

# Ancestral Research Center Inc.

15 North West Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84103  
(801) 531-0411

31 May 1978

Pleasant Green Taylor Family Members:

We have completed reading the records covering the Conetoe Creek area. An unscrambling of the land plats in the Taylor neighborhood produced four shipwrights who owned land very near Joseph Taylor. Three of these shipwrights are known to have lived in Norfolk County, Virginia, in the early 1760s, so we naturally began reading the Norfolk deeds. In those deeds is the sale on 20 January 1785 by Richard Taylor, his wife Dinah, and their son John "all of Conetoe of Martin County in the State of North Carolina" of 75 acres on Julian Creek on the Southern Branch of Elizabeth River (Norfolk deeds 28:164). The deed reserves the dower rights of an Ann Taylor then living on the tract. So it is very likely Julian Creek was the pre-Conetoe home of your Taylors and that Ann Taylor may be Joseph's mother. Also, when Thomas Taylor, shipwright of Norfolk County, sold his part of the 652-acre Conetoe tract, the deed of 1774 says he was "of the Southern Branch", meaning the Southern Branch of Elizabeth River (see Map 3). We have found several more deeds naming Taylors on Julian Creek (some give detailed family trees) but will not describe them now; this present letter will only summarize the Conetoe data and leave Norfolk records to a later report. So far no Joseph Taylor has been found in the Norfolk records.

Map 1 shows the plotted location of the 652-acre tract. We tried to plot all the tracts in the Taylor neighborhood, going back to the deed indexes as new names were discovered. Many of the tracts could not be plotted because the legal descriptions were never recorded in exact measurements or have been lost or miscopied. Also, the original early patents (as opposed to later resale deeds) are not available in Salt Lake, which meant important tracts were missing. But enough plats could be drawn so that the 652-acre tract could be located on a map with a good fit. We are certain that your Taylors settled on what is now Crisp Creek in the part of Tyrell/Martin transferred to Edgecombe in 1794. (In the 1760s Crisp Creek was called the south prong of Conetoe Creek and most of the Taylor tracts were "in the forks" of Conetoe Creek.)

As said, many of the deeds could not be drawn or fitted together, but they never-the-less give the names of neighboring owners and this enabled us to know the approximate location of the other Crisp Creek land owners in the 1760s. Map 2 shows these names, which are important because some were probably relatives of your Taylors and also from Norfolk. Four of the names are underlined:

1. William Wallace, shipwright, bought 204 acres on 13 April 1761 (Tyrell deeds 4-1:162).
2. Markham Maning, shipwright of Norfolk County, bought 300 acres on 20 April 1761 (Tyrell deeds 4-1:121).

3. Thomas Taylor, of Norfolk County, bought 150 acres on 17 June 1761 from Joseph Taylor. On 3 January 1774, Thomas Taylor, shipwright of Norfolk County, sold the tract to Joseph's son David (Tyrrell deeds 4-1:146 and Martin deeds A:11).
4. Thomas Grimes, shipwright, bought 200 acres on 15 October 1765. On 19 August 1766 Thomas Grimes "Terrel County in North Carolina shipwright" sold land in Norfolk County (Tyrrell deeds 4-1:492 and Norfolk deeds 23:34). The 1765 purchase in the Tyrrell deeds actually says Thomas Gaims but we proved conclusively that the clerk miscopied the earlier deed book--Gaims was definitely Grimes (see D-17).

These four shipwrights and the Norfolk connections would be good circumstantial evidence that your Taylors came from Norfolk County, Virginia, even if the 1785 Richard Taylor deed did not exist.

We have now finished reading the Tyrrell deeds page-by-page to 1774 (D-14) and the Martin deeds 1774 to 1784 (D-15) for deeds in the Conetoe Creek area. A much better plot of the various tracts could be made if the North Carolina patents were read in Raleigh and if the Martin/Edgecombe deeds were read for 1784 to about 1810, but we did not think this necessary. It would take a lot of time. Should anyone wish to do this, we have listed at D-18 the deeds we have found that relate to the Conetoe area.

~~Three other points.~~ First, since the Norfolk connection has been found, we will not have the Tyrrell court minutes 1735-1774 read in Raleigh. Second, the Samuel Taylor and sons on Flat Swamp were never found to be associated in any way with your Taylors. Third, the Richard Taylor deed of 1785 shows why we search records long after the prime period. Richard had been gone from Norfolk County over twenty-five years before he sold the land in Virginia.

