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Gassaway Family Ancestry October 2017

Martha Emma Johnson, born November 16, 1847 in Mississippi, became the wife of John Calvin Patterson in December 1869. According to previous research, Martha's parents were determined to be Andrew Reese Johnson and Eliza Hannah Gassaway. This research effort is focused on the Gassaway lineage, and the records have revealed several generations behind Eliza. The following paragraphs will explain the research process and findings, followed by a Research Calendar, pedigree chart and family group sheets, and then copies of the supporting documents.

The 1860 census of Tippah County, Mississippi shows the family of 'A. Reece Johnson' in the Southern Division, the closest post office being in the town of Cotton Plant. His wife Eliza H. showed an age of forty-seven, and birthplace of South Carolina. Two doors away from the Johnsons lived the family of Daniel Gassaway, age sixty-three, also born in South Carolina. Both heads of households owned considerable amounts of real estate and personal property. Daniel and his wife Margaret had four children still at home, all born in Mississippi. It appears from the ages and birthplaces of the children in these two families that the Johnsons and Gassaways moved from South Carolina to Mississippi in the late 1830's.¹

Locality		1860, Southern Division, Tippah County, Mississippi, Post Office: Cotton Plant							
Enumeration Date		27 Jul 1860							
Page	House/ Family	Name	Description		Occupation	Value of Estate		Birth Place	Remarks
			Age	Sex		Real	Pers.		
108	749/ 744	A. Reece Johnson	57	M	Farmer	6,000	13,805	SC	
		Eliza H. "	47	F				"	
		Patrick H. "	26	M	Farmer	520	550	"	
		Benjamin F. "	24	"	Assisting		540	"	
		Abraham "	22	"	"		175	MS	
		Mary S. "	21	F				"	
		Sarah F. "	18	"				"	
		Margret "	16	"				"	

¹ Document 1: Ancestry.com, U. S. Federal Census 1860, Southern Division, Tippah County, Mississippi, p. 756, Lines 20-29 & 39, Dwelling #749 & 751, and p. 757, Lines 1-5.

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Locality		1860, Southern Division, Tippah County, Mississippi, Post Office: Cotton Plant							
Enumeration Date		27 Jul 1860							
Page	House/ Family	Name	Description		Occupation	Value of Estate		Birth Place	Remarks
			Age	Sex		Real	Pers.		
		John “	14	M				“	
		Martha “	12	F				“	
		Eliza J. “	11	“				“	
		George “	5	M				“	
		William “	3	“				“	

Daniel Gassaway was about seventeen years older than Eliza H. Johnson, and so he is not a likely candidate to be her father. Knowing from earlier research that her maiden name was Gassaway, a close relationship is sure. Daniel may have been her uncle or older brother. Learning about him and his associates may lead to discovering the names of Eliza’s parents.

In 1850, Daniel ‘Gasiway’ and his wife Margaret lived in District No. 2 of Tippah County, Mississippi with their six children, all six born in Mississippi. Daniel’s age of fifty-four points to a birth year of 1796.²

Locality			1850, District No. 2, Tippah County, Mississippi						
Enumeration Date			3 Oct 1850						
Page	House	Family	Name	Description		Occupation	Real Estate	Birth Place	Remarks
				Age	Sex				
442B	697	697	Daniel Gasiway	54	M	Farmer	3500	SC	
			Margaret “	44	F			“	
			Samuel A. “	11	M			MS	
			Emaline L. “	10	F			“	
			Cornelia “	8	“			“	
			Daniel “	6	M			“	
			Tandy E. “	5	“			“	
			Orlando “	1	“			“	

² Document 2: Ancestry.com, U. S. Federal Census 1850, District No. 2, Tippah County, Mississippi, p. 442B, Lines 25-32, Dwelling #697.

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The FindaGrave.com database contains a memorial for Daniel Gassaway, with a photograph of his headstone. His birth took place on October 11, 1796, and he died February 17, 1874, and rests in Oak Plain Cemetery. Some undocumented biographical information is included, stating that Daniel was the sixth child out of seven born to James Gassaway and Elizabeth Scruggs. He had siblings named Hannah, Rebecca, Samuel, Benjamin, Thomas and Lucy. His wife was Margaret Hallum Gassaway. Several siblings for Daniel are listed, but their birth years range from 1757 to 1788, which is a questionable stretch. Daniel is listed as the youngest, so he may not have been the older brother of Eliza, if this information is correct.³ The link to Daniel's presumed father, James Gassaway, brought up a lengthy history of his life. James is believed to have been born in 1734 in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, and died in 1804 in Pickens County, South Carolina. (Pickens County did not exist until 1826. The



