

A Living History of the Eskridge Family –

The First 2 Generations

2008 Edition

**© The Eskridge Family Association – not for
republishment in whole or part without written
permission**

Introduction

The archives and hence this volume of The Eskridge Family Association are not the work of one or two or three people, but rather a gathering of works contributed by many cousins over the years.

This work and others would not have been possible without the contributions of 3 ladies: Elise Virginia 7 Towson Coble, Mary Henry Hope “Nanny” 7 White West, and Elizabeth “Betsy” Hampden 7 Coiner. This volume is dedicated to them with sincere “thanks” for their unselfish work in establishing the association and continuing its work.

Elise Virginia 7 Towson Coble (Eliz V 6 Mar 5 Carol 4 Reb 3 Sam 2 Geo 1) was born 27 April 1874 in Upperville, Fauquier Co., VA; died 3 December 1949, San Antonio, TX; buried Lakeview Cemetery, Cheyenne, WY.

She was one of 15 children and was, with Mrs. Mary Hope (White) West, co-founder of the Eskridge Family Association in April 1937. She served as our first president. She penned the dedication that is inscribed on the bronze Eskridge Memorial Tablet that was placed at the base of the 20’ high oak tree planted near the grave of Mary Ball Washington in Fredericksburg, VA on the occasion of the founding of EFA – the dedication reads:

**Col. George Eskridge
Memorial Tree
April 29, 1937**

May this oak tree from “Sandy Point” Westmoreland Co., Virginia, home of George Eskridge, who was guardian for Mary Ball, shelter her last resting place, as she in her early childhood was sheltered and protected by her beloved guardian. As descendants of our illustrious ancestor, we dedicate this tree to the memory of our countries /sic/ noblest mother and her guardian, Col. George Eskridge.

**Mrs. Elise Towson Coble
Sponser**

The tree was a gift of Mr. Louis Dos Passos – owner of “Sandy Point” at the time.

She also authored our leaflet “A Tribute to Col. George Eskridge”. She was a member of the Colonial Dames of America, the Daughters of the American Colonists, and the National Genealogy Association.

She grew up in Virginia and attended Randolph Macon Woman’s College in Lynchburg VA, but in 1893, went west to attend the University of Wyoming. On 4 March 1904, she married John Cathcart Coble (4 June 1858, Carlisle PA- 2 December 1914 WY) – a cattleman.

They had 5 children – Elise Cathcart 8 Coble, Catharine Latimer Rust 8 Coble, Hettie Cathcart 8 Coble, Eliza Virginia “Jackie” 8 Coble and John Cuthbert 8 Coble.

Sadly – none of her descendants are active in EFA today.

Mary Henry Hope “Nanny” 7 White West (Sarah V 6 Vern R 5 Burd 4 John 3 Sam 2 Geo 1) was born 28 May 1861 in Portsmouth VA and died 3 September 1941, Chevy Chase MD at age 80.

She was co-founder with Mrs. Coble of the Eskridge Family Association and was our first historian until her death in 1941.

She was author of The History of the Genealogy of the Eskridge Family – containing 136 pages packed with the results of her pioneering research efforts. Without this valuable resource, many facts concerning this family would have been lost – in fact one wonders if EFA would even exist today.

Her son, Vernon Eskridge 8 West Sr, said of his mother at a reunion in 1967:

“She was a prodigious worker, going wholeheartedly into everything she undertook. . . Her great love was genealogy, which she pursued with fervor. She not only searched the family records, but wrote articles for the Virginia Magazine of History and the William and Mary Quarterly . . .”

On 25 July 1882, she married the Hon Henry Litchfield West of Washington DC (born 20 August 1859 Staten Island NY; died _____) He spent most of his life as a noted newspaper editor.

They had 3 children – all charter members of EFA: Marion Litchfield 8 West, Vernon Eskridge 8 West Sr and Mary Athow “Minnie” 8 West.

Her grandson, Vernon Eskridge 9 West served as treasurer of EFA, and some of her descendents are members of EFA today, although not active.

Elizabeth “Betsy” Hampden 7 Coiner (Eliz C 6 John M 5 Thom 4 Jam 3 Eliz 2 Geo 1) was born 7 November 1905, Graham, Tazewell Co VA and died October 1993 at Shelby, Cleveland Co., NC. She is buried at TX.

She earned honors in history at Duke University and then took graduate work there in that field. She later attended the US Department of Agriculture’s Graduate School. Her 13 years teaching experience included posts in North Carolina and in Nanking and Kuling CHINA. Her arrival in Shanghai, 18 September 1931, was marked by JAPAN’s walk into Manchuria, curtain raiser to World War II. From 1941 to 1975, she was a government functionary at the Office for Emergency Management; Public Housing Administration and National Park Service. She was fond of outdoor activities, including swimming and walking. She was the first woman to climb Clingman’s Dome (NC) 1929, and also peaked CHINA’s sacred T’ai Shan, Shantung. She retained a wide vision of the world, having visited more than 45 countries. She was a lady of many varied interests and causes. Genealogy was one of her passions – she was a member of the Jamestown and Huguenot (Manakin) Societies and the Callaway and Eskridge Family Associations. “Coz. Elizabeth” served as president of EFA for 32 years and should be credited with compiling much of the information in this history.



Mary Hope White West

Charter Members of Eskridge Family Association

Elise Towson Coble Cheyenne, WY	Mrs. Henry L. West Chevy Chase, MD	Mr. James P. Burns, Jr. Chevy Chase, MD
Wendell Eskridge Burns Chevy Chase, MD	Mrs Alfred E. Brady Cheyenne, WY	Catharine L. Rust Coble Cheyenne, WY
Mrs John M. Brokaw Jr Houston, TX	Mrs John G. Murray Aurora, IL	Ms Helen M Hoover Miller Fayetteville, AR
Leola Eskridge Swann Tulsa, OK	Joseph Allen Eskridge atty Tulsa, OK	Mrs Oliver Eskridge Alban Bartsville, OK ?
Miss Betty Jean Eskridge San Diego, CA	Charles Vernon Eskridge San Diego, CA	Robert C. Eskridge Galesburg, IL
George Vernon Eskridge Galesburg, IL	John Marshall Eskridge San Antonio, TX	Allen T. Eskridge atty Pulaski, VA
Rev. Thomas Joseph Eskridge Chilhouie, VA		Robert Lee Eskridge artist Chicago, IL
Miss Jane Watt Brooke Morgan City, MS	Prof William Starr Myers Princeton, NJ	Dr. B.J. Read Red Jacket, W VA
Mrs. F. E. Jackson Jeffersonville, IN	Dr. James B Eskridge Sr Tulsa, OK	Mrs Pattie Steptoe Rucker Lynchburg, VA
Hampden E. Steptoe Lynchburg, VA	Mrs Nena Steptoe Segar Stormont, VA	Miss Elizabeth H. Coiner Durham, NC
Philip Steptoe, atty Shepherdstown, WV	Henry I. Guy, atty Erie, PA	Edward Steptoe Evans Detroit, MI
Elizabeth Langhorne Lewis Lynchburg, VA		Mrs Charles Dana Gibson New York, NY
Lady Astor London ENGLAND	Mrs. Alfred I. DuPont Wilmington, DE	George Ball Muncie, IN
Mrs J. R. Gray Louisville, KY	Maud Fletcher Hall Round Hill, VA	Mollie Smith Brookfield San Bernardino, CA
Blake T. Newton Hague, VA	Janet Webster Lake Washington, NC	Beverly Marshall Lake Durham, NC

H. Ragland Eubank
Norfolk, VA

William Marshall Duke
Charlottesville, VA

Lizzie Steptoe Coiner
Durham, NC

George Steptoe Washington
Philadelphia, PA

Dr. James B. Eskridge Jr
Oklahoma City, OK

Mrs Aurie Steptoe Lewis
Lynchburg, VA

John Randolph Segar
Saluda, Stormont, VA

Mr Vernon Eskridge
Stratford, VA

William Steptoe Segar
Stormont, VA

Mrs. Laura Clingenpeel
Washington, DC

Mrs Orville Drown
Lavonia, GA

Mrs. Morgan Stinemetz
Nashville, TN

Harry L. Rust Sr
Washington, DC

Harry L. Rust Jr
Washington, DC

Vernon Eskridge West
Chevy Chase, MD

Mary Washington Memorial Association
Fredericksburg, VA

Mrs. James P. Burns
Chevy Chase, MD
Died January 1936

THE ESKRIDGES OF VIRGINIA

Businesslike Bluebloods

Fling into the two-story, Federalist-style courthouse at Manross, Va., 65 miles northeast of Richmond, 72 descendants of George Eskridge, a lawyer who died in 1735, take seats under portraits of George Washington and Robert E. Lee. The family has ties to both men. Washington's mother was orphaned as a child and raised by Eskridge, for whom she named her son. A generation later, Eskridge's granddaughter married a Lee. This is the 42nd annual reunion—business meeting and luncheon, really—of the Eskridge Family Association, which claims some 530 members, mostly in Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee. Yearly dues: \$5 for couples, \$3 for singles.

While waiting to be called to order by "Cousin" Elizabeth Couler, 84, a retired schoolteacher who has headed the association since 1957, the crowd gossips about family history. Tidbits: "She died in 1715. Poor little thing had kidney trouble, which explains those circles under her eyes in the portraits." "He went through six wives—TB kept killing 'em off."

In opening the two-hour proceedings, Couler turtly puts the meeting in perspective. "This is the year of Confucius' 2,438th birthday," she says, "so we don't go back all that far."

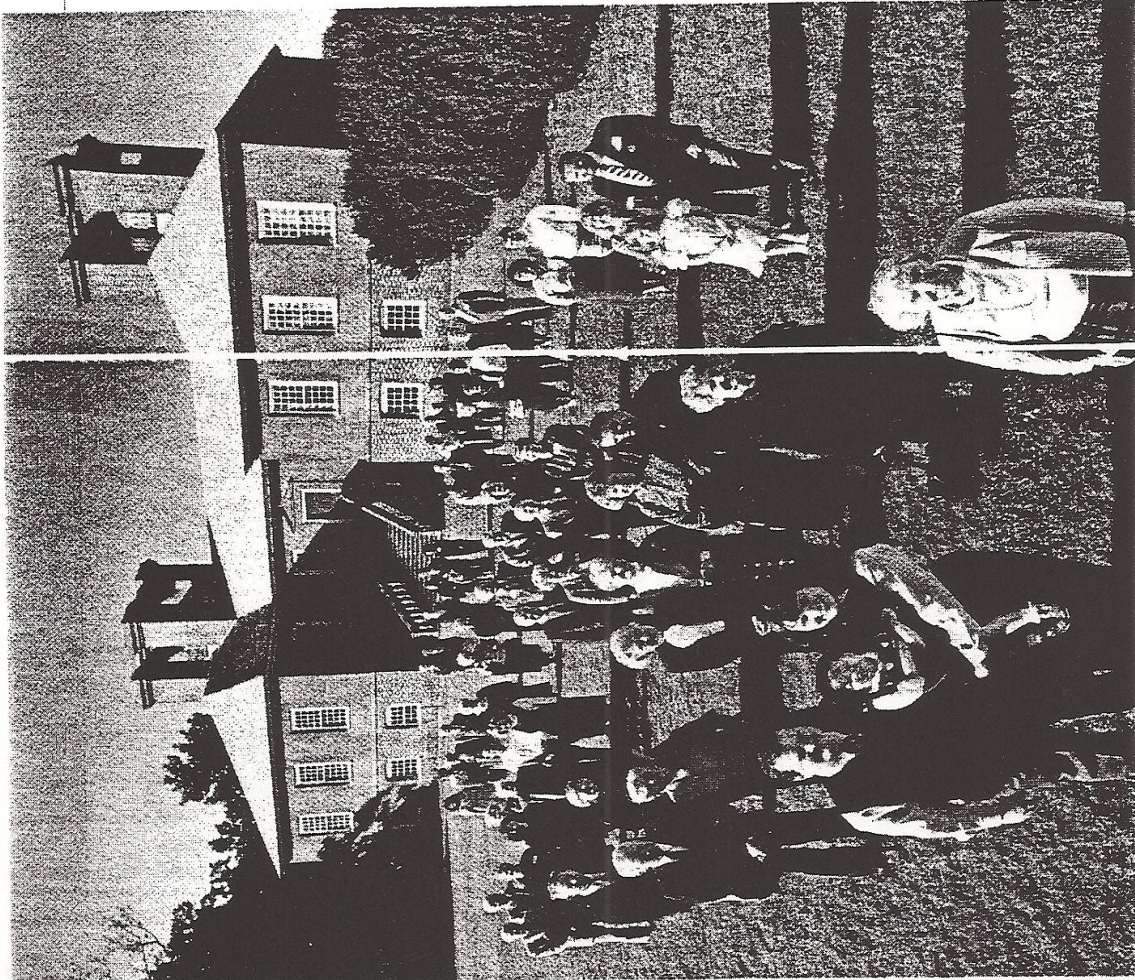
The treasurer, Cousin Harry Eskridge, 42, George Eskridge's great-great-great-great-great grandson, reports receiving \$4,733 in donations and dues in the past year, and his audience nods approvingly at the news that the donations are tax deductible. But the main event is a talk by Kevin Rullner, a George Washington University Ph.D.

Eskridge "cousin," as they call themselves, delivers on the lawn at Robert E. Lee's mansion, Stratford Hall. The Eskridge family newsletter really calls the plantation "the birthplace of four generations of our neighbors, the Lees."

crab and ice cream pie (cost: \$10.15). Cousin Elizabeth and Cousin Bee Davidson, 72, the wife of a retired Episcopal minister, organized the reunion over a leisurely six months. Costs—\$50 donated to the county for use of the courthouse, and \$375 for phone calls and postage—were covered by association funds. Many guests were new attendees, including Robert Stepien, a West Virginia attorney, who says, "I came because my granda-ther was in the Confederate Army, and the speaker was going to talk about that."

A few descendants remained no-show holdouts. Complaints Cousin Bee Davidson of her son, a Virginia lawyer, "All I can get out of that bad boy is, 'Mama, I'll come one of these days.'"

A quiet meeting in a county courthouse suits the descendants of 18th-century Virginia lawyer George Eskridge just fine.



THE ESKRIDGE FAMILY IN ENGLAND

In her “Genealogical History of the Eskridge Family”, Mrs. Mary Litchfield West says: “in compiling this short genealogical history of the ESKRIDGE family of Virginia, county and family records only, have been accepted as proof. Tradition has its place, as it should have, but it is only credited as such.” Mrs. West’s History, compiled in the 1920’s and 30’s was a bold and important undertaking. It is amazing that she and Coz. Elizabeth Coiner, who followed her lead, were able to compile as much significant information as they did without the benefit of the easy, fast communication we all consider common today. Think about trying to do genealogy without benefit of computers and the internet!!

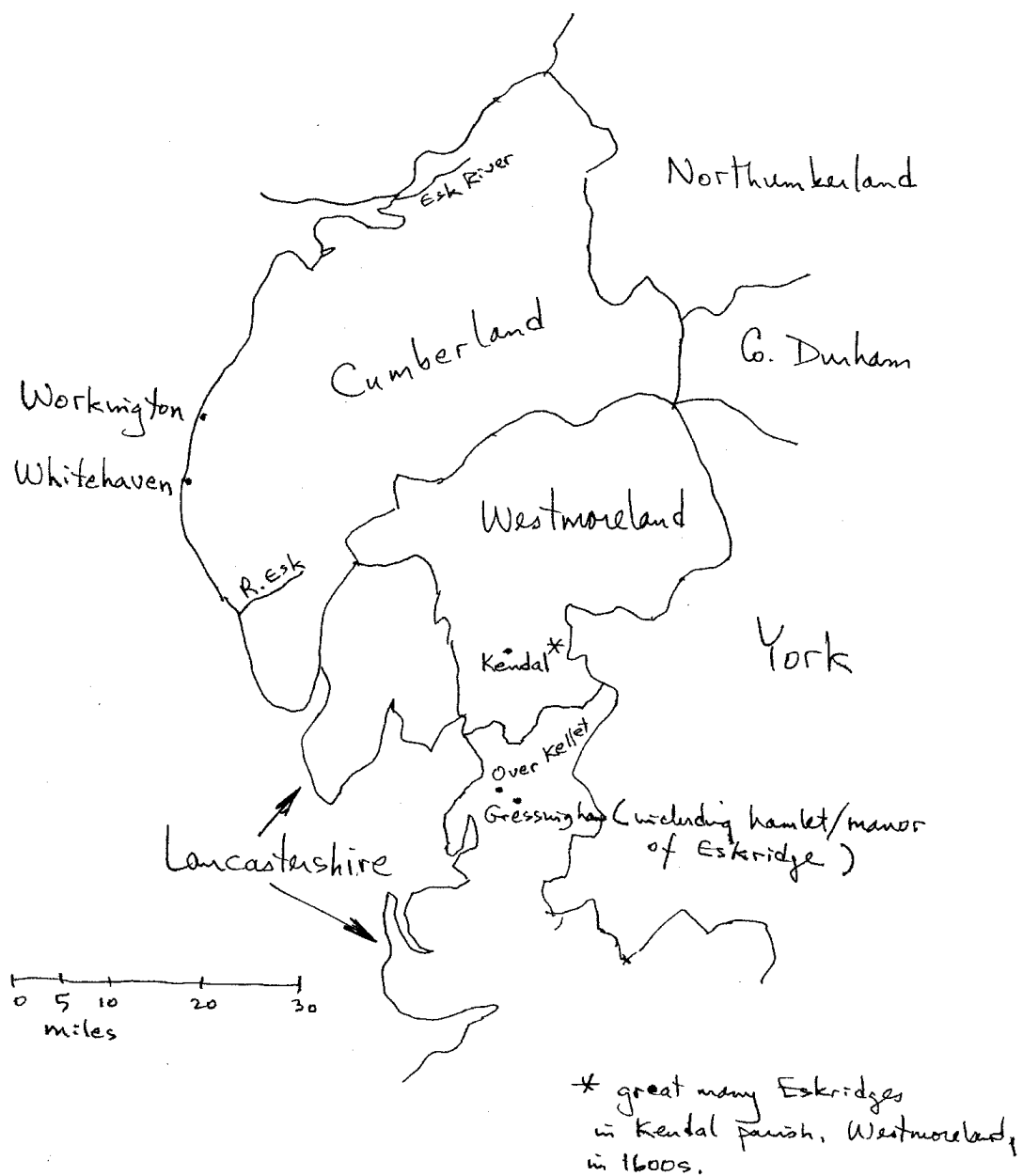
Unfortunately, these “family records” were not always accurate nor would they stand the scrutiny of most current genealogical societies. We choose to accept them as being reasonably accurate because so many eyes have seen them and because many of our members, who contributed to the efforts, are or were highly talented and respected genealogists. Just understand that our records don’t have as much documentation as we would like if we were starting out today.

Immediately after talking about “tradition”, Mrs. West launches into a discussion assuming that the Eskridge family of Virginia and the Eskrigge family of Lancashire Co. ENGLAND are in some way connected. There is no proof that this is indeed the case. Extensive research by a professional researcher/genealogist in ENGLAND has negated some of the possible connections mentioned by Mrs. West. Unfortunately, Mrs. West’s assumptions have found their way onto internet family trees. Just please understand that we DO NOT KNOW FOR SURE WHEN NOR WHERE COL. GEORGE ESKRIDGE WAS BORN!!!

Linguists tell us that because of the hard “K” in Eskridge that we likely came from Scandinavia. The name may well be taken from a place as it translates “Ash Tree”. Maybe we should wear our horned Viking hats and animal skins to our reunions!!

There is little doubt that the family had its roots in England. Various spellings of the name are found from the 1200’s. The surname is virtually unknown in the Scottish records. It is also not found in Wales, thereby dispelling one family tradition. Extensive research has been done in England in an effort to locate Col. George’s roots, but to no avail. Coz. Floyd W. Wickenkamp of Sun City, AZ did a lot of work in 1982/83 and it is helpful in eliminating certain possibilities:

“Note the many different spellings of the name which we call Eskridge, especially the substitution of ‘k’ or ‘ck’ for the ‘dge’, ‘gg’, etc. endings in Yorkshire. This is possibly due to the peculiarities of the Yorkshire dialects, wherein the ‘g’ ending often takes on a sound similar to the Scottish ‘ch’ or English ‘ck’. Hence it was probably natural for the educated English Parish Registrars to spell the name phonetically as ‘k’ or ‘ck’ or ‘g’.



ENGLISH COUNTIES WITH POSSIBLE ESKRIDGE ROOTS

“An effort has been made to copy the entries exactly as shown in the Parish Registers, odd spellings included. The one exception was the numerous entries in Latin (or, in one case, French). These were translated into English.

“In order to provide a degree of coherence, the records have been segregated by Parish. In each case, to give the reader some idea of relationship, geographically, of the Parish with other parishes, the approximate distance and direction from the center of the city of Lancaster to the site of the Parish Church is given. Lancaster was selected as it is shown on most maps of England and was the largest city in the general area covered.

Cumberland County

“This county, in the extreme northwestern corner of England, seemed to be a likely location to begin the search as there are 2 Esk Rivers which flow through Cumberland; the first empties into Solway firth a few miles north of Carlisle, while the second flows from the Lake District through Eskdale Parish and into the Irish Sea near the southern end of Cumberland. Additionally, there are a variety of physical and man-made features in Cumberland with the prefix ‘Esk’. So why not a family by the name of Eskridge? A further source of encouragement was this quotation from Portraits of the Founders by Charles Knowles Bolton: ‘He (George) had business or family ties with Whitehaven, County Cumberland, a section of England in which this very rare surname is often to be found on parish records’. Maybe so, but the 1981 issue of the International Genealogical Index has only one Eskridge entry prior to 1700. Eskdale Parish is not included in available lists. The Eskdale Parish Church is on the Esk River about 30 miles northwest of Lancaster.

