

*BROTHERS ESSERY*  
*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

***Brothers Essery***

A presentation by Gary Essary  
At The Esarey Bicentennial Reunion  
August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, IN

ABSTRACT: Essery family roots are believed to be in Devon England, where the name was spelled "Esworthy," but pronounced, and later spelled, "Essery." The village of Essworthy and the later parishes where the family were recorded are located in the agrarian interior of the county. The particular immigrant known to have arrived in America has not yet been documented there.

James Essary is thought by many to be the ancestor of American Esserys who trace their lineage to the Revolutionary War period or earlier. Four younger Essarys may be considered his sons: John, Jonathan, Joseph, and Thomas. Their earliest records were in present day Delaware County, Pennsylvania. All four were orphaned before attaining the age of majority. The progress of the four retell a diverse history of the United States from Colonial subjects to a Federal Republic.

John joined the War for Independence, following George Rogers Clark through the frontier. He settled in Kentucky and later crossed into Indiana. John's history and family continued to Illinois, Missouri, and California. These families spell the name Esarey, Esrey, and Esry.

Joseph remained in Pennsylvania, where his descendants were still counted into recent times. Joseph's descendants spell the name Esrey or Esray.

Jonathan and Thomas escaped to the frontier, perhaps to avoid the hostilities of the Revolution. After passing through Virginia and North Carolina, Jonathan raised a family in the highlands of South Carolina. Both he and his children moved into the old Northwest Territory before the War of 1812, and Jonathan was last recorded on the Ohio in Warrick County, Indiana. Early descendants migrated to Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri. Today this family goes by Essary, Esry, and Esra.

Thomas followed Jonathan as far as central North Carolina, then moved west and finally crossed into eastern Tennessee before statehood. Thomas' grandchildren spread to Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas. By far the most numerous of modern descendants, all but a few spell the name Essary.

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**1. Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010**

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Thank you.

First, my congratulations to your ancestors for crossing the Ohio two hundred years ago; and my congratulations to you, their descendants, to make this gathering possible. It has been really great to be surrounded by so many Esserys, but it's a little intimidating that you all spell your name funny.

**2. Brothers Essery, An American History in the Lives of a Family**

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When John Esarey crossed the Ohio in 1810, he and his family were not the only Esserys in America. Others may have spelled their name differently, and their descendants may not have maintained a linear tradition, but many share an innate curiosity about those early ancestors who must have known each other.

John Esarey's great-great-grandson Logan Esarey, and later his daughter Myra toiled the better part of the Twentieth Century documenting the family of John Esarey. Their history also included many early records for other Esserys of unknown relation. Myra corresponded with descendants of some of those Esserys, and in the 1980's descendants of those other Esserys began to collaborate with each other in a major way. Based on what has since been learned about these other Esserys, I'm going to describe their adventures in the context of their common American history.

**3. Brothers Essery**

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- The Name, the Place, the Family (5 min)
- King George's War 1740-1748 (4 min)
- The French and Indiana War 1753-1763 (4 min)
- James Essary (2 min)
- A Restless Peace 1763-1776 (8 min)
- The War for Independence 1776-1783 (8 min)
- The Young Republic 1783-1812 (8 min)
- Epilogue (8 min)
- Loose Ends (8 min)
- Q&A (5 min)

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The history we have to cover is barely a hundred years, but it was a busy century for the United States and for the Esserys. After a start in England, we'll explore our Essery ancestors' paths through five historical periods of American history.

**4. The Name, the Place, the Family**

- The Esworths of Devon England
- Dialect of southwestern England
- Early appearance of phonetic "Essery"
- Later phonetic spellings in America
  - Essary, Esarey, Esrey, Esray, Esry, Esra, and others

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## *BROTHERS ESSERY*

*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

Setting the stage in England comes in three parts: the name, the place, and the family. The origin of the Essery name from the Esworthys of Devon, England, is generally well understood today. After years of wide-ranging speculation on the meaning of “Essery,” we learned some years ago that the Esserys of Devon England started out spelling their name “Esworthy.”

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In the dialect of southwestern England, the language is so clipped we might have a hard time understanding, but let me give you a couple of familiar examples. Almost every kitchen in America contains a bottle of “Woostershire” Sauce – Woostershire, spelled “Worcestershire.” A town in Massachusetts actually spells it phonetically – Wooster, Mass.

Many towns in Devon, England end with the suffix “-worthy,” but the “-ry” is about all you hear of it. The town spelled Holsworthy is pronounced “Holsery.” “Luttery” for Lutworthy; “Sellery” for Selworthy; and “Essery” for Esworthy. My personal favorite is the village spelled Woolfardisworthy, but pronounced “Woolsry.”

\*\*\*

The Esworthy name first shows up in parish records in the early 1500’s. The phonetic spelling “E-s-s-e-r-y” showed up soon after and has been the predominant spelling in England since 1700. It is also useful to adopt “E-s-s-e-r-y” as a spelling that refers to all those pronounced similarly, and then use the variant spellings to refer only to particular persons or families in the US.

\*\*\*

Though the earliest records for our ancestors in America spelled E-s-s-e-r-y, other phonetic variations of the name are more common today – E-s-s-a-r-y, E-s-a-r-e-y, E-s-r-e-y, E-s-r-a-y, E-s-r-y, and E-s-r-a. In fact, the spelling E-s-s-e-r-y is not very common in the US today, and almost always refers to an immigrant who arrived after the War for Independence.

### **5. The Name, the Place, the Family**

- Devon, England – a landed middle-class gentry
- The village of Essworthy in 1283
- Meaning “homestead of Ess”
- Location near Hatherleigh
- Agrarian interior of Devon

\*\*\*

Devon is among the largest counties in England, located in the far southwestern corner of the country. It has been inhabited since Roman times by a rural, middle-class gentry with few neighbors of noble birth. Daniel Defoe was impressed by what he saw in southern Devon in 1727 and 1728, but reported that the northern area was wild, barren, and poor.

\*\*\*

Many villages in Devon are “worthy’s.” The earliest document to name Essworthy was in 1283 – spelled “Esworth.” The place was named again, as “Esseworthi” in 1330.

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The suffix “-worthy” signifies the homestead of the person who goes by the given name preceding. So “Essworthy” is the homestead of a person named Ess.

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## BROTHERS ESSERY

*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

The tiny village of Essworthy appears only on the most detailed of maps. It is located just south of Hatherleigh.

\*\*\*

It is in the agrarian interior of Devon, where the life of farmers and herders is very different from their neighbors on the coast. Devon is the only English county with two distinct seacoasts.

