

## **SOUTHSIDE, VIRGINIA**

### **Thomas Thomas of Lunenburg County, Virginia**

Thomas Thomas was living in Lunenburg County, Virginia by 1739 and appeared on early tax lists in the county. Since his grandson, John Thomas, son of Even Thomas, was of age by 1752, it is evident that Thomas Thomas was born sometime before 1695. He stopped appearing in tax records, and therefore likely died around 1749.

### **Even Thomas the son of Thomas Thomas**

Even Thomas owned land on Ward's Fork of Cub Creek in Lunenburg County, Virginia as early as April 1747 when he purchased 870 acres from William Rees and his wife Penelope (note: The Wards Fork area of Lunenburg County became Charlotte County in 1764). This land was a part of a grant to Alexander Spalding and John Lidderdale which was made February 18, 1744 for 16,993 acres on both sides of the Roanoke River and which they partitioned and sold. Lidderdale, a merchant, was married to Elizabeth Robertson. The sale of this land to Even Thomas was witnessed by William Caldwell, Israel Pickens, John McNeese<sup>i</sup>, and John Logan. William Rees was born in 1710 in Wales, and died on April 7, 1808 in Iredell County, North Carolina. He married Penelope Groner around 1730 in Pennsylvania. William Rees was the son of the Reverend David Ap Rees and Maude Owens.

Even Thomas appears on the 1748 tax list and on the 1749 tax list in Lunenburg County with his father Thomas Thomas in the household. In 1748 he is listed near the family of Thomas Hodges. In 1749 he is listed adjacent to families of James McKene, John Mounts, Henry Isbell, John Smith, Godfrey Jones, John Russell, John Mullens, and Jeremiah Childrey. Others nearby include Major Booker. In 1752, Even Thomas appears on the Lunenburg Tax list with an adult John Thomas, his son, in his household and adjacent to the household of William Thomas.

On June 6, 1748, William Thomas (who was referred to in a tax list as overseer for Colonel William Randolph) was appointed surveyor of a new road leading from the forks of Seneca to Falling River. He was also a surveyor of the road from Fork of Falling River to Fork of Sinker (Seneca) Creek. On November 7, 1753, a license was granted William Thomas to keep a ferry of the Stanton River about a mile below the Long Island, opposite to the ferry granted him by the County Court of Halifax. (Source: Historic Roads of VA, Lunenburg County Road Orders 1746 - 1764, by Nathaniel Mason Paulett and Tyler Jefferson Boyd.)

On April 2, 1759, Even Thomas sold 300 acres on Ward's Fork to John Dudgeon. This land was adjacent to that of John Lidderdale, Colonel John Ruffin, and Thomas. On January 1, 1750, William Rees had sold land on the west side of Ward's Fork to John Ruffin. This land was adjacent to Even Thomas, and David

Emanuel. Mary Reese, as the wife of William was called at that time, relinquished her dower rights.

There is a record of John Thomas of Lunenburg County selling 200 acres to Gideon Thomas on November 10, 1764. This land lay on both sides of Horsepen Fork of Cub Creek and was bounded by the land of Joseph Morton, William Nixon and John Kinkade. This Gideon Thomas is mentioned in connection with another deed, on November 23, 1768, as being from the Province of Georgia and the Parish of St. George. In this transaction he sold to Blassingame Harvey of Charlotte County, 200 acres on Horsepen Creek, bounded by William Nixon, Alexander Ritchey, and John Ford. A Philip Thomas is mentioned in a deed during this time (1767) as having land bordering the land of Stephen Ford on the North Fork of Cub Creek.

A deed in Charlotte County, Virginia records (DB1, P116) the January 29, 1767 sale of 100 acres on Ward's Fork of Cub Creek by Even Thomas and James Francis (jointly) of Charlotte County, Virginia to Peter Young. James Francis died before 1776 in Charlotte County, Virginia. He had come to America in February, 1729 and was bound to a William Burge "to serve in Virginia." He married Obedience Carrington. The deed was witnessed by Joseph Francis, the son of James Francis. Joseph Francis was married to Susannah Easley. The relationship, if any, between James Francis and Even Thomas is unknown.