area was part of Pendleton District in 1804.) James is said to be the son of Nicholas Gassaway and Elizabeth Hawkins. James married first to Rachel in Maryland, and later to Elizabeth Scruggs in Virginia. With Elizabeth, he had children named Thomas, Hannah, Benjamin, Lucy, Rebecca, Samuel and Daniel. James moved to Frederick County, Virginia between 1757 and 1763, and then to Union County, South Carolina by 1785, where his name appeared in court records. He left a will naming his wife and children. His actual place of burial is unknown. A source reference for this information is given as "Gassaway Family History" by William and Anna Rutherford.⁴ If James died in 1804, then he was not the father of Eliza, born in 1813. Research next focused on determining if the above information is accurate.

The Family History Library has this book by the Rutherfords, actually titled *Genealogical History of the Gassaway Family*. It is 671 pages long, and very well documented. The index lists two entries for Eliza Hannah Gassaway, one born in the 1600's, and the other with no birth year. This second entry placed Eliza Hannah Gassaway as a daughter in the family of Benjamin Gassaway and Margaret Hall, who were married January 2, 1808 in South Carolina. Eliza's rank in the birth order suggested a birth year

³ Document 3: FindaGrave.com, Daniel Gassaway, 17 Feb 1874, Oak Plain Cemetery, Blue Mountain, Tippah County, Mississippi, Memorial #13863354.

⁴ Document 4: FindaGrave.com, James Gassaway, Mar 1804, burial place unknown, Memorial #59060251.

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sometime between 1808 and 1817. Her age of forty-seven in 1860 points to a birth year of about 1813, within that 1808-1817 time frame. The history tells that the father Benjamin is believed to have been born about 1781 in Frederick County, Virginia, and died before February 11, 1853 in Anderson County, South Carolina. Margaret is said to be the daughter of Fenton Hall and Hannah Brown. Margaret has an exact birth date of May 28, 1791, and she died May 15, 1874, in Anderson County, South Carolina. Benjamin Gassaway is said to be the son of James Gassaway, son of Nicholas, son of John, son of Col. Nicholas, son of Thomas!⁵ Here is a road map to follow for the Gassaway lineage, with an eye to checking for original source documentation.

Naming patterns are always significant in tracing a lineage. Looking at the names given to the two oldest sons of Andrew Reese Johnson and Eliza Hannah Gassaway, we see that the first son was named Patrick H. Johnson, perhaps Patrick Henry Johnson, after the famous Patriot, Patrick Henry. Andrew's father has been determined to be Henry Johnson in another research session. Henry lived near a Patrick Johnson in two censuses in Abbeville District, South Carolina, suggesting they were brothers. It makes sense that Andrew's oldest son would be named Patrick Henry Johnson. The second oldest son was named Benjamin Franklin Johnson, perhaps after Eliza Hannah's father, Benjamin Gassaway, as well as the famous Patriot and statesman, Benjamin Franklin. These theories need to be tested in the original records.

The 1850 census finds Benjamin and Margaret Gassaway in the Eastern Subdivision of Anderson County, South Carolina. Sixty-nine year-old Benjamin reported his birthplace as Maryland. This birthplace is a valuable clue for tying him into his ancestral family. His wife Margaret, age fifty-nine, was born in South Carolina. The household also contained four daughters and two sons, as follows:⁶

Locality			1850, Eastern Subdivision, Anderson County, South Carolina						
Enumeration Date			9 Aug 1850						
Page	House	Family	Name	Description		Occupation	Real Estate	Birth Place	Remarks
				Age	Sex				
260	302	303	Benjamin Gassaway	69	M	Farmer	2800	MD	
			Margaret “	59	F			SC	
			William H. “	31	M	“		“	
			Margaret W. “	25	F			“	
			Benjamin F. “	22	M	“		“	
260B			Rosannah C. “	20	F			“	

⁵ Document 5: William & Anna Rutherford, *Genealogical History of the Gassaway Family* (privately published, 1990). FHL Call #929.273 G215r

⁶ Document 6: Ancestry.com, U. S. Federal Census 1850, Eastern Subdivision, Anderson County, South Carolina, p. 260, Lines 38-42, & 260B, Lines 1-3, Dwelling #302.