“The one pre-1700 entry for this county is:
Whitehaven St. Nicholas Parish (48 miles northwest of Lancaster):

Blun Askridge, son of Thomas, chr. 11 Feb 1699/1700

Lancashire

This is the area that Mrs. West concluded that the family had developed. ‘There were still many Eskridges (Eskrigge, Eskrig, Escrig, etc.) living in Northern Lancashire in the 16th and 17th centuries as shown below:

Aldingham Parish (12 miles WNW of Lancaster across Morecambe Bay):

Genet Escrig married Christopher Garner 16 May 1549
Genet Escrig married John Wilson 2 Oct 1575

Bolton le Sands Parish (4 miles N of Lancaster, 2 miles SW of Overkellat Church):

Agnes Ecgrigge married Francis Clarkson 16 Dec 1671
 Agnes Eckricke married George Singleton 21 Dec 1680
 Elizabeth Eskrig, dtr of Thomas of Overkellet, chr. 14 Jan 1666
 Elizabeth Eskridge, dtr of Thomas (defunct) buried 10 Mar 1671
 Mary Eskrigge, dtr of James, chr. 28 Apr. 1685

Caton Parish (3 1/2 miles E of Lancaster):

Ann Eskrigge married John Dobson 7 Feb 1679/80
 Ellen Eskrigge married Henry Dobson 22 Jun 1692

Dalton in Furness Parish (16 miles NW of Lancaster across Morecambe Bay) (10 miles E of Eskdale Parish Church, Cumberland)

Agnes Eskerigge, dtr of Thomas, chr. 29 Jul 1593
 Agnes Eskerig married Richard Lang 5 Aug 1610
 Grace Eskrigge married Robert Postlet 9 Feb 1616/7
 Jenet Eskerigge married Lawrence Gibson 1 Aug 1591
 John Eskerigge buried 29 Apr 1593
 Julian Eskerigge, relict of John, buried 6 Nov 1593
 Infant dtr of Thomas Eskerigge & wife Margaret (Gibson) bur 21 Jan 1602
 Thomas Askerig married Margaret Gibson 1 Nov 1590

Gressingham Parish (8 miles NE of Lancaster; 2 miles E of Overkellet Church):

Anne Esricke of Escricke d. intestate 1624 (adm) *
 Richard Eskrigg of Eskrig d 1615 (will) *
 Richard Eskrigg of Eskrig d 1622 (will) * all could be same person probate?
 Richard Eskrigg of Eskrig d 1624 (will) *
 Robert Eskrige of Eskrige d 1603 (will) *
 Henry Wilson Eskrigge, son of Henry & Hannah, chr Nov 1676
 Robert Eskrigg of Eskrigg will dated 24 Aug 1670 mentions his wife Elinur,
 Eldest son Richard, sons Robert & James, daughters Elizabeth,
 Magdlan, & Anne; grandson Richard son of Elizabeth. In the probate
 bond dated 3 Nov 1670 wife's name is spelled Elinor and signed "Elen
 Eskrig"
 Robert Eskrigge, son of Robert, admitted to Christ College, Cambridge, age
 16, 16 Mar 1674
 Robert Eskrigge, son of Robert and Elinor, buried at Ravenstone,
 Oxfordshire, 27 Sep 1721

Halton Parish (3 miles NE of Lancaster):

Agnes Eskrigge, dtr of Richard of Stubb, chr. 8 Oct 1688
 Dorothea Eskrigge, dtr of Richard, chr 24 Jan 1685/6
 Elizabeth Eskrigge, dtr of Richard of Stubb Hall, chr 16 Mar 1689/90

Jana Eskrigge, dtr of Richard of Halton, chr 23 Jul 1682
 Maria Eskrigg, dtr of Richard of Halton, bap 14 Aug 1681
 Richard Eskrigge, son of Richard of Stubb Hall, chr 2 Jun 1695
 Robert Eskrigge, son of Richard, chr 4 May 1684
 William Eskrigge, son of Richard, bap 12 Feb 1686/7
 William Eskrigge, son of Richard of Halton, buried 26 Mar 1687

Lancaster St. Mary Parish (shown as Lancaster Parish in pre 1700 records)

Dorothy Eskrigge, dtr of George, born 28 Sep 1653
 Dorothy Eskrigge married William Lund 22 Jul 1684
 Elizabeth Escrigge, dtr of George, chr 4 Mar 1648/9
 George Eskrigg chosen "Register of burials" for Parish of Lancaster
 16 Oct 1653 (this duty apparently covered births (christenings) and
 marriages as well as burials). He served until his death; he was
 replaced by William Newton as "Register" on 18 Oct 1656
 Henry Askrigge, son of George, chr 15 Nov 1646
 Mary Escrigge, dtr of George, chr 16 Mar 1650/1
 Ruth Eskrigge, dtr of George, born 26 May 1655
 Ruth Eskrigge, of Lancaster, buried 16 Sep 1683

Over Kellet Parish (6 miles NE of Lancaster):

Agnes Eskridge, dtr of Thomas and Margaret, born 30 Dec 1656
 George Eskrigg of Eskrigg, will proved 1635 *
 George Eskrigge, son of George & Elizabeth, born 30 Sep 1655
 George Eskridge, Sr., buried 5 Feb 1684/5
 John Eskrigge, son of George & Mary, chr 28 Feb 1674/5
 Margaret Eskrigge, d. intestate 1635 (adm) *
 Margaret Eskrigge, dtr of George & Elizabeth, born 12 Sep 1658
 Margaret Eskrigge, ctr of George & Elizabeth, buried 6 Feb 1662/3
 Mary Eskridge, dtr of Thomas & Margaret, born 31 Jan 1658/9
 Mary Eskridge, dtr of Thomas & Margaret, bur 19 Sep 1659
 Robert Eskridge, son of George & Elizabeth, chr 16 Mar 1661/2
 Roger Eskrigge of Overkellet, will proved 1592 *
 Roger Eskrigge of Over Kellet, d. intestate, 1647 (adm) *
 Roger Eskrigge, son of George, chr 14 Aug 1670
 Thomas Eskarigge of Overkellet, will proved 1569 *
 Thomas Eskrigge of overkellet, will proved 1632 *
 Thomas Eskrigge, jr, d. intestate 1632 (adm) *
 Thomas Eskrigge married Margaret Robinson 9 Aug 1656
 Thomas Eskrigge, jr., son of Thomas & Margaret (both dc sd) bur 8 Jun 1657
 Thomas Eskridge, son of Thomas & Margaret, born 9 Aug 1660
 Thomas Eskridge, son of George & Elizabeth, chr 1 Jan 1664/5
 Thomas Eskrigge married Johanna Wither 16 Nov 1686
 Thomas Eskrigge, son of Thomas & Joan (Johanna), chr 20 Jan 1688

Overton Parish (5 miles SW of Lancaster)

Mathew Eskrigg chr 15 Jul 1583 (parents no listed)

Tunstall Parish (12 miles NE of Lancaster on Yorkshire and Westmoreland borders):

Edmund Eskrigg of Tunstall, will proved 1611 *

Ulverston Parish (14 miles NW of Lancaster, across Morecambe Bay)

Thomas Eskrigg buried 13 Apr 1596

Warton (Wharton) Parish (8 miles N of Lancaster):

Roger Escrigge married Margaret Turner 2 Feb 1637/8

Whittington Parish (12 miles NE of Lancaster; 6 miles NE of Over Kellet)

Alice Eykrige buried 3 Feb 1613/4

Agnes Eakrigge, dtr of George, chr 7 Jan 1615/6

Ann Eikridge, a widow, buried 10 Nov 1664

Ann Eykridge, dtr of Myles Eykridge, chr 29 Sep 1672

Elisabeth Eykrige, wife of Henry, buried 20 Feb 1612/3

Elisabeth Eykrige, wife of Henrye, buried 15 Jan 1615/6

Elizabeth Eskrigge, dtr of Robert, chr. 6 Oct 1644

Jane Eyekrigge, dtr of Henry, chr 10 Aug 1614

Jane Eskrigge, dtr of Robert, chr 12 Dec 1641

Jane Eskrigge married John Widder of Arram 29 Oct 1667

Hery Eygrige married Elizabeth(Elisabeth) Thorton 8 Feb 1606/7

Henry Eykridge, son of Myles (Miles) chr 30 Jan 1675

John Ekridge, son of Henrie, chr 30 Oct 1614

John Eykrige, son of Henry, buried 5 Nov 1614

Joseph Eskridge buried 9 Sep 1727

Marmaduke Eykrigge, so of George & Alice (Lucas) chr 28 Oct 1553

Miles Eckridge married Margaret Slater 18 Oct 1665

Miles Eckridge of Whittington buried 9 Jan 1692/3

William Eykrigg, son of Henrie, chr 18 Aug 1610

William Eykridge, son of Miles, chr 13 Sep 1668

* This information contained in Index to Lancashire Wills in the Archdeaconry of Richmond, 1457 to 1680 This is an index only; no further information available.

Northumberland County, ENGLAND

No Eskridges listed prior to 1700

Westmoreland County, ENGLAND

Askham Parish (36 miles N of Lancaster):

Charles Eskrigge married Mabel Warkman 4 Jul 1670
 Margaret Eskridge married Christopher Bailey 14 May 1695
 Mary Eskrigge, dtr of Charles, chr 22 Apr 1671
 Thomas Eskrigge, son of Charles, chr 15 Nov 1674

Crosby Ravensworth Parish (34 miles NNE of Lancaster):

James Eskrigge, son of Charles, chr 30 Jun 1663
 Janet Eskrigge, dtr of Charles, chr 13 Nov 1659
 Thomas Eskrigge, son of Charles, chr 12 Apr 1667

Crossthwaite cum Lyth Parish (20 miles N of Lancaster):

Agnes Eskrigge married William Robinson 7 Nov 1689
 Mabel Askrig married George Pearson 23 Jan 1691/2

Kendal Parish (20 miles N of Lancaster; 15 miles N of Over Kellet):

Adam Eskrigg of Stramondgate buried 5 Aug 1578
 Adam Eskridge, son of Stramondgate chr 25 Jul 1595
 Agnes Eskrigge, dtr of Charles, chr 23 Jul 1560
 Agnes Eskrigge, dtr of Rowland, chr 19 Sep 1561
 Agnes Eskrigge, dtr of Rowland, died 19 Sep 1561
 Agnes Eskrigge married John Hodgson 11 Dec 1570
 Agnes Eskrigge married Henry Dodding 26 June 1573
 Agnes Eskrigge, dtr of Thomas of Stramondgate, chr 15 Mar 1576/7
 Agnes Eskrigge married George Stainebanke 16 Jun 1578
 Agnes Eskrigge married Rowland Wallas 23 Nov 1578
 Agnes Eskrigge, dtr of Allan of Stricklandgate, buried 2 Jun 1580
 Agnes Eskrigge, wife of James of Finkel Street, buried 26 Oct 1581
 Agnes Eskrigge, wife of Thomas of Stramondgate, buried 25 May 1583
 Agnes Eskrigge of Stricklandgate married Oliver Turner 31 Oct 1584
 Agnes Eskrigge, dtr of William of Stricklandfield, chr 10 Nov 1586
 Agnes Eskrigge, wife of Henry of Heigait (Highgate), buried 29 Jan 1587/8
 Agnes Eskerigge of Stricklandgate married John Nutthead 16 Aug 1591
 Agnes Eskridge, dtr of Christopher of Stamondgate, chr 21 Jul 1597
 Agnes Eskeridge, dtr of Robert of Heigait, buried 18 Oct 1597
 Agnes Eskridge, dtr of Richard of Skaltherig, buried 14 Aug 1598

Agnes Eskerigge, dtr of Christopher of Ould Hutton, chr 11 Feb 1626/7
 Ales Eskerigg, dtr of William, chr 20 Dec 1592
 Ales Aickerigg, dtr of John, bap 30 Mar 1600
 Annes Eskerigge, dtr of Robart of Heigait, bap 28 Sep 1596
 Alice Eskrigge, dtr of William, chr 20 Dec 1592
 Alice Aykrigge, dtr of Thomas of Dockar, bap 23 Jan 1625/6
 Allan Eskrigge, dtr (?) of Thomas, chr 30 Aug 1577
 Annas Ackridge, wife of Thomas of Docker, buried 4 May 1593
 Anne Eskrigge, dtr of Robart, chr 28 Sep 1596
 Charles Eskrigge buried 28 Oct 1572
 Catherine Aickrigg, wife of Robert of Grairig, buried 20 May 1599
 Charles Eskrigg, son of Henry, buried 9 Mar 1573/4
 Charles Eskrigge, son of Richard of Stramondgate, chr 5 May 1578
 Charles Eskrigge, son of Myles of Stricklandfield, 23 Jul 1578
 Charles Eskrigge, son of James of Stricklandkettle, chr 19 Oct 1624
 Christofer Eskridge, son of William of Stricklandgate, chr 30 Dec 1585
 Christofer Eskridge, son of Myles of Stricklandgate, chr 26 Jan 1597/8
 Christofer Eskerigge, son of James of Marketplace, bap 17 Apr 1631
 Christopher Eskrigge of Holmskales buried 27 May 1572
 Christopher Eskrigge of Farcrossbanke buried 19 Aug 1580
 Christopher Eskrigge of Kirkland married Ellin Baxter 3 May 1582
 Christopher Eskrigge of Kirklandgate buried 30 Jun 1582
 Christopher Eskerig, son of William of Stricklandfield (dcsd), buried 6 Mar 1591/2
 Christopher Eskerigg married Elizabeth Wilson of Hiegait 24 Sep 1592
 Christopher Eskridge, son of _____ of Hiegait, bur 23 Nov 1596
 Dorothy Eskrigg, dtr of Richard of Stramondgate, chr 14 Jun 1582
 Elizabeth aykrigg, dtr of Thomas of Docker, buried 21 Apr 1560
 Elizabeth Eskrigge, dtr of William of Stricklandfield, chr 6 Feb 1579/80
 Elizabeth Eskrigge of Hiegait married John Allice 19 May 1582
 Elizabeth Eskrigg, dtr of Richard of Stramondgate, 12 Apr 1583, chr
 Elizabeth Eskrigge, dtr of Richard of Stramondgate, buried 6 Dec 1586
 Elizabeth Eskrigge of Banton married Edmund Becke 23 May 1585 (1589?)
 Elizabeth Ackridge, wife of William of Docker, buried 27 Oct 1592
 Elizabeth Eskerigge, dtr of William of Stramondgate, buried 31 Jan 1596/7
 Elizabeth Eskerigge of Hutton married John Kyrkbie 18 Nov 1599
 Emma Eskrigge married Henry Wilkinson 2 May 1585 (Highgate)
 George Eskrigge, son of Robert of Kendal, chr 27 May 1560
 Henry Eskrigge married Emme Dickson 21 Oct 1570
 Henry Eskrigge buried 15 Oct 1571
 Henry Eskrigge, son of James, chr 13 Sep 1573
 Henry Eskrigge, son of Thomas Eskrigge of Stricklandgate, chr 14 Sep 1579;
 Buried the same day
 Henry Eskerigg married Anne Harreson 14 Sep 1594
 Henry Aykrigge, son of William of hiegate, bap 12 Oct 1609
 Isabell aykerigg, dtr of William of Hiegait, bap 9 Apr 1612

Issabel Eskeridge, wife of William of Stricklandkettle, buried 22 Mar 1596/7
 James Eskrigge married Agnes Chamber 2 Aug 1573
 James Eskrigg, son of William of Stricklandfield, chr 27 Nov 1582
 James Eskerigg, son of Myles of Stricklandfell, chr 22 May 1593
 James Eskerigge, son of William of Capper-Lane, chr 14 Dec 1615
 James Eskrigg owns land in Kirkby Kendal, 24 Jan 1619/20
 James Eskrigge, son of James, chr 27 Mar 1623
 Jannett Eskerigge of Stramondgate married Stephen Nubie 30 Jan 1591/2
 Jaymes Eskrigge, son of William of Strickland, buried 19 Dec 1593
 Jaymes Eskrigge, son of Miles, chr 22 May 1595
 Jennet Ayckrigg, wife of Robert of Highgate, buried 8 Nov 1587
 Jennet Ayckrigg, wife of John of Docker, buried 1 May 1596
 Jennet Eskrigg, dtr of James of Docker, bap 7 Dec 1626
 Jennett Aykridge, dtr of John Grayrigge, buried 27 Oct 1580
 Jennett Eskrigge married Robert Warriner of Kirkland 13 Jan 1582/3
 Jennett Eskrigge, wife of Christopher of Stricklandgate, buried 6 Mar 1585
 John Eskerigg of Stramondgate, son of Christopher, buried 11 Jan 1592/3
 John Eskerig, son of William, buried 20 Dec 1592
 John Eskrigge, son of Myles of Stricklandfell, buried 22 May 1593
 John Eskerigge, son of William of Stricklandkettle, buried 11 Jul 1594
 John Aickridge and Sibbell Wilson of Docker married 26 Aug 1596
 John Aykridge, son of William of Hiegait, bap 7 Jul 1607
 John Eskerigg, son of Christopher, Holmeskales, Burton, chr 11 Oct 1629
 Joan Eskrigge, dtr of Christopher, chr 11 Oct 1629
 Katherine Eskrigge, dtr of William, chr 28 May 1572
 Mabell Eskrigge, wife of Christopher of Kirklandgate, buried 5 Jan 1581/2
 Mabell Ayckridg, wife of Robert of Crook, buried 11 Nov 1597
 Margaret Eskrigge, dtr of Christopher, chr 3 Feb 1584/5
 Margaret Eskrigge, dtr of Tobart, chr 19 Apr 1592
 Margaret Eskeridge of Stavely married Henry Hodgson 29 Nov 1596
 Margaret Eskeridge of Hiegait married John Strickland 17 Apr 1597
 Margaret Eskrigge, dtr of William, chr 16 Nov 1689
 Margrett Eskrigge of Sledall, a widow, buried 20 Jun 1558
 Margrett Eskrigge married Thomas Helme 15 Sep 1576
 Margrett Eskrigge married Myles Wilson 10 May 1579
 Margrett Eskrigge, dtr of Thomas of Stricklandgate, buried 23 Oct 1580
 Margrett Eskrigge, dtr of John of Sledall, buried 28 Feb 1580/1
 Margrett Ayckrigg, dtr of John of Docker, 2 Oct 1587
 Margrett Eskrigge, dtr of Robert of Hiegait, buried 19 Apr 1592
 Margarett Eskeridge, dtr of James of Stramondgate, buried 6 Apr 1597
 Margarett Eskerig, dtr of Charles, buried 28 Oct 1597
 Margrett Eskrigg, dtr of James of Halegarthes, bap 22 Mar 1628/9
 Mary Eskrigge, dtr of Thomas, chr 2 Jun 1689
 Myles Eskrigge married Margaret Williamson of Stricklandgate 1 Aug 1586
 Myles Eskrigg a member of an inquest jury at Kirkby Kendal, 20 Sep 1613
 Myles Eskrigge, son of James, chr 22 Oct 1620

Richard Eskrigge, son of James of Crossbanke, chr 4 Sep 1577
 Richard Eskeridge's first wife (of Skaltherig) buried 10 Aug 1598
 Robert Eskrigge, son of Robert of Helsington, chr 30 May 1560
 Robert Eskrigge buried 15 Nov 1571
 Robert Eskrigge, son of Reginald, buried 23 Jul 1573
 Robert Aekerig, son of William of Hiegait, bap 22 Oct 1614
 Robert Eskrigg married Jennet Collinson of Kendal 3 Jul 1558
 Rowland Eskrigg, son of Thomas of Stramondgate, chr 12 Dec 1585
 Thomas Eskrigge, son of Thomas, buried 17 Apr 1557
 Thomas Eskrigge's wife buried 11 Mar 1572
 Thomas Eskrigge married Jennet Thickell 5 Jul 1573
 Thomas Ayckerige married Anne Baytman of Croke 3 Aug 1594
 Thomas Eskeridge married Agnes Lickbarry of Strickland 3 Aug 1594
 Thomas Aickrigg married Elizabeth Howell of Grayrig, 13 May 1595
 Thomas Aykeridge, son of John of Docker, bap 24 Jun 1597
 William Eskrigge of Skalthwait, his wife buried 29 Mar 1558
 William Aykrigge's wife buried 10 Sep 1574
 William Aykrigge, son of Christopher of Kirkland, buried 1 Oct 1578
 William Eskrigg, son of Thomas of Stricklandgate, chr 1 May 1583
 William Eskrigge married Isabell Higgins of Stricklandgate 16 Jul 1586
 William Eskrigge of Stricklandroger buried 13 Jun 1587
 William Eskeridg, son of Robert of Heigait, chr 22 Jun 1595 (died 22 Jun)
 William Eskerigg married Margaret Eitell of Kendal 4 Feb 1597/8
 William Aickerigg, son of William of Docker, bap 9 Mar 1599/1600

Lowther Parish (36 miles N of Lancaster):

Margaret Eskrigge, dtr of Charles, chr 10 Feb 1665

Yorkshire, ENGLAND

At its nearest point, Yorkshire is only 6 miles from Over Kellet Church. However, all the "Eskridges" found in Yorkshire were in the general area of York City or Leeds, more than 50 miles from Over Kellet.

