

*Order of
First Families of North Carolina—
Registry of Ancestors
Vol. 1*

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Chapter Eleven

Thomas Vinson

[3]. **Thomas Vinson**, the son of Thomas^B Vinson, Sr., and Sarah (--),¹ was born probably around 1690, either in Surry Co., VA, or in that part of Charles City County which was cut off to become Prince George Co., VA. He died testate between 15 Jan 1762 and Feb 1764, Northampton Co., NC, considerably advanced in years. Lest anyone suspect that, due to his long life, he and a son have been telescoped into one generation, his wife **Isobel** (--) was with him from 1723 until the signing of his will in 1762. The spelling of Thomas' last name could have been a source of confusion for researchers. In Virginia and in the earliest land records of North Carolina, the name is spelled "Vincent," but after the 1720s, he is (almost) regularly Thomas "Vinson."

In the latter part of the seventeenth century, the Vinson family was spread out between Surry and neighboring Charles City counties, VA; and indications that our Thomas was the son of an earlier Thomas come from the Surry records:

Surry Co., VA, Order Book 1712-1718, p. 75, dated 21 Jan 1716:

In the action of debt between John Allen, plt., and SARAH VINCENT, executrix of the Last Will & Testamt. of THOMAS VINCENT, deceed, defendent for Six hundred & thirty Pounds of Tobo. Due by bill dated the 12th. of Aprill the deft. Came Personally into Court & Confessed Judgment to the Plt. For the same Sume, whereupon it is Considered by the Court that the deft. Pay unto the Plt. The aforesaid Sume of Six hundred and Thirty pounds of Tobo. Wth. Costs. *Als. Exo.*

Thomas Vinson, Sr., was listed in the 1704 Quit Rents as paying taxes on 550 acres of land in Prince George,² but no records in the Virginia Land Patents indicate that he acquired land in that manner. And, unfortunately, his will has been lost.

In Virginia, we discover that our Thomas Vinson [Jr.] was a resident of Bristol Parish, although there are no entries in that parish register concerning his family. On 11 May 1713, according to the Prince George Co., VA, records, he and his mother Sarah Vincent sold to Joshua Poythress a tract of 100 acres in

¹ See appendix at end of chapter.

² Annie Laurie Wright Smith, compiler, *The Quit Rents of Virginia, 1704*, (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1980), p. 92.

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Bristol parish, bounded by Jos^c. Ellice, Jr., the Queen's land, and Peter Gard. Apparently this land, originally in the possession of Peter Jones, late of Prince George Co., now deceased, had "descended" to both Thomas Vincent and Peter Gard, as it was part of a tract that had been equally divided between the two. However, the fact that Sarah Vinson signed with her son indicates that she had to release her dower interest in it, and that it had belonged to Thomas's father.³ In the Surry records on 23 June 1719, Thomas Vinson [Jr.] relinquished his claim on 79 acres in Southwarke Parish to John Vinson. The deed was witnessed by Thomas Eldridge, Peter Vinson and David Vinson, but no one signed with him.⁴ On 10 Apr 1721, Thomas Vinson, "of North Carolina," sold 100 acres more in Prince George Co., VA, bounded by Joshua Poythress, Joshua Pritchett, and Thomas Clay, to William Poythress.⁵ His mother did not sign with him on this sale; therefore, we may conclude that she was dead, since there are no more records of her.

Thomas Vinson's first appearance in the colony of North Carolina was in a purchase of land from John Molton of Chowan, dated 19 July 1716, for 8 pounds sterling, of 200 acres of land upon Meherrin Creek, adjoining John Croyley and the creek. This was land formerly surveyed by Thomas Kirby.⁶ Later on that same day, John Molton sold Thomas 100 acres more in the same location, on the southwest side of Meherrin Creek, for 10 pounds.⁷

Thomas Vinson received the following patents of land in North Carolina:

³ Prince George Co., VA, Wills & Deeds, 1710-1713, p. 231.

⁴ Surry Co., VA, Wills, Etc., #7, p. 219. This tract was bounded by Thomas Minge's branch, called the Parting Branch, the Miry Branch, and Timothy Redding. Two pages later, on 13 July 1719, John Vinson and wife Mary sold 30 acres of land in Southwarke (being part of a greater tract of land belonging to John Vinson), bounded by the Miry Branch, and Timothy Redding. The land was described as being on the north side of Joseph's Swamp. John Vinson died testate in Prince George Co., VA, and his will was signed 4 Nov 1727, a codicil added 6 Nov 1727, and finally recorded 9 Jan 1727, Prince George Co., VA, Wills & Deeds, 1713-1728. He made bequests to sons John (land at Joseph's Swamp in Surry) and Thomas, daughter Mary, child his wife Mary was big with, and named his brother Peter joint executor with his wife and Thomas Eldridge. Brother Peter Vinson is probably the intestate decedent of Surry Co., VA, whose estate was administered by Sarah Vincent (his wife or sister-in-law?) on 3 Aug 1728, according to Surry Co., VA, Wills, Etc., #7, p. 851.

⁵ Prince George Co., VA, Wills & Deeds, 1713-1728, p. 458.

⁶ Chowan Co., NC, Deed Book B #1, p. 341; witnesses: John Keeter, John Dickinson, and William Brasswell.

⁷ Chowan Co., NC, Deed Book B #1, p. 347, recorded 6 Aug 1716.

