

during the reign of William and Mary, sovereigns of England, and his life extended through the reign of Queen Ann and twenty-two years into the reign of George I. Milton died but a few years before his birth, and John Bunyan the year following. He was contemporary with Cowper, Dryden, Pope, Sir Isaac Newton, Steele, Addison, Fielding, and Smollett,—that galaxy of literary worthies that distinguished the reign of Queen Ann. Franklin, Washington, Lafayette, Samuel Johnson, and Oliver Goldsmith were not born until many years after William Thomas. Indeed, he was old enough to have been the father of each of these, and might have been the grandfather of Napoleon Bonaparte. New York City was but a small village, and had just passed from the control of the Dutch to that of the English. Philadelphia was but six years old at his birth, and, with the exception of a few scattering settlements along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, our whole country was one unbroken wilderness.

It is a curious and interesting fact that, notwithstanding this long lapse of time, one intervening personal link connected William Thomas of the dead past with the living present; Amos Thomas,³ “the Patriarch,” many of the grandchildren of whom are still living and who remember him well, had seen William, *his* grandfather, thus uniting that distant point with the present,—a period of over two hundred years.

William Thomas¹ d. May 22, 1747. He had ten children—five sons and five daughters:—

2. AMOS THOMAS, b. 1707; m. Abigail ———; d. July 31, 1754, and had issue.
3. ZERVIAH THOMAS, b. 1709; m. 1st Samuel Marsh, 2d Isaiah Pratt, and had issue.
4. TEMPERANCE THOMAS, b. ———; m. Edmund Jordan Mar. 12, 1734, and had issue.