

## ANCESTRY OF GLENDON JEAN STARR

### GROUP TWO

#### **William B. Clark and Eleanor "Ellen" (Pate)**

Eliza Jane (Clark), wife of Billy Miller, was the daughter of William B. Clark and Eleanor "Ellen" (Pate). Although both were born in Virginia, William and Eleanor met in Breckinridge County, Kentucky where both of their parents relocated. William B. was the eldest child of Thomas Martin Clark and Milly (Moorman) and most certainly was named for his great-uncle William Clark. What the initial "B" stands for eludes us, but a good guess is "Bolling / Bowling", a traditional Clark family given name that is also the surname of a prominent family in Virginia. Born about 1789 in Campbell County, William was twenty years old when he and his parents packed up everything and followed their neighbors and relatives to Kentucky. Eleanor, born April 14, 1793 in Botetourt County, was the second child, but eldest daughter of Edward Pate and Mary (Crawford). She was only three or four when her parents moved west, so probably had no memories of life in Virginia.

William and Eleanor's marriage bond is dated April 3, 1811, but the wedding probably took place a day or two later. They moved in with William's parents and siblings for his father was seriously ill or perhaps already deceased. Thus the newlywed William was the sole support of his wife, mother and five siblings, the youngest only seven years old. His oldest sister married Calvin Hendricks a month after William's marriage. Their mother signed the consent for this marriage which is our first indication Thomas was possibly already dead. Later that year, after the arrival of the "Great Comet of 1811" in September but before December when the first of three major jolts along the New Madrid Fault line was felt, William and his mother Milly appeared before the Breckinridge County Court to begin probate proceedings on Thomas M. Clark's estate.

William and Eleanor's first child, your Eliza Jane, arrived January 28, 1812, midway between the second and third (largest) of the New Madrid tremors. Chimneys of cabins in the neighboring county came crashing down during this third jolt. Eliza was followed by sisters Mary P. in 1814 and Mildred in 1816. From everything we know about the family, William and Eleanor lived with his mother and siblings their entire married life. They almost didn't have a choice for his only brother, born in 1804, was still too young to take on the responsibilities of the father's farm.

In 1817 the Hendricks sued the administrators for the division of the slaves belonging to Thomas M. Clark's estate. William was appointed guardian for his other siblings, all still under 21 years old, and his Uncle James Moorman stepped in as administrator. William purchased one of the four slaves offered for sale and Thomas's moveable estate was settled June 1818. Later that summer William was appointed Justice of the Peace, but died that fall between signing as witness to a deed in September and Eleanor's appearance before the court to start probate on his estate November 16. She, with her father Edward Pate as her security, signed a bond for \$2,000, the court's estimate of the value of William's estate at the time. William owned no land in his own right, but held a simple one-seventh interest in his father's 190 acres, and this only after his mother's death. Thus, only the slave he purchased from his father's estate

and whatever farming tools and household goods they managed to acquire and keep separate from his father's holdings were truly "his" at the time.

Eleanor, probably still living with her mother-in-law, didn't wait long to remarry -- much to her later regret I'm sure. She and the widower Ephraim Comstock, whose first wife died in childbirth in November 1817, married January 27, 1819. They were related by marriage -- his aunt was married to her uncle -- so they probably had known each other most of their lives. Immediately after the wedding, Ephraim's former father-in-law took steps to remove Ephraim's young daughter from the household. The fact he was successful speaks volumes for other's opinion of Ephraim. Meanwhile, her father, Edward Pate, petitioned the court for Ephraim to either put up a separate security bond for William Clark's estate, or hand over the entire estate to him. Edward then turned around in October and "gave" them 100 acres for "love, affection and \$1.00".

At the urging of Edward Pate on May 15, 1820, the Court appointed guardians for the three Clark girls. Actions followed to force Eleanor and Ephraim Comstock to settle their accounts of their administration on William Clark's estate. Ephraim's selling of the slave William Clark had purchased at his father's estate sale to pay his most insistent creditor may be the underlying cause of this action. The Court appointed three Commissioners to sort out the details. One of the Commissioners was Eleanor's Uncle Samuel Crawford (Jr.) who was also related by marriage to Ephraim. Edward Pate was questioned about the land he "gave" Ephraim and Eleanor, and appears to not be pleased that Ephraim sold it to his grandfather for only \$50. Edward's recollection was that he originally had offered the land to William Clark IF William would "remove and settle on it." His intention was benefiting his granddaughters, not Ephraim and Eleanor. Not surprisingly, the Commissioners viewed both the slave and land sales as fraudulent and ordered both contracts "voided." The land and slave were returned to the Clark girls, but placed in the hands of their guardians. All court costs were charged to Ephraim and Eleanor.

Early 1820s tax records show Ephraim was desperate for money: he is listed as "insolvent" some years, and was given the job of jailer, a county job usually given to those only one step away from going on county welfare. Hopefully Ephraim was a better husband and man than court records suggest. He and Eleanor had one son, Napoleon Bonaparte Comstock, born August 22, 1820.

In 1826 the Clark girls through their guardians sued Ephraim and Eleanor for the rest of their father's estate. This judge wasn't as sympathetic to them as the Commissioners had been. He ruled the girls were to receive \$116 total, the amount left over after the widow's dower was taken from what was now left of the William Clark estate. He then turned around and ordered the girls to give \$116 back to Ephraim and Eleanor "for maintaining them the intervening years." Each party was to pay their own lawyers and the court costs in this affair. One suspects this suit was brought when the girls or their guardians learned Eleanor and Ephraim had agreed to end the marriage. Although a divorce decree hasn't been located, in a day when it sometimes required an act of the legislature to grant one, both Ephraim and Eleanor remarried and had children by a third spouse. I personally listed Ephraim "as deceased by" the first date for which I found Eleanor with a third husband. A Comstock genealogist did the same with Eleanor when she found Ephraim with a third spouse. Napoleon Bonaparte is without doubt Eleanor's son, but the mother of Caroline Comstock, born about 1825, is questionable. Since she appears later with Ephraim, not Eleanor, I believe she is the daughter of Ephraim's third wife. But he appears to still be married to Eleanor in 1826 when the Clark girls sued both of them. Perhaps they separated earlier and the lawsuit was the girls' last attempt to get what they considered was theirs?

Again, we haven't located a marriage license for Eleanor (Pate) Clark Comstock and Edward Hambleton, but guess it to be "about 1828." Making this marriage even more difficult to document is the fact that Eleanor began using "Ellen" as her given name sometime in the 1820s. We even wonder why Edward was attracted to Eleanor. He was in his late twenties; she about 35, was a twice-married mother of four children, two of whom were teenagers. Perhaps the answer lies somewhere in the marriage of her sister and his brother? The two older Clark daughters married in 1832 and Eleanor and Edward's last son was born November 1837. Thus Eleanor, 44 when her last child was born, had grandchildren (including your William Mason Miller) older than her own children. One of the last records for Eleanor references her as heir of her father, Edward Pate. In a final division of his property are the words: "corner of the tract laid off for E. Comstock's wife." This was the final puzzle piece I needed to clinch Eleanor's three marriages and her as Edward Pate's daughter. She is listed on the 1860 census, but not the 1870 census, giving us a ten-year window for her death date.

Eleanor had three daughters with William Clark: your Eliza Jane, who married Billy Miller; Mary P., who married John W. Ball; and Mildred, who married Daniel DeJarnett. With Ephraim Comstock, she had Napoleon Bonaparte, and she and Edward Hambleton had Sarah, Letitia E., Mason E. and Charles Dudley.

### **William Withers and Elizabeth (Hord)**

Alsy Withers, wife of John Ball of Fauquier County, Virginia and Breckinridge County, Kentucky, was the daughter of William Withers and Elizabeth Hord. Both lines are found in the early records of the northern neck area of Virginia. Most of my information on the Withers line comes from the 1949 genealogy written by Franz V. Recum of New York: Withers -- America or A Collection of genealogical data concerning the history of the descendants in the male line of James Withers (1680/1 - 1746) of Stafford County, Virginia. William's father was as far back as Recum was able to take the Withers line.

William, the fifteenth of sixteen children, was born April 16, 1726 in Stafford County, Virginia. He owned a large tract of land in Stafford County on Licking Run, part of which he inherited from his father. But his larger "Mill Plantation" in Fauquier County is where he and his wife raised their eleven children. He was thirty years old on December 15, 1756 when he married the 24 years old Elizabeth Hord, daughter of Thomas and Jane (Miller). She was born September 22, 1732 in Essex County, Virginia. Both were older than usual for first marriages, but it probably reflects William's desire and her father's expectation that William be able to support a family before he committed to marriage.

Elizabeth died October 17, 1781 and William, January 6, 1804. Both are buried near Warrenton, Virginia. The tombstones were still "readable" the early part of last century, but Recum didn't provide the engraved wording on them. The appraisal of his estate, not including the 786 acres he owned just in Fauquier County in 1793, but including the twenty slaves not bequeathed in the will, came to £1513 / 4 shillings / 6 pence. He, too, was a wealthy plantation owner.

William's will, signed November 21, 1803, makes it quite clear how he felt about certain family members. It re-confirmed the land in Culpeper County, Virginia already in the possession of his son James, plus the several Negroes previously given to James. But those Negroes in the possession of Vincent Garner and "my daughter Susanna" were to remain with Garner only during the lifetime of

Susanna. After her decease everything in Garner's possession that was from William was to be equally divided "among such of her children as may then be living."

The Negroes, etc. given to his daughter Molley, wife of William Withers, were to be hers and her heirs forever. The will continued, "I give and confirm to my daughter Alice, the wife of John Ball Junr the Several Negroes, Horses, Cattle, and whatever else they have of mine in their possession with their increase to her and her Heirs forever." The same wording was used in the bequest for daughter Agatha, wife of Martin Porter. His original deed to son Jesse for a tract "willed to me by my Father together with the adjoining tract" was confirmed with one condition: Jesse was to pay his brother Elijah one hundred pounds within nine months of William's death. His son Lewis was bequeathed the tract where William now resides. Son Elijah also received land on which he was already living. Granddaughter Betty Withers was special to him; she was given a slave named Amy, and more importantly, was the only grandchild mentioned in the will.

William then authorized the sale of a long list of Negroes, horses, cattle, household goods, etc. at a public auction within a year of his decease; the only proviso was the families of slaves Brittain and Adam were not to be separated. Proceeds from the sale and all the debts due him from others were to be collected together, then the whole divided "among all my children herein named." But, the two "shears" going to his son Spencer and daughter Susanna were to be retained in the hands of his executor. He explained he wished the executor to invest the money so as "to prevent the principal from being spent or so squandered as to deprive my several Grandchildren, their sons and Daughters from the benefitt thereof; but nevertheless, it is my will & desire that my said son Spencer and daughter Susanna enjoy the full profits thereof during the time of their natural lives." His appointed executors were sons James, Jesse and Lewis.

## **Absalom Jordan and Mary Ann**

Sashwell Jordan was the son of Absalom Jordan and Mary Ann. Some researchers give her surname as Hudson, but I've found no corroboration for that statement. Neither is there documentation for the statement he was married three times. So much has been published about this family without documentation, it's difficult to tell what is true and what is pure conjecture. My research findings on his wife stops with her name. My guess is that Mary Ann was the mother of all his children. There are too many records in counties where he lived for him to have had more than one wife.

