

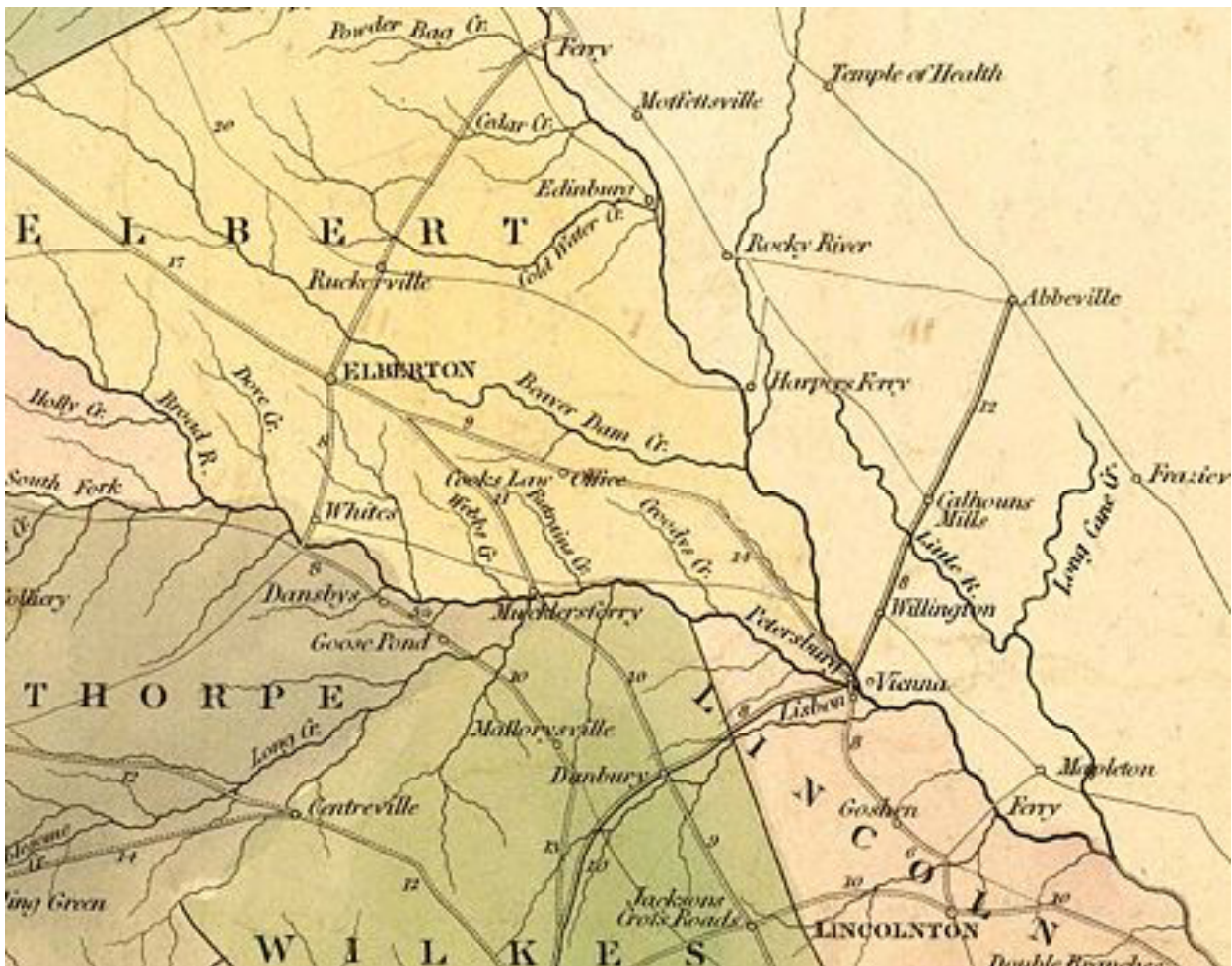
Following analysis by Clayton Heathcock Jr., prepared in December 2009. See following for family record: http://heathcock.org/genealogy/wc02/wc02_120.html

