

John Garner, Sr., 1635-1702



In the seminal *Garner-Keene Families of Northern Neck Virginia* (GK) of 1952, the authors concluded they could not determine anything definitive about John Garner prior to his arrival in Northumberland Co., VA in 1650. That remains true today, although some earlier records not noted, or only footnoted, in their book have been found since which *may* be relevant, though remain speculative at best. In their total of six pages (only) in the book devoted exclusively to him after 1650, while most extant hard confirmed records are noted chronologically, abstracted, and their sources provided, others are found in the book relating to him, but noted in separate sections under his offspring, other descendants, or in the separate Keene section. These are not always cross-referenced accordingly. Lastly, with all due respect (considerable), *some* errors and omissions have been determined in the book (a few minor, and only geographic), and the possible *implications* of many records, and/or what else might be reasonably *inferred* from them, are sometimes absent. The following sections include references to most of the GK noted records chronologically and all-inclusively, specific events drawn from them, other records deemed important additions, plus relative more recent research, some unavailable in 1952 or not included in the book for reasons unknown. Based on all found, my personal speculations are also included, and should be viewed as skeptically as all of the many others for John...*unproven*, not factual. Following the narrative section, which focuses primarily on John and his wife Susanna Keene, is a list of their offspring, a chronological listing of all confirmed records and noted sources, some, partial credits and sources with available web links, and some supplemental media.

Birth: There are only three confirmed baptismal records found to date for a “John Garner” in England that appear feasible, one in Cottenham, Cambridgeshire, on 23 March, 1633, the father noted as Thomas, and no mother listed, the second in St. Dunsten’s, Canterbury, Kent, on 4 May 1634, the parents Thomas Garner and Mary Lacye (maiden name per a separate earlier marriage record, same location), and the third in St. Chad’s, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, on 2 Sept 1634, the parents Richard and Katharn Garner, her maiden name unknown. Some early researchers favored the Canterbury, Kent record, but noted no explanation. Their reasons may have simply been that the names Thomas and Mary are later those of two of John’s offspring, but that hardly conclusive, and those also the names of Susan Keene’s parents. With other records, several *fabricated*, now the 1634 Shropshire baptism, with a considerably and unwarranted leap of faith, is the generally accepted record, but remains wholly speculative and unproven.

With his baptism of this date, this John’s birth was most likely in about July-Aug of the same year, 1634, as with the beliefs of the time christening was hastened less the infant possibly die unbaptized (and then not go to heaven). Inexplicably, many, including Find a Grave, also noted (or not) this baptism record but then entered this John’s date of birth as *exactly one year earlier to the day*, both unsupported and highly improbable. In addition to this baptism record, who is recorded in most trees as this Richard’s father, another John, was noted as dying by 1631, and his mother, Joan, likely dying prior to that date, in a will dated 20 Jan 1631, probated 2 Apr 1631, the source noted as “Shrop. W. & R.B. 1631”. First found referenced in 1991, this “record” *does not exist*, and is the earliest of four confirmed *fabrications* for this John Garner. In addition to the actual baptism record and falsified will, there is another noted “record”, that of “...Kathryn Garner, Welshwoman, found innoc. of Witch Craft in trial by Water. £2. for burial in Christian ground”, this attributed to “Shrop . C. O. 1636”, and also first found referenced in 1991. This second “record” also *does not exist*, and has long been known a fabrication (since 2014), among many things the “£2” also an *absurdly* large amount of money for the time, its equivalent today being several thousand dollars and a few shillings at most, perhaps pence, an appropriate figure for that time.

There are other confirmed English records for “a” Richard Garner, married to a Jane who died in 1636 in London, and several Marye (or Mary) Lacye records also, in other parts of England in this time frame, (one the

noted Canterbury record) none of which support any connections to our John or a father Richard, or anyone being tried as a witch in Shropshire. If this Richard of Shropshire was the father of our John, then we have no evidence that his wife's maiden name was Lacye as frequently recorded, and no record whatsoever of her death. Additionally, there are no actual records at all to support a Garner family ownership of the "400 year old" Lion Inn in Shrewsbury, that another *fabrication* (noted in a following section), which cousin Patrick Garner confirmed there in person some years ago along with the fabrication of the "witchcraft" record. All other Garner records (several) for this period from Shropshire found online or on ancestry.com are most often "text only" abstracts, inconclusive, some contradictory or unclear, and/or otherwise generally useless in confirming any potential family history of "our" John as born in Shropshire or England at all. The three baptism records noted also reflect only those in the online database and are very unlikely to include all "John Garners" baptized in England between 1633 and 1636, other church records lost/destroyed or simply not yet digitized.

Any/all of this, by itself, proves nothing at all...only that no adequate records are found or records which conflict with the commonly accepted lineage and history many have recorded, many, it appears, combining both *disparate* and *falsified* records, such as recording John's mother, the "witch" as "Marye Katharn Lacye Garner". While the Garner-Keene authors and all other serious Garner researchers think John was almost certainly of English origins, they also note the possibility he was born in the Virginia Colony, not England. The colony had stabilized to a degree by 1635 and of the thousands who had immigrated by that date, relatively few records survive. One reliable source noted that between 1607 and 1625, Virginia received approximately 7,300 immigrants and buried over 6,000 of them. This had improved by John's time, but is still indicative of the early conditions between disease, starvation, exposure, and attacks by the natives. It is not implausible then to envision a variation on the "lore", but of a child born in the colony and later orphaned there, year(s) unknown for any of several well-documented reasons, and being taken in afterwards. As with all else regarding his birth and early history, we are left with only choices of speculation, no confirmed records and no actual facts.

A Garner descendent and "researcher" in 1991, who has been identified, appears to have found the noted Sept 1634 Shropshire baptism record and the 1637 arrival record (a Richard and a John, as noted in the following). For reasons unclear to me, he then set about doing a great disservice to all serious research by creating a total of *four falsified records*, with fictional references, to "prove" that this was our John Garner, those since spreading across the internet, largely accepted without serious question, and amazingly, the entire fiction actually *expanded upon* by others, including a speculative narrative that Katharn was accused solely due to a family dispute over ownership of the Lion Inn. When these fabrications are appropriately removed from the timeline, any case for the Richard and Katharn of Shropshire as our John Garner's parents is actually probably the *weakest* of available possible speculations. Without any confirmation of either a date or location, a birth year of "abt 1635" is the best estimate based on his deposition of 1665 (noted in a following section), and "England" as his birth location, but remains speculative and the VA colony a viable alternate.

Arrival(?): Documented arrival records, per *George Cabell Greer* in 1912, are found for "a" Richard and John Garner in 1637 (*possibly* 11 June), in the VA colony, Henrico Co., both as sponsored by William Farrar Sr. The records include no ages, relationships, vessel, or point of origin. There are four other Garner arrivals documented that year, total six, one each for *another* Richard and *another* John (Jno) Garner, but both sponsored by other individuals to separate locations in the colony, so cannot be speculatively "paired".

Some early researchers mistakenly combined all four of the *disparate* John and Richard arrival records of this year in a timeline which incongruously *separated* them in the colony, unlikely in the extreme if father and son. Unfortunately, no confirmed records are found for any of these Garners again, nor eight additional Garners documented by Greer as "arriving" (sometimes a first land record only, not a literal arrival) between 1637 and 1652 which might have provided some useful information or hints if plausible "kin" to our John.

Often, arrival records recorded only the "primary" immigrant, and no spouse or children, but as these records reflect the headright system created in Jamestown about 1617, all sponsored would be noted to claim the land

granted for each. VA historic accounts of the system note that teenage, or less, children would be included. So, with cherry-picking the one previous Shropshire baptism record of 2 Sept 1634, and matching it to two paired arrival records, both sponsorships by Wm Farrar to Henrico Co., we now have a potential father, Richard, arriving with a possible son, John, of about three years of age, and without a recorded spouse/mother...*plausible*, hardly proof, but acceptable *speculation* if noted as such, and worth saving *for record only*. One reasonable speculation that can be made about this Richard and John, regardless, is that whomever they were, they were likely “kin”...*somehow* related, brothers perhaps, as the record suggests they immigrated and remained together, but both also then disappear from the records. The GK authors footnoted the recorded Garner arrivals to various locations in 1637, plus another Garner, per *Robert Bennett Bean* in 1938, settling in Isle of Wight County much earlier in 1619*, but appropriately refused to speculate further, and did not note any English records at all although quite likely aware of them, others (Keene) noted in the book.

* One “John Garner” is found in later records in Isle of Wight County who died there about 1715, unrelated to the recorded New World Garner-Keene lineage, and his ancestry undetermined, but whose descendants reportedly later moved to North Carolina. Other John Garners are also recorded in Isle of Wight later that century, possibly descended from this John. As some of our Garners also later moved to North Carolina and left many descendants, many probably indistinguishable from any “other” Garners who may have moved there in the available records, it becomes entirely possible that some Garner descendants who traced their lineage first back to the Carolinas may actually be descended from this Garner, *not* John and Susanna. Adding to the possibility of alternate Garner lineages are three *other* John Garners found with one record each, one also in Northumberland Co. in 1664 and about fourteen. Another (with the often found variation *Gardner*) is recorded in a land patent on the James River in 1650, well south of Northumberland Co., and another (Garner) in Essex Co. in 1676, his age then about twenty-five. None of these other Johns could have been directly connected to the known Garner-Keenes, and nothing more has been determined of them to date, some possibly connected to the other Garners noted in Greer or Bean. They could also have left descendants, however, who might have been *assumed* as Garner-Keenes by later researchers, depending on how well documented. Only some detailed DNA analysis with a *confirmed* Garner-Keene descendant could fully resolve any alternative today.



Left, a reproduction of a generic early 17th century English merchant vessel, representative of the type of ships that brought the early immigrants to Virginia until about midcentury. This is the Jamestown ship *Godspeed*, barque rigged, and only about sixty feet on deck. Few vessels of the time exceeded one hundred feet on deck and almost none were built exclusively for passengers, simply cargo. This photo shows the sails partly furled, common for any winds greater than about twenty knots and typical speed averaged no more than about six knots in good conditions. Ships were typically packed with passengers (perhaps fifty on a ship this size), plus crew (perhaps fourteen), provisions, often livestock, and conditions aboard could be miserable. Crossings were indirect, lengthy, and arduous, numerous deaths not uncommon by arrival and many ships never arriving at all, lost at sea. Few vessels crossed in less than six weeks, and some took months, in some cases deaths aboard resulting from having exhausted food and fresh water supplies. Choosing to immigrate was not an easy decision and survival during the crossing, and upon arrival, hardly guaranteed.

One author likening immigration in the early decades of English colonization to a near *death sentence*, initial attrition rates over eighty percent, which is little understood or appreciated today.

Childhood: The so-called “court record” of Henrico Co., dated 1643, attributed to Hen. C.O. 1643-44, p. 23, noting a £500 inheritance (a small *fortune* for the time), in part from the sale of the Lion Inn, forwarded from England by his “uncle” for orphan “Jno Garner, ward of Wm Farrar” for, among other things, his “education” is the third *falsified* record created for this “Richard and John” and *does not exist*. VA notes that all Henrico court records prior to 1655 were destroyed by the British during the Revolution and/or by another fire at the end of the Civil War in 1865. Aside from a great many other serious issues with this account, as previously noted, there is no evidence of the Lion Inn having ever been owned by any Garners, and no adult William Farrar living in 1643. What we are left with is then only more speculation.

If the arrival record of 1637 is correct, Richard would then have had a likely four year contract as an indentured servant to fulfill, and theoretically, John as well. No records are found for any Richard after 1637 and if he had completed his servitude, he might then have been noted in another “arrival” (land) record by about 1641, receiving his fifty acres in whatever VA county, possibly Henrico. He also might have died earlier as attrition rates were still very (*very*) high, but here is simply nothing to provide even a hint supporting any speculation at all. If John was left as an orphan as a child in the colony, still officially owing the remainder of his contract, he might have continued to work in the tobacco fields or in some other capacity, but there are no records of that either. If his *initial* servitude was four years (sometimes longer servitude established for orphaned children, some recorded up to ten years, or longer, depending on the age of the child), he would only have been about seven at most when it was complete, and I can find nothing in the historic records as to how the headright system or court might have handled a case like this...a seven year old would not be granted fifty acres and/or inherit his deceased father’s acreage, except *perhaps* in trust (administered by whom?) until reaching majority. If the 1637 arrival record is correct, and Richard had died, it is not *impossible* that John did become a ward of *the estate of William Farrar I* (Wm I having died in 1637, so now his widow, Cecely, and Wm II, born about 1627, still a minor himself in 1643), land placed in trust, or was taken in in some capacity by someone, even Louis Burwell, who sponsored him in 1650 and could have earlier purchased his remaining contract.

Aside from the fiction of the “inheritance record” itself, and no adult “Wm Farrar” to receive the money (which any “uncle” in Shropshire would have long known), then “raise and educate” John, his later history also belies him being a rich young man. There are, however, many records of children, appearing indentured, as “servants”, one example being an eleven year old recorded in Westmoreland Co. in 1717, the child's contract appearing to have been purchased. *If* John was in the colony before 1650, this might have been his situation.

One major issue with the 1637 arrival, making it a weak speculation, is that of John and Susanna’s later ten offspring, *none* were named Richard or Katharn (or Katherine/Kathryn). Adequately explaining this requires other layers of unfounded possible alternate assumptions, the primary being that Richard died so soon after arrival that John never knew or remembered *anything* of his Shropshire origins, baptism, and parents...*and* was never informed afterwards...someone almost certainly having known at the very least his father’s name.

Once again, as no confirmed records for John are found until 1650, all we can say with certainty is if his arrival date was initially 1637, and he was later orphaned, or if he was born in the colony and orphaned, he somehow survived.

Northumberland & Lancaster County: There is a definitive record for John’s arrival in (then) Northumberland Co. in 1650, age now about fifteen, his *exact* circumstances unconfirmed, but sponsored by Lewis Burwell. Of whatever number of the thirty-one other sponsored individuals who “arrived” in Northumberland Co. with John who had actually come by sea from England that year (no vessel noted in any known records), their actual first arrival was more likely New Norfolk, Jamestown, or perhaps the Port of Gloucester, then traveling the final distance either by water or in part overland, depending.

The GK authors offered the possibility that John might have come to the New World this year due the religious and political strife in England at the time, certainly a possibility, although at about fifteen, his personal politics

likely would have had little to do with it. If this was his actual date of transport from England, that raises the possibility that he had perhaps been orphaned there and saw this as an opportunity for a new life, perhaps few, or no, good options remaining in England. There are other possibly scenarios as well: some who became (unwilling) indentured were literally kidnapped and placed aboard vessels, while others negotiated their contracts (some deceived) in England prior to boarding (a four year contract for a minor appearing somewhat unusual). The resale of contracts was so lucrative that all manner of methods were utilized, and John's contract might have been sold to Burwell by the (unknown) ship's captain or vessel owner upon his initial arrival.

