

THORNTON FAMILY

A Partial History

2nd Edition

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MARY STUART FOSTER
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-THORNTON FAMILY -

- A Partial History -

These data were prepared by Rear Admiral W.N. Thornton, U.S.N. (Retired) 346 Fifth Street, N.E. Atlanta, Ga., with the assistance of the Staff and library of the Department of Archives of the State of Georgia, at the corner of Peachtree Street and Peacetreer Circle; the Library of Congress; court of records of Warren County, N.C. Talbot, Texrell, Randolph, Stewart and Elbert Counties of Georgia; church records of the Vann's Creek Baptist Church on file with the Clerk of the Court in Elberton, Georgia; a book on the Thornton Family published by Mr. Walter Wiley Thornton of Texarkana, Texas; a book on the Thornton Family published by Mr. Johnathan Mills Thornton of 782 Felder Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama; with especial reference to the courtesy of Miss. Carrie Rogers in lending the notes of her sister, Miss. Edna Rogers of Elberton Georgia, an excellent genealogist; and the family bibles of many, particularly complete being that of Mrs. O.C. Roddy, of Monroe, La.

- 1600 William of Eastcombe, son of Francis of "The Hills", died 1600, m. Barbara Westley, who was 14th in descent from Edward 1st., King of England; 20th in descent from Alfred the Great; 21st in descent from Hugh Capet; 18th in descent from Malcolm 3rd. of Scotland.
- 1595 William, son of William and Barbara Westley, who was living in 1600, m. Frances Robinson,
- 1650 William, son of William and Frances Robinson, died 1650
- 1640 William, who came to Virginia about 1640, and by genealogists is termed "The Immigrant."

Gen. 1.

Virginia

William Thornton, as early Virginia records show, Immigrant came to Virginia about 1640, listed as Gentleman, sponsored by William Pryor, from Yorkshire, England. He settled in York County, and moved to Gloucester County before 1649. He evidently purchased land there, as he later received a land grant in 1649: 164 acres Gloucester County in Petsoe Parish; joining land he now lives on; beginning on the old line, running thence etc., the grant being awarded for the transfer of 4 persons from England, this being one of the first Patents of land in Virginia. (Va. Land Patent Book 5, page 573. There he built a home which he named "The Hills." after the ancestral estate of his great grandfather Francis Thornton, who died in Yorkshire 1566. b 1620

He traded in shipping on Mobjack Bay, which is across the bay from the present city of Norfolk, near "Weremoco," stamping ground of Chief Powhatan of John Smith and Pocahontas fame. He operated the ship "Mary Jane" in shipping to Barbados, West Indies. He died at home of his son, Col. Francis Thornton, Stafford County in d 1708

His tombstone bears his Coat of Arms:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Arms | : Argent, a chevron sable, sometimes gules, between three hawthorn trees, proper; |
| Crest | : Out of a ducal coronet, or a dragon's head, between two wings, argent; |
| Inscription | : "God is my Hope," (latin equivalent) |

He was twice married:

1. m. Elisia (Eletea, Allathea) Belling, 1640-42 daughter of Luke Belling (Bellington) and Elisia Russell, in Lunenburg Parish, Richmond Co., Va.
2. m. Elizabeth Rowland, before 1679; see deed Rapp. Co. DB6, p 83.

William and his sons were active in matters pertaining to the purchase and sale of land, involving some extensive tracts; they were active in their Church of England, "the High Church," though at one time were by their own request removed as vestrymen, publicly avowing their disbelief in the doctrine of Transubstantiation. They were planters, Justices, members of the



THORNTON

Arms: Argent, a chevron sable between three hawthorn trees proper.

Crest: Out of a ducal coronet or, a lion's head proper.

Burgess, and honored with various offices of public trust.

The Vestry Book of Fatsworth Parish, Gloucester Co., established Mar. 15, 1656 (Va. State Library, Richmond), makes the following Statement: Of definite facts in connection with the history of Fatsworth Parish prior to Jan. 23, 1677, there are but two to recount. These two are the following:

1. Petsoe Parish is mentioned in a Land Patent to Wm. Thornton for 164 acres, dated Feb. 16, 1665: (Va. Land Pat. Off. Book 5 page 573. Nothing now (1964) remains of Fatsworth Church but the cemetery, which is private property.

