

## **Sketch: Petition of 1821, David Mathews' Descendants**

Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2018

When Vincent Mathews wrote his Will in March of 1783, in Orange county New York, he made several provisions related to his real property:

*I leave to my two sons, Fletcher and James Mathews, and my daughter Bridget Jones, together with the children of my son David, all my lands of Western hook in Albany County which came to me by my first wife, Catalina Abeel, equally divided amongst them, one fourth to Fletcher, one fourth to James, one fourth to Bridget Jones, and one fourth to the children of David.*

*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.*

Vincent Mathews' son David Mathews was living in 1783, but complications in his life probably made it safer for Vincent to bypass him in favor of his children. During America's Revolutionary War David Mathews served as Loyalist Mayor of New York City, which rested under British control. When the British left the city in 1783-1784, David Mathews removed with other loyalist families to Nova Scotia where he lived until his death in 1800.

Twenty years following David Mathews' death, a petition appeared in a New York City newspaper, related to the selling off of property that had passed from Vincent Mathews to the children of his son David Mathews. The petition is helpful in identifying some of David Mathews' children and grandchildren, but it also raises questions:

*To the Honorable Justices of the State of New York, to the Supreme Court of Judicature - The petition of Harriet [Green] and Mary Mathews of Medford, in the state of Massachusetts, respectfully sheweth, That your petitioners are each of them respectively seized in fee simple, as tenants in common, together with the persons hereinafter mentioned, and with some persons unknown . . . (fortieth part of property in the town of New Windsor, county of Orange) . . . conveyed (1749) to Vincent Mathews, the grandfather of the petitioners . . . And your petitioners further shew, that Elizabeth Beekman, of the city of New York, is seized as aforesaid of ten other equal undivided fortieth parts of same; that Thomas Mathews, Susan Lamb, Charlotte Clark, and Elizabeth Mathews, all of whom, as your petitioners are informed and believe, reside out of the jurisdiction of the United States of America, are each respectfully seized . . . that Sarah Murray, who as your petitioners are informed and believe, resides in the city of Savannah, in the state of Georgia, is also seized . . . that Vincent Mathews, now deceased, at the time of his death, was seized, leaving as his sole heir, Vincent Mathews, who as your petitioners are informed and*

*believe, resides in the city of Savannah, in the state of Georgia; that Amelia Ritche, now deceased, at the time of her death, was seized . . . leaving as her sole heir, one child, of whose name and place of residence your petitioners are ignorant; and that Martha Wylly, now deceased, at the time of her death was seized . . . leaving as her heirs at law, Alexander C Wylly, Thomas B Wylly, William C Wylly, Vincent Wylly, Elizabeth Wylly, Margaret Wylly, and Mary Wylly, all of whom, as your petitioners are informed and believe, reside out of the jurisdiction of the United States of America, and Matilda Chambers, who is now deceased - leaving as her heirs at law, two or three children, of whose names or places of residence your petitioners are ignorant.*

*[seeking to sell and divide]*

*Dated November 22, 1820; Harriet Green, Mary Mathews*

*[source] American (New York City) 9 February 1821.*

As I have studied the people named in this “petition” I have come to the conclusion that all (excepting Elizabeth Mathews Beekman) are descendants of David Mathews and his wife Sarah Seymour. Elizabeth Mathews Beekman is David Mathews’ half-sister, daughter of Vincent Mathews’ second marriage to Elizabeth Wileman. I do not think this petition names descendants of David Mathews’ full siblings – James Mathews, Fletcher Mathews or Bridget Mathews Jones.

So, who are the people named in the 1821 Petition? Many are recognizable, but several remain unidentified. I am hopeful that other researchers might be able to provide further clues.

### **Descendants of David Mathews and Sarah Seymour named in the 1821 petition:**

#### **Harriet Mathews [Green]**

*The petition of Harriet [Green] and Mary Mathews of Medford, in the state of Massachusetts . . . Harriet Mathews (1763-1848) is the daughter of David Mathews and Sarah Seymour. She married Francis Green (1742-1809) in 1785 in Nova Scotia. Shortly after, the Green family established themselves in Medford, Middlesex county Massachusetts. At the opening of the petition she is named as Harriet Mathews, but at the close she signs as Harriet Green.*

[Link to Harriet Mathews \(married Green\) in database.](#)

#### **Mary Mathews**

*The petition of Harriet [Green] and Mary Mathews of Medford, in the state of Massachusetts . . . Mary Mathews is not recognizable in any Mathews’ family genealogies. She may be an unidentified daughter of David Mathews and Sarah Seymour.*

[Link to Mary Mathews \(speculative\) in database.](#)

### **Thomas Mathews**

*. . that Thomas Mathews, Susan Lamb, Charlotte Clark, and Elizabeth Mathews, all of whom, as your petitioners are informed and believe, reside out of the jurisdiction of the United States . .*

Thomas Mathews does appear in most Mathews' family genealogies as a son of David Mathews and Sarah Seymour. I have never come across details beyond his name. It is of interest that he is shown as living outside the jurisdiction of the US in 1821.

