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THOMAS FARMER 1681 - 1723

Ordinary Keeper, Surry County, Va., 21 February 1721

Thomas Farmer, son of Thomas Farmer, was baptized 18 July 1681 in Charles Parish, York County, Virginia; died August 1723 in Surry County, Virginia.² He married about 1710 Agnes Nicholson, daughter of George and Mary Nicholson, born about 1689 in Surry County. She died after 1733 in Edgecombe County (now Halifax), North Carolina. She married second, James Bynum who died testate in Halifax County in 1763.

The Farmers resided in Southwark Parish and appear never to have owned more than fifty acres of land. On 21 February 1721/22, Thomas Farmer, Thomas Bently and William Ham gave bond in the Surry County Court in the sum of 10,000 pounds of tobacco because the aforesaid Farmer "hath obtained a lycenze to keep an Ordinary at the Plantation that was formerly Thomas Cottens Deced. If therefore the said Thomas Farmer doth Constantly find and provide in his said Ordinary good Wholesome and Cleanly Lodging and Dyett for travellers and Stabling, fodders and provinder or pasturage and provinder as the season shall require for their horses for and during the term of one Year from the 21st day of February 1721 and shall not suffer or permit any unlawful gaming in his house, nor on the Sabbath day suffer any person to Tipple or Drink more than is necessary then this Obligation to be Null Void and none Effect."³

The death of Thomas Farmer of Southwark Parish was reported to the Surry County Court on 21 August 1723, and his inventory was taken and appraised at a total value of £44.3.7 by Samuel Maget, Joel (B) Barker and John Andrews on 2 November and was recorded by administratrix Agness Farmer on 18 December.⁴ Among his personal property were a sword, parcel of books, about fifty farm animals, at least twenty pounds of pewterware and four furnished beds. The settlement of the estate recorded on 18 June 1729 indicates that a total of £58.12.1 was divided among the five Farmer children.⁵

- by Hugh Buckner Johnston

REFERENCES

- 1 Landon C. Bell Charles Parish, York County, Virginia History and Registers. Richmond, Va., 1932 p.89
- 2 Surry County Deeds, Wills, etc. Book 7, page 35
- 3 Ibid., 1715-1730, Part 1, pp. 393, 394
- 4 Ibid., p. 496
- 5 Ibid., pp. 955, 956