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[1] Land Patent Book 3, p. 37, dated 9 Mar 1717, 300A in Chowan adj. Maherine Creek, John Jarnigan, John Crosby, and the head of Poplar branch.⁸

[2] Land Patent Book 3, p. 14, dated 5 Apr 1720, 220A in Chowan, on n.e. side of Bear Swamp.⁹

Thomas Vinson's wife Isobel appeared with him on a deed of sale, some seven years later, after their land had fallen into Bertie precinct. On 10 May 1723, Thomas and Isobel Vinson sold 100 acres of a 300-acre patent (dated 9 mar 1717/8) to William Vincent, on the west side of Meherrin Creek.¹⁰ On 21 mar 1733/4, Thomas sold the remaining 200 acres of this patent to Benjamin Hill for 50 pounds.¹¹

On 7 Aug 1734, Thomas "Vincent" purchased, for 20 pounds, 400 acres of land on the north side of the Urah Swamp from John Patterson. The land was described as "the Powdering Tub," which had lately elapsed from Gabriel Parker by Robert Patterson by grant bearing 30th day 1720.¹²

We may trace the descent of Thomas Vinson's land through Edgecombe to Northampton Co., NC, where on 18 Feb 1745/6, styled as a resident of Northampton, he bought 130 acres on the south side of Swift Creek from Ralph Mason.¹³ This was his last recorded purchase of land before his death.

The Will of Thomas¹ Vinson

Northampton Co., NC, Will Book 1, p. 86:

In the name of God Amen, This fifteenth day of January in the / year of our Lord Christ one thousand seven hundred & sixty two, / I THOMAS VINSON of Northampton County being sick & weak in body / but of perfect mind & memory, thanks be to almighty God and

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⁸ Hofmann1, p. 157.

⁹ Hofmann1, p. 149.

¹⁰ Bertie Co., NC, Deed Book A, p. 67. William sold this same land to Benjamin Hill, according to Bertie Co., NC, Deed Book D, p. 90, on 21 Mar 1733/4.

¹¹ Bertie Co., NC, Deed Book D, p. 95.

¹² Bertie Co., NC, Deed Book D, p. 114.

¹³ Edgecombe Co., NC, Deed Book 5, p. 436.

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calling to remembrance the uncertain Estate of this transitory / life and that all flesh must yield to death when it shall / please God to call do make & ordain this my last will / & testament in manner & form following revoking & / anuling all other, only this to be my last will & testament / & as for the setling of my temporal Estate all debts & dues as / I do owe, to be paid in Convenient time after my decease by / my Executors hereafter.

Item I give & bequeath unto my son JOHN VINSON the Plantation whereon / he now liveth Containing one hundred acres of Land lying on / the north side of Bear Swamp to him & his heirs forever.

Item I give & bequeath unto my son THOMAS VINSON two hundred / Acres of Land, whereon he now dwells to him & his heirs forever.

Item I give & bequeath to my Son WM VINSON one hundred acres of land / in the north side of bear swamp to him & his heirs forever.

Item I give & bequeath unto my son JESSE VINSON one hundred acres of land Joying / to JOHN VINSON lands WM VINSON lands to him & his heirs forever.

Item I give & bequeath to my son JAMES VINSON y^e Plantation whereon I now / dwell Containing one hundred & fifty acres of land lying between Uraha / Swamp & bear Swamp to him & his heirs forever.

Item I give to my daughter SUSANAH MORGAN five pounds Virginia / Currancy to her & her heirs forever.

Item I give & bequeath unto my Son DAVID VINSON five shillings / Virginia Currency to him & his heirs forever.

Item I give to my Son PETER VINSON Six pounds Virginia Currency / to him & his heirs forever.

Item I give to my Daughter SARAH FULLER five pounds Virginia / Currency to her & her heirs forever

Item I give & bequeath ISABEL DUKE five pounds Virg^a Cur / -rancy to her & her heirs forever

Item I give & bequeath unto my Daughter CHARITY CARTER Sixty acres / of Land lying on the southside of bear Swamp to her & her heirs forever

Item I give & bequeath unto my well beloved wife ISOBEL VINSON / all the rest of my Estate my negro & my riding horse & Cattle / & hogs [] the rest of [] []pled, when I give her the use of them during her natural / life

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and after her decease to be valued & the value Equally divided / between all the forementioned Children, and of this my last / will & testament I make nominate & appoint my truly & / well beloved friends my son DAVID VINSON & JAMES VINSON / my hole & sole Executors, revoking & anuling all other former wills / by me heretofore name, ratifying & confirming this & no other / to be my last will & testament. In witness whereof I have set / my hand & seal

THOMAS VINSON (Seal)

Signed Sealed & delivered in presence of us

his his

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James Lassiter Thos x Hayes Robert + Duke
mark mark

Northampton County February Court 1764

The preceding will of THOMAS VINSON was Exhibited into Court / & [] the oath of Thomas Hayes one of the subscribing / witnesses thereto, at the same time DAVID VINSON & JAMES VINSON / are Qualified Executors thereof, which on motion was / ordered to be Certified & Recorded. Test J Edwards Clerke

Issue (VINSON):

- [5] a. **John**².
- [6] b. **Thomas**², married **Hannah** (--).¹⁴
- [7]+ c. **William**², born 1715-20, married (--)(--) **Pinnian**.
- [8] d. **Jesse**².
- [9] e. **James**², died testate between 26 Oct and Dec 1797, Northampton Co., NC, Will Book 2, p. 164; he married **Unity** (--).
- [10] f. **Peter**².
- [11] g. **David**².
- [12] h. **Charity**², married (--)**Carter**.
- [13] i. **Sarah**², married (--)**Fuller**.
- [14]+ j. **Susanna**², married *ca.* 1750, **Robert Morgan**.
- [15] k. **Isabel**², married **Robert Duke**; he died testate between 12 Oct 1766 and Feb 1767, Northampton Co., NC, Will Book 1, p. 150.

