

1136. **THOMAS FAULCONER**

Born c1594 England

Died

Married 1137. Margaret ----- before 1639

Born

Died

Probable children (order of birth unknown):

Thomas Faulconer

b.

d.

m.

568. David Faulconer

b. before 1630

d. before 09 Feb 1693 Old Rappahannock County, Virginia

m. 569. Judith -----

The parents of the Reverend Thomas Faulconer and his wife Margaret of Isle of Wight and Warwick counties, Virginia, have not been determined.

Thomas Faulconer, aged 28, arrived in Elizabeth City, County, Virginia, from England on the ship *Mary Providence* in 1622. He was listed among the names of those living in Virginia on 16 February 1623, as a resident of Bass's Choice with Captain Nathaniel Bass (Basse). Also on that list were Robert, John and Mary Salford who were associated with Thomas Faulconer later.ⁱ

In 1624 he was listed on a Muster Roll of Settlers in Virginia as a servant of Mr. Robert Salford in Elizabeth City:ⁱⁱ

Mr. Robert Salford, his Muster, and John Salford

Mr. Robert Salford, aged 56, in the *John and Francis*, 1611

John Salford, aged 24, in the *George*, 1616

Mary Salford, aged 24 in the *Bona Nova*, 1620

Servants

William Ellison, aged 44, in the *Swan*, 1624

Thomas Faulkner, aged 28, in the *Mary Providence*, 1622

Being a servant in 1624 in Virginia was not necessarily a profession. Many were under indenture, working off, perhaps, the cost of their transportation to the colony, and eventually became land-owners.

Thomas Faulconer brought his wife Margaret to Virginia before 05 June 1639, when he

obtained a patent for 300 acres of land on a ridge behind Nutmeg Quarter, between the swamp and Reedy Dam and adjoining land of Joseph Stratton. 100 acres were granted to him for the "personal adventure of himself and wife" (paying their own way to the colony) and 200 acres for transporting Robert Richardson, Leonard Wood, Antonia de Grote and Thomas Vipon to Virginia. The patent was renewed on 12 October 1642:ⁱⁱⁱ

Thomas Faulkner, 300 acs., June 5, 1639, page 657. A ridge of land behind Nutmeg Quarter between the Sw. and the Reedy damm & W. upon plantation of Joseph Stratton. 50 acs. due for per. adv. of himself & wife Margarett Faulkner & 200 acs. trans. of 4 pers: Robt. Richardson, Leo. Wood, Antonia de Grote, Tho. Vipon. Note: Renewed 12 Oct. 1642.

Although the transcript does not state it clearly, one may calculate that Thomas and Margaret each obtained 50 acres for transporting themselves to Virginia that the patent should have read, "50 acres each for the personal adventure of himself and wife." By presenting receipts for the transportation expenses of settlers, patentees received 50 acres of land per person as headrights. Status as a headright did not reflect the social or economic position of the settlers but simply showed that payment for their passage had been made by a certain person. Transportees were of all social classes and could include members of the patentee's family, servants, friends or recruited workers. The dates of patents do not necessarily indicate the dates of the arrivals of the individuals involved. They only show that the persons arrived before that date. The application for a patent could occur at any time after arrival in Virginia. For example, on 16 June 1642, John Smith obtained a patent for 670 acres of land in James City County for the transportation of 13 people, including three wives, Elizabeth, Alice and Sarah Smith.^{iv} Obviously he was not married simultaneously to all three women, but successively during the period preceding the date of the patent. Therefore the Faulconer patent does not prove whether Thomas went to England, married Margaret and then brought her to Virginia or that she came to Virginia on her own, after which they were married. It does indicate that he or she paid her expenses or acquired her headright from another.

Being near the Nutmeg Quarter, the land the land of Thomas Faulconer was near the boundary line between Elizabeth City County and Warwick County. The land of Joseph Stratton, which adjoined the land of Thomas Faulconer, was described in the patent to Stratton on 08 July 1635 as being 500 acres at Nutmeg Quarter within Denbigh County and bounded on the southeast by land once belonging to Captain John Smith and now occupied by Percival Champion and John Slaughter; on the northwest by land of John Layton (Loyton, Laydon); on the southeast and northwest by the river; and into the woods on the southwest and northeast. The tract was part of a dividant formerly belonging to Sir Francis Wyatt and due to Stratton for a valuable consideration by bargain from Captain William Pierce, attorney for Wyatt.^v A patent issued to Richard Gregson on 08 December 1642 for land in Elizabeth City County described the tract as being on the path leading from the Nutmeg Quarter to the Poquoson and adjoining Toby Smith.^{vi} This indicates that Nutmeg Quarter was near the Elizabeth City and Warwick county line.

Warwick River County was one of the first counties of Virginia. A few patents for land there refer to it as Denbigh County after the parish of the same name. The name of Warwick River County was shortened to Warwick County in March 1642/3.

