

Presnell Family Genealogical Manuscript
Written by Lowell Presnell Jenkins

Reprinted by Michael C. Presnell 20 May 1994

Over the past ten years I have telephoned or written many Presnell's or Presnell Genealogists. Often times I have received written material which included letters with information provided by Mr. Lowell Presnell Jenkins. In order to organize my own records and also to preserve the work and theories of Mr. Jenkins I am consolidating the information from many of his resumes and letters into this one document. Though I do not agree with 100% of what is contained in this manuscript I have not made any changes, additions, or deletions from Lowell Presnell Jenkins work to preserve his research and theories.

Introduction

Presnell's 001.0, 002.0, and 003.0 I have no judicial proof, only guessing. The Church, Names, and Dates appear to be that of the American Presnell Line.

History Listed - Furnished by the College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia - Church Records of Christ Church, St. Giles Crippengate Parish, Greater London County, Furnished by the Mormon Genealogical Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

001.0 - PRESNELL, James (1) - Wife Unknown

Birth - Unknown
Death - Unknown
Issue - Unknown
Wife - Unknown

The name James Presnell, recorded, 29 July 1621.

002.0 - PRESNELL, James (2) - Wife Hester

Birth - Unknown, believe Dartford, Kent County, England
Death - Unknown
Issue - James (3), 1662 - Thomas, 1665
Wife - Hester, (surname, date, place - unknown)

003.0 PRESNELL, James (3) - Wife Sarah

Birth - 27 March 1662 (?) - Dartford, Kent County, England
Death - Should be the father of James (4) Jacob Presnell, he died 1704/5, King County, Virginia
Issue - Martha, born 27 March 1683, Dartford, Kent County, England
James (4) Jacob, born 1684. Province of Provence, which is now The Department of Bousche-D-Rhone, France.

We have records, James (4) Jacob's father, was James (3), his Mother named Sarah. We find a Martha living and attending Christ Church, Middlesex County, Virginia, the same time as James (4) Jacob.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Beginning in 1650, the Presbyterian Church controlled the Church of England. In 1680 they started persecuting Catholics, Quakers and members of Christ Church. After 1680, over 15,000 of these church members fled to America, Belgium, The Netherlands,

Province of Lang-U-Doc, Province of Provence, the latter two being "Religious Havens" for English Protestants.

Provence, originally had been a part of Italy. The Normans took over rule followed by the English. The Provinces did not become French Rule until after 1725. At this time Province of Provence became known as the Department of Bousche-D-Rhone, France.

James (4) Jacob Presnell was born in the Province of Provence, which had been a part of Italy (a religious haven for English Protestants), which did not become under French rule until 1725. He married the daughter of a French Huguenot, yet, James (4) Jacob was "Anglo-Saxon."

By 1685, the Presbyterian Persecution became very bad. King William of the Netherlands and Queen Mary of England, his wife, became rulers of England in 1688, due to belief of Religious freedom of William & Mary, over 12,000 English Protestants returned to England.

Story Fabricated by L.P. Jenkins

James (3), his wife Sarah, and daughter Martha left England in 1683 to the Province of Provence, a "Religious Haven" with members of Christ Church, all due to the persecution of the Presbyterian Church.

James (3), wife Sarah, and daughter Martha, and Son James (4) Jacob (who was born in the Province or Provence) returns to England, between 1685-1688, when William & Mary declared Religious Freedom in England.

Governor Berkeley of Virginia, burnt Jamestowne to the ground in 1676 and there was no Jamestowne in 1700. He stopped all shipping up the James River. Ships would stop at Hampton, Virginia due to the rough waters of the open ocean, the ships would sail up the Chesapeake Bay to the Rappahannock River, here, anchor off the coast of Middlesex County, Virginia. By 1700, Middlesex County, Virginia had become the largest shipping port in America.

Governor Berkeley had accomplished his mission, forcing English emigrants to land in Middlesex, so that they would purchase land in Middlesex, Essex, and King & Queen Counties, Virginia all of which was land granted to Governor Berkeley, John Robinson (an Englishman that formed many land companies) and Sir John, First Earl of Spencer.

