

Chapter 3

There is no proof that Elizabeth indeed is the woman marrying George Eller Jr. in 1799, although it is presented here for further research. There is an undocumented report on *rootsweb.com* that states Elizabeth Gleaves married an Unknown Ramsey on December 24, 1802. A second report states that the marriage occurred in Wythe County, Virginia. Further evidence provided here confirms Elizabeth's marriage to a Ramsey, but does not provide the missing details. No document has been found that positively identifies the Christian name of Elizabeth Gleaves-Ramsey's husband.

Researcher Rosemary Ramsey Cox has done extensive work on this line and is credited with much of the detail contained in this section.

It appears this riddle starts with a man named Josiah Ramsey. He married Elizabeth Holleys (there is at least one report which I believe to be incorrect that her name was Elizabeth Grisby) in Old Swedes Church, New Castle County, Delaware in 1744. He first appears in present day Wythe County in 1762 when he claimed land on Reed Creek. There are entries in Augusta County as early as 1748 pertaining to a Josiah Ramsey, although there is no proof that this is the same person. Ramsey Mountain, near the present day town of Max Meadows, is named for him.

Josiah and Elizabeth had several daughters as well as at least three sons; Thomas, Joseph and William. Thomas died before 1805 and Joseph married a woman named Mary Ann, whose last name is unknown. The following will focus on the circumstantial evidence that leads several researchers, including this author, to suspect it was William Ramsey, born about 1768, who married Elizabeth Gleaves.

The 1810 Virginia Census finds the Ramsey clan much smaller. Son Joseph was now the head of the household and it appears that Josiah and Elizabeth are living with him. There is no sign of William in Virginia.

At this point we should say something about Elizabeth's children as they provide a clue as to the family's movements. Although records are incomplete, several Gleaves family letters from Tennessee to those living in Virginia mention seven Ramsey children. Other reports list eight children. The 1850 Census records provide ages and birth locations for at least some of them. Son William was born in Virginia in 1805 and what appears to be son John is listed as being born in Tennessee in about 1807. It is clear that the three youngest children were all born in Tennessee between 1818 and 1823.

There is a deed recorded in Davidson County, Tennessee that may be our William. On September 13, 1805 Andrew Ewing sold a tract of land to William Ramsey for \$100. Since there was more than one William Ramsey living in the area, we can't know for sure if this is him. We do know that there were a number of Ewings in Wythe County, Virginia, so this individual may be related to them.

The next piece of evidence is found in Josiah Ramsey's will. He wrote this document in Wythe County on May 21, 1805 and it was probated August 13, 1811. Both Joseph and William are mentioned. Each son was to receive land from the estate. In William's case, there was language stating if he wished to sell his part, he should give Joseph first chance to buy it. *"It is my will and desire that my son William Ramsey if he intends to sell or dispose of his part of the afore said Land that he will give my son Joseph Ramsey the Refusal provided he makes as good satisfaction for the same as any other person."* No such stipulation pertained to Joseph. This adds credence to the suggestion that William had left the area or was planning to leave before the will was drafted. We know from the birth locations of William's sons William and John that the move occurred between 1805-1807.

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Although Elizabeth's children would later show up in Tennessee, no William Ramsey family can be found in that state in 1810. Two men with that name, of the correct age, are found in Kentucky. Both have young families and wives ages 26-44. Elizabeth would have been 31. At this point it is not possible to definitely say if

either of the two families are Elizabeth's. One family is found in Clark County and the other Henderson. Given the age of the children, the Henderson County entry appears the most likely. At least two of William Ramsey's sisters married and moved to Kentucky although neither settled in these two counties.

The 1812 tax enumeration of men in Davidson County, Tennessee includes a William Ramsey as a member of Captain Williamson's company, but it is not conclusive as there were a number of Ramsey families in the county at that time. Davidson County was where three of Elizabeth's brothers settled before 1804.