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Locality			1850, Eastern Subdivision, Anderson County, South Carolina						
Enumeration Date			9 Aug 1850						
Page	House	Family	Name	Description		Occupation	Real Estate	Birth Place	Remarks
				Age	Sex				
			Martha M. “	17	“			“	
			Emily J. “	15	“			“	

Just a few doors away were two Hall households, including William A. Hall, age sixty-two, born in Virginia. He may have been a brother to Margaret Hall Gassaway, wife of Benjamin Gassaway.

Before 1850, the federal censuses listed only the heads of households by name. In 1840, Daniel Gassaway and Andrew R. Johnson (A. Reece Johnson in 1860) were listed next to one another in the census of Tippah County, Mississippi, suggesting that they lived near one another. This document was presented in a previous research session on the Johnson family. Also in 1840, Benjamin Gassaway of Anderson County, South Carolina had four daughters at home. These four daughters would be the same four shown above in his 1850 household. Eliza was already married to Andrew Reece Johnson by 1840, based on the ages of their children in 1850 and 1860. The 1830 census shows Benjamin Gassaway again in Anderson County, with six daughters at home. Two of those daughters were between fifteen and twenty, where Eliza would be counted. She would have been about seventeen in 1830.⁷

Locality			1830, Anderson County, South Carolina											
Pg.	Head of Family		0	5	10	15	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	Slaves
			to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	+	
			5	10	15	20	30	40	50	60	70	80		
125	Benjamin Gassaway	M	1	1	1		1		1					
		F	2	1	1	2		1						

This supports the theory that Eliza Hannah Gassaway, daughter of Benjamin Gassaway, is the same one who married Andrew Reese Johnson, and became the mother of Martha Emma Johnson. She would fit age-wise as one of Benjamin’s two older daughters. In the 1860 census, her name was recorded as ‘Eliza H.’

In 1820, Benjamin ‘Gasaway’ lived in Pendleton District, from which Anderson and Pickens Counties were created in 1826. Benjamin had three daughters under ten years of age, one of whom could have been Eliza Hannah, age about seven in that census year.⁸

Locality	1820, Pendleton District, South Carolina
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⁷ Document 7: Ancestry.com, U. S. Federal Census 1830, Anderson County, South Carolina, p. 125.

⁸ Document 8: Ancestry.com, U. S. Federal Census 1820, Pendleton District, South Carolina, p. 174.

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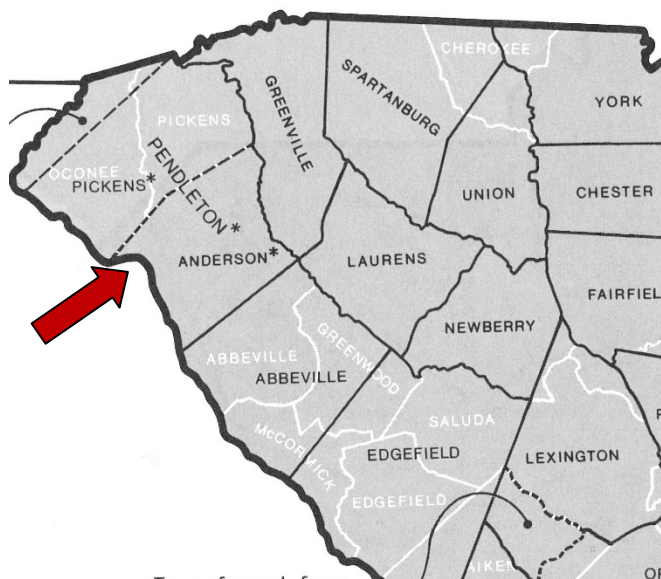
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Page	Head-of-Family	Free White Males						Free White Females					All Others	Slaves
		0 to 10	10 to 16	16 to 18	16 to 26	26 to 45	45 +	0 to 10	10 to 16	16 to 26	26 to 45	45 +		
174	Benjamin Gasaway	2	1			1		3			1			

Benjamin Gassaway left a will in Anderson County, South Carolina, dated October 8, 1850. He mentioned his wife Margaret, sons Benjamin Franklin and Samuel H., and also several daughters, some married and some unmarried. Unfortunately, he did not specifically name them.⁹ Based on the data from the Rutherford book, which states that Benjamin had a daughter named Eliza Hannah Gassaway, and the corroborating evidence gleaned from the census numbers, as well as the fact that Eliza's second son bore the name Benjamin Franklin Johnson, it is reasonable to believe that her parents were Benjamin Gassaway and Margaret Hall. Andrew and Eliza Johnson also had a daughter named Margaret, further strengthening the theory. Since hard proof is often elusive in southern United States research, evidence must be pieced together to build a convincing case.



