

Leaves From The Mims Family Tree

A Genealogic History of First Five Generations of American Mims

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This is not a genealogy, nor is it a complete history of the Mims family; it is residue from material I gathered from which to write a narrative history of the Red Stick War, erroneously called the Creek Indian War.

In some history books and in biographies of Andrew Jackson we were told that Samuel Mims, a wealthy planter, transformed his plantation home into a military garrison; that after the massacre there it was called Fort Mims. We were informed that Samuel Mims was a half-breed.

Aware of the fact that my name is the same as that borne by the man who was murdered in the most horrible massacre that ever occurred on American soil, I responded to the urge to make a study of Fort Mims and the man for whom it was named. I was not embarrassed because he was referred to as a half-breed. I have high regard for American Indians. But after learning that Samuel was not a half-breed, I felt impelled to trace his lineage back to the first American Mims.

Ten years of research for the State of Louisiana, followed by four years in Washington, gave me opportunity to pursue the study. Countless hours were spent in the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Bureau of Land Management in the Department of Interior, and other departments and agencies at our Nation's capital, digging into original sources for facts about Samuel Mims and the Red Stick War.

Having completed a book which I am calling RED STICKS AND FORT MIMS I am now reluctant to discard the residue of my findings which concern the Mims family. The purpose of LEAVES FROM THE MIMS FAMILY TREE is to make available data that I accumulated, very little of which was used in my book for the reason that I needed only to know the lineage of Samuel Mims at Fort Mims.

This presentation of my residue may be a basis from which others can work. It may encourage other descendants of this pioneer family to compile a genealogy of their ancestors.

Daniel Webster said: "He who careth not from whence he came, careth little whence he is going." If, however, energetic descendants of the first Mims who came to North America hope to find among their ancestors a President, a host of senators, generals and admirals, they'd save time and money by confining their energies to other pursuits. On the other hand, some of them may believe, as I do, that the lowly home-seeking pioneer is the most admirable character in American history.

Innocent errors made today may become false leads tomorrow. They may lure researchers into following trails that eventually turn into blind alleys.

Looking for the beginning of the Mims family in America, many persons have been content to rely upon Volume 3 of COLONIAL FAMILIES IN VIRGINIA, page 333:

"The family is of Welsh ancestry, and is descendant from Thomas Mims who was born in Wales in 1660 and lived and died in St. Peter's Parish, New Kent County, Virginia."

History and public records contradict the statement just quoted. Between the years 1607 and 1700 only eight settlers in Virginia came from Wales; none of them was named Mims.

Records made in England prior to 1657 show the following entries: At Saint Benet Paul's Wharf, James Mims married Ann Archer on December 26, 1648. "James, sone of James Mims, was born April 4, 1650."

Other English records reveal that on April 19, 1664 George Mims married Dorothy Rash; Sir Christopher Mims was an Admiral in 1665; Mary Mims and Leonard Price were married on March 11, 1659; Thomas Mims, son of George Mims, was buried on September 9, 1672.

There are scores of items concerning the name Mims (Mimms) that were recorded in parishes and counties in the vicinity of London.

In front of me, on my typewriter desk, is a very old book - copy of "The New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Lately translated out of the original Greek; and with the former translations diligently compared and revived, By his Majesties special command. Appointed to be read in all Churches. LONDON,

Printed by William Bentley, Anno Domini 1648." Following this title page are several listings of births and marriages, written with pen and ink. One of them is: "Hester, the daughter of Mr. Guillyn and Katherine his wife, born at Mims in Middlesex, 23rd day of October 1669."

These desultory notes may induce some member of the present Mims clan to go to England and dig into the records of the ancient parishes of South Mymms and North Mymms.

In a book, "South Mymms, the Story of a Parish" by F. Brittain, there is an introduction by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch from which I quote: "...as by a miracle South Mymms keeps its rural English beauty and - what is even better - its rural independence, as though London, over the ridge, were removed by a hundred miles."

In the second paragraph of this book, Mr. Brittain informs readers that "The Spelling of its name is often discussed. The most popular form at present is 'Mimms,' but the form used in the present work is the most persistent throughout the centuries. Either of these spellings is preferable to 'Mims,' which, though it was favoured throughout the eighteenth century, has little else to recommend it...In the present work, except when quoting from documents, I use the form 'Mymms,' both because of its age and persistency.

"The ancient parish of South Mymms," said Mr. Brittain, "covered over eight square miles." In footnotes on pages 2 and 3 he quotes from earlier authorities such statements as, "They were kinsmen of King Offa and lorded over the whole district of the river Mimram, named after them...They were represented at the battle of Agincourt by Richard Botelier Mymms...John Mymms was vicar of St. Peters...The Survey of Popery says they were kinsmen of Queen Elizabeth...King Edward VI, Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth gave to the Mymms much Church Property in Norfolk."

Genealogists and regional historians agree that the first American Mims was named Thomas.

But when did Thomas arrive and where?

From all the reports I have read and from those orally obtained I am the only student of Mims family history who does not agree that Thomas, the first American Mims, came to Flowerdieu Hundred, Virginia, in 1623.

The COLONIAL RECORDS OF VIRGINIA contains information about the First Assembly of Virginia, held July 30, 1623, in which is found the name Thomas Mimes or Mines [†]. In that volume, under a subdivision titled "Livings and Dead in Virginia," appears the name Thomas Mimes or Mines [†].

Genealogists and regional historians contend that this name should be, in reality, Thomas Mims (Mimms), although in succeeding records the name is Mines in some reports, and Mimes in others. Not one of them spells the name Mims or Mimms.

These same Virginia and Carolina genealogists contend that Peter Mims was a soldier in the American Revolution.

The National Archives reveal these facts about Peter Mines: This Revolutionary soldier claimed that he was ruptured while in service. But he could not sign his name to affidavits. He could only make his mark. The recording clerk had to depend entirely upon phonetics; he had to ask the claimant to pronounce his name.

Poor penmanship might confuse the names of Mims and Mines or Mimes, but certainly the articulation of M-i-m-s is not even similar to M-i-n-e-s.