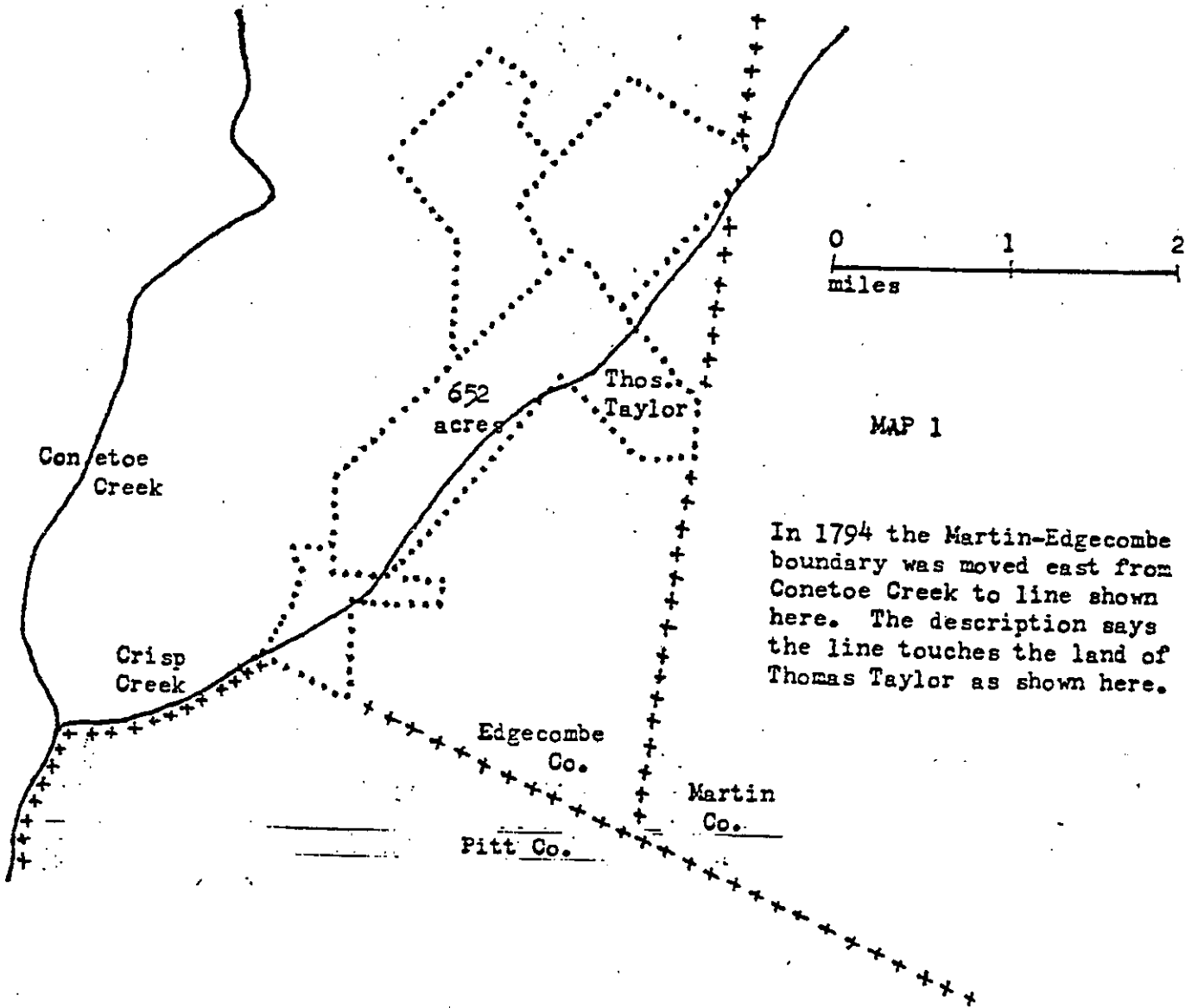
Sincerely,

*William Thorndale*  
grw

William Thorndale  
Research Department

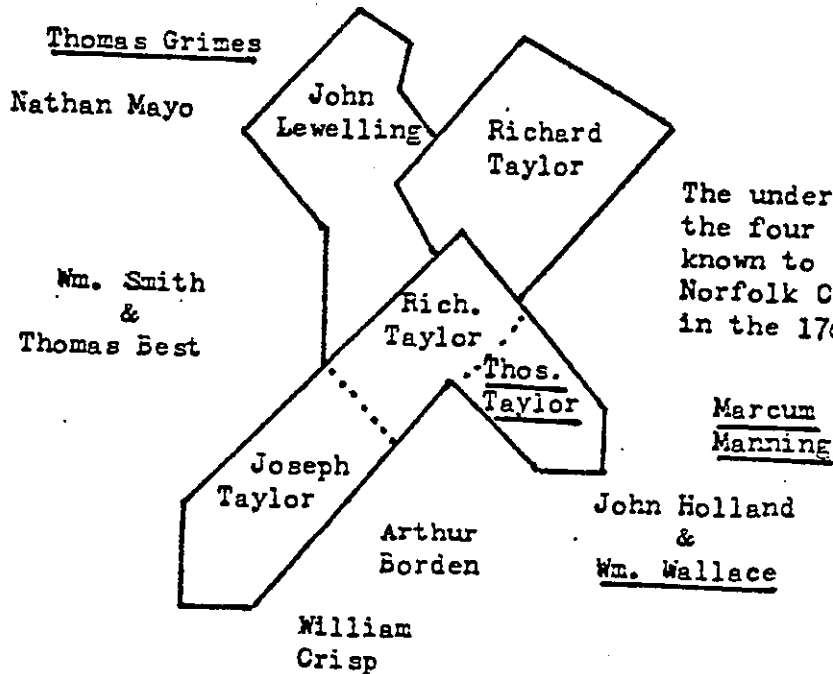
jmw

Enc:



MAP 1

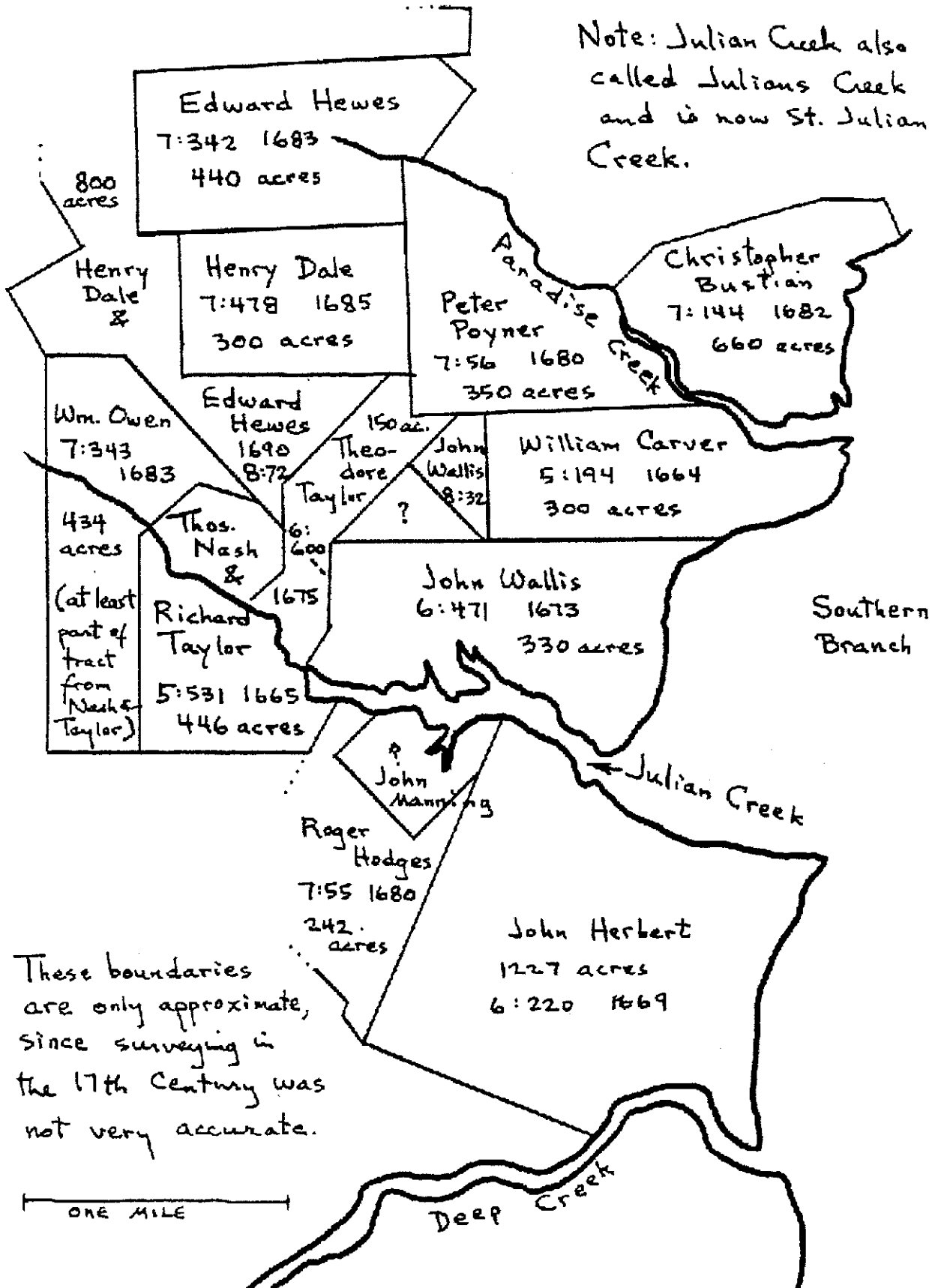
In 1794 the Martin-Edgecombe boundary was moved east from Conetoe Creek to line shown here. The description says the line touches the land of Thomas Taylor as shown here.



MAP 2

The underlined names show the four shipwrights, three known to have lived in Norfolk County, Virginia, in the 1760s.

