

Thomas Margeson's Grandparents Arrive in New York

Report on a section of Descendants of Thomas Margeson: Our Family History (1970s family history book).

Book pages: pp. 7, 21, 85. Topics: New York colony; John and Catthren Margeson; 1716.

The family's documented line begins with John and Catthren Margeson, grandparents of Thomas Margeson. They came from Yorkshire to the English colony of New York some time after 1703, since no Margeson appears in the census taken that year, and before the birth of their son John in 1716. The editor stresses the name York: the family came from Yorkshire to New York.

The book offers a humorous mock newspaper item dated 1715 to celebrate the arrival, then states the facts. John Margeson Jr. was born in New York on May 8, 1716, and christened by Parson Vesey in Trinity Church. He was the first Margeson born in America in the line the book follows. The editor reconstructs a hypothetical 1720 census showing John, age 30, born in England, Catthren, 29, and young John, 4.

John Margeson senior seems to appear on an official list in David T. Valentine's History of New York City among men who had served an indenture and become freedmen. The book later gives John (born 1716) a period as an indentured servant who gained his freedom in 1745. He died about 1778. His son Thomas, born January 6, 1761, is the first generation of the numbered charts.

This report is a summary written for Holden's Archive (holdens-archive.org) from the family history book. Names, dates and places follow the book as printed; the book's OCR text contains some unclear figures, so verify key facts against the original.