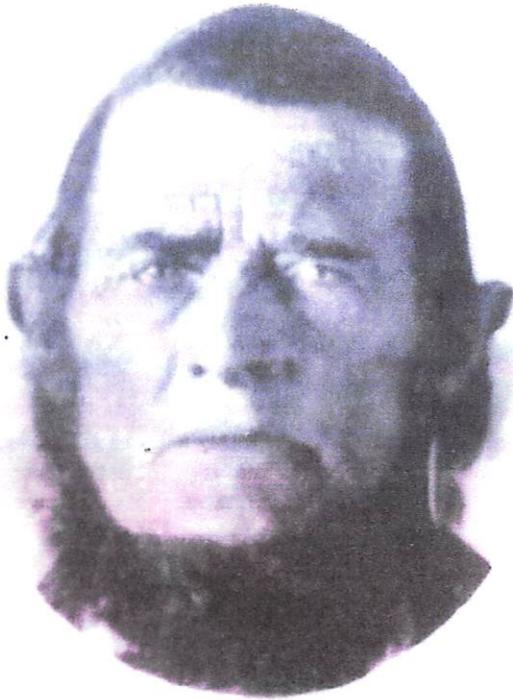


In youth  
we learn;  
in age we  
understand.

Marie Von  
Eber-Eschenbach



*Thomas Jefferson Adair*



## THOMAS JEFFERSON ADAIR

*[There is considerable discrepancy in the versions of Thomas Jefferson Adair's history—two different versions follow—neither of them can be considered the definitive history.]*



THOMAS JEFFERSON ADAIR

### History of My Great-grandfather Thomas A.<sup>1</sup> Adair

By Miriam Bergetta Adair Covington  
gleaned from tradition and research

Thomas A. Adair was born 25<sup>th</sup> October 1771 in North Charleston, known as the 96<sup>th</sup> District, which afterward became Laurens County. The District of Charleston at that time extended west and north to the highlands of South Carolina as far as the 96<sup>th</sup> District.

Little is known of the childhood and youth of Thomas or his parentage. He was the son of Joseph Adair who lived in Laurens County, South Carolina according to family tradition and Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ of whom we know nothing. We do know that he was of Scotch parentage. Family tradition would indicate that he was born in Scotland.

In 1608 William Adair, the son of Ninian Adair and Elizabeth Gordon fell heir to the estate of Kinhilt, Portree and Stranrawer in the county of Wigton, Scotland. He exchanged with Sir Hugh Montgomery of Ireland his land called *Dunsky* for *Ballymena* in Antrim County Ireland. William Adair married (1) 18<sup>th</sup> April 1589—Rosina McClellan; after her death he married (2) Miss Houston of Castle Stewart; after her death he married Helen Cathcart of Carlston.

It seems that William must have remained in Wigtonshire because the descendants of his last wife are found there; while the descendants of (#1) Rosina McClelland and (#3) Miss Houston are found in Ireland.

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<sup>1</sup> *[Throughout this history Thomas Adair is frequently referred to with a middle initial of A. A name is never identified. In all other respects the history seems to be Thomas Jefferson Adair.]*

It is from this (2) wife, Miss Houston, that we have the Thomas Adair family of Pennsylvania and Laurens County, South Carolina. They came to Chester County, Pennsylvania about 1733 and to Laurens County about 1750. Thomas had three sons—James Robin Adair born about 1709, Joseph Adair, born about 1711 and William Adair born about 1713.

James<sup>2</sup> has become quite a noted figure in history. It was of him that the beautiful ballad, *Robin Adair*, was written by Caroline Keppel, whom he later married. [The Robin Adair in the ballad is likely not the James "Robin" that this author presumes. The Robin (Robert Adair) of the song married Caroline Keppel, remained in Ireland, where he was a surgeon. (The Reader's Handbook of Famous Names in Fiction, Allusions, References, Proverbs, Plots, Stories and Poems. By Ebenezer Cobham Brewer)] In South Carolina he was a trader among the Indian Nations for about forty years, and has written the most authoritative history of the American Indian in circulation. Speaking seven different languages and especially versed in the Hebrew language and history, he gives convincing proof that the American Indians are of Hebrew origin and have followed Hebrew practices in worship and in their ideals of life. His book sells for \$125.00 a copy.<sup>3</sup>

He married first an Indian maiden and left offspring in Oklahoma and Missouri. He was a surgeon on the staff of King George III before coming to America. Later, he was a surgeon in General Francis Marion's Army in the Revolution. He married again in Robson County, North Carolina and left three daughters all prominent citizens in that community. He signed his will 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1778. His influence with the King of England enabled him to buy up large tracts of land in Northwestern South Carolina, which was very cheap and on which he invited his people from Pennsylvania to come and live and improve. Thus we find about 1855 many Adairs in this locality.

