

## **Bio: Elizabeth Mathews**

Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2018

Elizabeth Mathews was born to her father Vincent Mathews when he was in his fifties. She is the only identified child of Vincent Mathews' marriage to Elizabeth Wileman. Being considerably younger than her half-siblings, she probably shared her childhood years with her many nieces and nephews.

Family records indicate that Elizabeth Mathews was married to Theophilus Beekman of New York City. No marriage record has been found, but it seems likely that they were married between 1770-1775. Theophilus Beekman was the son of John Beekman and Elizabeth Ellsworth. He was baptized in the Dutch Reformed Church in New York City in 1749. About 1780 his younger brother Thomas Beekman, married Sarah Mathews, niece of Elizabeth Mathews.

The stance of the Beekman family during the Revolutionary War is unclear. Near family members were aligned on both sides. In 1776 Theophilus Beekman served as captain in the New York Militia unit tied to John Lasher and sometimes referred to as the New York Grenadier Company. Near the beginning of the Revolution, in 1776, the New York Militia units stood in support of the British Governor Tyron. But, as things developed, Captain Lasher's regiment joined in the Patriot cause. Whether Theophilus Beekman took up with the Continental forces is not known.

Theophilus Beekman and Elizabeth Mathews were the parents of two identified children - Theophilus Ellsworth Beekman (married Marietta Hathaway) and Elizabeth Beekman (married James Henry).

Below is a small collection of records related to this Beekman family:

from the 1783 Will of Vincent Mathews, father of David Mathews, probated 1784:

*To my sons, Fletcher and James and the children of David and to my daughter Elizabeth Beekman, all the residue of my real estate in the State of New York, the State of Connecticut or elsewhere, one fourth to each. To my said daughter Elizabeth Beekman, my jewels and plate which my late wife Elizabeth brought to my house at Mathewsfield.*

Note - Theophilus Beekman's will was written in 1783, at which time he identified himself as "of the precinct of Cornwall in the County of Orange, NY, yeoman". Sometime after 1783 he removed to New York City, where he was an Alderman in 1793 and a Police Justice in 1806.

Theophilus, one of the Police Justices of New York, in 59th year.  
Providence Gazette; 10 January 1807.

Beekman, Theophilus, Esq, d. in New York, aged 59.  
[source] Columbian Centinel (Massachusetts); 10 January 1807.

Theophilus Beekman's Will was proved in 1807 and he left the residue of his estate to "my wife Elizabeth Beekman and her heirs". (NYHRW Lib 46 pg 428)

from the Will of Verdine Elsworth of New York City, written 7 May 1805, proved 5 June 1810.

*. . . My Tea Table Sett of plate . . unto Elizabeth Beekman daughter of Theophilus Beekman Esquire; . . . my relations Theophilus Beekman Esquire, and Samuel Gale of the City of New York . . all my lots houses and appurtenances situate in Maiden Lane in the City of New York, in the possession of Thomas Western and James Jarvis.*

Codicil to the Will of Verdine Elsworth, written 27 January 1807, proved 5 June 1810.

Adjusts will after the death of two of the Legatees, Theophilus Beekman, and Verdine Elsworth Beekman, leaving their shares to their wives, heirs and assigns . .

Thursday, October 23rd, 1823 - Yesterday Mrs Elizabeth Beekman wid, of late Theophilus.

[source] New York Evening Post, October 1823. From the Barber Collection of New York Death Newspaper Extracts.

*Whereas the said Elizabeth Beekman at the time of her death was an inhabitant of this city, and as is alleged, lately died intestate, having whilst living, and at the time of her death, goods, chattels, or credits within this state . . . faithfully administered, applied and disposed of, do grant unto you the said Gabriel Furuider and John D Nicoll, full power to administer and faithfully dispose . . witness James Campbell, Esq, Surrogate of the said county at the city of New York the 31st day of October 1823.*

[source] New York Wills and Probate Records.

*Wood Land for Sale - The subscriber offers for sale a tract of Wood Land, containing 967 acres, being a part of the tract known by the name of the Forest of Dean, in the county of Orange, distant two or three miles from the landing at Fort Montgomery, formerly the property of the late widow Beekman . . . offered at auction at the Orange Hotel, in the town of Newburgh. For terms which will be reasonable, apply to George Zabriske, No 452 Washington Street, New York. Elizabeth Henry. 29 Nov 1834.*

[source] New Telegraph (Newburgh New York) 8 January 1835.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Elizabeth Mathews in database](#)

[Link to Theophilus Beekman in database](#)

[Will of Theophilus Beekman](#)

**Biography of Elizabeth Mathews; written by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for Markham of Chesterfield website; 2018.**