

[William Harrison EDWARDS](#) was born ABT 1720 in Glen Morganshire, Wales, and died ABT 1808 in Claiborne Co., TN. He was the son of **96.** [Thomas Nathaniel EDWARDS , Sr.](#) and **97.** [Elizabeth Isabella DOWNING](#).

[Mary Elizabeth CRAMER](#) was born 5 AUG 1721 in NC, and died ABT 1759.

Children of Mary Elizabeth CRAMER and William Harrison EDWARDS are:

- i. [Mary EDWARDS](#) was born in Orange Co., NC. She married [Christopher TAYLOR](#).
- ii. [Solomon EDWARDS](#) was born ABT 1747 in Orange Co., NC. He married [Martha CURL](#) ABT 1766. She was born ABT 1746 in NC.
- iii. [John EDWARDS](#) was born 15 APR 1750 in Orange Co., NC, and died ABT 1855 in Gallatin Co., KY. He married [Hannah BREWER](#), daughter of Oliver BREWER and Rebecca SMITH. She was born ABT 1758 in Surry Co., VA, and died ABT 1835 in KY.
- iv. [Simon EDWARDS](#) was born 4 JUL 1752 in Orange Co., NC, and died DEC 1838 in Edgecombe Co., NC. He married [Sally DOWDEN](#) ABT 1780 in NC. She was born ABT 1760 in NC, and died 20 APR 1841 in Edgecombe Co., NC.
- v. [Drucilla EDWARDS](#) was born 4 MAR 1755 in Orange Co., NC, and died 18 SEP 1841. She married [John L. JONES](#) 26 DEC 1798. He was born ABT 1751.
- vi. [Peter EDWARDS](#) was born ABT 1756 in Orange Co., NC, and died 5 SEP 1840 in NC. He married [Rhoda CLARK](#). She was born ABT 1760 in Orange Co., NC, and died in NC.
24. vii. [William Franklin EDWARDS , Sr.](#) was born 8 NOV 1757 in Orange Co., NC, and died 23 APR 1837 in Robertson Co., TN. He married [Rebecca Ann BREWER](#) 25 JUL 1775 in Chatham Co., NC, daughter of Oliver BREWER and Rebecca SMITH. She was born ABT 1760 in Surry Co., VA, and died 23 APR 1838 in Robertson Co., TN.

Hi--I am glad to hear from someone else researching this line. I will tell you there is a very good chance that you descend from this line of Solomon Edwards because of being in Clarke County, GA in 1824. I do not have all the lines followed down, however, so you would have to figure out which one you might have come from. In 1820 census, Solomon Edwards was the only Edwards enumerated in the census. Of course, there were other Edwards in the GA census and you could look at those later, but for starters, I would certainly begin with Solomon. I can give you a good bit of information about this family--which was my mother-in-law's family, and she has been dead now many years. But I am glad to have collected this information about 30 years ago while she was still living. Most of the information came from a cousin of hers, a Lois Biles, who lived at Jackson, GA and has also been dead many years. I understand, however, that a niece of hers was interested in genealogy and did inherit her collection which was extensive. I do not know if the niece is still living but you might check with the library in Jackson, GA. The last time I was there, they were trying to build up a good genealogy section--and they might have possibly come by the Edwards information. I would not want to put the niece's name onto this site, in

case she is still living, but you could e-mail me and I could tell you what her name is.

Anytime you find a name that ends in an "s", you are most likely going to find that the name is of Welsh origin. This is true of our Edwards family who originated from "Edwards Hall" near Cardiff, Wales. In Wales, the Edwards claim descent from Tudor Trevor, a mighty chieftain many centuries ago. In our family, we are descendants of the Edwards family by way of Louise Goddard Bell who was the gg-granddaughter of James E. Edwards (1785-1861) of Jasper County, GA.

In Wales, the estate known as "Edwards Hall" dates back to the time of 1066 when William the Conqueror first came to England with his Norman (French) knights to conquer the English. The estate was originally built by Godefory de Pomeroy, a Norman knight who came over with William the Conqueror. The estate came into the Edwards family by marriage and remained the seat of the Edwards family until about 1635. The ruins still stand.

The name of "Edwards" comes from the Olde English "Edweard". The meaning of that name is "prosperity guard" or "happiness protector." It is believed to be a name given to a brave and cunning chieftain in the Middle Ages. King Alfred the Great (who reigned from 901 to 924) named one of his sons Edward, and from that time on, the name was quite popular. The Welsh took on the name of the father --for example John ap Edward. "Ap" meant "son of." Eventually, this evolved into John Edwards (meaning John son of Edward) when surnames became popular.

I will give you the background on what I believe to be the family of our Solomon Edwards and some of the interesting history of that family as well. I have not proven that this is our Solomon who is listed in this family, but I do believe it may possibly be so. Perhaps once you get your own line established to Solomon, you might like to pursue this interesting ancestry.