Thomas Adair grew up, no doubt, as any other normal child; but the spirit of the Viking was in his blood as it was in all the Adair family. Romance and adventure have accompanied this name throughout its history, so Thomas was no exception. He no doubt made many scouting trips over the western prairies. In 1802, we find him with his brother-in-law George Brown and William Brown and John Brown in Georgia and Mississippi. (AM 375 Vol.5 p172 Sec.4) Petition to Congress by citizens of the Mississippi Territory, 25 August 1802—Among the signers was Thomas Adair. Nov. 14, 1808 was George, John and William Brown.]

We find Thomas and Joseph Adair in Anderson County, Tennessee as early as 1802 and as late as 1809 where he was overseer of roads and acted on the jury on a number of sessions from 1802-1804.

F. Tenn A1 p.47-57 this item—Ordered that Joseph Adair be admitted defendant instead of Henry Retis, tenant in possession; he having given bond and security as the

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<sup>2</sup> James Adair (circa 1709-1783) was a native of County Antrim, Ireland, who came to North America, and became a trader with the Native Americans of the southern states. He resided in their country forty years, beginning in 1735, and was almost entirely cut off from the outside world, and from the year 1744 he resided chiefly among the Chickasaw.

In 1751, Adair moved to Laurens County, South Carolina. He published a very elaborate work on their manners, endeavoring to prove they descended from the Jews. It is entitled *The History of the American-Indians, particularly those Nations adjoining the Mississippi, East and West Florida, South Carolina, &c.* London, 4to. 1775; but the work has been distrusted, although Dr. Boudinot, in his *Star in the West*, has adopted its views. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Adair\\_\(historian\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Adair_(historian)))

<sup>3</sup> No longer in copyright. Available in numerous formats through the American Libraries Internet Archive <http://www.archive.org/details/historyofamerica00adairch>

law requires, on condition that he confess lease, entry and ouster and rely on his title only. This sounds as if Joseph had property there for lease.

Thomas married about 1804 Rebecca Brown, daughter of Roger Brown and Nancy\_\_\_\_\_, commonly called Molly. Rebecca was born 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1784. (Roger Brown Bible, Laurens, South Carolina). Thomas seems to have remained in Laurens County, South Carolina for the next few years. Here his first child was born on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 1805 whom they called Margaret.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1804 he received a gift deed from his father Joseph Adair of 40 acres of land on Duncan Creek, Laurens District, witnessed by Roger Brown and [Jared] Erskin Adair (I don't know where he fits in the family). In this gift, Joseph says, "In consideration for the love and good will I bear to my eldest son, Thomas Adair, etc.." This was no doubt a wedding gift to Thomas from his father.

The first child, Margaret, married on 10 February 1820, William Richey in Alabama. The second child was a boy and they named him Samuel Jefferson, as it was during the administration of Thomas Jefferson as President of the United States. He was born 28 March 1806 in Laurens County, South Carolina. He married 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1829 to Jemima Mangum and later Marred (2) Anna Catherine Mattison, (3) Rachel Hunter. He died 6 July 1889 in Arizona. The third child was a girl whom they called Ferreby, born about 1808, married Daniel Clark.

From the year of 1804 to 1808 many of the citizens of the 96<sup>th</sup> District were becoming restless, desiring to move farther west. Evidently there were many inducements for obtaining land for farms with squatters rights. Many of the Adair Family were among this group.

Thomas sells his 40 acres to Jesse Wilkensen, 17 September 1806. Signed Thomas A. Adair.

Thomas sells 51 acres to George Ross, 5 March 1807. Rebecca Adair relinquishes.

