peter B. King was born in Franklin Co., TN in 1826. It can also be stated that with the exception of son Davis King, there is no record of any of Thomas King’s male children owning property in Franklin or neighboring Warren Co., TN.
- ⁴³ Assumed year of birth based on multiple census statements.
- ⁴⁴ Assumed year of birth based on census statements.
- ⁴⁵ Tombstone birth year. Old North Church Cemetery, Nacogdoches Co., TX. Photo of tombstone is pictured on Find-A-Grave but the listing has errors in the Memorial Biography.
- ⁴⁶ Assumed year of birth based on multiple census statements.
- ⁴⁷ Franklin County. *History of Tennessee from the Earliest Time to the Present*, Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing, 1886. Online http://www.franklincountytntnhistory.com/?page_id=211 .
- ⁴⁸ Tennessee’s Coming of Age. Chapter 4. *Tennessee Blue Book: A History of Tennessee-Student Edition*. Tennessee State Library and Archives Education Outreach Program, 2018. Online <https://tnsoshistory.com/chapter4> .
- ⁴⁹ 1820 U.S. census, population schedule; Census Place: [Franklin, Tennessee; NARA Roll: M33 123; Image: 48](#).
- ⁵⁰ Spouse unknown.
- ⁵¹ Estimated and assumed based on the birth years of their children. Further discussion will follow in the Chapter titled: *William King ca 1796-1856*.
- ⁵² William King can be found in Jackson Co., AL in the 1830 census. Birth place statements in the 1850 show a ca 1827 migration out of TN.
Charles King is not in the 1830 Franklin County census and it is logically assumed that he has left the state.
- ⁵³ Spouse unknown.
- ⁵⁴ 1830 U.S. census, population schedule; Census Place: [Franklin, Tennessee; NARA Roll: M19; Roll: 176; Page: 84](#).
- ⁵⁵ Pleasant Neville: 1830 U.S. census, population schedule; Census Place: [Franklin, Tennessee; NARA Roll: M19; Roll: 176; Page: 79](#).
William Partin: 1830 U.S. census, population schedule; Census Place: [Franklin, Tennessee; NARA Roll: M19; Roll: 176; Page: 64](#).
- ⁵⁶ The majority of the Strother family had remained in Hancock Co., GA. Her mother could not write. As a result, any written communication would have been letters from siblings.
- ⁵⁷ Hancock Co., GA. Inferior Court, Wills and Estate Records, [Book M 1827-1831, pp545-6](#). Next to Hannah King’s gift of a slave to son Thomas King, this document is of ultimate importance as it proves John Strother and Jane Fussell’s daughter Elizabeth was indeed married to Thomas King, the man who received Elizabeth’s share of her father’s estate distribution in 1801.
- ⁵⁸ Ibid, the record states that the LWT of Jane Strother, “*late of this county*”, was probated on May 3, 1830.
- ⁵⁹ Did not marry neighbor David Burrows until about 1834.

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- ⁶⁰ Logically assumed by the author.
- ⁶¹ 1830 U.S. census, population schedule; Census Place: [Franklin, Tennessee; NARA Roll: M19; Roll: 176; Page: 82](#).
- ⁶² Original Last Will and Testament of Thomas King; loose file labeled King, Thomas (1836). Tennessee Probate Court Files, 1795-1955 Coffee County Court, Probate case files 1836-1972 Holden, Eleanor - Long, J.C.; image 2142 of 3192. Online <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9392-2V93-FR?i=2141&wc=SFG5-7M9%3A180562501%2C180571701%2C180564102%2C180796004&cc=1909193>. Of note the clerical entry of his will in Coffee Co., TN Will BK Vol 1 (1836-1901), pp. 9-10 is incomplete and incorrectly transcribed leaving out the names of children, Davis King, Anderson King and Thomas King that are present in the original.
- ⁶³ Ibid. With the caveat that just debts and burial expenses could be paid for out of any sale of property or crops that Elizabeth saw fit.
- ⁶⁴ Ibid.
- ⁶⁵ The individual named were not married as yet.
- ⁶⁶ Franklin Co., TN [Deed BK Q page 222-3](#) .
- ⁶⁷ District 13 is missing from the 1836-1838 tax books.
- ⁶⁸ Coffee Co., TN Tax Books, v. 1, 1836-1878. Family History Library film # 008657945. Image [174 of 1820 \(1839\)](#) and image [220 of 1820 \(1840\)](#) .
- ⁶⁹ Coffee Co., TN [Deed BK B page 26](#) .
- ⁷⁰ Evidenced by his LWT being probated there.
- ⁷¹ 1840 U.S. census, population schedule, NARA microfilm publication M704; Census Place: [Coffee, Tennessee; Roll:519; Page:167](#) .
- ⁷² The sourced evidence for these location statements is contained in following chapters regarding these individuals.
- ⁷³ [Coffee Co., TN Court Minutes, Volume 1, May 1836-January 1841 p. 292](#).
- ⁷⁴ Coffee Co., TN [Deed BK B page 660](#).
- ⁷⁵ [Coffee Co., TN Court Minutes, Volume 1, May 1836-January 1841 p. 304](#).
- ⁷⁶ [Coffee Co., TN Court Minutes, Volume 1, May 1836-January 1841 pp. 307-8](#).
- ⁷⁷ Coffee Co., TN [Deed BK B p. 292](#).
- ⁷⁸ Franklin Co., TN [Deed BK R p. 484](#).
- ⁷⁹ Coffee Co., TN [Deed BK B p. 303](#). No individual record of the mentioned Neville to King transfer has been located.
- ⁸⁰ [Coffee Co., TN Court Minutes, Volume 2, March 1841 - September 1849 pp. 19-20](#).
- ⁸¹ Court documents do not specify if the was all of his property vs. real or personal.
- ⁸² [Coffee Co., TN Court Minutes, Volume 2, March 1841 - September 1849 p. 24](#).
- ⁸³ [Coffee Co., TN Court Minutes, Volume 2, March 1841 - September 1849 p. 28](#). By the nature of Thomas King's LWT, Elizabeth's death would trigger the distribution of his remaining estate. This action suggests that Elizabeth King has died.
- ⁸⁴ [Coffee Co., TN Court Minutes, Volume 2, March 1841 - September 1849 p. 36](#).
- ⁸⁵ [Coffee Co., TN Court Minutes, Volume 2, March 1841 - September 1849 p. 44](#).
- ⁸⁶ [Coffee Co., TN Court Minutes, Volume 2, March 1841 - September 1849 p. 54](#) .
- ⁸⁷ Franklin Co., TN [Deed BK S p. 445](#).
- ⁸⁸ Coffee Co., TN [Deed BK C p. 226](#) .
- ⁸⁹ [Coffee Co., TN Court Minutes, Volume 2, March 1841 - September 1849 p. 119](#)
- ⁹⁰ [Coffee Co., TN Court Minutes, Volume 2, March 1841 - September 1849 pp. 401-2](#).
- ⁹¹ In contrast to their other siblings, there are no relinquishments of shares recorded from sons William King or Jesse King in either the Franklin or Coffee Co., TN or in Washington Co., TX, William King's residence at the time.
- ⁹² For Anderson King heirs: [Grundy Co., TN Settlements, 1841-1860, Vol. 1, p. 113](#).
For Jesse King heirs: Coffee Co., TN Probate Records; [Settlements, 1860-1893, Vol 1, p. 37](#). Final settlement recorded 18 April 1861.
- ⁹³ Specific individual sources and citations for those sources to be noted in the individual's Chapter to follow.
- ⁹⁴ Ibid.

