

EASTIN QUARTERLY

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THOMAS EASTIN
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GREETINGS FROM DOROTHY EASTIN

To my knowledge, this newsletter is the first publication of its kind devoted to the Eastin family in America. It is prompted by research I began about 1926 which I worked on intermittently with a little assistance from my father, Ben C. Eastin, and his two sisters (all deceased now), but with no outside assistance from anyone else, for I did not live in an area where professional help, or even amateur guidance, was available. (The local library had nothing!)

When we moved to Fort Worth, Texas, in 1931, the local library had three shelves about four-feet-long, each with all the genealogical material available at that time. (The new library now has one entire room, housing hundreds of volumes from which I have been able to uncover quite a few roots to the Eastin family tree.)

Marvel Eastin Burnside of Mount Pleasant, Utah, employed C. D. Waggoner, a professional genealogist of Louisville, Kentucky, to trace her family tree, which, as a member of the Latter Day Saints, she was obligated to do. In 1969, Mr. Waggoner found a letter I had written in 1934 to Mrs. T. D. Eastin (now deceased) of Berkeley, California, and wrote me requesting clarification of one of the statements I had made. He invited me to join them in the search.

As a result, I began searching in earnest and with Mr. Waggoner's guidance, a file that originally was housed in a small cardboard box is now pushing out the sides of a standard filing cabinet, a small bookcase, two desk drawers, and a shelf in one of my closets that once held my hats! I now have more than 600 family group sheets representing every Eastin, living or dead, of whom I have knowledge, either from written records, the library, courthouses, or cemeteries, or from their own personal letters responding to my inquiries.

About five years ago, I was contacted by E. R. (Bob) Eastin of St. Louis, Missouri, who is my first cousin-once-removed. Bob had worked intermittently on the family tree, so we joined forces in an attempt to trace the family from Thomas Eastin (c. 1725) to his country of origin.

In our search we were delighted to find that descendants of Augustine Eastin, the Baptist-turned-Unitarian preacher, and son of our original American ancestor, have held a reunion in Williamsburg, Kentucky, biennially, and it has been our privilege to attend both the 1975 and 1977 events. (In fact, these descendants have agreed to provide us with an article on these reunions for the next issue of the newsletter.) And their family members have been most helpful in supplying information we needed to fill in gaps in the family line.

Now, Mr. Waggoner has finished his work for Marvel and retired. Without his ready help, my research lagged until Bob became interested. As a result, he suggested a family newsletter might be the means of collecting Eastin family data for the project, and I agreed.

We hope this first issue will generate enough interest for us to continue it on a quarterly basis. In fact, as we prepare information for the next issue, we are punching each newsletter to fit a standard three-ring binder, making it possible for you to have your own "Eastin Family History."

We invite contributions, particularly on colonial and pre-colonial Eastins with verified references, in much the same way as it is shown in the story, "Thomas Eastin: Our FIRST American Ancestor." We'd appreciate a \$5.00 donation to defray printing and postage costs, along with your reply and suggestions using the postage-paid envelope enclosed. [Make check payable to: EASTIN

THOMAS EASTIN: OUR FIRST AMERICAN ANCESTOR

by

Dorothy F. Eastin

If you are descended from Thomas Eastin of Albemarle C Virginia, you may be familiar with the family disagreement national origin, a point we are earnestly trying to clarify.

Our search for the family roots has unearthed two stories Thomas's place of birth: neither of which has been verified, th both sound perfectly logical, and both have ardent adhe among his descendants.

The first "legend"—we stress "legend" because, though stories keep surfacing in our search, neither has produced e mented evidence to confirm the truth—is that there were "Thomas Eastins," probably cousins, who migrated to Amer the early-to-mid 18th century. Two of them settled in Rhode Is or Vermont, or Pennsylvania ("Take your pick!"), and the settled in Virginia.

The second "legend" is that the family was French, and the name was originally "d'Estaing." They were Huguenots wh their native country during the religious persecution, taking re in England where the name was Anglicized into "Eastin." The lish also persecuted them, so they moved on to Scotland w conditions proved to be no better. Still maintaining their own they migrated again, this time to the American colonies. T Eastins who hold to this "French Connection" further contend when Count d'Estaing came over with the French fleet during Revolutionary War, the Reverend Augustine Eastin saw his Richmond, Virginia, and recognized the Count's coat-of-arm being the same as that borne by his own family in England, giving credence to the story that the migration was indeed from France to England, perhaps to Scotland, and thence to America also confirmed their belief that the family was of noble birth.