The case for a connection of Matthew Brewer of Abbeville Co SC-Elbert Co GA with Elizabeth Hammond and with the Matthew Brewer who died in Margengo Co AL in 1832

Geography:

Matthew Brewer:

In 1800-12, Matthew Brewer lived in Abbeville Co SC and Elbert Co GA, which were neighboring counties across the Savannah River from one another. In 1800, Abbeville Co SC was larger than today, including parts of modern Greenwood and McCormick Counties. Likewise, Elbert Co GA in 1800 included parts of modern Hart and Madison Counties. The modern towns of Abbeville SC and Elberton GA are only 33 miles apart. The two counties are separated today by Lake Russell behind the Richard B. Russell Dam, which was completed in 1983. In 1800, the county boundary was the Savannah River itself, presumably crossed at Harper's Ferry, which was about midway between Abbeville and Elberton. The following 1839 map shows the general environs, although there were doubtless more settlements in 1839. In 1800, the total population of Elbert County was approximately 10,000.



In Feb 1800 Matthew Brewer witnessed a deed recording sale of land from Aaron Jones and wife Sarah of Abbeville Co SC to Thomas B. Creagh, also of Abbeville Co SC. The land was in Elbert Co GA (Elbert Co GA Deed Book F, page 101, dated Feb 1800).

He doesn't show in the 1800 census but he may have been in Georgia at the time the census was taken; the 1800 Georgia census has not survived.

In January and February of 1802, Matthew Brewer was mentioned in the records of Van's Creek Baptist Church, in Elbert Co GA. He was apparently single at the time, as no wife is mentioned, although wives of other new members were mentioned. Van's Creek Baptist Church is 6 miles NE of Elberton, only about five miles from the South Carolina border.

Matthew Brewer was granted two draws in the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery,¹ meaning that he was a white male of 21 years of age with a wife and legitimate children under 21 and a citizen of Georgia as of May 1802. Matthew Brewer's name appears on the "Index to Fortunate Drawers"² and on the "Index to Grantees."³ This shows that Matthew actually paid the required fee to exercise his right and was issued a land grant from the state.

In 1806 Matthew Brewer purchased items in the estate sale of William Moore in Abbeville, SC.⁴ One of the appraisers of the estate was Thos. B. Creagh. The will contains passages that reveal that the Abbeville SC community was tightly connected with the Elbert Co GA community. For example: "Also I give and Bequeath my Negroe Boy Named Bob to my beloved Cousin Elijah Moore now living on Vans Creek in the County of Elbert and State of Georgia" and "...and the amount of Such Sale to be equally divided between Moses Moore and Albert Moore Sons to Joseph Moore living on Vans Creek District of Elbert and State of Georgia aforesaid."

In the 1810 census, Matthew Brewer was listed in Abbeville Co SC [2M<10, M26-40; 2F<10; F26-40; 2 slaves. Matthew remained in South Carolina at least through the War of 1812 as he served in Youngblood's Regiment of the South Carolina Militia in the War of 1812.

Hammond Family:

The Hammond family originally lived in Fairfax Co VA, where "Captain" Samuel Hammond Sr. married Mary Elizabeth Jenkins in 1749 and where their first son, Job Hammond, was born in 1750. The family moved south to Bute Co NC in 1767. Bute County only existed from 1764-79 and was divided into Warren and Franklin Counties when it was dissolved. It was in the North central part of NC, bordering Mecklenburg Co VA. Job Hammond met and married Lucy Howard in Bute Co in 1775.

In 1785, Samuel Hammond Sr. and his sons Job and Samuel Jr. lived in Granville Co NC, as shown by tax records there. Granville County was immediately west of Bute County and it is likely that the Hammond family lived on or very near the line that separated Granville and Bute Counties at the time Bute was dissolved.

