

Richard R. Grayson, M.D.

Internal Medicine

24 Hour Telephone: 584-2230

103 West Main Street, St. Charles, Illinois

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Leon Brooks

P.O. Box 7392

Shreveport, La. 71107

Dear Leon,

Thank you so much for all the Grayson information. Enclosed in this letter are my articles of Wren Grayson, Sr., and The Tennessee connection, which contain much of the proven material on my line.

I will now go through your letter minutely and attempt to synthesize some random data: You say that you go back to a Thomas Grayson born in Va. in 1770 but you have no record of his father. Here are some facts: Wm. Grayson, jr., b. 1732 married Anne Smith, was a Capt. in the revolution, died age ⁹ 27 in 1829 in Albemarle co. His children were John, Thomas, Martha, Elizabeth (m. Jos. Sutherland), Susan (m. Isaac Wood 1st, ___ Tomlin 2nd), & Joseph Grayson (m. Rhoda White) who died 1867: their chs were Thomas (m. Mary Jones), Anne, Frances, Elizabeth, John, & William. A Thomas Grayson on 11 July 1788 married Jenny Field, spinster, in Albemarle county, Va. Was the Thomas above, son of William, jr., your Thomas?

The Father of the William Grayson above is probably William Grayson of Cumberland county, Great Britain who bought land in Va. in 1732, moved to Albemarle county in 1767 (?). He might have been a brother to Benjamin,

Ambrose, Thomas, John, jr., Mary, and Elizabeth. Their father was definitely John Grayson, Sr. who married Susannah and whose 1st deed is recorded 22 April 1714. His son, John Grayson jr., of Lancaster county married ~~Elizabeth~~ Barbary. No children are known.

When and if I connect my line with one of these I shall ask you for proofs and you can do likewise, but at present I will summarize mostly.

The Benjamin, son of the 1st Ambrose, could be the Benjamin of Wilkes county. What do you have on this Benjamin? Why do you think he was a son of Ambrose, Sr.?

The 5 sons of Benjamin of Wilkes county are probably
1. Wren, b. 1782 (my ancestor) 2. Joseph who went to Knox county Tenn, then Bladsoe then Marion county 3. Josse Grayson
4. John Grayson 5. William or Benjamin. I am at present investigating this line.

I notice you say William Grayson, b. 1732 Spots. co married Eleanor Sanford and had a different list of Children from the list I gave on page 1. The name Sanford might be important because Wren Grayson Sr. named one of his sons Sanford. This must be a different William family...perhaps the "Billoy" who was a son of William* Grayson (d. 1801) and Rachel Cooley. I think this William* was a son of Ambrose 1st because he also had a son Ambrose. However, you have this family as the son of II John and Barbara Grayson. Do you have proof? That John Grayson must be the 3rd son of John sr., m. Barbary.

Are you aware of the Thomas Grayson of Goochland county, Va. born May 2, 1756 to James Grayson and Elizabeth Williams? (21 (Tyler's, p. 187, vol?).


Page 3.

On Page 1 of your letter you say your lineage goes to Thomas Grayson b. 1770, but on p. 2 of the mimeographed section you say that John Grayson b. 1770 is your direct ancestor. Perhaps the latter is your a older theory, or copied from a correspondent.

I am enclosing my summary of facts and theories on all Ambrose Graysons which I prepared last month. All this gets so complicated I think I'll buy an I.B.M. 360 to digest it.

Please keep corresponding so we can get our computers working together,

Cordially yours,


Dick Grayson

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LEON E. BROOKS
P. O. BOX 7392
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71107

April 5, 1974

Richard R. Grayson, M.D.
103 West Main St.
St. Charles, Illinois

Dear Dr. Grayson:

I have researched the Grayson family for several years. My immediate lineage is traced to a Thomas Grayson who was born in 1770 supposedly (tradition) in Virginia then appears in Kentucky (Logan and Christian Co.). From 1795 on I have all of Thomas's information on both him and his discendants. This includes a copy of his marriage liscense and his family Bible with all of his 13 children's birth's recorded. I am a part owner (1/8) of his family home in Louisiana built in 1836.

I have no record of his father or mother although one source several years ago said his father was probably Edward or Edwin. I have about ruled this out.

I will now just set down some thoughts and information in a rambling sort of way and would appreciate any corrections, additions or comments you may have regarding any of the following:

I strongly believe that all of the Graysons that trace to the 1700's are related in some way. This seems to be born out by the occurrence of the same names in different branches of the family.

