The Known Family of Thomas(1) Barton
(The First 4 Generations)
16 Feb 2004

1. Thomas(1) BARTON

The first record clearly linked to Thomas(1) occurred in 1675 when Thomas Barton & other planters protested the failure of Sir Wm Berkeley to protect them from Indians (Va State Library ii236 Stafford Grievances in Winder Abstracts)

An April 4, 1728 deed (Recorded Apr 10, 1728) from Thomas Barton to Abraham Farrow provides critical information. First, it traces the chain of custody of a 400 acre tract of land on the Quantico River from Governor Berkeley to Capt. John Lord (1664) to Thos. Bourne (1665) to Wm. Bourne (no date) to Thomas Barton (1678) to Thomas Barton (no date) to Abraham Farrow (1728). As many Stafford County records have been lost, this ties the land and family together over an extended period. We learn that the father Thomas Barton bought the land in 1678 and the son Thomas Barton sold the same land in 1728. Additionally, the Thomas Barton selling the land in 1728 is called "Thomas Barton Senr." indicating yet a third and younger Thomas Barton is living in the County. A transcription of the record follows:

From Stafford County Deed Book 1722-1728, page 507: "Between Thomas Barton Senr. of County of Stafford, Planter, and Abraham Farrow, Senr. 400 acres more or less being upper most part of a greater tract of 2000 acres granted to Capt. John Lord by Berkeley, Governor of Virginia, situate, lying and being on Quantico Creek, then when granted in Westmoreland County but now in Stafford ____ as by patent bearing date the 27th day of Sept. 1664 may fully appear and by said John Lord conveyed and assigned over to Thos. Bourne of Stafford Co. as by the conveyance and assignment endorsed on Patent & acknowledged in Stafford County Court 30 August 1665 may likewise fully appear. The 400 acres afsd was sold and conveyed by Wm. Bourne, Sam'l Mase and Mary his wife to Thomas Barton of Stafford County afsd the father of above sd Thomas Barton grantor & lessor hereof as by a deed of sale dated the 1st July 1678 Evidently appearth which deed was acknowledged in Stafford Co Court on 10 sd month & afterwards was by the afsd Wm. Bourne as heir of the afsd Thos. Bourne quitclaimed, remised & released to the sd Thos. Barton being then in Peaceable possession thereof as by a deed of Release dated 10 Oct. 1685 relation thereunto being had may more at large appear and is bounded as followeth Beginning at the said Quantico Creek side upon the land of said Farrow and hence extending into the woods by a line of marked trees S.W. 300 poles ... near upon the head of Little Creek ... to Quantico Creek (Capt. Brent survey 1681 in Presence & consent of sd Wm. Bourne, Thos. Barton afsd) ..."

A birth date and place (c1640/41, Stafford Co VA) is speculated for Thomas(1) on page 1 of Nally's 1994 The Barton Book. Although this birth date may be a "reasonable guess" for Thomas(1)'s birth, no basis or documentation can be found. Regarding the place: Stafford Co wasn't formed until 1664, when it was taken from Westmoreland Co. Westmoreland Co was formed in 1653, being taken from Northumberland Co, which was itself formed in 1648.
A 9 Sep 1680 record in the Register of Overwharton Parish, Stafford Co VA states that "the Chappawomsicke church was kept at Thomas Barton'sâ€¦"

The last clear record that we find indicating that Thomas(1) Barton is still living is a 6 July 1697 record from Stafford County Land Patents, Book 2 which identifies "Thomas Junr., assignee of Thomas Barton" relating to a deed for 100 acres on Quantico Creek. A 1700 record from The Deed & Will Abstracts of Stafford Co VA 1699-1709 p 30 lists a "Thomas Burton Junr" in a list of jurors. It is possible that this should be spelled Barton and that it is a later record indicating that Thomas Barton Senr is still living. However, another record from 1700 and two records in 1701 simply say "Thomas Barton" leading us to believe that Thomas(1) has died. Based on these records, this writer believes that Thomas(1) must have died between 1697 and 1700.

