

ThomasEldridge_1731_aft11-01-1820

THE ELDRIDGE FAMILY

From Ancestry family trees. Originally from the book *Hamilton County Pioneers* by John Wilson

The Eldridges once had fine river bottom farms on both sides of the Tennessee River in North Hamilton County. But now much of their former estate lies beneath the waters of Lake Chickamauga.

Jefferson Eldridge was a pioneer of the Long Savannah section in the 1830s and he was joined by his younger brother, Simeon M. Eldridge. They descended from Thomas Eldridge, a Quaker who was among the Penn settlers in Pennsylvania. Thomas Eldridge was in Virginia near the Pennsylvania line in the late 1750s, then he moved to Guilford County, N.C. The family could hear the gunshots of the Revolutionary War battle of Guilford Courthouse.

Thomas Eldridge pushed on to the frontier of the future Tennessee, settling at Campbell's Station. Later, he moved to a farm near Lenoir City. Thomas Eldridge was married to Catherine Taylor, a relative of President Zachary Taylor. Her father was Simeon Taylor. The Taylors also moved to Guilford County, N.C.

The sons of **Thomas Eldridge** included **Simeon Eldridge** and **Jesse Eldridge**. This Simeon Eldridge was born while the family was still near the Pennsylvania-Virginia line. The family moved to Guilford County when he was a child and on to Washington County, N.C. (later Tennessee) when he was 17. He enlisted there to fight in the Revolution. Simeon Eldridge later lived at Roane County and then McMinn County.

Jesse Eldridge, younger brother of Simeon, was one of the first settlers west of Knoxville. In 1796, Jesse Eldridge was bondsman at Knox County for the marriage of William Gardenhire and Easter Nail in October and for the marriage of John Eldridge and Sarah Gilliland in December. About 1798, he purchased land on the Tennessee River near the future town of Loudon. A 32-foot Indian pirogue that was found on the Jesse Eldridge property was used by the family as a feeding and watering trough for farm animals. It is now in the McClung Museum in Knoxville. Jesse Eldridge fought in the battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812. He married Elizabeth Gardenhire, a daughter of Jacob Gardenhire of Roane County. Jesse Eldridge lived until near the end of the Civil War when he was 102 years old. He was buried at the New Providence Cemetery in Roane County. He had acquired many slaves and much property. His brother, Taylor Eldridge, married Ailsey Pathkiller, granddaughter of Chief Pathkiller.

Jefferson Eldridge, a son of Jesse Eldridge, was born in 1805. He married Rachel Blair in 1823 in Roane County. Her grandfather, John Blair, was a Revolutionary War soldier who fought at King's Mountain. John Blair was born in 1749 in Lancaster County, Pa. and he was living in Washington County, Tenn., when he died in 1819. His first wife was Jean Gamble, who lived from 1749 to 1793. His second wife was Hannah Caruthers. The parents of Rachel

Blair Eldridge were William and Sarah Simmons Blair. Rachel was the eldest of their 10 children. William Blair was born in 1775 and he lived until 1843. The Blair family came to Knox County about 1790, settling at Blair's Landing

This later was known as Blair's Ferry.

Jefferson and Rachel Eldridge moved on to Hamilton County near a Gardenhire settlement in an area that later became James County.

However, Jefferson Eldridge died in his mid30s, leaving Rachel with a large family to tend.

She continued to manage her Hamilton County farm that was valued at over \$7,000 just before the Civil War. Two of the sons of Jefferson Eldridge married daughters of George W. Gardenhire. Jesse Eldridge married Isabella Gardenhire after her first husband, George W. Luttrell Jr., died in 1850. John Blair Eldridge married Elizabeth Gardenhire. Another son, William Blair Eldridge, married Caldonia Shull. The youngest son of Jefferson Eldridge was Vincent Blair Eldridge who married Mary Jane Luttrell. Other sons were Simeon and James. The daughters of Jefferson Eldridge included Sarah who married Francis H. Norman, Dollie who married French Watkins and Elizabeth who married Elisha Cooley.

