

## ***Matthew Gleaves' Ancestors***

### ***Family Folklore***

Most of the research into our family history is based on an oral tradition that states that Matthew Gleaves (about 1725-1760) was born in England. *"The Gleaves family of Cripple Creek were descended from the Gleaves of Cambridgeshire, England. William Gleaves, the first of the name to come to this part of Virginia, migrated to Pennsylvania and then down the valley of Virginia where he bought lands in 1770 as recorded in Augusta County records."* *Glimpses of Wythe County Virginia*  
*"The original family by the name of Gleaves came from Dillingham, England, to America, the exact date being unknown. Several years prior to the Colonial War they settled in Virginia near Roanoke where several descendants still live."* *The Gleaves Family*

Both of these stories begin with sons (William and Michael) of Matthew Gleaves Sr. without mentioning him by name.

Research by Robert Allen and Bill Gleaves has focused on a copy of a will written by a man named Thomas Gleaves in 1740. *"Thomas, who was baptized 1/23/1680/81, married Anne Sneesby on 9/29/1718 and was buried on 6/22/1740. Thomas had the following children: Thomas, baptized 11/16/1720, Joseph, baptized 1/5/1724/25, Matthew (no information) and John, baptized 3/13/1734/35. Thomas wrote a will in 1740 in which he mentions his sons Thomas, John ('when age 21'), Mathew ('when age 21') and Joseph. This is the only Matthew Gleaves in Willingham in the right age bracket to have emigrated to America and died in Augusta Co., VA in 1760."*

*Ancestry and Descendants of Matthew Gleaves, Augusta County, VA*

Bill Gleaves has located a descendant of Thomas Gleaves living in England and the two have taken DNA tests. According to Bill, the initial results are encouraging.

### ***Could Matthew Have Been Born in America?***

Recent information uncovered by William Earl Finley has revived a line of research that several of us have pursued over the years. We know there were Gleave/Gleaves families in Pennsylvania as early as 1682. Could one of these families be his lineage?

*"George GLAVE (GLEAVE) of Knutsford"* and his wife Ann Duncalfe of Hale Bowden Parish came to Bucks County, Pennsylvania in 1682 aboard the ship *"The Friends Adventure"*. George and Ann had been married in 1679 and came to the New World with their son, John, born September 14, 1680.

*The Pennsylvania Colony*

We know John was born in 1680 in England. His mother Ann Duncalfe died when he was very young (about 1683) and his father George Gleave remarried in 1687 to a woman named Hester Powell, widow of Joseph Powell. George died in 1688 and in April of 1691 John's stepmother Hester had him apprenticed *"for as much as the Estate of Georg Gleaves being insufficient for the bringing up of his Children and That it doth appear to this Court that it was his desire that these persons hereafter mentioned should have the bringing up of them & being uncapable to maintaine themselves; Therefore the aformentioned Court as father of the poore in this case have placed and put forth John Gleaves unto Bartholomew Coppocke the Elder to serve until he is the age of twenty two years."*

*Records of the Courts of Chester County, Pennsylvania April 1691*

This would mean John was apprenticed until about 1702. Normally, individuals were not allowed to marry during their apprenticeship. We know from court records that John's father left him very little in the way of assets.

We have previously documented that John married Elizabeth Miller on September 11, 1712 and three children (Esther, Rachel and Isaac) are mentioned in his will written in 1753. Isaac was reportedly born in 1719. It is possible that John was married before and had children with this unnamed wife. A son born in 1702-03 would be old enough to have married and fathered our Matthew Gleaves Sr. who was born about 1725. *U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900*

Matthew's birth year is derived from the English will of his assumed father, Thomas Gleaves and would not necessarily be correct if Matthew was indeed John Gleaves' grandson. The 1725 date appears to work given that Matthew and his wife Esther's first child, Mary was born 6/12/1746. Matthew would have about 21 at that time.

To make the connection, the case hinges on an as yet undocumented previous marriage for John Gleave or that the date of his marriage to Elizabeth Miller occurred before the generally accepted date of 1712.