Joseph Adair sells 70 acres to John Ross 7 March 1805. Sarah Adair relinquishes.

John Franks sells land and Judy Brown Franks relinquishes 1804 and 6 February 1809.

George Brown sells 150 acres to Edward Winn 17 December 1805. There were many other members of the Adair Family who follow.

It seems that Thomas and his company went as far as Anderson County, Tennessee where they remained for a time. We find Thomas in Anderson County in 1810. Among others who were in this company of scouts were John Brown, Rueben Brown, Thomas Hart and Isaac Lowe.

We next find the family in Nashville, Tennessee, where their fourth child was born. Eliza Jane, born 11 November 1810, who married (1) Samuel Carson, (2) John Price, (3) Mr. Rurson. She died 6 August 1892.

The fifth child Sophia was also born in Nashville about 1812.

Then they were on the move again. This time to Indiana, where their sixth child Thomas Jefferson was born 31 May 1814. He married (1) Frances Rogers, (2) Mary Vance. He died 17 September 1890, St. Johns, Arizona.

Our next reference to Thomas is in Lincoln County, Tennessee where Sarah Ada Adair was born 27 December 1816. She married William Mangum. She died 3 July 1852, at Loop Fork, Platt River, Nebraska.

The eighth child was born in Lincoln County, Tennessee 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818 whom they named George Washington. He married 6 May 1846 Miriam Billingsley (2) Mrs. Johannah Freestone Bennett.

We find Thomas next in Smith County Tennessee where he was deeded a tract of land in Smith County Tennessee by Joseph Allison, 10 May 1820 (F Tenn A5 1 pt 1 p. 129) witnessed by his broth-in-law, Thomas Allison and William Parker, and ordered to be recorded. This deal may not have gone through because his next child was born in Pickens County, Alabama. The ninth child was John Wesley born 18 February 1820 in Pickens County, Alabama. He married (1) Harriet Williams (2) Rebecca Mangum. He died 5 March 1903 in Arizona.

Mary Ann was the tenth child born 5 July 1822 in Pickens, Alabama. She married (1) John Winn (2) John Mangum J.

Lany Ann, the eleventh child was born about 1824. She was sealed to Joseph Mangum. She died and was buried at Mt. Pisgah.

976.185—42c The History of Pickens County, Alabama, showing the boundaries of Pickens County by Act of December 18, 1820, show the early settlers of Pickens County Alabama. Among them are Thomas Adair and William Adair.

Alabama 7 Vol. 3—Sketch of William Irvin Adair, lawyer, son of William and Mary Irvin Adair, nephew of Governor John Adair of Kentucky and grandson of William and Mary Moore Adair, who were natives of Scotland and who emigrated from Belfast, Ireland in 1736, settled in Chester County, South Carolina and later returned to Scotland. Served in the war of 1812 as Captain of the Kentucky 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry. He was a lawyer. Was in the Legislature in 1822-1823. Was Speaker of the House, November 1832. Was elected to the Circuit Bench and held it until 1835 when he died in Madison County, Alabama. He married Miss Jones and left descendants.

F Tenn M 7 Maury County, Tennessee 1811-1821. Here we find Thomas Adair. Here also Thomas Hart who left Laurens County, South Carolina and accompanied the adairs to the west, died, and a division of the Estate took place thus—John, Thomas, Henry Clay Hart guardians of Eleanor, Louise, John Jr. and Thomas Jr., minors of Thomas Jr. and Henry Clay Hart. Here they meet the Mangums and Cherries, who became part of the family by marriage. Here we also find James Brown and Nancy, his wife; Henry Clay and Lucretia, his wife; James Shelly and Polly, his wife; George Ross and Eliza, his wife; Daniel Brown, Henry Brown, Dr. Jennings, and Josiah Harrell, most of whom left South Carolina about the same time the Adairs left.

The 1830 and 1840 census reports give the number in the family and their approximate ages of the Thomas Adair Family in Pickens, Alabama and Pontoc, Mississippi.

In 1844-45 most of the Thomas Adair family were converted and baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by James Ritchey in Mississippi where they had recently moved. They migrated to Nauvoo to be with the body of the Saints. Thomas himself, however did not join and remained behind in Mississippi, where he

died in 1856. We have been unable to find the exact date or place of his death and burial.