¹⁴ See Northampton Co., NC, Deed Book 3, p. 284, dated 8 Dec 1763; Thomas Vinson to Thomas Vinson, Jr., both of Northampton, deed of gift, 200A, adj. Bear Swamp, Flaxhold Branch; signed: Thomas x Vinson; wit: Robert x Duke, Joseph Lassiter, Richd. Walker.

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Generation Two:

7. **William² Vinson** (Thomas¹), the son of Thomas Vinson and Isobel (-), was born 1715-20, and died testate in Mecklenburg Co., NC, shortly after 26 Sept 1797. He married (--), the widow of (--) Pinnian, whose daughter Penelope he names in his will—this marriage may have been his second. His connection to the Vinsons of Franklin Co., NC, is easily confirmed by the deeds below.

Either the experiment of moving westwards was unsuccessful or William's children preferred to remain in Franklin Co. William was the only westward stray of this generation. His family continued to maintain their roots in Franklin for several more generations.

Franklin Co., NC, Deed Book 1, p. 34, dated 8 July 1779, WILLIAM VINSON of Franklin Co., to his son DAVID VINSON of same, consideration 100 pounds, a tract of 124A on south bank of Sandy Creek adj. Richard Hill, Graves, and old DAVID VINSON's line, part of a tract formerly granted to said WILLIAM VINSON bearing date 1 Dec 1760; wit: Thomas Vinson, Isham Mitchell.

Franklin Co., NC, Deed Book 6, p. 71, dated 23 Jan 1787, WILLIAM VINSON, Sr. of Mecklenburg Co., NC, to William Leonard of Franklin, consideration 90 pounds specie, tract of 110A in Franklin, on s.s. Sandy Creek and on a branch; wit: Drury Vinson, Arthur Durly.

The Will of William² Vinson

Mecklenburg Co., NC, Will Book F, p. 204:

In the name of God Amen The 26th day of September 1797 I / WILLIAM VINSON of the County of Mecklenburg & State of N^o Carolina / being of a Sickley & Weak in body & perfect Memory thanks be / to god for his Mercies, therefore calling to Mind the Mortality / of my body & knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die / Do Make & ordain this my last Will & Testament, that is to say / Principally & first of All I give & recommend my Soul into the hands / of Almighty God that gave it & my body I recommend to the Earth to be buried at the discretion of my Executors, Nothing doubting / but at the final resurrection I Shall receive the same again / by the hands of God, As touching such Worldly estate where with / it hath pleased God to bless me in this life. I give & demise & / dispose of the Same in the following Manner & form

Thomas Vinson of Prince George Co., VA, and Northampton Co., NC

Imprimis I give & bequeath to my Step daughter Penolloy / Pinnian all my Estate at my decease during her life and att / her decease to divided between DAVID VINSON & THOMAS / VINSON my Sons & Benjamin Yarbroughs three Children ELIZ / MARY YARBROUGH & VINSON YARBROUGH my three grand Children. I likewise constitute & ordain / THOMAS VINSON & Joshua Yarbrough my Sole Executors / of this my last Will & Testament all & Singularly by them / freely to be possessed & Injoyed And I utterly disallow Revoke / disannul every other former Testament, Wills, Legacies / Bequeathed by me in any wise before named, Willed, & bequeathed / Ratifying & confirming this this [sic] & no Other to be my last / Will & Testament In Witness whereof I have hereunto / Set & affixed my Seal the day & Year first above Written

Signed Sealed published pronounced & declared by
the Said WILLIAM VINSON as his last Will
& Testament in the presence of us Subscribers
William Vinson, Jr.
George Richardson
Mary Odom

William Vinson (Seal)

Issue (VINSON):

- [16]+ a. **David**³, born 1750-60, married (1) **Hannah** (--) (2) **Fanney** (--).
- [17] b. **Thomas**³.
- [18] c. **dau.**³, married **Benjamin Yarborough**, who married (2) 4 Oct 1797, Mecklenburg Co., NC (mb, witnesses: Saml. Kuykendal and Ruth Alexander), [--] Hartgrove.¹⁵

14. **Susanna**² **Vinson** (Thomas¹), the daughter of Thomas Vinson and Isobel (--), married by 1750, **Robert Morgan**, who died intestate by 19 Mar 1801, Franklin Co., NC, Will Book B, p. 121. Unfortunately, nothing is known about Robert Morgan's roots. He does not seem to have had any relationship with anyone in Granville previous to his arrival there.

Granville Co., NC, Deed Book D, p. 103, dated 14 mar 1760, grant to ROBERT MORGAN, 557A in Granville on both sides of Brandy Creek in Green's line.

Franklin Co., NC, Will Book B, p. 121: division of the estate of ROBERT MORGAN, decd.; recipients: widow, Lemuel Elliott, John Elliott, BENJAMIN

¹⁵ From Fiche #44, a collection of NC marriages on fiche published by the NC Dept. of Archives and History ca. 1975.

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MORGAN, JOSIAH MORGAN; commissioners: John Hunt, Jones Fuller, William Williams, Michael Dent, Moses Winston; recipients signed individually, except JOSIAH who signed for widow.

Franklin Co., NC, Deed Book A, p. 312, dated 11 Jan 1796; ROBERT MORGAN deed to his son JOSIAH MORGAN, reserving a lifetime right in the property for both said ROBERT and his wife SUSANNA MORGAN.

Franklin Co., NC, Deed Book 8, p. 248, dated 11 Jan 1796; ROBERT MORGAN deed to his son JOSIAH MORGAN.

Issue (**MORGAN**):

- [19]+ a. **Benjamin**³, married (1) **Elizabeth Wright**; (2) by 1816, Franklin Co., NC, **Edey** (--) **Winston**.¹⁶
- [20] b. **Josiah**³, married 25 July 1789, Franklin Co., NC (mb, bondsman, Moses Winston),¹⁷ **Obedience Thomas**.
- [21] c. **Elizabeth**³, married 9 Nov 1790, Franklin Co., NC (mb, bondsman Reuben Morgan),¹⁸ **Lemuel Elliott**.
- [22] d. **dau.**³, married **John Elliott**.