Absalom was born in the 1740s and grew up in the Raleigh Parish area of Amelia County, Virginia. His father's land lay in the northwest part of the county, near the border with Prince Edward County and just south of the Appomattox River. His father, Jonas, is found in this area from about 1740 until 1768. The Jordans may well have settled in Bedford County before this date, but the first land record I've found for Absalom is dated 1773. We estimate their oldest child was born about 1768, thus placing Absalom and Mary Ann's marriage in about 1767. No record for the marriage has been located, but the county they married in could be Amelia, Bedford or where ever Mary Ann's parents were living at the time.

In 1785, the year your Sashwell was born, Absalom was named "heir at law" of Jonas Jordan in Bedford County probate court records. This proves he is the eldest son of Jonas because primogeniture -- the rule that the eldest son inherited ALL the land unless the father wrote a will saying differently -- was still in

force in Virginia. Some researchers say it went out with the winning of the war, but this proves some vestiges remained. Benjamin Jordan sued Absalom for land Jonas had verbally promised Benjamin, but for which Jonas hadn't yet filed the deed. Absalom lost the suit, but genealogists won the day for at least two sons are "documented" as Jonas' children. Researchers are trying to link others to Jonas, but the records are scarce.

Absalom died in 1826 naming the following in his will: Rosannah's son Hezekiah Dickerson; LeRoy; Vincent; Lucy Noble; William, Jeremiah; Sashwell; Ony and John. The given names of these children, especially Rosannah, LeRoy, Ony, Sashwell and especially "Absalom" suggest French Huguenot heritage. Absalom's is the first will I saw with the words: "I lend to my beloved wife Mary Ann all the residue of my estate, both real and personal during her natural life or widowhood." I admit my impression of Absalom was less than respectful until I learned this was common wording in the days when women normally didn't own land in their own right.

The first inventory of his estate was taken in 1831, when son Jeremiah returned from Breckinridge County to take over the responsibilities of the estate from LeRoy. Among the most interesting things on the list are 4 featherbeds and furniture; one lot of water vessels; 14 hogs; 3 horses; 9 sheep; 2 bee stands; 3 hogsheads, a cutting knife and box [needed for the tobacco harvest]; and 9 slaves, of whom two were "not worth anything". A second inventory and appraisal was returned in 1837. Not much had changed. The "womans saddle" had lost a little value and now there were 4 sheep instead of 9, and five shoats and one sow instead of 14 hogs. This time the 8 slaves were listed with ages: Roze was 80 (a remarkable age for anyone then, but especially for a slave), Simon was 52 and Sucky was 38. The youngest was 8 and the others were teen-agers. One last thing of interest -- the beehives were gone.

Mary Ann died before April 23, 1838, the date of the "final settlement" of Absalom's estate. The estate was charged \$4 for her coffin, but where she and Absalom are buried is not known. Some believe they are buried in the Meador Family Cemetery, but that may be wishful thinking by those who believe Absalom's grandmother is a Meador. In the division of the estate, each legatee received \$558.46. Absalom and Mary Ann were better off than many of their neighbors for seven of their nine children shared in this division. Absalom gave one son only \$50.00 more than what he had already received and the grandson, whose mother was deceased, also received a specified amount instead of a share.

### **Thomas Martin Clark and Mildred "Milly" (Moorman)**

One would think that Thomas Martin Clark and Mildred "Milly" Moorman were closer than "first cousins", but that is what my genealogy program says about them, after mentioning the fact they are spouses. They came from a long line of cousins marrying cousins. His father and her mother were siblings and his maternal grandmother and her paternal grandfather were also siblings. Thus they share one set of "the same" grandparents and three sets of the same great-grandparents. Thomas and Milly were the oldest children in their respective families, and both were born in Albemarle County, Virginia: he about 1762; her on January 13, 1772. But Milly's parents moved south to Campbell County several years before she and Thomas married there. December 22, 1787 is the date of their marriage bond and weddings were usually within the following week. Her father, Andrew Moorman, signed a separate "consent to the marriage" of his under-aged (not quite 16) daughter that is attached to the bottom of the bond.

Thomas grew up in what I call "the Clark compound" in the foothills of the Southwest Mountains, one of the last of the ever taller, westward waves of rolling hills that mark the boundary between tidewater Virginia and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Monticello was an easy day's ride to the south and west and the childhood home of Lewis Meriwether was only a bit farther on west from there. The Clarks had old, close ties with the Meriwethers and certainly knew, but probably didn't socialize with, the Jeffersons. Thomas's boyhood best friend was his "Uncle" William Clark for whom Thomas and Milly named their oldest son. "Uncle" William was the youngest son of Thomas' grandparents, but William was only two years older than Thomas. Tax records show the family houses were near enough for the two boys to play together every day and I suspect they spent a fair amount of their waking hours together.

Milly's mother, Judith (Clark), was Thomas' aunt and his father was Milly's uncle Micajah. His father died when Milly was only two years old, so she had no memories of him. Thomas was twelve that year and his Clark grandparents stepped in to help raise their son's family. As mentioned already, they all lived within easy visiting distance and Thomas's other grandfather, his namesake Thomas Martin, wasn't that far away. The shock of his father's death, although a tragedy, was softened by other nearby and close-knit kin. His widowed mother remarried. The years given for this marriage differ widely, but the one I lean toward would have her re-marriage occurring after Thomas moved south to Campbell County.

Thomas inherited a portion of his father's land holdings and his Clark grandparents sold him, at the family rate, another tract in Albemarle County. The sale document's description for the Albemarle County tracts clearly spells out the family "tree": "... being the Same [tract] that the Said Thomas Martin Clark Claims under his late Father Micaj Clark Junr deceased ... & also including ... which the Said Thomas M. Clark had of his Grandfather Micaj Clark Senr. ..." Genealogists usually only hope for documentation such as this! He and Milly sold his Albemarle County holdings in 1788. With the money from this sale, they purchased 330 acres near other family members on the South Fork of Seneca Creek in Campbell County. Over the next several years they added to this tract until by 1809 they owned over 1,000 acres along Seneca and Whipping Creeks.

Milly's father, Andrew Moorman, died early in 1791, leaving behind a will appointing his son-in-law Thomas M. Clark and his brother-in-law John Clark executors. Then in 1798, Milly's mother Judith (Clark) Moorman died. Milly, as the eldest child, and Thomas as co-executor had an active interest in the welfare of Milly's younger siblings, the last born after her father's death. The will of their Uncle James Clark shows how closely knit the several families were. The care of her younger siblings wasn't totally left up to them, but those siblings may be one reason they were among the last of several family groups to leave Virginia. It wasn't until 1809 that Thomas and Milly joined several of her Moorman relatives in Breckinridge County.

Thomas M. purchased land from George Claycomb, but he didn't file the deed in the courthouse. Claycomb heirs, at the urging of Clark heirs in 1818, filed the necessary papers to give the Clarks legal title. By then, some of the specifics were forgotten. We don't know the date of the original transaction nor the amount paid for the 190 acres on Hardin's Creek in the north-central part of the county.

Thomas died sometime in 1811, but the exact date is unknown. In May that year Milly gave consent for their daughter Mildred's marriage to Calvin Hendricks. This is usually a father's role so perhaps Thomas was deceased by then. We know he died before October 12, the day his widow Milly and son William B.

appeared before the Breckinridge Court asking to administer on his estate. Then in 1817 Milly's younger brother, James Moorman, was added to the list of administrators, when their oldest daughter and her husband filed a petition requesting all slaves in Thomas M. Clark's estate be sold at public auction and the proceeds divided between the widow and children. At this time the court appointed William B. Clark guardian for his minor siblings; but later records show, as often happens, some siblings chose other guardians for themselves. Four of Thomas's five slaves were sold after several months of arguing between the attorneys. The fifth slave was considered Milly's dower portion. The estate, except for the final division of the land, was settled by June 1818.

William B. died that fall. His death was a major blow to Milly and the youngest children for William was their sole male support. The only other son was fourteen; he had to grow up fast. Also, the forced sale of the slaves meant only two, Milly's dower slave and the one William had purchased were left to share the farm work. With William's death, one slave and the teenaged Thomas had to perform all the chores previously divided between five slaves and William.

Mildred Clark appears as head of household on the 1820 census. A female the right age to be their youngest daughter is listed with her. This is the last specific reference to either of them we have found. But it is thought Milly (Moorman) Clark lived into the 1830s for Thomas's land wasn't divided among the remaining heirs until then. If true, then sadly Milly outlived most of her children.

Their oldest son, your William, left three daughters when he died in 1818. Mildred married Calvin Hendricks and they moved to Meade County, Kentucky. Their move may be what precipitated the lawsuit in 1817. Eliza O. was the first wife of John "Jack" Miller, son of your Christley; she died in 1824 or 1825 leaving "heirs." Matilda, born between 1796 and 1804, is last found in her father's estate record in 1818. Nancy was the first wife of Michael Miller, another son of your Christley. She died about 1824, also leaving children. Thomas R. was born about 1804 and died about 1827, leaving one son. Elizabeth is last documented on the 1820 census with her mother. Although we weren't able to specifically trace Matilda and Elizabeth after 1818 and 1820, every deed found that shows Michael Miller was buying out the heirs mentions the land division into seven tracts. This suggests the girls were alive into the 1840s or had children who were.

## **Thomas Brumfield and Susannah**

Martha Brumfield, wife of William Ball, was the daughter of Thomas Brumfield and Susannah of Amity Township, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Most of the information on Thomas and Susannah comes from *Descendants of Thomas Brumfield of Berks County, Pennsylvania* by Ray C. Brumfield and Blackman O. Brumfield, 1962. According to these authors these Brumfields are of Welsh extraction, although they admit the surname Bromfeld does appear in County Kent, England in 1273. They feel certain your Thomas is the emigrant because the first time his name appears in Pennsylvania records is as witness to the will of John Phillips in 1744. However, he and his family were here earlier than 1744 for all researchers estimate the marriage of Martha and William Ball was in 1741. They admit to not knowing where Thomas and Susannah married, nor where their children were born. It seems likely the family arrived before 1740, but how much earlier than that is anyone's guess.

Although there was an established community when the Brumfields arrived, the town eventually became known as "Brumfieldville" for the country store and later post office operated by their son Solomon and then his son, Jesse. Other area residents include the families of George and Squire Boone, and Mordecai Lincoln, (great-great-grandfather of the future President). The first of the Boone clan arrived in 1713 and Mordecia Lincoln was there by 1727. The future president's great-grandfather John Hanks passed through on his way to Augusta County, Virginia and John Ball arrived with his family about 1732. Since all lived within five miles of each other, it seems logical the Brumfields were there years before Thomas appears in court records. The Brumfields attended the Exeter Friends Meeting along with several neighbors whose surnames became famous due to the exploits of sons, grandsons and great-grandsons.