Bubwith Parish (68 miles ESE of Lancaster; 13 miles SE of York)

Ann Eskrick, wife of William of Brighton, died 12 Mar 1652
 Anne Eskricks, dtr of William of Brighton, died 11 Jan 1659/60
 Barbara Eskricks, dtr of Henry, bap 6 Mar 1653/4
 Edward Eskricks, son of Henry, bap 28 Feb 1655/6
 Gorge (sic) Eskrick of Brighton buried 19 Feb 1649/50
 Gorge Eskricke, son of Henre of Brighton, bap 17 Mar 1649/50
 Gorge Eskridge, son of Henry of Brighton, buried 30 Apr 1652
 Hellin Eskridge, wife of George of Brighton, buried 25 Sep 1652
 Henry Eskricks, son of George, bap. 15 Jun 1624

Henry Eskricke, son of William of Brighton, bap 10 Mar 1652/3
 John Eskricke, son of Henry of Brighton, bap 5 Feb 1651/2
 William Eskrick of Brighton married Ann _____ 9 Feb 1631/2
 William Eskricke of Brighton buried 14 Sep 1659

Howden Parish (70 miles ESE of Lancaster, 18 miles SE of York)

An Eskrick married Richard Mariott of Pocklington 5 Mar 1633/4
 Barbara Eskrick, dtr of Michael of Coteness, chr 15 Feb 1620/1
 Barbara Eskrick, dtr of Michael of Coteness, buried 3 Sep 1622
 Barbara Eskrick, dtr of Michael of Coteness, bap 21 Nov 1625
 Barbara Eskrick, dtr of Michael of Coteness, buried 25 Nov 1625
 Frances Eskridk, dtr of Michael of Coteness, bap 15 Oct 1615
 John Eskrick, son of Michael, bap 31 Mar 1618
 Margaret Escircke, wife of Michael of Howden, buried 9 Apr 1630
 Thomas Eskrick, son of Michael of Howden, bap 7 Nov 1628
 Thomas Escricke, son of William of Skelton, bap 2 Sep 1644
 William Eskrick, son of Michael, bap 26 May 1623

Leeds St. Peter Parish (53 miles SE of Lancaster)

Charles Escrig married Elizabeth Edley of Brigait 12 May 1645
 Elizabeth Escricke of Brigait married John Lucas, beyond the bridge, 13 Aug
 1646 (beyond the bridge may be the name of a village)

Saxton in Elmet Parish (61 miles SE of Lancaster, 8 miles E of Leeds)

Elyzabeth Escricke buried 19 Aug 1614
 Francis Eskricke, son of Robert, bap 13 May 1560
 Johan Eskricke, dtr of Robert, bap 13 May 1560 twins
 Janet Eskricke buried 10 Feb 1562/3
 Jenet Eskereck buried 5 Jan 1607/8
 Johan Eskrecke, dtr of Robert, chr 20 Nov 1568
 John Eskrike buried 9 Jan 1562/3
 John Eskerycke buried 22 Nov 1567
 John Eskrecke, son of Robert, chr and buried 26 Oct 1568
 Marjerye Eskricke, dtr of Robert, chr 7 Aug 1561
 Robert Eskrecke and Jannett Chepday married 10 Feb 1559/60
 Robert Eskericke married Jane Smyth 7 Feb 1567/8

York (City) Holy Trinity Parish (69 miles ESE of Lancaster)

George Eskrick, son of Henry, bap 19 Sep 1683; buried 18 Jan 1683/4
 William Eskricke, son of Henry by Judith his wife, buried 19 Mar 1682

York (City) St Michael le Belfry Parish (69 miles ESE of Lancaster)

Charles Eskritt, son of Henery, b 7 Jun 1660; buried 17 Aug 1660
 Dorothy Eskricke, a widow, married John Taylor 2 Mar 1616/7
 Dorothy Eskricke, dtr of Henry, bap 11 Oct 1650; buried 2 Dec 1650
 Edith Eskricke, dtr of Henery, bap 6 Jul 1662
 Elizabeth Eskricke, dtr of William, b 9 Sep 1611; buried 15 Sep 1611
 Elizabeth Eskritt, dtr of Henery, b 27 Jan 1656/7
 Henry Eskricke buried 11 Jan 1612/3
 Henry Eskricke, son of William, bap 4 Feb 1613/4
 Henry Eskricke married Sarah Ibson 7 Mar 1649/50
 Henry Eskritt, son of Henery, b 24 Oct 1658; buried 24 Mar 1658/9
 Henery Eskritt 29 Oct 1680 burial
 Henry Eskrick of Belfuis and Elizabeth Halbread of Selby, banns published
 12 Jan 1655, married by Alderman Henry Thompson 15 Jan 1655/6
 John Eskritt, son of Henry, b 6 Jan 1653/4; buried 19 Mar 1653/4
 Sarah Eskritt, dtr of Henery, b 28 Mar 1655; buried 12 Jul 1656
 Sarah Eskritt, wife of Henery, buried 26 Jun 1655
 Thomas Eskritt, son of Henery, buried 24 July 1660
 William Eskricke, son of Henry, bap 2 Apr 1652
 William Eskricke buried 28 April 1685

This is by no means considered a total list, and the possibility most often mentioned as possibly being the Colonel is the George Eskrigg, son of George and Elizabeth, born 30 Sep 1655 listed in the Over Kellet Parish Records. This is the George that is often cited to be our Colonel and his father. It was purely speculation. There are no records indicating marriages or births that could give further rise to this speculation.

The trouble with Col. George being the 1655 entry is that he would be about 40 when he married Rebecca Bonum ca 1695 and age 80 when he died in 1735. The counter theory is that he had an adult life in ENGLAND/WALES in his twenties and thirties and then moved to Virginia, where his maturity accounts for his rapid rise in economic and social prominence. Further note that Roger, son of George Eskrigge, was christened 14 Aug 1670, and that George Eskridge Sr was buried 5 Feb 1684/5.

A very valuable part of our English research of the mid 1990's was the discovery of probate records for George Eskrigg born 30 September 1655; will made 22 December 1713, proved 1715; buried 7 July 1715 in ENGLAND. He was a yeoman. His son Roger was abroad in 1713, 1715. There was a Roger Eskridge, wife Lilli in Maryland who we have not definitely connected. Could he have been a part of this family?

The upshot of this Over Kellet pattern is that research should concentrate on the cluster of parishes in the Bolton-Over Kellet-Gressingham area and clarify just what records – all relevant records – survive. One facet that could be of interest would be to identify and read all non-Eskridge wills from those parishes from 1655-1750 – possible??

ORIGIN OF THE ESKRIDGE FAMILY OF VIRGINIA

Truth or Tradition?

So, in trying to figure out where Col. George Eskridge came from, do we have any clues? We can assume by his influential friends and by his positions as Queen's Attorney and King's Attorney that he and/or his family were English or of English descent.

One family tradition is that he came to Virginia in 1667, in charge of a vessel, bringing the bricks from which the first Lee house was built. But there is no real record of the date of the building of that house and we have no indication that Col. George was a seafaring man at all. Without further proof, we cannot put any dependence on that tradition.

Another tradition has George Eskridge as a law student in Wales who was kidnapped to work on a ship and then as an indentured servant. After he worked out his indebtedness, he broke up the brick of the hearth where he slept. Nice story, but. . . There wasn't a law school in Wales in the 1600's. When Col. George Eskridge does begin to appear in Virginia, he is already prominent – hardly the poor law student.

One more family tradition has the family name as being "Ridge" and settling on the River Esk in Scotland with the name being Ridge of Esk and then transforming to Eskridge. Nice Try!! There *IS* more than 1 Esk River in Scotland – but there are *NO* Eskridges.

So Where??

As of this date (2008), we do not know with certainty where or when Col George Eskridge was born, but there are a couple clues that are worthy of further study.

1. In his will, Col. George leaves "my son Robert. . . all my land at the marsh in Prince William County upon the condition that he pay all my debts I now owe to any person in Whitehaven in Great Britain." Whitehaven is found on the west coast of ENGLAND. Robert is the only son of Col. George to "return" to ENGLAND to live. He went to Whitehaven where he married and started a family. Was this because of family roots? Further research is warranted.
2. Another possibility also involves Robert 2. Thomas Mackie of Langtounsyde, a Glasgow SCOTLAND merchant, in his will dated 4 October 1718 and probated 30 April 1719, provided for the education

and board of “Robert Eskridge, son of George Eskridge of Virginia”. It is presumed that Mr. Mackie was one of Col. George’s commercial agents in GREAT BRITAIN. Was this a business relationship or a closer family connection??

3. Another possibility is that Col. George may have been born in this country probably in Maryland. We base this possibility on 2 people that were “transported” to Maryland. A William Eskrick was transported to Maryland in 1676 (Liber 15 Folio 357 Md Records – Skordas p 152). In 1677, an Elizabeth Eskrick was transported to Maryland (Liber 15 Folio 430 Md Records – Skordas p 152). Were these brother and sister? Husband and wife? No relation? Could they have been the parents of Col George? It’s an interesting possibility and worth pursuing but it seems unlikely that in those times a man could rise from such humble beginnings to the statue and wealth of Col. George – so fast – unlikely, but not impossible.

We may never know the Colonel’s origins, but we’ll keep trying and we’ll keep working on our time machine to answer all the questions!!

So, what do we know?

Although we do not know for certain how or when Col. George Eskridge came to this country, there is no doubt that he was a man of significant means. At the time he was amassing his land holdings, all of the land in the Northern Neck was a part of the “Fairfax Grant”. The “Fairfax Grant” was part of a proprietary owned by (at least during the colonel’s life) the fifth and sixth Lords Fairfax. It is estimated that this land covered close to one million acres. To understand what was going on, we need to look at 2 things: 1. how and when Virginia counties were formed and 2. the actual time and place of the lands Col. George amassed.

Selected County Changes in Virginia

1648	Northumberland Co. formed	the Indian Reserve was eliminated
1653	Westmoreland Co. formed	from Northumberland Co.
1664	Stafford Co. formed	from Westmoreland Co.
1692	Richmond Co. formed	from (old) Rappahannock Co.
1731	Prince William Co. formed	from Stafford & King George Cos.

1742	Fairfax Co. formed	from Prince William Co.
1757	Loudoun Co. formed	from Fairfax Co.
1759	Fauquier Co. formed	from Prince William Co.

Source: Atlas of County Boundary Changes in Virginia 1634-1895, Michael F. Doran 1987

Col. George Eskridge was evidently adept at amassing large tracts of property in different ways. He claimed headrights for dozens of indentured servants whose passage he paid. The new lands were badly in need of peoples to work and one way to get the needed labor was for people of means to pay for transportation costs in exchange for land. That's what is meant when you see a person was "transported". He also patented former Indian lands after the 1722 Treaty of Albany.

Land Grants to Col. George Eskridge of Westmoreland Co., VA

16 Feb. 1703-4	58 acres in Westmoreland Co.
16 Jan. 1709	305 acres in Westmoreland Co.
26 Aug. 1712	600 acres in Northumberland Co.
31 Dec. 1715	2298 acres in Stafford Co.
27 Dec. 1717	2060 acres in Richmond Co.
10 Nov. 1717	300 acres in Richmond Co.
10 Aug. 1719	850 acres in Richmond Co.
27 Jan. 1725	2610 acres in Richmond Co.
31 Jan. 1726	62 acres in Westmoreland Co.
25 July 1728	640 acres in Stafford Co.
3 Feb. 1725	934 acres in Stafford Co.
21 Mar. 1729	612 acres in Stafford Co.
22 Mar. 1729	1115 acres in Stafford Co.

Too bad, Col. George didn't leave these lands in some sort of family trust so we could all share their increase in value. The "Flat Lick Property" that has figured so prominently in our recent research is located in Northern Virginia near present day Dulles Airport where land is measured in square inches instead of acres!!

Other measures of the prominence and wealth of Col. George can be found in his Last Will and Testament and in the inventories of his estate:

Will of Col. George Eskridge of Westmoreland Co., VA

In the name of God I George Eskridge of the county of Westmoreland do make this my Last Will and Testament. Imprimis I give unto my son Samuel and his heirs forever the house and plantation where I now live containing eight Hundred Acres be the same more or less bounding upon the lands of John Crucher and Robert Ball and a Ditch made by me to divide this land from another tract I have upon the River and from the Ditch to John King's Creek including a parcel of Land I bought from One Rust. Item I give unto my son William Eskridge and the heirs of his body Lawfully begotten my tract of Land upon the River adjoining the aforesaid tract given to my son Samuel. Item I give to my Loving wife the aforesaid house and plantation and Lands before given to my son Samuel during her natural life—also I give to my said wife all the slaves she brought to me in marriage with their increase and ten other of my slaves during her natural life and after her death, I give the said slaves I had with her in marriage to my Daughter Elizabeth and her heirs forever. I give my land at Machotic commonly called Machotic Quarter in Westmoreland County to my son Robert and his heirs forever. I give unto the four sons of my son George deceased four slaves apiece when they respectively arrive at the age of twenty-one years. I give unto my Daughter Elizabeth and her heirs a tract of land I have at Pohick in Prince William County and all the slaves and stock upon the same. I give to my aforesaid son Samuel and his heirs five hundred acres of land part of a tract at a place called Flatlick in Prince William County to be chosen by him in any One place out the said tract. I give to my son-in-law Willoughby Newton and Sarah his wife and their heirs Eight hundred acres of land part of the said tract at Flatlick. All the rest of the said tract at Flatlick I give to be equally divided among the children of my son George and the daughter of my daughter Margaret Kenner and their heirs. I give to my wife the use of my Machotick land for five years after my decrease. I give unto my son Robert and his heirs all my land at the Marsh in Prince William County upon the condition that he pay all my debts I now owe to any person in Whitehaven in Great Britain. I give to my son Samuel ten negroes, to my son Robert sixteen negroes I mean those at my Machotick Quarter. I give five of ten slaves hereinbefore given to my wife during her life unto my Daughter Elizabeth, the other five I give unto my son Samuel. I give to my son William and the heirs of his body ten slaves to be annexed to the land hereinbefore given to him. It is the will that my loving wife have the use of all my household stuff during her life and also the use of half of the cattle, hogs and horses upon my several plantations in Westmoreland County during her life. All the rest of my estates after my debts paid I give to be equally divided amongst my children now living. I give unto my son-in-law Howson Kenner and his wife and their heirs eight hundred acres more of the Land at the Marsh before given to Robert which said Howson is already in possession of and also the rest I give to my son Robert upon the condition before mentioned. I do hereby revoke all former wills by me made

and declare this to be my last will. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 27th day of October, 1735. I do appoint my sons Samuel and Robert and my good friend Capt. George Turberville executors of this my will.

(signed) George Eskridge

At a Court held for Westmoreland County the 25th day of November 1735, this Last Will and Testament of Col. George Eskridge dec'd was presented into court by Samuel Eskridge, Robert Eskridge and George Turberville, Gent. His executors in the said will named.

The will was recorded the 5th day of December, 1735.

What does the will tell us about the man and his wealth? . . .

The will lists large tracts of land, slaves, livestock and a house. A better glimpse of the Colonel's wealth can be gotten by looking at the inventory taken after his death:

THE INVENTORY OF GOOD AND CHATTELS OF COL. GEORGE ESKRIDGE

In the Entry

- 2 Tables
- 6 Leather chairs
- 3 Old falgg'd bottom chairs
- 4 Large pictures and one small ditto
- A floor cloth of painted canvas

The Chamber Closet

- A standing bed and furniture
- A small ditto and bedstead
- One elbow chair and six high back't leather chairs
- 3 Old low leather chairs and three low flagged ditto
- 2 Tables
- A chest of drawers
- 3 China dishes and four plates ect. Cups and saucers
- 1 pair brass tongs and shovel, and pair iron tongs
- One old silver watch
- 3 Leather chairs
- A looking glass
- 1 pr. iron tongs and old bellows
- A spinning wheel
- One old quilt do counterpane and bolster

In the Landing

A chest

In the Old Hall

- 3 tables
- 2 chests
- One old Jack
- A pair Andirons
- Coll. of earthenware
- 2 clothes brushes and a pr. of bellows
- A cask containing about 25 gallons of cider brandy
- Another ditto about 12 of ditto
- Punch bowl brought over

In the Parlour Chamber

- 2 beds, pillows and bolsters with furniture
- 8 high back't chairs and 2 low ditto flagg'd
- A looking glass
- A table
- A pair of small brass tongs, Shovel and Andirons
- 3 trunks

The Hall Chamber

- 2 standing beds and furniture
- One trundle ditto
- Curtains and vallins
- An elbow chair and 4 flagg'd bottom chairs

The Little Room

- An old bed and furniture
- An old spinning wheel
- A chest and table
- A parcel of lumber over the little room

Linnon

- 6 pairs Com Holland sheets
- 3 " white linnon "
- 4 " Holland pillow biers
- 6 " white linnon "
- 6 table cloths

- 3 “ “ and other linnon
A bag containing 36 lbs. pick't cotton

In the Hall

- 2 tables
18 cane chairs
1 Couch
A clock
An Escritoire
A looking glass
Back gammon table
4 Mapps
6 Black and White Mezzotints
2 Sconces fixed
2 Pictures of Col. Eskridge and former wife
Sundry glasses ect. on Mantel piece
1 pr. Andirons and 1 pr. tongs
An iron back also fixed
In the closet a cask containing --- Salls (?) Cyder Brandy

The Riverdale Quarter

List of Stock

King's Quarter

Same – Also thirty-five negroe slaves --- 3 white servants

The Dairy --- and Old Dairy

Tobacco House

Same

Kitchen

Collection of Pewter

“ “ old Pewter

Collection of old brass

A Brass Warming Pan

Collection of Copper

“ “ iron pots

- 2 Gridirons, 5 ladles, 3 flesh forks, 4 spits
A plate stand, Dripping pan

- 1 pr. Andirons and Doggs
Tongs and Shovel
- 3 Frying pans
Iron Pottracks
Collection of tins
- 4 Washing tubs
- 5 Pails and two Piggons
Collection of old silver plate

At John Flannakin's

List of stock and 19 negroes

At Mules (?) Quarter

List of stock and seven negroes

Catalogue of Books

The Laws of Virginia and 1 book
 Collection ditto
 Coke upon Littleton Institution, 1st part
 Ditto 2nd part
 Sheppard's Grand Abridgement of Com. & Statue Laws
 Brown's Law Book and Entries
 Pollock's (?) Reports
 Ventu's (?) Reports
 Sundry Acts of Parliament
 Kolyng's Reports
 Rumworth's Collections
 Ditto 2nd Part
 Croke's Reports
 Windgate's Abridgement of Estates
 Grand's Abridgement of The Law
 West's Precedents
 Reports by W. M. Hughes
 Styles Practical Register
 The Guide
 Marla's Abridgement (?)
 Laws of England conc Lury's
 A Latin Bible
 My English Family bible
 Notation on The Old and New Testament
 Religion and Loyalty
 The Lives of the Popes
 A Review of the Council of Trent
 An Accomplishment of the Spiritual Prophecies

Charnock's Discourses of Divine Providence
 The Devout Christians Guide
 French and English Grammar
 Dialogue Between Dr. Divinity and Law
 Aristotle's Speculative Philosophy
 Dr. Suydenham's Compleat Method
 A Help to English History
 The Way to Get Wealth
 Thomas' Latin Dictionary
 Jenkin's Office of Devotions
 The Practical Register
 A Sympton of Universal History
 An Abridgement of the Statues of King Charles Co., Md.
 1 Volume (Name illegible)
 Barbett's Chiurgical Works
 The Origins of Nations
 History of the Primitive Church
 An Abridgement of Burnet's History
 The security of English Mens' Lives
 Familiar Letters
 The Lives of the Ancient Philosophers
 The Way to Get Wealth, 2nd Part
 4th, 5th, and 6th vols. of The Spectator
 The Clergyman's Companion
 The History of All the Religions of the World
 Christian Loyalty
 The Tale of a Tub
 Adventures of Solomon, 2nd Part
 An Appeal to the King and Chancery
 Old Books of Charters
 Abridged Coll. of Statues
 ----- Latin Tragedies
 Dr. Hall's Divine Meditations
 A Geographical Dictionary
 A History of part of V.
 Speeches and Passages of Parliament, 1640
 The Athenian Sport
 A General History of France
 Cole's Latin Dictionary
 Godwin on Moses and Aaron
 Daniel Defoe's 2nd Vol. Cn. Eng.
 Molly's -----(?)
 Compleate History of Europe --- 1656 – 1697
 Seneca's Morals
 English Dictionary interp. Hard words
 God's revenges -- Ag. Murther's -----(?)

Sev'll State of Great Britain. Geo. – 2nd
 Latin and English Dictionary
 England's View of -----
 Cole's English Dictionary
 Molyneux Case of Ireland States

Mrs. West said: “this was a large and valuable library for Colonial days. The English Family Bible spoken of in this collection, would, if in existence, solve many perplexing questions.” Col. George received some of these books as a legacy. We don't know which books he purchased and which ones he received from other sources. It is a huge library by any standards and gives us insight into his varied interests as you find books on the law, on history, on language and on religion.

