

**THE
FAMILY
OF
BENJAMIN
SNEED**

INTRODUCTION

In our previous writing we concentrated on Benjamin Sneed, b.1721, d.1819, the first tutor of Thomas Jefferson. With so much early history involved, we attempted to salvage much of it as a matter of historical interest. In doing this, we have probably deprived you of the more significant genealogical relationships that are normally the topic of such research. For this we apologize.

In this effort we shall attempt to provide the results of our research on the children of Benjamin Sneed. As you shall see, that was not an easy task. The will of John Sorrell clearly designated Frances and John Sneed as children of Benjamin and Mary Ann [Perry]. Other heirs were excluded, though Mary Ann was presumably still living as late as 1783, when the will was probated. Moreover, the name of Mary Ann appears on indentures as late as 1805/6. Thus she appears to have had forty-five years of childbearing. Could there have been two Mary Anns?

And there is also the matter of William Sneed, b.1768 and his son Benjamin b. 1795, who from the beginning of our research claimed descent from the Benjamin Sneed family. We have denied their claims, though a significant number of his descendants still believe in such a relationship. It was a hard call to make.

There was also the case of Peggy Sneed, who married Richard Johnson. One of the earliest of the Sneed children, she was initially believed to be the childless wife of Richard Johnson. Then suddenly we were provided with the evidence of there being 6 children. And so our knowledge grew.

And finally there was our acceptance of the Patsey Sneed who married Silvanus Meeks. Named as an underage heir of Benjamin Sneed, who had to give consent, Patsey was born so late in the life of Mary Ann as to make us give pause. However, the Meek relationships were so strong as to give us little choice, so we finally accepted her.

We have also touched upon several other relationships that suggested ties to the Sneed family. You will probably have to make your own decisions as to their validity.

As always, I must conclude by naming my colleagues, who are the real researchers in this Sneed/Sneed effort. They are all more astute than I. My contribution is to bring their efforts together as best I can. Any faults herein must be assigned to me.

Susan Stewart

Trueman Farris

Maxwell Sneed

Jack Hockett

And the Many Miscellaneous Inquirers

Dick Baldauf April 2008

THE FAMILY OF BENJAMIN SNEED

In the year 2005, I put together a few facts relating to Benjamin Sneed (1721 - 1819), the first tutor of Thomas Jefferson. In that account my purpose was to collect a number of early family references that had been found over a number of years. While I was searching for the truth, I was also interested in the multiplicity of these accounts, any one of which might add something to our family history. I hope that my readers were equally interested. In that account I centered my discussion on Benjamin Sneed. In this essay, I will try to provide information on the family of Benjamin Sneed.

In the course of providing these data, I have from time to time put out genealogical charts suggesting the relationship of the various Sneed/Snead families. While I have reason to believe that most of the names on those charts are correctly shown, especially in the generations following Benjamin Sneed, there may well be errors in some of the earlier people shown on those charts. However, there is nothing equal to a chart for understanding family relationships. And so I ask you to bear with me in the use of such charts.

As we know from the will of John Sorrell [written on 25 March, 1780, probated Sept. 1, 1783], Benjamin Sneed married Mary Ann, granddaughter of the above John Sorrell. We presume the marriage took place about February, 1750, as it was then that Sorrell passed property purchased four months earlier for 40 pounds to Benjamin Sneed for 5 pounds, a nominal sum often used in making a gift. Benjamin would have been about 29 years old.

The relevant item in the Sorrell will reads: "To my granddaughter, Mary Ann Sneed, and her two oldest children, Frances and John Sneed ten pounds currency to them and their heirs forever to be paid three years after my death." Assuming that there were other children by this Mary Ann, why were these children cut off in the will? John Sorrell was certainly more generous to other lines of his descendants, to whom he left more money, as well as slaves. Perhaps there was no need for slaves in the family of a professional teacher, although the evidence suggests that Benjamin may have owned as many as five slaves. (1)

According to tradition, Mary Ann was a Perry, and there are family papers stating that as a fact. However, there are no official records to verify this connection. Public records do show that a William Perry had a close relationship with John Sorrell over a period from 1738 to 1750, by which time, we believe that Perry had died. The obligation for a dowry rested upon the father of Mary Ann, but it appears that both the father of Mary Ann and her presumed paternal grandfather, William Perry were dead. Why else would John Sorrell have provided the gift?

As to the Perry connection, we have this item: "About 1772 David [Garth] married Frances Sneed, the daughter of Benjamin Sneed and his wife, a Miss Perry of Albemarle county. Rev. William Douglas spelled Frances' name Sneed. It was most frequently spelled Sneed in her father's deeds. Frances was born by 1755, according to the 1800 Census. Both she and David could write." [Garth Family: Descendants of John Garth of Virginia. 1734 - 1986, p.375. Rosalie Davis.] Unfortunately, Ms. Davis could provide no solid evidence to support this family tradition. It does seem likely, however, that Frances was the elder child. We know from his tombstone that John Sneed was not born until February of 1755.

(2) The details of Mary Ann's life are such as to raise questions in the minds of a few people as to whether there may not have been two Mary Anns. And while the consensus is strong that there was only one wife, it does seem appropriate to comment upon this. The records show that all of the earliest researchers believed that there were two wives, though none of them agreed on who they were. And all of them have been proved wrong. Still it is interesting that these different early researchers believed there were two wives. A contributing factor to this confusion may have been the Jefferson Foundation's introduction of the name "Polly" for this Mrs. Sneed. Nowhere in the Sorrell material do we find any mention of the name Polly.

Also of interest is the fact that John Sorrell limited his gift to the two eldest children of Mary Ann - Frances and John - an action that is hard to interpret. As noted above, he was certainly a lot more generous to some of his other heirs. Additionally, this thought does come to mind: Were there only two children born to this Mary Ann? But as a colleague has pointed out, the will of John Sorrell was not written until March 1 of 1780, nor probated until 1 September of 1783, thereby leaving opportunity for all of the known children of Mary Ann to be born. But the timing is close.

Fawn Brodie, author of "Thomas Jefferson, An Intimate History," writes in a note: "Polly Sneed was a teacher who tutored Thomas Jefferson Randolph in 1799, and whose name appears irregularly in the account books from 1792 to 1802. It is not clear that her 'services to the negro women' had to do only with the schooling, but since she charged only \$6 for 'six months schooling of Tho Jefferson,' Martha's eldest son, it would appear that her services to Sally Hemings had been substantial." [Page 384/5]

Again, on page 731, Brodie says: "Polly Sneed may have been the wife of the schoolteacher "Mr. Sneed," mentioned by Martha Randolph in her letter to her father May 12, 1798. She writes of "Mr. Sneed opening school and Jeffy being hurried out of bed every morning at sunrise...to walk 2 miles to school." Please note that the expression "may have been" is used in this reference to Polly.

The fact is, of course, that Polly is the appropriate nick name for Mary Ann. But is this Mary Ann a different person? Why do we have the sudden appearance of a working Mary Ann beginning in 1792 and ending in 1802? If Mary Ann was born in 1734 [age 16 in 1750] and began her Jefferson relationship in 1792, she would have been 58 years old when the relationship began and 68 years old when it ended. There is nothing impossible about such a circumstance, but it certainly does raise a question: What was Mary Ann doing for the first 58 years of her life? Why this sudden burst of energy?

Initially, we had faced another problem. How could Mary Ann have borne children over so long a period? We know that John Sneed, son of Benjamin, was born in February of 1755, and it seems probable that his sister, Frances, was born somewhat earlier, say 1753/4. Her last child, Patsey, was married the 28th of December, 1799, with the consent of her father, Benjamin Sneed. That means she was under age. Thus she was between 16 and 20 years of age. Call her 18 years old. That would make Mary Ann about 45 years old when she had her last known child. And she could well have been slightly older. This is pushing the boundaries of childbearing.

(3) So much for Mary Ann, wife of Benjamin Sneed, who for the present , at least, we shall consider the mother of all of Benjamin's children. At this writing there would appear to be five documented children of Benjamin Sneed with births extending from about 1754 to 1780/1784.

Frances Sneed b.c.1753; d. ?; m.ca. 1772 David Garth b.c.1751; d. 1823 KY

John Mills Sneed b.2 Feb. 1755; d. 21 Dec.1855 KY; m.10 Nov. 1784 Sarah Johnson

Pegy Sneed b.c.1767; m. 21 Oct. 1785 Richard Johnson, b. 1762

Susannah Sneed b.1776; d. after 1860; m. Dec. 24,1797 George M. Faris/Farris

Patsey Sneed b. by 1784; d. ?; m. Dec. 28 1799 Silvanus Meeks. Moved to KY

It has been claimed that William Sneed b. 1768 [Bible says 1775]; d. 1836 was also a son of Benjamin Sneed b. 1721. However, Cousin Frances Trader, a descendant of Benjamin did not accept that relationship. Nor do I and my colleagues. But that possibility cannot be ruled entirely out. The William born in 1768 also owned land connected with that of Jefferson and also used the double "e" spelling. But this other William was a very rich man and the owner of 73 slaves. He married a Lucy Stevens, parents unknown, so that his wealth did not come through his marriage and certainly not from the schoolmaster born in 1721. Attempts to make a connection to our Benjamin b. 1721 have no substance.