I contend that Thomas Mims, the first American by that family name, came to Lancaster County, Virginia in May of 1657.

Patent Book Number four, page 205, also Cavaliers and Pioneers, page 374, show that Thomas Mims arrived in Lancaster County, Virginia in 1657; that on June 1st of that year Vincent Stanford was issued title to 600 acres of land as payment for the transportation of 12 persons from England to America. One of those 12 men was Thomas Mims. A statement signed by Thomas Mims enabled Stanford to substantiate the claim that he had provided transportation for 12 men and that the colony, therefore, owed him 600 acres of land.

In the printed document referred to, the name Thomas Mims conforms to his signature, which is clear and plain. No one would mistake it for Mines or Mimes [†]. Records of the Parish of Blissland in the County of New Kent contain this item:

"Thomas Mims, ye sone of Thomas and Anne Mims, baptized at ye Great church 24th April, 1681."

Those genealogists and regional historians who claim that Thomas Mines or Mimes was the first American Mims also contend that he was the father of Thomas Mims who was born April 24, 1681.

If Thomas Mimes or Mines was twenty years old when he came to Flowerdieu Hundred in 1623, he was, therefore, 78 years old when his son was born.

If Thomas Mims was twenty years old when he arrived in Lancaster County, Virginia in 1657, he was, therefore, 44 years old when his son was born. He was 42 years of age when his daughter Elizabeth was born and 48 when his son Linah was born.

The fact that Thomas Mims was a "transferee" or a "headright" and thereby, under existing law, obligated to work seven years for his benefactor may account for the fact that he didn't marry until rather late in life. Furthermore, we would remember that there were very few white females in the Virginia colony as early as 1678, which must have been the date of his marriage to Anne.

There is no evidence to prove that Thomas Mims did or didn't abide by the existing law and work - without compensation - for Vincent Stanford for seven long years. There are no documents to prove that such payment was exacted of him.

Among headrights who came to Virginia in that period are found persons of all social classes. Vincent Stanford's sister was a transferee. By paying for her transportation, he was able to acquire title to an additional fifty acres of land. Thomas Mims may have been a friend or a relative of Vincent Stanford. I hope he was neither. I hope he willingly labored seven years that he might become an American.

Listed in the Washington, D.C. telephone directory are a half-dozen families named Mines. By calling several of them I learned that the history of the Mines family can in no way be confused with that of the Mims family.

I am convinced that Thomas Mims who came to Lancaster County, Virginia in 1657 was the ancestor of all the Mimses in the United States today.

The Virginia Colony was originally divided into eight "shires," subsequently called "counties." In 1651 Lancaster was formed out of York and Northumberland [†]. New Kent was established in 1670 [†], and in 1674 shared some of its area in the creation of Middlesex.

Lancaster County was established four years before Thomas arrived, but in 1674 it was divided to form Middlesex County. Thomas was married in Middlesex County in 1677. There is no record of his marriage except that his wife's name was Anne.

These changes in the Colony's subdivision no doubt account for the discrepancies found in the records of the "Parish of Blissland in the County of New Kent" and those of the "Register of Christ Church in Middlesex County." Items that concerned inhabitants of that portion of New Kent County, which went into Middlesex, were copied from Records of the Parish of Blissland. Perhaps the penmanship wasn't clear or the copyist was none too careful.

Example: The Register of Christ Church in Middlesex County contains the following items:

"Elizabeth Mims, daughter of Thomas and Anne Mims, born 29th March and baptised 11th of May 1679."

"Elizabeth Mims, daughter of Thomas and Anne Mims, departed this life 19th October and was buried 20th ditto 1678."

Obviously the child could not have been buried five months before she was born. [Note from Kate: They could have been two different children, the second named in memory of her dead sister.]

Having admitted that I am not a genealogist, there is no obligation to follow any prescribed format or system, albeit, I may be accused of adaptation from the 9th and 10th chapters of Genesis: "And Salah lived thirty years and begat Eber...And Eber lived four and thirty years, and begat Peleg."

Because daughters usually lose the family name, I neglected them in most cases, content to record in my notes all information obtainable about the name Mims.

The Bible was the only book available to most frontier families. Consequently, the Holy Book was the only source from which they could get names for their children.

In the first five generations of Mimses, nine different male babies were given the name David. There are six Thomases and four Johns. Such a situation renders the affix "senior" or "junior" inadequate to identify individuals bearing the same name.

Attempting to lessen the confusion, I have numbered the generations, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, and have tacked a letter of the alphabet onto each individual name. Thus, the name David that appears in the third generation is labelled David-3-a. That name appears three times in the fourth generation, each one identified as, David-4-b, David-4-c, David-4-d.

GENERATION - 2: THOMAS-2-b & LINAH-2-a

THOMAS-2-b:

From the Register of Christ Church in Middlesex County we learn that "Thomas Mims, ye sone of Thomas and Anne Mims, baptised at ye Great Church 24th April 1681." At the age of 19, Thomas married Mellyanne Martin on February 10, 1698. To them the following children were born:

John [†]	Thomas	Sarah
David	Benjamin	

From Extracts from the Presentments of the Grand Jury of Middlesex County in 1704 [†]we learn that Thomas-2-b was arrested for travelling "On the Public Road on the Sabbath with a Loaded Beast."

In 1714 he acquired patent to 500 acres of land in Henrico County, Virginia and moved his family to that part which became Goochland County in 1727.

Perhaps Tom was hurrying to his new home of 500 acres when he was arrested for riding or driving on the highway a loaded beast, on the Sabbath.

LINAH-2-a:

On January 2, 1706 he married Anne Martin, perhaps a sister of the girl Thomas-2-b married. Their first child was named Thomas; he died at the age of six. Church records show: "Thomas Mims departed this life April ye 28th, 1711."

They named their daughter Anne. Church records show: "Anne, daughter of Linah and Anne, baptised April ye June [sic] [the "sic appears to have been added by Kate - TWR] 18th, 1710." Anne married William Naylor.

After moving to Henrico County, a second son, Robert, was born to Linah and Anne.

In that part of Henrico which later became Goochland, Linah's name appears in several real estate transactions.