The pictures of Col. Eskridge and his former wife cited in this inventory are today in possession of the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond VA. In a well researched piece by Coz. Harry Allison Irwin and Barbara Cogar Irwin NEW INFORMATION ON THE ESKRIDGE PORTRAITS, they carefully follow the portraits from Col. George's inventory and his will up until the point that General Peter Cox Rust of New York first loans them to Mount Vernon where they hung for several years until they were removed and presented to the Virginia Historical Society. The Virginia Historical Society is very proud of the portraits, especially the one of Rebecca Bonum, because there are many portraits in existence from the same era, but the subject of very few of them are known – especially the females. General Rust also owned the silver “punch bowl brought over”, a very beautiful silver epergne, which is not mentioned in the inventory, and the silver chatelaine (clasp or hook for a watch or purse) worn by Mrs. Rebecca Bonum Eskridge. We do not know where these items are today (2008).

George Eskridge's home at the time of his death was at Sandy Point, Westmoreland Co. VA. “The house at Sandy Point”, wrote Mrs Fannie Tyler Griffith, “was a wooden structure one and a half stories high, with a slanting Dutch roof and dormer windows. It contained four large rooms, two up and two down, with a wide hall through the center. There was a long veranda at the back, running all the length of the house. You entered the front door by a high flight of steps, but no porch. The house stood in the center of a velvety green lawn, which ran down to the water's edge, and from which you had an expansive view of the Potomac River in all it's majesty and beauty. The house, although so unpretentious and antiquated, even for that period, was the center of genuine Virginia hospitality and refinement. The adjacent lots were thickly dotted with cabins where dwelt in peaceful contentment numerous slaves. Col. George appears to have established his home at Sandy Point about 5 years after his second marriage. Prior to that his home was most likely at Horn Point and that is most likely where most of his children were born.

“This is an accurate description of the house and environment, as many of my childhood days were passed there.”

Dr. G. W. Beale, who also knew the old house, wrote: “that it was burned about 1887, and in addition to the rooms named by Mrs. Griffith, there was a small room attached at each end of the long covered porch at the rear, and entered from the porch.” He continues, “ This was the Sandy Point home as long as I long knew it – a modest, neat, wooden structure, less attractive or elegant by far in the home itself than in the splendid shade, green sward, its graveled walks, flower plots, bowers and gardens terminating on the white sandy River at perhaps the widest point. I have no idea that this building was of an earlier date than 1800, and think it occupied the site of an older one. This seems probable. (*We don’t think so – ed.*) No one who has lived there and has tilled the fields can tell me of any positive signs of a building of any size having stood elsewhere on the place. I am in much doubt as to the existence of any substantial brick building on the above mentioned site. The brick edifices were commonly here so well built with broad, deep foundations that, when burned, or otherwise destroyed, I have found no difficulty in determining where they stood.”

It is today generally believed that the current house on the site was probably built on the foundation of the house that burned in 1887. There is one remaining outbuilding (probably a meat house) from Col. George’s day.

The Man

George Eskridge was an eminent lawyer. His name is attached to many legal documents in and around Westmoreland Co., VA. He served during almost thirty years as a member of the House of Burgesses in both Jamestown and in Williamsburg. He was a member of the Quorum and served as both Queen’s and King’s attorney during the reign of William & Mary, Queen Anne, King George I and King George II. He was a trusted friend and legal advisor to many prominent Virginia families. He also was an extensive planter. His name doesn’t appear much until the late 1690’s: In the will of William Rust dated 18 March 1696/7, George Eskridge was given “use of lands 20 years”, why?

During his time in the House of Burgesses, George Eskridge served with Daniel McCarty – also of Westmoreland County. McCarty also served as Speaker of the House 1715-1718 – a very powerful position indeed. McCarty and Eskridge were friends, but were they more? McCarty is his will of 29 March 1724; 9 June 1724 leaves his son “Daniel in care of Mr. John Gilpin of Whitehaven”. Coincidence or another clue?

William Carr of Westmoreland County in his will dated 13 January 1702/3 mentions his grandsons (per Crozier, but probably intended for Godsons) Daniel McCarty and George Eskridge. In his will of 29 March 1724, Daniel McCarty

refers to “Friend Capt. Eskridge.” *The name Carr figures prominently in another question. A Sarah Eskridge Carr lived about the time of Col. George Eskridge – her dates are not such that she could have been a child of Col. George, but she could have been his sister. The fact that Col George had a child named Sarah adds at least some credence to this.*

In the *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine*, December 1991, Coz. Bea Davison writes in her article “The Life of Cople Parish, 1709-1764”:

. . . Legend says Alexander Spence befriended George Eskridge when he came to the colonies as a young boy. When he was old enough, he sent him to England to school and to study law. The faith in the ability of the young fellow was not misplaced for it is on record Eskridge became a leading citizen, an able lawyer, and served as vestryman and churchwarden many years. . .

His son, Patrick Spence in his will dated 25 March 1710 and proved in ENGLAND 4 May 1710 left “To Captain George Eskridge of Virginia all my law books and my silver watch which he now has.” George Eskridge and Daniel Gundry were also named executors. Was there a further connection to the 2 families??

He was made guardian of Mary Ball by her mother’s (Mary Hewes) will and served in this post from her twelfth year until her marriage at age twenty-two. In the will, Mary Hewes says: “my trusty and well beloved friend George Eskridge and my dau. Mary Ball I appoint her to be ‘under the tutelage and government’ of Capt. George Eskridge.” It is quite evident this was not merely a legal position. She was not dependent on George Eskridge for the material things in life because her father, Colonel Joseph Ball, bequeathed to his daughter – sometimes called “the Rose of Epping forest” – four hundred acres of land at her birthplace in Lancaster County VA. She spent many happy years in the home of George Eskridge, learning characteristics that she would later pass on to her son. Augustine Washington lived up the Potomac River from the Eskridges and was friends with the colonel. On 17 March 1731, Mary Ball married Augustine Washington at Sandy Point, with the Rev. Walter Jones officiating.

When a son came to their marriage, Mary, remembered her guardian with gratitude and love, and named her son George in his honor. He was christened on 16 April 1732 at Appomattox Church, by the Rev. Roderick McCulloch. This boy went on to become the “Father of our Country” and in later life George Washington declared: “All that I am, I owe to my mother.”

Col. George Eskridge inherited some Maryland and some Westmoreland properties, including Wilton, the home of Robert 2 Eskridge from his friend John Gerrard (will 20 Jan 1710/11) is this a clue?

The Family

George Eskridge married sometime before 1696, Rebecca Bonum, daughter of Samuel and Margaret (Philpott) Bonum. The Bonum family name is perpetuated in Bonum's Creek, on which Samuel Bonum was an early settler. Samuel Bonum jr was the brother of Rebecca and married Elizabeth Johnson half sister of Mary (Ball) Washington – a further connection. We assume that Rebecca was the first wife of George Eskridge. Some of our number have suggested that Rebecca was wife #2 and that sons William 2 and George 2 were children of some unknown first wife. There is no evidence to prove this conjecture. Rebecca died at about the same time that Margaret 2 was born – was it in childbirth or because of childbirth? About 1715, George Eskridge married 2.) Elizabeth Vaulx Porten – daughter of Robert and Mary Foxall Vaulx of Washington Parish, Westmoreland County (whose will was probated on 20 March 1684). Previous to that, she had been married to (1) Captain Richard Craddock before 1710 and (2) Daniel Poten. (*Married Well and Often: Marriages of the Northern Neck of Virginia 1649-1800* -- Robert K. Headley)

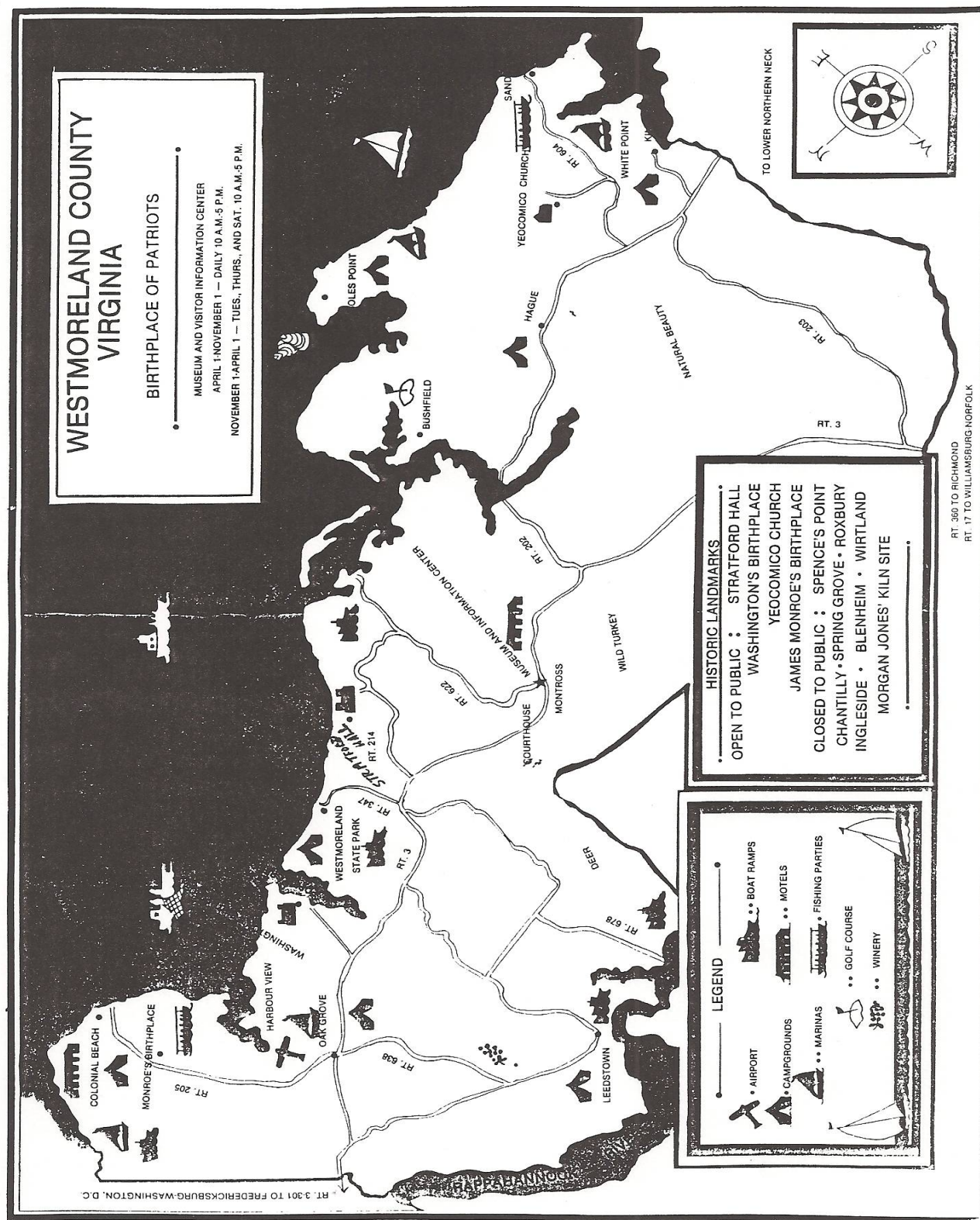
Children of Col. George 1 Eskridge and Rebecca Bonum:

1. William 2 Eskridge, born ca 1680 – 1683; died ca 1744; married Abigail Coulbourne – more
2. George 2 Eskridge jr, born 1683; died 1731/32; married Hannah Rust Ca 1720 – more
3. Samuel 2 Eskridge, born ?; died 1746/47; married Jane Ashton ca 1736 -- more
4. Robert 2 Eskridge, born after 1702; died 16 July 1747; married Jane Biglands – more
5. Daniel 2 Eskridge, born ?; died ? living Feb 1726 but not named in Col George Eskridge's will of 1735 -- more
6. Sarah 2 Eskridge, born 1707; died 2 December 1753 VA – married ca 1725 Captain Willoughby Newton – more
7. _____ 2 Eskridge, born ?; died ?; married Patrick Spence c 1715; Not named in Col. George's will of 1735 -- more
8. Margaret 2 Eskridge, born 1715; died 8 October 1801 VA; married Maj. Howson Kenner in 1732 -- more

Children of Col. George 1 Eskridge and Elizabeth Vault:

- 9. Elizabeth 2 Eskridge, born ca 1716; died ?; married 1.) Col William Aylett 30 March 1736 and 2.) Col James Steptoe ca 1744 -- more**

Maps and Pictures



**WESTMORELAND COUNTY
VIRGINIA**

BIRTHPLACE OF PATRIOTS

MUSEUM AND VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER
APRIL 1-NOVEMBER 1 — DAILY 10 A.M.-5 P.M.
NOVEMBER 1-APRIL 1 — TUES., THURS., AND SAT. 10 A.M.-5 P.M.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS

OPEN TO PUBLIC : STRATFORD HALL
WASHINGTON'S BIRTHPLACE
YECOMICO CHURCH
JAMES MONROE'S BIRTHPLACE

CLOSED TO PUBLIC : SPENCE'S POINT
CHANTILLY • SPRING GROVE • ROXBURY
INGLESIDE • BLENHEIM • WIRTLAND
MORGAN JONES' KILN SITE

LEGEND

- AIRPORT
- CAMP GROUNDS
- MARINAS
- BOAT RAMPS
- MOTELS
- FISHING PARTIES
- GOLF COURSE
- WINERY

RT. 360 TO RICHMOND
RT. 17 TO WILLIAMSBURG-NORFOLK



**Present day picture of house at Sandy Point (2021)
Possibly built on the foundations of the original**

August 21, 2000

Ms. Cyndee Eskridge, Secretary
Eskridge Family Association
6627 Summer Darby Lane
Charlotte, NC 28270

Dear Ms. Eskridge,

In response to the matter of the Meathouse at Sandy Point, Westmoreland County, Virginia, the Brownley's are happy to report that the repairs and rehabilitation were successful and, quite frankly, were much less expensive than anticipated. We only need to further re-tar the roof and obtain some gravel to serve as a splash plate.

An architectural historian authenticated the 18th century origin when he and his engineer visited us last year from Colonial Williamsburg. I am attempting to have the building and its provenance inventoried by Westmoreland County Officials.

I have photographs of the project. Stay in touch.

Sincerely,

Lynn C. Brownley
Mr. Lynn C. Brownley
15411 King's Highway
Montross, Va 22520

LCB/jh

Yeocomico Church

**YEOCOMICO CHURCH
COPLER PARISH
IN
WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VA**

“Yeocomico Church is one of the most historic churches in America. Among its congregations were persons associated with the founding of the Virginia, Plymouth, Amsterdam and Maryland Colonies. The first church, one of the ancient outposts of Christianity in the New World, was a frame structure, built in 1655 on the present site. The existing brick church was built in 1706 during the Rectorship of the Rev. Samuel Gray, the bricks being burned in a kiln on the grounds.” (church bulletin)

When the 1706 part of the present building was built, Col. George Eskridge was a vestryman. Because of his demonstrated architectural skills, it is fairly reasonable to surmise that Eskridge may well have been one of the designers of the building. We are quite lucky to have a church, built over 300 years ago still in existence today. All Eskridges should visit the church at least once in their lifetime and sit in the pews where our ancestor sat. Close your eyes and you may hear his voice!!

The church is built in a setting that includes fine old oak trees and is surrounded by a wall and a cemetery. The church was built on land owned by John Powell, who also served on the first vestry along with Nicholas Jernew and Richard Holden. The land for the church was originally patented to John Powell, but the patent was not recorded until George Eskridge did it in 1707.

Yeocomico Church is about two miles from the Yeocomico River – an estuary of the lower Potomac River. It was situated near the colonial estates of the Washingtons, Lees, Carters and of course, Col. George Eskridge’s Sandy Point. Lee Hall, the home of Capt. Henry Lee, great-grandfather of Robert E. Lee was in the area that is now Hague. The adjoining plantation, Mount Pleasant, was the home of George Lee, whose second wife was Ann Fairfax, widow of Lawrence Washington of Mt. Vernon. Nomini Hall, three miles west of Hague, was the home of Counciller Robert Carter.

The present church building is built in the shape of a cross and is an excellent example of a small transitional country church that includes both medieval (17th century) and Georgian (18th century) features. It was originally constructed in the form of a simple rectangle, but in the 18th century the existing leg of the T was added to the north or rear elevation. The builders of both sections, nevertheless, were consistent in their methods of construction: there is not a right angle in either portion, the brickwork of both sections are a mixture of irregular bond, with English bond

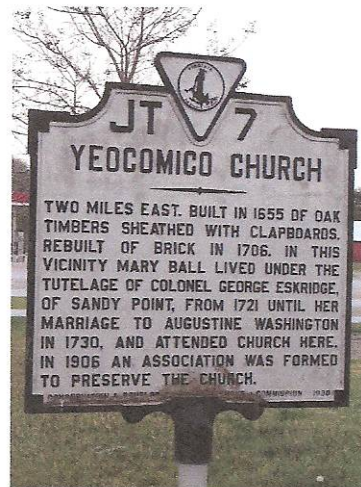
predominating. Both the 1706 entrance porch projecting from the south front and the later north (rear) wing are off-center to the west and the porch and wing do not line up. Inside the porch of the church, there is an enormous Tudor battened door, six feet wide and eight feet high, that also includes the architecturally famous wicket door – a smaller separate door with its own hinges, set in the main door. Comprised of two thicknesses of five vertical panels, the great door is original and is believed to have come from the original 1655 church building. The interior woodwork largely dates from 1820 and later. At the north end of the church is a gallery, said to be the seating place of the early slaves and carriage drivers. In the yard is a sundial bearing the date of 1717, which still may be used to tell the time of day.

In his “Old Churches and Families of Virginia”, p. 148, Bishop Meade says: “In 1776 British soldier were quartered here. The Communion table was removed to the yard and used for a butcher’s table. The baptismal font was taken several miles from the Church and used to prepare liquor. The plate, damask-cloth and napkins marked ‘Yeocomico Church’ were taken to Lee Hall and kept. Returned to Sarah Eskridge Newton, who occupied the mansion and estate.”

After the Revolution, the clergy was recalled to England and the church was deserted and unused for some years. The church bulletin and others say that during the War of 1812, the church was used as a barracks and soldiers used the communion table for a chopping block and the marble font as a wine bowl. Did it happen again or has history and time confused things? We don’t know for sure. The communion table, made of walnut, the baptismal font and an original reading desk are in their rightful place in the church today. An iron ladle that was kept at the spring nearby is also preserved.

The church was used as a courthouse, during a special term of court. In 1788, it was given a new roof; in 1820, it was restored and again in 1928, 1939 and 1958-1959. Yeocomico Church continues to be used for regular religious services today.

In 1970, the U.S. Department of the Interior designated the church as a National Historic Landmark. Coz. Elizabeth Coiner worked for the Department of the Interior at one time, and while we don’t know for certain, it is our guess that she was instrumental in obtaining the designation.





Views from Inside Yeocomico church



The In-Laws

REBECCA BONUM – was born circa 1672 in Westmoreland Co., VA. We believe she married Col. George Eskridge circa 1697 in Westmoreland Co., VA. She also died there in 1717.

Rebecca was the daughter of Samuel Bonum and Margaret Philpot.

SAMUEL BONUM – was born circa 1645 at Plymouth, Plymouth MA. He was the son of George Bonum Jr and Sarah Morton. He married Margaret Philpot, daughter of Robert Philpot and Joane _____ Philpot Powell about 1670.

Samuel was assigned 99 acres in Westmoreland Co., VA on the south side of the Potomac for transporting 2 persons on 13 October 1665. He was also assigned 600 acres in Westmoreland Co., VA on 29 September 1667. He further was granted 400 acres in Lancaster Co. VA on the freshes of the Rappahannock River about 14 miles above Nancemond Town for transporting 8 persons on 29 October 1669. In a letter to William Fitzhugh, Samuel is said to be living in Yeocomico, Cople Parish, Westmoreland Co, VA.

Margaret Philpot was born circa 1640 at Kent Island, St. Anne's Co., MD. She died in 1695 at Westmoreland Co., VA.

Children of Samuel Bonum and Margaret Philpot:

1. Elizabeth Bonum – born 1689 in Westmoreland VA
2. Samuel Bonum jr
3. Sarah Bonum
4. Thomas Bonum
5. Rebecca Bonum – born ca 1672

GEORGE BONUM jr (father of Samuel Bonum, grandfather of Rebecca Bonum) was born circa 1619 at Harworth, Nottingham, ENGLAND. He was the son of George Bonum sr and _____. He married Sarah Morton, daughter of George Morton and Julianna Carpenter, on 20 December 1644 at Plymouth, Plymouth, MA. He died on 28 April 1704 at Plymouth, Plymouth, MA.

He was named as a man, aged 16-60, who was able to bear arms in New Plymouth Colony in 1643. He signed an agreement 'that whosoever comes not to ye towne meeting being thereunto warned at ye time appointed shall forfeite to ye town's use for every shuch deflate, 12 shillings, except he have a suffiecent and lawfull excuse' on 10 December 1646. John Faunce bought 'that lott of land that lyeth next to me at Eel River with the housing and fencing therabouts' for 7 pounds from George Bonum. Sarah Bonum gives her consert, probabl indicating that this was dower land on 1 November 1647 at Plymouth Co., MA. Granted 20 acres of upland at the head of his lot at the Eel River in Plymouth on 29 December 1651. The town of Plymouth granted 3 acres of meadow at the southeast end of the cedar swamp near the south meadow on 25 December 1655. Purchased 25 acres of land at fresh lake in the township of Plymouth from John Rickard for 2 pounds 10 shillings on 21 November 1656. Purchased the house, outbuildings and garden plot, consisting of about 6 acres in Scituate, MA from Richrd Sparrow for 8 pounds on 22 November 1656. Received a deed of land from nathaniel Masterson for lands bought from Elder Cushman in the 'new field' at Plymouth on 17 June 1659. Witnessed the will of Capt. Thomas Southworth, along with John Morton, in Plymouth on 18 Nov 1669.