Rebecca and eight of the children left Nauvoo with the Brigham Young Company. She and one child died and are buried at Mt. Pisgah. One daughter died on her way later at the Platt River, Nebraska. Joseph, the father of Thomas died somewhere along the line. Sarah died in Alabama in 1844-1845.

### THOMAS JEFFERSON ADAIR (1771)<sup>4</sup>

*Ina Custer Iverson, compiler*

Father: Joseph Adair (1745 - 1820)

Mother: Sarah (1755 - 1844)

Siblings: Joseph, Sarah, Jenny, Suffiah

Spouse: Rebecca Brown (3 Nov 1784)

Child: Margaret Ann (18 Jul 0008)

Child: Theuby or Fairby or Pherreba or Phoebe or Theriby (1804)

Child: Samuel Jefferson (28 Mar 1806)

Child: Sophia (1810)

Child: Eliza Jane (11 Nov 1811)

Child: Thomas Jefferson (31 May 1814)

Child: Sarah Ada (27 Dec 1815)

Child: George Washington (18 Mar 1818)

Child: John Wesley (18 Feb 1821)

Child: Mary Ann (5 Jul 1822)

Child: Laney Ann (2 Jul 1824)

#### **Biography & History**

*(from an email, dated 1 Jan 06, from Judy Hinton)<sup>5</sup>*

Thomas Jefferson Adair born 25 Oct 1771 in South Carolina to (we think) Joseph Adair and Sarah Low or Long and we think they were Cherokee Indians. *[not likely as the family came from Ireland/Scotland]* We think his mother was a Low, but this will take more research to prove. He met and married Rebecca Brown, daughter of Roger Brown and Molly. The first three children were born in Laurens County, South Carolina. After having 11 children, he left his wife and children and was never heard from again, until 1856 when the family received word that he was in an asylum and mentally ill.

His wife and some of his children joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and eventually moved to the West. His wife went to what became the state of Utah, with some of her children and their families. She had had enough of the persecution they had experienced after joining the new church. They first moved to Nauvoo, Illinois where most of the saints were moving too. She made it to Winter Quarters, Iowa. There she passed away along with other relatives.

Their oldest daughter, Margaret, and Samuel, the oldest son, and their families moved to Nauvoo, Ill. before going west. And also George Washington Adair, another son, went with them to what became the state of Utah. I do not know at this time if there were others who joined the church and went west also. Their son Thomas joined this church and had a hard time of it even before he left for Nauvoo. He had joined the

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<sup>4</sup> <http://home.earthlink.net/~2alicebenson/p1.htm> (2/12/2010)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.visitourfamilytree.net/familygroup.php?familyID=F1209&tree=VOFT\\_main](http://www.visitourfamilytree.net/familygroup.php?familyID=F1209&tree=VOFT_main) (2/12/2010)

Methodist Church and had been singing in their choir, he had an excellent voice and they did not want to lose him. So a large group of them came to tar and feather him. But he was known for his gun and his being an excellent shot. He sat near his front door with his rifle on his lap and told them to come ahead if they dared. They never did. Their daughter Margaret and her family also had a hard time

George, who had married Miriam Billingsley, was over six foot tall when grown. They thought that moving to Nauvoo would stop the persecution and went to Nauvoo in 1845, but this did not change things for them. They were driven from the state of Illinois soon after they arrived. He was given the job of driving a team in the Ira Eldridge company on the way to Utah. They stopped one evening to camp with another company. There he met Miriam and they were married on the 6th of May 1846 in a wagon by an elder. They later overtook Brigham's company at Mt. Pisgah, where they stopped to plant crops and build cabins for those that followed. In the spring of 1847, Lorenzo Snow, sent a company on west and George and Miriam joined that company. They arrived in Salt Lake Valley with Orville Cox Company and had a very hard time of it that winter, they had to dig sego lily bulbs and whatever they could find to sustain life. They were eventually asked to move to what became Provo in the state of Utah. This was not a permanent home either. They were soon asked to go to Dixie to help raise cotton. They moved to Minersville in 1862 and then to Beaver and finally to Orderville in 1875. George died there the 28 Aug 1897 and was buried there. The school children of Orderville in later years always made it a point to put flowers on George's grave. They never stopped to wonder why the tombstone had an Adair on it.