- 1649 Land Patent to William Thornton: Va. Land Office Patent Book 5 p. 573, 164 acres Gloucester Co., Petsoe Parish, joining land he now lives on.
- 1665 Feb. 16, above Patent Registered.
- 1677 June. 14; Mr. William Thornton, vestryman
- 1677 Aug. 4; Mr. William Thornton, Sr., vestryman
- 1679 Wm. Thornton, Sr., vestryman
- 1680 Wm. Thornton, Sr., vestryman of
Wm. Thornton, Jr. 11 the lower part of Parish
- 1690 Same
- 1700 Same
- 1703 Oct. 26; Wm. Thornton, Sr.
- 1704 Wm. Thornton
- 1706 Apr. 23; Wm. Thornton, Sr. resigned
Wm. Thornton, Jr. appointed churchwarden
- 1714 Feb. 5; no Thornton entries
- 1715 May 14: Francis Thornton, vestryman
- 1720 Same
- 1727 Aug. 13; Wm. Thornton, Jr. appointed surveyor and vestryman
Francis Thornton " " " "
Seth Thornton churchwarden
- 1729 Francis Thornton vestryman and churchwarden
Seth Thornton vestryman and churchwarden
- 1736 Francis and Seth vestryman and churchwarden
- 1738 Oct. 18; Seth Thornton churchwarden
Wm. Thornton vestryman
Mrs. Anne Thornton mentioned
- 1739 Seth and Wm. Vestrymen
- 1739 Oct. 17; Wm. Thornton vestryman
- 1740 Oct. 15; Wm. Thornton vestryman
Mary Thornton mentioned
- 1744 Wm. Thornton
- 1746 Aug. 6; John Thornton chosen vestryman
- 1749 John Thornton vestryman
Capt. Wm. Thornton vestryman
- 1751 Sept. 4; John Thornton vestryman
Capt. Wm. Thornton, surveyor
- 1755 Aug. 26; Mr. John Thornton and
Mr. Wm. Thornton, dismissed, as they moved out of Parish
- 2034827

At a Vestry held for Petworth Parish Sept. 1751²⁸⁹

The Rev^d Mr Robt. James
 Mr Aug^r Smith Mr Tho^s Stubbs
 Present: Mr Wm^m Broun Mr James Carter
 Mr James Keene Mr Peter Keene
 Mr John Thornton Cap^t John Stubbs
 Mr Rich^d Jones Cap^t William Thornton

Pursuants to an Order of the Court of Gloucesters County bearing Date the 25th day of July, to assign & separate the lands in each Precinct of this Parish to several Land Owners and to make returns of their proceedings by the last day of August, according to Law, we do therefore order and appoint them as followeth

Ordered that Mr Tho^s Skiner and Mr W^m Cordeau Cooke see the Land possessed in the first Precinct and to begin the first Thursday in October, on the Land of Mr Tho^s Skiner.

Ordered that Mr William Thornton & Mr Francis Stubbs see the Land possessed in the second Precinct, and to begin on the Land of Robt^t Portman Esq^r on the second Thursday in October

Ordered that Mr John Scott & Mr Rich^d Jones see the Land possessed in the third Precinct, to begin on the Land of Mr John Brown on the third Thursday in October

Ordered that Mr Lewis Cooke and Mr Conquest Boyston see the Land possessed in the fourth Precinct, to begin on the Land of Mr Rich^d Crutenden Decard, on the fourth Thursday in October

Ordered that Mr Humphry Minchinton & Mr W^m Broun see the Land possessed in the fifth Precinct, to begin on the Land of the said Mr Broun, on the first Thursday in November

The Vestry Book of Petworth Parish,
 Gloucester County, Va. 1677-1793
 The Library Board, Richmond, Va. 1933

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Ordered That the Thomas Lator one of the Curators and one of the gift. do collect this present year of Every District. possession in this gift. Eighty two pounds of Tobacco paid over in case of failure to make of distress for of same; And that the said Curators do thereunto do pay of Every gift. credits to his just due, with all possible speed, & conveniently. This present Vestry out of humbl^e request of George Hogg handqueman to y^e said Hogg at y^e said Landen Timber belonging to y^e gift. & lying on Morgan's work. & doo there by impower y^e Hogg to dispose of it for his own use, & interest.