Sarah was born in 1618 in Lewden, HOLLAND. She died 25 August 1691 at Plymouth, Plymouth, MA.

Children of George Bonum jr and Sarah Morton:

- 1. Samuel Bonum**

MARGARET PHILPOTT (or Philpot) was the mother of Rebecca Bonum. She was born in 1640 on Kent Island, St Anne's Co., MD and died after 1698 in Lynch's Point, Westmoreland Co., VA. She was the daughter of Robert Philpott and Joane _____ Philpott Powell.

ROBERT PHILPOTT was born ca 1610 in ENGLAND; died before 30 December 1649 in Northumberland Co, VA. He married 1640 in Kent Island, MD, Joanne _____. She may have been born in 1609 or 10 in Shrops, ENGLAND and was a Powell, but it has not been proven.

Although most researchers into the history of Robert Philpott are agreed that he was in Virginia in the early 1630's and that he went with William Claiborne to Kent Island, MD not later than 1634, the records before 1637 are apparently lacking.

The first Philpott of record in Virginia was "Henry Philpot, gent." who was brought to Jamestowne in 1608 by Captain Newport. He may have been an uncle of Robert Philpott.

Robert Philpott is listed as a member of the General Assembly of MD on 25 January 1637/8 (Liber Z, p 15). He was appointed "Commisioner of the Ile of Kent" by Leonard Calvert, 9 Feb 1637/8 (Liber Z, LOR No. 2).

Absolute proof of Robert's parentage is lacking, however, there is considerable circumstantial evidence which indicates that he almost certainly was of the family of Philpotts of Folkestone, Kent, ENGLAND, and that Henry Philpott, thrice mayor of Folkestone was his grandfather.

The fact that Robert claimed to be the son of the "Keeper of Hyde Park" was apparently well known in Maryland. In the early 1600's, Hyde Park was a preserve of the Crown and consisted primarily of undeveloped woodland.

If all that follows, then it would appear that Robert was the son of Thomas Philpott and Marie Wilson. Thomas died ca 5 March 1645/6. He and Marie were probably married at Dover, St. Mary Parish on 16 Jan 1589. They apparently had 2 sons: Robert and Nathaniel.

We are not at all sure of the parentage of Joane (Joan), but a marriage contract entered in Northumberland Co., VA on 30 December 1649 between "John Powell, planter and Mrs. Joan Phillpott, widow, both parties of Northumberland Co., agree that he is 'not to meddle or have anything to do with the estate of Robert Phillpott, her late husband, which she is hold and us as she did in her widowhood.' Said joan Phillpott binds herself to pay all her late husband's debts out of her said estate. Witnesses: John Bennett, Phillipe Sillvester." She was also given 288 acres in Northumberland Co on 19 December 1650 for transporting 6 persons at the "cost of her late husband Robert Philpott, Gent. dec'd.

ELIZABETH VAULX (2nd wife of Col. George Eskridge) born before 1685; died 1744

She was the daughter of Robert Vaulx II or “Vaulxland” Westmoreland Co., VA and Mary Foxall. She married: 1.) Captain Richard Craddock Feb 1697/8; 2.) Daniel Porten before 1712; and 3.) Col. George Eskridge about 1715.

The only issue from these marriages was Elizabeth 2 Eskridge (Aylett) (Steptoe) who was born ca 1716. She was the only child mentioned in Elizabeth Vaulx Eskridge’s will of 1744.

ROBERT VAULX II born 1651; died Mar 1685 – will probated 27 May 1685. Married Mary Foxall, born 1665, probably in Birmingham, ENGLAND; died VA 1713.

Mary Foxall married 5 times:

- 1. Robert Vaulx II**
- 2. Alexander Gore, 1685**
- 3. Edward Duddlestone, July 1688**
- 4. Caleb Butler, before 1697**
- 5. Rev. John Bagge; marriage settlement, 1716**

She had 5 children:

- 1. Robert Vaulx**
- 2. James Vaulx**
- 3. Elizabeth Vaulx**
- 4. John Duddlestone, later Lord Duddlestone**
- 5. Jane Butler, later 1st wife of Augustine Washington, m. 20 April 1715; died 24 November 1728.**

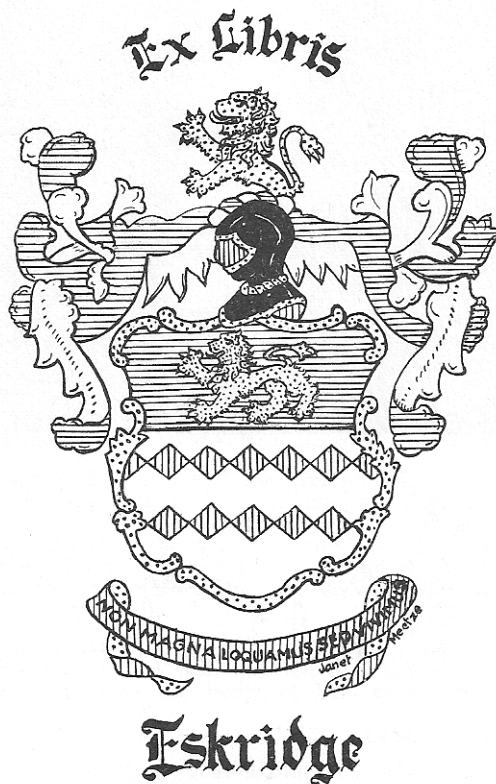
ROBERT VAULX II was the son of ROBERT VAULX I – the immigrant – born 1605; to VA 1632; died in ENGLAND. London merchant and owner of Vaulx’s Hall, Plantation, VA.

Married ELIZABETH BURWELL, born 5 March 1621, Ampthill Co., Bedfore, ENGLAND; to VA 1632; died _____. Sister of Major Lewis Burwell

Their only issue was Robert Vaulx II.

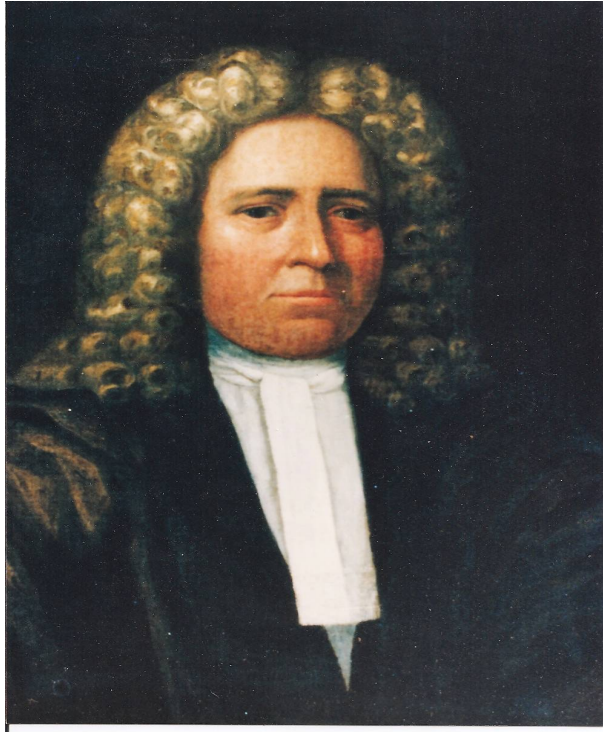
Coat of Arms

Pictured below is the coat of arms that has been a part of family “lore” for a number of years. We do not know where it came from or who first used it. A copy is found in Yeocomico Church, placed there by the Eskridge Family Association. Searches of the College of Arms in London, ENGLAND have returned no such coat of arms.



Portraits
Col. George Eskridge
Rebecca Bonum Eskridge

COL. GEORGE ESKRIDGE



REBECCA BONUM ESKRIDGE



Label on the Col. George Eskridge Painting—Virginia Historical Museum

1914.6 in storage – painted in first half of 18th century

DESCRIPTION: Portrait in oils of Col George Eskridge (d. 1735), of “Sandy Point,” Westmoreland County, Virginia. The portraits of George Eskridge (d. 1735) and his wife Rebecca hold particular importance because of their unusually early date, their established provenance, the historical prominence of Eskridge as a leader in the House of Burgesses, and the survival of an inventory of Eskridge’s library. The latter parallels this portrait as evidence of the philosophy of the sitter. For thirty years, from 1705 to 1735, George Eskridge served with no little distinction in the House of Burgesses. He was appointed to important committees—Public Claims, Propositions and Grievances, Courts of Justice, Elections and Privileges—and often was selected to prepare bills for the House and convey, in writing, the views of the House to the governor, his Council, or London. We do not know when or where he was born; presumably he enjoyed the benefit of an English education, for his political ascent in the colony was based on legal and literary abilities not entirely self-taught. Eskridge is presented in this portrait differently from the haughty aristocrats of both contemporary England and the succeeding generations of Virginians. He is not uncomfortable with the elegant dress and impressive wig that were expected accouterments of emerging gentry of the colony; rather he is shown to be more concerned with other matters. To judge from the contents of his library, which was inventoried at his death in 1735, those were intellectual and spiritual concerns. Eskridge collected some two dozen books about English law, nearly a dozen on world history, and twice that number of religious treatises—the latter ranging from the history of the religions of the world to more spiritual questions. The sober, thoughtful reader of those volumes is captured on canvas. Eskridge had seen a remarkable development of settlement and society in the frontier colony and with it a high death rate. No doubt he knew well the role of the English gentleman either through courtesy books or contact with others who read them. But—from the evidence of this canvas—the Virginia experience and Eskridge’s intellectual talents produced a different breed of Englishman, a serious individual how both were requisite to the colonial experience. It is little wonder that so capable and so solemn a man was the guardian selected by Mary Hewes for her soon-to-be-orphaned daughter, Mary Ball, later the mother of George Washington. By Eskridge family tradition, Mary Ball named her son out of devotion to George Eskridge.

Label on the Rebecca Bonum Eskridge Painting—Virginia Historical Museum

1914.7 currently on display in The Story of Virginia

DESCRIPTION: Portrait in oils of Rebecca (Bonum) Eskridge (Mrs. George Eskridge) (d. 1715). This portrait, like that of the sitter's husband George Eskridge, is important evidence that a competent artist was active in Virginia's Northern Neck at a very early date, the first or second decade of the eighteenth century. Aside from the names of her parents, Samuel and Margaret (Philpot) Bonum, their place of residence, Westmoreland County, and the date of her death, 1715, we know virtually nothing about the sitter beyond the information carried in this portrait. And we must recognize that to some extent, undoubtedly, the painter sought for this image an expression compatible with that in his portrait of her solemn husband, George Eskridge, for the paintings are a pair produced to hang together.

In 1913, Coz. Peter C. Rust of New York City bequeathed the portraits to the Virginia Historical Museum in Richmond. They are an important part of Eskridge and American history. This is their story:

THE ESKRIDGE PORTRAITS

By

Harry Allison Irwin and Barbara Cogar Irwin

The author and historian Charles Warner has said that “George Eskridge was the most distinguished man politically in the history of Westmoreland County before the Revolutionary Generation.”¹ He was a planter, lawyer and vestryman of Yeocomico Church. He was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses from 1705 until his death in 1735. His last home, Sandy Point, was located near the junction of the Yeocomico River and the Potomac. He also had large holding in other counties of the Colony.

His law practice was extensive and records of his legal activities can be found in at least three county courts.² He represented Westmoreland County in the Virginia House of Burgesses when that assembly met in the newly completed capitol building at Williamsburg in 1705 and served continuously for three decades, longer than any other man. The Journals of the House of Burgesses show that he was a member of the most important committees and worked closely with the most influential men in the government.

However, Col. Eskridge is more popularly remembered as “the guardian of Mary Ball Washington from her twelfth year until her marriage to Augustin Washington on March 17, 1731 when she was 22.”³ It is traditionally believed that Mary’s first son, George Washington, was named for her former guardian, Col. George Eskridge.⁴

Portraits of Col. Eskridge and his wife hang in the Virginia Historical Society (Battle Abbey), 428 N. Boulevard, Richmond, Virginia. They were bequeathed to the Society in 1913 by Gen. P.C. Rust of New York City.⁵ Very little was known of the history of the portraits from the time of Col. Eskridge’s death until they were received by the Society. With the discovery of two old letters and subsequent research, their history can be reconstructed. The first letter was written by Mrs. Joseph M Irwin, nee Harriet R. Rust, daughter of Jeremiah and Harriett (Eskridge) Rust. The second was written by Mrs. Irwin’s son William Allison Irwin.⁶

It is the purpose of this paper to tell as much of the history of the portraits as is now known and at the same time to reveal a hitherto unknown branch of the Eskridge-Rust family tree, that of Jeremiah and Harriet (Eskridge) Rust.

After the death of Col. George Eskridge an inventory and appraisal was made of his estate.⁷ Included in the list of furnishings “in the hall” are “2 Pictures of Col. Eskridge and former wife.” There is some question as to the identity of the Mrs. Eskridge in the portrait. Col. Eskridge had married twice. His first wife was Rebecca Bonum; his second wife was Elizabeth Vaulx. All of his children were by his first wife except for his youngest, a daughter Elizabeth.⁸ Since the second Mrs. Eskridge was still living at the time of his death, it is reasonable to assume that the “former wife: was the first Mrs. Eskridge (Rebecca Bonum).⁹

Under the terms of Col. Eskridge’s will,¹⁰ his son Samuel Eskridge inherited the house and 800 acre plantation where the Colonel had lived, subject to the use of the house and plantation by the loving wife and widow Elizabeth during her natural life.

Samuel died in 1747 leaving a wife, Jane (Jean) Eskridge and five minor children: Charles, Rebecca, Burdette, Richard and John.¹¹ On 26 May 1747 Westmoreland County Court ordered an appraisal of the estate of Samuel Eskridge, Gent. Included in the appraisal are “Col. Eskridge and Mrs. Eskridge’s Pictures” valued at 10 pounds.¹² These pictures must have been of Samuel’s father and mother since Samuel was referred to as Gent. and not Colonel in the court record.

About 1764, Rebecca Eskridge married Peter Rust, son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Cox) Rust of Westmoreland County.¹³ Peter Rust died between 6 Mar 1781 and 28 Aug 1781. He was survived by Rebecca and their ten children, the youngest being Jeremiah, born 1 Dec. 1780. He left a tract of land on Yeocomico Neck where he lived to be divided between his two oldest sons, Samuel and Peter Cox Rust, “My son Samuel to have that part where Mrs. Jean Eskridge now lives on, and my son Peter Cox Rust to have the part that I now live on.”¹⁴

It would appear that Jane (Jean) Eskridge was dependant in some measure upon her daughter Rebecca and son-in-law Peter Rust. Jane (Jean) Eskridge died intestate shortly after Peter. On 28 Aug 1781 Westmoreland County Court ordered an appraisal of her estate.¹⁵ The inventory and appraisement was returned to the court on 26 Mar 1782, the day on which the will of Peter Rust was proved in that same court. Her estate was very small, valued at 15 pounds and 18 shillings. The only item valued over 1 pound was “To 2 Pictures . . . 5 pounds.” It is probable that these were the pictures of Col. Eskridge and his wife.

After the death of her husband, Rebecca Rust moved to Fauquier County, Virginia.¹⁶ Marriage bonds for six of her children are found in that county, including one for her son Jeremiah and Harriet Eskridge (of lawful age) dated 5 July 1814.¹⁷

Harriet Eskridge was the daughter of William Eskridge, older son of Col. Charles Eskridge of Centerville, Fairfax County, Virginia. Charles (b 27 Aug 1737) was the oldest son of Samuel and Jane (Jean) Eskridge and the brother of Rebecca

Eskridge Rust. He had married Hannah Guley 20 Dec 1758 by who he had one son William born 27 Oct 1765. Hannah Eskridge died 12 June 1769. Charles then married Mary Ann Wilson Lane on 11 July 1771 and had one son Hector Ross Eskridge born 19 Sep 1772.¹⁸

The children of William Eskridge were: Harriet, Charles Guley, William, Alexander and Alfred A. Eskridge.¹⁹

Hector Ross Eskridge married Susannah Barbara Cockrell and had Courtney, Hatley, Hamlet, Ann and Thomas Orlando Eskridge.²⁰

Harriet Eskridge was born about 1790. She was living with her father when Col. Charles Eskridge died on 12 July 1803, leaving slaves to her and to Courtney Eskridge, the daughter of Hector, and his watch to his grandson and namesake Charles Guley Eskridge.²¹

Jeremiah and Harriet Rust probably lived with Rebecca Rust until her death between 1820-1830. In 1830 they were living in the town of Paris, Fauquier County, Virginia with seven children.²²

Peter Cox Rust, older brother of Jeremiah, was also living in Fauquier County in 1830.²³ He had married Elizabeth Taylor, daughter of Mandley Taylor 1 Dec 1799.²⁴ About 1835 the two brothers moved to Missouri and settled in Shelby County. By that time Jeremiah and Harriet had nine children, all born in Fauquier County. Their children, determined as nearly as possible from the census and court records of Shelby County were:

1. Mary Jane	bc 1815	m		Wm. L. Chipley
2. Eliza A.	b 16 Nov 1816			
3. Dulcebella	bc 1819	m	1839	George Elgin
4. Harriet R.	b 16 Sep 1820	m	1843	Joseph M. Irwin
5. Peter Cox	bc 1825			
6. Charles	bc 1828			
7. Soloman	bc 1830			
8. Alexander E.	bc 1832			
9. Virginia	bc 1835	m	1863	Wm. Glover

Jeremiah Rust died in Shelbyville, Shelby County, Missouri in 1853. Harriet Rust died between 1860-70. It is not known where they are buried, but they may be in unmarked graves on the Peter Rust Cox farm in Tiger Fork Township, Shelby County, Missouri.²⁵

Peter Cox Rust, Jeremiah's brother, farmer and onetime justice of the peace in Tiger Fork Township, is buried there also with his wife Elizabeth. Their graves are marked and their gravestones read as follows:²⁶

Peter Rust	Jan 1, 1863	88 yrs., 1 mo., 28 days
Elizabeth Rust	Dec 12, 1862	87 yrs., 5 mos., 13 days

On the 8th day of June 1843, Harriet R. Rust and Joseph M. Irwin were married by the Rev. Martin L. Eades.²⁷ Joseph M. Irwin practiced law in Shelbyville, Missouri, was a member of the Missouri State Convention in 1861 and served two terms in the Missouri State Senate before his untimely death in 1870.²⁸ Harriet Rust Irwin died 16 May 1907. Both are buried in Clarence Maplewood Cemetery, Clarence, Shelby County, Missouri. The surviving children were Lambden E., Mary Catherine, William Allison and Harriet Irwin.

William Allison Irwin married Emma Josephine Wood, daughter of Elisha F. Wood and Susanna Capp of Monroe County, Missouri. Their children were: Fletcher DeWitt, Harry Moore and Charles Eskridge Irwin.

The foregoing history of the line of descent from Col. George Eskridge to Mrs. Joseph Irwin has been given in order that Mrs. Irwin's letter may be more easily understood. Her letter was written about 1899 to her grandson Fletcher DeWitt Irwin. The pertinent part of that letter is as follows:

"Eliza* says that she has always understood that our ancestor* was a judge of the King's bench under George the III, (or history will tell you who reigned at that time). You will notice that he is dressed in his Robe and powdered wig that he wore on the bench. We do not know about their children, or whether he had any in the war. She thinks that Grandma Rust* must have been a Direct Descendant – Great-Great-Great Grandaughter why the portraits came into the family through her, she must have been the nearest of kin at the time they came into her possession. Grandma Rust was a sister of old Col. Charles Eskridge of Centerville, Fairfax County Virginia,* (he was the person Uncle Charles* was named after) he Uncle C, and Ma* always called her (Grandma R) Aunt, Wm, and Hector Eskridge were half Brother same father, William was Ma's father, and Hector was Thomas and Hatley and Hamlet and old cousin Ann's father. Grandma Rust was an Eskridge, and married a Rust; William and Hector Eskridge were sons of Col. Charles E. but half brothers. The portraits came into Ma's family because Ma and Pa* was equally related to the Eskridge family, the Col was Pa's Uncle and Ma's grandfather, and of course the portraits at Grandma Rust Death came to Pa, and our father had always lived with his mother during her widowhood as her youngest child and took care of her. You know old Uncle Peter* could not come in for them as he married a Taylor, and had no double claim to them, Now I will tell you that Col C Eskridge in his old age married . . ., Ma's father William was by his first wife, and Hector was by his second wife, and he Hector married a Miss Cockrell, . . ."

- * Eliza: Eliza A. Rust, older sister of Mrs. Joseph M. Irwin.
- our ancestor: Col. George Eskridge (d 1735)
- Grandma Rust: Rebecca Eskridge Rust, daughter of Samuel Rust.
- Col. Charles Eskridge: son of Samuel Rust.
- Uncle Charles: Charles Guley Eskridge, son of William Eskridge
- Ma: Harriet Eskridge Rust, daughter of William Eskridge
- Pa: Jeremiah Rust, son of Rebecca Eskridge Rust
- Old Uncle Peter: Peter Cox Rust (d 1863), older brother of Jeremiah Rust

Mrs. Irwin's letter and the ensuing research to verify its contents definitely establishes the identity of her parents and their place on the Eskridge-Rust family tree. Her letter also provides new information on the history of the portraits of Col. George Eskridge and Mrs. Eskridge.

