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THE THORNBURGH FAMILY

Margaret Thornburgh, daughter of Walter and Margaret Thornburgh, married John Canaday in Guilford County, North Carolina in 1764. This marriage between two Quaker families connected the Thornburghs with our Canaday line.

There are many histories of the various American and English and Irish branches of this family. Spellings of the name create a bunch of problems, especially in England, and for this reason I am not completely clear on the early origins of the family. Today the name is spelled mostly either Thornburgh or Thornburg. However in early colonial times, Thornbrough seems to be the common spelling. Before that it was Thornborough, Thornbury, Thornberry and many other variations. This made it difficult to trace any exact lineage beyond the late 1600s. It seems that the 'gh' was always pronounced *silent* as in *sigh* or *light*. Likewise the 'y' in Thornbury seems to be pronounced silent. The result is that all the spellings were roughly pronounced the same, Thornbro or Thornburo or Thornbra. For this reason one record will show the name as Thornbury and the next Thornborough. The spelling Thornburg or Thornburgh doesn't seem to appear until the mid to late 1700s. Confusing?

The Thornboroughs were Quakers from the late 1650s after George Fox established the Society of Friends in England. Many followers of the Quaker religion left England in the late 1600s; many to Ireland and many to America.

There are two very lengthy and detailed histories written recently on the family. One by Charles Thornburg, and one by Marion Thornsberry. I have been in touch with both of these men and most of what follows comes from their works. Most of the various histories seem to place our Walter as part of a family that that came from the Cootehill section of Ireland. Researchers felt that a family headed by a Robert Thornborough and Sarah Jackson were the parents of three brothers that went to America in the 1715-1725 range. Yet in most histories there is a vague mention that our Walter was in fact a tad hard to tie into this group. But, it seemed simple at the time to simply say he was part of this gang. This was my initial feeling, but now I think there is a better and a very simply answer.

Mention was made of a Will of one Edward Thornburgh dated 1734 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Some histories mention that Edward named a son Walter in that will, but most did not. As it had to be one way or the other, I went to the Lancaster Court house and obtained a certified transcript of this will. It clearly stated that Edward gave his son *Walter* one ewe and one lamb as his inheritance. It also indicated that Walter was over twenty-one at the time.

Most researchers seemed to feel that Edward was one of the brother, sons of Robert and Sarah, that came from Cootehill in southern Ireland to the Friend's Meeting in Haddonfield, New Jersey in 1718. I do not think so, they were two different men in my opinion. One from the Cootehill section of Craven County, Ireland and one from the Lurgan Meeting in County Armagh, Northern Ireland. Probably relatives of sorts, but certainly not the same person.

At any rate, I am going to start with this Edward and hope for the best. Once we get to Walter Thornbury or Thornbrough we are on safe grounds.

EDWARD THORNBRUGH

I do not know where Edward was born, but it was probably in County Armagh in about 1685. He married his wife Jean in Lurgan in a non Quaker wedding in 1707, probably late in the year. In early 1708, he was disowned by the Lurgan Friends Meeting for *marrying out of unity*.

In the early 1700s, Delaware was part of Pennsylvania and Wilmington was a major port of entry to America. Edward Thornbury, also listed as Edward Thornborough, is shown as owning land in 1722 in what was called *The Christiana Hundred* in what is now Newcastle, County, Delaware.

Edward may have attended Quaker Meetings in the Delaware area, but he officially joined the Kennet Quaker Meeting at Newark, Delaware just across what is now the border of Delaware and Pennsylvania. The minutes at Kennet indicated that on November 6, 1725, Edward Thornbury was received on his certificate from the Lurgan Meeting, County Armagh, Ireland.

Edward, Jean and their children then moved to Chester County and settled in Warwick Township sometime around 1726. When Lancaster County was formed out of the western portion of Chester County in 1729, Edward's lands became part of Lancaster.

Edward became ill and on April 13, 1734 (Second month old style) wrote his will. The following is an exact copy of the transcript I obtained from the Lancaster County Courthouse.

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN the thirteenth day of the second month in the year 1734 I Edward Thornbrugh of the township of Warwick and County of Lancaster yeoman being very sick and weak in Bodey but in perfick mind and mery thanks be given to God therefore fore calling to mind the morality of my Bodey and knoing that it is apointed for all men to Day doth make and Barder this my Last Will and Testament -----THAT is to say first of all I Reomend my Soul to God gav it mee and for my Bodey I recommend it to the Earth to be buried in a Cristen like maner at the Disceson of my Exectors and as toching worly asteat wherewith it hath pleased God in this life to give me I give and Despose of like form and maner Senen my Dearly BELOVED Wife Jean Thombrough and my son George and my Cosen Thomas Thornbrough to be my Exectector I give Jean my Beloved wife all the thirds of the Movabels and her bed and Forneter and to have and to hould the said pleace that we now live one untell my son John Comes to the age of one and Twenty years and then he shall have it and the said John my son shall give and it shall be given en equil Shear Twenty Pound betwin Jean William and Joseph and Margaret and I give my Son Thomas two ewes and my son Robert my joon and my son George one cow and my son Waltes one ew and one Lamb and my son Joseph and my Son William Shall when the come to the Age of one and Twenty thy shall have a third Equall Sheare of the Estate therewith ther sisters my Dafters Elesebeth Shall have one Fether Bed and my dafter Jean shall have one fether bed and my son Edward shall have the Cart and Tocklen and my and my wife shall at her Death give her bed to my dafter Margee SIGNED AND Sealed being my Last Will and Testament.

