



*Standing: Sarah Vail Thomas (great great grandmother) husband Samuel Morgan Thomas – 8th Virginia Cavalry trooper and timber man from Burkes Garden, Virginia (great great grandfather).
Seated: Robert Gillespie, husband of Kate Vail, Elizabeth Vail, mother of Sarah and Kate Vail Gillespie.

Genealogy of the Thomas' Southwestern Virginia

1. Israel Thomas married Bethiah Sherman sailed to Plymouth, Massachusetts, prior to 1703.
2. Son Amos Thomas born October 2, 1703 in Marshfield, Plymouth, Massachusetts.
Died December 17, 1787 Lebanon, New London, Connecticut.
Married Ruth White in 1736 in Connecticut.
3. Son John Thomas born October 16, 1733 in Southampton, Virginia.
Died July 9, 1821 in St. Clairs Bottom, Smyth County, Virginia.
Married Mary Robinette in Washington County, Virginia, March 26, 1761. She died February 3, 1816 Smyth County, Virginia.
4. Son Abijah Vinton Thomas born April 15, 1776 in Washington County, Virginia.
He married Martha McReynolds in Washington County, Virginia, on March 5, 1801. She was born March 23, 1782 in Washington County and died May 1849 in Smyth County, Virginia.

5. Son John Lafayette Thomas born October 15, 1805 in Washington County, Virginia. Died March 2, 1864 in Burkes Garden, Tazwell County, Virginia. Married Elizabeth Shelton Morgan born August 20, 1811 from Pittsyvannia County, Virginia. They married in Rowan, North Carolina April 14, 1831.
6. Son Samuel McReynolds Thomas born March 22, 1846 in Burkes Garden, Virginia. Died July 18, 1891. He married Sarah Shelby Vail born 1853 married October 4, 1863 Burkes Garden, Virginia. He had 6 brothers and 3 cousins who served with him in Confederacy.
7. Son Vinton Morgan Thomas born 1876 in Burkes Garden, Virginia. Married Minnie McFarland Patton born 1879 in Washington County, Virginia.
8. Daughter Shelby Cornelius Thomas born 1903 in Wise County, Virginia. Married Henry Percival Bridges born 1878 in Hancock, Maryland. Married May 20, 1922 in Baltimore City, Maryland.
9. Son Shelby Powell Bridges born April 29, 1932 in Johnson City, Tennessee. Married Barbara Ann Best born March 14, 1936 in Kenilworth, Illinois. Married February 27, 1960 in Chicago, Illinois.
10. Son David Powell Bridges born January 15, 1963 in Evanston, Illinois.



Third from left Sarah Shelby Thomas, Samuel McReynolds Thomas and two sons at the home of James Vail, Burkes Garden, Virginia, ca. 1880.