Thomas and Rebecca's tenth child Mary Ann and her husband also joined the church and had their problems. She was set apart to be nurse and midwife and helped to bring many babies into the world. They also spent little time in Salt Lake before being asked to help settle someplace else. They were sent to Nephi and eventually asked to go to Dixie then to Kanab and then to Pipe Springs. Her husband passed away 23 May 1886 in Apache County, Arizona. Mary Ann went to live with some of her children after his death. She passed away in the spring of 1892. She is buried in the Georgetown Cemetery now an abandoned town in Kane County, Utah.

Samuel Jefferson Adair was born 28 Mar 1808 in Laurens County, South Carolina. He spent the first five years of his childhood in South Carolina and then his father moved his family to Pickens County, Alabama, where he took up a large tract of land and started another plantation. Samuel's father was quite prosperous for the day in which he lived. Samuel was taught to farm and raise cotton by working next to his father, as did all the boys in this family. Though they were well to do for that day, all the children were taught to work and were given chores to do. The girls were given work around the house. The Adair, Mangum, and Richey families all lived in this area. The children of these families all inter-married. Samuel married Jemima Mangum, who was born in Warren County Ohio. She was the daughter of John and Rebecca Mangum. Rebecca had married a Knowles first.

Samuel and Jemima took up farming in the same area as the relatives for about five years and had five children. Then Samuel and his father moved their families to Mississippi and took up even larger tracts of land. Some of the relatives also moved to Mississippi. Samuel and Jemima had four more children while living in Mississippi. They raised mostly cotton but they were unfamiliar with having to irrigate the crops, as there

was sufficient rain to make the crops grow. There was no indication of how their lives were to change in the next year or two. In 1844, Elder James Richey, a nephew of Samuel's came to visit and preached the gospel of Jesus Christ to them. They were God fearing people and had read the bible and knew it was the true religion as soon as they heard it. They requested baptism soon. Then desired to move to Nauvoo, Ill. Where the saints were gathering. Most of their relatives also joined this new church. They were all baptized and desired to go to Nauvoo. Those who could afford it traveled by steamer up the Mississippi River. Those who could not, traveled by land. It was a short stay for some. Samuel and Jemima had planned to make Nauvoo their home. They experienced the persecutions as did all the people of Nauvoo. It was not long before the mobs were harassing the saints and they with many others were forced to cross the Mississippi. They traveled as far as Iowa, where Samuel stopped to let Jemima have the next baby, this was Jemima Catherine born 6 Apr 1846. When Jemima was feeling better, they settled temporarily at Mr. Pisgah, Iowa, where the church had set up a temporary resting place for the people.

By this time several members of the family were ill. On the 8 Sep 1846 Joseph Jasper Adair passed away and a month later their oldest son William passed away on 31 Oct 1846. They are buried there in Mt. Pisgah. There was much suffering and illness among the people. Many died and were buried there. Samuel and Jemima both lost their mothers there. On the second of Oct 1847 they lost Rufus C.B. at only four. He is also buried there. By the spring of 1848 Jemima was due to have another baby. He was born 5 Apr 1848 and died the same day. Jemima was not well and followed his death a few days later. They are all buried there in Mt. Pisgah, Iowa. Samuel gathered up what was left of his family and was going to head west. He did not know what to expect and decided to go and see before taking his children there. Jemima was only two years old. He left them with a Nancy Adair who lived in Pottowatamie Co., Iowa. I do not know how long he stayed in Utah. His children are listed in the 1850 census in Pottowatamie Co., Iowa. He picked up his children and possessions and prepared for the return trip.

They were soon joined by others. As they traveled across the plains they came upon a very disturbing scene. They saw something off in the distance and discovered it was three small children tied to a cow. Their parents had been killed and their wagon taken. The children and their parents had left Missouri for the gold fields of California. They had hired a man or men to guide them. The men had turned on them and killed the parents and stolen the wagon. The children had begged for their lives and were spared. The children were Ann Catherine, Sarah, William Albert Chestnut, born 1844 to 1847 respectively. Samuel took them on to what became Utah with him as he did not know what else to do with them. When they got to the valley where the saints were the children recognized their wagon and began to shout that there was their wagon. Two men came over to Samuel and told him to shut those kids up or they would take care of them permanently. There was no law or any way to prosecute the men so there was nothing Samuel could do.

