

JUDITH JEFFERSON

Judith Jefferson, through her grandmother, [Mary Branch Jefferson \(1657-1715\)](#), wife of [Thomas Jefferson I \(1629-1697\)](#), has had her descent traced to Royalty, including King Edward I, William the Conqueror and Charlemagne. Her grandfather, [Major Peter Field \(1647-1707\)](#), a gentleman justice, is said to have been the grandson of Theophilus Field, Bishop of Hereford. Her great grandfather, Henry Soane, was Speaker of the House of Burgesses for James City County in 1661.

She was the daughter of [Thomas Jefferson II \(1677-1731\)](#) and [Virginia Mary Field Jefferson](#) (daughter of Major Peter Field and his wife, [Judith \(Soane\) Field](#), widow of [Henry Randolph](#)). She was the aunt of [POTUS Thomas Jefferson](#).

For many decades it was recorded in the genealogical literature that Judith Jefferson married [William Farrar IV](#), the last owner of Farrar's Island. Two documents referenced in Miss Alvahn Holmes 1979 book "Some Farrar's Island's Descendants" proved she didn't. They were, the deed of sale of Farrar's Island to Thomas Randolph, 05 Feb 1727, which was preceded by a Henrico County Court record dated 03 Feb 1727, stating that "Sarah Farrar", wife of the said Farrar (William Farrar IV) relinquished her dower rights. Secondly, the 20 Aug 1809 obituary of George Farrar's son, Thomas Farrar, in Franklin Co., GA stating he was a cousin of President Thomas Jefferson (first cousin to be exact).

Judith, aunt of POTUS Thomas Jefferson, married George Farrar, Sr., circa 1717/1718, at Mecklenburg Co., VA. George Farrar was of the last generation of Farrars born on Farrar's Island, Henrico Co., VA. After their marriage, they initially resided on Farrar's Island. On March 15, 1725 Judith's father, Thomas Jefferson II (1677-1731), wrote his will in Henrico County. In it he made several bequests to Judith Farrar, among them a share in the proceeds from the sale of his "half of Grilly's Mill, the land mortgaged by Richard Grilly, etc". Later, on 04 Nov 1728 (the year following the sale of Farrar's Island to the Thomas Randolph) Thomas Jefferson II won a law suit against Matthew Ligon for rightful possession of this land, being 150 acres the upper half of a tract taken up by Richard Grills in 1710 and deeded to Thomas Jefferson (II) on September 12, 1717. Matthew Ligon was then ordered to turn the property over to "George Farrar and his heirs forever." This transfer was recorded at Varina Court, 1st Monday in April 1729. Already having willed part of this property to Judith Farrar, Thomas Jefferson II, after winning the suit, decided to give her the whole plantation in his lifetime and thus deeded it to her in the name of her husband, George Farrar.

George and Judith Farrar occupied this plantation for thirty years, during which he was active in the life of the county, serving on the jury, acting as appraiser and proccessioner of land in 1736. (A patentee was required to cultivate a certain portion of his land and the proccessioner's duty was to make periodic checks as to its use.)

The exact date they moved to Mecklenburg Co. is unclear but it was circa 1760/61. The move was probably prompted by Judith's desire to live near her brother, Field Jefferson, who had established

a large estate on the north side of the Roanoke River near the Howards, where he operated a ferry for years.

Children of Judith Jefferson and George Farrar, Sr. were:

1. Abel Farrar, not named in his father's 16 Mar 1772 will as he died in the French and Indian Wars. According to Hening's "Statutes at Large", VIII, p128, "in 1760 George Farrar received the balance of Abel Farrar's pay as lieutenant, 19 lb. 15 sh., Chesterfield County".
2. Field Farrar, Sr., mentioned in his father's 16 Mar 1772 will, b. 1724(?) Chesterfield Co., VA, d. North Carolina, m. Martha _____. By 09 Feb 1767, he was living in N.C. Captain Field Farrar, officer of the S.C. Line was taken prisoner at the Fall of Charleston, 12 May 1780.
3. Mary Moore Farrar, mentioned in her father's 16 Mar 1772 will, b. Abt. 1720 in Henrico Co., VA, d. before 13 Mar 1793 in Mecklenburg Co., VA, m. circa 1744 to Thomas Moore at Henrico Co., VA.
4. William Farrar, mentioned in his father's 16 Mar 1772 will, b. 1724(?) Chesterfield Co., VA, d. Circa 1788 at Granville Co., N. C., m. Lucy Medley (probably his 2nd wife). William was a Sergeant in the French and Indian Wars, September 1756.
5. George Farrar, mentioned in his father's 16 Mar 1772 will as deceased, b. 1722(?) Chesterfield Co., VA (Probably the oldest son), d. Bef. October 1861 at Mecklenburg Co., VA, m. January 1751 to Mrs. Diana (Hillsman) Howard, the widow of Francis Howard. (Interestingly, George's brother, Thomas Farrar, married Diana's daughter, Elizabeth Howard.) George was the first of the Farrar family to move to Mecklenburg County, soon followed by his parents and brothers. He was associated with his uncle, Field Jefferson, who had a large plantation in Mecklenburg County.
6. Thomas Farrar, mentioned in his father's 16 Mar 1772 will, b. 10 Aug 1726 on Farrar's Island, Henrico Co., VA according to a statement of his grandson, Judge F. H. Farrar in 1894, d. 20 Aug 1809 at the home of his son, Abner, in Carnesville, Franklin Co., GA (age 83), m. Elizabeth Howard, daughter of Mrs. Diana (Hillsman) Howard, the widow of Francis Howard. Diana Howard had married secondly Thomas' brother, George Farrar.
7. Priscilla Farrar, mentioned in her father's 16 Mar 1772 will as Prisell (Priscilla) Howard, b. Circa 1740 at Chesterfield Co., VA, d. 08 Nov 1808, Oglethorpe Co., GA, m. 1) Henry Howard (1729-1781) on 04 May 1762 at Lunenburg Co., VA. Henry Howard was the first cousin of Elizabeth Howard who married Priscilla's brother, Thomas Farrar. 2) Mr. Sanders
8. Peter Farrar, mentioned in his father's 16 Mar 1772 will, b. 06 Jun 1730 Chesterfield Co., VA, d. 01 Oct 1815 Edgefield Co., S.C., m. 17 Jun 1754 Mary Magdalene (Chastaine) Cocke, widow of James Cocke.
9. John Farrar, mentioned in his father's 16 Mar 1772 will, b. Circa 1738 Chesterfield Co., VA, d. 1808 Wake Co., N.C., m. Rebecca Puryear, daughter of John and Martha (Normant) Puryear. John was appointed 2nd Lieutenant (Militia) on 13 Oct 1777 and took the oath for Captain on 08 Feb 1778, New London, Bedford Co., VA.

Source:

"Some Farrar's Island Descendants" by Alvahn Holmes, 1979, pp141-143,145,154-156, 202-207,278-279,298-300,332-335.

Bio by Gresham Farrar.