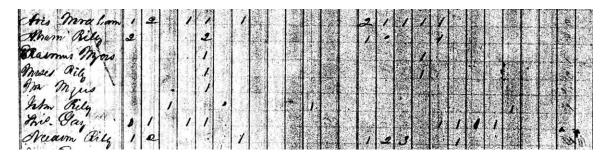
Mysterious connection of Elizabeth Riley Myers, wife of Erasmus Myers, To the John Riley, Sr. family

If not, who is Elizabeth Riley Myers? Help me put her in the family tree.

Erasmus and wife Elizabeth living among the John Riley, Sr. Family in 1840.

1840 Dale Co., Al, Erasmus Myers (age 20-30) listed with Woodham and Rileys. Right in the middle between Abraham and Needham Riley is Erasmus Myers and his brother William Myers living among the John Riley, Sr. clan as well as John Riley, Sr. himself.



- 1. Airis Woodham Jr. married Lender daughter of John Riley, Sr.
- 2. Aham Riley- son of John Riley, Sr.
- 3. Erasmus Myers-married "Betsey" or Elizabeth Riley (more about this later)
- 4. Moses Riley- son of John Riley, Sr.
- 5. Wm Myers- Erasmus' full brother

John Riley—obviously John Riley, Sr. at age 80-89

7. Thomas Gay- Mary Riley (dau. of John Riley, Sr. & Mary Whitaker) is the wife of Thomas Gay and had a daughter Argent Gay. Reasons will be shown at the end of this article. Aside from this, note that Daniel Riley, son of John Riley, Sr. married Mary Ann Brannon the sister of Jehoiakim Brannon who married Argent Gay. There will be more about this later, too.

8. Needham Riley- son of John Riley, Sr.

From the above we have John Riley, Sr., his three sons Abraham, Moses, and Needham with their wives, and his daughter Lender and her husband Aris Woodham, and Mary with husband Thomas Gay. Could Erasmus Myers' wife, Elizabeth, be the husband of an unknown daughter of John Riley, Sr. or perhaps a niece of John Riley, Sr.? It seems as though there is some connection Erasmus has to the John Riley, Sr. family to be living among them, but what?

The Vitals on Elizabeth Myers

2. Birth Date and Place: 1850 Dec 19 Barbour Co., Al. Erasmus and Elizabeth Myers family listed next to James Myers (Erasmus' half brother) and his family. Elizabeth was born in S.C. John Riley, Sr.'s last known daughter Mary was born in NC in 1815. Note: on the John Riley, Sr. Gen 1 web page "John and many of his offspring moved to Darlington District, SC, ca. 1815." In the enumeration which follows on the website, we see Erasmus' wife was born in 1820 in S.C. in accordance with the 1850 and 1860 Census.

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3. 1860 Dale Co., Al. Erasmus and Elizabeth Myers extended family listing Thomas Myers as one of the sons. Important to remember Thomas Myers as he is a link to the Rileys (shown later.)

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Among the last four children in the 1860 Census are:

William Myers

Thomas Myers—remember Thomas Myers as his death certificate will reveal his mother' maiden name

Mary Myers—death Epsie Myers

Note on the 1860 Cenus, are two others: James Henry, and Sintha Myers. Joseph is thought to be a twin of Epsie and is not on the 1860 Census. There will be more about them later.

4. Thomas Myers death certificate notes his mother's maiden name as Riley.

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Now, for "Something about Mary", Mary Myers, that is, the daughter of Erasmus and Elizabeth. It might be noted that Mary Myers middle name is Elizabeth as proven on her death certificate. Was she named after Erasmus' wife? If so, then his wife's name would be **Mary Elizabeth**. If so, that would lead one to think that she could be the John Riley's Sr. last daughter **Mary**, but that has been disproven. Well, then, could they have named her "Mary" after his wife's mother? John Riley, Sr.'s wife's name is also Mary. Could there be a connection there?