¹⁶ She was the widow of John Winston, and had the following children by her first marriage: Thomas and Moses Winston of Granville; John, George, and Arnold Winston of Franklin. See Franklin Co., NC, Deed Book 17, p. 211, dated 13 Nov 1816.

¹⁷ Dr. Stephen E. Bradley, Jr., abstracter, *Franklin County, North Carolina, Marriage Bonds, 1779-1868* (South Boston, VA, 21989), p. 40, **hereinafter Franklinmb**.

¹⁸ Franklinmb, p. 18.

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Generation Three:

16. **David³ Vinson** (William², Thomas¹), the son of William Vinson and (--) Pinnian, was born 1750-60, and died intestate before Mar 1811, Franklin Co., NC. He married (1) *ca.* 1779, Franklin Co., NC **Hannah** (--), whose identity is unknown. David Vinson married (2) **Fanney** (--).

Our David Vinson should not be confused with another younger David Vinson of Northampton Co., NC, who married the daughter of Joel and Elizabeth (--) Futrell. The younger David removed to Stewart Co., TN, with some of his in-laws. I am grateful to Rebecca Leach Dozier for this information.¹⁹

Franklin Co., NC, Deed Book 1, p. 92, dated 15 Nov 1779, DAVID VINSON, Jr., of Franklin Co. to Edward Richardson of same, consideration 1200 pounds Proclamation money, a tract of 124A on south bank of Sandy Creek, adj. Vinson; signed: David Vinson, Hannah Vinson; wit: Solomon Harris.

Franklin Co., NC, Deed Book 2, p. 149, dated 10 Oct 1784, State of NC Grant #96 to DAVID VINSON, for 67A in Franklin Co., lying on waters of Millstone adj. Cook and his own line.

Franklin Co., NC, Deed Book 5, p. 163, dated 2 Sept 1786, Benjamin Cook of Franklin to DAVID VINSON of same, consideration 20 pounds, tract of 100A on Deers branch adj. Harriss, Watkins, and sd. VINSON; wit: John Hook, Solomon Harriss.

Franklin Co., NC, Will Book C, p. 219, dated Mar 1811; petition for dower by FANNEY VINCENT, widow of DAVID VINCENT; David Sills was appoint guardian of the minor children; jurors for division of estate: William B. Bridges, Elias Carr, Nicholas Murphy, Jesse Cobb, William Leonard, John Berry, Mills Robbins, Richard Hill, Joseph Bledsoe, Phillamon Murry, Robert Cooper; June Court, 1811: attached was surveyor's report, 175A on Sandy Creek, adj. Gillam, James Vincent, Leonard.

David Vinson owned about 527½ acres at the time of his death. His wife's dower of 175 (one third of his total property) acres left 352½ to be divided equally among his six children. The mention of land on Sandy Creek in the Franklin deed above (Deed Book 1, p. 92), and that of Will Book C, above, indicates that we are talking about the same person, albeith with different wives.

¹⁹ Rebecca Leach Dozier, compiler, *Twelve Northampton County, North Carolina Families, 1650-1850* (Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press, 2004), pp. 128-29.

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Franklin Co., NC, Will Book C, p. 239, dated 30 Nov 1811, rec. Dec 1811; division of land of DAVID VINSON, decd.; ELIZA CARRELL drew 58¾ acres; SALLY WILHITE drew 58¾ acres; CRESSY VASS drew 58¾ acres; TEMPERANCE COLLINS drew 58¾ acres; RACHAL BASS drew 58¾ acres; LYDIA RICHARDS drew 58¾ acres; commissioners were William Williams, Frederick Leonard, John Watkins, Elias Carr; surveyor's report dated 30 Nov 1811; Jesse Person was surveyor.

Issue (VINSON) by first wife:²⁰

[23] a. **Lucretia**⁴, born ca. 1779, married **Thomas Vass**.²¹

[24]+ b. **Sally**⁴, born ca. 1781, alive 1830, married ca. 1798, Franklin Co., NC, **William Wilhite**,²² born ca. 1755,²³ the son of Philip Wilhite and

²⁰ Names of husbands of first four derived from estate records concerning David Vinson in Franklin Co., NC.

²¹ Franklin Co., NC, Deed Book 16, p. 100, dated 7 Mar 1812; Thomas Vass of Granville Co., NC, p/o/a to Nathan Cook of Franklin Co., NC, to recover his proportion of the estate of David Vinson, decd. Franklin Co., NC, Deed Book 18, p. 14, dated 25 Aug 1818; Lucretia and Thomas Vass, p/o/a to James Collins, for a certain tract of land and for their interests in the dower land laid off to the widow of David Vinson, decd.

²² Franklin Co., NC, Will Book C, p. 120, will dated 13 June 1808, proved Sept 1808. He only mentioned his wife Sally and his son Montfort. His other six children, according to Franklin Co., NC, estate records for him (1810 through 1814) were (ii) Polly, married Jordan Gant; (iii) Ricks Wilhite (of Putnam Co., GA, according to Franklin Co., NC, Deed Book 22, p. 100, dated 27 Aug 1822); (iv) John Wilhite; (v) Sarah, who married (1) (--) Drake, and (2) Archibald W. Pearce, according to Franklin Co., NC, Deed Book 26, p. 145, and Deed Book 27, p. 116; (vi) Henry, according to Franklin Co., NC, Deed Book 22, p. 99, dated 15 Apr 1822.