¹ <http://www.1805georgialandlottery.com/b.shtml>

² http://www.1805georgialandlottery.com/fda_m.shtml

³ http://www.1805georgialandlottery.com/ga_m.shtml

⁴ <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~marylove/Moore/documents/wmoorest.txt>

At the time of the 1790 census, Job Hammond still lived in Granville Co NC, but his brother Rawleigh had moved on south and settled in the Camden District of SC. Camden District was in the North central part of SC.

In 1800, Samuel Hammond Sr. and Rawleigh Hammond had moved even further south and lived in Kershaw Co SC, in the North central part of the state.

Job and Lucy Hammond may also have lived briefly in South Carolina—in 1785 he received a grant of 100 acres in the Ninety-Six District of SC, which included Laurens and Abbeville Counties. However, by 1797 Job had settled in Elbert Co GA, where he purchased 275 acres of land on the Savannah River in Petersburg, which was an important port city for the tobacco growers, but is now extinct.

Thus, by about 1800, Job Hammond and Matthew Brewer lived in the same area, probably less than ten miles apart. Given the small population in those days, they would surely have known each other.

Elizabeth Hammond, wife of Matthew Brewer?

There is evidence that Job and Lucy Hammond had a daughter named Elizabeth from a genealogy compiled by Laura Hammond⁵ and reprinted in the 1935 book by John H. McIntosh, "History of Elbert County, Georgia, 1790-1935." Laura Hammond apparently did not find out very much about Elizabeth Hammond because she gave no birth year, death year or marriage, although she did give dates and sometimes marriages for eight other children of the family.

In 1978, Herbert Hammond, a great grandson of Job Hammond, wrote out a family record that included a list of children of Job and Lucy Hammond. This list included: "Elizabeth, m. Mathew Brewer and went west." Also included in Herb Hammond's list of the children of Job and Lucy Hammond was a daughter not named by Laura Hammond, "Polly died young."

There is no "smoking gun" that proves that Matthew Brewer knew and married Job Hammond's daughter Elizabeth. It would be nice to have a marriage record that includes the name of the father of the bride, or a Job Hammond will that mentions a bequest to his daughter. However, neither exists and we must rely on circumstance. The strongest argument is the recollection of Herb Hammond in 1978 that he had a great aunt named Elizabeth who "married Mathew Brewer and went west."

There is actually one more piece of circumstantial evidence. The following website has an extensive listing of the descendants of Nicholas Jenkins, Sr.:

<http://www.homeofourfathers.com/lisbeth/descendancyofnicholasjenkins.htm>

In this family listing we find the daughter of Job Hammond Jr. and Lucy Howard listed as "Elizabeth Polly Hammond, b. Petersburg, Petersburg Co GA, m. Matthew Brewer". I have

⁵ Born in 1869, Laura Hammond was the daughter of former Georgia Congressman Nathaniel J. Hammond. She graduated from the Pratt Institute in New York, and served for a time at the Congressional Library in Washington, D. C. She began work as Georgia Tech's Librarian in 1905, with her sister, Julia Hammond, serving as her assistant.

communicated with the compiler of this information. Sadly, the sources that support the website were lost in an unfortunate computer failure and the compiler does not recall the exact source of the information:

“I remember distinctly that the Hammond information came from long-ago done genealogy, if not by Andrea, maybe by a Hammond relative? I just have this image in my head of papers with bits and pieces of fascinating information in no particular order, which is very much the way Andrea did his stuff. I tell you what, next time I go to the genealogy library down here, I'll look around and see what I can find, because I'm positive that's where it came from to begin with.”

I suspect that the papers may have been Laura Hammond's research, but have no idea where they may have been examined or can be seen today. Nevertheless, the very existence of these notes adds further support to the hypothesis that Matthew Brewer's wife was the daughter of Job Hammond Jr.

Travel to the west:

Matthew Brewer apparently married around 1803-04. When he was accepted to membership in Van's Creek Baptist Church in 1802 he was single. However, in the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery he was awarded two draws, which meant that he had to be married and have at least one legitimate child at the time of qualification for the draw.