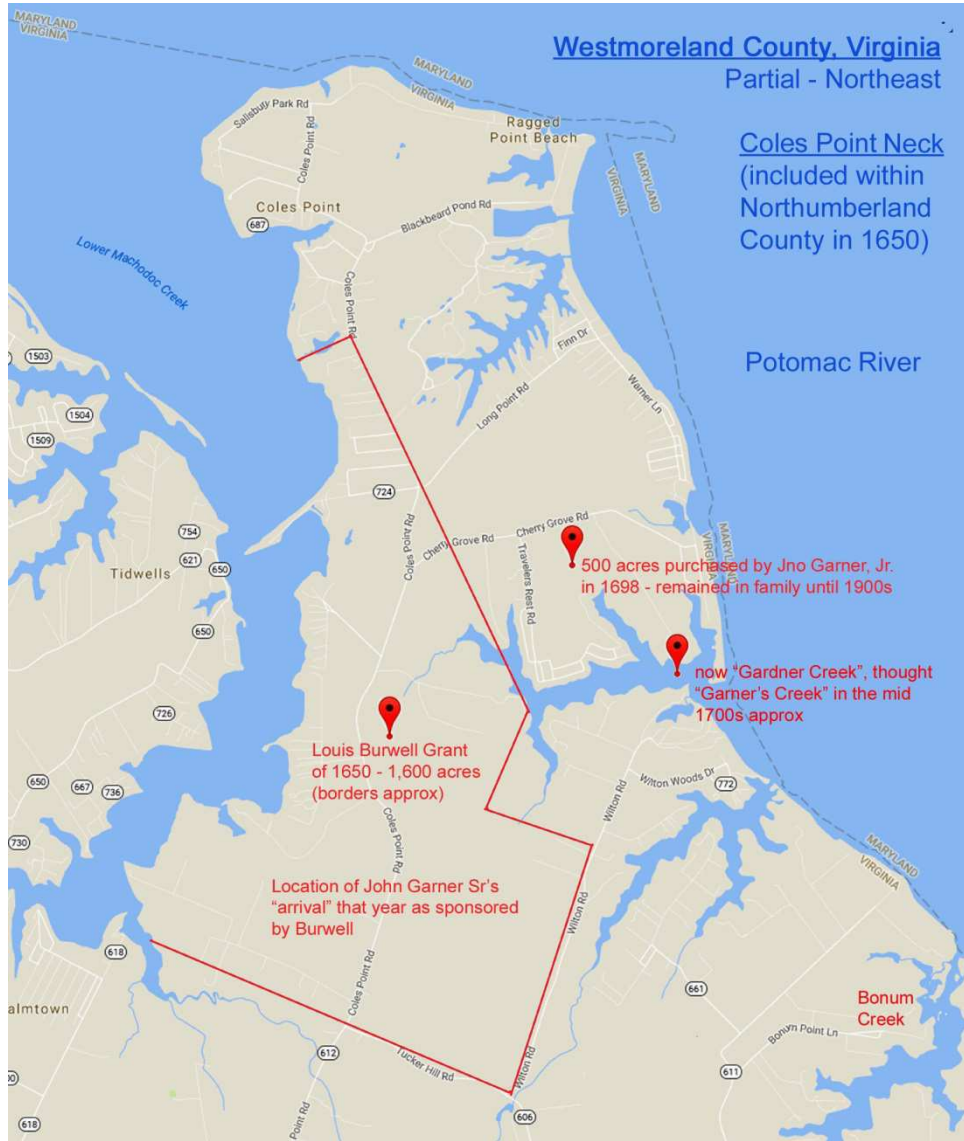
Another possibility, which some will find perhaps objectionable, is that John was a convicted "criminal". England utilized their colonies for both political and religious exile and as a "prison" (as much later Australia), and individuals could be sentenced for the most seemingly petty of offences, such as stealing a handkerchief (actually then an expensive upper class item which could be exchanged for food and clothing), their option (if at all) then transport or a dismal, and often deadly, English jail. With any option, John *could* have left *some* surviving family in England.

Conversely, as John, and other "arrivals" may have already been in the colony for years (as had Thomas Broughton), there are a few options for his status upon a 1650 *second* "arrival". Westmoreland Co. researchers noted him (per the plaque in the Kinsale Museum) as a headright but without a location or year. If this year was his actual first arrival in the colony from England, sponsored by Burwell, then he would have had his four to seven years as an indentured servant, John's, from later records, four years. Some accounts of the headright system note that if one was sponsored to move *within* the colony after an initial period of servitude, however, one was entitled to 100 acres, and of course, no repeat contract. Many records, including those of Thomas Broughton, John's later stepfather-in-law, note individuals being "sponsored" a second time (or more) within the colony, and in Thomas' case, also by Louis Burwell (actually his former neighbor/adjacent land owner in then King and Queen Co.), and to Northumberland in 1650 along with John. If already in the colony, it is not implausible that an orphaned fifteen year old would strike out on his own to eventually acquire land, especially if he already had the experience of more than a decade of tobacco farming. That, of course, is hardly less probable than a fifteen year old boy, without means and alone, crossing the Atlantic as a headright in 1650.

The various accounts I have found to date on the details of the headright system are both inconsistent as to acreage granted (*if any*) upon a second sponsorship and also inadequate to explain how an orphan could be addressed in the colony and any rights to land upon reaching his majority. There is the wholly speculative "ward of the Farrar estate" (or Burwell?...or someone else) idea regardless of the false court record, but we are again left with only choices of speculation, another involving (again) Thomas Broughton, and perhaps even his unknown first wife. An improved status might also be explained by John (or someone else) somehow paying for his initial transport from England that year, and the contract due his young age. Some records note a cost in that period of perhaps £6, which sounds trivial today, but was then a significant amount of money, per some current estimates (difficult) many thousands of today's dollars. An indication of the adjusted value is evident by the fact that it took indentured servants typically four years to repay the cost of their transport. As he married Susanna Keene by 1659, also leaving him about five years after completion of his servitude (and when still a minor) seems *perhaps* "inadequate" time for him to attain the apparent degree of success he achieved (plus probable land rights) by that time. Once again, we will likely never learn anything more.

Although we know John arrived in *Northumberland* in 1650, the county was then much larger than it is now, created just two years before, and still included what later became Westmoreland Co. With the original historic land records, the Burwell grant of 1650 was determined by Ed White to have been on what is now *Coles Point Neck* (then Ragged Point Neck) in *Westmoreland Co.*, so John did not "arrive" on Cherry Point Neck at this time and almost certainly first "settled" and served his indenture in that area instead. Four years later, per a another court record, on Sept 6, 1654 Thomas Hobkins patented 1400 acres of land in Lancaster Co., immediately south of Northumberland Co. on the north side of the Rappahannock River, for transporting certain persons "into the colony", among who were (again) Thomas Broughton and John Garner, plus a Robert Burwell

(relationship to Lewis, as yet undetermined). John, at that point, appears to have completed his four year contract of 1650, and was *nearing* the age of majority, then about nineteen. Some (including the GK authors in the separate Keene section noting Broughton) suggested that this may have reflected John and Thomas going *back to England* after 1650 and then returning to Virginia by 1654, both implausible due the cost and hazards, and, unfortunately, not reflecting an understanding of the headright system of the time. These were not "second New World arrivals", but later "sponsorships" *within* the colony, and Thomas also *recorded* in Northumberland in 1652. Both then certainly remained primarily within the county continuously from 1650 until 1654.



Left, a current map of what is now Coles Point Neck, originally *Ragged Point Neck*, and in then Northumberland Co., showing the extent of the 1650 Burwell grant of sixteen hundred acres. To the east (right) of the grant, on the Potomac, is now *Gardner's Creek*, once *Jernew's Creek*. The five hundred acres of land noted to the north of, and abutting, the creek was later purchased by John Garner Jr. in 1698 and the creek sometime after renamed, but due a mapmaker's later error, *Gardner*, as named today, not Garner. That land remained in the Garner family into the twentieth century.

An overlay of this map, at scale, with the first surveyed map of the area from 1670 shows considerable discrepancies, the shoreline a *very* different profile continuing southeast for several miles (off this map), and hundreds of yards east *into* the Potomac River. That *may* reflect what was once Doege Island, noted in the next section.

Another two partial maps of eastern Westmoreland Co., south

of this, are attached in the section on John and Susanna's move to the county by about 1672. No map of Lancaster Co. is included as the specific location of the 1654 Hobkins patent has not been determined to date.

With now John Garner and Thomas Broughton sharing two consecutive joint sponsorships and moves together, this also implies them knowing each other years before Thomas married Susanna Keene's widowed mother, and also implies John knowing the Burwell family, perhaps beyond just sponsorship. One might then speculate that Thomas Broughton could have also been instrumental in John later coming to Cherry Point Neck as well, and by age twenty-one (in about 1636), of course, no longer indentured and probably having land rights. One *might* even speculate that Thomas held John's contract at some point after 1650 and perhaps became a surrogate father or older brother to him. With all their known history together, Thomas and (an orphaned) John might have had a history going back well before 1650, but that remains even more speculation on my part.

One question pertaining to this period in John's life was how, perhaps without documentation, his age was determined for purposes of contract and assigning land rights. There is no record of any deposition prior to 1665, which may have been the only legal option available, so how he would have been determined as reaching majority unknown. The original of Burwell's land grant of 1650 has survived, but makes no reference to ages or includes other details. If there was a separate contract document in 1650, or later 1654, that including his (assumed?) age (other known contracts similar), remains unknown by this author. One other record of a contract has been found for a minor in the colony in this period and that court record specifically noting the age of the child specifically "assumed", but *how*, not included.

Cherry Point Neck: Thomas Broughton was back in Northumberland Co. from Lancaster Co. by 1656, Northumberland Co. now separate from Westmoreland Co. since 1653, where his deposition was recorded that year, and may have been shortly after his arrival on Cherry Point Neck. As John had reached his majority by that year and appears having had no contract in Lancaster Co., it is *possible* that John had accompanied Thomas Broughton or followed shortly thereafter.

In Feb of 1658, John and a Joseph Fielding were assigned by Francis Roberts his patent on 500 acres of land "lying between Col Speakes land and Doege Island in the Potomac River". *Recorded in Northumberland Co.*, this is the first *record* of John actually back in that county after 1654, and which *may* reflect his approximate actual "arrival" on Cherry Point Neck as well, though unconfirmed. The precise circumstances of this assignment are unknown and its location in question. This land *may* have been almost sixty miles northwest of Cherry Point Neck in what was then Westmoreland Co., and is now Prince William Co. (not Stafford as GK noted, the authors having made some geographic errors in their book). Doege Island, sometimes Doggs Island (and other variations), named for its original native inhabitants, was recorded in a land grant of 8 July 1651 as in Northumberland Co., then extending to near the present city of Alexandria, VA. What *appears* this same Garner acreage was noted in much later records as "upon the Ocoquan" (now Occoquan Creek) and *then* in Stafford Co. prior to the creation of Prince William in 1731, and that appearing the reason GK placed the assignment as they did. Occoquan Creek is just south of Mason's Neck, recorded in *some* sources as once Doege Island.

There remain, however, differences among researchers as to the actual location of this grant, Ed White noting it as near then Jernew's Creek, much later Gardner's Creek, and near John's initial arrival location in 1650 on Coles (*Ragged*) Point Neck. Additionally supportive of his case, but not noted in his research, are historic accounts of *another* Doege Island of 2,100 plus acres which per the book, *The Disappearing Islands of the Chesapeake*, completely eroded away more than a century ago. The specific location of this island cannot now be determined, the records only noting it on the Potomac in Northumberland in 1651, and *possibly* as Doeggs Plantation in then Westmoreland in 1654 noted as near "Sandy or Ragged Point". Per the previous partial map of Coles Point Neck, plus complete county maps, there are today three *separate* geographical features in eastern Westmoreland Co., Coles Point Neck, Sandy Point, *and* Ragged Point, widely separated, and the names/locations/features *do not* coincide between the first surveyed county map of 1670 and present maps. That suggests both considerable shoreline change (in part the erosion?) and geographical name changes over time. Nothing has been found to date of "Col Speakes land" which would likely resolve the location.

While this may seem largely academic to many, much effort has been made in regards to this grant in an attempt to accurately determine John's moves within the colony. If this land grant was in fact in eastern Westmoreland Co. near Cherry Point Neck, it is additionally *somewhat* supportive of his move to that area that year. A land grant sixty miles north also seemed a bit odd and inexplicable, but certainly not impossible.

Regardless, it is the *only* court record for John in Northumberland Co. after Lancaster Co., but before his marriage, and he *appears* never to have lived on this land, his portion later assigned to his son, John Jr., in 1663 assuring inheritance by his firstborn son. Unfortunately we know nothing more of the circumstances of this assignment by Roberts, and nothing of the actual date or circumstances of John "settling west of Garner's (then

Keene's) creek" on Cherry Point Neck per local historian *William Henry Eubank* in 1934. Eubank did not note the specific reasons for his conclusions, but they *appear* to have been based on *later* records for land inherited by John's descendants, primarily those through his sons Vincent and James, both "west" of the creek and other land also east nearer the existing village of Lewisetta. *It would appear* that following Lancaster, by 1658, John *may* have had land rights for perhaps 100 acres, but there is no record to reflect his exercising that option in Northumberland Co. or anywhere else at that time. With the available records for John beginning in 1658, I find it both curious and frustrating that no known land records can *definitively* place him on Cherry Point Neck prior to his marriage, and of those after his marriage, few of those abstracted which provide adequate specifics as to locations of additional land acquired in that county. The full originals in the VA archives *might* provide additional details although in many extant records from the period boundary lines are often recorded based on ownership of adjacent properties and archaic place names or geographical features (such as "woods") which no longer exist or "creeks", now long renamed...often of little or no help. Ed White reviewed all the original land records, worked through all these limitations and conducted his own surveys for John's properties later in Westmoreland Co., but no one to date has expended that effort for Northumberland Co. Both Ed and GK both also note that his purchases were not limited to available contiguous properties and that somewhat "forward thinking" and atypical for the time. Although the noted record, plus his marriage itself, place him in *some* proximity to the Keene farm *by* about 1658, most all records for him simply note "Northumberland", up until his 1663 appointment as Constable for Cherry Point Neck. Regardless, as he had been indentured in 1650 at age about fifteen, by 1658, he now appears to have come rather far quickly for such a young man. All speculation aside, whatever the actual facts of his life were before 1650, he was clearly a survivor, and even if forced upon him by circumstances, had risen to the occasion, already showing a degree of independence, intelligence, energy, and spirit, plus perhaps character and promise, already recognized by others.

The Bride: Susanna Keene was born on Kent Island, about fifty miles north in the Chesapeake from Northumberland and the Potomac River, now Queen Anne's Co., MD in *about* 1640, all other accounts aside. One self-published researcher noted specifically 17 Dec 1640 in 2017, which is feasible, but noted no sources for his unqualified statement. Although there is an absence of known hard records, there is a strong circumstantial case for her birth as the first Keene offspring, her parents married by *no later than* 1640 (1638-40 typically recorded, some *before* 1638) and her oldest brother William documented as born in March of 1642...two to four years later. Despite the available records, the GK authors inexplicably listed her *appearing* as the third born for unstated reasons, and without a year. Others then bracketed a date between those approximated for her two other siblings and came up with 1646, and Dec (why?), now frequently recorded.

Curiously, the GK authors also listed (chauvinistically, though female themselves) all of the Garner-Keene offspring by males first, then females, not purely chronologically, showing documented first-born Mary as instead number (8). Although there are recorded exceptions (some as young as fourteen), statistically, the average marriage ages of both men and women in that period were little different than those in much of the twentieth century and a *twelve year old child* would not be allowed to marry. Medical science also notes that adolescents in the seventeenth century entered puberty *much* later than today due to nutrition, one reason why young women married then most typically at about eighteen or later, and making it also highly questionable if she could have even conceived daughter Mary by about March of 1659, as per the available records. One might also question why a twenty-four year old John Garner would want to marry a child, that seeming both unlikely (*perhaps* a bit unsavory), when certainly other relatively *adult* options were available to him.

Susanna's father, Thomas Keene, *may* have been with the first English settlers on the island arriving in 1631, his age about thirty-eight, when it was first settled and claimed by the VA colony. He patented 100 acres there in 1640 (a map attached in the supplemental media), married Mary Thorley (her maiden name first speculated, now *reasonably* confirmed) in the same timeframe, 1638-40 as noted, and their first three offspring, Susanna and her two oldest brothers William and Thomas, were born there. The GK authors *speculated* that Thomas "may have been" the son of Thomas Keene I and Elizabeth Gosnold of Otley, Suffolk, England, which would make him a blueblood of royal heritage. Their "may", of course, is now recorded typically as "was". The basis

for the speculation, perhaps preceding GK, is one very weak record, simply that Thomas I and Elizabeth Gosnold *had* a second son, Thomas II. Aside from serious issues with birth years, the Thomas Keene of Kent Island was an illiterate tradesman, a cooper, and English highborn second sons were typically well educated by their parents, even if not left title or property, many noted as becoming barristers and “gentlemen”. Two preeminent genealogists with the New England Historical Society, both authorities on Americans with royal descent, completely rejected that speculation prior to 2014, yet it persists on ancestry.com and elsewhere. There were other Keenes recorded in England in that time frame and other potential parents, though all unconfirmed.

The Keene family’s move is now clearly documented, their leaving Kent Island sometime after early 1649 and arriving on Cherry Point Neck in Northumberland Co. before Dec of 1650, where Thomas is first recorded. Thomas’ motivation for leaving Kent Island appears perhaps partly political, that year also when the island was officially awarded to Maryland by the Crown. His land in Northumberland, 527 acres, was noted as southwest of “Cherry Poynt”, now Cowart Point, and north/northeast of “Claughtons Creeke”, placing it south of what became “Keene’s Creek”, much later Garner’s Creek. The farm’s approximate location has now been confirmed and roughly mapped (see following page and supplemental media) and *may* have included a portion of “Cherry Poynt”, or at least extended to near it. John’s farm, likely the initial location of his fifty(? or one hundred?) acres upon his undetermined “settling”, per Eubank, was “west” of the creek, *not* on Cherry Point per GK, and Eubank making no reference between John and Cherry Point at all. GK misquoted him for reasons unknown and their statement also conflicts with the actual geography, Cherry Point being *east* of the creek.

