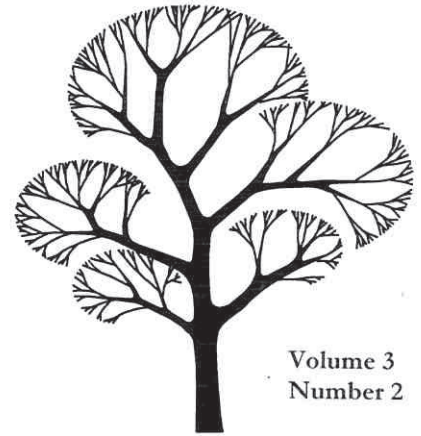


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TaylorTalk

Newsletter of the Taylor Family Association



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Where Did Joseph Taylor Sr. Come From? From George Taylor, by way of Brian Taylor

Background note: In the 1970's some of the Taylor Family descendants collected \$6000 which was paid to a professional genealogist to search out the ancestors of Joseph Taylor Sr. The genealogist reported that our Taylor Family was related to the Zachary Taylor family, (which connection proved to be incorrect, but came about because of the nearness of location of two men with the same name.) For this reason, we have felt that we could not come to a conclusion without searching more records and possibly dealing with all Taylor records that might be pertinent and trying to reconcile them into families.

This was discussed at the Family Reunion in North Carolina this last spring and we decided to work with Bill Linder, who has been doing this very sort of reconciliation, though he has experienced a long illness this summer and fall. George Taylor of Lawrence, Kansas has also been doing this type of work. George Taylor and Bill Linder have corresponded and George has spent many long hours trying to decipher the lineage that applies to our family. Here is his theory, which offers a line of research that could well be proved or disproved as more Colonial records become available.

Brian L. Taylor
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Nov. 24, 1995
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Dear Brian:

It was good to hear from you, and I hope you and your family had a nice Thanksgiving. I appreciate your sending me the work of Shari Franke. It helped clear up some minor questions I had and raises several more. I do not claim to be in the pedigree business, just the inventory reconciliation business for Taylors who left vital record audit trails, from 1623- The Inventory of the Living and the Dead in ye Neck of Land, Charles City, Va. where Richard T. and ux, with baby Mary, declared they were among the living. That neck overlooked the Atlantic Ocean tide of the James River. I quit 227 years later, on what was about 3 million sq. miles of conquest territory, on Monterey Bay Cal. near a beach washed by the Pacific tide. The 1850 federal census polled Alexander Taylor, an arrival from China in 1848. He declared he was born in South Carolina. You take the federal inventory of census details as benchmarks and trace the declarations back to the prior benchmark, 1840-30 etc, until you stuff the various giant oak trees back to the acorn of 1623. So far I have identified about half of them as to immigrant, to a confidence level of about 90%.

It all started about 25 years ago when I went to visit my dear old aunt Lucy Taylor to ask about the family. We have six children, and I wanted them to know something of the old folks. I never got to know my father well after age of 4, and I was utterly intrigued with the old Rev. Brooking Taylor family bible. "Few men have displayed more intellectual power of the pulpit in Ky. Or enjoyed a higher degree of success in the ministry" (J. H. Spencer; *History of Ky Baptist 1769-1885*, published 1885.) He had read the bible through 23 times and for his pains died poor as a churchmouse. A servant, as it were.

Reluctantly, after seeing the hopeless tangle of stories and fantasies surrounding Va. origins: (King and Queen Va. A burned-out county) I realized the only way to untangle his line was to untangle the entire lot. I have had some experience

in those kinds of puzzles. I am now retired 10 years, an internal audit supervisor of AT&T with 30 years service. I used to have the switching equipment inventory to worry over. It consisted of about \$400 million of some 300,000 different codes of material. To come to a balance of 98% percent confidence, we had to untangle some millions of dollars in both fraud and haywire accounting on billions of items. So tracing things backwards to the beginning on some 30,000 or so Taylor families did not then, nor does it now, seem that big a deal. It takes a lot of time and an objective professional mind set, something too much to expect from one primping before a mirror of their own self image, and whose only sin is that they feel compelled to put the best possible face on the facts, that other folks may believe. Maybe not, if the claim is not supported by facts.

