

# Tinsley – Pate Connection

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Kt., 1993

2 June 1993

Debbie Scott  
9022 Norwick Road  
Richmond, VA 23229

Dear Debbie,

Thank you for the Ragland pages. Like you I am confused by the Tinsley-Ragland-Pate connections. Many in the last few years have written that our ancestor, Edward Pate, was married to Martha Tinsley, who was a daughter of Thomas Tinsley & Martha Ragland. I am still skeptical. It may well be true but I have yet to see any proof. The Tinsley, Ragland, and Pate families definitely were closely interconnected, being close neighbors in Hanover County, VA, even previous to its formation from New Kent County, VA in 1721.

Even if it is true that Edward Pate's wife was Martha Tinsley, there appears to be some very apparent contradictions on her alleged ancestry. The enclosed ancestor chart portrays the obvious incompatibility of the theory that she was a daughter of Thomas Tinsley (Jr.) & Martha Ragland, and granddaughter of John Ragland & Anne Beaufort. Martha Ragland Tinsley is shown as being born ca 1673 to a couple who did not marry until about 1716. If published dates on Martha Ragland Tinsley are correct she is of the age to have been a contemporary of Martha Pate Tinsley, and not of the age to have been her mother.

I have enclosed a family group chart on the family of Edward Pate (d. 1767) compiled by Jinks Pate Lee. She is a leading Pate researcher and I have long intended to write her. I would suggest writing her to see why she has concluded that Edward's wife was a Tinsley. If you receive an answer I would be very interested to hear what she has to say about this.

Research on the Tinsley family is also complicated by other apparent contradictions. There appears to be two Thomas Tinsley lines of early Virginia that are frequently confused. One Thomas Tinsley settled in Essex County, VA, where he reportedly died about 1699. His son, Thomas, Jr. died in 1716 in Essex County, VA, his wife was Sarah (? Jackson), their son, Thomas III, b. c1702 Essex Co., VA, married Margaret Vawter, and died in 1764 in Essex Co., VA. This family is the subject of the book, From Totopotomoy to Transylvania: A Descendancy Line of the Tinsely Family in America Since 1638, by Jim Bob Tinsley, 1976, Ocala, Fla. A sketch of this family also appears in the book, The Rucker Family Genealogy, by Sudie Rucker Wood, 1932, Old Dominion Press, Inc., Richmond, VA, pp404-407. Members of this family settled in Ohio County, KY and several descendants, including, Shelia Heflin, with whom I work, and Harry D. Tinsley, are close friends. Some of the researchers on this line have written that their first Thomas died between 1700-1702 in New Kent County, VA (area subsequently

Hanover County) and his wife was Elizabeth Randolph. See enclosed page by Ben Coke. You may want to contact Mr. Coke and compare notes, he resides 5810-C Westower, Richmond, VA 23225, phone 804-320-7426. I believe they have confused two different Thomas Tinsley's. One resided in Essex County and the other in New Kent County. Both died within a few years of each other and both had sons named Thomas. The Thomas Tinsley, who resided in New Kent County (Hanover), VA and who died 1700-1702 (?wife Elizabeth Randolph), I believe is the ancestor of the later Tinsleys of Hanover County, who were neighbors to the Pate and Ragland families.

I have not established how the Jeremiah Pate, who married Frances Ragland (d/o John Ragland & Anne Beaufort), was related to our Jeremiah Pate. This Jeremiah was born by 1738, he appears in the records of Hanover County, 'VA in the late 1750's. He appears to be older than our Jeremiah. I suspect that he is not old enough to have been an uncle, but may be a first cousin of our Jeremiah. The Jeremiah Pate, who married Frances Ragland, subsequently moved to Halifax County, VA, where he is listed in a 1785 tax list, and where an inventory of his estate was recorded in 1799.

If you learn anymore about the Pate-Tinsley connection please let me know and I will do likewise. Thanks again and bye for now.