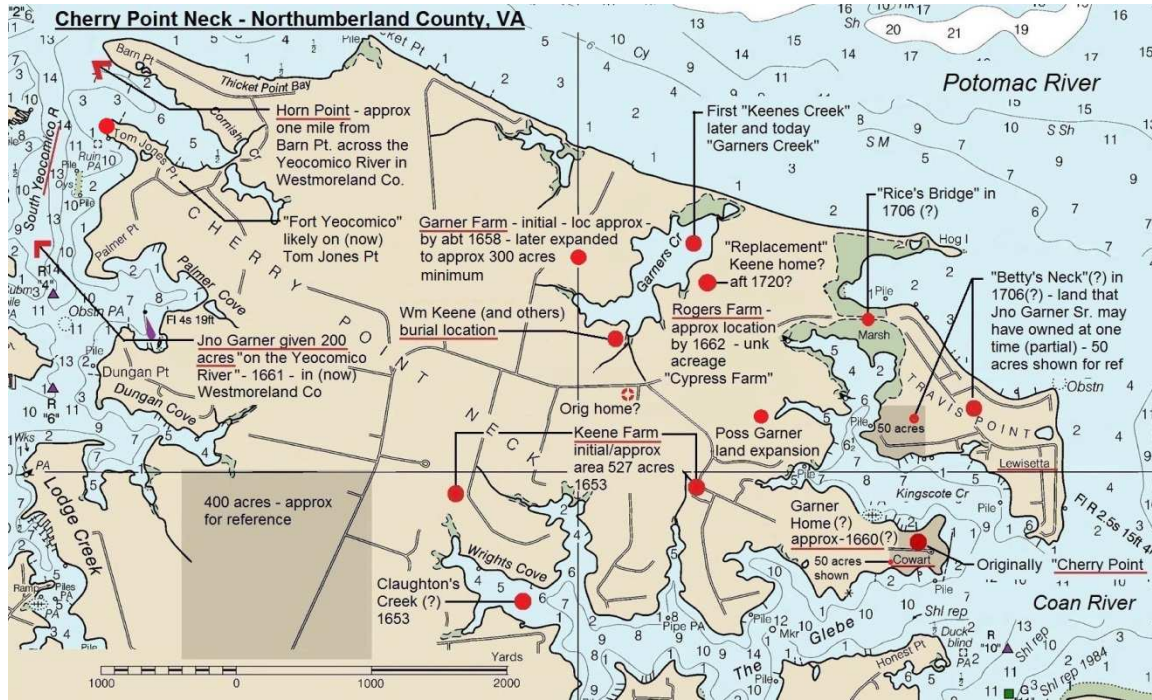
Per the noted records, as John was in Northumberland Co., *probably* on the Neck, by 1658, this would then put him and Susanna in first proximity, although it *may* have been earlier. Thomas Broughton was now her stepfather, she about eighteen, and John then age about twenty-three. There is potentially some good material here for a made for TV movie or a romance novel...young girl falls for newly arrived young man on the other side of the [creek].

Susanna’s father, Thomas, had died in 1652 and his land (finally) patented afterwards in 1653. Thomas’ wife, Mary, remarried twice after his death, first to Henry Raynor (spellings vary) in 1653, who died “shortly afterwards”, then to Thomas Broughton in 1658, then himself a widower, landowner, and of some means. All three husbands are noted as having known each other well in life, all three listed in their respective Oath of Allegiance recorded in Northumberland in 1652. With Thomas Broughton at the least somewhat *near* Cherry Point Neck since 1650, and his coming to know Thomas Keene in the county, the period of 1650-52 would likely have been the time of his first encounter with Mary Thorley Keene as well. I also simply can’t help but wonder if Thomas Broughton also first introduced John Garner to the Keene family, the year unknown, and was eventually instrumental in John’s farm being on nearly adjacent property, *possibly* after his marriage on Cherry Point, but the location of his dwelling farm having ever been there now in serious question.

Thomas and Mary continued to live on the Neck after their marriage, and he granted Susanna (noted as *Keene*, of course, per her father’s will) her inheritance from her late father’s estate (one milk cow named Su) *before* Oct 1659, which helps to confirm her age as *about* eighteen (*not* twelve) at that time. A number of records from the period reflect females of eighteen, typically daughters, granted their inheritance at that age. Young William Keene appears to have later inherited the dwelling farm from his father’s estate, perhaps first in trust, after his mother’s death in about 1662, the will of Thomas Keene noting it be left to William’s younger brother Thomas II. Thomas II died at about thirty-four in Northumberland Co. in 1678 and many questions on the Keene siblings remain, those a subject of another narrative attached to my tree. John Garner was later the guardian of Thomas II and John and Susanna largely raised the youngest Keene sibling, Matthew, after their mother’s death. It appears John and his Keene brothers-in-law grew, and remained, close.

Even though so many early marriages were “the boy and girl next door”, options being still somewhat limited one of several reasons, I would speculate that John Garner was examined with scrutiny by (now) Mary Broughton, regardless of any attraction there may have been between him and Susanna, and though now

married to Thomas Broughton, who almost certainly approved, was prepared to forbid the marriage if she felt warranted. The land records noted by this date, however, again suggest that he had quickly achieved an early degree of success and was deemed worthy as to character, promise, and most importantly, means. I would guess he was also a fine physical specimen, as it still(?) appears to run in the family, all prejudice aside.



Left, a current chart of Cherry Point Neck, noted with locations referenced in this, and the following section. What is now Westmoreland Co. is immediately west (left), across the Yeocomico River. What was initially “Keene’s Creek”, later Garner’s, may have once been navigable from the Potomac River in the 17th century, but its entrance has now

long been shoaled up. The previously noted survey map of 1670 also shows discrepancies between that and the shoreline of this current chart, and as severe as those noted for eastern Westmoreland Co. The Keene farm has been confirmed at the approximate location noted, but perhaps actually a bit east (right), and what was “Claughton’s Creeke” not as is speculated here, but one creek to the right. That creek and *Cherry Poynt* (now Cowart’s Point) were the noted east/west defining geographical features of the Keene land grant, but it is unclear if the farm included, all, or a portion of the point. The now very questionable location of John and Susanna’s farm on Cherry Point is *suggested* by the shaded/noted fifty acres shown, but there is no reason to assume, *if correct at all*, that it was on the extreme eastern point of land. The description “point” (as with now Travis Point), may have included at that time all the land west for an approximate thousand yards, actually a *neck* itself, and any potential fifty to one hundred acre farm also further west. Likewise, the fifty acres shaded/noted on what may have been “Betty’s Neck”, now Travis Point, is also for reference only, the actual location, and extent of Garner land owned there, unknown, but *reasonably* confirmed as in the correct location.

Family, Farm, and Fortune: John and Susanna married *by about* March of 1659 in Northumberland, and promptly (of course) had their first offspring, daughter Mary. This date is estimated based on Mary Broughton’s will, written in Jan 1662, in which she notes Susanna married and with a two year old daughter, to which another subtraction for conception and pregnancy has been included. There is no record of a dowry, but there *may* have been, and Susanna certainly brought her milk cow, Su, with her, if granted by that date.

The only explanation I can imagine for GK noting their settlement on Cherry Point, misquoted from Eubanks and/or unsourced, may have been a dowry/deed of gift of land there, but the authors did not say and none is found in the court records. If Cherry Point is simply incorrect, then their dwelling farm was most certainly still nearly adjacent, but northwest of the Keene farm on what are assumed John’s initial lands per Eubanks.

Daughter Mary, was born *by about* Jan 1660 per the noted 1662 will, but John Jr., thought born in about 1661, was not mentioned in the same document. It is assumed that Mary was named for her grandmother, and that one reason she was specifically (proudly) noted in her will, Mary Garner her first grandchild. Oddly, her will

also spells Garner as *Gardner*, which is supportive of the will being dictated (typical) and Mary illiterate, it also appearing “signed” with a mark, “M” (underscored), not an actual signature (and M *not* a middle initial as many have misinterpreted from the transcription). Garner is the typical spelling in most records and documents although *Gardner* reappears with some frequency, sometimes in the *same document*, standardized spellings still rather casual and compounded by illiteracy and phonetics. The spelling of Susanna’s name varies in records, some as Susannah, and Keene also varying over decades, primarily in early records for her father. John called her Susan in his will.



John and Susanna’s first home was very likely a “Virginia House”, as shown left, a reproduction now in St. Mary’s County, MD, just across the Potomac. Detailed instructions were provided to early immigrants, and these simple to build without much skill, inexpensive, and required only readily available local materials. It is estimated that many thousands of these were built on this model in Virginia and Maryland in the early years of settlement. Of post and beam construction, and setting on the ground (little local stone for foundations in the Tidewater), they also lasted perhaps only twenty years before succumbing to rot and termites, although some undamaged wood was then likely still salvaged for reuse. Their remains as found by archeologists

today are limited to impressions of the once buried posts, they not having any foundations, and nothing else having survived today except adequate historical documentation to determine most details.

They were typically just two rooms on dirt floors, and only averaged about three hundred square feet total, if that. The “upper floor” (something of a misnomer), accessed by ladder, could be used for sleeping and other purposes, but was not a “living area”. Fireplaces and chimneys, typically one, were of wood and daubed clay, either central to the home or on a gable end. Brick and period window glass were initially both of limited availability in the colonies and rather expensive, until brickmaking became more widespread and established. Glass, however, after an initial (failed) attempt in Jamestown was later only imported from England, and remained out of reach of most with modest means. Many of the homes’ original clay fireplaces and chimneys were later replaced with much safer brick versions, but brick foundations and all brick homes typically came later in the 17th century. Many of these were converted into adjacent separate kitchens (only) if a new, larger, home was built as families, and their income, grew, or the structures repurposed in other ways.

As noted, the actual acreage of the Garner farm by 1660 is unknown, but a “William Hopkins” gave John a 200 acre land patent in Oct 1661, so their total was quickly growing. This 200 acres, noted as “on the Yeocomico” (only, not the county) has been determined, once again with the research of Ed White, to have been *across* the river in by then Westmoreland Co., not Northumberland Co, though recorded there. It became John and Susanna’s later “dwelling plantation” there after about 1672 and is addressed in more detail in the following section. Other records followed: John appointed Constable of the Neck on 5 May 1663 at age about twenty-eight, his repeated naming as executor of neighbors’ wills, and very interestingly, a certificate granted him in Dec of 1664 for 250 acres “for the importation of five persons into the county”...so John was now a sponsor himself at age only about twenty-nine, although if he paid for their expensive transport from England, or from just another VA or MD county, is unknown. Additional purchases of property followed, assignment as guardian to his young orphaned brother-in-law, Thomas Keene II, as mentioned, in May 1665, records of debts owed him, the circumstances unspecified, but in pounds of tobacco, and more.

As noted, the locations of the additional lands granted or purchased cannot now all be determined, but were not all contiguous, some appearing from later records for John’s son Vincent, to have been on what is now Travis Point, *perhaps* once “Betty’s Neck” (see previous chart and remarks), now including the village of Lewisetta.

Also as previously noted, his deposition noting his age "as there abouts" thirty is dated from Aug 1665, *not* 1663 as GK stated, which suggests he *may* have been uncertain himself.

Two years later "The Dreadful Hurry Cane of 1667" (Aug-Sep, accounts vary), hit the Chesapeake, doing great damage..."A mighty wind destroyed four-fifths of our tobacco and corn and blew down in two hours fifteen thousand houses in Virginia and Maryland" (and also killing many people and livestock). How John and Susanna may have been affected is unknown, but much of the Neck, and likely all of Cherry Point was submerged in the recorded twelve foot storm surge. The following month, in Oct 1667 "Jno Garner" was selected to build a house (a replacement?) for the workmen who were building the "Fort on Yeocomico River", its location now lost to erosion, but originally on *Levy Point*, appearing now Tom Jones Point. The house was specified as 40 feet long by 20 feet wide and he was to "...select...other assistants...", so he was also a builder.



The sloop *Outcry* is noted in his will of 1702, but I would speculate that he *may* have built, or had built, an earlier vessel (or vessels) for transport of his tobacco, various other goods, and perhaps provided transport for other farmers both on the Neck and in St. Mary's, MD as well, just across the Potomac. That perhaps reflects some of the debts owed him both in this period and later. As he was recorded as a builder, some debts could also reflect his services in that capacity for others, such as in the construction of tobacco barns or other replacement(?) houses.

Left, a reproduction of a period sloop that may appear something as the *Outcry* did. The term sloop defines a vessel as having a single mast with sails forward and aft, and *implies* it being somewhat smaller (as opposed to larger two and three-masted vessels). This reproduction is about fifty feet on deck, and probably larger than John's vessel, but in order to be useful and economically viable for transport on the bay, *probably* no less than about forty feet on deck. A relatively modest planter from this period owning his own (*expensive*) vessel appears unusual, but could have been very lucrative, transporting far more than just tobacco, virtually all manufactured goods made in England and shipped to the colonies, and then by water within.



Left, a reproduction of a generic seventeenth century tobacco barn, designed specifically for the drying and curing of the crop. John would have likely had a minimum of one on each of his noncontiguous properties where tobacco was grown, more on larger tracts, and they would have been the largest structures on the period farms, the typical homes still smaller. This view would have very different then, the barn surrounded by tobacco plants, not the (now) indigenous weeds and wildflowers. As speculated above, as a builder, John may have greatly supplemented his income by building these, perhaps homes, for his neighbors in county, and especially after the storm, while his own crops regrew and livestock replenished. It should also be

noted that we do not know how much of John's crops were tobacco and how much food crops, such as corn and wheat. Tobacco was the currency of the colony, but the residents had to eat, of course, and the colonial officials expressed periodic concern that not enough food crops were being grown, tobacco being more profitable, if shortsighted. A final footnote here is reflected in the photo; the early settlers unwittingly brought the first invasive plants (primarily weeds) with them from England mixed in the seeds of their wheat and barley. The Kudzu smothering the tree to the left of the barn would arrive much later.

The last record of land in Northumberland was in 1667-68, an assignment of another 200 acres, exact location unknown. By 1672, John and Susanna would have five offspring, a farm or now “plantation” exceeding that originally of her fathers, sons and indentured servants to help work the farm, and perhaps additional income from transport and other activities. His lands also must have at least by then abutted much of the west side of Garner’s Creek, possibly some to the south but certainly east as well, otherwise it would likely not have been later renamed as such. The date of the renaming of creek is unknown and may have been long after John’s death, much of the land around the creek left to his heirs and their later descendants, and the creek renamed for the Garners in general. It was still recorded as “Keene’s Creek” in one land record of 1709. A much later record of one great-grandson also notes “the brick home of his grandfather” (John’s son Vincent) and “a manor” of three hundred acres in Northumberland, very likely *somewhere* on Cherry Point Neck...possibly on the creek, but unconfirmed, and no known remains anywhere in the county today of a brick home of that era.

Although the only record, per se, of John being literate is his signature on his will, various records in Northumberland, and later, also support that. Among others, he was twice appointed as individuals’ “attorney”, the title perhaps loosely applied, also often named an executor, appointed to a coroner’s jury, and, of course, appointed constable of the Neck in 1663, all implying some literacy. When and how he was educated, as so much else, remains wholly unknown, but could have been either before or after 1650. The nature, and occasional language, of some records also suggest his intelligence, and that he was both liked and respected.

The family had survived and recovered from the storm of 1667 and aside from their resumed and continuing growing prosperity, John was of some standing in the county as a whole. By 1672, he was about thirty-seven, and Susanna about thirty-two.



