

A
THOMPSON-BACON
FAMILY HISTORY

RESEARCHED, COMPILED AND WRITTEN
BY NORMAN H. ATKINS

A BRIEF STUDY OF SOME
ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS OF
WILLIAM THOMPSON & NANCY BACON

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**This book is dedicated to the memory of my grandmother
JOANNA HUSHBECK THOMPSON
(1863 - 1942)**

*It was at my grandmother's feet I first heard the oral family history
of the Hushbeck, Thompson, Bacon, Hamilton and related families.
As the wife of William Robert Thompson and Martin Lee Thompson,
she was the glue that held these two families together.*

*It was she who helped me bridge the generations of family,
not with just names and dates, but with the meaning of
who they were and what they did.*

*I can only hope that this book will help this and future generations
build a bridge of understanding between our ancestors and their families.
Just as my "Granny" Thompson did for me.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	VII
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	IX
THOMPSON GENERATIONS	XI
CHAPTER 1: WILLIAM "T" THOMPSON.....	1
CHAPTER 2: ALEXANDER THOMPSON	5
MARRIAGE BOND	6
ABOUT THE WILDERNESS ROAD.....	11
DOCUMENTATION	13
CHAPTER 3: WILLIAM THOMPSON.....	15
THE PETERS COLONY.....	20
SHERMAN, GRAYSON COUNTY, TEXAS	21
DOCUMENTATION	22
CHAPTER 4: PLEASANT THOMPSON	23
LOS COCHES, SOLEDAD, CALIFORNIA	25
HISTORY OF THE DUTTON HOTEL	28
PLEASANT THOMPSON OBITUARY	35
PLEASANT THOMPSON FAMILY BIBLE PAGES	36
CHAPTER 5: WILLIAM ROBERT THOMPSON.....	41
NOTES ON JULIA EDNA THOMPSON	42
NOTES ON WILLIAM ALBERT THOMPSON	45
NOTES ON ROBERT RAYMOND THOMPSON.....	48
CHAPTER 6: RITCHIES & CALDWELLS	53
THE RITCHIE FAMILY	53
NOTES ON ALEXANDER THOMPSON AND MARGARET RITCHIE	54
THE CALDWELL FAMILY	56
NOTES ON CAPTAIN JOHN CALDWELL.....	56
BRINGING THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TO VIRGINIA	57
DOCUMENTATION	58
CUB CREEK CHURCH AND CONGREGATION (1738 -1838) ...	58
CHAPTER 7: ZACHARIAH "ZACH" THOMPSON.....	59
CHAPTER 8: MARTIN LEE THOMPSON.....	61
CHAPTER 9: NELLYE ELIZABETH THOMPSON	67

CHAPTER 10: THOMPSON LINEAGES.....	83
DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM THOMPSON AND NANCY DRINKARD.....	83
DESCENDANTS OF JOHN DOWNING AND JANE THOMPSON	90
NOTES ON JOHN DOWNING.....	90
CHAPTER 11: THE LYDDALL & BACON FAMILIES.....	95
LYDDALL FAMILY SUMMARY.....	95
BACON FAMILY SUMMARY.....	96
NATHANIEL BACON (B. 1647) AND BACON'S REBELLION	98
THE BACON AND LYDDALL FAMILIES IN AMERICA	99
BACON FAMILY NAMING PATTERNS	100
BIBLIOGRAPHY AND ADDITIONAL RESEARCH WORK	101
CHAPTER 12: ST. PETER'S PARISH CHURCH OF NEW KENT COUNTY, VIRGINIA	103
CHAPTER 13: DESCENDANTS OF EDMUND BACON	105
NOTES ON EDMUND BACON	105
NOTES ON JOHN BACON.....	108
NOTES ON NATHANIEL BACON (B. CIRCA 1700)	110
NOTES ON LANGSTON BACON (B. CIRCA 1725).....	113
NOTES ON HARWOOD BACON.....	115
NOTES ON WILLIAM BACON (B. 1763)	117
NOTES ON LANGSTON BACON (B. 1765).....	118
NOTES ON LUDWELL BACON.....	118
EDMUND BACON'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY.....	120
NOTES ON RICHARD BACON.....	123
CHAPTER 14: DESCENDANTS OF NATHANIEL BACON	125
NOTES ON NATHANIEL BACON (B. 1772).....	125
NOTES ON WILLIAM BACON (B. 1806)	127
NOTES ON NANCY BACON THOMPSON BURNS	129
NOTES ON URIAH BURNS.....	133
NOTES ON FIELDING BACON.....	134
NOTES ON MARTHA ELIZABETH BACON.....	143

FOREWORD

I have tried to be accurate with the information contained herein. When I first started compiling genealogical data nearly 50 years ago, I merely made notes and kept them in a file. After picking up bits and pieces for years and adding them to the file, I found many of my sources were mislaid or lost. Additionally, some of my material came from other genealogists, and I accepted their documentation without always researching, a real No-No. Alas, lessons learned far too late in my quest for data. In later years I realized the importance of documentation and have tried to file my data and list my sources accordingly.

