

Hall County history

Pass family came before 1830

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Special to The Times

Thomas Pass and family are enumerated in the 1830 Federal Census of Hall County. According to family tradition, Thomas, wife and children came by ox-cart and wagons bringing all their earthly possessions. The family moved to Hall County by way of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. It is believed that the family lived in Tennessee for three or four years since two children were born in that state.

Thomas' wife was probably the Sara Edwards whose marriage in 1813 to a Thomas Pass is recorded in Person County, N.C. The 1850 Census states that Thomas was born about 1784, North Carolina, and Sara was born about 1793, also in North Carolina. Descendants of the couple believe that both were buried in the Whelchel Cemetery atop an Indian Mound. This Mound is now an island in Lake Lanier and can be seen from the Cleveland Road. In 1956 the Corp of Engineers relocated this cemetery. Most of the graves were moved to Hopewell Methodist Church off Highway 60 (Dahlonega Highway), but it is believed that the graves of Thomas and Sara Pass were moved to New Bridge Church Cemetery. There are no headstones with inscriptions to mark their graves.

Members of the Pass family believe that Thomas Pass descended from one of the four Pass brothers who came to America from Ireland. One brother went to Canada, one to Island of Malta, and two brothers settled in Virginia.

Children of Thomas and Sara Pass:

1. Thomas Holoway Pass, born 1813 or 1814, Virginia (or N.C.). He died enroute to California for the Gold Rush. He ate

contaminated fruit or vegetables, and as stated by his brother John and Jordan Whelchel, was buried at sea. John Pass and Jordan Whelchel returned to Hall County with a substantial amount of gold, although having to pay exorbitant prices for living expenses in California and expense of return trip. The gold was split three ways with the widow receiving a share for Thomas Holoway Pass. Thomas Pass married Sarah (Sallie) Whelchel, daughter of John Whelchel and Sarah House, Feb. 23, 1838, Hall County. Their children were: James L., William, Jane, John Marion (Dock), Richard, and Aaron Pass. The wife, Sarah, is buried in New Bridge Cemetery.

"Mrs. Sallie A. Pass born Dec. 1817 died Jan. 1898"

2. John Pass was enumerated in Placer County, Calif., 1852 Census and states that he was born in South Carolina and was 36 years old. His occupation was listed as a miner and he gave Georgia as his place of residence. He died Sept. 11, 1886. His marriage to Margaret (Peggy) Pass, Jan. 4, 1838, is recorded in Hall County Courthouse. Their children were: John Davis, Thomas Jefferson, Nancy, Julia, Inda, Herod Walter, G.W., Mary E., Moses, Aaron, William A., Joseph Elbert (or Albert), and John Whelchel.

3. Martha Pass, born between 1814-1818, North Carolina. She married William S. Paine (Payne) Oct. 23, 1838, Hall County, Ga.

4. Elizabeth Pass, born Aug. 1, 1819, North Carolina, died Aug. 15, 1900. She married Tyre (Tyrus) Green, born Mar. 23, 1827, died July 29, 1900. Elizabeth and husband are buried in South Bend Methodist Church Cemetery.

5. William Pass, born 1823, Tennessee. Could be the William Pass whose marriage to Elizabeth Whelchel, 1865, is recorded in Hall County. No further information.

6. George B. Pass, born 1826, Tennessee. He married Mary Green. He died on Courthouse Steps Appomattox, Va. George had been wounded in Civil War Battle and a relative went to Virginia to bring him home. George requested his wife to take the children to California. Enroute she stopped in Birmingham, Ala. and decided to make that city home.

7. Nathaniel, born 1830, Georgia, married Martha M. Wilson, Sept. 4, 1851, Hall County. The family moved to Arkansas.

8. Sarah Pass, born Nov. 18, 1831, Georgia, died June 9, 1919. She was married to James (Bill) Green, Aug. 31, 1854, Hall County, Ga. Sarah Pass Green is buried in South Bend Church Cemetery, Clark's Bridge Road.

9. David Pass, born 1833, Georgia, was married to Parmelia T. Pierce, July 10, 1859, Hall County, Ga. He is said to have served in Civil War and to have died relatively young.