

Verifying Your Jamestowne Lineage

Identifying, Verifying, and Documenting Your Connection

Bonnie Hofmeyer, Executive Director of the Jamestowne Society; bhofmeyer@jamestowne.org

The Jamestowne Society

The Jamestowne Society was founded May 14, 1936 on Jamestowne Island by George Craghead Gregory.

On May 14, 1607, the colonists chose Jamestowne Island as the site of their permanent settlement. To commemorate this great occasion, the Spring Membership Meeting of the Jamestowne Society is held annually on the third Saturday of May at Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg, Virginia with a luncheon and featured speaker. The option of a Friday tour to a historical site is also offered to members and their guests. The Fall Membership Meeting is held on Saturday of the first full weekend of November at The Commonwealth Club in Richmond, Virginia. It also has a luncheon and featured speaker and the option of a Friday tour to a historical site. Elections for Society leadership also takes place at the Fall Membership Meeting in Richmond.

One of the benefits of a Life Membership in the Jamestowne Society is the opportunity to join a company and attend local meetings centered around matters of common 17th Century Virginia historical and genealogical interest. To locate a company near you, please visit the Companies and Leaders page of the website:

<https://www.jamestowne.org/companies-and-leaders.html>

Criteria for Seventeenth Century Qualifying Ancestors

The following criteria are used to determine whether an early settler may be included as a qualifying ancestor for purposes of membership in the Jamestowne Society. The individual:

1. was a stockholder in the London Company or the Virginia Company, or a member of one of the guilds which invested in the above, during the active investment period;
2. owned land on Jamestown Island or lived on the Island prior to 1700 (owning land in a neighboring area or neighboring county does NOT of itself qualify an individual);
3. was a resident in Virginia at the time of the 1624/25 Muster or earlier;
4. served as Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, Clerk of the General Court, Member of the Council or House of Burgesses prior to 1700; these persons shall be conclusively presumed to have had their domiciles on Jamestown Island during their terms of office;

5. was an Anglican Church (Church of England) minister in Virginia prior to 1700; or
6. served as an official Indian Interpreter in Virginia prior to 1700.

A full list of qualifying ancestors can be found on the Jamestowne Society website:

<https://www.jamestowne.org/qualifying-ancestors.html>

Acceptable Documentation

- Primary source (original record) material
- Bible Records
- Cemetery Records
- Newspapers
- Census Records
- Vital Records
- Court Records (Deeds, wills, estate settlements, chancery/equity cases)

Unacceptable Documentation

- Family Lineage Charts
- Other approved society applications
- Printed Genealogies
- DNA
- Find A Grave
- Virkus

How to Get a Sponsor

Membership in the Jamestowne Society is by invitation and in accordance with the Society's bylaws. To begin the application process, please contact a member of the Jamestowne Society whom you know, or the Jamestowne Society Company most convenient to you, and express your interest in becoming a member.

If you do not know a member of the Society, you may contact Bonnie Hofmeyer, Executive Director, by email at bhofmeyer@jamestowne.org



Include the following information in your request-

- a brief autobiography of yourself
- the name of your qualifying ancestor
- your mailing address
- telephone number.

After receiving an invitation from the Jamestowne Society to apply for membership, please return, by mail, your completed membership application and copies of your proof documents. All applications must be completed using the Society's software and hard copy signed by both applicant and sponsor. Email your completed application to Bonnie Hofmeyer at bhofmeyer@jamestowne.org

The Society does not assist applicants with research.

Recommended Digital Collections

The Brantley Project

Southampton County, VA records were digitized and indexed from 1749-1880.

https://www.brantleyassociation.com/pages/southampton_project.htm.

The MilesFiles

Contains hundreds of Eastern Shore families from the counties of Accomack and Northampton, Virginia; Somerset, Worcester and Wicomico, Maryland; and Sussex Co, Delaware. MilesFiles traces living persons to European royalty including Charlemagne, Gateway Ancestors, First Families of Virginia, Eastern Shore Progenitors, and the Jamestowne Society. <https://espl-genealogy.org/>.

The Library of Virginia

This library holds microfilm copies of county records; including deeds, will books, marriage bonds, as well as bureau of vital statistics from 1853 to 1896 (births & deaths, and marriages from 1853 to 1912). Genealogical records, notes and charts, church records, and Bible records are housed within and accessed through the catalog. <https://www.lva.virginia.gov/>.

Listing of available county/city records on microfilm: <https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/local/>.

Virginia Memory

Chancery records, crafted from firsthand testimonies, unveil a vivid portrait of life in 18th-century Virginia. Delving into these documents unveils intricate family dynamics and offers sometimes profound insights into the individuals mentioned within. Recognized as invaluable reservoirs of genealogical data, chancery suits often remain overlooked treasures despite their wealth of historical riches.

