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Change History

Version	Date	Changes
FT-000.01	09-May-2022	• Original document (not the original document, but I am going to call it that)
FT-000.02	29-Feb-2024	• Updated to newer format for Family Tree documents
FT-000.03	27-May-2025	• Added parents of Edwards Gurley and Mary Davis • Changed name from Edward to Edwards • Added information on John Gurley deeding land to Edwards • Added information from John Gurley's will.

Notes: The newest version is in blue font, and the changes made to the document are also denoted in blue font in the document below.

Parents of this Family

FT-XXX			
John Gurley		Elizabeth (Edwards?)	
1722 - 1727	1794 - 1795	Birth Year	Death Year

FT-XXX			
James Davis		Alcey Handley	
Birth Year	1799	Birth Year	Death Year

Edwards Gurley	
Born	1755 ¹
Where	
Died	~1795 ²
Where	
Buried	
Source	1. Ancestry.com 2. Source 107

Married:
19-Sep-1776
Where:

Source:
[Ancestry.com](#), 107b

Mary Davis	
Born	
Where	
Died	
Where	
Buried	
Source	

Children:

Name	Born	Where	Source	Died	Where	Buried	Source
Elizabeth	01-Jun-1777		107b	26-Oct-1788			107b
John	23-Jan-1780		107b	30-Oct-1788			107b
Keziah	08-Apr-1783		107b				
Jeremiah	17-May-1786		107b				
Allie	17-Apr-1788		107b				
Davis	07-Apr-1792		107b				
Mary	26-Apr-1795		107b				

Other Marriages:

		Sources
Wife – Thomas Edwards		
When	Between 1795 and 1800	107b, page 233
Where	Johnston County, NC	

Other Children	Ann	107b, page 233
Comments		

Story:

Activity	Sources
From Source 107, page 521 (Word document, p 232 in original document 107b):	107b
<div>REV. JOHN GURLEY came to this country with his family (as previously stated) with his brother, Rev. Joseph Gurley, and also settled in Northampton Co., Va., and afterwards he or his descendants removed to Johnston Co., N. C.</div> <div>Children of Rev. John Gurley and , his wife :</div> <div>1. Edwards, born .</div> <div>2. Jeremiah, " .</div>	
From Source 107, page 17 (Word document, p 8 in original document), it is stated that Rev. John Gurley and his brother – Rev. Joseph Gurley – were both Episcopal clergymen who settled in Virginia about 1760.	
From Source 107, page 511 (Word document, p. ~227 in original document 107b):	
<div>PART FIFTH.</div> <div>REV. JOSEPH GURLEY AND REV. JOHN GURLEY.</div> <div>REV. JOSEPH GURLEY and REV. JOHN GURLEY were two brothers who came to this country with their [families], and were both Episcopal clergymen.</div> <div>Of their early ancestry but little is known, except they belonged to an old Scotch family who settled in the north part of Ireland, and came to this country from England about 1760, and settled in Northampton Co., Va., and afterwards they or their descendants removed to Johnston Co., N. C.</div>	
From Source 107, page 524 (in Word Document, p. 233 in original document):	

