

15 March 1991

GARNER/BIGGS Bulletin #1 Up-date:

Over the past couple of years, while not intensely researching, additional details have come to light which add to Souil's original bulletins. This information is being passed along on individual pages which can be inserted directly behind the respective bulletin which deals with the various families. As further information comes to light, it will be passed along in this manner.

Bulletin #1 - GARNER

For many years we have been trying to find the English home county of the immigrant, John Garner (1)-256-264. At one time it was thought that he may have come from the County of Kent, as a John Garner was baptized in St. Dunstan's, Canterbury, Kent, on 4 May 1634. However, during the past several months, very substantial evidence has come to light through the research efforts of a Nathan Reed Garner, an attorney in the State of New York, which supports the belief that our John Garner is the John Garner baptized 2 September 1634, St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England. This John Garner's father was a Richard Garner, who married Katharn _____. John Garner's grandfather was a John Garner, who died in Shropshire in 1628. The following is a chronological listing of events in John Garner's life which appear to be feasible and acceptable. Some of these items have been covered in Souil's original bulletins, while others have come from books we have read and Nathan Reed Garner's research.

J O H N G A R N E R
of
County Shropshire, England

- 1628 John Garner died. (Grandfather of John Garner b. 1633.) His wife, Joan, appears to have died sometime before 1631, as she was not mentioned in the will of her brother-in-law, Richard--his will dated 20 January 1631, probated 2 April 1631. (Shrop. W. & R. B. 1631)
- ? Richard Garner, son of John and Joan Garner, married Katharn (Katherine?) _____.
- 1633 John Garner baptised, St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England. Son of Richard and Katharn Garner.
2 September
(IGI has 1634)
- 1636 Katharn Garner may have died. Court records for this year state: ". . . Kathryn Garner, Welshwoman, found innoc. of Witch Craft in trial by Water. £2. for burial in Christian ground. ." (Shrop. C. O. 1636)

(In a trial by Water, the person was bound, weighted down with stones, and thrown in a river or lake for a period longer than they could hold their breath. For a person charged with witchcraft, if she escaped her bonds, it would have been deemed to be with the help of the Devil and she would have then been burned at the stake. If she had somehow survived the ordeal, it

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would have been deemed due to Divine intervention and she would have gone free. If she drowned, as here, she would have been deemed innocent of the charge, and to make amends for wrongful prosecution, her burial expenses would be paid for by the Crown. We do not know why she was charged with witchcraft, normally only old or single women, or the mentally impaired who talked to themselves, faced this kind of charge. However, the English still hated and distrusted the Welsh, even though the two countries had been united since the 1400's, thus, her nationality may have been at least part of her problem. If this was John Garner's mother, it certainly offers a good explanation for Richard Garner's departure for America with his three-year-old son.)

- 1636 John Garner's father, Richard, took John to Virginia sometime this year (Norfolk County) and moved to Henrico County in 1637.
- 1637 John Garner transported by William Farrar, of Henrico County.
11 June
- 1637 John Garner, transported by Daniel Gookins, Upper County of New
29 December Norfolk.
- 1643 John Garner, orphan, was ward of William Farrar. John Garner's uncle, John Garner, paid £500. to William Farrar ". . . for the education and to be the inheritance of my Cousin John Garner, orphan . . ." (Hen. C. O. 1643-44, page 23)
- 1650 John Garner transported to Northumberland County by Lewis
17 October Burwell who was granted a tract of land for bringing 32 new colonists into the county, among them John Garner. (Va. L. Gr. B. 2, page 250)
- 1654 John Garner transported by Thomas Hobkins, Lancaster County.
6 September
- 1658 Francis Roberts assigned to John Garner and Joseph Fielding a
20 February patent of 500 acres of land ". . . lying beyond Col. Speakes land and Doege Island in the Potomac River. . ." (North. R. B. 1658-66, page 10)
- 1659 William Hill was indebted to Joseph Fielding and John Garner in
October in the sum of 350 pounds of tobacco. (North. O. B. 2, page 232)
- 1660 John Garner settled on the west bank of Garner's Creek near the site of the present village of Lewisetta. This was near the mouth of the Coan River on a neck of land then called Cherry Point but today is known as Cowart's Point.
- 1660 John Garner married Susanna Keene, daughter of Thomas Keene and his wife, Mary Thorley, of Northumberland County.

