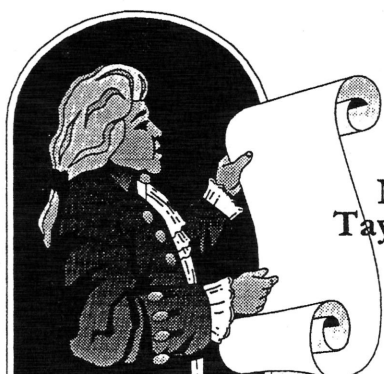


The Taylor Clearing House

Early North Carolina Research



North Carolina Taylors Under Study

by Bill Linder

Descendants are sought who may be researching certain early North Carolina Taylors set forth following. Please contact: Bill R. Linder, 4615 9th Street South, Arlington, VA 22204-5922. E-mail: Blinder@aol.com

- **Jonathan Taylor**, dec'd 1798 Sampson Co., NC. He was the father of **Laban Taylor**, dec'd 1804 Sampson Co., NC. Laban Taylor and his mother Abigail Taylor were the only heirs of Jonathan Taylor. Laban Taylor was the County Treasurer when he died intestate, leaving no wife or children. His mother, the widow Abigail Taylor, remarried to Jonathan Cross and was deceased by 1808.
- Perhaps prompted by the death of Abigail Cross, in Dec 1808 **Jesse and Susanna Green of Johnston Co., NC**, gave power of attorney to their son Sion Green to recover what was "due us by the Admr. of Laban Taylor, late of Sampson County."
- **Samuel Taylor**, dec'd 1806 Gates Co., NC. His heirs received land from the estate of Laban Taylor of Sampson Co.
- **John Taylor**, dec'd 1788 Franklin Co., NC. His heirs received land from the estate of Laban Taylor of Sampson Co.
- **William Taylor** of Anson Co., NC, in 1804 gave power of attorney to his son Sanders Taylor to sue for and demand what was due him from the estate of Laban Taylor.
- A deed from Reddick Cross to James Blanks made in Sampson County in 1824 introduces an "**Aunt Polley**" for Laban Taylor. William Cross, son of Polley Cross, formerly Polley Taylor and aunt of Laban Taylor, was mentioned in the deed.
- Does anyone have information or is anyone performing research relating to the ancestors and descendants of **William Taylor**, who was the High Sheriff of Edgecombe County and who drowned when his canoe overturned on Christmas Day 1750? This William Taylor left a widow Ann, who was apparently twice widowed. She was formerly married to William Murphrey of Edgecombe. William Taylor had two sons, William Taylor who left a will in Halifax Co., NC, in 1785, whose mother was a Miss Pope, and Samuel Murphrey Taylor, whose mother has not been identified. There were no children by William Taylor's wife Ann. The William Taylor (Jr.) line died out without heirs and the remaining Taylor land went to cousins, winding up in the possession of Ahab Wilson Taylor, son of Samuel Murphrey Taylor.
- **William Taylor** of Coneho Creek is in the records of at least three counties and made his will in Halifax County in 1762. He bought land in Edgecombe County from Robert Butler as early

as 1739, but he was "of Bertie County" when he again bought land in Edgecombe on 5 Mar 1745 from Francis Hopson [Hobson]. His wife's name when he made his will was Mary. He had children: Thomas Teackle Taylor, Elizabeth Taylor, Joshua Taylor who married a Roe, John Taylor, Ester Taylor, Catherine Taylor, and Mary Taylor.

- **William Taylor** lived in Duplin Co., NC, from about 1750 until he was murdered in 1787 by a slave. His wife was Catherine Barfield who died in 1801 in Duplin County, a daughter of Richard Barfield of Duplin. He had two daughters: Mary Taylor who married James McCulloh, and Elizabeth Taylor who married John Rhodes.
- Is anyone working on the **Taylors of Gates and Chowan Counties, NC**, during the 1700s?
- Is anyone working on the **Taylors** who lived along **Toisnot Swamp** (present-day Nash County) during the 1700s?

Is Francis Hobson a Clue?

by Bill Linder

- In Feb 1738/9, **Francis Hobson**, **Jonathan Taylor**, Needharn Bryant, and Henry Bate appraised the land when Joseph Wimberley obtained an order from the court for a mill on "Quitney"-Swamp in Bertie County, North Carolina.
- A few years later, **William Taylor** "of Bertie County" bought 200 acres from **Francis Hobson** of Bertie on 5 Mar 1745. Taylor entered 300 acres in Edgecombe on the South side of Roanoke River, bordering Hobson's lower line on 5 Apr 1745. Taylor sold 100 acres joining Hobson and Roanoke River in Dec 1745 to William Drake. **William and Mary Taylor** witnessed in July 1752 when William Drake sold the 100 acres joining Hobson to John Baker. This is the **William Taylor** of Coneho Creek who made his will in 1762 in Halifax County.
- **Samuel Taylor** was granted 400 acres in Tyrrell County joining Flat Swamp in June 1739. **Francis Hobson** witnessed in 1742/3 when land joining **Samuel Taylor** changed hands. Hobson witnessed in Nov 1746 when **Samuel Taylor** sold 100 acres of Flat Swamp land to Anna Black. In Dec 1751, **Samuel Taylor** was a surety for **Francis Hobson** in a court matter.
- Could, as the above seems to possibly suggest, **William Taylor** of Coneho and **Samuel Taylor** of nearby Flat Swamp have been sons of **Jonathan Taylor** and **Catherine Taylor** of Quitsna and Roquiss Swamp in Bertie County?
- Was **Richard Taylor** yet another son of **Jonathan Taylor**? **Richard "Tayloe"** witnessed with Joseph Horton and Danil (?) Horton on 7 Apr 1754 when Elias Price and Wife Mary of Upper Parish, Nansemond Co., VA, sold to Robert Howell for 40 shillings, 160 acres on Roquiss Swamp adjoining Robert Howell and **Francis Hobson**. The deed was recorded in Bertie County.

