

THOMAS ROBINSON LETTER WRITTEN 1915

Contributed by Sue Holmes

This is a letter written in 1915 by Thomas Robinson, son of the Thomas Robinson everyone thought was Alexander's father. There is a short forward before the actual letter. Also, I'm sure you won't be fooled by the Robinson vs. Robison spellings. Some of this family took the Robinson spelling and some took the Robison spelling. I don't know who is correct yet. One researcher said it was his impression that the teachers, at some point around this time, taught the Robinson spelling, probably thinking the kids were mistaken, and it stuck.

Forward (I have no idea who wrote the forward or who the people are this person is talking about):

"Following is the text of the letter. We believe the parenthetic quotes

Were added by Charles Linus Robinson (my great uncle, son of the Thomas G. I'm stuck on) and his son Irvine, who is currently of very ill health

In the Tampa Bay area, Florida. I did my best to leave punctuation, misspellings, and oddness of form alone."

Letter:

"The following is whatever history Dad was able to gather about the Robinson family.

"Genealogy of our Robinson family as far as I know.

"There was a Thomas Robinson, a general in the Continental Army in the Revolutionary War, and also a Colonel Thomas Robinson in the same army, whose portrait hangs in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, under which is a statement that he had four horses shot under him during the war. His portrait bears a striking resemblance to my brother James (this information apparently came from Uncle Thomas of Hagerstown, Maryland) so much that I am fully convinced of the blood relationship, although I cannot trace the genealogy.

"My sister claimed that our strain of Robinson first settled in Montgomery County, Maryland, but I think she was mistaken.

"In 1858 I became acquainted with a man by the name of Gunder, who was reared at Bendersville, Adams County, PA and he told me that one of the oldest graves in the burying ground at Bendersville was that of a Thomas Robinson, and Peter Robinson, of Toledo, Ohio, was also reared at Bendersville may know something definite about it. (Parenthetically, I know that some Robinsons, whether male or female, lived in Lorain, Ohio, for I vaguely remember attending a family reunion there. In fact, I took some pictures at night of lightening during a storm - and I also remember an invasion of insects called Canadian soldiers.)

"The earliest knowledge I have of my grandfather Thomas Robinson, who, by the way, was the son of Thomas Robinson, was at what was called the Vineyards, a broad open space on the top of Mt. Alto, in Franklin County, Pa. And from there to Path Valley in the upper corner of the same county, where he died about the year 1844 or 45, and was buried at Carrick Furnace. (Dad had information from somewhere transmitted to me verbally, that a branch of the family had an iron furnace at Path Valley and made shells for the Union Army during the Civil War. I vaguely recall visiting Path Valley during a trip relevant to the family.) He had four brothers as far as I know, viz. Walter, Hezekiah, James and Alexander, and several sisters. Polly married Alex Ready, lived at Clearspring, Md. She was a niece of Polly Robinson of Indian Notoriety (?), and several of her grandchildren reside in Hagerstown. Another of Grandfather's sisters was married to a man by the name of Freeman, and one married to Provard. I am acquainted with some of the Provard grandchildren.

"Grandfather's brother, Alexander Robinson, lived at Smithsburg, Md. And so far as I can recall he had these children: John, Hezekiah, Alexander, James, Walter, Amelia, Catherine and Rebecca. Some of John's children lived at Hagersotwn. Milliard

F. Robinson, 424 West Washington St., Mrs. Annie Aslip, 548 Pennsylvania Ave., Mrs. William Small, 585 West Washington St., H. R. Robinson, 742 West Washington St., and others out West. One of Alexander's sons lives in town but I don't know his address.

"Grandfather's children were Jacob, Thomas, Zacheriah, Alexander, Daniel, James, Edward, David, Absalom, Andrew, Polly and stillborn twins. Jacob had three daughters, all dead. Thomas, that is my father, had five children: Mary, John, Thomas, James and Peter. Alexander had two boys, Thomas and Edward. David had Ariminta, Lulu, Aretta and Dorothy. Zachariah and Ellen, Andrew, Esther, Frances, Leonard, Zachariah and Priscilla. Andrew had David, Sarah, Zachariah, Thomas, Joseph, James, Edward, Elizabeth, Margaret and Fanny. Absalom had one ----

"Of my father's family two of John's children are living - Mrs. Jennie Conrad, Hagerstown, Md., and Mrs. Annie Spangler, Greencastle, Pa. 1, Thomas, have three children living - Cora J. Oliver, Newark, N.J. and Lucy and Virginia who are living with me in Hagerstown. James' children - Dr. Annie M. Robinson 404-406 Brown Marx Building, Birmingham, Ala; Mrs. Addie Richards, Ricklandtown, Pa.; Ralph Robinson, 825 South 19th St., Philadelphia, Pa.; Mrs. Pauline Mansfield, address not given. Three of Peter's are living - William, Charles, and Effie.