The span of years for our Benjamin's children would seem to cover a period of 26 to 30 years, which is a long stretch. And we have only five children to show for that period. Surely, there must have been other children born to this Benjamin Sneed. We shall consider some of these possible children after we have examined the five accepted children shown above. As we have indicated, Frances Sneed is presumably the eldest child of Benjamin and Mary Ann Sneed.

Note: From the Payne/Mattingly Family Files, updated 24 Oct. 2001: courtesy Dorothy Payne

ID: 11225 Mary Ann Perry [say 1734 - after 1805/6]

Marriage (1): Benjamin Sneed [b.1721 - 1819]

Children:

Frances Sneed/Snead b .by 1755

ID:11158 David Garth, b.c. 1751 in Louisa Co., VA; Died 1823 in Henry Co., KY;
occupation: farmer; Rev. War.

Father: John Garth b.c. 1713 [See Garth will in Valentine Papers, p. 871/2]

Mother Rachael (—) b.c.1717; (Hannah?)

Married Frances Sneed/Snead b.c. 1755; m. c. 1772

Children:

ID:10542: Sarah Perry Garth b. bet.1770 - 1775, prob. Albemarle Co., VA; m. 23 Oct. 1790
Louisa Co. (1) John Coates b.c. 1765

ID:10549: Elizabeth Garth b. bet. 1772-1775, d. aft. 1810 in KY or MO; m. 14 Nov. 1793
in Louisa Co. Moses Bates b.c. 1768

ID: : Martha (Patsy) Garth b.bet. 1772 - 1778

ID:10553: Mary "Polly"Garth b. 1 Jan. 1779; d. 4 Sep. 1843 in Henry Co., KY bu. on John

- (4) Mitchell'Farm, 2 miles from Smithfield; m. 2 Jan. 1802 in Louisa Co., VA
Charles Mitchell b.c. 1775 (son of John Garth Mitchell)
- ID:11157: William Garth b. 23 Nov. 1781 in Louisa Co. VA; m. 19 Dec. 1814 Jefferson
Co., VA-KY Hulda Ross, b. bet. 1795 - 1800 in Ohio; Children: (see folder)
- ID:10555: John Garth, b. 26 Feb. 1784 in Louisa Co., VA; d.1857 in Marion Co., MO; m.c.
18 Oct. 1819 in Amherst Co., VA, Matilda A. Gilbert, b.c. 1788
- ID:10557: Benjamin W. Garth b. bet. 1786 - 1790 in Louisa Co., VA; m.c. 1790 Lucy
Hickerson, b.c.1790
- ID: Nancy Garth b.bet. 1790 - 1795
- ID:10560: Susannah L. Garth b. bet. 1795 - 1798 in Louisa Co., VA; d.c.1823; m. 22 Mar.
1814 Robert Prewitt, Jr. b.c. 1795

Of interest is this statement supporting our belief that Mary Ann, mother of Frances, was a Perry. "About 1772 David [Garth] married Frances Sneed, the daughter of Benjamin Sneed and his wife, a Miss Perry, from Albemarle Co." [Garth Genealogy - Rosalie Davis] Is it a coincidence that Frances named her eldest child Sarah "Perry"Garth?

John Mills Sneed (B-1) was the only known son of Benjamin Sneed. He was born Feb. 2, 1755 in Albemarle Co, VA, married Nov.10, 1783, and died in Kentucky on Dec. 25, 1855. He was a private secretary to Thomas Jefferson [Wm. & Mary Quarterly], a volunteer in the expedition against the Cherokee Indians, a soldier in the Rev. War, a friend of Daniel Boone. According to Cousin Frances Sneed, John's wife Sarah (Sally)Johnson was born June 21, 1755 and died May 12, 1831. [She writes: the inscription on the tombstone is difficult to read; the final number just might be a 7.] She was the daughter of James and Mildred (Mims) Johnson. [see Douglas Register, p.225]

Children of John Mills Sneed and Sarah (Mims) Johnson:

- C-1 Alexander Sneed b. 1786; m. Elizabeth Campbell, dau. of Col. Robert Campbell of Washington Co., KY. They lived in Danville, KY. He d. 12 or 13 Mar. 1881. John Sneed lived with them 30 years and died while his dau.-in-law was visiting her daughter Sallie, wife of [U.S.] Senator George Vest, in Booneville, MO.
- C-2 Matilda Sneed m. Thomas Hughes. They lived in Danville, KY
- C-3 Martha Sneed b. 8 Mar. 1785; d. 14 Oct. 1847 in Danville, KY. {Dates copied from Tombstone} She m. Michael Hope [b. Durham, Eng. 8 Mar. 1773; d. 23 Oct. 1845, in Danville, KY. He was a stone mason, and his family worked on London Bridge. According to Aunt Pat Zimmerman, he built a mill for President Jefferson in Milton, KY. He was related to the "Hope Diamond" family and had an English inheritance which passed to the crown because it was never investigated [See "Early Days in Danville"by Calvin Fackler.]
- C-4 John Holman Sneed b. 4 May 1792; d. 4 June 1876; m. Elizabeth Finley in 1801
- C-5 Cynthia Mims Sneed b. 10 Jan. 1784, Goochland co, VA. She married 29 Nov, 1810 Joseph Wilson of Illinois. [see KY Pion. & Ct Rec., p.132]
- C-6 Polly (not Mary as in record) Sneed m. 11 Dec. 1811 Thomas Harrison. They lived in Danville, KY
- C-7 Jane Sneed m. William Hughes. They lived in Danville, KY
- C-8 Sarah Sneed m. 5 Jan.1813 John B. Brown

(5) Maragaret - "Pegy," as we originally knew of her - is the third child of Benjamin Sneed, b.1721. We have no date for her birth, but she was married to Richard Johnson on 21 October 1785 with John Sneed as bondsman. No consent is mentioned, which means she may have been of age. If so, she may have been born about 1764. In the deed below Benjamin Sneed passes property to Richard Johnson for the affection he bears to his daughter, Pegy.

"4 Feb. 1798. Deed. Between Benjamin Sneed and Richard Johnson for the affection that Benjamin Sneed bears to his daughter Pegy gives to Richard Johnson her husband one parcel of land lying in Albemarle and on both sides of the three chopped Rode beginning on Thomas Randolph's line on a branch and running up said branch to a luck (?) on and Ivey bank (?) And from thence a straight line to a white oak at the foot of Pouncey Hill thence down said Road to Thomas Jefferson's line thence south on said line to a corner white oak on John Hoarveys [Harvey's ?] line and on his line to Randolph's land to the Beginning containing 75 acres more or less which title of land I warrant and forever defend from [for (?)] my heirs or assigns from claims challenges demands of any person or persons whatsoever etc.
Signed: Benjamin Sneed. (seal) Test: Henry(/) Catlett, William Johnson, Silvanus Meeks
Proved by oaths of Kemp Cattlett, William Johnson and Silvanus Meeks, witnesses therto.
Test: John Carr (seal)"

In that same year we find another document seemingly adding additional property to that already given to Richard Johnson by Benjamin Sneed:

"12 Nov. 1798. Indenture. Between Jno. Sneed of Albemarle and Richard Johnson of the aforesaid county in consideration of one hundred dollars...I acknowledge myself fully satisfied. Have conveyed to him a certain tract lying in the county of Albemarle on the Waters of Carols Creek and being lands Devised by Peter Jefferson to Iac. Spears, containing one hundred acres and adjoining the lands of Jno. Harvie, Wm. Fitch, Richard Johnson, Jno. Henderson Deceased and Thomas Jefferson.
Signed: John Sneed. Test: Benjn. Sneed, Silvanus Meeks, Wm. Clarkson, John...(?)"

Pegy and her husband, Richard Johnson have long been known to our researchers, but we had seen nothing to indicate that this couple had children. This now seems strange in light of what must have been a close connection between Benjamin and John Sneed and Richard Johnson. Then, of a sudden, we received a document prepared 19 September 2002 from Elaine and Lee Andersen [13040 N.100th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85351] providing us with the names of six Johnson children. This taught us that some children are closer to certain siblings than to others. [See original Johnson File]

Margaret "Pegy" Sneed b. perhaps 1764, Albemarle Co., VA; death or burial place unknown.
Daughter of Benjamin Sneed b. 1721 & Mary Ann [Perry ?]
Married: Richard Johnson, b. April 1762 in Hanover Co., VA; to Albemarle Co. at age 9 or 10.
Came to Albemarle Co. when he was 9 or 10 years old.; died between December 1836 and 14 March 1839. Buried on his farm 9 miles east of Charlottesville. VA
Children:
J-1 Richard E. Johnson, Jr. m. 17 Nov. 1840 in Albemarle Co., VA, Elizabeth Rapp.
Family records say that Richard later sold the farm and moved to Cincinnati. [Ohio?]

