

Thomas Keene & Mary Thorley

A Research Summary & Personal Narrative



Thomas and Mary Thorley Keene, as with John Garner, 1635-1702, their son-in-law, are very often the subjects of much speculation, misinformation, misinterpretation of records, errors and omissions, and other wholly misleading “sources” found on ancestry.com and elsewhere. With all due respect, this is then my attempt following a near decade of research to summarize all that can be reasonably supported by record, pull the pieces together, if with my *speculations* still noted, and attempt to clarify what remains unresolved. The full text of every record included here is not included, but either typically links noted, or can be found in excellent posts by other researchers as attached in my respective public tree galleries. As with the narrative bio on John Garner, should additional useful information be found, I determine I have made errors or omissions here, or if pointed out by other researchers with acceptable source data, this will be updated and corrected as needed.

Thomas Keene was born in about 1593 in England, that year per his later recorded deposition stating his age, though “thereabouts”. His parents were *very* unlikely to have been *Thomas Keene I* and *Elizabeth Gosnold* of Otely, Suffok, England, there being very little to support that speculation and more to refute it, and is addressed in detail in a following section. There are many more Keene families, and other Thomas Keenes (or surname variations) recorded in England in this time frame, one *Thomas Kene* of 1594 in Wrington, Somerset, other Keenes in Sussex, south of London, several in Surrey, bordering London, several others in Rendcomb, Gloucestershire, one an initially intriguing family of another “Thomas Keene” born about 1576 with a wife Susanna, plus several offspring. He, however, had no son named Thomas found in any records. Additional Keenes are found throughout England in this period, but in sometimes isolated records, without more context as to complete detail and associated family, so providing nothing further to pursue.



Of a few *potential* candidates found in England, the one deemed most promising to date is the *Thomas Keene* baptized in the poor working class parish of St Giles, Cripplegate, City of London (shown left, a later illustration), on 23 Dec 1593, his father noted as a *James Keene* (record attached), and his profession “dyer”. No mother was listed with this record, consistent with all other baptisms on the full two pages of the original book. With a baptism of this date, per religious beliefs of the time, his birth was most certainly earlier that year, 1593, that coinciding with Thomas’ later deposition in Maryland. Unfortunately, no additional confirmed records can be found for this James, only one possible baptism record from 1570 in Surrey, his father John and mother Margrette. This would work as to an age for this James being this Thomas’ father, and Surrey does border London, but it is inconclusive by itself, and nothing else is found for a later marriage/spouse for James. This Thomas is noted here *speculatively* as who best fits what we know of him in later MD/VA; the correct surname spelling, born the correct year per later record, working class, and London more than plausible for his learning/practicing his trade and as an eventual port of departure.

An interesting aside to the records from Surrey is that there was an entire additional New World Keene family who later settled in Maryland, both on the Eastern and Western shores, and whose founders appear originally from Surrey. That lineage included a *William Keene* who was found in Somerset Co., MD, directly across the Chesapeake from Northumberland Co. VA in the same time frame, 1676, as Thomas’ son William, born in

1642. These two Keene lineages, perhaps related to some degree, are not known to have ever interacted in any manner and may not have even been aware of each other.

As our Thomas is known to have been well into his forties when he married Mary Thorley in the New World, it is plausible that he had been previously married, but if so where and when is unknown, and both England and the Virginia colony possible. There is a marriage record from 17 June 1622 in Catsfield, Sussex, where a Thomas Keene is recorded as marrying *Mary Wilford*, Sussex a few miles south of London. This, by itself, offers little, however, and as with most all other English Keenes, little or nothing further can be found of them.

What *may* be the first record for our Thomas in the New World is a land patent granted in Henrico County, Virginia on 11 Nov 1635 to *Thomas Harris*, possibly a sea captain, for the transport of thirteen persons, including a “Tho. Keane” (Abstracts of Land Patents of Henrico County and Goochland County 1624-1732, Patent Book No. 1 – Part 1, p. 2). The date of patent would not reflect the actual date of his transport, that being earlier by as much as two/three years or more. As this Thomas is noted alone here (although one unnamed female is included in the record), he was most likely unmarried, otherwise his spouse would also have been recorded for the acreage granted. *If* this was our Thomas, as is possible, then we have one approximate date of what *might* be his first arrival in Virginia, probably *about* 1633. As with the headright system, Thomas could also have been actually transported first from England by another, and any contract sold to Harris after initial arrival, likely first in then James City, downriver from Henrico on the James River. Two duplicate notations were found for this record, both in genealogical books edited by *Frederick A. Virkus*, one noting *Tho. Kinne*, and the other *Tho. Keane*, 1635, both assumed originally sourced from this land record. However informative, the record still does not tell us if he was “transported” from England that year and indentured, or within the colony without a second contract, having arrived four or more years earlier, and his original contract completed. We simply do not know, and have no prior records to further clarify any of this. As most immigrants in that approximate period were transported indentured servants, and Thomas a very modest tradesman, it remains more than reasonable to accept his arrival in whatever year in that status. Few had the means to pay their own way, its modern equivalent (very difficult to accurately determine) equaling several thousands of dollars.

There are many recorded reasons for immigration to the British colonies, including petty criminals offered a choice between transport or jail, and we do not know Thomas’ specific reasons or circumstances, but assuming he was already a cooper in England, his skills would be valued in the colony and later also by *William Claiborne* on Kent Island. With the speculation that he was born in London, I also speculate that he could have apprenticed and then practiced his trade in the Port of London, near the quays on the Thames and Tower Hill. It was also not unusual for skilled tradesmen to negotiate the terms of their contract in England prior to the

crossing and he would have had ample contact with ship’s captains and/or agents there. There are also accounts of kidnappings, the “trade” and sale of contracts in the New World being so profitable to sea captains or vessel owners. These were not unlike the “press gangs” recorded for centuries used to ensnare unwilling men as sailors and crew aboard vessels, then trapped and forced to serve. Despite the dangers of the journey to the New World, cost and/or indenture, and the exceptionally high attrition rates in the early years, thousands still chose to voluntarily make the crossing, looking for a better life. *Perhaps* that included a single man in his late twenties/mid-thirties in the 1620s, or later, a near then middle-aged (forty) widower(?) cooper by about 1633. The drain of skilled tradesmen in England was of such concern (among others) that the Crown attempted to stem their emigration in 1638.



Previous page, one plate (cropped) of seven of *Hollar's Panorama of London, 1647*, showing a portion of the Port of London just downriver from London Bridge near the Tower. This area would have appeared little different in 1633. One street near the Tower was later renamed "Cooper's Row", and that skill a major part of the trade, barrels/casks then the shipping containers of the day. Living conditions in London in the early seventeenth century, then the largest, and most crowded city in Europe, were dismal for the poor and the working classes, the city also periodically erupting with massive epidemics (one of the plague in 1625), all being additional incentives for immigration. I think his departure from England *may* have been *prior* to 1632/33, in part due his age (many immigrants *usually* younger), and am also inclined to *speculatively* accept his birth in London in 1593, and his father, James, although neither can be proven from the available records.



If Thomas arrived perhaps four years *prior* to 1633 any indenture would have been completed by no later than that year with the typical contract. If arriving in the 1620s, he likely spent his service period near Jamestown solely in his skill as a cooper. Left, an illustration of Jamestown in 1660, then having expanded well beyond the boundaries of the original fort. The structure at the upper right appears a workshop for coopers and barrels are shown in the process of assembly outside. If Thomas was in the colony and a freeman by 1633, he could have left Jamestown (still the primary area of settlement), and gone anywhere in the colony to practice his trade, such as Henrico for a time, per the record, a healthier alternative. He could then return, or go anywhere else, at his

choosing without any obligation. With tobacco, the primary export, shipped in "hog's heads" casks, he would have had no shortage of work anywhere and might have had apprentices himself in the colonies.

Some researchers have noted a possibility, a few a "strong case", that our Thomas was one of the initial settlers on Kent Island with *William Claiborne* aboard the vessel *Africa* in 1631, but without support, nearer by *about* 1637 a defensible conclusion. Of the five ships of *Cloberry & Co.*, Claiborne's partners, dispatched to the island from 1631 to 1637 with "man servants" (a sixth with cargo only), there is no record for Thomas as aboard one, he possibly arriving by other means. One player in the intrigue of the conflict over Kent Island, a *Capt. George Evelin/Evelyn* (a partner who "betrayed" Claiborne), and effectively "ruled" Kent Island for a time, was noted by S.F. Streeter in the 1868 publication by the MD Historical Society of his *The First Commander of Kent Island* with two relevant entries, both from 1638: "John Struman, Sr. and *Thomas Keyme*, coopers, were directed to devote their time to making pipe-staves, assisted by seven servants", and on April 30, 1638, "Entered by Capt. George Evelin for the Manor of Evelinton in the Baronie of St. Maries", Governor Calvert provided a land grant to Evelin for the "transport" of twenty-three men (*including* freemen) "to Maryland", among them *Thomas Keane*. Note here that Thomas is *not* noted as a servant, but assisted by seven. A much later petition by Claiborne (Proceedings of the Council of Maryland, 1667-1687/8, Vol. 5, pg. 183 – MD Archives) included testimony that *thirty-five thousand* pipe-staves were made by *Thomas Keyne* and eight others (plus servants) beginning in *mid-summer of 1637*, prior to the date of Evelin's grant, and that placing Thomas in St. Mary's *by* that date. Another record found relevant to these is a 1638 list of "freemen" on Kent Island that year, and Thomas Keene, by whatever spelling, *not* among them (Liber M C, pgs. 39-40, Assembly Proceedings, February-March 1638/9 – MD Archives, Vol. I). From these records we might surmise that Thomas *might* have still been "contracted" in some capacity, but appearing not indentured, and behaved as directed, but if that was the case, *any* contract had to have been nearly complete or short term, as he was established on his own land on Kent Island by *about* late 1638 or early 1639, patented in Nov 1640. His not being noted among the "freeman" in 1638 is thought due to his absence, then in St. Mary's. Evelin's transport of the twenty-three appears to have been quite opportunistic, he simply siphoning off some labor for his own

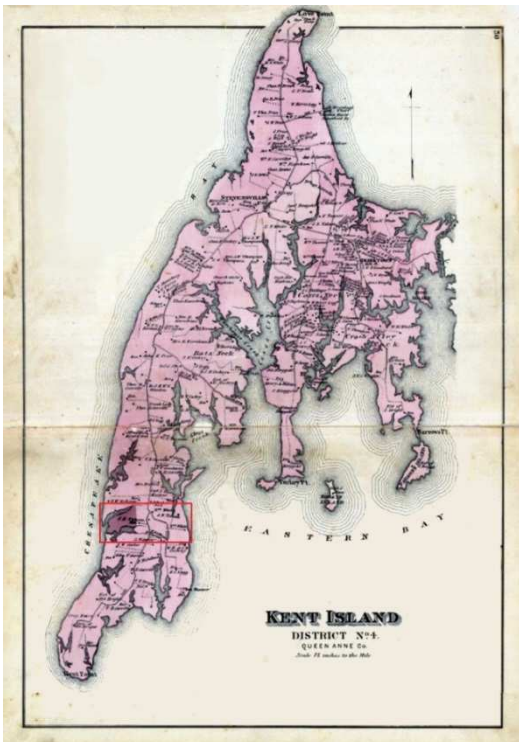
purposes plus the granted acreage. Per Streeter, many of the men were known previously on Kent but “transported” to his St. Mary’s “manor”, the headright system then very lenient in many ways, often abused, and later more restricted as to repeated “transports” within the colonies for granted acreage.

The authors of *Garner-Keene Families of Northern Neck Virginia* (GK) of 1952, suggested these two 1638 records *might* reflect Thomas’ actual first arrival in Maryland from England, his sponsorship by Evelin, but did not note the 1635 patent record, nor note the obvious serious discrepancy between that speculation and a typical four year contract with Thomas’ land patent in 1640. As Thomas appears already on the island when recruited by Evelin, and with Thomas’ later patent, that speculation is deemed *very* unlikely. Although there are examples of individuals buying their own contracts, paid off early, attempting to make that case for Thomas is difficult as it still remains too short a time frame. Regardless of any period of time Thomas spent in St. Mary’s in southern Maryland, we know he returned to Kent Island shortly thereafter, as he patented his land there on 9 Nov 1640 (Maryland Historical Magazine, Vol V, pg. 374), a process easily taking perhaps two years. An assumed year of arrival of by about 1637 on Kent *does* dovetail nicely into the land record of 1635, estimated arrival and contract of about 1633, that four years afterwards. Thomas, I think, first arrived in *Virginia* (if not Kent Island) by *at least* about 1633, later moving to Kent Island *by* 1637. GK also noted him as a cooper, possibly later a merchant, but their speculation on a merchant based only on portions of his will, so unverified. He did, of course, become a planter on Kent, probably continuing in his trade as well, and later a planter in Northumberland, but appearing continuing in his trade there (per his will), he then in his mid-fifties.

A then *plausible* speculative summary of Thomas’ early timeline: If his actual arrival was, for example, 1629, his contract complete by 1633, he would have then lived and worked in the southern colony, as Henrico per the one record for a time after his (second?) transport there that year. He could have then even married, that *allowed* of former indentured servants with their initial contract complete. He would then also have been a freeman available, and desirable, as a skilled tradesman. If his arrival was instead about 1633, any contract would have been completed by about 1637, and he could then have *chosen* to move to Kent Island that year, recruited by Claiborne by 1637 or not, Evelin almost certainly transporting Thomas *from Kent Island* in 1637, not elsewhere. The question remains as to what his exact circumstances were when recruited (or instructed) by Evelin in 1637. His “transport” for Evelin’s benefit (fifty acres) need not have required him to incur any lengthy obligation, he appearing simply employed for a short period in St. Mary’s before returning to Kent Island. An interesting aside to the 1638 Evelin land grant is that in addition to “Thomas Keane”, another eight men listed are also redundantly noted in Claiborne’s later land grant of 1644/53, and several are found with Thomas in Northumberland 1651/53...a *third* time (all addressed in following sections). Despite efforts to thoroughly research the headright system, various accounts are incomplete and sometimes contradictory, making any speculation, let alone firm conclusions, about specifics relative to individuals such as Thomas, very difficult. The only thing the surviving records definitively tell us is that “a” Thomas Keyne arrived in *about* 1633, and our Thomas first appears, confirmed, by 1637 on Kent Island, appearing unlikely then indentured, or if so, having to be very near the end of his contract. With no records in between for any other arrival or other land record despite those having survived as transcribed by Greer and Newman, the only *record based* New World speculation left begins in about 1633, *feasible* but inconclusive, and resumes with confirmed records only in 1637. Given all things in the colonies in the early years, the likelihood that he apprenticed and learned the trade of cooper after arrival, his age then probably at least nearing forty, is not thought feasible. He most certainly arrived, in whatever year, already skilled, but never learned to read and write.

