

An Update of A. T. Outlaw's *Garrison-Williams-Dobson*

by Cecil Calder Garrason, Revised 7 July 2007

DNA Tests 2006-7

have resulted in the following findings:

1. Jedediah Garrison (c1752-1830) and Ebenezer Garrason (c1750-1801) were brothers.
2. Caleb Garrison, Jr (c1789-1862) was a son of Jedediah Garrison.
3. Neither Jedediah nor Ebenezer were descendants of Christopher Garrison of Staten Island, NY.

For details go to garrisonscompass.com.

If those items are not listed on the homepage look under "Project News".

The late Albert Timothy Outlaw, Register of Deeds in Duplin County, North Carolina, compiled a number of family sketches in the 1930s. Some, perhaps all, appeared in newspapers in his locality. Copies were available to the public for a *typing fee*. Several discoveries have made it possible to update the Garrison-Williams-Dobson sketch. His original material is shown in ***bold face, italic font***. Changes, additions and remarks are printed in this standard type.

While *Garrason* is a somewhat phonetic spelling of *Garrison* and is considered a mistake when used for some families, this writer can trace use of *Garrason* by his ancestors and their contemporaries back to the time of the Revolution. **Darius Garrason** (see 5) and most of his descendants consistently used that spelling.¹ Descendants of **Adonijah Garrason** (see 2) continued the spelling up to the present.² The

early generations included surveyors, sheriffs, judges, county clerks and the like — in other words, literate people who knew how to spell their surname correctly and did so. If *Garrason* was the result of a deliberate change of spelling there must have been a serious reason for its adoption.³

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Brunswick Co p. 224; see also Doris Lancaster Thompson's *1850 Federal Census of Brunswick County, North Carolina* (New Bern: Owen G. Dunn Co., 1976) p. 49; 1860 Brunswick Co p. 104; see also The 1850 Company and Dorothy S. Benton's *1860 Federal Census - Brunswick County, North Carolina* (Whiteville, NC: The 1850 Company, 1989); Tombstones (erected 1877-1897) in old Smithville Cemetery, Southport, Brunswick County and tombstones (erected 1866-1976) in Cross Creek Cemetery #2, Fayetteville, Cumberland Co, both inspected in person by this writer.] An article in Frederick A. Virkus' *The Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy* [Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1987 (1928)], v. 3, pp. 254-255, traces Simeon's family into this century and uses the spelling *Garrason*. One of Simeon's descendant's, John Robinson Garrason, lived in Jacksonville, FL in the 1940s and 1950s and his name can be found in phone books and city directories there. In 1957 and 1958 John R.'s wife conducted a correspondence with a Jacksonville heraldic artist concerning the Garrason coat-of-arms. Her personal stationary letterhead and signature spelled the name *Garrason*. [Correspondence of the late A. Vernon Coale on file in the genealogical department (Florida Room), Hayden Burns Public Library, Jacksonville, FL.]

³Some think spelling variations came about because one branch of the family supported the British during the American Revolution while other branches did not. At the present time there is no proof of that. There are three names which appear in most loyalist listings: Joseph Garrison (grandfather of William Lloyd Garrison) who moved to Nova Scotia; Benjamin Garrison of New York and New Jersey (who may have been a son of Capt. Nicholas Garrison of Moravian immigration fame but that is unproven) and Rev. Freeborn Garretson, a Methodist minister of Maryland, who fled for a time to

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¹Almost every occurrence of the name in Effingham County, Georgia court house records beginning in 1793 is spelled *Garrason*. While it is not surprising to find that later during the tenure of Darius' son Michael Garrason as Clerk of Court, the spelling was used during Michael's childhood. The spelling was used in Duplin Co records as early as 1771, the source of which is given elsewhere in this paper. As early as 1721 the spelling *Garrason* has been found in use in New Castle County, Delaware. [Historical Research Committee, Colonial Dames of Delaware. *Calendar of Delaware Wills - New Castle County, 1682-1800*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co./Clearfield Co., Inc Publishers, 1989 (1911). p. 25]

²Census schedules 1850-1880 and tombstones for various family members use the spelling Garrason almost exclusively. [1850

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2 An Update to A. T. Outlaw's *Garrison-Williams-Dobson*

Several members of the Garrison family, probably brothers and a sister, located on Sand Hill branch in Duplin County about the year 1765. On account of a natural spring where they located, the place has since been known as "Garrison Spring." Their father, CHRISTOPHER GARRISON, was a son of Maria (Christopher) and Isaac Garrison, of Staten Island, New York. Their mother, whose name is unknown at present, was living with a son at the spring during the year 1792.

Research — in the Duplin County court house at Kenansville, in the Sampson County court house in Clinton, in North Carolina Archives in Raleigh and in numerous printed sources — has failed to uncover any proof that Christopher Garrison ever lived in Duplin County, or, for that matter, anywhere in North Carolina. Among those who have failed to find such proof are the late Frankie (Garrison) Shipman of Oklahoma City, Ruth Mary (Conrad) Maples of Amarillo, the late Samuel Garrison of Pensacola, Jane (Meaders) Cocke of Lovington, NM, the late Irene (Britain) Peddicord of Des Moines and the late Miss Quillian Garrison of Angleton, TX.

If Christopher of Staten Island did move to Duplin Co about 1765 he was perhaps 35 years old at the time. According to Outlaw's sketch he had 8 sons and a daughter, some of whom must have been born in Duplin Co. That sketch omits two daughters born to Christopher on Staten Island, one in 1755 and the other in 1766, How Christopher supported that large family while remaining invisible in North Carolina is a

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Canada and settled after the war in New York. Rev. Garretson had no sons but some of his male relatives *could* have changed their name. Some of the Delaware/Pennsylvania Garretsons were Quakers, a religious group opposed to war, and it is likely that belief caused friction among some families. It should be noted that the simple removal of letter *t* from the spelling *Garratson* results in *Garrison*.

mystery. There is no evidence in Duplin County or any where else in North Carolina that he ever owned land or paid personal property taxes as a renter. It has been impossible to prove that, if he were there, he ever served in the military, ever voted, ever belonged to a church whose membership rolls are available, ever served on a jury. His name does not appear in the 1783 Tax Lists nor in the 1786 State Census.

How did the Christopher-in-Duplin story come about? The late D. H. P. Garrison of Godfrey, GA, a descendant of J^{edediah} Garrison (see 8) contacted Mr. Outlaw in the 1920s or 1930s. It is not certain how he knew the family had ever lived in Duplin Co. Jane (Meaders) Quillian, a granddaughter of J^{edediah}, in her written memoirs, dated 1882, gave South Carolina as the place of her mother's birth and that was an error.⁴ The obituary of Rev. David Garrison, J^{edediah}'s son, told that he had been born in Orange County, North Carolina in 1777.⁵ Someone correctly added that the area became Alamance County long after the J^{edediah} Garrison family arrived in Georgia. D.H.P. contracted with Media Resources in Washington, DC and was sent the published christening record of Christopher Garrison, son of Isaac and Maria, on Staten Island. J^{edediah} had named a son Christopher Garrison so it was a seemingly logical conclusion that old Christopher was J^{edediah}'s father.⁶ But, that is

⁴John Silas Garrison. *The Garrison Family*. Athens (GA): Typescript, 1965. pp. 29-34.

⁵Brent H. Holcomb. *Marriage and Death Notices from the "Southern Christian Advocate"*. Easley (SC): Southern Historical Press, 1979, 1980. v. 1, p. 55.

⁶Mesdames Shipman and Maples believe, but cannot prove at this time, that J^{edediah}'s wife, Jane Williams, was a daughter of one of the Christopher Williamses found in North Carolina and that young Christopher Garrison was named for him. Some have tried to determine J^{edediah} Garrison's father by studying the names he gave his sons but that is a futile exercise because there is no definitive list of his children in birth order. It seems that son David was the oldest and some *suggest* J^{edediah}'s father was an otherwise unidentified David Garrison. In no list is the son Christopher named
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unproven.

Mrs. Peddicord found a Christopher Garrison in New Jersey whom she identified as the one from Staten Island. He was of the same generation and lived in Monmouth Co, just across the Raritan Bay from the southern part of Staten Island. An extensive search in New Jersey Archives by this writer failed to turn up any property or estate records for him, but he was on a number of personal property tax lists. During the American Revolution he distributed aid to families who suffered because of the war. For lack of proof, this writer must agree that it is doubtful Christopher Garrison of Staten Island ever lived in North Carolina.