[Link to Thomas Mathews in database.](#)

### **Susan Lamb**

*. . that Thomas Mathews, Susan Lamb, Charlotte Clark, and Elizabeth Mathews, all of whom, as your petitioners are informed and believe, reside out of the jurisdiction of the United States . .*

Catalina Mathews (born 1759), daughter of David Mathews and Sarah Seymour, married James Lamb in 1778 in New York. He was a British soldier. Shortly after their marriage, they returned to the Lamb home at Rye in Sussex county England. The Lambs had several children, including a daughter Sarah Lamb who married James Noble. Susan Lamb might be another daughter of Catalina Mathews and James Lamb, but she is not clearly identified.

[Link to Susan Lamb \(speculative\) in database.](#)

### **Charlotte Clark**

*. . that Thomas Mathews, Susan Lamb, Charlotte Clark, and Elizabeth Mathews, all of whom, as your petitioners are informed and believe, reside out of the jurisdiction of the United States . .*

Nothing known.

Charlotte Clark does not appear in database.

### **Elizabeth Mathews**

*. . that Thomas Mathews, Susan Lamb, Charlotte Clark, and Elizabeth Mathews, all of whom, as your petitioners are informed and believe, reside out of the jurisdiction of the United States . .*

The name of Elizabeth Mathews appears on lists of children for David Mathews and Sarah Seymour, but no details are included. Nothing further is known.

[Link to Elizabeth Mathews in database.](#)

### **Sarah Murray**

*. . that Sarah Murray, who as your petitioners are informed and believe, resides in the city of Savannah, in the state of Georgia. .*

The name of Sarah does not typically appear on lists of children of David Mathews and Sarah Seymour, but she might be the daughter of David Mathews who married Capt John Murray. This is not certain. There is some evidence of a Sarah Murray living in

Savannah Georgia beginning about 1816, and up until her death in 1838. Other possibilities remain.

[Link to Sarah Mathews \(speculative\) in database.](#)

### **Vincent Mathews (deceased), and his son Vincent Thomas Mathews**

*. . that Vincent Mathews, now deceased, at the time of his death, was seized, leaving as his sole heir, Vincent Mathews, who as your petitioners are informed and believe, resides in the city of Savannah, in the state of Georgia . .*

Vincent Mathews (1775-1810) is the son of David Mathews and Sarah Seymour. Family records suggest that he married Ann Ross. For a time he worked as a Customs Agent in Nassau, Bahamas. Note of his death appears in New York City newspapers in 1810. He is known to have had one son, Vincent Thomas Mathews, who appears in the 1850 census of Greene county Georgia.

[Link to Vincent Mathews in database](#)

### **Amelia Ritchie (deceased), and her only child unnamed**

*. . that Amelia Ritche, now deceased, at the time of her death, was seized . . leaving as her sole heir, one child, of whose name and place of residence your petitioners are ignorant . .*

Amelia Mathews (1785-1816) is probably the youngest child of David Mathews and Sarah Seymour. She married James Corbett Ritchie in 1807 in Nova Scotia. Family records name one child, Caroline Maria Ritchie, who married Edmund Murray Dodd.

[Link to Amelia Mathews \(married Ritchie\) in database.](#)

### **Martha Wylly (deceased), and her children listed**

*. . that Martha Wylly, now deceased, at the time of her death was seized . . leaving as her heirs at law, Alexander C Wylly, Thomas B Wylly, William C Wylly, Vincent Wylly, Elizabeth Wylly, Margaret Wylly, and Mary Wylly, all of whom, as your petitioners are informed and believe, reside out of the jurisdiction of the United States . .*

Martha Mathews (born 1765-1770) is the daughter of David Mathews and Sarah Seymour. Most family accounts identify her as Matilda, and it is uncertain which name is correct. She married William Wylly about 1785 in Nova Scotia. Shortly after their marriage the Wylly family removed to the Bahamas and lived there many years. It is not known when Martha (Matilda) Mathews Wylly died, but several members of her family, including her husband, removed to England. The list of children given in the 1821 petition compares favorably with family accounts.

[Link to Matilda Martha Mathews \(married Wylly\) in database.](#)

**Matilda Chambers, (deceased), and her children unnamed**

*. . Matilda Chambers, who is now deceased - leaving as her heirs at law, two or three children, of whose names or places of residence your petitioners are ignorant.*

Matilda Wylly is the daughter of Martha (Matilda) Mathews and William Wylly, and a grand-daughter of David Mathews and Sarah Seymour. She married Samuel Chambers, a captain in the Royal Navy. They had several children.

Link to Matilda Wylly (married Chambers) in database.

<http://markhamchesterfield.com/getperson.php?personID=I4076&tree=mkchest>

**Petition of 1821, David Mathews' Descendants; compiled by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for Markham of Chesterfield website; 2018.**