

# Descendants of Thomas Wells

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## Generation 1

1. **THOMAS<sup>1</sup> WELLS** was born on 10 Sep 1724 in VA. He died in 1776 in Greenville, South Carolina, USA. He married **SUSANNAH COLE**. She was born on 06 Jan 1735 in VA, United States. She died in 1815 in Hickman county, TN.

Thomas Wells and Susannah Cole had the following child:

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  - i. **LEWIS<sup>2</sup> WELLS** was born on 22 Jun 1750. He died on 12 Aug 1846 in Perry County, IL, USA. He married **ELIZABETH BATES**, daughter of John Bates and Anna Smith. She was born in 1750. She died in 1846 in Perry County, IL, USA.

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## Generation 2

2. **LEWIS<sup>2</sup> WELLS** (Thomas<sup>1</sup>) was born on 22 Jun 1750. He died on 12 Aug 1846 in Perry County, IL, USA. He married **ELIZABETH BATES**, daughter of John Bates and Anna Smith. She was born in 1750. She died in 1846 in Perry County, IL, USA.

Notes for Lewis Wells:

Information furnished by Bonnie Ward Williamson on findagrave.com

Most older biographies of Lewis Wells state that he was born in South Carolina. Evidence exists that Lewis was born in Virginia, the only child of Thomas and Susannah Cole Wells. On the 1880 US Census, his son, Giles gave his father's birthplace as Maryland, mother's as Virginia. Possibly these were reversed?

At age three, Lewis' maternal grandfather, John Cole, deeded him land in Lunenburg Co., VA. After his father's death, his mother, Susannah, was remarried to William Gamblin and they moved, with Lewis, from Virginia, to Chatham Co., NC., Lewis later lived in Union Co., SC (where he married Elizabeth Bates), and in Greenville, Co., SC. In the 1790 and 1800 US Censuses in Greenville County, the family of William Gamblin, his step-father, was in close proximity.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION: Lewis served in Colonel Brandon's South Carolina Militia Regiment after the fall of Charleston on May 12, 1780. Their most famous battle was The Battle of the Cowpens, 17 Jan 1781: Col. Andrew Pickens led a force of militia units under the command of Brig. Gen. Daniel Morgan and his Continentals at The Battle of Cowpens. Four militia battalions formed the first line and central core of the militia formation. The Fair Forest Regiment of Col. Thomas Brandon, along with Hayes' Little River Regiment, Thomas' Spartanburg Regiment, and Roebuck's Spartanburg Battalion met the initial onslaught of the British under the hated Banastre Tarleton.

According to eyewitness accounts, Brandon's Fair Forest soldiers were the first ones to fire on the advancing British, and the only ones who had sufficient time to reload and to take a second shot. They then, according to plan, made a quick retreat behind Morgan's Continentals, drawing the British into their range. The militia regiments then reformed and rejoined the fight. Many accounts exist of Fair Forest soldiers wounded in hand-to-hand fighting. Local tradition says that Thomas Brandon set the example for his men by killing three British dragoons with his sword.

The defeat of the British at Cowpens finally drove Cornwallis and his army out of the Carolinas.

The movie, "The Patriot" with Mel Gibson is a fictionalized version of that battle.

In 1786, Lewis received "6 Pounds, 17S/1D1/2 Sterling For Duty Done In Brandon's Regiment After The Fall Of Charleston And Anderson's Return.A.A.8351;X3181."

Tradition has it that, in 1803, Lewis Wells, Thomas Taylor, the three Pyle brothers, Lewis McElvain and maybe others came to Illinois to assess the land and the Indian situation. They returned to Christian County, Kentucky because of Indian hostility. In 1812, some of the group moved into Illinois with their families, settling first near a fort about four miles east of Carbondale, on Crab Orchard Creek, then, later in Perry Co. The 1812 date which is sometimes cited may be a little early for Wells. In 1817, Lewis and Elizabeth sold 514 acres of land in Christian County, Kentucky,

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## Generation 2 (con't)

part of which they had purchased from Abner Pyle in 1812. This might indicate that the Pyles moved first, and the Wells family followed a few years later.

Lewis and Elizabeth were the parents of Lewis Jr., Thomas Bates, Susan, Elijah, Martha Ann (Williams), Sarah (Pyle), Kiziah (McElvain), Mary (Pyle), Elizabeth Bates (Winters), Joseph and Giles.

