

Sibley's Store Research  
Compiled by Becky Foster Barnhardt June 2006

Notes on primary source records:

1. Building values were not listed in the Mathews County Virginia land tax records (LTR) prior to 1819.
2. Deed book (DB) records for Mathews County Virginia, prior to September 1865, were burnt in Richmond during the Civil War.
3. Plat Book records for Mathews County Virginia exists from 1817 to the present.

Records regarding Mathews Courthouse area:

1. "1792 BUILDING MATHEWS COURT HOUSE – Mathews County ... at a Court held ... October 8<sup>th</sup>, 1792 Ordered that the Sheriff of this county pay unto Richard Billups Eighty pounds being part of the money Levied for the purpose of building the courthouse." [Records of Colonial Gloucester County Virginia compiled by Polly Cary Mason. Volume II. 1948] [Note: The current old court building is not this building ... a new court house was built circa 1835.]
2. "1798 SUBSCRIPTION PAPER – FOR A MAIL CARRIER – We the subscribers wishing to imply back rider ... to ... from Mathews Court House to Gloucester Court House for one year ... the Said Letters are to be delivered to the care of Mr. Henry Rispass at his Tavern at Mathews Court House." [Records of Colonial Gloucester County Virginia compiled by Polly Cary Mason. Volume II. 1948]
3. "MATHEWS C. H. or *Westville*, P. V. and *seat of justice*, is situated near the centre of the county. It lies in 37<sup>o</sup> 35' N. lat. And 0<sup>o</sup> 40' E. long. Of Washington, 100 ms. E. of R. and 184 from W. C. Westville contains about 30 houses, 4 mercantile stores, 1 tanyard, 3 boot & shoe factories, 1 tailor, 2 blacksmiths, 1 saddler, 1 carriage maker and 1 tavern. The public buildings are a very neat, new C. H., 2 jails, 1 for criminals and the other for debtors, and a clerk's office. These houses are all well built of brick. Westville is a port of entry; there are 2 regular packets which ply between this place and Norfolk weekly, and 1 that runs from it to Baltimore. Population 150, including 3 regular physicians." [Joseph Martin's 1835 Gazetteer of Virginia & D. C. Charlottesville, 1835]

Sibley's store

1. 2 ½ story Victorian store constructed 1899/1900 under ownership of Henry Sibley & Francis Joseph Sibley. [Mathews Co. VA Land Tax Record of 1900 – value of buildings \$1100]
2. 2 Store houses on property were valued at \$350 for tax years 1846-1858; \$300 for tax years 1859-1871; \$400 for tax years 1872-1890; \$350 for tax years 1891-1894; \$250 for tax years 1898 & 1899. [LTR]
3. Prior to 1846, the store houses were located on the home site of Thomas James.

**Succession of Owners**

**Thomas James**

1815-1818: 54 acres; Court House [Deed from John Patterson c. 1815] (LTR)

1819: 54 acres; Court House; \$630 Bldgs. (LTR)

1820: 74 acres; Court House (LTR) [Building values not listed in the 1820 land tax records]

1821-1826: 74 acres; Court House; \$666 Bldgs. [1824: 18 acres; no Bldgs. Deed from Catherine James] (LTR)

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1827: 74 acres; Court House; \$1184 Bldgs. (LTR)  
1828: 74 acres; Court House; \$666 Bldgs. (LTR)  
1829: 74 acres; Court House; \$666 Bldgs.; 18 acres; \$234 Bldgs (LTR)  
1830-1839: 74 acres; Court House; \$666 Bldgs.; 18 acres; \$540 Bldgs (LTR)  
1840-1845: 129  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres; Court House; \$2000 Bldgs. (LTR)

**John Dixon Jarvis & Elijah Barnum**

1846-1858: 1 acre; \$350 Bldgs. [1846 LTR: Deed from W. M. Brownley for part of T. J. (Thomas James)] (LTR)

1859-1861: 1 acre; Store Lot, Court House; \$300 Bldgs. (LTR)

**Elijah Barnum Estate**

1862, 1868, 1870, 1871: 1 acre; Store Lot, Court House; \$300 Bldgs. (LTR)  
1872-1876, 1878-1890: 1 acre; Store Lot, Court House; \$400 Bldgs. (LTR)  
1891, 1893, 1894: 1 acre; Store Lot, Court House; \$350 Bldgs. (LTR)

