

TOP TEN HORSLEY MYTHS
Regarding James Horsley Sr. of Maryland (c1685-c1748) and Descendants

Researched and compiled by Joan Horsley

These are the Top Ten Horsley Myths about James Horsley Sr., James Horsley Jr., and Valentine Horsley currently widespread (as of Dec 2010) on the internet and in library family files, together with corrections based upon primary records research to date. Following the Top Ten list, I discuss how the myths may have originated and then give the basic sources upon which each fact is based.

Complete sources and explanations of my evidence are found in my research reports on James Horsley Sr., James Horsley Jr., and Valentine Horsley available on my website "Joan Horsley's Genealogical Research" at: www.JoanHorsley.org

TOP TEN HORSLEY MYTHS

MYTH 1: James Horsley Sr. was a merchant who settled in Baltimore, Maryland and was buried on Kent Island, Maryland.

FACT 1: **James Horsley Sr.** was a literate and highly skilled carpenter (not a merchant), he never settled in Baltimore, and he did not live on Kent Island, so presumably was not buried there.

James Horsley Sr. is first found in Annapolis, MD in 1712. He went to Prince George's Co, MD c.1717, then moved to Queen Anne's Co, MD c.1720. From at least 1728 on, James Horsley resided 25-30 miles upriver from Kent Island near Church Hill on the mainland of Queen Anne's County, where he died c.1748. His grave site has not been located.

MYTH 2: James Horsley Sr. was from the titled Horsley family near Morpeth, Northumberland, England, and he immigrated to Maryland from England during the time of Cromwell.

FACT 2: **James Horsley Sr.** was **not** of that titled Horsley line of Northumberland, England. That family's last surviving male was Sir Thomas Horsley, Knight, born 1612, who left no male heirs.

James Horsley Sr. was probably born c.1685 (almost 30 years after Oliver Cromwell's rule) and died c.1748. He almost certainly was not an immigrant but born in Maryland.

MYTH 3: James Horsley Sr. and wife Mary Seward had only one child, James Jr.

FACT 3: **James** and **Mary Seward Horsley** had at least 4 children: **Hannah** (m. Thomas Tharp), **James Jr.** (m. Patience), **Thomas** (m. Mary Connikin, widow), and **Richard** (wife's name unknown).

MYTH 4: James Horsley Jr.'s wife was named Margaret Valentine, and they had eight children.

FACT 4: **James Horsley Jr.**'s wife was named **Patience**. Her family name is not yet known, but there is little chance that it was Valentine, as no Valentine families have been found anywhere in the area where James and Patience married. (The given name of their son Valentine was not an uncommon name in their place and time.)

The children of James and Patience Horsley proved by primary records so far are these four:

1-**Richard** (m. Margaret Brandon), 2-**Valentine** (m. Sarah Kendrick), 3-**Susannah** (m. Samuel Matthews/Mathis), and 4-**William** (marriage unknown; appears to have died with no children)

MYTH 5: James Horsley Jr.'s son Richard Horsley's wife was named Susan.

FACT 5: **Richard Horsley's** wife was named **Margaret Brandon**, daughter of John N. Brandon. Richard did have a sister Susannah and a daughter Susannah, sometimes called Susan.

MYTH 6: Valentine Horsley was born in Monforth, MD and died 8 Sep 1843.

FACT 6: **Valentine Horsley** was born on land called Bishopsfield in Queen Anne's County, MD, where his parents were residing at his birth on 18 Jan 1758.

Extensive research has found **no place called Monforth** was ever in Queen Anne's County, MD. (Research included historical maps, county histories, tax/census districts, property names, etc.)

Valentine Horsley died **18 Sep 1843**, according to his obituary the week of 27 Sep 1843. The mistaken date of 8 Sep is from his grave marker, which was erected in the mid-1900's. (His grave marker also mistakenly says he was in Georgia Troops in the Revolutionary War, which came from a misunderstanding of his 1827 GA land grant. Valentine would have served in Virginia Troops, as he entered the war while living in Halifax Co, VA and was at Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown, VA.)

MYTH 7: James Horsley Jr.'s son Valentine Horsley served under Gen. Nathanael Greene in the Revolutionary War and named a son "Nathaniel Green Horsley" after his commanding officer.

FACT 7: There is **no evidence** that **Valentine Horsley** served under Gen. Greene, and records show Valentine's son was named simply **Greene Horsley**.

Valentine's war service record has not survived, but he entered the war from Halifax Co, VA, and his obituary says he was present at the surrender of Yorktown. These facts indicate Valentine would have served with Virginia militia units, as did his brother Richard (whose pension statement does not list Gen. Greene as one of his commanding officers). While some of Valentine's service may have been in the Southern Campaign during the time when Gen. Greene had overall command, the troops serving directly under Greene were not present at Yorktown, yet both Valentine and Richard were.

