



Historical Notes and Queries

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Historical Notes and Queries.

FORMATION OF COUNTIES.

WARM SPRINGS, VA., January 1st, 1895.

Editor of Virginia Magazine of History, &c :

SIR: In the number of the Magazine for July, 1894, Mr. R. S. Thomas gives what is intended as a list of the counties of Virginia, with the dates of their creation and the names of the counties from which they were created, when not among the original shires.

He prints the names of many counties now in West Virginia, and omits many Virginia counties, and makes some errors as to the Virginia counties given.

I submit the following additions and corrections to the list as revised by him. Those omitted by Mr. Thomas in both articles were :

Alexandria county, originally a part of Fairfax, was ceded to General Government as a portion of District of Columbia, and retroceded to Virginia in 1846. Formed into county by Act of March 13th, 1847.

Appomattox, formed into county by Act February 8th, 1845, from Prince Edward, Charlotte and Campbell.

Bland, formed from Wythe, Tazewell and Giles, by Act March 30th, 1861.

Buchanan, from Russell and Tazewell, Act February 13th, 1858.

Craig, from Botetourt, Roanoke, Giles and Monroe, Act March 21st, 1851.

Cumberland, in 1748, from Goochland.

Dickenson, from Russell, Wise and Buchanan, Act March 3d, 1880.

Highland, from Pendleton and Bath, Act March 19th, 1847.

Wise, from Lee, Scott and Russell, Act February 16th, 1856.

As to Augusta county, an Act was passed by the General Assembly in 1738, establishing the county, but it was not fully organized until the 30th of October, 1745.

Tazewell was formed from Russell and Wythe (not Russell and Washington), Act December 19th, 1799

Rockingham was formed from Augusta in 1777 (not 1779). Was organized in 1778.

Spotsylvania was formed in 1720, from Essex, King William and King and Queen, not from Essex alone.

Gloucester was formed from York in 1642, not 1652.

Stafford was formed from Westmoreland in 1675, not 1666.

Washington was formed from Fincastle in 1776, not 1796.

J. T. McALLISTER.

WILLIAM FITZHUGH.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 20th. 1895.

Editor of Virginia Magazine of History, &c :

SIR : The first clause of the will of William Fitzhugh, as published in the January (1895) Virginia Magazine, recites that he gave to his eldest son, William Fitzhugh, "all that tract called Vaulx land, in Westmoreland, containing 6,000 acres." In connection with this, the enclosed deposition, taken in 1707, when the boundaries of Vaulx land were in question, may be of interest. The deposition was copied by me a year or so ago from the records of Westmoreland county.

A. C. QUISENBERRY.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA: SS.—John Quisenberry, aged eighty years, or thereabouts, being examined and sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of God, doth say that about fifty years ago Mrs. Wingate, a nigh relation to old Mrs. Vaulx, her husband (that first took up the said land called "Vaulxland") being in England, came up to the said Wingate's with surveyors, and seated the plantation now called "Vaulx Quarter." Your deponent desired the said Wingate to speak to Mrs. Vaulx to sell him part of the said land, who seemed to be willing, and sent up the pattent with orders to Mr. William Horton to lay out the same, who did forthwith lay out the same at the time aforesaid; and your deponent went with the said surveyor in the laying out the said land, and well remembers y't y'r deponent did help to make the line next to Potomac River, or part thereof, which took in the plantation of Vaulx Quarter, and likewise the line of fifteen hundred poles, and the next line, next to Rappahannock River, which included a plantation formerly seated by one Mr. Lane, since Allen Mounjoy; and further saith not.

JOHN QUISENBERRY.

In obedience to an order of the Westmoreland County Court, have taken the above deposition at the place and time appointed in the said order, this 31st day of January, 1707.

LEWIS MARKHAM,
CALEB BUTLER,
ANDR. MONROE.

Recorded February 25th, 1707, per

Ja: Westcomb, Cl: Com: Ped.

THE WILL OF LEWIS MARKHAM.