### 6. The Name, the Place, the Family

<map>

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England, Scotland, and Wales are the same area as Indiana and Ohio combined. Devon is about the same area as the seven counties in Indiana's southwestern toe. About a third of the current population of a million live in the coastal towns of Exeter and Plymouth.

The inset map shows where Devon is within the island of Britain. The map of Devon shows major towns, including several in Devon and Cornwall that were soon inhabited by Esserys, such as Crediton and Barnstaple, and Morwenstow in Cornwall. The two bright red triangles mark small villages of particular interest to Essery history.

**Essworthy** is just a few steps south of Hatherleigh. It is named only on the most detailed of maps. [Google Earth coordinates 50.802315N 4.067225W. Other place names in Devon are Little Essworthy at 50.920099N 3.588903W, Essworthy Cross at 50.920163N 3.596047E, and Essworthy, Green Lane at 50.483272N 4.097908W.]

**Shobrooke** is the first parish that Esworthy records appear in. It is very near Crediton. [Google Earth Coordinates 50.798393N 3.614365W.]

The detailed Landrover map of north-central Devon on the map table has both these places marked. The less detailed county map notes the first year that Esworthy records appeared in each parish up to 1700.

### 7. The Name, the Place, the Family

- Origin of Patronymic
- Earliest family group, in Shobrooke parish
  - Hugh Esworthy, three children 1540-1545
  - Nicholas Esworthy, seven children 1543-1561
  - Johane Esworthy, m.(1) Robert Moore 1544; m.(2) John Osent 1555
  - Ann Esworthy, m. Thomas Helmer 1546
- Unlikely descendants of Mr. Ess
- Rapid expansion through Devon and Cornwall
- No record for an Essery immigrating to America before Independence

\*\*\*

By the late 16<sup>th</sup> Century in England the use of family names (or patronymics) among commoners became increasingly important for recording and inheriting land. Families adopted a place, a parent's given name, an occupation, or a personal characteristic for this purpose. It is entirely possible that more than one family took the place Essworthy as their family name. In any event, there has to be a first, and one family stands out.

\*\*\*

There were four residents of Shobrooke parish of similar age who were recorded in the early 1500's. Three children christened between 1540 and 1545 were fathered by Hugh Esworthy. Seven children of Nicholas Esworthy were christened between 1543 and 1561.

## *BROTHERS ESSERY*

*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

Johane Esworthy married there in 1544 and again in 1555. Finally, Ann Esworthy married Thomas Helmer in 1546.

It would not be unreasonable to conclude that these four were siblings, or at least first cousins, and that their parents would have been born around 1500. This was the century of Henry the VIII and Queen Elizabeth I, and a time when England finally gained recognition as a world power with the defeat of the Spanish Armada. Keep in mind, however, that the district was somewhat isolated from the Lords and Ladies of the Realm.  
\*\*\*

As the earliest representatives of the Esworthy family, it was still over 200 years since the village was first cited, so it seems unlikely that those from Essworthy who adopted it as a family name were actually descendants of "Mr. Ess"; in fact if they were, the convention would have been to compose a name something like "Ess-son," as in Johnson and Jackson.  
\*\*\*

The family spread to other parishes in Devon and Cornwall before the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and through the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, by which time the Essery spelling had become predominant. It wasn't until the 18<sup>th</sup> Century that the name appeared in any number outside Devon and Cornwall.  
\*\*\*

Despite an extensive compilation of parish records in England through the period of interest when Esserys first showed up in the new World, evidence for a particular Essery who made the journey before the War for Independence is lacking.

### **8. Immigrating to the New World**

- Motivations to immigrate: economy, religion, politics, adventure, ambition
- First half of the 18th Century – to Pennsylvania before 1745
- Suitable New World surroundings

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People left England for America for various reasons - financial, religious, political, or simply for adventure or ambition.

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During the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, all of these forces were present, though economics was a most likely motivation in the uplands of Devon. Based on Daniel Defoe's description of northern Devon in the 1720's, economics may have moved them. Or based on their later religious associations in America, religion could have provoked the move.

\*\*\*

The New World encountered by English immigrants was somewhat different than their former home, though it suited them well. The climate was harsher, but the soil was fertile and there was much of it. Now let's review what was going on in America after the first Essery showed up.

### **9. King George's War, 1740-1748**

- 1744 - War of the Austrian Succession and the third French and Indian War
- July 1746 - Iroquois and Colonials gather in New York
- 1748 - Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle

## BROTHERS ESSERY

*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

***On August 2, 1746, James Essary enlisted in a company of foot commanded by Captain John Shannon of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The muster roll recorded him as age 31, a laborer, born in England.*** (Penn. Archives, Del. Archives, Ill. Archives)

Archives)

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In 1740, after the Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI died without a male heir, war broke out in Europe over who was in charge. The English and the French ended up on opposing sides, as usual, and in 1744 the conflict extended to the French and English colonies of the New World. Called the War of the Austrian Succession in Europe, the English Colonists dubbed it King George's War for their British monarch. It is sometimes called the third French and Indian War.

\*\*\*

The war in both Europe and the US ended in 1748 with the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. From the American's point of view, nothing was accomplished by either side except for great loss of life, in particular, the Massachusetts Colonists who took Fort Louisbourg in Nova Scotia. Under the terms of the Treaty, Britain ceded Fort Louisbourg back to the French in exchange for the return of Madras in India. The Americans were not pleased.

\*\*\*

In July 1746 an Iroquois and Colonial force assembled in northern New York for a retaliatory attack against the French in Canada. When British regulars failed to show up, the attack was called off. After wintering over in Albany, the attack was again delayed. This particular event in King George's war coincides with the appearance of an Essery of record in America.

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On August 2, 1746, James Essary enlisted in a company of foot commanded by Captain John Shannon of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The muster roll recorded him as age 31, a laborer, born in England. This record was transcribed into the Archives of three states.

### **10. King George's War, 1740-1748**

<map>

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This map gives you the geography of James Essary's New York adventure. James Essary's enlistment occurred in Chester County, Pennsylvania. The company commander, Captain Shannon, hailed from neighboring Lancaster County. His enlistment was a month after the initial gathering of militia north of Albany, and troops continued to assemble there. British regulars didn't arrive, so they wintered over. After further delays this force did not deploy before the war ended.

The next event related to Essery history occurred only five years after the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. Both the French and the English had their eyes on the vast, empty lands (at least as they regarded them) south of Canada and west of the Alleghenies.

### **11. The French and Indiana War, 1753-1763**

1753 - French troops march to secure the Ohio valley for France

1763 - Britain gained the Ohio

1755 - A misstep on the road to victory:

## BROTHERS ESSERY

*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

**“Joe Rasberry Essary’s [gr]grandfather was killed at Braddock’s Retreat.”** (Lottie Oliver, Joe’s granddaughter. No British records survived the battle.)

