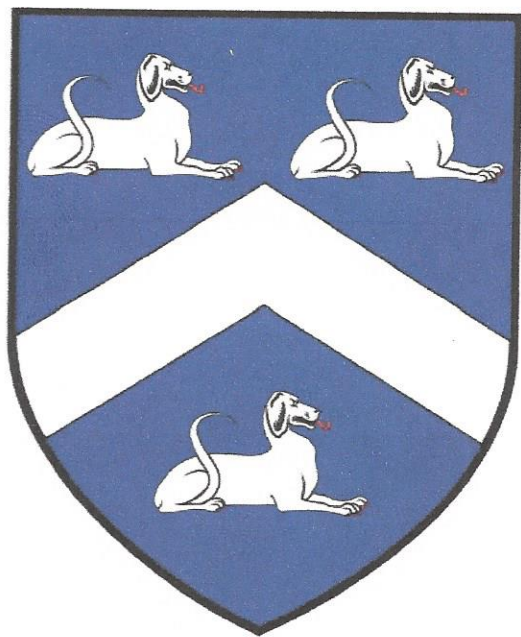
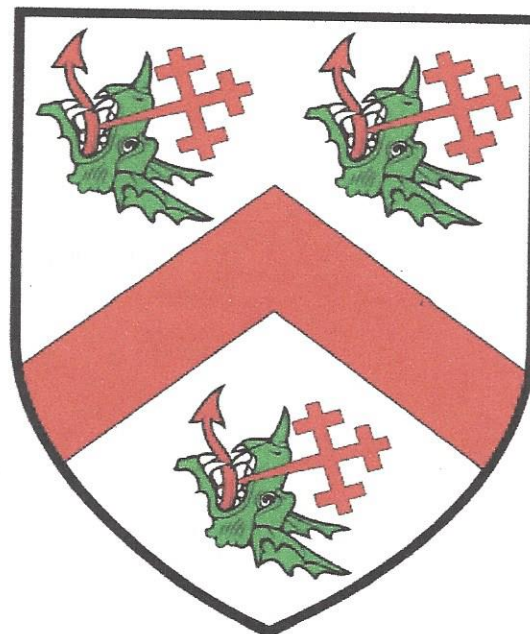


# *John Thrasher Sr. Research*



**Thrasher**

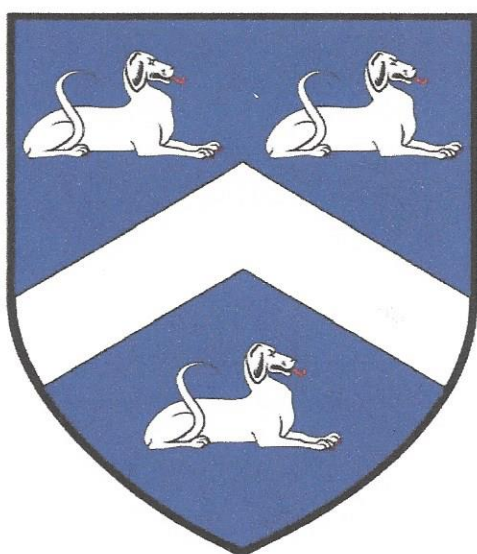


**Thresher**

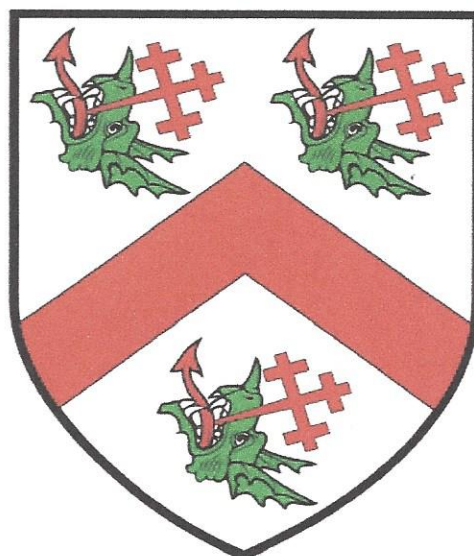
*Compiled and Created*  
*by*  
*Helen Raye Thrasher*  
*and*  
*Cherie Lynn Knight Jones*

# *Helen Raye Thrasher's*

## *John Thrasher Sr. Research*



**Thrasher**



**Thresher**

**Coats of Arms from Ireland and around the World by Eddie Geoghegan.**

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<http://www.heraldry.ws/index.html>

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*and*

*Cherie Lynn Knight Jones cherielynn25@aol.com*

# *Helen Raye Thrasher's John Thrasher Sr. Research*



Helen & Cherie Lynn at the National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Photograph by David Wilson Ballyntyne Jones

*In May-June 2006 for two weeks Helen Raye Thrasher and I embarked on a genealogy research trip to learn more about the life of John Thrasher Sr., born in, possibly, 1717 and died after 1789.*

*We visited the National Archives and the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and The Library of Virginia in Richmond, Virginia, The Albemarle and Charlottesville Historical and Genealogical Society in Charlottesville, Virginia, The Amherst County Historical Society in Amherst, Virginia and The Goochland Historical Society in Goochland, Virginia.*

*We also had the blessing of walking on the land that John Thrasher Sr. first patented in 1738 and in 1745 on both sides of the Buffalo River, along Puppy's Creek and what became known as Thrasher's Creek and Thrasher's Lake. We drove the miles of the area and saw what he saw and felt what he felt about this beautiful land known as Virginia in the Shadow of  
...The Blue Mountains.*

*Helen's work in the last years has been thorough and precise in finding and documenting the records of John Thrasher Sr. and she is still only at the beginning of looking for more of John's life. I am proud to know Helen and cannot offer enough praise for her work and the work of Dorothy Sturgis Pruett and Vessie Thrasher Rainer, the inspirations that came before us.*

*Cherie Lynn Knight Jones*

# *John Thrasher Sr.*



Thrasher's Lake, Amherst County, Virginia

Photograph by Cherie Lynn Knight Jones

1634 Henrico County, Virginia created. (Henrico, Goochland, Albemarle, Amherst)

1634 Charles City County, Virginia created. (Charles City, Prince George, Brunswick, Lunenburg, Halifax, Pittsylvania)

1702-1703 Prince George County, Virginia created from Charles City County, Virginia. (Charles City, Prince George, Brunswick, Lunenburg, Halifax, Pittsylvania)

1720-1732 Brunswick County, Virginia created from Prince George County, Virginia. (Charles City, Prince George, Brunswick, Lunenburg, Halifax, Pittsylvania)

1727-1728 Goochland County, Virginia created from Henrico County, Virginia. (Henrico, Goochland, Albemarle, Amherst)

