

BOYT/E/T/TE Timeline (*Numbers in Italics are estimates*)
Notes by Wendy Elliott 2004

Date	Given Name	Co & State	Location/Other	Info Source
1697	Thomas <i>b1664</i>	Nansemond VA	Sumerton	VA Land Grant
1704	Thomas <i>b1664</i>	Nansemond VA	400 ac	VA Quit Rents
24 Jan 1717	Thomas Jr <i>1695</i>	Nansemond VA	244ac	VA Land Grant
24 Jan 1717	Thomas Jr <i>1695</i>	Nansemond VA	292 ac	VA Land Grant
24 Jan 1717	Edward <i>b. 1693</i>	Nansemond VA	150 ac	VA Land Grant
May 1742	William <i>b. 1691</i>	of Nansemond	200 acBertieNC	grantee deed
8 July 1742	William <i>b. 1691</i>	of Nansemond	200 ac BertieNC	grantor deed
23 Nov 1743	Edward <i>b. 1693</i>	Nansemond VA	Precinct 12	Vestry Book
4 Dec 1745	Ann (indigent)	Nansemond VA	Precinct 10	Vestry Book
24 Jan 1746/7	Ann “ <i>wd Tom</i> ”	Nansemond VA	Precinct 10	Vestry Book
11 May 1747	James <i>b by 1726</i>	Bertie Co. NC	wit to deed	Bertie land rec
1748	Willaim <i>b.c1691</i>	Nansemond VA	Precinct 10	Vestry Book
1748	Moses <i>b. c1726</i>	Nansemond VA	Precinct 10	Vestry Book
1748	Receaco <i>wd Edw</i>	Nansemond VA	Precinct 10	Vestry Book
1748	John <i>b. c1726</i>	Nansemond VA	present dur proc	Vestry Book
27 Sep 1751	Thomas <i>b. c1729</i>	Johnston Co NC	complaint filed	court recs
March 1752	Thomas <i>b. c1735</i>	Nansemond VA	wit procession	Vestry Book
	in dist 10	JARNIGAN &	WATSON nrby	“ ”
Mar 1752	Edward <i>b. c1729</i>	Nansemond VA	Dist 12, adj Wm	Vestry Book
Mar 1752	William <i>b.c1691</i>	Nansemond VA	Dist 12, adj Edw	Vestry Book

Mar 1752	William <i>b.c1691</i>	Nansemond VA	Dist 10, adj Edw	Vestry Book
Mar 1752	Edward <i>b.</i> <i>c1729</i>	Nansemond VA	Dist 10, adj Wm	Vestry Book
aft13 Sep 1755	John <i>b. c1726</i>	Nansemond VA	Dist 10, adj Wm	Vestry Book
aft13 Sep 1755	William <i>b.c1691</i>	Nansemond VA	Dist 10,adj John	Vestry Book
1758	Arthur <i>b. c1737</i>	Nansemond VA	pd for keeping ReddickHOLMES	Vestry Book
1760	Arthur BOYT	Nansemond VA	Dist 10	Vestry Book
1760	John BOYT	Nansemond VA	Dist 10	Vestry Book
continued	continued	continued	continued	continued
12 Mar 1764	William	Nansemond VA	Dist 12	Vestry Book
unknown date	Lydia JONES, dau Edw BOYT	she of JhnstnNC he: Nansemond	Somerton Ck: 2 tracts 100ac ea*	JERNIGAN fam hist
1774	Arthur	Nansemond VA	Dist 10	Vestry Book
1777	William	Nansemond VA	pd for keeping Martha ROGERS 7 mo	Vestry Book
1790	Thomas	Nansemond VA	Darden's list; 4 in HH	1790 US Census p. 57
1790	Timothy	Nansemond VA	Darden's list 2x; 6 white, 1 blk, & 2 bldgs	1790 US Census pp 57 & 73
1790	William	Nansemond VA	Darden's list; 3 white; 1 blk	1790 US Census p 57
1790	David	Nansemond VA	Darden's list; 2 wh,1 bl,3bldgs	1790 US Census p 73

1790	William	Nansemond VA	Darden's list; 1 wh; 2 bldgs	1790 US Census p 73
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* Henry JERNIGAN bought 100 ac tract in Nansemond Co., VA from John JENKINS, rec dated 1772 (Johnston Co., NC deed book H-1, p 190); deed incl above info.