The first houses were log cabins, but stone was readily available and masonry replaced timber structures as quickly as the family could afford the time and energy to construct them. This community differed from most others because the Welsh knew how to work the low grade iron ore found in the area. Add to that an abundant supply of wood to make charcoal to feed the furnace, and you have the essentials for ironmaking. The first furnace was established in 1716, followed by another in 1720. Making charcoal was a tedious and lonely task once the stacks of poles and logs reached the desired height and the slow burning fire was started. After that, only one person at a time was needed, but he had to keep careful watch to insure the fire was "giving only enough heat to drive off and consume the pitches and tars in the wood, thus leaving the pure carbon for fuel in the iron furnace. This was the best sort of fuel, being superior to present day coke made from coal, because it was free from sulphur." [page 9]

Thomas identified himself as yeoman of Berks County in his will dated April 5, 1774, probated August 28, 1783. Susannah was to receive ten pounds per year to live on, plus the room at the west end of the house she and Thomas shared, all the household goods and furniture plus one milch cow and food for the cow during her [Susannah's] natural life. The two daughters of his deceased son, Joseph, were to receive 50 pounds each at age 21. His daughter Mary Jones was to receive five shillings. His son Solomon was to receive all the rest of his estate with one proviso: "to my daughter Martha Ball yearly what her necessity should require During her Natural Life and after my said Daughters decease my Son Solomon Shall give unto my grand Child Mary Ball the sum of ten pounds on demand and if any part or Parcel should be left after my Said daughter Marthas Discease my Will is that the same shall fall to my Son Solomon ..." A final clause stipulated if both Joseph's daughters died before 21, their portion was to be divided "among my Grand Children of Martha Balls." Thomas signed his will "by mark".

One can assume Solomon and his wife shared the house with Thomas and Susannah, but that Mary and her husband had received her "full inheritance" as a wedding gift. Elsewhere we've discussed the implications for William Ball of Martha's legacy from her father. Living nearby was a Margaret Brumfield whom the authors consider a probable daughter even though she wasn't named in the will

### **James Withers and Elizabeth (Keene)**

It is thought by a major researcher on the Withers family, Franz V. Recum, that James Withers was born about 1680. A great-grandson places the specific birthplace as Bristol, but that was a major port city and might just be where James left England for Virginia as a young man. From a deposition James made in 1732, it appears he was in Virginia by 1702 or 1703, and living in the household of Edward Mountjoy,



whose brother was a merchant in Bristol. James may have worked in the Virginia side of the operation, either as a regular store employee or as an indentured servant. However, other researchers have posted on the internet a rather prestigious lineage for James, going back to Sir Robert Wyther born 1150 in Lancashire, England. According to these people, James was the son of William, who with brother John emigrated to Virginia in 1655. This appears in an article published in the Virginia Historical Magazine titled "The Withers Family of Stafford, Fauquier, Etc." but the author uses the word "probable" when referring to James as son of William. Obviously more research is needed at this point.

According to Recum, James married Elizabeth Keene about 1700. She was the only surviving child of Matthew and Bridget of Stafford County, Virginia. The marriage year comes from the birth date of their first child as recorded in their family Bible. According to the Bible entries published in the above Virginia Historical Magazine article, they had 16 children, including three sets of twins. However, the marriage date may need to be changed for the year "1701" is noted as "dim" (i.e., faint) and there is a six year gap between the first two births: "Elizabeth ... born ye 23rd December, 1701 [and then] Thomas born ye 21st December 1707." Six years is a long time between births, so perhaps "1701" is actually "1704." Also in 1700, James was either still in England or more probably working as an indentured servant in Mountjoy's store. Indentured servants were discouraged from, if not outright forbidden to, marrying during their servitude. Thus in my opinion, the marriage date was more likely about 1703 or 1704.

The loss of most early Stafford County deed books makes it difficult to know how much land James owned at any one time, but Recum could account for 3349 acres from land grants, deeds in other counties, and then from James' detailed will. James seems to have acquired land at almost the same rate as he fathered children. The above acreage may not take into account what Elizabeth inherited as only heir of her parents. His early land grants were along Licking Run and branches of Potomac Run. James died June 3, 1746 in Stafford County, Virginia leaving an estate valued at £1883 / 9 shillings / 4 1/2 pence -- a large sum for the day.

According to his will, his son James was to get, along with other things, 400 acres off the tract in Prince William County that [father James] had purchased from Rice Hooe. The will included creek names and other essential survey markings to show adjoining boundary lines lest there be disagreements over his intent later on. His son-in-law Henry Mauzy and Ann were to receive 500 acres from the same tract. Then his son-in-law Jas. Hudnall was to get 200 acres "whereon he now lives" off the Hooe tract. Son Thomas was to get part of his father's land on Licking Run in Prince William County and Keene the Southwest portion of that same land grant. Keene, the youngest son, was also bequeathed blacksmith tools, several Negroes and a featherbed. The will further provided "It is my will & Desire that my Son John take into his Care my said Son Kenne and his Estate till he arrive to the age of Twenty-one years."

Your William received the remaining land on Licking run not otherwise bequeathed with a special proviso that Henry Mauzy could live on the "mill plantation" until he has time to clear the plantation willed to him. William also received five Negroes plus a featherbed and furniture. John received 250 acres where he lives plus 200 acres and another 50 acres with Negroes. James' son-in-law William Allan and Bridgett received 365 acres on the north side of the Potomack River. Wife Elizabeth was to enjoy during her natural life all the household goods and furniture she brought from her father, what she wanted or needed of the cattle, and the mill and "tract of land we now live on," plus eleven Negroes. These were to be divided among their five sons after her decease. Several short entries cover specific

Negroes bequeathed to specific children including three additional daughters: Ursula, wife of John Allen; Elizabeth, wife of Abraham Field; and Martha, wife of James McDaniel.

James' will then mentions the lawsuit pending between him and Edward Herndon: if Herndon wins the lawsuit, Elizabeth is to pay the money, but his sons are to divide the court costs, and any who fail to pay will forfeit their legacies. Sons William and Keene were to divide the remainder of the tract he purchased from Rice Hooe. Each son was to receive twenty pounds, but Elizabeth was to get all the cash left after that payment to pay Herndon if need be. Elizabeth received an additional 100 acres on the South side of the Potomack Run that he purchased from Joseph Waugh, and on her death, son John was to receive this tract. Elizabeth and sons John, Thomas and William were appointed Executors of the will.

According to Recum, Elizabeth lived until July 26, 1769, but the lawsuit over her estate filed in Fauquier County wasn't settled until 1788. The best thing about such lawsuits is the list of heirs found within. All children still living in 1783 are named along with the issue of those who had died. Although I'm usually only interested in the "direct line" ancestors, for those wanting to collect "all the cousins," such lawsuits are like Christmas in July.

## **Simon Miller**

Simon Miller, the father of Jane who married Thomas Hord, was the son of Captain Symon Miller. Most researchers think Simon was the oldest son and that his mother was the Captain's first wife, whose name is unknown. However, the wording of his father's will led me to wonder if Simon was the product of Captain Symon's second marriage, to a woman named Margaret. If Simon was the eldest son of the first marriage, that would make his birth "about 1670", which is what is given by most researchers. But the oldest child of Capt. Symon's second marriage would have been born about 1678. (The will of Margaret's first husband was probated June 1677 and Capt. Symon wrote his will February 1679.) Captain Symon begins his detailed list of bequests: "To son Symon Miller 1/2 of the dividant of land I now live on to him and his heirs forever. And my son Symon to clear and plant as he shall think fitting in his Mothers lifetime upon the said dividant excepting the Plantation." This sounds like Symon's mother is still alive, making him only five or so when his father died. But if Simon was born in 1678, he was only about a year old when his father wrote the will. Keeping that in mind, the rest of the will clearly suggests this son is the oldest of Captain Symon's children. Also "to son Symon a sorrel Mare with a white blaze in the face and all her increase to him forever. And in case I dye it is my will that my son Symon be sent the next yeare for England."

I'm using a transcription of the will; could it be that Simon was in England when Capt. Symon wrote the will, and the word is "from" instead of "for"? One later proviso in the will clinches that Simon is the oldest son. Each child received a mare and the female "increase" of those mares, but "all the male increase of all the Mares except my sonn Symons to goe into ye former Stock till my Children Come to ye age of fourteen ..." [I believe a better word for "former" stock here is common.] Simon is thus getting a bit more than Capt. Symon's other children, but not as much "more" as most eldest sons during the age of primogeniture. Thus I now agree with the majority of researchers, Simon was born "about 1670."

Sometime between November 1683 and May 1685 Simon's step-mother Margaret married her third husband, Hugh French. Simon thus grew up in what to us is an interesting household but was really quite

common for the era. His father named six children in his will. Margaret brought into her marriage with Captain Symon her own son, Anthony Prosser, and three Prosser stepsons. Her third husband named five children in his will. Anthony is Margaret's only "proven" child, but the youngest Prosser children and most or all of the Millers probably joined her in the newly formed French household. Simon and John Miller witnessed Hugh's will in January 1700. Unlike Captain Symon Miller, Hugh only mentions his wife and his own children in his will.

Presumably during the early to mid-1680s Simon spent at least a year in England and perhaps longer. It was common practice, if the father could afford it, to send the older boys back to England for an education. But Simon appears to have developed very close ties with the local School Master. On January 14, 1693 Simon Miller, then a resident of Essex County, Virginia, made a gift to Thomas Parke, School Master of "so much land being in the County of Richmond on the North side of the Rappahannock River in the back side of Mr. Hugh French .... As the sd Tho: Parke or one man can make use of upon during the lifetime of the sd Parke .... Only for the use of the sd Parke during his life." The reason for this lifetime "lease" can only be guessed at. Perhaps it was just a simple gesture of friendship, but Simon might be thanking Parke for going above and beyond the usual duties of a schoolmaster. There is mention of "School house Swamp" in Simon's will. I believe this is the same tract; perhaps Simon was encouraging the schoolmaster to start up a school for the benefit of the community. Whatever Parke built reverted back to Simon or his heirs at Parke's death.

In April 1692 [Old] Rappahannock was divided into two newly named counties -- Essex on the south side of the river and Richmond on the north. In January, when Simon initiated this lease to Thomas Parke, he identified himself as a resident of Essex County. But Simon moved north across the Rappahannock River to Richmond County before August that year. He referred to himself as a resident of St. Mary's Parish in Richmond County when he signed a power of attorney for another person to acknowledge the lease to Parke in court. This may reflect his marriage, or possibly just his desire to move out of the French household and into his own.

No marriage record for Simon has been found; thus we don't know the marriage date or even the name of his wife. His son was under 16 in 1719 when Simon wrote his will, thus he was born after 1703, but Simon's daughter Eleanor was old enough to be co-executor. We can guess his marriage as "around 1700" and in Richmond County where all his children were likely born. He was still living in Richmond County when he signed his will December 1, 1719, but by then he was residing in Hanover Parish. In November 1720 all of Hanover Parish fell into a portion of King George County, Virginia. Both were named for Britain's King George of Hanover, Germany.

Simon's will was entered for probate May 4, 1720. He mentions son Simon and daughters Eleanor and Jane. Son Simon was to get all his land "from the [Rappahannock] river to Schoolhouse Swamp with the two plantations and all improvements." If Simon died without issue, then his daughter Jane was to get this tract. Daughter Eleanor was to get all the land on the back side of Schoolhouse Swamp "inclusive of the said swamp". Simon "shall be at age to choose guardian when 16." This is at variance with later law which said minors could choose their own guardians at the age of 14. Executors were his daughter Eleanor and William Smith "that boards at my house." Eleanor married a Mr. Elliston and your Jane married Thomas Hord.