Benjamin is believed to be the son of James Gassaway, who supposedly came to South Carolina from Maryland, and died in 1804. Benjamin's birthplace of Maryland, as shown in the 1850 census, strengthens the connection to James by putting them in the same geographical location. Printed abstracts of Pendleton District probate records contain a brief abstract of James Gassaway's estate, dated February 14, 1804. James gave two tracts of land totaling 305 acres to his wife Elizabeth. After her death, it was to be divided between his three youngest sons, Benjamin, Samuel and Daniel. He also mentioned several daughters. His chosen executors were his son Thomas, and Mr.

Jonathan Reeder. Witnesses were Samuel Dickson and Simon Reeder. James's will came into court for proving on March 16, 1804.¹⁰ From this will, we learn the probable relationship between Eliza Hannah Gassaway Johnson and Daniel Gassaway. Daniel was Eliza's uncle, the younger brother of her father, Benjamin. Daniel would have been only about seven or eight years old when his father died.

⁹ Document 9: Anderson County, South Carolina Will Book, Vol. 1, 1835-1857 (Filmed by Genealogical Society of Utah, 1956), p. 341. FHL Film #0022859

¹⁰ Document 10: Virginia Alexander, *Pendleton District and Anderson County, S.C. Wills, Estates, Inventories, Tax Returns and Census Records* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1980), p. 31. FHL Call #975.72 P2a

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The microfilmed original will of James Gassaway is also presented with the accompanying documents, for a more complete text, and for historical authenticity. James bequeathed feather beds, furniture, a rifle, livestock and cash to his various heirs.¹¹

The 1800 census of Pendleton District lists James ‘Gazaway’ as a man over forty-five years old, with a wife in the same age group. They had four sons and three daughters, which aligns with the children named in the 1804 will.¹²

Locality	1800, Pendleton District, South Carolina												
Page	Head of Family	Free White Males					Free White Females					All Others	Slaves
		0 to 10	10 to 16	16 to 26	26 to 45	45 +	0 to 10	10 to 16	16 to 26	26 to 45	45 +		
465	James Gazaway	2		2		1		1	2		1		

Benjamin would have been one of James’ two sons between sixteen and twenty-six years of age in 1800, having been born in 1781. Daniel was surely one of the sons under ten, since he was born about 1796. The 1790 census lists two men whose names have been indexed as James ‘Garraway’ in Union District, South Carolina. This may or may not be James Gassaway, the ancestor.



Ashtabula Plantation

A history of Anderson County contains very little information on the Gassaway family. One item of interest features the Ashtabula Plantation, with a photograph of the grand home, with a wraparound porch and wide columns. The history of this house includes that it was used as a tavern by the James Gassaway family in 1797. A license from the state allowed Mr. Gassaway to provide lodging, food and spirits, with the caution that there was to be no gambling.¹³

The Internet contains a Gassaway genealogy, posted by Karen Moore on July 28, 2005, in Rootsweb.com. Ms.

Moore prefaced her data by stating that she received the information from her parents. She begins with Generation No. 1, John Gassaway’s descendants. John had a son named Nicholas, who died in 1757. He had a son named James, born in 1734 in All Hallow’s Parish, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, and died in 1804 in Pendleton District, South Carolina. Children of James included Benjamin Gassaway, born after

¹¹ Document 11: Anderson County, South Carolina Will Book, 1791-1834 (Filmed by Genealogical Society of Utah, 1956), p. 44. FHL Film #0022860

¹² Document 12: Ancestry.com, U. S. Federal Census 1800, Pendleton District, South Carolina, p. 465.

¹³ Document 13: *Anderson County, South Carolina Heritage—2007* (Anderson County Chapter of the South Carolina Genealogical Society, 2007). FHL Call #975.725 H2s

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1781 in Frederick County, Virginia, and died February 11, 1853 in Anderson County, South Carolina. James also had a son named Daniel Gassaway, born October 11, 1796, and died February 17, 1874. (He fits as the Daniel Gassaway who lived in Tippah County, Mississippi, near Andrew and Eliza Johnson.) Benjamin married Margaret Hall, daughter of Fenton Hall and Hannah Brown. Benjamin and Margaret had children named Ann Mariah, Eliza Hannah, Mary Lucinda, Fenton, Lemuel Hall, James Scruggs, William Hunter, Margaret Usley, Benjamin Franklin, Rosanna Catherine, and Martha Malinda Gassaway.¹⁴ The full names of each of Benjamin's children could only come from private family information, perhaps a family Bible or diary. This Rootsweb entry provides wonderful corroborating evidence of Eliza Hannah's place in the Gassaway family, as well as clues to the earlier generations. These earlier generations will be verified from original records.