\*\*\*

The French settled in western lands of the Ohio River before the English established an American colony. The British attempted to accommodate French ambitions by forbidding the Colonists to settle west of the Alleghenies, but the Americans would have none of it. In 1753 French troops marched south from Canada to secure the Ohio valley for France.

\*\*\*

The Colonists responded, and this became the war we learned in high school as the French and Indian War. Hostilities eventually were carried back to Europe as the Seven Years War, which finally ended in 1763. The Treaty of Paris of 1763 (also called The Treaty of Peace) resulted in the British gaining not only all the lands between the Ohio and Canada that eventually became the Northwest Territory of the United States, but all of Canada as well. There was, however, one significant misstep on the road to this victory.

\*\*\*

An oral history in one Essery line relates that an ancestor was killed at “Braddock’s Retreat,” or the Battle of the Monongahela. Joe Rasberry Essary, who is the first we know who quoted this story, was born in 1835. Lottie Oliver was a favorite granddaughter of his, and he shared much of his family history with her. Lottie did not name the ancestor. She was my second cousin.

### 12. The French and Indiana War, 1753-1763

<map> Battle of the Monongahela

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On May 29, 1755 General Edward Braddock set out from Cumberland, Maryland with a force of 1300 regulars and militiamen, largely from Virginia, to repel the French at Fort Duquesne in western Pennsylvania. Lieutenant George Washington, who had recruited many of the Virginians who marched, served as Braddock’s aide-de-camp; Daniel Boone was a wagoner in the march. On July 9th the British were completely routed by a much smaller force of French and Indians. Unfortunately all British records of their troops were lost, and we have only received history to rely on.

The British returned in 1758 to take Fort Duquesne from the French, and five years later the matter of which Europeans would advance through the Ohio valley was settled for good. We shall return to Fort Duquesne soon enough.

We now turn to what we know about our Essery ancestor in America at this time.

### 13. James Essary

- ca.1715 - b. England
- 1746 - Pennsylvania and King George’s War
- 1755 - d. at the Battle of the Monongahela
- Next generation of Esserys of Record
  - John
  - Jonathan
  - Joseph
  - Thomas
  - [Nathan?]

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## *BROTHERS ESSERY*

*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

We have now a man named Essary... who was born in England... about 1715;

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who was a member of the Pennsylvania Militia in 1746 in the service of King George II;

\*\*\*

who was killed in Pennsylvania at the Battle of the Monongahela (George II was still King); and who at the time of his death, left no record of children. This does not, however, prevent us from the discovery of younger Esserys who share a certain affinity in their own lives with James Essary.

\*\*\*

It is admittedly a combination of circumstances and wishful thinking that this family group describes the children of an immigrant ancestor named James Essary. Indeed, it is only circumstances that allow us to assume that the James Essary of the Pennsylvania Militia and the unnamed Essary under General Braddock's command are the same person. However, we shall proceed with the circumstances and the assumptions and ask for forgiveness later

The list includes a Nathan Essery, for whom circumstances are lacking to include in this group, and will be described later.

Now, I realize that many people consider John and Jonathan to be the same name. Isn't John just a nickname for Jonathan? Among the Esserys in the America, apparently not. There are several examples of brothers John and Jonathan living in the same household together, including descendants of John Esarey of Perry County. And the nickname for Jonathan is spelled J-o-n.

### **14. James Essary**

The inevitable conclusion of assembling this family group under the presumed James Essary is that his children were orphaned before any attained the age of majority. There is little to suggest their fate over the next twenty years. In any event, the care of these few known must have been well tended to, considering the outcome of their later lives.

\*\*\*

The inevitable conclusion of assembling this family group under the presumed James Essary is that his children were orphaned before any attained the age of majority. There is little to suggest their fate over the next twenty years. But in any event, the care of these few known, and there were probably others, must have been well tended to, considering the outcome of their later lives. There were likely others, but these are the only ones who left records we can identify.

The years following the French and Indian War were not entirely peaceful.

### **15. A Restless Peace, 1763-1776**

With British and French interests settled for the moment, British and their American Colonies' economic and political ambition soon collided.

- The Boston massacre - March 5, 1770
- 1st Continental Congress - accommodation
- Battle at Lexington Green - April 19, 1775
- 2nd Continental Congress - independence
- Esserys present before the Declaration:

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## *BROTHERS ESSERY*

*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

George III succeeded his grandfather George II in 1760. The French were no longer a significant threat to the Americans, but the British treasury was now drained, from adventures in Europe as well as in the New World. The British Parliament resorted to taxing the American Colonies for their (quote) protection from the Indians. Events of the following years eventually led to an historic impasse.

\*\*\*

The cascade of events we all learned in high school included the Boston Massacre in 1770 and the Boston Tea Party in 1773 (and other colonies had their own version of this revolt against the tea tax).

\*\*\*

In the fall of 1774, the First Continental Congress, in session for only two months, sought an accommodation with the English Crown regarding what they considered unjust taxes and other commercial and political misdeeds. Unfortunately, the British Parliament rebuffed their pleas.

\*\*\*

The situation between Colonists and British deteriorated, and in April of 1775 British regulars opened fire on Colonists who had gathered on Lexington Green to protect their property and their families. What might otherwise have been considered a minor skirmish between civilians and military, we now know as the shot heard round the world. The British regulars proceeded to Concord to seize the Colonists weapons, but had to withdraw to Boston after engaging the larger Colonial force.

\*\*\*

Within twenty-one days (without jet planes or the internet), representatives of the thirteen colonies convened in a gathering of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress in Philadelphia. In June the Congress unanimously appointed George Washington commander of a colonial army to confront British troops, beginning in Boston.

There was anything but unanimity on how the colonies should respond to the British challenge; but after fourteen months of heated negotiation, a Declaration of Independence was unanimously adopted. John Adams accurately predicted, "There will be fireworks."

\*\*\*

Before we proceed to this next declared war, let's check in on what our Essery cousins have been up to since the Treaty of Peace.

### **16. A Restless Peace, 1763-1776**

- John in Chester County, PA, 1766-1769
- Married Sarah Hester Clark, June 1776
- Chester County? Or Forks of the Yough?
- A Romantic triangle

\*\*\*

John is cited several times as a laborer in Chester County, Pennsylvania, from 1766-1769. Chester County is the location of many early Essery records. When towns are named in the record, they are generally towns in the eastern part of the county that became Delaware County in 1789.

\*\*\*

He married Sarah Hester Clark in June of 1776. He was 31, and his young bride only 18.

