

Earliest Fields Ancestors

(By Theron L. Smith; 2 Jul 2003.)

Introduction

Several years ago it was found that the compiler's 2-great grandparents, Edward Gray SHARP and Lettie FIELDS, were enumerated in 1850 Attala Co., MS just before they came to Texas. They were married about 1820 in Jefferson Co., AL or a nearby county. From research by other Fields descendants, we know Lettie had sisters, Mary Ann and Anna, and brothers, Moses, Isaac, and Samuel; and that Moses Fields married Jane Sharp, sister of Edward Gray. The Fields children who appear in an 1850 or later census show SC as their birthplace. Lettie's 1880 census shows her father born in ENGLAND, her mother in VA. Edward G. Sharp of Tuscaloosa Co., AL signed off on the 1829 Jefferson Co., AL settlement of the estate of Elizabeth Ann Fields. She is also called Betsy Ann Fields in the settlement. Moses Fields was the executor of the estate and his and Jane's oldest daughter was named Elizabeth Ann Martin Fields; so it appears the mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Ann MARTIN. The MARTIN name was also used for two other grandchildren – Lucinda Martin Fields and Martin Matthews.

Edward G. Sharp was son of John Sharp and Jane Seawright of 1790 and 1800 Abbeville Co., SC and there is evidence that his parents were in Madison Co., Miss.Terr. (later AL) shortly after 1810. The Fields of interest were also there in the same period. There is no evidence that these Fields were from Abbeville Co., and, it is believed that the Fields and Sharps of interest met in Madison Co. after moving there from different locations.

Earlier researchers speculated that Elizabeth Ann's husband was named Moses Sr or Samuel Moses. There is no data supporting either choice. As already noted, the oldest child of Moses and Jane Sharp Fields was named ELIZABETH ANN MARTIN Fields, almost certain after Moses' mother. The oldest son was named JOHN Fields, the first name of Jane's father and maybe also of Moses' father. Then Mary Ann Fields, sister of Moses, et al, and husband, George Matthews, named their oldest child JOHN FIELDS Matthews. So there is good reason to choose JOHN Fields as the name of the Fields father.

After exhaustive research, the current compiler concluded from prosopographic reasoning that the father was JOHN FIELDS of the 1790 census (15200) and 1800 census (02310-31110) of Laurens Co., SC who died intestate in Laurens Co. between 12 Sep 1807 (when he sold his plantation) and 26 Sep 1809 when the heirs of John Fields are mentioned. Consider the following:

Although there are more children in John's two census reports than in our records, the ones we do know about dovetail perfectly with entries in these census records

The three Fields men of interest show up in Madison Co., MissTerr. (later AL.) around 1810 shortly after John died in Laurens Co. and there are no Fields in 1810 Laurens Co. census.

Betty Ann Fields is named as wife of John Fields – this provides strong reinforcement for this family being the one of interest to us.

As will be seen, a reasonable hypothetical identification can be made for the two extra males implied by the census records that are not known sons of Elizabeth Ann Martin Fields.

NOTE: An Elizabeth Fields appears in the 1810 Abbeville census (201-101) and in neighboring Pendleton Co., SC in 1820 (0000?-00101). The older female here would be over 45; hence born by 1775; could be Elizabeth Martin Fields. In all candidness, neither of these census records appears to be relevant. It is more reasonable to think that Elizabeth went to MissTerr around 1810 with other members of her family. Two sons and two daughters (daughter's age about 20) were married in Madison Co, MissTerr (later AL.) in 1811 or 1813.

Generation No. 1

1. JOHN(1) FIELDS was born c.1755 and died c.1808 in Laurens Co., SC. Maybe b. in NC. However, as already seen, Letitia's 1880 Wood Co., TX census shows her mother born in VA; her father in England. In view of the failure to find John before his residence in Laurens Co., SC, the England placement may have some merit. He married ELIZABETH ANN MARTIN bef. 1784. She was born c 1760, ostensibly in VA; and died c.1829 in Jefferson Co., AL.

