

# Thomas Putman Virginia to North Carolina

I will refer to the elder Zachariah Putman's son Thomas, simply as Thomas Putman. The numbered Thomas Putnams and Putmans are in the straight line from the first Thomas Putnam who came from England. Honest, I am trying not to confuse you any further.

Like the younger Zachariah, Thomas was born sometime around 1720 in Essex County, Virginia. He would have married, probably in Orange or Culpeper County, Virginia around the early 1740s. His wife was named Elizabeth, and she was more than likely Barnet, and probably a daughter of John Barnet. The Putmans and Barnets lived near each other in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Thomas named his eldest son Barnet, most likely after his wife's family.

There were two separate Thomas Putmans at this time. There is a record of a Thomas Putman in St. Marks Parish in Culpeper County in 1739 and another Thomas Putman listed in the Kingston Parish, now in Mathews County, Vestry Book in 1740. The one in Culpeper is, I think, Zachariah's son and the Thomas in Kingston Parish is the older Thomas (4th). I hope you realize I am the one numbering these various Thomas Putmans. If they thoughtfully numbered themselves, life would be much simpler, at least for me.

There was a branch of the Putman family that went into North Carolina headed by a Thomas Putman in the mid 1700s. This Thomas most likely was the Thomas Putman from Culpeper, Virginia. After Zachariah junior died in Culpeper in 1753 there were no further mentions of Thomas Putman in Virginia. I think he left after his brother's death and went directly south to Granville County on the North Carolina border. This Thomas Putman appears there in 1754 both in a land purchase and on the Militia Rolls.

In the book *COLONIAL SOLDIERS OF THE SOUTH* by Murtie June Clark, a Private Thomas Putman is listed in the Regiment of Colonel William Eaton, Sukan or Sugar Jones' Company, in Granville County on October 8, 1754.

On August 27, 1754 Thomas Putman purchased 310 acres on the north side of Sandy Creek in Granville County. The deed was made to Thomas Putmond, but later states this was the land whereon Putman now lives. In 1761 he sold 7 acres and this deed was witnessed by James Barnet, which further ties the Putmans with the Barnets in Virginia and the Carolinas. James Barnet was also in the same militia company as Thomas Putman. Also in 1761 Thomas deeded 2 acres of his land for a Baptist meeting house.

Thomas Putman was married by this time, undoubtedly to a Barnet woman, probably a daughter of James Barnet, and had at least one son in North Carolina, Benjamin, by 1766. Benjamin is mentioned in the tax roll at that time. In my opinion he also had two other sons, Barnet and John, but this is only a guess. They would have been older brothers and were in South Carolina by this time.

It would appear that Thomas divided the remaining 300 acres among his three sons. Benjamin sold his 100 acres on February 3, 1770. The other two sons had moved to South Carolina.

On February 25, 1772 Thomas sold the remaining 200 acres of this land on the north side of Sandy Creek. The deed was witnessed by his son Benjamin who had lived on land adjacent to Thomas and part of the original acreage.

On December 23, 1774 John Putman of Craven County, South Carolina signed a memorial for three tracts of land in North Carolina, one being the 200 acres on Sandy Creek. This indicates that John had a title claim on the property that had to be cleared up. It, in my opinion, solidifies my feelings that the John Putman who was later to become a Baptist minister in South Carolina was the son of Thomas Putman. We know Thomas had a son John, but people have been uncertain as to which John Putman. I feel this ties him in to Thomas. Also, when Barnet Putman left his land grant in Union County, South Carolina, it was this very John Putman who had taken it over. This, in my mind, ties the family of Thomas and John and Barnet somewhat reasonably together.

Private John Putman listed on the Muster Roll of Captain Jodin Harper in the North Carolina Militia in 1772. I am not certain who this John is, but I am assuming he is Thomas Putman's son.

The last mention of a Thomas Putman in North Carolina was when he sold his land in Bute County in 1772. Thomas' son Benjamin witnessed this deed.

Benjamin remained in North Carolina for the rest of his life. The life and family of Benjamin Putman follows in this North Carolina section of the Putman family history. The lives of Barnet Putman and John Putman are contained in the South Carolina section.

It then seems that Thomas, Barnet and John Putman went to the old Craven County (now Union County) area of upland South Carolina. Barnet received a land grant there in 1773 and John in 1774. It was common to simply acquire the lands and then go after the documentation later, so they probably arrived in the late 1760s or early 1770s.

A Thomas Putman appears in the 1790 and 1800 South Carolina census living in the Ninety Six District of Pendleton County alone with his wife, both over 45 years old in 1790. I think that Thomas Putman left North Carolina in 1772 and went to South Carolina with his children, where he remained for the rest of his life.