## Land of Thrasher's Lake & Thrasher's Creek at The Blue Mountains



Thrasher's Creek today, the North Side of John Thrasher's Buffalo River Land leading to Thrasher's Lake.  
Photograph by Helen Raye Thrasher

1738 The earliest land record found for John Thrasher in Goochland County is noted in Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, Edited by Denis Hudgins, Volume Four: 1732-1741, Virginia Genealogical Society, Richmond, 1994, First published serially in the Magazine of Virginia Genealogy. (see below for additional entries from Cavaliers and Pioneers) and the entry on page 179 tells us that he obtained land in the County of Goochland in 1738 described as, "**JOHN THRESHER, 400 acs. Goochland Co., both sides of Buffalo Riv. near the blue Mountains; 1 Feb 1738/39, p.173. (Pounds)2.**" (This same patent is also listed in Central Virginia Land Patents from "The County Abstracts" for Goochland, Albemarle, Cumberland, Buckingham and Amherst Counties in the Virginia Land Office 1735-1774, by Eric G Grundset and Paula Hollis Grundset, 1999. also has 1745 patent)

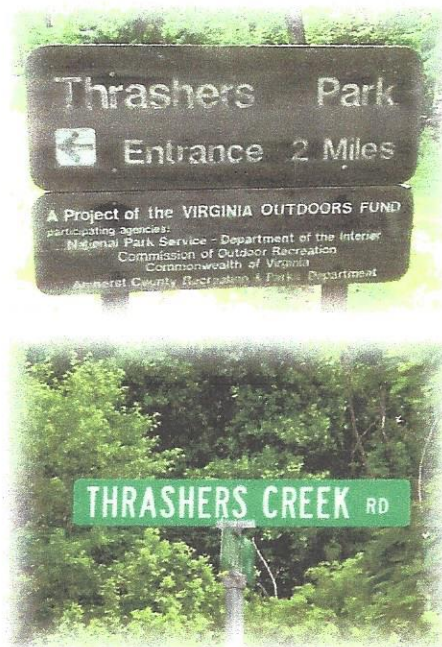
1741 Another entry in the Book Tuckahoes and Cohees, The Settlers and Cultures of Amherst and Nelson Counties, 1607-1807, by Catherine Hawes Coleman Seaman, Sweet Briar Printing Press, Sweet Briar, Virginia, 1992, tells us on page 89 that Thrasher's Creek is named for John Thrasher and notes a date of source as 1741. "**Thrasher, John 1741; Thrasher's Creek named for him.**" The chapter, page 78, in which John Thrasher is noted is a list of people who the book states are the possible earliest settlers of the area of Goochland that became Amherst County and Nelson County of today with the information being gleaned from various sources. The source of the 1741 date should be located – possibly a tax record?...

## Thrasher's Lake and Creek can still be visited in Amherst County in the Valley below The Blue Mountains



The Blue Mountains, view South towards John Thrasher's Land.

Photograph by Cherie Lynn Knight Jones

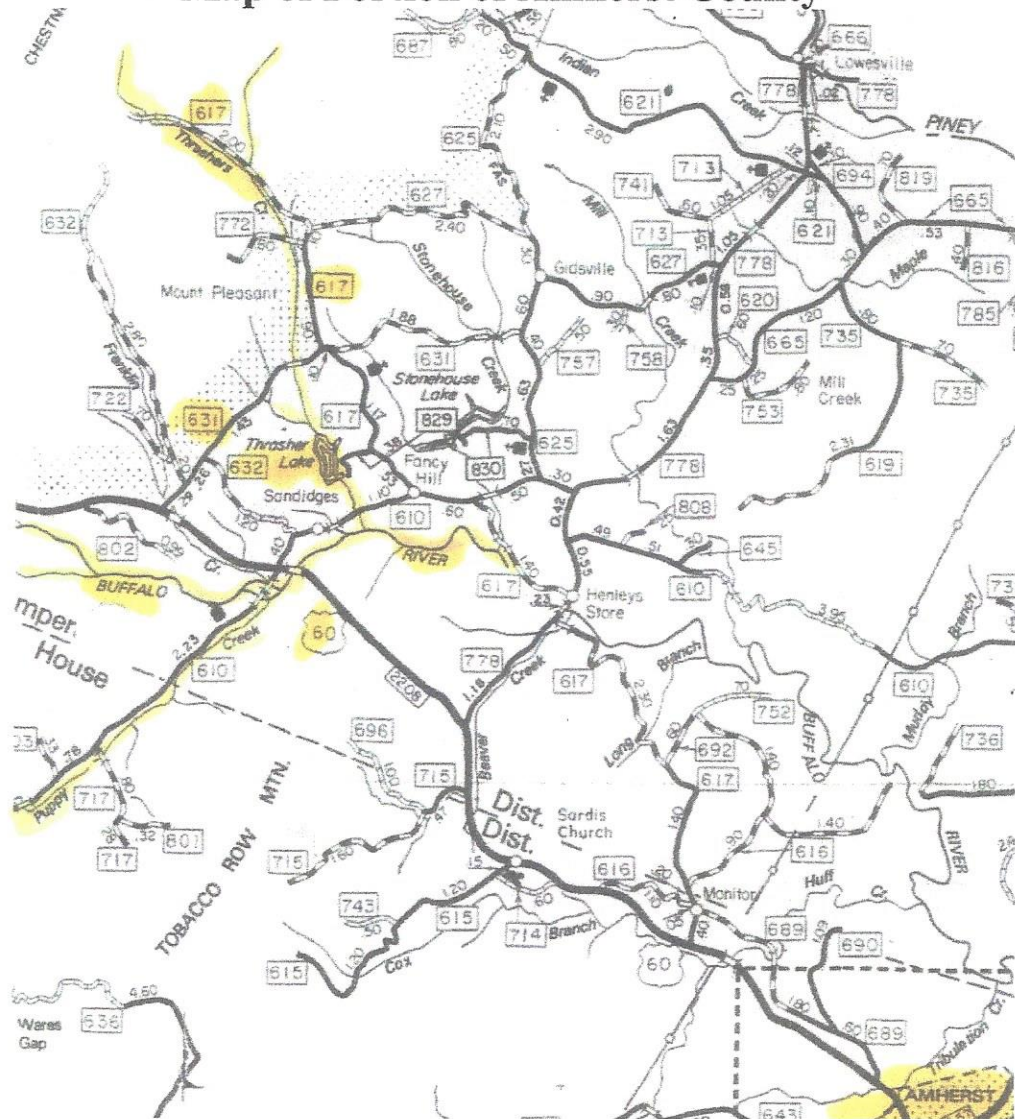


Photographs by Helen Raye Thrasher

[2006] [GNIS USGS place names for John Thrasher Sr. of Goochland are contained in today's Amherst County, **Buffalo River Dam Number Two**, Lat. 374012N Long. 0790817W, Forks of Buffalo; **North Fork Thrasher's Creek**, Lat. 374224N Long. 0790905W, Forks of Buffalo; **South Fork Thrasher's Creek**, Lat. 374224N Long. 0790905W, Forks of Buffalo; and **Thrasher's Lake**, Lat. 374012N Long. 0790815W, Forks of Buffalo.