**William Northam Trader & John W. Dixon, Jr.**

28 March 1893: William N. Trader and John W. Dixon, Jr. purchase "Barnum Store house Lot" from Maryus Jones, G. T. Garnet and J. W. Stubbs, Special Commissioners of the Circuit Court of Mathews County. Chancery suit Barnum vs Billups. (DB 10/403-404)

24 March 1899: John W. Dixon, Jr. and his wife, Marian D., to William N. Trader. Suit Trader vs Dixon – settlement of the Mercantile partnership, Nov. 1884-Oct. 1894. (DB 12/193)

1898, 1899: 50/ acre; Court House (store lot); \$250 Bldgs. (LTR)

**Henry Sibley & Francis Joseph Sibley**

29 May 1899: William N. Trader and his wife, Sallie B. to Henry Sibley and F. J. Sibley  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the "Barnum Store House Lot" – which was conveyed to William N. Trader and John W. Dixon, Jr. jointly by Maryus Jones, Special Commissioner for suit Barnum vs Billups. (DB 12/231-232)

1900: 50/ acre; Court House; \$1100 Bldgs. (LTR)

**Cecil Miller Sibley**

13 Dec. 1945: F. Joseph Sibley and his wife, Ellen B., to Cecil M. Sibley portion of .256 acres the  $\frac{1}{2}$  undivided interest in lot. (DB 40/361) (PB 1/78)

**Mary Virginia Shinault Croft Sibley**

1987: Cecil Miller Sibley to wife, Mary C. Sibley. (WB 17/537-539)

**Jerry L. Fruehbrodt and wife, Carol**

14 March 1989: Mary C. Sibley (widow of Cecil Sibley) to Jerry L. Fruehbrodt and wife, Carol Ann. 0.1268 acres. (DB 148/812-813) (WB 17/537-539) (PB 1/78)  
*"Part of .256 parcel of land, a one-half undivided interest ..."*

**Michael J. Brown and wife, Lisa A.**

18 Nov. 2003: Jerry L. Fruehbrodt and his wife, Carol Ann, to Michael J. Brown and his wife, Lisa A. 0.1268 acres. (DB 295/299-306) (DB 329/483, 18 Nov. 2003, Deed of Trust) (PB 17/73)

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*“North by a private road known as Maple Avenue; on the East by the land now or formerly of the County of Mathews; on the south by the land now or formerly of the County of Mathews and the land now or formerly of Thomas Witt, Trustee; and on the West by State Highway route No. 14.”*

**Miscellaneous Notes Regarding Owners**

**Thomas James (1777-c. 1846)**

1. Son of Matthias James and Elizabeth Davis. Born 24 Feb 1777 in Kingston Parish of Gloucester County Virginia [Kingston Parish Register Gloucester and Mathews Counties 1749-1827. compiled and published by Emma R. Matheny and Helen K. Yates]
2. Married c. 1815 Frances Lewis (c. 1785-before 1860)
3. Children:
  - a. Emory James (October 1816-11 November 1891) married Shepard Gabriel Miller (19 September 1808-4 March 1868)
  - b. Alexander James I (8 November 1817-9 December 1865) married Harriet Miller (30 July 1822-bef 1910)
  - c. Leonidas James (7 January 1820-7 July 1884) married Emily Jane [--?--](22 October 1828-8 March 1888)
  - d. Rebecca James (7 May 1825-3 November 1905) married Baldwin Foster (27 July 1815-c. 1878)
  - e. Lemuel James (10 June 1826/1827-21 June 1899) married 1<sup>st</sup> Maria Louise Anderson (28 Dec 1826-11 February 1883); married 2<sup>nd</sup> Columbia Williams (4 April 1835-8 June 1899)
  - f. Mary Frances James (17 October 1826/1827-8 November 1898) married Robert L. Sibley (25 October 1812-1 October 1903)
4. Retail license: 1815; 1816; 1817; 1818; 1819; 1820 [Mathews County VA Land Tax Records. After 1820, retail/merchant licenses were not noted in the land tax records.]
5. Justice of the Peace in 1820 [Richard Billups papers, Box 4 Folder 16. Swem Library at the College of William & Mary]
6. Justice of the Peace: 1819, 1821 & 1824 [Mathews County Virginia Executors' Bonds, 1795-1825 and Guardian Bonds, Book B, 1806-1822]
7. Post master at Mathews Court House – Receipt dated May 30, 1810 to Major Richard Billups from Thomas James: “Post office at Mathews ... “to the postage of your newspapers” [Richard Billups papers, Box 4 Folder 1. Swem Library at the College of William & Mary]