The first Grayson that I have found reference to was William Grayson age 20 in 1635. He immigrated to Virginia on the ship "Safety" as listed in Holten's "List of Immigrants to America". I have no other reference to this William.

The next documented Grayson reference is to Richard Grayson - Eliz. Co. Va. in a 1642 land grant.

The next which I consider very significant for several reasons is in 1687 where the records of Christ Church Middlesex Co. Va. record the birth of a son Charles to Thomas and Mary Grayson.

Middlesex County, Va. is directly across the bay from Lancaster Co. where Grayson's played a prominent part in "Christ Church" Parish from 1700-1716. Also, the name Thomas recurs often in this area after this time.

At this point in time (1700-1740) there is some controversy as to lineage. I will briefly set out two prevailing schools of thought.

One (with which I disagree) is that three brothers and one sister landed at Christ Church Parish, Lancaster Co., Va. in July 1695. They were Benjamin, John, Ambrose, and Mary Grayson. Benjamin settled in Prince Williams Co., Va., while John and Ambrose settled in Spotsylvania Co., Va. Mary married a Mr. Harrison. From the information I can find and I will admit it is not sufficiently documented I believe that John was the father of this Benjamin and Ambrose. The lineage would be.

John Grayson - born in England d. Va. - 1735 - Spotsylvania Co., Va. M. Susannah.

His estate account only lists two children, Thomas and John, Jr. This of course is not unusual when the eldest son named. Since Thomas, the eldest, was not with the rest of the family in America, the next eldest, John Jr. was named. At the time of his death Thomas was living in England and it is possible he was born there and did not immigrate with his family in 1695.

1. Thomas - Eldest living in Deal of Kent England in 1737. There was a Thomas in Spotts, Co., Va. 1754 which could be this Thomas, his son, or a nephew.
2. John, Jr. - In the colonial Militia in 1729. Was a justice of the peace along with his father in 1729 at St. George Parish. (No other family of John, Jr. is known by me.)

3. Ambrose - b. England 1680 - D. Spots Co., Va. Sept. 6, 1742. Married Alice Y. was a St. George Parish Warden in 1733. His brother Benjamin was the Executor of his Estate. He lists a son John and a son Ambrose. Mentions other children but does not name them. They are probably: Ambrose, John, Benjamin, William, Alice, Susannah, Ann, Reuben, and Thomas.

(I feel this is the closest tie I have been able to make to "My Thomas" since this branch had both a son Thomas and a Reuben, and both Grayson names appear in Logan Co., Ky. at the same time around 1795. Since "My Thomas" was born 1770 he would, of course have to be a grand child.)

In 1777 there was an Ambrose Grayson scalped by Indians near Logans Fort, Ky. I have no idea of his father other than it was undoubtedly this same branch.

One source has Ambrose, J. dying in 1755 or 1756, his will was proved March 2, 1756. This was a nuncupative (oral) will given to Thomas Grayson in 1754.

4. Benjamin - Was a colonel in the militia in 1740. M. Susannah Monroe (which was her 3rd marriage.)

From this point on the lineage of this Benjamin (d. 1757) whose lineage I have traced to the 1900's. Spence (b. 1734) who was most prolific but whose descendants have been well established, Col. William b. 1736 who was Gen'l. Washingtons aide, and Susannah Monroe Grayson b. 1743. If you can trace to this branch you are very fortunate since there is a dearth of information available. I'm not so lucky.

Benjamin had a brother Ambrose, and with this part of the above I agree. He was born in England in 1680 M. Alice in 1727 d. 1742. He had a son Ambrose.

I have acres of information on this Benjamins descendants and will give you any of it you wish, but I have traced all Benjamins in every direct line of his enough to establish that the Benjamin Grayson in Wilkes Co., N.C. in 1790 cannot be a direct descendant of this Benjamin. Therefore! he must be a descendant of Thomas, John Jr., or Ambrose. *or William, Jr.*

It is interesting to note the following:

In a census of 1787 Wilkes Co., N.C. Capt. Isbel's District Benjamin Grayson as head of family shows:

- 1 - White male 21-60
- 5 - White males under 21 over 60
- 3 - White females all ages

(This could be Benjamin - His wife 5 sons and 2 daughters under 21).