William Albert, when a young man, returned to the East to see if he could find any relatives. He was never heard from again as far as we know. Ann Catherine, married Samuel's son George Washington and died at the birth of her second child. Then George remarried. Sarah lived to marry and have a family.

Samuel first settled in Salt Lake Valley. He thought that would be his permanent home, but that was not the case. He was called to Payson, Utah and settle and help build it up. He was there a few years when he was asked to take a few families to the Southern end of the state to raise cotton. They left Payson in March and arrived in April. The town was set up near a place called Sam Adair spring.

Samuel remarried to two other women before he died. Ann Catherine Mattinson and Rachel Hunter. He was later asked to go to Northern Arizona to help settle that area. He died 6 July 1889 there, but they took his remains to St. John, Arizona for burial as that had been his home for many years.

Note: Samuel is listed in Journal History of Church as crossing the plains in 1st division or Brigham Young's company arriving in Salt Lake 24 July 1847. If this is so he must have left Jemima and his children in Winter Quarter while he went to the Rocky Mountains, then returned to find that Jemima and the baby had died.

Sources: *Ina Custer Iverson compiler, Eliza Ann Adair (daughter of John Milton Adair and Eliza Jane Richey), Vernessa Jane Dobbins Custer (Granddaughter of John Milton & Eliza Jane Adair), James Tilden Dobbins (Grandson of John Milton & Eliza Jane Adair), Church Records (L.D.S.), St. George Temple records, Journal of James Richie, Early ward records of Payson, Utah*

From: ***Our Family History: Thomas Adair***<sup>6</sup>

The following information is from an uncited typescript but is typical generally of most undocumented LDS versions of the early family of Thomas Adair who married Rebecca Brown. Many other statements within this typescript have proven to be inaccurate. It is often repeated over and over never with documentation or sources. It is a fact that Joseph and Sarah Adair were the parents of Thomas who married Rebecca, but that is all so far. Until proven otherwise, my opinion of specific problems include:

a. No one knows exactly when and from where Joseph immigrated. The name Adair is certainly Scotch-Irish. Death dates and locations of Joseph and Sarah are unknown thus far in my research and the dates of about 1820 and 1845 respectively appear speculative until proven otherwise.

b. No to date knows the maiden surname of Sarah, wife of Joseph, nor where she was born.

c. No one knows the names of any of the children of Joseph/Sarah except the eldest son Thomas, which is from a land deed in Laurens Co., SC. The 1790 census suggest there may have been more than five children. The birth dates on all but Thomas appear to perhaps be contrived or assumed.

d. There is not one record that shows Thomas had a middle name of Jefferson; however, he did have a son named Thomas Jefferson Adair and since he was Thomas Jr., I suspect many have assumed his father had the same middle name. That would be speculative and is definitely unproven.

e. Thomas being born in Charleston, South Carolina is suspicious. His parents, James Adair the cooper and his wife Eleanor, are definitely in Laurens County, SC. When Thomas' son Samuel Jefferson Adair was baptized vicariously for his deceased father in 1877 in the LDS temple, he indicated his father was born 25 Oct 1777 in Lawrence [Laurens] District, South Carolina. Another son of Thomas, George Washington Adair, in doing the LDS endowment for Thomas later that year, noted his father as being born in N. Charleston, SC, but gave no date. In early South Carolina

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.myfamilysearch.net/getperson.php?personID=11843&tree=2005217a> 12/15/2010

history, Charleston was the location where all legal activity up to the 1780s for South Carolina occurred and most upcountry geographical areas were vague and immense extensions of coastal county names. There is always the possibility that Joseph's service in the Rev. War took him to Charleston where there were battles and that his wife came with him, but there is no such proof of such war service except in the more local area of Laurens Co., South Carolina.

f. For Thomas Adair's birthdate, most every LDS database uses 25 Oct 1771, but I haven't seen documentation that I accept. His son as noted in item e above, states 25 Oct 1777, which may or may not be correct.