### ***The Gribbel and Elkins Families***

William Earl Finley has recently found a 1962 privately published work by John Gribbel II, *The Gribbel and Elkins Families*. Mr. Gribbel identifies two additional children of John Gleave; George and John Jr. No dates are associated with either son. Neither child can be found in any other documents although both appear several times in OneWorldTree on Ancestry.com (more on this later). John Jr. is listed as marrying Elizabeth Eachus, who we know was in fact was Elizabeth Harry Eachus Gleave, the widow of Robert Eachus and John Sr.'s second wife who he married about 1728.

One other significant point here is Gribbel has a much earlier date for John Sr.'s marriage to Elizabeth Miller, November 16, 1706/07. John Sr. would have been about 26 in 1706 which makes the date at least plausible. Mr. Gribbel identifies only one wife for John Sr., Elizabeth Miller

### ***The OneWorldTree Project***

I understand that source is not the most accurate but it is a source for more research. Most of these entries are not documented but they cannot be dismissed without digging deeper.

Others have also identified these two additional sons. A man named John Merrill Fisher has posted the most extensive information on this family group as part of the OneWorldTree project. He agrees with our data on John Sr.'s date of birth although we have him born in England and he lists Springfield, PA. We did not have an exact date of death for John Sr. and Fisher states it is around the time he made his will in 1753. Fisher agrees that John married Elizabeth Miller on September 11, 1712, but he has three additional children for this marriage. Interestingly, two have birthdates before the marriage date. He offers no explanation here.

George Gleave November 21, 1707 – No date of death

John Gleaves Jr. April 22, 1709 – April 25, 1720

Elizabeth Gleave December 6, 1721 – No date for her death

Mr. Fisher has no record of marriages for any of these three children and his tree stops with all of them at this point. His tree continues with the three children we had previously identified (Esther, Rachel and Isaac).

There approximately 15 other trees on OneWorldTree that identify John Sr. but do not provide the detail Mr. Fisher has in his. Of these, approximately 10 list John's date of death as January 28, 1758 but do not provide documentation. Some list his marriage to Elizabeth Miller without a date or cite the 1712 one. These trees generally list only one child, Isaac and many appear to have all come from a single source.

Only one tree lists a marriage date of 1707 (Terrell Family Tree) but does not provide a source citation. This tree also lists all six children and with regard to son George, the same birth date as Fisher (November 21, 1707) but also has an undocumented date of death as 1753.

The Long Family Tree has both birth and death dates for George that agree with Terrell, but again lists the 1712 marriage date for his parents.

A man named Tom Moore also identifies George and states he was born in 1708. No other information is included.

If George Gleaves was born in 1707-08 he would have been 17 or 18 in 1725. None of the trees referenced above list a family for George. Several others list George but provide no additional information.

### ***Thoughts***

John Sr.'s marriages to Elizabeth Miller and Elizabeth Harry are both recorded in the book *The Pennsylvania Colony* as is his father George's second marriage. If John was married previously, it most likely would have been in the book as well. I tend to believe that he was married only twice and either the date of the first marriage or the birthdates of George and John Jr. are incorrect.

There is no record of a marriage for John Sr.'s son George nor is there any other documented or undocumented court records pertaining to him. The same is true of John Jr.

John Sr. wrote his will in 1753 but does not mention any of the three children (George, John Jr. or Elizabeth). It is possible that he had already provided for George and that was why he was not mentioned. If the undocumented dates of death for John Jr. and George are correct, they could have both died before the will was written. John's will provided 10 pounds each to two granddaughters, the children of his daughters (Rachel and Esther). No grandchildren are named for Isaac or the three other children.

Alice Hix has suggested that it may be possible to research this further using DNA testing. As stated earlier, Bill Gleaves has had his DNA analyzed. I am aware of at least one descendant of the George Gleaves line who has been in contact with the Gleaves Family Association. Clark V. Gleaves Jr. lives in the Philippines and descends from John Gleaves Sr.'s son Isaac. Perhaps we can interest him in taking a DNA test as well.

I'm sure others may have additional ideas here. I welcome any other thoughts.