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Our Immigrant Ancestor?

Thomas German of Calvert County, Maryland, was presumably born in Great Britain. His surname, German, as well as Jarman (the most frequent variant spelling of German) are English, and in Bristol, England, on 30 August 1662, Thomas German became an indentured servant bound to labor four years in Maryland.[EMIGRATION] His motives are not recorded, but in the opinion of contemporary writers, emigrants such as Thomas German were only rabble. In 1662, the year Thomas German appeared at Bristol's docks, the mayor of that port grumbled, "Among those who repair to Bristol from all parts to be transported for servants to his Majesty's plantations beyond the seas, some are husbands that have forsaken their wives, others wives who have abandoned their husbands, some are children and apprentices run away from their parents and masters; oftentimes unwary and credulous persons have been tempted on board by menstealers, and many that have been pursued by hue-and-cry for robberies, burglaries, or breaking prison, do hereby escape the prosecution of law and justice."[COMMENT] The poverty of indentured servants is self evidenced in their inability to pay for their own passage to America. However, instead of painting servants as riffraff, modern social historians have drawn a more mundane picture of these desperate folk. Statistical analysis of servant gender, occupations and origins (when known) show men outnumbered women nearly 3 to 1, most were 18 to 22 years old, and 79% came from places within 60 miles of Bristol. Social historians view servant emigration as an extension of the English pattern of migration from rural areas and towns to cities by persons seeking work.[DEMOGRAPHY] Presumably, frustrated at home, crossing the Atlantic was Thomas German's best remaining hope.

The voyage across the Atlantic took about twelve weeks. When Thomas German arrived, his indenture could be sold to an established planter who needed servants to assist in the work of

indenture could be sold to an established planter who needed servants to assist in the work of raising tobacco. The timing of departure was deliberate because the Tobacco Coast was an unhealthy place for Englishmen, and arriving in the late fall was believed to help the new arrivals become accustomed to their new environment. Many died, but Thomas German survived his first year of "seasoning" and in all probability served the remainder of his contract. After gaining his freedom, it is unlikely that Thomas German soon married because of a shortage of women in seventeenth century Maryland, but the true particulars of his life are obscured by the paucity of records. His name appears on a list of creditors in a 1680 accounting of the estate of Izaacy Vantright in Calvert County, Maryland (60 pounds in tobacco was paid to Thomas German for unexplained reasons).[RESIDENCES] The other creditors on this list are identified through records maintained at the provincial level as persons who lived on the west side of Calvert County near the juncture of Hunting Creek and the Patuxent River, slightly below Abbington Manor. The records of Calvert County were destroyed when the county courthouse burned to the ground in 1882, however, Lord Baltimore's rent rolls survive. In these, Thomas German and a Peter Madrin appear as co-owners, in 1708, of a 40 acre piece of a tract called Lowery's Resurvey situated north of Hunting Creek and near Abbington Manor.[LAND] No further record of Thomas German has been found.

Admittedly, it is a leap of faith to conclude from the meager evidence that the Thomas German who emerges in Calvert County in 1680 is the man of the same name indentured in Bristol in 1662, but the time and circumstances allow this possibility. Additionally, the appearance of Thomas German near Hunting Creek before the emergence there of younger men named John and Robert Jarman offers intriguing genealogical possibilities.

References:

EMIGRATION: Peter Wilson Coldham, **THE BRISTOL REGISTERS OF SERVANTS SENT TO FOREIGN PLANTATIONS, 1654-1686** (Baltimore; Genealogical Publishing Co, 1988), p. 180.

COMMENT: W. Noel Sainsbury et al., eds., **CALENDAR OF STATE PAPERS, COLONIAL SERIES** (London, 1860-), **AMERICA AND WEST INDIES, 1661-1668**, no. 331. Cited by Abbott Emerson Smith, **COLONISTS IN BONDAGE, WHITE SERVITUDE AND CONVICT LABOR IN AMERICA, 1607-1776** (1947, reprint Gloucester, Mass., Peter Smith, 1965), pp. 82-83.

DEMOGRAPHY: David Souden, "'Rogues, whores and vagabonds'? Indentured servant emigration to North America and the case of mid seventeenth-century Bristol," in Peter Clark and David Souden, eds., **MIGRATION AND SOCIETY IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND** (Totowa, NJ, Barnes & Noble Books, 1988), pp. 150-71.

RESIDENCE: Maryland Prerogative Court, Inventories and Accounts, 7A:240, at Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Md.

LAND: Maryland Land Office, Rent Rolls, 3,CV:71, microfilm SR43772, Maryland State Archives. This roll is undated; the date of Thomas German's land ownership was determined from the context.