Jesse C. Eldridge, a son of Simeon and Nancy Eldridge, joined Union forces when he was 18.

He enlisted with Co. H of the Fourth Tennessee Cavalry on Aug. 1, 1863, at McMinnville. He rose to the rank of corporal. Jesse Eldridge was accidentally shot in the left arm, with the shot going through his elbow, near the end of the war. The arm had to be amputated at a hospital at Memphis. John W. Eldridge, who was also from Hamilton County, also joined Co. H of the Fourth Tennessee Cavalry. He was mustered in at Tullahoma on Feb. 17, 1864. Records show he "carelessly lost" a Remington pistol and was charged \$20 by the government. John W. Eldridge was captured by the Confederates near the Chattahoochee River on July 31, 1864.

Vincent Blair Eldridge moved to Spring Place, Ga. William Blair Eldridge died in 1869 and Jesse Eldridge in 1871. Caldonia Shull Eldridge, widow of William B. Eldridge, lived until 1910 when she died at the home of her daughter, Mrs

John W. Wilson, at Ooltewah. A son, Jesse Eldridge and daughter, Rachel Eldridge Henry, were living at Soddy. Jesse married Margaret Roark. Caldonia's brother, F.T. Shull, was then living at Rhea Springs. Isabella Gardenhire Luttrell Eldridge, widow of Jesse Eldridge, was living at Rhea County with the Gardenhires when she died in 1898. She was called "one of the best known and most highly esteemed women of Rhea County." Rachel Eldridge was living after the war with her grandson, Jefferson Watkins and many of her sons and daughters were nearby. Simeon M

Eldridge, her brother-in-law, was in the same Blue Springs neighborhood with a

riverbottom farm. He had been in Hamilton County since 1833. He and his wife, Nancy, were parents of the Union veteran Jesse C., Isabel, Catherine, Alfred, Martha, Elizabeth, Nancy, James and Molly. Isabel married Caswell Teenor and Catherine married Samuel M. Scott. Alfred Eldridge served at one time as a deputy sheriff.

When Simeon M. Eldridge died in 1897, it was noted he had lived at Blue Springs for 62 years.

He owned much property and was "one of the wealthiest residents of James County." Alfred and four of his other children were then living.

Jesse Eldridge studied at Savannah Seminary and at Riceville. He became a physician after attending lectures at Vanderbilt and practicing under Dr. T.H. Roddy. He married Mary E McGill in 1875. Their children included James W., Simeon A., David N., Mary C., Elizabeth G and Isaac C.

Some of the Eldridges and their neighbors were buried on a knoll known as the Jackfield

It was so named because the family donkey, Jack, grazed there. This Norman-Eldridge Cemetery was one of the small parcels of the Eldridge lands that was not inundated by Lake Chickamauga.

One of the most renowned of the family was Ernest "Big Boy" Eldridge. He was a grandson of William and Caldonia Eldridge and the son of Jesse and Martha Roark Eldridge. Ernest Eldridge was such a successful basketball coach at Soddy-Daisy High School that he became a legend. He first turned little Soddy High into a basketball powerhouse, then when the school was merged with Daisy he continued to rack up victories, including 45 wins (against only two losses) and the state championship in 1947. In a 44year coaching career, his teams had 840 wins against only 256 losses. His daughter, Ernestine Eldridge, was also a basketball coach. She still resides at Daisy. The other brothers and sisters of Big Boy Eldridge were also teachers. The children first attended Rutherford Academy at Birchwood prior to the family moving to Soddy.

William, Burleigh, Nannie and Dollie all taught.

Nannie married C. Douglas McRee from the pioneer McRee family of Soddy. Burleigh married C.A. Downey, a peach grower at Sale Creek.

Almeda Frazier, daughter of Douglas and Nannie Eldridge McRee, had a long career at TVA.

Her husband, Earl Lee Frazier, owned an insurance agency.

Dave Eldridge served on the Hamilton County Council and was county trustee. He was also president of Broadway Feed Company on South Broad Street. Born in Chattanooga in 1915, he was the son of David McGill Eldridge and Eugenia Coulter.