\*\*\*

## *BROTHERS ESSERY*

*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

They were married in Delaware County according to the Bible record (which would have been Chester County at the time), though a received tradition places the event at the forks of the Yough in western Pennsylvania.

\*\*\*

According to family lore, a brother of John (sometimes cited as Joseph, who was actually much nearer her age) also courted Sarah Hester. The ill will was great enough that after John and Sarah's marriage, John vowed never to spell his family name the same as his brother.

### **17. A Restless Peace, 1763-1776**

<map>

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The Forks of the Yough [pronounced "yoke"] is how the locals referred to the confluence of the Monongahela and Youghiogheny Rivers, about sixteen miles southeast of the Monongahela's juncture with the Allegheny River (Pittsburgh today) to form the Ohio.

### **18. The French and Indiana War, 1753-1763 [same as 12.]**

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Recognize this map? The Forks of the Yough is only ten miles south of Fort Duquesne. Make of it what you will, but these two stories came from branches of the Essery family that haven't known each other since it happened.

### **19. A Restless Peace, 1763-1776**

- Jonathan married Mary, early 1760's.
- A freeman in Chester County, 1768
- Four children before 1776
- One said to be born in Virginia, 1765

\*\*\*

Considering later records that establish a family group for Jonathan, he and Mary must have married in the early 1760's.

\*\*\*

Jonathan Essery was enumerated as a freeman in 1768 in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

\*\*\*

Later records reveal that four children were born before the Declaration: Joseph, Thomas, Sarah Harriet, and Abner.

\*\*\*

Sarah Harriet Essary is said to have been born in Orange County, Virginia, about 1765. It is not clear when Jonathan and Mary left Pennsylvania for Virginia, but Jonathan is recorded in Virginia before the end of the War for Independence.

### **20. A Restless Peace, 1763-1776**

<map>

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At its formation in 1734 Orange County, Virginia, consisted of the present day county, west to the Blue Ridge, plus all of Virginia lying west of the Blue Ridge (including present day West Virginia, Kentucky, and southeastern Ohio). Even though a few other

## *BROTHERS ESSERY*

*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

counties were formed west of the Blue Ridge before the War for Independence, they were so sparsely settled that business of the new counties was sometimes conducted in Orange County.

### **21. A Restless Peace, 1763-1776**

- Joseph not in public record before Declaration
- Married Hannah Haley about 1776
- Evidence he remained in Chester County

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Joseph was not cited in the public record before the Declaration of Independence, though he was 23 at the time.

\*\*\*

However, it is clear that he married Hannah Haley sometime before early 1776, both apparently residents of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Though nine years John's junior, their marriage at around the same time suggests the emotional tangle that led to the estrangement of brothers.

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Lacking any other record, Joseph apparently remained in Chester County.

### **22. A Restless Peace, 1763-1776**

<map>

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Joseph's position in Chester County remains fixed during the time leading up to the Declaration.

### **23. A Restless Peace, 1763-1776**

- Thomas not in record or tradition before 1776
- Evidence that he accompanied Jonathan

\*\*\*

Thomas, the youngest of the family group, is not cited at all by record or received history before the signing of the Declaration. He would have been only about twenty-one at the time of the Declaration.

\*\*\*

Later records suggest that he was likely with his older brother Jonathan.

Now we can move on to the events of the War for Independence.

### **24. The War for Independence, 1776-1783**

- Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776
- Patriots, Royalists, and the uncommitted
- Treaty of Paris of 1783
- All Esserys now accounted for

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By July 4, 1776, armed hostility between the British and the Colonists was already underway, as we have already seen. Colonial leaders had finally agreed to fight for a full separation from Britain.

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## *BROTHERS ESSERY*

*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

However, sentiment among the general population was anything but unanimous. Factions were about equally divided between Patriots, Royalists, and those who just wanted to stay out of the way.

\*\*\*

After more than six years of fighting, the Treaty of Paris of 1783 declared the Thirteen Colonies to be free, sovereign, and independent States. It was ratified by the Congress of the Confederation January 14, 1784.

\*\*\*

All four Esserys were accounted for before the signing of the Treaty. Their paths during the war were, however, very different.

### **25. The War for Independence, 1776-1783**

- John was a Patriot
- Thomas Paxton's Company of Rangers, 1776
- George Rogers Clark, 1782
- John and Sarah's first two children

\*\*\*

John was a Patriot. Not only was he recorded in at least two engagements in arms against England, he has been enrolled by descendants as a DAR Patriot.

\*\*\*

On September 16, 1776, in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, John enlisted in Captain Thomas Paxton's Company of Rangers, serving 59 days as a Corporal. Thomas Paxton's Company of Rangers had a colorful history worth reading.

\*\*\*

In October 1782 John enlisted in Jefferson County (Virginia at the time) serving for five weeks with the Virginia Militia with James Samuel under George Rogers Clark. He was discharged two months later, and a preliminary peace between Britain and the Colonists was signed five days after that.

\*\*\*

John and Sarah Hester Clark, who married just before the Declaration, had a daughter Sarah and a son James before the War ended.

### **26. The War for Independence, 1776-1783**

<map>

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Bedford Co., Pennsylvania, where John enlisted in Thomas Paxton's Company, consisted of a large tract just east of Pittsburgh, extending half-way to New York.

Jefferson Co., Virginia, was formed from part of Kentucky Co. in 1780. It consisted of approximately the middle third of Kentucky above the Green River until 1784. Kentucky did not become a state until 1792.

### **27. The War for Independence, 1776-1783**

- Jonathan in Virginia
- Tories and Quakers in upper New River, 1778-1780
- Move to Chatham County, North Carolina
- Reedy Fork of Big Brush Creek, 1779 & 1782
- Three more sons

*BROTHERS ESSERY*  
*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

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Jonathan's first record after the Declaration appears in Virginia near the end of the war.

\*\*\*

Around 1778-80, Jonathan is named in both a list of Tories and a list of Quakers in the upper New River Area of Montgomery County, Virginia. This would be in present day Grayson County in far western Virginia, west of the Blue Ridge.

Tories were openly Royalist in their Revolutionary sentiments. Quakers, because they generally refused any armed conflict, were considered suspect.

\*\*\*

Jonathan moved on to North Carolina, perhaps because of the threat from Patriots in Virginia.

\*\*\*

In 1779 Jonathan purchased 150 acres on the Reedy Fork of Big Brush Creek. Recorded in Chatham County, the tract lay very near the border with Randolph County, in the central uplands of North Carolina. He purchased another 150 acres there in 1782.

\*\*\*

Three more sons born at the end (or shortly after this period) were Nathan, Jonathan, and Isaac. [The considerable span of years before these three sons were born suggests further research.]