"Greene" by itself was a popular given name in the South after the Revolution, presumably in honor of Gen. Nathanael Greene, the hero of the war in the South who died suddenly in Georgia in 1786 at age 44. Furthermore, middle names were not commonly given in the South until after Greene Horsley was born c.1802, and none of Valentine's other children had middle names.

It seems that a much later Horsley descendant only assumed Greene Horsley's "full name" was Nathanael Greene Horsley, and assumed he was so named because Valentine must have served closely under Gen. Greene. Anyone who has ever listened to family stories told around a holiday dining table or summer nights on the front porch will recognize how such legends can get started.

MYTH 8: Valentine Horsley's wife Sarah Kendrick was born in Wales.

FACT 8: **Sarah Kendrick** was born in **Halifax County, VA**.

Sarah was born in 1766, and her father **Thomas Kendrick** was in Halifax Co. records 1761–1789.

A complete research report on the Thomas Kendrick family is online at: <www.joanhorsley.org>

MYTH 9: Sarah Kendrick Horsley's mother was named Dolly Lawson.

FACT 9: **Sarah Kendrick's** mother and **Thomas Kendrick's** wife was named **Nancy** (the usual nickname for Anne, Sarah's sister's name). Her maiden name is not yet proved.

In the 1800 York Co, SC census, **Nancy Kendrick**, a widow age 45+, was living next to Thomas Kendrick Sr.'s sons Thomas Jr. and Anthony and close to their brother William. She had two children in her household, the male being in the same age group as Thomas Kendrick Sr.'s youngest son, Joseph, and the female in the same age group as the youngest daughter, Lucy. There were no other Kendrick families in York County whose relative this Nancy Kendrick could be.

Nancy Kendrick's alleged maiden name of Lawson is still only speculation. The possibility of Lawson is based on Thomas and Nancy Kendrick having a great-grandson named "Thomas L. Kendrick" (b. 1827), and the name Lawson then passed down to some of his descendants. However, at that time and place middle names frequently did not come from the ancestral line. Research continues.

MYTH 10: William N. Horsley of York County, SC was a son of James Horsley Jr. and the father of John B. Horsley (b. 1806) and his brother Theophilus T. Horsley (b. 1803).

FACT 10: The father of **John B. and T.T. Horsley** was **William Horsley of Burke County, NC** (died c.1809). He was **not** the same person as William N. Horsley and was **not** a son of James Horsley Jr.

William N. Horsley was born c.1812, a son of David Horsley (Richard's son). He has been mistakenly confused with James Horsley Jr.'s son William Horsley (b. 1767), who died c.1799 with no children

DNA testing confirms that William Horsley of Burke County, NC was not James Horsley Jr.'s son. The two Horsley lines were distantly related, most likely sharing their last ancestor in common around 1600. For details see my report "William Horsley and Hannah Ryan" at: www.joanhorsley.org

MYTH 10+1: Valentine and Sarah Horsley's daughter Elizabeth married a Bullard.

FACT 10+1: **Elizabeth Horsley** married **James Perdue** of Monroe Co, GA, as proved by an 1871 letter written by her niece Sarah T. K. Horsley. Elizabeth and James Perdue had 6 children: Greene H., Caroline (Prater), James Kendrick, Hiram, Enoch, and Elijah Perdue, all born in Monroe Co, GA.

WHERE DID THESE MYTHS COME FROM?

Almost all of the family files I have found on the internet and in libraries as of 2010 regarding James Horsley Sr. of Maryland and his earliest descendants contain the same erroneous information. Except for the mistaken Dolly Lawson name (Myth 9 above), most of these errors are found in *Horsley Families of America* by Brenda Horsley Scott and Roy Deris Horsley Jr. published in 1986. The authors made a significant contribution by presenting what seems to be the first comprehensive publication to compile Horsley genealogies in America. The primary focus was on descendants of James Horsley Sr. of Maryland, whom they assumed at the time to be the progenitor of their own John B. Horsley line. Finding and correcting errors does not in any way negate the importance of this or any other work that has laid the research groundwork and kept interest in the family story alive.

Like many family histories written up to that time, *Horsley Families of America* gives no specific sources or documentation for most of the information. However, it appears that much of the material was sent to the authors by other Horsley descendants and was based on family stories, faulty assumptions, and insufficient or misinterpreted facts. Thus, inevitably, there are errors when compared with original primary records (that is, historical records made at the time of the event).