There is no doubt that Isaac Garrison and his wife Maria Christopher had a son Christopher and that he was christened 21 Mar 1730/31 in the Dutch Reformed Church on Staten Island. Isaac was born on Staten Island shortly before the census that was taken about 1706 by his father, Lambert Garrison, Sr.⁷ Isaac's mother was Susannah Morgan, daughter of Charles Morgan, a native of Newport, Wales, and his second wife, Catharine Huyberts. Maria Christopher was christened 1710, daughter of Barent Christopher and his wife Anna Catharine Stillwell. Anna Catharine was the daughter of Nicholas Stillwell, Jr. and his second wife, the same Catharine Huyberts, then widow of Charles Morgan. Susannah and Anna Catharine were half-sisters so Isaac and Maria were half-first cousins.⁸

Christopher Garrison and Phebe Vanderbilt were married on Staten Island between 1752 and 1756 by the Rev. Charlton, who carelessly

married numerous couples without benefit of license. When that was reported to the authorities, he was ordered by the governor to prepare a list of marriages performed. Sixth on the list were the names of Christopher and Phebe.⁹ She was christened in the Dutch Church on Staten Island 19 May 1737, daughter of Jacob Vanderbilt, Sr. and his wife Eleanor Dennis.¹⁰ Notwithstanding claims made by others, there is proof for only two children of Christopher and Phebe (Vanderbilt) Garrison:

(1) **Mary Garrison**, born 29 Jan 1755, was baptized 9 Feb 1755 at the Moravian Church on Staten Island by Rev. Mr. R. Utley; parents given as *Christopher and Phebe Garrison*.¹¹

(2) **Eleanor Garrison**, birth date not given, was baptized 3 Aug 1766 at the Church of St. Andrew (Anglican-Episcopal) on Staten Island. Parents were given as *Christopher & Febe*

⁹ *Supplementary List of Marriage Licenses*, printed as *University of the State of New York State Library Bulletin History*, No. 1, April, 1898, reprinted as pages 483-526 of *New York Marriages Prior to 1784* [Gideon J. Tucker, Secretary of State. Albany, Weed and Parsons, 1860. Reprint: Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1968.] *New York Genealogical and Biographical Register*.

¹⁰ Stillwell. *Miscellany*. v. 1, p. 124. Phebe Vanderbilt's mother, Eleanor Dennis, was a daughter of Dennis Teunissen and wife Helena Cortelyou. Phebe's great-grandfather, Jacques Cortelyou, immigrant from Utrecht, Holland, was the sixth surveyor of New Netherlands colony. [John Van Zandt Cortelyou, *The Cortelyou Genealogy*. Lincoln (NE): Brown Printing Service, 1942. pp. 14, 65-67, 82-84.] Phebe's brother, Jacob Vanderbilt, Jr., was the grandfather of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt (b. 1796) who was worth \$105 million when he died in 1877, a figure his son and principal heir, William H. Vanderbilt, had raised to \$200 million in the eight years before his own death in 1885. Before and during Phebe's lifetime the Vanderbilts were plain dirt farmers on Staten Island. [Teunis G. Bergen. *Early Settlers of Kings County, New York*. New York: S. W. Green's Sons, Printer, Electrotyper and Binder, 1881. p. 320. Arthur T. Vanderbilt, II. *Fortune's Children - The Fall of the House of Vanderbilt*. New York: William Morrow and Company, 1989. pp. 5-6, 57, 137-138.]

¹¹ *Records of the Moravian Church on Staten Island*, a typescript on file with Moravian Archives, Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA, p2. The same record shows that the future commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt was christened at John Garritson's house on Staten Island 16 May 1794. Garritson, John Housman and Phebe Vanderbilt were the sponsors [p. 34].

⁶ (...continued)

first — he is usually next to last. It cannot be claimed that any naming custom was used exclusively by any group of parents.

⁷ John E. Stillwell. *Historical and Genealogical Miscellany*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1970 (1903). v. 1, p. 71.

⁸ John E. Stillwell. *Stillwell Genealogy*. New York: private, 1930. v. 2, pp. 7-9, 19. Stillwell. *Miscellany*. v. 1, p. 90.

Garroson.¹² This date for Eleanor can sometimes be found given for Ebenezer Garrison in a list of supposed children of Christopher and Phebe.

Garrison Spring, mentioned by Mr. Outlaw, is now called "Cool Spring" by some but neither place name is in Powell's *North Carolina Gazetteer*. A local source wrote that it was:

*An old spring that was located in the central part of the county about 4 miles south of Kenansville. It was located on SR 1958 [by 1993, called Cool Spring Road], 0.9 miles SW from the junction with NC 50, on the west side of Sand Hill Branch, north side of the road. The spring was called Garrison's for the Garrison families who lived there. Thomas Garrison first bought the land from Henry and Jacob Wells in June of 1793. There is evidence of the old spring there today.*¹³

Before continuing, let it be understood that infant baptism¹⁴ was practiced in the Reformed

Dutch Church so it is likely Christopher was only a few days old when he was baptized. The double year 1730/31 means it was after New Years Day new-style (January 1st) but before New Years Day old-style (March 25th). The remainder of that year was called 1731 so he was likely born late 1730 or as we reckon it early 1731. Remember also that his only known marriage occurred 1752-56 when he was 21-25 years old. Keep these dates and ages in mind when reading next about who could or could not have been his children.

(1) EBENEZAR GARRISON located on Marsh branch, a branch of Muddy Creek, where he was living in the year 1799. He was a large land owner and planter. No record at present time of his family.

A deed of 1771, by which Ebenezer purchased land, suggests he was born by April, 1750 — if not, then he was underage at the time.¹⁵ His name appears on the 1783 Tax List¹⁶ with taxable property worth £198. He was listed in the 1786 State Census of Duplin County and was counted in the 21-60 age group. His household included four females, assumed to have been a wife and three daughters. No mention of him or his family can be found in the 1790 Federal Census of Duplin County. It does not seem that he was living with any of the other

¹²Christopher Garrison's grandfather, Lambert Garrison, Sr. was one of the twelve undertakers (founders) of St. Andrew Anglican Church on Staten Island. Lambert's name appears several times in the church's charter which was issued by Queen Anne in 1713. [William T. Davis, Charles W. Leng & Royden Woodward Vosburgh, *The Church of St. Andrew, Richmond, Staten Island*. Staten Island Historical Society. Lancaster (PA): The Science Press Printing Co., 1925. pp. 60-61, 92.]

¹³This writer corresponded with Dr. Powell about the missing reference to Garrison Spring but he could not explain its absence, writing that most of his material had been supplied by local historians and geographers. [William S. Powell. *North Carolina Gazetteer*. Chapel Hill (NC): University of North Carolina Press, 1968. pp. 119, 187.] Mr. Sikes cited as his sources Duplin County Deed Books and *Our Yesterdays*, a newspaper column by A. T. Outlaw, published 20 Jan 1938. [Leon H. Sikes. *Duplin County Places: Past and Present*. Wallace (NC): Wallace Enterprises, 1984. p. 131.] It should be noted that the 1784 grant to Adonijah Garrason was in the same area and predated Thomas Garrason's 1793 purchase. Ebenezer Garrason had been granted land nearby on Persimmon Swamp in 1775.

¹⁴*...It should be borne in mind, also, that the early Dutch were accustomed to have their children baptized a few days after birth. This fact furnishes to genealogists a valuable clue in regard to the approximate date of birth.* While this quotation was written in regard to the Dutch congregation at Kingston, it should apply equally to all Dutch congregations in colonial America. [Roswell Randall Hoes. (continued...)]

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Baptismal and Marriage Registers of the Old Dutch Church of Kingston, Ulster County, New York. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1980. p. 1.]

¹⁵Deed 16 Apr 1771. Andrew McIntire (and wife Arabella) to Ebenezer Gerrason [*sic*], laborer, all of Duplin County, North Carolina, 100 acres on Persimmon Swamp on the west side of the North East Branch of the Cape Fear River. [Duplin County Deed Book 4, p. 458.]

¹⁶In the tax list there is no suggestion he was single. That is not surprising because 3 years later the 1786 State Census of Duplin County counted four females, believed to be wife and three daughters, in his household. [William Perry Johnson, editor. *North Carolina Genealogy*. v. 19, no. 1, p. 2816 (Spring and Summer, 1973).]