### Attachment B - Julian Creek Patents



# Ancestral Research Center, Inc.

15 North West Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84103  
(801) 531-0411

14 July 1978

Pleasant Green Taylor Family  
c/o Mrs. Nola Wheelwright  
871 37th Street  
Ogden, UT 84403

Dear Family Members:

Since our letter of 31 May 1978 we have made good progress in pushing back your Taylors to 1665 on Julian Creek, Norfolk County, but still have not found how Joseph Taylor fits into the family. A Joseph Taylor has been found administering the estate of Dinah Taylor, deceased, in Norfolk County 1752-1755, which fits perfectly with your Joseph entering 652 acres on Conetoe Creek in 1756. But no reference so far has been found to any Joseph Taylor in the Taylor wills or deeds of Norfolk County, which complicates things.

This report is in three parts. Part I presents two references showing your Taylors thought they came from Virginia. Part II gives the data so far found on Joseph Taylor in Norfolk, while Part III explains how we trace your Taylors back to 1665.

## Part I

Two facts exist saying your Taylors lived in Virginia 1747-1751. Reputable researchers saw an entry in the bible of Nicholas Wren Taylor, grandson of Joseph II (c1751-1818), stating that Joseph II was born/christened 1751 in Virginia. This bible is said to have been destroyed in a fire in Kansas about 1935, but there is no reason to doubt the fact the bible had such an entry. If Nicholas Wren Taylor started his bible entries at the time of his marriage (c1854), then the entry was made at least 35 years after the death of his grandfather and this, coupled with the entry date being just the year suggests "1751" was from someone's memory or estimate, and not copied from another bible. But the bible is fairly good proof the family thought it came from Virginia.

The second fact is much better. In 1832 Richard Taylor of Edgecombe County, age 85 and a native of Virginia, claimed a Revolutionary pension. He enlisted from the Edgecombe-Martin area but did not say which county (E-13). However, two fellow vets attested to his service and in their pension records is mentioned a third man who likewise served. All three of these men served from Martin County (E-16). Further proof comes from the absence of any Richard Taylor in the Edgecombe records during the Revolutionary years; nor is there one in the 1790 Edgecombe census. So this 1832 pension petition

tells us a Richard Taylor of Martin-Edgewcombe was born about 1747 in Virginia. Just which Richard Taylor he was is still unproven, but he was probably the son of the Richard Taylor who sold the 75 acres in Norfolk County in 1785. This is discussed below in Part III. (Rev. War pension files: Richard Taylor, frame 0491 film 972,351; Jesse Coburn, frame 0162 film 970,589; John Moore, frame 0615 film 971,756; William Price, frame 1180 film 971,975.)

## Part II

The wills of Norfolk County, Virginia, have been published in abstract 1637-1735 and the various names in these wills are therefore indexed (E-6 and E-4). Also, the loose wills in the courthouse that were never recorded in books have likewise been published and indexed (E-5), so we can be fairly certain no Joseph Taylor is named in a Norfolk will of the period. We have read the actual Taylor wills to be certain. We have also read all the Taylor deeds in Norfolk 1695-1799 and no Joseph Taylor is mentioned (E-1, E-2, and E-7). The Norfolk County marriage records are almost entirely lost for the years before 1750, which presumably includes Joseph's marriage (E-24 and E-25). The Church of England parish registers for the area are also missing, but there is a vestry book (i.e., a book on parish business affairs) for Elizabeth River parish 1749-1761 that may help; it has not yet been read.

We then read the court order books 1742-1756, which was laborious as usual. On 16 April 1752 letters of administration were granted Joseph Taylor for the estate of Dinah Taylor (E-9). On 21 August 1755 Joseph won in court a small cash settlement for the estate from the estate of a Richard Ballentine, deceased. These two references are all that we have found so far on any Joseph Taylor in Norfolk. Further, Dinah Taylor is not named as the wife of any man in the Taylor deeds and there is no indication so far of who she was. An inventory of her estate was taken 2 May 1752 (E-26) for household goods and a few farm animals and this shows us she was not the wife of Joseph. Unfortunately the inventory does not mention any of Dinah's kinsmen. It is obvious this Dinah Taylor is a very important clue in identifying Joseph but so far both of them have been very elusive. The best bet for finding more about them may be to read the Norfolk deeds page by page looking for these two mentioned as witnesses. Dinah was probably either the mother or sister of Joseph, so she needs to be identified if possible. (Norfolk County, Virginia, order book 1750-1753 p. 79, film 032,808; order book 1755-1759 p. 2, film 032,809. Dinah's inventory in wills and deeds vol. I 1736-1753 p. 253, film 032,832.)

## Part III

Remember that in 1785 Richard Taylor, his wife Dinah, and their son John, all of Conetoe Creek, sold 75 acres on Julian Creek in Norfolk County, Virginia. It seems we have located this land as part of the estate of a Richard Taylor who died in 1679. This is very important because in the Norfolk records is a 1678 letter linking this Richard to a brother-in-

law John Harding, butcher, of Newgate Street, London, which should help you greatly in finding the English home of your Taylors. The text of the letter will be given below after explaining about the Julian Creek lands. In 1665 Richard Taylor and a Thomas Nash patented 446 acres on Julian Creek. In 1679 Richard died leaving a will naming wife Margrett and children John, Margrett, Richard, and Suzan. A few months later his widow Margaret died leaving a will naming the same four children plus a nursing infant Thomas and saying they were small. Richard's will left his home tract to son John and a piece of land on the north side of Julian Creek to son Richard. In 1704 the son John made an agreement with the son of Thomas Nash regarding the Julian Creek lands, a deed which proves the next mentioned deeds refer to John son of Richard who died in 1679. In 1713 this John and his wife Judith deeded their home plantation (farm) to their son John and named their sons Thomas and Jonas as next heirs in succession if John died without issue. At the same time John made a deed regarding his brother Richard: John says Richard received 75 acres by their father's will but has not made a will leaving the land to his--Richard's--sons. Since John was the elder son and heir of Richard who died in 1679 and therefore might have a claim on the 75 acres if it was not correctly passed on to his brother's sons, John here says the 75 acres should go to brother Richard's son Richard. If this boy Richard (grandson of Richard who died in 1679) dies without issue, then the land goes in succession to the boy's brother Thomas and so on down through William, John, and Edward. So here we have three generations of Julian Creek Taylors: Richard I died in 1679 leaving son John (who had sons John, Thomas, and Jonas), son Richard II (who had sons Richard III, Thomas, William, John, and Edward), and son Thomas. (Right here we should point out an example of the inaccurate family group sheets made by Oscar Russell--the sheet for Richard who died in 1679 lists an eldest child Mary not named in the wills of either Richard or his wife Margrett nor in the June 1679 division of Richard's estate. Because a neighbor William Taylor is said to be a brother-in-law of a John Taylor, his wife is plugged into the Richard Taylor family on no good evidence. Sad to say, but Oscar Russell let his imagination fly too high.)