²³ William Wilhite appears with his father Phillip in 1771 on a tax list for the Franklin-Warren-Vance area. See Clarence E. Ratcliff, *North Carolina Taxpayers, 1701-1786* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1984), p. 218. Phillip Wilhite first received a grant of 639A in Granville Co. on both sides of Sandy Creek, according to Granville Co., NC, Deed Book D, p. 239, dated 25 Aug 1760. His wife Rachel appears with him on 7 Feb 1761 in a sale of 239A to Hezekiah Terrell, according to Granville Co., NC, Deed Book F, p. 361. **In spite of what readers read elsewhere**, Phillip Wilhite was the son of Michael Wilheit and wife Mary (--) of St. Mark's Parish, Orange Co., VA. On 16 Mar 1756, Phillip Wilhite and his wife Rachel sold 162A of land devised to Philip and his brother Matthias by their father Michael in his last will and testament, according to Culpepper Co., VA, Deed Book B, pp. 425-28. Michael Willheit's will was signed 1 Jan 1742/3 and recorded 26 June 1746, Orange Co., VA, Will Book 2, p. 87. Michael's oldest son Tobias removed to Culpepper and established a family there. Michael was a resident of Orange as early as 1733, when he received a disbursement from the Evangelical Lutheran congregation in Spotsylvania, according to Orange Co., VA, Will Book 1, p. 57. Even earlier, he was listed as a land owner adjacent

- Rachel (--).²⁴
- [25] c. **Temperance**⁴, born *ca.* 1783, married **James Collins**.
- [26] d. **Lydia**⁴, born *ca.* 1785, married **George Richards**.²⁵
- [27] e. **Rachel**⁴, born *ca.* 1787, married **Theophilus Bass**.²⁶
- [28] f. **Elizabeth**⁴, born *ca.* 1789, married by 1810, **Douglass Carrell**.²⁷

19. **Benjamin**³ **Morgan** (Susannah² Vinson, Thomas¹), the son of Robert Morgan and Susannah Vinson, was born *ca.* 1753, Granville Co., NC, and died testate after 12 Mar 1829, Franklin Co., NC. He married **Elizabeth Wright**, born *ca.* 1755, died before 14 Sept 1812, Franklin Co., NC, the daughter of Winfield Wright and first wife Nellie (--) of Granville Co, NC. Winfield Wright died testate between 4 Sept 1783 and Sept 1788, Granville Co., NC, Will Book 1, p. 376. He named, among others, his (second) wife Hannah [(--) Mann] and son-in-law Benjamin Morgan.

The Will of Benjamin³ Morgan

Loose Wills, Franklin Co., NC:

to John Huffman, who received a patent of 800 acres in St. George's Parish, Spotsylvania, according to Nell Marion Nugent, ed., *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants*, vol. 3, 1695-1732 (Virginia State Library: Richmond, 1979), p. 357, **hereinafter Nugent3**, VA Land Patent Book No. 13, p. 388, dated 27 Sept 1729.

²⁴ His undated will was proved 1 Mar 1801, Franklin Co., NC, Will Book B, p. 74.

²⁵ Franklin Co., NC, Deed Book 16, p. 125, dated 29 Dec 1810; George Richards of Green Co., GA, p/o/a to Parker Murphey of Franklin to recover property due him in right of wife Lydia, from estate of David Vinson, decd.

²⁶ Franklin Co., NC, Deed Book 16, p. 254, dated 10 Aug 1814; John Bass as attorney for Theophilus and wife Rachel Bass, of Wilson Co., TN, sold their interest in dower land allotted to Hannah [*sic*] Vincent, widow of David Vincent.

²⁷ Franklin Co., NC, Deed Book 16, p. 36, dated 6 Nov 1810; Douglass Carrell and Elizabeth, dau. of David Vinson, decd., both of Randolph Co., NC, to James Collins of Franklin Co., NC, their interest in land of which David Vinson was seized.

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In the name of god amen I BENJAMIN MORGAN of / Franklin County and state of North Carolina being weak / but of sound mind and memory blessed be god do this / Twelfth day of march in the year of our Lord one thousand / Eight hundred and twenty nine make and publish / this my last will and testament in maner following I / leave to my Executors the following property for the maintainance / and care taking of my Daughter MARY that is delerious not / haveing reasonable sense my Negra man Jim one yoke of work / steers & cart two Cows & calves two small cattle for beefs a third / part of hogs sheep & poltry one of my best working beasts two / plow hoes one weeding hoe one hiling hoe one Grubing hoe one / axe a third part of cider casks and peach stands one washing tub / one water pail one pot one Dutch oven one puter dish one bason / two plates one case of knives & forks the bed and furniture that / she lies on leaving plety [sic] of covering to help her from suffering / in cold weather my will is that my Daughter SUSANNAH / shall take MARY to live with her and Clothe & take good / Care of her & take the above mentioned property for her / support & Jim to work with her children to raise crops / for their support and after the Death of MARY Jim and / the other property to remain with SUSANNAH & her Children / her life then to go to her children in the same manner / as the other property that I lent her family as a support / for her Children at a former division of small negroes / with them This drew one small; nigro a peace / TEMPERANCE drew the highest lot and my will is they be made / Equal at the last division of the negroes NELLEY has one Hundred & two Dollars without interest coming at the last / Division to make her equal with the highest lot my son / WINGFIELD has one hundred & fifty Dollars without Interest / Coming at the last division to make him Equal with / the highest lot my Daughter SUSANNAH has forty two / Dollars & seventy cents without Interest coming at the / last division to make her equal with the highest lot my / Will is that my negroes be valued by respectable men all / my negroes Except Jim before mentioned and them that I / lent to my Daughter SUSANNAH which Includes Judah and / her children all the other negroes is to be equally Divided