The following will is of interest, as being that of one of the ancestors of the famous Chief Justice Marshall. It is contributed to our pages by Mr. A. C. Quisenberry, of Washington, D. C.:

In the name of God, amen! I Lewis Markham, of Washington parish, in the County of Westmoreland, being sick and weak but of perfect senses and memory, and calling to mind the transitory state of this life, doe comend my soule to God my maker, hoping to purchase pardon for all my past sins and offences through the meritorious death and passion of his blessed Son and my Saviour Jesus Christ, into whose hands I comend my spirit.

Imprimis: my will is my body be decently buried and that all my just debts be duly paid by my Ext'x and Ex'r.

Item: my will is that my whole estate be appraised in money, and that it be equally divided among my eight children, and that my wife have her due part, according to law.

Item: my will is that my wife have my plantation in Mattox dureing her natural life, and after her decease then to goe to my son William and his heirs forever.

Item: my will is that my children have their due parts of my estate when they shall come to age, or at the day of marriage.

Item: my will is that my wife have the management of all my estate for the good of herselfe and children dureing her widdowhood, and if it should soe happen that shee should alter her condition before my children come of age or married, that she give good security to the Courts for their parts of the estate.

Item: my will is that all my Tobacco on my plantations be sold to the best advantage, and all my family to [be] furnished with what is needful for their use for this present yeare, and the remainder to be managed for the good of my wife and children, as aforesaid.

Item: my will is that Joseph Bayly and Ann Bayly his wife have a mourning ring.

Item: my will is that my loving wife Elizabeth Markham and Joseph Bayly be the Ext'x and Ex'r of this my last will and testament. As witness my hand this 15th of March, 1714.

LEWIS MARKHAM. (Seal).

Test: Henry Williams, Ann Bayly.

WESTMORELAND, SS.—At a court held for the said county the 24th day of June, 1713, the last will and testament of Lewis Markham, Gentleman, dec'd, was presented into Court by Eliza'h his relict, whoe made oath thereto, and being proved by the oath of Henry Williams, one of the witnesses thereto, is admitt to record, and upon mocon of

the said Eliza'h, and her performing what is usual in such cases, certificate is granted her for obtaining a probat in due form.

Test: Tho: Sorrell, D. C. C.

Recordat tricesimo die Junij, 1713, per cundam Clerum.

NEGRO EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

(Communicated by Edward W. James.)

"PRINCESS ANN: At a Court held the third of february, 1719.

Coll: Edward Moseley, Capt. George Hancock, Mr. Anthony Walke, Mr. Hillary Moseley, Mr. ffran's Land.

Upon the petition of John Jameson its ordered that ned anderson a free negro boy be bound to him till he Comes to age & that he teach him to read and the trade of a Tanner & carry him to (worn) office to have Indentures for that purpose."

"PRINCESS ANN: At a Court held the fifth day of July, 1727.

pr'sent—Col: Edward Moseley, Capt. Henry Chapman, Mr. Christo'r Burrough, Capt. ffrancis Land, Justices.

Ordered that David James a free negro be bound to Mr. James Isdel who is to teach him to read ye bible distinctly also ye Trade of a gun Smith that he Carry him to ye Clark's office & take Indentures to that purpose."

LETTER OF COLONEL WILLIS.

Dr. A. G. Grinnan sends us the following copy of a letter written by Colonel Lewis Willis from Morristown during the Revolutionary War: *To Mr. Chas. Yates, Fredericksburg, Va.*

MORRIS TOWN, July 10th, 1777.

MY WORTHY FRIEND: As our army is now encamped at this place, waiting to hear what course the enemy will take now, no doubt you will ere this have heard of their evacuating New Jersey altogether; and it is conjectured by most people that they intend going up North River to effect a junction of their two armies (meaning with Burgoyne). However an express arrived here a few days ago from General Schuyler, informing our General that Carleton had attempted to storm a fortress of ours some little distance below Ticonderoga, and had failed.