We roughly calculate John, Richard II, and Thomas were born about 1671, 1675, and 1679, so Richard II probably married around 1700. This would fit well Richard II having five young sons by 1713. It is therefore our hypothesis that the 75 acres willed to Richard II in 1679 and deeded to Richard III in 1713 is the same 75 acres on Julian Creek sold by Richard and Dinah Taylor in 1785. Either Richard III was the same who sold the land in 1785 or, much more likely, the 1785 seller was the eldest son of Richard III. This latter idea would make the 1785 seller Richard IV (? the 1756 chain carrier and joint owner of the 652-acre Conetoe tract?) and thus make his son the Revolutionary vet Richard V (c1747-after 1832). A Richard Taylor Sr. died in 1807 in Edgecombe leaving a son Richard Jr. whom we think was the Revolutionary soldier, so it would not be likely that Richard III, who was the eldest of five young brothers in 1713, could have lived to 1807. Therefore, we hypothesize that the 75 acres on Julian Creek passed down from Richard III to his eldest son Richard of Conetoe who in 1785 sold the land. This would make Richard III a good bet as the father of Joseph. If all these Richards leave your head swimming, there are three points taken from the above that need stressing.

(1) The Julian Creek Taylors were very probably Joseph's family. By 1713 there were eight boys in the third generation, any of which could be Joseph's father. The chronology fits. Since even the youngest of the eight would have been of marrying age by 1730 (taking 1713 plus 18), any could have been Joseph's father and still allowed Joseph to be at least 21 in 1752 when he administered Dinah Taylor's estate. This chronology also fits the Revolutionary vet who was born c1747 and seems to have been the son of the Richard who came to Conetoe about 1756.

(2) The 652-acre tract was split among Joseph, Thomas, and Richard. The Julian Creek Taylors ran to the names Richard, John, and Thomas. It may seem such names are too common to mean much, but actually in this case the prevalence of Richards is a good lead.

(3) We must untangle the Julian Creek Taylors. Since reading the Norfolk deeds seems the best way to do this and since we need more facts regarding Joseph and Dinah in Norfolk, we will continue that approach. It might be mentioned that Julian Creek also had a Theodore Taylor who is kinsman to Richard I and who left sons.

All of the above is still tentative though it fits together quite well. Since there are many leads to be followed, the exact documentation has not been given, though a set of our notes has as usual been sent to Mrs. Wheelwright. One last point is the promised 1678 letter from John Harding of London to his brother-in-law Richard Taylor of Virginia. Richard Taylor's 1679 will is recorded in Norfolk volume 4 of wills and deeds, page 51 (film 032,825). Immediately below is recorded the letter because it had a bearing on the assets of the estate (abbreviations expanded and few periods inserted; underlined words are unclear):

Brother Taylor

I have sent severall letters to you butt never received any answer. You gave a letter of attorney to one Jno. H        [Hewss ?] about two or three years since to trouble mee to noe purpose. I am afraid you have beene misinformed concerning mee, and that may bee the occasion that I have heard from you by other hands. I am willing that you should receive from me that which is your due, therefore if you will order mee to pay you any thing by my very good friend Mr. Richard Parrett S        [Segt or Senr ?] residing in Rapahanock [i.e., along the Rappahannock River in Virginia], write me your mind, and desire him to inclose it in such lines to me, and I shall answer your expectations my self. With your sisters love to you and yours wishing you with health and hapiness here takes leave who is/

Your loveing brother Jno. Harding  
butcher next doore to the 3 tuns  
taverne in Newgate Street,  
London

Sept 1678

These to Richard Taylor upon the Southerne  
brance of Elizabeth River in the Virginias



There remains a minor matter regarding Swan and Lost Creeks in Warren County, Kentucky. Mrs. Wheelwright informs us that Mrs. Colleen Evans of Durham, North Carolina, showed a copy of our sketch map of Warren (sent with the letter of 25 January 1978) to a long-time resident of Warren County and he said we got Swan and Lost Creeks backwards. So this connection should be made: Swan flows into Barren River and Lost into Green. We can see how disconcerting it must seem: If the Ancestral Research Center researcher cannot get such a simple fact right then what about all the rest of his information? Actually, it makes no difference to the arguments of the 25 January letter which way the creeks flow, since the important fact is that they were and are north of Green River. As it happens, in doing the research there was conflicting statements about these two small creeks. The deeds seemed to point to the facts as we now know them (see B-13 and B-19) but rather than take the time to unravel this minor matter, we relied on an 1818 map which shows Swan flowing into Green River (see our notes B-16a). The map was wrong and so were we.

Mrs. Evans also learned another fact--that Swan Creek is also called Taylors Creek. Our letter of 25 January says we could not locate the Taylors Creek mentioned in the early Warren records but it seemed to be south of Green River. Since the letter distinguished between the Taylors north and south of Green River, this fact that Swan Creek is alternatively called Taylors Creek needs comment. We have re-read our notes and find Taylors Creek is mentioned only once: In the 1808 Warren tax list the Gaspers River Taylors are shown as living on Taylors Creek (B-12). There is no question that these Taylors Creek Taylors were the Gaspers River Taylors--the first names are easily identifiable (Moses, Absolom, Reading). Further, these exact Taylors are listed in the years before and after 1808 as living on West Gaspers River. Since it is absolutely certain these Taylors Creek Taylors lived south of Green River and are separate from your Taylors, we are left to explain the matter. Perhaps "Taylors Creek" was a mistake; more likely the creek where these Taylors lived was called Taylors Creek because, after all, many Taylors lived on it. In any case, since there is no doubt these 1808 landowners lived south of Green River, the matter does not affect our conclusions of 25 January.

We have written Mrs. Evans thanking her for the information and asking her suggestions on furthering research. She also received a copy of this letter because it discusses her Warren County findings.

Sincerely,

*William Thorndale*  
jm

William Thorndale  
Research Department

jmw

Enc:

# Ancestral Research Center Inc.

15 North West Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84103  
(801) 531-0411

November 22, 1978

Mrs. Jay Wheelwright  
871 37th Street  
Ogden, UT 84403

Dear Mrs. Wheelwright:

Finally, here is the report proving Joseph's parents. Very often Colonial lineages based on circumstantial evidence have an irritating habit of remaining inconclusive, so that we are never sure. But in the case of Joseph's parents, there are several lines of proof that make it certain. It did take me longer to analyze and write than expected, but finally it all fell into place. I was really happy to fit a Thomas Taylor into the Julian Creek line because suddenly the 100 acres associated with him (1744 to 1782) became the very 100 acres willed by Richard I in 1679. But this part took alot of reading and rereading of my notes. Finally, I photocopied all the notes and then cut up one copy so the notes could be rearranged in chronological order for analysis. The results were really fine and after the pieces came together many of the non-Taylor names made alot more sense.

Your letter of 26 September mentioned making one report available to all the surviving branches of the William Taylor family, for which our people at the office could give an estimate on cost for copies. To facilitate this, I altered the format from the usual letter to a more formal report, and added two of the previous letters to save repeating information. If the report is to go to people unfamiliar with our earlier work, then it seemed necessary that the two letters be attached.

On the matter of Jesse Warner's note to you about resurrecting the Zachary Taylor bogey, I sent the attached letter to him but got no answer. It would have been informative to learn his reasoning regarding the 1751 date and I was hoping to hear from him.

