

CORNELIUS - MARY (EVANS) THAMES & CHILDREN

We think the best way to tell this is to give the facts, as we know and see them, along with the circumstantial evidence based on available documents. We have included a narrative of this family, to some extent.

Cornelius Thames was the son of Thomas & Prudence Thames. He was born circa 1729 and died circa 1761. He is proved by the will of his father Thomas. The available record of Cornelius is as follows.

Bladen Co. DB 23, page 184

12 June 1750 Cornelius Thims & Richard Dunn witnessed the deed: Robert Dunn to Thos Thimbs – land on SW/S of Cape Fear River a small distance below Dunns Creek.

This deed would indicate that Cornelius was the oldest son of Thomas Thims.

Bladen Co. DB 23, page 244

3 August 1753 Cowpland, Esq. of Town & County of Chester, PA, Power of Attorney to Isaac Jones to sell my plantation on the NW River. Wit: Cornelius Thimbs, Jonath Evans, and Henry Hale Grantham

Jonath Evans is the father of Josiah, Jonathan Junr, Theophilus and Mary Evans.

6 March 1758 –Cornelius Thems a son & co-executor of will of Thomas Thems –Wit: Josiah Evans & Jonathan Evans Junr

The witnesses were the brothers of Mary Evans the wife of Cornelius. Their father was Jonathan Evans.

1 May 1760 –Cornelius Thems served on the coroner’s jury, Bladen Co. inquest into the death of the Wilkinson infant.

1763 Tax list of Bladen County does not include Cornelius. It does appear to include his three younger brothers Thomas, John and Amos. They are in the household of a McClendel and pay a poll so each must be at least 16 years of age (the law in 1763). The possibility exists that these three were not yet of age, 21 years. Though Thomas sold his inherited land in Craven County in 1762.

February 1786 –Bladen County DB 1, page 180

1783 - 8, February - David Holloway of Edgecombe to Daniel Beard pds. 200 specie, 256 a on SW/S of NW River adj. James Sims or William Sims, upper part of a patent to David Morley 6 Febr 1773 & conveyed by him to Henry Sims & by him to Thomas Mathews & by him to John Grady & by Grady to Cornelius Thumbs & by executors of sd Thumbs to Joseph Cooper & by Cooper to James Clardy & by Clardy to Stephen Butler & by him to sd Holloway.

Wit: William Thomas (sic), Robert Edwards February 1786

(Hoffman, Vol 1, pg. 130; 1887 – 16 February 1737 – 400 acres in Bladen Co. on SW/S of NW River, adjacent to River & Sims Plantation.) **Cornelius Thames, the son of Thomas & Prudence, has died in Bladen Co. NC. His death was well in advance of the writing of this deed, as shown by the property chain of ownership. Having executors sell the property instead of administrators would indicate Cornelius had a will.**

Mary Evans, was the fourth child and eldest daughter of Jonathan & Mary (Savage) Evans. She was born 22 January 1738 o. s. (1739). This is according to the Jonathan Evans Family Bible. She was the wife of Cornelius Thames this is based on the notes found in the documents of Delancy Evans 1834 – 1904 and is Evans “Family Folk Lore” several documents seem to bear this out. Mary was the sister of Josiah, Jonathan Junr and Theophilus Evans who were involved in the will of Thomas Thames, as I have noted above.

Jonathan Thames was born 1756 and died in 1821.

1777-1778 Cumberland Co. tax list –Jonathan Teemes –Campbellton District - \$100.00

1783-----Cumberland Co. tax list –Jonathan Teems –Fayetteville District - \$100.00

1784 – 30 October – Cumberland Co. DB 8, pg. 71—Theophilus Evans of Bladen County to Jonathan Theames of Cumberland, for pds 50, 200a on S/S of Buck Creek Swamp, pat to sd Evans 11 March 1775 Wit: James Dick, Benjamin Turner - Acknowledged July 1786 ---(#7957 –11 March 1775 –Theophilus Evans, 200 a in Cumberland, W of Black River joining a spring branch near Buck Creek Swamp (Hofmann, NC Land Patent’s 1765 – 1775)

1787-----Cumberland Co. tax list –Jonathan Teems –Moore’s District (Rockfish – Fayetteville)