"My father had a cousin Alexander Robinson, at Tomstown, Pa. but I don't know who his father was. He had two sons, David and William. All were believers in the Mormon faith and immigrated to Salt Lake City before the Civil War.

"There is a tradition that one of grandfather's brothers, or perhaps his Uncle went to Australia and became very wealthy. (Another version, which I mentioned on the phone, had him finding a mountain of gold) I have a small clipping from the old newspaper stating that one John Robinson, in South Africa is the richest man in the world, being worth \$350,000,000. Might be a lineal descendant of the uncle in Australia.

Hagerstown, Md. July 19, 1915 "

Okay, now here is what I've gleaned from the above letter and the information I got from you, Bob. I'm starting with the parents of Alexander. I'll put the parents first, with their information (any ordinances completed (b:, e:, sp:, ss) to distinguish from birth, marriage, death). The IN PROCESSES are probably completed by now, but I'll have to wait until I get to Salt Lake to get them. You probably have them anyway, huh? You aren't going to post ordinance information on the website are you? After the parents, indented, will be the children.

Hezekiah Robison b. 1765/1774 - prob. Frederick, Maryland, d. bef 9 May 1824, Washington twp., Franklin, Pennsylvania (b: 20 Jun 1997, MTIMP; e: 15 Jul 1997 MTIMP) Married Abt. 1798, of, Frederick, Maryland (ss: IN PROCESS) Hannah Toms b. 1775,, Maryland, d. 1824, Washington Twp., Franklin, Pennsylvania (b: 20 Jun 1997 MTIMP; e: 15 Jul 1997 MTIMP; sp: IN PROCESS)

Solomon Robison, b. 1799, prob. Frederick, Maryland (b: 20 Jun 1997 MTIMP; e: 12 Sep 1997 MTIMP; sp: IN PROCESS) Married Abt 1822/23, prob. Washington Twp., Franklin, PA. Catherine Wiles (or Wilds), b. abt 1800, of, Frederick, Maryland (b: 18 Jul 1997 MTIMP; e: 13 Apr 1999 BOISE; sp: IN PROCESS)

"Alexander Robison b. 23 Oct 1800, Tomstown, Washington, PA, d. 23 Jan 1879, No. Morgan, Morgan, Utah Married AN 1822, Quincy, Franklin, PA (ss: 15 Jun 1916, SLAKE) Nancy Ellen Wagaman, b. 180 1, Quincy, Washington Twp, Franklin, PA, d. 14 Nov 1883, No. Morgan, Morgan, Utah (b: 13 Jun 1916, e: 15 Jun 1916, sp: 4 Jan 1946.

Two male children, names unknown, birth dates unknown.

Catherine Robison, b, Abt 1804, Washington Twp-, Franklin, PA (b: 20 Jun 1997 MTIMP; e: 1 Aug 1997 PROVO; sp: IN PROCESS) Married David Wagaman

John Robison, b. Abt 1806, Washington Twp., Franklin, PA (b: 20 Jun 1997, MTIMP; e: IN PROCESS; sp: IN PROCESS)

William Robison, b. Abt 1808, Washington Twp, Franklin, PA (b: 20 Jun 1997 MTIMP; e: IN PROCESS; sp: IN PROCESS)

Hezekiah's father is the oldest Thomas Robi(n)son in the letter. He was probably born in Virginia. Hezekiah's mother is unknown. No further information is known on this couple. Their children are listed below:

Hezekiah, b 1765/74 (info above) Alexander Robi(n)son md. Elizabeth Thomas Robi(n)son