At a Vestry held for Lotsfoot y^e 2^d of 1678
 Present
 Cap^t. Tho: Ramsey
 Mr. Jn^o. Buckner
 Mr. Rob^t. Carter
 Mr. Tho: Thornton Sen^r.
 Mr. Tho: Miller
 Col^o. Tho: Lator Curator & warden.
 Mr. Rob^t. Colles
 Mr. Tho: Royster
 Mr. Tho: Pagan
 Mr. Ralph Greenleaf
 Mr. W^m. Mathews Jun^r.

Ordered That y^e Rob^t. Colles, one of the Curators, Jun^r. be added to y^e Vestry.

Ordered That Mr. Tho: Vicaris y^e parish minister of this gift, do continue in his said place, & execute his ministerial function, until y^e next shipping on lifting; & report of his future amendment to the said Curators his willingness thereunto to be in the place, if not approved of by the gift, and Vestry.

It is the opinion of this Vestry that five shillings, or fifty weight of Tobacco is but a reasonable reward, or paym^t. for y^e Work, or Reader, for a publishing Bible of an atkinson y^e.

Mr. Rob^t. Colles having promised, & obliged himself to maintain y^e Oct^o. of Owen Coley for out whole year from this day. It is ordered That the said Mr. Colles shall be allowed, or paid for y^e same five hundred pounds of Tobacco, & payd y^e next year for the gift.

Minutes of the Episcopal Church, Petsworth Parish Va. contd.

1759 Aug. 7; Wm Thornton, Jr. surveyor
1767 Dec. 1; Wm Thornton, surveyor
1768 Mar. 14; Wm Thornton, vestryman
1772 Wm Thornton, churchwarden
1772 July 27; Wm Thornton, deceased
1775 Aug. 24; Sterling Thornton, vestryman and surveyor
1776 Sterling Thornton, vestryman and surveyor, churchwarden
1784 May 14; Sterling Thornton
Meux Thornton, vestryman
1787 Sterling Thornton
Meux Thornton
1788 Sterling Thornton

NOTE: Petsworth Parish church, long destroyed only remains (1964) cemetery now private property.

William Thornton, the Immigrant, probably arrived in this country about 1640, as William Pryor received a grant in 1642 for sponsoring his immigration, in York County.

- 1640 At the time he was the only person of the Thornton name in that area; the only other Thornton in Virginia being Richard in James City, which was across Chesapeake Bay considerable distance away, as distances went in those days.
- 1640 It is known that he married Elisia Belling, daughter of Luke Belling, in Lunenburg Parish, Richmond County, Va.,
1642 and his eldest son, Luke Thornton, named for his grandfather was born in 1642 in Lunenburg Parish, Richmond County, Va.
- 1646 Edward, believed his second son, was born ca. 1646, and later resided in Accomack County, across the bay.
- 1649 Before 1649, he moved to "Gloster County" and evidently purchased land on which he resided, since in 1649 he received a grant for financing the immigration of 4 persons of "164 acres in Gloster County, Petsoe Parish, joining land he now lives on ----".
- 1649 It is probably about this time that he married Elizabeth Rowland. In 1649 his 3rd son, William II was born.
- 1651 In 1651 his 4th son, Francis I was born
- 1654 In 1654 his 5th son, Rowland was born.
- 1665 In 1665 his land patent was registered in Book 5 page 573, being one of the first in Va.
- 1675 In 1675 he was 55 years old. His eldest son Luke was 33 years of age, Edward was 29, William II was 26, Francis was 24, and Rowland was 21. Luke had established himself in N. Farnham Parish of Richmond County and his first son, Mark I, was born there in 1686. Edward had established himself in Accomack

County, and William 11, Francis and Rowland had stayed home, as they were apparently the sons of Elizabeth Rowland.