<http://freepages.history.rootsweb.com/~nashvillearchives/enumeration1812.html>

On May 10, 1818 a man named William Ramsey sells a slave named Nancy to Elizabeth's father, William Gleaves for one hundred fifty four dollars. No location for this transaction appears on the document, although it was found at the Gleaves homestead in Wythe County. *"Rc'd of William Gleaves one hundred and fifty four dollars for which I have sold him my Negro woman Nancy & on his Paying the residue of her value will Deliver warrant and Defend the Said Negro to the Said William Gleaves his Heirs or Assigns forever. The aforesaid Remainder of her value to be Asertained By reference to two or more Disinterested Persons as may be Agreed when Demanded By the Said William Gleaves Given under My hand & Seal this 10th Day of May A.D. 1818 William Ramsey (seal)*

Attest James T. Gleaves Nancy Gleaves"

At a later date, someone reviewing this document added the following notation dealing with William Ramsey. The entry is in pencil. "[Lived in Tenn Later moved to Mississippi]".

http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=308&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1

This author can offer several theories as to this transaction. First, that William returned to Wythe County to complete this transaction. If William was Elizabeth's husband, we know that she had a child, Polly Ann in Tennessee that same year and although possible, this trip appears unlikely. A second possible explanation is that William was still in another location and this slave was part of the settlement of his father's estate. From the 1810 Census we know that the Joseph Ramsey household had four slaves. It is not clear if these individuals were owned by Joseph or his father. It is also possible that Joseph exchanged Nancy for some of the land that William was entitled to. If this was the case, he could have sold her to William Gleaves without ever taking possession and had the money sent to him.

Elizabeth's father William Gleaves died in 1820. On September 12th of that same year James Turk Gleaves filed with the court a list of notes due to his father's estate. Included on that list was a note due from William Ramsey. No details about this note have been found.

The 1820 Census offers more possibilities regarding Elizabeth's family. In that year, there is no William Ramsey living in Kentucky or Virginia that would be the correct age. In Tennessee, we find several men by that name.

The most likely candidate for our family member would be the William Ramsey living in Davidson County. William's age is correct (over 45), although Elizabeth is listed as being over 45 when in fact she is 41. Davidson County, as mentioned before was home to Elizabeth's now deceased uncle Michael as well as her two brothers, Thomas and Absalom. Again the evidence is circumstantial.

Chapter 8

Children of ELIZABETH GLEAVES and WILLIAM RAMSEY are: (I am not listing all just those you have asked about.)

- i. GEORGE W.⁴ RAMSEY, b. before 1805, Virginia; d. after May 1840.
Notes for GEORGE W. RAMSEY:

(You asked about the 1840 letter that George wrote to Samuel Gleaves; the Lebanon that he refers to is definitely in Virginia. He lists the date and location where he wrote the letter right after the salutation.)

"To Samuel Gleaves

Rusle (Russell) County State of Virginia May 24th 1840"

Samuel was attending Emory and Henry College at the time.

Some two weeks earlier Samuel received a letter from his mother that also mentioned George. It appears that Malvina Turk Gleaves did not think very highly of George.

"There is one of your cousins here from Tennessee badly cloathed and very ignorant your father is sending him to school to Cornutt I fear that it will not profit him much for I think he is a man that is so weak minded that he cannot bear much of any thing though he flatters himself that your granmother and father will make him rich for he has had boldness to ask your grandmother for 5 negroes – enough --"

http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=734&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1&Exact=1

ii. WILLIAM³ RAMSEY, JR. (*WILLIAM², JOSIAH¹*) was born Abt. 1805 in Virginia, and died Abt. 1855 in Sumner County, Tennessee. He married DIANA D. AUSTIN 30 Apr 1826 in Sumner County, Tennessee. She was born Abt. 1812 in North Carolina, and died Aft. 1880 in Possibly Wilson County, Tennessee.

Notes for WILLIAM RAMSEY, JR.:

The earliest record we have of William is his marriage to Diana in Sumner County, Tennessee. Ancestry.com lists the marriage as occurring in 1821 and cites Tennessee State Marriages 1780-2002. The actual document has the date as "the 30th day of April ____ AD", no year is entered.