Your line, like mine, has had differences of opinion: example: (1) the *Taylor Dobson Family History* 1964 edition. "It is not known if the elder Joseph Taylor was a son or grandson of the Edward Taylor who settled in New Jersey at an early date." (2) the \$6,000 opinion that your line comes from Norfolk Richard Taylor who left son Thomas a nursing in 1679. (3) *The Conecto [sic] Creek Taylors, a Book of Remembrance*, by Jesse I. Warner, S.L.C. The Zachary Taylor theory (Taylor families, Me. to California, have a tarbaby named Zachary). "However, in 1916, 36 years later, and very shortly before the death of Pleasant Green Taylor, and evidently without his consent, one branch of the family began to assume a connection to the Orange Va. Taylor family." it should be noted that there is a genealogy on the N.J. Edward Taylor, now thoroughly debunked, that Edward was a direct descendant of Baron Taillefer of the Battle of Hastings in 1066. The Zachary Taylor line has been much glorified and I seem to be of that branch that started with George, one of 6 brothers alive in Va. in 1650, and who as a 19 year old rookie arrived in Va. in 1635 on the George, and was the same George who was the servant of Capt Robert Wintour of St Mary's, Md. In 1638. (Being of honest, hardworking and humble beginnings are the very traits that most Va. genealogical trophy seekers avoid like the plague.)

My own opinion based on the evidence, suggests that your line starts in America with a Jonathan Taylor, perhaps a son of a Jacob Taylor, who as best as I can tell, never made it here but his son Jacob Taylor II did. He left a will in Princess Anne, Va In 1702. The 1st read I have on Jonathan is as a signer of a 1679 wedding at Pasquotank, with George Taylor, at the nuptials of quaker S. Pool. This Jonathan married Eliza Scott and died 6/16/1698. Eliza Scott was mentioned as an heir in the 1691 will of Mary Scott. This Jonathan T. roamed Albemarle. He was in Perquimons in 1720 with 164 acres. *[There's an omission or a typo here somewhere, as he can't be the same Jonathan who died in 1698. The son, perhaps?]* He is mentioned in Nansemond County, Va gleaning, in the Va Genealogical Magazine, vol 22. He had children Thomas, Jonathan, and Mary and in his 1695 household was a Thomas Evalen listed on a Nansenmond *[sic]* Immigrant entry. I think he had son Wm. In about 1697, as William and Sarah Long were guardians in 1698 of both Wm and Jonathan Taylor. In 1718 Sarah Long's will mentions Jonathan and William T. What follows is not reflected in Shari's narrative. It was tough out there on the Albemarle Sound, stealing Indian land as it were; sometimes they killed you for it, if you were unwary. Also they were in a new land of wonderment, no long experience on what would grow, and what sold. Tobacco rapidly depleted nitrogen in the soil. If you wanted to keep those slaves busy, and meet the notes on the money you borrowed from the Threadneedle Street shylocks of London, you had to bounce around the Albemarle Sound area to stay one step ahead.

Jonathan married Katherine, I would guess about the time he received his inheritance from Sarah Long. The birth of daughter Mary is listed as 4/19/1718, while Thomas was born 2/19/1720. At this time he was on the Perquimans rolls with a 184-acre farm. There is a record of his whereabouts in 1724 when he was executor of the will of friend George Clarke of Bertie N.C. He must have stayed there until at least 1741 when he received a deed from Edward Wingate. The family is detailed in a Dunlap file that I received from James Leroy Taylor of Dade City, Fl., this James L. being a correspondent of Bill Linder. By 1755 Jonathan had moved over to Tyrrell County, where he paid his taxes. In 1759 one John Holland received a (Granville?) grant on Cowburn Swamp in Tyrell and the survey was witnessed by Jonathan Taylor. In 1760 John Holland expanded or moved to Coneto Creek, where his survey witnesses were one Joseph and Richard Taylor.