Prior to the later 1900's, family history most often was based upon oral tradition, legend, family manuscripts with no sources or documentation, speculations presented as facts, and readily-accessible books that included the same surname as ours and assumed to be our line even when there was no other evidence of a family link. This is understandable, since in general most people had limited access to original records and little interest in the methods for researching and interpreting historical documents. Even reading the old-style writing and translating the legal terms and then-common abbreviations can be like learning a foreign language.

Passing on family stories has its own value and significance, but such stories are highly unreliable for factual information. Like the childhood game of "Gossip" or "Telephone" where a story whispered around a circle of players rarely ends up the same as it began, family stories that have come down through several hundred years of telling by an increasingly large circle of relatives have a way of changing over time. Such stories frequently end up confusing names, collapsing generations, combining two or more people into one, and even mistaking the family line about whom the story is told. They also tend to mix, drop, and add details and guesses that then pass on as facts.

Of course, errors in facts are also made by even the most meticulous researchers of original records. But today's genealogy requires that we base our information on the primary documents and interpret them with a knowledge of their historical context and meaning. It also requires citing our sources so others can verify and follow up what we've found and being open to revising our findings as new information comes to light.

Family history is a never-ending story, and I welcome documented corrections and additions to this list of Horsley myths. The more we share with each other, the more accurate our family story will be. In this way we honor our ancestors by coming as close possible to the truth of their lives.

BASIC SOURCES

For complete and specific sources, explanations of the records, and discussions of the evidence, see my research reports on James Horsley Sr., James Horsley Jr., and Valentine Horsley available online at: **www.JoanHorsley.org**

Fact 1:

Frederic Emory. *Queen Anne's County, Maryland, Its Early History and Development. A Series of Sketches Based Upon Original Research by Frederic Emory*. Originally Published in the Centreville Observer 1886-1887. p. 207-208; Anne Arundel County Maryland Court (Land Records), Liber P.K., folios 513-514; Maryland Provincial Court Judgment Record, Liber V. D. No. 1, p 734; Maryland Provincial Court Judgment Record, Liber V.D., No. 1, p. 486; Liber V.D., No. 2, pp.1, 4-6, 6-7; Queen Anne's County Court (Land Records) Liber IK, No. C, p. 215; Queen Anne's County Debt Book (Rent Rolls) 1734-1775; Murtie J. Clark, *Colonial Soldiers of the South, 1732-1774* (Baltimore, MD, USA:

Genealogical Publishing Co., 1999) Queen Anne's County Militia List, 22 Feb 1748/9 [referring to James Horsley Jr.], p. 42.

For explanations of the evidence in these records see my research report on James Horsley Sr.

Fact 2:

Pedigree Chart of Sir Thomas Horsley, Knight. Dated 25 Aug 1666, Newcastle, Northumberland, England. Certified by Sir Thomas Horsley, Knt. Copy to me from Bill Ricalton, Chairman, Longhorsley (Northumberland, England) Historical Society, July 2006.

James Horsley Sr.'s birth date and birth place are based in part on: 1) the fact that James was at least 21 in 1712 and probably older, given the circumstances of his employment with Thomas Macnemara that began that year [Anne Arundel County Maryland Court (Land Records), Liber P.K., folios 513-514; Maryland Provincial Court Judgment Record, Liber V. D., No. 1, p. 734]; and on 2) records for other Horsley families in Maryland prior to James Horsley Sr. and their possible relationship with him. See my research report for James Horsley Sr. for more details and explanation.

Fact 3:

That Hannah, Thomas, and Richard Horsley were children of James Horsley Sr. and Mary Seward is based on strong indirect evidence as described in my research paper on James Horsley, Sr. Some of the records upon which the evidence is based are: St. Luke's Parish, Queen Anne's County, MD Birth and Marriage Records; Maryland Indexes (Probate Records, Colonial, Index) H, 1634-1777, SE4-8; Queen Anne's County Probate Records, Liber 57, folio 233; Henry C. Peden, Jr., *More Maryland Deponents 1716-1799*, (Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1992) p. 57; Gaius M. Brumbaugh. *Maryland Records: Colonial, Revolutionary, County and Church From Original Sources* Vol 2. (Lancaster, PA: Lancaster Press, Inc., 1928) p. 200; F. Edward Wright. *Maryland Calendar of Wills 1744-1777*. Vol. 14. (Westminster MD: Family Line Pub., 1991) p. 62.

For information on each child, see my research report on James Horsley Sr. (p. 20-21, 41-47).