A patent to Mr. Edward Major on 24 September 1645 for 300 acres of land in Warwick County was described as adjacent to land of John Salford which was then occupied by Thomas Faulconer (Falkener).^{vii} This 1645 patent provides continuity back to the emigrant Thomas Faulconer of Elizabeth City County in 1622, aged 28, and Thomas Faulconer of Warwick County.

As the heir of his sister Sarah Salford, deceased, who was described as an Ancient planter, John Salford, yeoman, of Kiccoughtan in the "Corp. of Eliz. Citty," claimed a patent on 01 December 1624 for 100 acres between Blunt Point and Newport News, which adjoined lands of Morris Tompson and Pharoah Flinton and was due Sarah as her personal dividant. Robert Salford, yeoman, of Kiccoughtan got a patent on 20 September 1624 for 100 acres "for terme of his life and the Reversion to John Salford his sonn after his decease." The tract was on Salford's Creek next to land of Miles Prickett and the land that Robert Salford "claymeth in the right of his wife Joane, dec'd., an Ancient planter, by the Curtisye of England during his lifetime & afterwards to descend unto the sd. John, his sonn by the sd. Joane."^{viii} Joane Salford came to Virginia in the ship *Elizabeth* in 1611.^{ix} An "Ancient Planter" was one who was in Virginia before the end of 1616. The Borough of Kiccoughtan later became Elizabeth City.

Although Thomas Faulconer resided with the Salfords in 1624, they did not claim him as a headright to obtain land, so they must not have paid his way to Virginia.

Toby Smith got a patent for 650 acres of land called Humberstone in Warwick County on 10 September 1644 which was described as:^x

Upon the head of the back river called Smith's foard being behind & adj. to the westward devident of Thomas Faulkner and adj. Thomas Boulding. Due sd. Smith by patent dated Feb. 15, 1640 for his per. adv. & trans. of 12 pers.

Thomas Faulconer was described as being aged about 43 in a deposition taken on 30 May 1642 which pertained to a dispute over land between Smith and Thomas Stephens:^{xi}

Thomas Fawkner aged 43 yeares or there abouts sworne saith that about February last was twelve months to Mr. Smiths p(ro)cured Thomas Brise a Surveyor of land to come to Nansimond quarter for to survey a parcell of land there neare adjoining called the name of Round Pond which land the said Smith then claimed to be rightly belonging to him, and this depont. being in company with the said Smith and Brice and assisting the said Brice to survey the land, one Thomas Stephens came unto them about such time as the one fourth part of the land was surveyed, and p(ro)hibited the survey thereof any further alleidging that the land was his whereupon the said Smith and the Surveyor answered and said

if the said Stephens had any better title or grant than Mr. Smith had then the land should be his and further the said Smith requested Thomas Stephens that if he had any grant thereof hee wishing him to show it p(ro)mising that if it could be made thereby to appeare that he had any right to the land the said Smith would desist and meddle not farther herewith, but the said Stephens did not shew him any at all, only he alleidged that he had an order of Court for Land but did not shew it neither though he was requested thereto by the said Smith and by the said Surveyor and more saith not. 30 May 1642. Page 14.

The age of 43 in 1642 conflicts with the previously stated age of 28 in 1622 and gives Thomas Faulconer a possible birth date range of 1594-1599.

On 12 February 1642 Thomas Faulconer (Faulkner) of Warwick County renewed the patent that he got on 05 June 1639 for 300 acres beyond Nutmeg Quarter between the swamp and Reedy Dam near the land of Joseph Stratton.^{xii}

A member of the Church of England, the Reverend Thomas Faulconer was the minister of Warrosquyoake (Warwisqueake) Parish, which was the only parish in Isle of Wight County until March 1642.^{xiii} He also has been described as one of the early ministers of the Old Brick Church.^{xiv}

Isle of Wight County was called Warrosquyoake County until 1637.

Being unfamiliar with the ordination procedures of the Church of England, it seems unusual that a servant in Virginia in 1624 would become a minister of the Church of England. Perhaps Thomas Faulconer was in the service of Robert Salford temporarily until a church was erected or maybe he returned to England for ordination between 1624 and 1642, at which time he may have gotten married.

References to Thomas Faulconer of Warwick and Elizabeth City County as a landowner do not appear after 1642 when, coincidentally, he is first identified as the minister in Isle of Wight, with the implication that he had been there sometime:^{xv}

In June, 1642, the county was divided into two parishes. The General Assembly ordered the commissioners of Isle of Wight to obtain surveyors to divide the county provided that the profits of the whole county “remain unto Mr. Faulkner, clerke, during his residence there, notwithstanding any other minister that should be employed on any of the said parishes during the interim. The parishes to be called The Upper and Lower Parishes.”