**Elijah Barnum (c. 1797-1861)**

1. Born in New Haven, Connecticut [1860 Federal Census Mathews County VA]
2. Married Lucy A. [--?--] (May 1810-8 February 1884)  
Children:
  - a. Sarah Barnum – no further information
  - b. Clarissa Barnum – no further information
3. 1850 listed as merchant [1850 Federal Census Mathews County VA]

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4. 1860 listed as merchant & farmer [1860 Federal Census Mathews County VA]

**John Dixon Jarvis** (21 August 1773-22 Jan 1854)

1. Son of Lindsey Jarvis and Elizabeth Dixon. Born 21 August 1773 in Kingston Parish of Gloucester County Virginia [Kingston Parish Register Gloucester and Mathews Counties 1749-1827. compiled and published by Emma R. Matheny and Helen K. Yates]

**William Northam Trader** (1844-1914)

1. Son of Samuel Trader (1813-1897) and Emma Jane Dixon (1817-1896). Born in Mathews County Virginia. Died in Mathews, VA on 21 November 1914.
2. Married in Mathews County VA on 26 November 1872, Sarah Elizabeth Dixon, daughter of John W. Dixon and Elizabeth [--?--].

Children:

- a. William Northam Trader, Jr. M. D. (1880[--?--])
- b. Peachie Elizabeth Trader (1882-1965)

**John W. Dixon, Jr.** (c. 1865-1922)

1. Son of John W. Dixon and Elizabeth [--?--]. Died in Hampton, VA on 29 April 1922.
2. Married Marion Davis, daughter of Joseph Davis (c. 1830-October 1890) and Amanda Foster (c. 1840-5 June 1880).

Children:

- a. Adopted son, Boyd Sears Dixon (1898-1961) married Gaynelle Dillehay (1898-1950)

**Henry Sibley** (1864-1937)

1. Son of Robert L. Sibley (1812-1903) and Mary Frances James (1827-1898). Born in Mathews County VA on 12 February 1864. Died in Mathews County VA on 4 December 1937.
2. Married in Mathews County VA on 20 November 1895, Helen Augusta Miller (19 January 1871-28 May 1952), daughter of Andrew J. Miller (1840-1916) and Ruby G. Armistead (1843-1932).

Children:

- a. Ruby Armistead Sibley (1897-1980) married Bennett Graves White
- b. Henry Merritt Sibley (1903-1964)

3. Postmaster at Mathews Court House from May 1893-May 1897

**Francis Joseph Sibley** (1866-1946)

1. Son of Robert L. Sibley (1812-1903) and Mary Frances James (1827-1898). Born in Mathews County VA on 29 July 1866. Died in Mathews County VA on 6 September 1946.
2. Married in Mathews County VA on 25 April 1900, Ellen Byrd Miller (11 February 1876-17 November 1956), daughter of George S. Miller (1 May 1846-19 September 1905) and Lucie Armistead 14 June 1841-22 May 1910).

Children:

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- a. Lucy Virginia Sibley (1902-1986) married Harry Parkins
- b. Mary Sibley (1903-1993) married Roland Bott
- c. Howard Lee Sibley (25 October 1906-17 August 1907)
- d. Cecil Miller Sibley (11 September 1909-29 Oct 1987) married Mary Virginia Shinault
- e. Ellen B. Sibley (1916-1991) married Slade Webber

### **Cecil Miller Sibley** (11 September 1909-29 Oct 1987)

1. Son of Francis Joseph Sibley (1866-1946) and Ellen Byrd Miller 1876-1956). Born in Mathews County VA. Died 29 October 1987 in Walter Reed Memorial Hospital in Gloucester, VA.
2. "... operated the general store (Sibley's) since 1945 when he was discharged from the U. S. Army." [The Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal newspaper. 5 Nov. 1987]
3. Married Mary Virginia Shinault, daughter of James Monroe Shinault (1871-1945) and Ruby Gayle White (1885-1973). [Note: Mary Virginia Shinault was the widow of Leslie W. Croft.]