1675 William 1 did not leave a will. However, at this age of 55 he made a deed of land in Rappahannock County, where Luke was registered as a surveyor, as follows:

William Thornton of Gloucester County, Gentleman, of the one part, to Francis Thornton and Rowland Thornton, two of the sons of the said William Thornton, deed of gift of land in Rappahannock County; but to son William in case one dies - in case of death again, to Esther Thornton.

He thus made provision for his two youngest sons, and in case of the death of one, to next youngest, William; as the elder sons had already made a place for themselves. It was needless in fact, inappropriate that Luke and Edward be mentioned in this deed, as they were not a party of it, but since William 1 left no later will, some genealogists dispute their heritage, but it is generally accepted that they are half brothers, as there is no other possibility which accords with the facts.

The two most illustrious members of our family do not seem to be related to us, except back in England, beyond our ability to trace.

Mathew Thornton, from New Hampshire, was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and his signature may be seen on any copy of the Declaration on public exhibit. He was representative to Congress at the time of the signing, and was reputedly the last man to sign, having arrived late. We have Mathew, Mark, Luke and John, but we cannot claim this Mathew however famous he may have been.

You will note below that William Thornton, our Immigrant, lived near Mobjack Bay, and operated the ship "Mary Jane," and others from there to Barbados. Also that his son Francis and Anthony established a home place "Ormesby" somewhat inland from the bay "on the main run of the Mattapony" and that George Washington lived about a mile up the same river, and that many intermarriages took place between the two families.

Now we come to the point of this discussion. A close friend of George Washington was William Thornton, who came to this country from England by way of Barbados. This was not our William, but was about the same age, and the coincidence is most logical that the two were related and that our William had some influence in the matter. At any rate, William Thornton, the close friend of George Washington, was commissioned by him to design and build the National Capital building in Washington, which he did, and when you look at our National Capital, you may think of William Thornton, who also founded the National Institute of Architects, and built the building in Washington which is now the headquarters of that Institute, and in front of which is a tablet to the memory of its founder, William Thornton. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

GEN. 11 CHILDREN:

BORN.

- (1) Luke Thornton, son of William and Elisia Thornton Planter: record below: - 1642 Lunenburg Parish, Richmond County, Va. N. Farnham Parish Reg. Will Bk 5, p 6 Warsaw, Va.
- m Ann
d 1725
- (2) Edward Thornton Planter: record below b ca. 1644
m Patience, Accomack, Co., Va.
d Oct. 5, 1703
- (3) Col. William Thornton 11 Planter: 1680 vestryman Petsoe Par. b 3-27-1649
1. m 8-22-1671
2 m 4-11-1688 names not known
3 m. 10-20-1720
d 2-15-1727 Stafford Co.
- ch. 1st wife:
- (1) Elizabeth b 8-26-1672
(2) Margaret 8-14-1774
(3) Mary 5-11-1676
(4) Esther 11-6-1677
(5) Sarah 8-17-1679
(6) Jane 8-10-1681
(7) Judith 10-22-1683
(8) Anne 6-15-1685
(9) William d inf. 9-11-1686
(10) Susan 6-11-1687
(11) Robert ca 1688 bound to Eliz Thornton till 18 in 1695
- 2nd Wife:
- (12) Francis 10-13-1692
(13) Seth 10-13-1694 Churchwarden 1729
(14) William b 3-31-1699
m 8-10-1727 Eliz Talburt died 5-3-1742
d 1742
- ch:
- Jesse m Hannah Redman, Lunenburg Par.
(15) Prudence twin b 3-31-1699
(16) John b 4-17-1701 vestryman 1746 St. Mary's
(17) Johanna b 12-3-1703
- (4) Rev. Francis 1 (Senior) Justice Stafford Co. b 11-5-1651 Stafford Co. St. Paul
Member House of Burgesses 1 m 4-13-1674 Par. Alice Savage, dau
1679 witness Rapp. Co. Capt. Anthony Savage,
1675 Land Grant 2740 ac. Justice Gloucester Co.
1683 Founder Caroline Co. 1660.
2 m Jane, wid of John Harvey of Stafford Co. no. ch.

3rd of Jan. at 12 of ye clock at night, in ye year 1676.

Margaret, my second child, was borne ye 2nd of Apl., about 1 of ye clock at night in ye year 1678.