Even Thomas left a will, dated January 27, 1773, in Halifax County, Virginia. This will was probated on February 16, 1775. It states, "I Even Thomas of Charlotte County...leave in possession of my well-beloved wife, Modling all my estate that I am possessed with... His executors were William Cook and John White, and the will was witnessed by Robert Caldwell, Robert Nealy, Mary Nealy, and Lettise Nealy. An inventory and appraisement, which was completed on October 19, 1775, indicated that, among his possessions at the time of his death, Evan Thomas had, one cow and yearling, one horse, one mare, plantation tools, household goods, carpenters tools, a flax wheel, an iron pot and hooks, and iron kettle and cover, one mans saddle and bridle, some pewter, and one side saddle. The total value of these goods was estimated to be 27 pounds, 5 shillings, 4 1/2 pence.

John White, an executor of Even Thomas's will died in 1782 in Charlotte County, leaving a will which referred to the area in which he lived as "the north side of Cub Creek." Robert Caldwell, a witness of Even Thomas's will was the son of John Caldwell and Margaret Phillips of Derry, Ireland. Robert was married to Mary Logan. John Caldwell with his wife and five children and four brothers'-in-law, Moore (Moor), Ritchey (Ritchie), and Dougherty and other relatives and Presbyterian friends landed at New Castle, Delaware on December 10, 1727. They made their way through Chester County, Pennsylvania into the portion which became Lancaster County in 1728." John Caldwell was the Elder of the

Chestnut Level Presbyterian Church in Drumore Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania prior to the move south. They eventually settled at Cub Creek, in Charlotte County, Virginia. John Caldwell died in October, 1751. The Pickens, Caldwell, Stewart, and Logan families, among others were allied.

"Madling" Thomas, the wife of Even Thomas left a will in Halifax County, Virginia dated June 6, 1777 and probated on October 15, 1778. This will states, "To my son John, one English Shilling. To my daughter Susannah Neilly (Neely), one English Shilling. To my daughter Mary Mculroy, one English Shilling. To my daughter Martha Bocker (Booker), one English Shilling. To my son Thomas Thomas, the remainder or residue of my estate. Executors were William Watkins<sup>1</sup> and Thomas Thomas, and witnesses were James Stevens, Mary Watkins, and William Watkins

Susannah Thomas, the daughter of Even and Madeline married a Neely. It is likely that he is related (or identical) to the Robert Neely who witnessed the will of Even Thomas. There was a Robert Neely b. ca 1745, the son of James Neely and Jane Grimes of Augusta County, Virginia (now Roanoke County). He was married by 1767 to "Anna." This may be a reference to Susannah Thomas.

James Stevens is possibly the James Stephens who was married to Martha Morris.

William Watkins (b. abt. 1724 in Chickahominy, Henrico County, Virginia) married Mary Osborne around 1750, probably In Henrico County. He was in Chesterfield County in 1745-1748, and moved to Cumberland Parish, Lunenburg County, in an area that became part of Charlotte County in 1764.

On December 1778, an appraisement of the estate of "Madlen Thomas" listed, household goods, a frying pan, a griddle, an iron kettle, some old pewter, a candlestick, a mustard box, a pepper box, one woman's saddle, one bed and some furniture, some old clothes, a dressing glass (mirror), one horse, one cow and yearling, and some cash. The total value listed was 133 pounds.

### **Thomas Thomas, Son of Even Thomas**

Thomas Thomas was likely born in Lunenburg Co., Virginia around 1730. He is first mentioned in court records on October 2, 1751, when he collected a bounty of tobacco for "2 old wolves." He is next mentioned in the will of his mother Madeline in 1777. Thomas Thomas appears on the 1782 Tax List for Halifax County, Virginia as head of a household, which included five "white souls" and no "blacks". Halifax County, located in Southside Virginia, was created in 1752 from Lunenburg County and named for the British statesmen George Montagu Dunk, Earl of Halifax. At the time of its creation, its territory included what is today Pittsylvania, Patrick and Henry counties and parts of Franklin and Floyd counties.

---

<sup>1</sup> 1801, October – Halifax, VA - Will of William Watkins Wife Mary, Daughters Molly Younger, Sally Brown Philemon Hurt and Henry E. Coleman, securities William Watkins.

Its present-day boundaries were established in 1766 when Pittsylvania County was created from the western portion of the county. In addition to the Virginia counties of Pittsylvania, Charlotte, Campbell and Mecklenberg, Halifax County is also bordered by the North Carolina counties of Caswell, Person and Granville.