Garrasons. That he was counted in the over-44 age group in the 1800 Federal Census of Duplin County confirms he was born by 1755. He died 1801. Administration records¹⁷ show that his wife was named Nancy and that they had daughters Martha who died 1807 and Nancy who was still living in 1825 when she and her mother joined Muddy Creek Baptist Church, an organization which had accused Ebenezer of being disorderly in 1793.¹⁸ James Garrison, who has been identified as this writer's ancestor, claimed one-fourth of the estate in 1803.¹⁹ (See

the section below titled **The Writer's James Garrason.**) This identification has been made even though only one male (Ebenezer himself) appeared in the 1786 state census. Ebenezer's widow, Nancy,²⁰ was head-of-house in the 1810 Duplin County Census. Because land records suggest Ebenezer was born by 1750 and Christopher and Phebe did not marry until at least 1752, it would be illogical to assume Ebenezer to have been their son. In 2007 DNA Test results proved that Ebenezer and his brother Jedediah were not the sons of Christopher Garrison.

¹⁷Court of July, 1801. Report of Committee appointed to ascertain one years provision for Nancy Garrison, widow of Ebenezer Garrison, dec'd, and family, rendered and signed by Committee. [Leora H. McEachern. *Duplin County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Abstracts of Minutes 1798-1803*. Rose Hill (NC): Duplin County Historical Society, 1982. p. 33.]

Court of 23 Apr 1807. Appointed Joseph T. Rhodes, James Pickett and Daniel Southerland a Committee to settle accounts of Estate of Ebenezer Garrison, dec'd. between the Amr'r [sic] and Heirs and also to settle that part of Estate that may fall to Widow on account of the death of her daughter Martha Garrison, minor orphan of the said dec'd and to make her such allowance for raising, cloathing and schooling her children as Committee thinks reasonable and report same to the next court. [Leora H. McEachern. *Duplin County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Abstracts of Minutes 1805-1808*. Rose Hill (NC): Duplin County Historical Society, 1990. p. 54.]

¹⁸"Leslie H. Brown, Jr. Collection", Duplin County Historical Society, Rose Hill, North Carolina. See "Garrison, Ebenezer" in either of two card files. A handwritten but unindexed copy of "Muddy Creek Baptist Church Records" is also in the library of the society.

¹⁹A check of the court record on microfilm in North Carolina Archives did not, as hoped, reveal either James Garrason's relation to Ebenezer or his residence. The abstracts of the record are shown next.

Court of 18 Jan 1804. [Granted] John Farrior, Adm'r of Ebenezer Garrison, dec'd, an Order to sell a Negro of said dec'ds Estate named Peg in order to raise money to pay off James Garrison his distributive share of said estate...

Court of 18 Apr 1804. Report of Committee appointed to settle accounts of Estate of Ebenezer Garrison dec'd, with John Farrior, Adm'r, Exhibited by which it appears there is a balance of £301-18-4 out of which sum James Garrison is Intituled to £75-9-7, being the fourth part and his distributive share... [Leora H. McEachern. *Duplin County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Abstracts of Minutes 1803-1805*. Rose Hill (NC): Duplin County Historical Society, 1984. pp. 23, 35.]

Apparently settlement of Ebenezer's estate was held up until his youngest child reached maturity. Yet, the fact that the court ordered the estate inventoried so a settlement could be made to James Garrison suggests that either (1) he was planning to leave Duplin Co and wanted his share before he left, or (2) he lived some distance away
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(2) ADONIJAH GARRISON, located on Harrison Creek, New Hanover County, about the year 1796. His wife was Judith Pickett of Duplin County, and their children were: (a) Isaac, (b) Jedediah, © Jacob, (d) Simon, and (e) John.

Descendants have estimated Adonijah's birth year as 1761, that being based on the presence of a young male in his home in the State Census of 1786. The fact that he purchased land in Duplin County in 1780 suggests he was born by 1759.²¹ The 1790 Duplin County census shows 4 males under 16. That suggests as many as three additional sons not mentioned by Mr. Outlaw. Of the known sons, only Isaac was born

¹⁹(...continued)

and had returned to claim his share as soon as he learned of his father's death. That last scenario would describe the writer's James Garrason who had moved to Georgia by 1799.

²⁰Ruth Mary (Conrad) Maples suggests that Ebenezer's widow, Nancy, was a Williams before her marriage. Her suggestion is based on the fact that he was the major buyer at the estate sale of her father. It was common for family to purchase estate items, sometimes giving them back to the widow.

²¹A deed dated 20 Sep 1780 from Wemberk Boney to Adonijah, both of Duplin County, for 20 acres on the north side of Island Creek, was proved in the October, 1786 court and recorded in Duplin County Deed Book 1A, p. 324. [Eleanor Smith Draughon. *Duplin County, North Carolina Abstracts of Deeds, 1784-1813*. Duplin County Historical Society. Easley (SC): Southern Historical Press, 1986. p. 29]

before 1790. However, court records show that in 1788 Adonijah was assigned an apprentice who may have been counted a member of the family (instead of under "other free white persons") and would have appeared to have been a son.²² Other apprentices may have been the other unaccounted-for young males. Court records in New Hanover County²³ show him a resident in 1795. In October, 1804 a Wilmington, North Carolina newspaper printed in a list of letters held at the post office an entry: *Adonijah, himself and his brothers.*²⁴ He died in New Hanover County by 15 Oct 1823 when James Nixon posted bond as administrator of the estate. A second bond posted 10 Nov included one of Adonijah's sons as surety; he signed his name Jacob Garrason. In 1842 son Jedediah Garrason sold his rights to Adonijah's estate to James Walton. All instances of the name were spelled Garrason, including the original signatures of Jedediah and his brother

²² Court of 23 Jul 1788 ordered that Asa Parker, orphan boy 13 years of age last February, be bound as an apprentice to Adonijah Garrison until age 21. [Leora H. McEachern. *Duplin County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Abstracts of Minutes 1788-1791*. Rose Hill (NC): Duplin County Historical Society, 1979. p. 21.]

²³ A Bill of Sale from John Parker to Adonijah Garrison was proven in June 1795 Court by testimony of Henry Pickett. [Alexander McDonald Walker. *New Hanover County Court Minutes, 1794-1800 (Part 4)*. Bethesda (MD): the Editor, 1962. p. 21.]

²⁴ Raymond Parker Fouts. *Abstracts from Newspapers of Wilmington, North Carolina, 1804-1806*. Cocoa (FL): Gene. Rec. Books, n.d. v. 4, pp. 56-57. One could speculate forever on who were Adonijah's brothers. The following facts are known. Of the Cape Fear Garrasons who were of the same generation as Adonijah, only Thomas (b. 1764) of Duplin County was known to be still in the area. Ephraim died late 1792 or early 1793. Darius and the compiler's James had been in Effingham County, Georgia for almost ten years. Ebenezer had died in 1801. John's name had not appeared in the records since 1797. The other males had not been seen in the area for a generation. Likely the letter writer had not known of some of these events. Mail took so long back then the letter could have been written several years before 1804. Endless time can be spent speculating on its contents. Was it simply Darius and James writing from Effingham County, Georgia to ask of news? Was Jedediah writing from Franklin County, Georgia to tell that he had moved from South Carolina? Or was it a letter from a far-off stranger telling that the older Thomas, mariner, (whom this writer *suspects* but cannot prove was father to most of these Garrasons) had died in some remote place of an exotic disease? Whatever the news, it must have been important because no one back then wrote of frivolous things.

Simeon who was a witness.²⁵ While the estimated date of birth would allow Adonijah to have been a son of Christopher and Phebe, the fact that Christopher has not been proven to have lived in Duplin County reduces the chances. Descendants have been traced in some detail using census and other records.

(3) Capt. THOMAS GARRISON, a seaman, purchased land on Sand Hill branch from Thomas Davis, a tanner, in 1765, and was living there about the year 1792. No record of his family.

It was physically impossible for Christopher, born in 1730/31, and married no earlier than 1752, to have had a son who was adult by 1765. Thomas, at most, if Christopher's son, would have been 13 years old in 1765. It is this writer's unproven theory that this Thomas, not Christopher, was the father of the Duplin County family. Actually, both the deed index and the deed book show Thomas' surname as *Carrison*.²⁶ See the paragraph below titled **A New Family Grouping**.