He acquired 358 acres of Lickinghole Creek. On April 17, 1733, he sold it to David Mims (a nephew).

The deed from Linah to David reflects the social conditions of the period; it shows sad lack of educational opportunities to those of the second generation of Americans. The transfer is recorded [†] in Deed & Will book #1, page 393, and discloses that the vendor (Linah) could not write his name, nor could his nephew, John Mims, who made his mark as one of the witnesses; nor could either of the other two witnesses to the transaction. Four men appeared in the deal, not one of whom could write his name. David, the purchaser, was a very good penman; however, he was not required to sign that deed.

Others, including court officials and recorders, wrote this man's name very poorly. It appears as Lionel, as Lineal, and as Sioul. By 1811, however, descendants seem to have settled the matter of spelling the name.

On page 12, Volume 10 of Virginia State Papers there is a reference to a letter from Linah Mims, J. Grigsby, and William Morrow recommending Charles Arbuckle "for Superintendent of Kanawha Road." On page 97 of the same book this statement appears:

"Henrico County: Charles M. Mallory and Linah Mims having been duly selected by the general assembly of this State as members of the Council of State, produced a certificate of having taken the oaths prescribed by law before Dan Z. Hylton, a justice of the peace for Henrico County, and took their seats accordingly...Given under my hand this 8th day of January, 1811..(Signed) Dan Z. Hylton."

GENERATION - 3

Sons of **THOMAS-2-b:** Sons of **LINAH-2-a:**

John-3-a	Robert-3-a
David-3-a	
Thomas-3-c	
Benjamin-3-a	

JOHN-3-a:

I don't know his wife's name. He had two sons and three daughters:

John-3-b	Sarah	Anne
Thomas-3-a	Mildred	

Mildred married James Johnson in 1751. Anne married Robert Wilburn, October 9, 1755. On April 17, 1733, John signed as a witness to a deed from Linah Mims to David Mims. On March 6, 1746 he sold 100 acres to William Wright. These transactions are of record in Henrico County, Virginia. He died November 7, 1779.

DAVID-3-a:

He married Agnes Weldy. To them were born four sons and five daughters:

Drury	Shadrack	Elizabeth
David	Agnes	Mary
Gideon	Judith	Susannah

John

William

David and Samuel were killed in the massacre at Fort Mims, August 30, 1813.

ROBERT-3-a (son of Linah):

He was a party to two real estate transactions in Goochland County. On January 15, 1736, he bought from David Mims 358 acres, being the land David acquired by patent on October 31, 1726. Even so, Linah, Robert's father, seems to have acquired the same tract. However, on March 10, 1733 Linah transferred title to David, and on January 15, 1736 David sold the property to Robert, whereupon David went into court and acknowledged that the property belonged to Robert.

Although I have found no record of Linah's death, I am of the opinion that he passed away between the years 1733 and 1736 [†].

On April 10, 1739 Robert sold the tract of land to John Wright, reciting in the deed that his residence was Edgecombe. Others have interpreted this to mean Edgecombe, North Carolina, but there is no record of Robert's ever having lived in Edgecombe County, North Carolina.

There is evidence that he moved into the area that later became Mecklenburg and Charlotte counties and which lay immediately north of Warrenton District, in the Colony of North Carolina.

Robert and his wife, whose name I do not know, had two sons:

Frederick

Thomas

Frederick, serving in the American Revolution, was listed as being from Warrenton District, North Carolina. Thomas lived married and died in Charlotte County, Virginia.

GENERATION - 4

Sons of JOHN-3-a:	Sons of DAVID-3-a:	Sons of THOMAS-3-c:	Sons of BENJAMIN-3-a:
John-4-b	Drury-4-a	David-4-c	David-4-d
Thomas-4-d	David-4-b	Thomas-4-e	Thomas-4-f
	Gideon-4-a		Samuel-4-a
	Shadrack-4-a		John-4-c
			William-4-a

Sons of **ROBERT-3-b:**

Frederick-4-a

Thomas-4-g

JOHN-4-b:

He was born in 1731. On March 7, 1755 he married Sarah Horn. They had seven children, five sons and two daughters:

Martin - Born November 24, 1756 [†]

Jesse - Born October 1, 1765

Aggie - Born May 25, 1759

Randolph - Born April 20, 1768

Catie - Born April 11, 1761

Lynch - Born November 14, 1772

Robert - Born September 10, 1763

John-4-b inherited land from his father. On February 14, 1773 he sold land to Lucy Hodges.

THOMAS-4-d (Son of John-3-a):

This brother of John-4-b married Mary Wright on December 23, 1756. The Douglas Register reveals that they had five children, three sons and two daughters:

David - Born November 15, 1760

Frankie [†](daughter) - Born July 3, 1769

Judith - Born January 12, 1765

John Wright - Born March 15, 1774

Drury - Born March 18, 1767

The records of Goochland County show him in two real estate transactions. In July of 1755 he bought 100 acres from David Mims; on August 20, 1770 he sold it to Lewis Herndon.

DRURY-4-a (Son of David-3-a and Agnes Weldy):

Drury-4-a was the first child mentioned in his father's will, "To my son Drury, 90 pounds."

He was born about 1730. On April 2, 1750 a license was issued in Cumberland County (adjacent to Goochland) authorizing him to marry Ann Ridgeway. Evidently Ann did not live long.

Later he married Lydia Jones and they moved, first to North Carolina, then on to Ninety-Six District, South Carolina. He served in the American Revolution. [Note from Kate: I think Lydia was from NC and he married her there. If anybody has evidence that they actually married in VA, please let me know. I also need to know if Ann Ridgeway was the mother of Drury's oldest daughter, Winnifred, who was supposedly born in VA.]

To Drury and Lydia were born six sons and three daughters:

Matthew	Livingston	Ridley (Gray) (female)
David	Drury	Winnie (Ware) (female)
Britton	Tignall (male)	Lydia (Mays)

May 30, 1817 he made a will, probated in the District of Edgefield, South Carolina, in which he bequeathed property to his widow and to each of their children or to the heirs of deceased children. He and his first cousin John, son of Benjamin, must have left North Carolina for Edgefield about the same time. In his will, Drury described certain land as being adjacent to acreage belong to John Mims.