also

Mrs Mary King

Hannah King to Thomas King

This Indenture made this 30. day of January 1801 between Hannah King of North Carolina and Orange County of one part & Thomas King her son of Hancock County and State of Georgia of the other part ~~Witnesseth~~ that the said Hannah King for and in consideration of the natural love and affection she hath for her son Thomas King doth by these presents give unto him the said Thomas King a certain negro boy named Joe to him the said Thomas King his heirs and assigns forever. and the said Hannah King for her ~~self~~ ^{husband} doth by these presents give unto the said Thomas King his heirs and assigns forever ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~use~~ ^{use} of the above named negro unto the said Thomas King his heirs and assigns forever. In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal this day and date first above written A.D. and I do hereby certify that the said Thomas King is the ~~son~~ ^{son} of the above said of gift doth reserve to myself the use of the above named negro during my natural life so that the above deed of gift is not to take effect until my death

Signed sealed & delivered
in presence of *Richard Blackwood*
John King

Hannah King ^{her} *mark* *Thomas King*

Orange County May Term 1801

The Execution of the within deed of gift was duly proved in Open Court by the oath of Richard Blackwood a subscribing witness thereof & Ordered to be Registered

John Taylor

also Mrs King

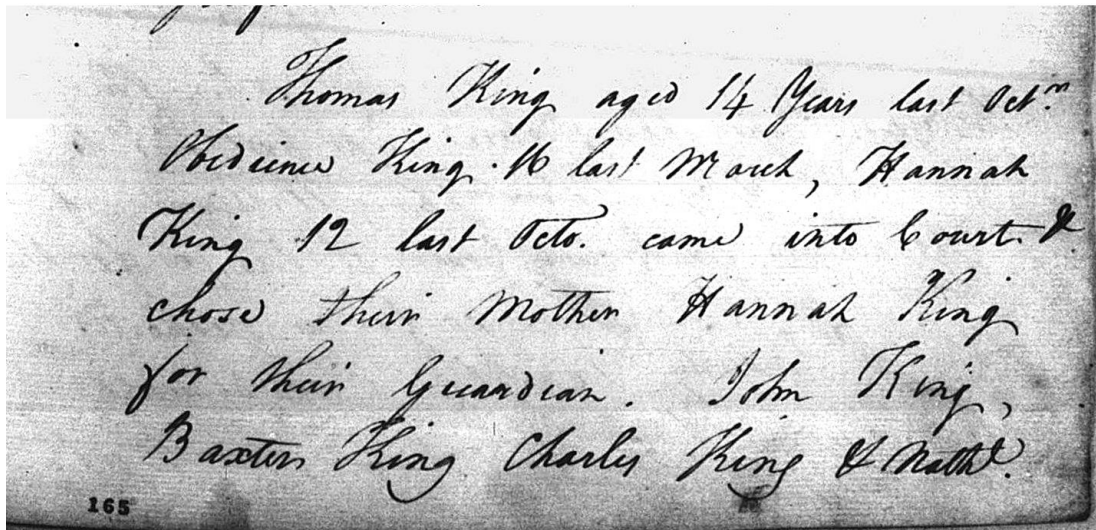
Important Documents
...in the life of Thomas King

Thomas King Choses his Mother Hannah as Guardian

Orange County NC, County Court Minutes 1782-1785

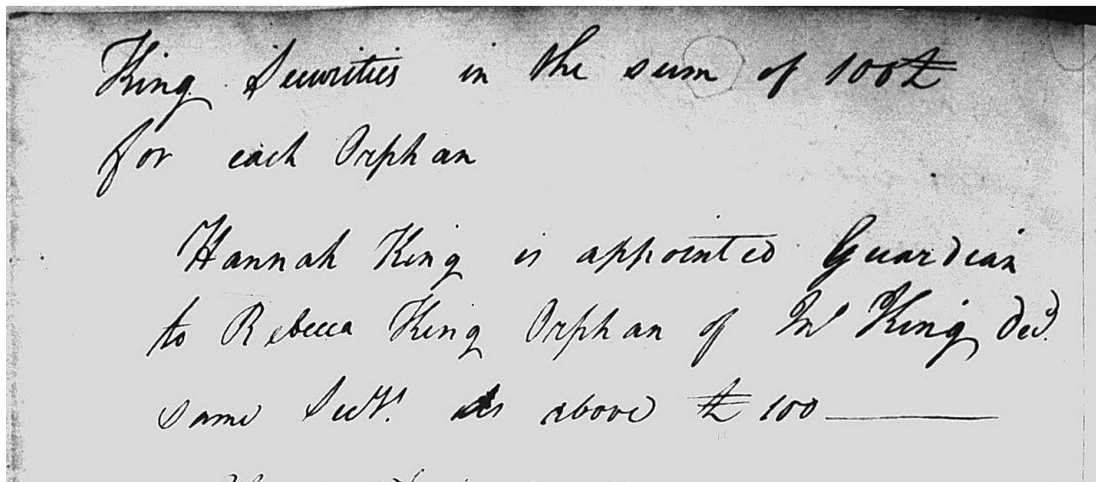
26 August 1783 [no page nos]

In the process his age and birth month is noted. This document confirms an October 1768 birth date.



Thomas King aged 14 Years last Oct^r
Obidient King. He last March, Hannah
King 12 last Octo. came into Court &
chose their Mother Hannah King
for their Guardian. John King,
Baxter King Charles King & Nathl.

165



King Securities in the sum of 100^l
for each Orphan

Hannah King is appointed Guardian
to Rebecca King Orphan of In King, dec^d
some Sett^l as above £ 100

The Distribution of the Estate of John Strother

Hancock Co., GA. Wills and Administrations of Estates, Vol A, p. 58

Thomas King is Distributed Elizabeth Strother King's Share

Vouchers returned to my office 2nd June 1798 -
of the receipts & Expenditures of the Estate of
John Strother dec'd by the administrators of said Estate

Part of a note paid off & taken in - given in W. John
Strother's lifetime to Jones Shivers, and from the
credits it appears that he paid of himself -
Before his death
Jas. Thomas paid
for - fifty one
one note of hand
Wylfres Rogers

Andrew Borland's proven accounts against said estate
paid off - - 1 dollar & 50 cents

Boland Mitchell & Co proven a/c for - - - \$10-56 $\frac{1}{4}$

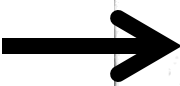
1801	Jones Shivers receipt for	22 = 75	
Sept. 17 th	Jas. Strother's do for	187 = 00	
	George Strother's do for	176 = 50	
	John Strother do for	176 = 50	
	Thomas King - do for	176 = 50	
	Jane Strother's Receipt for	176 ⁰⁰	
	Patty Stroud's ditto for	163 ⁰⁰	
	Aaron Strother's ditto for	176 ⁵⁰	
	Joel Moody's ditto for	176 ⁵⁰	

1808
July 8th paid David Strother receipt N^o 1 \$314-17

1812 Jan 7th " Richard Strother " " 2. 176-50

1813 Apr. 9 " Patty Stroud " " 3. 14-50 505-17

This document is the 'Rosetta Stone' for the family of John Strother and Jane Fussell. It shows the wife (Jane), each son (James, George, John, Aaron & Richard Strother) and two daughters' husbands (Thomas King for wife Elizabeth Strother and Joel Moody for Anna Strother receiving for their spouse) and daughter Patty Stroud (whose husband Mark Stroud was deceased) all receiving their proportionate share of the remainder of the estate of John Strother. It is equivalent to a 'family record' in a Bible.