I want to thank you for having the confidence in me about solving the Joseph Taylor problem. It has been expensive but looking back on the work done I know the records had to be read so thoroughly as they were. In fact, it turned out great that reading the deeds and order books page-by-page 1720-1755 located almost no references to Joseph and Dinah. Since the very thorough search

**your family tree doctor**

November 22, 1978

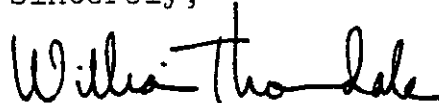
produced only the briefest mention of them, we can be sure they are the ones we want. So what at first seemed bad news has turned out to be one of the strongest links in the proof, and that because you and your family were willing to have the records read right.

I also have a favor to ask regarding my using a copy of this report for accreditation. I am accredited with the Genealogical Department, of course, but have applied for similar accreditation with the Board of Certification of Genealogist in Washington, DC. A sample of work is required, one with three or four generations prior to 1800. Your Taylor reports fit the bill perfectly and I am proud of the results, so I would like permission to submit a copy (at my own expense, naturally).

A few words about temple work. Doing Richard II on his father's 1679 will is acceptable, but doing Richard III may present some problems since he is not named in Richard II's 1729 will. Perhaps the Genealogical Department would allow use of the 1713 deed and the 1729 will together. As for sealing Joseph to Richard III and Dinah, that may be unacceptable to the Genealogical Department at present because there is no specific birth date nor any will. The Department has been promising for a couple of years to relax the rules under a new family submission program, but this program has been repeatedly postponed and is still not operational. As for doing the marriages when the Norfolk marriage records are lost, that also seems to come under the promised family submission program.

Again thank you for your confidence and your prayers for success. We all have a right to be gratified with the results.

Sincerely,



William Thorndale  
Researcher

pmp

Enclosures

# Ancestral Research Center Inc.

15 North West Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84103  
(801) 531-0411

*Scanned as Report*  
*Edited: Irondale Report*  
*These do not include*  
*Genealogical Charts*

THE PARENTS OF  
JOSEPH TAYLOR  
OF CONETOE CREEK, EDGECOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

A Report on the Julian Creek Taylors  
of Norfolk County, Virginia

Attachments:

- A. Map of Norfolk County
- B. Plat of Julian Creek Patents
- C. Chart of Julian Creek Taylor Genealogy
- D. Will, 1729, Richard Taylor
- E. Will, 1754, Richard Taylor
- F. Letter, 31 May 1978
- G. Letter, 14 July 1978 (Including John Harding's 1676 Letter)
- H. Family Group Sheets

## THE PARENTS OF JOSEPH TAYLOR OF CONETOE CREEK

November 22, 1978

Research in the records of Norfolk County, Virginia, shows that Joseph Taylor of Conetoe Creek was the son of Richard III and Dinah Taylor, the grandson of Richard II and Jean, and the greatgrandson of Richard I and Margaret. This theory was proposed in our letter of 14 July 1978 and has been verified by an analysis of the Norfolk records and by the discovery that Dinah Taylor administered the estate of a Richard Taylor in 1734. In this present report we will explain the circumstantial evidence proving Joseph's parents, and then we will say something about finding the English origins of Richard Taylor I, the immigrant.

We were hired because the previous research had snarled the Norfolk Taylors into a hopeless mess. Here are two notable examples which show just how unreliable the previous work was. The John Taylor family of Washington, DC, made a family group sheet for John Taylor, Sr. (son of Richard I) and his wife Judith Rise. The sheet shows Richard with seven children, all taken from the 1743 will of a John Taylor who was actually a Norfolk merchant and member of a wealthy and socially prominent family with no known connection with Richard I.<sup>1</sup> The sheet flatly contradicts the 1679 will of Richard. Another example of gross error is the sheet for Thomas Taylor who married Faith, whom the association said was the son of Capt. John Taylor. Actually, Faith's husband Thomas was the son of Theodore,<sup>2</sup> as is proven absolutely by Theodore's will and a 1708 deed.<sup>2</sup> So there is no doubt the Joseph Taylor research had to start over.

Since no record specifically says who Joseph's parents were, we must prove the matter circumstantially. Our proof rests on the fact that the Conetoe Taylors came from Julian Creek. Our letter of 31 May 1978 proved that several Conetoe neighbors of Joseph and Richard Taylor came from Norfolk County, Virginia. The keystone of our whole proof is that in 1785 Richard Taylor "of Conetoe of Martin County" sold 75 acres on the north side of Julian Creek in Norfolk County.<sup>3</sup> This ties together the Conetoe and Julian Creek Taylors.

Our proof consists of two parallel links between the Conetoe Taylors and Richard Taylor III of Julian Creek. One link is very direct. In 1756 the 652-acre tract on Conetoe Creek was "entered" by the Taylors, this being the first legal step toward Joseph receiving the 1760 patent. In all the Norfolk

County records there were only two references to any Joseph Taylor: (1) In 1752 a Joseph Taylor administered the estate of Dinah Taylor, and (2) in 1755 this Joseph, as administrator of the estate of Dinah Taylor, obtained a small court settlement from the estate of Richard Ballentine.<sup>4</sup> The chronological fit immediately suggested Dinah was Joseph's mother and that after her death he moved to North Carolina. As for references to Dinah, there were likewise only two: (1) 1752, and (2) the administration by a Dinah Taylor in 1734 of the estate of Richard Taylor.<sup>5</sup> This 1734 information implied that Dinah was the widow of Richard and made it likely Richard was the father of Joseph of Conetoe. The chronology then became approximately the following: Joseph was born by 1734--his father's death--and actually he had to be 21 in 1752 to administer an estate, so he was born by 1731. In our letter of 14 July 1978, we explained how Joseph's assumed brother Richard of Conetoe apparently had a son Richard whose Revolutionary War pension application says he--the veteran--was born about 1747, which made Joseph's assumed brother Richard born about 1726 (1747 - 21 = 1726). Therefore, the evidence suggests Joseph and Richard (whom we call Richard IV) fit very well as sons of Richard III and Dinah.

If this were the only proof, the lineage would have remained conjecture. However, the second link between Conetoe and Julian Creek takes us back to the same place. In 1665 Richard Taylor (Richard I) and Thomas Nash patented a 446-acre tract on Julian Creek.<sup>6</sup> The previous year Richard had sold a "full share" in this tract to Thomas Nash, so Richard had legal right to half the tract, though part was sold to a Theodore Taylor who may have been Richard's brother.<sup>7</sup> In 1679 Richard's will left his land to his two sons John, who received the part on the south side of Julian Creek, and Richard II, who received the 75 acres on the north side of the creek.<sup>8</sup> In 1713 John made two very important deeds that are crucial to the Julian Creek genealogy. One deed gave his own plantation--the tract on the south of Julian Creek--to his son John, with the tract to descend to sons Thomas and then Jonas if the older brothers failed to have children.<sup>9</sup> We will discuss this tract some more below. The other 1713 deed concerned the 75 acres of his brother Richard II.<sup>10</sup> It should be understood that in Virginia primogeniture was the law prior to 1776, meaning that if a person died owning land but did not specifically will that land to someone, then the land automatically went to the eldest living son or the latter's heir.