Some of the material presented is family oral history and I don't always have ways of backing the material with documentation. Family oral history is usually full of errors, but experience has taught me there is often an element of truth in the stories and they are certainly not to be dismissed. These are stories handed down generation to generation, sometimes embellished by the storytellers to enhance the stories of the individuals involved or to make a point. But the stories add dimension to the people and their times, they make more interesting reading, and they give us clues to the past.

I have attempted to make this book more than just names and dates. That is dull! Hopefully, I have presented these ancestors and their contemporaries as real people who lived and died with some purpose to their lives. I know not all my information is accurate, but it is as accurate as I am able to make it at this time. If I have erred, please forgive me, and by all means let me know what is wrong so it can be corrected.

This work has been a labor of love on my part and a small way of showing how much my family has meant to me through the years. Even though I never met many of these people, over the years I felt like I knew most of them personally. Hopefully, after reading, you will feel the same.

Norman H. Atkins
February 2001

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The gathering of material and research over the last forty plus years was not always an easy task and certainly was not all done by me personally. There have been many people who have shared their research and findings with me, thus enabling me to become a sort of repository of information upon which I built my own research and upon which this book is based. I wish to take time to acknowledge some of those people who aided me along the way. Without them, this book would certainly never have come about.

I must first and foremost acknowledge my own family. My grandmother, Joanna Hushbeck Thompson from whom I heard my first recollected oral family history. My mother, Nellye Thompson Atkins and her sister, Edna Thompson Wheelock, and my uncles, William A. Thompson and Robert "Ray" Thompson who were always talking about "The Thompsons" and what they did and where they came from. I also must recognize my great aunt, Frances Thompson Lawrie Mazza who was kind enough to take the time to correspond with me when I first asked her questions about the Bacons and Thompsons. It was this family information that laid the foundation upon which later research would be done.

In 1966, Winifred Thompson Ames contacted me. Winifred was my cousin and the daughter of William A. Thompson. She was interested in doing family research. Everyone she contacted before this time told her to contact me. Winifred was retired and devoted much of her time to research. She shared what she found with me. We had a good genealogical working relationship lasting well over thirty years. In 1995 Winifred's health had declined to a point where she could no longer do research, and she asked me to carry on hoping that eventually her material and mine could be merged to write a book on the Thompsons. I had retired by that time so I began a more earnest effort of doing research, all the while trying to keep Winifred advised until her death in June of 1999.

After I took over as the primary researcher, I hired a certified genealogical researcher to help me find some of our Thompson ancestors in Virginia. She was Jeanne Douglas Mead of Lynchburg, Virginia whose help was invaluable in digging through records and finding all about our Caldwell, Ritchie and Thompson families.

In 1997 I purchased a computer and this opened up the Internet and a whole new tool for doing research. It was on the Internet that I saw a posting by a lady in Texas regarding her ancestor, William Thompson in Campbell County, Kentucky. I felt her ancestor might be the brother to my ancestor, Alexander Thompson. After a few E-mails and some shared information, we were convinced that we were indeed distant cousins. She was Mary Jane Kuntschik of Dallas, Texas. Mary Jane put me in contact with Fred Thompson, of Tulsa, Oklahoma and Karen Beagle of Seattle, Washington. Thus a whole new side of the Thompson family emerged which had been unknown to me.

Winifred and I did much of the Bacon research. In 1995 Winifred told me of a Bacon cousin, Yvonne Leach Skouby, who had written a book and recommended I should probably contact her. I did make contact and bought her book, *Edmund Bacon of New Kent County, Virginia and his Missouri Descendants*. Yvonne's book confirmed most of what Winifred and I knew and expanded our knowledge about the Bacon family in America. In turn, Yvonne and I corresponded and I expanded her

knowledge about our Nancy Bacon Thompson Burns and her two brothers, William Bacon (and his wife Permelia Bacon) and Fielding Bacon. She knew that these three children of Nathaniel Bacon had gone west, but she did not know what happened to them.