Left, an illustration, courtesy of St. Mary’s Museum, of a somewhat affluent colonial home of the early/mid seventeenth century. The original Virginia House has here been converted to a separate kitchen and brick fireplaces and chimneys now typical. A newer larger home has been constructed, plus service buildings, one a small barn, likely for just the farm animals, enclosed in separated fenced areas. A tightly fenced vegetable garden is adjacent to the kitchen, and records sometimes note small herb and flower gardens as well. All these farm animals’ ancestors had been shipped across

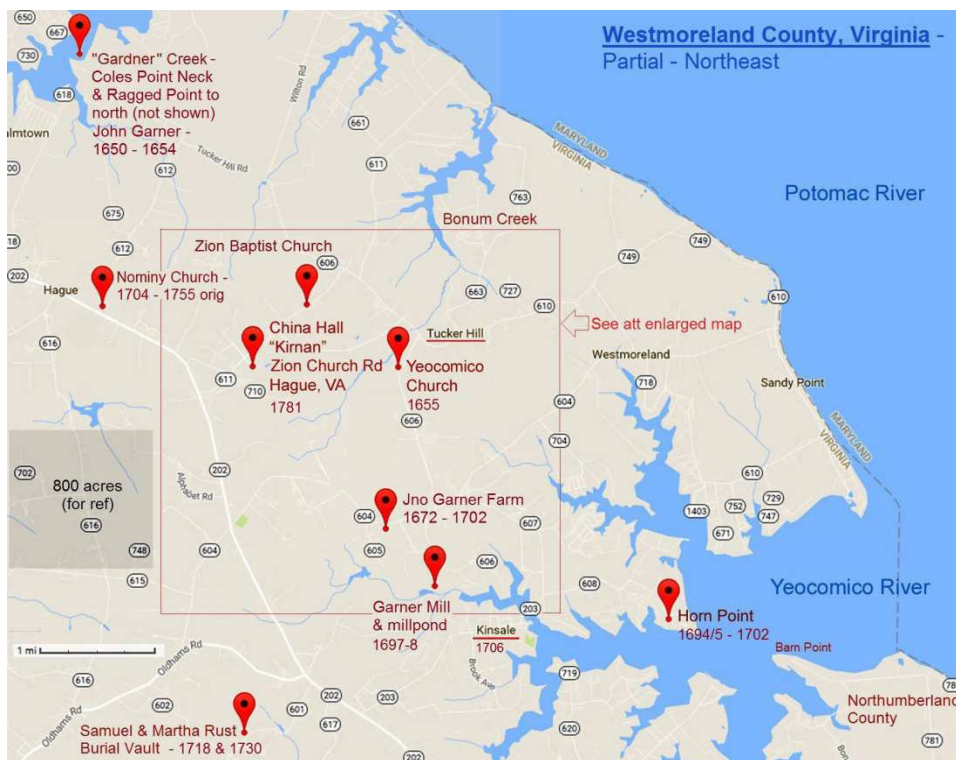
the Atlantic, included John’s oxen (noted in his will), the “farm equipment” of the day, and all initially expensive until bred in numbers in the colonies. Tobacco barns, per the previous page, not shown here, typically the largest structures on a farm, were placed strategically about the fields. This illustration may reflect to a degree what John and Susanna’s dwelling plantation might have looked like on Keene’s Creek at about the time they moved to Westmoreland in 1672, possibly *rebuilt* after the storm of 1667. The land they settled on there was *not* directly on the water and at a much higher elevation, *perhaps* another reason for the move.

Westmoreland County: John, Susanna, and their then five children are known to have moved from Northumberland Co. to Westmoreland Co. on what is now Kinsale Creek or Kinsale Branch northwest of the present village of Kinsale, only a few miles upriver on the Potomac and across the Yeocomico, by about 1672,

perhaps one reason being that no more land was left to purchase on the Neck and that his land in Westmoreland *appears* to have represented the majority of his holdings by that year.

The location of the 200 acre farm which became their “dwelling plantation”, granted to John in 1661, previously noted, has been determined from the land records and is shown on maps attached to this tree. That grant included conditions (that he “seat” himself there within a given time) that John had satisfied in some manner, perhaps building on the property in 1661 and remaining there temporarily. This 200 acre property was also within a short distance southeast of the 875 acre property first noted in 1660 which is assumed now Garner owned, although questions remain. John *may* have sold some of his land in Northumberland, acreage now unknown, to purchase more acreage in Westmoreland, but is also unconfirmed. Aside from land known retained in Northumberland, one later record also suggests that some land had remained there in trust for John’s younger sons until their majority.

A first record of purchase is noted in Westmoreland Co. in Oct 1672 of 100 acres, also “on the Yeocomico” by John Garner and Robert Middleton, perhaps near John’s dwelling plantation. Robert appears in other later records, has been researched, but little found to date. Another purchase by the two is noted in Feb 1673, acreage unspecified. Additional records follow: that of serving on a coroner’s jury in 1674, and a debt owed him and Robert Middleton of 6,000 lbs. of tobacco the same year, a not insignificant sum in those years. Timber framed Anglican Yeocomico Church was built in 1655, rebuilt in brick in 1706 quite likely by his son John Jr, a “master carpenter”, and is still extant today, nearly adjacent to properties known to have been owned by John and John Jr. Some Garner family very likely attended the early church, but no records are found for John or his sons (only records of *non-attendance* by John Jr., ironically, of the (his) rebuilt church). Those living in Cople Parish and not attending would have had to pay a “fine” in pounds of tobacco (my guess being John grudgingly paid the fine based on another trait, *obstinacy*, still running in my Garner lineage). Who may have been John’s daughter Martha and (still unconfirmed) son-in-law, Samuel Rust, however, did attend.



Left, a partial map of northeastern Westmoreland Co. where John and Susanna lived from about 1672 until the end of their lives. Various specific locations are noted as addressed in the sections of this narrative. *Zion Baptist Church* is extant, built much later on what was once Garner land, but is not related to this account. *Nominy Church* no longer exists, but its location shown as found in records. Although no accounts link it to the Garners, it has been included for record. The enlargement of the portion noted is attached on a following page with additional details of the Garner properties, the farm only about a mile northwest of what is now the village of Kinsale.

The port of Kinsale in eastern Westmoreland Co. has been noted as “the oldest port in VA on the Potomac”, had deep water, and was a port long before being officially christened “Geann saile”, Irish for “head of salt water” in 1706. Another possible reason for John’s move was this better water access to potentially both counties and

more potential income from shipping. Westmoreland records note him as “Captain John Garner” which may have been related to his vessel(s), not a title in a militia or other, none recorded, although it may have been associated with his having been a constable in Northumberland. History also notes Kinsale as infamous for over a century for smuggling untaxed tobacco, so John may have been a pioneer in another now long established American tradition, tax avoidance, and we might speculatively add yet another description; *tobacco smuggler*. From MD records of this period debts were found owed a John Gardner, and *no one found by that name* living in MD at that time. I speculate that this may have been our John, and that some of the debts owed possibly for shipping (untaxed?) tobacco or other goods.

John and Susanna would have another five offspring in Westmoreland, the last James, born *perhaps* about 1684, Susanna then about forty-four, and bringing the total to ten...three daughters and seven sons (and as noted, *none* named Richard or Katharine). The fourth *falsified* record for John is dated January of 1685, and notes John retained by a neighbor for the “instruction of his children in French and Latin” at the rate of ten shillings a lesson (another *absurdly* high cost when adjusted). This is attributed to West D&W B 2, p. 24, and once again, *this record does not exist*. The only explanation for this fabrication appears to have been to support John’s “education” by the deceased “William Farrar Sr.” beginning in 1643. While John is known to have been literate, there is nothing to remotely suggest he was capable in French and Latin.

Two more land purchase records are found afterward, 100 acres on Horn Point from John Jenkins, and to both John and his son Vincent, and lastly another in July 1697, the acreage unspecified. From his will his total holdings can easily be estimated at minimum between 1200 and 1600 acres in Westmoreland Co. alone, but the GK authors implied a higher total, *assumed* including all locations. Full documentation was not provided, however. It is also unknown how much of that remained in Northumberland Co., or perhaps elsewhere, such as Lancaster and Stafford Co., established in 1664, as he *may* have retained and owned other property there as well, although not reflected in his will. Earlier assignment of lands to his sons could, in part, explain that.



A last significant court record was that one acre was laid out for John Garner Jr. for a “mill” in Westmoreland Co. in January of 1697 on land then owned by his father, that requiring a legal process and approval. John Jr. then built this mill on the southeast corner of his father’s farm, it then called appropriately Garner’s Mill, and the pond, Garner’s Mill Pond (the creek itself now Kinsale Creek or Kinsale Branch). Both names later changed, the mill renamed six times as it changed ownership in later years. John Jr., in his will, referred to it as “my old mill on Blice’s Run” and later records note it as leased. The mill dam and pond preceded the mill itself, its history unclear, but appearing built by John Sr. A main road from Northumberland to Kinsale crossed the mill dam itself, adjacent to the mill, so ready transport of grain was assured (relative to the nature of roads at that time). The photo, left, although of a mill from later in the early eighteenth century in western VA, may be representative of the Garner mill, built of roughhewn timber plus, perhaps, some local stone and brick. A remnant of the mill dam and pond remains today, plus what appears a trace of the original county road crossing the dam. All are largely overgrown and the pond now only a tidal marsh.

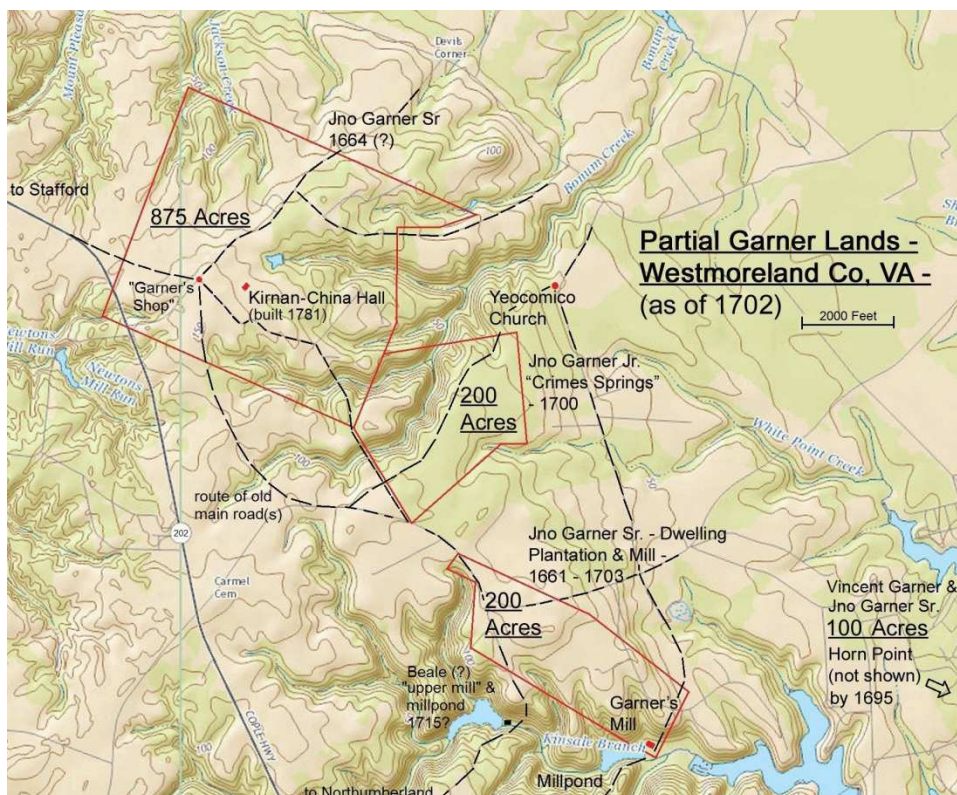
Because of the nature of the topography at this location and the primitive surveying methods, this border of the Garner farm, and the pond itself was in dispute with neighbors then, and which continued in part for many years afterwards. This was first apparent in 1687 when John was ordered by the county court to “forbear any further molestation...att his perrill” of his neighbor William Horton who was attempting to conduct a survey (I imagine John with his noted long gun, perhaps more than “molesting” Horton). As late as 1722, John’s grandson William, who had inherited this property, was noted as fined 10 shillings for erecting a fence “across the road from Yeocomico Church to Garner’s Mill”, although the road crossed Garner property (most all roads then crossed privately owned properties, the legalities of common access unknown). This grist mill has been noted as

the first in the area and just the second in Westmoreland and John and John Jr. appear to have been in a partnership in this (very lucrative) venture, grinding their own, and neighbors grain.

With the sloop Outcry, it once again demonstrates that John, now about age sixty-two, was by this time perhaps not just a tobacco grower and farmer, rather more an *entrepreneur*.

Death(s): John's will was dated 22 Jan 1702 and proved 26 May of that year, making his death sometime in perhaps Feb or March of 1702. He was about sixty-seven years old, a long life for the times, and per all reliable sources, had become one of the major landowners in the county..."lesser gentry" of Westmoreland per Ed White. The term is not meant in any way as pejorative and the emphasis on "gentry"...the Garners were simply not the Lees or Washingtons. Susanna's death in 1716 is noted on a following page.

No slaves were noted in his will. His land was divided between his three oldest sons, John, Henry, and Vincent, Horn Point specifically noted again (to Vincent), plus half interest in the sale of the sloop Outcry, possibly the newest, largest and last, of two or more of his vessels, their working life at most about twenty years. His will noted 800 and "odd acres" (actual 875) to be divided between John Jr. and Henry. This property, noted previously, has an interesting, mysterious, and confusing history. With much credit due again to Ed White, it is known to have first been recorded in 1660 when a Thomas Martin assigned the 875 acres to Thomas Broughton (yet *again*). In 1661, after Thomas's death it passed to his widow, Mary. After her death it appears to have been assigned to her oldest son William Keene, of age by 1663, likely held in trust, as in her will of 1662, recorded in 1664, it is left to Matthew Keene (about twelve that year) and her "loving friend" Thomas Daniel, whomever he was. At the time of John Garner's death he owned this property, and his two oldest sons already "seated" on portions, but when it came into his possession, and exactly how, is unclear. In 1705, John Jr. was quit-claimed 475 acres by Matthew Keene (his uncle) for "the love and affection" of Matthew's sister, John's mother, Susanna, John Sr. and Susanna having largely raised Matthew after his mother's death. Matthew also granted Henry, John Junior's younger brother, a "deed" of gift that same year for 400 acres, then accounting for the total noted. These records, as "quit-claimed" or deed of gift, simply meant that he was conveying any claim he might have had in the property, no mention made this time of Thomas Daniel.



Left, the topological enlargement of the area per the previous Westmoreland Co. map showing the approximate boundaries and extent of determined Garner owned land at the time of John senior's death. Additional lands are known to have been owned in this area at this time, but cannot be verified as to location, such as the one hundred acre purchase of 1672, previously noted, and also "on the Yeocomico", which may have been very near the Garner farm. This map has been modified slightly to suggest the Garner mill pond, noted as several acres in size...at "the lower mill", that and the later "upper mill", both now gone and only marsh, but determined by existing topography, historic record, plus the work of Ed White.

Period roads are shown dashed, some still following portions of existing roads while others disappeared, but have left some identifiably remnants. Two roads appear to have crossed John's farm, each then also crossing both his mill dam and the other later at the "upper mill". John Garner Jr's 200 acres of 1700 is shown, the adjacent 875 acres inherited by him and his brother, and Yeocomico Church, which he *probably* rebuilt in brick in 1706. This mysterious Broughton/Keene/Garner 875 acres, divided between the two sons, also shows the much later site of "China Hall", plus the intersection once called "Garner's Shop", but that name also dating from much later, its origin unknown, and no longer extant. Also see the current aerial view in the supplemental media.

Some effort has been expended researching this property as it represents a major portion of John's land upon his death, relates again to the speculative relationship between John and Thomas Broughton, John's relationships with his Keene in-laws, and is also important in the history of several of John's descendants. "China Hall", now Kirnan, would be built in 1781 by descendant, Col. George Garner, on the southern portion of this land first left to John's son Henry, and that the only known remaining home of any early Garner.

Mary Broughton's will is damaged and unclear, the original noted by those who have seen it as missing *major* portions (that not suggested by the available transcriptions), but John and Susanna are noted. I would speculate that this property may have passed to John and Susanna sometime not *too* long after 1664, perhaps as Thomas Broughton intended, and who was specifically recorded as leaving his property to Mary and her children, having no heirs himself. Another alternative for the actual assignment to John is *about* 1672, the year it appears Matthew Keene came of age, so could legally assign his rights to the land (but no record found). If that was the case, then it was perhaps another reason for the Garners moving to Westmoreland Co. that year.