Walter Robi(n)son James Robi(n)son Polly Robi(n)son md. Alex Ready Miss Robi(n)son md. Mr. Freeman Miss Robi(n)son md. Mr. Provard

Alexander's mother's family is now shown:

John Toms, b 1748 nr. Conococheague, Frederick, Maryland, d. Mar 1813, Washington Twp., Franklin, PA (b: 20 Jun 1997 MTIMP; e: 12 Sep 1997 PROVO; sp: IN PROCESS)

Married 1770, of Frederick, Maryland (ss: IN PROCESS) Catherine English b. Abt 1745,, Virginia, d. Aft 1817 (b: 23 Jan 1998 ARIZO; e: 3 Mar 1999 ARIZO) Abraham Toms b. 1771, of Frederick, Maryland, d. 1817 (b: 20 Jun 1997 MTIMP; e: 23 Oct 1999 CHICA; sp: IN PROCESS) Married 1791, of Frederick, Maryland (ss: IN PROCESS) Ann Creighton Elizabeth Toms, b. Abt 1771 of Frederick, Maryland, (b: 18 Jul 1997 MTIMP; e: 4 Aug 1999 PROVO; sp: IN PROCESS) Married: AN 1793, of Frederick, Maryland, (ss: IN PROCESS) Michael Kneif

"Hannah Toms - Alexander's mother. Information given above.

David Toms b. 1777,, Maryland (b: 20 Jun 1997 MTIMP; e: 23 Oct 1999 CHICA; sp: IN PROCESS) Married Abt 1798, of Washington Twp, Franklin, PA (ss: IN PROCESS) Susannah

Susannah Toms b. 1779, Maryland; d. Abt 1853 (b: 18 Jul 1997 MTIMP; e: IN PROCESS; sp: IN PROCESS) Married AN 1798, of Frederick, Maryland, (ss: 5 Dec 1997 WASHI) Jacob Wiles b. AN 1765, of Frederick, Maryland, d. Aft 1822

Solomon Toms b. AN 1781, Maryland; d. 1811,, Franklin, PA (b: 20 Jun 1997 MTIMP; e: 21 Nov 1997 PROVO; sp: IN PROCESS) Married Abt 1801, of Washington Twp., Franklin, PA (ss: IN PROCESS) Catherine

John Toms Jr. b. 1783,, Maryland (b: e: sp: IN PROCESS)

Samuel Toms b. 1785, Maryland (b: e: sp: IN PROCESS)

Married AN 1805 of Washington Twp., Franklin, PA (ss: IN PROCESS) Margaret Catherine Toms b 1793, Maryland (b: 18 Jul 1997 MTIMP; e: 11 Dec 1998 SLOUI; sp: IN PROCESS) Married AN 1807 of Washington Twp., Franklin, PA (ss: IN PROCESS) Benjamin Peters

Jonathan Toms b. 1795, Maryland (b: e: sp: IN PROCESS) Elias Toms b. 1797,, Maryland (b: e: sp: IN PROCESS) John Toms father (Alexander's great grandfather):

John William Toms b. prob. England, d. Abt 1753, Middletown, Frederick, Maryland Married Abt 174 1, prob., Frederick, Maryland Catherine

Henry Toms b. 1742, of Frederick, Maryland, d. 1772, Washington, Maryland (b: 20 Jun 1997 MTIMP; e: 29 Aug 1998 OAKLA (sp: IN PROCESS) Married Margaret

Samuel Toms, b. 1744 of Myersville, Frederick, Maryland, d. Bef 15 Nov 1819 (b: 20 Jun 1997 MTIMP; e: 10 Jan 1998 PROVO; sp: IN PROCESS)

William toms, b.: 1746, nr. Conococheague, Frederick, Maryland; d. 30 Dec 1823, Myersville. Frederick, Maryland (b: 25 Feb 1995 SDIEG; e: 24 Mar 1995 SDIEG; sp: 15 Jun 1995 SDIEG) Married 1769,, Frederick, Maryland; Barbara Deardorff John Toms (Alexander's grandfather) Married Catherine English

Mary Toms, b. 1750, nr. Conococheague, Frederick, Maryland (b: 25 Feb 1995 SDIEG; e: 20 Apr 1996, SDIEG; sp: 9 May 1996 SDIEG) Married: Anthony Deardorff.

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