1790 -----Census Jonathan Teems or Thames not listed

1799 March, Cumberland Co. DB 7, pg. 355 – Samuel Thames to Joseph & William Thames witnessed by Jona Thames.

Bladen County DB 7, pg. 236 – 1799 – 23 March 1799 Jonathan Thames and Joseph Thames witnessed Sheriff's deed to Josiah Evans for Negroes of Joseph Lock

17 July 1799 –Jona Thames, John Thames Jr. & William Thames witness the will of John Beard –Joseph Thames Executor

1800 ----Census Jonathan Thames not listed

1801----April Cumberland Co. Court Min –Jonathan Thames proved deed -Ann Ellis & Ervin Ellis to Joseph Thames

1804----Cumberland Co. tax list Captain John Thames tax district –Jonathan Thames 200 acres one white poll

1809-Cumberland Co. DB 25, page 283, Joseph Thames to Neil Beard proved 1808 two tracts of land; witness Jona Thames

1810 ----Census Jonathan Thames not listed

1811 ----Captain Andrews Tax District –Jonathan Thames 200 acres –value \$50.00

1817 ----Captain Andrews Tax District –Jonathan Thames 200 acres –value \$50.00

1818 ----Captain Andrews Tax District –Jonathan Thames 200 acres –value \$50.00

1818 ----Cumberland Co. DB 34, page 344, 1822 Jona Thames to Joshua Jessup 200 acres on Buck Creek. "This indenture made this 2nd day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred eighteen between Jonathan Thames of the state of North Carolina and County of Cumberland of the one part, and Joshua Jessup of the state of North Carolina and County of Cumberland of the other part. Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of Seventy five dollars at and before etc".

1820 ----September Cumberland Co. Court Min –Jonathan Thames, Revolutionary Soldier, now 64 years of age, no family, carpenter by trade, bodily infirm

1820 ---Jonathan Thames applied for and was granted a Revolutionary pension under the Congressional Pension Act of March 18, 1818. He was a Sergeant of the Continental Line and fought in SC at Eutaw Springs. He claimed that he was indigent, disabled and unable to apply his trade of being a "House Carpenter" due to his injured leg. He stated he had no family, as was claimed in the statement made in court shown above. The witness to the statement was Theophilus Evans who was his Uncle. We now know that Jonathan did own land and house up to near the time he applied for the pension. Cumberland Co. DB 34 pg. 344 – Jonathan Thames to Joshua Jessup 200 acres on Buck Creek recorded 1822 (see above).

1821 ---June 4, Administrator's bond for estate of Jonathan Thames, dec'd Bond pds 150, Jesse Newberry, adm. Securities; Christopher Mc Rae (signed Murdock Mc Rae) Jeremiah Willis, Thomas Davis (R Fisk)

The administrators for the estate of Jonathan Thames were Jesse Newberry, Christopher McRae, Jerimiah Willis and Thomas Davis. Only Jesse Newberry signed the inventory of sale papers. This Jesse Newberry was the grandson of James Jackson and Marcy (Thames) Jackson. Jesse Newberry's mother was Martha Jackson. Marcy was the sister of Cornelius Thames who married Mary Evans.

The estate sale of Jonathan Thames took place on July 21, 1821. Only five individuals bought items at the sale. We believe Hannah Thames was the widow of Joseph Thames and not the wife of Reverend David. She also owed the estate \$2.50 which she paid. Hannah Frink Gause Thames remarried for the third time on September 6, 1821 to Frederick Miller. Charles McAllester was the son-in-law of Joseph Thames (deceased). McAllester, a man of some wealth, owed the estate \$50.00 which he paid. Jesse Newberry bought some items. The fourth person who bought items was Neil Beard. Neil Beard was the son of John Beard and Mary Thames. Neil Beard also witnessed the will of Joseph Thames in 1818. Mary Thames is referred to as Malinda in Vera Marshall's book "Proud to Remember". Mary (Thames) Beard died shortly after childbirth in 1787. She is identified as Mary Thames by the memoirs of her grandson George Washington Marsh. The memoirs are written about 120 years after the fact of her death and are somewhat vague and not without error. After saying that, they are important and give us some valuable information. She was born about 1758 and we believe was the sister of Jonathan. Jonathan Thames witnessed the 1799 will of John Beard as is noted above.