Some historical background to the 1635 record is that of the approximate 7,300 immigrants to the Virginia colony between Dec 1606 and Feb 1625, just over 6,000 died, many within a very short period of arrival. Of the 3,500 who arrived in the three year period between 1619 and 1621, only about 500 survived, one author noting a decision to immigrate *almost* akin to suicide, yet Thomas may have done so near that time, or not long after, and had the good fortune to survive, any potential wife he might have had, not so. Any speculation on a marriage in the colony remains only that without record, many lost from that period. The odds were not initially good, however, the percentage of available males to available females noted in several accounts as then

still as high as six to one, plus indentured servants typically not allowed to marry in the term of their contract. If he had married in the colony after his initial contract, it would not have been unusual to then lose his wife and possibly a child in childbirth or from other causes, the attrition rates noted still remaining extremely high in the 1630s, but improving steadily over time. It would certainly seem that Thomas, given the chance, would have married, then perhaps been widowed before the age forty-five in 1638, but we simply do not know.



The next definitive record after 1638 is that of the mention as Thomas “Keine” in an inventory of 2 April 1640 on the “Isle of Kent”, where he estimated the worth of tobacco. This inventory was taken by Sheriff *Giles Basha/Bashaw*, noted again later in this narrative. Following that is his 6 Nov 1640 patent of 100 acres on southern Kent Island, the grant confirmed in 1642 (MD Historical Magazine, Vol. V, p. 374). The location of his farm on “Hog Pen/Penn Neck” was only about two miles NNW from the original site of “Fort Kent” as founded by Claiborne, its location now determined by archeologists as about sixty feet offshore on the island’s SE side in Eastern Bay, much of the island eroded away since 1631. The location of Thomas farm has also now determined as shown left on an 1877 map, the darkened section (lower left) within the red box. This map was selected as the oldest surveyed map of the island found to date and more representative of how it appeared in Thomas’ time. The date of patent, once again, would not represent his settlement on the property, that likely at least two years (or more) earlier and when “improvements” could commence, the patent process then taking a period of time. A second, more detailed current map is attached in supplemental media.

The first reference found to the name “Hog Pen Neck” is in Rent Roll “O”, (Land Office of Maryland, Annapolis – as of 1948, pgs. 105-108), which included several Maryland counties and the “Isle of Kent”, not then yet a county. Of the several properties in that rent roll per an abstract, *Hogpen Neck* was *twice* noted, the second time as *new [sic now?]*, and “Held in...[the] Mannor of Crayford” in Sept 1640, prior to the date of Thomas’ patent. No individuals’ names were included in the abstract. In the full context of the article including this reference (Torrence, Clayton, “The English Ancestry of William Claiborne of Virginia: Part II, The English Connection.” *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 56, no. 4, 1948), what is most important, however, is that Hogpen Neck was once part of William Claiborne’s landed estate, “Crayford”, which was confiscated along with all his personal property on the island by the Maryland authorities following a series of suits beginning in Jan 1638/9. Another property noted, once part of the estate, was called simply *Basha* (see Giles, above). The official date of the confiscation is unknown to me at this time, but the initiation of the suits coincides with Thomas’ evident return to Kent Island from St. Mary’s and implies his awarding of the land, in advance of the deed, was made by “Maryland”, having already taken control of the property. An additional interesting fact is that Claiborne had “...hired at least six personal servants” (freemen) from Virginia “to work...upon the house and grounds...”, I wonder if a cooper *possibly* among them, that skill useful to its functioning, and they left to work the plantation after his departure for England in *May 1637*.

The accepted date of Thomas’ marriage to Mary Thorley is a range between 1638 and 1640, with firstborn Susanna’s likely birth *by* 1641, perhaps their marriage nearer the date of patent, 1639 to about early 1640, and thought on Kent Island (the reasons as noted, but actually unconfirmed). An alternate speculation on their marriage and Thomas’ acquisition of this land is noted in the following section on Mary. Thomas was then about forty-six and Mary, thought born about 1621, only about eighteen...easily young enough to be his daughter. Three of their offspring were born on Kent beginning with Susanna in about late 1640, William known born on 10 March 1642, and Thomas, born probably about 1645 (the earliest possible year), well before

the Keenes left the island. Six additional records are found for Thomas in this time frame: from the *Proceedings of the Council of Maryland, 1633-47*, noting *Thomas Keyne/Keine* among those upon which a tax of tobacco was levied (32 lbs.), this appearing in 1642 (MD Archives, Vol. 5, p.44), Thomas' name on a list of electors for the island on 2 Aug 1642 ((MD Archives, Vol. 5, p.144), *Thomas Keyne* listed as a free inhabitant of the island on 5 Sept 1642 (MD Archives, Vol. 5, pgs. 108, 168), and three others also in 1642 (from Vol. 4) noting debts he owed to others in pounds of tobacco, plus one half barrel of corn. All records were specific to Kent Island, although recorded in the capital, St. Mary's. Variations of the spelling of this surname (from 1635 onward) were common for the time, considered *acceptable*, and compounded by widespread illiteracy or semi-literacy, phonetic spellings often recorded.



A replica "Virginia House", left, of the 17th century, common throughout both VA and MD. These were easily, quickly, and cheaply built by the colonists without the need for specialized tools (or skills, although Thomas certainly capable) and of entirely local materials available on the Chesapeake. Built initially without foundations, their wood pilings set in the ground, few lasted more than about twenty years. Thomas and Mary's first home on Kent Island was almost certainly of this generic type and their later home in Northumberland probably similar, although by 1650 locally made brick was probably used for the fireplace and chimney, possibly the foundations. Nothing visible remains today of any period structure in either location, and brick would have been typically reused in any case in that period.

The history of the bitter conflict between Virginia and Maryland over Kent Island, more in many ways actually between Protestant William Claiborne and the Catholic Calverts ran parallel to English history and the English Civil War, and is complex, well documented elsewhere, and will not be repeated here. It appears, however, that Thomas' loyalties remained with Claiborne and Virginia throughout his time there. Thomas was listed among the one hundred colonists, some who left the island, for Claiborne's army in 1644, his patent of 5000 acres for "transport" only recorded in 1653. The specific record for Thomas relative to this transport notes only an arrival in Virginia "bef 1653" (date the Claiborne grant was finally recorded), and notes only him, alone, one summary also noting him as a "headright" (again), technically correct, without a contract, it simply meaning his transportation was paid by Claiborne who claimed the acreage for him. As with a number of abbreviated record summaries from the period, the bare account is misleading and incomplete. In fact, what this records is Claiborne, in his official capacity then still with the Virginia colony, recruiting 100 men to fight under his command in *The Third Powhatan War* which began on 16 March 1644 following the deaths of five hundred colonists (partial source, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, Vol. 1). GK and other good sources are specific on where then Colonel Claiborne "landed his army" near current day West Point, and the location noted for the later land grant is consistent with where most fighting occurred. The natives, after being defeated in 1646, were then confined to the north side of the York River (at least those remaining few not killed or sold into slavery afterwards).

Thomas had then left his family on Kent Island for a time to live, and assume fight the natives, near Claiborne's other known properties in what was then New Kent County in the southern VA colony. How long he was gone, if until 1646, and how compensated, is unknown, but he returned to Kent Island afterwards. Thomas is next recorded as having made a deposition on 26 Nov 1648, per one document on Kent Island, that he was then fifty-five or "thereabouts". The transcription of this document, a court case which he "signed" as a witness, indicates he was illiterate and notes him as *Thomas [T] Keene*, the T his mark, not a middle initial (Court and Testamentary Business, 1648, Archives of Maryland, Volume 4, p. 452). Another court record notes testimony of a *prior* meeting at "Thomas Kains howse", the specific date unclear, likely preceding his deposition, but also in 1648 (Judicial and Testamentary Business of the Provincial Court, 1637-1650, Vol 4, p. 394), this also on Kent Island. The full volume includes a note of "recording" in *St. John's*, the home built St. Mary's in 1638 for Maryland's first provincial secretary, *John Lewger*, one of the largest enclosed spaces then in the colony, and

where colonial legislators met. The full text of his deposition from the MD archives noted it as one of two records (pertaining to Thomas and two different individuals) regarding court cases that were “written to the Sheriffe of Kent” confirming Kent Island as the actual location. GK and other researchers had previously mistaken the *recording location* of this deposition, thus Thomas’ residence this year, to have been in the capital, St. Mary’s City. Kent Island was initially *part of* St. Mary’s Co., and referred to as “Kent Hundred”, a jurisdictional description, but Kent County by 1642 with a “sheriffe”, and the records noted *recorded* in St. Mary’s although reflecting instead Kent Island. Only later did the island become a portion of “Talbot” County, later changed again, and including additional land on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. These two records then place him there up to at least up until about early 1649. All that is known afterwards is that he and his family moved to Virginia sometime within *about* the following year. Two researchers stated that Thomas forfeited his land on Kent Island by leaving, and it was then confiscated. Former “Virginians” remaining on the island were required at one time to take an oath of allegiance to Maryland, Thomas possibly deferring (and later departing), and that being a possible explanation, if correct. Others are noted as having previously lost their acreage on the island in April of 1647 as unrepentant “rebels” (relative to Maryland, of course) failing to take an oath, but that rule noted as lifted in 1648. Thomas may have taken his family’s few personal items, his tools, plus perhaps some livestock (other of which could also have been sold without official record), and simply sailed away, his anticipated acreage in Northumberland deemed more than sufficient compensation. The year 1649 coincided with other significant events in the conflict and in Maryland and Virginia, one or several being possible reasons for Thomas’ decision to leave the island, now officially Maryland, and also having passed its Toleration Act.

The year 1649 marked the expulsion of many Puritans and/or “nonconformists” from the Virginia Colony, and many went north into Maryland, settling in what is now Anne Arundel County. Likewise, some (fewer) with differing religious and political views left Maryland, including Kent Island, moving back to Virginia. Although the conflict over Kent Island weakly lingered several more years (Virginia did not “officially” give up its claim until the Revolution), it was effectively a lost cause by that year relative to both Virginia and Claiborne, and Thomas may have concluded the same. Northumberland County was then still largely unsettled, at the northernmost limits of the southern Virginia colony on the Chesapeake, and the nearest portion of the colony to Kent Island, immediately across the Potomac River from St. Mary’s City. It is possible that Thomas had some prior familiarity with the area, perhaps from 1638 or 1644, that affecting his decision, and also possible that speculative in-laws (see following sections) preceded him to Northumberland, perhaps others known on Kent Island, and that a reason. Regardless, a *group* of associated individuals appear to have left in the same period.



Per GK, Thomas and his family arrived in Northumberland County on Cherry Point Neck *by* 9 Dec of 1650, that date determined by a record of his witness to an inventory and appraisal (North. R.B. 1650-52, pg. 48), and settled on the acreage eventually patented there. Thomas is noted again four months later in another inventory on 3 March 1650/51 (North. R.B. 14, pg. 7) for *Jane Bashaw-Perry* (see page ten). This acreage was claimed by the transport of Thomas himself plus his wife, Mary, and one son, William (but per the abstract *excluding* Susanna and Thomas II for reasons unknown, and youngest son Matthew, of course, born after their arrival), the total number of persons transported, eleven. Later records make it unclear on the acreage granted for each, which appears to have varied. Typically 50 acres would be granted for each, totaling 550, but Thomas’ grant was for 527. Thomas having provided the transport for eleven persons (plus minimal personal goods and possibly some livestock), even the relatively short distance from Kent Island to Northumberland (about fifty miles), suggests some modest means at that time, but did not require more than small bay vessels of the period, a thirty foot period

shallop replica shown previous page, easily carrying up to about twelve passengers. Vessels like this could navigate the shallow creeks bordering Thomas' farm (and what became *Keene Creek* on Cherry Point Neck), were rowed when needed, and could be beached for loading/unloading. Another similar vessel may have been used for transport of personal items or other, or more than one trip made, of course. Several of the men transported by Thomas were also those as noted in the previous records of 1638 and 1644 as on Kent Island. As on Kent Island, he appears to have settled and begun farming on the land well in advance of the actual grant of patent, that not recorded until 13 Oct 1653 (after his death) (L.Gr.B. 3, pg. 61). Youngest offspring *Matthew Keene* was born in Northumberland in about 1651, Thomas then about fifty-eight. Two additional records found for Thomas in this period in Northumberland are his Oath of Allegiance on 13 April 1652, which he also signed as before with his mark, a "T" (North. O.B. 1, pg. 72 – original attached in this tree gallery), and a record of payment from the estate of Henry Barnes on 20 Sept 1652 (North O.B. 2, pg. 289).

Thomas would not long survive his move to Northumberland and the birth of his youngest son, signing his will on 26 Nov 1652 and dying likely very shortly afterwards, perhaps December, the date not recorded. His will was probated on 20 Jan 1652/3 (North R.B. 14, pg. 16 – transcription attached), and his land grant finally patented several months after his death, later that year on 13 Oct per the above. A supplemental record (North. O.B. Vol. 2) is noted in GK from 10 March 1652/3, preceding the patent noting "sufficient proofs made" that Mary Keene was due 200 acres for the transportation of husband Thomas, herself, son William, and (omitted from the prior record) daughter Susanna into the colony, reflecting 50 acres granted for each. Note that the four are effectively listed by gender per convention, Thomas before Mary, and William before Susanna. Why second son Thomas, clearly born on Kent Island, was not included *again* is unexplained, although his age (then about six) *may* have been the reason. This was perhaps a final legal hurdle/clarification to be cleared prior to the final granting of the deed. It does appear this reflected a *portion* of the 527 acres as the deed was refiled in March 1662/3, still noting the same acreage, and that refiled appearing in conjunction with the will of by then three times widowed Mary. Oddly, and unexplained to date, a *Gervaise Dodson*, who has not yet been fully researched, also claimed "Susan Keene" in association with his thirteen hundred acre grant in Northumberland, in a late deed filing on 14 May 1653 from an earlier land distribution (North. Land Office Patents No. 3, 1652-1655, pg. 82). As with other duplicate claims for the same individuals (this time both Mary and Dodson, a few months apart), this is unclear, but the larger question remains as to why Dodson would have claimed "transport" for Susanna at all, and not initially her father, including her in the list of his transported, perhaps then making it instead twelve. One unexplained discrepancy in the record is that although Thomas claimed eleven, only *ten* are listed by name (or description, one as "the wife of..."), but Thomas Orley *twice* on the document.

Several transcriptions of Thomas' will have been posted (some misleading), one also attached to this narrative, and commented upon here. Incompletely noted transcriptions of the will, including his mark, T, have led some to record this as a middle initial, as noted, which for some unknown reason then led to many trees recording him erroneously (and inexplicably) as *Thomas Timothy Keene*...where that wholly unsupported middle name came from is unknown but that now repeatedly, unfortunately, copied thousands of times on ancestry.com. Widow Mary received virtually all the estate, plantation, livestock and personal goods, after all debts were paid, and only a heifer or "cowe" left to each of the four offspring (Susanna's named "Su"). Son Thomas, then about eight years of age, clearly the second son after William, curiously, was to receive the dwelling plantation after Mary's death. How Mary ultimately specified distribution in her will of (by then) *all* her acquired properties from three husbands is addressed in her section.