It is now thought that he will begin a regular seige. How strong Schuyler is or whether any part of this army will march to his assistance is not yet known. We I understand are to watch Howe's motions, who is now on Staten Island, but is preparing to embark somewhere, and where he moves we shall move, which keeps us eternally on the watch, and everything packed in wagons, and this occasions us

to live extremely poor, as we dare not send a servant into the country to procure vegetables, milk or anything, for fear we should be called off in his absence. I was present when Major Day (Benjamin Day) wrote to you the other day, and make no doubt he gave you an account of a Skirmish Lord Stirling had with the enemy a day or two before their departure. His Lordship lost three pieces of cannon and thirty men, but from the best accounts I have, and if we can believe deserters, the enemy suffered greatly. Several declare that at one discharge of our cannon with cannister shot, we thereby killed six men upon the spot.

Gen. Scott has Since passed over the spot where this affair happened, and discovered that they had buried a great many men and others were lying out unburied. The evening after this engagement I was ordered by Gen. Weedon (Weedon) to take four light horse, and proceed down to Brunswick Piscataway, and Scout the Country there about to discover, if possible, where was the enemy, and what route they had taken.

Accordingly I set out badly mounted, and got intelligence on the way, that they were in or about Bonum Town. I made for that place. You may depend I kept a close watch; found the enemy had passed through towards Amboy, precisely two hours before my arrival, as a good Whig lady informed me. She advised me to return the way I came or run a chance of falling into the hands of the enemy. By this time the light horse and my own were so fatigued that I put about, and with difficulty reached the encampment by Sunset. I could not raise more than a walk.

A horse, a horse, my pocket book and its contents for a good one that can play a light pair of heels, and I should delight in reconnoitering. But these Jersey Jades will not do, an English light horse might give one a mile the start in this open country, and pick them up in two. My friend I am afraid you have forgotten me. Three posts and no letter—consider sir. If I do not write as often as you may expect, I ought to be excused, my time is not my own, and as to conveniences, my writing utensils are in the waggons and not to be got at. My back is just broke writing in this little tent upon my knee, so I must conclude by wishing you every happiness in this world and in the next.

(Signed) LEWIS WILLIS.

THE LANDON FAMILY.

(Communicated by Chas. P. Keith, Philadelphia, Pa.)

Thomas Landon, father of "King" Carter's second wife, was the same Thomas who was son of Silvanus.

During my preparation of the Harrison ancestry, Rev. C. Landon, of

Barnstaple, England, wrote me, February 22d, 1892, that Silvanus Landon was probably son of John Landon, yeoman, of wine cellar to James I and Charles I. Silvanus married first Anne, and by her had a son, Thomas, who succeeded him at Credenhill. Silvanus' will gives "to my son, Thomas Landon, the remaining part of the term of years in the tenement wherein Mr. Le Feaver, apothecary, now lives, and after his decease, then the rest of the term to his wife; if she die, then to the use of Silvanus Landon, Mary Landon and Anne Landon. If said son refuse the several legacies given to him, his wife and children, and refuse to give to my ex'rs a general release of all claims, said legacies shall be void?" The will also gives residue to Frances, "my now wife, the relict of Sr. Anthony St. Leger." The date, July 30th, 1681; probated August 15th, 1681. John Minor's statement that Betty Carter's mother was a St. Leger, perhaps based on her having a brother, St. Leger Landon, I can not verify: of course mother and daughter may have married father and son. I can not identify which Sr. Anthony St. Leger was the former husband of said Frances.

Thomas Landon, father of Betty Carter, in his will found in Middlesex C. H., dated November 9th, 1700, probated February 3d, 1700-'1, mentions that *his* father left him the reversion of a lease in Pall Mall, London, and in case of his death, to his wife, Mary. Said Thomas was eldest groom of the King's buttery when his cousin, Thomas, wrote his will, February 6th, 1679. He may have lost the office at the Revolution, 1688, and therefore removed to Virginia. His children were:

I. William, to whom said cousin Thomas left in tail male house ect. in Burghill parish, county Hereford, February 6th, 1679.