(6)

- J-2 Frances E. Johnson m. Charles M. Clements on either 7 or 21 December of 1836 in Albemarle Co. VA. Richard Johnson affirms that Frances is over 21. 1850 Census: Fanny Clement age 35, Miles Clement age 35. Children: Charles Clement age 13, Mary age 11, John age 9, William age 7. Lived next to James W. Davis and wife Rebecca (Johnson) Davis.
- J-3 Eliza Johnson m. Washington Davis on 21 Aug. 1817 in Fluvanna Co. VA. [On 24 July 1847 Washington Davis died in Staunton, VA] 1850 Census Augusta, VA. William Davis (son of Washington and Eliza) age 26, wife Susan age 23, son John W. Age 2, mother Eliza age 45, sister Margaret age 23, sister Eliza age 21, sister Catherine age 10. [See original document for additional data] Family records say that Eliza Johnson Davis died 22 November 1869 in Moultrie Co., IL and is buried in Smyser Cemetery. However no record has been found.. There is a grave marker for her son, William L. Davis b. 5 February 1821, d. 16 September 1865.
- J-4 Mary Johnson married Daniel Fagg on 4 September 1805 in Albemarle Co., VA The minister was Methodist Episcopal.
- J-5 Rebecca Johnson m. Washington W. Davis, Jr. on 14 Mar. 1839 in Augusta Co. VA. 1850 Census: Albemarle, VA: Rebecca Davis age 30, James W. Davis age 31, daughter Mary age 2, and Nancy Saunders age 6 (no relationship given). Lived next door to Miles Clement and Rebecca's sister, Frances E. Clement.
- J-6 Ellen Johnson married Thal Shekel. Nothing additional known.

Susannah Sneed is the fourth child of Benjamin Sneed and Mary Ann [Perry?]. She was born in 1776, as is proved by a certified copy of the marriage certificate stating that she was 21 years old at the time of her marriage to George M. Faris/Farris [b.1769 in VA; died 1858 in Moniteau Co., MO.] on Christmas Eve, 1797 in Albemarle Co., VA.

We are also in possession of the following document, which clearly sets forth Mary Ann as the wife of Benjamin Sneed and the mother of Susannah b. 1776. In the light of this evidence, it is hard believe that there may have been two Mary Anns, despite the overly long period of childbearing, and the unaccountable activity on the part of Mary Ann during her later years.

“1801 - Benjamin Sneed and his wife Mary Ann; John Sneed, son of Benjamin, and Sarah his wife; George Faris and his wife Susannah, daughter of Benjamin, deeded to Thomas Mann Randolph 120 3/4 acres on north side of Rivanna R. Lines mentioned were those of Joseph Brand, Bennett Henderson (formerly his line), a marker driven by John Sneed and Thomas M. Randolph upon an agreement between them respecting their boundary, up mountain falls creek to pointers being a corner of a parcel of land laid off for George Farris (sic) ‘near a new road, ordered opened by order of Albemarle Court’, a parcel of 39 acres laid out for George Farris to Joseph Brands line. Wtn. Jos. Kenedy, William Graves, William Johnson.”

- (7) The Albemarle County Marriages further support this relationship:
"Sneed - Susannah & George Faris 24 Dec. 1797; n: William Lyon; wit - Richard Garrett; minister - William Calhoun (B/C Papers, 1793 - 1798); (rec. of Marr. Bonds, 1780 - 1806).

<u>George M. Faris/Farris</u> b. 1769, VA d. 1858 Moniteau Co., MO	m.	<u>Susannah Sneed</u> b. 1776, Albemarle, VA d. After 1860, Moniteau Co.,
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Children:

- (F)- 1 Minor J. Faris, b. 7 Sept. 1800, Albemarle Co., VA; d. Aug. 1898, prob. Moniteau Co. MO; m. 2 October 1826 at St. Co., MO, Mary Brockman
- (F) - 2 Calvin E. Farris b. 23 Jan. 1802, Albemarle, VA; d. 31 Dec. 1891 at Pond, St. Louis, MO; m. Eliza Shepherd on 31 Dec. 1831 at St. Louis Co., MO
- (F) - 3 Amelia (Emily) Farris, b. 1803; d (?)
m. Garret Son about 1828 at St. Louis, MO
- (F) - Granville Farris, b. about 1804, Albemarle Co., VA; d. (?)
m. Permelia Hart on 23 Dec. 1831
- (F) - Mathilda Farris, b. about 1806, prob. Albemarle Co., VA; d.. (?)
m. John Robb on 5 Feb. 1826, prob. At St. Louis., MO

One final incident is worthy of mention. The records show that on Dec. 1, 1806 George Faris became indebted to Benjamin Sneed, his father-in-law, for 73 pounds. To guarantee payment, George Faris created a deed by which he transferred articles of personal property to a certain Larkin Harlow, who proceeded to sell the articles when the debt was not paid. There was a counter suit, and the affair dragged on until 20 March 1811. Higginbotham and his associates were awarded the verdict. It appears, however, that Benjamin Sneed never got around to settling up. He probably journeyed with George Faris and wife Susanna [Sneed] on their trip west in 1810, since his name disappears from the Albemarle records after that date.

No doubt the Farises passed through Danville, KY, on their way to Missouri, though we have no record of it. However, Benjamin, now about 89 years of age, did not arrive at Danville until 1816 [See obituary] The mention of Clinch Mountain suggests that he may have stopped off at the Campbell home in Washington County during this period.

The fifth child of Benjamin Sneed is the Patsey Sneed who married Silvanus Meeks. Patsey is mentioned nowhere in the family records, but we do have this item:
"Sneed - Patsey & Silvanus Meeks 28 Dec. 1799; Benjamin Sneed, who gives his consent; wit - Sally Shepherd & William Shepherd & John Rogers consent only."
Albemarle County Marriages.

For a number of years we were unwilling to accept Patsey as a daughter of Benjamin Sneed b.1721 for lack of direct ties to her father. There were other Benjamin Sneeds, albeit they were more removed from the scene. Moreover, the marriage date of 28 December 1799 placed Patsey, who was under the age of consent, on the very edge of Mary Ann's childbearing potential. But the connection of Silvanus Meeks to the Sneed family is so close as to leave us little

(8) alternative. Silvanus is mentioned as a witness to Sneed documents at least five times, as well as making a payment from Thomas Jefferson to Mrs. Sneed on Aug. 7, 1798. He also testified in the Faris/Sneed lawsuit against Higginbotham prior to 1810. This same man purchased 43 ½ acres in the Sneed complex on 12 May 1799 from Richard Johnson for 174 pounds, then married a young Sneed woman - presumably a daughter of a Benjamin - in the waning hours of 1799.

Further support comes from Susan Stewart. She writes: "I now believe I have found the right Sylvanus Meeks who married Patsey/Patsy Sneed. It will not be surprising to learn that the family landed in Mercer Co., KY along with the rest of the Sneed clan." She goes on to say that she has had no success in calling up the 1820 census but apparently Sylvanus was living in Mercer County by 1820.

She then adds this information from the 1830 census: "Silvanus (cq) Meeks, one male between 10-15; one male between 60 to 70; one female, 20-30; one female between 60-70. If I subtract the age of 70, I come up with a birth year of about 1780. The same goes for the older female in the household. Therefore, we are right in the ballpark for this couple to be Sylvanus and Patsey Sneed."

By playing around a bit more, Susan discovered a family that includes a son, Benjamin. From the 1850 Cloudas website we have this:

Benjamin F. Meek, age 33, born in Kentucky, watchmaker. Born circa 1817

Mary E., wife, 42 [?]

Pitman, 4

Benjamin, 1

Susan then goes on to show the 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses for this same Benjamin and Mary Meeks:

1860 - Children: Flourney, age 16; Pitman, age 14; Benjamin 11; James 8; Cloudas, 5; Nellie, 1

1870 - Ben F. Meek, watchmaker, age 53; Mary E., age 47; Pitman, age 23; James, 17; Cloudas, 14; Nellie, 11, Addy, 7, Paul, 5; Sylvanus, 3 months.

1880 - Benjamin Meeks, age 62, jeweler; Mary Ellen, age 58; Pitman, 30; Loudis, 24; Nellie, 21; Addie, 19; Paul, 16; Silvanus, 10.

In the 1900 census the exact birth date of Ben F. Meek is shown as Sept. 1816. He was living with his daughter Nellie and her husband, Richard Church, along with his wife Mary E. and son Sylvanus.

It is certainly understandable to find a child named Benjamin as the son of a senior Benjamin, but when a name like "Silvanus" also appears, there would seem that there can be little doubt of a Sneed connection.

And so we come to end of the list of those that we can definitely state to be children of Benjamin Sneed b. 1721. That would leave roughly five year gaps between the birth of each child.. Surely, there must have been additional children.

(9) It had not been my intention to provide additional information about William Sneed b.1768 [1775?]. My colleagues and I agreed that he was not a likely son of Benjamin b. 1721, despite the similarity of using the double "e" and the fact that both families owned property adjacent to Thomas Jefferson's. Additionally, William may have named his eldest son, born 1795, "Benjamin" Sneed., after his presumed father, Benjamin born 1721. We also realized that the DAR had long ago promulgated data supporting this conclusion, and that these data were still in wide circulation. It therefore seems necessary to set forth the details of these relationships in more specific terms.

Some 70 years ago, Cousin Frances Trader of Sedalia, MO, set forth this Sneed ancestry for our perusal:

Benjamin Sneed b.abt. 1735 Albemarle Co., VA md. (1) Jemimah; (2) Mary Ann (Polly) Perry.