Aside from Thomas' name frequently noted erroneously, as before, his parents are entered unqualified in most all trees as *Thomas Keene I* and *Elizabeth Gosnold* of Otley, Suffolk. The single reason, it appears, to speculate on them as such is the 1615 will (per two references, another in 1631) of Elizabeth's father, *Robert Gosnold*, which recorded his grandchildren *Henry* (Henery) and *Thomas Keene*, birth years unknown. He left each grandson £20 (then a *significant* sum), one researcher stating this confirmed both were of age that year to support this Thomas' undocumented birth in about 1593, although minors were commonly left inheritance (as did Thomas). The *Garner-Keene* book (GK) authors may have been the first to propose this *speculative*

parentage in 1952 (p. 187), they noting "...*may* have been the son...", but as with so much else on the Garners and Keenes, their speculation is now typically recorded, without qualification, as instead "was". With this information from a seemingly valid source, the "royal" lineage, the Gosnold connection (including *Vice Admiral Bartholomew Gosnold* of Jamestown), and little else, it makes an attractive lineage to attach to Thomas, if however so weakly supported. Unknown to me until 2018, two preeminent genealogists with the New England Historical and Genealogical Society, *Gary Boyd Roberts* and *Douglas Charles Richardson*, both authors and authorities on Americans with royal descent, also rejected this speculation prior to 2014, their full specific reasons unknown to me, but the lack of adequate documentation on this Keene/Gosnold lineage, and this Thomas, noted as one (NEHGS: *Genealogical Thoughts* - Gary Boyd Roberts #49, *Further Changes in Royal Descents*, 2000).

Aside from this entry in the Gosnold will, there is no other *confirmed* record found for this "Thomas Keene II" in England, or elsewhere, including any baptism or record of his year of birth. One record has been located which *may* be him; that of a burial in Suffolk in 1674 for a "Thomas Keene 2" (Suffolk, England, Extracted Church of England Parish Records, as transcribed, "text only" from ancestry.com). This is the correct location, name, and a reasonable date, especially if this Thomas was in fact born in the early 1600s, as thought. His older brother, later *Sir Henry*, is recorded in various English records with later two, perhaps three, marriages and offspring, but his date of birth also remains unknown. Those records, however, *suggest* to me he and Thomas II were born up to perhaps a decade after the speculative 1592 and 1593 entered in most trees. The dates of birth, marriage, and death of Thomas Keene I, and Elizabeth Gosnold also remain unknown/unconfirmed, the dates noted on Find a Grave and elsewhere unsupported by any known record.

Several researchers have noted the obvious major problem in recording this speculative parentage; the Thomas Keene of later Maryland and Virginia was both illiterate and a tradesman, a cooper. Sons of the upper class in England, even second sons without inheritance or title, typically still received good educations and often became "gentlemen", sometimes in the practice of law, for example. The confirmed facts of "our" Thomas Keene then make his descent from this family implausible, and if the Keene/Gosnold connection is retained at all, should be specifically entered as *unproven and speculative*.

Mary Thorley(?), her surname actually *unproven*, per all found to date, is *thought* to have been born *about* 1621 in the southern Virginia Colony although England remains possible. As with Thomas Keene, almost nothing can be determined (*proven*) of her prior to about 1638 when she married, although some records have been found, and historical context, to offer some plausible speculations. The primary initial source for information about her is (again) GK. In that book the primary reference/speculation to her as a Thorley is the will of *Edward Thorley*, who died in Anne Arundel Co., MD in 1678-79. In his will (MD. Cal. Wills, Vol. I, p. 212) signed on 11 Dec 1678 with his mark, "ET", probated on 10 Feb 1678/9, he notes his "cousin" Thomas Keene (*assumed* Thomas II), "cousin" at that time also including nephews. This Thomas is then assumed, *speculatively*, with acceptable reason, to be Mary's son with Thomas Keene as no other Keene/Thorley marriage and no other Thomas Keene is found in Maryland or Virginia in any record of that period. The will notes "personalty" as left to Thomas, and that typically referring to miscellaneous unspecified personal items, but *might* include slaves. One researcher insists that it was a slave, but does not provide any source to support that conclusion. The one rather serious difficulty with this record is that Edward's signing of his will dates from Dec 1678 and Thomas II *appears* to have died several months earlier, before 17 April 1678 when his will was "presented" in court (North. O.B. 3, p. 354). The will itself is unfortunately noted as lost. That he was still entered in Edward's will after his death is unexplained and was (curiously) not commented upon by the GK authors, their reasons unknown. It remains possible that Edward's will was written months before his signing and death, and it simply not changed, Thomas' inheritance minor overall. When the previously noted New World "Surrey branch" of the Keenes was determined in Maryland, the records were searched to see if there was a Thomas among them who might then fit with Edward's will, but none was found. If another potential Thomas Keene ever is, then that could change everything we *think* we know about Mary and put us firmly up against another brick wall for her and her possible sisters, noted following.

Although this record is by itself inconclusive and the case for her surname only circumstantial, especially with the discrepancy on Thomas Keene II, the surname Thorley is now *generally* accepted by most researchers, but should not be deemed proven without question, only *somewhat likely*. Many trees note the nickname “Margie”, one nickname for Margaret, which, *if correct*, might suggest that her full name was *Mary Margaret Thorley*, but I can find no valid source for this nickname, it only found, unsupported, on the internet and in public trees. Another related and repeated error in many trees is that her name was *definitively* “Mary M Thorley”, some then assigning Margie as her middle name and that unsupported. Mary was illiterate as was Thomas, and “signed” her will as he did, and with only her mark, **M** (his as noted, **T**) sometimes inserted between the written (by others) first and surname, or simply noted as such, hers also underscored as shown. Her name was then recorded by some as Mary **M** Broughton, and misunderstood as an actual signature with a middle initial, which it was not, only a convention of the time as written by another and her mark inserted. All we can say with *any reasonable assurance* at all is that she was simply *Mary Thorley*. Some trees also include a middle name Elizabeth, but without any known factual basis. The GK authors specifically said they assumed the noted Edward to be Mary’s *brother*, but somehow this source data was misconstrued and now this same Edward (and his wife Mary, maiden name unknown), is recorded in most all trees as instead her *father*, then noted as born in about 1590-95 in England (unsourced), his wife (usually) *Mary Ross* (unconfirmed), and his death in 1678 (date of will) in Anne Arundel Co. MD at an age well into his eighties, his wife surviving him, and with three young sons (*not yet eighteen* per his will) plus daughters also noted. One possibility, which may be researched further, is that the Mary noted in his will may have been his second wife, and not the mother of all his noted offspring. A supplemental section on Edward is attached including his likely descendants.

Much posted is clearly a *complete misinterpretation of the actual records and source data*, some of which was long included in the Find a Grave memorial for Mary (now *partly* finally corrected after repeated messages to the memorial’s creator) plus other accounts, despite notation being made of this on ancestry.com and elsewhere long ago. Another story is attached to this tree from member *WilliamHorsley93* posted in 2008, which notes and clarifies all the above, noting another source, which also notes Edward’s father as a “Henry Thorley” of Wadsworth, Surrey, England, but without further information or documentation. No other reference to the noted source, *The Keene Family Genealogy* prepared by Harvey Stedman, 1958, can be found. Two Henry Thorleys were found, born in 1596 and 1599 in England, but cannot to date be linked to the possible Thorley siblings. There is no known record to confirm who Mary and Edward’s father was if they were siblings and nothing to confirm Edward’s date of birth, although I suspect he was older, also possibly born in the Virginia colony, but unconfirmed. Two researchers noted specifically James City, but did not identify a reason or source. A single “arrival” record (text only) was found for a *James Thorley* in Virginia in 1622, the specific full source noted as *Lists of the Livinge (sic) & the Dead in Virginia, February 16, 1623* – Colonial Records of Virginia, Richmond, VA, 1874, pp. 37-66. The “text only” abstract is not specific as James then “living or dead” upon that date, and did not include a specific location. The full transcription, however, of the *Good Friday Massacre* of 1622 record from "The Records of the Virginia Company of London", pgs. 565-571, Volume III, 1933, US Government Printing Office, reflects his death at *Martin’s Hundred, Jamestown*, seven miles from James City in the native massacre that year. The deaths of both spouses and children are noted with other individuals, but James is noted alone and a full search of all the living and dead found no other Thorleys. As others found this record long before me, and no other Thorley was ever noted (or if so, not mentioned...a *significant* and unlikely omission), I *assume* no evidence was found for a Thorley spouse or offspring, either living or dead, by previous researchers either. It was not uncommon in some of these early records to list only the “primary” male, but would seem more than a bit odd in this instance with other family listed providing a full accounting as was intended at the time following the massacre.

James has now been entered into my tree, regardless, noted as a qualified *speculative* father, not because he is an especially good candidate, but rather only as no other Thorleys have been found in any records from the period, no other records for James, and certainly no other Edwards (or Henrys) found. As Mary married Thomas Keene between 1638 and 1640, it *appears* on Kent Island, then still claimed by Virginia, if Mary was

born in the southern colony, she somehow had to make the move to Kent Island before about age eighteen. Despite the lack of a record for any surviving family for James in 1622, I would still consider the *possibility* that the “Thorleys” (James the biological father, and deceased), and the unknown widowed mother (and perhaps the widow’s second husband?) *may* have moved to Kent Island with the offspring, and could have been among the earlier settlers there from the southern colony sometime after its founding in 1631. With the accounts for the initial period of settlement, which do *not* include females or families, appearing correct, then these “Thorleys”(?) would have likely arrived later, perhaps nearer 1635-36. As with so much else, this remains undocumented and only speculative, and if James’ *wholly speculative* widow *did* survive and remarry, we also have no marriage record and no search parameters for the name of her second husband. The obvious, and major, problem with all of this is that we have all been pursuing only *Thorleys*, based on the one inconclusive record of Edward’s will, and that may not have been Mary’s surname, nor Edward her brother. She, and her possible sister(s) (following sections), could have been born in the southern colony, even orphaned in the massacre, and both them and their parents, living or dead, listed in the noted record, but we again have no idea of what any alternate surname may have been. With no other options to pursue, we can then only address what the few available records may suggest going forward. As time (and energy) allows, I will at some point review the living and dead of 1622, as that is the correct time frame, and see if any names/descriptions can be connected later to Kent Island, a long, tedious, and possible futile effort, but which just might offer some alternate hints or *possibilities*, although very unlikely any proof.

Any speculation on Mary (or any siblings) being born in the southern colony about plus/minus 1620 then also almost certainly requires that any father, James or another, had most likely to have been a freeman at that time given the restrictions on marriage of indentured servants. As a great many early immigrants were indentured, we can safely speculate any father may have been, and if married by about 1618, would then have had to have arrived at least four years earlier to complete his typical contract. The previously noted disparity between males and females in the colony led to the Virginia Company actually initiating the first “mail order bride” program, sometimes referred to a “tobacco wives”...recruiting young women in England, paying for their transport, and providing other substantial incentives for immigration, including fifty acres of land. Upon their arrival, they were given their choice of (desperate) husbands, who were to repay the cost of transport upon marriage, encouraging a selection of a husband relatively well-off enough to pay. They were, however, still free to choose as they wished, and if they selected a husband who could not repay immediately, all that was asked was that it *eventually* be repaid. The *kidnapping* also noted previously was not limited to males, and for many of the same reasons females as young as sixteen were still being forcibly transported as late as 1684 and sold into indenture, whose “freedom” (and possible marriage) could then be purchased in the colonies. Any discussion and/or speculation on any parents for Mary in the New World should include this scenario as one possibility given the conditions and timeframe. Accounts of the Virginia Company’s initial group of 140 Jamestown “wives” beginning in 1620 also note the same dismal mortality rates elsewhere in the colony as a whole, so few survived.

Any potential first marriage for Thomas Keene could have been under similar circumstances, and as we really have *nothing at all confirmed* of Mary prior to her marriage, not even her surname, it is interesting to consider if she could have been one of these later “wives”, Kent Island also primarily still overwhelmingly male in that period and active “recruitment” of single women as young as fifteen continuing into the 1680s when the ratio of men to women in Virginia was still about three to one. As she simply seems to first appear on island about 1638 marrying a man easily old enough to be her father does seem a bit unlikely, but as before, we have always just primarily searched for a *Thorley*, having no other name, and arrival or other records might be found if we knew another “Mary” to look for. The women recruited are noted as frequently orphaned or widowed and were “screened” as to character, “...received...upon good recommendation”, and although frequently poor, not desperate. Two interesting facts associated with these wives that might relate to Mary are the acreage granted and the additional incentives provided that gave these women more legal equality with their husbands...much more so than in England. Any acreage granted to her could have accounted in part (half) for Thomas’ grant in

1640, and per later records for Mary as a widow, she retained the property of her first two deceased husbands when she married Thomas Broughton and then also could dictate inheritance as she wished...those special legal considerations noted as given these wives. Any possibility that this is correct would most likely exclude Edward Thorley as her brother, but not necessarily exclude one possibly sister, Jane, as noted following.

This possible scenario for Mary, or most any other, may tell us something of Thomas Keene; certainly that he was a freeman at the time of the marriage, probably somewhat well off in his trade although not yet recorded as owning land. Per his will of 1652, he appears to have charged 25 lbs. of tobacco to fabricate one empty hogshead...a healthy price for the time. With so many other available men nearer Mary's age, he was obviously still deemed a "good choice" regardless, which I would like to think was more than an economic decision and reflected on his character, plus probably his relative health and appearance. One, of several, good sources on the women recruited to the colonies is *Lonely Colonist Seeks Wife: The Forgotten History of America's First Mail Order Brides* by Marcia A. Yablon-Zug, J.D., Duke Journal of Gender Law & Policy, Volume 20:85, 2012 - <https://scholarship.law.duke.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1236&context=djglp> These women were easily as courageous as any male in their decision to immigrate and vital to the eventual success of the colonies, their role long overlooked. While many men hoped to earn fortunes in the colonies and then return to England, the women came hoping to build new lives, families, and remain.

One possible remaining option for Mary's biological parents, Thorleys or not, is that they were both born in England, married there, and immigrated together, then perhaps having all their offspring afterwards in the colony. Without *any* records, however, there remain other alternatives, one being one/two (?) of the possible siblings born in England to the already married couple and a *family* immigrating. We simply do not know and many records of the period included only the *primary* immigrant (husband and/or father) as may have been the case in this instance.