Thomas Thomas appeared regularly on the tax rolls at least through the count of 1785. In 1785, he appears on the Halifax County, Tax List adjacent to Thomas Hodges. Thomas Hodges married Susannah Bomar, daughter of John Bomar. Thomas Thomas appears in an April 8, 1786 deed described as being from Halifax County. At this time he sold 100 acres in Halifax County, on the waters of Terrible Creek to John Bowmar (note: Bomar). This land was bounded by that of William Younger and George Seemore, and was near "Banks' Road." The deed was witnessed by Bibby Bowmer, William Younger, and Thomas Hodges. By 1746, parts of Terrible Creek were owned by William Wynne as a hunting camp. The Terrible Creek area had salt licks that attracted game.

William Younger (b. ca 1768) was married to Mary Watkins, daughter of William Watkins and Mary Osborne (who witnessed the will of Thomas Thomas's mother Madeline). William Younger died in Halifax County in August 1802. , His son Thomas Younger married Sarah Brown (daughter of James Brown and Sarah Watkins), on May 3, 1803 in Halifax County, Virginia.

John Bomar married Barbara Bush, daughter of Bibby and Susannah Bush of Essex County, Virginia probably about 1750, and later, with his family, moved to Halifax County, Virginia where he reared a family of nine sons and one daughter. In his will, dated January 17, 1799, he names his wife Barbara and children including son Bibby, and daughter Susannah, wife of Thomas Hodges. Bibby Bomar was born in 1758 in Halifax County and died there in 1832. His daughter Mary married Williamson Younger (son of William Younger) in Halifax County on March 24, 1802. Thomas Hodges and Susannah Bomar had one son, named Thomas, who later moved to Caswell County, North Carolina.

A May 23, 1821 deed in Halifax County (Deed Book 29, Pg. 339) records the sale by Josephus Younger (a son of William Younger) to Wm. M. Bates (both of Halifax County), of 116 acres on the South Fork of Terrible Creek, adjoining Bibby Bomar, Joseph Fuqua and Joshua Coates. A Joseph Fuqua was born in 1758 in Lunenburg County, and married Catherine Palmer in Charlotte County in 1779.

George Seemore was likely the son of Thomas Seymour who was living on the waters of Terrible Creek by the 1730's.

After 1786, Thomas Thomas disappeared from Halifax County. By late 1794, he had apparently reappeared in neighboring Person County, North Carolina. His name appears first in a bill-of-sale for some livestock and miscellaneous household items which he sold to a Paul Jeffries. His name also appears on the

1794 Tax List for Person County in the St. James District living next door to Richard Jones. He is listed as owning a farm of 510 acres. The St. James District of Person County (the fourteenth district) was described as "beginning at the Granville County line running west including "widow" Parker, William Yarbrough, and Doctor Payn on the south. Thence south including James Kirkland (through three waste plantations) and Samuel Fannin on the east, to a point half a mile west off Robert McConnwell. Thence east including Thomas Gibson crossing Flat River just above George Gibson's (him not included) by Arthur Mangum (him not included) to the Granville County line where it crosses the Nop of Reed. (Knap of Reeds)."

A Thomas Thomas was baptized at the Upper Hico Primitive Baptist Church during July of 1802 according to the minutes of that church (There were at least two Thomas Thomas' s in Person County during this time. One, the brother of an Elizabeth Thomas was apparently born in Pennsylvania and came to North Carolina at an early age. His sister Elizabeth married Jeremiah Brooks in Caswell County in 1795. Both he and his sister are buried at Ebenezer Baptist Church.). Thomas Thomas was again enumerated in the 1800 U. S. Census in Person County as the head of a household which included two males and two females (all white).

The Upper South Hico Baptist Church separated from the Flat River Church on September 8, 1792. The name was later changed to Wheeley's and today it is known as Wheelers Primitive Baptist Church. The Church is located on State Road #1102 about one mile south of Gordonton which is itself about twelve miles south of Roxboro, North Carolina.

A Samuel Fulton acquired land on Deep Creek of Flatt River from Lord Granville as early as 1752, and a Ledbetter deed in Person County, North Carolina references "formerly Samuel Fulton' s land." This Fulton family was from the Buffalo Settlement of Amelia County, Virginia and appears close to many of the families in the Cub Creek Settlement of Lunenburg County, Virginia.