A brief sidelight to the Gassaway ancestry is taken. Eliza Hannah's mother is said to be Margaret Hall, daughter of Fenton Hall and Hannah Brown. Printed abstracts of Pendleton District, South Carolina wills contains the will of Fenton Hall, dated November 20, 1809. In his will he named his wife Hannah, children Polly, William, Jonathan, Fenton, Rhoda, James, Johnson, Lemuel, Peggy, (nickname for Margaret), Flemming and Hannah. Fenton Hall's will was proved in court on March 25, 1817. From this same source is an abstract of Benjamin Gassaway's will, written October 8, 1850.¹⁵ The microfilmed original is discussed above as Document 9.

Printed abstracts of deeds of Pendleton District and Anderson County were searched for more information about the Gassaways and Halls. On December 8, 1801, Fenton Hall bought 150 acres from Israel Pickens, on First Creek, a tributary of Rocky River.¹⁶ Several years later, on August 5, 1833, James E. Reese, commissioner of Anderson County District Court, ruled in a dispute over the land of Fenton Hall brought by John E. Norris. Benjamin Gassaway asked that the land belonging to the heirs of Fenton Hall, deceased, be sold and the proceeds divided among the heirs. The land consisted of 265 acres on Rocky River. On November 13, 1833, John E. Norris sold to Benjamin Gassaway, Johnson Hall's undivided moiety (portion) of the 265 acres on the west side of Rocky River. This land had been willed to Johnson Hall by Fenton Hall, deceased.¹⁷ Such land disputes are convoluted, and may take years to settle. The deed abstracts only give a portion of the actual proceedings.

On July 17, 1823, two land transactions took place on the same date, back and forth between Lewis L. Gibbs and four Gassaways, including Benjamin, Samuel and Daniel. The object of these transactions was

¹⁴ Document 14: "Nicholas Gassaway/Sarah Shipley/Elizabeth Hawkins/Rachel Howard", Rootsweb.ancestry.com, 28 Jul 2005. <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/GASSAWAY/2005-07/1122599242>

¹⁵ Document 15: Virginia Alexander, *Pendleton District and Anderson County, S.C. Wills, Estates, Inventories, Tax Returns and Census Records* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1980), p. 52 & 114. FHL Call #975.72 P2a

¹⁶ Document 16: Betty Willie, *Pendleton District, S.C. Deeds, 1790-1806* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1982), p. 278. FHL Call #975.72 R2w

¹⁷ Document 17: Dr. A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Anderson District, SC, Books T and U (1830-1836)* (privately published, 2010), p. 77 & 80. FHL Call #975.725 R2p

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a tract of 380 acres on Eighteen Mile Creek, a tributary of the Savannah River. This land was part a larger tract originally granted to Samuel Loftin, Sr. Margaret Gassaway, wife of Benjamin, renounced her dower rights.¹⁸ The fact that this land was held jointly by three Gassaway brothers, strongly suggests that it had been inherited.

This is confirmed by earlier deeds, under the jurisdiction of Pendleton District. On July 20, 1795, Samuel Lofton, Sr. sold to James Gassaway 200 acres where Gassaway lived. The land was located on 18 Mile Creek, off the Savannah River. Samuel Lofton had already sold 105 acres to James Gassaway two years before, but the deed was recorded five years later.¹⁹ These purchases by James Gassaway in the 1790's account for most of the land sold by his three sons in 1833.