**Thrasher's Lake** has Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish and Black Crappie. (Limits apply)

## Map of Portion of Amherst County



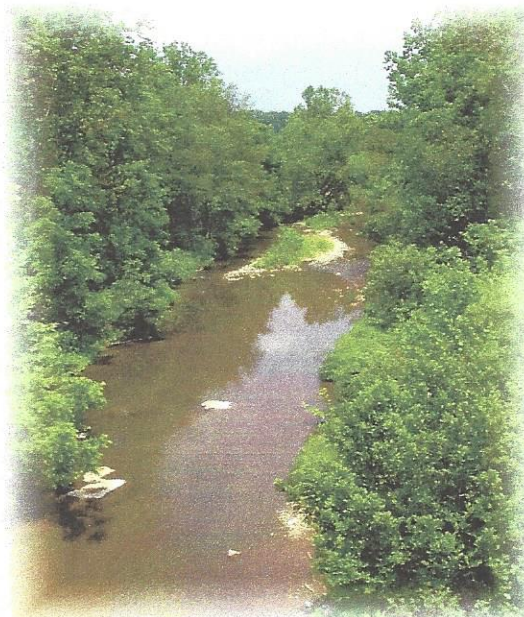
Amherst County, John Thrasher in Goochland

Virginia Department of Transportation Map

1744 Albemarle County created 1744 from Goochland County. (Henrico, Goochland, Albemarle, Amherst)

1745 Albemarle County Road Orders 1744-1748, from the Parish Records, by Nathaniel Mason Pawlett, Faculty Research Historian, (A Cooperative Organisation Sponsored Jointly by the Virginia Department of Highways & Transportation and the University of Virginia) Charlottesville, Virginia, June 1975, Revised June 1979, VHTRC 75-R72, notes... **“25 April 1745 O.S., p.10 Road./ James Taylor is Appointed Surveyor of the High Way, in the Room of John Thrasher, and the same hands that were Appointed to work under the same Thrasher. are Ordered to Assist The said Taylor In Clearing the same./”** Amherst County historian contends first white settlers arrived in today’s Amherst in 1745. This record establishes John Thrasher residence in Albemarle County by 25 Apr 1745, noting the Vestry meeting was held in his “Room”, at the same meeting, orders made for David Lewis, land patent of 1732 west of Rivanna River; and the subject of the settlement of the court house was continued to the next meeting referring to a report coming from Peter Jefferson east of Rivanna River (father of Thomas Jefferson), Allen Howard, Charles Lynch east of Rivanna River (founder of Lynchburg), Thomas Bellew and William Cabell. Locate the exact spot of this meeting.

## Buffalo River and Puppy Creek



East on Puppy Creek Road leads to junction of Buffalo River and Puppy Creek, the beginning of John Thrasher's Land. On the right is the Buffalo River towards John Thrasher's Land. Photographs by Helen Raye Thrasher

1745 Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, Edited by Dennis Ray Hudgins, Volume Five: 1741-1749, Virginia Genealogical Society, Richmond, 1994, has on page 154, "JOHN THRASHER, 388 acs. Goochland Co. on both sides of Buffelo Riv., near Davis's Path, at twenty five Puppies Cr., by a Rock a Little below the Mouth of Puppies Cr. on the S side of Buffelo, adj. the sd Thrasher; 20 Sep 1745, p143. (Pounds)2." Also on page 228 a purchase by Richard Taliaferro is noted for 400 acs. Adj. John Thrasher. (see 1738 for 2<sup>nd</sup> ref)

1746 Lunenburg County, Virginia created from Brunswick County, Virginia. (Charles City, Prince George, Brunswick, Lunenburg, Halifax, Pittsylvania)

1748 The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761-1807 and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748-1763, by The Rev. Bailey Fulton Davis, notes, pg 14 entry of the original book... "Page 129... 20 Aug 1748 JNO. THRASHER, planter, to JAS. SMITH, planter for Pounds 100. 400 acres both sides Buffaloe near Blur Mts., pat. 1 Feb. 1738; also 388 acres adj. grantor; the river, DAVIS path, Buffalo River. Pat 20 Sep 1745. Wit: WM. Cabell SR. & JR., LUKE CARNELL, JAS SHASTED, JNO. HARRIS. (One of the streams in Amherst still bears the name of this man. It is in the western section. BFD)" [Davis adds on page 32 that in 1757 Jas Smith sold to Jacob Smith part of the same property and on page 36 that in 1759 Jas Smith sells another portion of the same land to Aaron Higginbotham. Davis notes on page 119 the boundaries of John Thrasher's land in relation to a 1760 sale of Zacharias Taliaferro to Charles Taliaferro] For a more detailed account of the land and its use see Genealogies of Virginia Families From Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine Volume III Pinkethman-Tyler, Indexed by Raymond B Clark, Jr., Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1981, which has an in-depth account of the dealings of James Smith, Jacob Smith and Richard Powell on pages 57-59 with mention of the Thrasher property.

1748-1755 Albemarle County, Virginia Surveyors Book, by Grundset notes properties bordering John Thrasher's land indicates numerous references when Thrasher's Creek was called by name.



## Sable Creek is off the Sandy River, a Tributary of the Dan River



The Dan River

Photograph courtesy of The Dan River Basin Association

**1747-1748** Entry Record Book 1737-1770 (Land entries in the present Virginia Counties of Halifax, Pittsylvania, Henry, Franklin, and Patrick) Transcribed by Marian Dodson Chiarito, pg 64 (listed aft. 11 Mar 1747-1748, entry 89) "**entry 94, Jno. Thrasher 400 Beg: at a Wh.O mark'd I. T. on a Br. of Sable Cr. thence up and down & towards Brs. of Sandy Rivr**". Pg 141 has entry 178, **Jno. Thrasher's line crossed the Mayo, 6 Mar 1753**; Pg 175 has entry 220, John Henry Stone enters 400 ac **joining Thrasher's upper line**. The last two entries tell us that we are missing two land purchases of John Thrasher before 1753 with the entry's for the Mayo River in Virginia (either today's Henry or Patrick Counties) being miles from the entry for the Sandy River (Pittsylvania County) and from the later North Carolina purchase, also no sale of this land found. (The Sandy River originates in today's Pittsylvania County, Virginia, see note and map page 8, in 1747-1748 was Lunenburg County)