### **Samuel Thomas, son of Thomas Thomas**

Samuel Thomas appears to have migrated to Person County, North Carolina sometime before 1794 (presumably with his father Thomas between 1785 and 1794). His name first appears as a witness, along with Isaac Rainey<sup>2 3</sup>, to an

---

<sup>2</sup> Before the Sandy Creek Association adopted such a course, the Baptist Church at Wheeley's Meeting House was disciplining slave members for violations of the marriage relation. In 1801 the church conference recorded: "As Jinny, belonging to Mrs. Woods, is said to be with child which she says is by a man who she always looked upon as her husband, the church appeared in doubt about it as the said negro man had been parted from her some years. We therefore conclude to send her by Brethren Isaac Rainey, John Terrel and Bailor Burch to examine further into it and try to git her to next church meeting." The following month, Jinny came to church "and appear'd to think herself Justifyable," but the conference "upon conversing with her mistress and inquiring into circumstances" voted that "she sin'd against God in not asking leave of her mistress or asking council of any of the church, but suffer'd herself to be decoy'd by the said negro Peter under promise of living with her as a husband." Jinny was, accordingly, put under the censure of the church. [MS, Minutes of Wheeley's Meeting House, February, March, 1801.]

April 27, 1802 deed (Deed Book D, Page 370, Person Co., North Carolina) when Hardy Wells of Surry Co., North Carolina sold to Robert Hester of Person Co., for 100 lbs, 100 acres on Hico Creek, adjacent to Jones. (According to researcher Louise Winslow, the Hester homeplace is in the southeast corner of Caswell, with Orange County to the south and Person to the east.)

Samuel Thomas next appears on a Person County marriage bond which was signed on November 29, 1805 indicating that he married Susannah "Johens" (Johns). Susannah Johns was likely the daughter of John Johns and Elizabeth Waggoner. The bond was witnessed by James Fowler and the bondsman was John Womack. Samuel Thomas and Susannah Johns Thomas appear to have lived close to the Fowler and Womack families. James Fowler married Catey Johns, presumable a sister of Susannah's, in Person County in July, 1802. The Bondsman for this wedding was Henry Johns, also a presumed sibling. John Womack is listed in a 1785 deed living in the same area.

Samuel Thomas witnessed the August 1, 1807 marriage bond of Joshua Cats (Cates<sup>4</sup>) and Nancy Minsey in Orange County, North Carolina. Ebenezer B. Thomas, the eldest child of Samuel and Susannah Thomas was born sometime in 1808 in North Carolina. Samuel appears in the U. S. Census in Person County in 1810 along with his wife, Susannah and a male child (Ebenezer) under the age of 10. John Thomas, Samuel and Susannah's second child was born on January 10, 1811 in Person County, North Carolina. Samuel Thomas witnessed the marriage bond of Linard Keller and Polley Gains<sup>5</sup> on October 2, 1811 and was a bondsman when Thomas Johns married Lucy Watkins<sup>6</sup> in Person County on December 17, 1811 (bond date)<sup>7</sup>. A witness was S. Cochran (Simeon Cochran<sup>8</sup>).

That same month, December 1811, Simeon Cochran was mentioned in the sale, by William Caddell, of 100 acres on Flat River. The record indicates that this land was "bounded by lands owned by Simeon Cochran." This indicates that Samuel Thomas was living in the Flat River/Double Creek/South Hyco area of Person County<sup>ii</sup>. Simeon Cochran had married Elizabeth McKissack<sup>9</sup> in NC in 1795. William Caddell was the brother-in-law of Henry Johns, who married Martha Caddell in December 1798.

---

<sup>3</sup> Another deed on 28 Oct. 1805 has: James Guthries and Robert Guthries of Sumner Co., Tennessee to Bailer Burch of Person Co. for 100 lb. 200 acres on South Hico adjacent to George Eubanks, Crisp, Mitchell. Witness Isaac Rainey Willima Mansfield. Caswell Co., Deed Book O

<sup>4</sup> A Robert Cates appears on page 136 of the 1810 US Census in Person Co., NC

<sup>5</sup> Two Gains families (Thomas and Joseph) appear on page 138 of the 1810 US Census in Person Co., NC

<sup>6</sup> A John Watkins was living in Caswell Co., NC in the 1810 US Census (page 511)