Children by Jemimah:

John b. 2 Feb 1755 Albemarle Co., d. 21 Dec. 1855 Boyle Co., KY; md. 10 Jul 1784 Sarah Johnson b. 27 Jul 1755, d. 12 May 1831.

Frances b.....; md. 23 Mar 1783 David Garth

Susannah b.....: md. George Faris

Peggy b. Md. Richard Johnson

Children by Mary Ann:

William b.....; md. Lucy Stevens

Lydia

Source: Ill. DAR Directory #406052 by Ann Harris, 321 Park Place, Lincoln, IL

Source: Billie Snead Webb, vol. I, pg. 18 -19 (copy DAR records included)

You will note first that this Benjamin Sneed was born in 1735, not 1721. There were two Benjamin Sneads/Sneeds, and the military record belongs to the one born in 1735. The newly published 3 volume collection of DAR Patriots has now omitted the above version. This old relationship, however, continues to confuse Snead/Sneed descendants. The discovery of the Sorrell will now makes it clear that Frances and John Sneed were the great grandchildren of John Sorrell. As we know from the above data, the roles of the other accepted children of Benjamin Sneed have been more difficult to establish.

This has been especially so in the case of the William Sneed b.1768. We have found it necessary to find other connections to the family of Benjamin Sneed b.1721, and in our opinion, that effort has basically failed. There is no need to feel sorry for this William, as his main problem is that of being too wealthy. William married a Lucy Stevens, background unknown. Family members state that the couple were married in 1794. They lived in a place called "Benvolio," located just west of Gardonsville, VA. Susan Stewart has found an 1810 Census record of a William Sneed of Albemarle County who was the owner of 73 slaves. A study of the children determined that this identification is probably correct. (William's eldest son, Benjamin, owned about 43 slaves) The fact is that William is just too rich. His money certainly did not come from Lucy Steven's side of the house. Her background is unknown. Nor from that of Benjamin, a school teacher. Other assertions remain unsubstantiated. Unfortunately, it was necessary to put these assertions to rest. For a complete discussion of these matters, please refer to a four page discussion entitled "The Disputed Son."

(10) Mr. Wm. Benjamin Sneed published a book in 2003 on the Sneyd family .This included a number of associated lines. While there is considerable importance in much of this Sneed material, we were unable to find anything that ties his William to Benjamin Sneed b.1721

Mr. Wm. Benjamin Sneed writes: "William Sneed does not show up in any of Benjamin's (b.1721) land deals. A will by Benjamin Sneed b. 1721 can't be found, either in Virginia or Kentucky, where he died in 1819 while living with his son John. Records show that William died at Fancy Hill in 1836, four years after his son Ben b. 1795 purchased part of the Monticello land in 1832 from Martha Jefferson Randolph, Jefferson's daughter."

There are two claims in the Sneyd book that do not appear valid to us. For the first case we must again review the gift/sale of the Sorrell property to Benjamin Sneed in 1750:

"13 February 1750. Deed Bk 1, p.277. Jno. Sorrell to Benj. Sneed for 5 lbs, 200 acres Beaver Dam, fork of Machunk Creek, formerly that of Thos. Meriwether. Wit: Jno. Morris, Jas. Defoor, Wm. McGhee, Robert Hardwick."

It is to this piece of property that Mr. Sneed refers to in the following statement: "...while searching the records at the Albemarle County Clerk's office, I could not find a will of Benjamin (b..1721) or where he gave or sold his property to his grandson by the same name. In the deed of Ben. b. 1795 is the ownership of the same piece of property in Buck Island which Ben purchased in 1750; and there are records to show the transfer as such. They had a flour/corn mill there for years."

The following document, source unrecorded, clearly rebuts the prior statement:

"1760...08 Aug. Between Benjamin Sneed of Fredericksville Parish in Louisa Co. To John Forsie, Gent., of Fredericksville Parish in Louisa Co. For 55 pounds 200 acres in Albemarle Co., being that land on Beaver Dam Fork, a branch of Machunk Creek. Beginning Benjamin Wheeler...sig. Benj. Sneed. Wit. Richard Timberlake, John Sobban, William Timberlake." [Fredericksville was the home of Benjamin b. 1721.]

And then we have this strange reference to a Sneed mill owned by Ben Sneed. "Sneed Mill which was established by Ben Sneed (1721 - 1819) is mentioned in the above sale, and deed can be found in Deed Book 156, page 11, Albemarle county clerk's Office. This proves the relationship between the two Ben Sneeds along with information handed down through the years." Our research has found nothing to suggest that Benjamin b. 1721 owned a mill.

Benjamin Sneed b.1795 married second Mary Jane Shiflett, by whom he had 7 additional children. Through her he inherited a multitude of obligations, for which he took over a considerable amount of Shiflett property. It seems probable that the mill property in question was the Shiflett mill at Buck Mountain Creek. The terms Buck Mountain Creek and Buck Island Creek are easily confused.

The possibility that William Sneed b. 1768 was a son of Benjamin b.1721 remains a possibility, but we believe that the odds are extremely small.

(11) We have long suspected that Benjamin Sneed b. 1721 must have had a number of additional children. Our knowledge is limited to five. It seems likely, however, that Mary Ann had at least 25 years between the births of the first and the last of her children. [c. 1754 to c.1779] That would allow for a total of 8 children on a basis of one every three years. Surely deaths did not account for the lack of three children. Nor would one who had such an extension of fertility been likely to have lacked children over this period. So where are these children?

We have learned, thanks to Maxwell Sneed, that the Ally and Elisha Sneed that we believed might be children of our Benjamin Sneed b.1721 are the children of another John Sneed. That leaves us with few alternatives. We do have one other viable candidate, though this may be difficult to prove. This is the Sarah Sned who married John Perkins in 1788 in Goochland County.

Jo:Perkins & Sarah Sned, Suckie Crumpton born July 15 1788. Baptized Oct. 12 1789

- The Douglas Register p.272

Perkins, John & Sarah Sned 15 Jul: 1788

-The Douglas Register p.115

[Dates of marriage in this section are often based upon the birth of the first child. The use of this birth date indicates that the actual marriage of John and Sarah took place at an earlier date.]

This same couple is named below with their children: [Data unconfirmed.]

“There is the John Perkins b.1754 [?], d. c. 1852, who m. (1) Sarah Sned on 15 July 1788 in Goochland Co., VA. Sarah was b.c.1762. They had the following children:

Mary m. John Lanford on 29 Dec. 1803, Louisa Co., VA

Susanna [See Suckie Crumpton above]

Sarah N. m. John H. Thompson on 3 Dec. 1817, Louisa Co.

Martha

Elizabeth

John

David

Malinda”

We find this in the Morman records:

Husband: John Perkins. Birth: about 1763, Goochland County

Marriage: 15 July 1788, Goochland, Virginia

Wife: Sarah Sneed. Birth: About 1767, Goochland, Virginia

Marriage: 15 July 1788, Goochland, Virginia

Children: Suckie Crumpton Perkins. Birth 15 July 1788, Goochland, Virginia

John Perkins married (2) Rhoda Johnson, daughter of Richard Johnson [a descendant of the prominent Col. Richard Johnson] by whom he had additional children. Our concern here, however, is with the Sarah Sned who married John Perkins. Could Sarah have been a daughter of Benjamin Sneed b. 1721? To answer that question it will be necessary to go back to the will of John Garth, father of the David Garth who married Frances Sneed. Here we find the following people connected to the administration of that will:

- (12) "Executors, sons, Thomas and David Garth & friends Henry Garrett & Thom. Johnson, Jr. Witnesses, Roderick Perry, Rich'd Johnson, John Perkins." p.871/2, The Valentine Papers

It was David Garth (above) who married Frances Sneed, daughter of Benjamin and Mary Ann. We now find this John Perkins with an unknown Sned/Sneed wife. Since people did not move around very often in those days, it would seem likely that David Garth and John Perkins lived close enough to have known each other's families. More specifically, John Perkins would presumably have been in a position to have known other daughters of Benjamin Sneed.. Is there not a possibility - even a likelihood - that this Sarah Sneed was a daughter of Benjamin b. 1721?

There would seem to be little doubt that the "Suckie Crumpton" said to have been born in 1788(?) is the "Susanna" shown in the list of Perkins children. But obviously the date of her parents' marriage must be moved back.

Before closing this topic, I would like to make one more observation. We find these four female names in The Douglas Register with the dates of their presumed marriages: [See p. 143]

- (1) Sned, Frances & David Garth 23 Nov. 1781
- (2) Sned, Betsie & Martin True 17 Jany, 1784
- (3) Sneed, Sally, & John Peik 19 Dec. 1785
- (4) Sned, Sarah, & John Perkins 15 July 1788

You will recognize the names of (1) Frances Sneed and (4) Sarah Sned, whom I have suggested as possibly sisters and daughters of Benjamin Sneed. (Frances is a proven daughter.) We also have a (2) Betsie Sned married about two years after Frances, with two children, Delphie & Ketura. Could this Betsie be the "Elizabeth" mentioned as another daughter of John Perkins and Sarah Sneed? And finally we have a (3) Sally Sneed who married a John Peik, a man with a most unlikely name. This is the only reference that could be found in any of the major source books. I had originally wondered whether this might be a misnomer for Perkins. [Perk-]. Could this be the "John Perkins" listed as a child of John Perkins and Sarah Sneed?