# The Children of Thomas Putman

The following are, I believe, the three sons of Thomas Putman: John, Barnet and Benjamin. Of these three, I am only positive about Benjamin, this being based on old deeds making this connection. As to Barnet and John, I am only making calculated guesses based on what I know and also on what I do not know.

Then there is a daughter, as near as I can figure. In 1978, the [Arkansas Family Historian](#) gives a family chart on the Goss/Hardin family. It begins with a Thomas Goss Senior who married Frances or Fanny Sherman about 1750, both being born in the 1730s. The eldest child was Thomas Goss Junior who married Patsy Putman in about 1776. Thomas was born about 1753 and Patsy about 1755. I am guessing she was one of Thomas Putman's daughters, as there were simply no other Putmans in North Carolina at that time.

## BARNET PUTMAN

While there is *absolutely* no proof that Barnet is a son of this Thomas Putman, I see no other logical connection at this time with the facts as they are known.

James Barnet and his family lived next door to Thomas Putman in North Carolina and a John Barnet lived next to Barnet Putman in South Carolina. It is quite possible that Thomas Putman's wife was a Barnet; it was quite common in those days to name an elder son after the wife's family. Benjamin Putman, a known son of Thomas, had a grandson named Barnet Putman.

Barnet and his family lived in Union County, South Carolina until the 1790s when they moved to what is now Anderson County. In the early 1800s they moved to Warren County, Kentucky where he died about 1809. It seems his wife was named Sarah, but we are not certain exactly who she was.

Barnet's children were:

**LABAN PUTMAN** born 1772 and married to Elizabeth Young.

**THOMAS PUTMAN** born in 1768 and married to Mary Barton.

**EZEKIEL PUTMAN** born about 1773 and married Hannah Brazelton.

**DANIEL PUTMAN** born January 1764 and married Prudence Skelton.

**DAUGHTERS** there were several, but no records can be found yet.

Barnet Putman and his family and their lives are fully detailed in the SOUTH CAROLINA section.

## JOHN PUTMAN

Again, I am making an educated guess that the Reverend John Putman of South Carolina was a

son of Thomas Putman. In 1771, he was carried on a tax list as John, son of Thomas Putman. There is no doubt that Thomas had a son named John, but which John is the question. This John had an interest in the lands of Thomas Putman back in North Carolina and signed a memorial to that effect later in South Carolina. He also took over lands in South Carolina that were originally granted to Barnet Putman. They travelled together to South Carolina and were obviously related.

John Putman was born in Culpeper County, Virginia on June 29, 1751. When an infant, he went with his parents to North Carolina.

He was listed as being on the rolls of Captain Jodin Harper in the North Carolina Militia in 1772. He would have been twenty six years old at that time. Very shortly afterwards, John Putman went to what is now Union County, South Carolina. He more than likely went with his father Thomas and brother Barnet.

John Putman married Sarah Howard in Union County, probably as soon as he returned home from fighting in the Revolution. She was the daughter of Nehemiah Howard of Union County.

He was ordained and became the Pastor of the Padgetts Creek Baptist Church in Union County in 1794. He also founded the Union Brick Meeting House in Union County, later called Putman's Church.

John Putman died December 1, 1820 in Union County, South Carolina. He is buried in Putman's Baptist Church Cemetery and his tombstone reads *'died at 68 years.'* He died leaving his widow and twelve children.

The following are the children of Reverend John Putman and his wife Sarah Howard Putman.

**HIRAM PUTMAN** born October 6, 1783 and married to Loamy Mercer.

**SIMEON PUTMAN** born in 1773 and married to Peggy Mercer.

**SOLOMON PUTMAN** married to Harriet Woodson.

**NANCY PUTMAN** born in 1800 and married to Fielding Turner.

**ALICE PUTMAN** married to Edward Turner.

**CASSANDRA PUTMAN** married to Jesse Browning.

**SUSANNAH PUTMAN**

**ELIZABETH PUTMAN** married to Stephen McPherson.

**EDITH PUTMAN** married to Fielding Clayton.

**JANE PUTMAN** married to Nathan Harlan.

**HESTER PUTMAN** married to Lecil Bobo.

**SARAH PUTMAN**

There are several other Putman researchers who feel this John was the son of Zachariah Putman

II. This is again a situation of '*Pay your money and take your choice.*' The life of this John Putman, whatever his parentage, is detailed in the SOUTH CAROLINA section that follows.

## MARTHA (PATSY) PUTMAN

Patsy Putman was born about 1755 and was married in Granville County, North Carolina to Thomas Goss as mentioned above. They remained in North Carolina then they went to South Carolina and were in the Pendleton District of South Carolina coming down from the area of Wilkes County with others including the Duff Family who later married other Putmans. They lived near the Duffs.

