

**"ETHEREDGE" AND RELATED FAMILIES**

**OF**

**NORTHWEST ALABAMA**

**SOME RELATED FAMILIES**

BECK, BERRYMAN, BRACKIN, CARPENTER, CARRUTH, DAVIS  
EVANS, FINNEY, JANES, MASTERSON, MORRISON, NEAL,  
QUILLIN, SANDERSON, SLANTON, STELL, TALIAFERRO,  
UPTAIN, WALKER.

and others listed in the "name index"

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## **PREFACE**

The first two chapters of this manuscript is a record of some of the paternal ancestors of the author. The ETHEREDGE line is traced back 400 years - 13 generations. Many ancestors along female lines have been identified. The author's curiosity as to his origins motivated this study, and he is glad to share the results with those relatives that have a similar curiosity.

In the early 1820s, JEREMIAH ETHERIDGE III moved his family from Lincoln Co., Tenn. to Lawrence Co., Ala. His descendants are numerous. Sixty years ago most of them were living in Lawrence Co. - the name ETHEREDGE was prominent. Today the descendants are dispersed - the ETHEREDGE families are few since they have produced far more daughters than sons.

JEREMIAH and SARAH ETHERIDGE started two family lines in Lawrence Co. Of their two sons, John and Greenberry, only the latter established an ETHEREDGE line that endured - through GREENBERRY ETHEREDGE II and his four sons. With the cooperation of others (especially Louise Beck) most of the descendants of GREENBERRY ETHEREDGE II have been identified and are listed in CHAPTER III. The author's paternal ancestors are also theirs.

Their daughter, ELIZABETH, married BENJAMIN CARPENTER and started a line of CARPENTERS many of whom have been identified and their listing may be obtained from the author.

MICHAEL and ROBERT FINNEY are the only ancestors that have been identified as having served in the Revolutionary War. For those that are interested, their service can be cited to establish qualification for membership in the SONS or DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

GREENBERRY ETHEREDGE II served in the Civil War on the Southern side and his service may be cited to support membership in the SONS or DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY.

## EARLY ETHERIDGES IN AMERICA

The name ETHERIDGE is one of the oldest in America. Perhaps the first was Edward ETHERIDGE who settled in Massachusetts Bay Colony about the year 1646. However, no record of his immediate descendants has been found in the early manuscripts.

Thomas ETHERIDGE of Virginia probably preceded him. On Nov. 1, 1647 he received a grant of 200 acres of land in Norfolk County, Virginia. However it seems highly probable that he arrived in Virginia several years before receiving his grant. Most of the people in the United States today with the birth names of ETHERIDGE, ETHEREDGE, and ETHRIDGE live in the Southern states and are probably descendants of this early settler.

Another ETHERIDGE line was introduced into New England around 1720 and descendants moved westward during the 1800s. The earliest ETHERIDGE record found by this researcher in New England was the marriage of JEMINA ETHERIDGE of Braintree, Mass. to Nathan Clark on Aug. 22, 1730. In 1764, William ETHERIDGE married Mary Bradlee of Dorchester, Mass. and they had 4 sons and 2 daughters. STEPHEN GILMAN ETHRIDGE fought in the Revolutionary war as a private in Wingate's New Hampshire Regiment. The 1790 census shown 3 ETHERIDGE and 1 ETHRIDGE families in Mass. Most of the ETHERIDGE and ETHRIDGE families now living in New England and the Northern states are probably descended from this line. Since this researcher descended from Thomas ETHERIDGE, little attention has been given to this northern line.

On Oct. 18, 1722, a Thomas ETHERIDGE was taken from Newgate prison (a jail for London and Middlesex), placed aboard the ship "FORWARD FRIGATE" and transported in bondage to Maryland. No record of an ETHERIDGE family in Maryland during that time period has been found. Could it be that this Thomas ETHERIDGE made his way to Massachusetts and established one of the families there?

"AETHEL, the theme made famous by the kings of Wessex, occasionally survives with the 'th' intact, as in ETHERIDGE which occurs as ETHERIC in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle....

"If your name is....ETHERIDGE....you can be sure that the ancestor from whom it descends to you was English and lived not long after the conquest".

English Surnames (1966) p 327, C. M. Matthews

"ETHERIDGE" COAT OF ARMS:

"Argent, a fesse engrailed between six fleurs-de-lis sable."

General Armory (1884) Burke

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In America, the name appears most frequently as: ETHERIDGE, and less frequently as ETHEREDGE and ETHRIDGE. However records show numerous variant spellings erroneously such as: ETHREDGE, ETHRAGE, ETHERAGE, ETHERADGE, ETHERIGB, and ETHIRIDGE.

GREENBERRY ETHERIDGE II preferred the ETHRIDGE spelling but his four sons changed the spelling to ETHEREDGE. Some of their descendants have changed back to the ETHERIDGE spelling.

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