THOMAS GARRASON (b. 1764)

²⁵ Copies of original estate papers in North Carolina Archives, Raleigh, were obtained by Ruth Mary (Conrad) Maples of Amarillo, TX. Copies she sent to Frankie (Garrison) Shipman of Oklahoma City were shared with this writer.

²⁶ It is a mystery why Mr. Outlaw called Thomas a *Captain*. Was it simply a courtesy title because he knew of the deed calling Thomas a mariner? Or did he know of some record actually calling him captain?

Duplin County, North Carolina Deed Book 1, pp. 129-130 contain a deed dated 2 Oct 1765 from Thomas Davis and Lucrecy (her mark) Davis to Thomas Carrison, mariner, for 100 ac sold for £11; a tract originally patented to Robert McRee; witnessed by Thomas Cummins and Frederick Wells. Book 2, pp. 74-75 contain a deed dated 22 Oct 1765 from Thomas Davis to Thomas Carrison, mariner, for 100 ac for £22; original patentee not available because part of the deed could not be read, witnessed by ——— Murphy and ——— Middleton. When Sampson Co, NC was created in 1784 from Duplin Co the original court house was in Clinton. It became the seat of Sampson Co so a new court house for Duplin was built in Kenansville. For whatever reason the original deed books were not physically moved to Duplin but copies were made of them, perhaps resulting in mistakes like "Carrison".

Outlaw listed this man in error as a son of Ephraim Garrason (9). That was a mistake caused by misidentification of the Thomases in Duplin Co. Ephraim's son Thomas was still a minor in 1803, a fact proven by a record in Duplin Co for the sale of live stock for the benefit of Ephraim's orphans Polly, David and Thomas. Thomas, born 1764, was not a minor in 1803, but was Ephraim's brother, a co-executor of his estate, and guardian of Ephraim's son Thomas.²⁷

The 1764 Thomas married 1793 Lavina Brock, daughter of Barnett Brock and Mary Ann Brosard, described as Huguenots. Thomas died in 1841 in Duplin Co where he had lived most if not all his life. In 1840 his was the only Garrason household in that county.

Thomas and Lavina had these children: (a) Ephraim b c1794, d by 1828, m Margaret Carr, 3 daus; (b) Darius b c1795, moved to Telfair Co, GA where he m Sarah Harrell, 11 ch; [c] Elizabeth b c1796, d c1830, m Amos Kilpatrick, 4 ch; (d) Mary Ann b c1801, m Merrill Williams, to Crawford Co, GA, 6 ch; (e) David B b c1804, d by 1829; (f) James b c1806, m1 Mary Catherine Williams, m2 Mrs Mary E D Blount, no ch; (g) Penelope N b c1807, m James "Sugar Jim" Williams, to Ark where he d, she returned to Duplin Co, 9 ch; (h) Sarah b by 1812, d by 1829, m William Bostic, at least 1 ch; (I) Thomas Jr b by 1812, d age 16 bef 1829; (j) Catherine b 1813, d 1903, m John Dobson, 6 ch.

Ephraim listed above as Thomas' son was **not** the unborn child of Ephraim (d 1792) mentioned in his will. That statement is proved by the facts that (1) when the live stock was sold in 1803 no sale was for a son Ephraim, and (2) in 1816 Ephraim's daughter Polly sold her 50 acres to her uncle Thomas. She would not have inherited that if the older Ephraim's post-humous child had been male. Apparently that child did not survive.

²⁷Proofs of these statements are given in Ephraim's paragraph (9) later in this document.

The listing in the 1800 Federal Census of Duplin County was for this Thomas. It included four young males (his own two and Ephraim's two orphaned sons), two young females (his own daughter as well as Ephraim's orphan Polly), and two older females (one his wife Lavina and the other probably Ephraim's widow Johnna).

(4) JOHN GARRISON, left a gift of seventy pounds in the hands of Capt. James Middleton for his child, Catherine Garrison, in 1797. No further record.

This record, the only one for John in Duplin Co, has been examined for detailed information and it contained none. It does not call Catherine his daughter, but that seems a good assumption, yet it leaves one wondering why was there no mention of her mother. No reason for the gift had been given — perhaps his pending death, perhaps his departure on a sea voyage. Apparently he lived elsewhere or perhaps was at sea most of his time. Printed abstracts of court records show that upon the death of Henry Maxwell in 1802, James Middleton, Sr. was appointed Catherine's guardian and after his death in 1805 Thomas Garrison, undoubtedly the one born 1764, was guardian of "Kitty" Garrison.²⁸

(5) DARIUS GARRISON, married Anna Evers in Duplin County, Jan. 17,

²⁸Court of 18 Oct 1797. Deed of Gift: John Garrison to Catharine Garrison for a certain sum of money, proved by Thomas Garrison; ordered registered. [Leora H. McEachern. *Abstracts of Minutes of Duplin County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1795-1798*. Rose Hill (NC): Duplin County Historical Society, 1980. p. 32.]

19 Court of Jan 1802. Appointed James Middleton, Sr. Guardian to Catherin [*sic*] Garrison, he replacing Henry Maxwell. Dec'd. [McEachern. *Abstracts, 1798-1803*. p. 44.]

16 Jul 1805 Court. As James Middleton, Sr. was appointed Guardian to Kitty Garrison, a Minor and the said James Middleton is dead, Court appointed Thomas Garrison Guardian. [McEachern. *Abstracts, 1803-1805*. p. 87.]

1792. No further record.

Darius Garrason and his descendants used the "two 'a'" spelling as does this writer. His oldest son, (a) Michael Garrason, was born 1793 in North Carolina, the family moved to Effingham County, Georgia shortly afterward, and son (b) Isaac Garrason was born 1795 there.²⁹ They had no other known children.³⁰ A deed of 1793 from John Evers, Sr. of Effingham County, GA, to "his daughter Anna Garrason and her husband Darius Garrason" proves that Darius of Effingham was

²⁹ 1850 Federal Census of Benton (now Hernando) County, Florida. Page 24 shows Michael, a surveyor, aged 57, born in North Carolina, with wife and two children remaining at home. Page 28 shows Isaac, a farmer, aged 55, born in Georgia, with second wife, their only son, and two boarders, a school teacher and a young woman who became Isaac's daughter-in-law. The visitation and household numbers were written on the line with the name of Isaac's wife, making it appear that he was living with the previous household visited. This writer and some of Isaac's descendants consider the positioning of the numbers a clerical error.

³⁰ The 1820 Federal Census for Effingham County, Georgia, on page 81, shows one male over 44 (Darius) and two females in the same age group (undoubtedly wife Anna nee Evers, and likely sister Elizabeth (Garrason) Merrill). The 1830 census for the same county, on page 110, shows one male and one female in the 50-59 age group (Darius and wife Anna), one female 70-79 (perhaps sister Elizabeth) and an unidentified male 10-14. He may have been a grandson, but if so he was also counted in his parents' home. Perhaps he was an orphaned apprentice. Elizabeth's son, William Merrill, if living, was aged about 35 that year.

There is record in Chatham County, Georgia of a Joseph Garrason and Cynthia Holiday applying for a marriage license in 1817; no return was recorded. [Chatham County Marriage Record Book Index 1806-1851. Mabel F. LaFar. *Chatham County, Georgia - Records of Marriages Licenses 1805-1852*, a four volume alphabetically arranged typescript in the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah.] This writer believes that *Joseph* was an error for *Isaac*, perhaps the clerk confusing her late husband's name with that of her new one.

One Cynthia Holiday was born Cynthia Hines, daughter of David Hines, Sr. (of North Carolina and Effingham County, GA) and wife Hannah. Will of Mrs. Hannah Hines, 7 Aug 1820, named among others Cynthia and Richard Garrason. [Effingham County court house wills. Caroline Price Wilson. *Annals of Georgia, Effingham County*. Vidalia, GA: Georgia Genealogical Reprints. p. 57] Cynthia was the widow of Joseph Holiday whom she married 2 Sep 1805 [Wilson, *Annals*, p. 64]; he died by Apr 1811 leaving two daus; citation for her to file letters of administration was issued 30 Apr 1811 [Effingham County Minutes Book 1, p. 230]. Proof that Isaac married the widow Holiday is a record in Effingham Co showing one-third part of the estate of Joseph Holiday distributed 10 Jun 1828 to Isaac Garrason in behalf of his (unnamed) wife [Effingham County Minutes Book 2, pp. 383-384].

the same who married in Duplin County.³¹ He must have impressed the authorities because as a young man, a new-comer, he was selected to serve on a commission to choose a site for the county seat. Effingham was not a new county and some families had been established there for almost sixty years.

