

# THE THOMAS FAMILY.

## INTRODUCTION.

### ORIGIN OF THE NAME.

THE name of Thomas came originally from the Hebrew language, and signifies a twin.\* In its earliest use the name was confined to male twins, the feminine form, Thomasène, having been applied to girls. In the lapse of time, however, the origin and significance of the name being overlooked, it gradually came to be applied to others, and thus finally came into general use. Adopted by the Greeks and Latins, the name became thus more widely distributed. It was taken into Great Britain at the time of the introduction of Christianity by Pope Gregory I, about 600 A.D. With some slight variations in spelling, the name is now found in all modern European languages.†

### WELSH HISTORY.

The Welsh claim for the family of Thomas great antiquity, and give it a prominent place in the early history of that country. The Rev. Lawrence Buckley Thomas, who has given the subject much attention, in his "Genealogical Notes of the Thomas Family of Maryland," states that the best and latest authorities on the

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\* Many of the common names in use at the present time, both of males and females, have had a Hebrew origin, and are quite significant in their meaning. Thus, Albert, in original Hebrew, signifies bright; David, beloved; Eli, foster-son; Heman, faithful; Israel, a soldier of God; John, a gift of God; Abigail, father's joy; Ann, grace; Elizabeth, worshiper of God; Sarah, a rose; Susan, a lily.

† English, French, and German, Thomas; Italian, Tomaso; Spanish, Tomas; Portuguese, Thomaz.