Yours truly,  
Jerry Long

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Owensboro, KY 42303  
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2 June 1993

Ben Coke  
5810-C Westower  
Richmond, VA 23225

Dear Ben:

On your recent trip to Owensboro I wish I had talked to you about the Tinsley family. The Tinsleys of New Kent & Hanover Counties, Virginia were neighbors and interrelated to my Pate family. My 6th great-grandfather, Edward Pate, lived most of his life in Hanover County, VA and died in Bedford County, VA in 1767. He is possibly the son of either a Jeremiah or John Pate, who were listed in the 1704 Quit rent roll of New Kent County. Edward's wife was named Martha. Several researchers have come to the conclusion that she was Martha Tinsley (d/o Thomas). I am not yet convinced.

I have recently been trying to learn more about the Tinsley families of New Kent & Essex Counties, VA. I know that your line (of No Creek, Ohio County, KY, Bedford & Amherst Cos., VA) goes back to the Thomas Tinsley, whose will was recorded in Essex County in 1716, wife

Sarah (? Jackson). I have a copy of Jim Bob Tinsley's book on the Tinsley family and pages on the Tinsleys of Essex from the Rucker book. These two sources link the Thomas of Essex to the Thomas Tinsley, whose will was recorded in New Kent County in 1702, wife Elizabeth Randolph. However, I am not sure of this. Have you seen anything that linked the two? In the 1704 Quit rent roll of New Kent County there is a Thomas Tinsley and also in the 1704 Essex County Quit rent roll a Thomas Tinsley is listed. I believe there was a Thomas residing in both counties at this time. In the years immediately following 1702 & the will of Thomas Tinsley in New Kent County there is a Thomas Tinsley, who continues to appear in the New Kent County records along with a Cornelius & John Tinsley. It is likely that these three are the same three sons named in the will of Thomas in 1702.

Jim Bob Tinsley compiled his book on the Tinsleys in 1976. Have you run across any new data on the families of the above three Thomas Tinsleys - those of the 1702 New Kent County will, 1702-1719+ New Kent County records & 1716 Essex County will. I am particularly interested in anything that would shed any light on the children of the Thomas, Cornelius & John Tinsley, who appear in the records of New Kent County previous to 1721 and the formation of the new county of Hanover, where they are subsequently found. If you have any research on this or if you could possibly do some research on the Tinsleys of New Kent & Hanover I will try to repay you by doing an equal amount of research time here in our area.

I have given your name to another Pate researcher, Deborah Scott, who also resides in Richmond. She may contact you to discuss the Tinsleys.

Bye for now. Good luck in your research.

Yours truly,  
Jerry Long

1701 Alexander Ave.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

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7 July 1993, Wednesday  
Mr. Jerry Long  
1701 Alexander Ave  
Owensboro KY 42303

Dear Jerry,

Down at the State Library today I read some more tax lists. Your Ashford theory holds up so far - John is listed through 1799, but is not listed again.

In Virginia, there were land tax lists and personal property tax lists., That is, there were two separate lists.

Later I went over to the Va Historical Society. Their card catalog has 4 books on Tinsley family - the book by Jim Bob Tinsley and

1. Genealogical Sketch of the Tinsley Family, by Milton R Tinsley, 1971
2. Tinsley et al, by Wm Eldon Tinsley, 1986
3. Tinsley et al, 1992 Supplement by Wm Eldon Tinsley, 1992

Keep all enclosures:

Fairfax Co Va. Personal Property Tax list for Ashford 1791-1804, 2 pages. Fairfax Co. Va Land Tax list for Ashford 1791-1805, 2 pages of notes

Gen sketch by Milton R Tinsley, 1971, Title & pages 6-7

Tinsley et al by Wm Eldon Tinsley, 1986, Title & pages 1, 5, 6,13-16 Tinsley et al 1992 Supplement by same, Title, pages 1, 2.

I arrived back in Richmond yesterday, a week earlier than expected. Eventually will get back down to the state library and, if they let that book be xeroxed, I will xerox the library's holdings of the Fairfax Co records for you. It is a flimsy book, about a 3rd carbon copy on onion skin paper, so they may not let people xerox it.

Sincerely,  
Ben Coke

5810-C Westtower  
Richmond VA 23225

Neither library has a published book on Ashford.