It is logical that The Reverend Thomas Faulconer would be associated with the Reverend Charles Grimes and Thomas apparently journeyed to England and back under the auspices of Grimes. In 1653 Charles Grimes (Grymes), clerk, acquired three patents for a total of 2960 acres in Lancaster County, Virginia, for bringing 59 persons to the colony, among whom was Thomas Faulconer (Faulkner).^{xvi} Thomas also seems to have made a second trip which was sponsored by Zachary Cripps. On 06 June 1655

Cripps got a patent for 800 acres on Ware Neck, part of which was granted against the headrights of ten people who included Thomas Faulconer (Faulkner) and Charles Grimes.^{xvii} Since Grimes had not used his own right in getting his patents, his voyage to Virginia apparently was paid for by Cripps. There is further circumstantial evidence which tends to confirm the connection between the Reverend Thomas Faulconer and David Faulconer. Charles Grimes was connected with the Taliaferro family and Joyce Craig, daughter of Taliaferro Craig and Mary Hawkins, married John Faulconer, son of Nicholas and grandson of David Faulconer.^{xviii}

David Faulconer, the probable son of the Reverend Thomas Faulconer, signed the estate inventory of Toby Smith, deceased, on 15 April 1658 in Old Rappahannock County, Virginia. Since the plantations of Toby Smith and Thomas Faulconer adjoined, there is geographic continuity between David and Thomas.^{xix} David must have been born before 1630 because he was old enough to own land in 1650. On 22 May 1650 David Faulconer and James Merriott obtained a patent for a tract of land on the south side of the Rappahannock River:^{xx}

Ordered that Capt. Wm. Moseley do sometime between this and the next Court held for this County survey a certaine tract of land scituate & being on the south side of Rappa River granted to David Falkner & James Merriott by Patent bearing date the 22d Day of May 1650.

The south side of the Rappahannock River was in Northumberland County in 1650. Old Rappahannock County was not erected from the upper part of Lancaster County until 1656. Lancaster County was organized from parts of Northumberland and York counties about 1651/2. Northumberland was created from Chickoun and other parts of the neck of land between the Rappahannock and Potomac rivers in 1648 and York County was known as Charles River County until 1642/3. Charles River County was one of the original shires of the Virginia colony. Old Rappahannock County expired in 1692 and was replaced by Essex County, where its records are filed. It is known as Old Rappahannock County because the name was used later for a county in another part of the state.

David Faulconer died before 09 February 1693 in Old Rappahannock County leaving his widow Judith, who subsequently married Roger Perry, and a son Nicholas, according to an Essex County deed from Nicholas to Thomas Winslow on that date. Nicholas Faulconer (Faulkner) of Essex County conveyed to Thomas Winslow, for 1900 pounds of tobacco and 5 shillings, the 50-acre plantation on which his late father David Faulconer (Faulkner) of Old Rappahannock County had lived and which, at the time of the deed, was occupied by Judith, the widow of David Faulconer, and her new husband Roger Perry.^{xxi}

Thomas Faulconer (Faulkner) who was taxed for 50 acres of land in Elizabeth City County in 1704^{xxii} may have been a son of the Reverend Thomas Faulconer and probably the ancestor of the Faulconers of Halifax County, Virginia.^{xxiii}

NOTES

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- i. *Our Early Emigrant Ancestors*, John Camden Hotten, New York, 1880, reprinted Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1962.
 - ii. *ibid.*
 - iii. *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, Nell Marion Nugent, Richmond, VA, 1934, reprinted Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1979, Volume I, page 111, Patent Book 1, Part II, page 657.
 - iv. *ibid*, Volume I, page 134, Patent Book 1, Part I, page 818.
 - v. *ibid*, Volume I, page 25, Patent Book 1, Part I, page 212.
 - vi. *ibid*, Volume I, page 128, Patent Book 1, Part II, page 776.
 - vii. *ibid*, Volume I, page 159, Patent Book 2, page 43.
 - viii. *ibid*, Volume I, pages 4 and 5, Patent Book 1, Part I, pages 21 and 30.
 - ix. *ibid*, Volume I, page xxxii.
 - x. *ibid*, Volume I, page 155, Patent Book 2, page 13.
 - xi. *ibid*, Volume I, page 155, Patent Book 2, page 14.
 - xii. *ibid*, Volume I, page 225, Patent Book 2, page 368.
 - xiii. *Thomas Faulconer and His Descendants*, James G. Faulconer, Gateway Press, Baltimore, 1984, citing *The Colonial Clergy of Virginia* and *The William and Mary Quarterly*, Volume 7, page 209.
 - xiv. Data of James G. Faulconer, Troy, OH, 1980, citing John Boddie's *17th Century Isle of Wight County, Virginia*.
 - xv. *Supra* note 13.
 - xvi. *Supra* note 3, Volume I, page 254, Patent Book 3, pages 373-374.
 - xvii. *ibid*, Volume 1, page 349, Patent Book 4, page 107.
 - xviii. Craig data of compiler.
 - xix. *Supra* note 13.
 - xx. *ibid*, Old Rappahannock County, Virginia, Court Order Book 1686-1692, page 145.
 - xxi. Essex County, Virginia, Deed Book 1692-1695, pages 249-252.
 - xxii. *The Quit Rents of Virginia 1704*, Annie Laurie Wright Smith, Richmond, VA, 1957.
 - xxiii. *Supra* note 13.