

## Captain Adam Thorowgood



*No known image or portrait is known of Adam Thorowgood, but this is AI's best guess as to what a 17th Century Virginia Gentleman might look like*

Adam came to Virginia aboard the ship “Charles”, and became indentured servant for Captain Edward Waters, of Elizabeth City (now Hampton, Virginia), who was involved in the tobacco trade.

Powhatan Indians, led by Chief Opechancanough, made a surprise



**Map of early English settlements along the James River in Colonial Virginia in early 1600s**

Captain Adam Thorowgood (1604–1640) is a common ancestor of all of our Tarvin cousins. He and his wife Sarah Offley (1609-1657) are my 10th Great-grandparents. Their great-granddaughter Elizabeth Dent (1696-1760) married Richard Tarvin (1691-1742). Richard Tarvin is the first Tarvin immigrant from England, and thus Richard and Elizabeth (my 7th Great-grandparents) are the ancestors of all the known Tarvins in America.

Adam Thorowgood was born as the 9th son of the Rev. William Thorowgood (1554-1625), Rector of Grimston, Norfolk, England. From an early age, Adam became interested in immigrating to America.

In 1621 at the age of 17,



assault on the English settlers, (including Capt Waters’ household), along Virginia’s James River on March 22, 1622. The Powhatan killed 347 English settlers, including men, women, and children, about one third of the English population in these settlements. This began a 10 year war between the Powhatan and the English settlements. Adam Thorowgood is recorded as having survived the Indian attack. Though details of his individual experience are not known, his survival and continued presence in the colony after these attacks helped him to eventually

acquire land, status, and a role in rebuilding the settlement communities.



***Massacre of the Settlers by Matthaus Merian, 1634. A 1624/25 muster or census, of the colony included “List of the Living and the Dead”. Among the survivors of the Indian Attacks was Adam Thorowgood, a young indentured servant living in the household of Captain Edward Waters.***

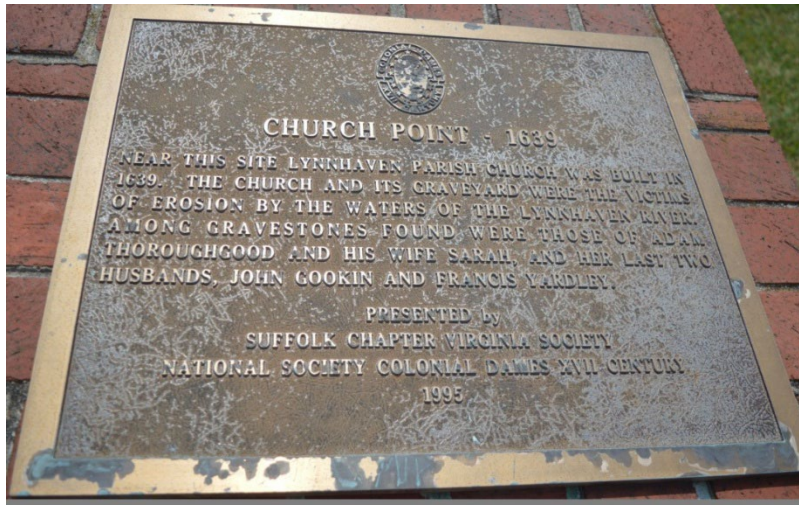
Adam Thorowgood fulfilled his indentured servitude, and by 1626, he was known as Captain Adam Thorogood, Gentleman of Kiquotan, when he purchased 150 acres on the north side of Hampton Roads. After this, he returned to England, where his prospects made him a suitable match for Sarah Offley, a member of two prominent London trading families connected to the Virginia Company. Sarah’s father was involved with the Virginia Company, and grandfather, Sir Edward Osborne, was a powerful merchant who became Lord Mayor of London. Adam and Sarah married on July 18, 1627, at St. Ann’s Church, Blackfriars, London.

Adam Thorowgood then returned to Virginia with his wife Sarah on the ship "Hopewell" in 1628. Adam became a leading citizen of the area and was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1629, 1629–1630 and 1632, to the Governor's Council, and as a Justice of the Court. He also became a captain in the local militia and started one of the first ferry services in Hampton Roads. He exported tobacco, which was the main cash crop which early colonists produced.

On 24 Jun 1635, Adam patented 5350 acres on the Chesapeake Bay, having paid for the transportation of himself, wife Sarah and 105 other persons on various ships from England between 1628-1634. The system in place in the 1600s was that you could be granted 50 acres for each person that you sponsored, and paid their passage for coming to Virginia. Adam's acreage was in the area of current cities of Norfolk and Virginia Beach on the west side of the Lynnhaven River. Adam also received several smaller grants of land and was probably the largest land owner in the county.

Adam and Sarah had 4 children: Anne, Sarah, Elizabeth, and Adam II. The Tarvins are descended through Anne Thorowgood(1630-1704), who married Gerard Folke (1626-1669).

Adam Thorowgood died in 1640 at the age of 35, following a sudden illness. Sarah remarried twice more, and was made a widow twice more, all the while maintaining the Thorowgood homestead properties. Sarah died in 1657 at the age of 48. Adam and Sarah left a lasting legacy through their descendants and the colonial properties associated with the Thorowgood name.



### **CHURCH POINT - 1639**

**Near this site Lynnhaven Parish Church was built in 1639. The church and its graveyard were the victims of erosion by the waters of the Lynnhaven River. Among gravestones found were those of Adam Thoroughgood and his wife Sarah, and her last two husbands, John Gookin and Francis Yardley.**

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On or near the Thorowgood properties along western shore of the Lynnhaven River, the Lynnhaven Parish Church was built in 1639. It was at this church that Adam Thorowgood, and his wife Sarah were buried. Later, the church and its graveyard were the victims of erosion by the waters of the Lynnhaven River, and both were sunk into the mud of the river. A plaque along Spring House Trail in Virginia Beach marks the approximate location of the sunken Church and graveyard.



***Present day view from the western shore of the Lynnhaven River, looking east, near where the Lynnhaven Parish Church was built in 1639. The graves of both Adam Thorowgood and his wife Sarah Offley are below the surface of the water near this site.***