The context of the letter indicates that there were two portraits, one of a judge, the other of his wife, and that they were hanging in a home in Shelby County within the view of family and friends. The portrait (of our ancestor Eskridge) described is similar to the portrait of Col. George Eskridge which now hangs in the Virginia Historical Society collection. Therefore it is probable that the portraits in Mrs. Irwin's letter are the same as those now on exhibit in Richmond. If so, two questions must be answered: 1) Who was Gen. P. C. Rust, and 2) how and when did he gain possession of the portraits?

The obituary column of the New York Times of 16 Mar 1913 carried the following announcement:

“Rust, Gen. Peter C. Rust died Mar 14 at Bellevue Hospital. Notice of funeral later. Washington papers please copy.”

There were no further notices.

A death certificate for Peter C. Rust showed that he resided in New York City for 40 years, but gave no information concerning his birth date or parents. He was retired, single and 85 years of age. He was buried by cremation 20 Mar 1913.²⁹

The last will and testament of Peter C. Rust was admitted to probate 6 Nov 1913 in the County of New York. It reads as follows:³⁰

“1. I, Peter C. Rust, my place of business being in rooms of the Mercantile Safe Deposit Company of 120 Broadway, New York City, being unmarried and without children, and being of sound mind and memory, do hereby make and constitute this, my last, will and testament, hereby revoking and canceling all wills and codicils of wills by me heretofore made.

2. I give and bequeath unto Laura Lee Rogers of Plainfield, New Jersey, daughter of Mrs. Charlotte Rogers, of Plainfield, as a slight reward for her kindness to me when ill, the sum of Fifty Dollars (\$50).

3. I give and bequeath to the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond Virginia, the portraits of my ancestors, George Eskridge and wife, now in the mansion of Mount Vernon, Fairfax County, Virginia, I having loaned them to the ladies' Mount Vernon Association, the same to be returned to me on demand; I having written permission from Mrs. Townsend, Lady Regent of the Association to take them back whenever so desired by me.

4. I give and bequeath the rest and remainder of my property, which I divide into six equal shares or parts, to the following named persons, to wit:

5. Mrs. Lucy M. Norton, New Brighton, Staten Island, New York, one sh

6. To Carrie M. Donaldson, one share

7. To Fannie M. Venable, one share

8. To Wm. S. Moore, one share

9. To Mrs. Marye T. McCormack, of Bowling Green, Kentucky, one sh.

10. and to Mrs. Mary Bronaugh, Mrs. Susie Stiles, Miss Lucy Edwards, and John T. Edwards, one share, to be equally divided between the four.

All the above named persons reside in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, except Mrs. Marye T. McCormack of Bowling Green, Kentucky, and Mrs. Lucy M. Norton of New Brighton, Staten Island, New York.

I hereby constitute and appoint the Union Trust Co., 80 Broadway, New York City, and Eckstein, or Ex, Norton of New Brighton, Staten Island, New York, whose office is 71 Broadway, New York City, executors of this my last will and testament, and request that they be not required to give bonds for the discharge of their duties as such executors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I, Peter C. Rust, to this my last will and testament, constituting of two sheets of paper attached to each other, have subscribed my name and set my seal this 21st day of January, nineteen hundred and eleven.

Peter C. Rust

Subscribed by the testator in the presence of each of us, and at the same time declared by him to us to be his last will and testament, and thereupon we, at the request of the testator, in his presence and in the presence of each other, sign our names hereto as witnesses this 21st day of January, nineteen hundred and eleven.

Signatures and addresses
of witnesses.

Walter C. Reid
Mount Vernon, N. Y.
44 Vernon Ave.

Howard R. Bayhe
Senator 23rd District
75 St. Marks Place, New Brighton
Boro of Richmond N.Y. City

No relatives in Missouri or Virginia are mentioned in the will of Peter C. Rust. But a letter from William Allison Irwin dated 4-24-1899 to his son Fletcher Dewitt Irwin mentions the “old Eskridge pictures” and “Uncle Peter” as follows:

“Harry wrote you Uncle Peter’s address. To wit P. C. Rust, 120 Broadway room C, New York City, N.Y. He can give you more information along this line than anyone else. He knows the past history of both sides of family. The Rust family dates way back . . . Those old Eskridge pictures are over 200 years old. . .”

Deeds to land in Shelby Co., Missouri from Joseph M. and Harriet Irwin and Eliza A. Rust in 1865 to P. C. Rust show that P. C. Rust lived in New York City. A deed from Peter C. Rust to Eliza A. Rust filed in 1870 identifies Eliza as the sister of Peter C. Rust. Peter C. Rust was still a resident of New York City when he deeded Property to Virginia (Rust) Glover in 1891.

Therefore, the Peter C. Rust who died in New York City on 14 Mar 1913 was the son of Jeremiah and Harriet Rust and the brother of Mrs. Joseph M. Irwin.

The history of the portraits can thus be put together. After the death of Col. George Eskridge in 1735 the portraits retained their place in the home which his son Samuel inherited. When Samuel died in 1747 they remained with his widow Jane (Jean) Eskridge. Because Peter and Rebecca Rust had probably cared for Rebecca’s mother in her last years, the portraits were given to Rebecca upon her mother’s death in 1781. After the death of Peter Rust, also in 1781, the widow Rebecca moved to Fauquier County, Virginia, taking among her family possessions the portraits of her grandparents. At her death they went to her youngest son Jeremiah and his wife Harriet because they were equally related to the Eskridge family.

Jeremiah and Harriet took the portraits to Missouri when they left Virginia about 1835. There they probably hung in the family parlor, a treasured remembrance of family heritage and home in Virginia.

Eliza A. Rust never married, but remained in the family home in Shelbyville after the death of her parents. In 1880 she was caring for an invalid brother, Alexander E. Rust. She died 26 July 1901 and is buried in Clarence Maplewood Cemetery beside her nephew William Allison Irwin.

Peter C. Rust probably gained possession of the portraits shortly before or after the death of his sister Eliza. He loaned them to Mount Vernon sometime before 1909 because Mrs. Howard Townsend was Regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association from 1891-1909. The exact date is not known because Mount Vernon has no record of the portraits. After his death, they were removed from Mount Vernon and given to the Virginia Historical Society as specified in his will.

Because of the foresight of Peter C. Rust the portraits of Col. George Eskridge and Mrs. Eskridge are part of the Virginia Historical Society collection where they can be shared by the many descendants of that eminent colonial legislator and by those who are interested in the history of the period. Most appropriately a portrait of Mary Ball Washington has (*at times, ed.*) been placed beside the portrait of the man appointed in her mother's will to be her guardian, Col. George Eskridge.³¹

Ed. Note: The artist of the portraits is not known – they are not signed. The museum is proud to have them as part of their collection. Surprisingly enough, they are at least as proud of the portrait of Rebecca Bonum Eskridge as they are of the one of the Colonel. The reason is that plenty of portraits exist from this time period, but the identity of the female subjects is not known very often. With this provenance, we know these are indeed the portraits of Col. George Eskridge and Rebecca Bonum Eskridge.

FOOTNOTES

1. Charles Williard Hoskins Warner, "George Eskridge of Westmoreland: His Age and Political Career," Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine, Vol. XVI, Dec. 1966, p. 1451.
2. Lucy Brown Beale, "Colonel George Eskridge," Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine, Vol. III, Dec. 1953, p. 233
3. Warner, *ibid* p. 1451
4. Douglas S. Freeman, George Washington, Vol. I, pp. 45, 47n.
5. Editor's note, Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 22, 1914, p. 309
6. These two letters are in the possession of Mrs. Wayne Miller (Mildred Irwin), 1245 Rexford Ave., Pasadena, CA 91107. Mrs. Miller is a great granddaughter of Mrs. Joseph M. Irwin. Her father Charles Eskridge Irwin was the son of William Allison Irwin, younger son of Joseph M. and Harriet Rust Irwin.
7. Blake T. Newton, "The Inventory of Good and Chattels of Col. George Eskridge," Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine, Vol. XIV, 1964, p. 1311.
8. Editor's note, Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 22, 1914, p. 309

9. Opinion cited from letter of Mr. Vernon E. West, Chevy Chase MD (deceased) of Aug 15, 1963 to the Virginia Historical Society. The letter is in the files of that Society.
10. Mrs. H. L. West, "Will and Land Grants of Col. George Eskridge," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 22, 1914, p. 307.
11. "Eskridge Family, " Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 8. 1900, pp. 89-91. This article errs in stating that Samuel Eskridge married Jane Steptoe. Miss Elizabeth Coiner, Washington DC (deceased) and former president of the Eskridge Family Association devoted many years to the history of the Eskridge family. Her records show that Samuel married Jane Ashton, daughter of Charles Ashton.
12. Westmoreland County Records and Inventories 2, 1748-1752, p. 37.
13. Ellsworth Marshall Rust, Rust of Virginia, (Washington, 1940) p. 157
14. Westmoreland County Deeds and Wills, Book 16, p. 152.
15. Westmoreland County Records and Inventories, Book 6, Part 1, 1746-1790, p. 172
16. Fauquier Co., VA Census: 1810, p 398, 1820, p. 120.
17. Fauquier Co., VA Marriage bonds, Vol. 3, p. 229.
18. Eskridge Family Association, Bible records from the Bible of Charles Eskridge, 6 Dec. 1785. Submitted to the Association by Mrs Claude Kitz-Miller, Elkins, WV.
19. Ibid, The Association had no record of Harriet Eskridge, daughter of William. It was believed that Harriet Eskridge was the daughter of John Eskridge was the daughter of John Eskridge (youngest son of Samuel and Jane (Jean) Eskridge) and had married 1.) John Embry and 2.) Jeremiah Rust. Were this true, the marriage bond with Jeremiah Rust would have read Harriet Embry, not Harriet Eskridge as it does read. John Eskridge did have a daughter Harriet who married John Embry and left many descendants, but she did not marry Jeremiah Rust.

Loudoun Co., VA census of 1810 shows one female, age 16-25 in the William Eskridge household. This was William's daughter Harriet Eskridge.
20. Ibid.

21. Will of Charles Eskridge dated 28 Jun 1801. Probated in Fairfax County, VA County Court 19 Sep 1803.
22. Fauquier Co., VA Census 1830, p. 437.
23. Ibid., p. 439.
24. Fauquier Co., Marriage Bonds, Vol. 4, p. 24.
25. Shelby Co., MO Census 1840; 1850, p. 438; 1860, p. 121; 1870
26. Carnegie Public Library, Shelbina, MO 63468. Records submitted by Mrs. Gerald Bonnell, Shelbyville, MO. Mrs. Bonnell, Shelbyville, MO. Mrs Bonnell was contacted on the suggestion of Mrs. Gladys Powers, the librarian Mrs. Bonnell has long been interested in the history of Tiger Fork Township And has been most generous in sharing her records.
27. Shelby Co., MO Marriage Record, Book A, p. 89.
28. History of Shelby County, (1884) pp. 686, 696-698.
29. City of New York, Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Records, Registered No. 9211
30. County of New York, New York. Surrogate's Court. Liber 967, p. 396.
31. Dr. G. W. Beale, "An Unwritten Chapter in the Early Life of Mary Washington, " Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 8, 1900, pp. 283-287.

**Favorite Journal Articles on
Col George Eskridge
Written by Cousins**

George Eskridge, of Virginia, Guardian of Mary Ball
By Mary H. West
(D.A.R. Magazine, May 1917, p. 302)

Ed. Note – this is one of the earliest known published articles about Col. George Eskridge – It was written by one of the co-founders of EFA – BUT contains numerous errors as does her history. We have broadened our knowledge since this was written.

George Eskridge, of Sandy Point, Westmoreland County, Virginia, came to this country some time previous to 1696. The Eskridges are of Lancashire, England. He married first, Rebecca, daughter of Samuel and Margaret (Phillpot) Bonum, of Westmoreland County. Just when this marriage took place has not been determined, but it was previous to the date mentioned above. He was a lawyer, and became very prominent in the affairs of the country. He was a member of the House of Burgesses in 1702-14-20-22-23-26-27-28-30-32. In 1714 he was Coroner for Potomac district, Member of Quorum 1714; Vestryman of Cole Parish; Church Warden between 1731-5; Tobacco Agent for Westmoreland and Northumberland Counties 1714, and King's Attorney from 1719 to 1732. He was also Queen's Attorney for Northumberland and Richmond Counties.

By his marriage with Rebecca Bonum he had four sons – William, George, Robert and Samuel, and two daughters, Sarah and Margaret. By his second marriage, about 1715, to Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Vaulx, he had one daughter, Elizabeth. William Eskridge, the eldest son married Abigail. . . and had four sons. From him descended Lieut. William Eskridge, of the Revolution (*ed. Note NO!*) who died in Frederick County, Virginia, October 3, 1830. Also Lieut. George Eskridge, who served in the Revolution, and who died in Grayson County, Kentucky, August 18, 1827. George Eskridge, Jr., married Priscilla . . . of Dorchester, Maryland. He died in 1831, leaving four sons. Samuel Eskridge, who was a member of the Peace Commission in 1737, married first: Hannah Rust. By her he had one daughter, Rebecca, who married her cousin, Peter Rust. Samuel Eskridge married second: about 1735, Jane Ashton (?). By the second marriage he had four sons –Charles, Richard, Burdette and John. Both of the latter are said to have served in the Revolution, Burdette in South Carolina and John in Virginia. Robert Eskridge, born about 1700, was a physician. He was educated in England, and in 1738, three years after the death of his father, he and his wife Priscilla, went to England. Whether they returned or not is not shown in the records.

Sarah Eskridge, born, 1708, died 1753, married Captain Willoughby Newton. From them was descended Mrs. Harriet Land Johnston, niece of President Buchanan. Margaret Eskridge married previous to 1735, Howson Kenner, of Westmoreland County, son of Captain Francis Kenner. Elizabeth Eskridge married first, in 1735, Captain William Aylett, whose second wife she was. By him she had two daughters, Anne, born about 1736, died Dec. 12, 1768 and Mary, born about 1738. Anne Aylett married Dec. 3, 1757, Richard Henry Lee, son of Thomas and Hannah (Ludwell) Lee. He was born at Stratford, Westmoreland County, Jan. 20,

1732, and died at Chantilly June 19, 1794. Mary Aylett married Thomas Ludwell Lee, born Dec. 30, 1730, brother to Richard Henry. After the death of Captain William Aylett in 1744, Elizabeth (Eskridge) Aylett, who was called “the youthful widow,” married Col. James Steptoe. By him she had four sons. From their oldest son, George, are descended Mrs. Charles Dana Gibson and her sisters, “the beautiful Langhorne girls.”

In the will of Mrs. Mary Hewes, mother of Mary Ball, which was probated July 29, 1721, she directs “my said Daughter Mary Ball . . . to be under the tutelage and government of Captain George Eskridge during her minority.” In another paragraph of the will she says “I do hereby appoint my said son, John Johnson, and my trusty and well-beloved friend, George Eskridge, Executor of this, my last will and testament. . .”

The son (by her first marriage), John Johnson died soon after his mother, and George Eskridge was left sole executor. Elizabeth Johnson, Mary Ball’s step-sister, was the wife of Samuel Bonum, nephew of the wife of George Eskridge. Mary Ball lived with them and was lovingly cared for by them. Dr. G. W. Beale writes: “It was in all likelihood, that as a ward of Major Eskridge, and through the above relationship, and not while visiting in England, as some maintain, Mary Ball found the acquaintances and association which led to her marriage with Augustine Washington, and subsequent eminence in the country’s annals.”

The original portraits of George Eskridge and his first wife, Rebecca Bonum, were owned by General Peter C. Rust, a descendant of Rebecca Eskridge, daughter of Samuel. They came into his possession together with several beautiful pieces of silver because his branch of the family were the last to live in the old house. The portraits were left in storage in New York until about twenty years when Judge R.T. W. Dulse, Jr., of Charlottesville, Virginia, was instrumental in having them restored and photographed. General Rust then loaned them to Mount Vernon where they hung until about three years ago when he suddenly took them away. He died about two years ago and the pictures have disappeared. It would be a patriotic deed to discover them, purchase them and restore them to Mount Vernon, on whose wall they should remain.

When one notices the similarity between the names of those who cared for Mary Ball in her Youth – George Eskridge, Samuel and Elizabeth Bonum and the names of her children one wonders if her son, the Father of Our Country, was not named in honor of his mother’s guardian, George Eskridge, of Westmoreland County, Virginia, of whom I am proud to be a descendant.

GEORGE ESKRIDGE OF WESTMORELAND HIS AGE AND POLITICAL CAREER

By Charles Willard Hoskins Warner*
Tappahannock, Virginia

(Reprinted from an address delivered to the Eskridge Family
Association, Montross, Virginia, August 26, 1966)

I want to say first of all that I appreciate your kind invitation to speak on George Eskridge. I have many reasons for a genuine interest in the Northern Neck. It has been a pleasure knowing the Newtons and Davisons for some years. I became a member of the Northern Neck Historical Society through the interest of Senator Blake T. Newton. Soon after graduating from William and Mary I taught school in Northumberland County. Many of my ancestors were Northern Neck people. Of particular interest today is one of these ancestors, Elizabeth Aylett, the wife of Richard Buckner II of Hazel Grove, Caroline County, Major of Militia, Magistrate, and a signer of the Resolutions in 1766. She was a sister of Colonel William Aylett III who went from King William County to Westmoreland and married as his second wife Elizabeth, daughter of Colonel George Eskridge of Sandy Point.

George Eskridge was the most distinguished man politically in the history of Westmoreland County before the Revolutionary generation. He was an heir of an earlier period of Virginia's political history and a link of this period with the Revolutionary generation. This is in no sense a general assumption, but it is a fact of political and family relationship. George Eskridge in the early days of his career in the House of Burgesses was closely associated in committee work with Robert Beverley II who wrote the finest analysis of Virginia's political thinking to date in his *The History and Present State of Virginia* (1705).¹ George Eskridge was the guardian of Mary Ball from her twelfth year until her marriage to Augustine Washington on March 17, 1731, when she was twenty-two. George Washington, her son, was named for George Eskridge.² Furthermore George Eskridge's granddaughter, Anne Aylett, became the wife of Richard Henry Lee and her sister Mary, the wife of Thomas Ludwell Lee.³ Richard Henry Lee was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and both Lees were responsible for the Leedstown Resolutions, ten years earlier in 1766. George Eskridge was thus a household name

*Author of *Thomas Carter II of Corotoman: His Ancestry and Descendants*; *Road to Revolution: Virginia's Rebels from Bacon to Jefferson*; *The Negro in Seventeenth Century Virginia* (U.S. Nat. Park Service); *Catalogue of Confederate Uniforms* (Confederate Museum) and *Hoskins of Virginia and Related Families*.

¹ Journals of the House of Burgesses, November 26, 1705, p. 171. Journals of the House of Burgesses, May 25, 1706, p. 204. Journals of the House of Burgesses, May 28, 1706, p. 206.

² Freeman, Douglas S., *George Washington*, Vol. I, pp. 44-47 and note 170 on pg 44.

³ Freeman, *George Washington*, Vol. I, note, p. 78

and close relative of Washington's mother and the wives of these two famous Lees. Having been so closely related and a member of the House of Burgesses from Westmoreland for almost thirty years, it is only logical to assume that he was well remembered and quoted by this later family connection. This becomes even more evident when we realize that his political career was a distinguished one, that he served as Westmoreland's representative in the House longer than any other man and that he was on intimate terms not only with the already mentioned Robert Beverley, the historian, but with Col. Thomas Lee of Stratford, at one time president of His Majesty's Council; with Daniel McCarty, also of Westmoreland, and Speaker of the House of Burgesses and with John Robinson, later acting governor of Virginia. Therefore knowledge of the age of Eskridge and of his own political career is important not only for the history of the Northern Neck but for the history of Virginia.

During the years when George Eskridge was in the House of Burgesses from 1705 to 1735, England was ruled by Queen Anne, the last of the Stuarts; by George I and by George II, during the early years of his reign. This era was the most brilliant literary and theatrical age since the reign of Queen Elizabeth. This was the age of the brilliant essays of Addison in the *Spectator*, of Swift's *Guilliver's Travels* and the poetry of Alexander Pope. It was the age of elegance, form and manners, which set the tone for the eighteenth century. In 1707 Scotland came into the Union with England, after so many centuries of strife between them. Winston Churchill's famous ancestor, John Churchill, won a great victory over Louis XIV at Blenheim in Bavaria. He was rewarded by Queen Anne with a palace which Churchill named Blenheim and the title, Duke of Marlborough. In 1714 Anne was followed by the German prince, George of Hanover, the closest kin in direct succession to the Stuarts. This man could speak no English and was unfamiliar with England in general. This situation had vast consequences for England for it gave rise to more power in the Parliament, the growth of Prime Minister influence and a sharper division between the conservatives, called Tories, and the liberals, called Whigs. Sir Robert Walpole became the first strong prime minister to rule England. Towards the close of this period Methodism arose under the leadership of John Wesley with a corresponding growth of those resisting the established church in Virginia, called the New Lights, from whom the Methodist and Baptist Churches in Tidewater developed. Queen Caroline, the wife of George II, exerted great influence since Prime Minister Walpole ruled through her. Walpole favored peace but George II longed for a military career. With the already existing rivalries between England and France in North America, there was a build-up toward the French and Indian War.⁴

In 1705 Lt. Governor Edward Nott served as Virginia's chief executive. He was followed in 1706 by President of the Council, Edmund Jennings. From 1707 to 1722

⁴ Tappan, Eva March, *England's Story*, pp. 281-297.