John in 1713 was worried because his brother Richard II had a will that did not name Richard's eldest son Richard III. Since under primogeniture John (as heir-at-law of their father Richard I) might possibly have a right to the 75 acres if his

brother did not mention the land in his--Richard II's-- will, John made a deed saying the 75 acres should go to Richard II's eldest son Richard III and, failing heirs, descend to Richard III's brother Thomas, then brothers William, John, and Edward. It is only thanks to John's careful nature that we know Richard II had a son Richard, for the will of Richard II does not name Richard III--just as John said it did not. The 1729 will of Richard II is not recorded in the Norfolk records but we obtained a photocopy and have transcribed it; a copy is attached to this report. The will does not mention any land, so we know the 75 acres passed to one of Richard II's sons. We tried to prove specifically that Richard III inherited the 75 acres but could not rule out the remote possibility that Richard III died without issue and another brother inherited. The records do not permit an independent proof of this; however, when coupled with the fact that Richard of Conetoe sold the 75 acres in 1785 and Joseph of Conetoe is directly linked to Richard III via Dinah, we believe the proof is satisfactory that Richard III inherited the 75 acres in 1729-30 and that the tract descended by primogeniture to his son Richard IV in 1734 when Richard III died without a will.

The proof would be strengthened if we could show that the Richard Taylor who died in 1734 did, in fact, live on Julian Creek and, therefore, must be Richard III. To do this we spent alot of time unraveling the various Richard Taylors in Norfolk County. A chart reconstructing the Julian Creek Taylors is attached to this report. In Norfolk in the 1700's there were five distinct clusters of Taylor families. In the town of Norfolk lived the well-to-do merchant family of ship-owners who traded to the West Indies and the British Isles. This socially prominent family produced several mayors and generals and is easily distinguished from the other Taylors in the county. There was also a family living on the Western Branch of Elizabeth River, one founded by the Andrew Taylor who left a 1716 will. The last three clusters were related. The Jonas and Peter Taylors of the Western Branch were part of the Julian Creek family, plus Theodore Taylor of Julian Creek had two sons who moved to the Great Bridge area at the southern end of the Southern Branch. Our task now was to account for the several Richard Taylors in Norfolk County up to 1785 when Richard of Conetoe sold the 75 acres.

First, Andrew Taylor of the Western Branch seems to have had only one son--Thomas--and that son had a son Richard. Fortunately, there are several documents that make this family easy to reconstruct,<sup>11</sup> so we will limit ourselves to comparing the names in the 1745 will of Andrew's son Thomas with the names in

in the 1754 will of Richard Taylor.<sup>12</sup> It should be mentioned that Richard's will is not recorded in the Norfolk records but we obtained a photocopy, so we are reading the original and not the inaccurate abstract published some years ago. Below are all the people receiving mention in the wills:

<u>1745 Will, Thomas</u>	<u>1754 Will, Richard</u>
Wife Mary Taylor	Mother Mary Taylor
Son John Taylor	Brother John Taylor
Son Andrew Taylor	
Dau Margaret Brown	
Son William Taylor	
Dau Anne <u>Noas?</u>	
Son Caleb	Calup Taler,
* Richard Taylor	Testator himself
* James Taylor	Brother James Taler
* Joshua Taylor	Joshshewa Taler
* Sarah Maning	Elishshe Manning
* Judith Powers	Joseph Powers
* "my wife and five children"	Son William Taylor
	John Moore
	Sister <u>hoxed?</u>
	Mother <u>Jean Taler</u>

It will be seen that the 1754 will of Richard Taylor names his mother Mary Taylor and his mother Jean Taylor. There is no suggestion of a miscopy, so one must have been his mother-in-law. Since Jean Taylor was the wife of Richard II and mother of Richard III, we have compared the 1754 will of Richard to that of Thomas to prove Richard of the 1754 will was clearly the son of Thomas and Mary Taylor. We also can show that Elisha Manning was the husband of Sarah Manning. Thus Richard of the 1754 will was not Richard III. A transcript of the 1754 will is included in this report.

There is another Richard Taylor in Norfolk County, one associated with Julian Creek and therefore more of a problem. In a 1782 deed this Richard the Joiner (to name him after his trade) gave to his cousin James Taylor "of Princess Anne County", Virginia a tract of 100 acres that he had bought from James's deceased brother William.<sup>13</sup> "Cousin" even as late as 1782 could mean nephew.

James and William were sons of Thomas Taylor, whose 1744 will survives in Princess Anne County.<sup>14</sup> In that 1744 will Thomas left his son John a "plantation" on Julian Creek. Since this family group was so closely tied to Julian Creek, it was essential that we place it in the correct line, yet for a long time no position seemed to fit. Our solution now is that John



son of Richard I was the father of Thomas of Princess Anne and of Richard the Joiner. Remember that John in a 1713 deed named his sons John, Thomas, and Jonas, in that order. No Richard was named, yet he must have had a son Richard. No will or probate has been found for John son of Richard I, so it is possible he had a son Richard, one named for the boy's grandfather Richard I. In any case, we hypothesize that John's son John, Jr., died without issue and the 100 acres passed to his brother Thomas of Princess Anne, who willed it to his son John, Jr. If John, Jr., died without issue, then the 100 acres could have passed to his eldest brother William, who sold it to his uncle Richard the Joiner, who gave it in 1782 to his nephew James the son of Thomas of Princess Anne.

This construction accounts for all the facts and is bolstered by the 1785 will of Richard the Joiner.<sup>15</sup> That will, implying Richard the Joiner died a bachelor, gives names agreeing with our construction above. An additional link is found in Jonas Taylor--a proven brother of Thomas of Princess Anne--living on the Western Branch, as did Peter Taylor who lived next to a Richard Taylor.<sup>16</sup> It so happens Peter was the guardian of three sons of Thomas of Princess Anne.<sup>17</sup> Two more of his children had David Ballentine for a guardian, a surname closely tied to the Julian Creek Taylors but not the other Taylor families of the area. Also, a Jonas Taylor witnessed the 1744 will of Thomas Taylor of Princess Anne.

Since it has not been mentioned yet, there is a 1704 quit rent roll (a tax list) for Norfolk County.<sup>18</sup> The only Taylors were Andrew for 222 acres, John for 100 acres, and Richard for 75 acres. So the tract on the south side of Julian Creek equaled 100 and it was this land that descended to Thomas of Princess Anne and then changed hands among various family members. Therefore, we have now accounted for both the 100 and 75 acres on Julian Creek down to the 1780's and shown that the Richard Taylors of the 1754 and 1785 wills were not Richard III.