Edward Thornbrugh (SEAL)

LANCAST. Decr. 28th. 1734 Then Personally came Thomas Thornbrugh and Sarah Thornbrugh the witnefses to the within Will and on their Solemn

Affirmacons did Declare they saw and heard Edward Thornbrugh the Testator Above Named Sign Seal Publish and Declare the within Will to be his last Will and Testament and that at the doing thereof he was of Sound mind Memory and Understanding to the best of their Knowledge.

Coram Sam: Blunston Dep. Reg.

There is no question that this Edward had a son, over the age of twenty-one, named Walter. He also mentions his cousin Thomas. Thomas Thornbrugh and his wife Sarah acted as witness as immediate family could not legally perform that task. I think that this is the Thomas Thornbury and Sarah Woodward who was his second wife. It was at the first marriage of Thomas Thornbury to Charity Davis in 1729 that Walter Thornbury, his brother Edward and his sister Elizabeth acted as signers to the marriage certificate.

More on the 1729 wedding. On December 11, 1729 there was a 'dual' marriage. Robert Thornbury married Susannah Davis and Thomas, his brother, married Susannah's sister Charity. Their cousins, Walter, Edward and Elizabeth attended and in the Quaker fashion signed the certificates. Charity died in 1731 and Thomas remarried in 1733 to Sarah Woodward, daughter of John and Mary Woodward.

It would appear that Thomas and Robert were the sons of Robert Thornbury who married Sarah Jackson in Cootehill Ireland in 1685. On April 9, 1718, a Thomas Thornbrough produced a certificate of transfer from the Cootehill Ireland meeting to the Monthly Meeting in Haddonfield, New Jersey with no mention of a wife. These two Thomases are probably the same, but I have no way of knowing.

At any rate, the following is what little I know of the eleven children of Edward and Jean Thornbrough as mentioned in their father's 1734 Will.

I will again use the spelling of Thornborough as a convenience.

GEORGE THORNBROUGH appears to be the eldest son. There was a George in Virginia and then in North Carolina, but I have little information.

THOMAS THORNBOROUGH Married Abigail Brown, daughter of James Brown on March 29, 1741. They moved to the Hopewell meeting in Frederick County, Virginia and then to the New Garden Meeting in Guilford County, North Carolina. According to North Carolina records, Thomas died May 9, 1797 and Abigail died June 21, 1780.

ROBERT THORNBOROUGH

WALTER THORNBOROUGH is our lineage and is covered in the next section.

ELIZABETH THORNBOROUGH

EDWARD THORNBOROUGH was probably the one that married Ann Morgan

JOHN THORNBOROUGH

JEAN THORNBOROUGH

WILLIAM THORNBOROUGH married, wife named Martha and they moved to Virginia and then to Guilford County, North Carolina.

JOSEPH THORNBOROUGH married Ann. He died on June 25, 1800. Their children were: **Jane, Edward, Joseph, Ann, Mary, Margaret, Elizabeth** and **Isaac**.

MARGARET THORNBOROUGH

WALTER THORNBURGH

Walter, I guess, would have been born sometime around 1705 in county Armagh of Northern Ireland. He would have traveled with his parents, Edward and Jean, first to the Wilmington Area and then up to Chester County, a portion that became part of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

The first record, and one of the very few traces that Walter left, was where his name appeared on the 1729 Chester County Tax list. He was listed as an unmarried *Freeman* living in Bradford Township. Spelling was Thornbury.

He next appears on the wedding certificates of Thomas and Robert Thornbury in December of 1729.

He is listed then as a son in the Will of Edward Thornbrugh made in 1734 in Lancaster County. In 1739, there is a land warrant for lands in Warwick Township of Lancaster County that refers to that land as being next to Walter Thornbury.

Sometime around 1737 or so, Walter married a woman named Margaret. Many researchers feel she was Margaret Beeson. I find no proof, but am willing to go along with their feel as I have none of my own. Hannah seems to be their eldest and I find a note she was born on November 20, 1738 in West Bradford Township of Chester County, hence I think the marriage would have been in mid to late 1737. This would place the marriage as having taken place in Chester County, but I think that in Lancaster County was more likely.

Then after 1750, Walter and many other Quakers moved just over the line into northern Virginia in what is today Loudon County, but was all part of Frederick County at that time. On November 18, 1752, Walter obtained a patent to 368 acres on the North Run of Middle Creek according to the Frederick County, Virginia Deed Book H of Northern Neck Grants. Thomas Thornborough was granted an adjacent plat of 862 acres on the same day.