The quotation: "1st Generation. Joseph Adair.

"Joseph Adair was born about 1745. He was from Scotland, but lived in South Carolina after coming to the new world. His wife's name was Sarah (Lowe or Long), born about 1750 and was also of South Carolina. They were married about 1769/70, and they lived first in Charleston County, near Charleston, S.C., later moving to now Laurens County, S.C.. Joseph was buried in 1820, and his wife Sarah, died about 1844. Issue of Joseph and Sarah (Lowe/Long) Adair:

1. Thomas Jefferson Adair, born Oct. 25, 1771 in Charleston County, near Charleston, S.C.
2. Joseph Adair, Jr., born about 1773 in Laurens, Co., S.C.
3. Sarah (or Sally) Adair, born about 1777 in Laurens Co., S.C.
4. Jenny Adair, born about 1777 in Laurens Co., S.C.
5. Suffiah Adair, born about 1779 in Laurens Co., S.C."

Jett Hanna [jettplane@aol.com] provided me on 8 Jul 2005 with a copy of his analysis of the Brownlee manuscript as follows. It mirrors my own understanding; however, anything with which I disagree I note in [brackets]. Jett entitles his paper as "Laurens County Area Adair Family Trees." It is broken down by three families: James Adair who married Eleanor, his brother Joseph who married Sarah Laferty, and a William of whom absolutely nothing is known except just his name on the Williams Petition and that Brownlee notes he died 1780-84 and that his estate was administered 1784 per Abbe Wills, p. 10. Text quoted as follows:

"This tree is based on Early Adairs of Laurens County, South Carolina, by Mildred Brownlee. This was provided to me by W. Lee Adair, who obtained it from the Laurens County Public Library. Handwritten notes show a date of 1990 on Brownlee's manuscript. I have not examined these deeds personally. In some cases, notes and questions below are my own additions. This analysis seems to discredit some of the trees in the Adair History and Genealogy, and adds significantly to what is known of the Laurens area Adairs. I have not fully finished analyzing this work, and may have left out parts that are not as critical to my work.

"Based on this work, it appears very possible that the elder Joseph Adair (m. Sarah, m. Susannah) and his brother James (m. Eleanor) settled in Laurens County at the same time, as suggested by the Adair History and Genealogy. I do not believe, however, that this James was the author of the book on the Indians and reputed patriarch of the Cherokee Adairs. This James was a cooper (barrel maker) according to the deeds. Modern editions of the History of the American Indians suggest that the

author James Adair was a direct immigrant to South Carolina, but with no concrete evidence.

"The Williams Petition: In the tree, LCW is Laurens County Wills; LCD is Laurens County Deeds. Also mentioned is the Williams petition. This petition is a significant document in analyzing the Laurens County Adairs. Published in the South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research, Vol. XV, No. 1 1987, p. 32-33, the original is #5767, Manuscript Department, Wm. Perkins Library at Duke University. The petition is in support of Colonel James Williams, a militia leader of the Patriots in the Laurens area (Little River Regiment). The petition, signed by members of the Little River Regiment, is directed to the Governor of South Carolina and the Privy Counsel, and attests to William's devotion to the Patriot cause. Williams led militia in a number of battles. I suspect that this petition was provided prior to William's elevation to the rank of Brigadier General following the Battle of Musgrove Mill, which was fought in what is now Laurens County. Williams had been accused of puffing his role in the battle. Williams went on to die at Kings Mountain -- one of the few Patriot casualties that day on October 7, 1780. Williams had run for the South Carolina legislature as a Patriot in 1778, only to lose to Robert Cunningham, the infamous Loyalist leader. For more on Williams, see Draper, Kings Mountain and Its Heroes? (Cincinnati, 1883). Signers of the Williams petition include the following Adairs: Isaac Adair, Jms. Adair, James Adair, Sr., Joseph Adair, Jr., Joseph Adair, Benjamin Adair, Joseph Adair, Sr., James Adair, Jr, son of James, William Adair, John Adair, and John Adair, Sr., and Alexander Adair. Comparing deed and will records to the names, Brownlee identifies the Adair signers [copies Brownlee's explanations]. Brownlee's identifications look very logical to me.