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- 1661
26 September Inventory of William Little's estate was returned by John Garner, Nicholas Owen, Abraham Joyce and Francis Simons. (North. O. B. 2, page 67)
- 1661
21 October "Be it known to all men by these presents that I, William Hopkins, do freely give unto John Garner half of my land at the Yocomico and to his heirs it being 400 acres in all" and instructed John Garner "to seat the same by the First of March next, for seating of the land I, William Hopkins, do freely give unto John Garner the half of my land patent herein conveyed and witness my hand and seal." (North. R. B. 15, page 66)
- 1663
5 May Henry Bradley was sworn as Constable of Northumberland County, ". . . for ye north side of little Werecomake, and John Garner for the Cherry Point Neck. . ." (North. O. B. 2, page 210)
- 1663
20 June John Garner, son of Jno. Garner of Cherry Point Neck, registers mark of cattle.
(Virginia Colonial Abstracts - Vol. 19. Northumbria Collectanea 1645-1720 A to L. Order Book 2, 1652-1665.) 15.100
(My note: This record says ". . . son of John Garner. . ." If this is our John Garner, it must be he who is registering the cattle mark as John Garner⁽¹⁾ did not get married until 1660 and, therefore, his son, John, would have been a very small child in 1663.)
- 1663
John Garner deposed that he was ". . . 30 years of age or thereabouts. . ." (North. R. B. 15, page 102)
- 1664
20 December A certificate was granted to John Garner for 250 acres of land for the importation of five persons into the county. (North. O. B. 2, page 411)
- 1665
5 May John Garner was mentioned as guardian to Thomas Keene (his wife's brother) ". . . the orphan of Thomas Keene deceased. . ." (North. O. B. 2, page 414)
- 1665
13 October William Thompson named John Garner one of the executors of his estate. (North. R. B. 15, page 175)
- 1667
4 April Ralph Stevens of Northumberland County, planter, sold a tract of land to John Garner. (North. R. B. 16, page 19)
- 1667
May John Garner appointed Henry Moseley his attorney in Northumberland. (North. R. B. 16, page 24)
- 1667
1 October The Association of Northumberland, Westmoreland and Stafford ordered that a house for the workmen be built near the place they were building the Fort on Yeocomico River. The dimensions specified were ". . . 40 feet long, 9 feet pitch and 20 feet wide . . . said house to be built by Jno. Garner and other assistants whom he shall select . . ." William and Mary College Quarterly, 1st series, Vol. IX, page 238.