NOTES: During the colonial and federal period the terms “Sr.” & “Jr.” did not designate father & son ; rather these appellations (name designations) indicated the eldest & next oldest men of the same name & of legal age in an area. If there were only two, when the eldest died, the “Jr” could be dropped.

In America, marriage ages for men & women's first marriage usually occurred around the ages of 21 & 20 during the 1700s; however, at least one historian argues that in the south, marriage age was a little younger.

According to historian & respected authority Michael Grossberg in *Governing the*

Hearth, p. . Alan D. Watson, *Society in Colonial North Carolina* (Raleigh: North

Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, 1975),

46, suggests that NC women married at a young age and raised large families.

[Close](#) Historian David Fischer, an anowledged expert, presents statistics to show that in Virginia between 1680 & 1729, non-elite men married at the average age of 25 and non-elite women married by the age of 17; there was frequently a ten year age difference between husband and wife. One-fourth of the men died unmarried because of the larger percentage of men than women.

David Hackett Fischer, *Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America* (New York:

Oxford University Press, 1989), 285 and 292.

[Close](#) The average family size was seven children, but one-third to one-half died.

Ibid., 277.

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Men's mortality rate in **1900** was only 42 yrs; women's was 43; it was even shorter during the colonial and early federal periods; however, this brief life span was, in part, due to the death rate of children.

According to historians Carole Shammas, Marylynn Salmon, & Michel Dahlin in

Inheritance in America: From Colonial Times to the Present, 149.

[Close](#) According to historian Fischer, Virginia had a very high mortality rate and low birth rate mainly because "Malaria, typhoid, dysentery, enteritis and other diseases took a terrific toll in that part of tidewater Virginia . . ." with the result that "roughly one-third of newborn babies perished within the first twenty months of life, and nearly half were dead before they reached adulthood."

Fischer, *Albion's Seed*, 226, 251, and 311.

[Close](#) In NC in the 1700s, one out of every three children died, and life expectancy was short.

Watson, 47.

[Close](#) Nevertheless, a few men and women did live to their sixties and longer.

Ibid., 45.

[Close](#)

One frequently used naming pattern was to name the oldest son for the father's father, the second son for the mother's father, the third son for the father, and the fourth son after the father's oldest brother. Of course, variations occur, and not all families followed this example.

Fischer, *Albion's Seed*, 306-10, discusses naming patterns in Virginia during this era.

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What I'm thinking:

1. The immigrant Thomas is prob the identical person with Thos in Nansemond Co. VA who obtained land in 1697 and paid Quit Rents in 1704. His sons were all under the age of 21 in 1704.

2. The immigrant Thomas had to be 21 to patent land, so he was b. at least by 1676.
3. He was prob b. in England and came to VA as an indentured servant or had enough money to pay his own passage & purchase land when he arrived.
4. Because of the laws of primogeniture in effect in both England and its colonies at that time, Thomas, the immigrant, was probably a 2nd son, not the heir of his father in England.
5. Since the names Thomas and Edward BOYTE/BOYT/BOYET appear in the parish records for Somerset and Dorset counties in southwest England as far back as the 1500s, the immigrant might be from that area. [The great majority of immigrants to Maryland, Virginia, & North Carolina during the 1600s and 1700s came from Southwest England; given names in Virginia also match those in that area of England.]
6. Fam trad indicates that he/they came from either Scotland or Ireland.

Although there is one branch whose family tradition indicates France as the homeland.