### **28. The War for Independence, 1776-1783**

<map>

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The New River falls west from northwestern North Carolina, cutting across Allegheny ridges through scenic canyons as it falls to the Ohio. I've been told that river rafting there is a great adventure today.

The Reedy Fork of Big Brush Creek is located just inside Chatham Co. on its border with Randolph Co. The range of both these counties remain essentially unchanged since the arrival of the Essarys.

### **29. The War for Independence, 1776-1783**

- Joseph remained in Pennsylvania
- Fourth Class in Penn. Militia, 1781 & 1782
- Not a DAR Patriot
- First four children

\*\*\*

Joseph is found only in Pennsylvania – Chester County during the War for Independence.

\*\*\*

There are four records showing Joseph as a 4th Class in the Pennsylvania Militia during the closing period of the War in 1781 and 1782. He was in his late twenties.

\*\*\*

However, he has not been entered as a DAR Patriot.

\*\*\*

Four children were born of Joseph and Mary between November of 1776 and the end of the War: John, Margaret, Elizabeth, and William.

### **20. The War for Independence, 1776-1783**

<map>

\*\*\*

Joseph was the brother who stayed behind.

### **31. The War for Independence, 1776-1783**

- Thomas in Virginia
- Tories in upper New River, 1778-1780
- In North Carolina with Jonathan
- Married around 1778
- First four children before 1783 in NC

\*\*\*

Thomas is finally documented, and he's in Virginia.

\*\*\*

He was named in the same list of Tories as Jonathan (around 1778-80 in the upper New River area).

\*\*\*

He was also cited as a witness in Chatham County, North Carolina in 1782 in a sale of land adjoining Jonathan Essary.

This early connection between Thomas and Jonathan persisted in later records after the end of the Revolution. It seems clear that Jonathan is somewhat older than Thomas.

\*\*\*

Thomas' first marriage around 1778 was to an unknown wife, believed to be of Indian extraction.

\*\*\*

Their four children were born before the end of the War for Independence, in Chatham County, North Carolina: Margaret, James, Hannah, and John.

### **32. The War for Independence, 1776-1783**

<map>

\*\*\*

Thomas followed Jonathan as far as North Carolina. We shall see that they parted ways after the War for Independence.

It took the new nation a few years to get organized, and twenty-nine years before war again interrupted their progress.

### **33. The Young Republic, 1783-1812**

- Articles of Confederation of 1781
- The Constitutional Convention of 1787
- The United States Constitution, June 21, 1788
- Increasing tension and hostility between British and American trading interests, 1812
- The Second War for Independence, or Mr. Madison's War

\*\*\*

At the end of the War for Independence, the new republic was governed by the Articles of Confederation adopted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress in 1781 (two years before the end of the war). After several years struggling to manage a confederacy of independent states without a strong central government,

*BROTHERS ESSERY*  
*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

\*\*\*

a Constitutional Convention was called in 1787.

\*\*\*

After a year of heated debate and impassioned pleas for public support, the United States Constitution we know today was ratified by all thirteen states June 21, 1788. George Washington was elected the first President by the electoral college the following spring.

\*\*\*

Increasing tension and hostility between British and American trading interests eventually led to the US declaration of war against the British, June 18, 1812:

\*\*\*

the Second War for Independence, or Mr. Madison's War (depending on your politics). In these intervening twenty-nine years, the brothers Essery finished raising their families. Only Joseph did not survive, having died in 1808.

### **34. The Young Republic, 1783-1812**

- John and Sarah had seven more children
- Crossed the Ohio River into Indiana Territory, 1810

\*\*\*

John and Sarah had seven more children, with Jesse being the last, born in 1800.

\*\*\*

In 1810 they crossed the Ohio River into Indiana Territory, settling near Branchville, Indiana. They were among the earliest settlers in the area.

### **35. The Young Republic, 1783-1812**

<map>

The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 defined how the Northwest Territory would be organized. The Indiana Territory was formed in 1800, consisting of all the Northwest except Ohio. Michigan Territory was formed in 1805 and Illinois Territory in 1809, leaving Indiana Territory in essentially its present day form before 1810. The seat of government was Vincennes on the Wabash River.

Hardin Co., Kentucky was formed in 1793. Bullitt Co., Kentucky, was organized in 1797. (Meade Co., Kentucky wasn't organized until 1824, in part from Hardin Co.)

Before 1814 Branchville was in Knox County, which consisted of all of Indiana Territory except for three counties on the Ohio between Corydon and Ohio. Perry Co. was organized in 1814, and Indiana Territory was admitted as a state in 1816.

### **36. The Young Republic, 1783-1812**

- Jonathan and Mary's daughter Mary, 1786
- North Carolina to South Carolina, 1790
- Edgefield County to Abbeville County, 1799
- Bethel Association in South Carolina
- Slavery in South Carolina
- Sold South Carolina property, 1802
- Pendleton Co., South Carolina
- Warrick Co., Indiana

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*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

\*\*\*

Jonathan and Mary's last child, a daughter, was born in 1786. Available evidence suggests that they were still in North Carolina at the time.

\*\*\*

Soon after Mary was born, Jonathan relocated his family to South Carolina, where they were recorded in the census of 1790, and Jonathan sold his last parcel of land in North Carolina in November of that year.

\*\*\*

They moved to Edgefield County, where they lived until 1802. Their farm was located just a few miles north of Limestone, South Carolina. This was very near the line separating Edgefield and Abbeville County, and some of their records identified them as residents of Abbeville County.

\*\*\*

While living in South Carolina, Jonathan served as a messenger to The Bethel Association. The Bethel Association consisted of Baptist churches from Abbeville to Greenville, South Carolina. There were three active religious groups in northwestern South Carolina, though only a distinct minority of the population claimed any formal affiliation. Baptist ministers were typically local farmers without specialized training who felt called to their part-time vocation. Methodists relied on circuit riding ministers; some but not all were ordained. Presbyterians were typically served by itinerant ministers otherwise employed by whoever might use their manual skills; Presbyterians generally insisted on ordination of ministers.

\*\*\*

The ministers were generally anti-slavery, but they had to walk a fine line to maintain their welcome among slave-holding neighbors. There is no record that Jonathan (or any other Essery, for that matter) ever owned slaves. There were few slave owners in Edgefield and Abbeville, but by 1800 the recent invention of the cotton gin had made upland cotton a viable cash crop, increasing the value of slaves for the production of cotton.

\*\*\*

In 1802 Jonathan, now about sixty years old, sold his land in Edgefield County. His youngest child Mary was at 16 now eligible, and she married William Baker in South Carolina.