William and Sarah (twins) were borne ye 14th of December about 1 of ye clock at night, in 1680 of a Monday morning.

Francis, borne ye 4th day of Januere about 2 hours before day, it being a day in 1682. (This is known to genealogy as Col. Francis Thornton.)

Ro(w)land Thornton, borne ye 1st day of August, about sunrise, 1685.

Ann Thornton, borne ye 22nd day of March, 1689.

Anthony Thornton, borne ye 27th day of September, in ye year of our Lord, 1691.

The following are the records of Col. Francis 11, Rowland, and Anthony, children of Rev. Francis 1.

GEN: 11-4-5 Col. Francis Thornton 11 (Jr) b 1-4-1682 r in Essex Co. in 1719.

Plantation 2000 ac "Ormesby" at which is now called "Guinea," (Ginneys bridge) nearby is the town of Thornburg. m Mary Taliaferro b 1685 DB 16p84. 1728 Magistrate Drysdale Par. d 1758 Caroline Co. 1710 Surveys for Francis, and Anthony St. Marys Par.

1675 Francis and Anthony Thornton granted 2740 ac. by Sir Wm. Berkeley on the north side of the main river of the Mattapony above the main fork. 1728 the above grant was reaffirmed. The Thornton brothers were born in Va. and used to pioneer life. In the back country they prospered, and their grant became "Ormesby," which for many years was a famous seat of the Thornton family in Caroline Co. Francis Thornton, along with John Lomax and Thomas Carr composed the group of three grand old men among Carolina's founding fathers. It is interesting to note that they represented the three parished which formed the new county.

Thornton was from Drysdale, Lomax from St. Marys and Carr from St. Margarets. Francis demonstrated his qualities as a leader by setting up about his plantation one of the most flourishing settlements on the frontier. These 52 years of experience gained under local conditions made him an invaluable man among Caroline's first Magistrates.

Francis had charge of the construction and the people in the first major project the Caronline Court authorized: a rolling road which began at the Spotsylvania line and continued across the Mattapony at Michael Ginney's Bridge to Conways warehouse on the Rappahannock, then road was required for moving his tobacco to the warehouse on the Rappahannock river.

1715 Francis was granted 100 ac. by Gov. Spotswood, "adjoining to his estate."

1727 Francis petitioned the royal government to form Caroline Co. The Kings Magistrate appointed him and two others to set up Caroline Co.

1732 Francis and Anthony's slaves were part of the road crew.

1748 Francis, Francis Jr., and John took part with Peter Jefferson, father of Thomas Jefferson, in grant of 800,000ac. onm North Carolina border (Tennessee in 1953). The above land came in dispute, being Cherokee land.

1734 Negros registered: Francis one, Reuben one.

1750 Francis Thornton, administrator for Sarah Battaile, his sister, and guardian of her children.

1758 Francis Thornton 11 dec.,

ch: Col. William b 1705
"Montpellier" m Miss. Washington; Elis Fitzhugh
Culpepper Co. 4-26-1757 1726-1800

ch: d
(1) Mark b 1726
m
d 1800
(2) William b 8-10-1727
lm Patsy Owens
2m Nancy Osborne, Lunenburg Co.
d 1741, Warren Co., N.C.

ch: 1st Wife
(1) William b
m
d
(2) Solomon b moved to N.C. then
m Sarah (Sally) to Wilkes Co. Ga
d 1809 Will Wilkes Co. Ga.

ch: of Solomon and Sarah
(1) William
(2) Phillip
(3) Martain
(4) John m Levisa West, Elberton, buried Lumpkin Ga.
(5) Nancy m Cooper
(6) Judy m Hunter
(7) Joshua
(8) Polly
(9) Agatha
(10) Betsy
(11) Catherine
(12) Samuel

2	Col. Francis 111 Jr. "Fall Hill" Caronline Co. 1773 Surety for Henry Fitzhugh	b m m	b Francis Gregory
3	Col. John Magistrate	b m d	b Mildred Gregory 1768
4	George Ch: Reuben	b b m d	b b Elizabeth Gregory d

The above three sisters were daughters of Mildred Washington Gregory, sister of Augustine Washington, brother of George Washington, nieces of Gen. Washington.

