

Rockston/Roxton

Stone House Farm (Thomson House), ca.1790?, and Hawthorn, built 1832

Resource History

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February 2009

1760 – William Calmes was given a Fairfax grant of 1,110 acres including the “Spring head of Bullskin,” and adjoining Capt. George Johnston, McCormick, and a “Stony Ridge.” (NN GB K/86).

1785 – According to a later (1820) indenture, John Throckmorton [I] purchased a 550-acre tract from Calmes, which his son Robert Throckmorton [I] mortgaged in 1785 to John Taylor.

The arrangement was that Robert’s son John Throckmorton [II] would exchange his interest in land in Caroline County for the mortgaged land in Jefferson (then Berkeley) County. The JC tract was described in the 1820 indenture as “adjoining the land which the said Robert Throckmorton then resided” (JC DB 11/315).

In 1785, Robert Throckmorton [I] was taxed in Berkeley County on 1098 acres but he did not appear on the personal property tax, indicating that he was not yet living there in 1785. The same is true on the 1787 tax lists.

By 1789, Robert Throckmorton [I] was listed on the personal property tax list with 31 slaves, 20 horses, one stud horse, and one “Riding Carriage” with two wheels.

In 1792, Robert Throckmorton [I] was assessed for 1068 acres. Alban Throckmorton (a brother?) was assessed for 206 acres.

1798 – Robert Throckmorton’s [I] executor was assessed on the Berkeley County house tax for a house in Bath, perhaps where Robert retired prior to his death.

Robert Throckmorton [sic] [II], possibly the son of Alban (first appeared on the 1792 personal property tax) was assessed for a house in District 1, country, valued at \$210. Robert Throckmorton [II] was assessed in 1802 with 226 acres in Jefferson County – likely the acreage inherited from Alban Throckmorton who did not appear in Jefferson Co. tax records.

John Throckmorton [sic] [II], son of Robert [I] was assessed for a house in the country, District 1, valued at \$1,260. This is the same value given to Nathan Haines’ house and the Samuel Washington house. John was also assessed for eight slaves.

[My inclination is to think this is the stone house but the clunky stonework on that house sure doesn’t look this early. On the other hand the heavy window frames do look early. Was this house originally stuccoed so that the stonework was not detailed in any way because it was to be covered?]

1802 – John Throckmorton [II] was assessed in Jefferson County for 817 acres.

This likely includes the 550 acres in the indenture noted above, which is really a mortgage release (dated 1820).

In 1814, John [II] was assessed for 900 acres adjoining "A. Riley." Riley's tract called Head Spring was one of the leaseholds on Washington's Bullskin (Rock Hall) plantation.

1810 – On the census, John Throckmorton was aged 26-44 years and shared his household with one female aged 16-25, one female aged 10-15, one female under age 9, and 26 slaves.

John was likely in his mid-30s and either had a young wife and two children or his wife had died and he had three female children.

1815 – On the Jefferson County house tax, John Throgmorton [sic] was assessed for a house valued at \$700 over the \$500 minimum (\$1,200 total).

1820 – John Throckmorton's [II] assessment on his 900 acres included \$1,000 in building value.

The census record of 1820 listed John Throckmorton as a farmer, still under 44 years old. He had two women in the household aged 26-44, and one female child aged 10-15. There were also 26 enslaved persons and one "free colored" in the household. Seven people were listed as occupied with agriculture and one in manufacture.

This is the year John Throckmorton [II] takes actual possession of the 550 acres mortgaged to John Taylor back in 1785 (JC DB 11/313).

1822 – John Throckmorton [II] died without a recorded will.

From 1823 through 1830, the "John Throckmorton hrs" were assessed for the 900 acres with \$1,000 building value.

1830 – Lucy (Throckmorton) Thomson inherited the land from her father John and transferred it to her husband John A. Thomson (JC DB 16/197).

In a later (1870) deed, John A. Thomson called this his Roxton tract, with 258 acres being Hawthorn [sic] (DB 5/341) and 314 acres (1880 deed) being the "Stone House tract" (DB H/214).

On the 1830 census John A. Thomson was not separately listed, however Margaret Throckmorton, aged 40-50, was listed with one female aged 30-40 and one male aged 30-40. Likely these were Lucy and John A. Thomson. The family had 18 slaves and four "Free Colored Persons."

In 1831, John A. Thomson was assessed for 900 acres with \$1,000 building value.

1833 – John A. Thomson was assessed for 900 acres but the building value rose to \$1,900 with the notation "**\$900 added for new Log Dwelling House.**"

The Thomson's moved into this house, according to a later (1870) deed which called Hawthorn [sic] "the tract on which John A. Thomson now resides..." (DB 5/341).

1837 – John Thomson added a “new stone Depot and new Tavern” together valued at \$1,800 to his 900-acre property, now with a total building value of \$3,700. These were likely located in Summit Point.

1847 – Another \$900 was “added for new House” to the Thomson 900-acre estate for a total building value now of \$4,400.

The 1852 S. Howell Brown map does show three houses on the large Thomson property. Also, the entire village of Summit Point was located on his property so this additional house could have been there as well.

In 1850, Thomson was assessed another \$900 for “improvements,” for a grand total of \$5,300 in building value. In 1851 the property was called “Thomson’s Depot.”

1860 – John A. Thompson [sic] was listed on the census, a farmer aged 55, with real estate valued at \$55,000 and personal property valued at \$25,000. His wife Lucy (Throckmorton) was apparently deceased and he had remarried to Mary E., aged 38. The children included Lucy (18), James (16), Mary (14), Pembroke (13), and Clara (11). Also in the household were Nimrod Ware, aged 14, and Almira Steptoe, a “Lady,” and her son Robert, aged 17.

1870 – John A. Thomson transferred 258 acres called **Hawthorn** [sic], the “tract on which John A. Thomson now resides,” to his son A.P. (Augustus Pembroke) Thomson, who would have been then just 23 years old (DB 5/341).

John A. perhaps retired to his “**Stone House tract**” which in 1879 ended up in Chancery Court. A.P. Thomson and R.C. Steptoe purchased the farm from Eugene Baker, Sheriff, for \$5,552 in 1880 (DB H/214).

Both farms remain in the Thomson family. The 314-acre Stone House tract was transferred to A.P. Thomson (Steptoe’s interest) in 1885 (DB N/510). A.P. Thomson devised the farm to his wife Elizabeth (WB D/481) and she to their children (WB G/504). The heirs transferred it to James M. Thomson in 1943 (DB 158/336). In 2006, James Thomson Breckinridge conveyed the now 235-acre **Stone House Farm** to JTB Farm LLC (DB 1023/724).

The 258-acre **Hawthorn** farm was devised by A.P. Thomson to his wife Elizabeth (WB D/481) who transferred it to her daughters? Mary Scott and Imogene Thomson, subject to her life estate. The farm included a one-acre lot on the B&O Railroad siding improved with a “storage apple packing building” (DB 151/18). In 1984, Miss Imogene S. Thomson transferred the property to Hawthorn Assoc. (534/698).