Bill Eldridge was a longtime county school principal, including 14 years at Sale Creek School and 12 years at Red Bank High. He later was on the Hamilton County School Board. His brother is Roy Eldridge, a former postal carrier who is now a court officer in the criminal courts. They are great-grandsons of John and Elizabeth Gardenhire Eldridge. They are sons of James Davis Eldridge and grandsons of James Franklin "Dyke" Eldridge. Davis Eldridge served a number of years on the County School Board. Dyke Eldridge was "a character" who was a justice of the peace and farmer. At the time of the Chickamauga Dam project, he sold one of the largest tracts acquired by TVA.

This was on the south side of the river, while Jesse Eldridge sold a sizable farm across the river.

Another early Eldridge family was that of William A. and Martha M. Haney Eldridge, who were married in 1866 and lived in James County.

Their children included Riley, Tennessee, Jefferson, James, Ellen and Eliza C. Jasper M. Eldridge and his wife, Sarah, also lived at James County.

Polly Watkins Donnelly of Cleveland, Tenn., has written a book on Jefferson Eldridge and his descendants. She is a granddaughter of Jefferson Eldridge.

from http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~amorrow/fg01/fg01_125.html

Family Group Sheet

Name: **Thomas ELDRIDGE**. Birth: 1738, Prince George Co, MD [1023]
Death: aft 1821, Knox Co, TN [1023]. Religion: Quaker [1023]. Father: John Eldridge (1688-1750). Mother: Elinor (---?---) (-1761). Marriage: bef 1758, Guilford, NC or Frederick, VA [1023]

Spouse: **Catherine TAYLOR**. Birth: abt 1733, Nottingham, PA [2]. Religion: Quaker [1023]. Father: Simeon TAYLOR (1704-1774). Mother: Esther DICKS (~1710->1774)

Children

1 M — **Simeon Eldridge** (Revolution), Birth: 1758, Virginia Death: 11 Jun 1851, Tennessee. Spouse: Mary Britain

2 M — **Jesse Eldridge** Birth: 1762 Death: 1864, of Roane Co, TN

3 M — **Nathaniel Eldridge** Birth: 1764 [1023]

4 F — **Mary Eldridge** Birth: 1766 [1023]

5 M — **John Eldridge** Birth: 1774 [2], [1023] Death: bef 1840, Overton Co, TN [2]. Spouse: Sarah Gilliland - Marriage: 2 Dec 1796, Knox Co, TN [467]

6 M — **Zachariah Eldridge** Birth: 1775 [1023]

7 M — Sampson Eldridge Birth: abt 1782, North Carolina [1002] Death: 24 Feb 1849, Pocahontas, Randolph, AR [1002] Spouse: Fanny Simmons Marriage: 20 Aug 1805, Roane Co, TN [466]

8 F — **Elizabeth Eldridge** Birth: bef 1790 [1023] Spouse: Mason Luttrell Marriage: 24 Jan 1810, Roane Co, TN [466]

Notes for Thomas ELDRIDGE

From Charles Eldridge's book:

Thomas was known to have traveled with his in-laws **Simeon Taylor** and **Esther Dicks**. His name does not appear in Quaker records anywhere, but neither does Cathran's name appear having "married out of unity."

The family eventually moved to Guilford County, North Carolina, perhaps in the early 1760s (their second son Jesse was b. in NC 1762 and Thomas witnessed a land deed in North Carolina on July 31, 1764). In March 1778, Thomas was back in Maryland as he and his two brothers, Jacob and John, took an oath of allegiance to the State of Maryland. Thomas seems to have remained in Maryland for only a few weeks because on July 20, 1778, he enlisted in the 10th Regiment of the North Carolina Line and served for nine months in Quinn's Company. Thomas and his brother John then enlisted in the Georgia Continental Line. In 1780 Thomas enlisted in the small Georgia Refugee Regiment and could have been with that unit during some of its various engagements.