DAVID-4-b (Son of David-3-a and Agnes Weldy):

David-4-b married Martha Duiguid on October 5, 1773. To them seven children were born, three sons and four daughters:

Shadrack	Eliza	Agatha
Gideon	Nancy	
Diuguid	Jane	

On June 1, 1767 he and his brother Shadrack bought 10 acres "on a branch of Lickinghole Creek," on which they established a mill.

April 10, 1777 he received from his father, by donation, 315 acres on Lickinghole Creek. David-3-a made an accounting of the donation in his will.

His children are named in his will. He bequeathed the plantation on which he and Martha lived, all slaves and livestock to his wife: "To be kept by my wife, Martha, and as the children become of age or married, the estate to be divided into equal parts or lots...and then drawn for...If either of my children should die without heirs, such part to be divided between them."

He and his brother, Gibeon-4-a, were executors of their father's estate.

His son, Shadrack, moved to Richmond County, Georgia.

GIDEON-4-a (Son of David-3-a and Agnes Weldy):

By his father's will, he was given "all the remainder of the plantation I now live on," except 315 acres previously donated to David-4-b.

He was appointed one of the executors to administer his father's estate. He was also one of the executors in wills left by his two brothers, Shadrack and David-4-b.

He had two daughters but no sons. On November 15, 1784 he signed the bond for his daughter Kitty to marry Lewis Shandois, a Baptist minister. On February 7, 1787 he signed a marriage bond for his daughter Eliza to marry Robert Poore.

On June 18, 1794 he and his wife executed a deed in which they conveyed a tract of 75 acres to Robert Poore, their son-in-law. This transfer names the vendors as "Gideon Mims and Elizabeth, his wife." It does not mention her family name.

The land was in Goochland County "and on the waters of Lickinghole Creek beginning at a white oak on Rocky Branch," etc.

SHADRACK-4-a (Son of David-3-a and Agnes Weldy):

He married Mary Allen in 1754. No children were born to them. In 1760 he married Elizabeth Woodson and to them two sons and five daughters were born:

Drury	Elizabeth	Susannah
Robert	Sally	
Mary	Martha	

Shadrack's death preceded that of his father. His will is dated April 18, 1777 and was probated November 17 of that year, in Goochland County, Virginia:

"To my son, Drury, one half of my estate, being part of the tract whereon I now live, to have full and lawful possession at the age of 20 years."

He gave the other half of his land to his wife, "to hold during her natural life and after her death to my son Robert."

He also gave all personal property, including "my interest in the mill" to his wife.

He appointed his brothers, Drury and Gideon, executors of his will.

He ordered his two sons, Drury and Robert, to pay to his daughters "125 [†]pounds, to be lawfully divided between them when of lawful age or married."

His son Robert moved to Logan County, Kentucky. His widow, Mrs. Shadrack Mims (Elizabeth), executed a power of attorney authorizing Robert to demand of Henry G. Bibb, of Kentucky, "a negro girl named Eady to retain her for me and keep her as his own until I call for her."

A year earlier Elizabeth had, "because of love and affection for my son Robert Mims," given him a slave named Lucinda and her children, named Eady [†], Elizabeth, and Fleming "with the increase of the females [†]."

Robert of Kentucky was the grandfather of Zerelda Mims, who married Jesse James.

DAVID-4-c (Son of Thomas-3-c):

This man was involved in thrilling and important events of history. Unfortunately I have been unable to learn the name of his mother or his wife.

This David is found in the history books as an active member of the Regulators, a strong organization that was very active in North and South Carolina in an era that preceded the American Revolution.

David's father - Thomas-3-c - was at New Bern, North Carolina in 1749 and made application for land grants and was in Bladen County in 1748 when he signed the grievance against the tobacco tax.

David's plantation was used as a meeting place of the Regulators, an organization opposed to existing political conditions, as shown by their manifesto, signed by 500 persons. The purposes of the Regulators were:

- (1) To pay no more taxes until we are satisfied they were levied according to law;
- (2) to pay no fees greater than provided by law;
- (3) to attend meetings of the Regulators as often as possible;
- (4) to contribute, each man according to his ability, toward the expenses of the organization;
- and (5) to abide by the will of the majority in all matters of interest to the people."

The leaders of the organization were Herman Husband, Ninean Hambleton, William Butler and David Mims. Husband composed the petition which reminded the executive that:

"An officer is a servant of the publick, and we are determined to have officers of this country under a better and honester regulation than any have been for some time past."

The Regulators were not only indignant over the dishonest and arbitrary behavior of Colony and local officials, but they were also bitter of the recent enactment of the Stamp Act.

A young military officer, named William Tyron, was made governor of the Colony soon after the Stamp Act was passed. When he asked Ashe, Speaker of the House, how the people would react to such a law, the answer was "Resist with blood and death."

Subsequent events proved Speaker Ashe to be a man with keen foresight.

The Regulators were articulate in their opposition to unlawful fees charged by attorneys and officials, and to the misappropriation of taxes, and when Governor Tyron brought John Hawks from England to plan and supervise the construction of a mansion that was to be "the finest government house in English America," they concluded their only remedy was physical violence.

On September 29, 1768, a group of Regulators appeared at the courthouse in Hillsborough where the Superior Court was in session. They boldly charged "the court with injustice at the preceding term, and objected to the jurors appointed by the Inferior Court."

Their first overt act was described in a letter from Judge Richard Henderson who presided at the session in Hillsborough (Colonial Records of North Carolina, Vol. III, pps 241-244):

"I have witnessed a scene, the most horrid and audacious insult to the Governor, perpetrated with such circumstances of cruelty and madness, scarcely to be equalled any time."

In his letter, the judge relates the manner in which this infuriated band of Regulators flogged a lawyer named Mr. Williams, who "with great difficulty saved his life by taking shelter in a neighboring Store House."

This overt act on the part of the Regulators resulted in the arrest of their leader, Herman Husband.

Richard Caswell, who resided in the neighborhood, felt impelled to warn the Governor, disclosing that the plantation home of David Mims, "on Mims' Mill Creek," was used as a sort of rendezvous or hiding-out place for the Regulators:

"William Butler was at Mims when he received Husband's letter and returned directly to the body of the Regulators."