Emory Jarman's declaration for Revolutionary

Emory Jarman's declaration for Revolutionary War Pension:

(from National Archives pension application file R5555 [North Carolina])

State of Tennessee} On this 9th day of February 1836 personally appeared
Knox County } in open Court at a Circuit Court now holding for said
County by the Hon. Edward Scott, being a Court on record, Emory Jarman a
citizen of said County aged 73 years who upon his oath made the following
declaration in order to obtain the benefits of an act of Congress passed on
the 5th June 1832 That he was born in Queen Ann County, Maryland on the 1st
day of February 1763, where he lived about 3 years, when he moved with his
father to Anson County N. Carolina, where he continued during the whole
of the revolutionary war and for several years after, when he moved to
Cumberland Cty N.C. where he lived about 30 years, when he moved to Wayne
County Tennessee where he lived about 8 years, when he moved and permanently
settled in Knox County Tenn. where he has continued to live ever since and
still lives.

He states that he cannot remember accurately the precise period when he
first entered into the army but he thinks it was about 3 years before the
termination of the war, when he entered the army as a private volunteer,
and was enrolled at Anson Court house into a company commanded by Captain
Patrick Bogan and which company was attached to a Regiment commanded by
Colonel Wade - he states that he marched under said officers against the
tories who were embodied at Beatties Bridge on Drowning Creek, and after
dispersing them there, he returned home having been in service one week - he
states that shortly after this service, he marched under the same officers
to dislodge the British who were stationed in a brick house near Wilmington
- he states that on coming near the brick house his company took two British
soldiers prisoners, and these prisoners told them how strongly the house was
fortified and dissuaded them from attempting to take it, and the prisoners
having told them of a body of tories who were collected a short distance
below on the Cape Fear River - applicant with his company marched against
them and dispersed them, after which they returned home having been in
service one week - applicant states that shortly after his return from this
last service he was drafted for a tour of three months and was enrolled into
a company commanded by Captain James Fair under whose command he marched to
Anson old Courthouse where the whole of the draft from Anson County were
collected, and then applicant marched with all the troops of said County
down to Col. Arringtons command, which was stationed near the Hickory Grove
on Big Pee Dee river - applicant states after reaching Col. Arringtons
station his said Captain Fair left the army and returned home, and applicant
and his company were put under some other Captain, whose name he does not
now recollect - he remained there under the command of Col. Arrington until
the three months for which he had been drafted had expired when he returned
home - applicant states that but a few days after his return home he again
volunteered and went under the command of his former Captain Bogan and
marched towards Camden to join Genl. Gates army - he joined said army but a
few hours before the battle in which Gates was defeated and fought a little
while in the left wing, when he retreated with the balance of the army and
returned home - applicant states he was in service this tour four days -
Applicant states that but a few days after Gates defeat he enlisted into
the regular army at Anson New Courthouse, for a term of eighteen months
under Captain Miller, under whom he marched to Salisbury N.C. where he was
placed into a company commanded by Captain Sharp, which company was attached
to a Regiment under the command of Col. Archibald Little - under these
officers applicant marched to Charleston S.C. was stationed on James Island

until after the British had evacuated Charleston and peace was approaching, when applicant was honorably discharged on James Island by Col. Little and he returned home - he was discharged about two months before the period of his enlistment had expired, making his service in the regular army a period of 16 months - applicant states that he performed service in the revolutionary war as above stated, as a private militia man, three months, two weeks and four days, and as a private in the regular army sixteen months, amounting altogether to a service of nineteen months two weeks and four days, for which he claims a pension - applicant states that he has a record of his age in his Bible, which was taken from his fathers record - he states that there is no Clergyman living in his neighbourhood - he states that the individuals in his neighbourhood who are acquainted with him and can testify as to his veracity and his reputation for having served in the revolutionary war are James Murry, Ruben Walker, Elijah Walker, Robert Gallaher and others - he states that he received a written discharge at the expiration of his said three months service, from Col. Arrington, and also a written discharge from Col. Little at the time he left the regular army - these discharges he states are both long since lost and destroyed. He states that he has no documentary proof whatever of his said services, nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procur, who can testify to his services. He hereby relinquishes all claim to any pension or annuity whatever except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension list roll of the agency of any state

Sworn to and Subscribed
in open Court this
9th day of February 1836

Emory Jarman



Jarman & German Civil War Roster

These lists of Southern participants in the War Between the States are probably not complete. If you believe your ancestor should appear in these rosters, please send his name, rank, state, and military unit (e.g.: company and regiment) to John L. German. Copies of military records for most of these men may be obtained from the National Archives (requests must be submitted on NATF Form 80).

Choose side:

- ☐ CONFEDERATE
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Some Civil War links:

- ☐ [Submit email request for NATF Form 80](#)
- ☐ [United Daughters of the Confederacy](#)
- ☐ [Tennessee Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans](#)



Born Losers

From the *Nashville Dispatch*, Sunday 10 September 1865:

"A bushwacker by the name of Columbus G[e]rman was arrested by the Sheriff of Overton county a few days ago and brought to this city yesterday. On the way to the city he made an attempt at suicide, but only succeeded in cutting his throat skin deep. He is represented as a notorious and desperate character, and will be held to answer the charges of rape and murder. He is now in the military prison, where he will remain until charges are preferred and his case is set for trial."