Thomas is listed on the Greene County, North Carolina, tax list of 1783, but they soon moved to rural Tennessee. In 1799 Thomas and all of his sons signed a petition in Knox County, Tennessee, requesting that Knox County be divided and a new county be formed. This petition was granted and Roane County, Tennessee, was formed in about 1801. Thomas' name appears on a list of early Roane County pioneers compiled in 1805 and appears on the tax list for the years 1802-1805, 1808 and 1814. The first spelling of the name as E-l-d-r-i-d-g-e is recorded during this time and it stuck. It had been spelled all different ways during most of his life.

It appears that Thomas was a slave owner for most of his life, starting with the one slave whom he inherited from his father in 1750 and the slaves he inherited from his mother in 1761. Although he moved around the southeast quite a bit, he still owned slaves. On January 22, 1819, Thomas paid \$450.00 to James Johnson for a negro slave girl named Lucy, about 13 years of age. On July 14, 1820, Thomas paid \$575.00 to Elijah Billingsby for a negro slave woman, about 20 years of age and her four-month- old baby. Near the end of his life, Thomas sold or gave away to his family just about all of his possessions. In his final years he lived with his daughter Elizabeth Luttrell in Knox County, Tennessee and died in her home sometime after November 1, 1820.

Last Modified 29 Sep 2004 Created 1 Dec 2013 using Reunion for Macintosh

JohnEldridge

From Ancestry family trees — gerryw4655

Notes of John Eldridge Line

1850 Roane Co., TN. Census

ELDRIDGE, John, Family # 739

Believe his parents were Thomas Eldridge & Catherine Taylor

Catherine Taylor was born 1733 in Nottingham, Pennsylvania, USA and died date unknown in Loudon, Tennessee, USA. She married **Thomas Eldridge** on 1758 in Guilford, North Carolina. Her father was Simeon Taylor 1704-1774 & Esther Dicks 1710

HOPEWELL FRIENDS HISTORY 1734-1934 Frederick County, Virginia

CHAPTER XIII FRIENDS OF EMINENCE

page 182

It is much regretted that little is known of **Simeon Taylor**, the first clerk of Hopewell Monthly Meeting. On the 28th of the 4th month, 1738, a certificate issued by East Nottingham Monthly Meeting was received for Simeon Taylor and wife. He resided on a plantation in what is now Clarke [p.182]County, on the east side of Opequon Creek at the mouth of Yorkshireman's Branch, now called Litler's Run and in his day and generation, doubtless, faithfully served our Society. Hopewell records show that on the 2d of the 4th month, 1764, a Simeon Taylor, with his wife and children John and Ann, obtained a certificate to New Garden Monthly Meeting in North Carolina and it is likely this was our first clerk.

Also, I have in my notes a "reference" that **Guilford County, NC was first settled in 1753** by members of the **Nottingham Colony**, a company organized and formed in the bounds of the old Nottingham Presbyterian Church at **Rising Sun, MD. That church was in Lancaster Co., PA.**

Simeon Taylor was born 1704 in New Garden, Chester, PA and died in Guilford, NC in 1774. He family moved to Campbell's Station in Tenn along with **Thomas Eldridge**. **Simeon Taylor** moved to Guilford, NC, as did Thomas, by 1772.

Notes for THOMAS ELDRIDGE:

THOMAS ELDRIDGE was born Abt. 1731 in Pennsylvania/ Prince George, Maryland and died Abt. 1820 in Tennessee. He married CATHERINE TAYLOR, daughter of **SIMEON TAYLOR** and ESTHER DICKS.

Thomas was of Quaker background and his family is believed to have come to Pennsylvania with William Penn.

Thomas settled in Tennessee at Campbell's Station then moved on later to a farm near Lenoir City.(Not sure this is the same Thomas in Lenoir City). During the Revolution, his family was in hearing distance of the Battle of Guildford Courthouse.

In a copy of the "**Guilford County, NC** Deed Book 1," edited by William D. Bennett, C. G. Raleigh, North Carolina 1990, pages 5 & 18.

found are the names of **Eldridge, Taylor**, Dicks and McCuiston.