Lt. Governor Alexander Spotswood was Virginia's chief executive.⁵ He was followed by Lt. Governor Hugh Drysdale until 1726. Robert Carter Esq., President of the Council, held the executive until 1740.⁶ John Robinson I then became acting governor upon the departure of Gooch.

During these years certain events occurred which characterized the age. In 1706 the House of Burgesses passed an act for the building of the Governor's House. In 1716 the first theater in the English Colonies was erected in Williamsburg. On August 17, 1716, a number of planters, two companies of rangers and several Indian guides set out from Germanna, the plantation of Alexander Spotswood, then in Spotsylvania County, and crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains. They were the first recorded Virginians to see beyond these mountains.⁷ In the decade following this Lord Fairfax extended his Northern Neck Proprietary into the Valley of Virginia and Robert Carter I patented large acreages there. Thus began the settlement of that area.⁸ In 1710-11 the House of Burgesses made a vain attempt to limit the importation of negro slaves into Virginia by raising the tax on all imported negroes. However the British Parliament vetoed this bill due to pressure from the merchants and the slave traders.⁹ The years 1710-1740 were marked by increasing Indian troubles on the frontier and by negro insurrections.¹⁰ However material wealth was rapidly growing and the British government was increasingly hard put to control colonial trade. No longer were towns created by law but grew up as natural areas of commerce and trade, such as the already established Norfolk on the mouth of the James and the newer Richmond and Fredericksburg at the headwaters of the James and Rappahannock. Soon these towns would surpass those created by law in 1680, such as Yorktown and Tappahannock.¹¹ This period also saw the first large plantation homes being built such as the Lee's Stratford and the Carter's Sabine Hall. The first postal system in Virginia began with Alexander Spotswood

⁵ In 1792, Governor Spotswood's grandson, Gen. Alexander Spotswood, provided money to his son-in-law, Francis Taliaferro Brooke, to buy "an old house in Tappahannock." This house, know today as Monument Place, is located on Prince St., opposite the Essex County Court House. Francis T. Brooke became a Brig. General, a member of the State Senate and finally President of the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, 1824-30. While living in Tappahannock, he was a law partner with George Washington's nephew, Bushrod Washington, later associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (Essex Co., Deed Books, 33 p. 358, and 38 p. 351; Hume, Society of the Cincinnati, Sesqui-Centennial History and Roster, 1783-1933 (Va.), p. 131; Brooke, narrative of My Life for My Family, 1849, Virginia State Library)

⁶ Gwathmey, John H., *Twelve Virginia Counties*, p. 442

⁷ Andrews, Mathew Page, *Virginia The Old Dominion*, pp. 184-185

⁸ Andrews, *Virginia The Old Dominion*, pp. 187-188

⁹ Andrews, pp. 203-204.

¹⁰ Journals of the House of Burgesses, December 7, 1710, p. 296

¹¹ Andrews, p. 205

being appointed first post master general. His office was at New Post, near Fredericksburg and included an area extending from Boston to Charlestown, South Carolina.¹²

Some knowledge of the planter's political position and the organization of the House of Burgesses is essential if one is to understand the political environment in which George Eskridge worked as a member of the House of Burgesses. The most important single factor was the planter group which he represented. They came from England as essentially middle class people and as members of the mercantile families of the cities and the country gentry. They were generally Whig in sympathy and sought progress through a decentralization of authority in both church and state. From Trevelyan's *English Social History* we know that Puritanism, in its stand against authoritarianism in both church and state, greatly influenced the Whigs in their sentiments. Thus Puritanism as a background left its imprint on the political slant of early Virginians.

Later the wealthy planters opposed Nathaniel Bacon in 1676 and opposed free elections of the burgesses and the church vestries. This was because Governor Berkeley allied this group to him through land patents and political office. When Charles II sent his commissioners over to investigate the rebellion in 1677 these people led by Major Robert Beverley of Middlesex, then Clerk of the House, reverted back to their Whig sentiments and refused the king's representatives access to the records and generally impeded all investigation. The king removed Beverley as Clerk and from then on the Clerk was always a crown appointed official. Resentment to outside authority grew stronger. By the time George Eskridge was a member of the House in 1705, this trend was well established.

On November 26, 1705 the House ordered that Mr. Robert Beverley and others including Mr. George Eskridge carry to ye Council a bill passed by the House and obtain "Their honours concurrence thereto."¹³ On May 25, 1706, the House passed a bill "That the bricks of the old State house at James Town be appropriated to the use of James City for the building of a court house in the said County and that no person to make use of the said bricks, on any other account whatsoever." Again it was ordered that Mr. Robert Beverley and Mr. George Eskridge with others carry a copy of this bill to the council, represent their views and desire their concurrence thereto.¹⁴ On May 28, 1706, George Eskridge and Robert Beverley carried to the Council a bill for "making, clearing and repairing the highways and for clearing the rivers and creeks."¹⁵ These two men appear many other times on Committees

¹² Andrews, p. 206

¹³ Journals of the House of Burgesses, November 26, 1705, p. 171

¹⁴ Ibid., May 25, 1706, p. 204

¹⁵ Ibid., May 28, 1706, p. 206

together. This Robert Beverley was the son of the earlier Robert who withheld the records of the House of Burgesses from the King's Commissioners and he was the author of *The History and Present state of Virginia* published in 1705.

This close associate of George Eskridge was a man who wrote bitterly about the British Government in Virginia. Such views must have been a subject matter of conversations between him and Eskridge. Such thinking became a part of the Revolutionary idealism of Westmoreland's famous sons. No political ideals could come from anyone more logically than George Eskridge. For he, more than others, fell heir to the sentiments and outlook of his fellow burgesses by fact of his long tenure in office. Had these ideals not been his, then it is certain he would not have been chosen so often to represent the views of the House to the Council, Governors and Sovereigns.

Of vital concern to any resident of the Northern Neck was the grant of this area by Charles II to Thomas, Lord Culpepper, Governor of Virginia from 1680 to 1683. The Proprietary descended from him to Lord Fairfax. The Grant was bitterly resented by Virginians and especially by Northern Neckers who regarded it as having been done without their consent and as a denial of their rights as Englishmen. Beverley wrote that Lord Culpepper had interest in the grant "tho his Lordship did pretend to lay publick claim to any Part of the Proprietary." He argued that Culpepper was implicated so completely that he used his office as Governor to deprive the House of Burgesses of their judicial power in hearing appeals from the county courts. Beverley wrote that Lord Culpepper 'Fear'd the Burgesses would be too much in the interest of their County-men, and adjudge the inhabitants of the Northern Neck to have equal Liberty and Privilege in their Estates, with the rest of Virginia, as being settled upon the same foot. In order therefore to make a better Pennyworth of those poor people, he studied to overturn this odious method of Appealing, and to fix the last resort in another Court, that might judge more favorably of his unrighteous Patents." He accused Culpepper of creating a sentiment in the House that only the Governor, and the Council were qualified to hear appeals. With this denial of the right to appeal cases to the House and his dissolving of the House as a rebellious body, he sought to deprive the people and burgesses of the Northern Neck of any means of attacking him. Such denial of the appeal of cases to the House and of their voice in the Proprietary Grant was held by Beverley to be illegal. He charged that Culpepper had carried the Grant out by deceit and regardless of complaints to the Assembly. Since only the King's favor was behind the Grant and not the consent of the House of Burgesses, the whole affair was held to be an example of illegal administration of royal authority in Virginia.¹⁶

Beverley criticized Governor Andros for setting up the Statutes of England as the sole role of judgment. To Beverley, these were alien to Virginia since Virginia had

¹⁶ Beverley, Robert, *The History and Present State of Virginia*, pp. 93-94

need for new laws to suit her needs. He wrote that the English Law did not even mention the term “plantation” and was adjusted to the usages and customs of England. This caused serious confusion in administering the law in Virginia. Governor Nicholson is accused of governing Virginia by neither the Statues of England or by the Acts of the Assembly “but his own all-sufficient Will and Pleasure,” Beverley describes Gov. Nicholson in his role as Chief Judge in the General Court – “it is usual with him to fall into excessive Passions, and utter the most abusive Language against those that presume to oppose his arbitrary Proceedings.” A scene is described in which this Governor takes a lawyer by the collar and says “that he knew of no laws they had, and that his commands should be obeyed without Hesitation or Reserve.” In large black letters Beverley wrote that Nicholson said that Virginians had “no right at all to the Liberties of English Subjects, and that he would hang up those that should presume to oppose, with Magna Charta about their necks. Thus Virginians almost a century before the Revolution talked a good deal about their rights, as guaranteed by Magna Charta. Having written the only history of Virginia, Beverley was regarded as a leading thinker and his friends and readers began to respect that the government was indeed one of arbitrary administration without responsible exercise of authority.¹⁷ Such sentiments, common talk by the burgesses in Williamsburg, were repeated back home in Westmoreland, becoming a part of local thinking among the neighbors and relations of George Eskridge.

Before proceeding to the political career of George Eskridge, there is another factor of importance in addition to his being an heir to the political beliefs and antagonisms of the planter class to which he belonged. This is, some knowledge of the governmental framework within which he operated—the House of Burgesses. All members of the House had to own property.¹⁸ Property was the great basis for wealth and social position in the eighteenth century and one’s political influence with other burgesses was greatly aided by it. One had to own property to vote. Therefore only a few controlled the government as the negroes and poor whites by 1700 had been disfranchised. In the seventeenth century more whites could vote and even negroes. Slavery developed only gradually by Statuary law. Between 1703 and 1729 George Eskridge acquired 425 acres in Westmoreland, 600 acres in Northumberland, 8,209 acres in Stafford and 3,210 acres in Richmond County, or a total of 12,444 acres of land. This was well above the average landowner (see Vol. 22, *Virginia Magazine of History*, page 307).

The Speaker of the House was elected and his election was merely confirmed by the Governor. This office was at times combined with that of Treasurer. Therefore the Speaker was the powerful voice of the House and through him the burgesses always retained control of how and when the money was spent. This was a powerful tool to

¹⁷Beverley, pp. 101,104,105,106,107,109

¹⁸Flippin, Percy Scott, *The Royal Government in Virginia, 1624-1775*, p. 192

control loyal authority as represented by the Governor and at times by the Council. Those who were closely associated with the Speaker were the most powerful members of the House. George Eskridge served as Burgess from Westmoreland with Daniel McCarty who became Speaker of the House in 1718. Eskridge was appointed at this time by the House with others to “attend the Governor and acquaint him that this House has made a choice of a Speaker and to know his pleasure when the house shall wait upon him to present him.”¹⁹ George Eskridge was associated for many years on the Committee of Public Claims with John Holloway, Burgess from King and Queen. On May 9, 1723, Eskridge nominated Holloway to be Speaker of the House of Burgesses.²⁰ On many Committees between 1711 and 1720, Eskridge worked with the Hon. John Robinson who became acting Governor of Virginia upon the departure of Sir William Gooch, and was the father of John Robinson, Speaker and Treasurer of the House of Burgesses, the most powerful political figure in the House from 1738 to 1765.²¹ Thus Eskridge worked closely and often with the most powerful men in the House of Burgesses.

A problem closely related to the office of Treasurer was the conflict during these years between the House and the Governors over who was to levy taxes. The King repeatedly sent instructions to the Governors to use their influence to create a Governor’s Party in the House and obtain a bill, empowering the Governor and his Council to levy taxes. The King failed in this since the House never complied.²²

The assembly met biennially by law but it was often continued and sometimes met four times a year. However from 1715 to 1718 the assembly did not meet.

Members were paid by their counties in proportion to the number of persons paying taxes and upon this same basis they were paid also by the House of Burgesses. This averaged about one hundred pounds of tobacco per day in session. After 1723 payment by the House was in coin in proportion to the value of tobacco.²³

After 1700 the governor received increasing instructions not to approve any act for repealing a law without the approval of the home government. If the governor vetoed an act, even when the upper house or Council had approved of it, the act could never be passed. The governors often insisted that the House of Burgesses pass acts which were in accord with the king’s instructions to the governor. Of course, this was not always possible as the needs of Virginia were quite different from England and different laws were needed. Nevertheless we find that Governor Alexander Spotswood in a speech to the assembly on October 26, 1710, insisted that laws be passed which were in accord with the crown and with England.

¹⁹J.H.B., April 23, 1710, p. 73.

²⁰Ibid., May 9, 1723, p. 359

²¹McGill, John Beverley, *The Beverley Family of Virginia*, p. 933. See also Journals of the House of Burgesses for the years 1711-1720.

²²Flippin, *The Royal Government in Virginia, 1624-1775*, p. 194.

²³Flippin, *The Royal Government in Virginia, 1624-1775*, p. 195.

I shall, as I find you at leasure lay before you some acts that need amendments by reason that they contain clauses, which have been judged unfit for the royal approbation, and here let me mind you how vainly you make laws, if the square not either with the prerogative of the crown or with the interest of the country which protects us.²⁴

Acts concerning trade, revenue, manufactures, finance, debts and appropriations were the most frequently repealed.²⁵ British merchants and those in this country acting in their interest brought pressure on Parliament to repeal any law not favorable to them. These men had the greatest influence on Parliament because Britain's economic power was in her trade. Even acts of the burgesses relating to the church, the judiciary and to personal and local matters, such as how much a local county vestry was to pay its parson, were repealed at times. Entire laws were repealed even if but one of two clauses were objectionable.²⁶ It is no wonder the Scot mercantile firm of Archibald Ritchie in Tappahannock helped create great antagonism leading toward the Leedstown Resolutions of 1766. According to a speech before the Northern Neck Historical Society in July of 1966, over four hundred planters gathered in Tappahannock and threatened Ritchie with violence if he would not comply to more equitable trade terms.²⁷

Therefore, realizing something of the prejudices of the planters against the crown, the nature of those conflicts in the House itself and the long period during which George Eskridge was in this atmosphere, it is little wonder that his family connection were allied so closely to such men as George Washington, Richard Henry Lee and Thomas Ludwell Lee and that the Leedstown Resolutions of 1766 were a product of Westmoreland in their origin, though supported by a large number of signers along both sides of the Rappahannock.

During the years from 1705 to 1735, George Eskridge served as a burgess with Willoughby Allerton, Daniel McCarthy and Thomas Lee.

George Eskridge served repeatedly on committees to prepare bills for the House and address expressing views of the House to the sovereigns and the governors. It is apparent that he was regarded by his contemporaries as a literary man, more able than others to write logically and present the viewpoint of the House of Burgesses. For example, on November 10, 1710, he was ordered with five others to "prepare and bring in the address to the Queen and That to the Governor according to the Resolves of this house."²⁸ On March 15, 1727, Eskridge and others were ordered to

²⁴JHB, 1710-12, p. 241.

²⁵Acts Privy Council, Col., 1720-1745, nos. 46, 59, 93, 156, 171, 239, 245.

²⁶JHB, 1727-1734, p. 58

²⁷Mathews, John Carter, Richard Henry Lee, Speech to the Northern Neck Historical Society, July, 1966. Dr. Mathews is Professor of History, Towson College, Maryland

²⁸JHB, November 10, 1710, p. 269.

prepare and bring in an address “to His Majesty and also a Petition to the Parliament of Great Britain to obtain a repeal of the late act of Parliament.”²⁹ Mr. Eskridge worked on such Committees with Mr. Meriwether of Essex, Mr. Hollaway of King and Queen, Mr. Tayloe of Richmond County and Mr. Robinson of Middlesex. All of these men were leaders in their counties and in the House.

One of the most important committees in the House was that of Public Claims. This committee inspected all claims made on the government by counties, businesses and individuals for public services rendered. This committee could issue directives, call up witnesses and inspect public accounts. It exercised executive and judicial powers.³⁰ George Eskridge was on this committee throughout his career, at times acting as its chairman. He served with such men as Mr. Tayloe, Mr. William Armistead, Mr. Harry Beverley and Mr. John Robinson. It is interesting to note here that in 1705, Eskridge was the last name listed on this committee of eleven members. However in 1710 on this committee of ten, Eskridge is third from the top, being outranked only by Mr. Ball and Mr. Armistead. In years to come he heads the list. It was about his fifth year in the House, however, that he begins to appear near the top of committee lists.³¹ This is significant since it marks an increase in his political position with his contemporaries.

Several instances will suffice to show what the work of Eskridge was like on the Committee of Public Claims. On December 6, 1710, Mr. Eskridge was ordered to prepare a message for the House to be then delivered to the council explaining why “They have Disagreed; with Reasons for the Disagreement” concerning a claim against the government. The matter involved here was a Negro insurrection the the counties of Isle of Wight, Surrey and James City. Eskridge, representing the House told the council that the expense these counties had gone to in putting down the insurrection was a local matter and should not be a claim on the central government in Williamsburg. Eskridge’s position on the Public Claims Committee was a conservative one. He tried to cut down on government spending. However the answer of the Council sounds very modern in tone and in subject matter. “We do not find any reason to alter our former opinions as to the charges of apprehending and securing the Negroes concerned in the late Intended Insurrection: and Still Think there is a great Difference between a prosecution of a Negro for a felony or Burglary and an Insurrection which is a matter of Publick Concernment.” To the Council, as today, this riot was of concern to the whole population not simply to the counties involved. Therefore the central government should enter the claim in The Book of Claims. That is, reimburse the counties for putting down the insurrection.³²

The Committee of Public Claims not only heard claims and decided on them but introduced acts before the House. On December 14, 1714, Mr. Eskridge reported

²⁹JHB, March 15, 1727, p. 39

³⁰Flippin, *The Royal Government in Virginia, 1624-1775*, p. 21.

³¹JHB, October 24, 1705, p. 132; October 26, 1710, p. 242; October 23 1712, p. 4

³²JHB, December 6, 1710, p. 295; December 7, 1710, p. 296.

two bills from this committee—“an Act for Security and Defence of the Country in Times of Danger” and “an Act for prevention of Abuses in Tobacco Shipped as freight.”³³

The Committee of Public Claims possessed certain judicial powers in the summoning of witnesses and the investigation of papers. However the greatest judicial power of the House was removed after 1680 when it ceased to act as the Colony’s highest Court of Appeals. Such a court was then restricted to the Governor and Council.³⁴ This restriction was always a sore point with the burgesses. Certain other judicial functions existed in the House however, in which George Eskridge was active. Eskridge was frequently a member of the Committee for Propositions and Grievances. One hearing of particular interest to the Northern Neck was a petition on May 26, 1722, from Lancaster County. It was petitioned that the boundary next to Northumberland be “properly laid out.” Lancaster protested that her boundary had never been properly surveyed. The House ordered “That Mr. Daniel McCarty, Mr. George Eskridge, Mr. Charles Barber, Mr. William Woodbridge and Mr. Charles Grymes or any three with the Surveyors Mr. Coppidge and Mr. Newton or one of them do meet and (having regard to all evidences and former orders to be produced) lay out the Dividing bounds between the Said Counties at the Equal Charge of each County and to make report of their proceedings to the next Session of Assembly.”³⁵

George Eskridge also served on the very influential Committee of Elections and Privileges, at times as its chairman. This committee made regulations governing the holding of elections and could politically destroy a man’s future by its charges of fraudulent and irregular practices in a campaign. On November 18, 1720, “Mr. Eskridge Reports from the Committee of Elections and Privileges that the said committee had appointed a time for the hearing of the petition of Mr. John Robinson complaining of an undue Election and Return of Gowin Corbin Gent. to serve in this present assembly for the County of Middlesex.”³⁷ On February 7, 1727, “Mr. Eskridge reported from the Com’ee of Elections & Privileges, that they had had under their consider’on the petition of Sundry Freeholders of the County of Northumber’ld complaining of an undue Election & Return of Mr. Presly to serve in this General Assembly for the County and of several undue practices of the Sherif of the said county in taking the Poll.” On February 13, Mr. Eskridge reported “that they had under their consider’on the petition & complaint of Henry Scarborough against the Election for the County of Accomack, that they had examined several witnesses touching the matter of the said complaint, and heard the parties thereupon and that none of the allegations of the petition were sufficiently proved, and that they were come to a Resolution thereupon, which he read in his place

³³JHB, December 14, 1714, p. 104.

³⁴Flippin, *The Royal Government in Virginia, 1624-1775*, p. 202.

³⁵JHB, May 26, 1722, p. 340; February 3, 1727, p. 7; May 10, 1723, p. 361.

³⁶JHB, February 10, 1727, p. 16.

³⁷JHB, November 18, 1720, p. 271.