Children of JOHN FIELDS and ELIZABETH MARTIN are:

1. i. GOLDER(2) FIELDS, b. Abt. 1778, NC; d. 1856, Marshall Co., AL. [son BY HYPOTHESIS.]
- ii. JAMES(2) FIELDS, b. Abt. 1782. [son BY HYPOTHESIS]. James Fields appears as a witness to a land sale in Laurens Co., Sc in 1802. Both Moses and Samuel had sons named James.

2. iii. MOSES(2) FIELDS, b. 5 Mar 1784, NC or Laurens Co., SC; d. 11 Nov 1848, Jefferson Co., AL; m. JANE SHARP, sister of Edward Gray.
3. iv. SAMUEL(2) FIELDS, b. 1786, Laurens Co., SC; d. 26 Apr 1860, Jefferson Co., AL; m. MARY JOHNSTONE, 22 Sep 1813, Madison Co., MissTerr (now AL); b. Abt. 1792, SC; d. Jan 1860, Jefferson Co., AL.
4. v. ISAAC(2) FIELDS, b. Abt. 1788; m. (1) ANNA -----; m. (2) ELIZABETH RANCY.
5. vi. MARY ANN (2) FIELDS, b. Bet. 1789 - 1790; m. GEORGE MATTHEWS, 12 Sep 1811, Madison Co., MissTerr (now AL).
 - vii. ANNA (2) FIELDS, b. c.1792;
 m THOMAS S. HUCHINGSON, 20 Jul 1813, Madison Co., MissTerr (now AL).
 - viii. ----- FIELDS, FEMALE, b. Abt. 1794.
- ix. LETITIA "LETTIE" (2) FIELDS, b. Bet. 1797 - 1798, Laurens Co., SC; d. Aft. 1880, Yantis, Wood Co., TX; m. EDWARD GRAY SHARP, brother of Jane. [Great grandparents of the compiler]

Generation No. 2

1. GOLDER(2) FIELDS, b. Abt. 1778, NC; d. 1856, Marshall Co., AL.
 Golder is placed as oldest son of John BY HYPOTHESIS. He was in the 1816 MissTerr census. Some have believed Golder to be father of Moses G. Fields, b. 1801, SC of Jefferson Co., AL. Moses G. had children: John T., Margaret Ann, Sarah J., James G., Moses Jr., and Elizabeth Nancy [equivalent to Elizabeth Ann or Betsey Ann.]
 A recent correspondent sent the following which appears to be more authoritative: GOULDER FIELDS was born 1785 in NC, and died May 15, 1856 in Marshall County, AL. He married CHRISTIANA UNKNOWN) Abt. 1803. She died Unknown. (Census: 1812; Tax list: Wilson, TN); Property: 1843, purchased land in Marshall, AL Township 9 range 3 East. Children:
 - i. LOUISA FIELDS, b. 1804, TN; d. 1894, Marshall County, AL.
 - ii. LUCINDA FIELDS, b. 1805, St. Clair, AL; d. Bef. 1840, TN.
 - iii. MALINDA FIELDS, b. Abt. 1807, TN; d. May 2, 1891, Buck Springs Dist, Altoona, Etowah, AL.
 - iv. ISAAC FIELDS, b. 1815, TN; d. Unknown.
 - v. PERNITA FIELDS, b. 1819, Blount, AL; d. Unknown.
 - vi. DAVID FIELDS, b. 1820, TN; d. Unknown; m. SARAH; d. Unknown. Resided in MS, according to AL Records - Marshall Co, V-139, p. 74.
 - vii. NANCY FIELDS, b. 1820, St. Clair Co., AL; d. Aft. 1880.
 - viii. MARY A. FIELDS, b. May 13, 1823, Blount, AL; d. June 27, 1862, Marshall County, AL.
 - ix. DICEY FIELDS, b. 1824, Blount, AL; d. Unknown; m. WILLIAM LITTLE, January 21, 1844, Blount County, AL; d. Unknown. AL Records - Marshall Co., V.139, p 74. They resided in Marshall Co.
2. MOSES(2) FIELDS, b. 5 Mar 1784, NC or Laurens Co., SC; d. 11 Nov 1848, Jefferson Co., AL; m. JANE SHARP, 9 Oct 1811, Madison Co., MissTerr (now AL); b. 11 Sep 1795; d. 17 Sep 1878, Attala Co., MS; daughter of John SHARP and Jane SEAWRIGHT of Abbeville Co., SC. Their descendants have been exhaustively traced. Children:
 - i. Elizabeth Ann Martin FIELDS (1812-1893) m. William E. McMillan
 - ii. John FIELDS (1814-1847/8); m. Nancy Malinda Bagby
 - iii. Jane Seawright FIELDS (1815-1899); m. Walter Graves Haynes
 - iv. Anna Carolina FIELDS (1817-1909); m. John Nealy McMillan
 - v. Elender S. FIELDS (1819-c.1843); m. William Marshall Burgin
 - vi. Samuel G. FIELDS (1821-1844)
 - vii. Matilda Nancy FIELDS (1823-1894); m. William Burruss Brown
 - viii. Moses B. FIELDS (1826-1860); m. Eliza Ann (Lyde) Howten
 - ix. Nancy Eliza FIELDS (1828-1891); m. John Wallace Isaacs
 - x. James M. FIELDS (1830-?); Diena Mary Hunter (? not proven) and Elizabeth E. "Betty Mayfield
 - xi. Martha Eveline FIELDS (1835-1915); m. William Felix Ayres
 - xii. William Tucker FIELDS (1835-1921); m. Sarah Ann Dickinson
3. SAMUEL(2) FIELDS, b. 1786, Laurens Co., SC; d. 26 Apr 1860, Jefferson Co., AL; m. MARY JOHNSTONE, 22 Sep 1813, Madison Co., MissTerr (now AL); b. Abt. 1792, SC; d. Jan 1860, Jefferson Co., AL. Children:
 - i. Nancy FIELDS (1813-1865) m. James Gassaway Rogers
 - ii. Moses FIELDS (1816-1884) m. Venetta Bagley
 - iii. Mary FIELDS (1822-1891) m. Gilbert Crafts Jacks