\*\*\*

These Bakers migrated north, first to Pendleton Co., South Carolina, before 1810, then to Warrick County, Indiana, about 1815. Jonathan appears to have accompanied them, as he was enumerated alongside them in Warrick County in 1820. At an age at least approaching 80, that is the last record we know of him.

Jonathan and his son Nathan are known by their spelling of "E-s-s-a-r-y." His other children go by the spelling "E-s-r-a," but pronounced "Ezra" according to descendants.

### **37. The Young Republic, 1783-1812**

<map>

\*\*\*

The map shows Jonathan's path to Indiana in pastel because proof is lacking that he arrived there before 1820.

### **38. The Young Republic, 1783-1812**

## BROTHERS ESSERY

*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

- Joseph and Hannah had eight more children by 1801
- Moved from Willis Town to Newton
- Lifelong resident of Delaware County

\*\*\*

Joseph and Hannah had eight more children by 1801, all born in Delaware County.

\*\*\*

Public records for Joseph during this period show that they moved from Willis Town to New Town. Delaware County, where both of these towns are located, was organized in 1789.

\*\*\*

Joseph and Mary were lifelong residents of Delaware County. Their family group was published in at least two histories of the area, though with little elaboration on their lives there.

Joseph and his children, excepting his eldest son John, maintained the spelling “E-s-r-e-y.” John and his descendants consistently go by “E-s-r-a-y.”

### **39. The Young Republic, 1783-1812**

<map>

\*\*\*

Joseph is again the brother who chose to stay behind.

### **40. The Young Republic, 1783-1812**

- Thomas remarried, September 28, 1786
- Chatham County, North Carolina
- Purchased land in Knox County, Tennessee, 1795
- Both Tennessee and North Carolina until 1811
- West to Warren County, Tennessee

\*\*\*

Thomas married a second time to Elizabeth McDaniel in 1786. Their marriage was recorded in Randolph County, which was and is adjacent to Chatham County where they lived.

\*\*\*

They lived in Chatham County, perhaps on the land that Jonathan left when he moved to South Carolina. Any record of his land dealings there haven't been discovered.

\*\*\*

In 1795 he purchased 100 acres from developer Stockley Donnelson in Knox County, Tennessee, establishing the first homestead of the so-called Tennessee Essarys, shortly before Tennessee became a state.

\*\*\*

Thomas also had land in far western North Carolina on Blythe Mill Creek in Buncombe County, a little creek in present day Transylvania County, the same neck of the woods where Jonathan Essary's oldest daughter Sarah Hariett Essary Galloway's family settled.

Thomas and Elizabeth lived in both Tennessee and North Carolina until 1811,

\*\*\*

at which time they last sold land in North Carolina and moved west to Warren County, Tennessee, where he died in the 1820's.

The descendants of Thomas, with few exceptions, spell the name “E-s-s-a-r-y.”

#### **41. The Young Republic, 1783-1812**

<map>

\*\*\*

Knox County in 1795 included land south of Knoxville to the Tennessee River, which was the demarcation with Indian treaty lands. According to tradition Thomas and his sons intermarried with the Indians, and the Tennessee location suggests a continued friendly relation with their Native American neighbors.

Present day Buncombe County is located north of Transylvania, but at the time it contained the larger part of the western toe of North Carolina.

#### **42. Epilogue, 1812-1830**

<map>

\*\*\*

After the War of 1812, the children and grandchildren of these four Esserys continued westward through the Settlement Period. By 1830 there were Esserys in Illinois and western Tennessee. By 1850 Esserys had made it to Alabama, Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas, and California.

#### **43. Epilogue, 1812-1830**

JOHN ESAREY

Sarah (1778-1857; m. Richard Willett)

James (1780-1802?)

Jonathan Davis (1783-1858; m. Sarah Wiley, Frances Hammack, Catherine Gaddis)

Elizabeth (1785-1846; m. Benjamin Shaver)

Abigail (1788-1841; m. Isaiah Horton, Roswell Minor)

Hannah (1791-1845; m. Peter Shaver, Enoch Davis, Joseph Buchanan, Thomas Shinn)

Nancy (1794-1852; m. Arthur Forster)

Hester (1797-1826; m. William Forster, Adam Cox)

Jesse (1800-1855; m. Hannah Forster)

\*\*\*

John Esarey's descendants are the best documented of any Esserys in the US, and I'll leave their adventures to others here. There has been some progress in extending the history documented by Logan and Myra Esarey, particularly for Abigail Esarey Horton's line.

John moved on to the Wabash north of Vincennes, and to Clark County, Illinois before 1820. Jonathan Davis remained in Branchville for the rest of his life.

Sarah, Elizabeth, and Abigail all married in Kentucky before John crossed the Ohio. Only Abigail later moved to Indiana.

The fate of James Esarey is not known. There are conflicting stories over whether he survived.

Hannah, Nancy, Hester, and Jesse accompanied John to Illinois. Jesse and his family later moved on to Missouri, and several of Jesse's children made it to California.

John and his son Jonathan are known by the spelling "E-s-a-r-e-y." His son Jesse adopted the spelling "E-s-r-e-y," and a few of his descendants shortened the name further

## BROTHERS ESSERY

*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

to “E-s-r-y.” In the 1820 census for John and his son Jesse in Clark Co., Illinois, the enumerator spelled the name “E-s-s-a-r-e-y.”

### 44. Epilogue, 1812-1830

JONATHAN ESSARY

Joseph (1760's-?)

Thomas (1760's-?)

Sarah Harriet (1765-1842; m. William D. Galloway)

Abner (1776-1814; m. Keziah Jones)

Nathan (1780's-?; m. Eleanor)

Jonathan (1780's-?; m. Elizabeth Evans)

Isaac (1780's-?)

Mary (1786-1857; m. William Baker)

\*\*\*

There is no written record or received history to substantiate Jonathan's family group. However, the circumstantial evidence from available records is compelling. Each of the siblings named has records and/or received history that coincides in place and time with Jonathan's known history.