**1749** At June Court, 1749, the appointments to take the list of tithables were made as follows: "A List of Tithables Taken pr. me Matw. Talbot for ye Year 1749." Lunenburg County page 100)

Danl. McCullom ..... 1 (John's daughter marries a McCollum

**Jno. Thrasher** ..... 1

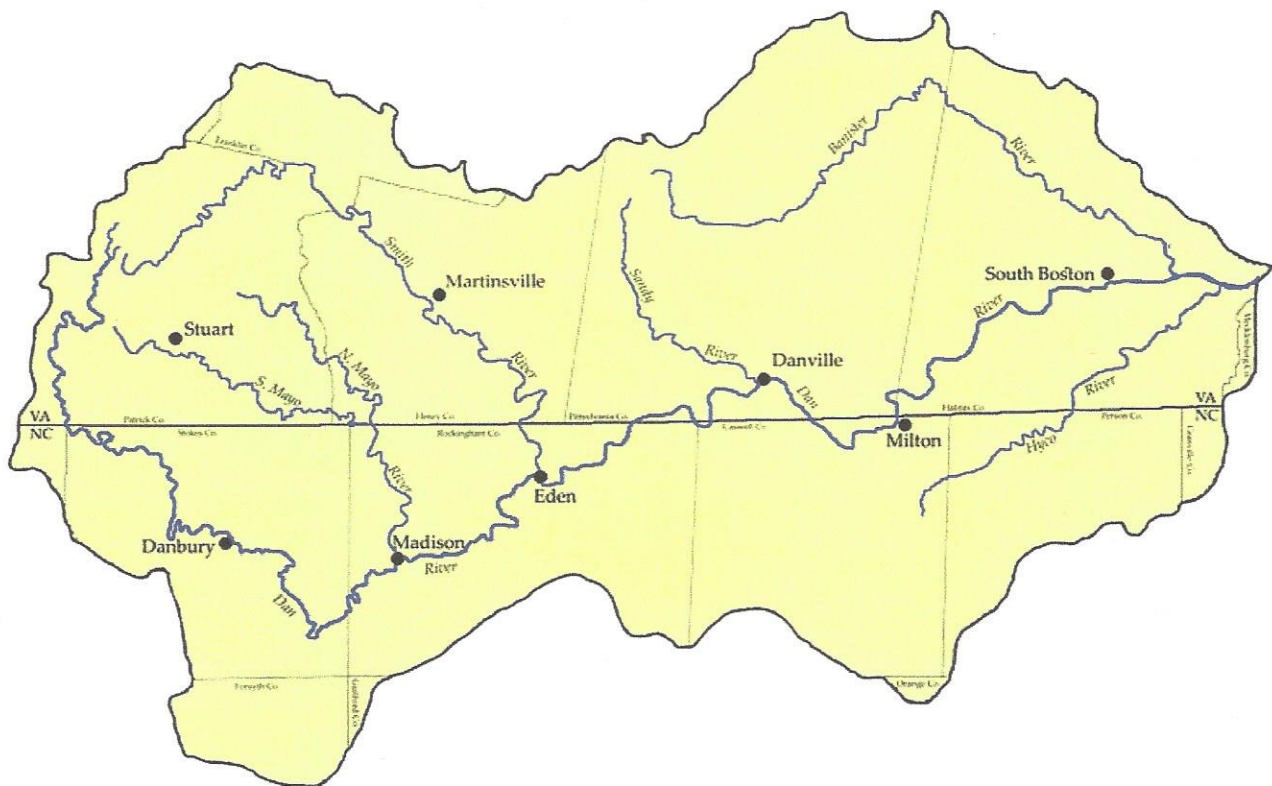
<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/va/lunenburg/census/sun003.txt>

(See Bob's Genealogy Filing Cabinet II for excellent explanation of Tithables...

<http://www.genfiles.com/legal/Tithables.htm>)

[The Dan River Basin Association notes the Sandy River is a tributary of the Dan River, and adds “Both the north and south branches of the Mayo rise in Patrick County, Virginia, as do the Dan and Smith rivers. Two other tributaries of the Dan, the Sandy and the Banister, rise in Pittsylvania County. The Hyco rises in Caswell County and flows through northern Person County before joining the Dan at Kerr Reservoir (“Buggs Island Lake”).”, the route includes the Association’s annual River Float including, “part of the Mayo River beginning at Moore’s Mill Road Bridge in Henry County, Virginia and take out at Mayo Beach Upper Access under Anglin Mill Road Bridge in Rockingham County, North Carolina.”] (Looking for pictures of the Sandy River and the Mayo River.)

## Map of the Dan River Basin



Map courtesy of The Dan River Basin Association

Locations along the Dan River Basin... (for locating other reference points in the Basin)

- [Dan River near Francisco, NC](#)
- [North Mayo near Spencer, Va](#)
- [South Mayo near Nettlebridge, Va](#)
- [Smith River near Philpott Lake, Va](#)
- [Banister River at Halifax, VA](#)
- [Dan River near Wentworth, NC](#)
- [Mayo River near Price, NC](#)
- [Smith River at Eden, NC](#)
- [Smith River at Martinsville, Va](#)

© 2006 Dan River Basin Association P.O. Box 103, Wentworth, NC 27375-0103 | [drba.nc@danriver.org](mailto:drba.nc@danriver.org) P.O. Box 7, Collinsville, VA 24078 | [drba.va@danriver.org](mailto:drba.va@danriver.org)  
<http://www.danriver.org/index.html>

## Map of Central Virginia



Map courtesy of Virginia is for Lovers

1752 Halifax County, Virginia created from Lunenburg County, Virginia. (Charles City, Prince George, Brunswick, Lunenburg, Halifax, Pittsylvania)

1752 Orange County, North Carolina created from Bladen, Granville and Johnston Counties.

1753 Rowan County, North Carolina created from Anson County, North Carolina.

1755 ORANGE COUNTY, NC - CENSUS - Early Tax Records, 1755-1779

Date Sndx	L Name	F Name	NARS StR	Pg#	Family Grp.
1755 T626	THRASHER	John	N/A	N/A	N/A

This file was contributed for use in the USGenWeb

Archives by: Paul R. Sarrett, Jr. prsjr@aol.com

<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/nc/orange/census/earlytax.txt>

1761 Amherst County, Virginia created 1761 from Albemarle County, Virginia. (Henrico, Goochland, Albemarle, Amherst)

## Vessie Thrasher Rainer Map with Hogan's Creek



Drawn by Vessie Thrasher Rainer  
(used by permission)