- iv. Elizabeth FIELDS (1825-1895) m. William Brake
- v. Samuel J. FIELDS (1827-1888) m. Elizabeth Jane Bivins
- vi. Malinda Curtis FIELDS (1829-1881) m. Allen Morgan Isaacs
- vii. Lucinda Martin FIELDS (1829-1889) m. William M. Bagley
- viii. James J. FIELDS (1831-1863) m. Elizabeth A. Bagley
- ix. William Case FIELDS (1833-1833)
- x. Isaac B. FIELDS (c.1836-c.1862)

4. ISAAC(2) FIELDS, b. Abt. 1788; m. (1) ANNA ----; m. (2) ELIZABETH RANCY. Children:

- i. Lettie FIELDS (1813-1882) m. Clinton Watts
- ii. Isaac FIELDS Jr. (1818-1893) m. Esther Wedgeworth and Elizabeth Linn

5. MARY ANN (2) FIELDS, b. Bet. 1789 - 1790; m. GEORGE MATTHEWS, 12 Sep 1811, Madison Co., MissTerr (now AL). Children:

- i. John Fields MATTHEWS (1810-1879) m. Mary Jane Lively
- ii. Susan MATTHEWS (1816-1839) m. Whitmal Bently
- iii. William Griffith MATTHEWS (18181-1898) m. Matilda Catherine Shofner
- iv. Sarah Jane MATTHEWS (1823-1905) m. Acton Shofner
- v. Ann MATTHEWS (1825-?) m. Jasper Newton Shofner
- vi. George Washington MATTHEWS (1827-?) m. Eliza J. Killough
- vii. Mary Elizabeth MATTHEWS (1829-?) m. Nicholas L. Newsom
- viii. Martin MATTHEWS (c.1829-?)
- ix. Harlan Jackson MATTHEWS (c.1833-?) m. Arabella H. Hamil
- x. James MATTHEWS (c.1838-?)