Benjamin Gassaway is believed to have married Margaret Hall in 1808, shortly before the 1810 census enumeration. He appears as a head of household, age twenty-six to forty-five, with a wife between sixteen and twenty-six, with one son under ten. Listed next to him was Eliza Gassaway, age forty five plus.²⁰

Locality	1810, Pendleton District, South Carolina												
Page	Head of Family	Free White Males					Free White Females					All Others	Slaves
		0 to 10	10 to 16	16 to 26	26 to 45	45 +	0 to 10	10 to 16	16 to 26	26 to 45	45 +		
149A	Eliza Gassaway		1	1					1		1		
"	Benjn Gassaway	1			1				1				

Fenton Hall appears on the 1800 census of Pendleton District, with seven sons and two daughters. Fenton and his wife were both over the age of forty-five. Margaret Hall, future wife of Benjamin Hall, would have been one of the two daughters in the home, under ten years old (born in 1791).²¹

Locality	1800, Pendleton District, South Carolina												
Page	Head of Family	Free White Males					Free White Females					All Others	Slaves
		0 to 10	10 to 16	16 to 26	26 to 45	45 +	0 to 10	10 to 16	16 to 26	26 to 45	45 +		
148	Fenton Hall	3	2	2		1	2				1		

A compilation of Anderson County newspaper entries, mostly marriages and obituaries from 1841 to 1882, contains a death notice of interest, dated Thursday, May 21, 1874:

¹⁸ Document 18: Dr. A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds: Anderson District, SC, Books Q, R, and S (1822-1830)* (privately published, 2009), p. 34. FHL Call #975.725 R2p

¹⁹ Document 19: Betty Willie, *Pendleton District, S.C. Deeds, 1790-1806* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1982), p. 94 & 168. FHL Call #975.72 R2w

²⁰ Document 20: Ancestry.com, U. S. Federal Census 1810, Pendleton District, South Carolina, p. 149A.

²¹ Document 21: Ancestry.com, U. S. Federal Census 1800, Pendleton District, South Carolina, p. 148.

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“Mrs. Margaret ‘Gasaway’, an estimable lady living in the lower portion of the County, died at her residence on Friday last after a lingering and painful illness. The deceased was advanced in years being at the time of her death 83 years old. She was the mother of Mrs. Dawson in town.”²²

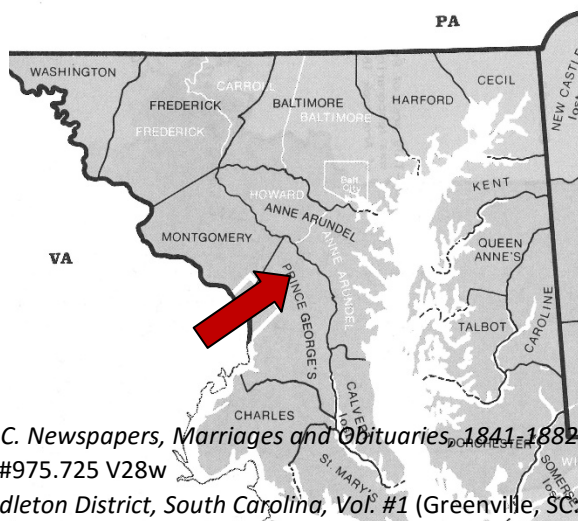
This was surely the widow of Benjamin Gassaway, and the mother of Eliza Hannah Gassaway Johnson. She died on the previous Friday, which calculates to May 15, 1874. That is the same date of death given for Margaret Hall Gassaway, wife of Benjamin, in the Rootsweb posting (Document 14).

Another source of records from Old Pendleton District tells that David Hall, the son of Fenton Hall, Sr. and his wife Hannah, was born in 1788 in Pendleton District, and he died April 15, 1860 in Anderson County. He left a will in which he named several children. It is interesting to note that he owned land on a fork of Generostee Creek, where so many other Patterson ancestors lived.²³ The compiler of this book lists the eleven children of David Hall and Hannah McAllister after the will abstract. Fenton Hall, Sr. and his wife Hannah were the parents of the ancestor, Margaret Hall Gassaway, so this David Hall was Margaret’s brother.

The listing of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution does not contain any Gassaways, nor a Fenton Hall. Online sources claim that James Gassaway lived in Frederick County, Virginia before his arrival in South Carolina, but several sources from that county were checked in the appropriate time period. No Gassaways were found there.

Virginia has no surviving 1790 census, so a substitute ‘census’ has been created from county tax lists taken in 1787. No James Gassaway paid taxes in Virginia in 1787. A ‘Fentin’ Hall paid taxes in Halifax County, Virginia in 1787.²⁴ That county has excellent records and should be searched for further extension of the Hall lineage.