## Jonas Jordan and Winefred

Numerous researchers believe Jonas Jordan is the son of William and Rachel (Meador) of Essex County, Virginia, but usually admit absolute proof has not been located. In my estimation, the "proof" offered doesn't stand up to logical deduction. In 1768 Jonas sold land in Amelia County, Virginia and one of the witnesses is Rachel Jordan. These researchers claim this "witness Rachel Jordan" is his mother. My argument is that witnesses were needed to be around later should someone contest the deed. His "mother Rachel", surely nearing her 80s by then if still alive, would not have been a good witness at best. Having said all that, I do think Jonas, father of your Absalom and grandfather of your Sashwell, probably does come from the same Jordan extended family as does the above William. Additionally, there appears to be some familial connection between Jonas and the Meadors. But that is as far as I will concede the matter until new information is presented. Moreover, there is no record of children for William and Rachel.

Jonas first appears, with wife Winefred, in Amelia County Virginia in 1745 selling land for which we haven't located the purchase deed. Her surname is "said to be" Morris or Morrice, but again, nothing concrete has been located to corroborate that statement. In Amelia County they resided on the waters of Sandy Creek, in the same neighborhood where your Joseph Jackson and Isaac Tinsley are found. Both Jackson and Tinsley are traced back to Essex and Old Rappahannock County where Jordans and Meadors are found. But the Jordans are Fern's family while the Jacksons and Tinsleys are Walter's. Although I don't have absolute proof, I suspect at least some of them were Huguenots. As mentioned in the Peter Rucker sketch, it benefited the Huguenots to blend in with Virginia society as quickly as possible, so finding proof for a Huguenot line is very difficult. However, the given names, Jonas and Absalom, as well as those of Absalom's children, support my hunch.

Jonas and Winefred remained in Amelia until about 1768 when they moved west to Bedford County. Only sons Absalom and Benjamin are documented. However, we suspect a third son, Jonas Jr. born about 1755 supposedly in Amelia County, belongs to this family group. Descendants say he went to Alabama from Amelia, but I've found "a" Jonas Jordan in Bedford and Franklin Counties, Virginia, who was a petty thief. Same one? We don't know, but this second Jonas isn't claimed by the other researchers. There doesn't appear to be a connection between your Jonas and the Samuel Jordan family who lived in another part of Amelia County. Samuel comes from a better documented early southeastern tidewater Virginia line.

Another thing going for the Huguenot claim is that a descendant from the Jonas born about 1755 participated in the Jordan DNA study. His ancestors appear to have originated in the Scandanavian countries, while all other Jordan lines trace back to the British Isles. So far no descendant from Absalom's line has been tested. We have tentatively identified three siblings for Jonas, but no specific parent. (1) Absalom Jordan married Mary Walton in Goochland County, Virginia. They moved to Rowan County, North Carolina and I believe some descendants migrated into Georgia. His likely brother (2) Jeremiah married her sister, Louisa Walton, in Caroline County, Virginia. Your Absalom named a son "Jeremiah". (3) Thomas Jordan, who died 1809 in Culpeper County, Virginia, left a will naming son Sharshall among others.

Your Jonas either stepped forward to generously share his larder with the American troops, or--more likely--the quartermasters learned where he hid his animals. At a Court held for Bedford County December 18, 1780 Jonas produced a certificate proving he furnished 3 beeves to the American troops. On April 22, 1782 he presented another certificate proving he had furnished 835 pounds of beef, then in September he was again before the court with a certificate showing he had furnished 250 pounds of beef. His last appearance before the RW Claims Court is undated, but the record shows 1 beef. It may be that the December 1780 court took his word, but later Justices wanted to see the certificates. Or perhaps he did indeed give six or seven beeves to the American cause. American quartermasters passed out certificates listing everything they took; British quartermasters just took.

We think Winefred died before Jonas, but that's only because she didn't get a dower portion when his estate was probated. People were usually prompt in presenting credentials and requesting Letters of Administration, but all we can say as to when Jonas died is "before June 20, 1785". On that date Absalom presented an account of the inventory of his estate to the Bedford County Court. The inventory included "two tomahawks" plus an assortment of farm tools, livestock and household furnishings. A second appraisal was turned in December 26 that same year. It included four horses and more household furnishings. My Jordan research stops with Jonas until new information is found.

### **William Lewis Miller and Nancy Allen "Nannie" (Jordan)**

Fern's parents were William Lewis Miller, born May 22, 1856, and Nancy Allen "Nannie" (Jordan) born March 15, 1862. William was named for both his grandfathers, while Nannie was named for her great-grandmother. The first "Nannie" was one of the last of Fern's ancestors to move to Breckinridge County, Kentucky where both William and Nannie were born. Several of their ancestors arrived in this area before Kentucky statehood. I say "their" ancestors for William and Nannie were second cousins two ways and fourth cousins a third way. As if that's not enough, Nannie was just past her fifteenth birthday when she and William married in a double wedding ceremony, May 15, 1877, with her brother, Gilbert, and William's sister, Amanda. The ceremony was held in the Jordan home. Perhaps wedding preparations were too much for William and Amanda's mother, who was either "very pregnant" or the mother of a new-born at the time. Meanwhile, Nannie and Gilbert's mom was between pregnancies.

William worked for the railroad so the idea of moving may initially have come from a specific job offer or just knowledge of better jobs 'out west'. But the story told to Glendon by a Jordan cousin in Kentucky was that "Nannie's father happened to drop by for a visit one day and caught Nannie working in the cotton patch. He didn't like the idea his young daughter was working in the fields, and wanted a better life for her family as well as his own." He may have been thinking of moving west himself, for according to the cousin he wouldn't move unless the young Miller family went too." He just didn't think Nannie was strong enough to care for her growing family without help from her parent's." William and Nannie's family was growing fast -- Everett was born in 1878; "Lebbie" in 1879; and "Moodie" in 1881.

Even though William's main job was working for the railroad (specific duties not known), both families settled on farms north of Wellington, Kansas. Wellington was probably their chosen destination point for a large railroad maintenance facility was located there. Sadly, Lebbie and Moodie died of scarlet fever in 1883 shortly after the move, but Nannie had eleven more children in Kansas. Fern was the eighth of fourteen children total.

It's possible that retirement was the reason that William quit working for the railroad around 1910. That year the Millers moved to a farm near Hennessey, Oklahoma. Here one of their sons -- Clyde -- took special interest in his younger sibling's education. He made a point of visiting often, checking on the progress of his younger sisters and making sure they were appropriately attentive. The truth behind his brotherly concern came out when he and the pretty, young teacher married. Their daughters, Gail and Betty, shared many happy over-night weekend visits with Eileen and Glendon. The Millers next rented the farm near Dover adjacent the W. C. Hebbe farm. Fern had remained behind in Kansas to help an older sibling with her newborn baby when the Millers moved to Oklahoma. But by this time she had joined her family and thus met neighbor Walter Hebbe. They married in December 1914. Shortly afterward, the Millers purchased or rented a farm near Ames, Oklahoma where they lived until 1930. Walter and Fern later purchased the farm near Dover that the Millers had rented.

Glendon shared many memories of visiting her maternal grandparents. One special summer she and Eileen spent an entire week with them, no other cousins or parents around. The highlight was making a cherry pie from fresh-picked cherries off the Miller trees. But her best memory was the week-long visit of William only. It was wintertime and the family huddled around the fire in the evenings. School was cancelled one day and she and Eileen were told "to entertain" their grandpa that morning. They asked about his childhood and he spent the morning telling them stories of Kentucky. After swearing them to secrecy and to not mention his girlfriends to their grandmother, who was very jealous, he told them of horseback rides "over hill and dale" to court girls on the other side of the ridge. Except for this one visit, Glendon remembers him as being a quiet man, sitting in the corner and not saying much. On the other hand, she remembers Nannie talking to herself because people tended to ignore her once she got going. William was tall and stood straight even when in his 80s, but Nannie was short and plump.

William and Nannie moved back to Wellington in 1930. The reason is easy to guess: a newer home with conveniences such as indoor plumbing and electricity. Those luxuries would not be available in the country for several more years. Also, in Wellington they were nearer many of their children and grandchildren. Those who resided in or near Wellington could help look after the elderly couple.

Walter and Fern lived farther away, but one time they received an urgent phone call: "Come quick! Dad has the dropsy and we don't know how much longer he has." Hurried arrangements were made for care of livestock by neighbors, and the family started the hundred-mile journey through the night (top speed 35 to 40 mph) hoping to arrive in time. The next morning William asked someone to help him out of bed and then to help him dress. He did not want to greet the family in his pajamas and robe. He was seated in his favorite chair in the living room, surrounded by most of his children and grandchildren, all teary and bleary eyed from lack of sleep and worry. By the end of that day, he was on the road to recovery! According to Glendon, all he needed was the knowledge he was loved and amidst all his loved ones. William died September 5, 1939 of gangrene, a complication that resulted from a minor wound. This is almost unheard of now, but in the days before penicillin a common infection could lead to fatal consequences.

Their youngest son and his wife took Nannie and Fern back to Kentucky in the fall of 1940. They visited with all William and Nannie's siblings who were still living; and almost as importantly, Nannie was able to see Kentucky "one more time." Late that year Nannie invited family to watch "the old year out and new year in" with her. They did, but not as she planned. She had a stroke sometime on December 31 and

went into a deep coma. She died the next day in her own bed with family around her. Nannie and William are buried near their two young sons and her folks in the Belle Plaine Cemetery.

Everett, the eldest child, survived the outbreak of scarlet fever that took the next two sons, Lebbeus B. "Lebbie" and "Moodie". [Given name for "Moodie" is not known.] Zen Lee, born September 24, 1884, was the first child born in Kansas, He worked for the milling company in Arkansas City, Kansas. Ione married "a non-relative," Julian Miller. Glendon and Eileen were especially close to the daughters of Clyde Monroe and his wife, Cecil (Wilson) who lived their entire married lives near Hennessey, Oklahoma. Their daughters, Gail and Betty, were the same age as the Hebbe girls. In the late 1980s, Betty and her husband, Fred Briix, accompanied Jack and Glendon on their two trips back to Kentucky. Pearl married Fred Walton and moved to California. Your Fern was the next child, followed by Paul, who also moved to California. Robert Glen, called Glen, remained in the Belle Plaine, Kansas area. Faye was 12 when the family moved to Oklahoma. She married Guy Bingham and they remained in the Ames, Oklahoma area when William and Nannie moved back to Kansas. Alice died in childbirth with her third child. Her husband was Ivan Norris; I don't know if he was kin to Loran Norris, husband of Myrl. Loran was a small-time thief who one time sold a brother-in-law's cow or horse "as his own". He also robbed the local bank three Fridays in a row! Jerry recalled hearing that Loran didn't bother to wear a mask, and that he flaunted his new-found wealth between robberies. Either the bank had an extremely tolerant policy for undocumented withdrawals, or that community's law enforcement authorities were remarkably hapless. He was caught the next Friday by the guard the bank president hired just to "lie in wait" for him. I think he served a short prison term for this. Vernon, the youngest, was the one who took his mother back to Kentucky.

### **William "Billy" Miller and Eliza Jane (Clark)**

Mason Miller was the oldest child of William "Billy" Miller and Eliza Jane (Clark). Billy was only three years old when his father died the summer of 1815. Widows with young children usually remarried quickly, and William's mother was no exception. Jenny (Short) Miller and Jacob Weatherholt married the next year and Billy and his next older sister, Betsey, appear in the Weatherholt household for several years to come. Billy's half-sister, Mildred, was born in 1817.