Fact 4:

Halifax Co, VA deed dated 26 Nov 1789, Halifax Deed Book Vol. 14, p. 616 - James Horsley's wife Patience signs deed of sale. This is the only record found in James Horsley Jr.'s three residences (MD, VA, SC) that gives his wife's name. That Patience was James' only wife is based upon the timing and pattern of birth dates for their children. The origin and confusion regarding the name Margaret Valentine is discussed in my research report on James Horsley Jr. (p. 5).

Horsley Families of America (Scott and Horsley, 1986) includes (with no sources or documentation) a Rachel, Elizabeth, Mary, and James (III) as children of James Horsley Jr. No records or proof have been found for these three females. However, I discovered that census records show James Jr.'s son Richard had three unnamed daughters, previously unknown. Thus, it may be Richard's daughters, not his father's, who were named Rachel, Elizabeth, and Mary, and there is partial evidence at least for Elizabeth from a York Co, SC Court record of 11 Aug 1838. [*The Quarterly* March 2000 (Rock Hill, SC: York County Genealogical and Historical Society) p. 32.] The *Horsley Families'* James Horsley (III) seems likely not to be James Jr.'s son, but a son of one of James Jr.'s brothers (probably Thomas) who remained in Maryland. This is based on James III's absence in the 1790 census (where Thomas is listed with sons), James III's approximate age and his children's ages in the 1800 census for Queen Anne's Co, MD, and the date of James Horsley Jr.'s departure from Maryland for Virginia when James III would have been too young to be left behind had he been James Jr.'s son.

Fact 5:

Halifax Co, VA Deed Book 16, p. 396; Halifax Co, VA Deed Book 18, p. 53; York Co, SC Deed Book L, p. 334; York Co, SC Will Book 3, p. 245.

Fact 6:

Queen Anne's County Court (Land Records) [MSA CE 143-4] Liber IK, No. C, p. 215; Queen Anne's County Debt Book (Quit Rent Rolls) 1734-1775; Queen Anne's County Court (Land Records) [MSA CE 143-12] Liber RT, No. 26, p. 356.

That Valentine was born in "Monforth, Maryland" came from *Horsley Families of America* (Scott and Horsley, 1986), p. 10, with no source or documentation, but no such place seems to have existed. Using various spellings, I have searched for such a place in county histories, historical and current-day maps, tax and census district lists, and rent rolls by estates, and had conversations with the Queen Anne's County Clerk, a county surveyor, and several local historians and area real estate agents. No such place as Monforth, MD has been found, and none of these people had heard of it.

Interestingly, *Horsley Families* also says that Valentine's wife Sarah Kendrick was "of Wales," Although she is proved to be born in Virginia, Sarah might be of Welsh heritage, and two place names resembling Monforth are in northern Wales. Also, there is a historically notable town called Montford in Shropshire, England at the border with Wales that since at least the Early Middle Ages has had a significant Welsh population. Could it be that family stories confused which line of the family came from a "Monforth," as frequently happens with family history from oral tradition? Could Sarah's father Thomas Kendrick or his parents have come from Wales or a town such as Montford, England with Welsh heritage? Research continues.

Valentine Horsley's death date of 18 Sep 1843 comes from his obituary "Died. Another Revolutionary Soldier at Rest." Clipping from an unnamed newspaper (probably *Georgia Messenger*) published in Macon, GA week of 27 Sep 1843. Photocopy of original to me from B. Gerald Horsley. My transcription of this obituary is the Timelines in reports on James Horsley Jr. and on Valentine.

Valentine Horsley descendants Gerald Horsley and Edwin Williamson sent me photos of Valentine's grave marker from the Horsley Cemetery outside Thomaston, Upson Co, GA. Gerald learned the background about erecting the grave marker from the Upson County, GA Historical Society.

Fact 7:

See my research reports on James Horsley Jr. (p. 7) and on Valentine Horsley: The Georgia Years (p. 3) for discussion of Valentine's war service. Also, see his brother Richard Horsley's Revolutionary War Pension Application dated 16 Oct 1832, York Co, SC, transcribed from NARA Series M805, Roll 442, File S9354 in my James Horsley Jr. paper (Timeline of Records, 1832).

That Greene Horsley was a son of Valentine and Sarah Kendrick Horsley is shown by the 1827 Georgia Land Lottery where Greene Horsley is living in the same county (Monroe) as Valentine Horsley and son John, and by the 1810 and 1820 censuses with a male in Valentine's household born c.1802 who has not otherwise been identified. Only two records have been found so far for this Greene Horsley, and neither indicates that he had a third name (ie, "Nathaniel"): Named as "Greene Horseley" in Lou Houston, *Reprint of Official Register of Land Lottery of Georgia 1827* (Columbus GA: Walton-Forbes Co., 1928; reprinted Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1976), and named as "Greene Horsley" in Tad Evans, *Georgia Newspaper Clippings, Monroe County Extracts*, Vol. 1, 1821-1837, "Letters remaining 1 Apr 1831 at the Post Office in Forsyth, Monroe County, GA" (to me

from Mary Ellen Ackerson). Greene may have moved with his brother John from Monroe to adjacent Meriwether Co, GA, about 1830 according to the census for John's household, and in 1831 John named a son "Greene V. Horsley," the "V" most likely being for John's father Valentine.