	<p>“Mr. Edwards Gurley was a planter and slave-owner of Johnston Co., N. C. His will was probated in the Johnston County Court in 1795. His widow, Mrs. Mary (Davis) Gurley, married, secondly, her first husband's cousin (probably), Thomas Edwards, and removed with her family, in 1805, to Maury Co., Tenn. They had one child, a daughter, Ann, who married a Mr. Olderson.</p> <p>Mr. Edwards Gurley is said to have been a soldier in the North Carolina troops [during] the Revolutionary War. The examination of the proper records for the verification of this tradition has never yet been made.”</p>	
	<p>Also from Source 107, page 521 (Word document, p 232 in original document 107b):</p>	
	<p>“EDWARDS GURLEY, of Johnston Co., N. C, was married to Mary Davis (of Welch descent) Sept. 19. 1776. Air. Edwards Gurley died.</p> <p>Children of Edwards Gurley and Mary Davis, his wife:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth, b. June 1, 1777, d. October 16, 1758 (“1788”) • John, b. January 23, 1780, d. October 30, 1788 • Keziah, b. April 8, 1753 (1783) • Jeremiah, b. May 17, 1786 • Allie, b. April 17, 1788 • Davis, b. April 7, 1792 • Mary, b. April 26, 1795 	
	<p>So 1788 was a tough year for the Gurley family with the loss of Elizabeth and John. There were several epidemics about this time – measles, the flu, etc. In the will below (Source 308), Mary had not been born yet, but Keziah, Jeremiah, Allie, and Davis were still alive in February 1795.</p>	
	<p>Land Transfer from Parents – John and Elizabeth Gurley, August 1, 1779</p> <p>From a FamilySearch Full Text Search on “John Gurley” in Virginia: https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9PF8-P46?view=fullText&keywords=John%20Gurley%2CVirginia&lang=en</p>	<p>See also RD-022-01, Item #7</p>

← → ↺

https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3357-9PF8-P46?view=fullText&keywords=John%20Gurley%2CVirginia&lang=en

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cow, and calf, 1 feather bed, bedstead and furniture, 1 ch...
le, 1 woman's saddle, 2 chairs, 2 spinning wheels, 1 loom and 6
pesters, 3 chairs, 2 baskets, 1 Bible, 1 pr. shoes. 1 candle stick, 1 Ban
iron, 1 iron pot, 1 skillet, 1 pr. fire tongs,
Clothing, 1 looking glass, forks and knives, 2 quart bottles, 1 tickler,
1 tin funnel.
Martha Gurley (CALLED BETTY)
Note. The above is without date, but according to the records before it and
after it, it must have been in the year, 1793.
Johnston Co. N.C. Deed Book 1 (Eye) (or is it J) p 314-15
(A deed of gifts on 8-1-1779, by John Gurley and his wife, Elizabeth, to
their beloved son, Edwards Gurley" of 100 acres" including the plantation
wheron the said Edwards Gurley now dwells," situated on north side of
Neuse river and the North side of " Maukeson Swamp" the same " being part
of a patent Granted to John Gurley, the fifteenth day of November, 1762."
Witnesses
Phitt Kayford
Arthur Pearce
Signed by John Gurley (Seal)
ElizabethXX Gurley
MARK
Premiah Gurley's Will - Book 11- Page 45- Madison Co. Ala. The
(Deed acknowledged in open Court in Aug. Term of 1779 by John Gurley and received
ordered registered. "Registered in Register's office of said County in
Book 1 - page 313-14)
Book Wills No. 1 - Pages 346-7 - Johnston Co. N.C. ?
Joel Gurley of Wayne Co. N.C. sells to Davis Gurley, of Johnston Co. N.C. ^{pension}
a parcel of land, and this is a part of the land of the Patent of William B. ^{1834 in}
Gurley of 1778. Amount of land sold in this deed.

From this document, we see that John Gurley and his wife Elizabeth deeded a 100 acre plantation to Edwards Gurley on which Edwards lived on August 1, 1779. This plantation is on the north side of the Neuse River and the north side of the Maukeson Swamp [John note: "Mocassin?" as in the snake?] "the same being part of a patent originally granted to John Gurley on November 15, 1762. From [Ancestry.com](#), North Carolina, U.S., Land Grant Files, 1693-1960 for John Gurley:

