

RIP WILLIAM KEARNS AND MARY KING

SUE KEIRNS · FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2020 ·

RIP WILLIAM KEARNS and MARY KING!

After reviewing all that anyone ever said about them, in every resource that I could find, I've come to the conclusion that they DON'T EXIST. This is why.....

1. We know Edra Keeran (The Keeran Story) stated John Keeran and Hannah Miller were parents of Ann, Isaac, Silas, and Thomas and that they went to NC.
2. Doug Kearns' (The Kearns Heritage) research confirmed the same and added that he and others found nothing on William Kearns and Mary King.
3. Y DNA of 3 Kearns men from the Kearns of Randolph, NC group match the Y DNA of a Keeran man who descends from Thomas Keeran from Chester Pa, Jane Hadley Kiernan's grandson.

So who could William Kearns and Mary King be? John's brother? Keep reading.

4. John Keeran DID have a brother William who was born in 1741, lived, and died in Chester, Pa in 1823 and married Rebecca B Orin. I don't think they even knew of him.

Back to William and Mary..... The book "Farmer, Yesterday and Today" states, according to 1 person, Tura Johnson, that there are records of William and Mary King in Washington DC and that they came from Ireland and that their boys were Isaac, Silas, Thomas, and William Jr (born 5 May 1769 and that he died in 9 Feb 1837). They both also report that William T Kearns Jr married Margaret Andrews and had several children. But this is why they are incorrect:

1. We know from Y DNA that Isaac was John Kearns and Hannah Miller's sons. And we know on pg 183 of the Farmer Yesterday and Today book that the Kearns Family Bible says Thomas' father was John. Likely Silas is too, as other researchers have said.

2. There is no William Jr. who married Margaret Andrews. The William who died in 1825 was this William (1795-1825), Silas' son, who married Margaret Andrews. The Will of William Kearns clearly confirms this. Several of the children were minors. There's a notation that 2 oldest boys will forfeit their right to inherited cash because their grandfather, Silas Keeran, had already given them land. Isaac who was named executor, was William's brother. There IS a William (b. 1769-1837) but that is William Kerns from Cork who was born in Ireland and came to NC and married Jane Houston. Their children and this couple are well documented and there appears to be no connection with our Kearns line. Unfortunately, I see no living male I could test with Y DNA to be sure. But I have not found any autosomal DNA matches with them (so far). So in the record room at the Library in NC or DC, I could see where that info could have been taken accidentally and interpreted differently.

3. The book Farmer: Yesterday and Today cites one person having stated her research showed she descended from William Kearns and Mary King. That was Tura Johnson b. 1870, granddaughter of Allen Harris Johnson. She may very well have been at the 1919 Family Reunion that Nettie Prichard put in her notes and may have been the source for her identical info. But it seems to me, that thousands of people are repeating one researcher's claim from long ago and with no proof.

I welcome any contrary information or ideas! 😊