### Locations of Thrasher Land Records

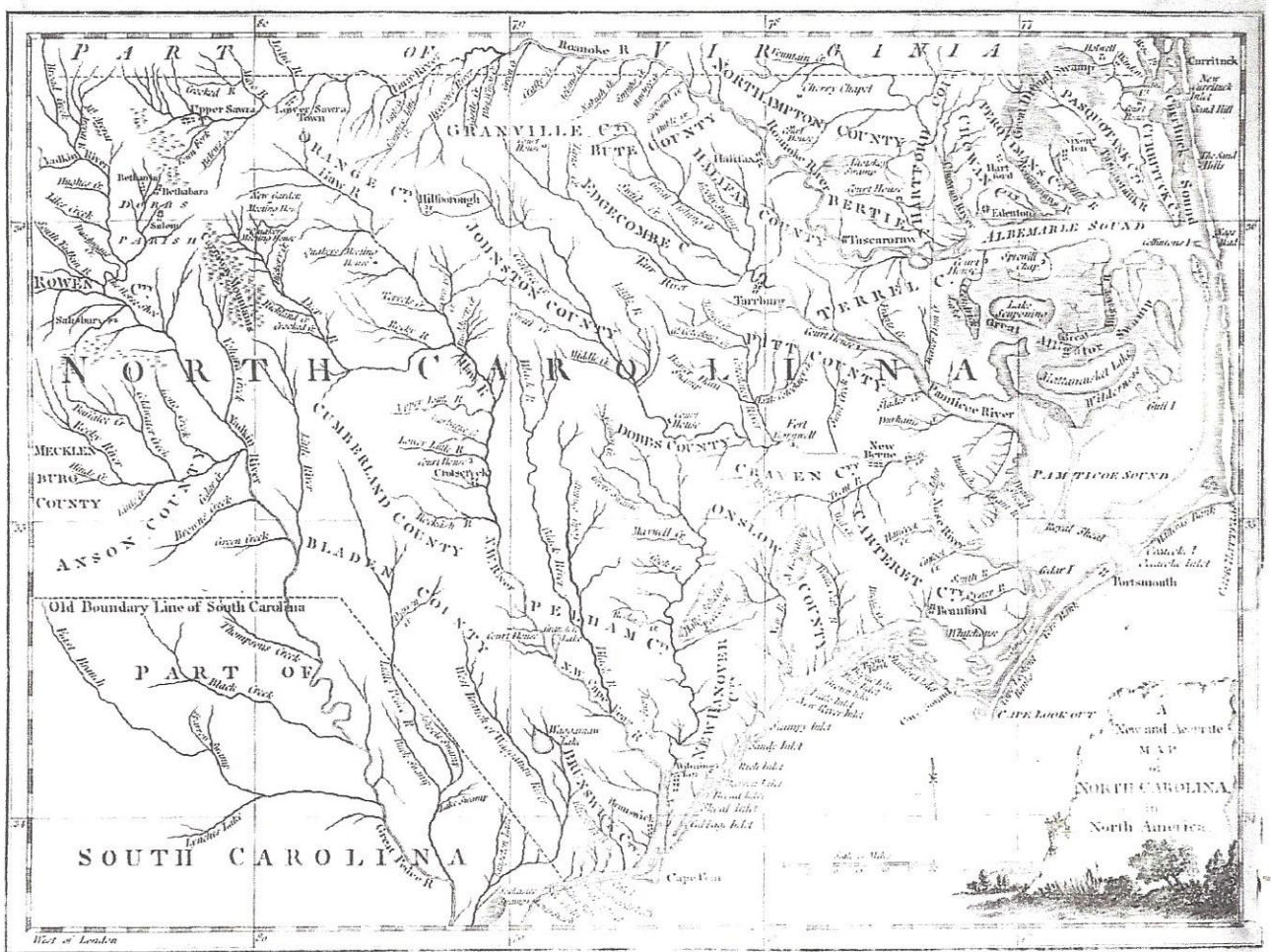
Vessie Thrasher Rainer

[1761] From Vessie Thrasher Rainer and/or Dorothy Sturgis Pruett, Dec 1761 **John Thrasher granted 693 acres of land on the waters of Lickfork of Hogan's Creek in Guilford Co.** (later Rockingham Co.), North Carolina. {correction: Guilford County created in 1770 from Rowan and Orange Counties, this was in **Orange County** at the time; Rockingham County created in 1785 from Guilford County. See map on page 10 for Boundary lines in Old North Carolina.} (See also map on page 7 for Mayo and Sandy Rivers on Dan River Basin map.) (See Thrasher pamphlet #1 for records before 1738 and pamphlet #3 for records of other Thrasher's, Joseph and Richard in Pittsylvania County, Virginia and Frederick County, Virginia; see also Cloud pamphlets #1 and #2)

1766-1767 Pittsylvania County, Virginia created from Halifax County, Virginia. (Charles City, Prince George, Brunswick, Lunenburg, Halifax, Pittsylvania)

1770-1771 Guilford County, North Carolina created from Rowan and Orange Counties. (Anson or Bladen, Granville or Johnston, **Orange 1752** or Rowan 1753, Guilford, Rockingham)

## Early Map of North Carolina



Courtesy of The USGENWEB, New Hanover County

1774 Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, Edited by Dennis Ray Hudgins, Volume Seven:1762-1776, notes on page 359, “**John Thrasher, 130 acs. Halifax Co. on both sides of the North Fork of Mayo Riv. crossing a large br.; 5 Jul 1774, p 781. 15 Shill.**” This record must be investigated as the River is in today’s both Henry and Patrick Counties. The county formation dates include the Mayo in several evolutions of county names including Halifax County where the record remains today. (See map above and map on page 8 for Mayo River and county formations by date, see also close-up on page 12)