While Regulators were assembling for the purpose of marching on Hillsborough to release their leader, he escaped under his own power. However, Richard Caswell took quill in hand to inform the Governor that his

informers claimed there were 2,300 men in the Regulators' army; that "thirteen wagons had crossed Haw River and four others were then on the southwest side of the river and ready to pass it."

In the spring of 1771, Governor Tryon decided to subdue the Regulators by force of arms. He asked for an army of 2,550 men, to be supplied from twenty-nine counties. Bute County at first refused and when forced to send 820 men, every one of them declared he was in sympathy with the Regulators.

On May 16, 1771, the Regulators, although poorly equipped, faced Tryon's army on the Alamance River.

The Regulators were defeated. But the Battle of Alamance did not terminate their efforts for relief from crushing taxation and dishonest Colony officials, although many of their members were marked for destruction and practically forced to leave the country.

Claims have been made that the Battle of Alamance was the first blow struck for American independence and that it preceded the fights in Massachusetts by a full decade.

It is more accurate to say that the activities of the Regulators, culminating in the Battle of Alamance, were merely protests of the western counties of North Carolina against ineffective and dishonest local government.

As indicated by Richard Caswell's letter to Governor Tryon, David Mims owned a farm on Mims' Mill Creek in the District of Granville, referred to in a law that was passed to create a colony subdivision to be called Wake County. The title of the law is:

"An Act for erecting parts of Johnston, Cumberland, and Orange into a separate and distinct county by the name of Wake County and Saint Margaret Parish."

Section II of the Act outlines the boundaries of the new county and contains this language:

"...running a direct line to Neuse River, at the upper end of John Beddingfield's Plantation, then to David Mims' Mill Creek."

THOMAS-4-e (Son of Thomas-3-c):

He and his brother, David, acquired land by grant from the State of North Carolina in the year 1779. The records also show that in 1778 he and his sister, Grace, transferred a tract of land in that part of Bladen which subsequently became Columbus County.

I do not know whether Thomas married in Chatham County or in Columbus. He and his brother, David, moved with their families to Columbus about 1805. David had twelve children and at this time I think Thomas equalled the achievement.

More time and "digging" will have to be done before I can differentiate between Dave's and Tom's offspring.

DAVID-4-d:

He was the eldest son of Benjamin and Judith Woodson Mims. He fought Indians under the command of Francis Marion, a neighbor who also lived in Anson County, North Carolina. He lived for several years with the Cherokee Indians, then drifted south to British West Florida. During the American Revolution he fought with a band of Chickasaw Indians in defense of Pensacola against the Spanish, for which some members of his family branded him a Tory. He worked for the trading firm of Panton, Leslie & McGillivray.

In the vicinity of Taensas Lake, near the junction of the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers, legend contends that he married a Cherokee woman and had a number of half-breed children. I have found no records to verify this.

He was murdered in the massacre at Fort Mims, August 30, 1813.

Twenty years after the massacre Albert James Pickett, also from Anson County, North Carolina, came to Fort Mims to gather material for his HISTORY OF ALABAMA.

Of David Mims and the massacre, Pickett wrote:

"The venerable David Mims, attempting to pass to the half-finished bastion, received a large ball in the neck. A cruel warrior cut around his head and then waved his hoary scalp exultantly."

THOMAS-4-f (Son of Benjamin and Judith):

He was born in Albemarle County, Virginia, in 1739. He married there, later moving to that part of Anson County, North Carolina, which subsequently became Richmond County.

From his will, made in Richmond County, dated January 10, 1809, we learn that his wife's name was Mary; that they had twelve children, eight daughters and four sons:

David	Judy	Nancy
Richard	Ailsey (female)	Sally
Jesse	Polly	Betsy
Benjamin	Patsy	Aggy (female)

His will discloses that on January 10, 1809, three of his daughters were widows, namely Sally, Betsy and Aggy. Betsy's husband was Richard Welch; Aggy's was named Crowson; and Sally's husband was Samuel Ely.

Thomas-4-f appointed two of his sons-in-law executors, Richard Welch and Samuel Ely. [Note from Kate: If Betsy and Sally were widows, how could their husbands have been executors of the will? If there's something I'm misunderstanding here, I hope somebody will please enlighten me. Just by coincidence, my mother lives in Richmond Co. I'll see if she can look up this will.]

On October 9, 1769 he signed a "grievance petition." On October 11, 1771 he bought land from Edward Almond and Samuel Davis.

In 1782 he acquired, by donation from his brother, Samuel, 200 acres of land.

SAMUEL-4-a (Son of Benjamin and Judith):

Born in Albemarle County, Virginia, in 1747. He moved to Anson County, North Carolina in 1767, in which year he acquired, by grant, 75 acres on Marks Creek (Grant Book No. 23, page 137, File No. 3149).

In 1774 he bought 200 acres from John James, a tract he donated to his brother, Thomas, in 1802.

In the American Revolution he served under Francis Marion, better known as "Marion, the Swamp Fox."

In 1784 Samuel moved to West Florida and began acquiring land in the vicinity of Lake Taensas, near the confluence of the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers.

In 1787 he obtained, by grant from the Spanish Governor at New Orleans a large tract of land on Nanna Hubba Island.

He bought 524 acres on which he built a plantation home that was, in 1813, transformed into a military garrison, called Fort Mims.

In 1788 he married Hannah Bready. To them six children were born, three sons and three daughters:

Joseph	Alexander	Sarah
David	Harriett	Prudence

Joseph married Jane O'Niel, and, after her death, he married Sarah Weakley. In 1824 he moved to Brazoria County, Texas, where he became a partner of Colonel James W. Fannin who was killed at Goliad in the Texas Revolution.

Joseph died and was buried five miles southeast of Brazoria. The inscription on his tomb is: "Joseph Mims, died November 23, 1844; lived 54 years."

Samuel and Hannah's daughters all married. Harriett married Major Benjamin Stoddert Smoot, nephew of Benjamin Stoddert, first Secretary of the United States Navy.