Now comes the good news and the bad news. First the good news. Walter and others traveled to Frederick County and joined the Hopewell Monthly Meeting. As with all proper Quaker Meetings, good and detailed minutes were kept. The bad news is that the records for the Hopewell Meeting from the time it was established in 1735 were all destroyed in a fire in 1759.

Walter and his family then moved to north central North Carolina and were settled in Deep River near the New Garden Monthly Meeting in Rowan County (Guilford County later). New Garden was established in 1754. There is a record of Walter's son Henry being married there in 1758. Therefore Walter's family arrived sometime around 1756 or 1757 I would guess.

Walter and Margaret seem to have remained in the Deep River area for the rest of their lives. Walter is cited in the minutes there in 1769. He seems to have died there in February 1783 and Margaret sometime earlier.

The following is what I know of their children. All would have probably been born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, but I have no records.

Hannah Thornburgh

I find several references to Hannah being born on November 20, 1738. She married Abraham Woodward on December 12, 1760. Abraham was a son of William and Eliza Marshall Woodward. He was born in West Bradford, Chester County on June 17, 1740. Walter and Margaret Thornburgh signed her Quaker wedding certificate.

The family moved to Jefferson County, Tennessee around 1800. Hannah died there on October 13, 1812. Abraham died there on April 3, 1817.

Henry Thornburgh

Henry married Rachel Moon in New Garden on July 12, 1758. They remained in the New Garden area and then in 1778 joined the Deep River Monthly Meeting. They more than likely stayed on the same farm but joined the more convenient Deep River Meeting when it was established in 1778. They are listed there as *original members*. They moved in the late 1790s or 1800 to the Lost Creek area of Jefferson County, Tennessee. Henry died there April 24, 1804. I do not know when Rachel died.

Their children were:

MARGARET born June 25, 1759. She married George Haworth in New Garden on January 8, 1777.

HANNAH born October 15, 1760.

WALTER born November 15, 1762. He married Mary Baldwin on October 11, 1786 at New Garden.

MARY born December 19, 1764.

RACHEL born December 5, 1765.

JANE born December 23, 1768.

ANN born December 8, 1770.

HENRY born May 25, 1773.

LOWRY born July 14, 1775.

Margaret Thornburgh

Margaret was born in 1744 and married John Canaday in New Garden on April 10, 1764. They moved to Tennessee and then to Wayne County, Indiana where both died.

Their children were: **PHOEBE, HENRY, BOWATER, CHARLES, WALTER, JOHN JR.** and **ROBERT CANADAY.**

This is our line and their lives were told in the main body of the CANADAY FAMILY HISTORY.

Edward Thornburgh

Edward was married to Elizabeth Mendenhall in New Garden on April 5, 1769. Elizabeth was a daughter of Steven and Sarah Mendenhall.

They had the following children.

ELIZABETH born October 7, 1769 (?).

GEORGE born June 18, 1771.

JOHN born August 2, 1773.

JEAN born September 17, 1775.

Mary Thornburgh

Mary Thornburgh was born about 1740. She was married *out of unity* to Robert Turner on February 23, 1765. She was *disowned* at the meeting of March 30, 1765. It seems Robert was a Loyalist who was captured at the start of the Revolution at Moore's Creek North Carolina and that was the last he was heard of. They already had 10 children by then. They moved with the Mills into Jefferson County Tennessee.

In later years, Mary moved with her son Joseph to Greene County Ohio where she died.

Their children were:

WALTER TURNER born about 1765. He married Lydia Ballinger.

ELIZABETH TURNER born July 26, 1766.

MARGARET TURNER born about July 1767. She married John Percey.

JOHN TURNER born August 8, 1768. He married Hannah Ballinger.

SARAH TURNER born about August 1770. She married James Hickman.

JOSEPH TURNER born April 17, 1771. He married Dinah Small.

GEORGE TURNER born September 1772. He married Frances Oaks.

ROBERT TURNER born October 1773. He married Leah David.

DOROTHY TURNER born November 1774. She married Moses Ballinger.

JONATHAN TURNER born in 1774.

Joseph Thornburgh

Joseph also married *out of unity* on February 26, 1774. He married Elizabeth Torrington.

Their children were: **MARY, SUSANNAH, WILLIAM, MARGARET, JANE** and **ELIZABETH.**

I have nothing else on this family. They seem to have dropped out of the Quaker church. At this time, many people were leaving the strict Friends Church and joining the more liberal Baptist Church.

William Thornburgh

William married a Martha. I find a note they moved to Randolph County, Indiana where he died on February 13, 1786. While many Quakers moved to Indiana, most did so after 1800. In 1786, Indiana was unsettled and simply *The Northwest Territories*. I question this note, but have nothing else.

Much more detail may be found on later generations in the works and research of Charles C. Thornburg.