6. LETITIA "LETTIE" (2) FIELDS, b. Bet. 1797 - 1798, Laurens Co., SC; d. Aft. 1880, Yantis, Wood Co., TX; m. EDWARD GRAY SHARP, Abt. 1820, AL; b. 1796/7, Abbeville Co., SC; d. 1852, Quitman, Wood Co., TX.; son of John SHARP and Jane SEAWRIGHT of Abbeville Co, SC. Leticia Fields and Edward Gray Sharp were great great grandparents of the current compiler. They were in Marion Co., Al 1830; Fayette Co., AL in 1840; Attala Co., MS in 1850; and Wood Co., TX in 1860, 1870, 1880. Edward died in 1852 in Wood Co. TX; Letitia died there after the 1880 census. (Their descendants have been fairly well traced, though not exhaustively, by the current compiler; see their Family Group Sheets or Genealogical Report.) Children (all b in AL except Edward Gray who was b. in TN):

- i. John J. (Johnston?) SHARP (1821/23-?) M. Mrs. Mary (COKER) COOK
- ii. daughter SHARP (1823/4)
- iii. daughter SHARP (c.1825)
- iv. Ann SHARP (c. 1828-?) m. Constantine CANNON
- v. Edward Gray SHARP Jr. (1832-1920) m. Elizabeth "Betty" Duncan and Mrs. S, J. Perrin)
- vi. Leticia "Lettie" Adline SHARP (1835/6-1872) 1m. Zaccheus Reddin PHILLIPS and 2m. Johnson Hill [Adline Sharp and Johnson Hill are great grandparents of the compiler of this paper.]
- vii. Nancy W. SHARP (c.1827-?) m. Joseph F. SMITH
- viii. Margaret R. SHARP (1842-1892) m. Joseph C. COKER

Speculative Accounts and Comments

From "Fields Family History" by John H. Rogers of Tampa, FL published in an out of print newsletter. the following quotations enclosed with <>, although unverified, refer to the Fields branch of current interest and are included for general interest and for clues that might eventually lead to something significant. Several sentences in this account would correlate with known facts if you substitute "Laurens Co., SC" for "Charleston, SC." Comments by the current compiler are enclosed in square brackets [].

<Family legend is that ISAAC FIELDS came with bro WILLIAM and new wife in company of 100 others from the Lowlands of Scotland to the New World in 1742. They were Scotch-Irish. ... The FIELDS brothers settled near Bald Mt., NC.>

[I am skeptical of this paragraph. Which counties are associated with this Bald Mt.? I have found 10 different Bald Mts. in

the NC Gazetteer. Would it be Onslow Co.? Four Fields are enumerated in the 1790 census of that county - Samuel, Jacob, James, and Moses. This was the only Moses Fields in NC 1790. The only Moses Fields in 1800 NC was also in Onslow Co. Others have said without sources that many of the Bald Mt. Fields married into the Cherokee Nations. Known is that Cherokee chief, Richard Fields, had a son named MOSES Fields, but there's nothing to indicate any relationship with our Fields. The given names Isaac, Samuel, Moses, and maybe James were also used in the compiler's branch of FIELDS, providing some measure of prosopographic support for the Bald Mt. and Onslow FIELDS being part of our family. FWIW, there is almost certainly no Mt. Bald in Onslow Co. - it borders the Atlantic Ocean]

<In the early 1800's MOSES FIELDS and his wife BETSY ANN, presumably were living in Charleston, SC. > [Note that there was a JOHN Fields and wife, Betty Ann living in Laurens Co., SC in the early 1800s!] < MOSES was probably grandson of the ISAAC who left Scotland in 1742, and came to Bald Mt., NC.> [unverified]

<From the home in Charleston [SC] [maybe Laurens Co., SC?], two bros SAMUEL AND ISAAC left for the new lands opening up in the territory to the west. Some sources say bro MOSES was also with them.> <... after the year 1815 ... first settlement of white persons in Jones Valley ... At that settlement MOSES FIELDS, lately deceased, was born, being the first white child born in the county. This MOSES first son of SAMUEL AND MARY. > [These biographical facts are definitely a valid or invalid reference to the Fields of interest.]