Full will of John Garner – transcribed from the much later *certified copy* – Westmoreland Co. Virginia, Deeds & Wills Book 3, page 153 -Will dated Jan 22, 1702, proved May 26, 1702, recorded Jan 1, 1703:

In the name of God, Amen, I, John Garner being sick and weak of body, but of perfect memory and understanding do give and bequeath my Soul unto God that gave it, and my body to be decently interred. As to my worldly Estate, I give and bequeath as followth: Item-I do give and bequeath unto my well beloved son John Garner and to his heirs forever one moiety of eight hundred and odd acres of land, also I give unto my well beloved son Henry Garner and to his heirs forever the moiety of the aforesaid eight hundred and odd acres of land to be equally divided between my said sons John and Henry Garner the said eight hundred and odd acres of land being the sand my said sons John and Henry Garner are now seated upon. Item-I give and bequeath unto my well beloved son Henry Garner my chest together with my wearing apparel. Item-I give and bequeath unto my well beloved son Vincent Garner and heirs forever the whole plantation and land I now live on together with the lands adjoining. Also I give unto my said son Vincent and to his heirs a parcel of land lying in Horn Point. Item-I give and bequeath unto my said son Vincent Garner my long gun and my hanger and a yoke of oxen. Also my will is that my said son Vincent Garner hath the one half of what is got of the money of the sloop which is called the Outcry. Item-I do will and appoint and order my said son Vincent Garner, his heirs, Exors and Amrs to pay unto my son Thomas Garner his heirs or assigns the sum of two thousand pounds of good tobacco in cask. I do will and appoint my said son Vincent Garner his heirs or assigns to pay unto my son Parish Garner his heirs or assigns the sum of two thousand pounds of good tobacco in cask. Item-I do will and appoint my said son Vincent Garner his heirs or assigns to pay unto my son Benjamin Garner his heirs or assigns the sum of two thousand pounds of good tobacco in cask, to be paid unto my said son Benjamin Garner when he shall be one and twenty years old. Item-I will and appoint my said son Vincent Garner his heirs or assigns to pay unto my son James Garner his heirs or assigns the sum of two thousand pounds of good tobacco in cask to be paid unto my son James Garner when he shall come to the age of one and twenty. Item-I give and bequeath unto my well beloved daughters, Mary, Susan and Martha each of them a thomb ring** and also my will is that my well beloved wife to see them paid. Item-I give and bequeath unto my well beloved wife Susan all the rest of my Estate as Goods and Chattels moveables and unmoveables and do make my said loving wife Susan the sole Executor*** of this my last will and testament, willing all my due debts to be paid, revoking all other wills and testimonies, this my last will and testament, also my will is that my well beloved wife Susan her heirs or Executors pay the one half of the tobacco which is given to my said sons being four thousand, the 22nd day of Jan, 1702.*

John Garner (seal)

Signed, sealed in the presence of us: William Gardner, Jno. Williams, Wm. Moore, Westmoreland County. At a Court held for the said county the 26th day of May. The last will and testament of John Garner dec'd, the within subscriber was proved by the oath of Wm. Gardner, and a probate thereof granted to Susan Garner, Executrix, therein named. Test 1.A. Westcomb C.C. Com. Rd. Recordity. Prime Die Jany. 1703.

* The original "moiety" meaning "each of two parts", and assumed/appearing equal as stated.

** A "thomb" (thumb?) ring may have been as recorded in England earlier, then *sometimes* a marriage ring, but the significance varying, or *possibly* a "tomb" ring, or *funerary ring*, given as a keepsake, either being viable.

*** That Susan, "well beloved wife", was named sole executor, when John had grown sons (frequently named executors in wills), certainly implies to me not only his enduring love for her, but deep respect, and that at age about sixty-two, she still retained her health and all her faculties. If she was literate is unknown.

The *also transcribed* certified copy of the original will as filed with the court is in the supplemental media.

As can be seen, the noted "eight hundred and odd acres" was divided between Henry and John Jr., the younger sons, still minors, receiving money (tobacco poundage) upon reaching their majority, and his three daughters, all married it appears, one *perhaps* now widowed, receiving far lesser personal property, mere tokens of affection it appears. Garner's Mill is not noted specifically in the will, only the land, his dwelling plantation, left to Vincent, but the mill itself at some point left in full to John Jr., it later noted in his will of 1712. "Susan", named as sole executor, received the unspecified balance, "residue", of the estate, land not noted. I would speculate that a portion of the profits from the mill (part of the "residue"?) were a source of her income for the balance of her life. From son Vincent's will it is known she continued to live on the Garner farm at least until his early death in 1710, afterwards she perhaps remaining there, possibly some family living with her, or moving to live with one of her sons or a daughter...we simply do not know. Susanna survived John by fourteen years, passing in likely early 1716 possibly February, age about seventy-six, a *very* long life for the time, and did not leave a will although her personal property was inventoried in March, excluding her clothing, left earlier to "her daughters" at the time of her funeral.

There are no known *confirmed* burial locations in Westmoreland Co. for *any* early Garners...certainly not for John and Susanna, despite the *speculation* that they were buried together on their dwelling plantation, the specific location unknown. Second hand, from the former owners of what was "China Hall", there was at one time a "burial ground" near the extant house, probably in the wooded area near the pond still on the property (see previous map). By all available accounts, its location is long forgotten and the site long overgrown to an extent that no obvious signs remain. This property was, as noted, owned by John and left to his son Henry. The topography of the site suggests that Henry's home, he already "seated" on the land at his father's death, may have been on or near the location of the extant 1781 home, placing the burial ground nearby. It is not *infeasible* that John could have been buried there in 1702, followed by Susanna in 1716, and it intended from the time of his death as a Garner family burial ground. There is, however, nothing to support that, and no way to know what Garners were buried there and when. The property passed from Garner ownership by 1827 and the last possible Garner burial there *perhaps* about 1822. Also see supplemental media.

I am perhaps projecting, but from all found and speculated, John sounds like he was probably quite a personality; fiercely independent, resourceful, probably stubborn and ornery too, possibly refusing to attend church, smuggling tobacco, and chasing poor Horton off "his" property, the "rules", taxes, and the survey be damned. Yet he also embraced his orphaned Keene brothers-in-law, is referred to in some records as a "dear friend", and was respected enough to be selected as constable as a young man. He saw that his sons were educated and left them property, the tree oldest in a very equitable fashion, and two already living there. The younger sons received equal amounts of tobacco poundage, John appearing to show no real favorites except by the then convention of seniority. Lastly, from his will, he appears to have had a somewhat "progressive" attitude towards women, at least Susanna, naming her as sole executor in a time when widows were often left to be "managed" by their grown sons, or another male executor named in wills.

From all that *is* known, one can certainly infer a strong successful marriage throughout John and Susanna's forty-three years together. The specific locations of both their last home on their two hundred acre "dwelling plantation" and their likely shared gravesite *somewhere* on one of their properties in Westmoreland Co. remain unknown, now lost to history, as is so much else.



Thomas Broughton, as noted, had died in Northumberland in 1661 at age no more than about forty-five. For the record, he was *not* the "Thomas Broughton", age nineteen, who departed Gravesend England aboard the vessel *America* in 1635, that *another* individual. His burial location is also unknown, but was likely on the Keene Farm, the specific location for his grave, Mary's, and her first two husbands all now lost. All *may* be buried in conventional graves at the known extant site at "the head of Garner's Creek" where William Keene was later interred in 1684 in an above ground vault, photo above. Although most all the same records have been available to others before me, including the Garner-Keene authors, no one, to my knowledge, ever said anything about Thomas' potential role in the family history except to record the (segregated) dry facts.

How could Thomas have not played a major, if undefined, role in John Garner's life?...there are simply too many intersections where they came together. Perhaps they formed a bond of some kind, possibly even dating, as previously speculated, to before 1650, but no one will now ever know. It is hardly unreasonable that an orphaned young John, already linked in some manner to Thomas (and perhaps his unknown first wife) before 1650, would have been guided to a second "arrival" in Northumberland Co. that year and a third in Lancaster Co. four years later as a means for John to acquire fifty or a hundred acres of his own land upon his majority. Of what is known of Thomas, he and John would appear to have been kindred spirits, both appearing to have arrived young and alone, both perhaps orphaned, and then made their own way.

The name Thomas was that of Susanna's father, but I would also like to think John and Susanna's son, Thomas, and my direct linear ancestor, was named in honor of both. He will figure prominently, if qualified, in my tree, and was almost certainly more important than any speculative father Richard might have been.



There remains nothing known today as any *artifact* specifically from John and Susanna's time on Cherry Point Neck in Northumberland and eastern Westmoreland Co., but more importantly, still some direct Garner descendants, some retaining that surname, whose ancestors never left and whose roots in Westmoreland Co. go back now almost three and a half centuries. Of what is *loosely* connected still to be seen, lovely extant Yeocomico Church (shown left) was built after John's death and there is no record to support Susanna's attendance prior to her death. Both the Keene (1684) and Rust (about 1717) burial vaults survive, but are not directly tied to John or Susanna and the Rust vaults questionable in any case (daughter Martha *may* have married Samuel Rust, but is unconfirmed). Both are now also inaccessible to the general public. Even Garner's Creek in 2017 was surrounded by private property and stands of tall trees, so not even visible from the adjacent county roads, only the shoaled entrance barely visible from the waters of the Potomac.

Those portions of the two counties, however, remain largely rural, quiet, with areas still under cultivation, no longer with tobacco of course, and much is now forest once again, small portions even old growth. Most was unspoiled by the passing centuries, development and history having passed them by, and they now appear in

many ways as they likely did in John and Susanna's time. Some of the roads, as that now leading to Yeocomico Church, still follow most of the same route that once ran south from the church to Garner's Mill.

My 2017 trip to Cherry Point Neck and Westmoreland after so many years absence, lush and beautiful on a fine, cool, spring day, helped to put a face of sorts in my mind, knowing I was still seeing much of where John lived, labored, married, had his children, and died, and I recalled that portions were actually reminiscent of some areas of England, at least in spring, one reason the early settlers spoke well of Virginia. Leaving the asphalt road, it is easy to see in one's mind's eye oxen still working in the cultivated fields and imagine the distant weathered modest farmhouse (the outward architecture sometimes little changed) down the dirt road as still timber framed, unpainted, and with a post and rail fence around its vegetable garden.

I saw behind me those who had gone on before me and those who are to come. I looked back and saw my father, and all our fathers, and in front I see my son, and the sons upon sons beyond. And their eyes were my eyes.

Richard Llewellyn

With the continued natural subsidence due the geology of the lower Chesapeake Bay coupled with the most conservative estimates of sea level rise, Cherry Point Neck will undergo significant change by midcentury, far more by centuries end, but Westmoreland less so. Change is, of course, inevitable, but many today will sadly see a portion of our early family history literally disappear in their lifetimes.

John and Susanna were my direct linear eighth great grandparents, confirmed by both record and DNA. It would be hard to imagine a "better" founding family in the New World, John especially, having come so far and achieving so much after starting with so little, and if we never learn anything more* about his origins and early life, this is certainly enough, witchcraft, inheritance, or other embellishments unneeded. Today, they will have likely millions of descendants across the world.

Allan J Garner – March 31, 2020

* For any suffering from Garner ancestor deprivation without John's confirmed parents, both research and DNA make it quite plausible, perhaps likely, that John was descended from a Norman knight and nobleman, possibly *Osbern du Jardin* (1029-1100), who came to England with *William the Conqueror* and fought at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. There was also a *Guillaume (William) du Jardin*, for whom no specific dates can be found, but who may have been Osbern's brother or another near relation. He is also noted as a Norman knight granted lands in Scotland by then King William I after the successful subjugation of the native Saxons. Both William du Jardine and William the Conqueror have been identified by several historians as cousins, great grandsons of *William I Longsword (Guillaume Longue-Épée)* 900-942, son of the Viking *Rollo*, and the second Duke of Normandy. Roughly three generations after Osbern is found another, now *Sir Osbern Gardyner* (name as recorded in one source), *Knight Primus Filius, Lord of the Manor of Oral on Douglas River in Wigan Parish, West Derby Hundred, County Palatine, of Lancaster*. He was born about 1128, in the reign of Henry I.

The Norman French surname du Jardin, or de Jardinè (pronounced de-shar-de-ne', similar to *chardonnay*) was first recorded as du Jardin or des Jardin and derived from the French jardinè or jardin meaning "garden" or "orchard", although some etymologists and scholars of Norman French say it may have had other possible undetermined meanings as well. One branch became, and remains, the Lowland Scottish *Clan Jardine*, plus descendants. In other branches, it changed over the later generations to de Gardinus, de Gardin, Gardyner, Gardiner, Gardner, plus other "English" (including Saxon and even *Roman* variations) or Welsh variations, and eventually, almost six hundred years later, to the contracted variant Garner. Two notable ancestors likely descended from Osbern were *Sir Wyllyam John Gardynyr* 1459-1506 (the Welsh spelling), and his son, Catholic *Bishop Stephen Gardiner* 1483-1555 (the English spelling). Wyllyam, a mercenary, was knighted for his (supposed) personal killing in battle of *King Richard III* during the War of the Roses, 1455-1485, Richard's

remains finally located under a carpark in Leicester in 2012. Any direct path from Sir Wyllyam, who later married a *Tudor*, to our John remains wholly speculative, but appears not implausible.

Descendant *John Nance Garner*, 1868-1967, one vice president under FDR, stated that the Garners were of “Scottish and Welsh stock”, but offered no support for his statement. Interestingly, Shropshire is near Wales, not far south from the boarder with Scotland, and the du Jardins would then also have spread southward in later generations. I will not revisit John’s possible Shropshire origins here, and do not know if “Katharn” was in fact a Welch name, but note his remark for record and possible further research at some point...by probably someone else. There *were* other recorded Garners in Shropshire, not just Richard and Kathran.

As to my personal further research, after now a decade starting from some inherited research, it *appears* that likely all there is now available to find has been, and I don’t know where else there is to look. Church records, especially in England, continue to be digitized and made available, but simply another John Garner, born in 1635, would not prove anything by itself. There may be other departure records, or others, in England not digitized (and perhaps never), but from what year and what port?...that another massive undertaking. One might revisit original records in the VA archives to see what others may have missed, and a professional researcher might spend months in the Library of Congress looking for information from the early years of the VA colony. Doing for land records in Northumberland what Ed White did in Westmoreland would take more years, and while it might provide more *incremental* detail, there would be little or nothing prior to about 1656. I am certainly not up to taking on any of this at this juncture in any case, in part as any/all original documents needed are simply too far from my home. Ideally, what is needed is someone with professional level skills*, the time, energy, motivation, and resources to take this on (while I am at it, tossing a few graduate archeology students and some remote sensing into the mix would also help, some possible buried ruins already identified from aerial photos). Such an unlikely effort, the Garners simply not deemed *that* historically important (except to their descendants), would still not guarantee results and *dissemination* and *acceptance* of whatever might be found would then be another issue against the thousands of erroneous trees now in place. There just may be nothing else significant to be found and we may have to be content with what we have. That remains far more than many know about their New World ancestors.

* Perhaps unknown to most is that all the known books written on the Garners and/or Keenes were self-published by amateurs, and that GK, also initially self-published, was also the work of two well-meaning and capable amateurs, but major portions of the book *contributed* to by many others, skills unknown. Some additional Garner books are referenced in the credits section following. Additionally, virtually everything available on ancestry.com that references the Garners or Keenes was *assembled* by other amateurs from varying “sources”, sometimes with errors, and the abilities of the authors, and critical thinking applied, varying greatly. A novice finding these “sources” will initially have no way to judge their relative validity. Although many very capable individuals have contributed to what is known, to my knowledge, no *professional* historical researcher or genealogist has ever pursued the first New World generation of the Garner lineage.

Timeline – Abstracted Confirmed Records:(unless otherwise noted – my remarks added)

- Abt 1635 – John Garner born in England(?) or VA colony(?), location unconfirmed – year per his deposition of 4 Aug 1665 (following) noting his approximate age as thirty (North. RB 15, p. 162).
- Abt 1640 – Susanna Keene born on southern Kent Island on her parents’ one hundred acre farm, the island then part of the VA colony but disputed by MD (no hard records specifically support this birth year, but a very strong circumstantial case, based on several *related* records, sources, and facts).
- By 9 Dec 1650 – Susanna arrives with her family on Cherry Point Neck, Northumberland Co. VA, having departed Kent Island in *probably* 1649, the island then officially part of Maryland. Per the first Northumberland record for her father (North. RB 1650-52, p. 48).
- By 17 Oct 1650 – John arrives on *Ragged* (now Coles) *Point Neck*, then in Northumberland Co. VA, now Westmoreland Co., sponsored by Lewis Burwell and recorded as a headright (VA L. Gr. B 2, p. 250).

