

**Text of Letter From Jessie Hooper to Cdr Harold H. Gay, and Dean Froehlich, dated 19 August 1984.**  
**[VERBATIM]**

Dear Lapsley descendants,

Through the kindness of Mr. Froehlich I have learned that you, Cdr Gay, descend from my Thomas Lapsley of Orange County, North Carolina. I would be very much interested in knowing your line of descent.

Just recently I have learned that our Thomas was an Ensign in the Orange County Militia, per p. 759 of "Colonial Soldiers of the South" by Clark. This was in 1755 and in that year Thomas "Lapslie" was paid for attending the Supreme Court, per "Abstracts of the Minutes ... Orange Co. 1752-1766." So he was a person who held responsibility in Orange County.

His will A-22, 21 Jun 1780/August 1781, names wife, Charity, son Thomas, and minor children, Elizabeth, Charity, David, and James. His executors were his wife, son Thomas, and friend, Wm Anderson, (brother of Charity). My Jane Lapsley who married William Armstrong no doubt had received her share before the will. Court records in Williamson County, TN, prove the Armstrong connection. The marriage date of Jane Lapsley and Wm Armstrong was 16 Jan 1765 per family records. It seems as though Thomas Lapsley may have had two wives- but with Jane born c1745 and the youngest born 1755 it is not too far astrech.

The will of James Lapsley 1818/1821 in Orange County, NC, indicates no issue. No information is available on son, David Lapsley, but son Thomas probably married before 1779 (on tax list) Elizabeth Armstrong, sister of William who married Jane Lapsley. I have no information on the other daughters, Charity and Elizabeth, except the will of James D588 1818/1821 mentions Elizabeth, his sister. He also mentions the Armstrong children of his nephew, Thomas Armstrong, one being my ancestor "Seney" (Asenath) who married John Currie in Orange Co. 1827.

We know nothing of the origin of our Thomas Lapsley except there was a David Lapsley born 1744 who died in Philadelphia in 1836 at age 92. The well-recorded Joseph Lapsley of Albemarle County, VA, was about the same age, it seems, so they could have been closely related. I have a good deal of information about that family with its famous Presbyterian ministers. They have spread over the South and I went to college in Memphis, TN, with a Billy Lapsley- but have no idea of his connections.

I have a 1790 deed from David Lapsley to William Walker selling land on Back Creek- which was given him in his father's will, a land grant to Thomas in 1760, (surveyed 1760 and granted 1761.)

It is a pleasure to have an account of the Allegheny County, PA, Thomas Lapsley, Mr. Froehlich. You mention that he was in the Revolution and I hope you will record the line for SAR- or someone for DAR or both. I will enter the new military rank of Thomas Lapsley in Daughters of the American Colonists, a society of pre-Revolution patriots. My sister had recorded the land grant and jury duty- both qualifying service.

I shall look forward to hearing from you, Cdr Gay, and thank you very much, Mr. Froehlich, for your information.  
Yours.

/s/ Jesseie Hooper  
Mrs. Mathew L. Hooper