Mother Hannah King's Gift to her son Thomas King, a resident of Hancock County, Georgia

Orange Co., NC Deed BK 9 Page 227

Proving Thomas King in Hancock Co., GA as her son, thus proving the Thomas King named in various Strother estate documents was Thomas King born Oct 1768.

delivered

Mrs. Taylor

Hannah King to Thomas King

This Indenture made this 30 day of January 1804 between Hannah King of North Carolina and Orange County of one part & Thomas King her son of Hancock County and State of Georgia of the other part Witnesseth that the said Hannah King for and in consideration of the natural love and affection she hath for her son Thomas King doth by these presents give unto him the said Thomas King a certain negro boy named Joe to him the said Thomas King his heirs and assigns forever and the said Hannah King for herself her heirs &c doth warrant and guarantee defend the title of the above named negro unto the said Thomas King his heirs and assigns forever Intwined whereof I shew unto set my hand and seal this day and date first above written N. C. and I the said Hannah King before the signing and sealing of the above Deed of Gift doth reserve to myself the use of the above named negro during my natural life so that the above Deed of Gift is not to take effect until my death

Signed sealed & delivered
in presence of

Richard Blackwood
John King

Hannah King *mark*

Orange County May Term 1804

The Execution of the within Deed of Gift was duly proved in Open Court by the oath of Richard Blackwood a subscribing witness thereto & Ordered to be Registered

John Taylor

delivered

Jane Fussell Strother's Bequest to Daughter Elizabeth King

Hancock Co., GA Inferior Court, Wills and Estate Records,
Book M 1827-1831, pp. 545-6


Georgia Hancock County 545
Inferior Court sitting for ordinary purposes Monday
May 3^d 1830. Present their Honors
Sol^o Crawford
Gideon Holsey
John G. Gilbert
Thomas L. Latimer } Justices

The last Will and Testament of Jane Strother late of this County dec^d being produced in Court - and the legal execution thereof by the said testatrix being shown to the satisfaction of the Court by the evidence of Thomas L. Latimer and Benjamin Barnes two of the attesting witnesses thereto.
It is ordered that the said last Will and Testament be recorded, and that the nominated executor be qualified on his application.

In the name of God, Amen. I Jane Strother of Hancock County ~~and~~ State of Georgia, being sick at present but of sound mind and memory for which blessing I thank God, and being mindful Death: do make ordain and constitute this my last Will and Testament. First, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God who give it me - My body to be buried in decent Christian burial at the discretion of my friends not doubting but I shall receive it again at the general resurrection. As touching such worldly property wherewith it has pleased God to bless me I give, devise and dispose of the same in the following manner, viz,
First. I give to my son David Strother, Peggy a woman, Francis a girl, and Bailey a Boy and Lammima a girl and Nathan a man to him and his heirs forever. I give and bequeath ~~unto~~ to my son Aaron Strother a negro man Lewis. - My will further is that my negro woman Lucy, Liza a girl and Ellick a boy be sold and the proceeds of said sale I give to my Daughter Anna Moody. I give to my Daughter Patty Stroud five dollars. I give to my son John Strother five dollars. I give to my son George Strother five dollars. I give to my son Richard Strother five dollars. I give to my son James Strother five dollars. I give to my Daughter Elizabeth King five dollars. My further Will and desire is, that the residue of my property after paying off the above legacies and all just debts, revert to my son David Strother I appoint my son Richard Strother my sole executor to this my last Will and Testament. And I hereby revoke disannul and disallow all former Wills and Testaments, allowing this and none other to be

Jane Fussell Strother's Last Will and Testament con't

Hancock Co., GA Inferior Court, Wills and Estate Records,
Book M 1827-1831, pp. 545-6

546
my last Will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set
my hand and fixed my seal, this 25th of April 1830.
Signed & sealed and delivered
in our presence, who in her pre-
sence & in that of each other
have hereunto signed our names,
Test
Thos L Latimer
Benjamin Barnes
J. Denton
Jane ^{her} Strother 
Richard Strother nominated executor of the last Will and testament of
Jane Strother dec^d. appeared personally in Court & was duly qualified as
executor of said Will &c. Whereupon it is ordered that letters testamentary
do issue to him as executor.
On the applications of Richard Strother ex^r of &c of Jane Strother dec^d.
It is ordered that Thomas L. Latimer, Benjamin Barnes, James Dickson,
Lewis Cheely and Tully Vinson Esquires, be and they are hereby appointed
appraisers of the personal property of said dec^d. and that they or any three
or more of them being first duly sworn do appraise said property and make
return thereof to said Executor according to Law.

Original Last Will
and Testament of
Thomas King

Loose File labeled:
King, Thomas (1836)

Tennessee:
Coffee County Court,
Probate case files
1836-1972

I Thomas King being of sound and perfect mind and memory do make and publish this my last will and Testament in manner and form following;

First. I will that out of the proceeds of my crop and such property as wife may think can best be spared all my just debts and burial expenses be paid by my Executors.

second. After the payment of my debts I give and bequeath to my beloved Wife Elizabeth King all my real and personal Estate of what kind and nature soever during her natural life except such parts and portions thereof as may be herein after by me devised.

Third. I give to my son Richard S. King an interest with his Mother in the plantation on which I now reside in order that he may manage and take care of the same for his Mother and for his own support; not allowing him to use the profits of said plantation for extravagant or profane purposes.

Fourth. I give to my Daughter Hannah Partin a negro girl Ann about eighteen months old which she now has in possession for her own separate use and benefit and not for the use benefit or control of her husband during my said Daughter's natural life and at her death the said negro girl and her increase to be equally divided among the Children of my said Daughter Hannah Partin.

Fifth. To each of my sons John and Richard S. I give a Cow & Calf, Bed & furniture &c. to be for them selected out of my Estate by my Wife so as to make them equal in this respect with my other Children who have gone to housekeeping.


I also give to my son Rich^d. S. a young Black Horse, saddle and bridle which are now called his.

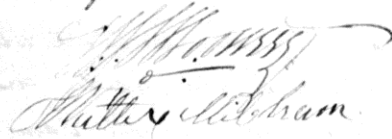
Sixth. I will that all my estate real and personal of what kind and nature soever remaining at the death of my Wife Elizabeth King shall be equally divided among my Children Charles King, William King, Jesse King, David King, Anderson King, Thomas King, John King, Richard S. King, Hannah Partin and Mary Deville and Elizabeth Bessons or their lawful heirs.

Original Last Will and Testament of Thomas King, con't.

Seventh. Lastly I hereby nominate and appoint William S. Mooney and Barnaby Burrow executors of this my last Will and testament hereby revoking all former Wills by me made. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this eighth day of June eighteen hundred and thirty-six.

Liquis scilicet published and declared by the above named Thomas King sen. to be his last Will and testament in the presence of us who have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses in the presence of the testator.

Thomas King sen. 


William S. Mooney

The Etymology of the Fictitious Elizabeth Calp Waggoner... the Usurper of Elizabeth Strother

The purpose of this report is two-fold. It is to provide proof for and to document the wife of Thomas King (b 1768 Orange Co., NC – d 1840 Coffee Co., TN)¹ (see section at the conclusion of report). However, first and foremost this report provides detail of how speculation insidiously creeps into hundreds (approaching a thousand) of family trees for at least three decades. These incorrect trees lead to wasted time, chasing phantoms and the creation of individuals who did not exist.

Background

Orange County, NC native Thomas King (1768-1840) [hereafter TK1768] married Elizabeth Strother about 1788 in that county.² She was the daughter of John Strother³ and Jane Fussell who also resided in Orange Co., NC at the time. After this marriage, TK1768 followed the Strothers to Hancock Co., GA ca 1794 and then returned back to Orange Co., NC ca 1804 to live near his elderly mother, Hannah King.⁴ After Hannah's death he migrated to Franklin Co., TN ca 1808 where he died in 1840. Elizabeth Strother King, his wife, likely died a short time later, ca 1840 -1842. All of the actual events listed above are detailed and sourced at the end of this report; however, it is important to understand the cautionary tale of Elizabeth's usurper.