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Between my four children NELLEY TEMPERANCE / WINKFIELD & SUSANNAH Devided by lot as family those that / Draws the highest lot or lots to make the others equal / out of their own property I leave in the hands of my / Executors for the maintainance of my Daughter SUSANNAH & / her children if they take care of my Daughter MARY her / lifetime all my land whereon I now live containing / four Hundred & fifty seven acres and the property that / I formally lent her which includes one nigro woman / Named Judah & her two children Polley & Winney they & their / Increase a mare & her increase from her the stock of cattle / & hogs beads household & Kitchen furniture my will is after / the death of MARY that the property lent her for support / as well as that left to SUSANNAH be taken possession of / by my Executors whom I Direct to act as Gardians / to SUSANNAH and her children and my Daughter MARY / then after the Death of my Daughter MARY and SUSANNAH / my will is that the property left for their support remain in the / hands of my Executors for the support of SUSANNAH & her / Children untill the youngest comes of age then this / Real &

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personal property be equally Devided between / SUSANNAHs Children the rest of the property as to my personal / property or before mentioned to be sold on a / reasonable credit to pay my debts and the expence / the estate may then amount to, the rest to be / Equally devided between my three Children NELLEY / TEMPERANCE & WINKFIELD Except my still I gave to my / son WINKFIELD & the best bed and furniture I give to / my grandson JOHN MINNIS whom I make & ordain / Executors of this my last will & testament the above / property I gave to my Executors I give as a compensation / for the trouble they may be at concerning my will

Issue (**MORGAN**):

- [29] a. **Mary**⁴, *did not marry*.²⁸
- [30]+ b. **Susannah**⁴, married 29 July 1812, Franklin Co., NC (mb, Simon Jeffreys, Jr., bondsman),²⁹ **Allen Minnis**.
- [31] c. **Temperance**⁴.
- [32]+ d. **Wingfield**⁴, married 29 Dec 1807, **Piety Weathers**, born 25 Dec 1785.³⁰
- [33] e. **Nelley**⁴, married by 13 Sept 1817, Franklin Co., NC,³¹ **John Williams**.

²⁸ Franklin Co., NC, Deed Book 18, p. 289, dated 28 Dec 1819, Benja. Morgan, contract with John Williams and wife Nelly, to take dau. Mary, who is "in a deranged condition," to care for her for life.

²⁹ Franklinmb, p. 39.

³⁰ Bible records from Winfield Morgan Bible, photocopy in possession of Clarence Lee.

³¹ See Franklin Co., NC, Deed Book 17, p. 264, dated 13 Sept 1817, deed of gift from Benjamin Morgan to his daughter Nelly Williams.

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John Vinson—A Final Puzzle:

A study of the records concerning the Vinson family both in Surry, Prince George, and Charles City counties, has convinced me that John Vinson is the progenitor of our family, in other words, the father of Thomas Vinson, Sr., and grandfather of **Thomas Vinson** of Chowan and Northampton counties, NC.

The appearance of a “Vinsan y^e Taylor” on a Surry Co. list of tithables for June 1669 becomes less mysterious when complemented by the following record in Charles City Co., VA:

Charles City Co., VA, Court Orders, 1687-1695, p. 114, dated 3 Apr 1688:

Jno. Marshall, an orphan, is bound to JNO. VINCENT until he is 21; VINCENT to instruct him in trade of a taylor & at end of his time give him corne, clothes, a cow with calf by her side, and a gun.

This is John Vinsons’ last appearance in the extant Charles City Co., records. John Vincent received the following patents in Surry:

Virginia Land Patent Book No. 6, p. 452, dated 14 May 1673, 648 acres to Bartho. Owen, on the southwest side of John Chewakins Swamp and upon Mr. Corker; granted to JOHN VINCENT 20 Sept 1671, deserted, and now granted by order; trans. of 13 persons.³²

Virginia Land Patent Book No. 8, p. 87, dated 23 Oct 1690, JOHN VINCENT for 287 acres in Surry, adj. Fran. Sorsby and Mr. Francis Clements, for the importation of 6 persons. Note: 6 Rights being part of a certificate for 20 Negroes imported in the Shipp *Two Friends* in Sept 1686, the sd. Certificate being granted Mr. Benja. Harrison by the Court of Surry Co., 3 May 1687.³³

Surry Co., VA, Tithables:

³² Nell Marion Nugent, ed., *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants*, vol. 2, 1666-1695 (Virginia State Library and Archives: Richmond, 1977), p. 125, hereinafter Nugent2.

³³ Nugent2, p. 351.

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A List of Tithables 1 June 1674 by Robert Spenser ³⁴ Capt. Corker, JNO. VINSENT & 2 Negroes	3 [sic]
A list taken by Ni: Meriwether, June 10 th 1675: ³⁵ At Capt. Corkers plantation, JNO. VINCENT, Wm Sweetnam, Sampson Gall, Jno. Greene	4
A list of ye tithables, taken by [Ni: Meriwether] 10 June 1677: ³⁶ Ni: Meriwether, JNO. VINCENT, Jno. Rodwell, Jno. Nicholson Wm Temple, 2 Negro Women—Rich: Negro where Vans Lived	8
A List of tithables taken by [Will Browne] 7 th June 1678: ³⁷ Mr. Meriwethers Tithables are JNO. VINSENT, Jno. Rodwell, Wm Temple, Ja. Nicholson, Ri. Tias, Dick, Mary, & June Negroes	8
Surry County June ye 6 th 1679 by [Will Browne]: ³⁸ JNO. VINSENT	1
Fra. Sowersby	1
A list of Tithables taken by me ye Subscribed ye 17 of May 1680: ³⁹ [Wm Browne] JNO. VINCENT	1
Tho: Sowersby	1
A list of tithables taken by ye subscribed ye 8 th of June 1681: ⁴⁰ [Wm Browne] Samll. Maggott	1
Tho. Sowerby	1
JNO. VINSENT	1

³⁴ "Surry County Tithables, 1673, 1674, 1675," by Edgar MacDonald and Richard Slatten in *The Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*, vol. 22, no. 2 [May 1984], p. 43, hereinafter **MVG**.