This year 1821 is suspect for two reasons. First William would have been only 16 and Diana would be 9 or 10. The second reason has to do with the actual document itself. The file where this document resides lists 18 marriages in Sumner County that year and they are listed chronologically. 16 of these documents were written entirely by hand, both before and after this marriage.

William's marriage certificate and one other are printed boiler plate documents with the pertinent information filled in by hand. Examining the other one shows that it is actually 1825, not 1821.

The Noah-Scott Family Tree assigns the same date for William and Diana's marriage but in 1826. While I have not been able to verify this submission, it appears to be much more plausible.

Efforts to identify this couple in the 1830 or 1840 Tennessee Census have been fruitless thus far.

The 1850 Census lists the couple still living in Sumner County and is the source of most of the information about them and their children. William states he was born in Virginia and is a farmer. Oldest son John is not listed as living at home. His relationship is confirmed in the 1880 Census.

May 24, 1852: Elizabeth's nephew Benjamin Franklin Gleaves (Thomas' son) writes from Nashville to his uncle James Turk Gleaves in Virginia. A portion of the letter contains a report on a number of Elizabeth's children living in Tennessee. "... Wm left here several years ago & has not been herd from since. He is dead I have no doubt."

It appears that William died sometime prior to 1860 and the 1855 date comes from the Noah-Scott Family Tree, again not verified. The couple's youngest child, Sarah was born about 1855.

The Sumner County Census for 1860 finds "*Dranna Ramsey*" and five of the youngest children living with her. Also listed in the same household is Mary Austin age 85 who is assumed to be her mother.

1870 finds her still in Sumner County with her two youngest children and in 1880 she is living in Wilson County with her oldest son John. She states she is a widow.

The Noah-Scott Family Tree lists her date of death as 1886.

Children of WILLIAM RAMSEY and DIANA AUSTIN are:

- i. JOHN H.⁴ RAMSEY, b. Abt. 1827, Tennessee.
- ii. JANE T. RAMSEY, b. Abt. 1830, Tennessee.

William "Mac" Ramsey (1832) and Jenetta Ramsey (1834) are listed on the Noah-Scott Family Tree but are not found in the 1850 Census. They may have already left home by then or died young. In either case I have no documentation and include them as placeholders for future research.

- iii. JAMES D. RAMSEY, b. Abt. 1835, Tennessee.
- iv. SAMUEL RAMSEY, b. Abt. 1837, Tennessee.
- v. VALENTINE RAMSEY, b. Abt. 1840, Tennessee.
- vi. ANDREW F. RAMSEY, b. Abt. 1842, Tennessee.
- vii. NANCY G. RAMSEY, b. Abt. 1846, Tennessee.
- viii. MARY A. RAMSEY, b. Abt. 1848, Tennessee.
- ix. ORLANDA (PHILANDER?) RAMSEY, b. Abt. 1853, Tennessee.
- x. SARAH F. RAMSEY, b. Abt. 1855, Tennessee.

iii JOHN⁴ RAMSEY was born 25 Nov 1807 in Tennessee, and died 16 May 1851 in Missouri. He married MARY ANN YANDELL 29 Dec 1834 in Wilson County, Tennessee, daughter of JAMES YANDELL and POLLY UNKNOWN. She was born 05 Sep 1813 in North Carolina, and died 26 Nov 1882 in Missouri.

Notes for JOHN RAMSEY:

(Robert, you have most all the information I have on this individual, I am attaching the children in case you don't have this information.)

In 1880, 66 year old Mary is found living with the family of her son Taylor. Her date of death comes from the family bible.

Children of JOHN RAMSEY and MARY YANDELL are:

- i. WILLIAM THOMAS⁴ RAMSEY, b. 04 Nov 1835, Tennessee; d. 1938, Missouri; m. SINAH MELISSA ROSS, 03 Mar 1859.
- ii. JAMES HENDERSON RAMSEY, b. 19 Feb 1837, Tennessee; m. CANDACE M. SIMMS, 21 Oct 1858; b. Abt. 1838, Tennessee.