The fifth purchaser was John Thames Jr. who bought a shirt and a tenant saw (sic). John Thames Jr. was not the son of John Thames but the son of his brother Jesse. He also witnessed the will of John Beard in 1799. His buying these items proves he was still in NC July 30, 1821, along with his wife Sarah Bryant. He was in GA by the 1830 census. I believe John went to work with Jonathan as a house carpenter after the death of his father Jesse in 1797. Joseph Thames probably employed them both.

Charles McAllester must have been holding the money (\$50.00) for Jonathan that he owed the estate. I think this deal was struck with McAllester by Jonathan to allow him to qualify for the pension he then received. I wonder what Hannah Thames got prior to the estate sale for the \$2.50? That was the amount of Jonathan's monthly pension, perhaps it was received after his death and she was holding it for the estate. It looks to me that the actions by both Charles McAllester and Hannah Thames were to assist Jonathan and had something to do with Jonathan's pension.

A question I have is where was Jonathan living between 1818 when he sold his property and his death in 1821? Wherever it was he took all of his material possessions with him, as his estate sale shows.

My supposition is that Jonathan Thames born 1756, died 1821 and Mary (Thames) Beard born about 1758 died 1787 were siblings and the only surviving children of Cornelius and Mary (Evans) Thames. They were named for their grandparents Jonathan and Mary (Savage) Evans. They were orphaned by the death of their parents in about the year 1760/62. I further speculate that, at that time, they were taken in and raised by Joseph (d. 1780) and Martha (Newberry) Thames their Uncle and Aunt.

Mary (Thames) Beard died in 1787 probably as a result of giving birth to her second daughter Martha. Her first daughter was named Mary and had been born only a few years prior. I believe that Mary (Thames) Beard named her two daughters for her mother and for Martha (Newberry) Thames who along with her husband Joseph, the Uncle of Mary, raised her. Mary (Thames) Beard also named a son for her Uncle Joseph Thames. Mary and Martha continued to live with their father John Beard, after the death of their mother, who had a female slave to care for them.

After John Beard's death in 1799 we believe the girls went to live with Martha (Newberry) Thames just as their mother and Uncle Jonathan did years earlier. It is very probable that the two females on the 1800 census of Martha (Newberry) Thames are Mary and Martha Beard the orphaned girls of John and Mary (Thames) Beard.

Martha (Newberry) Thames had a very wealthy son Joseph Thames who was married to Sarah (Gause). They had two daughters Elizabeth born in 1786 and Mary born in 1788. Sarah (Gause) Thames died January 8, 1801 and left Joseph with the two young girls.

I believe that Martha moved in with her son Joseph after the death of his wife Sarah to care for him and her granddaughters. She took the two Beard girls with her where they lived until they married.

I feel sure that if Jonathan's cousin Joseph Thames had been alive in 1821 he would have seen to it that there was a will for Jonathan. I believe Joseph and Jonathan were very close and raised together in the house of Joseph & Martha (Newberry) Thames along with Jonathan's sister Mary (Thames) Beard. The probability exists that Jonathan Thames spent a good deal of time at the house of Joseph Thames and probably worked for him. Jonathan Thames seems to have been very close to all of the rest of the Thames family as well. Several family members named children for him.

Relationship to Jonathan Thames

Neil Beard –Nephew (son of John & Mary (Thames) Beard)

Theophilus Evans –Uncle (brother of Mary (Evans) Thames)

George W. Marsh –Grandnephew (son of Absalom & Martha (Beard) Marsh)

Jesse Newberry –First Cousin once removed (son of Isaac and Martha (Jackson) Newberry)

Elizabeth (Thames) Hollingsworth –First Cousin once removed (daughter of Jesse)

John Thames Jr. –First Cousin once removed (son of Jesse), probably worked with Jonathan as a House Carpenter.

Joseph Thames (d. 1780) –Uncle

Martha (Newberry) Thames wife of Joseph above and mother of Joseph below –Wife of uncle

Joseph Thames (d. 1819) –First Cousin

Credits especially go to William C. Fields III, Cathrine Marsh Cashwell and Gypsy McKim (all Maxine's cousins) that contributed information. We did the North Carolina research, to include all of the guessing and speculation- **WSG** .

By Walter S. & Maxine C. Gabennesch <gabennesch@atmc.net>
7249 Odell Street SW
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28569-5639