Some of the earliest Edwards(that we believe to be of our family) that we have record of are Thomas Edwards of Wales, born 1639 and died 1688. He married Elizabeth Mary Hael/Hall in 1660. She was the d/o Thomas Hael/Hall (1618-1669)and his wife Mary Elizabeth Druy (1619-1640). This Thomas and Mary Heal Edwards had a son named Robert Thomas Heal Edwards born 1662 and died in 1738 in Wales. Some name the place he lived as Swanea or Denbigh, Wales. This Robert Thomas Hael Edwards married on December 25, 1685 to Margaret Curlin/Cuelin who was born in 1666. Robert and Margaret had six sons: John, Robert, Hayden, Henry, Thomas Nathaniel, and Richard.

Thomas Nathaniel Edwards (b. October 10, 1690--d. February 11, 1781) was the first of our family (we believe) to come to America. He married before coming to America to Isobel Downing b. 1692. The marriage date was March 14, 1713/14. Thomas and Isobel came to America from Wales about 1725. They were parents of seven sons and one daughter: Robert, Joshua, William, Thomas Nathaniel, Jr., Leonard, John Crawford, Jacob, and Martha.

As it would turn out, this family would become the center of a controversy that remains to this day. It all started with a land title that was granted to Thomas Hael by the Dutch government in 1642. Thomas

Hael's only daughter (Elizabeth Mary) had married Thomas Edwards, and thus the property had come into the Edwards family. The land passed on down to Robert Edwards, the oldest son of Thomas Nathaniel Edwards.

In 1778, Robert Edwards leased 77 acres of this (now) Manhattan property to John and George Cruger. The land was leased for 99 years for "one thousand pounds and peppercorn yearly." At the end of the 99 years, the property was to revert to Robert or to his heirs--and his heirs were named as his brothers and sisters and their descendants. All this paperwork was completely documented and in perfect order.

Robert Edwards happened to be a sea captain, soldier and sailor, who was lost at sea. He never married himself so had no descendants. The land was supposed to legally pass to his brothers and sisters as named--Joshua, William, Thomas Nathaniel, Jr., Leonard, John Crawford, and sister Martha. On this land which Robert Edwards leased out for 99 years now stands the Old Trinity Church (where Alexander Hamilton is buried), Wall Street, the New York Stock Exchange, and many other office buildings which are the hub of our nation's commerce. There is also said to be a great portion of Central Park included in this property. Edwards descendants all over the USA have hired lawyers, etc. in an attempt to reclaim their inheritance--all to no avail. Thirty years ago they were asking for 300 million dollars. No telling what it would be today! Nothing has ever come of the Edwards' family attempts to reclaim their inheritance. This is one of the intriguing stories that is found in climbing up this family tree.

The following is a list of the children of Thomas Nathaniel Edwards and Isobel Downing:

1. Robert Edwards--the sea captain who perished at sea. He was born 24 Feb. 1716 and died in 1781. He was the owner of the Manhattan property. No descendants.
2. Joshua Edwards--born March 12, 1718 and died 1763, married Rebecca Ward who died in 1773. Their children were: Tomas, Rebecca, John, Jane, Isobell, Isaac, Jacob, Joshua Jr., Jonathan, and Nathan.
3. William Edwards born April 9, 1720 and died 1786 married Polly Creamer on August 5, 1747. Polly Creamer was born August 5, 1721. This William was born in Wales and came to America as a small boy with his parents Thomas and Isobell Edwards in 1725. William and Polly's children were: John b. April 15, 1750-d. 1783 who married Nancy Bord b. 1768; Simon b. July 4, 1752 m. Elizabeth Hale b. 1754; Thomas Jr. b. 1753 m. Elizabeth Pry; Drucilla b. March 4 1755 d. 1847 m. John Jones; William Jr. b. May 6, 1757 m. in 1777 Nora Hammons b. 1759; Peter born June 3, 1760 m. Rhoda Clark; Robert b. 1763; Nancy --no information.
4. Thomas Nathaniel Edwards, Jr.--the line which may be our own. Thomas Nathaniel Edwards, Jr. was born July 7, 1723 and died January 30, 1791. Married January 23, 1743 to Margaret Elizabeth Nicholas (or some records say Nichols). After Margaret died in 1759, Thomas married Mary Hiatt in 1760. The children of Thomas Nathaniel Edwards Jr. and Margaret Nicholas were:
 - a. David Robert Edwards b. Dec 20, 1743 m. Elizabeth Crawford in 1762
 - b. John Andrew Edwards b. 1745 m. 1774 Phoebe Meadows