It isn't known what caused Matthew Brewer to travel to the west. However, there is plentiful evidence that he did, and possibly soon after his marriage in Elbert Co GA. Matthew Brewer participated in a petition to the President and Congress by the residents of Sims'es settlement on the Elk River in 1810. The petition reveals that the petitioners had settled during the Winter and Spring of 1807 on land which they believed to have been ceded by the Indian Nations. They were subsequently informed that, although the Cherokee claim to the land had been negotiated, the Chickasaw Nation still laid claim. The petition implored the President and Congress to grant them title to the land they had occupied. When James Madison took office as President of the United States in March, 1809, he dispatched the Indian Agent at Hiwassee Garrison to expel the intruders from the Indian land. On 16 April 1809 ninety-three squatters were removed, of which 49 were among the more than 400 settlers who eventually signed the 1810 petition. If the Matthew Brewer who participated in the Sim's Settlement was our ancestor, it is possible that he returned to Abbeville after the eviction, in time to be recorded there in the 1810 census.

After returning to Abbeville from his adventure in the Chickasaw lands, Matthew Brewer appears to have participated with the South Carolina Militia in the War of 1812. And then he went west again because in 1815 he signed a petition to Congress by "Purchasers of Public Lands East of Pearl River" and in 1816 he purchased 160 acres of public land in Clarke

County, Mississippi Territory⁶ and was listed as an inhabitant of the Clarke County in the 1816 enumeration.⁷

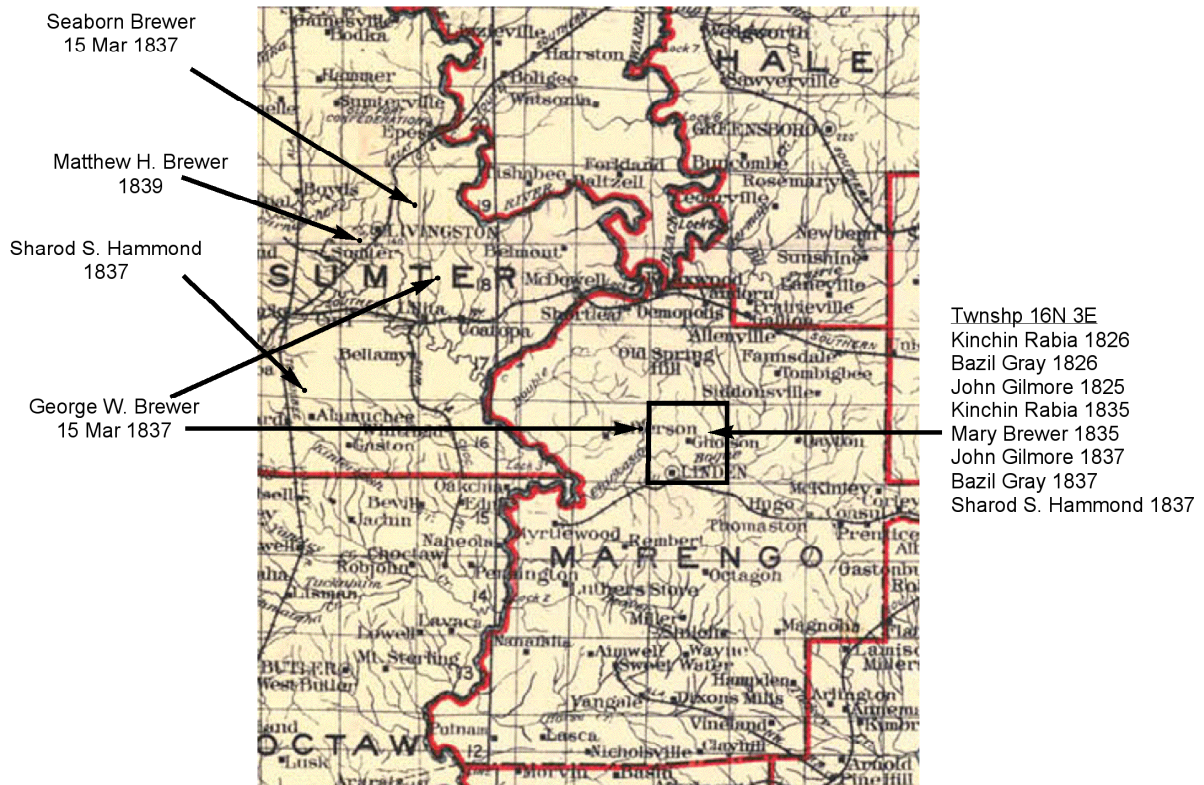
Others who were living in Clarke County in 1816 were Bazel Gray, Samuel Hammond Sr., Samuel Hammond Jr., Matthias Hammond, and William Hammond. Samuel Hammond Sr. was the father of Job Hammond and Samuel Jr., Matthias and William were his sons. Bazel Gray also lived in the Abbeville-Elberton area and participated in the 1805 Georgia Lottery and served in the South Carolina Militia in the War of 1812. Three of his daughters married sons of Samuel Hammond Sr. (Mary to Matthias, Monica to William, and Edna to Lemuel). A fourth daughter of Bazel Gray married John Gilmore, also in Elbert Co GA in 1800 and in Clarke Co in the 1816 census.