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- 1667
24 October Elizabeth Moseley appointed ". . . my beloved friend John Garner. . ." her lawful attorney to acknowledge a sale of land to Thomas Watson. (North. O. B. 3, page 48)
- 1667/68
14 February Jno. Garner assigned 200 acres by Tho. Watson. (Virginia Colonial Abstracts - Vol. 19. Northumbria Collectanea 1666-1678, Order Book 3.) 16.42
- 1668
20 November John Garner was owed 982 pounds of tobacco by James Robinson. (North. O. B. 3, page 48)
- 1672
Around this time, John Garner moved a few miles farther up the Northern Neck to Westmoreland County near the present village of Kinsale.
- 1672
October Nicholas Jenkins and wife, Ann, deeded 100 acres of land on Yeocomico River, which had been purchased of Samuel Earle in 1669, to John Garner and Robert Middleton. (West. B. 1665-77, page 156)
- 1673
25 February Robert Jeffries, age 35, deposed that ". . . on the 15th of July last. . ." he was with John Garner and Robert Middleton when they bought land in Westmoreland County. (West. B. 1665-77, page 177)
- 1674
15 April John Garner was on a coroner's jury in Westmoreland County. (West. B. 1665-77)
- 1674
28 August ". . . William Rogers and wife Amy are indebted to Robert Middleton and John Garner to the extent of 6,000 lbs. of tobacco which they acknowledge 28 August 1674, for land sold by Richard Jenkins, deceased, as per bill of sale, which sale was not acknowledged by said Jenkins before his death. . ." (West. B. 1665-77, page 212)
- 1685
January Richard Lee, Gent., retained John Garner to ". . . continue the instruction of his children in French and Latin until a new schoolmaster should be procured. . ." payment to be ". . . 10 shillings per lesson and the option to purchase 100 acres of land in Horne Point on Yeocomico River. . ." (West. D. & W. B. 2, page 24)
- (My note: In his will, John Garner gave to his son, Vincent and his heirs ". . . a parcel of land lying in horn point. . .")
- 1691/2
January At a Court held this date (page 576, Northumberland County Orders) Thomas Browne, son of David Browne, is bound with his father's consent to John Garner until 21. (Virginia Colonial Abstracts - Series 2, Vol. 1, Northumberland County Virginia 1678-1713, page 43. Ed: Lindsay O. Duvall)

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1692 John Marks was declared indebted unto John Garner in the sum of
January 5,000 pounds of tobacco, ". . . which is to be paid, provided
the said Garner give good security to this court and his wife
shall disclaim her right to her third of a seat of land sold by
the said Garner to the said Markes. . ." Securities were John
Garner, William Shores, Abraham Joyce. (North. O. B. 3,
page 198)

1694/5 John Jenkins of Cople Parish sold to John and Vincent Gardner of
15 January same parish and county 100 acres of land in Horne Point on
Yeocomico River. (West. D. & W. B. 2, page 24)

(My note: In his will, dated 22 January 1702, proved
26 May 1702, recorded 1 January 1703, John Garner⁽¹⁾ gave to his
son, Vincent, his land near Kinsale and that on Horn Point.
Northwest of these lands he owned 800 acres which he gave to his
sons, John and Henry. Upon some of this land, between the
present village of Hague and Kinsale, one of a later generation
of Garners, in the 1700's, build "China Hall," which is still
standing today. Later acquired by Judge John Campbell, the name
was changed to "Kernan"--which it remains today.)

1697 Joseph Gamble of King and Queen County sold to John Garner his
21 July land in Westmoreland County. (West. D. & W. B. 2, page 126)

1702 John Garner died early this year. His will (West. D. & W.
B. 3, page 151 et seq.) was dated 22 January 1702, proved
26 May 1702, and recorded 1 January 1703. (Full transcript of
John Garner's will is written on page A-3 of GARNER-BIGGS
Bulletin #1, dated 1 August 1975.)

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Full credit for the discovery of John Garner's baptism in Shrewsbury in the
English County of Shropshire, and other material relating to the Garner family
in England, as well as finding the record of guardianship of John Garner by
William Farrar, Henrico County, Virginia, is due solely to Mr. Nathan Reed
Garner, who is a descendant of John and Susanna (Keene) Garner through Richard
L.⁽¹²⁾ Thomas J.⁽¹¹⁾, Richard H.⁽¹⁰⁾, John⁽⁹⁾, John⁽⁸⁾, Absalom⁽⁷⁾, John⁽⁶⁾,
John⁽⁵⁾, William⁽⁴⁾, William⁽³⁾, John⁽²⁾, and John⁽¹⁾.

Nathan Reed Garner is an attorney in the State of New York and is the brother
of Sherry Lynn (Garner) Moquin, CPA, with whom I, Gwendoline W. Garner, have
had several very pleasant conversations and exchanged material concerning the
early research carried out by my brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Souil
William Garner and Mary Willis Garner, respectively.