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The Disappearing Daughters: Elizabeth and Esther Glaves

The lives of two of Matthew and Esther's children have yet to be documented with any detail. This author has searched in vain for any additional information about these daughters.

Elizabeth Glaves 1750s - After 1772

Elizabeth was the third child of Matthew and Esther Glaves. The only known record of *Elizabeth GLAVE* is the *Turk vs. Raferty* lawsuit, filed in 1771 which is described in detail in Chapter One. Elizabeth was still a minor at the time and her brother William served as her guardian.

Some, including this author, are not totally convinced that Elizabeth ever existed. One theory is that the person mentioned in the court case was in fact, Elizabeth Turk Gleaves, wife of William. The only clue supporting this theory is the curious placement of the word "and" on either side of her name in the Bill of Chancery. "...*Bill of Chancery ... whereby Thomas TURK and Mary his wife, William GLAVE and Elizabeth GLAVE, and Michael GLAVE, Esther GLAVE and Matthew GLAVE. Infants by William GLAVE their guardian.*" The second time the children are listed by name, the extra "and" does not appear. This theory is definitely a minority opinion.

Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia

There would have been little reason for Elizabeth to show up in any other court records at that time since her father did not appear to own any land which she could have inherited and marriage records in the 1770s were not normally recorded in Augusta County, Virginia. Various researchers have been unable to find any church records or family documents, such a Bible that provides any additional clues as to her life.

Elizabeth could have married and be listed in numerous documents under her married name, but we have no way of knowing. A second possibility is that she died young. Death records were not common until about the middle of the 19th century

There is a record of a "Betsy GLAVES", who married George Eller in Wythe County, Virginia in 1799. Elizabeth's brothers: William and Michael both moved to the Montgomery/Wythe County area in the 1770s and it conceivable that she moved there as well. It is possible that this is our elusive Elizabeth, although she would have been nearly 50 years old at the time of the marriage.

Wythe County Marriages

A much more plausible theory is that "Mrs. Eller" is in fact Elizabeth "Betsy" GLEAVES, the daughter of William, who would have been in her early twenties in 1799. If this is William's daughter, she married for a second time prior to her father's death in 1820. She is listed in his will as "Betsy Ramsey".

Wythe County Marriages

No additional evidence has been found to date.

Esther Graves
Late 1750s - After 1772

Esther was probably the fifth of six children of Matthew and Esther Graves. Esther appears in court documents only twice. The first time, in March of 1771 is when her brother, William is named her guardian. Esther is the only child listed in the record, although we know from *Turk vs. Raferty* that William served as Guardian to his four younger siblings. As described in Chapter One, she appears to be less than twelve years old at the time, which would mean she was born in 1759 or later. She appears for a second time with her siblings in the complaint filed in connection with the lawsuit, *Turk vs. Raferty* regarding disposition of her father's estate.

Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia

Esther's brother, William, names an "*Esther Finley*" who married Asa Finley in Wythe County, Virginia in 1809 in his will dated 1820. Some researchers, including this author, initially assumed incorrectly that this was Matthew and Esther Graves' daughter raised by her brother. Esther's younger brother Matthew was apprenticed to John Finley, Asa's uncle. This coincidence led some to believe that both records pertained to the same person. Subsequent research into family records makes it clear that this person was in fact, William's daughter, born in 1786.

Nathan Allen Bible

The same possibilities that apply to Esther apply to her sister Elizabeth: namely she married without record or died young.

Both mysteries remain unsolved.