

## THE BELANGEE FAMILY

Transcribed, by Peter H. Stemmer, from Leah Blackman's History of Little Egg Harbor Township, originally published in 1880 as part of the West Jersey Surveyors' Association Report. Reprinted in 1963 by The Great John Mathis Foundation, Inc., Tuckerton, N.J. pp335-337

Evi or Ive Belangee, the forefather of this family, was a French Huguenot, and at an early date he came to Egg Harbor, where he purchased the farm now called the "Oliphant Farm," he also made several other locations of land. In ancient times Belangee's creek was called Ive's creek, after Ive Belangee, who owned property along said creek. This name is variously spelled in the early records, but Evi generally adopted.

It is recorded that Mary, daughter of Richard Ridgway, 1st, married a man by the name of Belangee, and I believe it was the above-named Ive Belangee, for I never met with the name of Belangee that could not be traced to this Ive Belangee, and he would have been a half-brother-in-law to Thomas Ridgway, Sr., and the same to Joseph Willits, that is, if he married Mary Ridgway. Ive Belangee's children, of whom there is an account, were James, Samuel, Ive, Jr., Elizabeth and Christian. The Belangees became Quakers, and throughout the various generations have been people of respectability. I never met with any one who had anything to say against a Belangee." By their contemporaries, the Belangees were considered skillful farmers. Thomas Belangee, Sr., had a large peach orchard, and built a house to kiln dry peaches, and his dried peaches were made an article of commerce, he selling them in Philadelphia, and other places, where they were known as Belangee's dried peaches; and oftentimes he had more peaches than he could manage, when he would drive his hogs into the peach orchard, and then shake the trees so that the hogs might feast on the luscious mellow fruit. The field where the peach orchard was is still called the "peach orchard field," and at this date, it is grown up with quite large pine trees. The Mathistown saw mill is situated on the site of a fulling mill built by Ive Belangee, for the purpose of fulling the cloth woven by the people "of Little Egg Harbor.

Various traditions state that James Belangee, Sr., was a skillful physician, but he could not have had very much practice in the sparsely settled place where he lived; no doubt but that his farm paid him better than his profession. I omitted to state above, that Thomas Belangee not only had a great peach orchard, but he also had a large apple orchard, of excellent grafted fruit and likewise pears, cherries and black mulberries, but for a long time, the apple trees have been on the decline, and many of them have disappeared.

*First Branch.* In the year 1727, James, son of Ive Belangee, Sr., married Marjorie, daughter of Thomas Smith, of Cape May. James settled on his father's homestead. He had but two sons, and they were twins, and he intending the homestead for them, built a large dwelling house convenient for two families, and at his death, left the place to his twin sons, Thomas and James, but James finally emigrated to the West, selling his part of the farm to his brother Thomas.

As before stated James Belangee had two sons who were twins, and his daughters were Phebe, Ruth, Christian, Susannah, Judith and Marjorie.

Thomas, son of James Belangee, Sr., married Mary Barton, of upper Burlington county, and their children were Thomas, Aaron, James, Isaac, Marjorie and Hannah.

Thomas Belangee, Jr. married Ann Dudley, of upper Burlington county, and had a son Ivan and two daughters, and perhaps other children. He was a wheelwright and more than fifty years ago he removed to the upper part of Burlington county.

Aaron, son of Thomas Belangee, Sr., married Sarah Evans, of upper Burlington county. She lived but a short time after her marriage, and then Aaron married Margaret Motwell, and after her death he married Margaret Randolph, a widow, whose maiden name was Cranmer, she being of the Cranmer family of Lower Bank, Washington township, Burlington county. In his native place Aaron Belangee was long and favorably known as a school teacher. He had no children.

James, son of Thomas Belangee, Sr., married Rebecca, daughter of Barzillai Leeds. James removed to the West, and there became a minister in the Hicksite denomination.

Isaac, son of Thomas Belangee, Sr., married Elizabeth Stokes.

Marjorie, daughter of Thomas Belangee, Sr., married James Willits, 3d, and had a child Jane Ann, wife of Samuel Cawley.

Hannah, daughter of Thomas Belangee, Sr., married Evi Smith.

*Second Branch.*—Ive, son of Iye Belangee, Sr., married away from Egg Harbor, and immediately after his marriage, left his native place.

*Third Branch.*—Samuel, son of Ive Belangee, Sr., married Alice, daughter of Joseph Parker, Sr. Some years after his marriage, Samuel Belangee left Egg Harbor.

*Fourth Branch.*—Elizabeth, daughter of Ive Belangee, Sr., married Robert Smith, of Atlantic county. No account of any of their children, except their son Ive Smith.

*Sixth Branch.*—Christian, daughter of Ive Belangee, Sr., married Richard Osborn, of Long Island.

James, son of James Belangee, Sr., married Grace Angle, of the upper section of Burlington county. They had no children. They emigrated to what was then called the "O-ennessee country," in the western part of the State of New York.

Phebe, daughter of James Belangee, Sr., was the second wife of John Ridgway, Sr., and the mother of Jacob Ridgway, who was the second on the list of millionaires of Philadelphia.

Ruth, daughter of James Belangee, Sr., married Job Ridgway.

Christian, daughter of James Belangee, Sr., married Daniel Shourds, Sr.

Susannah, daughter of James Belangee, Sr., married John Ridgway, brother to Job Ridgway; her sister Ruth's husband. Three of James Belangee, Sr.'s daughters married Ridgways. Phebe married John Ridgway, the uncle of her sisters Ruth and Susannah's husbands. Those three Ridgway brothers-in-law, resided on the following named farms: John Ridgway, Sr., on the Willits Parker farm; Job Ridgway, on the Oliver Parker farm; and John Ridgway, 2nd, on the Joseph Parker farm.

Judith, daughter of James Belangee, Sr., married Gideon Scull, of Atlantic county. Marjorie, daughter of Gideon and Judith Scull, married Daniel Leeds, 4th, and their children were Judith, Gideon, Josiah, Daniel, Offley, Benjamin, Japhet, Marjorie and Mary.

Judith, daughter of Daniel Leeds, 4th, married Nathan, son of Jeremiah Willits, of Egg Harbor.

Offley, son of Daniel Leeds, 4th, married Charlotte, daughter of Jeremiah Ridgway, of Egg Harbor.

Marjorie, daughter of James Belangee, Sr., married Benjamin Haines of Evesham.

The Belangees, of Atlantic county, N. J., resided somewhere between Absecon and Somers' Point. James and Thomas are remembered as residents of this place, but it was many years ago. It is very probable that they were the descendants of Ive Belangee of Little Egg Harbor, through his sons Ive, Jr., or Samuel, both of whom left their native place soon after their marriages, and I have heard a tradition of one of them living on the Atlantic county side of Mullica river during the Revolutionary War.

John Belangee Cox, Esq., of Philadelphia, is a descendent of the Little Egg Harbor Belangees, but I do not know from which branch he descended. It is now more than fifty years since the Belangees removed from their native place, so that of their later posterity nothing is known by me. Thomas Belangee, Jr., settled in upper Burlington county. Isaac Belangee settled in Philadelphia, and Aaron removed to Bordentown, where he died at an advanced age.