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7. One fam trad also indicates that he/they came in 1727, but this may be the date that the first BOYT moved into NC rather than the date of arrival in VA, because the land record proves that Thomas owned land on which he lived and paid taxes in Nansemond Co., VA 30 yrs before 1727. Of course, it is possible that Thomas came before 1697 and other relatives followed as much as 30 yrs later.
8. Since Thomas Jr and Edward patented land in VA in 1717, it can be assumed that both were at least 21 yrs old at that time, therefore b. abt 1695. Because the term Jr was applied, it shows that Thomas Sr was alive in 1717. He probably died abt 1735, possibly leaving the care of his widow Ann on the parish's responsibility.
9. Thus, the immigrant Thomas was prob b. about 1670. The standard genealogical estimate of age between generations is 30 yrs (a median between oldest & youngest children's births); consequently, 1664 seems a reasonable guess.
10. Since a Thomas Jr is mentioned in land records for 1717, it can be assumed that Thomas Jr is a son of the immigrant Thomas. Likewise, Edward who also patented land in 1717 is prob another son.
11. Since the laws of primogeniture were in effect in VA at that time, another son--the eldest--prob inherited the immigrant Thomas's land and therefore did not need to patent additional land. His land should have been processioned by the parish, thus it seems that William might be the oldest son of the immigrant Thomas.
12. One or all 3 sons of the immigrant Thomas may be the parent/s or grandparent/s of some of the BOYT men who are listed in the parish vestry books during the 1740s and 1750s in Nansemond Co., VA: William, Edward, James, Moses, Arthur, John, and Thomas.
13. Apparently a Thomas lived in Nansemond Co., VA at the same time as a Thomas resided in Johnston Co., NC. Records indicate that these are 2 separate individuals. Thomas Jr was not listed in the processioning records for the county, so it is assumed that he died before 1748.

14. The records of Bertie Co., NC show that men living in Nansemond Co., VA bought and sold land in Bertie Co.

15. A migration from Nansemond into Craven and Bertie counties occurred during the mid 18th century. The Virginia/North Carolina state line divided Nansemond Co., VA from Craven Co., NC. Bertie Co., NC abutts Craven County's southern boundary.

16. Ann BOYT who was cared for by Theophilus Jones between 1745 & 1747--and compensated for his efforts by the parish--may have been a spinster or an impoverished widow. She was indigent or would not have been cared for by the parish. It is possible that she was the widow of Thomas or an unknown BOYT son of the immigrant who owned no land at the time of death. (If she was a widow, it is probable that her husband owned no land. If her husband owned property, dower laws should have provided for her upkeep because she was entitled to 1/3 interest in the estate for her lifetime. Their oldest son would have inherited the property under the laws of primogeniture in effect in Virginia, but the widow still had 1/3 interest until she died. Another explanation is possible and that is if she were the widow of the immigrant but had sold the land to pay estate debts, she would qualify to be cared for by the parish.)

17. It is unlikely, but possible, that Thomas Jr was the Thomas recorded in Johnston Co., NC recs during the 1750s. Thomas Jr (who bought land in 1717) would have been over 50 yrs old and it seems doubtful that he migrated to another location at that stage of his life.

18. Rebecca, who was listed in the 1748 vestry records as land owner, may have been the widow of Thomas Jr or another brother. Her land ownership indicates that she was a widow.

19. Since the Thomas BOYT who remained in Nansemond County--as noted in Vestry recs in 1750 & 1752--did not own land and served only as a witness during processioning, it can be assumed that he was under the age of 21, thus born about 1735. Since he is not listed as a "Jr." it indicates that no senior Thomas lived in the area.

20. Both William and Edward lands are mentioned in districts 10 & 12, but this seems to indicate not two separate individuals of the same name, but that their lands abutted lands the other districts. Neither are shown as a Jr or Sr, so prob there was only one Edward and one William. Edward appeared in the records thru 1743; he is not listed in the 1748 processionings because District #12 was not recorded in 1748. But he was living in Dist #12 in 1752 as shown in the processionings for that year. His property was adjacent William BOYT's who lived in Dist #10.

21. There seems to be only one Edward who lived in Nansemond Co., VA (prob the son of the immigrant Thomas) and prob b. abt 1695. He resided in Dist #12 btw 1743-1752; his wife's name is unknown. He d. aft the 1752 processioning. Edward BOYT of Nansemond had a daughter Lydia who m. William JONES; William JONES d. young leaving widow & young son. William JONES's land was processioned in Dist. 10 from 1748 thru 1760.

