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Robert Skinner (abt. 1629 - bef. 1686)


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Robert Skinner


Born **about 1629** in **England** 


Son of [father unknown] and [mother unknown]

[sibling(s) unknown]

Husband of **Alice (Thomas) Skinner** — married 22 Oct 1661 in St. Bartholomew the Great, London, England 

Husband of **Anne (Clarke) Skinner** — married 1673 in Calvert Calvert County, Maryland 

Father of [William Skinner](#), [Mary \(Skinner\) Letchworth](#), [Robert Skinner](#) [DESCENDANTS](#)  [Jr.](#), [Adderton Skinner](#) and [Clarke Skinner](#)

Died **before 13 Dec 1686** before about age 57 in **The Reserve, Calvert County, Maryland** 

Profile managers: [Anne Agee](#)   [\[send private message\]](#) and [Jourdi Cleghorn](#) [PROBLEMS/QUESTIONS](#)   [\[send private message\]](#)

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DNA

No known carriers of Robert's DNA have taken a [DNA test](#).

Collaboration

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Contents

[\[hide\]](#)

- 1 [Biography](#)
 - 1.1 [1640 Birth and Parents](#)
 - 1.2 [1658 Arrival](#)
 - 1.3 [1660 First Marriage: Alice](#)
 - 1.4 [Captain](#)
 - 1.5 [1673 Second Marriage: Anne Clarke](#)
 - 1.6 [Plantation: The Reserve](#)
 - 1.7 [1685 Will, Death, Estate](#)
 - 1.8 [Children](#)
 - 1.9 [Additional History of "the Reserve"](#)
- 2 [Sources](#)

Biography

1640 Birth and Parents



This profile is part of the [Skinner Name Study](#).

Robert Skinner was born about 1640 in Bristol Parish, Gloucestershire, England^[1]

1658 Arrival

Papenfuse shows Robert Skinner, Sr, arriving in Maryland about 1658 from Bristol, England. ^[2]

Robert Skinner settled in Calvert County during the Puritan era, probably about 1658. ^[3]

Robert Skinner, Sr was a merchant and large landowner. ^[2]

1660 First Marriage: Alice

He married first Alice^[2]

Before 1660 he married his first wife. Her name is unknown. She was born about 1644 in England and died about 1672 in Calvert County, Maryland.^[1]

Robert's first wife was named Alice with children Robert and Mary; ^[3]

Captain

Captain, Foot Company of Hunting Creek Hundred. ^[4]

1673 Second Marriage: Anne Clarke

In 1673 in Calvert County he married Anne.^[1]

He married second, by 1676, Anne, widow of James Trueman.^[2]

Anne has typically been identified as "Anne Storer" based on a reference to her as "sister" by Arthur Storer. Recent research, however, has identified her as "Anne Clarke", daughter of William Clarke by his first marriage to Martha. After Martha's death, William Clarke married Katherine Babington, widow of Edward Storer, father of Arthur. ^[5]

Plantation: The Reserve

Robert's plantation, called "the Reserve", originally "Truman's Reserve," is situated on the road leading from Prince Frederick to Dare's Wharf. ^[3]

Robert also secured grants of adjacent tracts called Border and Scrap. ^[3] In 1680 Robert Skinner held the following patents:

- Border, 50 acres. ^[6]
- Scrap, 100 Acres; ^[7]

1685 Will, Death, Estate

Death

He died at his estate in Calvert County Maryland about 1686, ^[8]

He died before 13 December 1686 in Calvert County, Maryland, when his estate was probated. ^[1]

Will

Skinner, Robert, . Calvert Co., 8th March., 1685 ; 13th Dec. 1686.^[1]

- To eldest son Robert and hrs., plantation and "Island Neck."
- To dau. Mary Letchworth and to her first born child, personalty,
- To 2nd son Clarke and hrs., "The Border," "The Reserve" and "The Scraps."

- To 3rd son William and hrs., "The Hatchet" on Patuxent R.
- To youngest son Adderton and hrs, " The Reserve."
- To 3 last named sons at majority personalty.
- To wife Anne, personalty.
- Son Robert appointed guardian of 3 young. sons. Should he die, 2 sons-in-law Thos. Greenfield and Joseph Letchworth to act in his stead.
- Test : Robert Houldsworth, Arthur Storer, Elizabeth Cornall, William Moore. 4. 230.

Note: "Son-in-Law" Thomas Greenfield was married to Elizabeth Truman, his wife's youngest daughter with James Truman, which is why Elizabeth is not mentioned in the will of Robert.