Robert McBride Eastin of Henderson County, Kentucky, relates this tradition in his affidavit made 22 June 1926: Among the sonal effects of William Boardman Eastin (great-grandson of Thomas), claimed by his nephew (my father) after his death in Confederate Soldiers Home in Richmond, Virginia, 8 July 1911, there was found a small French-English dictionary in which he inscribed his name as "W. B. d'Estaing." There was also a grade report dated 1858 from Richmond College showing that he was "do well" in French. William Boardman Eastin was 20-years-old at time this grade report was issued. It may have been that it was belief, if not his knowledge, that the family was of French origin, it was his desire to learn the language.

These are legends. If you know of others, we would like to hear your full story so we may print it also, and perhaps find a clue to one or all of them that will enable us to track down the truth.

Whatever the legends may be, and whatever is the true story of the Eastin migration to America, we do know that Thomas Eastin (c. 1725 - c. 1793) married (c. 1744) Sarah Whitlock (c. 1728 - before June 1785). Sarah's family was from Scotland, but it is not known whether she was born there, or was born after her family settled in Virginia; neither, for that matter, is it known whether Thomas was born in England (or Scotland, or France), or was in fact, a native of America. We believe, however, though lack documented proof, that he was not American-born.

If, however, Thomas were American-born in 1725, his place of birth would have been Henrico County, Virginia, the original sh from which was formed Goochland County (17??), Louisa Cou

Thomas and Sarah (Whitlock) Eastin had eleven "definitely identified" children: John (c. 1745), a daughter (c. 1746), Augustine (9 August 1750), Stephen (c. 1752), a daughter (c. 1753), James (c. 1754), Philip (c. 1755), William (1757), Achilles (c. 1759), Exony (c. 1763), and Reuben (?). Two children, Samuel and Walker, whose birth dates are unknown, are also believed to be his sons. Six more children—all of whom died in infancy or early childhood—make a total of 19 children!

Albemarle County records clearly show that Thomas Eastin was a resident of that county in 1778 when, at age 53, he bought land from Thomas Walker. He was still a legal resident of Albemarle County at the time he sold the same land to Chilles Terrell in 1785 (Albemarle County Deed Records).

In Mary Rawlings' book, The Albemarle County of Other Days (Charlottesville, Virginia: The Michie Co., 1925 - p. 22), the author says that Nicholas Meriwether was the original grantee of a large tract of land which was partitioned as early as 1739, a large portion "east" of the South West (also shown as Southwest and Southwestern) Mountain going to the widow of Nicholas Meriwether III. When the Widow Meriwether married Dr. Thomas Walker, this portion of the original grant became known as "Castle Hill." It, in turn, was subdivided many times, resulting in plantations named "Cismont," "Castalia," "Music Hall," "Belvoir," "Kimloch," "Merrie Hill," "Keswick," "Edgeworth," "Cobham Park," "The Creek," and "Machunk." This is the same Thomas Walker who, in 1778, for 40 pounds, deeded 171 acres "on top of the little mountains" to Thomas Eastin, who, in turn, sold the same tract seven years later (1785) to Chilles Terrell for 75 pounds (Deed Book 7, Albemarle County, Virginia - pp. 178-79).

Rev. Edgar Woods, in his History of Albemarle County (p. 326), states that Chilles Terrell lived at "Music Hall," on the "east" side of South West Mountain—which would place it close to, if not adjacent to, the Albemarle/Fluvanna county line.

Dumas Malone, in his book, Jefferson and His Time: Jefferson the Virginian (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1948 - pp. 27-8), says:

The ridge of the Southwest Mountains, which is broken at this gap, enters the present County in the extreme northeast and there it reaches its greatest height, fifteen-hundred feet, in a knob which came to be called Peter's Mountain for Colonel Jefferson. As his son said, all the Virginia mountains run in the same direction from northeast to southwest, but

these, being the first discovered appropriate the latter name to themselves. The range roughly parallels the Blue Ridge, about twenty miles away.

Philip L. Williams of the McIntire Public Library, Charlottesville, Virginia, in a letter to Charles D. Waggoner (genealogist - Louisville, Kentucky) dated January 19, 1970, says, in part:

... "Castle Hill" and "Music Hill" were both located near each other on the Southwestern Mountain. "Castle Hill" still stands and is occupied. I cannot say with certainty that "Music Hill" as such still exists... If you will consult the map I sent you, you will locate the Southwestern Mountain northeast of the city (i.e., Charlottesville) and Monticello. Geographically, the hills which make up Monticello mountain are part of the same range... I suspect that your tract of land is on top of this mountain and may very well be a part or all of "Music Hall," but I cannot confirm this.