<https://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/chancery/>.

FamilySearch

Search under Virginia for available Records. <https://www.FamilySearch.org>.

Recommended Publications

The following references are recommended for research to assist applicants in proving their ancestor's qualifying service or their own direct line of descent from a qualifying ancestor:

RESIDENCE is found in *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants 1623-1666* and *Cavaliers and Pioneers Volume II 1666- 1695*, by Nell M. Nugent and *Documentary History of Jamestowne Island Vol. III: Biographies of Owners and Residents* by Martha W. McCartney.

https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/jame/documentary_history3.pdf

SERVICE for Jamestowne is found in *The General Assembly of Virginia 1619-1978* by Cynthia Leonard and *The Colonial Virginia Register* by William G. & Mary Stanard.

A list of **STOCKHOLDERS** in the Virginia Company is found in *The Records of the Virginia Company of London*, volume III, by Susan Kingsbury.

SIGNERS OF CHARTERS are found in *The Three Charters of the Virginia Company of London* by Samuel Bemiss.

A list of **ANGLICAN MINISTERS** is found in *Empire, Religion and Revolution in Early Virginia, 1607-1786* by James Bell and *The Colonial Clergy of Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina* by Frederick Lewis Weis.

The **1624/5 MUSTER** is found in *Adventurers of Purse and Person Virginia 1607-1624/5*, 4th edition, volume I, by John Frederick Dorman. This work is referred to as APP.

The **LISTS of the LIVINGE and DEAD in VIRGINIA 1623** is found in *The Original Lists of Persons of Quality: Emigrants, Religious Exiles, Political Rebels, Serving Men Sold for a Term of Years, Apprentices, Children*



Stolen, Maidens Pressed, and Others, who Went from Great Britain to the American Plantations, 1600-1700
by John Camden Hotten.

The following books, although helpful, are not accepted as a proof document by the Jamestowne Society-

Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers 1607-1635, by Martha W. McCartney.

Jamestowne People to 1800, by Martha W. McCartney.

The Complete Book of Emigrants 1607-1660 by Peter Wilson Coldham.

The Complete Book of Emigrants 1661-1699, Vol II by Peter Wilson Coldham.

Accessing Published Resources

- May be available online
 - <https://www.hathitrust.org/>
 - <https://books.google.com/>
 - <https://archive.org/index.php>
 - <https://openlibrary.org/>
 - <https://books.familysearch.org>
 - <http://library.si.edu/digital-library>
- Search WorldCat - <https://search.worldcat.org/>

Guilds

In London, the guilds were usually called livery companies or worshipful companies, and they remain in existence today, though rarely actively involved, if at all, in the professions. Some of the guilds made overseas investments, including shares in the London/Virginia Companies in the years 1618 to 1624. Those guilds investing are listed in *The Records of the Virginia Company of London*, Documents 1, Vol.3, Susan Myra Kingsbury.

The following guilds or companies were investors:

- Barbersurgeons 1618, 1620
- Bakers 1618, 1620
- Clothworkers 1618, 1620
- Drapers 1618, 1620

- Dyers 1618, 1620
- Fishmongers 1618, 1620
- Grocers 1618, 1620
- Goldsmiths 1618, 1620
- Girdlers 1618, 1620
- Innholders 1618, 1620
- Imbroderers 1618, 1620
- Ironmongers 1618, 1620
- Leathersellers 1618, 1620
- Mercers 1618, 1620
- Merchant Tailors 1618, 1620
- Stationers 1618, 1620
- Skinners 1618, 1620
- Salters 1618, 1620

The Jamestowne Society accepts those men who were **full** [i.e. **not** apprentices] guild members in the investing companies listed above, at the time of the investments. They are classified as investors, and their descendants are eligible for membership in the Society. There is no comprehensive list of all members of guilds.

The following is some basic information on these companies, including earliest date mentioned, their specialization, website, and some available information on record holdings and/or membership lists when available.

Barbersurgeons, 1308 – dealt with barbering and surgery until 1745 when latter split off. Has a library and archives. <https://barberscompany.org/>.

Bakers 1155– dealt with baking (original building destroyed in WWII). Does not deal with genealogical enquiries. www.bakers.co.uk.

Clothworkers, 1528 – dealt with textile creation. Has an archives. <https://www.clothworkers.co.uk/>. Registers of Freemen from 1545 to the present day and Registers of Apprentices survive for the period 1606-1908. Available online at: <https://www.londonroll.org/search>.

Drapers, 1364 – dealt with cloth trade, has an archive. www.thedrapers.co.uk. Available online at: <https://www.londonroll.org/search>.

Dyers, n.a. – dealt with the dyeing of cloth. Most early records lost in Great Fire of 1666. Has a spreadsheet of liveryman, but too late for JS purposes. <https://www.dyerscompany.co.uk/>.