22. William BOYT b. est 1715/25 of Nansemond Co., VA, prob a son of William, Thomas Jr., or Edward. William bought and sold land in Bertie Co., NC; he or another William lived in Nansemond Co., VA btw 1742-1777.

He or another William BOYD/T patented land in Dobbs Co NC 24 Apr 1762 (#6047p406) 500 ac joining Reedy Branch, his own corner & Jesse JERNIGAN's. He is mentioned as an adj land owner in John SASSER's patent 15 Nov 1762 (#6327,p 452) in

Dobbs Co on Little Rv, adj SASSER's line, William BOYD/T's line, & a point near George JONAGAN/JERNIGAN.& George BOYET is listed in next patent (#6238, p. 452) as an adj land owner on John MITCHEL's 15 Nov 1762 patent in Dobbs Co on the N sd of Neuse Rv on the Marsh Branch. Other adj owners were Stephen BLACKMAN & nr LANGSTON. William BOYD/T is also listed as an adj land owner for Theophilus JONES's patent (#6562,p505) 22 Apr 1763 for land in Dobbs Co on Jumping Run; others mentioned were Arthur COAR/CORE & George JARNAGAN. George JERNIGAN, Theophilus JONES, & William BOYT all seem to have moved from Nansemond Co., VA to Dobbs Co., NC before 1762/3.

23. James b. est 1715 witnessed a deed in Bertie Co., NC although he resided in Nansemond Co VA dur the 1740s.

24. Moses b. est 1720 resided in Nansemond Co VA in 1747 but does not appear in the records for 1750. He may have moved to NC.

25. John b. est 1730 resided in Nansemond Co VA and witnessed a processioning there in 1747 which indicates that he was under the age of 21 at that time.

26. Since George BOYET and Thomas BOYET in 1763 owned land in Dobbs Co., NC adj the same three men (John SASSER, Thomas SASSER, & John MITCHELL), it seems certain that George and Thomas are closely related, such as father/son, brothers, or cousins.

Possible Conclusions for Thomas:

There seems to be at least 4 men named Thomas with roots in Nansemond Co., VA:

1. Thomas, the immigrant, b. in England abt 1664 & immigrated into VA bef 1697, prob at least 3 sons: eldest name poss William; others: Edward and Thomas Jr. The immigrant d. aft 1717.
2. Thomas Jr b. abt 1695, prob son of the immigrant Thomas, bought land in 1717, prob d. bef 1742; poss wife Ann.
3. Thomas b. est 1725, prob a second son of either Edward or Thomas Jr., migrated to Johnston Co., NC before 1751 & purchased 300 acres there on the N side of the Neuse Rv & by Marshy Branch 26 Sep 1754 (#4693,p60) near John SASSER, Thomas SASSER, & adj Charles HOPTON. As Thomas **Jr** he also patented land on 21 Dec 1763 for 48 ac in Dobbs on Marsh Branch, joining John MITCHELL, John SASSER, & **his own line** (#6902,p16); prob same as Thomas who d. 1786.
4. Thomas b. est 1735 of Nansemond Co., VA living in Nansemond Co in 1752, but a young man indicated by the fact that he owned no land & served as a processioning witness. Probably remained in Nansemond Co., VA & may be Thomas who lived Nansemond in 1790 (there were 4 white individuals and no blacks in his household).

In Dist #10 Nansemond Co, VA 1747: [from processioning list]

William BOYT resided; on one side were Michael JONES (1747 only), George JONES(1747 & 1752), & John PARKER (1747 but Francis & Robert PARKER in 1752). On the other side were George JERNIGAN (1747 & 1752), William HOWELL (1747 & 1752), & John WILLSON [this last person was probably John WATSON, not WILSON]

If this is John WATSON (1757 & 1752) . John BOYT witnessed processioning that year for that district

Other BOYTs in the district in 1747 were: Moses & Rebeaco. Moses's neighbors included: Francis RAWLS (1747 but in 1752 only James & John RAWLS), Richard PARKER (1747 but in 1752 only Francis), and Robert PARKER (1747 & 1752) on one side and Rebeaco BOYTE (1747 only) & Lydia Keen[e] (1747 but in 1752 George KEEN) on the other.