The instructions for this section state: "Date Here Given, Unless Otherwise Specified, Is Birth Date of First Child Shown in This Register." In other words, it is not the marriage date. It is the birth date. With so many different spellings, however, who is to say that some of those listed as independent persons may not be members of the same family? Although this suggestion may be stretching the point a bit, we think that it is worthy of consideration.

You may be disappointed by the limitations of this discussion, but our concern at this writing was to establish a sound basis for our genealogical beliefs. Some of Benjamin Sneed's family are carried down a few generations in cousin Frances Trader's Notes on the Sneed Family, which can be found in the appendix of my booklet entitled "A Short Biography of Benjamin Sneed."

We welcome any comments that you may wish to make, as well as additional information on the Sneed family - this one or related ones.

May 2008

(13)

COMMENTARY

In the previous discussion of Benjamin Sneed's children, our remarks were naturally restricted to that family alone. It is obvious, however, that most readers will not find the data for which they are looking in that presentation. There are, however, a number of other Snead/Sneed families within the general area, many of whom may be related to Benjamin's family in some way. Unfortunately, because of the pattern of family naming, in which ancestors were typically given the name of a specific forebear, there was a frequent repetition of the same given names, making it difficult to distinguish between Sneed ancestors bearing the same names.

And so we have a number of Snead/Sneed people living in a similar time period and bearing similar names - hence the many John Sneads/Sneeds, etc. On occasion, this can prove helpful, but for the most part it makes it difficult to distinguish between potential ancestors of similar name and age (often unknown) living within a few miles of each other. And so it is that my colleagues and I have been unable to find any connection going back to the founder, Samuel Sneyde, that we can accept as proved. Nor are we aware of any other family connection that is proved, though a few are claimed. We remain hopeful, however, that this connection can be established.

Much of the information we have about Samuel Sneed and his descendants comes from a book by Mrs. William E. Hatcher entitled "The Sneads of Fluvanna." Among her comments is this statement: "Samuel Sneed was survived by his son William, or William's descendants, of York County, and by at least two other sons, Henry and Samuel, Jr., of New Kent. 'The Sneads of Fluvanna' are descended from Henry."

Ms. Frances Trader of Sedalia, MO., provides us with a different line of decent for our Benjamin. It appears that Frank Sneed of Chicago hired a Mrs. Jennie T. Grayson of Richmond VA, to research the family. According to Grayson, William Sneed (b.c.1630), went back to England to be educated. There he married and perhaps died, although Mrs. Hatcher in her book on the Sneads, suggests that a headright claimed in 1664 for a William Sneed may indicate that William did return to Virginia. Mrs. Grayson goes on to say that the two younger sons of the above William came to the plantation of their mother, Alice Sneed, in Virginia. And indeed the "Register of St. Peter's Parish" shows the names of a John and a Thomas Sneed, parents of the following children:

Henry son to Jno Sneed bapt. Ye 8th day of May, 1687
William son to John Sneed bapt ye 9 Novemb, 1690
Rebecca Daut to Thomas Sneade bapt. Ye 3rd day of Jany., 1688-9

Efforts by Frances Trader to find supporting data for this material failed when Mrs. Grayson replied that she was blind and her material was spread about the house in different rooms. And so we have no supporting data for this descent through William b. ca.1630. Moreover, we have only theoretic support for the tradition that Benjamin b. 1721 was the son of

(14)

William of Hanover, although this writer is convinced that this is so.

Keeping this background in our minds, let us turn to the following charts, which have been collected over the years, and are not necessarily as accurate as we could wish them to be. They will be helpful, however, in introducing us to different lines of Sneads/Sneeds living in or close to the Tidewater Virginia area. The accuracy of these charts cannot be guaranteed, nor can some of their sources be warranted. They have been collected from a variety of sources, usually from descendants of these lines, who are theoretically the best researchers of these data.

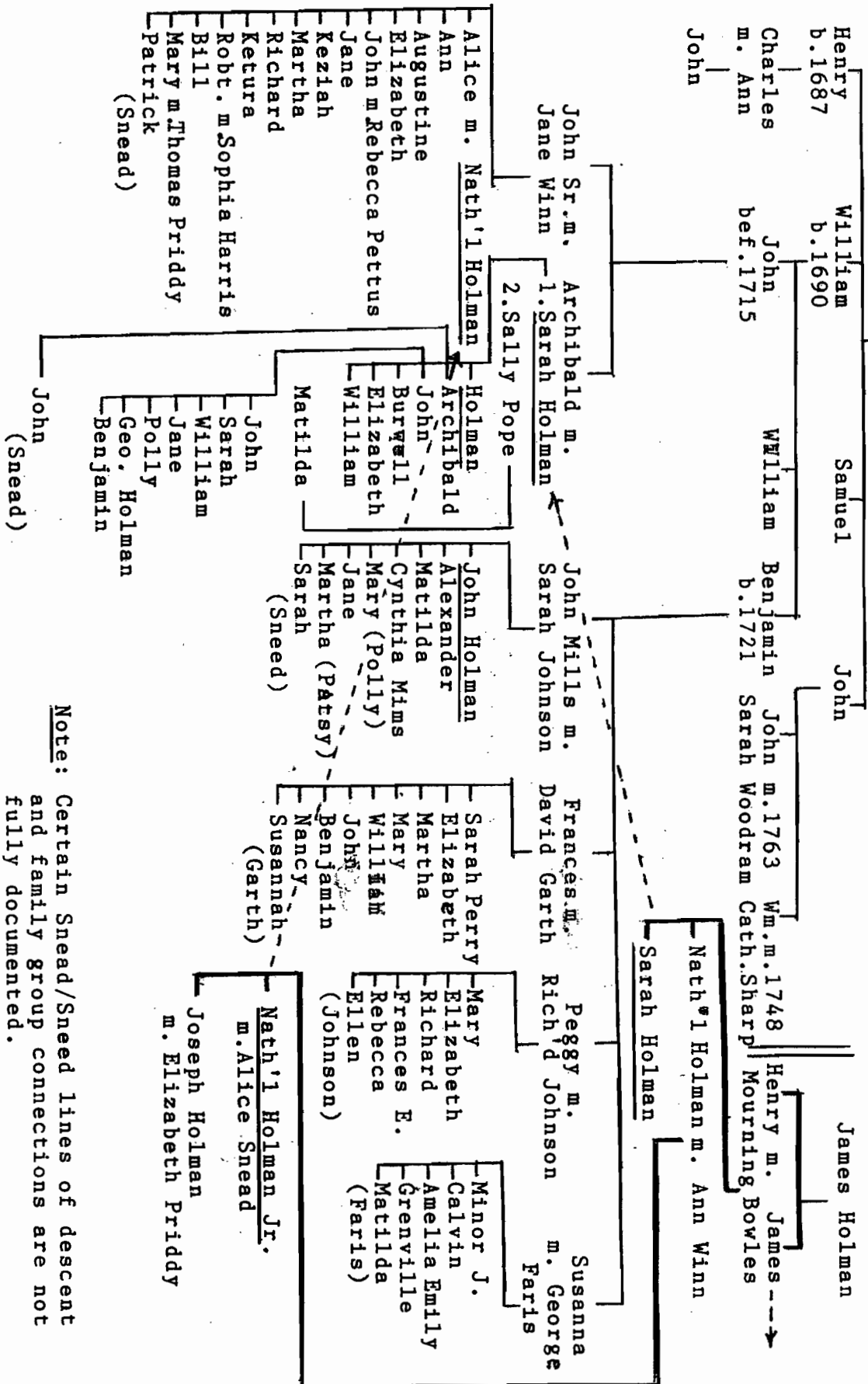
Map (1) is entitled "Snead/Snead Relationships," and was an attempt to tie together the three Sne*d families that I believe are connected. It was drawn up before we had accepted Patsey as a fifth child of Benjamin b. 1721.

In the first column to the left, you will find the children of John Snead, Sr, who married Jane Winn. The children can be documented by the will of this John Sneed, Sr., who is presumably the son of John Snead b. before 1715 and the brother of Archibald Snead/Snead. The spouses of the John Snead children appear at the top of Map (3)

In the second column on the left you will find the children of Archibald Snead/Snead. Data on the his two wives and names of his children's spouses can be found in Map (2) at the bottom of the page. Data are based upon material from Mrs. Hatcher's book.