1. Joseph Essery is known only by his 1800 enumeration as a neighbor of Jonathan in South Carolina. He may be the father of Thomas (1787) Esry, whose modern descendants are well known.
2. Jonathan's son Thomas Essery is represented by a single census enumeration in Livingston Co., Kentucky. There is no precedent nor antecedent for this person as an Essery or otherwise. In other words, this Thomas is speculative.
3. \*Sarah Harriet Essary and William Galloway's descendants are well documented. Essarys and Galloways were side-by-side in Transylvania Co., NC (Buncombe Co. until 1838). Galloway brothers (Scots-Irish/Ulster Scots) arrived in Pennsylvania in 1741 (though without a history in Chester Co.).
4. \*Abner Essary/Esra, with South Carolina records simultaneous to Jonathan, arrived in Ohio in 1804. One son came to Tippecanoe Co., IN (Lafayette). Abner as well as his son Thomas recorded service in the War of 1812.
5. \*Nathan Essary arrived in Lawrence Twp, Marion Co. (NE Indianapolis) in the 1820's. His son John (1801) Essary's family was dubbed the “Allisonville Essarys” by Myra Esarey. John left a trail of records in the county describing a rather successful, if colorful, history – an innkeeper, a lawyer, a miller, and he was cited at least once for gaming. Nathan's son Thomas (1812) is his only son with known modern descendants, though none remain in Indiana.
6. \*Jonathan served War of 1812 in Ohio. Moved to Indiana 1820's, finally to Lafayette, Indiana, area. Descendants live around Crawfordsville. One descendant is a proprietor of a restaurant in Zionsville, Indiana, where I live.
7. Isaac's only references are 1820 and 1830 census enumerations in Ohio, which suggest descendants, but none are known.
8. \*Mary Esra's family is well-documented from Warrick Co., IN, where the Bakers settled before statehood (Knox Co., at the time). She married William Baker when they both lived in South Carolina. They later moved to Pendleton County, South Carolina, and finally joined Baker siblings Warrick County, Indiana in the 1810's. Her father Jonathan's last public record was his enumeration next-door to William and Mary Esra Baker.

## BROTHERS ESSERY

*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

### 45. Epilogue, 1812-1830

JOSEPH ESREY

John (1776-1865; m. Rebecca Watson)

Margaret (1778-?; m. Robert Wright)

Elizabeth (1780-?)

William (1780-<1816; m. Lydia)

Joseph (1785-1866; m. Mary, Margaret)

Sarah (1787-1805)

Jonathan (1791-1851; m. Margaret Newlin, Jane Hawkins,  
Elizabeth)

Mary (1793-?)

Richard (1796-1869)

Ann (1799-?)

Sidney (1801-?)

\*\*\*

Joseph Esrey's marriage and family group are the subject of two credible 19th-Century reports. There are minor inconsistencies between them, but contemporary records corroborate his family shown here. Joseph's genealogy is unique among all Esserys in that it doesn't stray far from southeastern Pennsylvania until modern times. It is also unique in that there is virtually no correspondence with modern descendants.

1. \*John Esrey raised a family of eleven in Delaware Twp, then moved to Philadelphia, last recorded at the age of 84 as a farm hand. His descendants remain in Pennsylvania.
2. \*Margaret and Robert Wright's eight children were raised in Delaware Co. Their son Mifflin was contracted to build the 1870 school there.
3. Elizabeth was enumerated in 1790 and 1800 in Delaware Co. Her marriage is unknown.
4. \*William Essery/Ezra strayed to northeastern Pennsylvania, and his children to New York. He died young at age 35.
5. \*Joseph was a prosperous farmer in Delaware County. He survived until after the Civil War.
6. Sarah died at age 17.
7. \*Jonathan Esrey, a prosperous farmer with a large family, was also a sheriff of Delaware County. His son David Reese became a wealthy manufacturer after the Civil War, and the namesake of several descendants.
8. Mary Esrey, recorded only by Joseph's biographers, did not survive.
9. \*Richard Esrey, a stone mason, never married, and died of dropsy at age 74.
10. Ann is known only by Joseph's biographers and her enumeration in the 1800 census.
11. Sidney's only record is from Joseph's biographers.

### 46. Epilogue, 1812-1830

Margaret (ca1775-?; m. Hughes)

James (1779-1859; m. Elizabeth Charles)

Hannah (ca1780->1850; m. Renshaw)

John (ca.1782-1872; m. Susannah Hankins, Mary Eavia Carter)

David (ca1790-<1840; m. Sarah Ellender)

Abner (1790's-?)

*BROTHERS ESSERY*

*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

Martha "Patsey" (ca1795->1860; m. Thomas Anderson)

Thomas (ca1795-c1845; m. Sarah)

Joseph (1802-1865; m. Fannie Irving)

Benjamin (1812-1887; m. Elizabeth Graves Smith)

Elizabeth (ca1814-1885; m. William Osborn Wood)

\*\*\*

Thomas was orphaned as an infant, perhaps even born an orphan. Whatever care he received to maturity, his first public records occurred alongside his older brother Jonathan, first in Virginia and later in North Carolina. Thomas raised his children in an Indian-friendly environment, and there are no descendants without a Native American tradition – many from multiple lines. Thomas' sons James and John had 234 grandchildren between them, and account for almost half of all James (ca1715) Essary's modern descendants.

Thomas was my third-great-grandfather, which makes me a fifth cousin, something removed, to the other Esserys in this room.

1. \*Margaret and her unknown husband Hughes had only one daughter, who married an Essary first cousin. She was widowed young and lived to around age 80 in northeastern Mississippi.
2. \*James' 1850 census recorded Pennsylvania as his birthplace. His only children (of fourteen) to survive the 1880 census say North Carolina. James and his son James L. were public leaders of Warren/Cannon Co., Tennessee. The family was driven from their Tennessee home as "half-breeds," first to Illinois, others later to Missouri. Nevertheless he lived his last years in Tennessee and northwestern Alabama, where records document his family group.
3. \*Hannah Essary Renshaw/Rencher/Rancher was widowed at a young age, and lived to her 70's, also in northeastern Mississippi. Her son William murdered his cousin William Essary when they were teenagers. William was the son of Hannah's brother John Hopper Essary.
4. \*John Hopper Essary had eighteen children by two wives. He served War of 1812 in Alabama under Andrew Jackson. After nine children in Roane Co., Tennessee, he moved west to Henderson Co. as a commissioner appointee of the new county. He remarried and had nine more children. He lived as a gunsmith in New Orleans while awaiting Austin's return from Mexico City. Only his second family settled in Texas, where he was a JP in the 1850's. He retired to Mississippi, remarried a third time, and finally returned to Henderson Co., Tennessee, where he died at age 90. His son David left half today's Essarys in Alcorn Co., MS. John Hopper was my great-great-grandfather.
5. \*David Essary is known only by received history, though his wife and children are well documented in the public record. After his death in Henderson County, his widow and children moved to Mississippi, where his descendants are the other half the Essarys in Alcorn Co., MS.
6. Abner Essary's only record is his 1830 census records in Illinois and later tax records in Arkansas. The census record suggests a daughter, but no descendants are known. His inclusion as son of Thomas is speculative.
7. Patsey Essary married Thomas Anderson in Roane Co., Tennessee. Only three of nine children of Martha and Thomas Anderson are identified. They also moved to Henderson County..

