

**THOMAS BAILIFF [HUSBAND OF REBECCA] STORY THROUGH TAX RECORDS**  
**IN CHESTER COUNTY PA**

**Compiled By: Ron Cornwell**

1747	<b>Thos. Bayliff</b>	West Bradford Twp, Chester Co, Pa.
1749	<b>THOS. BAILIFF</b>	West Bradford Twp Chester Co, Pa.
1750	<b>THOMAS BAILIFF</b>	East Bradford Twp Chester Co, Pa
1751	<b>THOS. BAILIFF</b>	East Bradford Twp Chester Co, Pa
1752	No <b>BAILIFF</b>	
1753	<b>THOMAS BAYLIFF [SR] [inmate]</b>	East Bradford Twp, Chester Co, Pa.
1754	<b>THOS. BAYLIFF [inmate]</b>	West Bradford Twp, Chester Co, Pa
1755	No tax records	
1756	<b>THOMAS BAILIFF [inmate]</b>	West Bradford Twp Chester Co, Pa
1757	<b>THOMAS BAILIFF [inmate]</b>	West Bradford Twp Chester Co, Pa
1758	<b>THOMAS BAILIFF [inmate]</b>	West Bradford Twp Chester Co, Pa

[9 Aug 1759 **THOMAS BAYLIFF** in Chester County, Pa, "The Pennsylvania Gazette" Pub. A list of letters remaining in Post Office in Philadelphia.]

1760	<b>THOS BAYLIFF [inmate]</b>	West Bradford Twp Chester Co, Pa
1761	<b>THOMAS BAILIFF [inmate]</b>	West Bradford Twp Chester Co, Pa
1762-1768	No <b>BAILIFF</b>	

[Feb. 1765 **THOMAS BAILIFF** is serving on a Grand Jury in Orange County, NC]

[13-Aug-1767 **WALTER THEDFORD WILL**. Probated in Orange County, NC. The will is dated: 13 Aug 1767. Proved: Nov 1767. Wife: **REBECCA**. Sons: **JOSIAS** [eldest], **WILLIAM**. Dau: **DEBORAH**. Son In Law: **WILLIAM WILLIAMS**. Executors: **WIFE REBECCA AND ELDEST SON JOSIAS**. Witnesses: **JOHN BAKER** and **ABIGAIL BRACKEN**.] [Is this **REBECCA** the 2<sup>nd</sup> wife of **THOMAS BAILIFF**]

1769	<b>THOS BAILIFF [inmate]</b>	Newlinton Twp Chester Co, Pa
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[30 Dec 1769 **EDWARD BAYLIFFE** Estate Record: Residence: Newlinton. Granting Letter Dated: Dec 30, 1769. Granted to: **THOMAS BAYLIFFE**. Bond: 500 Pounds. Sureties: **WM CLOUD** and **RICHARD BARNARD**. Inventory: April 27, 1770. No. of Paper: 2539. Will Bk 2, P. 211.] [Edward Bayliff died December 1769]

1770	<b>THOMAS BAILIFF [inmate]</b>	West Bradford Twp Chester Co, Pa
1771	<b>THOMAS BAILIFF [inmate]</b>	West Bradford Twp Chester Co, Pa
1772	<b>THOMAS BAILIFF [inmate]</b>	West Bradford Twp Chester Co, Pa
1773	No <b>BAILIFF</b>	
1774	<b>THOMAS BAILIFF [inmate]</b>	West Bradford Twp Chester Co, Pa
1775	<b>THOM'S BAYLIFF [inmate]</b>	West Bradford Twp Chester Co, Pa
1776	<b>THOMAS BAILIFF [inmate]</b>	West Bradford Twp Chester Co, Pa
1777	No <b>BAILIFF</b>	
1778	<b>THOMAS BAILIFF [inmate]</b>	West Bradford Twp Chester Co, Pa

[On this entry **THOMAS BAILIFF'S** name and information is marked through on the West Bradford tax list. It appears his information was prelisted on the tax record but was crossed off when the assessor discovered he was gone from Chester County.]

1779-1783 no **BAILIFF'S** appear on the Chester County, Pa, tax list.

1784	<b>THOMAS BAILIFF [inmate]</b>	East Bradford Twp	Chester Co, Pa
1785	<b>THOMAS BAILIFF [inmate]</b>	East Bradford Twp	Chester Co, Pa

[21 Aug 1785 **REBECCA BAILIFF** signed for **ABNER BAILIFF** to purchase 150 acres of land from **JAMES WATSON** in Orange County, NC.]