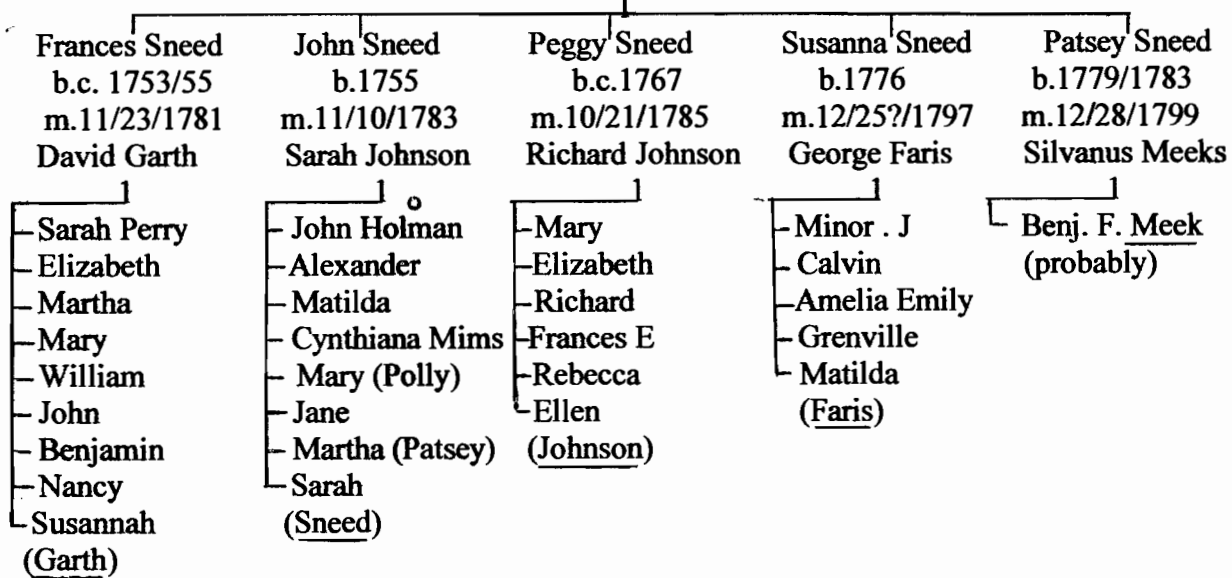
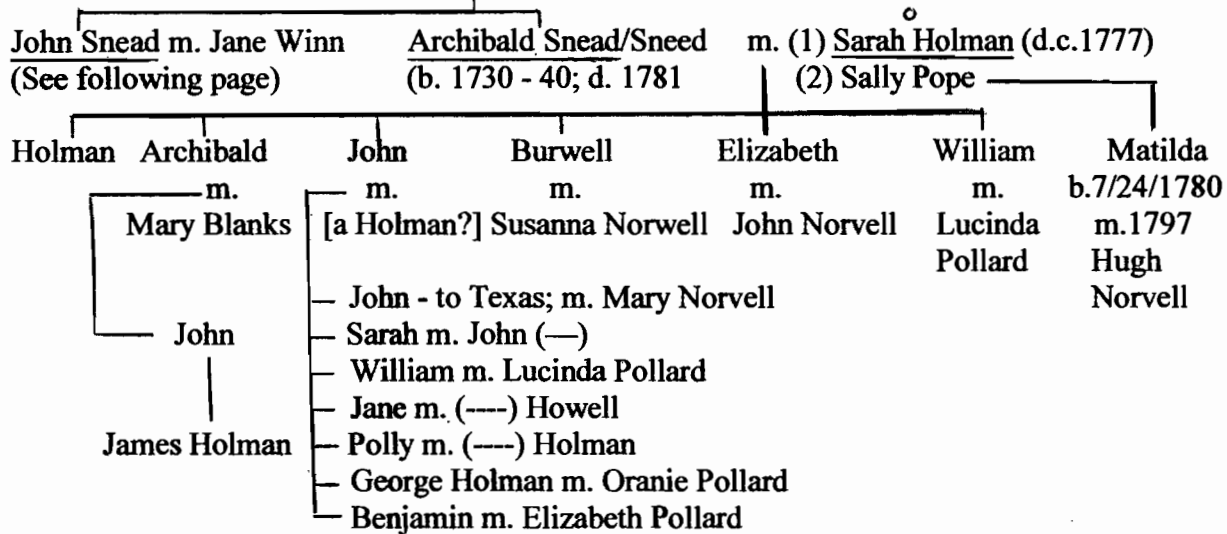
Oddly, there is little similarity between the names of John's children and the names of Archibald's, nor did they live close to each other. However, each family married into the Holman family, indicating that there was a common relationship.

Snead/Snead Relationships



SNEED GENEALOGICAL CHART

Benjamin Sneed (1721- 1819) m.c. 1750 Mary Ann (Perry?) b. 1730/34

John Sneed (s/o William) b. before 1715

Note: Much of this material is taken from Hatcher's "Sneads of Fluvanna," but there is no guarantee for the relationships of the children. This is the way it appeared to the writer.

John Snead (s/o William) b. before 1715

John Snead, Sr. of Hanover County, VA, b.1735, d.1812, m. Jane Winn, d/o Jesse & Jane Winn

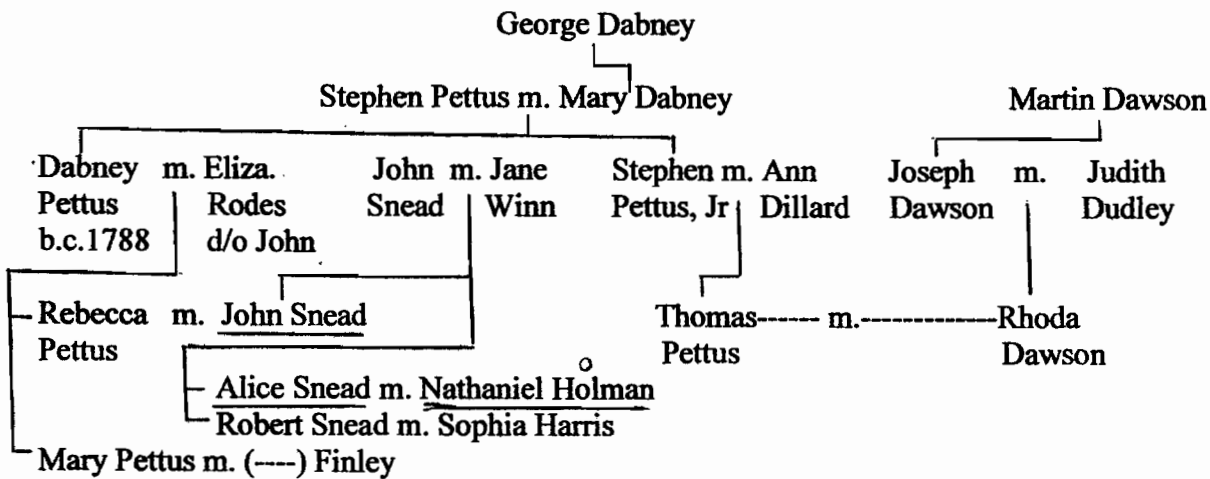
Children:

- Alice m. Nathaniel Holman [s/o Nathaniel Holman, Sr.]
- Ann m. William Eley Harris
- Augustine m. unk.
- Elizabeth m. Charles Anderson
- John m. Rebecca Pettus, d/o Dabney & Eliza. Pettus
- Jane m. David Harris
- Keziah m. William Harris
- Martha m. Matthew Harris
- Richard m. Lucinda Beck
- Ketura m. Richard Glazebrook
- Robert m. Sophia Eley Harris
- Bill m. Sarah Hughes
- Mary m. Thomas Priddy
- Patrick m. Elizabeth Gaithwright

From: TillmanSue@aol.com

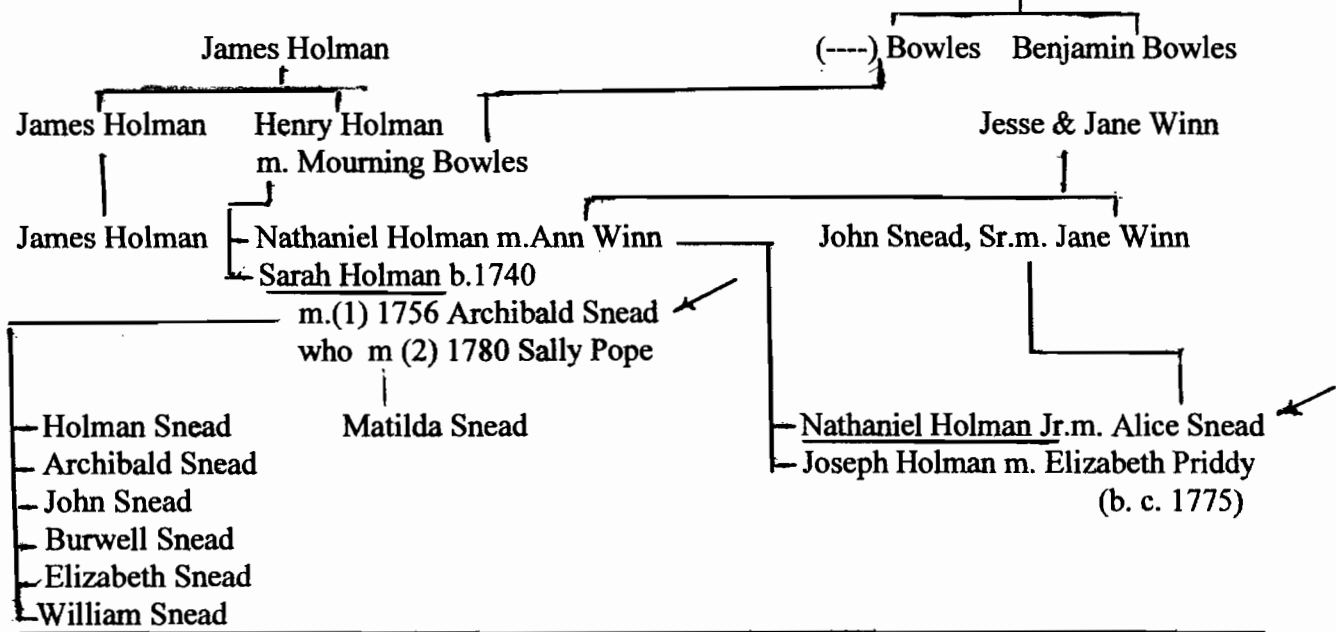
Note: "This John Snead, presumably named for his grandfather, most probably was born before 1715...His neighbors, as shown by the land processioning records, belonged to the same families as those who owned lands in his grandfather's time - Winn, Anderson, Lipscomb, Tinsley, Chiles, etc. John Winn was his co-processioner. The land lay between Totopotomoi and Crump's Creek in eastern Hanover." From Hatcher

Other Snead Relationships



Note: John Mills Sneed, s/o Benjamin b. 1721, named a son John "Holman" Sneed.. Both families lived in the Goochland (later Albemarle County) area.