Absent all but these speculations, Mary and all her potential siblings are now recorded in my tree as born in simply "Virginia Colony(?)" that covering this portion of British North America for the period, and of course ruling out Kent Island, or anywhere in Maryland as a place of birth, as not settled until 1631 and 1634, a decade or longer after Mary's estimated birth.

In Edward Thorley's will, he notes property purchased in 1673 in then Talbott County, MD (now Queen Anne's) on the Eastern Shore, which then included Kent Island, suggesting perhaps his prior presence in some capacity there, some attachment to the area, *perhaps* some prior ownership or even an inheritance of property there at one time (he the only suggested son). He may then have lived for a portion of time on or near Kent Island as a younger man, despite his later eventual move to Anne Arundel, date unknown. With the known history of his now potential *three sisters* (noted below), if these assumptions are correct, they reinforce the speculation that the Thorley siblings (with their parent(s?), one perhaps a stepfather, may have arrived on the island after 1631, certainly by at least about 1637. Also see the supplement on Edward as attached.

Wholly serendipitous, in 2018, with the work of other researchers, specifically *Mary E. Watson Price* and the *couchtwins*, additional records were found not noted by the GK authors, which both add *some* support to Mary as a Thorley and have provided some further assessment of her possible early history. Two likely additional Thorley siblings were proposed in their research, sisters, one certainly having lived on Kent Island, and the now *three* sisters and their spouses perhaps all neighbors there at one time. Those two likely sisters are:

- *Jane (Thorely?) Bashaw/Perry*, died abt 1650 in Northumberland County, VA. She was twice married and, interestingly, her granddaughter, *Jane Joyce*, married *John Garner Jr.* Her daughter by her second marriage, *Elizabeth Perry*, is also noted in her (speculative) aunt, (then) Mary Broughton's, will of 1662. One minor suggestive record for Jane as Mary's sister is also that she named one daughter "Margarett", and that possibly for *Mary Margaret*, as speculated for her sister. Her first husband, *Giles Basha/Bashaw* (abt 1610- by 1643), was "one of Claiborne's band", and he clearly placed early on Kent Island where he later died, but no record found of when he married Jane, assumed also on the island. Of their four offspring, their

oldest son, Andrew is estimated as born in about 1638, implying a marriage by about 1637, then also implying she was possibly older than Mary, but speculative. The last record for her on Kent Island notes her as a widow there in 1643, but she appears to have married her second husband, *Edmond Perry* (abt 1614-by 1650), on the island in *about* 1645. Interestingly, Perry had been an indentured servant on Kent Island who purchased his freedom early with 300 lbs. of tobacco paid to George Evelin in 1637, appearing in St. Mary's. They appear to have relocated from Kent Island to Northumberland by *about* 1648-50, near the same time Thomas Keene and his family relocated. As previously noted, Thomas Keene was also one appraiser of her estate on 3 Mar 1650 along with *Francis Symmonds/Simmons*, the god-father of his son Thomas II. More details on Jane can be found posted in my tree, and others, one excellent initial research summary called "What we know about Jane (Thorley)?" (by Mary Price - also see partial credits). The case for Jane as Mary's sister is reasonable, and although again, not proven, is deemed more than acceptable *speculation* and recorded in my tree as such. The case is also deemed acceptable regardless of the surname Thorley being correct for both Mary and Jane and their immigration *together* as "tobacco wives" not implausible.

- *Bridget (Thorley?) Nevill*, died abt 1643 in Calvert County, MD. She died young with no recorded offspring, possibly in childbirth. Her husband, *John Nevill* was an early settler of Maryland, recorded in St. Mary's, and *may* have been for a time on Kent Island. He remarried after Bridget's early death. The primary record found for her, which remains partly unexplained, is that John (not yet her husband), in his later deposition, "transported" her *to Maryland* in 1639, her name noted in the record as Bridget "Thorsbey" (as transcribed, so questionable), and that surname variation appearing the primary basis for this speculation. What might explain this record, in part, is that John transported her from Kent Island to Calvert County, as others were "transported" within the colony, and they married in Calvert not long afterwards. If that is correct, it keeps all the *potential* sisters together on Kent Island prior to their respective marriages. No confirmed location for Bridget and John's marriage can be found, however, only certainly "Maryland", and there is nothing to determine from where/to in Maryland (if *from* Maryland at all, not Virginia) he transported her. With the transport record, she is speculated to have been then perhaps eighteen (at least), when transported and married by about 1639/1640, so she possibly also slightly older than Mary. The case for Bridget as Mary's sibling is not nearly as strong as for Jane, but is considered *acceptable* speculation, and she also entered as such in my tree.

As of this date, these two potential additional siblings have been added to my public tree (with disclaimers) with various sources, records, comments, plus some descendants. Curiously, much information about them has been available for some time, both records and others' research, but for some reason various searches with the ancestry.com algorithm, plus provided "hints", never suggested *anything* of them on that site (for years). Most all other researchers, including the GK authors, who had also noted one or both left them segregated from Mary and/or Edward so never connected all the *potential* links, and/or never noted them.

While Mary is *assumed* to have been born about 1621, the birth years for Edward and these two potential sisters remain wholly unknown, little available to suggest who was younger or older, so have been estimated in my tree from what is acceptably inferred, Edward born *perhaps* in about 1617. All are assumed to have been born in about a five/six year period plus/minus circa 1620, but that is only a guess, and their actual birth years will likely never be determined. With now four possible siblings on Kent Island, two confirmed, this supports the possible scenario that their parents (perhaps one a *stepparent*), whomever they may have been, moved there sometime after 1631 from elsewhere in the VA colony as noted. If one accepts Thomas as Mary's brother, it seems also more likely that all the potential siblings were born in southern Virginia, later moved, and met and, at least in two cases, married their spouses on Kent Island.

All of the Thorley(?) siblings known or thought to have been on Kent Island also departed at some point for either Northumberland in VA, or other MD counties on the Western Shore. Thomas and Mary's marriage appears and is *thought* to have been on Kent Island regardless, but is actually unconfirmed. The turmoil during the period and dispute over the island between VA and MD, began in 1632, actual fighting (with deaths)

occurring there in 1634, the island finally “seized” back by MD in 1638, but remained in dispute for years afterwards. The full history offers some potential explanation for some of the Keene’s movements, and *possibly* the other Thorley related family moves too, by the time the island was finally officially “awarded” to Maryland by the Crown in 1649, Thomas and his family leaving about that time and moving to Northumberland. As noted, his departure suggests to me that he wished to remain a “Virginian”, and not become a “Marylander”, for whatever reasons, possibly one a continuing loyalty to Claiborne. *Edmund Perry* appears to have shared the sentiment, also moving to VA with widowed Jane, but Edward Thorley and John Nevill, with Bridget, of course, chose to remain in MD, but ultimately moved to the western shore.

GK and other sources also note Mary’s marriage to Thomas Keene as “before 1638”, some 1638-40, but do not indicate their reasons. If the speculative date of her birth, about 1621, is correct, and married in 1638, she was only seventeen, and Thomas about forty-five per his deposition in 1648...a bit early for Mary perhaps, but not improbable, and other similar marriages recorded in that era of men marrying much younger women. Her birth in *about* 1621 is further supported to a degree by her later two marriages after Thomas’ death in 1652, her age then generally in alignment with those of the two later husbands (both also much younger than Thomas Keene).

As little or none of this can be proven, everyone since GK of 1952 also hampered by a complete lack of early records, there is yet another *possibility*, partially supported, that has not been previously noted to my knowledge, so I will take the leap; Thomas Keene met and married Mary in 1638 in *St. Mary’s County* while he was working there for Evelin, then returned to Kent Island with her, where he claimed fifty acres each for himself and his bride, equaling his patent of 1640. As it appears Thomas did not remain long in St. Mary’s, returning probably no later than 1639, he then had about two years to claim the acreage and receive the patent, and 100 acres was typically granted for two individuals, not one. As with so much else, there is however no record of Thomas returning, nor claiming land, only his patent, which we do know took some time to obtain. If not *granted* the land, then the option appears to have been a purchase, but once again, no record is found.

If correct, this raises even more questions on the Thorleys(?) in general, but that Kent Island figured in their history, certainly Mary and Jane, likely Edward and *possibly* Bridget, is reasonably clear, but nothing else. Perhaps their path to Kent Island was from the VA colony to first St. Mary’s at some point after its founding in 1632. As all accounts note few females (thus families) on Kent Island in the early years, so if, when, and how, any of the Keene siblings, *probably* orphaned (at least their father), might have first arrived there will almost certainly never be determined and period accounts on how orphans were dealt with vary. Many orphans without *any* surviving parent, however, became *pauper apprentices*, placed by the courts with families, and raised to adulthood in a legal status of indentured servitude. If that was the case with the Thorley sisters, they were likely released (some scholars use the term *freed*) by possibly age eighteen. Likewise, prior to one land record of 1670-71 in Anne Arundel, we have no records for Edward Thorley, so if he was also in St. Mary’s, also “apprenticed”, then later on Kent Island remains speculative, and, if so, we also have no idea why or when he moved there and later to Anne Arundel Co., back across the bay. With the options of an unknown stepfather or they all fully orphaned, retaining their surname is not inconsistent with other records, all the Keene siblings, for example, also retaining their given surname after Mary’s following two marriages and all initially still children. One additional speculation (not mine) on the Thorley siblings being orphaned, their surname actually “Orley”, and requiring a father, *Thomas Orley*, is attached in Further Notes.

From what is known, regardless, Mary and Jane (*if* sisters) had certainly maintained their relationship, and Edward (*if* Mary’s brother) also had also maintained knowledge of and contact with her. Of Bridget, we just do not know and she died young in any case. It seems somewhat unlikely that one family would take in four young orphans, but perhaps two females, so the siblings may have been split up, but St. Mary’s was a very small place in the mid 1630s (as was Kent Island). As Maryland asserted its claim to Kent Island, more “Marylanders” also moved to the island, possibly some Thorley siblings with those families. Early arrival records to the island (few) might then be unlikely to include underage indentured females by name, often just the primary “immigrant”. Given their status in the period, they almost certainly remained “attached” to an adult or family in

some manner up until their marriages, an unmarried young woman of even eighteen having limited options in conducting her life as an independent adult. As it remains *somewhat* unusual for Mary to have married a man easily old enough to be her father, perhaps there were other motives at play, indenture another possibility.

The first record specific to Mary in Northumberland is that of 10 March 1652/3, previously noted, where she redundantly claimed acreage for Thomas, herself, and two offspring, that in advance of Thomas' posthumous grant of deed. At some point after Thomas' death, Mary first remarried a *Henry Raynor* (or Rayner/Rainer, spellings varying in records), about 1618 – before 1658, about whom little is known, except that he was appointed constable for Chicacone (east of Cherry Point Neck) in Sept of 1652. There is nothing known to suggest what year they married, but he did not live long afterwards, no more than about four years at most, and it resulting in no recorded offspring. Upon his death, he appears to have left half of his 240 acres of property to Mary (and her unnamed children), the other half assigned to a *William Hopkins* (North. R.B.15, pg. 19). On 22 March 1658, the same day of that land record (R.B. 15, pg. 20), Mary signed a prenuptial agreement (*very unusual*) with *Thomas Broughton*, about 1622-1661, with the marriage assumed following shortly thereafter. All three husbands were listed in the 1652 Oath of Allegiance previously noted, and per some sources all likely knew each other well in life, Raynor also listed as a witness on Thomas Keene's will and owing him a debt. One interesting record from 21 Feb 1658 (North. R.B. 15, pg.103) the same day she was name administratrix of his estate (same source and page, separate record), is "Mary Raynor" granted 500 acres of land for the transporting of ten persons "into this county", per the original one appearing to be *Henry Raynor* (not first, but down on the list). This requires further research, but it appears the transport was actually provided by her late husband and claimed by her after his death. To date, no other references to this acreage have been found...none legible in her will, nor anywhere else afterwards. As Henry was also in Northumberland in 1652, and if he is claiming himself here, among others, that transport remains unexplained, and no additional date is provided that might reflect the actual date of transport, not the granting itself in 1658.

Mary's agreement with Thomas was primarily that she (and assumed her children) would retain the rights to her inherited lands, "...keep her property...in the honorable estate of Marriage", those from both Thomas Keene and Henry Raynor. Thomas Broughton, the subject of another narrative attached in this tree, had been previously married and widowed, and left his assets to Mary and her children, he having no heirs. He had also figured in some significant way in the early life John Garner, Susanna Keene's husband. Thomas died less than three years after the marriage, prior to 6 June 1661 per a court record for Mary of that date noting her as his "widow and relict" and (successfully) petitioning that administration of his estate be granted her (North. O.B. 2, p. 278). That suggests Thomas left no will, perhaps dying suddenly, and none is found, but Mary is known from both from her will and additional records to have inherited his 300 acres in Northumberland, its location unconfirmed, but likely, as noted (and with Raynor' land) not contiguous to the Keene farm, plus his 875 acres in Westmoreland, acquired by Thomas in Dec 1660 (noted again in a following section). Mary would survive her third husband, it appears, by less than a year.

At the time she signed her will on 2 Jan 1662/3, son Thomas II was only about seventeen and is not then noted as receiving his inheritance per his father's will of the "dwelling plantation", rather it possibly held in trust with a "loving friend", *Thomas Daniell* (noted again in the following sections), he to live there and to provide education for Thomas and Matthew for four(?) years, another confirmation for Thomas' estimated age. Per Mary's refile of the original deed of 1653 that year, it remained 527 acres. It later passed to William after Thomas died, without heirs, in about 1676, but the full history and circumstances, are unclear. The total acreage inherited from her last two husbands, appearing not contiguous with the Keene farm, is also not all clearly specifically noted, as references to Raynor's land are not legible, although 300 acres are noted separately (*appearing* Broughton's), the damaged will also unclear on that property. The mysterious 870 acres in Westmoreland County, left to her by Thomas Broughton, recorded *by Mary* on 22 July 1661, after his death (Sparacio, 1992, Northumberland Deeds, North R.B. 1658-62, pg. 59) is noted, half of that left to Thomas Daniell, and half to son Matthew, in 1662/3 still a boy of about eleven, who would be largely raised by his sister, Susanna Keene Garner and her husband, John, after Mary's death. This entire property, as left to Mary,

eventually *all* to Matthew, was later owned by John Garner and inherited by two of his sons in 1702, its full history unclear, and addressed further in other narratives on John and Thomas Broughton. This is noted as a clarification on the eventual extent of Mary's property on Cherry Point Neck (and elsewhere) as it was in her time. Also see the following section, the attached maps, and other media in the supplemental section.