GUILFORD COUNTY DEED BOOK ONE

P. 163, **5 August 1772, Thomas Eldreg (Eldredge) of Guilford** to David Macy of same, sixty five pounds, 135 acres, on waters of Reedy Fork of Haw R., begin at a black oak on S side of Bever Cr., S52W 164 rods to a black oak, S 112 rods to a hicory & black oak, E 131 rods to a stake, N to first station, **to Eldridge from his father-in-law Simon Taylor**, see records of Rowan Court; signed: Thomas Eldridg; witness: Enoch Macy, Zach. Dicks; proved by Zacharias Dicks (no probate date).

P. 263. 27 December 1773, David Macy of Guilford to Paul Starbuck of same, one hundred sixty pounds, 285 acres, on both sides Ready Fork a branch of Haw R., begin at a stake in Low Grounds of Beaver Cr. a branch of Ready Fork, E 83 rods to a black oak, S 288 rods to a white oak saplin, W 214 rods to a black oak & hicory, N 112 rods to a black oak, N52E 164 rods to a black oak, N to first station, Simeon Taylor to Macy 150 acres, Thomas Eldridge to Macy 135 acres, part of a tract from Granville to William Perry 1759; signed: David Macy; witness: Timothy Russell, William Starbuck; proved May 1774 Term by William Starbuck.

Children of THOMAS ELDRIDGE and CATHERINE TAYLOR are:

1. SIMEON ELDRIDGE, b. 1758, Virginia; d. June 11, 1851, Tennessee; m. MARY BRITTON. Notes for SIMEON ELDRIDGE: Rev. war veteran
2. JESSE ELDRIDGE, b. 1762, Guilford county, NC; d. May 17, 1864, Roane County, Tennessee.
3. SAMPSON F. ELDRIDGE, b. Abt. 1782, North Carolina; d. February 24, 1849, Pocahontas, Randolph Co., Arkansas; m. FANNY SIMMONS, August 20, 1805, Roane County, Tennessee.
4. **JOHN ELDRIDGE.**
5. MARY ELDRIDGE.
6. NATHANIEL ELDRIDGE.
7. THOMAS ELDRIDGE.
8. ZACHARIAH ELDRIDGE.

From various Revolutionary War sources:

His brother, SIMEON ELDRIDGE (b 1758 Frederick Co., VA d 6-11-1851 McMinn Co.). Lived Washington Co., NC (TN). Served as Pvt. in NC Line. VA. Moved to **Guilford Co., NC**, when small. **At age 17 (1775) to Washington Co., NC** where he entered service. **After war returned to Guilford Co., NC for 2-3 yrs., (1780) then back to Washington Co., NC (TN) for 2 yrs. (1782) then to Jefferson Co., TN 10 yrs., (1790) to Rhea Co., age 76 - 1832 pen. list - Roane Co., TN; 1840 census - McMinn Co., TN**

Pen. # 26853; m 10-6-1785 to MARY BRITTAIN

Ch: Benjamin b 4-3-1792 m 1st Martha Jackson, m 2nd Rebecca Middleton; Thomas; Elizabeth m _____ Luttrell; Nancy m _____ Browden; Mary m _____ Curd. Ref.: DAR #525293; Pen. Bur.; A 1.

Source: "Roster of soldiers and Patriots of the American Revolution Buried in Tennessee," 1974, compiled by Lucy Womack Bates, The State Regent's Biennial Project, Tennessee Society, NSDAR, page 133.