The Barton Books of 1969 (Jason E. Barton) and 1994 (Robert Dacus Nally) both identify the earliest known ancestor of this family as John Barton. Nally states that this information comes "... from a family chart that Jason had seen when he first began researching the Barton Family. The chart had been put together by Francis Marion Barton, who in his later life had put the chart together from memory of a chart he had seen in his childhood." [Jason E. Barton (1905-1973), Francis Marion Barton (1833-1912)]  There is no other known documentation to support this possibility. There is no logic or documentation that would dispel this possibility.

Nally provides additional information on page 1 of the 1994 Barton Book about John Barton which he attributes to James Doyle Barton. A letter in the Barton Historical Society archives from James Doyle Barton only provides a portion of the information attributed to him and cautions that further documentation is needed, as he has none.

To date, this writer cannot find any documentation or verify any of this information independently, but finds several factual and logic errors in the Nally recount. Until documentation can be found, this writer cannot justify inclusion of this information.

Nally also notes that some researchers believe that Thomas(1) had sons named John and Walter. This speculation is based on a 1691 will filed in Norfolk Co by Walter Barton, naming his brothers John & Thomas. (Lower Norfolk & Norfolk Co 1637-1710 p 164)  There is no other known documentation to link Walter to Thomas(1) of Stafford Co. There is no logic or documentation that would dispel this possibility.

A Thomas Barton was listed by Capt. Osbourne on an 8 Oct 1634 Henrico Co VA headright record. (Cavaliers & Pioneers by Nugent, Patent Book 1, Part II, p 519)  A 14 June 1636 record tells us that Thomas Barton Paid 3 bbls corn & 600 # tobacco for land. It is reported that Thomas is also called John in this record (I must get an actual copy of the record and see, as I have only the abstract information) [Virginia Patent Book 1, Part II, p 82] A noted family researcher, Ruth Barton Coleman, speculates that this Thomas was the immigrant ancestor of the Thomas(1,2,3) Barton family and father of Thomas(1). There is no other known documentation to link this Thomas to Stafford Co. There is no logic or documentation that would dispel this possibility.

In his book "Five Generations of the Family of Burr Harrison of Virginia, 1650-1800", John P Alcock notes that Thomas(1) and Nathaniel (Nathan) Barton (?)-1687 both owned land in Stafford Co before 1680 and speculates that they were brothers. >From court records, we know that Nathan had children named William, Martha, Nathan & Thomas. Other than proximity, there is no other known documentation to support this possibility. There is no logic or documentation that would dispel this possibility.
Ruth Coleman Barton wrote in The Barton Bulletin, Winter Ed. 1979-80 about the family of "Captain William Barton Sr, Immigrant, of VA & MD" She listed his children as Elizabeth (1630/32-?), William Jr (1634-1717), John (c1636-1698). She listed Nathaniel (c1640-1689) and Edward (c1642-?) as "probable" sons and Thomas(1) as a "possible" son. The Maryland Bartons lived across the Potomac River from the Stafford Co. VA Bartons. There are numerous records of the MD Bartons, fewer of the VA Bartons. There are no known documents which address the relationship of the VA & MD Barton families except as noted.

Virginia records identify the following Barton men who arrived prior to 1680: Thomas (1634, 1637, 1671), William (1636, 1639, 1653), Robert (1637), Elias (1642), John (1652, 1653, 1654, 1662, 1663, 1678), Nicholas (1654), Henry (1657), Christopher (1679); also Christian Barsten (1638) and James Barter (1655). Stafford County was across the Potomac River from Maryland. Barton men arriving in MD prior to 1675 include: Thomas (1654), John (1661, 1666), William (1661, 1668, 1671, 1674), Nathaniel (1665), Francis (1671), Valentine (1669), Richard (1678). Historians tell us that the same person could be recorded more than once. Whether the multiple listings for Thomas, John & William represent multiple crossings for the same man or multiple men of those names is one or our research challenges.