Thomas Broughton was also sponsored, this at least the second time within the VA colony. This date is also that recorded for the Burwell land grant, not necessarily John's specific arrival, that possibly earlier.

- 1654 – John “arrives” in Lancaster Co. VA, south of Northumberland, sponsored by Thomas Hobkins, his apparent four year contract of 1650 with Burwell fulfilled (VA L. Gr. B 3, pp. 315-84). Thomas Broughton was again among those sponsored, this at least his third sponsorship within the VA colony.
- Aft 22 March 1658 – Susanna's mother, twice widowed Mary, marries a third time to Thomas Broughton (date of pre-nuptial agreement – North. RB 15, pp. 19-20). Thomas was recorded as no longer in Lancaster Co., but in Northumberland by 1656 per his deposition there that year (per GK, North. record not noted)
- 20 Feb 1658 – John recorded as in Northumberland Co. per a land patent of 500 acres assigned to him and Joseph Fielding by Francis Roberts, John's specific location within the county unrecorded (North. RB 1658-66, p. 10). There is some question as to where this land was, it now appearing to have been in what was by then Westmoreland Co., although the patent recorded in Northumberland Co. Also see 11 Mar 1663.
- Bef Oct 1659 – Susanna given her inheritance (one cow named Su) from her late father by her new stepfather-in-law, Thomas Broughton, and noted as Susanna *Keene*, her age now about eighteen (distribution *recorded* at the Oct 1659 court session per North. OB 15, p. 30). The *recording* followed her marriage to John, but her father's will of 1652 noted her as *Keene*, so that maiden name recorded.
- By March 1659 – John and Susanna married in Northumberland Co. Based on Susanna's mother's will of 2 Jan 1662, noting her daughter as a Garner (oddly *Gardner*) and then with a two year old daughter, confirmed as Mary, and appearing named for her (North. RB 15 1658-66, p. 92).
- Oct 1659 – John recorded in Northumberland Co. per a record of a debt owed him and Joseph Fielding of 350 lbs. of tobacco by William Hill (North. OB 2, p. 232).
- By Jan 1660 – John and Susanna's firstborn, daughter Mary, is born – per text of Mary Broughton's will.
- 29 Dec 1660 – Thomas Broughton assigned 875 acres in what is now Westmoreland Co. by William Thomas. Acknowledged by his widow, referenced per the source noted with 22 July 1661, below. That acreage later passed to his widow, her noted heirs, and eventually to John Garner. See following sections.
- Bef 6 June 1661 – Thomas Broughton dies, the exact date unrecorded and this date determined by a court record for his widow, Mary (North. OB 2, p. 278). She is later recorded as receiving his 300 acres on 23 Oct 1661 (VA L. Gr. B 5, p. 239), three months after the recording of his 875 acres, noted below.
- 22 July 1661 – Broughton's widow, Mary, records the 875 acres in Westmoreland Co. (North. RB 1658-1662, pg. 59). Earlier fragmentary records for this property also note it as “500 poles” (1.56 miles).
- 26 Sept 1661 – John recorded as one of four individuals returning an inventory of William Little (North. OB 2, p. 67). An inventory was often conducted of property following death, usually if one died intestate.
- 21 Oct 1661 – John “freely given” the land patent of 200 acres across the Yeocomico from Northumberland on what is now Kinsale Creek or Kinsale Branch (then perhaps already Blice's Run as it was later recorded) in Westmoreland Co. by William Hopkins, but with the condition that he “seat the same” by the following March. John appears not to have moved there at that time, but somehow fulfilled the condition and retained the land (North. RB 15, p. 66). Also see 1672 family move following.
- Aft 2 Jan 1662 – Susanna's mother, Mary Keene/Raynor/Broughton dies in Northumberland Co., the date noted the writing of her will, her death assumed not long afterwards, and her will recorded on 10 Feb 1663. Portions of her will are damaged, but two important specific items are legible: (1), as noted, daughter Susanna is recorded as then married to John *Gardner* and with a two year old daughter, and (2), the inherited 875 acres of Thomas Broughton in Westmoreland Co. is left equally to son Matthew Keene, then about twelve years of age, so in trust, and “loving friend Thomas Daniell”, about whom nothing is known. He was also to live on her dwelling plantation and be responsible for her two underage sons, Thomas and Matthew, and their education, although John Garner would later become Thomas' legal guardian (see 5 May 1665, following) and appears to have raised Matthew as well. All of the 875 acres would later pass to John Garner, but both how and when remain undocumented and unknown. Also see following sections.
- 11 Mar 1663 – the prior land patent of Jos. Fielding and John Garner of 20 Feb 1658 is renewed (North. RB, book no. not recorded, pg. 169). A copy of the original spanning two pages is attached in the tree gallery.

- 20 April 1663 – William Keene, the oldest and only Keene son now of age, is assigned the patent (procured by William Thomas on 20 Oct 1661) of the 875 acres in Westmoreland. This is *assumed* a legality, William intended to hold it in trust pending his brother, Matthew, coming of age to receive the inheritance, but the full sequence of events afterwards is still confusing and unclear. Thomas Daniell is not noted.
- 5 May 1663 – John is sworn as Constable for Cherry Point Neck (North. OB 2, p. 210). This *may* have been the source of the title “Captain”, recorded only in modern times in Westmoreland Co., no reference noted, or *perhaps* instead the later ownership of his sloop *Outcry*, as noted in his will.
- 6 June 1663 – John empaneled on a jury in a local suit (North. OB 2, p. 279).
- 20 June 1663 – “mark of cattle” registered in the name of John Garner, son of “Jno Garner of Cherry Point Neck”. Additionally, John’s share 500 acres noted above in Feb of 1658 and Mar of 1663 is also assigned to son John Jr. These appear legal records of his firstborn son’s later guaranteed inheritance rights, John Jr. then only a small child of about two years of age (North. RB 15, p. 100).
- 20 Dec 1664 – John granted a certificate for 250 acres for the importation of five individuals into the colony, specifically Northumberland Co. (North. OB 2, p. 411). Note that the record *does not* reflect transport from England, per se, and these five may have been sponsored *within* the VA colony as had others before, including John himself in 1654.
- 5 May 1665 – John appointed his young orphaned brother-in-law, Thomas Keene’s, guardian (North. OB 2, p. 414). Accounts note that John and Susanna were responsible for largely taking over raising Thomas, born about 1644, and his younger brother, Matthew, born about 1651, both orphaned about 1662. Their mother also made some provisions for their education in her will noting Thomas Daniell, per the previous, but he has disappeared from the records by this date, perhaps having died (no records yet found).
- 4 Aug 1665 – John makes a deposition noting himself as “thereabouts” thirty (North. RB 15, p. 162). Note that the GK authors appear to have misread this year as instead 1663 from the damaged original, the later consensus being unanimously 1665 (my own examination of the digital photographic copy included).
- 13 Oct 1665 – John noted as one executor for the estate of William Thompson (North. RB 15, p. 175).
- 14 Feb 1667 – John assigned 200 acres by Thomas Watson, location undefined (North. RB 16, p. 42).
- 1 April 1667 – John assigned unspecified land by Ralph Stevens (North. RB 16, p. 15).
- 4 April 1667 – John purchased an undefined tract of land from Ralph Stevens of Northumberland Co. (North. RB 16, p. 19). The relationship between this record and the previous of 1 April is unclear, and possibly redundant.
- May 1667 – John appointed by Henry Moseley of Northumberland Co. as his “attorney” (North. RB 16, p. 24). Exactly how John was deemed legally qualified as such is unclear, perhaps that title applied somewhat liberally at the time and similar to *executor*.
- 6 Sept(?) 1667 (records vary between Aug and Sept) – The Garners survive “The Dreadful Hurry Cane of 1667”, but most certainly lost crops and livestock, likely some tobacco barns, possibly their home, and other structures also damaged or destroyed. One source of several found online: *Seventeenth Century Virginia Hurricanes* – Link: <https://www.wpc.north.ep.noaa.gov/research/roth/va17hur.htm> Various accounts conflict on the date, some noting 27 Aug and the discrepancy unresolved, but possibly explained by the storm as recorded lasting near a week from full start to full finish, and by one account, may have actually been *two* storms back to back.
- 1 Oct 1667 – John selected by the Assoc. of Northumberland, Westmoreland, and Stafford to build a (replacement?) home for workman near “the Fort on Yeocomico River” (*William and Mary College Quarterly*, 1st series, Vol. IX, p. 238 & North. RB 1666-1678, pg. 36). The fort has been determined to have most likely once been on the now eroded Tom Jones Point, then *Levy Point*, in Northumberland Co. on the Yeocomico. The full account, omitted here, included detailed specification on the 20 by 40 foot house.
- 24 Oct 1667 – John, noted as her “beloved friend”, is appointed the lawful attorney for Elizabeth Moseley to acknowledge a sale of land to Thomas Watson (North. OB 16, p. 33).
- 20 Nov 1668 – John recorded as owed 982 lbs. of tobacco by James Robinson (North. RB 3, p. 48).

- Abt 1672 – John moved his family from Northumberland Co. across the Yeocomico to Westmoreland Co. The family appears to have settled on the 200 acres granted to John in Oct of 1661, per the preceding, that becoming the “dwelling plantation”. This year also supported by the 15 July record following.
- Abt (or *by*) 1672(?) – John assigned the 875 acres Westmoreland Co. noted in the earlier references to Thomas Broughton and the will of Mary Keene Broughton in 1662. This date is *speculated* as Matthew Keene appears by this year of majority so could legally assign his rights to the inherited property although no record is found.
- 15 July 1672 – John and Robert Middleton recorded as purchasing land in Westmoreland Co., without further specific information. Deposed by Robert Jeffries on 25 Feb 1673 (West. B 1665-77, p. 177).
- Oct 1672 – John deeded 100 acres “on the Yeocomico” in Westmoreland Co. by Nicholas Jenkins and his wife, Ann, (West. B 1665-77, p. 156). From the transcription of this account, John and Robert Middleton actually appear to have purchased this land in 1669 and this later deed unclear.
- 15 April 1671 – John Garner noted as seated on a coroner’s jury in Westmoreland Co. (West. B 1665-77).
- 28 Aug 1674 – John and Robert Middleton owed 6,000 lbs. of tobacco by William Rogers, details unknown. (West. B 1665-77, p. 212).
- 28 Dec 1687 – “John Gardner Senior” is ordered by the county court to “forebear any further molestation...of Mr. Wm Horton...or would answer to the court...att his perrill” (West OB 1675-1689, pg. 615). Horton was attempting to conduct a survey of his property which appears to have bordered John’s 200 acre farm, perhaps to the south, my speculation that John ran him off. Also see 23 Jan 1697 following.
- Jan 1692 – John recorded as owed 5,000 lbs. of tobacco by John Markes, payment contingent upon providing “good security to the court”, plus a disclaimer provided by Susanna Garner “to her third of a seat of [this] land...”. This reflected a purchase of unspecified land by Markes from John Garner, date not recorded, and the reason for the legal proceedings unclear. The conditions were satisfied and John paid (North. OB 3, p. 198). As this record is from Northumberland Co., the property also appears to have been there. As Susanna was a Keene, I would speculate that the property had at one time been owned by her family (inherited by her and two brothers?...note her “third”), later passing by some manner to she and John, before being sold to Markes. No other records, however, are found for further clarification.
- 15 Jan 1694 – John and his son Vincent jointly purchased 100 acres of land in Westmoreland Co. on “Horne Point and Yeocomico River” from John Jenkins (West. D&W B 2, p. 24).
- 23 Jan 1697 – *John Jr.* laid out one acre of land on the southeast corner of his father’s land on Kinsale Creek for a grist mill on an existing dammed millpond, *supposed* to be in the possession of John Garner Sr. “*or Alice Achew*” (West. D&W B 2, p.177). The property lines along John’s property on what is today Kinsale Creek or Branch appear to have been disputed early on, and that continuing for years, a date of final resolution unknown. The *property* the mill was built upon (by John Jr.) does not appear disputed, just the millpond, and recorded in one account as “Garner’s Mill Pond”, later on Blice’s Run. The mill and millpond are referred to by other names after the mill passed out of the Garner family.
- 21 July 1697 – John purchased unspecified land in Westmoreland Co. from Joseph Gamble of King and Queen Co. (some miles southwest) (West. D&W B 2, p. 126).
- 22 Jan 1702 – John writes his will (West. D&W B 3, p. 153 *et seq.*) It is *signed* and sealed, indicating he was literate, and this the only known clear evidence of that, although strongly *suggested* by other records as well. Susanna (*Susan* per the will) is named sole executor.
- Abt Feb-March? 1702 – John dies, reference as per the above.
- 26 May 1702 – John’s will proved, reference as per the above.
- 1 Jan 1703 – John’s will recorded, reference as per the above. John’s properties per his will are divided among his three older sons, with tobacco to the others, some in trust for two still under twenty-one. Confirmed properties still owned at the time of his death are in both Northumberland and Westmoreland, perhaps elsewhere, are not contiguous, and the total undetermined but easily up to *about* two thousand acres from just those that can be reasonably confirmed by specific records. The 875 acres (recorded as eight hundred and *odd* acres) previously noted in 1661, 1662, and 1672 are left equally to John Jr. (northern half) and Henry (southern half).

- 30 Sept 1710 – Susanna was still living on the Garner “dwelling plantation”, the two hundred acres in Westmoreland Co. as left to her son Vincent by John Garner in 1702/03. He specifically notes that fact in his will of this date, executed in Northumberland Co., where he then lived (North. RB 1710-13, pg. 11). He then left that land to his daughter Anne Garner (appearing only *about* nineteen) and “her heirs forever”. It is unknown if Susanna then remained there, but likely, and it *possible* Anne then moved there and cared for her until her death. Anne is recorded as marrying William Routt, *assumed* after 1710 as she is not noted by that name in her father’s will. Marriage records for her note only “bef 1722” and it is unknown if she and William lived on this land after their marriage, Susanna perhaps still living with *them* at that point.
- Bef 28 March 1716 – Susanna Keene Garner died intestate in Westmoreland Co., but her estate was inventoried as of this date by James Carr, James Thomas, and William Gardner (West. D&W B 4, pg. 560). Her son Benjamin stated on 30 May 1716 that her clothes had not been inventoried but were distributed “among her daughters” (nothing more specific) at the time of her funeral (West. D&W B 5, pg. 57). From these records, February of 1716 is probably a good estimate for her death, the funeral then almost immediately after, and as a legal inventory took some time to arrange, that the following month, as noted.

The Garner-Keene offspring: The following is what is thought an accurate chronological list of their offspring, but many questions remain, adequate records lacking. The GK authors noted no birth years at all, refusing to speculate, but some bracketing and estimation *is* possible from various records, some certainly better than others, and that hopefully reflected here. These dates remain *my estimates*, some better founded than others, so should not be accepted as fact, and qualified if accepted...*abt* XXXX. Death dates are most typically as reflected in extant records, and spouses noted, some questionable as also noted accordingly.

As noted in the narrative section, the GK authors oddly listed the Garner-Keene offspring by their determined (speculative) chronological order, but with *separate* listings for males (first), and females (second), which has confused and mislead many. The actual order, of course, integrated the two, that reflected in the following listing to the best of my ability, but again, is not presented as unquestionably *factual*. This order and the estimated dates, regardless, will likely not agree with most found on the web.

With this, it should be noted that most all “hints” found on ancestry.com including Find a Grave and “International Marriage Records” are *not* sources, and frequently, if not usually, incorrect. FAG consists of whatever the “contributor” chose to post there, researched, correct, or not, and international marriage records are only a tally of what is posted in public trees, sometimes varying wildly. The FAG memorials for most early Garners also generally contain many errors and omissions, and frequently speculative statements that are unqualified. Any/all of these should be viewed *very* skeptically and anything saved qualified. Additionally, most “summaries” of wills on ancestry.com are very often incorrectly transcribed, and the date the will was written instead noted as probate, then the “implied” year of death often off, sometimes by years. The only way to address this is to examine the original document, if available, to verify the actual dates.

The following are then based on the best *hard* data available, vetted where possible, and my comments added.