Sarah married Dennison Darling, and Prudence married Effen Jones. These daughters all lived and died in Alabama.

Samuel was killed in the massacre at Fort Mims on August 30, 1813. In his book, COLONIAL MOBILE, Peter J. Hamilton wrote:

"It was the blood of grayheaded Sam Mims crying from the ground, and his spirit leading on, that opened the interior of Alabama to civilization."

Approximately 575 men, women and children sought refuge at Fort Mims, former home of Samuel Mims. His wife and children had been sent to Mobile earlier, and thus escaped the holocaust. Ten, perhaps 11 of the 575 within the fort escaped.

No horror story - fact or fiction - is more gruesome or nauseating than Pickett's recounting of the massacre at Fort Mims:

"The bastion was broken down, the helpless inmates were butchered. Blood and brains bespattered the whole place. The children were seized by the legs and killed by beating their heads against the stockading. The women were scalped, and those who were pregnant were opened while they were alive and the embryo infants let out of the womb.

Two warriors held Samuel Mims while a third cut and peeled off the scalp. Then one of them mercifully crushed his skull with a warclub while another attached the scalp to a long pole, and holding it aloft, gleefully exhibited the long flowing white hair.

JOHN-4-c (Son of Benjamin and Judith):

Born in Albemarle County, Virginia in 1740. On October 8, 1761 he married Mary Moss of Goochland County, Virginia. They had one son, Tarlton, and two daughters, Mary and Judith.

Early in 1769, John and Mary, along with Drury-4-a and family, moved to Ninety-Six District in South Carolina, a portion of which was subsequently formed into Edgefield County.

Talton, only son of John and Mary Moss, married in Edgefield County and had nine children, four sons and five daughters:

Hampton	John	Mary, married William
Martin	Benjamin Talton	Nibbs

Judith married Benjamin Mock. [The other three daughters are not mentioned.]

On October 6, 1769 John signed, in Anson County, North Carolina, a petition that was called a "tax grievance." That same year, at the October term of court, he and his wife, Mary, were witnesses to prove signatures to a deed from Cornelius Robinson and Samuel Yerkes.

On July 10, 1771 "John Mims and Wife" transferred land to William Mequire. On January 15, 1772 John served on the jury.

WILLIAM-4-a (Son of Benjamin and Judith):

He spent the early part of his life in Anson County, North Carolina. Although I found no record of his marriage, extraneous facts derived from deduction convince me that he married in Anson County shortly before moving to the Georgia Colony.

He and his nephew, Benjamin, were involved in litigation in Anson County, lost the suit and "judgement bond was confessed...July 18, 1772 [†]."

William-4-a bought property in Richmond County, Georgia in 1779, was one of the appraisers of property that belonged to Shadrack Wright, and on June 3, 1786 he and his wife sold 200 acres of land in that county to Elias Lezenberry. He served in the American Revolution.

On July 12, 1784 he was permitted to file on 287 acres of land in Washington County, Georgia by virtue of his service in the American Revolution.

FREDERICK-4-a (Son of Robert-3-b):

This son of Robert-3-b served in the American Revolution - No. 326 in the North Carolina militia. I was not able to find any additional references to him, no wills, no real estate transactions. He lived in Goochland County, Virginia and likely moved with his father to North Carolina. Additional efforts should be made to learn more about him. He may have lost his life while in service, a suggestion that arises merely because there seems to be no additional public records concerning him.

THOMAS-4-g (Son of Robert-3-b):

His will is dated February 16, 1793. It begins: "I, Thomas Mims of Charlotte County of Virginia and the Parish of Cornwall [†]..."

He bequeaths property to "my well beloved wife, Mary Mimms." He does not mention her family name. He gave property to his five daughters, naming them:

Judith	Mary (Barnes)	Martha (Vaughn)
Elizabeth	Sarah	

"I also appoint my well beloved wife, Mary Mimms, Francis Barnes, Sr., William Vaughn, my sons-in-law...my sole executors."

This clause in his will indicates that his daughter Mary was married to Francis Barnes and his daughter Martha to William Vaughn. From this will we learn that he and Mary had two sons, Thomas and John.

"I give to my son, Thomas Mimms, part of the land I bought of Sith, lying between the great Branch and Robertson's School House Branch..."

I give and bequeath to my son, John Mimms, the balance of the land at present, and his Mother's part at her death, or her marriage, to be his and his heirs forever."

GENERATION - 5

The following chart shows the male Mims of the fifth generation. To trace their progeny would go beyond the scope of the project attempted in LEAVES FROM THE MIMS FAMILY TREE.

Even so, there are several interesting individuals in the sixth generation. I shall present documented sketches of their activities, also make comments about others, hoping that my compilation of data will be of service to those who indulge in the task of tracing their particular lines or branches down to the present.

Sons of JOHN-4-b:	Sons of THOMAS-4-d:	Sons of DRURY-4-a:	Sons of DAVID-4-b:
Martin-5-a	David-5-3	Matthew-5-a	Shadrack-5-b
Robert-5-c	Drury-5-b	David-5-f	Gideon-5-b
Jesse-5-a	John Wright-5-a	Britton-5-a	Diuguid-5-a
Randolph-5-a		Livingston-5-a	
Lynch-5-a		Drury-5-c	
		Tignall-5-a	

Sons of GIDEON-4-a:	Sons of SHADRCK-4-a:	Sons of DAVID-4-c:	Sons of THOMAS-4-f:
None	Drury-5-d	Joseph-5-a	David-5-h
	Robert-5-c	David-5-i	Richard-5-a
		Britton-5-b	Jesse-5-b
		Needham-5-a	Benjamin-5-b

Sons of SAMUEL-4-a:	Sons of JOHN-4-c:	Sons of FREDERICK-4-a:
Joseph-5-b	Tarlton-5-a	None
David-5-i		
Alexander-5-a		

MARTIN-5-a (Son of John-4-b):

I am grateful to John-4-b and his wife, Sarah Horn, for introducing several new names into the Mims family. They had five sons, three of whom were given appellations that four preceding generations hadn't worn threadbare. Those three fortunate sons were Martin, Randolph and Lynch. Of course, Robert and Jesse had to wear "hand-me-downs," but their names hadn't been used many times.