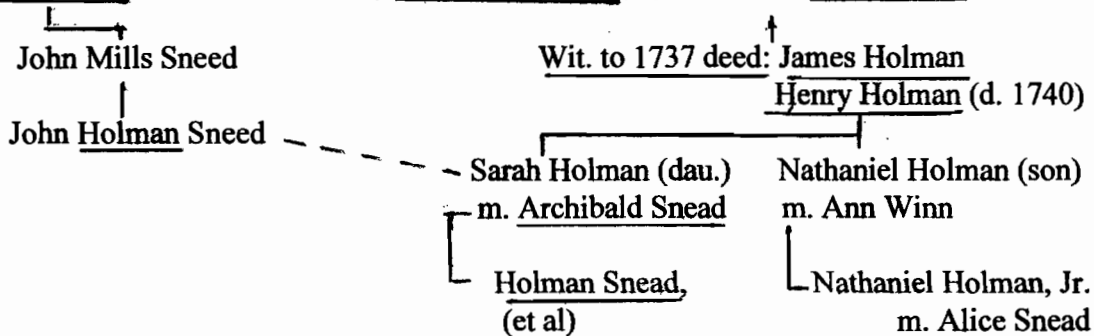
As the following chart shows, the Holmans had interesting connections with the Snead family. Alice Snead, d/o John & Jane Winn Snead, married Nathaniel Holman, Jr. This Nathaniel, Jr., is the son of Nathaniel and grandson of Henry and Mourning (Bowles) Holman. Henry is brother of Capt. James Holman, though there is an 18 year difference in ages. Henry's daughter, Sarah, eloped with Archibald Snead alias Crutchfield when her uncle, Benjamin Bowles, was her guardian.



The following deed is of interest as it connects so many people with common ties. It should be self-instructive.

“20 March 1737; recorded 21 March 1737. John Sorrell of St. James Parish, Goochland Co., to Thomas Wadlow of same, for 800 pounds tobacco 100 acres on north side of James River on Broad Branch of Tuckahoe Creek, next to corner of Thomas Wadlow purchased of John Woodson, next to Matthew Collins. Witnesses: George Payne, Henry Holman, James Holman. Signed: John Sorrell. Mary, wife of Sorrell, relinquished her dower right.” [Weisiger]

Benjamin Snead b. 1721 m. (c.1750) Mary Ann [Perry?], granddau. of John Sorrell

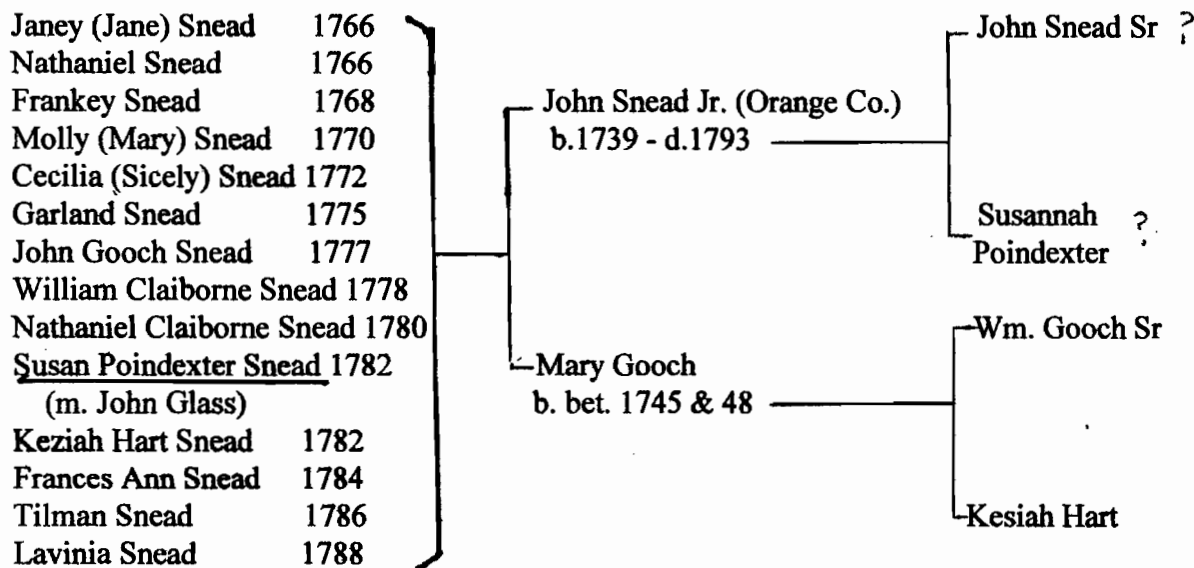


SNEAD/SNEED RELATIONSHIPS

SR-2

Pedigree for Susan Poindexter Snead

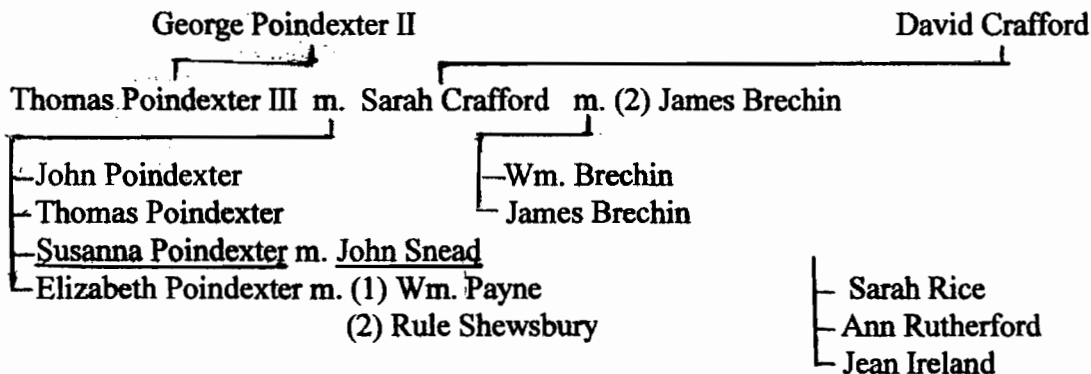
From Cecil Daniels <cdan@mylink.net>



From "The Glass Papers" in the Univ. of South Carolina Library, Manuscripts Division
Note: The dates were not in the original; the source has not been noted.