Shortly after 1830, Darius and his sons and their families moved to old Alachua County, Florida. He died there in February, 1838. The sons moved on to present Hernando County where descendants still live. Michael was clerk of court in Effingham and a surveyor who drew the original plat for the now-ghost town Newnansville, FL. Isaac was sheriff in Effingham for a term or two, member of the St. Joseph (Florida) Territorial Constitutional Convention, county judge, clerk of court, state representative and a surveyor.³²

**(6) ELIZABETH GARRISON,
married Joseph Merrell (later Murrell),
a prominent Onslow County Name.**

She married Joseph Merrill in Duplin County 1 Apr 1791³³ so it is not likely she "settled" in Duplin County some 26 years earlier in 1765 as stated in Mr. Outlaw's introduction. Because she had a child between 1791 and 1795, she was at most a teen-ager in 1765. Likely she was born about 1771. Merrill's will, recorded in 1795 in Duplin County, mentioned one child, a son, William Merrill, and named Joseph's "brother-in-law, Thomas Garrison" his

³¹ Effingham County, Georgia Deed Book C-D, p. 330.

³² An Act of Congress made upon request of Isaac Garrason, administrator of the estate of Darius Garrason, for compensation for forage supplied to federal troops in Florida during Indian disturbances 1836-37. *...the above stated Darius Garrason died in the month of February, 1838...* [House of Representatives. *Report No. 645*. 30 May 1848. Photocopy sent to this writer by Linda (Chestnut) Hill of Hawthorn, Florida.]

³³ Cora Bass. *Marriage Bonds of Duplin County, North Carolina 1749-1868*. Clinton (NC): Bass Publishing Co., 1959. p. 73.

executor.³⁴

In both the 1820 and 1830 Censuses of Effingham County, GA there was an unaccounted-for adult female in the home of Darius Garrason (above). Apparently it was Elizabeth (there being no Merrill households in those enumerations) because in 1824 there was recorded in Duplin County³⁵ a deed dated 1822 whereby Elizabeth Merrill of Effingham County sold 100 acres in Duplin County to Thomas Garrason. What became of William Merrill is unknown.

The late Leslie H. Brown, Jr., a genealogist of Duplin County, noted on a copy of the Outlaw sketch he sent the writer that Joseph Merrill (a distant relative of his) was formerly of Carteret County, NC and was not a member of the Murrill family of Onslow County.

(7) JAMES GARRISON, lived for a short time in Duplin County. He removed to Greenville District, South Carolina, where his name is found among the public records from about 1789 to 1794. No record of his family.

There is no doubt that one or more James Garrasons were associated with Duplin County. The first incident found occurred in 1771 when James Garrason (so spelled in the court house record) witnessed a deed whereby Ebenezer Garrason (above) purchased land from Andrew McIntire and his wife Arabella.³⁶ To have been of

legal age in 1771 this James would have been born by 1750, two years before Christopher and Phebe married. Jedediah Garrason (below) witnessed the same deed. Some suggest that this James was the one who lived for a time in neighboring Onslow County and had moved with a son Isaiah to Orange County, NC by 1776.³⁷

A James Garrison (so spelled) was living in Duplin Co in 1795. Two years after Ebenezer Garrason (1) died intestate in 1801 one James Garrison applied for his share of that estate. That is a matter discussed in Ebenezer's paragraph above. (See the section below titled **The Writer's James Garrason.**)

The James Garrison mentioned by Mr. Outlaw did live in Greenville District, South Carolina. However, a search of Greenville records uncovered only two deeds,³⁸ one dated 1790 when he bought land and one in 1793 when he sold it. Neither document described him as being formerly of Duplin County. It should be noted that when James of Greenville sold his land he signed the deed with a mark, while the James in Duplin witnessed the 1771 deed with his full signature.

A genealogy³⁹ of James' family tells that he

³⁶(...continued)

There is no proof but this is a possible explanation of why James had a share of Ebenezer's estate without having been counted in any extant census.

³⁷Zae Hargett Gwynn. *Abstracts of Records of Onslow County, North Carolina 1734-1850*. 2 vols. Memphis (TN): Henry Norburne Gwynn, publisher, 1961. v1, p292.

³⁸Deed of 3 Apr 1790. Thomas Doeg of Spartanburgh County, South Carolina to James Garrison of Greenville County, for £40 sterling, 128 acres on Mush Creek branch of Tygar River. [Greenville County, South Carolina, Deed Book B, pp. 182-183.] 20 Mar 1792. James Garrison of Greenville County to Archibald Taylor of same, for £70 sterling, 128 acres granted to Thomas Doeg. [Greenville County, South Carolina, Deed Book C, pp. 214-215.]

³⁹Paul Edwin Power. *The Garrison and Allied Families*. Bowling Green (KY): private, 1981. A letter added to a copy of the reference cited below told that James Garrison had tentatively been identified as a brother of Isaac Garrison (1732-1836), Revolutionary Soldier, and common ancestor of the Isaac Garrison Family

³⁴Duplin County, North Carolina Will Book A, p. 307.

³⁵Deed of 4 Dec 1822. Elizabeth Merrill of Effingham County, Georgia sold to Thomas Garrason of Duplin County, North Carolina, for \$100.00, a tract of 100 acres lying on the east side of the North East River in Duplin County. [Duplin County, North Carolina, Deed Book 8A, p. 298.]

³⁶For abstracts of this record, see note above. [McEachern. *Abstracts, 1803-1805*. p. 23.] See also State Census of 1786 and the 1800 Federal Census for Duplin County. For whatever reason, Ebenezer's household does not appear in the 1790 Federal Census for Duplin County. Some have speculated that James was Ebenezer's son-in-law, having married his (James') cousin, one of Ebenezer's daughters. (continued...)

(continued...)

lived in Maryland, then Rowan (later Surry) County, North Carolina, and for 16 years in Greenville District, South Carolina. He was in Warren County, KY by 1806, had moved on to Hamilton County, IL shortly after 1820 and was living in Greene Co, IL in 1833 when he applied for a pension as a Revolutionary Soldier. His last payment was for the six months ending 4 Mar 1841. In his application he told that he had been born 1747 (a date which eliminates Christopher and Phebe as his parents) in Fredericktown, PA. The genealogy points out that present Fredericktown was not founded by 1747 but that the name was that of the plantation near Bethlehem, PA, of Henry Antes, a Moravian. No mention was made of any residence in Duplin County.

Mr. Outlaw's wife was a Garrison from Greenville but apparently she was not a descendant of James.⁴⁰ Likely she descended from the family founded by David Garrison and wife Elizabeth Barksdale.

There is no reason to believe that Outlaw's James was the James Garrason of Effingham County, GA, ancestor of this writer. See the section below entitled **The Writer's James Garrason.**

(8) JEDEDIAH GARRISON, lived in Duplin County for several years prior to 1780. During the seventeen-nineties he was living in Greenville District, South Carolina, and from thence he moved to Banks County, Ga., soon after the year 1800. His wife was Jane Williams of Duplin County and their

³⁹ (...continued)

Association of Springfield, Missouri. It is not known if he has yet (2006) been recognized by that association as such.

⁴⁰ Albert Timothy Outlaw. *Outlaw Genealogy*, Kenansville (NC): the Author, 1930. Second Edition and Supplement compiled by Abner Henry Outlaw, Greensboro, NC, 1972. p. 91.

children were as follows: (a) Jane Garrison, born 1765, married Barney Meadows and lived in Banks County; (b) Rebecca Garrison, married Burton and lived in Hall County, Ga.; © Rev. Levi Garrison, a Methodist minister, located in Anderson County, South Carolina, and reared a large family there; his wife was Miss Meadows of North Carolina; two of their sons were ministers; (d) James Caleb Garrison, married Katie Morgan and reared a large family in Banks County; (e) Rev. David Garrison, a Methodist minister, lived and died in Banks County, leaving a large family; (f) Christopher Garrison, Jr. married Kessiah Meaders and reared two sons; (g) Thomas Garrison, married and reared a family; (h) Capais Garrison moved West.