As some background for the next section, it seemed appropriate to include some remarks on the dating of records in this period. At this time in England and her colonies, *both* the old Julien (OS) and new Gregorian (NS) calendars were still in use, the "old" frequently church records and the "new" noted as *more common* in civil records, although that **does not** apply for any noted here below from Northumberland from this period for whatever reasons. From the *CT State Library* (my underlines added): *To avoid misinterpretation, both the "Old Style" and "New Style" year was often used in English and colonial records for dates falling between the new New Year (January 1) and old New Year (March 25), a system known as "double dating." Such dates are usually identified by a slash mark [/] breaking the "Old Style" and "New Style" year, for example, March 19, 1631/2.* The following dates have been duplicated per either the original record if clear (and none double dated), or per the abstracts from GK or other typically valid sources. GK, and others, were not always consistent, however, some dates double dated, and others that should have been double dated not, and that having at first confused me, and still appearing to confuse others as well. Some of their abstracts were listed sequentially in various sections, but old style dating, or double dating, not always noted, the authors likely assuming an understanding by the reader. The old style typically applies to most dates in this narrative and most left as found in their original format but with double dating added in some cases for clarification.

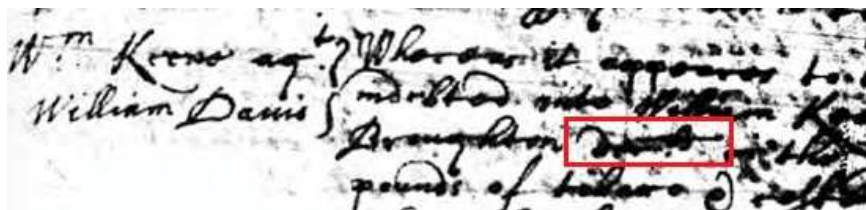
The date of Mary's death cannot be determined from available records, only an approximate range, and with one potentially conflicting record. The following are the relevant records from that period with notes, some with additional discussion following. All are listed in what is thought sequentially as *recorded*, none double dated as referenced in any originals/summaries/abstracts including those in GK and elsewhere. Double dating has been added here, however, to clarify their order.

- 6 June 1662 (as per previous source) – Mary Broughton petitions to be granted administration of Thomas Broughton's estate, granted the following month on 21 July. She was previously recorded as administratrix of Raynor's estate in Feb 1658/9.
- 21 July 1662 (North. O.B. 2, pg. 314), Mary, "ye relict and administraix of Thomas Broughton.." is discharged of the duties as administering his estate having paid "149 pounds of tobacco in cask". Note this in context with other records so *preceding* the Jan 1662/3 record of her will below.
- 23 Oct 1662 (VA L.Gr.B. 5, pg. 539), an "inquisition" is filed with the court regarding Mary's inheritance of land from Rayor and Broughton, that date *referenced* in the record of Sept 1663 below.
- 2 Jan 1662/3 (North. R.B. 15, pg. 92) – Mary signs her prepared will, with oldest son William Keene named as executor, *though not then yet of age* (not to be attained until 10 March following), but per laws of the time could be named as executor at age seventeen. Two legible items in the will are what appear Thomas Broughton's 300 acres, and certainly his 875 acre property. Rayor's property, his name noted, if specified, is not fully legible. Additional details of the will are addressed separately following.
- 10 Feb 1662/3 (North. R.B. 15, pg. 93) – the will is presented to the court and *recorded* but not noted as probated per GK (other researchers stating this *was* also the date of probate), source reference as the preceding.* GK did not speculate upon her death by this date, nor any date at all, but most all trees have included it as proof of her death between 2 Jan and 10 Feb of 1662/3 but entered as instead 1662.
- 18 March 1662/3 – (VA Land Office Patents, No. 5, 1661-1666, Vol.1 & 2, pg. 291) Thomas Keene's original deed for his 527 acres is renewed. This date, and that following of 20 April, may have been partially determined by William Keene having reached his majority on 10 March, so could be legally assigned the deed, but his name is not included in the full text (as included in tree gallery), only his father's, and not noted as deceased. No additional record is found afterwards of William retaining this property in trust for his younger brother, Thomas, slated to inherit it per his father's will, nor any other record at all, although it clearly appears eventually inherited by William.

- 20 April 1663 (North. R.B. 1658-1666, pg. 98) – William Keene (not recorded as executor in the abstract, but again assumed acting in that capacity) is assigned the long delayed deed for Thomas Broughton’s 875 acres by *William Thomas*, who had conveyed the property to Broughton in Dec 1660.**
- 21 April 1663 (North. O.B. 3, pg. 174) – a *William Davies* is recorded as owing a debt of 550 pounds of tobacco to William Keene as executor for his mother, and the original of this record *appearing* to say “Mary Broughton, **deceased**”, but that word omitted in the abstract of the record by GK. The abstract of this record was dated *1662*, inconsistent with others here, and should have been 1663. No explanation is yet found for this discrepancy but clearly this record followed her will of the previous Jan of 1662/63.
- 21 Sept 1663 (source as per 23 Oct above) – the *full* 240 acres of Henry Raynor is assigned to Mary Broughton, per the previously noted record of 22 March 1658, only half initially left to her and the other half to a *William Hopkins* (not mentioned again). Broughton’s 300 acres is also assigned to her per the same prior “inquisition”. This is the last record found that is specific to Mary Broughton, her name recorded, and per the abstract, William Keene not mentioned, nor Mary noted as deceased. As this is dated Sept and the inquisition dated Oct, this obviously had to have been the following year. The court taking almost a year on this issue alone is one of several examples found that make me question less than five weeks to fully process Mary’s will after 2 Jan 1662/3, discussed further in the following section.

* This date is noted as an especially busy day for the court, and on the same page following Mary's will is that of *Francis Symmonds/Simmons*, the god-father of Thomas Keene II. In that will, he bequeaths a calf to Thomas for 2 years of schooling. His will includes: "This will was proved & Recorded the tenth of Ffebruary 1662", but that not evident in the legible text of Mary’s will.

** Following this assignment of the deed, this property effectively vanishes from *all* records for forty years, not specifically referenced again until the will of John Garner in 1702. See following sections.



From these records one can then argue that she died after Jan 2 1662/3, *probably prior* to 10 Feb 1662/3, but *certainly prior* to 20 Apr 1663 if the deceased notation is correct as thought. The original of the record of 21 April (a portion, left), again,

appears to read “deceased” (boxed in red) following “Mary Broughton” to me, and other capable researchers concur, but it is very difficult to discern and we might be mistaken. Her death *after* 21 Sept 1663, where she is noted by name, is now deemed very unlikely and expanded upon below. Her date of death should not be confused with the signing of her will, or its recording on 10 Feb 1662, regardless, as often entered. Recording was also not a probate (that date remaining unconfirmed and *typically* preceding recording). If she had died and her will was both probated *and* recorded in so short a timeframe (five weeks) is rather *unusual*, but not infeasible, the typical probate taking about two months or longer after death at minimum, although there are again some exceptions found. Thomas Keene’s will, as noted, was probated about seven weeks after its signing, his death assumed shortly afterwards, that also rather quickly but more in line with the typical time frame. An *optional* recording of the will *could* have preceded her death, but is more speculation on my part. It is also thought that William, once legally recorded as her executor (10 Feb) even if *prior* to her death, would have had some limited power of attorney. It remains unexplained, regardless, why he was noted in only one record as her executor, but not all the records for Mary after 10 Feb 1662/3 (thought named alone in the deed assignment). With the speculation of an early recording plus acceptance of the 21 April “deceased” record we then have a range for her death of *after 2 Jan 1662/3, before 21 Apr 1663* and then have to ignore the Sept record as a legality addressed by William as executor (*perhaps* with assistance from Thomas Daniell?), even if Mary’s name is specific to the record, not recorded as deceased, and William’s name unreferenced. The 2 Jan, not 10 Feb date, is still used here as it remains quite possible she died prior to the will being presented to the court for recording, probate then possibly following afterwards, but that not changing my *questioning* of her death before 10 Feb because the recording necessarily proves it.

Why in the 21 Sep 1663 record, eleven months after the inquisition, all acreage is assigned to *Mary Broughton* by name, needs no convoluted explanation if we simply accept its assignment to her estate, though William again not noted. Two examples (of several) of precedence for this assumption are, one, the noted renewal of Thomas Keene's deed in 1662 (without further notation to heirs), and two, a record for Susanna Keene, who was granted her inheritance by her guardian and step-father Thomas Broughton in "1659" (North. R.B. 15, pg. 30), which appears to have been *after* her marriage to John Garner, but she recorded as *Keene* as noted in her father's will. This, plus others found, suggests to me that if one was noted by a given name in a legal document any subsequent legal record relative to that grant or will, for example, would *repeat* the name as first recorded...married, deceased, or not, but sometimes with additional notation. Although my having only the abstracts of many of these records at this time, the full originals perhaps adding more useful information (such as the omitted "deceased" noted), it does not seem to me too great a stretch to *consistently* accept everything from 20 Apr 1663 onward as relative to Mary's estate and/or executor, not Mary herself, and rule out any reasonable possibility she survived until after Sept 1663. I will, however, still note this record in my tree, qualified and explained, so that others may draw their own conclusions.

There are, I think, some acceptable reasons to speculate that *Thomas Daniell* actually "wrote" her will on her behalf and could have also been in part responsible for its rapid recording and possible probate. If it was presented to the court and recorded intentionally in advance of her death, that a legal option, he may have been instrumental in that as well. With other's research, something has been learned of him, noted in Mary's will as, among other things, her "loving friend", and known *about* her age or perhaps a bit older. He may have been an attorney or professional, certainly appearing well educated, as involved in many land transactions between 1643 and 1664, and possibly having had links with the Keenes going back to perhaps Kent Island. I would *speculate* that he may have been an influence in both her *unusual* prenuptial agreement (per some reliable sources, actually *questionably legal* as husbands owned their spouses land by right unless a "tobacco bride with legal privilege) aside from her will and the feasible early recording...perhaps more, such as her claim for deceased Henry Raynor's transport of ten persons, as some of the records for her suggest some *astute legality*, with all due respect, unlikely hers or young William Keene's. Aside from the will assigning Daniell privileges and responsibility for her then two underage sons, she also *very* generously left him half of the noted "eight hundred and some odd acres" (actual 875), which ultimately passed entirely to Matthew, then John Garner most likely well before 1702, the full details unclear. I have personally rejected any question of Daniell's motives or his possible manipulation of Mary for this acreage. That he appears to have been a "high born" son (but not first son) and (eventually) *very* wealthy, at least by 1676, with an inheritance of a large family estate in Middlesex, England, is part of this...he hardly needed the additional acreage and may have simply later deferred entirely to the Keene son although no later record is found. *Very* interestingly (and again thanks to fellow researchers), an aside to this is that "(my) loving friend" was a term used among Quakers for other brethren, that faith then illegal to practice in Virginia. *Gervaise Dodson* (who had claimed Susanna Keene) was a known Quaker as was his wife, and her first husband, Thomas Salisbury. One might then speculate that Thomas Daniell, and also Mary Broughton were Quakers or at the least sympathetic. In June 1660, Dodson, though a major land owner of some importance in the county, had been publicly whipped (20 lashes) with some others of his faith who had met secretly (they *thought*) in Wicomico Parish. This could generate an entire new series of speculations, beginning with Mary's possible adoptive parent(s), something of Dodson's relationship with the Keenes and claiming the headright for Susanna, and more, but I will defer (and if you have come this far, aren't you relieved?). My immediate thought, however, was of apparent "conformist" and likely Anglican Thomas Keene, and how he and Mary might have (assumed discreetly) dealt with her possible Quaker faith.

The original of Mary's will is badly damaged making complete transcriptions impossible (original attached in my gallery), and it appears *significant* information has been lost. An abstract from *Virginia Colonial Abstracts, 1632-1810 – Northumbria Collectanea, 1645-1720, A-L*, Beverly Fleet, 1988 notes the will containing a "P", meaning likely *presented, proved or probated*, assumed added to the recorded copy, but I am personally uncertain on this, and the meaning (and date) of the P (which I cannot find in the original). With all alternates,

possible explanations, speculations, and qualifications aside, the available one-liner for her death on my tree page will simply now be entered as “bef. 10 Feb 1662/3”, her age only about forty-one, but an alternate death entered as entered as “bef. 21 Apr 1663”. This alternate will be explained, regardless, and specifically noted as within about two plus months after she signed her will. That, of course, does not rule out her death by Feb 10...rather just extends the possible time frame, and few are likely to be too concerned with this minor variation now three hundred and fifty years plus later.

One important fact in the will is that as of the date she wrote it, she specifically noted her daughter Susanna then married to *John Gardner* (Garner) and had a daughter (“my Grand Child”) *appearing* then two years old, the wording not entirely clear due missing or illegible text. If correct, as it appears, this further narrows the date John and Susanna married, working back from January two years and allowing for a normal pregnancy meaning they had to have married and conceived this child by no later than March of 1659, and that not typically noted (also omitted in GK). This daughter was most certainly *Mary Garner*, John and Susanna’s firstborn, and most likely named for her grandmother. Another interesting fact drawn from the will is that Mary had servants at the time she wrote it, plus between the will and other records, owned almost 2000 acres of property upon her death, almost 1200 inherited from Thomas Broughton alone. With her unresolved grant of Raynor’s additional 500 acres, the total is then nearer 2500. Although she died at age only about forty-one, she had come a very long way from the possibly orphaned teenage bride of about 1639, survived three husbands, and lived to see at least her firstborn granddaughter, and probably firstborn grandson, *John Garner Jr.* Transcriptions of both Mary’s and Thomas’ wills are attached to this narrative with some notes added.

Thomas and Mary were survived by their four documented offspring, the three oldest born on Kent Island prior to their departure, and one born in Northumberland, the minimal basics (only) noted here as follows:

- Susanna Keene: born about 1640-41 on Kent Island, died about 1716. GK unfortunately listed Susanna as the third born, their reasons unknown, while others (chauvinistically) listed their sons first, then daughter, that often a convention in wills of the 17th century and not reflecting the actual order of birth except if segregated by gender first. Despite other researchers noting her as the first born, supported by various records, many continue to note her as much younger, erroneously estimating a date of birth of about 1646. Among other things, her mother and stepfather would most likely not have allowed a *thirteen year old child* to marry in 1659. Susanna was *about* eighteen when she married, and that typical for that time, although there are some (few) noted exceptions. She left no will, but her property was inventoried, and that the basis for this year of death. Susanna and John Garner had ten offspring, three daughters and seven sons.
- William Keene: born 10 Mar 1642, died 8 Feb 1684. His birth and death dates are known as his above-ground burial vault survives and the imported marble slab placed upon it is inscribed with this information, including his birth on Kent Island, the stone saying “Kent in Maryland”). He married *Elizabeth Rogers* (she later widowed and remarrying). He was his mother’s executor, confirmed from the previously noted record for him of Apr 1662. He appears to have initially inherited what had been Thomas Broughton’s three hundred acres, its location unknown, and *eventually* the original Keene farm of 527 acres. That appears to have been after the death of his younger brother, Thomas II, but the details are unclear and this assumption unproven. By right of marriage, he had also inherited his deceased father-in-law’s farm, later(?) “Cypress Farm”, acreage unknown, which was adjacent to the Keene farm (see attached media). William and Elizabeth had six offspring, two sons and four daughters.
- Thomas Keene II (or Jr.): born *about* 1645 (*latest* possible date), died before 17 Apr 1678. His birth year is estimated, he not yet of age per a court record of 5 May 1665, but was certainly born on Kent Island. That record also noted his sister’s husband, John Garner, as his legal guardian. The death date noted is based on the record of his will “presented” in court, so his death assumed prior to that date, although no records are found. That this date *preceded* the writing of the will of his supposed uncle, Edward Thorley, has been commented upon, and remains unresolved. Another record of a debt owed by his *estate* and noting him as deceased was dated 18 Feb 1679. There is no record he ever married or left any legal heirs, nor any record he actually acquired the Keene “dwelling plantation” as specified in his father’s will.