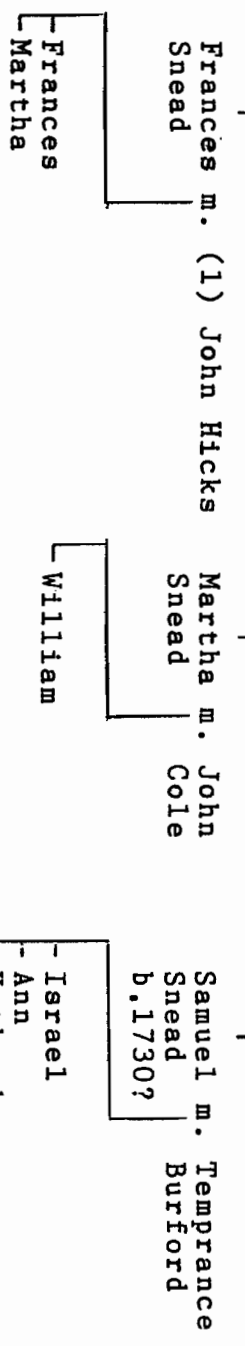
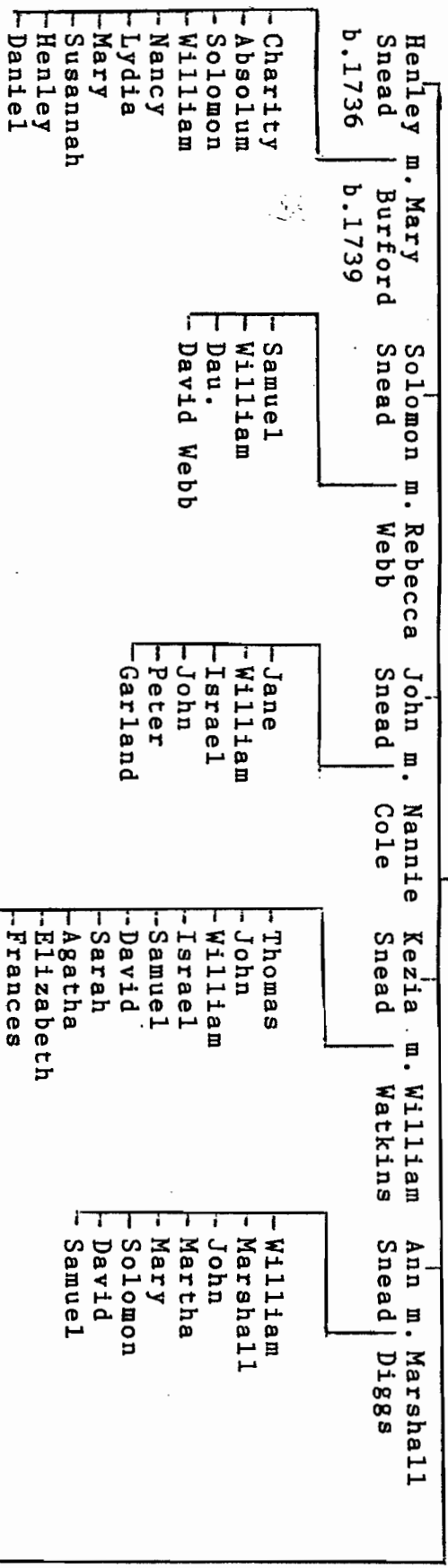
"John Snead, Sr., was born in the year of our Lord 1698 in London. John Snead, Jr., was born June 27, 1739, in Virginia. John Snead and Mary Gooch, his wife, were married March 25, 1765, and moved to South Carolina. Janey Snead, their daughter, was born January 4, 1766. Other children were Nathaniel, Frankey, Molley, Sicily, Garland, John Gooch, William Claiborne, Nathaniel Claiborne, Keziah Hurt, Tilman, Lavinia, Susan Poindexter - the last was born February 7, 1796. The dates of birth of some are omitted in this paper but not in the original." From William & Mary Quarterly, Historical Magazine, Vol.X, Richmond, Virginia, pages 125-126" From Snead Family Bible." (See Hatcher, p.26)

Snead/ Poindexter Connections:



(See VA Land records, p.440, 1723)

Israel m. Johannah
Snead [Henley?]
d. 1788



ANCESTRY OF BILL SNEED

William Sneed son of John & Susannah Sneed
Born May 12th 1721 in Hanover County

[These entries were copied from a family
record owned by a descendant in 1941.]

Janie Sneed

Elizabeth Sneed Wife of William Sneed
Daughter of Joseph & Sarah Bickley
Born December 12th 1719 in King William County

Susannah Poindexter Sneed
Daughter of William & Elizabeth Sneed
Born February 7th 1748

John Bickley Sneed
Son of William & Elizabeth Sneed
Born August 12th 1751

Sarah Shelton Sneed
Daughter of William & Elizabeth Sneed
Born July 6th 1753

William Joseph Sneed
Son of William & Elizabeth Sneed
Born September 15th 1755

Elizabeth Bickley Sneed
Daughter of William and Elizabeth Sneed
Born October 12th 1757

Robert Sharp Sneed
Son of William and Elizabeth Sneed
Born January 23rd 1760

CHART OF THE ROBERT SNEAD FAMILY

Robert Snead m. 01/Mar./1792 Sophia (Harris, JH)
b. 23 May 1762 b. 1778
Hanover Co, VA

Children:

Martha H. Taurmay
Jesse Snead
Moses Snead
John Snead
Robert Snead d. 19 Jan. 1841
Sophia E. Jones d. 12 Mar. 1844
Edwin Snead
Albert Snead
Helen Higason
Mary Ellen Snead
Jane W. Carter
Frances W. Elliot

SNEED NOTES

Holman-Related Items:

Will of Henry Holman, dated April 10, 1739, proved Aug. 19. 1740, legatees:
wife Mourning, son Nathaniel, wife pregnant. "Cousin" James, son of my brother" James Holman.
"Goochland Co. Deeds & Wills" from Virginia Land Records, p.76, being a collection
derived from The Virginia Magazine of History, the William and Mary Quarterly, and Tyler's
Quarterly.

Deed, July 14, 1735, from Capt. James Holman of Goochland.
From Goochland County Deeds and Wills, from Virginia Land Records p. 82

John Anderson, the elder, of Hanover, to grandson, John Anderson Pulliam of Hanover, land S
side of Paulett's Road on Beaver Creek adj. Mayo and Holman, D.B. J, 76, 1800 [Louisa Co.]
From Virginia Land Records, p. 358

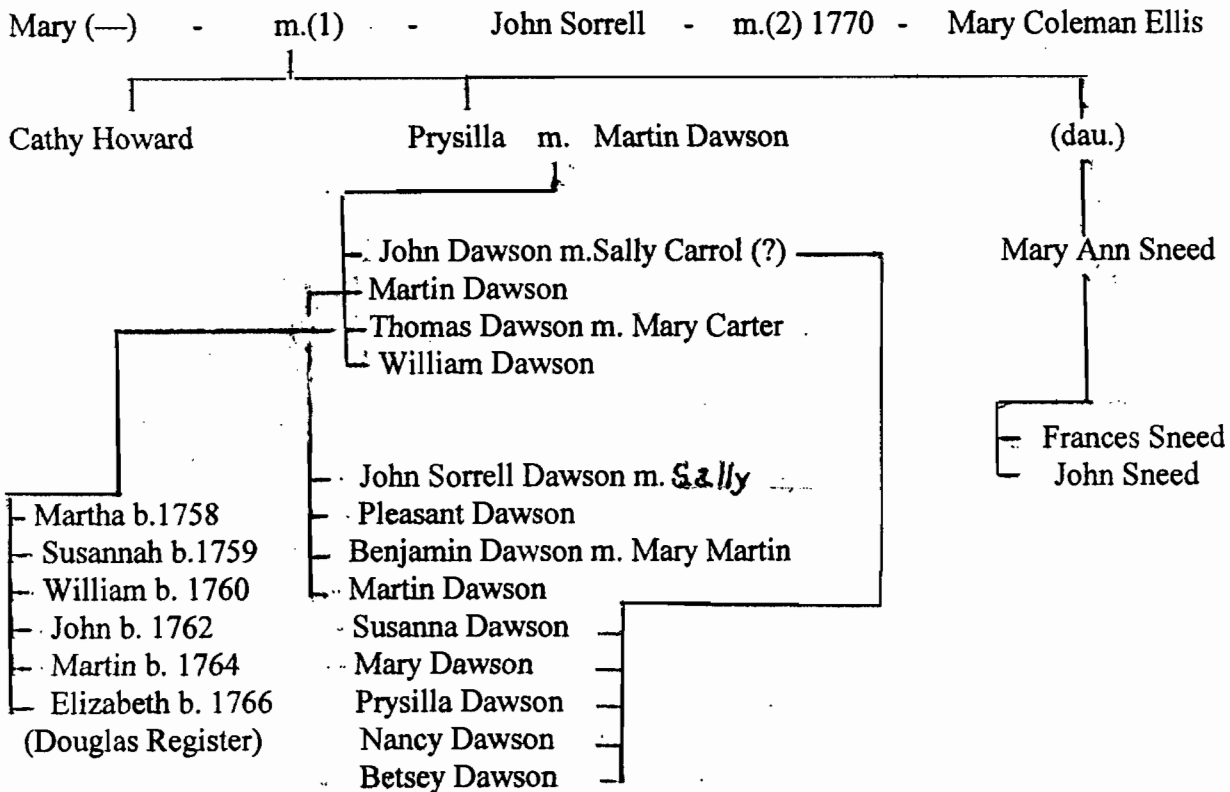
Patents Issued the Regal Government: 277 Thomas Holman, Augt. 24, 1635. 100 acres. In the
Countie of James. In Martins hundred, adjoining on the north side to the land of John Dennett.

SNEAD/SNEED RELATIONSHIPS

SR-5

John Sorrell was probably born about 1693, married his first wife about 1715, and died in 1783, leaving a will naming a granddaughter named Mary Ann Sneed and two older great grandchildren named Frances and John. [Thelma Faye Prince] The names of some of his descendants are revealed his will. We believe that we probably have the children of grandson Thomas Dawson, who married Mary Carter. (See Douglas Register) The following chart represents the Sorrell relationships as we believe them to be.

DESCENDANTS OF JOHN SORRELL



Will of Thomas Carter, proved April 19, 1763, legatees: son Thomas 150 acres on Cumberland on Turkey Cock Creek, etc. Son John, 120 acres in Goochland etc. Son Josiah land in Goochland etc. Son Baynes Carter 222 acres in Goochland where testator lived. John, Josiah and Baynes were his youngest sons. Wife Mary, Daughter Susanna Carter 150 acres in Cumberland on Turkey Cock Creek, etc. Three younger daughters Mary Dawson, Judith Carter and Susanna Carter. Wife, son John and Thomas Dawson executors.

Virginia Land Records
(from Wm. & Mary Quarterly, etc.)
pp. 78/79