<div data-bbox="99 180 634 1377"><p>No. <u>107</u></p><p>County <u>Johnston</u></p><p>Name <u>Gurley, John</u></p><p>Acres <u>400</u></p><p>Grant No. _____</p><p>Issued <u>15th November 1762</u></p><p>Warrant No. _____ Entry No. _____</p><p>Entered _____</p><p>Book No. <u>13</u> Page No. <u>372</u></p><p>Location <u>N. side of Neuse river on both sides of the falls of Moccasin</u></p><p>Remarks: _____</p></div>	<p>This appears to be the land grant that John Gurley is talking about. It's 400 acres, and John and Elizabeth are giving Edwards 100 of those acres. I haven't yet found the rest of this land grant, as Ancestry.com seems to be having some issues on this holiday (Memorial Day 2025). Maybe later, I can find some more information.</p> <p>Johnston County, NC is located to the west of the Atlantic Coast near Raleigh, NC (see maps below).</p> <p>On Google maps, I can trace out the paths of the Neuse River and Moccasin Creek, but I cannot find an intersection of the two. So maybe the names of the creeks have been changed over the last 300 years (highly possible). I think if I can find the rest of the land patent (to the right), I can get a better idea of where this plantation was.</p> <p>You can get more information on this land patent by reading my research document RD-022-01, Item # 7.</p>
<p>NC Early Census Index, 1784</p> <p>Lists Edwards Gurley as living in Johnston County, NC.</p>	<p>Nothing I can link to, just an Ancestry.com page.</p>
<p>1790 US Federal Census for Johnston County, North Carolina</p> <p>In 1790, the Edwards Gurley family consisted of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three White males 16 years and older• Three White males under 16 years old• Three White females <p>One of the older White males is Edwards, but I don't know who the others are. There are no children that I know of that would meet this age restriction. For those under 16, only Jeremiah meets that age restriction. For the females, the three should be Mary (the wife), Keziah, and Allie.</p>	<p>309</p>

<p>The Edwards Gurley family did not own any slaves in the 1790 Census.</p> <p>There are other Gurleys on this same page for the 1790 Census that may be useful in the future.</p>	<p>310</p>
<p>From John Gurley Will, 6-Nov-1794</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Will of John Gurley</i></p> <p><i>In the name of God, Amen, I John Gurley of Johnston County and state of North Carolina, being of sound mind and memory thanks be to Almighty God, for the same do make and constitute this my last will and testament in manner following that is to say Imprimis, I give unto my son Lewis one cow and calf.</i></p> <p><i>Item. I give and bequeath unto my son Lazarus five shillings.</i></p> <p><i>Item. I give and bequeath unto my son Jeremiah the land and plantation whereon I now live with the appurtenances thereon belonging also my smiths tool.</i></p> <p><i>Item. I lend to my wife Elizabeth during her life all the rest of my personal estate of every kind whatsoever, and after the decease of my said wife Elizabeth I give unto my son George all the stock of cattle and horses that shall be left belonging to my estate and as to the remainder of my estate after my said wife Elizabeth decease and payments of my debts and legacies aforesaid will and desire is that it be equally divided between my four sons namely Joel, Edward, Jeremiah, and George. Lastly I do appoint my son Jeremiah whole and sole executor of this my last will and testament in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal that 6th day of November 1794. Signed, sealed, published and pronounced by the testator as his last will and testament in the presence of us.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>John Gurley (seal)</i></p> <p><i>Leavin Vinson Nathan Crawford West Vinson</i></p> <p>At the time of the writing of John's will, Edwards was still alive. It seems both John and Edwards died very close together – John either in late 1794 or early 1795, then Edwards in early 1795.</p>	<p>902</p>
<p>From Edwards Gurley Will, 10-Feb-1795</p> <p>Will of Edwards Gurley</p> <p>In the name of God Amen, I, Edward Gurley of Johnston County and state of North Carolina, being of sound and perfect mind and memory blessed be God, do this 10th day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety five make and publish this my last will and testament in manner following that – is to say:</p> <p>Item: I lend to my beloved wife Mary Gurley for and during her widowhood or material life all my lands including the plantation whereon I now live and all my shop tools.</p> <p>Item: I give and bequeath to my wife my bay horse and gray mare and her saddle and bridle with two mens saddles and bridles, six cows and calves, three of my best steers, eight head of</p>	<p>308</p>

