

Research Plan for Elizabeth Thompson (1791-1862)

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ALTERNATE NAMES:

Betsy, Betsey

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of this research project is to find the parents of Elizabeth (Betsy) Thompson. Betsy was born March 1791 at St. Mary's County, Maryland, and married Joseph Masterson on 7 Sep 1814, in either Nelson County or Marion County, Kentucky. She died on 5 August 1862 and is buried in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, New Hope, Nelson County, Kentucky.

KNOWN FACTS: (Scale: known, likely, unlikely, possible, impossible, and unknown)

- Elizabeth (Betsy) Thompson was born March 1791 in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The birth date is **likely** to be accurate—it was calculated based on her death date and her age on her [grave marker](#) (d. 5 Aug 1862; aged 71 yrs. 5 mos.). The birth place is based on Mary Newcomb's [Brief Sketch of the Families of Abell, Craven, Masterson, Miller, Newcomb, Pierceall](#), p. 23: "It is not known whether Elizabeth Thompson was born in Maryland or if she was brought by her parents from England." The account says that Elizabeth's son remembers her telling of a place called St. Mary's and of how she and other members of her family played on the banks of the Patuxent River. This authored source with secondary information makes the accuracy scale **possible**. Newcomb wrote based on stories told to her by her mother, Rebecca Frances Masterson Newcomb, who was Joseph and Elizabeth's granddaughter. The stories were told to Rebecca by her mother, who was Joseph and Elizabeth's daughter-in-law. Since it was passed down through so many generations, it may have been altered or misinterpreted over time and many memories. It should be noted that Elizabeth died two years before her granddaughter was born.
- Joseph and his father Zachariah Masterson signed a [marriage bond](#) for Joseph to marry Betsey in Nelson County, Kentucky, on 3 September 1814. The condition of the bond stated "Joseph Masterson son of the above named Zachariah & Miss Betsey Thompson she being above the age of twenty one years." This original source with primary information makes the scale **known**.
- Jos. Masterson and Elizth Thompson were married on 7 September 1814 in Nelson County. They were married by S. T. Badin (Reverend Fr. Stephen Theodore Badin), probably at Holy Cross church in Marion County which was Fr. Badin's home base in Kentucky. The marriage was recorded in the Nelson County, Kentucky, [marriage register book 1](#), 1785-1859, image 72. The following memo was written on the first page of the marriage register book: "This Register was compiled from the Old Marriage Register, during the Summer of 1873...Having taken the Old Marriage Register as being correct as to dates, I now find that there is a difference between the date of the Bonds and the Register. For correctness the Marriage Certificate must in all cases be consulted." The register is organized similar to an index by first letter of the groom's surname then chronologically. The reliability of this information is reduced to **likely** due to copying from an older record whose condition is unknown and that it is entered somewhat alphabetically rather than chronologically which is the order in which the original record was probably written.
- Joseph and Elizabeth Thompson Masterson had 13 known children, most born in Nelson County, Kentucky, and all living to adulthood:
 1. Hillary B. Masterson, b. 15 October 1815 near New Hope, according to research by Joseph E. Masterson referencing church records and county clerk's records as written in *A Vein of Masterson Family's*, 2002. **Likely**
 2. John Green B. Masterson (twin to Lucinda), b. 16 June 1818 in North Fork Pottinger's Creek near present day Trappist, according to research of Joseph E. Masterson and unsourced research by Elizabeth Juanita Metcalf. **Likely**
 3. Lucinda Masterson (twin to John Green B.), b. 16 June 1818 near New Hope, according to Research of Joseph E. Masterson. **Likely to possible**