Fishmongers, c.1300 – dealt with buying and selling of fish. Most important records seem to have survived the Great Fire and WWII. <https://fishmongers.org.uk/>.

Girdlers, 1327 [charter date] – dealt with the manufacture of girdles/belts. <https://girdlers.co.uk/>. Records are at the Guildhall Library <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/history-and-heritage/guildhall-library>. Available online at: <https://www.londonroll.org/search>.

Goldsmiths, 1327 [charter date] – dealt with craft of gold and silver products. <https://www.thegoldsmiths.co.uk/>. Has a library and archives and good records. Available online at: <https://www.londonroll.org/search>.

Grocers, 1345 – dealt with selling of foodstuffs [starting with black pepper]. <https://grocershall.co.uk/>

Imbroderers, 1561 [charter date] – dealt with workers embroidering. Extensive losses due to fires and bombing. <https://broderers.co.uk/>.

Innholders, 1514 [charter date] – dealt with providing drinks, bed and board for travelers and their mounts. Most early records were lost in Great Fire of 1666. www.innholders.org.uk.

Ironmongers, 13th century – dealt with creation of iron and steel products <https://www.ironmongers.org/>. Records are at the Guildhall Library and most survive from 1454 <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/history-and-heritage/guildhall-library>. See also searchable lists at: <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/city-of-london-ironmongers-company-apprentices-and-freemen-1511-1939>.

Leathersellers, 1444 [charter date] – dealt with the inspection of leather and leather products <https://leathersellers.co.uk/>. Records are very good. For a list of masters, see: <https://www.leathersellers.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/List-of-Masters-1.pdf> and for list of wardens, see: <https://www.leathersellers.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/List-of-Wardens.pdf>.

Mercers, 14th century – dealt with sale/trade of luxury fabrics [such as silk]. <https://www.mercers.co.uk/>. The records are very good. Lists of freeman and apprentices are Available online at: <https://www.londonroll.org/search>.

Merchant Tailors, 1327 [first chartered as tailors] – dealt with tailoring of clothing <https://www.merchant-tailors.co.uk/>. Records are very good and are housed at Guildhall Library. Genealogical enquirers should be directed to: ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk.

Salters, n.a. – dealt with the salt trade and salting of meat and fish <https://salters.co.uk/>. Many records were lost in the Great Fire in 1666. Membership records from 1636 [too late for Jamestowne purposes] are available online at: <https://www.londonroll.org/search>.

Skinners, 1327 – dealt with fur dressing and trade <https://www.skinner.org.uk/>.

Stationers, 1403 – dealt with bookselling and printing <https://www.stationers.org/>. Archives are good, but not onsite accessible. Membership lists are available online at: <https://www.londonroll.org/search>.

Indian Interpreters

Below is an excerpt from the *Jamestown Society Magazine*:

JS/Leadership in Action



*From the office of
Genealogist*

LYNDON HOBBS HART, III
jamestowngenealogist@gmail.com

The office of Indian Interpreter was recently added to the list of offices that are considered to be acceptable for representation in the Jamestown Society. The position was paid by the colonial government and was a responsible position handling relations with the native population of Virginia.

The following is a list of Indian Interpreters prior to 1699. There is no official listing of such office-holders, but rather, the items are located in court order books or minutes of the colonial government. This list is definitely not complete and will be happily expanded when citations to public records can confirm that an individual was the holder of this office while the capital was at Jamestowne.

Confirmed Indian Interpreters:



Name	Dates/residence	First Date Of Service	Reference
Thomas Blunt	Died 1709 Surry Co.	1693	Surry Co. Order Book 1691-1700. p. 75
Thomas Busby	Surry Co.	1685	Surry Co. Order Book 1682-91, p. 489
Cornelius Dabney	Died by 1701 King & Queen Co.		
John Devorax	<i>Probably a resident of Northampton Co.</i>	1680	Minutes of the Council and General Court, 14 October 1670
John Flood	Died 1658	1646	see APP, 4th ed., v.1, p. 995 for more information
Thomas Flood	Died 1671	1659	see APP, 4th ed., v.1, p. 996 for more information
John King	<i>Possibly a resident of the Eastern Shore</i>	1670	Minutes of the Council and General Court, 14 October 1670
Henry Newcombe	<i>Possibly a resident of the Eastern Shore</i>	1670	Minutes of the Council and General Court, 14 October 1670
Thomas Savage	Died by 1633		see APP, 4th ed., v.3, p. 118 for more information
William Woodward	<i>Possibly a resident of Charles City Co.</i>	1670	Minutes of the Council and General Court, 14 October 1670

When additional names are discovered or submitted to the genealogist with supporting documentation and confirmed, we will update this list and provide such information in a future article.

Jamestowne Society Magazine | Vol. 40, No. 2 Fall 2016 7