

Thomas Booker 1706 – 1777

Beneficiaries of his will:

Brother John Booker

Nephew William Booker son of his brother John Booker

Nephew Francis Booker son of his brother John Booker

Niece Sarah Booker daughter of his brother John Booker

Nephew John Booker son of his brother John Booker

Nephew Thomas Booker son of his brother John Booker

Sister Elizabeth wife of Henry Bird

Nephew Thomas Bird son of his sister Elizabeth and Henry Bird

Nephew Henry Bird son of his sister Elizabeth and Henry Bird

Nephew William Bird son of his sister Elizabeth and Henry Bird

Nephew John Bird son of his sister Elizabeth and Henry Bird

Niece Ann wife of ? Willis daughter of his sister Elizabeth and Henry Bird

Nephew Stephen Redsall son of his sister Susan Redsall

Nephew Thomas Redsall son of his sister Susan Redsall

Niece Elizabeth wife of Joseph Johnson and daughter of his sister Susan Redsall

Niece Elizabeth wife of Richard Miles

Cousin Thomas Miles son of his niece Elizabeth and Richard Miles

Cousin John Miles son of his niece Elizabeth and Richard Miles

Around 1700 there are four Bookers marrying and then having families:

Susanna - married William Gur in 1700

Francis - married Elizabeth Cooper in 1699 had a son Thomas born in 1706 above

John - married Elizabeth date unknown

Thomas - married Anne Ashdown in 1709

Francis and Elizabeth's children match with the beneficiaries of the above will with Thomas having the correct siblings, nieces and nephews.

Another scenario that other researchers have is: If the will belonged to Thomas who married Anne Ashdown his brother would have been John who married Elizabeth Durling in order for the nieces and nephews to fit, there would be at least 30 years between them; Thomas' mother (whom some assume is Alice) would have been 65 when she gave birth to John, it would also mean Thomas has two sisters Susan(Susanna) born 1700 and Elizabeth born 1715 (by which time Alice and her husband were probably dead). It would also mean that none of his own sons, daughters or grandchildren survived him as there are no mentioned of these relations in the will. It would also mean Thomas (if born in 1685ish) was 92 or even older when he died, highly unlikely in those days.

The burial record for 1777 states Thomas was above 50, not 'nearly 100' which you would expect it to say if it was the Thomas/Ann scenario. It also states Thomas was the Clerk of the Parish which fits as an occupation for a single man which Thomas born 1706 appears to be, but doesn't seem to suit a man with a large family to support.

One more thing, if John who married Elizabeth Durling was the son of Thomas and Ann and if the will belonged to him he would surely have mentioned at least three of John and Elizabeth's children who would have been his grand children who were alive in 1777, that is if he had died in 1777, but he didn't and John is the son of Francis and Elizabeth Cooper.

This is how I see it for now, further investigation pending.