Notes for Elizabeth Bates:

Information from Bonnie Ward Williamson on [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)

Family legend has it that Elizabeth and her mother were kidnapped by Indians. The following early telling of the story was in a letter from Mary Williamson Bradley to Howard Kimmel. Mary was the daughter of Joan (Pyle) and Frederick Williamson, granddaughter of Jack and Sarah (Wells) Pyle, great-granddaughter of Lewis and Elizabeth (Bates) Wells.

"...It must have been about the time of the Revolution that little Elizabeth Bates was stolen by the Indians. She was 12, the oldest of five children. Her parents had gone to a clear spot in the South Carolina wilderness where they had raised a crop. The group was preparing to return to the settlement, fearing an Indian attack. The father was helping the mother mount a horse when a war whoop broke the stillness.

Mrs. Bates begged her husband and neighbor to run. the women and children were taken prisoners. In camp, in the evening, some of the tribe brought in scalps. Elizabeth knew by the color of the hair and the bloody clothes that her father and his helper had met their deaths.

A little baby brother was born after that. then the Indians continued to retreat with their captives and in attempting to ford the swollen Roanoke River, the baby was drowned. The rest of the family were prisoners about a year.

Finally the whites and Indians exchanged prisoners and the Bates family went back to the home settlement."

Source: Perry Co., Illinois web-site

Note: If Elizabeth was about twelve years old at the time of her capture by Indians, she was most likely taken about 1762. This coincides with the Cherokee War in South Carolina.

Lewis Wells and Elizabeth Bates had the following children:

- i. MARTHA ANN<sup>3</sup> WELLS was born on 28 Apr 1786 in Greenville Co, South Carolina, USA. She died on 11 Oct 1876 in DuQuoin, Perry,IL, USA. She married WILLIAM WILLIAMS on 21 Oct 1802, son of Frederick William Williams and Annah Bryant. He was born on 15 Apr 1774 in , Edgefield, South Carolina, USA. He died on 08 May 1860 in Hopkinsville, Christian, Kentucky, USA.

Notes for Martha Ann Wells:

Info from [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com) furnished by Bonnie Ward Williamson

Martha Wells Williams, sometimes called Patsy, was the daughter of Lewis, a South Carolina militiaman in the American Revolution, and Elizabeth Bates Wells.

Martha married William Williams 21 Oct 1802, probably in Greenville County, South Carolina. William was the son of Fredrick William and Annah Bryant Williams.

Although the precise date is not known, various members of Martha and William's families and neighbors prepared to settle on the western frontier. Tradition has it that, in 1803, Lewis Wells, Thomas Taylor, the three Pyle brothers, Lewis McElvain and maybe others came to Illinois to assess the land and the Indian situation. They opted to settle in Kentucky instead, because of Indian hostility in Illinois.

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## Generation 2 (con't)

Martha and William's two eldest children were born in South Carolina, Susan Elizabeth in 1804 and John Simpson in 1806. Their third child, Frederick, was born in Christian County, Kentucky, so they apparently moved to Kentucky about 1805. William and Martha were the parents of 11 children who lived to adulthood: Susan Elizabeth, John Simpson, Frederick, Ann, Samuel, Richard Westley, William B., Mary, Abner Joseph, Daniel Lewis, and John Hampton.

By about 1812, various members of the Carolina families apparently began to move into southern Illinois. In 1817, Martha's parents sold their land in Christian County, Kentucky, 514 acres on Blue Lick Fork of Little River. Martha and William remained in Christian County until at least 1830.

Sometime between 1830 and 1840, Martha and William apparently separated, and Martha and ten of her children moved to southern Illinois, with only the eldest, Susan Elizabeth, wife of John Thompson Brashear, remaining in Kentucky. The various members of the Williams family acquired several acres of land in Illinois, including land granted to William in early United States patents. We have found no record of a divorce, but, William and Martha apparently remained separated for the rest of their lives.

- ii. SARAH WELLS was born on 30 Aug 1788 in Greenville Co, South Carolina, USA. She died on 22 Jan 1855 in Perry County, IL, USA. She married ABNER PYLE on 23 Oct 1805. He was born on 14 Dec 1778. He died on 22 Jul 1866 in Madison CO, IL, USA.
- iii. KEZIAH WELLS was born on 20 Mar 1790 in Greenville County, SC, USA. She died on 17 Aug 1870 in Allendale, Worth, Missouri, USA. She married ROBERT MCELVAIN, son of Andrew McElvain and Margaret Workman. He was born in 1787. He died in 1856.
- iv. MARY WELLS was born on 29 Mar 1792 in Greenville CO, SC. She died on 22 Jun 1869 in Allendale, Worth, Missouri, USA.