

Allen -- I appreciate everything you do with the website and the family in general. However, I would like to offer a suggestion. Given the following:

1. that the Fielding Langford DNA matches perfectly with that of descendants of Euclid Langford, and of the "Lanford" (sic) family of Louisa County, Va.; and
2. that the DNA of the Stephen Langford descendants in Mt. Vernon matches those of various other scattered Langfords, including those of Isle of Wight Co., Va.,

I conclude that the "step brother" or adoption scenarios you describe could not reasonably have occurred at the level of Joseph Langford (born circa 1720) and Stephen Langford, founder of Mt. Vernon. If there is a link where both of these lines had progenitors living in the same household, it's at the generation of their respective fathers, at a minimum -- and probably even further back than that.

All the evidence from the Caroline County, Virginia order books (such as it is) suggests that Joseph Langford was the son of Nicholas Langford (Linford / Lenford / Lankford / Lenkford) the second, who evidently died about 1742 (when the references to Nicholas Langford "Jr." cease). See <http://frontporchrockernews.blogspot.com/2006/03/langford-and-lankford-caroline-county.html>.

I'm not 100% sold on everything that's bruited about as to Stephen's ancestry, but the one thing certain is that, as noted above, his descendants' DNA matched up with the Thomas Lankford descendants of Isle of Wight County, VA. See Sherlene's g-log at http://sherlene.wordpress.com/2007/07/12/ivey-lankford-b-abt-1776-son-of-thomas-sr-and-mary-collier-of-newport-parish-isle-of-wight-virginia-m-_-had-four-slaves-in-1810-in-pulaski-co-kentucky-d-aft-19-aug-1834-of-russell-c/.

As shown there, it's interesting that one Thomas Lankford named a son Stephen in his will was proved there in June of 1778. I am not sure whether this Stephen was the same person as the Stephen Langford who founded Mt. Vernon. A different Stephen Langford was still living in Isle of Wight County as of 1785 when he wrote his will. And just as Thomas of the 1778 will was old enough to have grandchildren, so this Stephen Langford also named a grandson in his will. So the 1785 Stephen could have been brother to the testator of 1778 rather than his son. For now, I'm just saying that the DNA analysis shows clearly that Stephen of Mt. Vernon is definitely related to the Isle of Wight Langfords, and not to any Langfords who have been shown to have lived in Caroline County.

If I understand the comments made by the Stephen Langford descendants correctly, their ancestors were in the New Kent / Hanover / King & Queen area before they settled in Isle of Wight -- and ultimately they go to Gloucester County. Gloucester is also where the afore-mentioned Nicholas Lankford (second) was christened in 1678 (as "Lenford"). (See my post on genforum from two years ago, at <http://genforum.genealogy.com/langford/messages/1803.html>.)

So IF there was a step brother / foster brother arrangement, I would hazard that that's when it would have taken place.