Because this was the line from which D. H. P. Garrison came, it must be assumed he gave this information to Mr. Outlaw. There is no other way he would have known those details.

One Jedediah Garrason was in Duplin County, witnessing a deed in 1771⁴¹ and buying land in 1773.⁴² He disappeared from Duplin in 1776 after selling land.⁴³ That same year one

⁴¹This was the deed whereby Ebenezer Garrason (1) purchased land from Andrew and Arabella McIntire. Duplin County, North Carolina, Deed Book 4, p. 458.

⁴²Duplin County, North Carolina, Deed Book 5, p. 233, records the deed whereby Jedediah Garrason purchased land from Phillip Rouse and wife Hannah. This appears to have been part of a grant to Rouse that was directly south of a 1784 grant made to Adonijah Garrason (above). Because Ephraim and Adonijah Garrason were witnesses to the will of Phillip Rouse, some have *suggested* that Rouse's wife Hannah had been a Garrason before her marriage. Rouse's will was proved 18 Oct 1784 [McEachern, *Abstracts 1784-1787*. p. 1]. Jedediah Garrason appeared on the 1781 Tax List of Caswell District, Orange County, North Carolina, with three cows and 100 acres. [North Carolina Genealogical Society *Journal*. v. 11, no. 4, p. 237 (Nov, 1985)].

⁴³— Feb 1776. Jedediah Garrison to Charles Ward, for £6 proclamation money, 100 acres on west side of North East River, part of 200 acres patented by John Morrow above the mouth of Horse
(continued...)

Gediah Garrison signed a petition in Orange County, North Carolina.⁴⁴

According to Jedediah's descendants he lived in Orange Co, that part now Alamance Co, where several of his older children were born. He was in Greenville District, SC for the 1790 and 1800 censuses. A deed there identifies Jedediah of Greenville as the one who moved on to Georgia.⁴⁵

In reference to some of the children, their letter designations are repeated. (a) Jane was born 1785 or thereabouts, not 1765, a date found in Jane (Meaders) Quillian's memoirs.⁴⁶ (d) No one has found any proof that the son James had Caleb as his middle name; there are no records in his home county for James Caleb, James C., J. Caleb or J. C. Garrison; (f) Christopher was never called Jr. in known records and he did not rear his sons, having died 1811 when they were very small.⁴⁷ (h) Capais, actually Caleb Garrison, born 1789 (known as Caleb Garrison, Jr. to distinguish him from the Caleb who married Sarah

Fleming⁴⁸) died in Conway County, Arkansas. Researchers in his branch of the family, including Mesdames Shipman and Maples, insist he was the Capais (or Capel in some accounts) listed as Jedediah's youngest son. A sketch in a Conway, Arkansas history⁴⁹ called his father *Jadiah* Garrison.

DNA test results in 2006-7 prove (1) that Jedediah was not a son of Christopher Garrison and (2) that Caleb Garrison, Jr was indeed a son of Jedediah.

(9) EPHRAIM GARRISON, lived at Garrison Spring, Duplin County. He died during the year 1792. The name of his first wife cannot be learned. His second wife was Johnnie Middleton whom he married Oct. 18, 1786. By his will, 1792, he directed an unborn child by [sic] named Ephraim, if a son. The other children by the first marriage were as follows: (a) Mary (Polly) Garrison, unmarried in 1816; (b) David Garrison, no further record; © Thomas Garrison, lived and died in Duplin County. He was born July 25, 1764, and died June 10, 1841. His wife was Lavina Brock, daughter of Mary Ann (Brosard) and Barnet Brock. She was born Aug. 28, 1774, and died Jan. 3, 1840. They were married Dec. 19, 1793 and their children were as follows:

A long list follows but it will not be repeated here. It is basically correct except the details given for Ephraim's son Thomas were actually for his brother Thomas (see paragraph above

⁴³(...continued)

Branch. Record is now called Sampson-Duplin Deed Book 7, p. 4. [Max R. Peterson, Jr. *Abstracts - Sampson-Duplin and Sampson County Deeds, Books 7-9, c1780-c1794*. Dunn (NC): Pope Printing Co, 1985. p. 1.]

⁴⁴A petition requesting new elections after riots disrupted the voting on 15 Oct 1776 was signed in Orange County in 1776 by *Gediah* Garrison. Another copy, which suggests a different part of the county, was signed by Jacob, Garret, George and John Garrison. [North Carolina Genealogical Society *Journal*. v. 10, no. 2, pp. 98-106 (May, 1984)].

⁴⁵A deed dated 6 Feb 1806 from Jedediah Garrison of the state of Georgia to John Dunbar of Greenville County, South Carolina was recorded in Greenville County Deed Book G, pp. 363-364.

⁴⁶John Silas Garrison. *The Garrison Family*. p. 29.

⁴⁷Will of Christopher Garrason. The DAR source spells the name *Garrison* and gives young Christopher's wife as *Benor*. [Daughters of the American Revolution, Georgia Chapters. *Historical Collections*. Vidalia (GA), Georgia Genealogical Reprints, no date (Atlanta: Charles P. Byrd, State Printer, 1926). v. 1, pp. 254-255.] John Silas Garrison's *The Garrison Family*, p. 11 of the 2nd appendix, quoted Christopher's recorded will and gave the spelling in all instances as *Garrason* and the wife's name as *Kesiah*, which was correct, with a note that her name was written above the regular line.

⁴⁸Quillian Garrison, editor. John Garrison Ross and Quillian Garrison, compilers. *Descendants of Caleb Garrison, Sr. and his wife Sarah Fleming*. Angleton (TX): Times Printers & Stationers, Inc., 1967. p. 17.

⁴⁹[No author credited.] *Historical Reminences and Biographical Memoirs of Conway County, Arkansas*. [Place?]: Arkansas Historical Publishing Co., 1890. Photocopy made at the Little Rock library was shared with the writer.

12 An Update to A. T. Outlaw's *Garrison-Williams-Dobson*

titled **Thomas Garrason, born 1764**) and his descendants.⁵⁰

In 1778 Ephraim Garrison purchased land from Phillip Rouse on the west side of the North East Branch of Cape Fear River between Persimmon [Swamp] and Stocking Head Branch.⁵¹ This record suggests that he was born at least by 1757 to have been 21 at this time. When the 1783 Tax List for Duplin County was made up, Ephraim was listed as a *single poll* with property valued at £100. After listing two Carrs, a Rouse and a Rogers, the tax assessor included the name of the unidentified Jane Garrison with £10 worth of taxables.⁵²

Mr. Outlaw made a very reasonable and honest mistake in assuming that Thomas Garrason (b. 1764) was Ephraim's son. It was obvious that Joanna Middleton whom Ephraim married 18 Oct 1786⁵³ could not have been Thomas' mother. Two wives had to be assumed. However, Mr. Outlaw was unaware of a record which proves that even ten years after Ephraim's death, his children — all three of them — were still minors. During the January, 1803 term of court, "Thomas Garason, Thomas Canady and John Carr, as guardians of Polly, David and Thomas Garason, Orphans of Ephraim Garason" recorded the sale of livestock for their benefit.⁵⁴

⁵⁰ Court of 20 Oct 1802. Appointed Thomas Garrison Guardian to Thomas Garrison, Minor Orphan, he gave Bond of £200; Ordered he take his Estate into his possession, etc. [McEachern. *Abstracts, 1798-1803*. p. 74.]

⁵¹ Deed of 16 May 1778. From Phillip Rouse where Rouse now lives, 100 acres on the west side of NE branch of Cape Fear River between Persimmon Swamp and Stocking Head Branch; part of 640 acres parented to William Dickson 11 May 1769; witnessed by Adam <illegible> and Ebenezar Garrison; registered 13 Sep 1783. [Max R. Peterson, Jr. *Abstracts of Sampson-Duplin Deeds, Books 4-6 (c1762-c1779)*. Dunn (NC): Pope Printing Co., 1984. p. 101.]

⁵² Johnson, ed. *North Carolina Genealogy*. v. 19, no. 1, p. 2813 (Spring and Summer, 1973).

⁵³ Bass. *Marriage Bonds*. p. 39.

⁵⁴ Copies of the original detailed records showing sale of livestock were obtained by Ruth Mary (Conrad) Maples and shared with the writer [North Carolina Archives, Raleigh, Duplin County (continued...)]