I now leave you with my opinion that your Joseph and Richard are connected to Jonathan T. through John Holland. The probability is more likely than not he was their father on the basis that he was the only Taylor head of household in Tyrell in 1755. *[Joseph Taylor's Land Grant at Coneto Creek was dated 1760.-ed]* I care not that it is not

proven beyond a reasonable doubt. My Taylor universe is 227 years long, 3 million square miles, length and girth combined, and was graced by about 30,000 Taylor families, who were as prolific and full of wanderlust as was Jonathan and Catherine T. I appreciate mere proximity and near misses don't count in pedigrees and criminal convictions (the O.J. case being a recent example); they do count in horseshoes, hand grenades, civil suits and inventory reconciliations.

I do not think I would be able to attend your meeting but appreciate the invite. I have a small orchard that I tend and I still have a ways to go with my reconciliations.

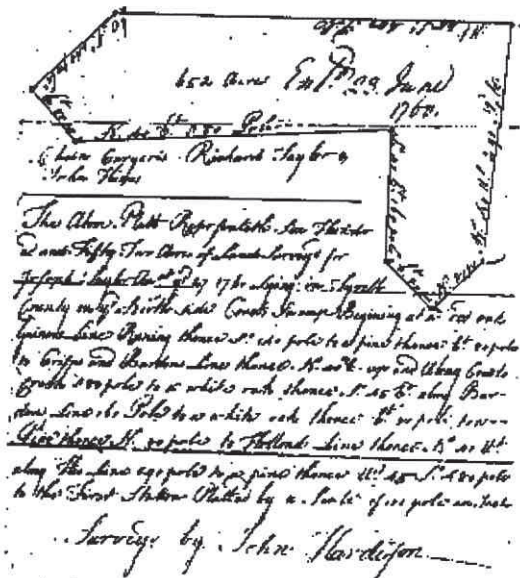
Best regards,
George Taylor

(The bolded type and italics were added by your editor.)

George Taylor has spent 15 man-years working on dividing up colonial Taylors into families, including several weeks just on our line alone. Conclusions reached after this much work deserve serious consideration. It isn't the kind of evidence such as a family bible might be, or a church record showing that Thomas, Richard, and Joseph Taylor were all christened as sons of Jonathan Taylor of the parish of so-and-so, but it's pretty good considering this was the time period before government records and people named Taylor were both plentiful. With the advent of the computer, a great deal of records extraction work is going on and the results are being made available every year. Additional confirmation may turn up. If any of our Taylor Family descendants feel qualified to help George Taylor or Bill Linder, Brian Taylor "will be pleased to mail you copies of the information provided to Bill Linder and [himself] by George Taylor."

It should be noted that this theory does not completely agree with the story handed down about Joseph, Thomas, and Richard being three sons of a magistrate in England, who financed their emigration to this country. Also, the Medieval Families Unit of the LDS Family History Department is beginning to make it's work available and Taylor is one family name that has been researched and English records reconciled to some degree. (See TT, Autumn, 1994, p.4, for both these items.) These English records may help us with this question. For example, it seems likely that Jonathan and Joseph could be related, since both appeared to be close friends or neighbors of John Holland, but what if that means—as an example—that Jonathan was Joseph & Richard's uncle?

We are grateful to George Taylor for his many hours of work, which appears to be far superior to what we had paid \$6000 for. He and Bill Linder will continue to share information and ideas with each otehr. This kind of research—reconciling—is the kind that we need right now.



Doris Wilson shows Aerial Photo of Land Grant, with Plat Map Overlay at the Joseph Taylor Sr. Reunion