**Thomas Chappell I**

***Born 1612 in Gravesend, England***

Thomas Chappell was our first ancestor on the Chappell family to come to America to stay. At age 23, on May 28, 1635, he sailed from Southhampton, England on the sailing ship ***"America"*** to the Virginia Colonies.

In 1638 he married a colonist, ***Mary Sarah Banister***, and they had two known children, a daughter born in 1648 and a son, Thomas II born in 1650. They lived in Charles City County, Virginia, at the mouth of Chappell's Creek, on the lower James River, about 30 miles from Jamestown.   
Virginia deeds show that in 1650 his property was next to that of Richard Tye and Charles Sparrowe.

It is interesting to note that Thomas came to America on the ship ***"America"*** which was piloted by Master William Barker.