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THOMAS PUTNAM SR.

England to Virginia 1647

Thomas Putnam was baptized on December 3, 1623 in Chesham, Buckinghamshire, England. His father was William Putnam and his mother was Jane Salter or Slater. In the early 1640s, he married his wife Dorothy. We do not know Dorothy's maiden name, but we can assume she was from the same area in England.

There was a period of unrest and rebellion going on in England in the mid 1640s, and many people chose the opportunity being offered in the American colonies to escape persecution. It seems Thomas Putnam also chose this route. He took his family and left England in early December of 1647 and sailed on the ship *Increase* for America.

He became ill aboard ship, and on December 29, 1647, wrote his will in the event he did not live to see his new home. This will, a transcript of which is in the addendum, gives us the facts that his father was William Putnam and that his father was still living in Chesham Parish in England. It also is the document that records the names of his wife and son.

Thomas did, however, make it through the voyage. Thomas Putnam's family arrived in the Chesapeake Bay area of Virginia in early January, 1648 where they settled in Kingston Parish in Gloucester County, in an area which is now in Mathews County.

In a book, RECORDS OF COLONIAL GLOUCESTER COUNTY, by Mason, on page 68 there is listed a land transaction whereby John Smyth received 300 acres lying within Horn Harbor Creek on August 13, 1650 as a head right for transporting Thomas Purner Senior, Dorothy his wife and Thomas Purner Junior among others. This is also listed in the book CAVALIERS AND PIONEERS on page 194. John Smith was granted this head right for transporting these people to America.

It is most people's opinion, including mine, that the Purners were the Putnam family, spelled wrongly or misread when transcribed from the original handwritten document to the official ledgers. This was very common in those times. This would indicate that Thomas Putnam did not die aboard ship and arrived in Virginia with his family and was still living in 1650.

According to the elder Thomas Putnam's will, young Thomas was an only child. Since it appears the father lived for a few years after arriving, there may have been another child, but I can find no records of such. The will was never revised to include new children.

The next date we find is 1659 when Thomas (2nd) is found in Kingston Parish with his mother, Dorothy, who had remarried to this John Smyth. John Smyth had returned to England with the original will of Thomas Putnam Senior, and this will was probated on May 20, 1659. We can assume that Thomas Putnam died sometime during the early 1650s in Virginia, but I do not have a firm date.

THOMAS PUTNAM II

Thomas Putman the second was born in Buckinghamshire, England probably in the mid 1640s as it would seem he was still a child as he is indicated as still living with his mother and step father in 1659.

Thomas Putnam (2nd) appears in Kingston Parish, Gloucester County, Virginia records under various spellings; Putnam, Puttman, Pitman and Putman, and is listed at various times through 1700 as being in this area.

Thomas Junior married, but to whom is unknown. Again, a guess would place his marriage sometime in the 1660s.

Thomas Putnam received a colonial land grant for 330 acres in Gloucester County, Virginia. This land was patented on April 19, 1662 and the grant was issued on October 23, 1673. A copy of this grant is contained in the addendum. The Mathews County Historical Society (the land is now part of Mathews County) advised me that this land on the Narrows of Milford Haven was the scene of the Battle of Gwynn's Island on July 9, 1776.

The Putnam family seems to have remained in the coastal portion of Virginia for the next two generations. Putnam lands are found in Kingston Parish, which at that time was included in Gloucester County, and later in Mathews County, Virginia.

Mention of these lands, some 300 acres, is found in the 1704 and 1705 rent rolls of Kingston Parish and was still in the possession of Thomas Putnam who would have been in his sixties at the time. Probably they were in the hands of his son Thomas as the mention is simply of a Thomas Putnam.

It would seem that Thomas Putnam had at least one son, Thomas (3rd) Putnam.

Thomas Russell Putman, in his Family History, felt that Thomas Junior also had a son named William and that it was William that fathered the next generation. I, however, can find no references to a William Putnam/Putman during the late 1600s.

Thomas Putnam 2nd probably died sometime around 1700, but there is no record of this event that remains.

THOMAS PUTMAN III

The spelling of the family name now seems to change to Putman with this Thomas and it is to remain that way after 1700. Throughout the last half of the 1600s there are constant references to Thomas Putman. I feel they are referring to two separate Thomases, father and son. The next generations were born in the late 1690s and early 1700s. At that time Thomas Putman 2nd would have been in his fifties and simply too old to father them, therefore there must have been a Thomas Putman 3rd.