Jacob ran a ferry across the Ohio River between Cloverport, Kentucky and Tobinsport, Indiana. According to Weatherholt descendants, the Thomas Lincoln family crossed the river on Jacob's ferry about 1816 on their way to Indiana. This was before the Lincolns were famous, and it's unlikely Billy would have seen young Abe anyway. Billy was much too young to be anywhere near the waterfront without motherly (or at least older sister) supervision.

Billy's childhood and teen years surely revolved around the flowing Ohio River. 1824 is noted as the peak year for migration from Kentucky to Illinois, Indiana and Missouri. The Cloverport - Tobinsport ferry served one of the more heavily traveled routes. By then Billy, born August 8, 1812, could help his step-father load and unload the ferry. In March 1825 he was probably "all ears" when it came to stories about the steamboat William Penn which made the 460 mile trip between Pittsburgh and Marysville, Kentucky in a record 32 hours. Then in 1827 the Tecumseh swept past the Cloverport waterfront on its historic eight days, 2 hours and 10 minute journey from New Orleans to Louisville.

A Weatherholt researcher writes that Jacob journeyed to Pittsburg himself to secure a tutor for his stepson Billy and daughter Mildred. A pension application Jacob filed March 1824 mentions the 12 year old "cripple" living with him. Whatever Billy's handicap, it was not mentioned by descendants. Perhaps the reference to a "cripple" was meant to fortify Jacob's pension claim. A granddaughter described Eliza Jane and Billy as: "She was kind, gracious and much loved; Billy was a gentle gentleman who never raised his voice. He was a prosperous planter and good business manager."

Eliza Jane Clark, born January 28, 1812 during the peak weeks of the great New Madrid earthquakes, was only six when she lost her father. And like Billy's mother, hers remarried, but to a man not as good to the family as Jacob. Her step-father went through most of her father's property before he and her mother divorced. Divorce was extremely rare in those days, so my guess is that Eliza's childhood and young adulthood were far more traumatic than Billy's. It's telling that none of their daughters are named for her mother.

Eliza and Billy were married February 20, 1832. The next fall Billy purchased all the personal estate of John W. Ball which consisted of livestock, household goods and crops for an additional \$332.29. This was in addition to his purchase of one-half of John's interest in a tract on Beach Fork Creek and in Negroes Fan, Manerory and Charles. The other half of John Ball's interest was purchased by Billy's brother, John Miller. The land on Beach Fork Creek and the three slaves once belonged to Eliza's grandfather, Thomas M. Clark. This was part of the division of Thomas' estate among the heirs. Wives of all three men involved in the above transaction were Clark heirs: Billy Miller and John W. Ball married sisters, daughters of William B. Clark deceased, who was the eldest son of Thomas M. Clark. The two Millers were brothers, but the older John married Eliza O. Clark, aunt of your Eliza Jane and John W Ball's wife, Mary.

The 1860 census for Breckinridge County valued Billy's personal property more than \$12,225 and the real estate at \$3,285. Although not the wealthiest people in the county, they were far from the poorhouse. However, the war hit them hard, as it did everyone else. They were slave holders, and a significant portion of their wealth was lost when the slaves were freed.

As often happens, Billy put off writing his will until it was too late. But unlike many who procrastinate, he appears to have been ill for about six weeks. Perhaps they didn't think death would come so soon. Dr. A. M. Kincheloe began making house calls May 16, 1884, charging \$3.50 for each trip. His last visit was June 25, the day before Billy died. The final tab was \$45.50.

The intestate records include numerous bills and receipts. I think Billy paid his bills on a quarterly basis because April and May are the first months shown on "running tabs" at two general stores. One unnamed store had an outstanding tab of \$15.17 dating from May 20. Most of the items are groceries, but it does include a broom and wash board for 25 cents each and a "complete lamp" for 45 cents. Then another bill of \$15.70 is from the Cloverport mercantile firm of "Bowman & Hambleton: Dealers in Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots and Shoes, Hats and Caps, Notions, Groceries and Provisions of all Kinds". On June 5 Billy's store account shows the purchase of "1 Suit cloths" for \$7.50. Then June 26, the day he died, the entry "dif in Suits" appears on the bill, with \$6.50 added to the tab. Perhaps Billy, aware death was approaching, requested the cheapest suit in the store for his burial attire. Then when he no longer



had a say, the family exchanged it for a more expensive one. Two other purchases that day were undoubtedly part of his burial attire: one pair slippers for \$1.00 and one pair hose for 10 cents.

The estate sale on July 28, 1884, barely a month after Billy's death, must have been heart wrenching to Eliza Jane. First she had to choose her "dower portion" of the estate, an estimated one-third the value of Billy's holdings. The value of things set aside for her came to \$197.00, of which \$100 was her sorrel mare. The saddle and bridle are next on the list (\$6), but she decided against a cow and calf (\$30.) The walnut bedstead, bed and bedding (\$37.50) was a given. She chose the bureau (\$8) "in lieu of cooking stove". Now this is a woman after my own heart! But perhaps her children talked her into buying a newer model that didn't use as much coal or wood? She chose "1 sett cane Bottom chairs" (\$8) but the only table mentioned was sold at the auction. It's probably an entry error, but a second walnut bedstead, same value as the one above, shows up on this list.

The public auction raised \$728.20, with the two most expensive items a sorrel mare mule (\$108) and a dunn mule (\$135). It's rather sad to see Eliza's name as purchaser for 20 bed quilts & blankets (\$55) and 4 home made coverlets (\$16). One wonders if she purchased back her own needlework? She also purchased more beds, dishes and "fruit cans". My guess is that the cans were used to store dried fruit. Eliza lived two years and one month longer than Billy, dying July 26, 1886. Both are buried in the old Miller Cemetery.

Your William "Mason" was the oldest of eleven children, followed by Thomas A., likely named for Eliza's grandfather, Thomas Clark. John N. was next, named for Uncle John Ball or Uncle John Miller, followed by Mildred Jane "Milly" who had three namesakes: her Aunt Mildred Clark (Eliza's sister); her half-aunt Mildred Weatherholt, Billy's younger half-sister; or her grandmother Mildred (Moorman) Clark, wife of Thomas M. Then came Franklin, whose namesake is unknown; Christopher (named for Billy's father); and William Lewis, easily confused later with his nephew. Mary E. was named for her Aunt Mary Clark and Sarah E. for Billy's mother. Susan and Jefferson Davis have no immediate known namesakes. Jefferson was born 1855, perhaps a bit too early for it to be a hint as to which side Billy would support when the war came. But the man who would lead the Confederacy was even then a noted Southerner -- the Secretary of War in President Pierce's cabinet -- so it's likely the Millers named a son for him.

## **Sashwell Jordan and Nancy Allen (Dent)**

Marvel N. Jordan was the son of Sashwell Jordan and Nancy Allen (Dent) who is the name sake for your Nannie (Jordan) Miller. Census takers had almost as much fun with the given name "Sashwell" as they did with "Marvel". However we genealogists are happy to see the uncommon given names which help us link families. The Dents have been traced back to early day Maryland. Both sets of parents were rather late arrivals in Bedford County, Virginia where both Sashwell and Nancy were born. Members of so many Bedford County extended families moved to Breckinridge County, Kentucky, one can almost call Bedford "the mother of Breckinridge." You have numerous ancestors who were part of this general migration that went on for decades.

Sashwell was born August 14, 1785, the eighth of nine children. Nancy, born October 21, 1792, was the ninth of twelve siblings. They married December 21, 1809. By now you won't be surprised to hear that in 1807 his older brother, Jeremiah, married her older sister, Lydia. Both couples are found in

Breckinridge County, but Jeremiah and Lydia returned to Virginia after many years in Kentucky. Perhaps it was to care for his aging mother? He did relieve his brother of the executor responsibilities for their father's estate. Five of Sashwell and Nancy's "known" children were born in Virginia; the other four in Kentucky. I say "known" for we have neither a Bible nor official document to provide a complete list of names. There is an unexplained four-year-gap between births around the time of the move to Kentucky. Births during the colonial period were, on average, every eighteen months to two years. This particular gap may just indicate Sashwell was in Kentucky more often or for longer periods than we realize. It does take time to ready fields for crops and build a shelter for the family.

They first settled in the Clifton Mills area, but soon moved to nearby Webster where they spent their remaining years. The author of the circa 1930s Old Timers's Timely Topics newspaper column remembered the main road to "Old Webster" ran through Sashwell's land. He recalled travel to town meant "opening and then closing three gates each way when his family crossed the Jordan farm." He described Sashwell as "a quiet kindly fellow, [who] loved good horses and always had several swarms of bees. I remember those bees for they had a grudge against me." Sashwell came by the bee industry naturally; his father's estate inventory mentions beehives. Sashwell and Nancy probably enjoyed chatting with neighbors as the neighbors went to town and back. The neighbors may have saved them a few trips now and then by picking up needed items. In those days, store clerks took the word of a neighbor that an item was requested by a third party and obligingly added it to the third party's tab.

Nancy Allen died July 26, 1855. She must have been a special person for someone told Glendon there's been at least one "Nancy Allen" in every "Jordan" generation to the present one; Glendon met one of them on their second trip and they exchanged Christmas cards for several years. Sashwell died October 7, 1874. Both are buried in a grove of trees on their home place. Cows had access when Glendon and Jack were there, but I understand a fence has now been erected around it. Of the nine children born to them, the eldest is your Marvel N.

### **John Roades and Hannah (Wilcox)**

The father of Sarah (Roades) Ball was John Roades "yeoman" who was born 13 6mo 1664 in County Derby, England. His parents were Quakers almost from the beginning of the society and he remained in the Society of Friends his entire life. He was 18 years old when he joined John Blunston's Company of indentured servants in 1682. Blunston paid the travel fare to Pennsylvania in exchange for the promise each servant would work for him for a specified number of years. The indenture period was usually five or seven years, but was shorter for those with skills especially needed in the New World. John referred to himself as "yeoman" years later, so it is doubtful he was a highly skilled laborer.

One of John's last tasks in England was getting a Certificate of Removal from his local Monthly Meeting that he would present to the Meeting in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Kinsey believes it's John's handwriting in the record books for all the certificates for those who accompanied Blunston that year. The certificate reads in part: "to them whom it may concerne y't John Roades ye yonger of Whitloe in ye County of darby hath it in his mind to transport himselfe into pensilvania in America; And that he hath walked orderly And so farr forth as we know is cleare from all woman. Subscribed ye 13th day of ye 5th mon: 1682 att our monthly meetinge att Brechhouse by us ..." Signers included John Roades his father and Elizabeth Roades his mother.

The group known as Blunston's Company set sail on the Bristol Factor August 21, 1682. The vessel dropped anchor at New Castle, off the Delaware coast on the same day as William Penn's craft The Welcome. Both ships are reported at Upland the next day, October 28, 1682. Thus John Roades and William Penn saw Penn's Woods for the first time the same day. This makes you eligible for membership in The Welcome Society. Blunston held two tracts in Chester County, an area now in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. He assigned half his servants to work on one tract and the remainder to the other tract. These young men "worked hard to establish settlements in the new province." [page 20, Kinsey]

On March 28, 1691, by then free from his indenture, John purchased 50 acres for five pounds in Penn's Manor of Springfield. This is where he built the home his family lived in for the next fifteen years. His and Hannah Wilcox's intention to marry was recorded by the Women's Minutes of the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting 7 mo 29, 1692. John and Hannah were members of the Philadelphia (Arch Street) Meeting for the next several years. One of the more interesting entries for him in these records is his request to cut down some dead trees (killed by locusts) on the Manor of Springfield land, and use the wood for fencing his property. He added "which Trees, if not cutt, will rot on the Ground and rather be of Damage than benefit." The Meeting agreed that John Roads "have Liberty to cutt 50 Trees as aforesaid." [page 21] Such things were decided in the Men's and Women's Business Meetings, thus keeping disagreements between Quakers out of the civil court system.

