

John & Hannah Miller Keeran (Kearns)

Parents of Isaac, Silas and Thomas Keeran (Kearns)

Introduction

For many years the Kearns of Randolph County were led to believe they descended from William & Mary King Kearns, parents of Isaac, Silas and Thomas. Like other Kearns, I became interested in determining when William & Mary King Kearns settled in Randolph County, when they came to America and from which country they came. The tradition has been passed on that they came from Ireland.

During my research, I began to question the authenticity of William & Mary Kearns as the parents of my gggg grandfathers Silas (paternal) and Thomas (maternal). Each time someone advised that William & Mary King Kearns were the parents, I asked for documentation or reference. No one has been able to site or provide documentation.

Based on what I have learned in my research, it is believed that John & Hannah Miller Keeran are the parents of Isaac, Silas and Thomas. This is based on Randolph County Documents and my personal research.

John Keeran

John's name appears frequently in Randolph County Court Records. He was listed as John Carns in the 1779 Randolph County Tax Listing. John died in 1794. Isaac and Ann Keeran were bonded to handle his estate. Ann is believed to be the daughter of John. The day after their names appeared in court records, the names of Isaac, Silas and Hannah Kearns were listed as filing "cattle brands" in county court records. At the time this fact was determined it appeared that Hannah was the wife or daughter of John. The filings of Isaac, Silas and Hannah were listed together in one, two, three order.

Since 1995, I have listed numerous queries on computer web sites and in newsletters requesting information on John, Isaac, Silas and Thomas. Recently, August 2000, an e-mail was received from a Kerns researcher advising that he had some information on John and his ancestors. He advised that he has researched Thomas and Sarah Laeton (Layton) Keeran, who were Quakers and residents of Kinnett, PA. Thomas was born in Ireland about 1700 and came to America about 1720. Thomas mother was Jane Hadley and fathers name is unknown. Thomas and Sarah had at least four sons, Thomas, William, Simon and John, and a two daughters, Jane and Sarah.

There is documentation that John married Hannah on July 31, 1763 at Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church, Wilmington, DE. The author confirmed the marriage with written confirmation from the church.

John and Hannah were not found in the Kinnett, PA area after 1764 and are believed to have moved south. Brother William moved to the Eastern Shore of VA, while Thomas Keeran moved to Frederick and Shenandoah Counties, VA., where he had had his family. Edra Keeran, researching Thomas (her line), advised the source that John had two sons, Isaac and Silas, and were believed to be the Keerans that moved to Randolph County, NC.

Thomas Kearns ancestors erected a tombstone in Shiloam Methodist Church Cemetery, near Denton on the Randolph-Davidson County Line. The stone reads "Thomas Kearns, Son of John."

William Kearns

It is believed that some researchers of William Kearns, who died in 1825, believed that this William was the husband of Mary King Kearns. William died at an early age and researchers may have assumed he was old enough to be the husband of Mary King and father of Isaac, Silas and Thomas. Records clearly document that William was the son of Silas and not the husband of Mary King or the father of Isaac, Silas and Thomas.

Personal Notation

The above information, documented and circumstantial, is being submitted to the Kearns Genealogical File at the Randolph County Library for the purpose of assisting family researchers and correcting previous misleading information. If there are any questions, corrections or additional information relating to our ancestors, please contact me. It is important to have accurate facts and this is accomplished by documentation.

Sincerely,

Doug

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2/23/2001

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Family Group Record

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Husband **Thomas KEERAN**

Birth	abt 1700	Moate, County Westmeath, Ireland	B:	
	17 Feb 1756	Deleware County, DE	E:	
Religion	Lifetime	Anglo-Irish Quaker	SP:	
Death	unknown			
Burial				
Marriage	6 Jun 1737	Chester County, Pa or Newcastle County, DE	SS:	
Father	(FNUnk) KEERAN (b Est. 1675)			
Mother	Jane HADLEY			

Wife **Sarah LAETON (LAYTON)**

Birth	unknown	Ireland or Chester County, PA	B:	
Death	unknown	Unknown	E:	
Burial			SP:	

Children

1 M **Thomas KEERAN**

Birth	abt 1742	Chester County, Pa or Newcastle County, DE	B:	
Death			E:	
Burial			SP:	
Spouse	Sarah GILLIS			
			SS:	

