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The earliest records date to 1657 ...

The earliest record for Kingston Parish is a land patent of John Chapman, March 15, 1657; however the earliest grant of land to be found for the area later known as Kingston Parish is to Gent. Hugh Gwin dated Dec. 19, 1635 for 1000 acres. (Polly Cary Mason, *Records of Colonial Gloucester County Virginia Volume I*, p. 35, 88)

In 1700, 115 landowners were recorded with total landholdings amounting to more than 46,000 acres; eleven properties were recorded as having 1000 acres or more.

A land record for the year 1700 does not exist; the earliest Rent Roll in Kingston Parish is for the year 1704. Total acreage is 46,537 acres and 116 land owners. (Polly Cary Mason, *Records of Colonial Gloucester County Virginia Volume I*, p. 84-85)

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Thomas James was the son of Matthias and Elizabeth David James.

Thomas James was the son of Matthias James and Elizabeth Davis (not David).

In 1815, Thomas James appeared twice in county records: the first time to record his marriage to Frances Lewis and the second time as the new owner of 54 acres bought from John Patterson.

In 1815, Mathews County did not record marriage records. It is presumed that c. 1815, Thomas James married Frances Lewis based on the birth of their eldest daughter Emory in October 1816.

Thomas James first appears in the 1807 Mathews County Land Tax records with 76 acres; location not listed; how land was acquired is unknown. In 1814, these 76 acres are listed as "Milford Haven". (Mathews County VA Land Tax Records)

In addition, the census of 1820 identifies Thomas James as the head of a household that included three males and two females under the age of ten, one male under sixteen, one male and one female between twenty-six and forty-five. ... James was also a slaveholder with eight slaves: two males and one female under fourteen years old, three males and one female between the ages of fourteen and twenty-six, and one female aged forty-five years or older. By antebellum standards, owning eight slaves

One male under sixteen – should be – one male between fifteen and twenty-six.

Eight slaves – should be – 10 slaves: two males and one female under fourteen years old, three males and one female between the ages of fourteen and twenty-six, two males between the ages of twenty-six and forty-five, and one female aged forty-five years or older.

Stephen E. Bradley, Jr., *Mathews County Virginia, Censuses 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840*, (Self-published, 1992), p. 16

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Whether he renewed the license after 1820 is unknown, for in that year the county stopped recording merchant licenses.

The merchant licenses had been recorded in the land tax records ... It is unknown if the county stopped recording merchant licenses ... It is highly doubtful.

According to the census of 1830, James owned fourteen slaves: two males and one female under the age of ten, four males and two females between the ages of ten and twenty-four years old, two males and one female between the ages of twenty-four and thirty-six years of age, one female aged fifty-five years or older, and one slave that was blind.

Fourteen slaves – should be – 15 slaves: one male and three females under the age of ten, four males and two females between the ages of ten and twenty-four years old, one female between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-six, two males and one female between the ages of thirty-six and fifty-five, one female aged fifty-five to one hundred, and one slave who was blind.

Stephen E. Bradley, Jr., *Mathews County Virginia, Censuses 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840*, (Self-published, 1992), p. 45

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James appears to have had the money to build and pay heavy taxes for his property and its buildings. By 1819, he was paying \$630 in taxes for buildings on his property; it is possible that one of these might have been the store; however no research has uncovered what structures in addition to his house were constructed. By 1826, James's land holdings had grown to 74 acres with \$666 paid in taxes for buildings; when he sold the property in 1845, his estimated holdings were almost 130 acres with approximately with the buildings taxes at \$2,000.

Thomas James first appears in the 1807 Mathews County Land Tax records with 76 acres, which in 1814 are listed in "Milford Haven". In 1814, James owns 76 acres in Milford Haven and 16 acres on "Pudding Creek". In 1815, James is deeded 54 acres at the Court House from John Patterson. By 1819, he was paying \$76 in taxes for buildings on his property in Milford Haven and \$630 in taxes for buildings on his Court House property.

From 1819 to 1827, James acquires additional properties in Mathews County in the following locations: Reade Swamp, Milford Haven, East River, Bandy Ridge, Pudding Creek and Court House, his estimated holdings were approximately 223 acres with buildings taxes at \$751.

By 1828, James is paying buildings taxes on three properties – 18 acres, Court House, \$234 buildings; 74 acres, Court House, \$666; 25 acres, Pudding Creek, \$50. In 1830, the buildings on the 18 acre Court House site are valued at \$540. When the store lot was sold c. 1845, James owned approximately 317 acres with buildings taxed at \$2,150.

Corrections to VDHR Form #057-5027
Compiled by Becky Foster Barnhardt July 2007

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An 1830 plat shows James's house located "Beginning at ... a corner on the north of a small creek on the shore of Mob Jack Bay." This creek was possibly Put In Creek, not far from the village of Mathews.

These two statements are incorrect – 1. Thomas James (1777-c. 1846) is not listed in the land tax records as owning land on or near the Mobjack Bay, 2. Put In Creek is off the East River not the Mobjack Bay, 3. The 1831 land tax records lists a Thomas D. James with 54 acres, Mobjack, deed from Thos. James heirs. This would be Thomas Degge Davis James (1792-1878). This plat has nothing to do with Thomas James (1777-c.1846)

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Bernhardt --- the correct spelling of my last name is Barnhardt.