David E. Taylor and I are seeking correspondents or descendants of **William Taylor of Coneho**, **Samuel Taylor of Flat Swamp**, and **Richard Taylor** of the same area and time period in an effort to solve this northeastern North Carolina Taylor puzzle. (David Taylor is a descendant of William Taylor of Coneho through his son Thomas Teackle Taylor.) ☞

The following is an update to what was sent to you earlier on Francis Hobson, outlining Hobson associations with Taylor men.

From David Gammon 1/5/98:

Francis Hobson (also spelled "Hopson") was an early settler of Bertie County. He had a land patent as early as 1723 for land on Roquist Pocoson in western Bertie, which he kept for over forty years. His name is frequently seen in the records, and he apparently enjoyed a certain prominence in the community, his name figuring as a witness on deeds, serving as a land appraiser, and so forth.

He was the son of Grace Hobson, who was married Edward Smithwick of Chowan County early in the 1700's. It is not known to whom (or even if!) Grace Hobson was married prior to Smithwick, but she is known to have had at least three children – **Francis Hobson**, John Hobson, and Grace Hobson. There was probably at least one other daughter.

Of these children, Grace Hobson married William Kennedy (or Cannady). John Hobson apparently married Sarah _____ and had issue Francis and Mary Hobson. This Francis Hobson was usually called "Francis Hobson, Jr." and was living in Pitt and then Tyrrell County with a wife Frances in later records.

But the earlier **Francis Hobson** married, as early as 1730, Ann _____, and he was still married to her late in the 1750's. They had no children. He married second, sometime soon after 1760, Elizabeth Shivers (or Shrivvers), who is said to have been born in 1732. He died testate in Bertie County in 1768, bequeathing one shilling to his sister Grace Cannaday and one shilling each to Francis Cannaday, James Cannaday, David Cannaday, John Cannaday, Ephraim Cannaday, Mary Griffin, Sarah Gainer, Francis Hobson, Mary King, John Anderson, Robert Anderson, William Anderson, and Rachael Jones. To his wife Elizabeth he left all his lands in Bertie, Beaufort, and Tyrrell Counties, along with all Negroes and the rest of his estate. It is easy to speculate that most of the persons listed in his will are nephews and nieces, and that he left them one shilling each to prevent them from claiming his estate since he had no children when he wrote his will, 26 Feb 1766. However, it can be proved that he had one son, Cullen Hobson, who was apparently born after his father

wrote his will. This Cullen Hobson quickly disappears from the records, and it is clear that he died young.

The widow Elizabeth Hobson married second to Zedekiah Stone, a native of New England who had moved to Bertie County. They were the parents of Zedekiah Stone, Jr., Elizabeth Stone, and David Stone, who later was Governor of North Carolina from 1808 to 1809.

One of **Francis Hobson's** early land purchases was on Flat Swamp in Tyrrell County (now Martin County). His Kennedy relations and Anderson relations also lived in this area. This swamp lies in western Martin County, only a few miles (as the crow flies) from the **Joseph Taylor** lands we visited during the last Taylor family reunion in Rocky Mount. Coincidence? We also do not know the maiden name of Ann Hobson, first wife of **Francis Hobson**. Could she have been a **Taylor**?

It is important for all researchers to remember the various changes in the county boundaries in North Carolina, for our early ancestors were not necessarily as mobile as they seem. Prior to 1774, Tyrrell County shared a border with Edgecombe, although today Tyrrell lies three counties east of Edgecombe, having had Martin and Washington Counties carved from it. And Bertie Precinct was formed from Chowan Precinct.

From Doris Wilson 1/12/98:

Francis Hobson had lots of grants about 1739 and later and left land to his nephew Francis Hobson. He lived on Flat Swamp adjoining **Samuel Taylor**.

From Bill Linder 1/16/98:

Francis Hobson and **Edward Taylor** were among those drawn "to Serve on the pettit Jury at the next Court [July Court 1726] Pursuant to the direction of the Act of Assembly. This court was held at the General Court "at Edenton Town." Both **Hobson** and **Taylor** failed to show up at the July 1726 court: "... **Edw. Taylor** ... **Francis Hobson** came not but made default and were called to their fines of thirty Shillings each as by Law appoynted."¹ . This was likely the **Edward Taylor** who had a landing on the west shore of the Chowan River.

It was earlier speculated that **William Taylor** of Coneho and **Samuel Taylor** of Flat Swamp could have been sons of **Jonathan Taylor** of Bertie, using **Francis Hobson** as the association. Was **Richard Taylor** also a son of **Jonathan Taylor** of Bertie? **Richard 'Tayloe'** witnessed with Joseph Horton and Danil (?) Horton on 7 Apr 1754 when Elias Price and Wife Mary of Upper Parish, Nansemond Co., VA, sold to Robert Howell for 40 shillings, 160 acres on Roquiss Swamp adjoining Robert Howell and **Francis Hobson**. The deed was recorded in Bertie County.

¹ Robert J. Cain, ed., *The Colonial Records of North Carolina [Second Series] Volume VI North Carolina Higher-Court Minutes 1724-1730* (1981), pp. 223,232.