Anne Arundel County, Maryland is believed to be the birthplace of James Gassaway, and the home of the Gassaway family for many generations. Maryland has wonderful genealogical records, including Anne Arundel County. A compilation of marriage records and references to marriages and family relationships implied in county records from 1658 to 1800 contains numerous Gassaway entries. Of primary interest is an



²² Document 22: Colleen M. Elliott, *Early Anderson County, S.C. Newspapers, Marriages and Obituaries, 1841-1882* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1978), p. 153. FHL Call #975.725 V28w

²³ Document 23: Linda Gale Smith Cheek, *Families of Old Pendleton District, South Carolina, Vol. #1* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 2006), p. 53-4. FHL Call #975.72 D2c

²⁴ Document 24: Nettie Schreiner-Yantis, *The 1787 Census of Virginia* (Springfield, VA: Genealogical Books in Print, 1987), Volume I, p. 421. FHL Call #975.5 R4sn

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entry for James Gassaway, son of Nicholas Gassaway (1696-1757). James was born in Anne Arundel County and lived in Frederick County (the state not named, but could have been Maryland, rather than Virginia). He married Rachel before 1770, and moved to Union County, South Carolina before 1790. (Other records suggest that Rachel was the first of three wives for James.) James's father Nicholas married first to Elizabeth Hawkins on June 2, 1719, then secondly to Sarah Shipley, before 1747, and third to Rachel, before 1757. If James was born in 1734, then his mother would be Elizabeth Hawkins.

There were six or seven other men named Nicholas Gassaway listed in this same source. Nicholas Gassaway (1696-1757), the presumed father of James, could have been the son of one of those other men by the same name, or one of the other many Gassaway men. Other undocumented genealogies found so far give Nicholas's father's name as John. There are three John Gassaways listed:

- John Gassaway, lived from 1673 to 1697, son of Col. Nicholas Gassaway and Elizabeth Lawrence;
- John Gassaway, lived from 1707 to 1763, son of Capt. Thomas Gassaway and Sarah Cotter;
- John Gassaway, captain, lived from 1754 to 1820, son of Henry Gassaway, who had multiple wives.

If any of these men named John Gassaway was the father of Nicholas, born in 1696, it would have to be the first one listed above. He was the only John born soon enough to fit in the generation before Nicholas.²⁵ Source documentation references are given in the footnotes of these books.

Another source contains references to Nicholas Gassaway, perhaps multiple men by that name, who were clearly from the earlier generations. One of these men may turn out to be direct line ancestors, as research progresses.²⁶

The listing of Revolutionary War Patriots from Anne Arundel County was searched, to see if John Gassaway served there, before moving to South Carolina. One John was listed, but he lived from 1754 to 1820, and remained in the area.

One of the sources used for the information compiled in the previously cited Anne Arundel County compilations is titled *Anne Arundel Gentry*, by Harry Wright Newman. There are four volumes, and the first volume contains very helpful information on the ancestral Gassaway family there. John Gassaway (167—1697) has three paragraphs devoted to him and his family. He is said to be the son of Col. Nicholas Gassaway and Anne Besson. He was born in the early 1670's in South River Hundred (township). About 1695, he married Elizabeth Lawrence, daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth Lawrence. Elizabeth was the granddaughter of Richard Talbot and Elizabeth Ewen. These families were associated with the

²⁵ Document 25: Henry C. Peden, Jr., *Anne Arundel County, Maryland Marriage References, 1658-1800* (Lewes, DE: Colonial Roots, no date), p. 89-90. FHL Call #975.255 V2p

²⁶ Document 26: Robert Barnes, Robert Barnes, *Colonial Families of Anne Arundel County, Maryland* (Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1996), p. 80, 133, 134 & 250. FHL Call #975.255 D2b

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Quaker and Puritan elements in Anne Arundel County. After a brief marriage, John died, and was buried September 2, 1697. His wife Elizabeth remarried to John Rigbie, who died in 1700. John Gassaway's estate remained unsettled for many years, until January 27, 1717/18. Nicholas Gassaway, born February 6, 1696/97, was the only son and heir of John Gassaway and Elizabeth Lawrence. (The double-dating refers to that period of time when the Colonies switched from the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian Calendar.) Nicholas (born in 1696) married Elizabeth, sometime before July 6, 1720. On that date, Elizabeth waived her dower rights on the conveyance of Nicholas's birthright lands. The deed states:

“Nicholas Gassaway son and heir of John Gassaway, late of Anne Arundel County, deceased, for £100 deeded to Thomas Gassaway, Gent., the tract of land which I have claim to in Anne Arundel County either by descent from my father John Gassaway or by the last will and testament of my grandfather Coll Nicholas Gassaway...”²⁷