## *BROTHERS ESSERY*

*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

8. \*Thomas Essary raised four sons, first in Warren Co., Tennessee, then Henderson Co., Tennessee. Descendants of three are known. All left Tennessee.
9. \*Joseph Essary settled in Henderson Co., Tennessee, and his descendants are the Essarys who stayed in Henderson County.
10. \*Benjamin Essary settled in Hardeman Co., Tennessee, founding the town of Essary Springs, which thrived for many years with spas, a college, and other businesses essential to a prosperous community.
11. \*Elizabeth Essary and William Osborn Wood raised their family of eleven in Henderson Co., Tennessee.

### **47. Epilogue**

<map>

\*\*\*

This brief history leads us to the era when Essery connections to the present are better known. Although these brothers did not leave many records in their first hundred years, it is sufficient to see how their lives related to the history of the country they lived in.

Now there are just a few loose ends I would like to address before closing.

### **48. Loose Ends**

Nathan Essary/Esworthy

The Necessary-Essarys

DNA Genealogy

Post-Revolutionary Esserys

Missouri Esserys

\*\*\*

1. Nathan Essary or Esworthy is often named among the early Esserys of Delaware County, Pennsylvania. There is in fact a well documented Nathan Esworthy born about 1758 there. His earliest records, however, do not make this Nathan a candidate to be a son of James (ca.1715) Essary. If he is a descendant, he could be a descendant of Jonathan or some other unnamed son of James.

\*\*\*

2. Joseph Necessary and several sons of Thomas Necessary, both sons of William Henry Necessary, migrated from Russell County, Virginia, to Claiborne County, Tennessee, shortly after the civil war. They changed their family name to Essary, the name used by all their descendants. According to a family tradition, their ancestors were named Essary, but one changed his name to Necessary because of some trouble with the law. I recall my own uncle saying he though we might have Necessary roots. I dismissed the story as preposterous without even writing it down, and then learned years later there were Necessarys who had heard the same story. To further confuse matters, early Essery historians referred to the Virginia Necessarys simply as Essarys. Roots in Claiborne County, as well as Fentress County, Tennessee, are a signature for Necessary-Essarys. About 8% of the “E-s-s-a-r-y” spelling in the US descend from William Henry Necessary. They are nevertheless not related to us.

\*\*\*

3. It is easy to prove a non-relationship based on genealogical DNA testing. It is difficult to prove a positive relationship. a) DNA testing so far proves that Esserys probably do not share a common ancestor with Usserys later than European settlement of the New World. (The Usserys have been here about a hundred years

## *BROTHERS ESSERY*

*Esarey Bicentennial Reunion, August 7-8, 2010, Tell City, Indiana*

longer, and there are about twice as many Usserys as Esserys in the US.) b) It proves that Esserys and Necessarys (including their descendants who adopted the name Essary) have different ethnic origins. c) And it suggests a reasonable probability that Essarys and Esareys have a very recent common ancestor.

\*\*\*

4. Esserys continued to immigrate to the United States after the War for Independence. Some came from Canada, having arrived there earlier from England, and others came directly from England. Even though our own earliest ancestors name was often written E-s-s-e-r-y, with few exceptions, the spelling "E-s-s-e-r-y" today indicates an ancestor who arrived after the War for Independence. Although we likely share a common ancestor with them, he would have lived before out James Essary arrived in Pennsylvania.

\*\*\*

5. I am often asked about relationships among Missouri Esserys. Esserys with Missouri roots often confuse each other. The three distinct Essery families of Missouri are 1) the original John Esarey's son Jesse Esarey/Esrey/Esry and descendants, of Ray County, Missouri; 2) descendants of Thomas (1787) Esry in Randolph, Macon, and Boone Counties (Thomas is likely a great-grandson of Jonathan); and 3) descendants of James Essary of the Tennessee Essarys, in counties surrounding Springfield in southwestern Missouri. Regardless of spelling, county of origin is a reliable signature for which branch is indicated.

### **49. Q&A**

\*\*\*

The list of researchers who contributed to this presentation are too numerous to name. But let me mention just a handful of key collaborators, knowing you are unlikely to recall their names tomorrow morning.

Logan and Myra Esarey, of course, you might say started it all.

J.C. Essary began the earliest serious effort to reconnect the Tennessee Essarys. He knocked on the doors of many strangers in the 1950's and '60's.

John Usry published a 1970's newsletter that included many Essery connections and the clue to the Esworths (the resulting web site still has a webmaster)

Warren Dale Essary has probably forgotten more than most of us will ever know about the Tennessee Essarys. He wins the travel award to courthouses and doorsteps across the country. He also laid the groundwork for fleshing out the previously undetected story of brother Jonathan Essary described here.

And as I said, too many more to name.

**QUESTIONS POSED AFTER THE PRESENTATIONS**

1) How was the Battle of Fort Necessity related to the Battle of the Monongahela?

In 1754, a year before the 1755 Battle of the Monongahela, Lt. Col. George Washington attempted to reach the British fort at the Forks of the Ohio (Pittsburgh). He learned en route that the French had already occupied the fort – they subsequently reconstructed their own fort there, named Fort Duquesne after their governor. So Washington's troops built Fort Necessity some miles short of the Forks. The French soon advanced upon them and drove them out. This was George Washington's only defeat. The British decided to defend the Ohio frontier, leading to the disastrous Battle of the Monongahela in 1755. Ultimately of course they retook Fort Duquesne in 1758, five years before the matter was finally settled. Many of the Virginia militia at Fort Necessity are documented and lived to march with General Braddock.

2) What about that John Essery who served in King Philip's war back in the 1600's?

He was not in the scope of my subject, but it's a good question. Myra Esarey and others have cited his payroll records in the Massachusetts militia against King Philip. (King Philip was an Indian leader who assembled the remnants of several New England tribes reduced by war and disease to rise up against the Europeans and curtail their acquisition of Native lands. They lost.) There is no evidence that he left descendants in America.

3) How are you related to us descendants of John [1744] Esarey and his son Jonathan Davis Esarey?

My third-great-grandfather Thomas [1755] Essary, the father of the Tennessee Essarys, was the younger brother of your John [1744] Esarey. Therefore I am the fifth cousin, something removed, to you. (If your generations back to John [1744] Esarey are more than 40 years each, we might be less than fifth cousin. Interestingly, I am more closely related to many descendants of John [1744] Esarey than they are to each other.)

4) How is the brother Jonathan Essary you talked about related to Jonathan Davis Esarey?

The brother Jonathan in the presentation was a brother of the John [1744] Esarey who crossed the Ohio in 1810. He was born sometime in the 1740's. So Jonathan Davis Esarey (who also crossed the Ohio) was brother Jonathan Essary's nephew.