SIMEON ELDRIDGE: S333, NC Line, appl 5 Jun 1834 **Roane Cty TN** aged 76, **sol was b in VA near the PA line** & when just a child his **father moved to Guilford Cty NC** & at age 17 sol moved to what is now Washington Cty NC & sol lived there at enl & after the Rev War sol moved back to Guilford Cty NC for 1 to 2 yrs then moved back to Washington Cty NC for 2 yrs then moved to what is now Jefferson Cty TN for 10 yrs then moved to Roane Cty TN

Source: Abstracts of Rev. War Pension Files, page 1097

SIMEON ELDRIDGE: b 1758 d 6-11-1851 m Mary Brittain PVT NC

Source: "DAR PATRIOT INDEX," page 217

SIMEON ELDRIDGE; 1758-1851; McMinn Co, TN; Soldier, NC; Mary Brittain

Source: "The National Society of the Sons Of The American Revolution," Revolutionary War Graves Register - In Our Memory," compiled and edited by Clovis H. Brakebill, Former President General, page 195

Washington County, NC in 1790 became part of Wilkes County, NC and Ashe County was split off from Wilkes in 1799. Guilford to the west was formed from Orange County, NC. The District of Washington (Washington County, NC) (then almost all of TN), was organized from Rowan and Surry Counties. Wilkes Co from Surry and the District of Washington; and Washington Co TN from the remainder of the District of Washington, NC.

Thomas Eldridge is the son of John Eldridge (Name changed from Aldridge to Eldridge!), Birth: **1688 in Talbot Co., MD.** Death: 14 Mar 1749/50 in Prince George County, Maryland Marriage Talbot, Maryland to Elinor (maiden name unknown; birth date unknown). Death: 1761-02-11 ,Prince Georges, Maryland, USA

His father was **John Aldridge**. Birth: **1661, Northumberland, Virginia, USA**. Death: 1703-02 ,Indian Neck Man, Talbot, Maryland

Married: Elizabeth MITCHELL, Birth: Unknown, Death: Bef Oct 1704 in Talbot Co., MD

Their Children:

1. Sophia ALDRIDGE
2. John ALDRIDGE, Jr b: 1688 in Talbot Co., MD

His father was **George ALDRIDGE**. Birth: **1639 in Worstead, Norfolk, England**, Death: in Talbot Co., MD. (NOTE: George Aldridge migrated to Northumberland Co., VA. His will was dated 10/01/1673 & proved 12/16/1679)

Marriage 1 Anne UNK, Birth: unknown, Death: AFT 1679

Their Children

1. Benjamin ALDRIDGE b: ABT 1655
2. George ALDRIDGE b: ABT 1657
3. Thomas ALDRIDGE b: ABT 1659
4. John ALDRIDGE b: 1661 in Northumberland, Co., Va.
5. Mary ALDRIDGE b: ABT 1663 in Talbot Co., MD.
6. Grace ALDRIDGE b: ABT 1665 in Talbot Co., MD.

His father was **Clement ALDRIDGE**, Birth: **1601 in Worstead, England**, Death: ABT 1668 in Northumberland, Co., VA. Married:(1) 1612 in England to E BOSWELL, Birth: ABT 1603 in England. Death: unknown. No children mentioned

Married: 2 JUL 1626 in Worstead, Norfolk, England to Susan CROMPTON. Birth: BEF 1595 in Worstead, England, Death: unknown

Their Children

1. Alice\Alise ALDRIDGE b: in Worstead, Norfolk, England c: 1 SEP 1633
2. Elizabeth ALDRIDGE b: 8 APR 1627 in Worstead, Norfolk, England
3. John ALDRIDGE b: 8 FEB 1628/29 in Worstead, Norfolk, England
4. Mary or Maria ALDRIDGE b: 17 APR 1631 in Worstead, Norfolk, England
5. William ALDRIDGE b: 25 SEP 1635 in Worstead, Norfolk, England
6. Clement II ARDRIDGE b: 25 SEP 1636 in Worstead, Norfold, England
7. Thomas ALDRIDGE b: 1637
8. George ALDRIDGE b: 1639 in Worstead, Norfolk, England

9. Mary ALDRIDGE b: 24 JUL 1640 in Worstead, Norfolk, England

His father was **John ALDRICH\ALDRIDGE**, Born ABT **1560 in Worstead, England**, Died: not stated, Married:, Agnes ROLFE - Birth: 1562 in Worstead, England. (Couldn't find much on Burfie Frederick or Glen .)

Source(s):

www.ancestry.comwww.rootsweb.com

www.familysearch.org

Submitted by Cheri Fox Smith, 2012