II. Thomas, remainderman in case of failure of William's male issue, also god son of cousin Thomas, and cousin Thomas left him rent 10*l* 13*s*. $\frac{3}{4}$ *d*. out of Wildmarsh Moor near Hereford.

III. Roger, remainderman on failure of Thomas' male issue.

IV. Silvanus, remainderman on failure of Roger's male issue.

V. John, remainderman on failure of Silvanus' male issue.

VI. Mary, named in will of cousin Thomas.

VII. Ann, named in will of cousin Thomas.

VIII. St. Leger, named in will of Thomas (his father), but evidently not born at date of Thomas' father Silvanus' will, July 30th, 1681, possibly born after Betty. Betty, or Elizabeth, called on her tombstone, "youngest dau. of Thomas * * and Mary his wife."

Rev. C. Landon writes me: William Landon, Esq., heir of Credenhill, married Anne Jones, of Pixley, county Hereford. Roger died at Lugwardine, county Hereford. Silvanus lived at Madras Patnam, East Indies, and died at Bath in 1706. John was a minister at Madras Patnam; the Madras branch continued there until about 1800. "Mary married a London Rector," says Rev. C. Landon. Rev. C. Landon's grandfather

(Dean of Exeter) had an uncle who was last of Credenhill, was unmarried, and sold it in 1764.

The will of Thomas Landon, of Middlesex county, Va., is dated November 9th, 1700, and speaks of son-in-law Richard Willis, who is called "Captain Richard Willis," in power of attorney from his father-in-law, Thomas Landon, March, 1697. In the power of attorney the other son-in-law is called "Mr. John Jones." He is not named in the will, but testator's "dau. Mary Jones," is. Testator also mentions "son Saint Leger Landon," and testator's "wife Mary."

Mary, daughter of testator, married John Jones, as aforesaid, and afterwards Alexander Swan, whose will, dated March 14th, 1709, was probated in Lancaster county, Va., May 10th, 1710. It says: "that if his wife, Mary, shall go for England to recover her part of her brother Silvanus' estate." The widow Mary Swan made a nuncupative will January 20th, 1721-2; mentions Lucy Carter, Mary Carter, "three cousins" (apparently three nieces, for a by-stander said: "You have remembered the three maidens, but have forgot Mr. George," and testatrix answered: "I will not forget George Carter"), &c.

The will of Silvanus Landon, late President of the English company at Baudjarmassingh, made at Batavia, December 1st, 1704, makes as his heirs universal, his brother, Rev. John Landon, of Madras Patnam, and his sister, Anne Landon, wife of Mr. William Ryfort, of London. Will was probated July 13th, 1708, styling the testator "of parish of St. Alban's, Woodstreet, London," stating that he died at Bath, and that letters granted in December, 1706, to his mother, Mary Landon, had expired. On March 5th, 1728, there issued a commission to Anne, wife of Rev. Thomas Wheatland, as surviving legatee, she evidently being the sister who "married a London Rector," instead of "Mary," as Rev. C. Landon wrote. So Ann married, first, William Ryfort, of London, and afterwards Rev. Thomas Wheatland.

It would seem that after Silvanus Landon's death at Bath, letters of adm. were granted to his mother in the absence of a will. On such will arriving in England, quere was the mother dead? or was the grant of letters to her simply such as would expire by finding a will? If the latter was the case, Mary Landon, whose letter to Sir Hans Sloane I quote, may have been identical with the mother. A full copy of the extract I possess from her letter is *literatim*:

"Honoured Sir. I design to spend my days in ye service of God and in ye study of philosophy w'ch I have made a little progress in not anufe to lay before your Genius; but anufe to satisfy a simple woman w'ch I must own myself to be or else I had never refused ye happiness of living in your family."

