

THE LINEAGE OF JOHN YATES , SR. OF NANSEMOND COUNTY INCLUDES THE FAMOUS SIAMESE TWINS , ENG AND CHANG BUNKER

John Yates, Sr.- B. 1615

He lived in Yorkshire, England and sailed from Gravesend, England for America on the ship, America, in 1635. He settled in Nansemond County, Virginia.

Son

John Yates, II or Jr.- B. 1641 D. 1721

He established two free schools in what is now Suffolk, Virginia. A school that bears his name, John Yeates Middle School, is built on the land that he gave to the school. He was a Vestryman in the Glebe Episcopal Church. The building still stands and is in use as a place of worship. (Check their web site)

John Yates, III – B. ? D. 1778

He received a land grant on the Dan River that included what is now Riverside Drive along what is now Value City and other businesses. He was required to help clear a road in 1753 from the Dan River to the Court House. (Page 61, History of Pittsylvania County by Maude Clement) The only break in the Yates/Yeatts lineage is John Yates III. He is not mentioned in John, II's will to prove his relationship but it is assumed by other means that he is in-fact the son of John II.

Sons

Stephen Yates B. 1746 D. 1836

He was distant granddaddy of Coleman Bennett, husband of Susan Edwards Yeatts. He operated the Yates Tavern at Gretna and was a Revolutionary War Patriot.

John Yates B. 1750 D. 1835

He and his wife moved from Pittsylvania Co. to Wilkes County, N.C. after he married Jemima Roper in 1755. She was from Caswell County, N.C. They had eight children, one of whom was named John.

John Yates B. 1779 D. 1810

He married twice and had two children by wife number 1—Had three children by wife number 2. David was born to John and his second wife.

Son

David Yates B. 1795 M. 1812 D. 1820

Four children were born to David's family. Two of them were twin girls who were named Sarah (Sallie) Ann Yates, B. 1813 M. 4/13/1843 and Adelaide Yates B. 1813 M. 4/13/1843 D. 1848.

In 1811 two boys were born in Milange, Siam. They were conjoined twins. They were connected at the hips up to their rib cage. They were named Chang and Eng. Two Englishmen managed them as show people, beginning when they were about 16 years old. They performed in Europe, including England, for a fee. In 1829 they came to America and at some point became a part of a circus act. They took on a last name which was Bunker at some point. They grew tired of the travel and bought a farm in Wilkes County, N.C. and became successful farmers.

Near their farm there was a Yates family who had twin daughters by the names of Sallie and Adelaide. They became interested in them and after courtship they were married against the wishes of their parents and pastor.

They bought a house together in the Traphill Community. Furniture was made that would accommodate four people, including a bed, and began to live as normal as possible.

Chang and Adelaide had 10 children ----- Eng and Sallie produced 11 children

The sisters found it difficult to get along which brought turmoil to the family. Chang started drinking and Eng played poker which added to the obvious stress of a marriage as this. They finally built separate houses in Surry County, N.C. in the White Plains Community. Their houses were about a mile apart. The twins made an agreement they would spend three days at a time in each home to be with their wives and children.

To support the families Eng and Chang went back into show business. They took some of their children who performed with them. They joined the Barnum American Museum on Broadway in New York City. It was P. T. Barnum who gave them the name of Siamese Twins. Conjoined twins are now generally known as Siamese twins.

On January 17, 1874, Eng awoke to find his brother cold. When he realized he was dead Eng began to feel faint and in a very short time he died. They are buried in the White Plains Church Cemetery in Surry County, N.C. It is the church they helped establish and build.



Eng and Chang Bunker



Aged Eng and Chang Bunker



One of the Bunker home in Surry County. N. C.



L. Eng his wife, Sally and son, Albert
R. Chang his wife, Adelaide and son, Patrick Henry



The White Plains Baptist Church cemetery at Mt. Airy, N. C. is the final resting place of the Bunker twins and their wives.

Sources: Computer—www. Surry.k12.nc. us
The History of Pittsylvania County, Maude Clement
Donald A. Yeatts, Newport News, VA
Robert Yeatts, Sr., Texas
Eng and Chang Bunker Website
Computer Gen Forum

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