1. **Mary Garner** – *by* Jan 1660-1726(?) – born and died in Northumberland Co. Date of birth per previous remarks on the will of her grandmother in 1662. She married three times, first to George Courtnell Jr., then John Lewis, and lastly to Richard Price, and outlived them all. Her will was written in Dec of 1724 and probated on 20 April 1726, her death *assumed* early that year, but *might* have been instead 1725.
2. **John Garner Jr.** – *abt* 1661-1712 – born Northumberland Co., died Westmoreland Co. He married Jane Joyce. His will was written in Feb of 1712 and proven on 25 March 1713, his death then assumed in 1712. John inherited and acquired a great deal of land in his relatively short life, the total several thousand acres in various locations, and he, as his father, noted as one of major landowners in Westmoreland Co. (also one of its most *litigious* residents). He was recorded as a “master builder” and likely built the replacement Yeocomico Church in 1706, and is recorded as the builder of the Westmoreland Co. courthouse in 1707. There were certainly more projects, but are to date, to my knowledge, undocumented.

3. **Henry Garner** – abt 1664-1744 – born in Northumberland Co., died in Westmoreland Co. He married Catherine Bradley. He wrote his will in June of 1744, which was probated on 25 June 1745, his death *assumed* in 1744, but might have also been in early 1745.
4. **Vincent Garner** – abt 1666-1710 – born Northumberland Co., died *likely* Northumberland Co. He appears to have married twice, the first to an unknown, and second to Martha Courtney(?), though both are unconfirmed. In his will, written on 30 Sept 1710, his wife is noted as “Martha”, but little found to confirm her as a Courtney. There is some question on his place of death, *possibly* Westmoreland, and that assumed in 1710 regardless. His will was recorded in Northumberland Co., where he lived, although also owning land in Westmoreland (his father’s farm for one, as previously noted), where he *may* have been when he died. He is known to have owned land on or near what eventually became Garner’s Creek, and that land passed on to his heirs. He was the only Garner-Keene to not survive his mother, Susanna.
5. **Thomas Garner** – abt 1668-1726 – Born in Northumberland Co., died in Stafford Co. Married Mary M Bushnell, who *may* have been much younger than him, and remarried Ralph Hughes after Thomas’ death. His will was written on 8 June 1726, and probated on 13 July 1726 in Stafford Co., so his death, noted as “summer” was almost certainly later in June of that year. This was an *unusually* fast probate. This date of birth is in serious question, perhaps some years later and in Westmoreland after 1772, virtually nothing to even provide a hint. His father did not leave him land, as he did his older sons, only poundage of tobacco, but Thomas later came to own significant acreage in Stafford Co., appearing by his own efforts.
6. **Parish Garner** – abt 1674-by 1719 – Born in Westmoreland Co., died in Northumberland Co. He married Elizabeth Parker. He wrote his will on 12 Feb 1718/19 (per the transcription in GK, and unexplained), so his death is noted as the “by 1719”, though it might have been 1718. His father also left him no land, but tobacco poundage.
7. **Susan Garner** – abt 1676-aft 1718(?) – born in Westmoreland Co., died Westmoreland Co. She married William Lewis. This birth year estimate is weak, and nothing has been determined of her death, but she was *not* noted in the will of her brother Benjamin in 1818, as one of her sons, Vincent Lewis, and their sibling, Mary Garner Price, were, so her death speculated as prior to that date...inconclusively though.
8. **Martha Garner** – abt 1678-1729(?) – born Westmoreland Co., died unconfirmed. She *may* have married Samuel Rust, but other research suggests a first marriage to John Jenkins, and a second to William Harness. Neither option can be proven. If Rust was her husband, she died about 1729-30, and her burial location is with her husband in a still extant brick vault in Westmoreland Co. (see map, pg. 14). If Jenkins/Harness (she outlived perhaps Harness as well), then she died in Richmond Co, near Westmoreland, and the date unverified, the unsourced range being between 1726 and 1754. We just do not know, and it remains *possible* that both “Marthas” are incorrect. There are two Find a Grave memorials for her, one which I created (Rust option). The administrator of the Jenkins/Harness option and I agreed to post all that was known to support each case and allow those viewing them to draw their own conclusions, if any.
9. **Benjamin Garner** – abt 1682-1718 – Born and died in Westmoreland Co. He appears to have never married. His father specifically noted him as not yet twenty-one years of age in his will of 1702, and his inheritance tobacco poundage, held in trust, and which would be granted upon his reaching majority. He wrote his will on 31 March 1718, which was probated on 28 May 1718, also unusually fast for the time, placing his death in about April of that year.
10. **James Garner** – abt 1684-1726 – Born in Westmoreland Co., died in Northumberland Co. He married a “Mary”, maiden name unknown. His father specifically noted him as not yet twenty-one years of age in his will of 1702, and his inheritance tobacco poundage, also placed in trust until his reaching majority. He died intestate in likely 1726, an inventory of property completed in 1726-27. Some of his property as left to his heirs appears to have been on or near what became eventually “Garner’s Creek”. A footnote to James is that his mother, Susanna, would have been about forty-four in 1684, and James *thankfully* the last offspring. This fact has been one factor in James’ estimated birth year as Susanna having children past about that age seems less likely, and certainly increasingly *hazardous*. John and Susanna stopping at that point *could* have been a conscious decision on their part, the dangers well known for women after about that age.

Partial Sources and Credits: A full list of all sources and credits, in hard copy or on the web, would not be possible...simply too many to note, but the primary ones are as follow, with links if available:

- *Garner-Keene Families of Northern Neck Virginia*, Ruth Ritchie and Sudie Rucker Wood © 1952, now copyright free. One link of two available: <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/005725305>
- *Lands and Lesser Gentry of Eastern Westmoreland County, Virginia 1650-1840s*, Edward J. White, © 2014, 380 pages. Available only in hard copy in limited libraries, from the author, or The Kinsale Museum (link as below), or some selected book sellers, AbeBooks.com one listed, availability unconfirmed.
- *The Kinsale Foundation, Inc.* and its Kinsale Museum, Kinsale, Va. Link: <http://kinsalefoundation.org/> A very fine small museum with an extensive library, and with a delightful and helpful director, Lynn Norris.
- *Touring Historyland, The Authentic Guide Book of Historic Northern Neck of Virginia, The Land of George Washington and Robert E. Lee*, H. Ragland Eubank, © 1934. Only available in hard copy from libraries or other collections, although some original copies might be found for purchase.
- *The Peopling of Virginia* by Robert Bennett Bean, © 1938. Now copyright free and digitized, the ancestry.com link: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/genealogy-glh08026832/>
- *Early Virginia Immigrants, 1623-1666*, George Cabell Greer © 1912, now copyright-free. Link: <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/001263490>
- *Historic St. Mary's City*, St. Mary's County, MD. An outdoor museum of the reconstructed 17th century city, and with additional resources available. Link: <https://hsmcdigshistory.org/>
- The *Library of Congress Digital Collections* <https://www.loc.gov/collections/> and the *Archives of Maryland Online*, <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/html/volumes.html> provided various historical maps, images, and various records for the Chesapeake in the colonial period, and in Maryland, specifically early records for the Keene family on Kent Island.
- *Impermanent Architecture in the Southern American Colonies* <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1180773?seq=1> a journal article of the *Winterthur Portfolio*, Vol. 16, No. 2/3 (Summer - Autumn, 1981), pp. 135-196, was one, of several, excellent sources for early colonial architecture.
- *The William and Mary Quarterly* available online through *JSTOR*, link below, provides a wide variety of information. *JSTOR* also provides a wide range of other historical research sources, a registration required. <https://www.jstor.org/journal/willmaryquar?refreqid=excelsior%3A889fbff1463212b4b9d4f211e6925ad6>
- *Encyclopedia Virginia* <https://www.encyclopediaofvirginia.org/> includes good information on the headright system plus a wide variety of other useful research. The site also includes a full biography of 1650 Garner and Broughton sponsor *Lewis Burwell*.
- Nautical charts (with adjacent landmass) and topographical maps are available from *NOAA* and *USGS*, links: <https://charts.noaa.gov/InteractiveCatalog/nrnc.shtml> and <https://www.usgs.gov/products/maps/topo-maps> from where one can navigate to <https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/> for downloading.
- Other online resources are too numerous to list, but of course included *Wikipedia* for much good general information and links to other useful sites. *Google Books* provided various useful excerpts from many sources and *Google Maps* was also utilized.
- Other material for *the descendants* of John and Susanna has been drawn from *Southern Garners* by Sam Garner, MD, published in 1978 and updated in 1998, and *Dunkin-Reid and Garner-McGraw-Mobley Families of South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama* by Dean Smith Cress published in 1992, the copyright still in effect. This last book was not available to me in full, only selected excerpts shared. Both are available in libraries, or used copies for purchase (if available). *Southern Garners*, the original 1978 version only, not updated and difficult to read online, can also be found on Family Search with a registration. Link: <https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/364915-southern-garners-our-branch-of-the-garner-keene-family?viewer=1&offset=15#page=1&viewer=picture&o=info&n=0&q=>

As archaic as it sounds, hard copy from *actual* libraries, both my personal collection, and those of my local public library provided more information, and pointed to other resources. One has to get off the web, ancestry.com in particular, at some point to get a broader overview and delve deeper. There is most certainly

still a great deal to be found that has not, nor likely ever will be, digitized, and I am sure out there *somewhere* waiting to be found, some perhaps even in private hands and unrecognized in importance.

There are, of course, the many digitized records or sources to be found on ancestry.com, but as cautioned, many there were transcribed and/or assembled by well-meaning amateurs, and many contain errors. Virtually all the DAR/SAR and organizations such as the National Society Colonial Dames publications include data submitted by members of those organizations based on their personal research and not further vetted. *Northumbria collectanea, 1645-1720*, 1961, from the series, *Virginia Colonial Abstracts*, abstracted by Beverley Fleet, is available on ancestry and elsewhere, but contains some errors, and offers no assistance with interpretation. The same is true of most other abstracted sources found online, such as *Virginia, Marriages of the Northern Neck of Virginia, 1649-1800*. "Text only" records on the site, without original documents, are particularly suspect, and record "summaries" were frequently transcribed incorrectly. All one can do is to remain skeptical, look at all available sources, the originals if possible, and then apply critical thinking and sound genealogical practice. It has never been easy, despite what the ancestry.com marketing suggests, and never will be.

Lastly, there are dozens of Garner cousins, some very distant, who have been collaborators over the years, and provided much assistance and often direction. Of those, the most helpful has been Patrick Garner, who appears the first to seriously question the lore and falsified records found online, and set about to determine their validity once and for all. Without his efforts, at least some of that false narrative would have not been fully debunked. Patrick is no longer especially active online, but his tree remains with many of his narratives. A link to his tree page gallery for John Garner is: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/8531692/person/-935734874/gallery> Our interchange and his input has been invaluable to me. Neither Patrick, however, nor any others who contributed to this account should be blamed for any of my speculations, likely errors, omissions, redundancy, or typos here, all those being my sole responsibility.

Supplemental Media:

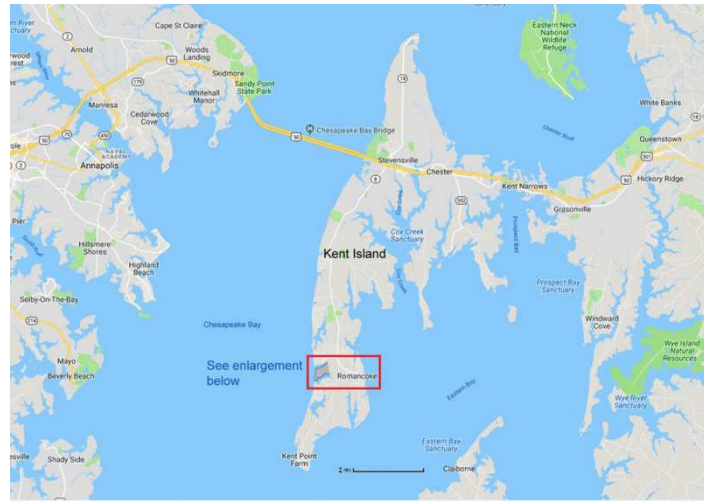
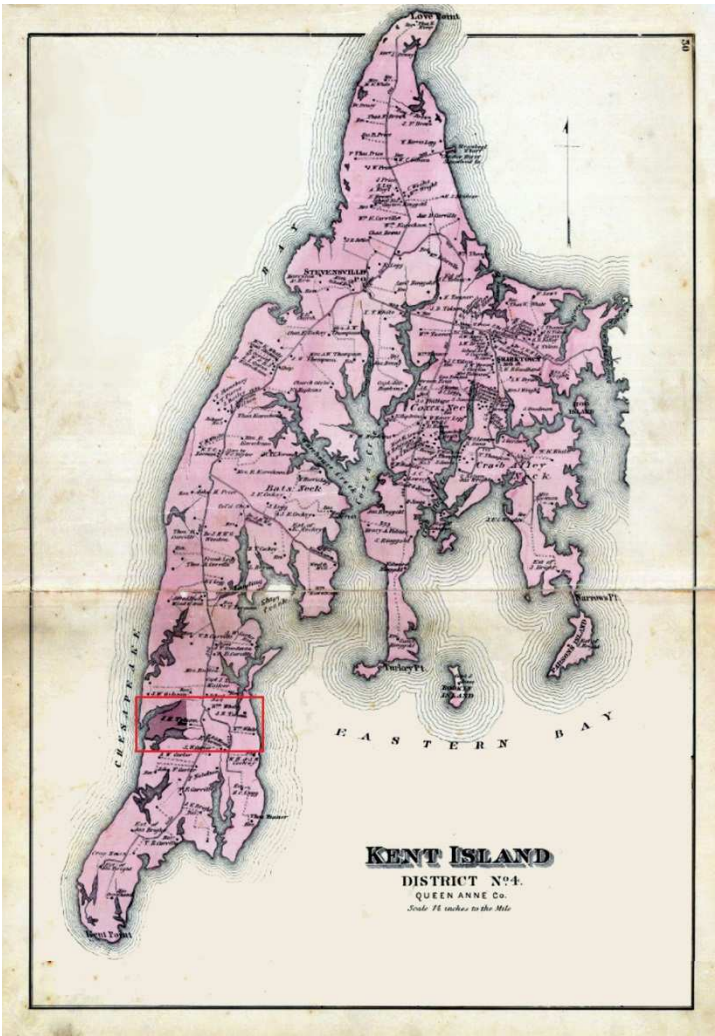
River front. Dividing this Land from the Land of Mr. Richard Lee upon the said Creek East South East five hundred and twenty poles, parallel to the Land of Mr. Richard Lee Lee extending in the Main Woods North North East three hundred and twenty poles, west North west two hundred poles from the end North North East into the Main Woods down the River parallel with the former Breadth two hundred and sixty poles North North west three hundred and twenty poles to a place where it begins the said Land being due into the said Lewis Burwell by and for the transportation of two thirty persons or above and to be held as to be held which is to be made soon year after the first grant or Rating thereof & Dated 17th of October 1650

Thomas Wakin	Henry Wright	Henry Sanderson	Edw. Mofley
Jam: Bouford	Sham: Garney	John Roggors	Pen: his Deputy
Eli: Watley	Octop: Padaway	Eli: Colby	Tho: Broughton
John Packson	Para Cowley	Gregory Maino	Am Williams
2 Negro men	Jam: Garney	Edward Digby	Esq: Dawson
one woman	Co: Byas, Cowley	Mary Barr	John Garner
Geo: Ephorby	Tho: Hardy	Dianna Fryth	
	Simon Carley	Samuel Mofley	

A cropped portion of the full original document of Lewis Burwell's land grant from 1650 in Northumberland Co. now Westmoreland Co. Thomas (Tho.) Broughton's name is on the lower right, four from the bottom, where John Garner's name is listed, but appearing "Garnor".

Although written in a fine hand, it is difficult to read, but the date clear; 17th of October 1650, and Lewis Burwell's name evident. Much of the text appears a description of the land in archaic terms which are not addressed here.

Note, far left, that "2 Negro man & one woman" are noted. No other names on the list have been researched to date.