Betty, "youngest daughter of Thomas Landon, Esq., and Mary, his wife, of Grednal (*sic* in Bishop Meade's copy of her tombstone inscription), in the county of Hereford, the ancient seat of the family and place

of her nativity, died July 3d, 1710 (*sic* in Bishop Meade, but evidently 1719), in the thirty-sixth year of her age and nineteenth of her marriage" with Robert Carter. She had married first, Richard Willis, before named, and took out letters on his estate, February 3d, 1700 (1700-'1?). On April 9th, 1701, Robert Carter gives bond in view of his intended marriage with her, and on January 30th, 1701-2, speaks of debts due his wife as administratrix of Richard Willis, her former husband. "She bore to her husband," *i. e.*, her second husband, "ten children, five sons and five daughters, three of whom—Sarah, Betty and Ludlow—died before her, and are buried near her." Comparing this inscription with the list of Carter's children, given by Bishop Meade, it will be seen that Betty's ten children were: Anne, who married Benj. Harrison (and who is generally said to have been child of the first wife). Robert, of Nomini, married Priscilla Churchill (Bishop Meade says Miss Bladen), and was father of Councillor Carter. Sarah, died before the mother; Betty, died before the mother; Ludlow, died before the mother; Charles; Landon, of Sabine Hall; Mary, never married; Lucy and George.

The following letter from A. Swan, found among papers of the Carter family, was evidently addressed to "King" Carter:

AUG^t YE 17, 1709.

SR: This Comes wth Hearty prayers for y^rs & familyes healths as alsoe to give yo an acco^t y^t my fitts has left mee & hope I am in a faire way of recovery, my poore wife remaines not well but wee are in hopes (?—letter is torn). Sister is on recovery wth y^r Children, wee should be very (?) Glad to see poore Nanny here, in hopes ye Change of ayre may doe her Good, yesterday we heard Gunns & believe there is a Shipp come Inn please to Signify ye meaning of them & dispatch ye Boy to S^r

Y^r most affectionate Broth^r

A. SWAN.

Ye did not well to Baulk my Expectation on Sunday Last.

The "Nannie" in the letter was, of course, Anne, who married Benj. Harrison.

QUERIES.

LEE FAMILY.

Ralph Lee appears as a witness in a deed recorded in Chester county, Pa., Book E, page 55, dated September 2d, 1727, executed in London by Elizabeth Green, wife of John Green, of London, *et. al.*, and acknowledged by Ralph Lee October 15th, 1731, before Jeremiah Lang-

horn, Register and Recorder of Bucks county, Pa., which appears to show that Ralph Lee was in London in 1727, and in Bucks county, Pa., in 1731. It would, therefore, seem probable that he is a relative, perhaps father or brother, of William Lee, who first appeared in Bucks county, Pa., in 1725, was married there in 1727, and had a son named Ralph Lee.

Wanted record of any Lee family through any will or pedigree record, probably Virginia, or London, England, or other English Lee lines, having in the family a Ralph Lee and a William Lee, living during the above-mentioned years.

EDWARD CLINTON LEE,

Drexel Building, Philadelphia, Pa., U. S. A.

ANTHONY WEST.—Who was Anthony West, gent., and who was his wife, Anne, or Mary Anne? Anthony was at West and Sherlowe Hundred, on James river, 1623. He died 1651, and soon after his widow married (November, 1653), Col. Stephen Charlton. The Coat of Arms was apparently the same as that of the Lords De La Warr, as shown by tombstone of Major Charles West at Onancock—which has the Fesse daus Cettie, and the Leopard Head emerging out of lillies.

T. T. UPSHUR.

HELM FAMILY.

I desire all information I can get and invite correspondence concerning the ancestry and relations of Meredith Helm, who was born in Virginia in 1750, married Sarah Hunter, May 8th, 1769, and Polly Merrill, April 3d, 1789; moved to Kentucky and died in Mason county, 1817.

THOS. P. CAROTHERS,

5 and 6 Journal Building, Newport, Ky.

The January number of the *Southern Literary Messenger*, for the year 1861, is wanted to complete the set of *Messengers* in the Virginia Historical Society Library. Any one having the number will please advise the Society.