In 1699, the Virginia House passed a law that for 5 shillings, an Englishman could lay claim to land up to 50 acres. The same would have to be improved or returned to the Colony of Virginia.

In more the ten years of research, no information has been found on James (3), father of James (4) Presnell. In the book, "Cavaliers and Pioneers" by Nellie Marion Nugent, (Keeper of Land Deeds & Patents for the State of Virginia until 1935 - who wrote several books giving short descriptions of all land deeds recorded between 1623 and 1800). The following is an extract:

Book #3, Patent Book #3, Page 687,
November 1705, King & Queen Co. VA.

Robert Bell, bought 148 acres of land on the south side of Dragon Swamp. 100 acres being that of John Robinson and 48 acres to be improved by James "Presnee," (the name "Presnee" never appears anywhere else during this period in history). It is my belief that James "Presnee" is actually James Presnell.

To support this assumption, Dragon Swamp is in King & Queen County Virginia which extends to Middlesex County. The location is about 6 miles from Christ Church of Middlesex County. This church is where some of the earliest Presnell records appear.

John Robinson and Benjamin Harrison both lived in King & Queen County. Colemans' and Daniel's lived in Middlesex County all close to Dragon Swamp. They all attended Christ Church, Middlesex County, Virginia. These families associate with and married into the Presnell families.

004.0 Issue of PRESNELL, James (3) (#003.0) and wife Sarah, both of Europe

004.1 PRESNELL, Martha, husband George COLEMAN

Birth - 15 March 1683, Dartford, Kent County, England.

Death - Unknown

Issue - John Houry

Mary

George Coleman married Martha Presnell on 27 January 1706 , recorded in Christ Church, Middlesex County, Virginia. Martha & George moved to Essex County Virginia. George died in 1722 and Martha remarried in 1723 to John Hoskin.

004.2 PRESNELL, James Jacob, wife Mary Julie Maupin

Lowell's resumes conflict when referring to the parents of James Jacob (004.2) he has shown that he was the son of Jame (3) and Sarah, but in another resume he states that James Jacob (#004.2) is the son of James (3) and Mary Ann (whom he believes to be Mary Ann Spencer).

In one resume Lowell states that he believes James Jacob was born in Boulogne France, Land of the Huguenots and Normans, and that while he was in France he was called James Jacques de Presnelle and while in England he was called James Jacob Presnell.

Lowell assumes that he moved from France to Dartford, Kent County, England close to St. Giles, Crippengate Parish, London County, England around the year 1680. He also assumes that he sailed to America around 1698 with the Spencer family.

Birth - 1684 (Recorded in the Records of Province of Provence, Southern France).

Death - 04 -March 1716, King & Queen County, Virginia

Issue - James (4), born 1708

Robert, born 1710

Jacob, born 1714

Wife - (Recorded in Christ Church, Middlesex County, Virginia)

James (4) Jacob Presnell age 16 married Mary Julie Maupin age 15 daughter of Gabriel Maupin.

James (4) and Jacob, recorded in Christ Church Register. Robert recorded in 1717, King & Queen County Quakers, at their Philadelphia Meeting. It was custom in those days for the Quakers to register deaths in their community even though they were not Quakers.

"Bill of Sale" - Showing James (4) Jacob died February 1716, his personal property sold

November 1716, to John Dweny, Wayne Curtis, John Guthrie, Robert Blackly and George Carter. Recorder January 1717.

In the Province of Provence Register, recording listed James (4) Jacob as Jacques (French for James Jacob). His father was listed as Jacque (French for James, John, Jake or Jack).

Resumes have listed many issue. We find records on three (3) only, and believe these to be the only issue.

MAUPIN, Gabriel (1), wife Mary Ann SPENCER, parents of Mary Julie Maupin

To date, I have not been able to find any judicial records on Gabriel (1) Maupin. Resumes I have received have Gabriel (1), Gabriel (2), and Gabriel (3) mixed up and confused.

I have not found proof but resumes have written that Gabriel (1) was born in the Pyrenees Mountains, in Southern France, on the border of Spain. Also it has been written that he was a religious man or parson and a student of Besancon Hugues, founder of Huguenot Religious Faith (Protestant).