Even though John's father emigrated after his older two sons, he acquired more property in Pennsylvania than they did. On January 6, 1701 he deeded 175 acres at Whitemarsh adjacent Plymouth township to his son John. This was the younger John's full inheritance from his father, but they perhaps thought of it as a delayed wedding gift. John (Jr.) began developing this property while living on his Springfield property. Even so he appears as one of the trustees for the building of a new Friends (Plymouth) Meeting House several years before his family came under their charge. Minutes of the Philadelphia Meeting show the family moved to Whitemarsh in the fall of 1707.

Plymouth Meeting records John's burial "10 10mo 1733." There is no court record for his or Hannah's will, nor a birth record for their children. It is believed Hannah outlived him, for she is likely the Hannah Roades whose Certificate from the Philadelphia Meeting was presented to the Exeter Meeting in 1737; at the time some of their children were members of this Meeting. Mrs. Kinsey notes the changes John witnessed during the 50 years of his sojourn in Pennsylvania: "When John arrived as a 'servant', it was really just 'Penn's Woods'. The city between the rivers was nothing but streets laid out and a few houses being built. When John died, Philadelphia was not only the capital of a flourishing province but a leading city among all the colonies. The productive work of John Roades and other yeomen farmers had cleared the fields, fenced the plantations, tended the livestock and grown the grain, vegetables, fruits, hemp and flax that made it possible for other men to live and work in the towns and city." [page 23]

The most interesting of their seven children are your Sarah who married John Ball, and Samuel, who was born in 1711. He was a house carpenter by trade, indeed he was the builder of for many early Philadelphia homes and businesses. The American Philosophical Society lists his occupation as "Mechanician" or one versed in machines; he was also a surveyor and had mercantile and real estate interests. Samuel also entered politics, serving on the Common Council of Philadelphia, as an Alderman, and also as a member of The Assembly of the Province. He was a good friend of Benjamin Franklin; many of their letters dating to the time Ben was in Europe survive. He was chosen by the Assembly to be

delegate to the First Continental Congress, and if he had not been Mayor of Philadelphia which precluded him from service at the Second Continental Congress, he might have been a signer of the Declaration.

### **William Grayson Jordan and Sarah Alice (Ball)**

Nancy Allen "Nannie" (Jordan) Miller was the eldest daughter and third child of William Grayson Jordan and Sarah Alice (Ball). Nannie's namesake was her great-grandmother Nancy Allen (Dent) who died in 1855. By giving his eldest daughter her name, we suspect William was especially close to this grandmother. If William has a family namesake, we haven't located it yet. Several men named "William Grayson" lived in various geographic areas and at least one was a Revolutionary War hero. My guess, he is William's namesake.

William, born December 18, 1834, was the right age to serve during the War of Northern Aggression, although he may have used the term "War of Southern Rebellion." Unlike most of your ancestors, William G. Jordan fought on the Union side. He enrolled October 7, 1861 in the Sixth Kentucky Volunteer Cavalry, but he wasn't mustered in, as a Private in Company C, until January 1, 1864. His tombstone indicates he was a member of the GAR otherwise known as "Grand Army of the Republic".

The story told Glendon by Jabe Jordan in 1988 was that the move to Kansas was William's idea. After finding Nannie working in the cotton fields, he went home and announced to his wife, they were all moving to a better life out West. How many of the Jordan children made the trek isn't known. By then their oldest son, Gilbert T., was married to your William L. Miller's sister, Amanda. Jabe reported this couple made the move, but after only a few weeks in Kansas she announced, "It wasn't my idea to move and I don't like it here." Jabe's ancestor, second child Jabez Lewis, remained in Kentucky for he had a good job working for William and Amanda's uncle, Jefferson Miller. And more importantly, by then he was courting his boss's daughter. Clearly his destiny lay in Kentucky.

William Grayson didn't get to enjoy the "good life out west" for long. We estimate the move was in 1882. According to his obituary, William died after a long illness August 28, 1890. William's obituary was printed under the "Riverdale Community News", indicating they lived nearer that community than the larger Belle Plaine. Both communities are just north of Wellington, Kansas. The obituary also said his funeral was conducted according to the Masonic orders, he having been a member for 30 years. This organization was once quite strong, but began losing membership mid-way through the 20th century.

William's wife, Sarah Alice (Ball) was born June 9, 1837, the daughter of Joseph Brumfield Ball and Sarah (Jolly). Sarah was just shy of turning 20 when she married William February 21, 1857. Ten children were born to them, all in the Cloverport and Stephensport area of Breckinridge County. Many extended family members lived nearby. One wonders what Sarah thought about William's decision to move? Jabe's story makes it sound like it was entirely William's idea, but I suspect others had a say in the matter. Saying "good bye" was still a heart-wrenching, not to mention, somewhat scary, affair.

Sarah lived almost 30 years as a widow, dying March 24, 1920 in Stafford, Kansas. Presumably she remained on the farm until the youngest four sons (born 1873 through 1878) were grown. Those first years after William's death were surely a struggle for her. The Kansas prairie was so different from the Kentucky woodlands she had known all her life. More than once she must have thought the move west

was a big mistake. But the Millers were living nearby, at least until 1910. According to Fern, in her later years Sarah went from one child's home to another, spending a few months with each. The youngest son, Christopher Columbus "Lum", had done well for himself, but his wife didn't much like taking care of her mother-in-law. They had no children of their own and perhaps she felt tied down when Sarah was visiting. Lum made arrangements to pay William and Nannie to care for Sarah during "his" time. The Miller kids were delighted to have their Grandmother with them longer, and she probably preferred life in her daughter's household. However, the Miller girls teased her no end. One of their chores was cleaning her room, but she didn't want her bed moved. A favorite pastime became locking themselves inside her room, then pushing her heavy trunk across the wooden floor. To her, on the other side of the door, it sounded as if they were moving her bed back and forth. She would stand at the door, knocking and demanding to be let in. Only Nannie's intervention brought order back to the household.

William and Sarah are buried in the Belle Plaine Cemetery plot along with William and Nannie Miller and the two young Miller sons, Lebbie and Moodie. Other family members may be buried there, but at the time we didn't know the names to search for them.

William and Sarah's oldest son, Gilbert T., married Amanda C. Miller, sister of your William, and second son Jabez Lewis married William and Amanda's Miller cousin, Elizabeth Ann. It was Jabez that Fern remembered most from the 1940 visit back to Kentucky with Nannie. She reported when they drove up he hurried from the house to the car saying "Nannie, you haven't changed a bit!" Little is known about John W. and Joseph Brumfield, other than Joseph was living in Stafford, Kansas in the 1920s. Nannie raised the daughter of her sister, Mary A. "Annie", following Annie's untimely death. It seems strange someone who fought on the Union side would name a son Robert E. Lee. William and Sarah must have been impressed with Lee's actions following the war. Marvin N. (probably Marvel N. after his grandfather) was often away for long periods of time without telling anyone where he was. Fern reported Sarah would sit for hours at a window, looking down the road, hoping to see him returning. His last visit with the family was after her death. Silas H. and Christopher Columbus "Lum" complete the family unit. Lum, also a resident of Stafford, Kansas, was the most "well to do" of the group. His 1971 will listed many bequests, including endowments for care and maintenance of cemeteries in Belle Plaine and Stafford where his parents and wife are buried. The last bequest was that after everything was dispersed, anything remaining was to be equally divided between three nieces (all Nannie and William's girls) who had kept in touch with him over the years. Fern's share came to \$7,000.

### **William Payne and Mary (? Ball)**

In the days of primogeniture, unless the father wrote a will stating otherwise, the eldest son got the bulk of the father's land holdings. Second sons sometimes received the land their mother brought into the marriage, but later born sons were usually forced into trade, the military or the church. Your William Payne, born early 1700s in then Richmond County, Virginia, was the youngest son of a younger son. Even though his father left a will, William and his sister weren't specifically mentioned by name. William's step-grandfather explained the status of the younger children to the Richmond County Court June 1713: "Thomas, William and Jane Paine, Orphans ... have been under [my] care and charge since the death of their deced. Father, and ... ye profits of their parts of his Estate was of so small value that it could not maintain them." The Court ordered the two boys serve [their step-grandfather] "Thomas Paise and his

present Wife .... Till they arrive at ye age of one and twenty years and said Jane till age of 18 ... he [to] learn them to read and write, [to] teach Thomas and William to use some handicraft trade and at ye expiration of their times to pay each of them, the said Thomas and William Paine, in like manner as is appointed by Law for Servants by Indentures." The children were lucky to be living with their maternal grandmother who surely treated them more kindly than was the usual lot of indentured servants. The Justices had another reason for this action: by turning the children into indentured servants, their step-grandfather wasn't eligible to receive the usual county levy for caring for poor orphaned children.

In 1715 William was apprenticed to his probable relative William Jennings "to be taught the trade of a carpenter and to read the Bible through." William's brother Thomas was then serving as an apprentice carpenter to their Uncle George White. William likely completed his apprenticeship the same year he came of age and he probably joined the "family business." Even so it took him several years after completing his training before he earned enough to support a family. He married Mary Jones about 1732 for in that year he signed a receipt as Mary's husband that they had received her full share of her deceased father's estate. The Jones personal estate reportedly came to £111, but Mary was one of ten siblings. Thus her share was probably the usual father's wedding gift to daughters: a featherbed. In other words, whatever William acquired during his lifetime came from his own hard work and money management skills.

A common practice in the northern neck area of Virginia and in parts of Maryland during the colonial period seems strange to us today. In 1738 William leased 100 acres for the life of himself, his wife Mary and his son John. The land, with all improvements added by William, reverted back to the lessor upon the death of the last person named. Improvements included buildings, orchards and fencing to protect crops from the free-range cattle.

In 1751 William and Peter Jett petitioned the court to re-open the old "rolling road" to Morton's warehouse. According to internet accounts, rolling roads were narrow paths through the wilderness along which a packed "hogshead (barrel) mounted on an axle and pulled by a horse or oxen" made its way to the nearest warehouse. Poorer farmers who didn't have an oxen or horse to spare sent two or three men with hand spikes to guide and push the barrels along the path. The key was the pole -- inserted into one reinforced end of the barrel, then pushed all the way through the middle of the barrel and out the other end. "Enough of the pole protruded from each end to allow attachments for pulling the hogshead, in a rolling fashion." Although hogsheads were built in differing sizes, a carefully packed larger barrel could weigh between 750 and 1,000 pounds. Thus rolling roads were along the paths of least resistance, with the fewest changes in elevation as possible. Warehouses were situated as far up rivers as possible, but were limited by the depth of water required of ocean-going vessels. Unfortunately, "after rolling a hundred and fifty miles over dusty roads and muddy streams, the tobacco tended to arrive in poor condition."

