

A Man of Steel

Kellogg Island near Outer Banks, North Carolina.

The search for the parents of Thomas Franklin, a Revolutionary War Soldier, who died in Georgia, actually began with researching during the early 17th century. His revolutionary war pension stated that he was born in 1750 on the James River Mountain. A map search unfolded the fact that the James River ran from the eastern Virginia coast into the far west Virginia region, part of which was considered West Virginia in those days.

The location of one, Thomas Franklin, who received a land grant in ----- on Kellogg Island led to the discovery of his children in Princess Anne County, Virginia. The eldest sons were given the plantation and other lands. The son who did not, however, inherit any land, was Edward Franklin. As it turns out, Edward Franklin drew some land in the far west; it was part of the plan to put immigrants and settlers in the wilderness, amongst the Indians. This raw, brave endeavor to expand the American colonies, did indeed put most families at risk, for various Indian tribes opposed to white settlers, robbed and Tomy-hawked new settlers, as well as taking white women as slaves.

The Shawnee ruled from the mountains of Virginia into (later West Virginia) and Ohio and all along the Mississippi River and the name of their chief was "Cornstalk." Although there were some British forts along the mountain trails, the Indians were not always peaceful. The root of these comments lies in the soul of

the traced families.

Due to the formation of new counties, the site of Edward Franklin's land grant on Pine Run Mountain was in three counties, Spotsylvania, Augusta, and Botetourt. A Minute Book in Augusta County revealed a road assignment which involved three Franklin males who, in suggesting that another road be cut, describe the site of the cabin on Pine Run, just below a rock mill which was on the James River Hydrate quarry near Buchanan, Virginia, producing aragonite, barite, calcite and opaline silica. The family resided in a cabin that was passed down by Edward Franklin to his son, William.

In 1736, William purchased some land on the James River Mountain overlooking Buchanan, Virginia. His wife was Sarah Rebecca Boone, possibly a daughter of Squire Boone who lived nearby. Sarah had one known child, Thomas Franklin, born in 1750 on the James River Mountain. Squire Boone,

George Thomas Franklin, 1744–1816 was a young boy when his father married again. I would say that he was named after his two grandfathers, George Boone of Philadelphia, and Thomas Franklin of Princess Anne County, Virginia. George Boone had a son, Squire Boone, who also pioneered into the Virginia mountains near Buchanan (likely Sarah's brother), as all of the Boones from Philadelphia had ten or more children! George Boone is listed as a Quaker in Hinshaw's Encyclopedia of Quaker

Genealogy.

In October of 1774, the Governor of Virginia sent out all of the Virginia Regiments to battle with the Shawnee. The two regiments in Botetourt County went by boat on the Mississippi River to Ohio falls where they were the first and only regiments to clash in a vicious battle with Chief Cornstalk. Each side had many casualties; in the end, Chief Cornstalk signed a Treaty of Peace. William Franklin, a member of the Militia, Love Regiment in Botetourt County, was listed as having sustained an injury.

Afterward, when the call was put out along the western frontier for volunteers in the Continental Army to fight the British, young Thomas Franklin went East to join the Southern Campaign of the British regiments which had moved South to seize control of North Carolina. Later, William Franklin and family, viz: second wife, sons William, and others, followed.

According to the land grants given after the Revolutionary War, William Sr., William Jr., and Thomas Franklin all served. However, based on the amount of bounty land each one received, only William Franklin Sr. served to the end. The Militia companies required all males between the ages of 16 and 50 to serve. William, born 1718 was fifty-six years of age when he fought in Lord Dunmore's War of 1774. After the war, in 1783, he would have been sixty-five years of age, which declares that he was a staunchly brave and determined citizen. After the war, he settled on about 1300 acres of land in Davisboro, Georgia. A method of discerning what battles that he fought in can be learned by tracing

the service of General William Lee, who signed the bounties. It is said that the DAR placed a monument over his grave in Davisboro, Georgia, but I have not located it.

Sources:

<https://haygenealogy.com/hay/patriots/dunmore.html>>
Lord Dunmore's War of 1774

<https://emergingrevolutionarywar.org/2015/11/19/lord-dunmores-war-the-opening-of-the-revolutionary-war/>>
Dunmore's War and Opening of the Revolutionary War

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/62762726/william-franklin>>Grave of William Franklin, Davisboro, Georgia

<https://oldnorthcarolinafamilies.blogspot.com/2019/03/squire-boone-family-of-nc-ncgenealogy.html>>Squire Magrudge Boone

The Soldiers of West Virginia in the French and Indian War; Lord Dunmore's War; the Revolution; the later Indian Wars; the Whiskey Insurrection; the second War with England; the War with Mexico by Virgil A. Lewis, M. A.