Gabriel (1) is supposed to be the son of Ambros (Amos) Maupain (believed to be the French spelling), who was the General of the French-Huguenot force. Gabriel had to flee the French Catholic persecution, probably arrive in England around 1682. Here he met and married Mary Ann Spencer, supposed to be the daughter of Sir John, First Earl of Spencer. Note that many early arrivals of Englishman in America chose the name Spencer, the county in which they had lived while in England and made a "new start."

We know that Mary Julie was born in England in 1685. We believe that Gabriel (2) was born around 1687 and Daniel, the youngest, around 1689 both in England.

When reviewing BAIRDS, Huguenot Emigrants to America, he writes the following: "Rolle de Francois, Swisses, Genevois, Alemand, et Flamans emparques dam le Navire Nemme le Nasseau pour aller a la Viriginie. He then lists 68 passengers which include Gabriel Maupin Sa femme and 3 enfans, for a total of 5. This reads Roll of French Men and Women departed with displeasure from Geneva Switzerland, on the ship Nemme Nassau for Virginia.

They sailed from Geneva Switzerland, down the Rhone River to the Port of St. Louis on the Gulf of Lions, in the Mediterranean Sea, arriving in Virginia June 1700. The ship anchored at Hampton, due to rough weather from the open sea, they sailed and landed in Middlesex County on the Rappahannock River.

Resumes keep trying to put Gabriel (1) in Williamsburg & Mannakin. Why would a French-Huguenot, married to the daughter of Sir John, First Earl of Spencer, who owned thousands of acres of land in King & Queen County, Virginia, want to go off to Williamsburg or Mannakin?

The Maupin and Presnell land was lost before 1740 because they supported the American Government over that of the British. Gabriel (1) died 1719, his son, Gabriel (2) moved to Williamsburg around 1740, bought a Magazine (General Merchandise Store) which his son Gabriel (3) still operated in 1791

005.0 Issue of PRESNELL, Martha, and husband George COLEMAN

005.1 COLEMAN, John Houry, wife unknown

No Other Information - No search conducted

005.2 COLEMAN, Mary, husband unknown

No Other Information - No search conducted

QUAKERISM

Quakerism sprang up in England under George Fox around 1650. This was the period of great spiritual unrest with many seekers. Basically Friends discarded religious forms and emphasized the direct relationship of man to God and the leading of the Holy Spirit speaking directly to man. It was an outlaw religious group and hence was persecuted. The movement prospered and Friends traveled widely, spreading the word in England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and on the continent. George Fox and others traveled to the new world. Fox visited in the Caribbean and along the eastern seaboard from the Carolinas north.

William Penn was instrumental in bringing many Friends to America - first as one of the proprietors of Jersey and later in 1682 and 1699 he was the founder of Pennsylvania. This colony was settled on the basis of religious liberty to all. Friends became a part of the great westward migration, going first from Pennsylvania to Virginia, then to the Carolinas and Georgia, then on to Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana and on west.

The Church did not have Ordained ministers, but chose a Layman to conduct services and supervise the Church business. This work was conducted with no salary or pay. In Colonial days the friends opposed war and would not serve. They did supply large quantities of food and medical services for both sides. They opposed certain types of taxes, many times refusing to pay. These codes were later changed.

James Jacques de Presnelle and Mary Maupin had at least two sons of which records have been found, that of James (married Anne Daniels) and Jacob. Not many records have been found on Jacob. It is known that he joined the Quaker movement after leaving Middlesex County, Virginia. We found records of him in Lunenburg County, Virginia for a period of five years, he is again lost. A third son has been spoken of, that of Daniel. We have found many Daniel's, without positive records, only assumptions can be made. The Quaker records have helped in making a few good guesses.

006.0 - Issue of James (4) Jacob, wife Mary Julie Maupin

006.1 PRESNELL, James (5), wife Ann Daniel

Birth - 9 March 1708 Christened, Christ Church, Middlesex County, Virginia

Death - 1792, date and location is not judicial. It is believed that he died in the southern part of Randolph County, North Carolina.

Issue - HAYDEN's Genealogies, page 330 gives the following names:

James, Daniel, Stephen, William Gabriel, Margaret, Mary, Ann, Esau, John, and Julie. We have found not support for the names he listed.