Hogsheads were weighed upon arrival and the warehouse presented the owner with a "tobacco note" certifying the number of pounds and perhaps an estimate of the quality of the tobacco that was then placed in storage. The owner could go to the nearby company-owned store and use this certificate to obtain goods or he could apply it toward his last year's debt. However, the owner didn't learn the exact amount credited to his account until the barrels were graded on both quantity and quality of the tobacco in London. Any deterioration during the warehouse storage in Virginia or complete loss if the ship sunk was the individual planter's problem even though he had no control once it arrived at the

warehouse. Additionally, he was charged a fee for storing the tobacco until the next ocean-going vessel arrived. Moreover, often southern tobacco and cotton made a stop at northern middlemen before the transatlantic voyage, further reducing the planter's income. All Virginia planters, large and small, were at the mercy of the system. The long-brewing resentment was one more factor that led to Civil War.

In 1753 William was appointed the surveyor for a new road from the White Oak bridge to the county line road and in 1755 he was surveyor of another new road from White Oak bridge to Claiborne's Run. He was thus making a name for himself in the growing county. By this time he sounds more like a tobacco farmer than carpenter, but carpentry work helped pay the bills.

Mary (Jones) Payne died in the 1740s for William married "about 1750" another Mary, whose surname is unknown, but believed to be either Turner or Ball. The Balls were near neighbors on Muddy Creek, and descendants of William and Mary's youngest son were adamant she was "a" Miss Ball. Court documents attest that William continued doing what good neighbors did: he witnessed contracts and made appraisals of the estates of his nearest neighbors.

William signed his will November 18, 1769, asking that his "whole estate ... be kept together in order to raise my children which I have had by my present wife Mary ... if she marry my desire [is] my Estate be equally divided amongst my children by my said wife Mary ... my youngest son Lewis [is to] have Thirty shillings extraordinary to be applied to the further Education of my son ... My daughter Lettice shall have one of the feather beds upstairs." He died the next spring for his widow Mary and son William presented his will to the King George County Court May 3, 1770. Although the will appointed both of them executors, William (son of Mary Jones) declined to serve. The author of the Payne genealogy explains this as William's silent protest that he and his siblings were slighted by the will. I disagree for have seen similar instances of step-sons acknowledging the right of a mother to have full say over her children's inheritance. It might also have been to avoid friction between William (Jr.) and his full siblings. William's children with his first wife were fully grown by the time he died, and with the possible exception of Lettice, all were married. He had probably given them their inheritance at the time they wed. His younger children were still at home and his will reflects their continuing need of his resources.

Brooke Payne, author of the *The Paynes of Virginia* (published 1937) believes William had more children by his first wife Mary (Jones), but these are the only children he could connect to William: John, William, Thomas and Lettice with his first wife; and Charles, Daniel, James, George, Lewis, your Sarah Ellen, Sally and Molly with his second wife. Additionally, as of summer 2005, this genealogy is the only documentation linking your Sarah Ellen (Payne) who married John Ball to this William and Mary (Ball) Payne. Searching for better documentation continues.

### **Micajah Clark Jr. and Mildred (Martin)**

Thomas Martin Clark, named for his maternal grandfather Thomas Martin, was the eldest son of Micajah Clark Jr. and Mildred Martin. A Biblical name, "Micajah" was most likely pronounced by the Virginians as "Me-cage-uh" with emphasis on "cage". Micajah was born February 27, 1741 in Hanover County, Virginia, the fourth child but third son of his parents, Micajah Clark (Sr.) and Judith (Adams). He grew up in Louisa County, but moved to Albemarle County when his father's land there was ready for the family. Micajah Jr's marriage bond to Mildred Martin hasn't been located, but the date is "about 1760" and the

marriage was probably in Albemarle County where her father lived. They resided near his parents and several siblings at the foot of the Southwest Mountains chain near present day Keswick.

Processioning or walking one's boundary lines with the adjoining land owners every four years was an age-old practice of Anglican parishes. During the course of the walk fallen line-marker stones were re-stacked and tree markings were renewed in the presence of the court appointed overseers. In November 1767 Micajah Clark Jur. and Dan'l Fichs were ordered to procession "all the lands between the old county line to the North River to the top of the mountains and the road leading to Henderson's Ford." It was somewhat of an honor for a twenty-six year old to be selected for this duty. Although it was usually a congenial time spent with friends, there was always the potential heated discussion requiring the negotiating skills of the overseers. Four years later, "Micajah Clark, William Daniel Fitch, Micajah Clark Jr., Benjamin Burger and Achilles Moorman were ordered to procession all the lands from the north line of Micajah Clark to the Three Notched Road & from the top of the Little Mountain to the Louisa County line." Today's Interstate 64 closely parallels the original Three Notched Road as the major route between Richmond and Charlottesville. The second processioning order names three of your direct-line ancestors -- both Micajah Clarks and Achilles Moorman.

Except for his probate records, all we have in the way of official records for Micajah Jr. is him witnessing a few deeds and his purchase of 400 acres on Mychunk Creek in September 1771. We can guess he died of an accident or sudden illness since he didn't leave a will. Based on the entry "planks not nailed down [found] in barn and dwelling house" within his property appraisal some researchers think he owned and operated a sawmill. This career provided lots of opportunities for accidents, everything from falling limbs to deep cuts by the saw blade to drowning in the rushing water that powered the mill wheel. Or Micajah's death could be from some disease. His friend William Lewis, the father of Meriwether, was hurrying home in a driving thunderstorm when swept off his drowning horse while crossing a swollen Virginia river. Thoroughly chilled by the time he arrived at the nearest shelter, he died of pneumonia a few days later.

Micajah Junior's death is given as "before May 10, 1774," the date the appraisal of his property, valued at £392.18.8 1/2, was presented to court. Noteworthy items other than the planks include: 3 Bibles, 2 Testaments, 1 prayer Book, 1 Book of Hymns, 2 Psalters and 2 Spelling Books, but all the books are noted as "damaged." Perhaps they were simply worn from use but the appraisers were trying to justify a conservative valuation. Micajah Jr. left a widow and five children. Your Thomas Martin married his first cousin Mildred Moorman; Mourning, named for her paternal great-grandmother, married Robert Mansfield; Robert, named for his paternal great-grandfather, married a near cousin, Nancy Venable (Moorman); William born after 1767 died unmarried in 1806; and Nancy married John Eidson.

Researchers give two marriage years for Mildred (Martin) Clark and her second husband, the widower Jacob Oglesby. One date is "about 1780" and the other, "early 1788". I side with the 1788 date for Jacob signed a security bond as guardian of the Clark minors February 14 and the widow's dower was taken from Micajah's estate later that year. But a story told by Mildred and Jacob's grandson, Judge Fagg, appears to document the earlier date for their marriage. The narrative described an encounter with the British commander who was notorious for his ruthlessness in suppressing the Southern rebels. Keep in mind though, Judge Fagg's mother was too young to have personal memory of the events.



"The story of my Grandmother's conduct at the time her house was surrounded and searched by Col. Tarleton's troops, I have heard my mother repeat a great many times. The soldiers swarmed into the house and ransacked every nook and corner for valuables. Among the things seized was a small shot-gun which had been given to her son. The soldier who took it, held it up to his comrades and said that was his and he should take it back to England, and keep it as a trophy of the war. My grandmother seized the gun in his hands and demanded of the Colonel that he should order the soldier to let it go, saying that it was an heirloom in the family and she did not intend to give it up. He ordered the soldier at once to give it up, at the same time saying to her: 'You are the bravest woman I have seen in America.' My Grandfather was at the time a recruiting officer and had gone to Charlottesville that day to muster some recruits for the Continental Army. She exacted a promise from Tarleton that if he was taken prisoner by his troops, he would parole him and permit him to return to his home. Tarleton was delayed from various causes so that news of his coming was conveyed ... It enabled my grandfather also to make his escape." [page 155, James Clark, Mansfield, Christopher Clark and Allied Families by Virginia McNaught, published after 1934.]

In another letter Judge Fagg wrote: "Mildred Martin was born in 1736, died 1827 age 91 years. Her grave is in a secluded spot at the foot of the S. W. range of mountains, on the land formerly belonging to Maj. James Clark, one of the men for whom I am named." Based on a 1937 family cemetery mapping project, I believe this cemetery, where several of your ancestors are buried, is located "a half-mile northeast of Keswick, Virginia on Route #22 immediately on north side of the road." Thus, Jacob's home and the "Clark compound" were on Tarleton's route through that part of Virginia in June 1781. Although some parts of the story seem fantastical, I don't question the visit so much as Jacob and Mildred's marriage to each other at the time. Could the heirloom gun be a gift from Thomas Martin to his first namesake grandson, your Thomas Martin Clark?

Jacob and Mildred (Martin) Clark Oglesby had one daughter, Elizabeth Whitney who married John Fagg. The birth year for Elizabeth, mother of the story-teller, is estimated, based on the earlier marriage date for her parents. Some researchers list two other children of Jacob and Mildred: Martha "Patsy" and Pleasant. If Mildred was indeed born in 1736 she was 44 years old in 1780 and 52 in 1788 when she married Jacob. Having one child with Jacob would have been a minor miracle, but three is biologically impossible. Personally, I suspect Judge Fagg erred on Mildred's age by as much as ten years.

### **Micajah Clark Sr. and Judith (Adams)**

Micajah Clark Sr. and Judith Adams were the parents of twelve children (no twins) including your Micajah Jr. We are fortunate to have the 1832 transcription of Micajah's entries in the family Bible at the time of birth of each child for the Bible itself is now lost. Micajah, born September 16, 1718 in New Kent County, Virginia, was the fifth "known" child, but second son of Christopher Clark and Penelope (Johnson). Judith, born October 1716 in Henrico County, Virginia, was the second child and eldest daughter of Robert and Mourning Adams. They grew up in comfortable but not wealthy households, for neither father owned the numerous slaves one envisions when hearing "southern plantation." Although both families did gradually move west, the numerous changes in county names within this narrative is more a reflection of formation of new counties than actual family moves.

Micajah and Judith married October 1735, probably in Goochland County, Virginia where her family lived. Micajah was considerably younger than the average groom for that day, but perhaps he looked older than his years. He was only 19 when he purchased 130 acres in then Goochland County May 12, 1737. The land was adjacent to Machunk (Mychunk) Creek, the land his father-in-law Robert Adams owned, and the Hanover County line. Witnesses to this transaction were his father "Xpher" Clark, his brother-in-law Benjamin Johnson and Mathew Whitell. The tract is later found in Albemarle County near the (now) Louisa County line.

During the 1740s and 1750s Micajah acquired 2,535 more acres, mostly in Albemarle County through the Virginia Land Grant system. Some of the larger tracts were divided into smaller tracts and individually sold as speculation when the price was right, but he also gave land to each of his adult children and several grandchildren when they married. One tract is especially interesting because of the neighbors -- his brother-in-law Charles Lynch and Thomas Jefferson. The tract given him by his father's will is probably the location of what I term "the Clark compound" where several family members lived. Although his father was a lawyer, the wording of his will was such that land given reverted back to the "heir at law" when the grantee died. To rectify this, the eldest son deeded the various tracts back to his siblings. His deed to Micajah was dated August 20, 1754: "Edward Clark, son and heir of Christopher Clark ... conveys to Micajah Clark 500 acres of land touching the land of Col. Thomas Meriwether at the foot of the Sugar Lofe Mountain; which said tract ... was devised ... for life only, the words of the said Christopher's Will passing no greater estate to him, although the said Christopher intended, as the said Edward Clark is truly sensible, to have devised the fee simple estate of the said land to the said Micajah."