To this should be added another line of proof. The estate of Richard Taylor who died in 1734 was appraised by John Bowers, John Joyce, Abraham Bruce, and Thomas Bruce, and Dinah Taylor's security to administer the estate was provided (i.e., bonded) by John Davis and John Joyce.<sup>19</sup> These surnames fit the Julian Creek area. Attached to this report is a rough plat map of Julian Creek patents. Starting with this map we tried to trace the lands down to the 1730's in order to say just where the 1734 bondsmen and appraisors lived (on the theory that appraisors were neighbors of the deceased), but it proved too big a task. Too many tracts were inherited without

legal descriptions and too many deeds were too vague. However, in working with the Norfolk records the impression comes through very strongly that the 1734 surnames are clustered around Julian Creek. As an example, a deed 13 May 1730 from Edward Hews to Richard Taylor concerns the Julian Creek area (the Hughs tract) and the witnesses included John Joyce and James Bruce.<sup>20</sup>

Since we have eliminated the competing Richard Taylors and followed two lines of proof to suggest Richard III died in 1734, we regard it a proven fact by very solid circumstantial evidence that Joseph and Richard of Conetoe were sons of Richard III and Dinah of Julian Creek. As for Thomas, the third Taylor with a legal interest in the 652-acre Conetoe tract of 1760, we have not been able to identify him in the Norfolk records. It is known from the Martin-Edgecombe records that Thomas stayed in Norfolk County, but just which man of that name he was is something we failed to learn. Presumably he was a brother of Joseph and Richard, but even good circumstantial proof is lacking. The Norfolk court orders 1736-1742 are lost and perhaps in them was mention of the guardianship of Richard III's children that would have proved the matter regarding Thomas--and Joseph himself.

There are, of course, other minor loose ends. A 1779 will of Ann Taylor names a son Richard and we are unable to tie this family to anyone.<sup>21</sup> The names suggest some link with the Norfolk Borough merchant family, but that is just conjecture. Her son could not be Richard III since his mother was Jean. Another unsolved matter is that of the Ann Taylor named in the 1785 deed of Richard of Conetoe. The deed reserved dower rights to an Ann Taylor, which suggests she was a widow. According to our construction, Richard of Conetoe lived on Conetoe Creek from at least the early 1760's. So the Julian Creek tract could have been leased to an uncle or brother. His grandmother Jean/Jenet had dower rights and she lived into the 1750's. Therefore, we suggest that Ann was married to a younger son or grandson of Richard II and her husband had a life lease. Such a lease would not normally be recorded in county records. We have given this matter a great deal of work and really have no other satisfactory solution. These puzzles over the 1779 and 1785 Ann Taylors do remind us of how fortunate we are that the Norfolk records have allowed us to solve the Joseph Taylor problem by circumstantial evidence. All too often the loose ends are so numerous as to make solutions impossible.

Given that Joseph was the son of Richard III, then the lineage is proven back to Richard I, the immigrant. The earliest proven reference to Richard I of Julian Creek is the 1664 sale to Thomas Nash of half the Julian Creek tract.<sup>22</sup> The name Richard Taylor was fairly common in Virginia in the 1600's, so it is unlikely we can identify the Julian Creek Richard any earlier than this in Virginia, yet tracing Richard I back to England has a very good chance of success. Our letter of 14 July 1978 has the text of a 1676 letter from Richard's brother-in-law John Harding, whose address has now been read as "butcher next doore to the 3 tuns taverne on Newgate Street, London."<sup>23</sup> Attached is copy of the 1677 London map for Newgate Street, which was bounded west by the New Gate in the city wall and east by Blow Bladder Street (the latter just appearing at the right side of the map). This map shows all of Newgate Street when John Harding lived there, though not where the Three Tuns Tavern stood. Christ Church was the parish church, so the published parish registers were checked.<sup>24</sup> This area burned in the Great Fire of 1666, so the parish registers 1588-1666 are lost for Christ Church (also called Greyfriars Christ Church).

The following are all Harding/Hardin christening entries (except for a 1673 foundling) for the years 1667-1700:

12 May 1672	Susannah,	dau of John & Susannah
1 Jun 1673	Sarah	dau of John & Susannah
31 May 1674	Elizabeth,	dau of John & Susannah
4 Aug 1675	George,	son of John & Elizabeth
5 Dec 1675	Anne,	dau of John & Susan
20 Nov 1676	Mary,	dau of John & Susanna
27 Oct 1677	Frances,	dau of John & Susan
28 Mar 1679	James,	son of John & Susanna
3 Apr 1681	James,	son of John & Susanna
28 May 1682	Mary,	dau of John & Susan
7 Jul 1682	William,	son of John & Rachell
20 Apr 1683	Martha,	dau of John & Susanna
13 Jan 1683/4	Martha,	dau of John & Rachel
8 Aug 1686	Rachell,	dau of John & Rachell
6 May 1688	Sarah,	dau of John & Rachell
31 May 1690	Sarah,	dau of James & Ann
20 Jul 1691	Anne,	dau of James & Anne
23 Oct 1692	Mary,	dau of James & Ann
15 Nov 1693	Martha,	dau of James & Anne

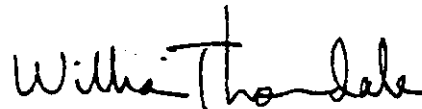
The 1676 christening for Mary says John, husband of Susanna, was a butcher. So it is obvious we now know Richard I's sister was Susannah, the same as Richard's younger daughter. We read some other records, even finding the 1708 will of a John Harding, St. James Clerkenwell, London citizen and butcher,

but nothing tied directly to John Harding of Newgate Street.<sup>25</sup> Actually, we did little English research since that was not your directive--just enough to locate John Harding in London. Unfortunately, the records of the Butcher's Guild also burned in the 1666 fire, which eliminates a possible apprentice record.

In searching for the English origins of the Taylors, the researcher should try to locate the John Harding-Susannah Taylor marriage, since that might lead to her parents. Likewise, the will of John Harding might give clues as to his origins, which could lead to his wife's family. Additionally, the researcher ought to keep in mind the surnames with which Richard I associated in Virginia, such as Theodore Taylor (a possible brother) and Thomas Nash (Richard's partner). Another name is Parrett. John Harding in 1676 named Richard Parrett of Rappahannock as a friend and in 1653 a Gregory Parrett partented 300 acres on Julian Creek.<sup>26</sup> This is not a common surname.

\* \* \* \* \*

This completes our search for Joseph Taylor's parents. It has been challenging to work on this difficult problem and gratifying that it was solved.



William Thorndale  
Researcher

Attachment D

WILL, 1729, RICHARD TAYLOR

In the name of God, Amen.

I Richard Taylor of Elizabeth River in the County of Norfolk in Virginia being sick and weake in body but of good and perfect memory prais be to the all God knowing that I am natarlly born to dye to pass from this mortall world & transitory life according to put in order all & singular my Estate both Reall & person [sic] to the Intint there should be none to strife for the same.

I give to my son William Taylor on [one] short gune and sord Likewise I give to my son John Taylor my littel gun and three wigs. Likewise I give to my son Edward Taylor my buck sock gune [a shotgun?] and afrow Likewise I give to my Dafter [daughter] Mary Taylor my small thinn pot and on larg puter basson Likewise I give to my Dafter Margret Taylor one larg puter basson and one dish and one litel basson Likewise I give to my Dafter Richal [Rachel?] Taylor one larg puter basson and one larg dish and one littel basson.

My will and Desier is that my loving wife Jan Tayler be executr of this my Last Will and Testament in witness hear of I the said Richard Tayler have subscribed this my last will and testament with my hand and seal this 26th of September 1729

Test

John Oweins  
Willa Owins  
Thomas Oweins

Richard + Tayler  
his mark

At a court held the 19th of Feby 1730/1 the above will was prove in open Court by John & Wm. Oweins and swore to by the Exex according to law & ordered to be recorded

Test Sole Wilson

[on the back is "Richard Taylor will . . . Nuncupitive." This will was never recorded and is now found bound in wills 1722-1736, p. 22 (unrecorded, now restored), Chesapeake City Court-house, successor to Norfolk County.]