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Bureau of the Census	Standard Certi	ficate of Death State File No. 2	3550
THE STATE OF ALABAMA CENTER FOR SENTENCES FOR STATE OF	STATE OF	ALABAMA Registrar's No.3/0	128
County Chy or Town Colored Imits of	hab Boat No. Co	2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED State CLR / 6	(100 ent No. 6
Street address. (If in hospital or	d city or town write RURAL) Institution, give name only)	(If outside corporate limits of city or town	write RURAI
Length of stay in place of death (Specif	y in corrs, months and days)	Street address (If rural, give R. F. D. and Box N	(0.)
9. (a) FULL NAME TO MANA	Elizabeth	Miley 460 How Long In U. S	.? Yr
3. (b) If votoran,	9. (c) Egrie/ Becurity	20. Date of death: Month 2 day /4	year 199
J 121	Single, woodway married,	21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased fro	. 10 5/
6. (b) Name of husband or wife 6. (c)	Age of husband or wife if	that I last saw h by alive on / I -/4- and that death occurred on the date stated above.	Duration
7. Birth date of deceased (Month)	/J /857 (Day) (Year)	Immediate cause of death	Yrs Mol Da
8. AGE: Years Months Days	If less then one day hr. min.	A CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR	2
8. Birthplace (City, town, or county)	(Stale or foreign country)	Due to Ap Alexander	
10. Usual occupation & Com	etti	Other conditions (Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)	
11. Industry or business	melli	Name of operation	PHYSICIA
13. Birthplace	C	Date of operation MAJOR FINDINGS: On operation	Underline the cause
(City, town, or count	y) (State or foreign country)	At autopsy	which dea should l charged at tistically.
15. Birthplace (City, town or count	(State or foreign country)	22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the fo	
16. (a) Informantia mana	. Tiles	(a) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify)	
(b) Adgross Whewill	e, was-	(b) Date of occurrence (c) Where did injury occur?	
17. (a) (Burial, cremation, or removal)	(b) Date 2-14-49 (Month) (Day) (Year)	(City or town) (Cou	
(c) Place: burial or cremation	can 3un Hond	in public place?	ce)
(b) Addross Darifne	Placa,	While at work? Any signal of injury.	or other) T
18. Jane received local registrar)	ancy a ward	Address Slo can & Bosto Sio	or other).

Now, we have established:

- 1) Erasmus Myers wife was Betsey or Elizabeth Riley.
- 2) Their daughter's name was Mary Elizabeth Myers which is **speculated** to be her mother's first and middle name.
- 3) From the 1840 Census, Erasmus Myers and his wife were living among John Riley, Sr. and his three sons (Abraham, Moses, and Needham) and their wives and his daughters Lender and her husband Aris Woodham and last daughter Mary and husband Thomas Gay.

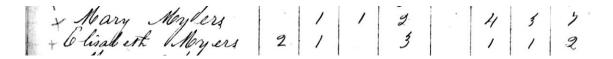
Therefore, it is reasonable to assume Erasmus was related to them some way, but how? One way would be through his wife as being the daughter of John Riley, Sr., namely, Mary or another sister. Yet, it was recently proved Elizabeth Myers is not John Riley's daughter Mary. That Mary married Thomas Gay who was also among the Riley clan. As such, that would be 3 sons and their wives and two daughters and their husbands. What about a 3rd daughter and her husband? That <u>may</u> not work either because she is not mentioned as an heir in John Riley, Sr.'s wife Mary's 1858 Henry Co. Probate papers in which it appears all living descendants were named to have a share in the estate. Where does she fit in? Is all this just a coincidence? But wait...there is more circumstantial evidence of a connection to Erasmus Myers' wife, Elizabeth Riley, to John Riley, Sr.'s family as noted below!

Elizabeth Myers farmed out children to daughters of John Riley, Sr. She also farmed out children to Daniel Riley's brother-in-law and wife

5. Erasamus Myers died in 1864 leaving his wife Elizabeth with 7 minors. Those minors were:

William, Thomas, Mary, Epsie, Joseph, James Henry, Sintha

1866 State of Alabama Census, Dale Co.,



Family lore says that after Erasmus died in 1864 (there is a whole other story on the manner of his death), Elizabeth was unable to care for all those kids—so Elizabeth sent them out two by two to live with family and friends. In 1866, she was already doing this leaving one girl and three boys to farm out. Mary Myers (above Elizabeth) is believed to be the wife of Daniel P. *Myers*—Erasmus' brother—the maiden name of Mary Myers needs researching.