In 1790 Wilkes Co., N.C. Capt. Morgan's District shows:

- 3 - White males over 16
- 2 - White females under 16
- 2 - White females including head of family

This same census of 1790 shows a John Grayson:

- 1 WM
- 1 WFM

This compares closely if - 1 Son John (under 21 in 1787) is now married leaving - 2 Sons over 16 and 1 under 16 in 1790. There is now an extra female (2 under 16, 2 over) compared to a total 43 in 1787, but this is not too disturbing.

Also, in a Roster of Soldiers, from N.C. in the Am. Revolution, Pub. 1932, Benjamin Grayson is listed as in the militia from Morgan District.

A Thomas Grayson is shown as from N.C. and aboard Forbay Prison Ship in 1781.

The one thing that doesn't quite fit is that neither Benjamin above or Thomas were listed in the census of 1782.

Perhaps you have some better information but since I can find no will for either or in fact any Grayson for Wilkes Co. from 1778-1811 I assume they left there prior to 1811.

Although I intended to write more at this time, since I travel quite a lot I am going ahead and get the above to you and hope it offers some clues and will appreciate if you can let me know other information you may have that we can reach some common ground.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leon E. Brooks" followed by a flourish that appears to be "Ly. A. D.".

Leon E. Brooks

LEB/fb

907 Picardy
Lufkin, Texas
April 19, 1974

Dear Mr. Brooks,

I was glad to hear from you again. I have turned up very little on the Grayson family since I wrote last time. However, I will try to answer your questions to the best of my ability.

First all I will tell you where I obtained the bulk of information on the early history of the family. It came from :

Mrs. Hubert (Mattie Cleveland Grayson) White
108 High St.
Luray, Virginia

The material had been collected by her nephew, a Mr. Lauck, who owned the newspaper in Luray. This was in 1963 and Mrs. White was an elderly lady at the time. Her nephew^v might still be living.

At the time my aunt started working on the family history I was living in Madison Co., Virginia. In an old Bible my aunt saw in Alabama were these words concerning John Grayson (1770-1826) "born in Spotsylvania, Virginia." My husband came across Mrs. White in a hospital in Charlottesville and discovered her maiden name was Grayson. She told him about her collection of papers and let me borrow them to copy. In the papers was the mention that the first Graysons in America settled in Spotsylvania, Virginia and that Benjamin latter settled in Prince William Co., Va. Because of our family connection with Spotsylvania and the connection of Mrs. White's Grayson ancestors with the same county I deducted that my ancestors and hers were either the same or related.

It was with the above in mind that I went to Spotsylvania and personally researched every record concerning Graysons. I have since learned that someone named Crozier has published an index to the Spotsylvania county records.

There is a slight problem concerning several William Graysons. As you probably know the 1st Federal Census of 1790 for Virginia has been destroyed. The tax rolls for 1782-1787 are used as a substitute. In these you find the following:

Grayson, Col. William	- Loudoun Co.	- 1782
" Col. William	- Prince William Co.	- 1782
" William	- Spotsylvania Co.	- 1782
" William	- Culpeper Co.	- 1783

As noted above there were at least 3 different William Graysons living at the same time in 3 different counties. The William living in Culpeper Co. in 1783 could be 1 of the other 3 who moved or he could have been another William Grayson.

In a book MARRIAGE RECORDS - Virginia, there is a record of a William Grayson who bought land in 1764 in Albemarle Co., died in 1829 age 92 and married Ann Smith daughter of Thomas. This William was thus born in 1737.

20
63
92

Although Mrs. White's records show only 1 marriage and 1 set of children for her ancestor William Grayson (1732-1829) he could have been married more than once. The William Grayson Dr. H.R. Grayson wrote you could be another with the same name or the same one who married a second time and had another set of children.

I knew about John and Barbara Grayson. They lived in Culpeper Co. and in 1750 and 1751 sold their land in Spotsylvania Co. and moved to what is now Montgomery County. I have corresponded with a Mrs. Grayson in Wytheville, Va. whose husband was a descendent. He died in 1802 in Montgomery Co. and I have a copy of his will. Although not positive, I believe him to be the father of my John (1770-1826). In John Grayson's will he mentions his son John as the youngest son. A witness to his will was a James Gordon and my John gave that name to his youngest child.

Ambrose Grayson, Jr. (d. 1794, unmarried) and William (1732-1829) were brothers and the children of Ambrose Grayson, Sr. (1688-1742). Ambrose Sr. was thus 52 when William was born. My grandfather Grayson was 51 when my mother was born.