Thomas Putman was probably born around 1665 to 1670 while his father was in his late twenties. This third Thomas was born in Kingston Parish in Gloucester County, Virginia.

In 1693, Thomas Putman was deeded land in Kingston Parish and he appears there on the Rent Rolls in 1704 and 1705 with 300 acres. He was listed as Thomas Pitman in the 1705 listing.

Once again there is no mention of his wife by name. He obviously married as a new generation began to appear in the area. In my opinion, he was the only Putman in Gloucester County at the time.

There is a reference to an **ELIZABETH PUTMAN** being granted lands in Prince George County, Virginia in 1706. Prince George County is just south of Gloucester County across the James River. I have no idea who she is, but she would be in this generation of Putmans, and quite possibly Thomas' wife. If this is indeed the case, then Thomas Putman 3rd died in 1705 and Elizabeth took the grant in her name. Not certain at all though.

The next generation seems to be that of Henry, Zachariah and another Thomas (the 4th). These men would have been born in the 1690s to early 1700s. Since all references from 1650 to 1705 are simply to a Thomas Putnam and Thomas Putman, I am assuming that they refer to two Thomas Putnams or Putmans, father and son. I feel that the later references are to the son who inherited his father's estate and lived on the same land.

There seem to have been four sons born to Thomas Putman. There were more than likely daughters as well, but records of females in colonial times are also virtually non-existent unless one can find a church record of a birth, a christening or a marriage. They simply *disappeared* into the husband's family.

The children of Thomas Putman 3rd were:

Zachariah Putman I

Zachariah Putman was born in Gloucester County, Virginia some time in the mid to late 1690s and appears to be the oldest son of Thomas 3rd. His life will be covered in the next section.

Zachariah I is pretty well documented and his line has been the easiest to track along.

His children would include THOMAS, MARY and ZACHARIAH 2nd and possible some other daughters.

Henry Putman

Henry was born about 1700. We only have a few references to Henry Putman. These references come from the Vestry Book of Christ Church in neighboring Middlesex County, Virginia. The references are to baptisms of the children of Henry and Sarah Putman. One for a son, John, in 1723 and one for a daughter, Anne, in 1729. If you assume these were the only children, then Henry was probably married to Sarah in the early 1720s which would put his birth at about 1700.

There is a reference to a Henry Putman in the Kingston Parish Vestry Book in 1744. The Kingston Vestry Books One & Three exist, Book Two (1727-1739) is missing, so there are no records for this period remaining. I assume this is the same Henry, but there may have been two separate Henry Putmans. Again I just do not know.

Now come some guesses. By 1760 there was a family of Putmans in Fauquier County, Virginia. There, in the marriage records, we find a listing of Hezekiah Rhodes marrying Elizabeth Putman on January 28, 1765 and a record of John Rhodes marrying Nancy Putman on November 10, 1768. In going back into the Parish Register of Christ Church in Middlesex County, we find John and Hezekiah Rhodes baptism records showing they were sons of William and Hannah Roads (spellings vary). As families seem to travel together to new lands, I feel it is a safe assumption that William and Hannah Rhodes, Henry and Sarah Putman, his brother William Putman and others moved to new lands in Fauquier County, which was formed in 1759. After 1800 there is a very active and documented Putman family in Fauquier County that spread out into Warren County, Virginia and into West Virginia.

At the end of this section on Virginia Putmans, there is a history of the PUTMANS of FAUQUIER COUNTY. As I am not certain which children belonged to William and which to Henry, I am not specifically listing children here. I simply cannot make the right connections with the facts I have available to me at this time. I feel William Putnam was the head of the family in Fauquier County.

Children of Henry include JOHN born in 1723 and ANNE born in 1729. There may well be others, especially daughters.

Thomas Putman IV

The name of Thomas Putnam/Putman seems to remain a constant in the Kingston Parish Register through the late 1740s. I hope I am keeping track. I think there were four Thomas Putmans all told in Kingston Parish over the roughly hundred year period from 1650 to 1750.

Thomas Putnam/Putman, the spelling varies, is listed along with his wife from 1740 to 1744. In a listing for 1744, Thomas Putnam is mentioned as being the church sexton. I have no further information on this Thomas.