Martin served in the American Revolution with other soldiers from Goochland County, Virginia.

He bought and sold several tracts of land in that county. However, the record indicates that he devoted much of his time and talents to construction work.

Calendar of Virginia State Papers, Vol. 8, pages 442 and 498, contains several letters about Martin, one dated August 3, 1797, from Thomas Callie to the Governor:

"Mr. Mims is making preparations to commence the laying of bricks tomorrow in the square part of the building, and I await my instructions which the Board may be pleased to honor me with on that occasion."

The building which Martin was erecting was the first penitentiary built in Virginia. After completion, he was made superintendent of the institution.

He was the first American Mims to get into public affairs. In 1805 several political enemies charged that he was "too lenient toward prisoners, particularly run-away slaves."

The Governor appointed a committee to look into that matter. On February 8, 1806, a report was made: "We cannot think that the Keeper ought to be subjected to a charge of neglect." They were of the opinion that Martin's "kindness to prisoners should not be interpreted as neglect."

Thirteen years later (1819) he was appointed superintendent of "The Toll House Trents Bridge." He was getting along in years at that time, but seemed to be a good custodian of the funds collected, if the results of a certain episode support such estimate.

The story is told in the Richmond Enquirer of September 28, 1819, found in the Bound Newspaper Room of the Annex to the Library of Congress, excerpts from which are of interest: "The stranger who stood at the door fired a pistol at Mr. Mims, and a slug entered his arm, but without breaking the bone. The robber's companion then wounded Mr. Mims in the back with a dirk, which on examination proved to be an old saw ground down to a fine point... Notwithstanding his wounds and weakness, Mr. Mims made a bold resistance. He seized a pole and compelled his atrocious assailants to take to their heels, run across the bridge and enter the city...The cries of Mr. Mims soon brought some servants to his assistance who discovered the long dirk sticking in his back." Nine days later - on September 28, 1819 [sic] ["sic" added by Kate]- another story appeared, from which I take the following quotes: "The public are already apprised of the horrid outrage perpetrated on Mr. Martin Mims! He departed this life on Saturday night last in the 66th year of his age, after having suffered great pain for nine days. Mr. Mims was a native of the county of Goochland, and served in the first volunteer company which was raised in the county at the commencement of the Revolution, and was in the service until the close of the war. He was a liberal and sincere patriot, and was always ready to defend the rights and liberties of his country. He held many public offices, and uniformly discharged his duties with the greatest industry, zeal

and fidelity. In all the relations of private life his conduct was not only exceptionable, but entitled to the highest praise. Perhaps no man in Virginia ever had a more extensive personal acquaintance, and perhaps no man was ever more generally esteemed or beloved." The Enquirer account of this tragedy includes mention of the fact that Martin Mims recovered the money from his assailants before giving in to the severe wounds inflicted by the thieves.

ROBERT-5-c (Son of John-4-b):

He and his brother, Martin, owned considerable land in Goochland County, Virginia. About 1789 he began selling some of those tracts, perhaps with the view of moving westward. His last sale of land in that county was on March 19, 1795.

He moved, first, to Fluvanna County where he bought and sold slaves. Later he moved into the Shenandoah Valley where he became a successful planter and business executive.

ROBERT-5-d (Son of Shadrack-4-a):

He moved to Logan County, Kentucky. His mother, Elizabeth Woodson Mims, executed a power of attorney on December 22, 1824, authorizing Robert "to demand of Henry G. Bibb, of Kentucky, a negro girl named Eady, and retain her for me and keep her as his own until I call for her."

This Robert was the grandfather of Zerelda Mims who became the wife of Jesse James. "Sometimes called "The Robin Hood of America." Jesse has been alternately damned and applauded. Had he been born in any other period of American history his talents and indomitable courage would have taken him to high places. [These last two sentences and several in the following paragraphs are omitted from Kate's transcript - TWR]

In Kansas and Kentucky the conflict between Confederates and Abolitionists was characterized by cruel and bitter guerrilla warfare. Jesse James, his mother, who was Zerelda Cole James, and his brother, Frank, were zealous supporters of the Confederate cause. They were vociferous in their denunciations of neighbors who espoused the leadership of John Brown and others.

For several months Jesse served in a pseudo-military outfit and was wounded in battle.

He was marked for death by his political enemies. On two different occasions he was ambushed and shot through the left lung.

After one of his wounds Zerelda Mims, a cousin, whom he had known in childhood, nursed him. After an extended courtship they were married.]

While nursing his injuries he became bitter against society, finally concluding he'd become the image his enemies had created. After Pinkerton detectives threw a heavy bomb into his mother's home, destroying the house and severing her right arm, Jesse became one of the cleverest robbers known to the criminal history of this country, and developed into a sadistic murderer.

After reading "The Complete and Authentic Life of Jesse James," by Carl W. Breihan, one can scarcely refrain from saying, "I don't blame Jesse at all."

Although I will be violating chronology and continuity, I want to share with you the contents of the last will and testament of Gideon Mims who died in Red River County, Texas. The will is dated October 9, 1850 and was admitted to probate in that county on February 25, 1852.

Gideon had many slaves. In his will he named eleven of them, ten of whom were mothers and fathers and their children. He gave those ten their freedom "and the sum of three thousand dollars to purchase for them a house in some free state, and I hereby make it the duty of my executor to proceed with said negroes, hereby emancipated and freed, to some free State by them elected, and purchase for them a home and see them comfortably settled as soon as it may become convenient for him to do so. I give and bequeath to my sister, Sarah Holman, of county of Goochland, State of Virginia, my negro man Marshall, for and during her natural life and should said Marshall survive my sister, I give and bequeath to him his freedom and one hundred dollars to enable him to go to some free State...I give and bequeath to my said sister, Sarah Holman, the entire residue of my estate consisting of lands, negroes, and personal property of every description and kind whatsoever, to her and her heirs forever."

JOHN-4-c and **DRURY-4-a**:

These two men and their families moved to Edgefield County, South Carolina, where there descendants, with each succeeding generation, were among the distinguished families of that region.