Thomas the guardian was the one born 1764; Thomas the minor, Ephraim's son, was under age 21 in 1803.

With that knowledge we can assume that Ephraim was married only once and that he was a much younger man when he died than previously thought. We can empathize with a man who "being seized of a deadly disease and ... frail" made his will. An elderly man would have been "old and feeble." We can see the compassion he felt for his soon-to-be orphaned youngsters when he called Polly his "loving child" and Thomas his "loving son," terms one would not use for grown children. What confuses some researchers is that Ephraim's will was somewhat unprofessional in that he left property to his minor children without appointing guardians for them. Perhaps he felt that naming his wife and brother as executors was sufficient to assure the preservation of his estate for the children. He left no real property to his wife, assuming, perhaps, because of her youth she would soon remarry. The will⁵⁵

⁵⁴ (...continued)

Estates, Reference No. 35.508.28]. An abstract can be found in print [McEachern. *Abstracts, 1798-1803*. p. 83.]

⁵⁵ Copies of Ephraim's original will, the paper he signed, not the court house recording, were obtained by Ruth Mary (Conrad) Maples and shared with the writer [North Carolina Archives, Reference No. CR.035.801].

An "almost correct" transcription of Ephraim's will (which omits the affectionate adjectives he used when he named his children) was printed in William L. Murphy's *Genealogical Abstracts - Duplin County Wills 1730-1860*, p54. [Rose Hill (NC): Duplin County Historical Society, 1982]. In the original will, which this writer saw in North Carolina Archives in Raleigh before it was lost or stolen, the wife's name reads "Jonny", not "Jenny". He was also careless about the spelling Garrason.

(Dated) 27 Nov 1792 - (Proven) Jan Term 1793. Child **Polly** 50 acres Being the piece Which my Mother Now Lives upon, 1 Cow & Calf except the Child Now in the Womb of my wife Should Be a Boy which if it Lives & is a man Child then the aforementioned piece of Land Shall be my Son **David Garrason**'s; son **David** 100 acres bought of Phillip Rouse, 1 Cow & Calf Except the Aforementioned Child in my Wifes Womb Should be a Boy then the afore Said hundred Acres of Land to be my Son **Thomas Garrason**'s; son **Thomas Garrason** 100 acres being the plantation which I Now Line One, 1 Cow & Calf with the former Exciption Being cade Concerning the Aforementioned Child In the Womb Which it Shoud Be A Boy the Within mentioned hundred Acres of Land Which I (continued...)

mentioned is the original document which he signed *Ephraim Garrason*.

It appears that Ephraim's sons (b) David was born c1789 and © Thomas c1790 because both were counted in the 1790 census. They moved to Georgia and lived in Wilkinson County. Thomas died there by 3 Oct 1814 when letters of administration were granted to David and Mary Garrason.⁵⁶ Thomas left at least one child because *Thomas Garrison's Orphan*, of Williams District, Wilkinson Co, drew lot 133 in section 3 of Monroe County, Georgia in the 1821 Land Lottery.⁵⁷ David was listed in the 1830 Federal Census of Crawford County, Georgia, living neighbor to Merrill Williams who had married his cousin Mary Ann Garrason, daughter of Thomas (b. 1764). Court house records show that David and his wife, Elizabeth, both died in the 1830s, leaving six or seven children (one might have been Thomas' orphan), none of whom appear to have remained in Crawford County unless they adopted the surnames of the families who reared them.⁵⁸ It is not known what happened to Ephraim's daughter (a) Polly except she apparently was still unmarried in 1816 when she sold the fifty acres received under the terms of her

father's will to her uncle Thomas Garrason.⁵⁹ This, of course, proves that Ephraim's widow did not give birth to a son who lived. It is not known if she gave live birth to any child; if she did it likely died young as there was no such child listed when livestock was sold in 1803.

A NEW FAMILY GROUPING

We must construct a new family grouping. The Thomas who was born 1764 was not Ephraim's son (as proven above) and he was not the Thomas who purchased land in 1765. He was the *brother* who was named co-executor of Ephraim's will and the *brother-in-law* named executor by Joseph Merrill, husband of Elizabeth above. So Thomas, Ephraim and Elizabeth were siblings. Now it can be understood, if we suppose that Thomas who bought land in 1765 was their father, as a seaman he was often at sea. That would explain why Ephraim, who would marry in October, 1786, was listed as head-of-household in the 1786 State Census for Duplin County taken in April that year.

Using facts mentioned in other paragraphs, it is suggested that Thomas (adult 1765) was father of these siblings: (a) **Ephraim** who is (9) above, **Thomas** born 1764 and **Elizabeth (Garrason) Merrill** (6) and likely of **Darius** (5) and **John** (4). **Adonijah** (2) seems to have been of the correct age also, but **Ebenezer** (1) and **Jedediah** (8) were perhaps too old.

The Thomas Garrason listed in the 1790 Federal Census of Duplin County was undoubtedly was Thomas (b. 1764) as head of his mother's household, with the other male over 16 being Darius (b c1772) and the male under 16 being perhaps James (b c1778). One female was the mother of the family whose identify is not presently known, and the other was

⁵⁵ (...continued)

Now Live on to that Child And Its Name to Be Called **Ephram Garrason**; wife **Jenney** [sic] my household furniture & plantation tools, remainder of My Stock of Hogs, Cattle, Sheep & horses; trusty friend **Elizabeth Stricling** [sic] 1 Cow & Calf. Extrs: wife **Jenny** [sic], brother **Thomas**, **William Carr**. Wit: **Wm Mcanne**, **Joseph Merrill**. Signed **Ephraim Garrason**.

⁵⁶ Mary Garrason's identity is uncertain. She may have been Thomas' widow or she may have been his sister called *Polly Garrason* in most records. [Fred R. and Emily K. Hartz. *Genealogical Abstracts from "The Georgia Journal," Milledgeville, Georgia 1809-1840*. Vidalia (GA): Gwendolyn Press, 1990. v. 1, p. 322.]

⁵⁷ The reference is simply to *Thomas Garrison's Orphan*. The same page shows that David Garrison of Williams' District, Wilkinson County, drew lot 152 of section 1 in Houston County. [Silas Emmett Lucas, Jr. *The 3rd & 4th or 1820 and 1821 Land Lotteries of Georgia*. Easley (SC): Georgia Genealogical Reprints and Southern Historical Press, 1973. Part 2, p. 102.]

⁵⁸ Crawford County, Georgia, Guardian Bond Book A, p. 84; Inventories & Appraisals Book B, p. 11; Marriage Records 1840-1880. Various indexes of Georgia census schedules 1850-1870 failed to show anyone who could be identified as David's heirs.

⁵⁹ A deed dated 6 Apr 1816 from Mary Garrason to Thomas Garrason for 50 acres was proved in the October 1816 term of court of Duplin County and recorded in Deed Book DFTU, p. 282.

Elizabeth who would marry Joseph Merrill the following year. It is likely Jane Garrison, listed in the 1783 Tax List of Duplin County, was Thomas, Sr.'s wife, who was head of house because he was away at sea. It is further possible that Thomas and Jane of Duplin Co, even though they have not been shown to have been spouses, were the Thomas Garretson and his wife, Jane Ferris, of New Castle Co, DE, who disappeared from that area about the same time Thomas purchased land in Duplin Co in 1765. This situation needs more research.

Thomas, Sr. may have been dead in 1790 or he may have been at sea. Mr. Outlaw's introduction mentioned Christopher's wife being alive in 1792. He assumed that from a phrase in Ephraim's will which read *fifty acres of land being the piece which my mother now lives upon*. However, with Christopher and Phebe never having been residents of Duplin County, this was another woman. The wording suggests that Ephraim's father was already dead, otherwise the reference would have been to both parents. Those descendants of Jedediah who insist Christopher and Phebe lived in Duplin Co explain away this situation by suggesting they were separated, Christopher living with Jedediah and Phebe with Ephraim.⁶⁰

THE WRITER'S JAMES GARRASON

Arriving in Effingham County, Georgia in the 1790s, not long after or perhaps with the elder Darius Garrason, was James Garrason, g-g-g-grandfather of this writer.