Rebeaco's only neighbor on one side was Lydia KEEN[E]. On her other side were Moses BOYTE, Robert PARKER (1747 & 1752), and Richard PARKER (1747 but in 1752 only Francis).

1752:

William BOYT in 1752 Dist #10 his neighbors on one side were Hardy RAWLS, James COPELAND, John HARE, & Edward BOYT. On the other side were John WATSON, William HOWELL, and George JERNIGAN. So it seems that although William's neighbors on one side remained the same, bet 1748 & 1752, on the other side none were the same.

William BOYT in 1752 #12 his neighbors on one side were Henry DAUGHTERY, Edward HOWELL, John JENKINS, and Edward BOYT. On the other were Henry JONES, Thomas JONES, Samuel WATSON & James HOWELL.

In 1764 Dist 12 William BOYT is listed once again: He land was processeioned nr Moses JONES, Thomas JONES. His neighbors seem to be Jesse JOHNSON, John PENDER, Jesse RIDDICK on one side with the other side being: Moses JONES, Thomas JONES, & Stephen HOWELL.

In DIST 12 in 1752 Edward BOYT's neighbors were William BOYT, Hardy RAWLS, James COPELAND, & John HARE on one side and George KEEN, Lemuel RIDDICK, & David SUMNER. Francis and Robert PARKER lived adj David SUMNER. [p75 1752] : John JENKINS, Henry DAUGHTERY, Henry HOWELL, & on other side William BOYT, Henry JONES, & Samuel WATSON.

In 1752 in Dist 12 Edward shared a property line with John JENKINS, William BOYT, & Henry JONES. Edward also possessed land there in 1752 but wasn't there in 1747.

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Dist #10 1748

Processioners: Jacob JONES & Frederick JONES

[p 36]

Thomas JONES

Frederick “
William “
Jacob “
John RAWLS
Theophilus JONES
Arthur “
John LANGSTON
Jacob “
Michael JONES
George “
John PORTER
William BOYTE
George JERNIGAN
William HOWELL
John WILLSON/WATSON
John HAIR
James COPELAND
Franses RAWLS
Richard PARKER
Robert “
Moses BOYTE
Rebeaco “
Lydia KEENE

John BOYTE witness to processioning

Dist #10 1752

Processioners: Jacob LANGSTON & Isaac LANGSTON

Desc: N sd of Somerton Swamp & S sd Rd from Thomas JONES to John JENKINS

[p 78]

Thomas JONES

Frederick “

William “

Theophilus “

Jacob LANGSTON

Jacob JONES

James RAWLS

John “

Arthur JONES

George “

George JERNIGAN

William HOWELL

John WATSON

William BOYT
Hardy RAWLS
James COPELAND
James HARE
Edward BOYT
George KEENE
Lemuel RIDDICK
David SUMNER
Francis PARKER
Robert “
Isaac LANGSTON

Thomas BOYTE wit to processioning

District 10 aft 13 Sep 1755
Processioners: James RAWLS & Arthur JONES

Beginning at a line btw Col. Lemuel RIDDICK's & Capt. David SUMNER's.
[p 121]

Jacob SUMNER
Isaac LANGSTON
John BOYT
William BOYT
Lidia KEEN
John HARE
Thomas JONES
Hardy RAWLS
James COPELAND
William JONES
John RAWLS
Jacob JONES
Thomas “
Theophilus “
George “
Arthur “
James RAWLS
Mary PARKER

witnesses to processioning: Jacob LANGSTON,
George JONES, William JERNIGAN, William RAWLS, & James COPELAND

District 10 1760

Processioners: Isaac LANGSTON & Jacob JONES

[p137-8]

Col. RIDDICK

Arthur BIRT/BOYT

John BURTS/BOYTE

George JONES

Jacob “

Isaac LANGSTON

William JONES

John HARRIS

James COPELAND

Sarah WRIGHT

James RAWLS

Arthur JONES

Lide KEENE

Hardy RAWLS

witnesses to processioning: James HARRIS & Michael JONES

It seems important to note, that the number of households greatly diminished between 1752 & 1760 while at the same time, many of these names begin appearing in NC records.