- Matthew Keene: born about 1651, died about 1731. His birth year is estimated, but was most certainly after the Keenes' arrived in Northumberland. This year of death is assumed from the probate of his will, 14 Apr 1731. Several accounts note John and Susanna Garner taking over the raising of Matthew after his mother's death, he then only about eleven years of age, although Thomas Daniell was also noted as assigned some responsibility per Mary's will. He married *Bridget Essex* (speculative but very likely), and had one known daughter, Elizabeth. He moved to Stafford Co. by 1672 as a young man, his inherited 875 acres in Westmoreland appearing conveyed to John Garner sometime *well before* John's death in 1702, the date unknown, which was then inherited by two of John's sons, reconfirmed "as just and right" by court records per Matthew and his attorney in April 1706 (West. D&W, Vol. 3-4, pgs. 1701-1709). The full account of the known history of this acreage, acquired by Thomas Broughton in 1660, is the subject of another narrative attached in this tree.

Which son eventually inherited (Raynor's?) 500 Northumberland acres claimed by Mary in 1658 remains unknown. There is simply no additional record found to date to suggest *anything* further of that acreage but as it was granted to her, was almost certainly passed on within the family.

As one should note, none of the Keene sons were named *James*, both *speculative* fathers of Thomas and Mary with that name. Edward Thorley also did not name *any* of his sons James either, and none of Mary's sons were named *Edward*. While this is hardly conclusive, neither does it support *any* of the noted speculations. Searches with various parameters left just no Thorleys found except James anywhere in the English colonies prior the records noted for first Mary, and then Edward, Jane and Bridget excluded as unconfirmed.

Thomas' and Mary's burial locations are not known. Although there is the documented "burial ground", still extant, at the "head of (now) Garners Creek", originally "Keene's Creek", where later William Keene, among others, were buried, there is *no evidence* Thomas was buried there, nor later his widow, Mary. It may have been an established family plot first dating from Thomas' death, but if so, any other conventional markers, including those of possibly Mary's two later husbands, have long since vanished, perhaps overturned/overgrown and now only the later extant above ground vaults evident. GK noted this site in 1952 as on "Cypress Farm", that the name assigned to the property of William Keene's father-in-law, *John Rogers*, which William acquired by marriage. That name *may* have been assigned long after even William's time, and if the site was actually on Thomas Keene's property in 1653 cannot be determined, although it *appears* so (Keene property abutting the creek, thus its original name). William may have merged the properties and the name (at some point) applied to both. There is today an unrelated much later home thought to be on the site of the original Rogers property, *possibly* still called Cypress Farm (noted as such on one USGS map in 2018), but this burial location appears no longer associated with it and is reported as on property now owned by a Richmond, VA corporation.



One encouraging fact from a more recent photo of the site, left, of about 2018 and posted on ancestry (photographer undetermined), against one taken a few years earlier is that it has been significantly cleaned up, the tree having fallen on one vault removed, and it appears now being maintained to some degree, by whom, unknown. The latest 2020 photos now posted on Find a Grave also support this. A forensic survey of the site could determine if others are buried near these vaults, and the total number, others conducted on similar sites resulting in many new graves found. This has

been discussed with other Keene descendants, but permission, logistics, and cost, have placed that on hold for the time being (and maybe forever). There are many recorded examples of burial grounds on family farms, yet

their locations forgotten and lost over time. Thomas and Mary's may be one of them, if not here, still somewhere nearby on what was once the Keene Farm.

Much of what has been included here is just factual (or speculative) only, there being little to really tell us anything of a more personal nature about Thomas or Mary. Many historians' accounts of the period are also a bit dry, to say the least, but one vivid firsthand personal account of the Virginia colony by an *outside observer* has been found relevant to the general period, though from over twenty years after Mary's death. One Huguenot refugee in Virginia during 1686, *Durand de Dauphiné*, having fled France, arrived at the North River separating Mathews and Gloucester Counties on Sept 22, 1686. The idea of settling in Virginia was intriguing to the Frenchman. As some "flavor" and interest, some excerpts from his journal are included as follows:

The land is so rich & so fertile that when a man has fifty acres of ground, two men-servants, a maid & some cattle, neither he nor his wife do anything but visit among their neighbors. Most of them do not even take the trouble to oversee the work of their slaves, for there is no house, however modest, where there is not what is called a Lieutenant, generally a freedman, under whose commands two servants are placed. This Lieutenant keeps himself, works & makes his two servants work, & receives one-third of the tobacco, grain, & whatever they have planted, & thus the master has only to take his share of the crops.

Occasionally de Dauphiné comments about the women of Virginia:

When a man runs through his property he exhausts that of his wife also, and this is not unjust for the women show the way in drinking and smoking. They spend most of their time visiting one another.

With tobacco they buy lands, hire and buy cattle; and as they can secure all they want with this commodity they become so lazy that they even import from England their linen and their hats, their women's clothes and their shoes...

They could make also woolen cloth as good as that in England, and there are beaver skins to make hats, and leather to make shoes, and flax to make linen. On arriving I saw as good and as fine flax growing in Virginia as there is in Europe, but they let it waste after having gathered it, because there is not a woman in all the country who knows how to spin...

When I went to church (all their churches are in the woods) I saw the parson and all the congregation smoking in the churchyard while waiting for the hour of service. When the sermon was over they did the same thing before separating. There are seats provided in the churchyards for this purpose. It was here that I saw that everyone smoked, women and girls and boys down to the age of seven years...

And yet, even when they live not 500 yards from the church, they mount their horses to go there. The women ride like the men, always at a canter. I was astonished how they held themselves on.

From: *A Frenchman in Virginia; Being the Memoirs of a Huguenot Refugee in 1686, Translated by a Virginian* – Published originally in 1687, Privately Printed, Richmond, Virginia, © Fairfax Harrison 1923 – available in full online from the Library of Congress and now copyright free.

Monsieur de Dauphiné may have returned to Europe, but his later history appears unknown. He seemed unaware of the import/export facts of the time (and manufacture actually discouraged in the colonies), largely dictated by England, so some comments are obviously perhaps a bit unfair, but others providing some interesting insights. He is, however, also describing a Virginia decades after the brutal early years of the colony, much of the worst of that then long past (overall still high relative mortality rates excepted). We all tend to *think* we have something of a good image of what our colonial ancestors might have been like from all the media we have been exposed to for years, but most of those are only fictionalized stereotypes...I think more so the women as typically portrayed. From various bits and pieces, including de Dauphiné's account, we could imagine Mary as a gentle Quaker, eventually somewhat well-to-do, in her imported English clothes, hat, and shoes, but we really don't have the slightest idea of what she or Thomas Keene were really like. I personally prefer a more energetic image of my ninth great grandmother as a widowed thirty something...a hard riding, clay pipe smoking drinker, who kept up with, or was ahead of the men, still attracting two more husbands, and outliving them both.

The twin sisters Carol and Cynthia, the conchtwins, need to be specifically mentioned here again (and also in the partial credits), as having graciously suffered through two reviews of earlier drafts of this narrative and made several helpful suggestions, identified several (embarrassing) errors relative to the old style/new style dating, and provided some addition hard copy (originals) of relevant records. Their assistance has been valuable and greatly appreciated, but aside from their noted research on the possible Thorley sisters, they are in no way responsible for the other speculations included here, nor any of my likely typos or other errors, those entirely mine.

If at all remotely unclear in any of the preceding, it cannot be emphasized enough that many records remain unresolved and inconclusive, many remarks and the speculations my attempt to offer some potential explanation and/or reasonable options or alternatives. Do **not** take what is included here as unquestionable fact, any more than anything else found on ancestry.com or the web in general. Do your own research, review original records if possible, remain skeptical, and draw your own conclusions. All that is requested of anyone is to simply clearly *qualify* what one posts as speculative if it remains unproven so as not to mislead others.

I am also aware that many will be reluctant to discard the speculative Keene/Gosnold Old World lineage of Thomas Keene as now typically recorded, but if it is simply unsupported and unlikely, it certainly seems to me that an accurate recording of the available data should prevail over wistful thinking, a “royal” connection to Charlemagne wholly irrelevant today in any case and hardly unique to *anyone* with any European ancestry. For some light perspective on this, and genealogy in general, please see Robert Krulwich’s humorous NPR article, link: <http://www.npr.org/blogs/krulwich/2012/02/16/146981369/the-charlemagne-riddle>. Likewise, the focus of this narrative has been on what can be acceptably proven, or reasonably speculated upon Mary, hopefully debunking misinterpretations or errors commonly made, but does not always then fill any real or perceived voids left. Once again, although we all want as much information as possible in searching for our ancestors, it would seem simply acknowledging that we just don’t know is preferable to false or unwarranted assumption recorded as fact. Thomas and Mary Keene were my ninth great grandparents, and as with their later son-in-law, John Garner Sr., their English ancestors and lineage now cannot be determined and may never be. As with John, however, their known history can readily stand alone without embellishment. One can begin with just their marriage, a somewhat unlikely and chance union of a middle aged tradesman and a quite possibly orphaned teenage girl, both *survivors*. Thomas arrived in the New World probably alone, probably as a skilled young man but of likely little means, was almost certainly indentured, survived the brutally difficult early years of the colonies, the Indian wars, the dispute over Kent Island (which took some lives), and may have married and been widowed, even losing a child. Mary, whatever her full early history, and if her name was *actually* Thorley or not, was possibly born in the colony in a time when fewer than two in ten settlers survived. If she was *either* a pauper apprentice or later a tobacco wife only supports her resilience and resolve. They eventually prospered, regardless, had four offspring, and acquired a more than modest farm in Northumberland. Sadly, Thomas did not then survive long to enjoy his late success and witness the marriage of any of his offspring, but Mary, at least, lived to witness the birth of at least her first grandchild. Thomas and Mary’s descendants, Keenes, Garners, and others, and *their* descendants, today easily number in the hundreds of thousands or more.

Allan J Garner – Feb 5, 2021

Attachments (5): Edward Thorley – supplement
 Further Notes
 Credits and Sources (partial)
 The Wills of Thomas Keene and Mary (Thorley) Broughton
 Supplemental Media

Edward Thorley – Supplement & Possible descendants:

Per Edward's will of Dec 1678 (MD. Cal. Wills, Vol. I, pg. 212), his death assumed in 1679, three sons were noted, Edward II, John, and Samuel, all not yet eighteen, and further supporting that he was born likely in plus/minus circa 1620, not nearer 1600. "Daughters" were also noted, but not by number, name, or age. Using this information, I have speculatively entered his year of birth as *about* 1617, making him older than Mary Thorley, and his age at death about sixty-two (*not* eighty plus). The will would then also place his first son's birth no earlier than about 1661, when Edward Sr. was perhaps (a reasonable) forty-four. These three sons could, of course, have been the last three offspring, the "daughters", however many, the oldest. With all this, I have also entered his wife Mary's year of birth at about 1628, placing the birth of her first son at age about thirty-three, and then allowing for a reasonable age (and time) to bear two more sons prior to age forty. She *may*, however, *not* have been the mother of (all?) of Edward's offspring, so her estimated birth year could be far off. Needless to say, most all of this, except the very rough date of birth for the eldest son, assumed Edward, in about 1661, as he is the first listed of the three in the will, is speculative, and entered into my tree with qualifications, there to facilitate searches as *some* dates need be entered. John and Samuel were then also entered, each two years subsequent to Edward, and with those dates entered, led to further records, following.

Per his will, he left his two hundred and fifty acre property on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, called (later spelling) "Pascal's Chance" to be divided equally among his three sons. It was then in "Talbot" County, today in Queen Anne's County, and adjacent to Kent Island, the property NEE of the island by a few miles and with navigable water. His purchase was made in 1673 from *George Paskall*, then also of Anne Arundel County, and the purchase recorded there. That he would purchase this land somewhat late in his life suggests to me that he had had some earlier connection to the area and Kent Island, as it is thought did all the Thorley siblings. With only one record found for Edward prior to this purchase, a grant deeded to him in Anne Arundel Co. on 14 Feb 1670-71 (then deeded to another within a month), he and his family *might* have lived in then Talbot County at some point, moving to Anne Arundel some time prior to the noted deed, year unknown. I will speculate that he had remained on or near Kent Island at least some of his early life, later moving for reasons unknown. Buying the property as he was then in Anne Arundel County is somewhat problematic without him wishing to retain a "presence" on the Eastern Shore, it not convenient to Anne Arundel County across the bay, and he could have easily purchased land closer to his home. A location map of the property is attached in the supplement.

In pursuing Edward's sons, another record was found, source: *Colonial Families of the United States* (DAR, and frequently *questionable*), which notes a total of four sons of an Edward Thorley of Calvert County, MD, Benjamin, John, Edward, and one unnamed, each marrying unnamed daughters of *John Trundle II*, born in 1687 in Ann Arundel County, later of Calvert, married in 1717, died in 1771. No dates were provided for the marriages, and no birth years for the unnamed daughters. Assuming the 1661 date for Edward II is roughly correct, that would probably place his marriage and first offspring in the 1680s. Depending then on the birth of his offspring, these three "sons of Edward Thorley" appear not his, unless born *very* late in his marriage, and the daughters of John Trundle born *very* early, assuming an approximate twenty year period from marriage to typically a last offspring and also assuming the spouse near the same age. If these sons were not those of Edward II then, perhaps more likely, they may have been grandsons, and offspring of an Edward III, his son or that of his younger brother, Samuel, John having died in 1700 apparently without issue.

Without any dates or other hard information, it is speculative, but with what is available, it certainly appears descendants of Edward Thorley moved from Ann Arundel to Calvert, and all married Trundle sisters there in about the 1720s-30s. It is also suggestive of the prior generations of the Thorleys and Trundles all knowing each other well in Ann Arundel. The Colonial Families record also offers just a hint that the Trundles may also connect to the other of my paternal primary lineages, the Hellens of Calvert County.

That possible connection will be pursued, but these Thorleys no further for the time being as simply now too far off my primary Garner/Keene lineage. Others, however, may be able to trace them further.