2 M **John (Thomas) KEERANS**

Birth	abt 1743	Kinnett, Chester County, PA	B:	
Marriage	31 Jul 1763	Wilmington, DE, Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church	E:	
Death	abt Feb 1794	Randolph County, NC	SP:	
Burial				
Spouse	Hannah MILLER (m 31 Jul 1763)			
Spouse	Hannah MILLER			
			SS:	

3 F **Jane KEERAN**

Marriage	1756		B:	
Birth		Chester County, Pa or Newcastle County, DE	E:	
Death			SP:	
Burial				
Marriage			SS:	

4 F **Sarah KEERAN**

Birth	1745		B:	
Death	1812		E:	
Burial			SP:	
Marriage			SS:	

5 M **Simon KEERAN**

Birth	1747		B:	
Death	abt 1830		E:	
Burial			SP:	
Marriage			SS:	

6 M **William KEERAN**

Birth	1749		B:	
Religion	bet 1791-1812	Quaker, New Garden MM	E:	
Death	1823		SP:	
Burial				
Spouse	Rebecca ORION (m 1771)			
			SS:	

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Birth			B:	
Chr			E:	
Death			SP:	
Burial				
Marriage			SS:	

Prepared 2 Jan 2001 by:

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Comments:

FAMILY NOTES

Marriage: 04 Feb 1737: Received on certificate from Concord MM.

06 Jun 1737: Sarah Layton, now Keran, married out of Friends by Priest, acknowledged
7 Nov 1737.

13 Jun 1769: Married out of unity, Friends MM (Kennett MM).

HUSBAND NOTES: Thomas KEERAN

: Thomas Keeran listed as nephew of Simon Hadley in will.

General: Thomas departed Ireland for the colonies abt 1720 and settled in Chester County, PA. Abt 1730 he married Sarah Layton. They had at least six children, three remaining in Chester County and three, Thomas, John and Jane, migrating south. Family members would migrate to Virginia, North Carolina, other counties in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois. It is not known, at the time of this writing, if Thomas and Sarah remained in Chester County, PA or moved with some of their children.

WIFE NOTES: Sarah LAETON (LAYTON)

CHILD NOTES: Thomas KEERAN

Birth¹: NO NOTE

General: Abt 1767 Thomas was disjoined from the Quaker Church in Chester County, PA or Newcastle County, PA, which is now Newcastle County, DE. Thomas, Sarah and family moved from Chester County, PA to Shenandoah County, VA, abt 1769. Shenandoah County was split into Dunsmore and Frederick Counties in 1772. They had a family of thirteen (13), seven boys and six girls. An old Bible found in the home of Mrs. Bess Roberts, Ft. Wayne, IN listed Thomas death of 03 March 1799 at the age of 57 which places his birth in 1742.

CHILD NOTES: John (Thomas) KEERANS

Marriage²: NO NOTE

General: John's parents were Thomas and Sarah Layton. John was born abt 1743 in Chester County, PA. He was raised in a Quaker family setting. He married Hannah Miller, daughter of John and Mary Miller, on 28 July 1763 at Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church in Wilmington, DE. They were married by a Priest, which was contrary to Quaker beliefs. As a result, they were disjoined from Kennett Meeting in 1764. They were later granted a Certificate of Transfer to the Wilmington Meeting. They did not appear in Chester records after 1764.

In 1785 John, Isaac and Silas signed a petition in Randolph County to have the location of the first court house moved to the center of the county. Randolph County was formed from Guilford County in 1779. The three signatures were linked together in sequence, indicating a close bond between the three.

John passed away abt November 1793 without a will. Randolph County Court records reflects that Ann Kearns, Isaac Kearns, William Hill and Jonathan Phelps signed an estate bond on March 11, 1794 for two hundred pounds. Ann and Isaac (children) were named administrators. The connection of William Hill and Jonathan Phelps is unknown. Randolph County Court Pleas reflect that on March 12, 1794, one day after the estate bond was issued, Silas, Isaac and Hannah recorded brand marks for their cattle.

John and Hannah had at least eight (8) children.