Attachment E

WILL, 1754, RICHARD TAYLOR

In the Name of God Amen Octob the 28, 1754 in the 27<sup>th</sup> of George our King I Richard Taylor being Sick & weak in body but of sound and perfect memory Praise be given to God for the same and knowing the unsertianty of this life on earth and being desirous to Settile things on Earth in Order do make this my Last will and Testament in manner & form following--that is to say First and principally I commend my Soul to God Almighty my Creator, Assuredly believing that I Shall Receive full Pardon and free Remison of all my Sins and be Saved by the Presious death and merit of my Blessed Saviour & Redeamer Christ Jesus and my body to the Earth.

Item I give and bequeive unto my son William Taylor tow beds and firniture & a ruge a Mare and hers all the puter that I have one chest & box and a craile [cradle?] all my Turner tules and my Acts [ax] likewise and what hogs I have got except six to Jean Taler a cow and cavf and if my son William Taylor dyes to return to my Mother Mary Taylor after my son is at age, and six pounds to John Moore tow Sadles two bridles and all the household goods one kess [chest] to my son William Tayler.

[Here the handwriting changes]

Item: and my Cos: [clothes?] allso fore sister hoxed and All so my Corn one half to my son William Taler and the rest to my mother Jean Taler and all so to my sun William Taler 2 Great Wheales and one linning wheal and fore sheap and three airon pots and one bras cittle and spit and flesh forkes and tongs and pot hangeres and squimmer [skimmer] and five White Cheers and Box airon and heaters and one Table and one pott and Tub one airon pestall and twue Bedsteds and a Gun and ? one Great Wheal at Tomson and to three earthen pleats one Boll. and all my clos to be equelly devied between my brother John Taler and James Taler. I also desire that after my sun dies that it may return to Calup Taler and Joshshewa Taler and Joseph Powers to be equelly devied.

I allsow leave all my estate to James Taler and Elishshe Manning.

Rich<sup>er</sup> Y:8 [?Yate]  
Richard B. Maybeigh  
\_\_\_\_\_Tucker

Thomas Best

Richard Taler

[On the back it says "Novem<sup>r</sup> 1754 proved &c."; also there is a list of perhaps two dozen tools--chisels, gouges, augers, planes, rasp, etc. This will was never recorded and is now found bound in Wills, 1747-59, p. 19 (unrecorded, now restored), Chesapeake City Courthouse, successor of Norfolk County.]

NORFOLK COUNTY  
SOURCES CONSULTED

Original Sources:

- Deeds: 1637-1800 covered by index except 1721-1785 checked page-by-page.
- Wills: Pre-1755 in deeds. 1755-1800 covered by index.
- Orders: 1719-1736, 1742-1756 read page-by-page. Gap in records.
- Minutes: 1749-1753 read page-by-page.
- Guardian Bonds: 1751-1788 read.
- Inventories: 1755-1791 read page-by-page.
- Appraisements: 1755-1812 by index.
- Audits: 1755-1811 by index.
- Elizabeth River Parish Vestry Book: 1749-1761 read page-by-page.

Secondary Sources:

- Southern Taylor Families 1607-1830, Albert Eugene Casey, (Birmingham, Alabama: 1958).
- Virginia Colonial Abstracts: Vol. XXXI, Lower Norfolk County, 1651-1654, Beverley Fleet, (Baltimore, Maryland: 1961).
- Lower Norfolk County, Virginia, Antiquary, ed. Edward W. James, (1895), 5 vols.
- Brief Abstract of Lower Norfolk County and Norfolk County Wills, 1637-1710, Charles Fleming McIntosh, (n.p.: 1914).
- Brief Abstracts of Norfolk County Wills, 1710-1753, Charles Fleming McIntosh, (n.p.: 1922).
- The Quit Rents of Virginia, Annie Laurie Wright Smith, (n.p.: 1957). The 1704 Quit Rent.



History of Norfolk County, Virginia, and Representative Citizens, William H. Stewart, (Chicago, Illinois: 1902).

"Norfolk County Tithables 1730," The Virginia Genealogist, 7 (1963) 3-11.

Vestry Book of Elizabeth River Parish 1749-1761, Alice Granbery Walter, (New York, New York: 1967).

Virginia Land Patents of the Counties of Norfolk, Princess Anne & Warwick from Patent Books "O" & "6", 1666-1679, Alice Granbery Walter, (Lawrence, New York: 1972).

Collection of Unrecorded Wills, Norfolk County, Virginia, 1711-1800, Elizabeth B. Wingo, (n.p.: 1931).

Marriages of Norfolk County, Virginia, 1706-1792, Elizabeth B. Wingo, (n.p.: 1961).

## F O O T N O T E S

All documents are Norfolk County records unless otherwise stated. Norfolk County, Virginia, is now Chesapeake City. The film numbers below refer to the U.S. microfilm collection of the L.D.S. Genealogical Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

1. Deeds H:123, film 032,832; see also Deeds 9:261, film 032,829.
2. Deeds 6:271, film 032,827, and 8:7, film 032,828.
3. Deeds 27:164, film 032,837.
4. Orders 1750-1753, p. 79, 16 Apr 1752, and Orders 1753-1755, p. 2, 21 Aug 1755, film 032,808.
5. Orders 1750-1753, p. 79 16 Apr 1752, film 032,808; her inventory is in Deeds I:253, film 032,832; Wills & Orders 1723-1734, p. 186, film 032,830; his inventory is in Deeds 12:5, film 032,831.
6. Virginia Patents 5:651, film 029,322.
7. Deeds D:430, film 032,824; 4:93, film 032,825, and 5:121, film 032,826.
8. Deeds 4:51, film 032,825.
9. Deeds 9:261, film 032,829.
10. Ibid.
11. Deeds 10:10, film 032,829; 13:81 and 14:129, film 032,817; 19:14, film 032,818; 20:178 and 21:141, film 032,819; 27:158, film 032,837. Also see the Wills in note 12.
12. Deeds H:197, film 032,832; the 1754 will of Richard Taylor is unrecorded, see attached transcription.
13. Deeds 29:1, film 032,837.
14. Princess Anne County, Virginia, deeds 6:358, film 033,192.
15. Wills 2:253, film 032,903.
16. Deeds 19:14, film 032,818; 14:20, film 032,817.

17. Virginia Antiquary, Vol. 1: Princess Anne County Loose Papers 1700-1789, John Harvie Creecy, (Richmond, Virginia: 1954), p. 8.
18. The Quit Rents of Virginia, Anne Laurie Wright Smith, (n.p.: 1957).
19. Orders 1723-1734, p. 186, 17 May 1734, film 032,830.
20. Deeds G:193, film 032,830.
21. Wills 2:156, film 032,903.
22. Deeds D:430, film 032,824.
23. Deeds 4:51, film 032,825.
24. The Registers of Christ Church, Newgate, 1538-1754, Willoughby A. Littledale, (London, England: 1895), pp. 37-99.
25. Archdeaconry of London original wills, box 36, 1710-1712, film 094,296 (British microfilms).
26. Virginia Patents 3:179, film 029,319.