

Are the TWO Elias Goddards One and the same? Timeline for Elias Goddard

I have been searching for my 3rd Great grandfather, Elias Goddard for nine years. We have had lots of random bits of information, but could never put them together. I am descended from his son John Willis Goddard.

About three years ago, I suddenly saw a possibility that was "outside the box", after reading a book about a friend's ancestor. In that book, this middle aged man in Virginia left his wife, grown children and law practice to move to the woods of NC and marry a VERY young girl. He went on to have several children and a whole other life.

I believe now, due to DNA links with several people that Elias Goddard did the exact same thing. I have done DNA tests as has a cousin on this line, in hopes of matching relatives for this man. Finally we have found links from his first family to his second, which I believe proves this man is the father/head of both families.

I have tried to color code things into black for the "First" Elias, Blue for the latter or 2nd Elias and red for the few places where they potentially overlap. As you can see from this timeline that I've worked on for several years, it is completely possible that this is one and the same man.

1797-1800

A descendant said their Elias Goddard was born in the Hightower Dist. Which I used to think was up to the NorthWest of Baldrige Creek, but according to the reality of GA at that TIME it was CAPTAIN HIGHTOWER's TAX district in BALDWIN County (Milledgeville area), GA. This is a VERY likely place for my Elias to be born since he was in Morgan Co. (very close by) in 1819-1820 and married Mary Willis, who's sister Elizabeth lived in Milledgeville.

1801-1804

Mary Willis likely born in SC

1815

Territories open to whites and men who were part of the War of 1812, borders pushed further and further west in GA between 1800 and 1830.

1817

Eli S. Goddard and Sally Goddard remove as Cherokee Immigrants to ARK. with a whole BUNCH of Doughertys, including Mary Dougherty and four male Doughertys. *Note-this shows the beginning of a history of Elias and family moving or traveling back and forth several times-likely shipping goods and taking people to the frontier and beyond.

Mary Willis likely marries John Buck in Columbia (near Augusta, GA) 2 years later she is marrying Elias Goddard in the next county west (Morgan).

1820

2 Elias Goddard's in Morgan Co. One over 45 (born before 1775) and one around 20 born around 1800, and one Thomas Goddard. Thomas and the older Elias are next door to each other (likely father and son) but the other Elias is elsewhere in the county. *Despite the spelling I now believe this is the same family. There were no other Goddards in the area of GA at the time.*

1: One male 16-25, one female 16-25 Elias Goddard **BORN BETW. 1795 and 1804**

2. One male 16-25, one male 45+, two females 10-15, one female 45+ and SEVEN SLAVES **BORN BETW. 1755-1770**

3. Thomas Goddard next door to the older Elias. with 2 males under 10, 4 males 10-15, 1 male 16-18, 2 males 16-24; 2 females under 10, one female 10-15, one female 26-44. NINE CHILDREN (0-15), ONE ADULT FEMALE AND THREE GROWN YOUNG MALES!

1824

supposed daughter Clarinda born in Nov. 17, 1824 in Georgia

1830

Thomas and Elias' no longer in Morgan Co.

Elias Gothard on Hall Co. census (east of Chattahoochee JUST across the river from Baldrige Creek) This is the ONLY Elias Gothard/Goddard in the lower states (excluding Indian territory). This Elias is 30-40 with a woman the same, one daughter under 5 (Clarinda said to be 6+ at this time) and 2 boys, age under 5 and one 5-10.

There is also a William Gotherd listed with a man and woman in their 30-40's and one male child 10-15. It is possible that this is Elias' brother or cousin, but likely brother.

A Mary Goddard as head of household on 1830 census in Morgan co. or nearby GA , with 3 small boys and then she is gone in 1840. I think this may be the widow of Thomas...

Campbell (Douglas) Co., Ga., census shows John Goddard Jr. and John Goddard Sr. **I believe this is the father of Elias, William and John Jr. John Goddard Sr. was, by this time, married to Winnie Tidwell.**

1831

Elias Goddard on Cherokee land vote at Ambrose Harnage's house. Listed as a white man with Indian wife. Also listed is William P. Willis who by this time is Elias' brother-in-law (see 1833).