It took many man-hours digging in governmental documents to present an accurate story of these individuals, my direct ancestors, and their lives. Unfortunately well over 800 trees on Ancestry.com and other family lineage sites erroneously list TK1768's wife as Elizabeth *Calp Waggoner* (or some version thereof). These listings are a real pity because this person never existed, much less married TK1768 of Orange Co., NC [hereafter Orange]. So how did Elizabeth *Calp Waggoner* come to be?

It all Started with a Few Innocent Passages from a Pioneer King Researcher

In the 1980s, the only document known to King researchers mentioning 'Elizabeth', the wife of TK1768, was his Last Will and Testament.⁵ Her maiden name was unknown to all.

Lawrence Westbrook King (1912-2000) [hereafter LWK], an acquaintance and distant cousin, was a descendant of TK1768.⁶ He was the first person to actively research and document this man, his family and travels. LWK lived in Dallas, TX. Of interest, the vast majority of TK1768's descendants lived or ended up in Texas after his death in 1840. As a result most of the interest in this family during the 1970-1980s, before the existence of the world-wide-web, was Texas centric.

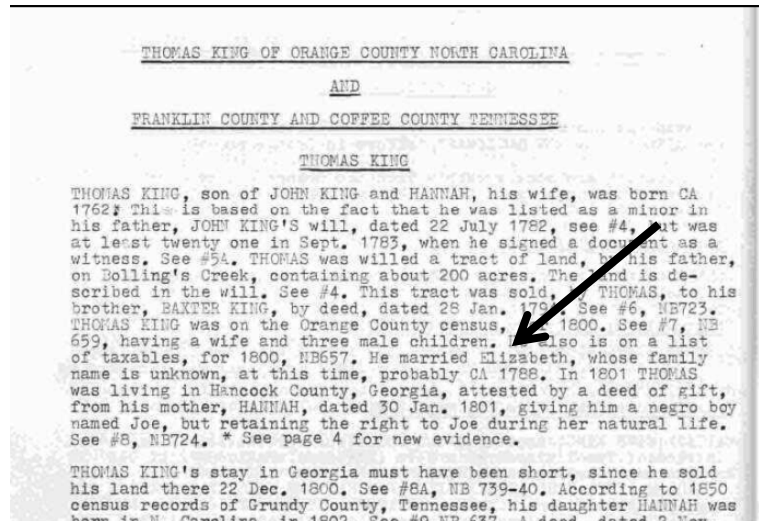
He published two specific works or monographs on his family research, one in 1981 and another expanded work in 1988. LWK's works were placed in the Dallas Public Library and also scanned by the Latter Day Saints [LDS]. They are titled [*The Ancestors and Descendants of Thomas Franklin King and Edna Estella Barnett*](#)⁷ published in 1981[hereafter Work1] and [*The King family of Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee*](#)⁸ published in 1988[hereafter Work2].

The Waggoner Speculation Begins

In Work1 LWK unequivocally states that the family origins of Elizabeth, the wife of TK1768, are unknown.

“He [Thomas King] married Elizabeth, whose family name is unknown, at this time, probably CA 1788 [in Orange].”⁹

He also referenced an 1832 affidavit given by TK1768 in support of old Orange acquaintance George Waggoner’s Revolutionary War pension application.¹⁰ LWK was using this affidavit to prove TK1768’s residence and age and did not comment on any connection between Elizabeth, the wife of TK1768, and any member of the Waggoner family in Work1.

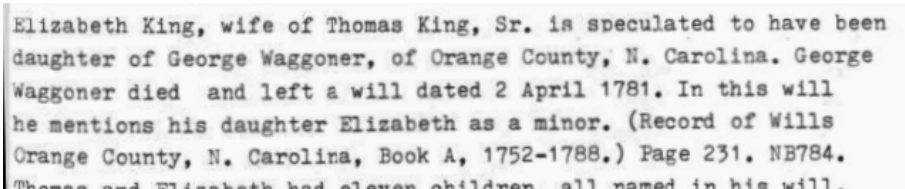


However, seven years later in Work2, LWK did speculate on what Elizabeth’s family name might be. In this monograph, on page 16, he once again states...

“He [TK1768] married Elizabeth, whose family name is not known for certain...”

...adding the phrase ‘for certain’ which did not appear in Work1. Then in the last paragraph of page 17, LWK states...

“Elizabeth King, wife of Thomas King, Sr. is speculated to have been the daughter of George Waggoner, of Orange County, N Carolina. George Waggoner died and left a will dated 2 April 1781. In that will he mentions his daughter Elizabeth as a minor.”¹¹



In a monograph full of explanation and detail, LWK provides no insight into why he speculates any linkage between Elizabeth, the wife of TK1768, and the minor Elizabeth Waggoner mentioned in the will of George Waggoner. He just inserts a random Orange record or data point. Additionally, Work2 references two different George Waggoners, a man who died in Orange around 1781 with a daughter Elizabeth and one a native of Orange who is living in Franklin Co., TN in 1832; but, there is no attempt to discuss any possible relationships. LWK also phrases his speculative statement in such a way...*“[She] is speculated to have been...”* ...that the reader isn’t really sure whose speculation it was! Unfortunately, this monograph with its

unexplained speculation was passed to other King family enthusiasts and placed on the shelves at both the Dallas Public Library and the LDS Family History Library.

This was a real shame as LWK's work was loaded with generally good analysis; however, this specific speculation was EXTREMELY unfortunate. As a result of this 1988 speculation, many King family history enthusiasts noted TK1768's wife as Elizabeth *Waggoner* in handwritten notes or trees.

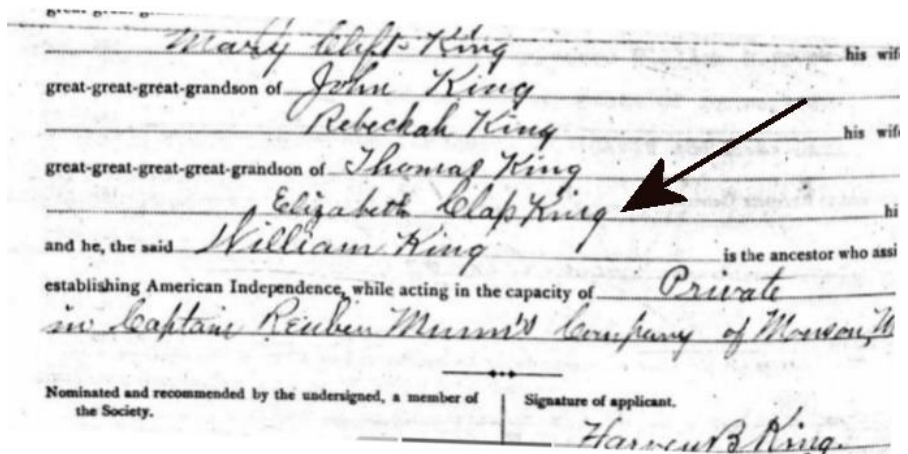
Elizabeth Calp Waggoner, a child of Ancestry.com and the Internet

The internet has been a boon to researchers. You can access literally millions of original documentary records online and have the ability to reach cousins you never dreamed you had. The internet has also been the bane of serious researchers as it provides an unfiltered and unvetted platform for erroneous speculation (genealogical gossip) and incorrect family trees to proliferate like wildfire. Ancestry.com and other sites have had a hand in this as they give the unwitting enthusiast easy tools to perpetuate erroneous family trees and such.