4. James Masterson (twin to Uriah), b. 1820 in North Fork Pottinger's Creek near present day Trappist, according to research of Joseph E. Masterson. **Likely**
 5. Uriah Masterson (twin to James), b. 1820 in North Fork Pottinger's Creek near present day Trappist, according to research of Joseph E. Masterson. **Likely**
 6. Julieta Amanda Masterson, b. about 1821 near New Hope, according to research of Joseph E. Masterson. **Likely**
 7. George Washington Masterson, b. 11 June 1824 near New Hope, according to research of Joseph E. Masterson. **Likely**
 8. Ann Caroline Masterson, b. 6 May 1826 at 1336 Old Coon Hollow Road near New Hope, according to research of Joseph E. Masterson. **Likely**
 9. Elizabeth Masterson, b. 11 July 1827 at 1336 Old Coon Hollow Road near New Hope, according to research of Joseph E. Masterson. **Likely**
 10. Joseph Meredith Masterson, b. 26 October 1829 or 1830 at 1336 Old Coon Hollow Road near New Hope. 1829 birthdate is per his [death certificate](#). 1830 birthdate and birthplace is according to research of Joseph E. Masterson. **Known to likely**
 11. Mary Eliza Masterson, b. 1830 in North Fork Pottinger's Creek near Trappist. according to research of Joseph E. Masterson. **Likely**
 12. William Robert Masterson, b. January 1832 at 1336 Old Coon Hollow Road near New Hope, according to research of Joseph E. Masterson. **Likely**
 13. Helen Masterson, b. 1834 at 1336 Old Coon Hollow Road near New Hope, according to research of Joseph E. Masterson. **Likely**
- J. and Elizabeth Marsterson [*sic*] are in District No. 2, Nelson County, Kentucky, in the [1850 census](#). The census indicates that Joseph owned \$755 worth of real estate. Elizabeth's birthplace is given as Maryland. Scale: **known to likely**.
 - Joseph and Elizabeth Masterson owned land and resided in District No. 1, Nelson County, Kentucky, in the [1860 census](#). Elizabeth's birthplace is given as Maryland. Scale: **known to likely**.
 - Elizabeth Masterson died on 5 August 1862 at the age of 71 years, 5 months. She is buried at St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery in New Hope. Scale: **known**.

Elizabeth Thompson's father is believed by many researchers to be George Thompson who was born in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The family migrated to Kentucky as part of the [Catholic League of Families](#) agreement to leave Maryland. George's first wife and mother of his children is currently unknown.

- Elizabeth's potential father, George Thompson, married Bibiana "Biney" Blandford on 6 December 1806 in Washington County, Kentucky, according to *FamilySearch* Historical Records: "[Kentucky, County Marriages, 1797-1954](#)." Although the record didn't indicate as such, it is obvious that this was George's 2nd marriage if he was Elizabeth's father, because Elizabeth would have been 14 years old at the time. The information from this source is **known**. The record doesn't give any indication of whether or not George had any children, how old he was, where he was born, or who any of his relatives were. Thus, it cannot be used as a relationship source for Elizabeth's parentage.
- George Thompson died, presumably intestate, about 1814 in Washington County, Kentucky, according to the research of Joseph E. Masterson. Joe did not supply a source for this assumption making the reliability **unknown**.
- George Thompson's heirs sold his land on 6 August 1823 in Washington County, Kentucky. The heirs (his children) were named in the [deed](#) in this order:
 1. Nancy Thompson
 2. Thomas G. Thompson
 3. James Thompson
 4. Mary Thompson
 5. **Betsey Thompson**
 6. Rosannah Thompson
 7. Barbara Thompson
 8. Susannah Thompson

9. Jane Thompson

There is no indication on the deed that this Betsey Thompson is the same Elizabeth Betsey Thompson that married Joseph Masterson. The scale for this as a relationship source is **possible**.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTING DATA:

George Thompson's heirs were all listed in the sale of his land in 1823 with the last name of Thompson. Betsey Thompson was one heir. Elizabeth had been married for nine years before the sale, why wasn't she listed as Betsey Masterson? This is the reason I question the conclusion that this George is our Betsey's father.

[FamilySearch Family Tree](#) shows Elizabeth Thompson's mother is Elizabeth Monarch, who was born 1 May 1767 in Whitechapel, Middlesex, England, and died 1806 in Baltimore, Maryland. However, that is **unlikely**. Elizabeth Monarch would have been only 12 years old when Elizabeth (Betsey) Thompson was born. She also has another whole family listed in FamilySearch Family Tree with a different George Thompson. There must have been another George Thompson who lived in Baltimore, Maryland, around the same time as the George Thompson that lived in St. Mary's, Maryland.