Thus far, these are the only two records we have found to place Thomas's residence anywhere except Albemarle County, and though not yet positively located, we know he once lived, or certainly owned property, in Albemarle County, Virginia, probably on the Fluvanna County line, as his grandson, Stephen L. Eastin, subsequently homesteaded property in Fluvanna County from which Monticello may still be seen "...when the leaves have fallen."

Thomas Eastin died intestate before 14 June 1793, and his son William was made administrator of his estate. William, as administrator, on that date filed two petitions for recovery of monies owed to Thomas. One was against William and George Taylor for two pounds, six shillings, and six pence. "...with interest thereon from first day of October 1791 till paid, and costs." The other was against John Jones and William Dickinson for four pounds, twelve shillings, and two pence, also "...with interest thereon from first day of October 1791 till paid, and costs." None of the defendants appeared in court, and thus far, no record has been found to tell us how successful William was in collecting funds owed his father.

As a descendant of Thomas Eastin of Albemarle County, Virginia, you may wish to accept this information as developed by lengthy research. However, should you have more or different information passed down from your forebears, the offspring of one of Thomas's 13 adult descendants, we hope you will let us have your story with as much proof as you may have so we may bridge the gaps and make our family history as complete as possible. Please do write us!

"WHO ARE WE?" and "WHERE ARE YOU?"

Since Dorothy's retirement and between my school-teacher paper grading, we've agreed to publish a family newsletter for all the Eastins we know or can find, hoping we can help each other know more about the Eastin family in America. Each town below has at least one Eastin who's receiving this copy of EASTIN QUARTERLY. We hope you'll offer to let us publish your family stories, and to send us the names and addresses of Eastins you know!

20 ARIZONA	Carmichael	Sierra Madre	Fayetteville	Somerset	2 MICHIGAN	Albuquerque	Memphis	Nederland
Peoria	Cypress	Signal Hill	4 ILLINOIS	Williamsburg	Detroit	Farmington	Nashville	Orange
Mesa	El Monte	Venice	Chicago	Winchester	Southfield	8 OHIO	32 TEXAS	Richmond
Phoenix	Fernbridge	Ventura	Humboldt	18 LOUISIANA	1 MISSISSIPPI	Akron	Anna	San Antonio
Scottsdale	Harbor City	Boulder	Evansville	14 INDIANA	Jackson	Cincinnati	Beaumont	Westminster
Sun City	Lakewood	Denver	Fort Wayne	Alta Springs	23 MISSOURI	Cleveland	Bedford	9 UTAH
Tempe	LaMesa	Kremmling	Muncie	Baton Rouge	Annada	Stow	Bowie	Mount Pleasant
Tucson	Long Beach	Morrison	Jefferson	Cecelia	Brentwood	12 OKLAHOMA	Colorado City	Ogden
	Pasadena	Wray	Terre Haute	Metairie	Bowling Green	Owasso	Dallas	Provo
9 ARKANSAS	Ramona		Dodge City	New Iberia	Des Peres	Omulgee	For Worth	Salt Lake City
El Dorado	Sacramento		Kansas City	New Orleans	Elberry	Kansas City	Garland	2 VIRGINIA
Little Rock	San Carlos	1 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	Wichita	St. Martinville	Sperry	Sapulpa	Gainesville	Arlington
North Little Rock	San Clemente	3 FLORIDA	Vidalia	Mexico	Tulsa	Tu'sa	Hartlingen	Kents Store
Paragould	San Diego	Daytona Beach	9 KENTUCKY	Platte City	4 OREGON	Henderson	Henderson	1 WYOMING
Sherwood	San Jose	Orlando	Henderson	Rush Hill	Eagle Point	Houston	Jacksboro	Casper
33 CALIFORNIA	San Lorenzo	Pompano Beach	Lexington	Baltimore	St. Louis	Portland	Longview	
Bakersfield	Santa Ana	4 GEORGIA	Louisville	Columbia	Springfield	Jackboro	Midland	
Bellflower	Santa Monica	Atlanta	Madisonville	Gambrells	5 NEW MEXICO	Columbia		