[21 Aug 1785 **REBECCA BAILIFF** signed for **THOMAS BAILIFF** to purchase 150 acres of land from **JAMES WATSON** in Orange County, NC.]

### **GAPS IN TAX RECORDS THAT ARE MISSING EXPLAINED.**

1741-1747 Tax Records Lost

1762-1768 No **BAILIFF'S** in tax records. **THOMAS HAS GONE TO ORANGE COUNTY, NC.** This is proven by the 1765 Orange County, North Carolina, court entry where **THOMAS BAILIFF** is serving on a Grand Jury. The entry above of **REBECCA THEDFORD** shows she is available for marriage since her husband died in 1767. This is the only **REBECCA** to be found in either Orange County or Chester County to fit the criteria to be the second wife of **THOMAS BAILIFF**. I have to assume his 1<sup>st</sup> wife died after 1762 and before 1768 in Orange County, NC. She would be too old to have **THOMAS'S** children with the first one born in 1769. I assume for whatever reason he didn't have children by his first wife.

1779-1783 No **BAILIFF'S** listed in Chester County, Pa.

1784-1785 **THOMAS BAILIFF** is listed on Chester County, Pa, tax list for the last time.

### **THOMAS BAILIFF SR. DEATH DATE ESTABLISHED AS 1785**

[**THOMAS BAILIFF SR.** does not appear in Chester County, Pennsylvania records nor Orange County, North Carolina, records after 1785. His son **THOMAS [JR]** appears later on when he marries **ELIZABETH BAKER**. **REBECCA BAILIFF** appears Aug 21, 1785 in Orange County, North Carolina, buying land for sons **THOMAS** and **ABNER BAILIFF**. It appears that **THOMAS BAILIFF SR.** and his family stayed until tax time in Chester County, Pennsylvania and **THOMAS SR.** died on the return trip to North Carolina. There is no evidence **THOMAS** is alive after early 1785.]

### **WHAT IS THOMAS BAILIFF SR. AGE**

**THOMAS BAILIFF SR.** first appears in the Chester County tax records in 1747. From 1741-1747 tax records are missing so **THOMAS** might be older than the records would suggest. Based on the evidence, **THOMAS BAILIFF SR.** was probably born around **1726** in or around **ULSTER, IRELAND**. **THOMAS** would be 57 years of age at death.

### WHERE DID THE SCOTCH IRISH ORIGINATE

Their roots go back to Scotland, but don't think bagpipes. They were Lowlanders, mostly coming from the border regions of Galloway, Dumfries, Renfrewshire, Ayrshire, Argyllshire and Lanarkshire in the West and Edinburg, the Lothians and Berwichshire in the east. They spoke English and were Protestant, specifically Presbyterian.

They were different from their Highlander cousins. They don't belong to clans or wear Kilts. But they weren't English either. They didn't support the Anglican Church. They held onto the memory of bloody massacres that their ancestors suffered at the hands of English conquerors centuries earlier.

Their history in Scotland was not pleasant. These people were caught, both geographically and politically, between the English on the south and the Highlanders to the North.

### WHERE DID THE MONEY COME FROM FOR REBECCA BAILIFF TO BUY TWO TRACTS OF LAND IN ORANGE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA IN 1785

We have been wondering for a long time about where Rebecca got money to buy two tracts of land for **ABNER** and **THOMAS BAILIFF**. Now we know that it came from their grandfather **EDWARD BAILIFF'S** estate in Chester County, Pennsylvania. **THOMAS BAILIFF** being the only heir received the entire estate.

### SUMMARY

**THOMAS BAILIFF** first appears in the 1747 tax records of Bradford Twp, Chester County, Pennsylvania. This would establish his birth as **1726 in Ulster, Ireland**. It appears he marries **REBECCA THEDFORD** in Orange County, North Carolina, around 1768 [no record found].

**THOMAS'S** brother **EDWARD BAILIFF** dies **Dec. 1769** Newlin Twp, Chester County, Pennsylvania, leaving his entire estate to his only heir his brother **THOMAS**.

It appears that **THOMAS BAILIFF** dies on his way home from Pennsylvania to Orange County, North Carolina, in 1785. It was during this same year that **REBECCA BAILIFF** buys land in Orange County for the two oldest sons **ABNER** and **THOMAS**.