³⁵ *MVG*, vol. 22, no. 2, p. 47.

³⁶ "Surry County Tithables, 1677, 1678, 1679," in *MVG*, vol. 22, no. 3 [Aug 1984], pp. 59-60.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 61.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 65.

³⁹ "Surry County Tithables, 1680, 1681, 1682," in *MVG*, vol. 22, no. 4 [Nov 1984], p. 48.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 51.

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A list of Tythables taken by Saml: Swann June ye 9 th 1683: ⁴¹	
Capt. Potter	1
JNO. VINSENT, Fra: Sowerby	2
Geo: Foster, Wm. Gray, Rich: Tias, Wm. Howell	4
A list of Tythables taken by Sam: Swann ye 10 th of June 1684: ⁴²	
JNO: VINCENT, Fra: Sowerby	2
Geo: Foster, Wm. Foster, Wm. Gray, Wm. Howell	4
A List of Tithables taken by Samll: Swann June ye 6 th Ano. Dom: [1685]: ⁴³	
Rich: Blow, Jno: Binham	2
JNO. VINCENT, Fra: Sorsby	2
Law: Meazell	1
A List of tithables taken by Samll: Swann June 9 th 1686: ⁴⁴	
Tho: Harris, Robt. Elton	2
JNO, VINCENT, Fra: Sowerby	2
Tho: Sowerby, Joan Little	2
A List of Tythables taken ye 10 th day of June 1687 by Samuel Swann: ⁴⁵	
Mr. Xo Foster, Tho & Jone Negroes	3
JOHN VINCENT, Fra: Sowersby, John Sowersby	3
Tho: Sowerby, Jone Ledley	2
A List of yeTithables taken this ye 10thy of June, 1689 by Saml. Swann: ⁴⁶	
Charles holdsworth	1
Tho: Collier, John Collier, John Browne	3
JOHN VINCENT, ffra; Sorsby, John Sorsby	3
Wm: Rose	1
A List of Tithables taken the 10 th day of June 1690 by Samll Swann: ⁴⁷	
Tho: & Wm Crews	2

⁴¹ "Surry County Tithables, 1683, 1684, 1685," in MVG, vol. 23, no. 1 [Feb 1985], p. 41.

⁴² *Ibid.*, pp. 44-45.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, pp. 47-48.

⁴⁴ "Surry County Tithables, 1686, 1687, 1688," in MVG, vol. 23, no. 2 [May 1985], p. 59.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 61.

⁴⁶ "Surry County Tithables, 1689, 1690, 1691," in MVG, vol. 23, no. 3 [Aug 1985], p. 55.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 59.

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JNO: VINCENT, Fra: Sowerby, Jno. Sorsby, Tho: Sowerby 4
Rich: Rose 1

A List of Tithables taken in ye precinct of Grays Creek June ye 10th 1691:⁴⁸
John Bird 1
JOHN VINCENT, John Sowersby, Tho: Sowersby 3
Fra: Sowersby 1

A List of the tithables of the middle precinct of Southwarke parish for the yeare
of our Lord 1692 [per Fra: Clements]:⁴⁹ Richard Rose
1
JOHN VINCENT, Tho: Soseby 2
Francis Soseby 1
John Soseby 1

A List of the tithables of the Middle precinct of Southwarke pish in Surry
County taken for the yeare 1693 [taken by me Fra. Clements]:⁵⁰
Tho: Flood 1
JOHN VINCENT, Tho: Sowersby 2
Jno. Sowersby 1

A List of the tithables of the Middle precinct of Southwarke pish in Surry
County taken June ye 10th 1694 [Fra: Clements]:⁵¹
Mr. Wm: Norwoods son Geo: Norwood, Maria 2
JNO. VINCENT, Tho: Sowerby 2
Jno. Sowerby 1
Richard Rose 1

In the next three year period, 1695-97, John "Vincent" and Thomas Sowerby were listed together only in the 1695 tithable list for the "middle precinct of Southwarke parish, Surry Co."⁵² Alone, but next to the Sowerbys for the next three years (1696-1698),⁵³ by 1699, John Vinson was dead, and his

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 64-65.

⁴⁹ "Surry County Tithables, 1692, 1693, 1694," in *MVG*, vol. 23, no. 4 [Nov 1985], p. 63.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 67.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, p. 71.

⁵² "Surry County Tithables, 1695, 1696, 1697," in *MVG*, vol. 24, no. 1 [Feb 1986], p. 68.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, p. 73, and p. 79, and "Surry County Tithables, 1698, 1699, 1700," in *MVG*, vol. 24, no. 2 [May 1986], p. 69.