Ch: Chas Augustine Thornton of Enfield N.C.

5	Martha	m	Thomas Catlett
6	Sarah	m	
GEN. 11-4-6	Rowland Thornton Justice King George Co Planter, r "Crows"	b m b d	8-1-1685 Elizabeth Catlett 9-6-1689 1751
Ch:			
(1)	Alice	b m d	1729 John Fitzhugh 1727-1809 1790
(2)	Presley Rev. Sold.	b m d	ca 1736 1762 Mary d 1829 1812 Pittsylvania Co. Va.
ch:	Zachariah 1812 Sold	b m d	ca 1763 1-6-1795 Mary Oakes 1830 Pittsylvania Co.
ch:	George Washington Thornton 1st Lt. Co. G. Ga Res	b m	6-14-1822 11-3-1856 Mary Moore d 12-28-1893 r Butes Co. Ga.
GEN: 11-4-8	Col. Anthony Thornton Justice Stafford Co. St. Paul Par Planter 2740 ac. 1710 Surveys St. Marys 1726 Sherriff 1729 Burgess r "Ormesby"	b m m d	9-27-1691 Winifred Presley, St. Paul Par. dau Col. Peter Pres- ley of Northumberland House deed Presley to dau 1708 1754

Louthan, of Clarke county, Va., and his wife, Mary Ella Brown, of Rappahannock county, Va. Henry Thompson Louthan and Elizabeth Rowland Hurt, his wife, have two children: Mary Tyler Louthan, b. May 9, 1904 and Carter Thomas Louthan, b. July 23, 1906.

James Thomas, Jr., son of James and Elizabeth Andrews Thomas, was born, February 8, 1806, at "Vernon," in Caroline and settled early in Richmond. By his first wife, Mary Cornick Puller, he had two children: William D. Thomas, D. D., for many years Professor of Philosophy in Richmond College; and Mary Ella Thomas who m. Dr. William D. Quesenberry, of Caroline. James Thomas, Jr., m. second, Mary Woolfolk Wortham, of Richmond and died, 1882. Among the children of this marriage: Mary Wortham Thomas, m. in 1867, Dr. J. L. M. Curry, of Alabama, who was United States Minister to Spain under President Cleveland's administration; Kate Cornick Thomas, m. Calderon Carlisle, of Washington, D. C.; and Gabrielle Thomas, m. Richmond Pearson, at one time United States Minister to Persia.

Crest: A paschal lamb.

Motto: *Nil Desperandum Christo Duce.*

THE THORNTONS, OF "ORMESBY"

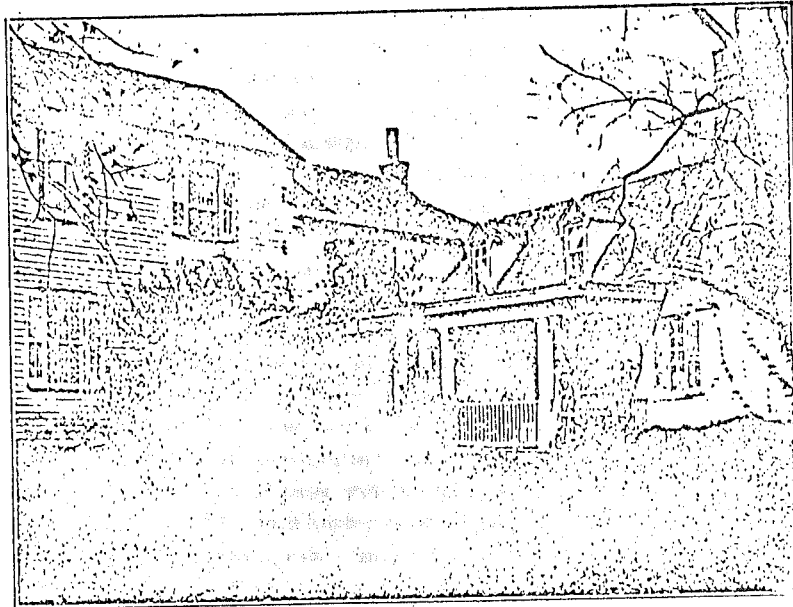
The Thorntons came from Yorkshire, England, and settled in York and Gloucester counties, and their descendants were soon found in Caroline, Essex and adjacent counties. York county records show that this family was represented there as early as 1646.