Yet another family who moved from Elbert Co GA to Marengo Co AL was Richard Worrell and his wife Lucy Hammond, the only sister of Elizabeth Hammond. Richard and Lucy married in Elbert Co and had two sons, then moved to Marengo Co AL, where Richard died in 1823. Lucy then married Richard Suddath in Marengo Co in 1824.

The land that Matthew Brewer purchased in 1816 was in Sections 13 and 14 of Township 16N Range 3E. Other men who had previously lived in the Abbeville-Elberton area who had land in the same section were John Gilmore and Bazel Gray. In addition, Sharod (Sherwood) Hammond, another son of Samuel Hammond Sr., had land in Section 1 of Township 16N Range 3E. The location of these lands is shown in the following 1915 map:

⁶ National Archives, Washington: St. Stephens, Alabama, Credit Prior 773: February 14, 1816 Matthew Brewer purchased 159.4 acres of land in the district of Pearl River at \$2.00 per acre, which tract was assigned to William Robinson. Payment was completed in 1820; the document is dated September 13, 1824.

⁷ Gillis, Early Inhabitants of the Natchez District, Inhabitants of Mississippi Territory Other Than Natchez, page 117.



In 1817, Matthew Brewer sold half of his Clarke County land to William Robinson. In 1818, Marengo County was created from lands acquired in the Choctaw Cession of 1816. It is possible that the land originally purchased was in Clarke County in 1816 but was incorporated into Marengo County when it was formed in 1818.

Whatever the explanation, Matthew Brewer is listed in Marengo Co AL in the 1830 census. His next-door neighbor was Bazel Gray and other familiar names listed on the same census page were Samuel Hammon and Matthias Hammons. Also in Marengo Co in that census, but not quite so close geographically, were Sherrod Hammons and William Hammons.

Matthew Brewer died in Marengo county on 28 August 1832. His nuncupative will was witnessed by his neighbor Bazzel Gray and Sherrod Hammond.⁸ The will mentions only his widow Mary, his son George, and his minor son Ransom. Other legatees are not specified by name, but the estate settlement mentions Malinda Brewer, as well as Ransom Brewer and Mary Brewer. The administrators of his estate, recorded 15 September 1832, were Bazzel Gray and John Gilmore, Jr.

Many of the people who were mentioned in Matthew Brewer's will and estate settlement were his neighbors both in Alabama and in the Abbeville Co SC - Elbert Co GA area. Thomas Creagh and Aaron Jones, the parties to the deed witnessed by Matthew Brewer in 1800, both owned land in Clarke Co AL, near the land that Matthew purchased in 1816. Bazzel Gray was Matthew's next-door neighbor in Marengo County in 1830 and was also listed in the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery list. John Gilmore, James Gilmore, William Henson, Kinchen Rabia and William Hammons were appraisers of the estate and all of them had lived in the Abbeville-Elberton area around 1800.