By 2020 Ancestry.com had provided millions of searchable documentary records on their website. Those individuals who had listed Elizabeth King as a *Waggoner*, based on the 1988 LWK speculation, began searching for documents to connect TK1768 and Elizabeth *Waggoner* and her *Waggoner* roots.

At some point someone¹² came across an 1897 [Sons of the American Revolution {SAR} application](#) for a Massachusetts native William King.¹³ In the lineage of the application it was stated this William King had a son, Thomas King¹⁴, whose wife was Elizabeth Clap King.

Obviously, this record had nothing to do with TK1768 but was copied, entered and linked to an Ancestry.com family tree as the wife of TK1768. **As a result, the speculated (and incorrect) Elizabeth Waggoner suddenly became a new fictitious person...Elizabeth Calp Waggoner** in this new tree. Ancestry.com even did her the injustice of incorrectly transcribing her name as Calp. As a result in searches (and bogus trees) it shows as Calp in lieu of Clap (or Class).



Just some brief comments regarding this record and TK1768. First, Massachusetts might as well have been the planet Mars to TK1768. He never set foot in Massachusetts...yet people think he married this individual??? I have no doubt that a Thomas King of Massachusetts married the lady shown above; but, connecting TK1768 to this Elizabeth is unconscionable. Secondly, it doesn't even state she was a *Waggoner*, but she was 'turned into one' by the original copier. Unfortunately, this fictitious person gets copied to new trees on a weekly basis using Ancestry.com's super-duper seamless tree copying system.

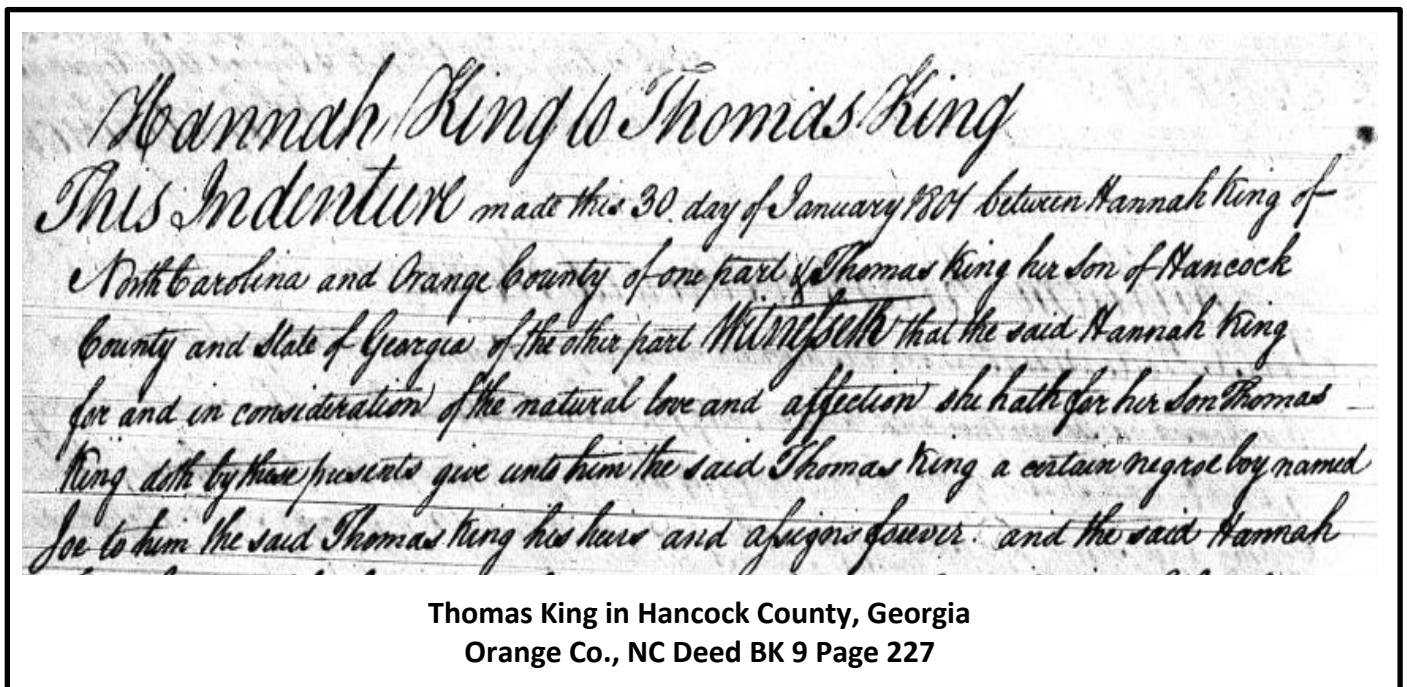
Currently individuals have started posting trees containing this fictitious person to other websites like FamilySearch, WikiTree and Geni. The erroneous data propagates like a weed and these types of genies are

VERY DIFFICULT to put back in the bottle. To this day enthusiasts are still linking TK1768's wife Elizabeth to many other incorrect Waggoner families on Ancestry.com with no semblance of logical documentation. Why? Why?

Why...because people still think she was a *Waggoner* based on the original 'faux pas' and are chasing the wrong family. Most are still hammering away at that square peg in hopes that it will fit into that round hole.

Thomas King (1768-1840) of Orange Co., NC, GA and Franklin Co., TN married Elizabeth Strother

- TK1768 married Elizabeth Stother the daughter of John Strother and Jane Fussell in Orange Co., NC. The Strother family migrated to Orange from Bute Co., NC ca 1776.¹⁵ TK1768 married Elizabeth Strother about 1788.¹⁶
- Many members of the Strother family, including John Strother and his wife Jane Fussell migrated south to Greene/Hancock Co., GA ca 1794.
- TK1768 and wife Elizabeth Strother followed them to Hancock Co., GA.¹⁷ TK1768 can be documented on the Hancock Co. 1796 tax rolls living next to Strother relatives.^{18,19,20}
- Elizabeth Strother King's father John Strother died in Hancock Co., GA in early 1796. TK1768 posted probate bond for his mother-in-law Jane Strother on 11 June 1796 in Hancock Co., GA.²¹
- TK1768 lived in Hancock Co., GA in 1800 but will not be found on that federal census as it was lost and does not exist.²²
- Hannah King of Orange Co., NC transferred the gift of a slave to "Thomas King her son of Hancock County and State of Georgia". This January 1801 Indenture from Hannah King of Orange Co., NC identifies the Thomas King in Hancock Co., GA as her son, thus proving the Thomas King named in various Strother estate documents was TK1768.²³



- TK1768 received his wife's (Elizabeth Strother King) portion of her father's (John Strother) estate on 1 September 1801.²⁴ This document is equivalent to a Bible Family Record.

1801	Jonas Shivers receipt for	22 = 7/8	
Sept. 1 st	Lat. Strother's do for	187 = 00	
	George Strother's do for	176 = 50	
	John Strother do for	176 = 50	
	Thomas King - do for	176 = 50	
	Jane Strother's Receipt for	176 = 00	
	Patty Stroud's ditto for	163 = 00	
	Aaron Strother's ditto for	176 = 50	
	Juel Moody's ditto for	176 = 50	
1808	July 8 th paid David Strother for receipts N ^o 1	\$314.17	
1812	Jan 7 th " Richard Strother " " 2.	176.50	
1813	Apr. 9 " Patty Stroud " " 3.	14.50	505.17

Elizabeth Strother King's Share

- TK1768 and family left Hancock County, GA and relocated back in Orange Co., NC ca1804.²⁵ They moved on to Franklin Co., TN about 1808.²⁶
- And finally Jane Strother, Elizabeth's mother, died in Hancock Co., GA in 1830. In her final act she left her daughter, "Elizabeth King" five dollars as her legacy.²⁷

five dollars. I give to my son John Strother five dollars. I give to my son George Strother five dollars. I give to my son Richard Strother five dollars. I give to my son James Strother five dollars. I give to my Daughter Elizabeth King five dollars. My further Will and desire is, that the residue of my property after paying off the ab-

Elizabeth Strother King's Legacy from her Mother
Hancock Co., GA Inferior Court,
Wills and Estate Records, Book M 1827-1831, pp. 545-6

Summary

As discussed earlier, the internet has been a marvelous vehicle for genealogy. However, it has drawbacks also. While it makes it very simple to find cousins and share information, it allows for the unintentional dissemination of incorrect information as well. Obviously, no one posts incorrect information to the internet to mislead others, but incorrect information finds its way to the world-wide-web in any event.