<sup>7</sup> North Carolina Marriage Bonds, 1741-1868, Record #: 01 085

<sup>8</sup> Simeon Cochran appears on page 149 of the 1810 US Census in Person Co., NC

<sup>9</sup> William McKisack and Jonnathan McKisock appear on page 144 of the 1810 US Census in Person Co., NC

Sometime after December, 1811 and before the end of the year of 1813<sup>10</sup>, Samuel Thomas moved his family to Pendleton District, South Carolina shortly after the move of brother-in-law Henry Johns. Henry Johns' father-in-law Andrew Caddell had moved to Pendleton District in 1804 following son-in-law Burrell Green (who married Pheby Caddell) and sons John Calvin Caddell and Andrew Henderson Caddell, who moved in the late 1790's. In January, 1806 John Calvin Caddell and Andrew Caddell owned land along the Coneross Creek in Pendleton District. Martha and Henry Johns were listed in the 1810 Pendleton District census. All of the Caddells were in the 1810 census of Pendleton, but were gone in the 1820 census having moved to St. Clair County, Alabama. Only Henry Johns and Samuel Thomas remained on the land along the Coneross.

Samuel Thomas died in Pendleton District, South Carolina between 1830 and 1840. Susannah Thomas died in Pendleton District in 1857. Their heirs sold the home farm to William A. Cox on August 17th of that year. Samuel Thomas and Susannah Johns had the following children:

1. Ebenezer B. Thomas was born between August 24, 1808 and October 5, 1808 in North Carolina.
2. John Thomas was born on January 10, 1811 in North Carolina.
3. Elizabeth Margaret Thomas was born in 1813 in South Carolina.
4. Thomas Jefferson Thomas was born between June 1814 and June 1815 in South Carolina.
5. William H. Thomas was born on February 29, 1816 in South Carolina.
6. Mary Thomas was born between August 1817 and August 1818 in South Carolina.
7. Samuel Thomas was born between December 10, 1823 in Pickens County, South Carolina.
8. Marthena Thomas was born on October 10, 1831 in South Carolina.
9. Susannah Thomas was born between August 1832 and August 1833 in Pickens County, South Carolina.
10. James Thomas was born between August 1835 and August 1836 in Pickens, South Carolina.

---

<sup>i</sup> Lunenburg County, Virginia, Will Book No. 1 With Inventories, Accounts, Etc, 1746-1762, page 26 - lists Page 26. Account Current. The estate of Thomas Calwell {Caldwell}, deceased. To cash paid: Alexander Mackie, William Dudgeon, John Ward, John Bullinton, Peter Worsham, John McNess, William Fuqua, John Mount for a cow, William Johnson for 1 beef, William Rogers, John Colwell, James Anderson for 2 barrels corn, Doctor Abney, Robert Cobbs, Mat. Talbott, Mr. Read, Robert Cousins, Richard Davis, John Stewart. To: rent of 334 acres for 3 years, going

---

<sup>10</sup> Samuel Thomas's daughter Elizabeth Margaret Thomas Hardin listed her birthplace as South Carolina in 1812/13.

---

into Carolina myself and 2 horses. To cash paid: James Murfey, the widow Jane Colwell, Mr. John Coldwell. By cash of: Patrick Mullins. By: Thomas Dudley, John McKness, William Rogers, Ambrose Cobb, William Owen Sr, Mr. Richard Witton, Griffin Rutherford, William Colwell for cart wheels, John Fulton, Edmund Gray, Samuel Johnson by a bond, James Stewart by ditto, John McKness by ditto, David Logan by ditto, William Cunningham by ditto, James Anderson by ditto, David Colwell by ditto, John Colwell Jr, William Colwell Sr. Total owed: 85.8.5. Total received: 109.17.10. Balance: 24.9.5. Per Court order, we have settled this account. Aug 3, 1750 - Thomas Bouldin, Abra. Martin. Recorded Oct 3, 1750.

ii Deek Book E, Page 60 (Person Co., NC) Samuel Wheeler to William Satterfield, for 144 lbs 11/6, 152 acres on Henley Mill Creek of South Hico adj. Roger Tillman, **Thomas Thomas**, Heirs of Jesse Carter, Charles Winstead, said Satterfield - reserving that his step-mother, Jane Wheeler relict of Samuel Wheeler Senior, deceased, should not be disinherited of her part during her life. 30 Sept 1817. Witness Ira Lea.