1781 Feb-Mar British destroyed court records of the then Guilford, was Orange, later Rockingham.

1784 From Vessie Thrasher Rainer and/or Dorothy Sturgis Pruett...

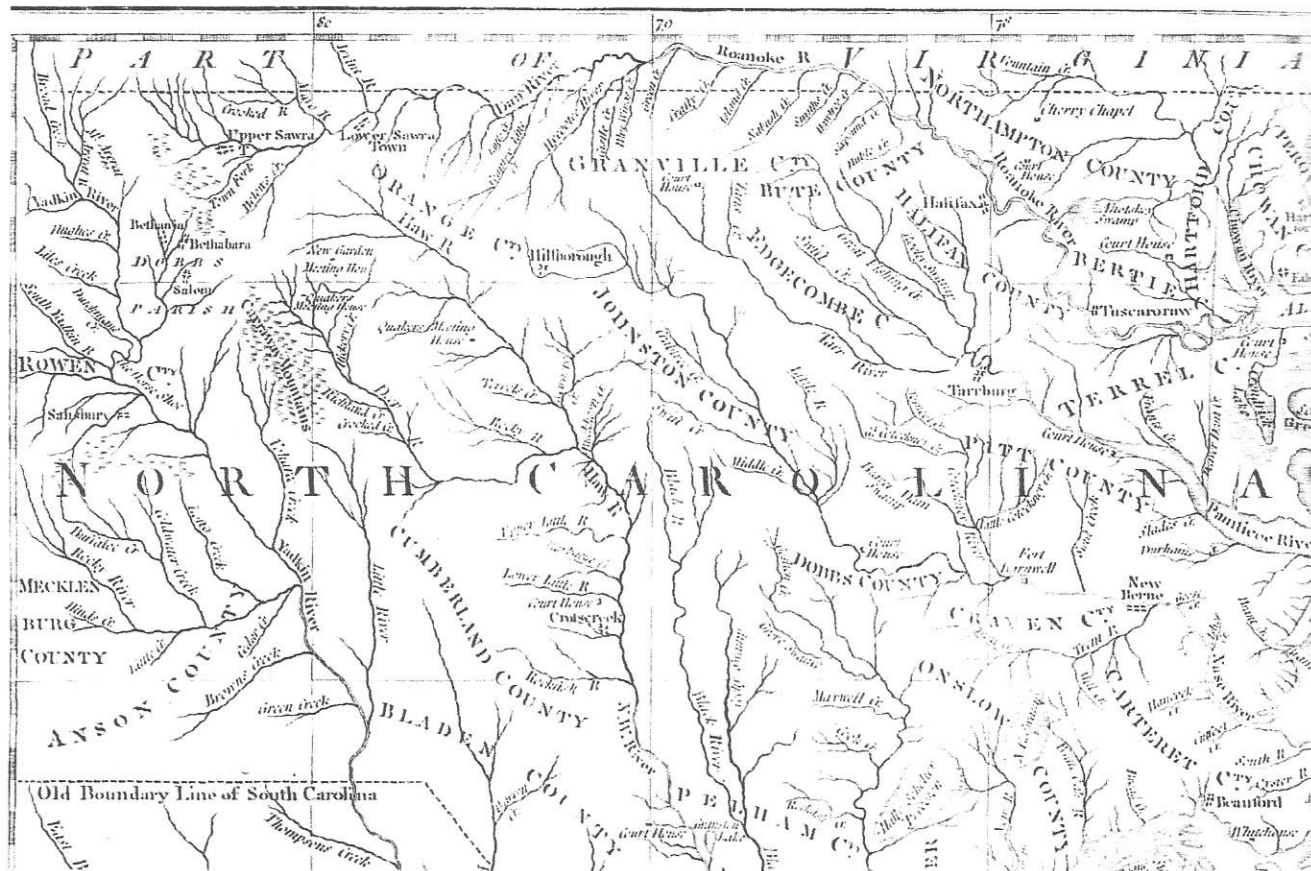
November **John Thrasher deeds part of his land to his son Isaac** (location? Guilford?)

December **John Thrasher deeds part of his land to his son Joseph** (location? Guilford?)

1785 Rockingham County, North Carolina created from Guilford County, North Carolina. (Anson or Bladen, Granville or Johnston, Orange or Guilford, Rockingham)

1788 **John Thrasher deeds part of his land to his son John Jr.** (Rockingham)

## Close-up of Northwest North Carolina and Virginia



Courtesy of The USGENWEB, New Hanover County

1788 John Thrasher Sr. and John Thrasher Jr. Rockingham NC Deeds Book B 1785-1866 is title but it is really only years 1786-9, Film 0019706 Pages 24/25 Family History film read at LVFHC April 4 2003, THRASHER, JOHN SEN & JOHN THRASHER JR. "P. 24 This Indentured made this Seventeenth Day of February in the Year of our Lord Christ Seventeen hundred and Eighty eight and in the Year of American Independence Between John Thrasher Sr. of Rockingham County and State of North Carolina of the One part and Joh. Thrasher Junr of the other part. Witnesseth that the Said John Thrasher Senr for and in consideration of the Sum of Two hundred pounds lawful money of state the Receipt where of both acknowledge, Granted sold confirmed unto John Thrasher Jun his Heirs and assigns forever a certain Tract or Parcel of Land Situate lying and being in Said County and State on the Waters of Lickfork ?Habblin" Branch of Hogan's Creek Being Part of a survey of Land 693 Acres, Granted by Lord Earl Granville to Said John Thrasher Senr and the upper end of Said Tract. Butted & Bonded as foloweth: Beginning at a white Oak, Running East and Dividing line between Thomas Sparks ? Lands One Hundred and thirty two poles to a white Oak Thence North on a dividing Line between J? Lands and Joseph Cloud Thrashers Lands. Two hundred and Seventy two poles to a White oak crossing J Creek. Thence West one hundred and thirty two poles to a white oak crossing said Creek. Thence West one hundred and thirty two poles to a post oak. Thence South Crossing Said Creek, two hundred and Seventy (could be twenty) two poles to the first Station containing Two hundred and Twenty Acres of the same More or Less (now page 25) To Have & To Hold and peaceably Enjoy the Said Two Hundred and Twenty Acres of Land, Together with all houses, orchards, woods, waters, mines and meadows and everything that appertains to said Lands and promises above mentioned and the Said John Thrasher Senr and Ruth his wife for Themselves

their Heirs do Warrant and forever defend the Right title, claim and Interest of Said Lands ?? to him the Said John Thrasher Jun. his Heirs and assigns forever, And the Said John Thrasher Senr and Ruth Thrasher his wife do covenant promises and Agree to make the said John Thrasher Junr His Heirs or Assigns any further Deed Right or title that he or his Heirs assigns may Lawfully require... In Witness whereof We have hereto set our hand seals the day and Year first signd Seal and Delivered, In Presence of Us John His Mark Thrasher \*Seal\*,  
Jos C. Thrasher Ruth His Mark Thrasher  
Isaac Thrasher  
William Bethell X"

**1789** John Thrasher witness: McCollum John to James Mcallum, Rockingham NC DEEDS 1789 - 92 Book C Wentworth, Film 0019706, Page 347, "This Indenture made this 8th Day of February And in the Year of our Lord Christ Seventeenth hundred and Ninety four in the Eighteenth year of American Independence Between John McCollum of the County of Rockingham and State of North Carolina of the one part and James Mcollum of the aforesaid County and State of the Other part... Signed & Sealed in Presence of John McCollum(SEAL), W. Bethell +, Jn. Thrasher, Wm Callum"

