

Bio: Vincent Mathews
Pamela Hutchison Garrett

According to a death notice in a New York City newspaper, Vincent Mathews died in 1810, at the age of 34. This would suggest that he was born in about 1775, during the years that his father, David Mathews, was serving as the mayor of New York City. Vincent Mathews was still a young boy when, in 1783, the British left New York, and his family fled to the loyalist haven of Nova Scotia.

Family sources suggest that Vincent Mathews married Ann Ross, and served as a Customs Agent in Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas. One son has been identified - Vincent Thomas Mathews, born in 1801 in Nassau, Bahamas. As a young man Vincent Thomas Mathews is living in Savannah Georgia. He marries, raises a large family, and is eventually settled in Elmore county Alabama.

Several records have been located, and are presented below, to add detail to Vincent Mathews' story:

Twenty Dollars reward. Run Away from the subscriber, some time since, a negro man called Charles, and a woman called Mary; the former about five feet seven inches high, well made and speaks pretty good English; the latter a tall middle-aged woman, who speaks no English. The above reward will be paid, upon the delivery of the said negroes, or either of them, at the common gaol. As the subscriber has reason to think the said negroes are harboured; a further reward of twenty dollars, will be paid to any person giving information, upon conviction of the offender. V. Mathews
[source] Bahama Gazette; 12 August 1800.

Whereas, much inconvenience hath arisen to the inhabitants of the eastern district of the Island of New Providence, for the want of a place of public worship, within the district aforesaid, and from the great distance at which most of the inhabitants aforesaid reside for Christ Church, in the town of Nassau . . . And it be further enacted, that the Speaker of the House of Assembly for the time being, Tiddiman Carr, Vincent Mathews, Benjamin Lord, the elder, and James Armbristor, esquires, shall be and they are hereby constituted and appointed Commissioners to carry this act into execution.

Passed the House of Assembly, 22 November 1799 - Alexander C Wyly, speaker . .
[source] Acts of Assembly of the Bahama Islands. From the year 1764 to the year 1799 inclusive, Volume 1; Eve and Owen, 1801.

The appointment of Mr. T. Vincent Mathews as Cashier and Chief Clerk in the Receiver-General's Department of the Bahamas has been officially notified . . . [can't read and date this correctly]

The Colonies and India from London, Saturday, August 17, 1895.

note - This record might apply to Vincent Thomas Mathews, only son of Vincent Mathews and Ann Ross.

"Vincent Mathews Esq" Bahamas" Printed label. Circa 1820. (?) Collector of the Customs. [source] West Indian bookplates : being a first list of plates relating to those islands; Vere Langford Oliver; 1914.

Died, on Sunday last, Vincent Matthews, Esq in the 34th year of his age, Son of the late David Matthews, Esq, formerly Mayor of this city.

[source] New York Gazette; 14 August 1810.

The People of the State of New York . . to Whitehead Fish, Chamberlain of the City of New York, Administrator of Vincent Mathews late of New Providence Esquire, deceased . . Whereas the said Vincent Mathews at the time of his death was an inhabitant of this city [New York City], and as is alleged, lately died intestate . . . do grant unto you the said Whitehead Fish full power . . . in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and ten . . handwritten note on page - Revoked on application of a sister of deceased, 30 November 1810 and granted . . C D (Cadwalleder) Colden. 6 December 1810.

[source] New York Letters Testamentary Volume 11, 1808-1811.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Vincent Mathews in database](#)

[Sketch: Petition of 1821, David Mathews' Descendants](#)

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