<p>sheep, the whole of my stock of hogs, fifteen head of geese, and the whole of the rest of the dunghill fowls and whole of the plantation tools, the corn, meat, cotton, wood and flax, one feather bed, bed-stead and furniture. My will and desire is that my wife shall have what cash in hand I have to dispose of as she thinks proper.</p> <p>Item: I give and bequeath to my son Jeremiah Gurley the whole of the land belonging to the Walkes [Walker?] Plantation to him his heirs forever being part of the above mentioned lent land to my wife for him to be possessed with at the age of twenty one years, one feather bed and furniture, and also one shot-gun.</p> <p>Item: I give and bequeath to my son Davis the land and plantation whereon I now live containing two hundred acres to him and his heirs forever being the remainder of the above mentioned lent land to my wife and for her not to be dispossessed during her natural life or widowhood also one feather bead and furniture also the above mentioned shop tools lent to my wife.</p> <p>Item: I give and bequeath to my daughter Keziah Gurley two cows and calves, four head of sheep, one feather bed and furniture, one hunting saddle and bridle, one chest.</p> <p>Item: I give and bequeath to my daughter Alley Gurley one feather bed and furniture, one hunting saddle and bridle, also twelve pounds in money, the aforesaid bridle and saddle to be bought and paid for out of residue of my estate before a division.</p> <p>Item: I give and bequeath to child that wife is now pregnant with [John Note: this would be Mary Gurley] twenty pounds in money.</p> <p>Item: My will is that four sides of leather and the hides be kept for use of family.</p> <p>Item: I give and bequeath to my wife the remaining part of house and kitchen furniture that is not willed. My will is that my wife shall have any children schooled and pay for the schooling out of that part of the estate willed to her. My will and desire is that the whole of my wearing apparel be for the use of my children and not sold. My will and desire is that my debts shall be collected and that the remaining part of my estate that is not willed shall be sold by my executors and not by the sheriff and the money to be equally divided between my children and I hereby make and ordain my beloved wife Mary Gurley and my trusty friend Joel Gurley executors of this my last will and testament in witness whereof I the said Edward Gurley have to this my last will and testament set my hand and seal the day and year above written. Signed, sealed, published, and declared by said Edward Gurley the testation as his last will and testament in presence of us.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Edwards Gurley (seal)</p> <p>Thomas Edwards Jerh Gurley John Page</p> <p>So some interesting bequeaths! Jeremiah, who is 9 years old, gets the Walker Plantation when he turns 21. Davis, who is 3 years old, gets the plantation that Edwards Gurley is currently living on. Keziah, who is 12 years old, gets some cattle and household goods, Alley, who is 7 years old, gets some money and household goods, and the unborn child (Mary) gets 20 pounds of money.</p> <p>Neither Edwards' will or the 1790 U. S. Census lists any slaves for the Edward Gurley family. However, Source 107b on page 233 says Edward Gurley was a slave-owner. I am not sure how you run plantations without slaves, but this will require more research.</p>	
<p>Mary Davis Gurley remarries Thomas Edwards</p>	<p>107b, page 233</p>