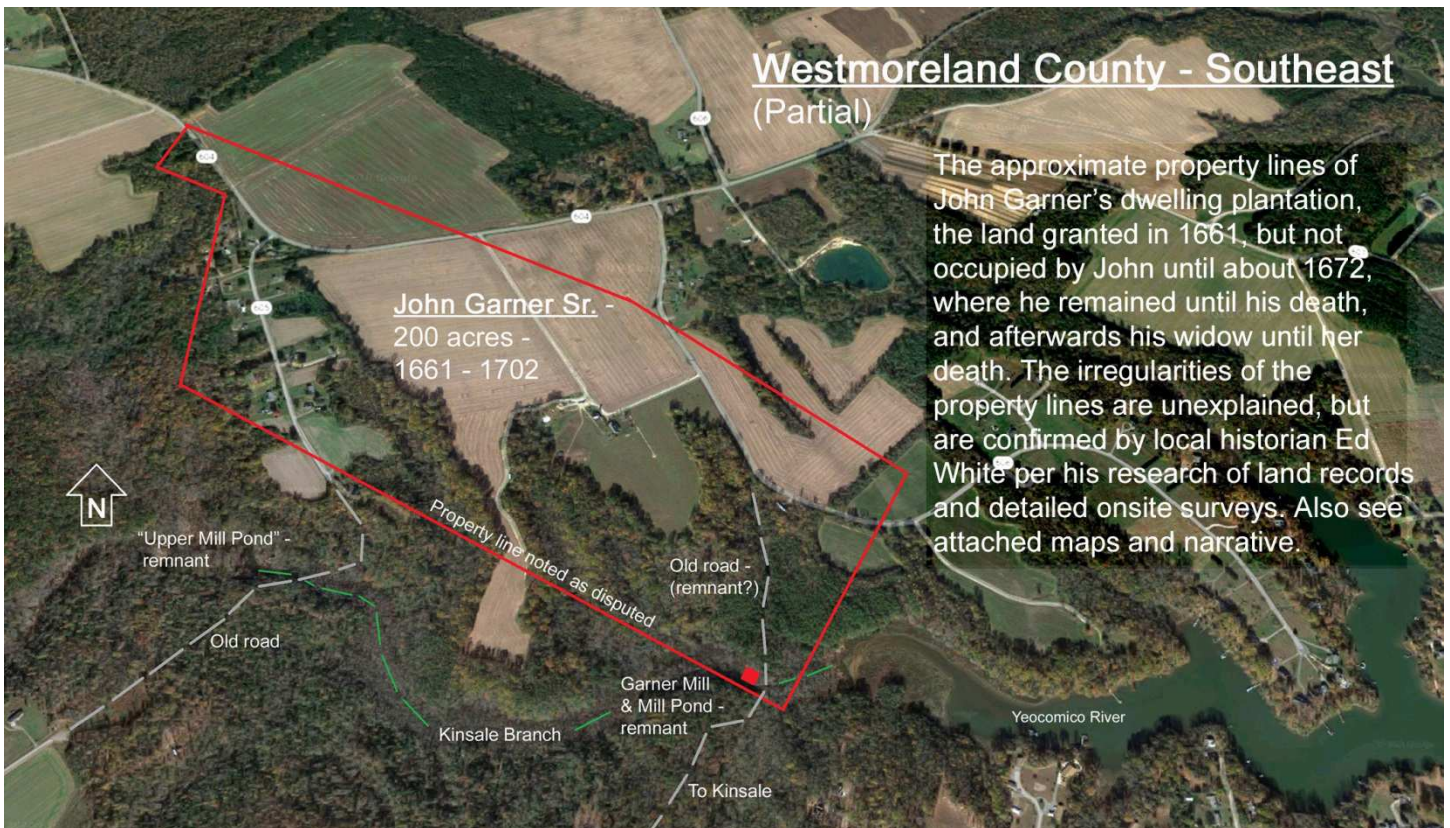
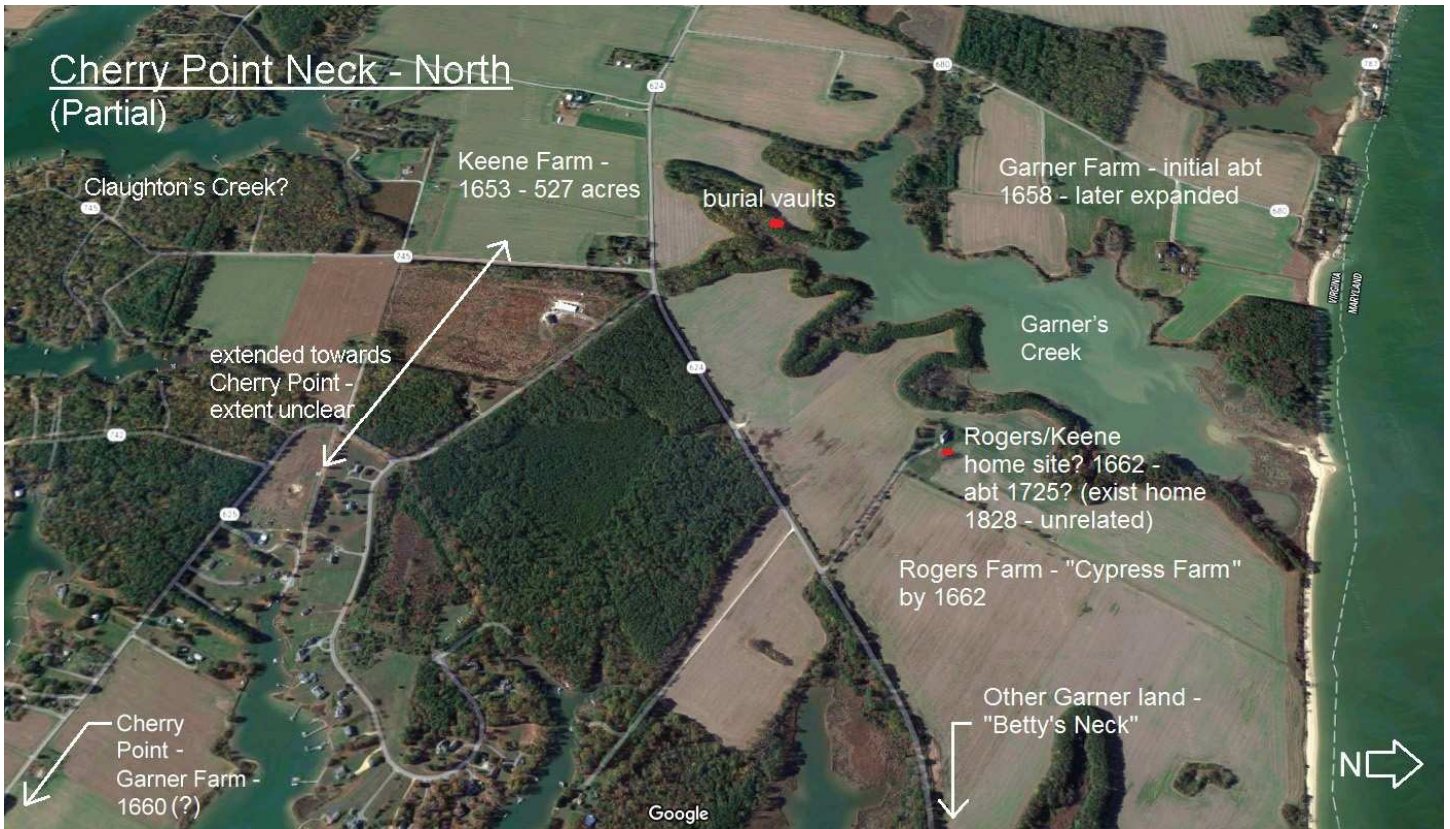


Three location maps for Thomas and Mary Keene's farm on Kent Island. Left, a detailed map from 1877, which shows the island more as it was in 1640 before centuries of continuous erosion, the location of the farm in the red box near the southern end of the island. Above, a current map, and detail enlargement.

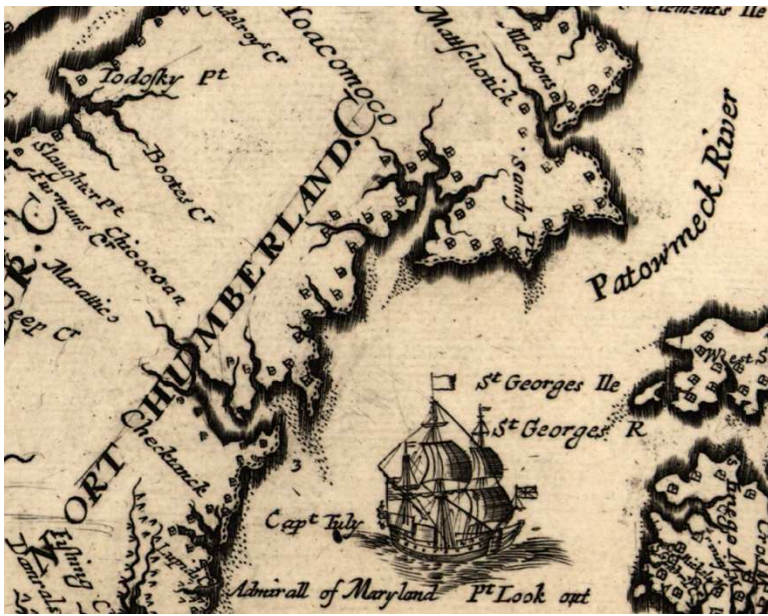
This location has been verified against Thomas' patent of 100 acres on 9 Nov 1640, fortunately the description of the location determined by records with the then names of the two creeks north and south, and the Chesapeake Bay, west. These two creeks were once "Thicketty Creek" and "Hogpen" or "Hog Pen Creek". Thomas and Mary were likely married by the time of the patent, accounts noting between 1638 and 1640, and their first three children were born here beginning with Susanna *probably* about the time of the patent. Various records afterwards confirm the Keenes remaining on the island into 1649 and were in Northumberland before Dec 1650, so they *probably* moved directly from one location to the other.



Left, a current aerial view of the property. The property line shown is approximate and the actual original unknown. Both that and the waterline at the bay were probably then further west (left) as much erosion has been recorded over the years. Interestingly, portions are still under cultivation and not that much has been "developed". Note per the above detail map that the village of Romancoke did not then exist, but the current north/south road *supposedly* follows the original footpath. William Claiborne's *Fort Kent* of 1631 was about two miles SSE and its location now determined as about sixty feet off the current shoreline, having completely eroded away.



Two noted current aerial views of, top, Cherry Point Neck in Northumberland Co., and, bottom, SE Westmoreland Co. Various locations are noted on the Neck as per the previous map, and the Westmoreland view shows the specific location of once the Garner "dwelling plantation", also per the previous detail map. There remains today, sadly, almost nothing of John and Susanna's time, just a partial remnant of the mill dam.



An enlargement of one section, one page of four from “Virginia and Maryland as it is planted and inhabited this present year 1670”, a map from a survey of the Chesapeake Bay by Augustine Herrman 1621-1686, and Henry Faithorne, and published in London in 1673. From the Library of Congress, it is the oldest known surviving map created from an actual survey (not largely fiction) that includes Northumberland Co. at a time John Garner lived there. North is oriented to the right, towards the Potomac (Patowmeck) River a typical convention of the time. Cherry Point Neck extends from about the “U” to the “D” in Northumberland, with Westmoreland Co. just west (above) the labeled Yoacomoco (Yeocomico today). Some portions of this map overlay current maps almost exactly, but the overall shorelines of

both Cherry Point Neck and southeastern Westmoreland Co. are quite different, and “Sandy Point” in a completely different location. Erosion and shifting is probably one reason, and perhaps the primitive survey methods another...we just do not know. The small boxes with an “X” within represent structures recorded in the survey, one appearing on “Cherry Poynt”, but the others unclear with this shoreline. Then Keene’s Creek, if this is accurate, appears to have had a wide opening to the river, and was perhaps then navigable.



Above, two contemporary photos of originally *China Hall*, now *Kirnan*, in Westmoreland Co., built on the southern half of the Broughton/Keene/Garner land left to John’s son Henry in 1702. The one story addition on the front (left image) of the house was not original to its construction and added much later after passing out of the Garner family. Built in 1781 by descendant Col. George Garner, it is now the only known early Garner home still extant...*anywhere* in Virginia. Although the timbers of the house have been dated to 1781 by dendrochronology, none of the brickwork has been dated, that pending (if ever) and a newer technology required, *rehydroxylation dating*. I speculated that John Garner Jr. may have built a home here for his brother, Henry, in about 1706, and also wonder if the rear “wing” (left in the right hand image) just might have been the site of the first house on this property, the foundations, possibly the fireplace and chimney, reused later as was common. Its size and some details suggest that possibility. It is now also the kitchen, as it appears to have long been, as frequently a small first home was converted when an adjacent larger home was built. Just *perhaps* even *all* the extant foundations, *and* fireplaces and chimneys, date to 1706, but that may never be determined.

And lastly...

In the name of God Amen! I, John Garner being sick and weak of body, but of perfect memory and understanding do give and bequeath my soul unto God that gave it, and my body to be decently interred - as to my worldly Estate, I give and bequeath as followeth; Item - I do give and bequeath unto my well beloved son John Garner, and to his heirs forever one moiety of Eight hundred and odd acres of land, also I give unto my well beloved son Henry Garner, and to his heirs forever the other moiety of the aforesaid eight hundred and odd acres of land to be equally divided between my said sons John Garner and Henry Garner, the said Eight hundred and odd acres of land, being the lands my said sons John Garner and Henry Garner are now seated upon. Item - I give and bequeath unto my well beloved son Henry Garner my chest together with my wearing apparel. Item - I give and bequeath unto my well beloved son Vincent Garner and his heirs forever the whole plantation and land I now live on together with the lands adjoining. Also I give unto my said son Vincent and to his heirs a parcel of land lying in town point. Item - I give and bequeath unto my said son Vincent Garner my long gun and my hanger and a yoke of oxen. Also my will is that my said son Vincent Garner hath the one half of what is got of the money of the sloop which is called the Outing. Item - I do give will and appoint and order my said son Vincent Garner, his heirs, Executors or assigns to pay unto my son Thomas Garner, his heirs or assigns the sum of two thousand pounds of good tobacco in cash. I do will and appoint my said son Vincent Garner, his heirs or assigns to pay unto my son Parish Garner, his heirs or assigns the sum of 10 thousand pounds of good tobacco in cash. Item - I do will and appoint my said son Vincent Garner, his heirs or assigns to pay unto my son Benjamin Garner, his heirs or assigns the sum of two thousand pounds of good tobacco in cash, to be paid unto my said son Benjamin in Garner when he shall be one and twenty years old. Item - I will and appoint my said son Vincent Garner, his heirs or assigns to pay unto my son James Garner, his heirs or assigns the sum of two thousand pounds of good tobacco in cash to be paid unto my son James Garner when he shall come to the age of one and twenty. Item,

Item - I give and bequeath unto my well beloved daughter Mary Susaw and Martha each of them a thomb ring and also my will is that my well beloved wife to see them paid. Item - I give and bequeath unto my well beloved wife Susan all the rest of my Estate as goods and Chattels, moveables and immovables and do make my said loving wife Susan the sole Executor of this my last will and testament, willing all my due debts to be paid, revoking all other wills and testaments, this my last will and testament, also my will is that my well beloved wife Susan her heirs or Executors pay unto the one half of the tobacco which is given to my said sons being four thousand, the 20th day of June 1702.

Signed, sealed in the presence of us
 William Gardner, Wm Williams, Wm Mene

John Garner

Westmoreland Co. At a Court held for the said County the 26th day of May 1857.

The last will and testament of John Garner dec^d the within subscriber was proved by the oath of Wm Gardner, and a probat ther^e of granted to Susan Garner Executrix therein named.

Test J. Westcomb Sec. Com. 7th

Recorded: prima die Junij 1702

Pr. Cundinbleium

A slightly enhanced and reduced copy of John Garner's 1702 will, all that is now available from the VA archives, cropped and aligned from the full two 11 by 17½ sized pages, with partial other wills top or bottom of each page omitted. This is a certified court copy, not of course, that actually written or signed by John, but a legal copy entered into the record books.

From what can be determined, this appears a recopied version from an earlier "record book" by a county clerk long after John's death, and the adjacent wills in the book all with similar dates and in the same hand. One would hope the clerk was conscientious and accurate.

The two pages are from Virginia, Wills and Probate Records, 1652-1983 appearing originally from Westmoreland County Virginia Wills, 1654 - 1800, the subsection West. D&W, Vol 3-4, then Vol 3 1700-1707, available on ancestry: https://www.ancestry.com/interactve/9085/007645862_00176 and are pages 176-77 in that digitized record, originally pages 153-54, but the numbers cropped here.

What is very odd, and unexplained, is that although the full records, and portions of this will all note the 1702 and 1703 dates of it written, proved, and recorded, as can be seen immediately left below the signature line is an entered date of 26 May 1857. The text suggests a later reason for the court to reference the document, but is not clear (to me), perhaps an attorney shading some future light on this.

Another mystery...