Here is evidence of three generations within the same deed of conveyance! Col. Nicholas Gassaway left land to his son John, who then left it to his son Nicholas. Information on James Gassaway in this source is scant, perhaps because James moved away. James's great-grandfather was Col. Nicholas Gassaway, and he is not featured individually in this volume of *Anne Arundel Gentry*. He is the subject of his own Wikipedia page, with source documentation. The page tells that Nicholas was baptized March 11, 1634, and died between January 10 and 27, 1691. As the immigrant ancestor, he served as a colonial military and political leader, as well as a court justice in colonial Maryland. There are about 5,500 descendants of Nicholas who bear the Gassaway surname in the 2000 U. S. Federal Census. (That would not include all the married females, so that number of descendants would be almost double.) His father is believed to be Thomas 'Gasway' or 'Gaswaie', based on a baptismal record from St. Margaret's parish, Westminster, London, England, for Nicholas 'Gasway or Gaswaie', dated March 11, 1634. Several other children of Thomas were born and christened in St. Margaret's parish, before and after Nicholas. Thomas is said to be a Welsh merchant who brought his family to Maryland about 1650. They settled in Londontowne, a district south of Annapolis. Nicholas was active in politics and military duties. He acquired a sizable tobacco plantation and exported tobacco back to England. He married Anne Besson, daughter of Capt. Thomas Besson. The full Wikipedia article is included with the documents, as Document 28.²⁸

Maryland colonial wills were kept at the capital in Annapolis. The microfilmed original will of Col. Nicholas Gassaway was written January 10, 1691. His lengthy will mentioned no wife, but several children: Nicholas, John, Thomas, Hester Groce, Ann Watkins, wife of John Watkins, Jane and Margaret Gassaway. Son John, the ancestor through whom the client descends, was bequeathed 300 acres of land

²⁷ Document 27: Harry Wright Newman, *Anne Arundel Gentry* (Annapolis, MD: 1970), Volume 1, p. 154. FHL Call #975.255 D2nh

²⁸ Document 28: Wikipedia article, "Col. Nicholas Gassaway" accessed through Google.com. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_Gassaway

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on the north side of Gunpowder (River). The will came into court for proving on January 27, 1691, indicating that Nicholas died within the month of January.²⁹

England church parishes kept records of births, marriages and deaths from as early as the 1500's. Online subscription websites are available for accessing transcriptions of the digitized original images of old parish registers. Nicholas 'Gasway' was baptized March 11, 1634 at St. Margaret's Parish, Westminster, London, England. His father's name is confirmed as Thomas 'Gasway', but no mother is named.³⁰

A printed transcription of St. Margaret's Parish registers, from 1539 to 1660, lists the christening of Nicholas 'Gasway', son of Thomas, on March 11, 1634. Several other children of Thomas were noted in this source, which also contains marriages. Thomas 'Gaswaie' married Ann Callendgwood on January 6, 1631, in St. Margaret's Parish.³¹ A digital image of the original marriage entry shows the marriage date for Thomas and Ann as January 6, 1630, not 1631.³² No birth or christening record is found in the databases for Thomas 'Gasway' or variant spellings.

Conclusion

Research on the Gassaway line has been very productive, thanks to excellent record-keeping in Maryland and England. Many names have been added to the database, and the pedigree charts and family group sheets included behind this report will reflect that progress. This report is accompanied by a Research Calendar, pedigree charts and family group sheets, and eighty-five pages of documents. It is possible that our British Isles research specialist could further the Gassaway lineage, and perhaps some of the collateral maternal lines, as well.

Raquel Lindaas, AG®
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²⁹ Document 29: Maryland Wills, No. 2, 1674-1704 (Annapolis, MD: Hall of Records Commission, 1947), p. 228-231. FHL Film #0012841 (digitized online at FamilySearch.org)

³⁰ Document 30: FindMyPast.co.uk, England Births & Baptisms, 1538-1975 Transcription, Nicholas Gasway, 11 Mar 1634, Westminster, London, England. (https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id+r_955822428).

³¹ Document 31: Arthur Meredyth Burke, *Memorials of St. Margaret's Church, Westminster: The Parish Registers, 1559-1660, and the Churchwarden's Accounts, 1460-1603* (London: Eyre & Spottiswoode, Ltd., 1914), p. 143 & 339.

³² Document 32: FindMyPast.co.uk, England Births & Baptisms, 1538-1975, Nicholas Gasway, 11 Mar 1634, Westminster, London, England. (<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=GBPRS/WSMTN/005620239/00111&parentid=GBPRS/M/492311541/2>).