

Where's the Link?

The probable relationship of the Thames Family of North Carolina to the Thames Family of South Carolina

by Walter and Maxine Gabennesch

Thomas and Prudence Thames had the following children as proved by his Bladen County, North Carolina will that was written March 6, 1758 and proved April Court 1758. We will show you the results of our North Carolina research as to the disposition of the children of Thomas and Prudence Thames.

Descendants of Thomas Thames

- 1 Thomas Thames 1710 - 1758
 - +Prudence 1710 - 1760
 - 2 Priscilla Thames 1729 - No further record
 - +Dunn
 - 2 Cornelius Thames 1730 - 1761 both Cornelius and Mary died in NC abt. 1761
 - +Mary Evans 1738/39 - 1761
 - 2 Joseph Thames 1732 - 1780 Joseph stayed in NC and died there. Oct. 1780 will
 - +Martha Newberry 1737 - 1815 Matriarch of the clan died in NC will proved 1815
 - 2 Marcy (Mercy) Thames 1734 - 1816 both James and Marcy had wills and died in NC
 - +James Jackson 1730 - 1810
 - 2 Phebe Thames 1735 - no further record
 - 2 Elizabeth Thames 1737 - no further record
 - 2 Amos Thames 1743 - Very probably went to SC by 1770
 - 2 Thomas Thames 1745 - Very probably went to SC by 1770
 - 2 John Thames 1747 - Very probably went to SC by 1770
 - 2 Samuel Thames 1749 - 1762 -Died young and his inherited land went to his oldest surviving brother ...Joseph Thames

We realize the birth dates do not agree with what is found in Vera Marshall's book. That is because we don't agree with her, based on our research.

The families they married into prove the children of Thomas and Prudence Thames were young and unmarried when they arrived in Bladen County, North Carolina. The Dunn, Evans, Newberry and Jackson families were all here before 1750.

We are of the opinion that the John Thames and John Thames, Jr. you find in South Carolina are very probably the descendants of John Thames the son of Thomas and Prudence who we believe went there. If the dates fit, John Thames may actually be the son of Thomas and Prudence.

We think that the information found in late 1700 South Carolina records, showing an Amos, Thomas or John Thames, should be considered in the light that they are very probably descendants of Thomas and Prudence Thames.

Another thought to keep in mind is that when a family member died young, such as Samuel, others tried to keep his name alive by naming a child for him. This could apply in the case of the the Samuels found in South Carolina. They could very possibly descend from Amos, Thomas or John Thames who were his brothers.

Reference: (Cornelius was the oldest son because his father chose him to witness this first Thames deed in Bladen Co. NC) Bladen Co. DB 23, pg. 184 12 June 1750 Robert Dunn to Thomas Thimbs, for pds 100, 100 acres on sw/s of NW River a short distance below Dunn's Creek, part of a patent to John Dunn, by him conveyed to Richard Dunn. Wit: Richard Dunn, Cornelius Thims -- Recorded, 4 July 1750

Reference: (Samuel the son of Thomas & Prudence died before coming of age 21) D.B. 20 pg. 121-William Theames to David Theames Febry Term 1804, West River 100a-40a North; "This Indenture made the 7th day of June in the year of our Lord 1803 Between William Theames of Cumberland County and State of North Carolina the one part and David Theames of the County and State said (sic) of the other part" Then he describes the 100 acres. "containing 100 acres more or less being a part of a tract of land granted to John Dun by Patent and by John Dun conveyed to Richard Dun by Richard Dun to Robert Dun and by Robert Dun conveyed to Thomas Theames his last will gives the same **to his son Samuel Thames and dying underage it became the property of the aforesaid Jesse Theames". The only problem with this deed is that the chain of ownership is incorrect. Upon the death of Samuel, because of the laws of primogeniture, this land would have gone to the eldest surviving male of the family which was Joseph, Jesse was the eldest son of Joseph and Martha (Newberry) Thames.**

Reference: 1763 Bladen Co. Tax List - The three youngest Thames boys Amos, Thomas and John were in this household. Cornelius and Samuel were both very probably deceased by this time. Joseph Thames was in Cumberland Co. with his wife Martha Newberry wheeling and dealing with her family in land where the city of Fayetteville, North Carolina now sits.

