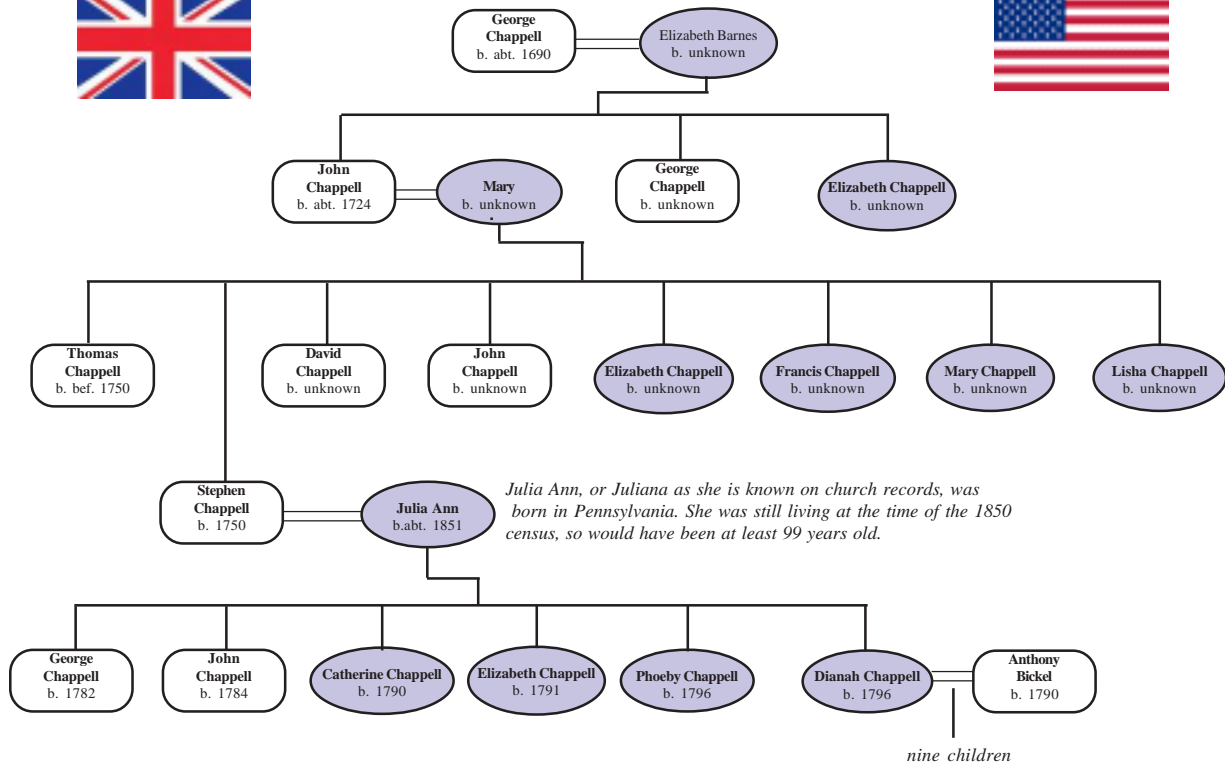


The Chappell Family in America



The Chappell family probably originated before the year 1066 in France. The name is a variation on the French word for chapel. It would be a good guess that they came to England about the time of William the Conqueror. Back then the name seems to have been spelled Chappelle. There were other Chappells that came to England when Louis XIV expelled the Huguenots in 1685, but our ancestors were living in England before that. The best estimate that I have seen is that they were living in the middle part of England in Nottinghamshire when they first emigrated to America in the first half of the 1600s. There was a Bennett Chappell associated with the Roanoke Colony in North Carolina in 1585, but he returned to England when the 1587 colony (the Lost Colony) arrived. Whether or not he was a relative is not known at this point. The first ancestor we can definitely trace is George Chappell, born about 1690 and who died in 1739. I believe he was most likely descended from Chappell settlers who settled near present day Newport News, Virginia before 1650, and who migrated further south in Virginia and then into the Perquimans and Chowan County areas of North Carolina after 1690. George Chappell bought farm land in 1722 in Princess Anne County (present day Virginia Beach) from Luke Mosely. The Mosely family also extended to Perquimans County. Prior to that land transaction everything about the Chappell ancestry is still conjecture and is not based on concrete evidence. This may be all we ever learn about it since many of the early records in that part of Virginia have been lost. Also in one of the North Carolina counties involved there was an allegation made against a county clerk in 1848 that he had deliberately destroyed many of the county's records. I haven't actually researched all of these areas completely, though, and it's possible that something may still turn up.

Like our ancestors in Princess Anne County, Virginia, the Chappell families in North Carolina had Loyalist sympathies during the Revolutionary War. Their religion, however, differed. Sometime during the move to North Carolina they had become Quakers. The Chappells in Princess Anne County seemed to have remained Anglican.

Stephen's children dispersed widely. George moved to Kentucky and John moved to Missouri. Elizabeth married Jacob Poff, and they moved, first to Warren County, Tennessee and then to Tippah County, Mississippi. Several of their children became Confederate soldiers in the Civil War. Phoebv married the son of a Revolutionary War veteran, Francis Thompson. After his death she spent her last days with a son, James Thompson, living in Gallia County, Ohio. Catherine (Caty) never left Wythe County. One source lists her as the mother of two illegitimate children. There is a marriage to a John Helmick in 1835.