A large majority of family history enthusiasts do not have the desire or experience to discern the difference between good or faulty information. This is not their fault, but it is the truth. Many times it can take years of work to undo a mistake that subtly becomes engrained into a family tradition or went unchallenged over a period of decades. As stated earlier there are over 800 posted King family trees that show this Thomas King with the fictitious Elizabeth *Calp Waggoner* or Elizabeth *Waggoner*.

For all of these reasons, any Ancestry.com reader who has Thomas King's wife shown incorrectly as a *Waggoner*, in any form, is urged to correct their information or trees. We owe it to our descendants to have the most accurate non-confusing information available for their use. Additionally, if you're interested (and have tested), you can use Ancestry.com's DNA Matches 'Search' function to see just how many Strother cousins you actually have...you will find many!

Arthur V. (Vince) King
Georgetown, Texas
June 2022

¹ Son of Revolutionary War Patriot, John King, DAR Ancestor A131748 and wife Hannah Davis.

² See detailed sourced progression at the conclusion of this report.

³ Revolutionary War Patriot, John Strother, DAR Ancestor A111744

⁴ Orange Co., NC [Deed BK 20, p401-2](#) . Henry Lloyd to Thomas King, 2 November 1804

⁵ [Last Will and Testament, Thomas King](#). Original Will, Tennessee Probate Court Files, 1795-1955, images, FamilySearch, Coffee County Court, Probate case files. Image 2142-4 of 3192

⁶ Lawrence Westbrook King was a descendant of Thomas King ca(1806-1866), the son of TK1768.

⁷ King, Lawrence Westbrook. *The Ancestors and Descendants of Thomas Franklin King and Edna Estella Barnett*, 1981. self-published

⁸ King, Lawrence Westbrook. *The King family of Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee*, 1988. self-published

⁹ King, Lawrence Westbrook. *The Ancestors and Descendants of Thomas Franklin King and Edna Estella Barnett*, scan page 43 of 207. 1981. self-published

¹⁰ [Affidavit of Thomas King of Franklin Co., TN](#) dated 5 Sept 1832, stating he was a native of Orange in support of George Waggoner's Revolutionary War Pension Application; Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files; Survivor's Pension Application File, Archive Publication No. M804, Roll 2468, Images 320/21 of 1137. Unfortunately, Thomas King's affidavit for Franklin Co., TN neighbor and old acquaintance George Waggoner fueled speculation in the 1980's that Thomas King MIGHT have a relationship with the Waggoner family and thus Thomas King's wife was a Waggoner. She was not a Waggoner, she was Elizabeth Strother, which is documented in this report.

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- ¹¹ Orange Co., NC Record of Wills. Book A, 1752-1788, p231
- ¹² We will probably never know the identity of ‘patient zero’.
- ¹³ Stated as fact as many trees link this record as a source.
- ¹⁴ also a Massachusetts native
- ¹⁵ Orange Co., NC [Deed BK 2 p12](#). Robert Cate(s) to John Strother, Jan 29, 1776, 200 acres
- ¹⁶ Logically assumed from Thomas King’s children’s birth years.
- ¹⁷ Orange Co., NC [Deed BK 5, pp211-12](#). Thomas King to Baxter King, January 28, 1794. Thomas King sold his only Orange Co., NC holding of land to his brother on that date.
- ¹⁸ [Hancock Co., GA tax rolls, 1796](#). TK1768 was enumerated in Capt. Daniel Bankston’s Militia District, along with his extended Strother and Stroud family with 100 acres and one slave
- ¹⁹ TK1768’s son William King stated his birthplace as Georgia in the 1850 Leon County TX Federal Census. [1850 Leon County, Texas Federal Census](#), Roll: 912; Page: 321A; Seventh Census of the United States, Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
- ²⁰ TK1768’s son Davis King stated his birthplace as Georgia in the 1850 Nacogdoches County TX Federal Census. [1850 Nacogdoches, Texas Federal Census](#), Roll: 913; Page: 65A; Seventh Census of the United States, Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
- ²¹ Hancock Co., GA. [Deed BK AB, 1794-1798, pp298-99](#)
- ²² 1790-1810 Federal Census Records for Georgia: The first three census schedules for Georgia are missing. A total of seventeen volumes of 1790-1820 censuses were lost by the federal government, evidently before 1895, and the cause is unknown. https://www.georgiaarchives.org/research/census_records
- ²³ [Orange Co., NC Deed BK 9 page 227](#) (unindexed); Hannah King of Orange Co., NC to son Thomas King of Hancock Co., GA. This is an important linchpin document proving Thomas King, the son of John King and wife Hannah of Orange Co., NC, was living in Hancock Co., GA the same year as the distribution of John Strother's estate to his son-in-law Thomas King.
- ²⁴ Hancock Co., GA. [Wills and Administrations of Estates, Vol A, p58](#). This document is the ‘Rosetta Stone’ for the family of John Strother and Jane Fussell. It shows the wife (Jane), each son (James, George, John, Aaron & Richard Strother) and two daughters’ husbands (Thomas King for wife Elizabeth Strother and Joel Moody for Anna Strother receiving for their spouse) and daughter Patty Stroud (whose husband Mark Stroud was deceased) all receiving their proportionate share of the remainder of the estate of John Strother. It is equivalent to a ‘family record’ in a Bible.
- ²⁵ Orange Co., NC [Deed BK 20, p401-2](#) . Henry Lloyd to Thomas King, 2 November 1804
- ²⁶ In the above referenced 1832 affidavit given for the [Revolutionary Pension Application](#) of Franklin Co., TN resident George Waggoner, Thomas King states he moved to Franklin Co., TN “about 22 years ago”. Daughter Mary King Neville born ca1808 states her birthplace as TN in the 1860 census.
- ²⁷ Hancock Co., GA. Inferior Court, Wills and Estate Records, [Book M 1827-1831, pp545-6](#). Next to Hannah King’s gift of a slave to son Thomas King, this document is of ultimate importance as it proves John Strother and Jane Fussell’s daughter Elizabeth was indeed married to Thomas King, the man who received Elizabeth’s share of her father’s estate distribution in 1801.

Mapping the YDNA of the Chapel Hill Kings

Introduction

The Kings discussed in this work all descend from John King (II), who settled near Chapel Hill in Orange County, North Carolina (NC) in the 1750s and died in 1782. A graphic titled *The Chapel Hill Kings* (CHK chart) has been provided at the conclusion of this appendix for reference to supplement the information discussed below. All King descendent lines discussed will have an identification tag (XX) to the right of their name which corresponds to the same individuals illustrated on CHK chart.