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widow and Elias Osborne were listed together for the next three years (1701-1703).⁵⁴

Surry Co., VA, Deeds, Wills, Etc., No. 4, p. 11:

I JNO. VINCENT / doe for me my heirs Exo^{ns} or Adm^{ns}. Assigne over / all my Right title and Interest that I have / in this within mentioned Deede unto Elias / Osborne his heirs Exo^{ns} Adm^{ns} or Assignes forever / and doe warrant the sale of the said Land unto / the aforesaid Elias Osborne his heires Exo^{ns} Adm^{ns} / or assignes against the opposition of any / pson or psons whatsoever In wittness hereof / I have hereunto Set my hand & Seal this / first day of M^{ch} in the yre of our Lord One / thousand Six hundred Eighty Six
Signed Sealed & delivered
in y^e presence of
James Jordan
William Houlford

John Vinson † his (Seal)
m^{ke}

Att a Court held for y^e county of Surry 7^{hr}: 6th 1687 / This day appeared in Court JN^O VINCENT & did acknowledge the above said to be his Act & / Deede
Test W Edwards C^lC^{ur}

Vera record^r: p W E C^lC^{ur}

What John Vinson's relationship to Capt. Corker was has not been revealed by any of the records. Capt. Corker's will follows:

Surry Co., VA, Deeds, Wills, Etc., No. 2, 1671-1684, p. 140v, or 139b:

The Nuncupative Will of Cap^t: W^m: Corker made & declared by him / at the house of his Daughter Judeth Clay Widow in y^e Isle of Wight / County, wheare he lay Sick and Weake but in p^{er}fect Sense and / Memory being the Six & twentieth day of feb^y 1675 in / p^{er}sence of us Subscribed he said & declare as followeth:

That his Estate being Small: & his Sickness very heavy upon him he had / noe great minde to trouble himselfe aboute a Will, but did Verbally & seriously Say / That his Will & desire was That his Wife should have all & Singular his Estate / on the North side of James River, provided shee paid all his debts y^t he / owed on that side y^e River, and alsoe paid her Children being Orphans / their due, onely Except two debts: viz one debt to the Estate of Richard / Lynney & the other to Rich: Holder, which he Ordered to be paid out of his / Estate on y^e South side of James River, alsoe he desires that two debts in / Mony being fivety shillings a piece due to him in Yorke County, the Names / of the

⁵⁴ "Surry County Tithables, 1701, 1702, 1703," in MVG, vol. 24, no. 3 [Aug 1986], p. 69, p. 73, and, p. 80.

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debtors we have forgett, one of the said debts should pay so much to M^r: / Rich^d: Meriwether, & y^e other to his Eldest daughter Susana Corker:

Secondly he declared that as his Wife was to have all y^r Estate & [] Jowr: on y^e / North Side, which he hoped would be as good as all the Childrens p^{ts} Cleare to / her, soe likewise he ordered y^r his Eldest daughter vizt Susana Corker / should have all his Estate on the South side James River: & should also pay all / his debts due on that side the River, as alsoe the s^d two debts of Lynney and / Holder, and he further Willed that his Daughter Susana should have A / Horse a Steere & a Cart as a p^{rticular} Legacy, they being Needfull in y^e / plantacon, & he alsoe gave her a Silver Watch which was her owne / Mothers, & was at home in his Deske, and he said that his Wrightings / Concerning his Land were in a black box in his Deske:

Afterward being asked how he would dispose of his Land he Answered that / he would give it to his three daughters, And being asked how he would / Divided it, he Answered that his Daughters did Indifferently know, how / it was to be divided: And Said further y^r his Daughter Susana should have & / hould the plantacon houseing & y^e Land soe far as she saw fitt: & desired / JOHN VINSENT to make it as soone as he got home & the Next to it / where his Son Clay built his house should remaine to his sd Daughter / Clay to the Next branch: & from thence to the End of his boundes / should be his Daughter Lucy her p^{te}: And y^r a Seate of Land w^{ch}: he had / beyond s^d [] wen his Swampe it should be Equally divided amongst / his s^d three daughters, but Susana to have here first Choice, & it is to / them & to their heires forever

And he said Alsoe that he had Sould a hundred Acres of Land to a Man

p. 140a

Man at Yorke: & y^r he would have his s^d Daughter Susanah Confirme / it, Alsoe he said that it was his Will & desire that his sd daughter / should Confirme a former Conveyance made to Elizabeth White / and Mary her Sister Joyntly, and he alsoe gave fivety Acres / of Land to JN^O. VINCENT by this Will, & desire that it shoulde / be Confirmed accordingly: the Conveyace abovesd made to / Eliz^a: & Mary White being two hundred Acres: he desires that / one hundred thereof should remaine for Ever to the s^d Mary / and y^e other hundred to Robert Spensor who married the s^d / Elizabeth, & that if any Want of wood or [] were found / in y^e former Conveyance thereof it should be noe hindrance / to their title, & soe proceeded to advise his Children aboute / worldly afaires & that they should love one Another & live in / Peace & said no More

It is alsoe to be remembered that the s^d Cap^t: Corker did Will & / appoynt that when his debts & Legacys were paid, w^{ch}: he hath / appoynted out of his Estate on the Southside of James / River, That then what p^{ersonall} Estate was founde to / remaine over & above his s^d debts and legacys should be / Equally divided amongst his three Daughters Susana / Judith and Lucye

Signed

[--]

Rob Spensor

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the m^rke of
John † Vincent

Att a Coⁿ held for Surry County
Sept^{br} 4th 1677

The above menconed Will was proved in Coⁿ by the / oaths of the subscribers
Capt. Robert Spensor and / John Vincent Test W E

1. **John^A Vinson**, died 1698, Surry Co., VA married (1) (--) who died by 1680; (2) **Katherine (--) Sowersby**, the widow of Francis Sowersby; she died testate 1705, Surry Co., VA. He had no children by his second marriage and no one appeared with him on the tithables from 1695 onward.

Issue (**VINSON**):

- [2] a. **John^B**, called himself a resident of Brunswick Co., but made his will in Prince George Co., VA, 1713-1728, dated 4 Nov 1727; married **Mary (--)**, the granddaughter of John Dobe, the testator of 1716/17, Surry Co., VA.
- [3]+ b. **Thomas^B**, died 1716, Surry Co., VA, will lost; married **Sarah (--)**.⁵⁵
- [4] c. **Peter^B**, died 1728, Surry Co., VA.

⁵⁵ See opening of this chapter.