Micajah is said to have been a surveyor and as such, surveyed lands for "his friend" Thomas Jefferson. The surveyors book in Albemarle County, where Monticello is located, shows no entries for him as a surveyor, but that does leave Bedford County as a possibility. Jefferson's plantation retreat, Poplar Forest, is located in Bedford County near the Peaks of the Otter, also mentioned in this account. I suspect if a surveyor named Micajah Clark did survey land for Jefferson in Bedford County, he is one of their grandsons or a nephew and not this Micajah. As to Thomas Jefferson being a friend, I'm sure he recognized the Clarks and chatted with them in public places. But I seriously doubt the Clarks were frequent visitors to Monticello. The Meriwethers and Lewises were another matter; Christopher Clark and Nicholas Meriwether were law partners and land speculators together.

Micajah was appointed Collector of the Tithes for Fredericksville Parish in 1762 and 1770. He probably was the Collector for the intervening years as well but those record years are missing from the vestry book. Although he isn't listed as a vestryman, this job was usually given to (forced upon is a better term) vestrymen. The Collector of Tithes had to post a considerable security bond with co-signers, the amount equal to or more than the expected amount of tax money Micajah would collect. The amount and names of those who co-signed with him should appear in the Albemarle County Minute or Order Books, but these haven't been checked. Also, he was one of the court appointed overseers for processioning for a number of years. This job was given to the most trustworthy persons living within the precinct or area to be processioned and wasn't limited to members of the Anglican Church. Researchers who say Micajah was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and fathered children with a second wife are confusing him with grandsons and a nephew.

Micajah and Judith outlived most of their children and helped raise the five children of son Micajah Jr. and the four children of their son William who died in 1800. One daughter died in childhood, but most others died at an advanced age in either Campbell County, Virginia or far away Georgia and Kentucky. By the time Micajah died the only relatives living near him in Albemarle County were several grandchildren, William's widow and the Oglesbys (the remarried widow of Micajah Jr.) Judith was alive into the mid-to-late 1790s, but was deceased before 1802 when their son James wrote his will. James made reference to his aged and honored father and ordered his executors to provide Micajah with ten pounds annually as long as he lived so as to help him live more comfortably. One grandson was an early governor of Kentucky. You descend from two children, Micajah Jr. and Judith (Clark) Moorman.

You should be especially proud to descend from this "grandfather", not because of what he did or what he acquired, but because of the man he was. "He was spoken of as a very pious man. A grandson says he built a small church near his home that was open to all sects every Sunday. If no minister came, he would conduct a service. He was sometimes called the 'Quaker preacher', and the most of his children joined the Society of Friends, which had a large membership at that time in that section, the evidence is that he did not join. He was asked why he did not join some denomination. He replied that he did not agree with any one of them entirely in doctrine or church government; that there was 'good in all, but none all good' and that he would trust in the Mercy of his Savior and try to live up to his creed which was: 'Do all the good you can, avoid all the evil you can, trust and believe in God. Man knows nothing'." [McNaught]

Micajah died July 21, 1808. This obituary was published in a Richmond newspaper Friday, July 29, 1808: "DEPARTED this life on the 21st inst at his residence in the county of Albemarle MICAHAH CLARK, sen. aged 91 years, after a lingering illness of 7 [unclear -- could be "2"] months which he endured to the last, with unceasing patience, and a christian [blurred] altho he was from the commencement of this illness, confidently impressed with the belief he should never recover. This venerable man, hath had the happiness of enjoying a long and well spent life, in good health, almost uninterrupted, never having experienced more than one attack previous to the one which carried him off. He was, in every respect, perfectly uniform and temperate; his benign and humane countenance, plainly indicated the purity and benevolence of his heart, and opened an avenue to his innermost recesses by which any one might enter. How melancholy are the sensations we feel, when meditating on the loss of this, our friend, and the friend of mankind -- Philanthropy, humanity, morality and benevolence will severely deplore his loss, and shed a tear in remembrance of his departed shade. It's needless to recount the many amiable qualities which were united in this man; they are well known to all who knew him; but to those who knew him not, suffice it to say, he was a kind and benevolent neighbor, a humane and tender master, and that the poor never passed unheeded by him. The writer of these lines, hath from his infancy, known this man, whose loss we deplore, and in making the foregoing communication he has done it conscientiously. July 26, 1808. A FRIEND.

## **Captain Symon Miller**

Capt. Symon Miller, grandfather of Jane who married Thomas Hord, was a noted ship builder in [Old] Rappahannock County, Virginia. He gives his age as "seven and thirty yeeres or thereabouts" in his will dated February 16, 1679; thus he was born about 1642, probably near Bristol, England for he reportedly had connections with the ship building industry located there. The first record for him in Virginia is the

November 5, 1673 land grant "in the freshes and south side of the [Rappahannock] River on head Pewamaneese Creek adjacent land of Cadwallader Jones and lands of Taliaferro, Buckner, Prosser and Royston." He received 817 acres for "transporting" or paying the cost of passage for 17 persons. Although some researchers use this grant to date the year Symon arrived in Virginia, he may well have arrived earlier. It took time to locate the desired land, hire a surveyor to run the lines, and deal with bureaucratic paperwork.

According to a history of Essex County, Virginia the summer and fall of 1676 "the Rappahannock frontier was left undefended and Indians burned 37 farms." Another author says that summer, within a ten mile radius in this same area, 36 settlers were killed by Indians and 60 plantations were burned. And according to an account found on the Internet, Nathaniel Bacon sent "the Rappahannock native Major Simon Miller to the [upper Rappahannock] frontier and his troops stopped the attacks." This was all part of what we now call "Bacon's Rebellion," described by one historian as the "rising of the first democratic elements against their aristocratic leaders," and by another "America's first civil war." I personally recommend 1676: The End of American Independence by Stephen Saunders Webb, Syracuse University Press, 1995.

Nathaniel Bacon was nephew of an aristocratic Virginia House of Burgess member of the same name. The willful younger Bacon was sent to Virginia by his frustrated father in the hopes that living far away from his gambling friends in London would change him for the better. Instead, the younger Bacon became the champion of the long repressed poor farmers who wanted Governor Berkeley to do what the Governor was unwilling to do. They wanted soldiers to go after the Indians who were killing people and destroying what little property they had labored so long to acquire. But the Governor and his House of Burgess cronies were more interested in protecting their profits from Indian Trade.

After the death of Nathaniel Bacon from dysentery that fall and the subsequent collapse of his rebellion, Gov. Berkeley hanged more than 20 of Bacon's followers and took land from others who had joined "the rebel". Apparently Symon's name was on the list for punishment because his neighbors, Cadwallader Jones and John Badse of Citternborn Parish, wrote a letter March 8, 1677 in his defense: "...our Enimies reigned till at yast yt [that] Fire Brand, [Bacon] ... sent to our assistance one Capt. Simon Miller a Liver amongst us and Scince his time wee have had noe men killed nor great damage in our stocks though scince this war begun, wee have lost above 600 pounds Sterl: Now scince by an Evil hand wee his Majesties always, leige people have in a maner had our lives defended by ye said Miller. In gratitude wee desire he may be looked upon with an eye on favour." [The Virginia Historical Magazine, Volume 3, page 37 "Causes of Discontent in Virginia". The letter is repeated in Volume 12, page 237 "Simon Miller, Captain in Bacon's Rebellion."] Although I'm sure several of your ancestors sided with Bacon, Capt. Symon is the only one who I can document actually joined Bacon's "band of outlaws" that summer.

Symon was a widower with six young children by late summer 1677 when he married the recently widowed neighbor Margaret Prosser. She brought her three Prosser step-children and her son Anthony into the Miller household. Or perhaps the Millers moved in with her? She was a wealthy widow for John Prosser gave her outright 500 acres of land on the North side of the Rappahannock River plus one-half his "moveable" estate. Additionally he gave "for her natural life" the use of his plantation, the Golden Valle, as well as land in the neck. These latter tracts went to a son by his first wife after Margaret's death. With ten children between them and the possibility of adding to the number, the question of where to live may have come down to, which house is larger or easier to expand?

On November 30, 1683 Margaret entered into a contract as "the widow of Symon Miller", but his will wasn't probated until May 22, 1684. The holdup appears to be the need for a second witness to attest in court he witnessed Symon signing his will. The first witness to Symon's signature appeared before the Rappahannock Court "5 7bris 1683." [The first day of the New Year was March 25; by my calculation this translates to the 5th day of October.] Thus Symon died about September 1683.

Capt. Symon's detailed will shows he tried to divide everything equally between all his children. Specific legacies to his son, your Simon, are mentioned in that narrative so I won't repeat those here. His son William received the remainder of 1/2 dividint [not given to son Simon] plus a chestnut mare. Son John was to get 200 acres adjacent to Dr. Reynolds and a black mare with a hook brand on the near buttock. His daughter Susanna received "fower hundred eight acres an halfe" land, being 1/2 dividint adjacent Col. Cadwallader Jones on head of Pumansinn and my old Mare." Daughter Isabella got the other halfe dividint at Peumansinn and a black mare about two years old branded SM on the near buttock. His daughter Margaret got 200 acres "ye backside of my land adjcant Dr. Reynolds" and a brown mare branded SM. His wife Margaret was appointed executrix and was given the rest of the estate.

He continued: "It is my will that the three mares given to my son Will and my son John and my daughter Susan that the foales they go withall shall go into the stock and if any of them be a mare foale it is to be given to my wifes son Anthony Prosser and if they do not bring a Mare foale my wife ... [is] to purchase her son Anthony a Mare foale and all the male increase of all the Mares except my sonn Symons to goe into ye former Stock till my Children Come to ye age of fourteen then male and female the children to have ye full increase and if any of these Children dye before they Come of lawful age ... [their] Estate land or Mares to be equally divided among the survivors and if any of the Childrens Mares dye Then my wife is to buy out of the said stock to make good the same. And the sons of Mr. Prosser are to have everyone of them a heifer delivered to them one after another by my Executrix after my decease."

"To wife Margaret the Plantation and houses I now live in during her natural life and in case my wife should marry one that should lett the house and Orchard goe to ruin Then she is to return to her thirds according to law. I make Mr. James Ashton overseer of my estate and children and the said Mr Ja: Ashton to dispose of the said Children at sixteen years of age as he thinks fitt and in case the said Mr. James Ashton dyeth then the children to be at their own disposing if they like to go to any handy craft they have a mind unto." I believe here "disposing" means apprenticeship to learn a trade.

One last item of interest. On October 7, 1694 an "Indian Woman named Bess, belonging to Mattaponie Town, a Prisoner of Warr taken by Simon Miller since dec'd, in the late Indian Rebellion made complaint in this Court that the Executors of said Miller detain her as a Servant contrary to the Act of Assembly in that case made and provided. The Court are of Judgment that the Indian woman Bess do serve the Executors .... Untill she arrives to the age of thirty years and no longer and the Indian Woman praying this Court to inspect her age, the Court do adjudge her to be twenty eight years of age." If the "late Indian Rebellion" was the conflict of 1676, it appears a ten year old girl's capture led to twenty years of involuntary servitude.