Y-DNA Testing of the Orange County NC Kings

In human genetics, a Y-chromosome DNA haplogroup is a haplogroup defined by mutations in the non-recombining portions of DNA from the Y chromosome (called YDNA). The Y-Chromosome is one half of the 23rd pair of human chromosomes. Only males have a Y-chromosome, while females have two X-chromosomes. A man's patrilineal ancestry, or male-line ancestry, can be traced using the DNA on his Y-chromosome (YDNA), because the Y-chromosome is transmitted father to son nearly unchanged. When a man's test results are compared to another man's results to determine the time frame in which the two results are very close, they are related within a genealogically useful time frame. A surname project is where many individuals whose Y-chromosomes match collaborate to find their common ancestry.¹

Women who wish to determine their direct paternal DNA ancestry can ask their father, brother, paternal uncle, paternal grandfather, or a paternal uncle's son (their cousin) to take a test for them.

2020 YDNA Testing Project

Between 2006-2020 several males (the early donors) from this line had already tested via FamilyTree DNA (FTDNA);² however, their pedigrees offered no help in 'looking back'.³ These donors did not have documentary evidence they descended from John King (II) by traditional means. Additionally, it was noted that no descendant from a documented line of John King (II) had ever tested.

However, in February 2020 that changed. During that month, the early donors were notified of a match with a descendant of John Turner King (6b) who died in Nacogdoches County, Texas (Kit# 927902) and a descendant of Matthew J. King⁴ who died in Drew County, Arkansas (Kit #MK67222).⁵ Both of these men were documented natives of Orange Co., NC and John Turner King had a well-researched and sourced pedigree tying him to John King (II). As a result, in 2020 a dedicated project was initiated to map the YDNA haplotypes of known pedigreed descendants of John King (II).

In order to map the lineage accomplish this, a descendant donor (Kit #930748) from the line of William Dixon King (2a) was identified, contacted and tested in May 2020. His test result was pivotal, as John Turner King and William Dixon King are proven first cousins,⁶ both grandsons of John King (II) and his wife Hannah of Orange Co., NC. The YDNA 37 marker sequences from those two

donors matched identically (37/37). These exact 37 markers were passed from John King (II) to his sons, then passed unchanged (unmutated) from father to son all the way to the current respective donors. They have not mutated in those particular lines in over 250+ years.

Most importantly, those results identified and confirmed John King's (II) 37 marker sequence. If his body could be exhumed and tested, he would have that identical YDNA HaploSequence.⁷ THAT was great to know and is illustrated at the bottom of page 1 of the CHK chart. This HaploSequence will also be of tremendous help to the greater King family of researchers when we start looking backward and exploring other King lines. All legitimate male King descendants of John King (II) will match⁸ this specific haplotype sequence.

The Unique Thomas King DYS456 Marker Mutation

(Hi-lighted yellow on the John King HaploSequence illustration)

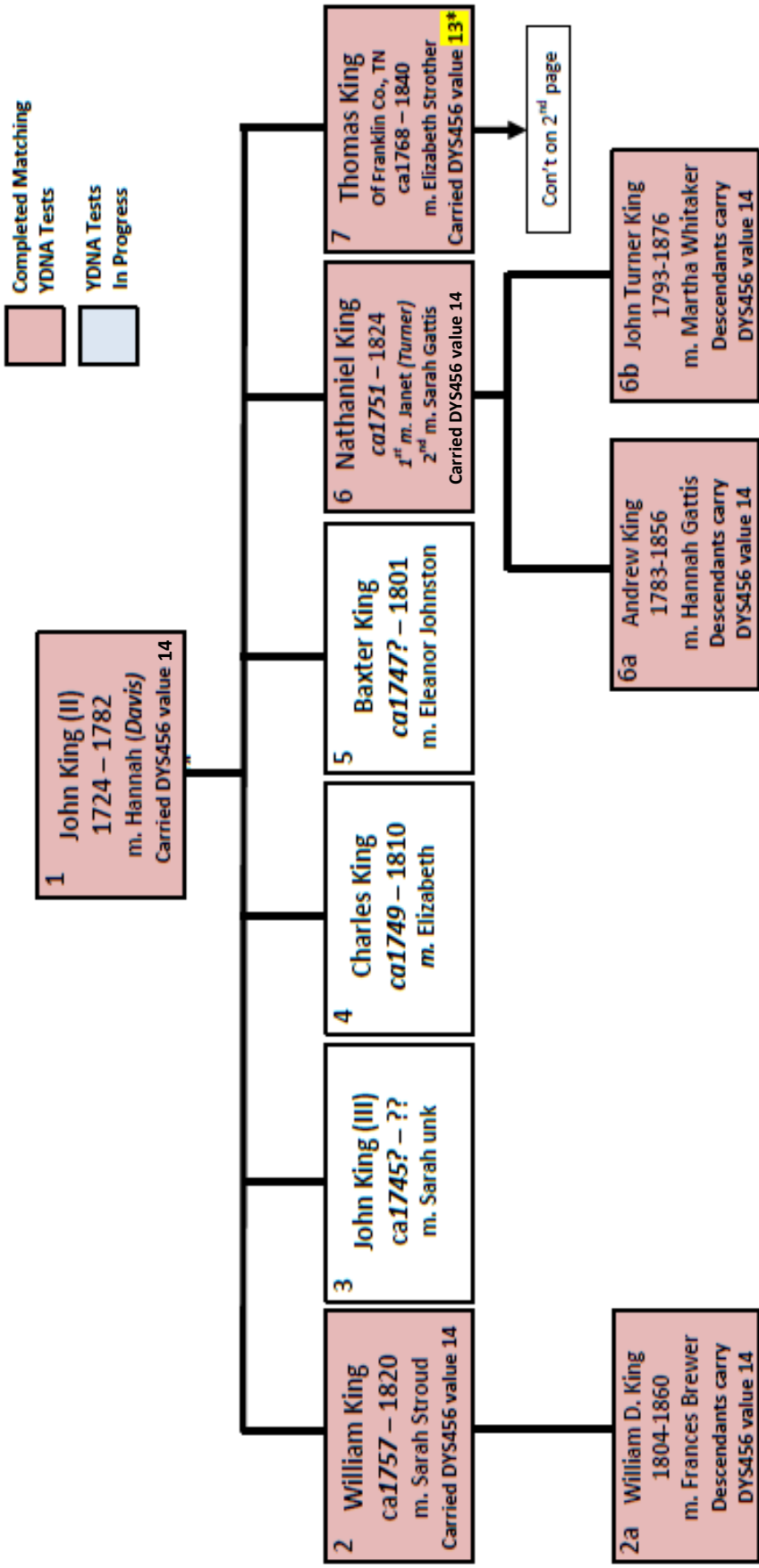
It really can't get any better than this. Seven (7) donors from three (3) different sons of Thomas King (7) were also tested. Four (4) donors from son William King (7b),⁹ two (2) donors from son Davis King (7d)¹⁰ and one (1) donor from son John King (7g).¹¹ Those results matched (37/37) identical one to another. They also matched also match 36/37 to the John King (II) HaploSequence. In each case YDNA marker DYS456 mutated from 14 to 13 in each line.

Different descent lines from Thomas King carrying DYS456 at 13 is very significant because it confirms 1) the DYS456 marker mutated at Thomas King's birth and 2) ALL descendants of Thomas King will carry that specific marker mutation.¹² In other words it a unique mutation that fingerprints the male descendants of Thomas King of Orange Co., NC/Hancock Co., GA/Franklin Co., TN.

Chapel Hill King YDNA Summary

- Marker CDY seems to be the key differentiator at this date.¹³
- The John King (II) YDNA Marker Sequence (HaploSequence)¹⁴ is unique to his descendants, specifically the value of marker CDY at 34-34. If you have this identical 37 marker HaploSequence, you descend from John King (II).¹⁵
- If you have a 36 marker match and the only differing marker is DYS456 at 13, you descend from Thomas King the youngest son of John King (II).
- If you have a 35 or 36 marker match where other markers differ and your CDY marker is 34-34, you likely descend from John King (II), but more investigation would be required to determine lineage.