<p>From Source 107b, page 233, it seems that after Edwards Gurley died, Mary married a Thomas Edwards, who may have been a cousin of Edwards Gurley. I have read that John Gurley (Edwards' father) may have married an Elizabeth Edwards, and Thomas may have been a relative of Elizabeth's, but as of now, I don't know anything about this. The quote is:</p> <p>“Mr. Edwards Gurley was a planter and slave-owner of Johnston Co., N. C. His will was probated in the Johnston County Court in 1795. His widow, Mrs. Mary (Davis) Gurley, married, secondly, her first husband's cousin (probably), Thomas Edwards, and removed with her family, in 1805, to Maury Co., Tenn. They had one child, a daughter, Ann, who married a Mr. Olderson. [John Note: possibly Alderson]</p>	
<p>James Davis (Mary's father) will, dated August 13, 1799</p> <p>I will put this will in James Davis and Alcey Handley's Family Tree document (not created yet), but the main point is that it's a pretty positive document that James Davis and Alcey are Mary's parents, and Mary (named as Masah Edwards in his will) got 5 shillings sterling in James' will.</p>	<p>I do not have a Source Number for this document yet.</p>
<p>1800 US Federal Census for Mary Davis</p> <p>In 1800, assistant marshals recorded the name of the county, parish, township, town, or city in which each family resided. Each family was listed by the name of the head of the household, and was asked the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of free White males and females aged, respectively: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ under 10 years of age ○ of 10 years but under 16 years ○ of 16 years but under 26 years ○ of 26 years but under 45 years ○ 45 years and upward • Number of all other free persons • Number of slaves <p>From Source 107b, page 233, it seems that after Edwards Gurley died, Mary married a Thomas Edwards, who may have been a cousin of Edwards Gurley. I have read that John Gurley (Edwards' father) may have married an Elizabeth Edwards, and Thomas may have been a relative of Elizabeth's, but as of now, I don't know anything about this. The quote is:</p> <p>“Mr. Edwards Gurley was a planter and slave-owner of Johnston Co., N. C. His will was probated in the Johnston County Court in 1795. His widow, Mrs. Mary (Davis) Gurley, married, secondly, her first husband's cousin (probably), Thomas Edwards, and removed with her family, in 1805, to Maury Co., Tenn. They had one child, a daughter, Ann, who married a Mr. Olderson. [John Note: possibly Alderson]</p> <p>I have looked for Thomas Edwards in Johnston County, NC in the 1800 U. S. Census, and I find two. They live pretty close to each other as they are only a couple of pages apart in the Census.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The first Thomas Edwards (Source 898) seems to be an older family. The family members are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 1 white male 26 to 44 b. 1 white male 45 or older c. 1 white female under 10 	<p>107b, 898, 899</p>

- d. 1 white female 16 to 25
 - e. 1 slave
2. The second Thomas Edwards (Source 899) is a younger family. This family's members are:
 - a. 1 white male under 10
 - b. 1 white male 10 to 15
 - c. 2 white males 26 to 44
 - d. 2 white females under 10
 - e. 1 white female 10 to 15
 - f. 1 white female 16 to 25
 - g. 1 white female 26 to 44
 - h. 1 slave

In 1800, Mary Gurley would be 5, Davis Gurley would be 8, Allie Gurley would be 12, Jeremiah Gurley would be 14, and Keziah Gurley would be 17. It seems that the second Thomas Edward's family fits this more, if we assume that Thomas came into the marriage with kids from his former family, and they may have had a new baby girl since they married.

One of the interesting things about this page of the Census (Source 899) is that there are other Edwards (Michael and Jacob) and another Gurley (Charles) and one VERY interesting name – Henry Sharp at the very bottom of the page! I don't know if it's my Henry Sharp – "Judge" Henry Sharp. Henry is listed as having a family of:

- 4 white males under 10
- 1 white male 10 to 15
- 2 white males 16 to 25
- 1 white female 16 to 25
- 2 white females 26 to 44
- 1 white female 45 or older

1810 US Federal Census for Mary Davis

In 1810, the slate of questions asked by assistant U.S. marshals was identical to the 1800 census. This census recorded the name of the county, parish, township, town, or city in which each family resided. Each family was listed by the name of the head of household and asked the following questions:

- Number of free White males and females aged, respectively:
 - under 10 years of age
 - of 10 years but under 16 years
 - of 16 years but under 26 years
 - of 26 years but under 45 years
 - 45 years and upward
- Number of all other free persons
- Number of slaves

First Economic Inquiries

In addition to population inquiries, the 1810 census was the first to collect data about the nation's manufactures. A May 1, 1810, act directed that, "it shall be the duty of the several marshals, secretaries, and their assistants aforesaid, to take, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, and according to such instructions as he shall give, an account of the several manufacturing establishments and manufactures within their several districts, territories, and