⁸Marengo County Alabama Will Book A (1820-1864), pages 154-157.

There seems to be a definite relationship between Matthew Brewer, Bazel Gray, and Samuel Hammond and his four sons. The relationship of Bazel Gray to the Hammonds is obvious—he was father-in-law of three of Samuel Hammond’s sons. The relationship of Matthew Brewer to this group would make sense if his wife was Elizabeth Hammond, first cousin to the four sons of Samuel Hammond, including one of the two witnesses to his will.

The August 1832 court records concerning Matthew’s estate refer to his widow as “Polly,” which was normally a nickname for Mary. However, in the final settlement, recorded in the September 1832 term, the non-cupative will was presented by testimony of Sherod Hammon and Bazel Gray, who referred to Mary Brewer, widow of Matthew Brewer.

In the estate settlement, Matthew’s accounts payable were settled and his assets were “sold” to a variety of people. By far, the major purchaser was Mary Brewer, and the items she purchased were items are those that you would want if you were a widow who was going to continue to operate the farm:

Horse	\$85.00
Colt	\$18.00
Cow and calf	\$ 6.00
Cow and calf	\$ 7.50
Cow and calf	\$ 6.75
Lot farming tools	\$ 5.00
Pr steel yards	\$.62 1/2
Hand mill	\$ 2.00
Fether bed	\$ 11.75
Fether bed	\$ 7.00
2 Chests, 1 trunk	\$ 1.62 1/2
Balance of house furn	\$ 4.62 1/2
Kettle (illeg) castings	\$ 2.75
(Illegible)	\$ 6.12 1/2
Cow and calf	\$ 5.37 1/2
Cow and calf	\$ 9.50

Others who received personal property in the estate distribution were John Gilmore, Kinchen Rabia, John Henson, William Henson, Mathias Hammons, all formerly of the Abbeville-Elberton area or members of the Hammond family.

The name of Matthew’s wife—Elizabeth, Mary or Polly:

A possible resolution to the name problem is that her name was Mary Elizabeth Hammond and that she was called “Polly” by Matthew. It is quite reasonable that Job Hammond might have named his daughter Mary Elizabeth, since that was the name of his grandmother. Mary Elizabeth Jenkins was born 2 May 1726 and died 1 May 1816. She was the mother of Job Hammond Sr. and was still alive when her granddaughter was born in the 1770s. It would not be surprising for her to be called Elizabeth or Polly to avoid confusion with her great grandmother Mary Elizabeth.

Job Hammond’s daughter was recorded only as Elizabeth by Laura Hammond in the early 1900s. But Laura Hammond did not seem to have found much information about her, as she did not record a birth date or the name of her husband.

Since Matthew seems to have participated in Sim's Settlement in 1807, he and Elizabeth would have departed Elbert County soon after their marriage, and it appears that they returned to Abbeville for the 1810 census. Possibly Laura Hammond just did not find a source for a daughter who had disappeared from the local landscape so early on.

Herb Hammond in 1978 recorded her name as Elizabeth and did have the additional family tradition that she had married Matthew Brewer and went west. This recollection is based on oral tradition passed down through the generations and must be viewed with some skepticism. However, what do we make of Herb Hammond's listing a daughter named Polly who "died young." A possible explanation is that Herb had heard, at different times, people speak of Elizabeth and of Polly and jumped to the conclusion that Polly must have died young, when actually Elizabeth and Polly referred to the same woman. This hypothesis would, at least, provide an explanation of the close connection of Matthew Brewer to the Hammond family in Alabama.

The name Mary Elizabeth was used for two other Hammond women in the succeeding generation; a daughter of Herbert Hammond and Elizabeth Rich, b 1833, and the daughter of Samuel Sims Hammond, b 1823.