1833

Several records of payments for the removal in 1833 shows listed ALL together, on the same date:

- William (Pickens) Willis, 8 emigrants, April 21 (including Mary Dougherty Willis, his wife, who is daughter to
- Mary (Jane "Polly") Dean Dougherty, 8 emigrants April 21
- William McClure, 5 emigrants April 21 (including his wife, who is another daughter of Mary Dougherty.
- Elias Goddard, 6 emigrants April 21 (including his wife, Mary Willis Goddard, William Willis' sister. **(THE WILLIS CONNECTION HAS BEEN PROVEN MULTIPLE TIMES OVER WITH DNA-and with Bible entries from Clarinda Goddard.)**

This group of 27 people removed from Baldrige Creek GA, on the west side of the Chattahoochee. This is also the SAME TOWN/place where Winnie Tidwell is from, and Young Deer Creek flows into Baldrige Creek. (Winnie's first husband was Young Deer).

The group removed to Arkansas, leaving William Willis, his family, and Mary Daugherty and family in Siloam Springs AR to set up a mill and "mercantile and freight business) with a wheel and goods they had brought from Georgia. Elias, Mary and their family went on to somewhere along the Arkansas River, just outside of Ft. Gibson, in Indian Territory. We surmise that Elias was the middle-man and shipper between the mercantile in Siloam Springs and the soldiers and Cherokee that were around Ft. Gibson.

1834

William Willis died accidentally in a wrestling match in Siloam Springs, AR. It is unclear after this who ran the mill but his wife remarried and her family moved back to GA. See 1835.

1835

Isabella Goddard (Goodrich on marriage license), Elias' daughter, born in Indian Territory (sometimes given as GA).

Mary Daugherty Willis, widow of William Willis, marries Vachel Barnhill in Hall Co. GA She had to have traveled back to GA with her entire brood (who is listed in the 1851 Census of Eastern Cherokee with everyone she went west with save her husband and his sister Mary Willis Goddard and her family) in mid-1835. **I believe ELIAS TOOK THEM ALL BACK and MET NANCY RUSSELL in mid-1835. His son Willis (see 1840 below) was married in May 1835 in Fulton Co. GA.**

1836

Feb. 6 1836, **Elias Goddard married to Nancy Russel (Russell) married 2/6/1836 (SHE IS FOURTEEN!) in Campbell Co. GA** This is where Elias' father John Sr. was living in 1830. This is the one that the other descendant claims was born in the Hightower District.

IF THIS IS ANOTHER Elias, WHERE HAS HE BEEN UNTIL NOW? NOTE THERE IS NO INDICATION OF THIS GUY ANYWHERE before marrying Nancy in 1836 GA

April 8, 1836 "Ezrah Williams and Elias Goddard, White men, or citizens of the US, **residing in the Cherokee Nation near Ft. Gibson** "have been guilty of a violation of....regulating trade and intercourse (*interaction*) with Indian Tribes..." They were found with barrels of liquor 25 gal of whisky in Goddard's house..." **This shows that Elias was shipping and selling liquor.**

This would have been about the time John Willis Goddard was conceived in Indian Territory and may mark the last time Elias is out west. Other than being busted with liquor and conceiving a child, he appears NO MORE in AR/IT/MO. I believe Mary Goddard was already pregnant when Elias got in trouble and that he left for Georgia shortly thereafter.

1837

26 Jan 1837 Elias' son John Willis born on Arkansas River near Ft. Gibson in Indian Territory. All we have on his birth date and place is his own recollection-no documentation.

Some time in 1837 Elias' daughter Matilda with Nancy Russell also born, in Georgia.

1840

There is **NO ONE** in GA named Elias (Goddard, Goddard, Gothard) in 1840 Census. No one in MO, TN, GA, SC...1840 Census' only show names of Head of Household

John Goddard
District 851, Cobb, Georgia

80-90 years OLD! With a 30-40 F and 3 kids
This could be Elias' father

Willis Goddard
District 846, Cobb, Georgia

b 1810-1820 (wife and 2 kids)
By the name, I think this is Mary and Elias's first child, living near his grandfather. His wife is Harriet Wyatt they were married 28 May 1835, Fulton, Georgia, United States

1844

June 1844 The first Elias Goddard **SUPPOSEDLY** murdered by Burgess in Choctaw Territory, returning from TX with money. Many people saw them and a burnt, shot bloody body was found. Was

this Elias? Did he fake his death and char the body so it was not recognizable? Even the government report says the “supposed body of Goddard”.