We have found judicial records on three (3) only, and we believe this to be all the male issue.

- {1} James (6), born 1735.
- {2} Daniel, birth date unknown.
- {3} William (1), birth date unknown.

Ann DANIEL, daughter of William Daniel and Frances Bosely, married 14 May 1734.
Recorded in the Register of Christ Church, Middlesex County, Virginia.

ASSUMED - Lived in Huguenot Commune - Manikentown, Goochland County, Virginia from about 1738 to 1743.

We do not have records on James (5) from 1735 to 1742. We have copies of land deeds of Amelia County, Virginia 1742 to Guilford County, North Carolina 1777.

BOUGHT - 16 March 1743 - 400 Acres on the Snail Creek & Nottoway River, Nottoway Parish, Amelia County, Virginia.

SOLD - 16 September 1750 400 Acres on the Nottoway River. To Andrew Harrison, (brother of Benjamin Harrison - both of King & Queen County).

BOUGHT - 27 February 1752 - 400 Acres on the south side of Deep Creek, Amelia County, Virginia. (this area is still Amelia County Virginia).

SOLD - 27 November 1755 - 150 Acres on Deep Creek, Nottoway Parish, Amelia County, Virginia. Both sides of Deep Creek & head of a branch of the Lazaritti River. The deed shows the Ann Daniel had already passed away, and that James (5) married a lady with the given name "Mary." This time period marks the beginning of the French and Indian War.

SOLD - 15 October 1766 - 250 Acres to Thomas Paine, just over from England. Thomas Paine was an American Revolution Patriot. His book "Common Sense (1776) was bought by over 100,000 Colonists in the first few months - it advocated the separation from England and helped set the scene for the Declaration of Independence. Paine was tried in Absentee for Treason by England, he was made an Honorary Citizen by France. Paine died a pauper in the newly formed United States on his 250 acres of land in Amelia County which he purchased from James Presnell.

TAX ROLL - 1766 - James (5), his son James (6), and slave Jane. It is believed James (6) and family lived with his father until he died in 1792 in Randolph County, North Carolina.

Between 1766 and 1768 James (5) wife Mary, and we believe his sons and their families left Amelia County for Orange County, North Carolina. James (5) and James (6) believed to have stayed in Northern North Carolina, Daniel (1) and his brother William (1) migrating to 96th District, Newberry County, South Carolina.

BOUGHT - 2 September 1768 - 210 Acres on the south side of the Dan River, (one resume of Lowell's states Rowan County now Rockingham County, North Carolina and another resume states 250 acres on 8 September 1768 on the Dan River in Guilford County, North Carolina).

SOLD - 18 November 1777 - 210 Acres to William Asten.

TAX ROLL - 1779 - Randolph County, North Carolina. The tax roll did not list people over 65 years old. James (5), his brother Jacob (1) would not show. We did find the following names: James, William, Daniel, John and Stephen. We believe that

Daniel, John and Stephen are the sons of Jacob.

It is believed that James (5) died in 1792 in southern Randolph County, North Carolina, on the Little River, at the home of his son James (6). Some resumes have mentioned that they believe he died in Caddo County, Louisiana. We find Daniel (1) returned to South Carolina, around this same time and stayed in that area, and William (1) if he returned, went back to South Carolina and then later on to Georgia.

Resumes never mention "Jacob" the brother of James (5), in fact I never received a r, sum, that had ever searched Jacob. It is my opinion that Jacob is the main hub of the Presnells in America. Many of the Presnells that have been claiming James (5) and James (6) are really descendants of Jacob.

It is believed that Jacob arrived in Randolph County, North Carolina around 1759/60. James (5) did not arrive in North Carolina until 1767/68, and in Randolph County in 1777/78.

It is also my belief that we have a James (7) probably under James Jacob after his Grandfather, called James, as his father was Jacob. James (7) probably moved to Randolph County, with his family in 1805/06 to Clarke County, Alabama.

THE DANIEL FAMILY

Roger DANIEL came to Virginia around 1620, becoming one of Virginia's largest landowners and leading citizens in the separation from England. We find Daniel's married into leading families in America and England.

