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Subject: [THOMPSON-L] Thompson Nexus V03N02Fa91P03

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THOMPSON FAMILY OF MERCER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

"The story of my branch of our tree begins with a family tradition: An old Irish gentleman, friend of grandfather, AKIN THOMPSON, used to get a great charge out of saying to grandfather, 'If your father's father, hadn't left Ireland between the two sons, he would have been hung, and if his father's father (his grandfather) hadn't left Ireland also between the two sons in the same scow, he also would have been hung. When I was in Pennsylvania in 1965 I ask some questions regarding this old family joke; and it was explained to me in this way:

"Three of our paternal ancestors (generation 1-2-3, I suppose), left Ireland, probably because of religious persecutions. They left in the night time by scow and were picked up at sea by a ship, whose name is unknown, and brought to America. We believe that the youngest of these three men was John Thompson who married Sarah ( ) and settled in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, prior to the birth of their first child in 1809. Later they removed to Springfield township (now Findley) in Mercer County, where he bought 107 acres and established the Thompson homestead in 1822... [on land previously] owned by the Gorden family, one of whose daughters inter-married with the Thompsons. Joyce Thompson says that her father told her the same story, adding that his ancestor hid in a potato barrel on board ship.

I. JOHN THOMPSON married Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ (surname possibly Cochran) before 1809; lived Westmoreland, and Mercer Co, PA. Purchased land from John Cochran of Franklin Co. on 4 April 1822. John died 27 Aug 1846; his will was probated in Mercer County 16 Sept 1845. Children:

1. James M. Thompson b. 10 Nov. 1809. Line continued as II-A.
2. Cochran Thompson b. 1817; m. Amanda P. \_\_\_\_, b. 1823 Connecticut; d. 3 May 1883 Oil City, Venango Co., PA. Children: (1) Weathary Thompson b. 1848; (2) Melissa Thompson b. 1853; (3) Wilbur Thompson b. 1856: d. 31 Dec. 1912; m. 29 Sept 1887, Katie Shield.
3. John Gibson Thompson b. 4 July 1829. Line continued as II-B.
4. Mary Thompson b. ca 1807; m. William Parker.
5. Sara Thompson b. b/t 1810-1820; m. Nelson Tyce or Tice.
6. Elizabeth Thompson b. ca 1805; m. William Robinson.
7. Margaret Anne Thompson b. ca 1821.
8. Nancy Thompson b. 1802 or 1804; m. John Wilson.

II-A. JAMES M. THOMPSON b. 10 Nov. 1809 in Springfield, Westmoreland Co., PA; s/o John and Sarah; d. 12 Oct 1853, Mercer Co., PA; m. Nancy Gordon, d/o John Gordon and Amelia Barton. James was farmer and miner and was killed on 12 Oct. 1853 in mining accident, excavating for clay at the Gilson Blast Furnace company in Springfield. He is buried in Citizens Cemetery. Children (all born, lived and died in Mercer Co.)