**1789** John Thrasher witness, 1789 Rockingham County, North Carolina  
D: 83 Theodorick Stubblefield and wife Fanny to William Bethell for 50 pds  
45 A on Pruets fork of Hogans Cr adj said Stubblefield, being part of grant  
by Granville to Thompson Harris decd and willed to his son Thompson (Jr).  
Mar. 10, 1789. Richard Stubblefield, **John Thrasher**, Thomas Chambers.  
<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/nc/rockingham/deeds/harris01.txt>

**1794** John Thrasher (Jr.? or Sr.?) Film 0019706 Pages 348 Rockingham NC Deed Book C 1789-92 Wentworth, Salt Lake City Film read at LVFHC April 4, 03, McCollum John to McCollum Isaac, "This Indenture made this 8 Day of February One Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety four in the 18th year of Independence \_\_\_\_ John McCollum Snr of Caswell County and State of North Carolina of the one Part and Isaac McCollum Jacob McCollum Thrasher Mcollum and Cloud Mcallum all of Rockingham County and State aforesaid of the other part witness... Signed and Sealed In John Mcollum (Seal), Presence of Will Bethell +, Jon Thrasher, Wm Callum"

**1808** Isaac Thrasher (which Isaac?) Rockingham County North Carolina Deed Records, Film 0019715 Book N Wentworth 1818-10, Film from Family History Library Salt Lake City, Transcribed April 1 , 03 FHC Las Vegas, Pages 55/56, Thrahser Isaac from Johnston Collester Deed 100 Acres Land, "This Indentue made this twenty seventh day of January in year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight, between Collaster Johnston of the County of Rockingham and State of North Carolina of the one part & Isaac Thrasher of the County of Greene and State of Georgia of the part; Witnefseth that the said Collester Johnston for an inconsideration of the sum of four hundred dollars in hand paid the receipt whereof acknowledge, hath given granted..to the Said Isaac Thrasher a Tract or parcel of land containing one hundred acres. Begining at a red oak William Bethell line East to a hickory grub and thence round for that complement. .... In Witnefs whereof I the said Collester Johnston hath hereunto set my hand and Seal to the day above written... Signed Sealed and Delivered in the presents of Isaciah X Hanicock his mark Collester X Johnston (seal) Augustin Browder X State of No Carolina His Mark Feby Sefsionz 1809 This within deed from Collister Johnston to Isaac Thrasher was duly proved in open court on the oath of Augustin C. Browder and ordered to be recorded. Ro. Gallaway C."

All of these people and these locations listed in the 1790 census, page 16, should be clearly identified. Just because there is a Ruth Thrasher does not prove that she is Ruth Cloud Thrasher. Even if the Ruth Thrasher below is Ruth Cloud Thrasher this alone does not prove that John Thrasher is expired.

Certainly for the previous century, and even before, some men held land and had homes where they and their families lived and they also had land that was specifically for agriculture separate from the land where they lived. John Thrasher could have been on one of these "possible" other properties at the time of this census and other census and tax records should be searched.

The land records on the previous pages clearly show that John Thrasher owned more property than previously thought and there are no records for the sale of some of the property. He clearly had the means to travel and likely did. Men attended meetings and visited friends, he could have been in Virginia or he could also be one of the two John Thrasher's listed in the 1790 census below.

Wikipedia mentions only South Carolina and Virginia planters in this note about times as early as 1720, but this applied to many other areas besides, "...Once women were married, they supervised the household slaves and put on elaborate dinners and festive balls. These efforts were the most successful in South Carolina, where wealthy rice planters lived in townhouses in Charleston, a busy port city. Active social seasons also existed in towns, such as Annapolis, Maryland, and on tobacco plantations along the James River in Virginia..." [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial\\_America](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_America)

Deborah A. Rosen writes in The William and Mary Quarterly, in her article, *Women and Property across Colonial America: A Comparison of Legal Systems in New Mexico and New York*, "Women throughout the colonies lived in patriarchal social systems that limited their autonomy and power. But the specific legal and cultural rules that set the boundaries in which women were supposed to live varied among different regions. It mattered if a woman lived in a colony controlled by a common law system (as in England) or a civil law system (such as that of Spain)." <http://www.historycooperative.org/cgi-bin/justtop.cgi?act=justtop&url=http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/wm/60.2/rosen.html>

This only serves to illustrate that in the absence of a well defined centralized government in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century that many communities made up the rules as they went along. Rosen states, "...limited their autonomy and power..." but some women obtained and held more power than others and depending on the circumstances there may be a score of reasons why Ruth might have been listed alone in the 1790 census including if the property came from a Cloud family trust rather than a Thrasher acquisition.

Wikipedia also notes at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial\\_America](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_America), "There were also ethnic differences in the treatment of women. Among Puritan settlers in New England, wives almost never worked in the fields with their husbands. In German communities in Pennsylvania, however, many women worked in fields and stables. In addition to these ethnic differences, German and Dutch immigrants granted women more control over property, which was not permitted in the local English law. Unlike English colonial wives, German and Dutch wives owned their own clothes and other items and were also given the ability to write wills disposing of the property brought into the marriage." This also suggests that "all rules" did not "always" apply in "all" situations.

A Ruth Thrasher being listed as Head of House in the 1790 census might even suggest that John is alive and just away and may or may not suggest any ownership of property or home. Information on the Thompson Gale site, Gale Free Resources, Women's History, Right's On Trial,



[http://www.gale.com/free\\_resources/whm/trials/griffith.htm](http://www.gale.com/free_resources/whm/trials/griffith.htm), notes, "Because the common law stripped women of their property rights when they married, wives became vulnerable when their husbands died. In colonial America the majority of husbands left no wills, leaving their wives unable to support themselves. In these cases, courts granted widows a minimum of one-third of their husbands' real estate, called "widow's thirds." However, a widow could not own the property in her own name; therefore, she could not sell or will it, but could only live off the rents during her lifetime.

During the eighteenth century this practice changed — first in England, then in the colonies. Widows lost their claims to personal property, although they kept their one-third shares of real estate. Only Maryland and Virginia continued to allow widows a one-third share of personal property, a practice that Martha Griffith challenged in 1798."

For John Thrasher's life there should be a record to find of his death or distribution of other properties and monies and goods. One cannot limit the search to a place where it is thought a person might have died but look in all counties where a person who received property might have lived as they would have had to have made a tax record of property or monies received. The search also should not be limited to any county as it was named at the time but also search for records in county offices of all parent counties and baby counties.