Colonel William Daniel, son of Roger Daniel was married to Jachebeth ? , after her death he remarried to Margaret Vivian.

Captain William Daniel, son of Colonel William Daniel , married Constance Vance, after her death he married Mary Mosely.

William Daniel, son of Captain William Daniel, married Francis Bosely, their daughter Ann Daniel married James (5) Presnell in 1734. William and Francis lived in Middlesex County, Virginia close to Dragon Swamp in King & Queen County, Virginia. They also attended Christ Church, Middlesex County, Virginia.

006.2 PRESNELL, Robert

Birth & Death 1710, Reported at the King & Queen County Quakers at the 1717 Quaker Meeting in Philadelphia. Quaker Archives said it was a custom in those days for Quakers to list various people of there community, not just those of their church.

006.3 PRESNELL, Jacob (1), wife Martha

BIRTH - 13 March 1714, Christened in Christ Church, Middlesex County, Virginia
DEATH - We have found No Records, believe he died around 1800, in Randolph County, North Carolina.

ISSUE - James (7), Abraham, Daniel (2), John (1), Stephen (1), Absolum (1), Elijah (1), Elias (1), and Esau (1). We know Daniel, John and Stephen are sons; we believe we have enough information to show that the others are also sons of Jacob.

WIFE - Jacob married Martha ? , probably around 1739/40.

Tom Presnell, deceased (circa 1935), who lived in Randolph County, was of the William (2) Presnell, believed to be the son of James (6).

Tom could give no information on Jacob. Tom Presnell collected Genealogical information from many Genealogies that had not Judicial proof.

From records we have reviewed, it appears Jacob and his wife Martha left King & Queen County, Virginia towards Williamsburg around 1739/40. With them could have been his brother James and his wife Ann, her brother William Daniel (who went from Williamsburg to Amelia County, Virginia) and her uncle Gabriel (2) who still operated the Store his father founded. Her uncle Daniel bought 1125 acres of land in Albemarle County, on the James River. We find Jacob Presnell at the Quaker South Creek Monthly Meeting, Old Bedford County, on the James River close to the Daniel's place.

Virginia had passed a law that all males ages 15-50 must serve 2 years in the Virginia Militia. The Quakers opposed serving in the Militia and they would not pay taxes to support the war.

We find Jacob in the 1747, 1748, 1749, 1750, 1751, 1752, 1754, and 1754 Tax Rolls. Jacob plus other Quakers refused to pay any taxes or to serve in the Militia.

26 August 1754 - Leave is Granted to Peter Holland, James Turner, Jacob Presnell, William Stone, James Orrick, and J. Fite to clear road from Goose Creek up Falling Mountain. The said Holland is appointed overseer and that William Stone is the Assistant. The said Mountain Road to be known as the Mobbeley Road and the persons convent with this tithe to attend sd. Stone and Pate is appointed surveyors from Ridge to Goose Creek.,

25 August 1755 Phelps - vs - Jacob Presnell
Iden - vs - Jacob Presnell

12 September 1755 Callaway - vs - Jacob Presnell
Phelps - vs - Jacob Presnell

Phelps is the Tithe (tax) Lister, Callaway is a member of the Court.

The word "leave" means that they are relieved of the requirement to pay the tax. Instead they are required to build roads.

19 November 1757 - South Creek Quaker Monthly Meeting, appointed Jacob Presnell, Chairman of the Goose Creek Quakers, a newly formed group that desired to migrate into the wilds of North Carolina.

On the Tax Rolls are the following families that moved to North Carolina, before 1765, settled close to Back Creek in what is now Randolph County, North Carolina. Presnell's married into most of these families.

WILLIAM

James, John, Robert, Giles

HARVEY

Michael Sr., Michael Jr., William, John

RICHARDSON

Stephen, Thomas, John, Amus, Abel, Joseph

HUDSON

Stephen, Thomas, Peter

HAYES

Mark, William

ATKINSON

Richardson, Pringler

GREEN

John, Benjamin, Henry

STONE

William (1), William (2)

KING

Joseph

WRIGHT

Thomas

FURR

Joseph