Birthplaces for the Masterson children and the 1850-1860 census give a potential migration pattern within Kentucky:

Year	Place	Child
1815	Near New Hope	Hillary B.
1818	North fork Pottinger's Creek near present day Trappist	John Green B. (twin to Lucinda)
1818	near New Hope	Lucinda (twin to John Green B.)
1820	North Fork Pottinger's Creek near present day Trappist	James & Uriah (twins)
1821-1824	Near New Hope	Julieta Amanda & George Washington
1826-1829	1336 Old Coon Hollow Road near New Hope	Ann Caroline, Elizabeth, & Joseph Meredith
1830	North Fork Pottinger's Creek near Trappist	Mary Eliza
1832-1834	1336 Old Coon Hollow Road near New Hope	William Robert & Helen
1850	District no. 2	
1860	District no. 1	

- Find a map to determine how far the North Fork Pottinger's Creek/Trappist area is from New Hope.
- Find birth/baptismal records for the twins John Green B. and Lucinda with different birthplaces.
- Find 1830 birth/baptismal record for Mary Eliza—was she born in North Fork Pottinger's Creek near Trappist, or at Old Coon Hollow Road?
- Joseph and Elizabeth were enumerated in District No. 2 in 1850 and District No. 1 in 1860. Are they the same locations? Find a map to determine where they were in relation to New Hope. How do those districts relate to 1336 Old Coon Hollow Road?

WORKING HYPOTHESIS:

Elizabeth (Betsey) Thompson's father was probably born in St. Mary's County, Maryland, between 1740 and 1770. He moved to Kentucky between 1795 (after Betsey's birth) and 1813 (before Betsey's marriage), and settled in Nelson county or an adjacent county, specifically Washington, Marion, or Hardin counties. Her mother was probably born between 1755 and 1770 in Maryland and probably died there before they left for Kentucky, en route, or shortly after arriving. Both parents would have been devout Catholics, so church records, if extant, are the best source of vital information.

A study of Thompson men of the appropriate age residing in Maryland from about 1740 to 1800 and in Kentucky from about 1800 to about 1850 will be required in order to determine Elizabeth Thompson's father.

IDENTIFIED SOURCES:

- Tax records for Thompson men in Nelson and Washington Counties, Kentucky, for 1785-1810. Expand search to Marion and Hardin counties if necessary.
- Federal census records for Thompson men in Nelson and Washington Counties, Kentucky for 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, and 1850. Expand search to Marion and Hardin counties if necessary.
- Thompson men in St. Mary's county, Maryland, for 1790 and 1800. Expand to include Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's Counties if necessary.
- Archived sacramental records in Maryland for baptism of Elizabeth (Betsey) Thompson.
 - [St. Mary's Seminary](#)
 - [FS wiki](#)
 - [St. Mary's County Historical Society](#)
 - [Linkpendium](#)
- Archived sacramental records in Kentucky for baptisms of Joseph and Elizabeth Masterson's children. Are there
 - Archdiocese of Louisville; (502) 636-0296, ext. 1217; Email: archives@archlou.org.
- Deeds for Nelson and Washington Counties, Kentucky, from 1795 to 1850 for Thompson men found in census.
- Deeds for St. Mary's county, Maryland, for Thompson men found in census. Expand to Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's counties if necessary.
- Map of Nelson County, KY, especially Trappist area and New Hope, in 1818 to resolve potential conflicting birthplace for Masterson children.
 - UA Library: *Land ownership maps : a checklist of nineteenth century United States county maps in the Library of Congress*, Richard W. Stephenson
 - "[U.S., Indexed County Land Ownership Maps, 1860-1918](#)," *Ancestry.com*
- Maps of Nelson County District 1 and District 2 in 1860 and 1850 where Joseph and Elizabeth Masterson resided.
- Kentucky Marriage Records for potential female siblings of Betsey Thompson.
- Wills and Probate Records for Thompson men in Nelson and Washington County, KY, when they stop showing up in tax and census records.
- Follow Joseph and Elizabeth Masterson in the census records from 1820-1860 (Elizabeth died in 1862) to help resolve potential conflicting birthplaces for Masterson children.

