

Bio: Thomas Thorne

From the Biography of Jared Francis Mathews, as published in Portrait and biographical record of Rockland and Orange Counties, New York; Chapman Publishing, 1895.

Jared Francis Matthews was born in Southington, Conn, in 1815, and was one of a family of twelve children. After coming of age, he with two brothers, Miles and Elbert, joined a colony of men who moved with their families to Greene County, and engaged in a manufacturing business, which they afterward removed to Middletown, N. Y., where they conducted a most successful business in leather goods, manufacturing bags, belts, etc., in connection with their large carpet store of that place, widely known throughout the county as the Matthews Brothers' Carpet Bag Factory. Their good standing and sterling integrity in conducting their business insured their success. Their salesrooms were in Dey Street, New York, but they afterward built and removed to their fine store at No.92 (now known as No. 168) Church Street. Among other things, Mr. Matthews became interested in farming. He was a good judge of and was fond of fine horses; he also owned a choice dairy of cows. He was identified with many other enterprises and progressive movements in Orange County. He retired from active business four years before his death. For many years he was a devoted member and faithful officer in the Episcopal Church. After an exemplary, useful life, he passed away, August 29, 1884.

The lady who became the wife of Mr. Matthews February 10, 1859, and who from that time until his death was his devoted helpmate, bore the maiden name of Sarah Thurman Thorne, a relative of the late Judge John Thurman, of New York. She was born in the house where she still resides, where her father lived for seventy years. Notwithstanding the fact that the house is about one hundred and fifty years old, it presents as substantial an appearance as the homes of the present decade. The beautiful farm adjoining the house has been in the possession of the family over a century, and consists of seventy acres of highly cultivated land, well equipped as a grazing farm, with a number of outbuildings, etc, all within the corporate limits of the village of Goshen .

The grandfather of Mrs. Matthews was Richard Thorne, a native of England, who settled at Great Neck, L. I., and was living there at the time of the Revolutionary War. He was wealthy, and when his property was invaded by the Hessian soldiers his family buried their valuables in the garden to save them. He and his son John took part in the defense of the Colonists and were taken by the British and imprisoned in the old Sugar House in New York. Among his eleven children was Thomas Thorne, father of Mrs. Matthews, and a native of Great Neck, L. I. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Waters, a wealthy man residing on the Florida Road and the owner of extensive tracts of land. He was proprietor of a racecourse, and at one time held the office of Sheriff of Orange County. In early life he owned a number of slaves, but, being opposed to the system of slavery, he gave them all their liberty. During the war with England he succeeded in taking a fine span of horses from the British camp near his home. His sister married Gabriel Wisner, who was one of the slain in the massacre at the battle of Minisink.

When only sixteen years of age Thomas Thorne came to Goshen in order to enjoy the school privileges here. Later he bought the farm where his remaining years were spent, becoming the owner of one hundred acres of valuable land. In addition to farming he conducted a tannery for years, and was also prominent in public affairs, serving as Commissioner of the county and as Supervisor for one term. For years he was Senior Warden in the Episcopal Church and died firm in the faith in 1859, aged eighty-six. His first wife was the widow of Robert Seeley her maiden name being Hatfield. His second wife, Elizabeth Waters, was related to the Wisner family of Goshen: she died about 1864, at the age of seventy-five. Of her three children, Mary died at the age of seven years, and John passed away soon after reaching his majority.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Matthews was blessed by the birth of five children, three of whom are living, namely: Thomas A., William Thorne and Elizabeth Montague. Mrs. Matthews is connected with the Episcopal Church, and is generous in her benefactions to the poor and unfortunate. She still superintends the management of her valuable property, which she does in such a manner as to prove her executive ability and secure the largest possible returns.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Thomas Thorne in database](#)

[Link to Elizabeth Waters in database](#)

Biography of Thomas Thorne; prepared by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for Markham of Chesterfield website; 2018.