Further notes:

A Thomas Orley/Orlye is noted in the will of Thomas Keene as an “overseer” of his estate. Interestingly, this Thomas was also on Kent Island early, in 1638 in St. Mary’s with Thomas, and is later noted as one of the eleven transported by Keene per his grant of 1653, so appears to have been close to Thomas and his family over several years. He was born in England in 1619 so was easily young enough to be Thomas Keene’s son, and perhaps was a surrogate to a degree in the early years. Thomas Orley claimed 100 acres in Northumberland himself (that claim appearing nearly adjacent to the Keene farm) in April 1651, noting the transport of two persons (his own redundant to Thomas Keene’s claim). He is mentioned as one researcher speculated he was related to Mary Thorley, the name Thorley actually a variation/transcription error on “Th.Orley”, perhaps recorded meaning” [orphan] of Th(omas) Orley”. Further research does not support this, however, English records and others largely determining this Thomas Orley’s history, it requiring the Thorley siblings to have had a father *Thomas* (no record found), Edward Thorley, at least, retaining the name in error (when he would likely have known better), and other facts sufficient to largely dismiss the speculation, however initially intriguing.

The *Third Powhatan War* noted, in which Thomas may have fought, was exactly that...the *third*, and the last real attempt by the local natives to drive the English from their lands. Their initial attack was conducted much as the “massacre” of 1622 near Jamestown, but the impact much less as the English population had grown to such an extent by 1644. One interesting fact noted in the detailed historical accounts is the awareness by the natives of both the conflict between MD and VA, and the English Civil War, this perceived weakness one reason for their timing. *Primitive natives?...*it does not appear so.

Three Keene brothers, Henry, Richard, and Edward, arrived in Calvert County, Maryland in 1653, after Thomas Keene’s death. Some researchers have recorded them as descendants of Sir Henry Keene, one individual, noting one of these Keenes (only) as a brother of our Thomas, while others simply record them as descendants of the noted Surrey branch found of the English Keenes, which appears correct. Regardless of what may be correct on their English origins (I have not pursued them in England in any depth), there is no established connection between them and our Thomas to be found to date, no indication that the VA and MD Keenes ever interacted in any way, and certainly none of those later in VA were Thomas’ brother. As with the speculation on Orley/Thorley, if finding these three Keenes in public trees, they should not be entered as relatives to our Thomas Keene as not fully or accurately researched and any suggestion simply appearing wholly incorrect.

Credits and Sources (partial):

Garner-Keene Families of Northern Neck Virginia (GK) by Ruth Ritchie and Sudie Rucker Wood, 1952. Still the primary and typically best source for the Garners and Keenes, the copyright now expired and available in full online at: <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/005725305> It should be noted by all referencing this work that the authors, capable and well-meaning amateurs, did make *some* mistakes and important omissions as determined by further research over the last seventy years since it was published. My tree contains references to that work with some of the errors and omissions (some due a lack of cross reference) documented.

Colonial Chesapeake Families - British Origins and Descendants, 2017, by Harrison Dwight Cavanagh. A recent self-published book by a well-educated and well-meaning amateur, with useful information although found to contain several errors and some, perhaps, unfounded speculations.

Although determined to have errors, some serious, these two books provided much useful information, and some needed incentive to further pursue some of their statements and/or conclusions...my finals, not always in agreement. Other sources include several histories of Maryland, the Kent Island conflict, the headright system, and others, some available online and others in my personal collection or from local libraries. A Google search will usually net good results, and it necessary to get off ancestry.com for background of historical events in context. Ancestry.com does have a number of valid sources available in their database, but are frequently

abstracted, so are incomplete as to information, and others very difficult to find. Where possible, the originals should be checked, some following also available online, with links noted:

Maryland Historical Magazine – available online and searchable by volume:

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/010119764>

Cavaliers and pioneers; abstracts of Virginia land patents and grants, 1623-1800. Abstracted and indexed by Nell Marion Nugent, Vol 1, 1st ed. 1934: <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000184650>

Early Virginia Immigrants, 1623-1666, George Cabell Greer, 1912:

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/001263490>

The Flowering of the Maryland Palatinate - Harry Wright Newman, 1961 – “an intimate and objective history of the Province of Maryland to the overthrow of proprietary rule in 1654, with accounts of Lord Baltimore’s settlement at Avalon”. This can be purchased as an eBook from Google, or purchased in hard copy – the Google site: [The Flowering of the Maryland Palatinate](#)

Other members who contributed include a number of individuals who posted generally accurate and useful information, [daryl40404](#), who posted “Historical Overview - Thomas Keene II” in 2010, this containing an excellent summary and transcriptions, with sources, simplifying further searches. Member [dt1phoenix](#) posted an excellent summary by *Mary E. Watson Price* on Jane Thorley back in 2008, only discovered in 2018. The twin sisters [couchtwins](#) are wizards at finding records from a variety of sites, and have been generous enough to post them. A link: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/84953342/person/34509963320/facts>, this to their tree page of Thomas Keene. We *do not* concur on several items which I have included in this narrative. Member [Deborah Sweet](#) was the individual who first posted the professional assessment, and rejection, by the noted genealogists of Thomas’ ancestry first in 2014, but only found in 2018. Several posts from these individuals are in my gallery for Thomas and/or Mary, and I express my sincere thanks to all.

And, a final redundant note of caution on sources: public trees, Family data, the Millennium File, International marriage records, Find a Grave (especially), and similar ancestry.com “hints” are not sources, rather only what other individuals have posted, some a composite of public trees, and if researched, correct, or not, usually undetermined. Unless specific correct and confirming sources are noted in a public tree, for example, there is no way to assess its accuracy. Likewise, other available “sources” on ancestry, such as *British Roots of Maryland Families* are known to contain errors, the Keene page, 227, alone contradicting itself on the same page and with other major errors and omissions. *All* sources are suspect. Remain very skeptical, weigh all the evidence in context, apply critical thinking, reject assumptions, and qualify speculation and/or a simple lack of supporting data. This narrative *should be viewed exactly the same way*; I am hardly infallible either.

The wills of Thomas Keene & Mary Broughton:

Following are transcriptions of the two wills, primarily as from those in GK, but verified against the originals. While Thomas’s will is fairly clear, the original of Mary’s is heavily damaged, much missing, and blank spaces inserted representing one or more missing or undecipherable words. Question marks added also indicate words which could not be clearly read and may be transcribed in error. The format of both is not exactly as per the originals, but very similar. Only some punctuation could be clearly discerned from the originals, so much is clearly omitted though can be inferred in some cases. All archaic spellings and language have been reproduced as found, some, such as “ffirst” or “ffriend”, not fully understood. Of course, being illiterate, neither Thomas nor Mary “wrote” these, but more or less dictated them, certainly with considerable assistance.

Limited notes, some redundant, are added to each, but one question that has never been answered is why Thomas would leave his “dwelling plantation” to his second son, Thomas Jr., and not note any property for his eldest, William, it assumed other considerations having been made, per later family history, but not further speculated upon here. William did ultimately inherit it, but documentation on its path of ownership is unclear.

The will of Thomas Keene (North R.B. 14, p. 16) – Notes: “hheads” are fabricated “hogsheads”, a nominal one thousand pound cask (when full) for tobacco. The totals on each line owed him remain unconfirmed as to their currency equivalent, but thought to be pounds of tobacco, as that was effectively the currency of the colonies. Note his signature with his mark only, which was **T**. The few goods listed here are the likely explanation for GK’s speculation of Thomas also being a merchant although they seem too minimal to support that.

In the name of God amen know all men that I Thomas Keene being fresh of memory doeth as followeth ffirst I bequeath my spiritt to God that gave it after my body to the earth and then as followeth I give and bequeath to my sone Thomas one Cowe named Cole next to my Daughter Susanna one Heifer called by the name of Su next I give my sone William one heifer named Gentle next I give my sone Matthew the next Cowe Calfe that falleth of the old Cowes.

Matthew Rhodon oweth me for 11 hheads and 18 pounds	
since the last yeare	293
Mr. Lee oweth me of amidst this year for six hheads & a paile	180
Richard Walker paid Mr. Wilsford for my use for hooping	029
two pailes for Mr. Wilford	030
to Mr. Wilford for two hheads	050
for a Barrell to Mr. Wilford	030
Richard White oweth me for a quarter of Beefe	200
Richard White for a hhead	025
Phillip Carpenter for 3 heads	075
Phillip Carpenter for a churne	060
Henry Mosely upon Accot. this year	150
Wm Medcalfe upon accot last yeare	095
Henry Rainer for Caske washing and a paile	555
In Mr. Mottroms hand	040
Simon Richardson for Court charges	080
John Gresham upon an Ord'r of Court	213
Mr. Lee signed over fifty for my use Gresham to pay	050
Paid for Greshams use to Ralph Horsley	035
Upon debts when wee Reckned upon John Greshams	
Accts Debtor	330
Mr. Colclough	092
George Courtnell oweth	155
Ralph Horsly oweth me for a quarter of Beefe this yeare	200
Ralph Horsley oweth me for 2 hheads	050
Ralph Horsley for a paile and a Churne	080
Ralph Horsly accot and myne of last year stands one	
about another in a little booke of his	000
ffrancis Simons oweth me	048
Wm Reynolds	040
John Bennett	070

3305

Know all men that I doe give to my wife Mary Keene for the bringing up of my children all my movable goods and hogs and cattle but what I have given to my children and the remainder of my Tobcco when my debts is paid to my wife Also I give this land and plantacon to my wife during her life after her decease I give the said land to my sone Tho: and his heirs forever. Overseers of the estate Hen. Mosely John Stanley Thomas Orlye Matthew Rhodon. Witness my hand and [oblit.] this 27th of Novem: 1652. The Mark of Thomas [T] Keene. Witness Henry Rainer John Knight (probate date of 20 Jan 1652 follows – text omitted here)

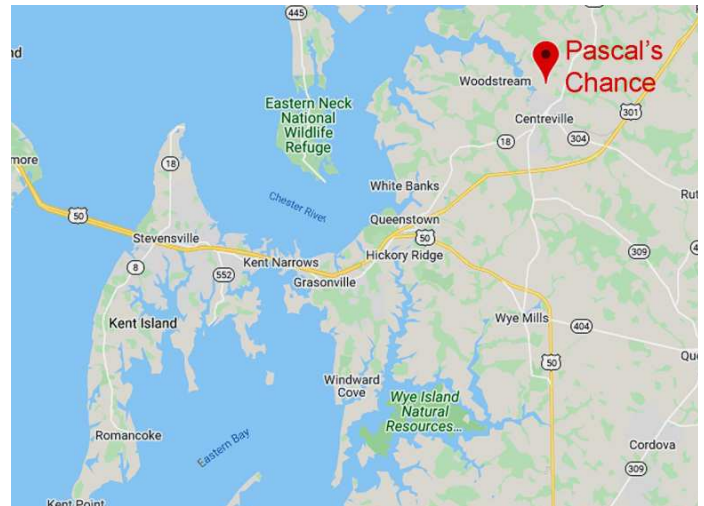
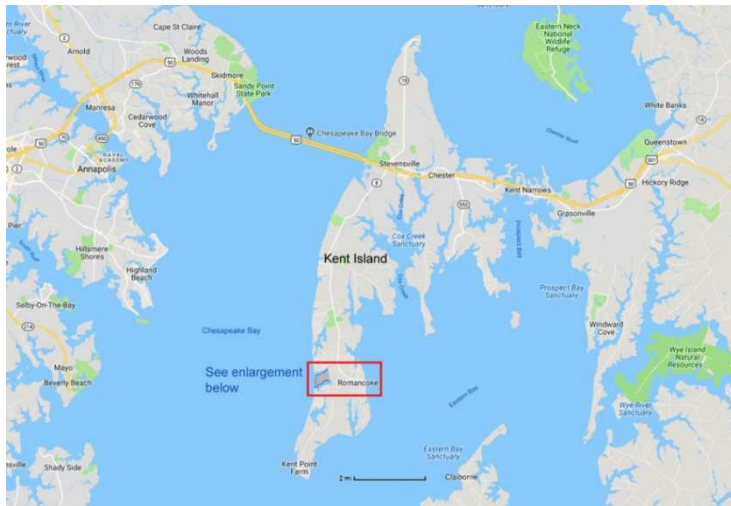
The will of Mary (Thorley/Keene/Raynor) Broughton (North. R.B.15, p. 92) – Notes: Of her land as of this date, the 300 acres is *assumed* to be as left to her by Broughton, but the 870 acres is *confirmed* as once his. No clear reference is made to Raynor's land of *any* acreage, some perhaps pending the "inquisition" of Oct 1662 noted. Although the "dwelling plantation" is noted, *assumed* the 527 acres of Thomas Keene, it is not referenced by acreage, and it is not clear as to its eventual disposition, only Thomas Daniell continuing to live there for four(?) years, and William Keene, the oldest, ultimately inherited it. Thomas Daniell has been previously noted, but his relationship to James has not been determined. Illegible on the original, son William Keene has been inserted as her executor per the record noting him as such on 21 April, 1663. With that addition, not previously included to my knowledge, it also clarifies *some* information on his inheritance.

In the name of God Amen The last will and Testamnt of Mary Broughton Widow the Relict of Thomas Broughton decd being of perfect mind & memory doe dispose of my worldly Estate as followeth after the bequeathing of my Soul unto my maker from whom I had it and my body to be buried as I have given order to my Executr William (Keene) him I have appointed Executor & to my _____ James Daniell & George Courtnell whom _____ of this my last _____ I bequeath to my Executr (Wm. Keene) to his heires for ever the land ___ lived at the write ___ and ensealing _____ three hundred acres of land with _____ on by Anthony Lyntons with all _____ in as ample manner as I _____ I likewise give to my sd Exr _____ upon which I was _____ with a paire of sheets and the _____ Raynors _____ daughter Susanna Gardner all my _____ except two petticoats I likewise _____ with a kettle that holdeth twelve _____ ozon(?) _____ napkins with a table cloth and John Gardner a stear of fower my Grand Child their daughter I _____ two yeares of age with ye increase for ever. Item to my Sonne Thomas Keene the Chest ffathers with a _____ two bolsters a rugg & I likewise give him a gun. Item I give to my Sonne Matthew Keene one half of my land at Yeoaquomico to him & his heires for ever the whole tract being eight hundred and seventy acres, the other halfe I give to my loving ffriend Thomas Daniell provided my Sonne Matthew may have his first choice: I give likewise to my Sonne Mathew Keene a pair of bolsters with a rugg & blanket as likewise a chest thate stands in the _____ at the end of my lodging rooms. ffor my other houshold stuff I give to be equally devided among my three Sonnes William Thomas & Matthew Keene equally to be shared and not any part nor parcel to be made away or sold I give likewise my hoggs to ran on in stock for provision for them and when eyther of my sonnes depart from the other my desire is that at their separating that my Executor will give to eyther of my sonnes Thomas & Mathew one breeding sowe. ffor my Cattle my desire is that after my debts be satisfied that they may be shared between my Sonnes Thomas & Matthew onely to my Sonne Matthew I give two Cowes more than to Thomas and I give to William Mosely(?) my God child one Cowe & alsoe & likewise another to Elizabeth Perry & one to my servant Robert Brorio(?) wch bequests I desire my Executor to satisfy. As for my ffriend Thomas Daniell my desire is that hee live upon my nowe dwelling plantacon fower(?) four?) years after my decease & to see that my sonnes Thomas & Mathew may be educated in learning & for the reall performance thereof I leave my Servants for their maintenance and for the true performance of the aforementioned I sett to my hand & Seale this second day of January in the yeare of our Lord one thousand hundred sixty & two.