BLADEN COUNTY TAX LIST OF 1763 (poll tax)

Mclendel, Jno. and three Themis

White polls 4- Black male polls 0- Black female polls 0- Total polls 4

The above tax was only a poll tax no property was listed as being taxed.

Reference: (Joseph Thames and wife Martha Newberry were considered residents of Cumberland Co. in 1763 the year this Bladen Co. Poll Tax was taken, therefore paid no tax.) Cumberland Co. Deed Book 2, page 282 – 4 November 1763 JOHN NEWBERRY, Sr., of Balden, millwright, & wife ELIZABETH, to JOSEPH THAMES (THIMES) &

JOHN NEWBERRY, Jr., 1000 a. all of Cumberland, for pds. 10 proc., 150 a. at Cross Creek at beginning of 1000 a. survey to head of THOS. BOOKS" survey, part of 1000 a. patent to WM. PUGH (date illeg.), sold to JOHN NEWBERRY, Sr. Wit: RICHD.

GROVE, JAMES (X) MEARS. Proved by RICHD. GROVE November 1763.

Cross Creek and Cambellton were merged after the Rev. War to form Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Reference: (Thomas Thames' son Thomas & Prudence alive and well in North Carolina 1764 witnesses a deed for his brother Joseph. Minimum age for a male to witness a document in NC at that time was fourteen) Cumberland Co. DB 2, pg 335; 18 Feb. 1764

THOMAS (X) MATTHEWS, blacksmith, & wife, MARY (X), to JOSEPH THIMES (THAMES) & JOHN NEWBERRY, Jr., both sawyers, all of Cumberland, for pds. 18 proc., 200 a. on Cross Creek, known as Pine Thicket, Patent to JAMES McDONALD 18 Nov. 1760 who sold to sd. THOMAS MATTHEWS 19, Oct. 1761 for pds. 10 proc. Wit: RICHD. GROVE, THOMAS THIMS. Proved by Richd. Grove February 1764.

By law in North Carolina, a male could witness a document at the age of fourteen.

The possibility exists that Thomas had moved to the household of his brother Joseph in 1764. At the age of sixteen a male could chose his own guardian.

Reference: (John Thames still owned land in NC 1768) Cumberland Co. DB 3, pg 316; 29 September 1768 JOHN NEWBERRY, yeoman, & wife, ELIZABETH (X), to ARICHBALD McKAY, all of Cumberland, for pds.60 proc., 533 a. on both sides of Cross Creek, JAMES McDONALD's corner, on JESSE NEWBERRY's line, to JOHN WALSH's line, along JOHN TIMMS' line, along line of MALTSBY & TIMS; major part of 640 a. patent to sd. JOHN NEWBERRY 23 September 1766 who sold 107 a. to MAULTSBY & TIMS. Wit: JOHN BROWNLOW, JEAN WARD. Proved by JOHN BROWNLOW Jan. 1769

Reference: (Cornelius Thames died testate in North Carolina well before this deed was written) February 1786 Bladen County DB 1, page 180, 1783 - 8, February - David Holloway of Edgecombe to Daniel Beard #200 specie, 256 a on SW/S of NW River adf 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 (*hofmann, Vol 1, pg. 130; 1887 16 February 1737 400 acres in Bladen Co. on SW/S of NW River, adjacent to River & Sims Plantation.*)

Cumberland County deed abstracts prior to 1770 were taken from "Abstracts of Deeds of Cumberland County, North Carolina – Volume one – Books 1-3, 1754 – 1770" William C. Fields, Editor

**We have no idea if other Thames families migrated to SC prior to the Rev. War.
Our educated guess is NO.**

The above information was cut and pasted from our "Scenario". The "Scenario" is our 30 page running narrative of the Thames family of NC, and currently is in its 20th revision.