RESEARCH STRATEGY:

1. **Catholic Church Baptism and Marriage Records** in and around New Hope, KY, for 1814 to 1835. Who were the witnesses/sponsors on baptisms for Joseph & Betsey's children? Who were witnesses on their 1814 marriage? Are they Thompson relatives?
 - Archives for Archdiocese of Louisville; (502) 636-0296, ext. 1217; Email: archives@archlou.org.
 - Archdiocese of Louisville Parish Directory: <https://www.archlou.org/parishes/find-a-parish/>. Includes extant parishes in Adair, Barren, Bullitt, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, **Hardin**, Hart, Henry, Jefferson, LaRue, **Marion**, Meade, Metcalfe, Monroe, **Nelson**, Oldham, Russell, Shelby, Spencer, Taylor, and **Washington** counties.
2. **Catholic Church Marriage Records** in Washington County, KY, for George Thompson and Bibiana "Biney" Blandford's 1806 marriage. Who were the witnesses? Are they Thompson relatives?
 - Archdiocese of Louisville Parish Directory: <https://www.archlou.org/parishes/find-a-parish/>.
3. **Census and Census Substitute Records** for Thompson men born between 1740 and 1770 with a female born 1791/1792. Search online at *FamilySearch*, *Ancestry*, and *findmypast*.
 - **1810-1850 U.S. Federal Censuses** in Nelson County, KY, for Thompson men. Betsey, age about 19, would only be in the 1810 census with her father as she was married in 1814.
 - **1810-1850 U.S. Federal Censuses** in Washington County, KY, for Thompson men. Betsey, age about 19, would only be in the 1810 census with her father as she was married in 1814.

- **1790 & 1800 U.S. Federal Censuses** in St. Mary's County, Maryland for Thompson men. Betsey, age about 9, would only be in the 1800 census with her father as she was born after the 1790 census was enumerated.
 - [Tax Books \(Nelson County, Kentucky\)](#) for 1792-1857 for Thompson men.
 - [Washington County Tax Books](#), 1792-1811 for Thompson men.
4. **Deeds** for Nelson and Washington Counties from 1795-1850 for eligible Thompson men found in censuses.
 - [Nelson county, Kentucky deeds, 1785-1904](#), *FamilySearch*
 - [Deed books, 1792-1903](#), Washington County, *FamilySearch*
 5. [Kentucky Deaths and Burials, 1843-1970](#), *FamilySearch*. Search for death or burial dates/places for eligible Thompson men in Washington and Nelson counties.
 6. **Wills and Probate Records** for eligible Thompson men found in "Kentucky Deaths and Burials" and when they stop showing up in the Washington and Nelson counties tax and census records.
 - [Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal](#) category in *Ancestry.com* for Thompson men in Washington and Nelson counties, Kentucky. May find index for a will or probate that references the film/book/page number that the image is found on *FamilySearch*.
 - "[Nelson County, Kentucky will books, 1786-1926](#)," Nelson County Court, *FamilySearch*. An index of the probate records are available online. Digital images of the microfilms are browseable only.
 - "[Probate records, 1823-1962](#)," Nelson County Court, *FamilySearch*. Digital images browseable only.
 - "[Will books, A-E, 1785-1830, of Nelson County \[Kentucky\]](#)," Nelson county Court, *FamilySearch*. Digital images browseable only.
 - "[Will books, 1792-1918](#)," Washington County Court, *FamilySearch*. Digital images browseable only.
 7. **Kentucky Marriage Records** online from 1800-1850 in Washington and Nelson counties. Search for marriages of the female heirs of George Thompson whose heirs sold his land in 1823. Were they married before 1823? May answer the question of why Betsey was named "Thompson" rather than "Masterson" if she is our Betsey.
 - "[Marriage records, 1792-1855](#)," Washington County Court Clerk, *FamilySearch*. Digital images browseable only.
 - "[Marriage records, 1792-1989](#)," Washington County Court Clerk, *FamilySearch*. 28 films are digitized and online. Some are indexed and searchable.