Bob's Genealogy Filing Cabinet II, <http://www.genfiles.com/legal/wills.htm> (an excellent source for genealogists) has noted in *Colonial Wills, Intestates & the Probate Process*, "...A 1784 North Carolina act provided that the land would be shared equally among the sons, and would go to daughters only if there were no sons; this was amended in 1795 to give equal shares to both sons and daughters, as in Virginia... .The estate (the personal property) was treated differently. The law regarding division of personal property changed from time to time, but it generally allowed the widow a one-third outright interest if there were children, and a one-half interest if there were no children. The remainder of the personal property was distributed equally among the children (or if none, among others in the line of succession.) Because, unlike land, the estate (the personal property) was divided, it had to be inventoried and valued before being distributed.

If a person died intestate, the court was obligated to appoint an administrator to inventory and value the estate, and then to distribute it to the heirs. Preference was normally given to the widow. If she declined, the court would appoint another adult heir, giving preference to the order of inheritance ['nearest kin'] subject to the court's desire to have local residents serve. Occasionally one finds creditors appointed to administer estates where no heir was able to serve or, more commonly, when the deceased owed debts that exceeded the value of the estate. The administrator was required to post a substantial bond, approximately equal to the value of the estate, as a guarantee both to the management and preservation of the estate and to its distribution according to the laws of succession.

An heir could renounce his rights to the estate (the personal property), and one occasionally finds such records. However, an heir could not renounce his rights to land, for title to land passed outside the realm of the courts or the probate process. The only means of renouncing inheritance of land was via a deed..."

1790 U.S. Federal Census, Rockingham County, North Carolina

PG# LAST NAME FIRST NAME

525B THRASHER Pleasant

531C THRASHER Richard

**532A THRASHER John**

**532A THRASHER John**

534A THRASHER Joseph Cloud

535A THRASHER Ruth

<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/nc/rockingham/census/1790/index.txt>

1790 U.S. Federal Census Rockingham County, North Carolina (Another transcription version)

[FREE WHITE |ALL | |Males ||OTHER || HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD |16 |to | |FREE |

PG#	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	up	16	under	Females	Persons	Slaves	Remarks
525B	THRASHER	Pleasant	1	1		3	.	.	
531C	THRASHER	Richard	1	.		2	.	1	
531C	McCOLLOM	William	1	1		3	.	.	
<b>532A</b>	<b>THRASHER</b>	<b>John</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>3</b>	.	.	
532A	SHORT	Samuel	1	3		4	.	.	
<b>532A</b>	<b>THRASHER</b>	<b>John</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>3</b>	.	.	
534A	THRASHER	Joseph Cloud	2	2		2	.	5	
535A	THRASHER	Ruth	.	.		1	.	.	

<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/nc/rockingham/census/1790/pg0525.txt>

This(These) Census (records were) was transcribed by Francie Lane <flane@otn.net> and

proofread by Jeanie Smith Zadach for the USGcnWeb Census Project <http://www.usgenweb.org/ccensus>. Copyright (c) 2000 by Francie Lane

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The presence of two John Thrasher's in the list above leaves many questions concerning the belief that John Thrasher is expired. I have also seen statements that since Ruth Thrasher is not seen in the 1800 census that she must have expired. This may or may not be true but Ruth could easily have been living with a child in the 1800 census and simply not listed.

Further research is required to look for evidence to prove or disprove all beliefs.



Information of particular interest for Thrasher research about Counties

### **Guilford County, North Carolina**

1 April 1771 ~ Original Guilford County began administrative operations over the area that would eventually become Guilford, Randolph, and Rockingham counties.

1777 ~ Caswell County was created out of Old Orange County, and bordered Guilford until Rockingham County was created in 1785.

15 March 1781 ~ The Battle of Guilford Courthouse was fought between the Continental Army and its allied militia forces, with General Nathanael Greene in command, and the British army of General Cornwallis. While it was technically a victory for Lord Cornwallis, the British lost many more of their forces than the Americans did, prompting one member of the House of Lords in London to state that another such victory would ruin the British army.

1781 Feb -Mar stated in court held in Rockingham, (SALISURY DISTRICT, N.C., EQUITY ENROLLING DOCKET 1789-1794, PAGES 29 THRU 42.Pg. 30th.) concerning the disposition of the will of Daniel McCollum, records of the area that became Rockingham, were burned, to point out that many records of John Thrasher will have been lost. "Your orator further sheweth, that during the late War, to wit; about the monthe of March or Feburary, Seventeen Hundred and Eight one, the British Army, among the many Barbrious and Wanton Ravages commited in this county,destroyed the greatest part of the records of the said court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the county of Guilford, and that the orginal will of the said DANIEL MCCOLLOM and the record there of were among other records at that time, utterly destroyed by the enemy as aforesaid."  
<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/nc/rockingham/court/mcolum01.txt>

1785 ~ Guilford's county seat was changed from Guilford Courthouse to Martinville, near the center of the county.

1785 ~ Rockingham County was created from the northern half of what was left of "Original Guilford County."

**Other Pamphlets being prepared are...**

**Thrasher #1 containing information about all Thrasher Records in Virginia and North Carolina before 1775.**

**Thrasher #3 containing information about John Thrasher Sr.'s descendants through his son Isaac Thrasher.**

**Cloud pamphlets #'s 1-3 containing several generations of Cloud Research.**

**Barton pamphlets #'s 1-3 containing several generations of Barton Research.**

Some Credits, others on file...

June 2006

Dear Linda: Thank you so much for your reply. At USGENWEB's Rockingham County Page under County Records at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncrockin/rcountyRecords.htm>

there is.. Records submitted by Linda (left off for privacy....) called McCollum, Thrasher, Browder, Whittemore Information also says submitted by Beth (left off for privacy...) and this list includes records that were witnessed by John Thrasher and records of indenture that included John Thrasher Sr and Jr. I only hope for your permission and blessing to add these records to the pamphlet and of course give you the credit for the research. Thanks Cherie

Cherie,

You have my permission to put the records in your pamphlet.

Linda

<http://boards.ancestry.com/mbexec?htx=message&r=rw&p=localities.northam.usa.states.northcarolina.counties.rockingham&m=1571.1.1.1>

June 11, 2006

Dear Cherie Lynn,

You are welcome to use the information on our website for your family reunion. I have checked with the Rockingham County historian about the Thrasher family, and he does not have any information that can help you. I wish you well in your search.

Sincerely,

T Butler, Secretary

Dan River Basin Association

Virginia is for Lovers permission to use on file.

The USGENWEB, New Hanover County... map permission to use on file;

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Cherie,

I am glad you enjoyed looking through the New Hanover County site.

I don't see a problem with you printing the map to hand out in pamphlets.

If you know of any info you have to post or know of anything that needs to be added please feel free to let me know.

Diane

From e-mail June 14, 2006 – re: Bob's Filing Cabinet

Thanks very much for the nice words. And feel free to quote anything you like.

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has extensive information on Thrasher's Lake at

<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/fishing/waterbodies/display.asp?id=130>