When Caroline was formed the Thorntons were already established within the territory of the new county. The first member of the family to become actively identified with Caroline is referred to in Slaughter's "*St. Mark's Parish*," as "Francis Thornton, of Caroline, Gentleman." Records in the Clerk's Office of Spotsylvania dated 1736 and Orange 1737 refer to "Francis Thornton, of St. Mary's Parish in Caroline."

Francis Thornton had several daughters of whom one married William Buckner, one General William Woodford and one James Taylor who represented Caroline in the House of Burgesses for several terms.

Reuben Thornton, of Drysdale Parish in Caroline was b. _____, and d. in 1768. He m. the widow of Henry Willis,

of Spotsylvania. His will which was proved in Caroline court in May, 1768, devised his property to his nieces Mary Woodford, Lucy Gilmer, Mildred Washington and his nephews, James Taylor, Richard Bucknor, Thornton Washington and others. Thornton Washington was the son of Samuel Washington and the nephew of George Washington. Dr. Hugh Mercer also shared



Ormesby

in this estate. The will was witnessed by William Buckner, Matthew Gale, Anthony Thornton and George Todd. William Woodford was named one of the executors.

John Thornton, of Caroline m. Mildred Gregory, by whom he had four daughters: Mildred, Mary, Elizabeth and Lucy. Mildred, m. Samuel Washington, brother of George Washington; Mary m. General William Woodford; Elizabeth m. John Taliaferro, of "Dissington," in King George county; and Lucy m. John Lewis, of Spotsylvania.

Anthony Thornton built "Ormesby" about the year 1715. He brought to this new estate his bride who was the daughter of Colonel John Presley, of "Northumberland House" in Northumberland county. Upon the death of Anthony Thornton, I, his

son Anthony, II, inherited the estate and made it his home. Anthony, II, was Sheriff of Caroline. When he died "Ormesby" passed into the hands of his son, Anthony, III, who was county lieutenant of Caroline, and who held the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 1777. He commanded the militia of Caroline county at the siege of Yorktown. At the close of the War of the Revolution, Colonel Thornton sold "Ormesby" to his brother, Thomas Griffin Thornton and removed to Kentucky. Thomas Griffin Thornton was probably the most famous fox-hunter of his day and files of the old sporting magazines of the period contain many stories of his hounds. He was murdered, while Sheriff, by a man against whom he had a writ.

James Bankhead Thornton was born in 1770 and died in 1843. He lived at "Mt. Zephyr," but whether it was built by him is not definitely known. He was Justice of the Peace in Caroline in 1802. He married a daughter of Colonel Anthony Thornton. "Mt. Zephyr" was advertised for sale in 1845 and passed into the hands of the White Family. It is now owned by Mr. Brooks.

The *Calendar of State Papers* (Virginia) contains several letters to and from Colonel Anthony Thornton. From one of these we learn that at the time it was written there were 644 Caroline men under arms. Governor Nelson writes Colonel Thornton to have all the flour he can get in Caroline shipped from Port Royal round into the Piankatank with all possible dispatch. Col. Thornton writes Colonel Davies under date of May 1, 1782, that "clothing for the army, due from Caroline, has been ready at Bowling Green for some months."

Charles Thornton, of "North Garden," was a captain of militia in the War of 1812. He m. Sarah Fitzhugh, of "Bellair," Stafford county and removed to Oldham county, Ky.

George Thornton was born in Caroline November 18, 1752. He m. on June 9, 1774, to Margaret Stanley, the daughter of Moses Stanley and removed to that territory which afterward became Greene county, Va. He was a soldier in the War of the Revolution and afterward received a pension. He died on August 30, 1853, at the age of 101 years. Mrs. J. C. Gentry, of Atlanta is one of his many descendants.

Robert Horsey Thornton, another one of his descendants, m. Louisa, dau. of Rev. Charles Wingfield, of Albemarle.

For more complete genealogy see *Thornton Excursions* by W. G. Stanard in *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*.