At the annual meeting of the Edgefield County Historical Society on June 29, 1951, descendants of John and Drury were present to relate interesting facts about their antecedents.

In her talk on that occasion Miss Helen Wallace Mims discussed her ancestors, John-4-c and Mary Moss Mims. She said, as I have set out in the foregoing, that John and Mary had only one son, whose name was Tarlton.

"All of Talton's nine children, except one, moved to Alabama," Miss Mims said in her address.

Miss Anne Mae Mims was also one of the speakers at this 1951 meeting. She has searched diligently for family history and lineage. Although she and I have argued vehemently in our correspondence over the question of when Thomas, the first American Mims, came to Virginia and where he settled, I am indeed grateful to her for helping me in my study of the lineage of Samuel Mims of Fort Mims.

At the 1951 meeting referred to, Drury and his wife, Lydia Jones Mims, were ably represented by one of their descendants Major General Lewis Griffith Merritt.

General Merritt related a sad episode in the life of Drury, who lived through the hectic days of the American Revolution:

Having shot and killed a Tory horse thief, Drury was tried, convicted and sentenced to be hanged.

I am assuming the privilege of quoting a paragraph from General Merritt's speech:

"Here I think should be related the story of one of the real heroines of the Revolutionary period. Remember, at this time the county was still a wilderness with many hostile Indians and ruffians and with practically no trails and roads. It is the story of the devotion of Lydia Jones Mims to her husband who was facing death on the gallows. The seat of government was then at Charleston, so Lydia, unescorted, rode to Charleston to plead with the Governor for Drury's life. On arrival she found that the Governor had gone to Beaufort. Without hesitation she changed horses and rode eighty miles to Beaufort, obtained an audience with the Governor and won a full pardon for her beloved husband. Edgefield was still a part of Ninety-Six District where the seat of Government was located. Lydia rode there and arrived a few days before Drury was to die."

DIUGUID MIMS [throughout the document, Kate spells the name "Duiduid" - TWR]:

Please recall that David-4-b married Martha Diuguid and they had a son named Diuguid.

Records in Goochland County, Virginia show the following entries:

December 30, 1806 [†], a deed from Diuguid to Gideon Mims, recorded in Deed Book 19, page 620; April 17, 1809, from Diuguid Mims to Robert Mims, Trust #20, page 351; March 16, 1818 Diuguid Mims and wife to David, Sally, Gideon and Thomas Mims, Trust #23, p 184.

On November 1, 1804 Diuguid married Martha Massie. Diuguid and Martha had a son whom they named David Henry. David Henry married Eliza Cochran of Georgia. They moved to Marshall County, Mississippi where a son was born to them; they called him William David. William David became a prominent medical doctor.

FREDERICK MIMS (son of Robert):

On August 14, 1819 Eliza and Frederick Mims executed a deed, transferring land to Elizabeth Cobbs. This sale is recorded in Deed Book 22, page 259 of Goochland County, Virginia.

I am not positive that this Frederick was the man who served from North Carolina in the American Revolution. Possibly, Robert and family returned to Virginia at the close of the war, or Frederick and his wife (or sister) Elizabeth went back to the area in which Mims lived for many years.

GIDEON MIMS (Son of David-4-b):

He died prior to August 17, 1812. On that date a deed was executed in Goochland County, Virginia by David, son of Gideon, on behalf of himself and three "infant children" for whom he was guardian. David was the brother of those infant children, Sally, Gideon, and Thomas. The deed conveyed 33½ [†] acres to William Gammon. Elizabeth, mother of David and the three "infant children," was also mentioned in the deed as the "relict of Gideon Mims, deceased." Obviously, the property conveyed was inherited from Gideon, son of David-4b.

Daughters of **SHADRACK-4-a**:

In the Library of Congress may be found a volume with a very long sub-title: "The Douglas Register, by W. Mac. Jones, Being a Detailed Record of Births, Marriages and Deaths Together with other Interesting Notes, as kept by the Rev. William Douglas, from 1730 to 1797."

From this book I obtained items of interest concerning the daughters of Shadrack-4-a:

Results of my study have been rewarding.

Samuel Mims of Fort Mims was not a Tory. He was not a half-breed. He was one of the largest landowners in the eastern part of that vast region. He was one of the first inhabitants to be appointed to high office by the first Governor of the Territory of Mississippi.

He built and owned Fort Mims. Ill-fated though it was, he shared it with friends and neighbors.

If Fort Mims is ever made a National Memorial, justification of such honor will be found in the life, character, and breeding of Samuel Mims.

Background note:

I received a copy of this document from Deborah Cobb Manley by email "Document" 1 Mar 2000. She said she received it some time before from a member of the Mims list, but she could not remember who. Based on the Mims-List archives, I conclude this copy was transcribed in Jul 1996 by Kate Shue, and distributed by her to members of the List. She obtained a photo copy of the original typescript from Linda Ethridge. In another message, Marilyn H. Symonds says "It is a photocopy of a typescript which I found in family files in Clayton Genealogical Library, Houston, Texas." She adds that the author, Sam Mims, is now deceased. Howell G. Mims reported about the same time that a copy existed at the Mississippi State University library.

I received a second transcript from Betty Bivins by email "Re: [MIMS,MIMMS,MIMBS] Leaves from the Mims Family Tree" 10 Jan 2004. This copy was apparently sent to her 17 Feb 2001 by John Mimms, with the note that "Mr Sam himself let me borrow the book and I made a copy of it..." Except for paragraphing, and the formatting of the lists of children, both copies are substantially the same. In a careful comparison, several differences in dates and other details appear. I have corresponded with John over the past week and he has verified the various conflicts I found against a copy of the original document. he holds.

This copy is a composite of both documents, rendered into Word format. I've made minor formatting changes to improve readability, mainly changing fonts and cleaning up the resulting line wraps, and arranging the lists of children in multiple columns. Where I found dates or other details in conflict, I've left the version John has verified to match the original, and marked the entry with [†]. There are a few other notes in square brackets, either inserted by Kate or myself, as noted in each case.

Terrence W. Reigel, 16 Jan 2004