

Symons White Morris family confusion spelled out

Symons Family History

Symmons/Simons/Simonds/etc.



The earliest known Symons in my family is one **William Symons** born about 1620, possibly in England, who may have first settled in Massachusetts around Lynn, Essex County. **William's** was also one of the first families to settle East Hampton, Suffolk County, New York.

Many court records have been found regarding **William** and his sons, buying land, selling land, and some very intriguing personal records as well. The **Symons** lived at a very lively and exciting time for America, as they were some of the first settlers of this New World.

Many internet trees show **William Symons** as having married a **Mary Conkling**, or a **Mary Alice Robbins Conkling**. But what you don't see, is the source documentation for this discovery. How have they come about this marriage? I personally have found absolutely no marriage record for **William** marrying a **Mary Conkling** or an **Alice Robbins** or any other combination of that name. Also, the date of the marriage given was 18 January 1643 in Woburn, Middlesex Co., Massachusetts.

How was this marriage found? I can tell you that you will find a marriage between a **William Simons** and a **Judith Haward** on that date. It does appear that this is not the **William** we are looking for though.

So you might ask, maybe **William** and **Mary** are not the ones you are looking for at all. Well, they are. The **Symons** family were devout Quakers. My first **Symons** ancestor was **Sarah Symons**, my fourth great grandmother. I have successfully traced her family through Quaker records back to a **Thomas Symons**, my 8th great grandfather born about 1648, possible in Massachusetts. From Quaker records we make the jump to court and legal documents. **Thomas Symons** shows up in many documents buying and selling family property.

In one such record he mentions that he is the son of **William Symons**, deceased, and the letter is dated about 1684. So we have a father's name, and an approximate date of death, and a geographic location of **William Symons** death. **Thomas** was writing from Pasquotank Co., North Carolina back to East Hampton, New York, to **David Gardiner**, about selling family property. It is safe to assume that **William Symons** died in North Carolina, after all, why would **Thomas** have to write back to New York and tell folks there that his father had died?

One document has been found that states **William's** wife's first name being **Mary**. Of all the documents ever found involving the couple, she was always referred to as **Goody Symons**. A land warrant was obtained by **Thomas Symons** entitling him to 400 acres of land for the transportation of 8 persons. Those eight people listed were: **[Illegible name] Symons, Mary Symons, Wm. Symons, Rebecca Symons, Eliz. Symons, Jer. Symons, Mary Symons**, negroe boy named Will. The first **Mary**

was most likely **Thomas'** mother, the rest of the people were his siblings. The illegible named **Symons** could have been the father. This warrant was granted right before **William Symons** died.

So we have the parents, and a list of children, all from one court document, and from Quaker records, we can obtain more dates. But let's go back to **William** and **Mary** for just a bit.

Who was **Mary Symons**? Was she a **Conkling**? I'm beginning to think not. I recently came across another researcher who is adamantly trying to solve this puzzle, and has come up with some very insightful information. So far, we have not found an eligible **Conkling** woman to be **William's** wife. But what if she wasn't a **Conkling**? There are some letters where **Thomas** is asking to be remembered to his **Uncle Fithian** when he is writing back home to New York from North Carolina. What if **Mary** was a **Fithian**? Or maybe she was a **Gardiner**? All of these families were living in close proximity to each other, she could be any of one of these families. But try as I might, I can not find a **Conkling** connection.

Now, on to **Thomas Symons**. Many online trees have his wife as **Rebecca White**, I did too, until recently. This same researcher I have been working with has been trying to beat it into my brain that this couldn't be so. I don't like to follow just one person though, I want to see someone else with these ideas too. Well, she sent me some back up research, and one little line in this research sold me on the idea.

Thomas' son, **John Symons** married who? **Damaris White** who is the daughter of who? **Henry White**. And he would be the brother of **Rebecca White** and that would make **John** and **Damaris** first cousins, and the Quakers do NOT allow such marriages to happen.

Not only that, but in **Henry White Sr.'s** will, the supposed father of **Rebecca** and **Henry White**, she is not mentioned, wouldn't she if she was his daughter? All of the other children were. Back in 1968 a gentleman by the name of **William Perry Johnson** compiled a **Symons** genealogy for the "North Carolina Genealogy" Spring 1968 issue. In it, he too was not sold on **Rebecca White**, only he had no proof. My fellow researcher has found a wife that fits, she is in the area, her family is too, they intermarried with the **White** family too. Her name is **Rebecca West** sister of **Mary West** who married either **Henry** or **Arnold White** [don't know which as they both married a **Mary** one married **Thomas Symons'** sister **Mary**].

Seeing as how this family line starts with my fourth great grandmother, there will be limited information, such as photos and obituaries. I will try, as time permits, to locate estate and land papers on this family. The "Documentation" section will be dedicated to articles, websites, and write-ups located on the **Symons** family.