The mark of
Mary **M** Broughton

Witnesses: John Tingey, Jos. Horsley

Supplemental media:

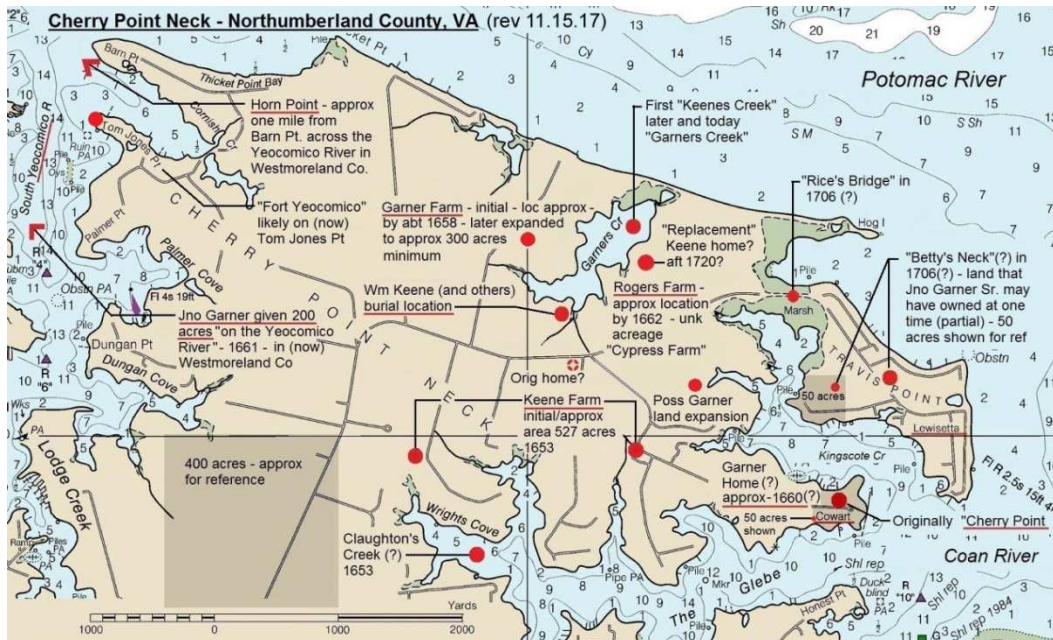


unknown. Above, the location of Edward Thorley's 1673 purchase, Pascal's Chance. The purchase was about seven miles from Kent Narrows, the body of water then (and now) separating the island from the rest of the Eastern Shore and is on the Corsica River, a tributary of the Chester River, both then navigable for the smaller bay vessels of the period. *Pascal's Chance* survived as the property's name until at least the Maryland Historic Trust Survey of 1981 which focused on the extant home there built circa 1820, long after Edward's time, and said nothing of his prior ownership. Its history after Edward's death has not been researched to date.



A current aerial view of what was Thomas and Mary's farm on Kent Island. Fortunately, the deed was specific on the two creeks bordering the property, north and south, and the Chesapeake Bay to the west, and their current names readily found in records, this land referred to then as "Hog Pen/Penn Neck". The eastern property line was noted as a "meridian line" (straight north/south) between the heads of the creeks, and this adjusted to *magnetic* north/south per the survey methods of the time. The island overall has been noted as eroding considerably since 1631, but not as much on the bay side. Regardless, even from the 1877 map, this western shoreline would have extended to the west by *some* distant, so both that and the approximate property line would both have originally most likely been further west (left), how far undetermined. The property today is still partly cultivated, and contains only a few large homes, remaining largely "undeveloped". Geological survey maps show fresh water streams still on the property, possibly as in 1640, and the two bordering creeks may have been partly navigable in Thomas' time by smaller bay vessels such as shallops. They are today *very* shallow and allow only small boat traffic. The main north/south road on Kent Island is noted in some accounts as having followed the original footpath running most of the island, further south to the site of the original

settlement and fort of 1631. It is now very unlikely, but if any modern archeological technologies were applied on this site, the location of the Keene home might be determined.



A current NOAA chart of Cherry Point Neck in Northumberland Co., VA. Various notations are included here from after Thomas and Mary's time, but the specific relevant reference is to the Keene Farm. The patent of the 527 acres notes it "bordering" on Cloughton's Creek to the southwest and Cherry Point to the east or northeast. Cloughton's Creek has been determined as either what is now Wrights Cove, or the adjacent unnamed cove to

the right. What is now Cowart Point was then Cherry Point, and that "point" possibly much of the roughly two hundred and fifty acre peninsula between now Kingcote Creek and The Glebe. The location of the extant vault of William Keene is shown, then at the "head of Keene's Creek", much later renamed Garner's Creek. Although the description in the deed is not adequate to precisely locate the property lines, the location shown, perhaps shifted one creek to the east (right) is certainly generally correct, but how far north, if to the creek in Thomas' time, unknown. William Keene obtained the Rogers Farm by marriage, and his burial location may have been on what was the Rogers property, not that of his parents. As noted, if Thomas and Mary were then buried in that "burial ground", and when established, is unknown, and there no evidence they were. One item also noted here is the *possible* approximate location of John and Susanna Keene Garner's home in about 1660 *somewhere* on Cherry Point. GK misquoted one source noting their settling here after their marriage, but it remains possible, largely dependent upon a potential deed of gift from Thomas and (then) Mary Broughton to the newlyweds. There is, however, no record to support that and the best sources record John and Susanna only settling "west of the (eventually Garner's) creek".



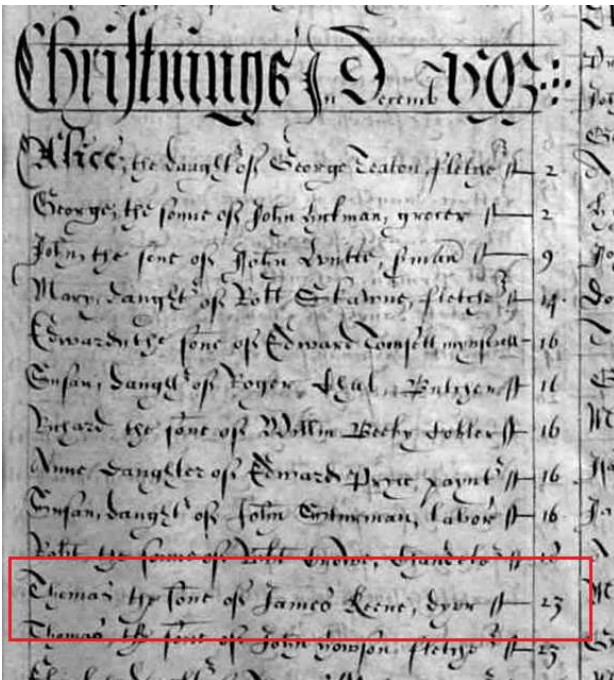
A current partial satellite view of Cherry Point Neck, north to the right. What may have been Cloughton's Creek is immediately to the left (south) of "Keene Farm", and the extant burial vaults to the right (north). The Keene acreage would have taken up most of the left hand portion of this photo, about half, extending how far east towards Cherry Point unknown. For the record, a partial

abstracted transcription of Thomas’ grant (L.Gr.B. 3, p. 61) is as follows: “Now Know we that I the said Richard Bennett Esq. Governor give and grant unto Thomas Keene five hundred twenty seven Acres of Land Scituate lying and being in the County of Northumberland and abutting Northwest upon the Severall Lands of Ralph Horsly and Edward Coppedge South and South East upon Claughtons Creeke and North East upon Cherry poynt the said Land due unto the said Thomas Keene by and for the transportation of Eleven person into this Colony to have and to hold...” Horsly’s land then appears to have been northwest of the Keene property, and Coppedge’s south/southwest, across the creek. The addition of Cherry Point then locks the property into the general area shown, as noted, perhaps one creek east, and extending onto Cherry Point how far, undetermined. The full original deed includes archaic measurements of distance, *poles*, which cannot be interpreted fully against the description to add more detail. These neighbors were not added to the preceding map nor have been further researched, but Horsly is noted as owing several debts to Thomas in his will.



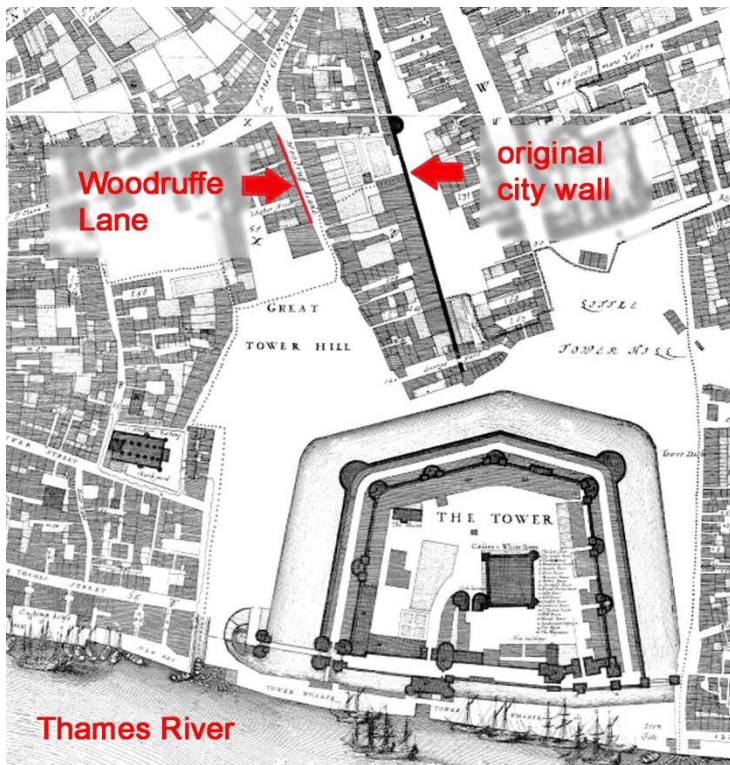
Our Thomas cannot be verified as having first arrived in Henrico, or *Henricopolis* in about 1633, but this image of Henricus State Park near Richmond, Virginia is included for interest. The structures shown, although much larger, are variations on the post and beam “Virginia House” construction and this park similar to the reconstructions in Jamestown and St. Mary’s City in Maryland. Henrico was established in 1611 as a *heathier* alternative to the fetid swamp of Jamestown. Various historic accounts of the choice of the site for the original Jamestown settlement note that there being no natives already anywhere nearby was one reason...*they* had the sense to not want it themselves. Ironically, *Bartholomew Gosnold*, noted earlier in this narrative, opposed that location, but was overruled, and later died there of swamp fever himself.

Interestingly, one *speculative* record for Thomas’ future son-in-law, John Garner, records his *possible* arrival as a young child in Henrico in 1637. Between the two records, neither confirmed, Thomas and John *might* have encountered each other then, but unlikely later, as Thomas died some years before John’s later arrival in Northumberland by about 1658. Also see the closing remarks.



Working backwards: Our Thomas Keene also cannot, of course, be verified as the son of James, baptized in London in 1593, but per that possibility, some additional media for record is included here:

Left: a cropped copy of the original baptism record from *St Giles, Cripplegate*, then a poor working class parish of London. The record for this Thomas Keene is outlined in red, noting his father as James, no mother listed, his occupation “Dyer”, and the date 23 Dec, 1593. From London, England, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812, as available on ancestry.com and also attached in my tree gallery.



And lastly: a cropped and noted section of Great Tower Hill, London, from *Ogilby and Morgan's Large Scale Map of the City As Rebuilt By 1676*, showing the city as rebuilt after the Great Fire of 1666. Much of this area escaped the fire so had appeared similar in the speculative Thomas of London's time, between about 1616 and 1630, depending on his proposed departure for Virginia. If Thomas was from London, he may have apprenticed, worked, and lived in this area, it then the focus of the Port of London, with quays along the Thames near the Tower. The Docklands would be built much later just further to the east. Recorded here as *Woodruffe Lane*, the street noted here was later renamed *Cooper's Row*, and the coopers had built storage and workshops against the then still extant city wall (originally Roman). This area was the focal point of nautical trade and infrastructure in London for centuries, just east of London Bridge, and also from where many skilled tradesmen were recruited as immigrants.

In doing genealogical, and thus related historical research, I have found a number of what I now call "intersections"...various ancestors at important events in history, sometimes ancestors loosely connected long ago whose later descendants would marry long after, and sometimes my own life having "intersected" with places I later learned were where some ancestors had lived or worked, some of those actually almost surreal. None of this is uncommon given genealogy and history, but *knowing* it occurred, is usually difficult to determine or prove, if not impossible.

This image reflects one such *possible* intersection. More than a century after this map was made, closer to two centuries from Thomas Keene's birth, the coopers had long moved from this area and much of it was "redeveloped" into fashionable Georgian townhouses, often for merchants, that including Cooper's Row. In 1783, my 7th great uncle, *Joshua Johnson* (1744-1802) moved into one such townhouse at 8 Cooper's Row, where he and his family would remain until 1797. Joshua, Maryland born, had moved to London as a young man, becoming a merchant there, marrying, and having several offspring, the most notable being second daughter *Louisa Catherine Johnson* (1775-1852) who married future president *John Quincy Adams* in London in 1797. Joshua's grandfather, *Thomas Johnson* (1655-1714), my 8th great grandfather, had himself "fled" England from Wapping, Middlesex, less than half a mile down the Thames, with his bride in 1688 for Maryland. If Thomas Keene was born in London and became a cooper there, he may have worked in the same area, walked the same quays and streets, attended the same parish church (*All Hallows, Barking by the Tower*, just left of the Tower on the map) and even lived at one time on the same street as Joshua...for all we can speculate, even on the *same site*. What I do know is that Susanna, daughter of Thomas Keene, my 9th great grandfather, married *John Garner*, and an ocean and half a continent away from London, three hundred plus years after Thomas' birth, their descendant married a descendant of Joshua's older sister, *Mary Baker Johnson (Hellen)* (1729-1801), the two then conceiving my father, and now another hundred plus years later, here I am still learning and writing of them all.

Such is genealogy and history...go back far enough and many paths will eventually cross.