The 1800 census shows them with four sons and two daughters. Thomas is shown as being over 45 and Patsy being under 45 so a birth date of 1755-56 would be right for her.

By 1810 they were living in northwest Georgia in first Hall County then Habersham County. Thomas Putman, son of Barnet Putman, had by that time moved to Hall County in Georgia. One of his children, Wilson Putman, married Malissa Goss there on January 12, 1826.

Patsy Goss died in Habersham County, Georgia in the mid 1820s and Thomas Goss died in the mid 1830s also in Habersham County. Their children went mostly to Montgomery County, Arkansas and then to Lawrence County, Missouri after the Civil War.

The children of Thomas and Patsy Goss were:

**BENJAMIN GOSS** born November 6, 1777. He married Martha Harbin, born May 21, 1783 in Charles County, Maryland. They both died in Polk County, Arkansas, Martha in 1853 and Benjamin on September 27, 1857.

**JOHN GOSS** born in 1780. His wife was named Charlotte.

**THOMAS GOSS** born about 1784.

**MATHEW GOSS** born in about 1790. We do not know the name of his first wife, but his second wife was Evaline McWhorter and they were married in Habersham County, Georgia on May 7, 1833. Mathew died in Henry County, Georgia on December 4, 1884 and Evaline died there on May 4, 1893.

**MALISSA GOSS** born about 1800 in South Carolina. She married Wilson Putman in Hall County, Georgia on January 12, 1826. More on this family is found in the GEORGIA section of this history. Wilson was a son of Thomas Putman.

**OTHER DAUGHTERS** there were at least two more daughters, but I have no information.

## BENJAMIN PUTMAN

Benjamin Putman was born about the year 1750 in Culpeper County, Virginia. He was first mentioned as a minor on a tax list for Bute County, North Carolina in 1766. He is mentioned along with Thomas Putman as his father, so this relationship is well established.

By the latter part of 1766, Benjamin's signature is found as a witness on a deed. This indicates that by 1766 he was over the legal age of sixteen. This would place his birth about 1750. He was married sometime in the latter part of the 1760s.

His wife was named Elizabeth. It is my feeling she was Elizabeth Griggs, daughter of John and Mary Griggs who lived nearby (William Putman, Benjamin's son, had witnessed a deed of John Griggs in 1788). Benjamin named a son Griggs.

In 1770, Benjamin and his wife Elizabeth sold 100 acres of land in Bute County. This was a part of the 310 acres that his father, Thomas, had originally purchased in 1754.

Benjamin is mentioned in many land transactions and tax lists in Bute County, North Carolina through the year 1778. In 1779, Franklin County was formed out of Bute, and Benjamin's lands were in the new Franklin County. This was typical of the times; the land remained the same, but the County boundaries and names changed as population expansion forced counties to divide into more manageable units.

The 1784 and the 1786 census both show Benjamin and Elizabeth with seven sons and two daughters. In the 1790 Census, Benjamin is shown as living alone in the Tar River District of Granville County. The writing on the original report is unclear. Benjamin did have children still living with him and more than likely Elizabeth was still alive at that time. However, the 1790 census also shows a Benjamin Portman with seven males and four females. This is undoubtedly our Benjamin. There was also a William Portman in Burke County and this was most likely William Putman, his son, who was also listed in the 1790 census under the proper spelling.

In 1789 both Benjamin Putman and William Putman were listed on a list of insolvent debts in the estate of General Thomas Person. This was listed in the Warren County Will Book 12. Warren County was formed when Bute County was discontinued in 1779. They were probably listed as insolvent as they had moved by that time to Rutherford County in the southern part of the state.

In the 1800 Census, Benjamin is living in Rutherford County with Elizabeth and five others, two males and three females.

Benjamin is listed in the 1810 North Carolina Census as still living in Rutherford County. Elizabeth was still listed. Only the two of them were living at home. They both seem to have died before 1820 as they are not listed in that census. However, they may have moved with one of their children. I have no dates for the deaths of either Benjamin or Elizabeth.

Benjamin Putman had seven sons and at least three daughters. The children would all have been born in Bute County and then they moved as a family to Rutherford County by 1790. I am positive about Elias, Willis, John and Thomas. I feel that William, Wilson and Griggs were the other of his children. The first five named sons all remained in North Carolina, Wilson and Griggs went into Tennessee and then into northeast Alabama in the early 1800s.

There was a North Carolina Census made from tax data during the period 1784 to 1787. In this report, Benjamin listed seven sons and two daughters. The aforementioned seven sons ties in nicely.