Notes for JAMES HENDERSON RAMSEY:

James is listed in the 1850 census living with his parents. By 1860 he has married and is a farmer in Hickory County, Missouri. His wife's maiden name is known although there is a 32 year old woman living with the couple named Elizabeth A. Lucas. This could be Candace's sister but there is no information to confirm this.

- iii. JOHN ANDERSON RAMSEY, b. 05 Feb 1839, Tennessee.
- iv. ELIZABETH CATHERINE RAMSEY, b. 23 Jun 1841, Tennessee; m. HENRY C. DRIER, 13 Sep 1860.
 - v. GEORGE BEARD RAMSEY, b. 12 Oct 1843, Tennessee.
 - vi. WILSON YANDELL RAMSEY, b. 05 Mar 1849, Tennessee; m. MINERVA GIST, 20 Jan 1870.
2. vii. TAYLOR JONES RAMSEY, b. 05 Mar 1849, Tennessee.
3. viii. MARY EMALINE NANCY ANN RAMSEY, b. 08 Nov 1851, Tennessee.

2. TAYLOR JONES⁴ RAMSEY (*JOHN*³, *WILLIAM*², *JOSIAH*¹) was born 05 Mar 1849 in Tennessee. He married SARAH H. LINDSEY 06 Jan 1876. She was born Abt. 1860 in Missouri.

Notes for TAYLOR JONES RAMSEY:

Taylor, his wife and young son are found in Hickory County, Missouri during the 1880 Census. His mother is living with him.

Child of TAYLOR RAMSEY and SARAH LINDSEY is:

- i. JAMES W.⁵ RAMSEY, b. Oct 1879, Missouri.

3. MARY EMALINE NANCY ANN⁴ RAMSEY (*JOHN*³, *WILLIAM*², *JOSIAH*¹) was born 08 Nov 1851 in Tennessee. She married LEWIS W. BASS 09 Jan 1873.

Child of MARY RAMSEY and LEWIS BASS is:

- i. JOHN ALASON⁵ BASS, b. 06 Apr 1874.

- iv. ALLEN RAMSEY, b. about 1823, Tennessee.

Notes for ALLEN RAMSEY

Allen is found living with his brother John's family in the 1850 Census for Davidson County, he states he is a farm laborer.

May 24, 1852; Allen's cousin, Benjamin Franklin Gleaves (Thomas' son) writes from Nashville to his uncle James Turk Gleaves in Virginia. A portion of the letter contains a report on a number of Elizabeth's children living in Tennessee. "... *Allen is in the western part of this state. I do not no whate he is doing.*"

The 1860 Census finds him living with the family of C.C. White on a farm in Saline, Drew County, Arkansas. He states he is an overseer. He appears to still be single.

I have not found a marriage record nor located him after 1860. I have not found any Civil War records either.

- v. POLLY ANN RAMSEY, b. about 1818, Tennessee.

Notes for POLLY ANN RAMSEY:

"I must say something about Betty Ramseys familyPolly ann lives with June Mather"
Letter written by Thomas Gleaves to his mother in Virginia, Elizabeth Turk Gleaves May 13, 1838.

Polly is found in the 1850 Census for Davidson County living with James and Emeline Wright. She is 32 and was born in Tennessee. She is listed as Mary Ramsey.

On May 24, 1852 Polly's cousin Benjamin Franklin Gleaves (Thomas' son) writes from Nashville to his uncle James Turk Gleaves in Virginia. A portion of the letter contains a report on a number of Elizabeth's children living in Tennessee. "... *Polly Ann is living with sister Emeline Wright*"

There is a marriage in Claiborne County, Tennessee where Polly Ramsey marries John Baker on September 15, 1850 but given the notes above and the date I don't think it is our Polly Ann, aka Mary.

There are numerous marriage records in the 1860s for women named Mary Ramsey but I have no way of knowing if any of them pertain.