

Dear Emily,

A nagging question has always been whether Richard Thomas, Jr. built the Bentley-Thomas house for himself and his wife or for Caleb Bentley and Sarah Brooke Bentley. RT built a house for himself and Deborah across Market St. from the B-T house, but it was much larger and a frame, not masonry like the B-T house, structure. It may be possible to determine from the birth records where Richard and Deborah were living when their children were born. They had another house in Sandy Spring or Ashton and may have lived there when some of their children were born, or may have been living at one of the Brooke's many estates. One possibility is that they lived in the B-T house when the first children were born, but it was small so they built the house across the street when they had too many children for that house and sold it to Caleb Bentley.

All of these folks (except, of course, for RT's children who died during the 1790s) were in Brookeville in 1814.

Sandy

*Here's the Book of Names. note that sources are not given.
~~Richard~~ Richard Thomas, Jr. is listed as a surveyor.
I think this is an error. The summary of the Pleasanto lawsuit claiming that the distribution of Brooke land to the several sisters (including his wife) was biased ^{in favor of} toward Deborah Brooke Thomas because her husband was the surveyor confuses Richard Jr. with his father, who was actually the surveyor (and also probably the master builder of at least one of the Brooke houses - Falling Green).*

The summary, with its many errors, is at the Sandy Spring museum. The court papers are at the MSA.

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