CHILD NOTES: Jane KEERAN

CHILD NOTES: Sarah KEERAN

CHILD NOTES: Simon KEERAN

CHILD NOTES: William KEERAN

SOURCES

1. Edra Keeran. The Keerans Story. The Keerans Story.
2. Marriage listed in original records as 31 July 1763.

Family Group Record

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Birth	abt 1743	Kinnett, Chester County, PA	B:	
Marriage	31 Jul 1763	Wilmington, DE, Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church	E:	
Death	abt Feb 1794	Randolph County, NC	SP:	
Burial				
Marriage	31 Jul 1763	Old Swedes Church, Wilmington, DE	SS:	
Father	Thomas KEERAN (b abt 1700)			
Mother	Sarah LAETON (LAYTON) (b unknow)			
Other spouse	Hannah MILLER			
			SS:	

Wife **Hannah MILLER**

Birth	20 Feb 1737	Kinnett, Chester County, PA	B:	
Death	unknown		E:	
Burial			SP:	
Father	James MILLER			
Mother	Ann CAIN			

Children

1 M **Isaac KEARNS I (Sr)**

Birth	22 Oct 1766		B:	
Death	30 Oct 1844	Unknown	E:	
Burial		Uharrie Friends Cem,Randolph Co,NC	SP:	
Spouse	Rebecca WEBB			
			SS:	

2 M **Silas KEARNS**

Birth	10 Jul 1767	Unknown	B:	
Tax	1815	Randolph County, NC	E:	
Death	28 May 1842	Randolph County, NC	SP:	
Burial	74 Years of A	Old Kearns Cemetery (East off Highway 49/Salem Church Road		
Spouse	Jane THOMPSON			
			SS:	
Spouse	Ann TAYLOR (m unknown)			
			SS:	

3 M **Thomas KEARNS**

Birth	19 Jan 1776		B:	
Death	12 Dec 1847		E:	
Burial			SP:	
Spouse	Rebecca IVEY			
			SS:	

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Birth			B:	
Chr			E:	
Death			SP:	
Burial				
Marriage			SS:	

5

Birth			B:	
Chr			E:	
Death			SP:	
Burial				
Marriage			SS:	

6

Birth			B:	
Chr			E:	
Death			SP:	
Burial				
Marriage			SS:	

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Comments:

FAMILY NOTES

Marriage¹: John and Hannah were married at Old Swedes Church. It is believed that both came from Quaker backgrounds, but one or both were disowned by Kennett Meeting House in 1764. They were later reinstated in Wilmington, DE Meeting.

HUSBAND NOTES: John (Thomas) KEERANS

Marriage²: NO NOTE

General: John's parents were Thomas and Sarah Layton. John was born abt 1743 in Chester County, PA. He was raised in a Quaker family setting. He married Hannah Miller, daughter of John and Mary Miller, on 28 July 1763 at Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church in Wilmington, DE. They were married by a Priest, which was contrary to Quaker beliefs. As a result, they were disjoined from Kennett Meeting in 1764. They were later granted a Certificate of Transfer to the Wilmington Meeting. They did not appear in Chester records after 1764.

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John and Hannah had at least eight (8) children.

WIFE NOTES: Hannah MILLER

Birth³: NO NOTE

General: Hannah was the daughter of John & Mary Miller, Chester County, PA. Her father's will was probated in 1774. Son James received the land and daughter Hannah received twenty pounds.

CHILD NOTES: Isaac KEARNS I (Sr)

CHILD NOTES: Silas KEARNS

Tax: No Land or Amount Listed. Only listing is one (1) Poll Tax.

Death: Age At Death

Burial: Present Salem Church Building was constructed in 1822 by Silas, William Thompson, Thomas Nance, William Wood and Isaac Johnson.

General: Salem Church Trustee

CHILD NOTES: Thomas KEARNS

General⁴: Thomas Kearns was born 19 Jan 1776 and died in 1847. He married Rebecca Ivey, daughter of Benjamin and Sally Ivey and grand daughter of Adam Ivey. Rebecca was born 01 Jan 1786 and died 11 May 1845. Thomas and Rebecca Kearns are buried at Siloam M.E. Church Cemetery. Rebecca was listed as a beneficiary in her father's will, dated August 1802, found in Randolph County Wills.

The 1800 US Census, Randolph County, NC, lists Thomas with one male 16-26 years of age, one female 10-16 years of age and one slave in his family.

Randolph Land Records reflect that Thomas (Carns) purchased 500 acres of land from the State of NC in 1803 and 70 acres in 1808.

SOURCES

1. Marriage listed in church records as 31 July 1763.
2. Ibid. Marriage listed in original records as 31 July 1763.