

Virginia, but some of their children later lived in North Carolina and Tennessee before reaching Alabama and other states. Burwell Lanier, son of Sampson, had at least 11 children. Among them were sons **Isaac**, Sampson, Clement, **William**, and **Thomas**. Burwell's sons **William, Thomas, and Isaac are the known early owners of large tracts of pre-arsenal lands in Townships 4 and 5, Ranges 1W and 2W, of Madison County, Alabama.** There was also an Adams Lanier who purchased lands around New Hope in the southeastern portion of the county about the same time that William, Thomas, and Isaac were acquiring lands in the arsenal area. All of these brothers had died by 1840.

As the above information was being collected, it was summarized in various e-mails shared with direct descendants of the Laniers, who are still living in the area. An example is given below:

From: [John P Rankin](#)
To:
Cc:
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2002 1:18 PM
Subject: Re: Lanier Family Research Info

Lou Ann --

Thanks for sending the write-up about your house in Madison and the Lanier family. I intend to take the tour of Madison homes this Sunday afternoon, so perhaps I'll see you then.

I did note in the write-up that you provided of the local Laniers that the birthdate of **John Ford Lanier** was given as **1820**. That immediately caught my attention, as that date would make him 61 when he married Ada in 1881, and then he raised children. I have portions of a history of the Lanier family that was compiled a century ago by Felix Robertson Lanier and written by John Fulton Lanier (a son of John Ford Lanier). On page 16 of that collection, it states that John Ford was born **February 5, 1857**, and that he married Ada Johnson on **September 15, 1881**.

Anyhow, this genealogy takes the history of the Lanier family in detail back to Thomas Lanier of 1685 in France. There is a possible gap in the generations to another **Thomas Lanier who married Elizabeth Washington, daughter of John Washington, who was the paternal great grandfather of General / President George Washington.** Elizabeth's mother was Annie Pope Washington. The Pope family is, of course, quite well known as pioneers of this area of northern Alabama.