He named his eldest son Robert as guardian for his younger sons, Clark, William and Adderston Skinner. ^[3]

He also mentioned his daughter Mary, wife of Joseph Letchworth, and his daughter Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Greenfield. His widow Anne Skinner died in 1714, also leaving a will. ^[3]

Estate

Mr. Robert Skinner 9.410 I CA £224.11.6 May 26 1687^[1]

- Servants mentioned: Obediath Fear, Henry Southern (boy), Theophilus King (boy), Elisabeth Carnell.
- Appraisers: Joseph Letchworth, Thomas Hollyday.
- List of debts: Mr. Thomas Tasker, George Spicer, Capt. John Hurlle, Capt.Daniell Hog, William Finney, Daniell Ingerson, David Deard, Solomon Thomas

Children

Children of Robert Skinner and Alice:

1. [Robert Skinner](#), b. Abt 1660, England. died 15 Apr 1713, Calvert County, Maryland - inventory ^[1]
2. [Mary Skinner](#), b. Between 1662 and 1669, England. Aft 1713, Calvert County, Maryland ^[1]

Children of Robert Skinner and Anne:

1. [Clarke Skinner](#), b. Abt 1674, Calvert County, Maryland. died 18 Feb 1714, Calvert County, Maryland - probate ^[1]
2. [Dr. William Skinner](#), b. 1676, "The Reserve" Calvert County, Maryland. died 26 Aug 1738, Calvert County, Maryland - probate ^[1]
3. [Adderton Skinner](#), b. 1682, Calvert County, died. 20 Nov 1756, Calvert County, Maryland - probate ^[1]

Transfer of Property between Children

1702-1709 Prince George's County, Maryland Land Records Liber C, [Elise Greenup Jourdan]; Folio 14a; Indenture, 12 Aug 1702 From: William Skinner, planter of Calvert County^[1] To: Clarke Skinner, planter of Calvert County The Lord Baron of Baltimore did grant at St. Mary's on 23 Jun 1680 to James Nuthall 300 acres in the woods on the west side of the Patuxent River called Hatchett; James Nuthall and his wife Margaret sold the land to Robert Skinner 8 Mar 1686; Robert Skinner gave the land to his 3rd son William Skinner and he sold 111 acres of the land to his brother, Clarke Skinner, for an unspecified amount of money; bounded by land Cornelius Cannaday sold Ignatius Craycroft Endorsement on back: Elizabeth Skinner examined by Thom. Hollyday and Rob't Bradley Witnessed: Thom. Hollyday, Rob't Bradley, and Igna. Craycroft Vide ye alienation in Folio 43

Additional History of "the Reserve

The Rent Rolls show that both William and Adderton Skinner lived at The Reserve.

Major Adderton Skinner (his name is sometimes rendered as Anderton Skinner) was a Major in the Calvert County Militia. He was a surveyor by profession and made many surveys in Calvert County in the first half of the eighteenth century. The Tax List of 1733 shows that both William and Adderton Skinner were living, and the number of slaves which they owned indicates that they were above the average of their neighboring planters in wealth and position....^[3]

Frederick Skinner, the son of Major Adderton Skinner, fought in the Revolutionary War. He served under General Lafayette. He entertained Lafayette at the Reserve and in the later years visited him at his home in France.^[3]

His son John Stuart Skinner, in the War of 1812, rode his horse to Washington to warn President Madison that British vessels were sailing up the Patuxent carrying troops for the purpose of attacking Washington and Baltimore. The British were informed of this and, in reprisal, burned the Skinner house at The Reserve on the night when they marched overland from their ships and attacked Prince Frederick. Later in the War of 1812, John Skinner was in the charge of the exchange of prisoners. He accompanied Francis Scott Key on board the British warship to try to release Dr. William Beanes, who had been held by the British as an alleged spy. He was at the side of Francis Scott Key when he wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner."^[3]

The present plantation house at The Reserve was rebuilt after 1812.^[3]

During the Civil War Col. Levin Skinner organized a company of soldiers for the Confederacy. Union soldiers visited The Reserve and strung up the overseer by his thumbs, in order for him to reveal the whereabouts of Col. Skinner. The Reserve is still in possession of the descendants of the original Robert Skinner.^[3]

Sources

- ↑ 1.00 1.01 1.02 1.03 1.04 1.05 1.06 1.07 1.08 1.09 1.10 1.11 Mike Marshall. *Early Colonial Settlers of Southern Maryland and Virginia's Northern Neck Counties. Profile for Robert Skinner* Accessed 2 April 2023 jhd
- ↑ 2.0 2.1 2.2 2.3 Edward C. Papenfuse et al, *A Biographical Dictionary of the Maryland Legislature 1635-1789. Profile for Robert Skinner Jr* Volume 426, Page 738 Accessed 2 April 2023 jhd
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- ↑ "A List of the Names of the Men Belonging to the Foot Company of Hunting Creek Hundred," page 125 of CALVERT CO. FAMILY RECORDS 1670-1929, Compiled by Mildred Bowen O'Brien. Baltimore, 1978. Cited by Marshall
- ↑ Robert Battle and John C. Brandon. *Identity of Anne, First Wife of Robert Woodmansey, Schoolmaster of Boston, Massachusetts, and of Her Niece, Anne (Not Storer), Wife of James Truman and Robert Skinner of Maryland. The New England Historical and Genealogical Register 177 (Winder 2023):67-84.* (Requires Membership) Accessed 30 March 2023 jhd
- ↑ Calvert County Circuit Court. Land Surveys and Condominium Plats. Certificate: Patent Record 20, Page 356 0 0 MSA S 1583-204; Patent: Patent Record CB 2, Page 81 0 0 MSA S 1583-205. Cited by Marshall.
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- ↑ Biographical Dictionary of the Maryland Legislature Vol II P738 (Robert Skinner)

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