In 1997 I also met a fellow from Oklahoma on the Internet named Daniel H. Bailey. He too was a descendant of Capt. Edmund Bacon of New Kent County, Virginia. He asked me to share some of my research, and I sent him some of the notes I had in my files. He was aghast at the volume of information I sent and filled in a lot of the blanks I had. And, he submitted to me another 500 years of lineages in the middle ages connecting to the Bacon/Lyddall families.

Finally, but not least, was a contact via the Internet from a lady who found that I had submitted information to the California Pioneers Web Site regarding her great grandfather, Hardy Thompson. She felt it was incorrect. Thus began another interesting relationship; that lady was Sue Nickum. We corresponded for over a year and finally we met in King City in May of 2000. I invited her to attend a Thompson family reunion in Jolon, California and she was able to meet cousins previously unknown to her. The day after the reunion we met and had coffee in King City, California where we talked and found we were "kindred spirits." Fittingly, I determined we were probably sitting in the exact location where my great grandfather's (Pleasant Thompson's) home had been 100 years before.

From the very beginning of our meeting on the Internet, Sue has encouraged me to write a book on my side of the Thompson family. It was something I wanted to do. After all my years of research and collecting materials I should do something with all this knowledge. But I felt inadequate to the task of bringing all this material together into a book. After all, I have never pretended to be a "writer," but I realized I really was the only person I knew of who had all this information. Sue generously agreed to assist me with layout and editing. Alas, a task I'm not sure she knew would be so large a project for her. And so, a special "Thank you" to this wonderful cousin for all her help and encouragement ... without her, this probably would never have been done.

A special thanks to my niece, Diane Wilson Beavers for her pen and ink rendering of the old barn at our ranch in Pine Canyon near King City which graces the cover of this book. Her recollection of the barn as it was more than 40 years ago is amazing, especially since I could not find a single photograph of the barn to guide her. I am honored to have her artwork as the cover of my book.

And thanks, too, to all my family and friends who have helped me along the way, even though I haven't mentioned your names here. All your help through the years has been greatly appreciated. I could not have done this by myself; it is a culmination of efforts by many.

*Norman H. Atkins
Visalia, California
January 2001*

THOMPSON GENERATIONS

GENERATION 1

WILLIAM THOMPSON, was born circa 1730 and died after 1797 in Kentucky. He married **JANE CALDWELL**, daughter of **GEORGE CALDWELL**. She was born circa 1732 and died after 1790 in Lincoln County, Kentucky. (*See William Thompson biography, Chapter 3, and Caldwell Family summary, Chapter 6.*)

GENERATION 2

ALEXANDER THOMPSON, son of **WILLIAM** and **JANE CALDWELL THOMPSON**, was born probably in Charlotte County, Virginia about 1766 and was killed in March of 1814 in St. Louis County, Missouri by marauding Indians. He married his cousin, **MARGARET RITCHIE** in Prince Edward County, Virginia on December 7, 1786. Margaret was the daughter of **JOHN RITCHIE** (1735-1769) and **JANE DAVIS** (d. 1799) and granddaughter of **ALEXANDER RITCHIE** (d. 1749) and **JANE CALDWELL** (d. 1785). (*See Alexander Thompson biography, Chapter 2, and Ritchie Family summary, Chapter 6.*)

GENERATION 3

WILLIAM THOMPSON^{*}, only son of **ALEXANDER** and **MARGARET RITCHIE THOMPSON**, was born in 1805 in Lincoln County, Kentucky and moved with his family to St. Louis County, Missouri about 1810. He died in 1848 en route to settle his family as a part of the Peters Colony in Grayson County, Texas. (*See William Thompson biography, Chapter 3.*) He married **NANCY BACON** in St. Louis County, Missouri about 1825. **WILLIAM** and **NANCY BACON THOMPSON** had the following children:

GENERATION 4

ALEXANDER THOMPSON (1829-1850)

PLEASANT THOMPSON (1830-1907)

WILLIAM THOMPSON (1831 - ?)

ZACHARIAH THOMPSON (1834-1872)

SERINA THOMPSON (1838 - ?)

LUCRETIA THOMPSON (1836 - ?)

HARDY THOMPSON (1840-1880)

ELIZABETH THOMPSON (1845- ?)

* See Chapter 2 of "A Thompson Chronicle" for Walter Coke Thompson's story of his grandparents, William and Nancy Thompson, and their journey to California.

