

Email from Barry Wood, March 5, 2004

The Langford Name

On further reflection, I have decided that another aspect of the 1909 Travis "history" a/k/a fractured fairy tale is BUNK! This is the assertion that Joseph Langford was born in Scotland, never mind when, and the associated notion that the Langfords are Scottish.

Try going to familysearch.org, click on the "search for ancestors in our {modestly} vast record collections," and then run a search for any of the given names common in the earliest generations of this family -- Joseph, Nicholas, Benjamin, Stephen, Thomas, etc. Leave the date qualifiers blank.

If you limit the country of your search to Scotland, you get practically NOTHING in the pre-1760 period. With maybe one exception, the name just does not show up in the Old Parochial Registers AT ALL.

In contrast, if you specify England instead, you are practically slammed with entries, mostly from Berkshire & Cornwall, but also not a few from Cheshire, Bucks, Somerset, Gloucester, etc., most of these being counties that contributed heavily to emigration to the Virginia tidewater in the colonial period. The results are especially graphic if your search is limited to the IGI, but quick & dirty will also work.

There's no longer any question in my mind. Langford is an English name. You no longer have the excuse that you have to be thrifty because of your Scots blood (well, except for the Wisharts and McElroys).

Barry