- c. Tomas Edwards IV b. October 10, 1747 and d. August 1832, married Mary Ann McLanahan
- d. Solomon Edwards b. 1749. No more information but is a possibility that we come from this family some way since the name of our ancestor is Solomon. According to our records our Solomon was b. 1756, so it is more likely that he was born of one of Solomon's brothers and named after this Solomon.
- e. Sara E. Edwards--b. 1750 m. Andrew McClellan
- f. William Edwards--b. Jan 1, 1751 d. 1829 m. Esther O'Quinn
- g. Frankie Edwards--b. May 6, 1757 d. Dec 15, 1822 m. Isaac Wichliff
- h. Martha Margaret (Dolly) Edwards-- b. 1759 d. 1852 m. Grover Shays, Jr.
- i. Naomi Edwards--b. 1767 m. Ben Teston
- j. Annie Edwards b. 1769 d. 1792 , married unknown name

5. Leonard Edwards born May 8, 1725 m. Elizabeth Nightingale, no children

6. John Crawford Edwards born Feb 8, 1717 married June 13, 1748 to Mary Walker and they had: Thomas, Arthur, Joseph, Samuel, John, Elizabeth, Mary, William, and Sarah.

7. Jacob Edwards b. August 18, 1729 m. in 1746 to Effie Spiere. Their children: John, Gilbert, Robert, Joseph, Morgan, Thomas, Uriah, Moses, Effie, Nathaniel, Jacob, and Aaron.

8. Martha Isobel Edwards born November 24, 1731 m. Thomas Nathan Wilson and their children: William, Alexandra, Thomas Nathan, Sandy, Elizabeth, Cathrine and Mark Thomas.

Our documented Edwards lineage begins with Solomon Edwards, a Revolutionary war soldier who moved to Clarke County, GA in 1804. This Solomon Edwards was born in Louisa County, VA on September 4, 1756. He served as a soldier in the American Revolution from VA during the years 1775-1781. He married Sarah Mathews on December 27, 1782 in Louisa County, Virginia. Solomon Edwards died in Clarke Co, GA on January 27, 1844. The following February (1844) his widow, Sarah, applied for a pension as widow of a Rev. war soldier. At that time she stated that she was 80 years old.

Other Edwards who were listed in Louisa Co, VA tax rolls in the year that Solomon married Sarah Mathews were: Gravel, Henry, two John's, Reuben, William, and two Zachariah's. Our family tradition says that our Solomon's parents were "John and Edith Edwards of Virginia." Nothing more is known of them. (I have not tried to research further myself). (There was a John Edwards who m. Phoebe Meadows--he was a brother to Solomon and could have named a son after his brother. I have wondered about the similarity of the names Edy for Edith and Phoebe and wondered if someone had the name off a little bit.)

Solomon may have been in Georgia earlier than 1804 because his son James E. Edwards (our ancestor) lists his birthplace as Georgia. Solomon could have been given land as reward for his Rev. war service and this would have brought him south earlier than 1804 probably. In the 1850 census, Sarah Edwards was listed as born in VA.

In the Clarke Co, GA census of 1850, we find Sarah Edwards, now a widow since Solomon died in 1844 as head of her household. She is listed as 88 years old. Elizabeth S, age 57 is with her and also Martha H. age 47. There is Richard Aiken who appears to be a farm laborer and a younger girl Susan Mathews age 21. This is possibly a niece of Sarah Mathews Edwards living with her. Possibly Sarah, Elizabeth, and Martha are all widows as each one lists a separate value to their real estate. Sarah lists \$2000, Elizabeth \$600 and Martha \$700.

My own Edwards line comes off from Solomon. I do not have a list of all of Solomon's children but this could be gotten from the DAR, I'm sure, as there must be many who joined on Solomon Edward's name. Our descent comes from James E. Edwards, son of Solomon, who married Martha "Patsy" Hamilton. See THE HAND LINDSEY FAMILIES AND THEIR COLLATERAL RELATIVES. James E. Edwards was born 1785 and died 1861. He was married in 1813 to Martha "Patsy" Hamilton b. 1794 d. 1865. Patsy was b. in S.C. Their children were: Sarah "Sallie" Edwards b. 23 Jan 1823 d. 11 Nov 1891; Tab Edwards m. George Kinard; Pamela Edwards m. Couch; John Edwards, Nancy Edwards never married; Jefferson Edwards, Simeon Edwards, Solomon Edwards, Millie Edwards, Martha Edwards, and Tabitha Edwards (possibly the same as the Tab mentioned above). I believe there were also some other children that appear in the 1850 census: Nancy, Catharine, Henry, and Joel (who were the older children). Our descent is through "Sallie" b. 1823 who married Sherrod Lindsey and was already gone from home by 1850--so did not appear in the census taken then. There is also possibly another son who would be the James C. Edwards, age 25 in 1850 census who is just down the road from James and "Patsy" Martha Edwards. (This is 1850 Jasper Co, GA census).

You can find a lot more information about other Edwards in early Georgia in the book called GONE TO GEORGIA. Most libraries and archives have this book. I hope that with this information, you will be able to track back on your own lineage and find your connection here. Good luck!