John
know

John and Barbara Grayson had a son William who married Rachel Cooley and served in the Revolution. He died in 1801 and according to his will had the following children: ~~Isis~~ Billy, Reuben, Ambrose, John, Betsy, Sally, Polly. Compare these with the children of Ambrose Sr. (1680-1742) and notice the repetition of names.

It is my firm belief that my line is thus:

Ambrose Grayson, Sr. - married Alice ?
John " married Barbara ?
John Grayson married Sarah Grayson Carter
Ambrose " married Sarah Vann
Henry Ambrose ? - my grandfather

I know that John and Barbara Grayson settled in Montgomery Co., Va. and his will is recorded there as is that of his son William. It was in Montgomery Co., Va. that my John Grayson married Sallie Carter in 1792.

According to a tax list for Montgomery Co., Va. dated March 7, 1790

Note ✓ John Grayson was the only Grayson who listed a white male between 16 and 21.

Your mention that John Grayson and wife Susannah were the parents of Benjamin and Ambrose is something new to me. John Grayson died in 1736 and Susannah filed as administrator. He left no will. Other records do show at least 2 sons, John Jr. and Thomas who in a land transaction is mentioned as the oldest son. There were at least 2 daughters - Mary who married John Catlett 20 Oct. 1726 and Elizabeth who married Thomas Hill 16 April 1731. This was learned from marriage records.

Who is Dr. P.R. Grayson? May I please have his address? I would like to write him.

I do hope this hasn't been too boring or confusing. If I learn anything new I'll send on to you and hope you will do the same.

P. S. - Thanks,

Sincerely,
Mrs. Dewey Underwood

*Send the
W.C.
Linnick
letter
4/30/79*

LEON E. BROOKS
P. O. BOX 7392
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71107

April 23, 1974

*4/23/74
Cousin + Aunt
Letter
D.C. Comment*

Richard R. Grayson, M.D.
103 West Main Street
St. Charles, Illinois

Dear Dr. Grayson:

I, like you, believe it's almost time to call the computer in for help. It's really hard to solve these Grayson problems, in fact, right now I don't even remember what the problem is.

Possibly the best attack is to broadcast information then pursue fine points; that always seems to lead to additional information. As I said before I have many ideas and questions, but first let me clear up a point that caused you some confusion because my last letter was written in haste.

My statement was that my direct ancestor (as far back as I have authenticated) was Thomas b. Va. 1770 d. La. 1839.

The three sheets I sent showing other information on Benjamin, John and Ambrose, were from a Mrs. Underwood, and the statement of the descendency from John was hers, as were the other references on those sheets. I am enclosing a recent letter of hers as well as one of her relatives, a Mrs. Stokes.

I think it very interesting that her reference to a will of John Grayson (b. 1727 d. 1802) mentioned a John as the youngest son. A witness to this will was a James Gordon - which was the name of the youngest son of John (b. 1770 d. 1826) and Sallie Carter. This is certainly more than coincidence and leads to believe that the descendency is:

- I. Ambrose - Alice Y
 - A. John b. 1727 m - Barbara
 - B. John b. 1770 m - Alice Carter

I therefore agree ~~at~~^{on} this point with Mrs. Underwood.

Next, the two (or one) William Grayson's b. 1732 d. 1829 seems to be an avenue to develop.

First: The information you sent shows these dates with the age 87 - should this be 97?

From Mrs. Underwood:

The William m Anne Smith in marriage records - Va. - shows this William in Albemarle Co. in 1764 d. 1829 age 92 married Anne Smith daughter of Thomas.

-29

This would be b. 1737 d. 1829.

Also could explain name Thomas in this line being also from her father.

The information on William (b. 1732 - 1829) m Eleanor Sanford - children: William, Thomas, Judith, Susannah, Mildred and Joel (b. 1777 d. 1859) came from a Mrs. White, Luray, Va., who was apparently a direct descendant of this William.

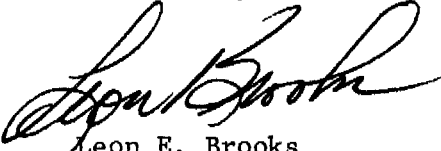
write
for
address

I believe it may be well worth while to contact Mr. Lauck in Luray, Va.

Before I go further I think I'll try to clear these points.

HELP!!!

Yours truly,


Leon E. Brooks

LEB/mh
Enclosures