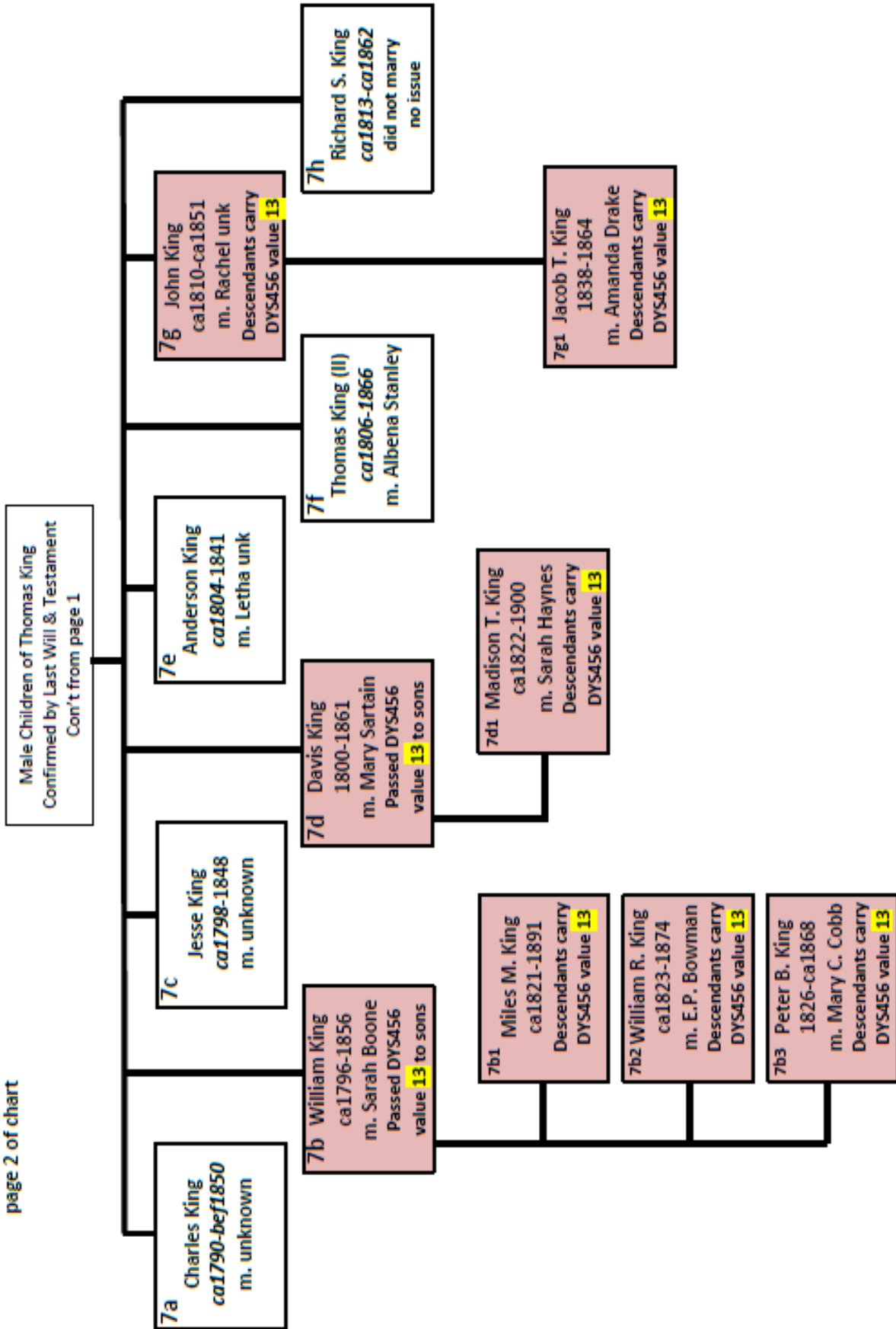
The Chapel Hill Kings



The John King (II) Y-DNA Marker Sequence (Haplo Sequence)
 Shared identical 37/37 by current day descendants of #2a and #6b

DYS438	10
DYS442	12
CDY	34 34
DYS570	23 23
DYS576	18 18
DYS607	14 14
DYS456	14 14
YCAII	19 21
Y-GATA-H4	10 10
DYS460	10 10
DYS464	12 13 15 16
DYS449	30 30
DYS448	20 20
DYS437	16 16
DYS447	24 24
DYS454	11 11
DYS455	8 8
DYS459	8-8 8
DYS458	15 15
DYS389ii	28 28
DYS392	11 11
DYS389i	12 12
DYS439	11 11
DYS388	14 14
DYS426	11 11
DYS385	14 15
DYS391	11 11
DYS19	14 14
DYS390	23 23
DYS393	14 14

The Chapel Hill Kings
 page 2 of chart



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- ¹ For purposes of this King YDNA Project, a 37 marker YDNA test (by FamilyTreeDNA) is utilized. If a donor has 4 or less marker mismatches (by one increment) in the 37 markers, he is considered related to some extent. Further analysis may be needed, along with documentary evidence, to ascertain specific relationships.
- ² Donors (Kit#127071), (Kit#414795) and (Kit#357614)
- ³ It is logical that most of the early YDNA donors were those with 'brick walls' or their lineage stymied. Those that had complete and sourced lineages reaching back into the 17th and 18th centuries knew who their ancestors were and did not feel the need or have the incentive to participate in YDNA testing.
- ⁴ [Matthew J. King](#), was born in Orange Co., NC in the 1820s, the son of William King and Catherine McCauley. The marriage record of [William King and Catherine McCauley](#) is documented in Orange Co., NC. The identity of this William's father has not been determined at this date and he is not illustrated on the CHK chart, but he does descend from John King (II) and belongs to this greater King family.
- ⁵ (Kit# 927902) was a 36/37 match, (Kit #MK67222) was a 35/37 match
- ⁶ See the CHK chart. William Dixon King (2a) is a Will proven son of William King (2), who in turn is a Will proven son of John King (II). John Turner King (6b) is a probate proven son of Nathaniel King (6), who in turn is a Will proven son of John King (II). For more information contact the author.
- ⁷ See CHK chart, page 1, bottom of page for the John King (II) Maker Sequence.
- ⁸ A descendant might only be a 34/37 match; however value for marker CDY (34-34) will likely be unchanged.
- ⁹ William King (7b) was at the time an assumed son of Thomas King (7) now confirmed. YDNA tests (Kit#357614) and (Kit#936291) are from descendants of Miles M. King (7b1), test (Kit#127071) is from a descent of William King (7b2) and test (Kit#414795) is from a descendant of Peter Boone King (7b3).
- ¹⁰ Davis King (7d) was a documentary proven son of Thomas King (7) represented by (Kit#934715) and (Kit#950402).
- ¹¹ John King (7g) was at the time an assumed son of Thomas King (7) now confirmed. YDNA test (Kit#939395) for a descendant of Jacob T. King (7g1).
- ¹² In all likelihood... the odds of any marker mutating are rare, however, the odds of the SAME marker mutating within foreseeable generations is not probable.
- ¹³ All donors that can be traced to John King (II) carry a 34-34 value for marker CDY. All other donors in the FTDNA King Project group with 'similar' YDNA carry different values for CDY.
- ¹⁴ The specific 37 marker HaploSequence shown on page 3 of this report.
- ¹⁵ Or a yet to be proven/unidentified male sibling of John King (II). At this time with the number of tests completed, the author views this as very likely.