A James Garrison (so spelled) was living in Duplin Co in 1795 and was old enough to have a responsibility for maintenance of the public roads. On 22 Oct of that year Thomas Garrison (undoubtedly Thomas born 1764) was appointed Overseer of a road leading from the Northeast Cape Fear River below the mouth of Muddy Creek to the court house. James Garrison's name appears in the list of *hands* assigned to help Thomas in that task.⁶¹

Research has caused this writer to conclude that James was the son of **Ebenezer Garrason** (see 1) who died in 1801 in Duplin County.

He married in Effingham County on 4 Jul 1799 to Martha Dykes, had three sons (David, James Jasper and Levi) and died about 1811. Darius lived near James' family and undoubtedly looked after the boys. Apparently the only record James made in Duplin County before moving to Georgia was that Martha (Dykes) Garrason married secondly in 1813 to Frederick Mills and had three children by him. Shortly after Appling County, Georgia was opened to settlement they moved there. She died 1871 in Columbia (now Baker) County, Florida at the home of her son Shadrack Mills and was buried beside Mills at Union Hill Congregational Church in present Atkinson County, Georgia.

The late Judge Huxford wrote in two sketches of James Garrason⁶² that he was a son of (9) Ephraim above. That claim was based on an error Olds made in his abstract of Ephraim's

⁶⁰This writer finds no merit in the suggestion that Christopher and Phebe were separated and living with different children. The date of Ephraim's will was 1792. He was living in Duplin County when he wrote it and his mother was living there then. Jedediah Garrison, with whom Christopher was supposedly living, was in Greenville County, South Carolina, having previously lived in Orange County, North Carolina 1776-c1785. While Jedediah's descendants claim that Christopher moved with Jedediah to Franklin County, Georgia in 1804, there is no elderly male counted in Jedediah's household in either the 1790 or 1800 Federal Census of Greenville County, South Carolina. All persons in the counts can be identified as Jedediah, his wife and their children.

⁶¹Court of 22 Oct 1795. Ordered Thomas Garrison be Overseer of the New Road leading from the NorthEast River below the Mouth of Muddy Creek to the Court House ... and have the following hands: James Garrison ... and that they open and repair said road. [McEachern. *Abstracts, 1795-1798*. p. 32.]

⁶²Folks Huxford. *Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia*. v. 2, p. 111; v. 5, p. 160. These source volumes (7 by Huxford, and 2 by the society which bears his name) have been reprinted numerous times by various printers. The sketches of James Garrason are subject to numerous corrections, especially elimination of the mention that he was son of Ephraim.

will.⁶³ This writer notes that Olds rendered *Johnnie*, the name of Ephraim's wife as *James*, and completely omitted the name Johnnie. The copy examined is that of the original will,⁶⁴ not of the court house recording, and it does not mention any James in any capacity.

CONCLUSIONS

The comments below were written long before DNA results proved the statements given on page 1 of this article. Please keep them in mind while reading the text below. -CCG

It is impossible to prove that something never happened. All we can do is make a diligent search and, failing to find any proof, declare that as far as we can tell the event never occurred. That is what we must do with claims Christopher Garrison of Staten Island, New York moved to Duplin County, North Carolina. **As far as we can tell, he never lived in North Carolina.** Reports that he died in New Jersey are presently unverified.

The late D. H. P. Garrison (1855-1936) undoubtedly had all the good intentions needed to compile a factual genealogy. But he started

very late in life, had little or no help from anyone who knew how to go about such a project, and he was handicapped by not having the education, experience or mindset to do the job properly. He trusted everyone, questioned nothing and accepted all that he was given. Worse than that, he passed the misinformation on to others.

D.H.P.'s story [with this writer's comments in square brackets] concerned five Garrison brothers who arrived in Delaware from Scotland about 1700 [there is no proof Garrison or any other spelling is Scottish]. One was Christopher [yet he was not christened until 1730/31]. One brother married a beautiful Indian girl, a first cousin of Pocahontas [who had died close to 100 years before in 1617, aged about twenty-two]. They received land grants from George III [who did not become king until 1760, at which time all the brothers would have been well up in years if they still lived]. Christopher's son Jedediah moved to Anderson County, South Carolina where his children were all born [most were born in North Carolina; it was Greenville County in South Carolina where Jedediah lived]. They moved to Franklin County, Georgia in 1784 with children aged 4 to 19 years [it was 1804 before Jedediah's name appears on tax lists; census records show he was in Greenville County in 1790 and 1800; none of the children were 19 until about 1796].⁶⁵

D.H.P. went a step further, a step that borders on fabrication. Trying to fit Christopher into the list of 5 brothers from Scotland, he adjusted Jedediah's birth back to the 1730s, Christopher's back to about 1700 and his parents (Isaac & Maria) back a generation

⁶³ A verbatim copy of Olds' abstract:

Duplin County, North Carolina, 1793.

GARRISON, EPHRAIM, Polly, David, Thomas, Ephraim, James; Strickland, Elizabeth.

Note the spellings given, even though Ephraim signed his name *Garrason* and Elizabeth's surname was spelled *Strickling*.

A proper abstract in the same format with relationships would read:

GARRASON, EPHRAIM, daughter **Polly**, son **David**, son **Thomas**, unborn child to be called **Ephraim** if male, wife **Jonny**, friend Elizabeth Strickling; extrs: wife, brother Thomas Garrason and William Carr.

The incorrect abstract was from Fred A. Olds' *An Abstract of North Carolina Wills from about 1760 to about 1800*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1968 (1925). p. 101. Notice that Olds did not spell Garrason as Ephraim signed the document.

Anyone using Olds' abstract without referencing the original will would be very careless in assigning relationships to the names listed. Polly could have been his mother, David his brother, Thomas his father, Ephraim a cousin and James a neighbor. Of course, they weren't, but that would have been known only from a reading of the will, action which would have shown the user that the document did not mention anyone named James Garrason. See note 56 above.

⁶⁴ North Carolina Archives, Reference No. CR.035.801.

⁶⁵ D.H.P.'s misinformation was included in a letter he wrote to Harry C. Garrison, native of Anderson, South Carolina, and resident of Connecticut in the 1950's. The items quoted were copied by this writer from John Silas Garrison's *The Garrison Family* [1st Appendix, p. 16] in which he quoted from Harry C. Garrison's *Ancestors and Descendants of Charles Cleveland Garrison and Mary Virreaner Rasor*.

earlier than church records from Staten Island show. Worse than that, he or someone using those dates tried to give the record an aura of honesty wrote that information in a family Bible. Then to make the situation even worse, the record was submitted to Georgia DAR for inclusion in their book of Family Bible Records. Unfortunately, some have believed this and have submitted it to the Mormon Church. It can be found on their IGI.

A. T. Outlaw obviously had good intentions also and produced what seems to be a good book, the Outlaw genealogy. However, he let us down. He spent forty hours or so in the court house each week for years but failed to use records that we who live far away have been able to secure by mail. He also failed to analyze the material he found and he pieced it together incorrectly. Somehow, even with a copy of Christopher's baptism, neither Mr. Outlaw nor D.H.P. provided the date of that event in their writings.

Dates of birth suggested by land records for **Ebenezer Garrason**, **Thomas Garrison** (who purchased land in 1765) and **James Garrison** (of Greenville, South Carolina who died in Illinois) prohibit them from being listed as children of Christopher and Phebe (Vanderbilt) Garrison.

Thomas Garrason (born 1764), **Ephraim Garrason** and **Elizabeth (Garrason) Merrill** were proven siblings. **Darius Garrason** *likely* was brother to them. Failure to prove Christopher lived in Duplin County eliminates him as their father.

Adonijah Garrason, **Jedediah Garrison** (of Greenville County, South Carolina who died in Franklin County, Georgia and who is known to have spelled his name *Garrason* on some

occasions), **John Garrison** (father by 1797), **James Garrison** (of the 1795 road crew) and **James Garrison** (heir of Ebenezer in 1804 and perhaps the same as the James on the road crew) cannot currently be connected to the others. Again, failure to find Christopher's name in Duplin County records removes him from consideration as their father.

Some find significance in the fact that Old Testament names were used for Adonijah, Darius, Ebenezer, Ephraim, and Jedediah while New Testament names were given to Elizabeth, James, John and Thomas. But note that a mixture was used in the family of Darius, Elizabeth, Ephraim and Thomas. Other persons, like this writer, find significance in use of the spelling Garrason.

We may never learn how these all fit together, but it is certain Christopher Garrison was not the father of all of them and likely was not father of any of them. DNA matching will not prove anything if donors submit lineages that cannot be proven beyond certainty.

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