Fact 8:

Halifax County Virginia Court Orders 1759-1762 (Plea Book No. 3) (Miami Beach, FL : TLC. Genealogy, 1998) p. 144; Dale Grammer Hopper, Horsley Family Bible Affidavit, 29 Apr 1940, El Paso Co, TX; Joseph T. Kendrick, "The Kendricks of Halifax Co., VA and York Co., SC," private manuscript dated 18 Feb 1994, p. 3.

Fact 9:

1800 U.S. Census, York District, SC. Nancy Kendricks(sic). NARA Series M32, Roll 49, p. 631.

The name "Dolly" for Thomas Kendrick's wife came without documentation from a family connection to researcher Rose Kendrick, who, since posting the name Dolly in 2000, has decided the name Dolly was not correct. The 1800 census with Nancy Kendrick shows Rose was right in rejecting the name Dolly. Rose Kendrick is also my source who pointed out that the name Lawson comes down through some descendants of Thomas and Nancy Kendrick's great-grandson Thomas L. Kendrick, although to date no known Lawson is proved to be Nancy Kendrick's father.

A comprehensive report on the Thomas Kendrick Family is online at: <www.joanhorsley.org>

Fact 10

William Horsley of Burke Co, NC: 1808 Burke Co, NC Tax List for "Wm. Hoslee," Box: Tax for Burke Co. 1782-1894, Folder: 1808, Ref: C.R.014.703.2, NC Archives; Marriage Bond for Moses Partin and Marey Hasley, Burke Co. Marriage Bonds, Box 3, NC Archives; Marriage Bond for Burch Allison and Hannah Hostley, Burke County Marriage Bonds. compiled by W. D. Floyd for Burke County NCGenWeb Project; 1850 census for John B. Horsley, Carroll Co, GA and for T.T. Horsley, Benton Co, AL. For full evidence see: "William Horsley and Hannah Ryan: Parents of Theophilus T. Horsley, John B. Horsley, and Mary Horsley Parton" at: www.joanhorsley.org

William N. Horsley: 1820, 1830, 1840. U.S. censuses, York Co, SC for David Horsley; 1850 census, Knox Co, TN for "William Hosley"; 1860 census, Sevier Co, TN (Boyds Creek) for "Wm. Horsely"; 1870 census, Sevier Co, TN (Post Office Trundles Crossroads) for "William N. Horsley." Evidence that William N. Horsley was a son of David Horsley is explained in my research paper for James Horsley Jr. (Timeline of Records, 1836 deed)

The assumption that the William N. Horsley who witnessed a York Co, SC land dispute settlement in 1836 was John B.'s and Theophilus T.'s father comes from *Horsley Families of America* (Scott and Horsley, 1986), p. 11. This source also confused William N. Horsley with James Jr.'s son William Horsley.

James Horsley Jr.'s son William Horsley (b. 1767): 1788 Halifax Co, VA Personal Property Tax List for James Horsley, Halifax County VA PP Taxes 1782-1800, Reel 147, Library of Virginia; York Co, SC Deed Book E, p. 227. Primary discussion of the evidence that William Horsley died c1799 with no children is in my paper on James Horsley Jr. (Timeline of Records, 1798 deed).

DNA testing in early 2100 through Family Tree DNA by a descendant of James Horsley Jr., John B. Horsley, and Theophilus T. Horsley. Y-DNA STR results available at: www.ysearch.org
For discussion of DNA tests see: "William Horsley and Hannah Ryan" at: www.joanhorsley.org

Fact 10+1:

Letters from Sarah "Sallie" Texanna Kendrick Horsley (daughter of Valentine's son Thomas) dated 29 Apr and 7 Jun 1871, Edom, TX, to Green Horsley Knowles (son of Valentine's daughter Nancy). Says Elizabeth married a Perdue and names sons Green, Hiram, and James Kendrick Perdue. Copies of originals from Charles Knowles; 1850 census, Monroe Co, GA, James & Elizabeth Perdue family.

Joan Horsley

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Website: www.joanhorsley.org

Contact: JHGenResearch-Horsley@yahoo.com