- 6. Here's how Elizabeth "farmed" out her kids: (Thomas + Joseph) (William + Henry) (Mary + Sintha) as follows:
 - 1. 1870 July 16 Newton, Dale, Al. **Thomas Mires and brother Joseph**, both sons of Erasmus, living with Aris Woodham whose wife, **Caron Riley, the daughter of John Riley, Sr.**

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				Keeps house			16	
33	- Daniel	20	2421	Wortland farm			Ola	
	- M.A	18	721	Keeps house	/		4	
	Mires Thomas	13	1221	Horto in farm	AVE.		,	
	- Moseph	11	2021	" " "			,	

 1870 July 20 Dale Clopton All brothers William and Henry Myres living with Elender Ward daughter of John Riley, Sr. William and Henry are on next page as shown below.

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Meenry 9 m 24	Y ,	"	 	

3. 1870 June 9 Abbeville Henry AI -Thomas' sisters Mary Myres (13) and Sintha (8) living in separate home next door to Argent Brannon (female) who is the wife of the brother-in-law of Daniel Riley, son of John Riley, Sr. and likely under her care. Note: Argent Gay married Jehoiakim Brannon (died 1864), son of Rosier Brannon and Anzilla Galloway. Daniel Riley married Jehoiakim's sister Mary Ann Brannon.

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Summary of farmed out children: Erasamus Myers wife Elizabeth Riley farmed out 6 children to those related to John Riley, Sr.

Two boys went to Caron Riley Ward, daughter of John Riley, Sr.

Two boys went to Lender Riley Woodham, daughter of John Riley, Sr.

Two girls went to Argent Brannon, wife of brother-in-law of Daniel Riley, son of John Riley, Sr.

Conclusion:

- 1) Erasmus Myers and his wife are among John Riley's sons and daughters with their spouses in the 1840 Dale county, Alabama Census indicating a close relationship.
- 2) Erasamus Myers wife Elizabeth maiden name is Riley
- 3) Erasamus Myers daughter is named Mary Elizabeth indicating *perhaps* his wife's first name is Mary, but not necessarily.
- 4) Erasamus Myers' wife Elizabeth farmed out 6 children out to two of John Riley's daughters and to John Riley's son Daniel's brother-in-law's wife.

My goal is to find the identity of Elizabeth Riley Myers and my earlier evidence was pointing me to believe Elizabeth Myers and Mary Riley as being the same person. That was before a Riley researcher generously shared with me the following information indicating Mary Riley's husband was Thomas Gay, not Erasmus Myers. Keep the comments and the research coming...we all learn more by working together.

Reasons for believing JR, Sr.'s daughter Mary Riley is the wife of Thomas Gay:

- 1. 1820 Darlington Census there is a female 0-9 yrs old in John Riley's Sr. hsehold
- 2. 1830 Census, in Thomas Gay's hsehold there is a female age 16-20.
- 3. 1840 Dale County, Al: in Thomas Gay's hsehold there is a female age 20-29.
- 4. 1850 Dale County, Al: Mary Riley, age 80, living with a Mary Gay, age 35. Mary Gay was living on land Thomas Gay had purchased before his 1849 death.
- 5. 1858: Henry County, AL. Mary [Whitaker's] Riley's Probate lists "Mary Williams" as an heir. *
- 6. 1860 Henry Co., Al: "Mary Williams", age 55, and another "Mary Williams", age 8 living in the household of Jehoiakim and Argent Brannon.
- 7. 1870 Henry Co., Al: "Mary [Riley Gay] Williams", age 60 living alone but next to her older daughter Argent Brannon. My note: Curiously, "Mary Myers and Sintha Myers", daughters of Erasmus and Elizabeth (Riley) Myers, are living on the opposite side of Argent Brannon. In other words, John Riley, Sr.'s daughter Mary is living on one side of Argent Brannon and Elizabeth Riley Myers' girls are living on the other side. Go figure that one! Are the girls related?

Unless all this is a giant coincidence or big fish story, I believe with the facts presented show that the wife of Erasmus Myers, Elizabeth Riley is related to the John Riley, Sr. family in some way. It is a mystery. I am appealing to the John Riley, Sr. descendants for their opinion and feedback. So, what do you think? I would be glad to answer any questions. By the way, the death date and place of Elizabeth Riley Myers is still under investigation.

^{*} the Location and Date were given to me by another researcher.