1850

We know by this census Mary and Elias’ family is disbursing. Mary is not found, (possibly in AR or TX with family) John Willis (age 13) went on a wagon train to Calif. and back with his sister’s brothers-in-law, Gideon and B.B. Wyatt, Isabella is married in Feb at age 15 to Theophilus Hinch and Clarinda is in Gasconade w. Landing/Landon Wyatt her husband.

There is now ONLY ONE ELias Goddard, anywhere. He is in GA in 1850 And pay special attention as to how his age vacillates.

Elias Goddard Census 1850 Floyd county, Floyd County, Georgia

Age: 37 (born 1813) Race: White Birth Year (Estimated): Birthplace: Georgia

Nancy Goddard	F	28	(1822) born SC	age 15 at birth of first child was 14 at marriage
Matilda Goddard	F	13	Georgia	1837
Rachel Goddard	F	11	Georgia	1839
Harriet Goddard	F	9	Georgia	1841
Samuel Goddard	M	5	Georgia	etc.
Andrew Goddard	M	3	Georgia	
Frances Goddard	F	0	Georgia	

There are only two other Elias Goddard/Gothards in the whole area that could be the first or 2nd one if there were two. One born 1829 living in TN and one born 1840 Living in TN
THERE IS NO ELIAS IN SC, and only that ONE in GA in 1850

1860

FLOYD CO. GA

In Floyd County GA, Elias and Nancy list themselves (surname Gaddin) as age 48 and 45 (born 1812 and 1815) Here he is estimating younger and she seven years OLDER! They were covering up the age difference!

Samuel Gaddan 16
Andrew Gaddan 12
Francis Gaddan 11
Sallie Gaddan 7
Jane Gaddan 5
Thomas Gaddan 2
Elias Gaddan 7 Months

1864

We know Mary Goddard is still alive in this year because she writes to her son about the birth of his daughter, Alice Rosaline. We think now she was in AR or TX. She is still calling herself Mary Goddard, so likely never remarried. Alice remembers meeting her once so she must have come to visit some time around 1870-1875 to Missouri.

In 1864 Floyd Co. GA census to Reorganize the Militia, Elias Godard given as “Over 50 years old, Absent, Wife don’t know age”. OVER 50 means born before 1814. WELL before, and she did not know his age.

1870

Census Elias and Nancy state ages as 61 (**born 1809**) and 51 (born 1819)

Samuel Goddard 25

Frances Goddard 20

Missing Andrew and Jane

Sallie Goddard 17

Nancy J Goddard 13

Elias Goddard 10

John Goddard 7

Julia Goddard 5

Some time between 1870 and 1875 Nancy Russell Goddard dies.

1872

Elias Goddard asked for money from the Govt. for property taken by Sherman's Army (who could not sign his own name-signed with an X) lists a Samuel Goddard (prob. his son) as a witness. Claim was denied. He is listed as original owner of the property. Does not say why it was denied. (Sherman's army came through in 1864).

1880

MY John Willis Goddard states on census that his mother is born SC and father GA.

Elias is on this census with wife Amanda and 4 young children **He now says he's born 1815**

HE WAS REALLY approx 71-82 and married to a 23 year old with 4 children under age 4! He obviously liked VERY young women and wanted to father more children!

Willis J. Goddard 4 **but note one thing-WHY is this kid named Willis? After his first son?**

James M. Goddard 3

Levi Goddard 2

Charles H. Goddard 2m

DID NANCY DIE? Where are Julia and John?

What happened to Rachel and these 4 kids when he died in 1896?

1896

Elias Goddard dies in Floyd Co. GA. **A newspaper celebrated him at his passing saying he was "Nearly 100" thus born in 1797 or 1798. But this IS the guy in 1860 that claims to be born in 1812!**

Notes:

In conclusion, there really is no reason this could NOT be the same Elias except for a very vague 2nd or 3rd hand report of a body. Stories may lie but the timeline does NOT contradict itself and DNA show that at least myself and my cousin are related to at least 2-3 people who are descended from Elias and Nancy's daughter Rachel.

Other questions I still have. Who is Elias' father? John or Elias or ? How are they related to the Goddards in TN?

DNA wise-we ARE related to John Goddard & Mary McTeir and William/Joseph Goddard & Elinor Muncey.