

Early in the 1970's I found the name Lucille Key in the Genealogy Helper researching her ancestor John Gaw. Since I was looking for surname Gaw I contacted her. She sent me a pedigree chart showing her father Thomas Johnson GAW in the first position, his father Andrew Jackson GAW, and his father John GAW. There was a circle around John GAW's name with the note, "from a letter written by Thomas GAW of Jackson Co., TN in 1837." Jackson Co., Tennessee was where my GAW family was from.

Over the next several years I was able to put together a family for Thomas GAW [my 3rd great grandfather]. My great uncle, Estell GAW, gave me the names and dates of birth for the children of his father and step-mother, my great grandparents. A cousin, Randy GAW, gave me the name of Thomas's wife, Nancy Hood, their date of marriage and the names and dates of their children's births.

I had found a RW document naming a John GAW as being a soldier under John Calhoun. I also found a record where John GAW witnessed the will of a James Calhoun (and also owed him money). Lastly, I found a record for a Violet GAW marrying John Calhoun and stating she had a 4-year old son John GAW, the son of John GAW.

Another cousin and fellow researcher, Jean Gaw, found an estate appraisal for a John GAW in Abbeville Co., SC, "Estate of John GAW, Box 40 Pack. 875, Abbeville Courthouse, South Carolina 1789." He had died approx Oct 1788 and the inventory was done by his widow Violet GAW and John Calhoun along with a couple of other people.

Finally, approx 1995, I contacted a Jack Gaw in Tennessee who sent me a copy of the "Letter from AJ Gaw" written in 1867, that is also posted to this website (this letter was a response to a letter written by Thomas Gaw to his brother John Gaw in 1837 "on the occasion of his 60th birthday"). Taking all of this information together, it proves that Thomas GAW was the son of John GAW Sr who d 1788 in SC and Violet [last name unknown] and brother to John GAW b 1786. Since then I have found one sister, Mary, who married Joshua Stroud.

Updated 09/29/12: Yesterday heard from another researcher who sent me a copy of the 1837 letter. In it, Thomas identifies his children by name and gives the names and dates of birth for his siblings. It is also posted to this website.

Just goes to show patience is a necessity if one is doing genealogy.