There are, however, several other families that came out of Virginia in the late 1700s. I don't think they are connected to our Southern Branch, but are just 'Late Arrivals' from England. I am putting them here just in case, but I don't think they are connected to us.

There was a **JOHN PUTMAN**, born before 1755, who was in Accomack County on the Eastern Shore in the 1800 Census for Virginia. He had a son born about 1775-1784 (Josiah??).

A **JOSIAH PUTMAN** was received by the Springfield Quaker Meeting in Guilford County, North Carolina on April 5, 1794. He had come from a nearby Meeting in New Garden, also Guilford County. This should put his birth no earlier than the 1750s up to about 1775. I find nothing more on Josiah, but he was there nevertheless.

There was **JEREMIAH PUTMAN** born in the mid 1790s, whose wife Susan Dean was from Richmond County or possible from Richmond city.

Jeremiah and Susan took their family first to Guilford County, North Carolina in mid 1820s and from there went west to Jefferson County, Tennessee. It appears they were either Quakers or they followed the Quakers of the area as they migrated westward.

I am going to *go with* this family being a part of ours. No proof what so ever, but they just have to be or at least so in my mind. There were simply no other Putmans in the area.

This is what I think the family of John Putnam/Putman most likely was:

JOHN PUTMAN born about 1750 and married with one son in his twenties in the 1800 Census. This son was possibly the Jeremiah Putman who married Susan Dean.

POSSIBLE DAUGHTERS

The next generation would include:

JOSIAH PUTMAN born about 1770 and moved to Guilford County, North Carolina by 1794. He most likely then went with so many other Quakers to Jefferson County, Tennessee.

NANCY PUTMAN who married Solomon Copeland in Guilford County, North Carolina on April 20, 1818.

ELIZABETH 'BETSY' PUTMAN who married James North in Guilford County on February 15, 1822.

JENNY PUTMAN who married Hugh McCall in Guilford County on April 22, 1825.

JEREMIAH PUTMAN born in the 1790s. This makes him possibly a son of Josiah. He married Susannah Dean in Caswell County, North Carolina on April 4, 1823. What I can put together on this family is carried in much more detail in the section on TENNESSEE PUTMANS later in this history. He and his wife Susan had the following children:

Devalles Putman born 1820. He married Elizabeth Ann Owen in Guilford County, North Carolina on May 26, 1847. He may have been with a wife before Susan as he lists his birthplace as North Carolina and the later kids all say Virginia. Or he may have been a son of a brother of Jeremiah. I'm just not sure except he was born before the 1823 marriage date.

Jeremiah Putman born about 1822. He married Charlotte Fields in Guilford County on January 25, 1844. More on this family is in the section on MISSOURI PUTMANS.

William Putman born 1826. He married Anna Coffin in Guilford County, North Carolina on October 9, 1860. Anna and her family were Quakers and the records show she was disowned for marrying out of unity. After William died, she married again to a Quaker, Joseph Morris, and was restored in July of 1872.

Two Daughters born in the late 1820s.

Mary Ann Putman born in 1831.

Remember, I am not really listing then as part of this family, but am just not certain one way or the other.

William Putman

There were mentions of a William Putman in the Kingston Parish Vestry Book in 1742 and again in 1743. Also in the same Vestry Book, there is a mention of Dorothy Putman marrying Abraham Crawley in 1753; Susannah Putman marrying William Harris in 1756; and Sukey Putman marrying Richard Dye in 1762. These all may have been children of William Putman or perhaps of Thomas Putman IV, or Henry, but I have no proof at all as to which or they may have been some of each one's kids.

The War Department in Washington shows that a William Putman served in the Revolutionary War as a Private in Captain Gustavus Brown Wallace's Company, 3rd Virginia Regiment, commanded by Colonel George Weedon. His name appears on Company pay records from October 8, 1776 to March 1, 1777.

This William was most likely a William Junior. The elder William would be well into his fifties by 1776. This William Putman Junior married Catherine Darnell in Fauquier County, Virginia. The next listing for a William Putman was when William married Pency Aly Gill in Fauquier County on February 8, 1817. But this was a third William, a son of Joseph Darnell Putman, son of William Putman Junior.

William Putman, in my opinion, was certainly the man whose children and grand children populated Fauquier County and then Warren County in northern Virginia. Maybe Henry was too, I am not certain about him.

More on William and all the guesswork about him comes a bit later in the part of this section on PUTMANS IN FAUQUIER COUNTY, VIRGINIA.