

Who was the bride of George Eller Jr.?

In a discussion trying to determine the name of the Ramsey who married Elizabeth Gleaves, a marriage to a George Eller arose. Who might he have married?

On Sun, Mar 13, 2011 Robert M Allen wrote:

[*unrelated parts of email omitted*]

I think that William Ramsey was the William Ramsey, Jr., head of household, in the 1830 census for Davidson Co., TN. This means he was born between 1790-1800. There is a female in his household, age 10-15 who probably is not his wife. These were the only people in the household. If this is correct, he was born prior to the marriage of stated marriage date for ___?___ Ramsey and Elizabeth Gleaves of December 24, 1802. What does this mean? It could mean that the Elizabeth Gleaves married ___?___ Ramsey prior to 1800 and not on December 24, 1802 or it could mean that he was Elizabeth Gleaves' child by a prior marriage (Eller?) who took the surname Gleaves. I don't think it means that he is ___?___ Ramsey's child from a prior marriage because that would not make him an heir of Elizabeth (Turk) Gleaves unless she specifically named him as a heir in her Will (unless somehow he had rights because Elizabeth survived her husband and inherited his property and his rights derived from the property that used to be his father's).

[*unrelated parts of email omitted*]

I am not sure if the Elizabeth Gleaves who married Mr. Ramsey is the same Elizabeth Glaves who married George Eller in Wythe Co., VA in 1799. The primary basis for my uncertainty is the William Ramsey, Jr., who is the son of Elizabeth (Gleaves) Ramsey who seems to be the William Ramsey, Jr., listed in the 1830 census for Davidson Co., TN, as age 30-40.

On Sunday, March 20, 2011, Alice Hix wrote:

I have checked Kegley's book for Eller and am attaching those pages. From this it appears very strongly that Elizabeth Gleaves was first married to George Eller, Jr. I say this because of the marriage record and the Ellers and Gleaves lived in close proximity to each other.

On Mar 21, 2011 Robert M Allen wrote:

I am not saying that Elizabeth Gleaves, daughter of William Gleaves and Elizabeth Turk, could not be the Betsy Gleaves who married George Eller, Jr., in Wythe Co., VA, in 1799. However, my census research suggests that Elizabeth Gleaves was the mother of William Ramsey, Jr., who according to the 1830 and 1840 censuses in Davidson Co., TN, seems to have been born in the 1790s. That would conflict with her being married to George Eller, Jr., in 1799.

Other possible candidates for the wife of George Eller, Jr., are

(1) Elizabeth (Bell) Gleaves, widow of Matthew Gleaves, Jr., who died in Pendleton Co., KY about 1800 (I don't know how much 1800 is an estimate and the exact date could be prior 1799. She married a John Norton in 1801, but could she have married George Eller, Jr., between the two?

(2) Elizabeth Gleaves, born 1753, daughter of Matthew Gleaves, Sr., and Esther ___?___. I have no marriage or descendency information on her.

On Tuesday, March 22, 2011, Robert M Allen wrote:

[*unrelated parts of email omitted*]

If Elizabeth Gleaves, daughter of William Gleaves and Elizabeth Turk, is the Betsy Gleaves who married George Eller, Jr., in 1799 (assuming such a marriage record exists), then Elizabeth (Gleaves) Eller could not be the mother of William Gleaves [?Ramsey], Jr., of Davidson Co., VA born between 1790-1800. I am curious who you think the Betsy Gleaves was that married George Eller, Jr., or whether his wife was in fact a Gleaves.

On Mar 23, 2011, Dennis Gleaves wrote:

[*unrelated parts of email omitted*]

Sorry for this being so long but I want to address the 1799 George Eller-Betsey Glaves marriage as well.

I know I'm in the minority here but frankly am having trouble seeing how this entry could deal with William Gleaves' daughter, Elizabeth.

I looked at the entry in the Annals of Southwest Virginia 1769-1800 where I believe this marriage was uncovered. The actual entry was transcribed for the book as "Betsey Glowes", but somewhere along the way it got changed to "Glaves". Does the actual document exist?

Eller family records list George Eller Jr. as being born in Wythe County in either 1777 or 1782. While there is some biographical information dealing with his father, I have seen none pertaining to him. He is the right age and in the right location to be the groom.

Although there are numerous early occurrences of the Gleaves surname being spelled both ways, by 1799, virtually all entries were spelled Gleaves.

If this is actually Elizabeth Gleaves, it would mean this marriage occurred before she married Mr. Ramsey.

The normal way for a woman to get out of a marriage back then was for the husband to die. Eller family records have George living until 1851.

Divorce was not an option back then but was it possible for the marriage to be annulled? Perhaps plausible but highly unlikely.

I have looked at several other options to explain this mystery. First, I thought this could be William Gleaves' younger sister, Elizabeth Glaves, daughter of Matthew and Esther. We know nothing about her and it is possible she followed brothers William and Michael to Wythe County.

Born in Augusta County she would have been in her mid-forties at the time. This would mean that George Eller Jr. married a woman old enough to be his mother.

I looked at George Eller Sr. as a possible groom as he was about Elizabeth's age. Eller family records state he married Christine Yost in 1778 and she outlived him by more than 30 years.

I will offer two more theories just to exhaust all that I can think of and both deal with Michael Glaves, William's brother who left Wythe County for Tennessee around 1784.

Several of us believe that Michael was married in Virginia, before he married Rachel presumably in Tennessee. We have documented at least two women born into this previous marriage and I strongly suspect that the Elizabeth Gleaves Turner, mentioned in the codicil to Michael's will may be a third. Is it possible that a fourth daughter born in Virginia did not make the trip to Tennessee, instead living with family in Virginia?

Lastly, and this is a real stretch; Michael's first wife. Perhaps he just left her taking the children. She would have to wait around 15 years waiting for him to return. Under her married name, George again would be marrying a woman twice his age.