<p>divisions." The act did not outline specific questions or prescribe a schedule, leaving those matters to the Secretary of the Treasury's discretion.</p> <p>To facilitate data collection, the Treasury Department divided manufactured products into 25 broad categories, encompassing more than 220 kinds of goods. As the U.S. marshals and their assistants conducted the decennial census, they also visited the manufacturing establishments in their assigned areas to obtain economic data. These data generally consisted of the quantity and value of products manufactured.</p> <p>In March 1812, Congress authorized \$2,000 for the Treasury Department to prepare a statistical report on the kind, quantity, and value of goods manufactured and the number of manufacturing establishments in each state, territory, district, and county. The May 1813 report noted that the economic data were of poor quality because of serious undercounting and omissions during the enumeration.</p>	
<p>1820 US Federal Census for Mary Davis</p> <p>The 1820 census built on the questions asked in 1810. The age questions were the same, except for the addition of a 16 - 18 years category for males.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of free White males and females aged, respectively: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ under 10 years of age ○ of 10 years but under 16 years ○ of 16 years but under 18 years (for males) ○ of 16 years but under 26 years (for males) ○ of 16 years but under 26 years (for females) ○ of 26 years but under 45 years ○ 45 years and upward • The number of male and female slaves aged, respectively: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ under 14 years of age ○ of 14 years but under 26 years ○ of 26 years but under 45 years ○ 45 years and upwards • The number of free colored males and females aged, respectively: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ under 14 years of age ○ of 14 years but under 26 years ○ of 26 years but under 45 years ○ 45 years and upwards • Number of foreigners not naturalized • Number of persons (including slaves) engaged in agriculture, commerce, and manufactures 	
<p>1830 US Federal Census for Mary Davis</p> <p>For the 1830 census, the age categories were expanded again. Additionally, some social categories made their first appearance. Each head of family was listed and was asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of free White males and females, respectively: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ under 5 years ○ 5 to 10 years ○ 10 to 15 years ○ 15 to 20 years ○ 20 to 30 years ○ 30 to 40 years 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 40 to 50 years ○ 50 to 60 years ○ 60 to 70 years ○ 70 to 80 years ○ 80 to 90 years ○ 90 to 100 years ○ 100 years and upward • The number of slaves and free colored persons of each sex, respectively: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ under 10 years ○ 10 to 24 years ○ 24 to 36 years ○ 36 to 55 years ○ 55 to 100 years ○ 100 years and upward • The number of White persons and the number of "slaves and colored persons" who were deaf and dumb aged: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ under 14 years ○ 14 and under 25 years ○ 25 years and upward • The number of White persons and "slaves or colored persons" who were blind, respectively • The number of White persons who were foreigners not naturalized 	
<p>1840 US Federal Census for Mary Davis (if necessary)</p> <p>Each head of family was asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of free White males and females, respectively: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ under 5 years ○ 5 to 10 years ○ 10 to 15 years ○ 15 to 20 years ○ 20 to 30 years ○ 30 to 40 years ○ 40 to 50 years ○ 50 to 60 years ○ 60 to 70 years ○ 70 to 80 years ○ 80 to 90 years ○ 90 to 100 years ○ 100 years and upward • The number of slaves and free colored persons of each sex, respectively: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ under 10 years ○ 10 to 24 years ○ 24 to 36 years ○ 36 to 55 years ○ 55 to 100 years ○ 100 years and upward • The number of persons in each family employed in mining; agriculture; commerce; manufacture and trade; navigation of the ocean; navigation of canals, lakes and rivers; and learned professional engineers. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name and age of pensioners for Revolutionary or military service.• The number of White persons who were deaf and dumb:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ under 14 years○ 14 and under 25 years○ 25 years and upward• The number of White persons who were were blind.• The number of White persons who were insane and idiots (at public and private charge).• The number of Colored persons who were deaf, dumb and blind.• The number of Colored persons who were insane and idiots (at public and private charge).• Number of colleges or universities, primary schools, and grammar schools.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Number of students or scholars associated with each institution.○ Number of scholars at public charge.• Number of White persons age 20 years and older who could not read and write.	