

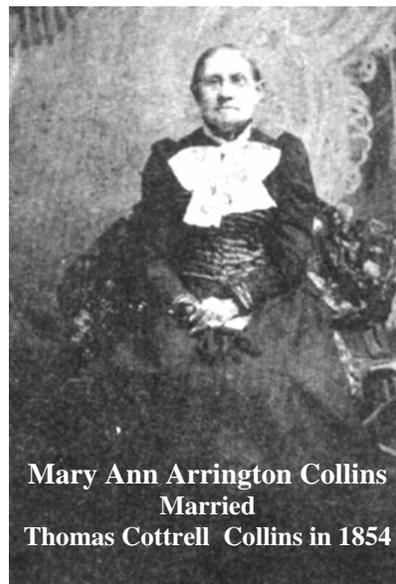
The Eighth Generation

THOMAS⁸COTTRELL COLLINS

(Michael II-7, Mikell-6, John Olive-5, John-4, William-3, John-2, John-1)

THOMAS⁸COTTRELL COLLINS was born June 18, 1831, on his father's plantation near Ridgeway, North Carolina. He married Mary Ann Arrington, daughter of John Arrington and Sallie Drake Arrington in 1854 (see Arrington genealogy). Eleven children were born of this union, four of whom were born at "Pleasant Hill" at Ridgeway, North Carolina.

Thomas⁸, a graduate of Wake Forest was a great scholar and teacher. He inherited a 370 acre plantation from his father, Michael⁷ which and operated called Aspen Grove until after the Civil War. Thomas was not physically strong and during the war he stayed home to raise food for the Confederate Army. He was a very patriotic man and felt that since he could not join his two brothers, Benjamin and James to fight, He felt it was his duty to send someone in his stead. He hired an Irishman for \$1,000.00 to go as his substitute.



Mary Ann Arrington Collins
Married
Thomas Cottrell Collins in 1854

Thomas⁸'s brother, Colonel Benjamin Mosley Collins, was a championed veteran of the Civil War until his death in 1920. His "*Reminiscence*" are held in the University of North Carolina Historical Archives. Southern officers often attained and held their rank by their ability to sustain themselves and to varying degrees their troops from their own resources. There is little doubt that the assets of the Collins enterprises were tapped to sustain the 20 year old Benjamin at this high in the officer corps and the war effort. The later days of the war must have been bleak with rampant fears of reprisals against non-combatants as General Sherman marched northward laying waste and devastation to everything in his path. Had the war not ended when it did, General's Sherman would have marched through Ridgeway to meet Grant in Richmond.

After the war ended, the ordeal of rebuilding began. The freeing of slaves and extremely high taxes imposed by those who would "reconstruct" the south rendered the plantations unprofitable.

Thomas⁸ heard and read of the great need for teachers in Western North Carolina, which was a very primitive and backwoods country at that time. It was a place where one could start over and build a new life in an area that held little interests for the Yankee Reconstructionists. Thomas' mother-in-law, Sally Drake Arrington, ran an inn in Ridgeway, after her husband's death. Thomas took his wife, children, mother-in-law and the family silver by train to Morganton, North Carolina, the furthers point west serviced by the railroad. There the family took a stage coach to Sandy Mush, a small settlement west of Asheville.

An amusing story has been passed down through the descendants about the journey. Mary Ann left little Nick¹⁰ (age 4) asleep, along with her hand satchel containing all their money and the family silver, in the train station. However, she soon discovered her loss and the stage coach driver took her back to Morganton where she, Nick and their money were reunited. One can only imagine the conversation that might have ensued in the limited confines of the stage coach between Mary Ann and her mother-in-law.

Thomas⁸ and his wife first settled in the Sandy Mush area north of Asheville. While there, Thomas⁸ is credited for introducing the flue cured method of processing tobacco to Western North Carolina. He and Mary Ann also started and taught in a one room school house located in the forks of the Sandy Mush and Turkey Creek. Seven of their eleven children were born in Western North Carolina.

Genealogy of Thomas Cottrell Collins

9. **Thomas⁸ Cottrell COLLINS** (Michael-7, Mikell-6, John Olive-5, John-4, William-3, John-2, John-1) was born on 18 June 1831 in Pleasant Hill Plantation, Ridgeway, NC.

Thomas Cottrell COLLINS and Mary Ann ARRINGTON were married in 1854. **Mary Ann ARRINGTON** (daughter of John Simmons ARRINGTON and Sallie DRAKE) was born on 24 June 1835. She was buried in 1912. She died on 20 July 1912 in Asheville, NC. Thomas Cottrell COLLINS and Mary Ann ARRINGTON had the following children:

1. Mary Glover COLLINS.
2. George Green COLLINS, born in 1855, Pleasant Hill Plantation, Ridgeway, NC; died in 1897.
3. Thomas Cottrell COLLINS Jr. was born.
4. Sally Drake COLLINS.
5. John Ward COLLINS was born in 1861. He died in 1887.
6. **Nicholas¹⁰ Arrington `N.A.` COLLINS**, born on 18 September 1863, Pleasant Hill Plantation, Ridgeway, NC; married Nannie Troy RIVES b.1868, in 1890; died on 28 December 1952, Charlotte, North Carolina.
7. Apphia Postell COLLINS.
8. Lelia Lee COLLINS.
9. Amanda Eleanor COLLINS.
10. Cora Celestia COLLINS was born.
11. Benjamin Michael COLLINS.