District #12 1752

Processioners: Edward HOWELL & Henry DAUGHTRY

Desc: E sd Sumerton Ck Rd at COORS up sd Ck to Holy Neck Chapel th on W sd to S Key Rd

[p 75]

Abraham RIDDICK
Thomas SHIVERS
Thomas LOWTHER
John PINDER
John ROGERS
BOOTHE
PINDER
William BAKER
Bryant DAUGHTERY
Capt BAKER
Thomas HOWARD
John BUTLER
John RAWLS
William HOWELL (Michael WATSON wit)
John WATSON
John RODGERS
Robert “
Joseph “
Henry DAUGHTERY
Edward HOWELL (Wm HOWELL wit)
John JENKINS [shared common boundary]
Edward BOYT “ ” “
William BOYT “ ” “
Henry JONES “ ” “
Thomas “ “ ” “
Samuel WATSON (Wm HOWELL wit)
James HOWELL
William HOMES/JONES/HOLMES?

William BOYT wit to processioning

Notes:

23 Nov 1743 Edward BOYT ordered to procession lines in Dist #12 with Joseph ROGERS. Description of the District given is: Land from Somerton Ck on S sd of road from Somerton Ck by COOR's to S Key Rd.

There is no processioning recorded for Dist 12 in 1747/8.

According to the parish register for 1752, the boundary for District #10 went from Thomas JONES' lands to those of John JENKINS, but JENKINS lived in Dist #12

The processioning shows that JENKINS' land adjoined Edward BOYT (who also shared a line with William BOYT).

It should also be noted that the BOYTs were not the only duplicate names in District #12. Two others are listed in both Districts #10 & #12: William HOWELL & Thomas JONES.

THEREFORE: it seems that the inclusion of William BOYT in District #12 in 1752 and Edward BOYT in District #10 was because although they resided in different districts, their property lines bordered each other

District #11 4 March 1747/8

Processioners: Henry DAUGHTRY & Thomas SHIFFERS

Lands btw Capt William BAKER &

“Country” Line

Capt William BAKER

Thomas CORE Sr

Thomas ” Jr

Abraham RIDDICK

Thomas LAWRENCE

John BUTLER

John LAWRENCE

Henry “

George “

Michael “

Mr. David MEAD

John PENDER

Thomas SHIFFERS

District #11 1743/4 Processioners: James ELEY & Henry COOR; 1748 Processioners: Henry DAUGHTRY & Thomas SHIVERS; 1751/2 Processioners: Abraham RIDDICK & John LAWRENCE

District #11 6 March 1752

Processioners: Abraham RIDDICK & John LAWRENCE

Desc: from Sumerton Ck on W sd, the Rd from Sum'n Ck by COORS to S Key Rd

Mr. David MEADE

Michael LAWRENCE

Jethro DARDAN

John PINDER
John LAWRANCE
Thomas SHIVERS
George LAWRANCE
Abraham RIDDICK
John BUTLER
Thomas LOWTHER
Paul LAWRANCE
Thomas CORE
John NORRIS
Thomas LOW[T]
Capt. BAKER
“Country” line

District #10

When I have time, I'll read the land grants to see who lived on which side of SomertonCreek. That may help identify father/son for the early generations.

[Close](#)

1743/4 Processioners: Jacob JONES & Frederick JONES *no return*

1748 Processioners: Jacob JONES & Frederick JONES

1751/2 Processioners: Jacob LANGSTON & Isaac LANGSTON

1767 Processioners Isaac LANGSTON & Arthur JONES

District #12

1743/4 Processioners: Joseph ROGERS & Edward BOYT *no return*

1748 Processioners: Abraham RIDDICK & John LAWRANCE, son of George *no return*

1751/2 Processioners: Edward HOWELL & Henry DAUGHTREE

1767 Processioners: Henry JENKINS & Dempsey JENKINS

District #13

1751/2 Thomas JONES Jr & Henry JONES

District 13 1751/2

Processioners: Thomas JONES JR & Henry JONES

Desc: S sd S Key Rd beg @ Thomas JONES along RD to Chapel th along E sd Chapel Rd to S Key Rd from th to 1st station