(where he was seated) & afterwards deliver'd it in at the Table (table in the House where resolutions were deposited), where the sam was again read & agreed to by the House as follows—Resolved, that Mr. William Andrews and Mr. Sacker Parker are duly elected to serve as Burgesses in this General Assembly for the County of Accomack.”³⁸

Some acts of the Assembly which Mr. Eskridge carried before the Council were acts concerning: waists and Strays (cattle), marriages, ordinaries and “tippling houses” and “an act for improving ye Staple of Tobacco, and for regulating the size of tobacco hogsheads.” On May 18, 1726, the House ordered “That a bill be brought in for building a Chappel of Ease in the Center of the County of Westmoreland and that Mr. Eskridge do prepare and bring in the same.” Later Mr. Eskridge reported several amendments to the bill for the building of a Chapel of Ease.³⁹ By 1732 the Colonists were building better and were concerned more for safety. This is reflected in the following action of the House of Burgesses —“ordered, That a bill be brought in, for pulling down Wooden Chimneys, in the towns of Southampton and Norfolk and to prevent the Building of others for the future. Mr. Eskridge was on a committee of three to prepare this bill.”⁴⁰

George Eskridge must have been something of an architect because, as mentioned earlier in connection with Robert Beverley II, he was on a committee to direct the removal of the bricks from the Statehouse at Jamestown (the foundations of which can be seen today) for the building in Williamsburg of the James City County Court House (which is still standing). There was, of course, no need for this statehouse, as Jamestown had been abandoned and the Capitol moved to Williamsburg in 1699. In 1705 the first Capitol building was erected in Williamsburg which lasted until destroyed by fire about 1747.⁴¹ In regard to this Capitol building we find on November 10, 1713, that “Mr. Eskridge, Mr. Allerton, Mr. Soane and Mr. Meriwether were (pursuant to a resolve of this day) nominated a committee to consider the Subject Matter of that Paragraph of the Governor’s Speech relating to the Capitol and the City of Williamsburg and they are to report their opinion thereon.”⁴² On November 14, 1713, Mr. Eskridge reported “that the persons appointed had (according to order) considered the Subject Matter of the Paragraph of the Governor’s speech.” On November 16 the House “Resolved that the Capitol be Repaired with all Convenient Speed” and that workmen be employed.⁴³ This resolve was made upon the investigation and recommendations of Eskridge and his committee members as to what should be repaired and how this was to be carried out. Knowledge of building and architecture was a prerequisite for appointment to such a committee. Thus Eskridge played a very definite part in the removal of the

³⁸ JHB, February 7, 1727, p. 11; February 8, 1727, p. 13; February 13, 1727, p. 19

³⁹ JHB, May 18, 1706, p. 197; May 18, 1726, p. 408; May 25, 1726, p. 412.

⁴⁰ JHB, May 30, 1732, p. 130.

⁴¹ Yonge, Samuel H., *The Site of Old Jamestown, 1607-1698*, p. 96.

⁴² JHB, November 10, 1713, p. 52.

⁴³ JHB, November 14, 1713, p. 56; November 16, 1713, pp. 58-65.

last Statehouse at Jamestown, the erection of the County Court House still standing in Williamsburg and the maintenance of the first Capitol building which has been reconstructed.

As in all political careers there were those who supported and those who opposed him. Those who opposed him were outspoken. On November 26, 1714, a complaint was made in the House of Burgesses “that one John Cottrell of the County of Northumberland had publicly in the hearing of Several Persons Spoke many Scandalous Words, highly Reflecting upon this House and arraigning their proceedings, and had also spoke contemptuously of the laws of the country and had publicly affronted and abused George Eskridge Gentleman a member of this House, in breach of the privilege of this House.”⁴⁴ The next day the House resolved that Cottrell be sent for and questioned and also John Haney “for abetting him.” Witnesses called to testify were John Ingram, William Jones, Samuel Heath and John Copping of Northumberland and Thomas Carter of Lancaster.⁴⁵

In 1727 Mathew Bean, Joseph Sandford and Thomas Barnes accused Augustine Washington, Sheriff of Westmoreland County, of conducting a fraudulent election of Thomas Lee and George Eskridge, candidates to the House of Burgess. They were being opposed for reelection by Thomas Barnes. Washington told the crowd gathered to divide into two groups—one for the “sitting members” (Lee and Eskridge) and the other for Thomas Barnes. “Four to one” went into the group for Lee and Eskridge. Barnes demanded that a poll be taken of each man present.

⁴⁴JHB, November 26, 1714, p. 91.

⁴⁵William and Mary Quarterly, Series One, Vol., 21, p. 250.

Thomas Carter (1672-1733) of Lancaster was the second generation of Capt. Thomas Carter of Corotoman. They followed an early Thomas Carter who was one of “ye ancient planters” (early settlers and original property owners) resident in Virginia before 1624. The early generations of Carters in Lancaster married into the families of Dale-Skipwith, Williamson, Ball, Payne, Todd, Brent, Norris, Beverley and Taliaferro. Capt. Thomas Carter I, c 1630-1700 was a member of the Lancaster Court, County Clerk, Captain of militia and in 1667 in the House of Burgess. Capt. Thomas Carter II (1672-1733), was in the mercantile business with Robert “King Carter,” and manager of his estates. Robert Carter in his will refers to Thomas Carter as a “good friend” and “relation,” and states that he is to be an advisor for the executors who are to accept his account of the estate as satisfactory. An early Thomas Carter of Lancaster, dead by 1660, was very closely associated with Col. John Carter in land ownership and in other matters. He appears to be the grandfather of both Capt. Thomas Carter II (1672-1733) and Robert “King Carter,” (1662-1732) (Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia, p. 102; The Descendants of Captain Thomas Carter by Dr. Joseph L. Miller; 6 V 2-4; Nugent’s Cavaliers and Pioneers, pp. 150-349, 387, 445, 480; Lancaster County Record Book I, p. 135 and record book 2, p. 209 and Order Book 1666-1680, p. 412 and other sources too numerous to cite here.)

Washington refused because he said that the weather was threatening and stormy. Barnes became very angry and petitioned the House that an irregular election had been held and that another should be called. To the petition, Barnes and his friends fraudulently signed many names. On March 5, 1727, the House declared Lee and Eskridge elected. The opposition was censured for their dishonest petition and ordered to pay penalties to Augustine Washington, the sheriff.⁴⁶

Resolved That Mathew Bean & Joseph Sandford in procuring several Freeholders to sign their names to a paper and causing the names of other Freeholders to be written therein without their knowledge with intent to annex the same to a Petition with which the said Freeholders were not acquainted, and that Thomas Barnes in annexing that to the Petition, knowing how it was obtained, & presenting the same to this House, are highly criminal & guilty of foul & scandalous practices of an unjust Vexation to the sitting members and a high Breach of the Privileges of this House.⁴⁷

In conclusion there are certain things which stand out about the career of George Eskridge. He was a political heir of an early period of Virginia history as represented by his close association with Robert Beverley, the historian. Because of this factor and his own long and distinguished career in the House of Burgesses he was Westmoreland's greatest link to the past political thinking and prejudices of the planter class, which formed an integral part of the family and neighborhood environment in which George Washington, Richard Henry Lee and Thomas Ludwell Lee grew to manhood. More particularly George Eskridge worked with the most powerful men and committees in the House of Burgesses. His service on the Committees of Public Claims and Propositions and Grievances exhibited in high degree a marked executive and judicial ability. As a member of the committee of Privileges and Elections he showed himself to be a man of political ability and of ethical belief. That he stood forth boldly as an individual with strong principles is evident not only by the bills he reported in the House but from local political conflict over him in the Northern Neck. His frequent work in carrying acts of the House before the Council shows that he was often regarded as the best man to represent the views of the burgesses. The many references to Eskridge on committees to prepare addresses for the House to be delivered to the Governor, the Sovereign and the British Parliament, show that he was well regarded as a literary man capable of organizing complex legislative and political issues into written form. In so doing he was depended upon to convey the wishes of the House and thus the voters in the Colony. George Eskridge was in the main stream of political thinking which preceded the revolutionary generation.

Finally towards the close of his career he was honored by a man who was then the most powerful figure in Virginia both in land ownership and past political office.

⁴⁶Four years later Augustine Washington married Mary Ball, of whom George Eskridge was guardian.

⁴⁷JHB, March 5, 1727, pp. 31-32.

George Eskridge as the most distinguished member of the House of Burgesses from the Northern Neck was selected by Robert Carter Esq. of Corotoman to present to the House a matter that had long been on his mind. Robert Carter, known often as “King Carter,” possessed over three hundred thousand acres of land and had been President of His Majesty’s Council and Governor of Virginia. His daughter married Mann Page of Gloucester. Page borrowed heavily from “King Carter” to build for himself the largest mansion in colonial America—Roswell. Carter had never been paid and in this, the final year of his life, he wished to insure that his estate be reimbursed. This caused an indebtedness of the Page estate over several generations to the Carters, an indebtedness from which they were never to recover.

On June 3, 1732, “Mr. Eskridge presented to the House (according to order) a Bill to enable Robert Carter Esq., one of the Executors of the last Will and Testament of Mann Page Esq., deceased (1730) to pay the debts of the said Mann Page, and to entitle him to receive interest for the money he hath advanced or shall advance for that Purpose; and to Charge the Estate of the said Mann Page with the Repairment of the Principal and Interest.” On June 14 Eskridge was appointed on a committee to consider Carter’s bill with Mr. Meriwether, Mr. Blair, Mr. Conway, Mr. Attorney, Mr. Tayloe, Mr. Lee, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Francis Willis. Several of the wealthiest and most important men in Virginia were therefore on this committee, including even the attorney general of Virginia. Though not of a governmental nature, this bill involved two very powerful families and their estates. The Attorney General was thus called in and Eskridge was honored as “King Carter’s” chief spokesman. On June 16, 1732, the bill was reported out of committee—“that they were of opinion it was reasonable to pass the bill.” On June 20 it was “Resolved, That the Bill to the Council, and desire their concurrence.”⁴⁸

Thus it was that George Eskridge lived his political life and helped to shape a political viewpoint that was to result in the Leedstown Resolutions of 1766 and which was to help produce such men as George Washington, Richard Henry Lee and Thomas Ludwell Lee.

Thomas Babington McCauley, the great British Historian, wrote—“A people which takes no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants.”

⁴⁸ JHB, June 3, 1732, pp. 100-140; June 14, 1732, p. 146; June 16, 1732, p. 148; June 20, 1732, p. 152.

Footnotes: Essex Co. records: Deed Books 33 and 38; Hume, Edgar Erskine, Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia—Sesqui-centennial History and Roster 1785-1933, Virginia State Library; Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia, Virginia State Library; Miller, Joseph L., The Descendants of Capt. Thomas Carter, 1912; Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 6; Nugent, Marion Nell, Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. I; Lancaster County Records; Record Book 1 and 2, Order Book 1666-1680.

REFERENCES

Journals of the House of Burgesses, 1705-1735, Virginia State Library.

FREEMAN, Douglas S., *George Washington*, Vol. I, New York: Charles Scribner's sons, 1948

TAPPAN, Eva March, *England's Story*, New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1901.

GWATHMEY, John H., *Twelve Virginia Counties*, Richmond; The Dietz Press, 1937

ANDRESS, Mathew Page, *Virginia, The Old Dominion*, Richmond: The Dietz Press 1949.

BEVERLEY, Robert, *The History and Present State of Virginia*, published for the Institute of Early American History and Culture, Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1947.

FLIPPIN, Percy Scott, *The Royal Government in Virginia*, New York; Longman's Green and Co., 1919

MCGILL, John Beverly, *The Beverley Family of Virginia*, Columbia, S.C.: The R. L. Bryan and Co., 1956.

MATHEWS, John Carter, *Richard Henry Lee* (speech delivered before the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society, June, 1966.

TREVELYAN, G. M., *English Social History*, New York; Longmans Green & Co., 1962.

YONGE, Samuel H., *The Site of Old Jamestown, 1607-1698*, Richmond; L. H. Jenkins, Inc., 1962 (95th Ed.)

William and Mary Quarterly, Series One, Vol. 21.

THE PROFILE OF A COLONIAL VIRGINIAN

George Eskridge

Born somewhere, at some time in the 17th century

Died 1735, “Sandy Point, “ Westmoreland County, Northern Neck

Lucy Boswell Negus

April 20, 1981

Virginia Commonwealth University

Ed. Note: The format of this article has been changed slightly in the interest of saving space and to mirror the format used by Mr. Warner. This is a well done, well researched article and one of my personal favorites.

I. THE AUTHOR'S OAR

It is a common thing for legends to grow up around a man's life, filling in the gaps where facts are unavailable. Usually the person is long dead when this happens; and perhaps if he could come alive again to hear the inventive stories that people tell about him, and that may believe, he would be more than a little astonished.

Legends tend to grow about the lives of the great, lives that have become important to someone or some group of people. Like mushrooms without roots, these legends seem to appear out of nowhere; but unlike mushrooms, they do not tend to disappear into nowhere. For they serve for a people, the very real purpose of adding strength and exclamation to the facts they are woven around and through. They add emphasis to the life-subject of the legend and help to preserve his memory according to the standards of the generations that follow.

Legends, popularly believed to have a historical basis but, in fact, not verifiable, may indeed tell us more about those who perpetuate them than about the one who is legendized. For a people can express their own hopes and desires, their own yearnings and beliefs through perpetuating stories about a historical person who can in no way rise up to refute them or set the record straight.

The legend of George Washington's cherry tree is a case in point. Legends can also be identified in life stories of many other real people in history, not the least of whom are Abraham Lincoln, Daniel Boone, Winston Churchill, and even Buddha and Jesus of Nazareth. The problem for the historian, of course, is, finally, to be able to separate fact from fiction and thus allow the emergence of a historical life that may be different—and more human and powerful—from the legendary hero.

II. GEORGE ESKRIDGE OF HISTORY AND OF LEGEND

When Anne was queen of England and followed to the throne by the last of the Stuarts, then George I and George II, and when Edward Nott, Edmund Jennings, Alexander Spottswood, Hugh Drysdale, Robert Carter, and William Gooch served as chief executives in the royal colony of Virginia, there was a man named George Eskridge who lived in the Northern Neck that peninsula of Virginia between the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers.¹ Eskridge was such a man of his time and place in the emerging history of the "new world" that his memory has successfully lived

¹Charles Willard Hoskins Warner, "George Eskridge of Westmoreland: His Age and Political Career," *NORTHERN NECK OF VIRGINIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE*, Vol. XVI, December 1966, p. 1451 ff.

through succeeding generations and nearly three hundred years, kept alive by his descendents and historians of the colonial period as well.²

Eskridge, we know, was a lawyer in Northumberland county in 1701, for the court records show that on January 21 he acted as attorney for James Jones and his wife Eliza in a deed of sale.³ This may be the earliest record of this man whose life we shall document until his death in Westmoreland county in 1735.⁴ It was, as we shall see, the life of a creative and highly motivated man, a servant of both crown and colony, driving and ambitious, able and tireless in forging his life, building his estate, and serving his neighbors in the sparsely populated, thick-forested home of his adult years. He was, obviously, a person determined to make his mark in the world. But we can gather also from the records that he was perhaps beloved and certainly respected by his peers in the community and his colleagues in public service.

The facts of his adult life, lived vigorously in the venerated early years of the development of a new nation, which came to represent the dream of freedom and opportunity for so many, make George Eskridge a fine subject for a legend.

For, seeing the dynamic adult life of distinction, the natural question for genealogist and historian is: Where did George Eskridge come from and who was he before he appears in the record of Northumberland County, Virginia?

The fact is, we do not know.

But another fact seems to be that it is so important to know that legends have grown, becoming so woven into his story that they have even been published with the hint, however slight, that they are true.

III. THE LEGENDS OF ESKRIDGE'S EARLY YEARS

In the latter part of the seventeenth century, we are told, George Eskridge, a young law student, was walking along the shore of the north coast of Wales studying one of his law books, when he was suddenly seized by a press gang, carried aboard ship, and brought to the colony of Virginia. He was sold to a planter for a term of eight years, during which time he was not allowed to correspond with his friends at home.

He was treated very harshly and made to sleep on the kitchen hearth. On the day that his term expired, the planter found him tearing up the stones of the hearth with

²Eskridge Family Association Archives, Westmoreland County Memorial Museum, Montross, Virginia

³Ibid., Anne Waller Reddy, "Report on Research."

⁴Ibid.

a mattock, which Eskridge explained by saying a guest's bed was always pulled to pieces upon his departure. He then threw down the mattock and walked out of the house.

During the eight years in Virginia, his law book, which he had brought with him, was always his companion.

He went back to England, completed his law studies, and was admitted to the bar. He was then sent to Virginia as a judge of the King's Bench (there never was such an office in Virginia.)⁵

This story, an oral tradition, offers an origin, Wales for our hero, while excusing his lowly status as indentured servant (which he very possibly was) by pointing out that it was not a status of his choice. He was, instead, the legend tells us, a helpless victim and an educated victim at that. Educated people of the time were people of some property and status. The story also stresses that, though a victim far from home, young Eskridge had the determination and courage to return to his chosen course until it was completed. And his upper class position is again emphasized by telling of his royal appointment to service in the colony.

Another legend has it that George Eskridge was a native of Lancaster, England. To press this point, hopeful genealogists have researched the family line of Lancaster Eskridges and offer this explanation of the man's ancestry. These family records, however, make no mention of a George in Virginia, though there is reference to a George Eskrigg born September 30, 1655, in Overkellat Parish, Lancaster, to George and Elizabeth Eskrigg.⁶ Whether that George came to Virginia, we do not know. (*note: that George died in England, 1715. ed*)

George Eskridge may have come from Wales. He may have come from Lancaster. He also may have come from an English colony in the West Indies or even from Maryland across the Potomac. Some colonists did come from Maryland to the Northern Neck, seeking religious freedom.

In the inventory of Colonel George Eskridge, he lists "my English family Bible" in his catalogue of books.⁷ If this Bible were in existence today, it might answer our questions. But we are not so fortunate, so the origins of Eskridge must remain a mystery.

But does it really matter from whence he came or how or why?

⁵Charles Knowles, *PORTRAITS OF THE FOUNDERS*, Vol. III, Boston, 1926, Reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1976

⁶Eskridge Archives, *English Genealogy*

⁷Blake T. Newton, "Inventory of the Goods and Chattels of Col. George Eskridge," *NORTHERN NECK OF VIRGINIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE*, Vol. XIV, December 1964, p. 1311 ff.

Perhaps it is enough to know that here is a man who came onto the Virginia scene through the early social and political life of the colony in whose service he stayed until he died. He stood alone in his time with no ancestry to either shield or inhibit him, no father to ease his way, no mother to applaud his deeds or cherish the children he brought into the world. No brothers, no sisters, no cousins.

He was George Eskridge, only, and he made his way on that.

IV. THE NORTHERN NECK OF GEORGE ESKRIDGE

A few of the earliest settlers to arrive on the Northern Neck shores in 1640 were “gentlemen of good descent,” but most were farmers, artisans, clerks, tradesmen, or younger sons of the middle classes. They were men without fortune seeking opportunity in the unknown. For their trouble in coming to the Virginia colony, the British government granted each immigrant a headright of fifty acres of land.⁸

They had come to a land where there was little for company except abundant animal life and fowl in the dense forests and fish and shellfish in the rivers that flow into the Chesapeake Bay. The native Indians they came upon lived in scattered tribes with a culture of their own that would not, ultimately, blend with the one the settlers would create.⁹ Within a hundred years, at the height of Eskridge’s career, most of these and the other Indians east of the Blue Ridge would be dead of either war or disease or would have migrated to the west or south.¹⁰

Many of the settlers died, too, of taxing hardships and the same diseases they had brought to the Indians—typhoid, malaria, yellow fever—but they were at the core a hardy and vigorous group, and their families increased. The second generation enjoyed greater prosperity, and by 1715 a highly prosperous landed society had been created. There were even now some “aristocrats.”¹¹ George Eskridge was one of these.

The Northern Neck society from the beginning was necessarily a close-knit one. The near impossibility of travel by land beyond the peninsula precluded interchange with other communities, and it developed that nearly everyone was kin to nearly everyone else, in the white community at least. This situation did not abate until the twentieth century. Families of the dominant class were highly unified. Among these

⁸Douglas Southall Freeman, *GEORGE WASHINGTON*, Vol. I, Charles Scribners Sons, New York, 1948, p. 1

⁹Gary B. Nash, *RED, WHITE, AND BLACK*, Prentice-Hall, Inc., New Jersey, 1974, pp. 296-7, 312

¹⁰Freeman, *op. cit.*, p. 90

¹¹*Ibid.*, p. 1

families were the Carters, Newtons, McCartys, Bushrods, Corbins, Steptoes, Ashtons, Lees, Tayloes, Fitzhughs, and Gerrards.¹² Eskridge's daughter, Sarah, born in 1708, married Captain Willoughby Newton, a third generation native of Westmoreland County.¹³

These were Englishmen in Virginia, loyal subjects of the crown, even unto the third generation and beyond. They looked to the mother country for their trade, government, education, clergy, and social standards.¹⁴

The source of the wealth they accumulated was the land they owned. For on this land they prospered by raising tobacco for export¹⁵ and by nurturing the increase of valuable slaves who provided the necessary labor.¹⁶

Labor in the seventeenth century was provided primarily by white indentured servants who agreed to migrate to the colony and work for a specified period of years in return for ship's passage. But the number of indentured servants began to fall in the first quarter of the eighteenth century because black slave labor was believed to be more profitable. Indentured servants over 19 years of age served for four years; boys or girls under 18 were released when they reached 24. African slaves, by contract, were slaves for life, and this legacy they were forced to bequeath to their children.

Of the eight classes of colonial society—large landowners, farmers, merchants, sailors, frontier folk, servants, convicts, and slaves¹⁷—the most progressive economically, and sometimes socially from the 1660s to the 1750s, were the indentured servants.¹⁸

Their eventual freedom was assured, and with luck and ingenuity they had nowhere to go but up. George Eskridge may have been one of these; if so, he was among the most fortunate and certainly, among the most able.

Securing land for the growing of tobacco was the motivation of any man who would prosper in the Northern Neck, and George Eskridge became proficient in the art.¹⁹ He was so successful, in fact, that one wonders if he was not driven at times to compete with others equally or more successful such as Robert "King" Carter of

¹²Freeman, op. cit., p. 3.

¹³Eskridge Archives

¹⁴Freeman, op cit., p. 79.

¹⁵Ibid., p. 14.

¹⁶Ibid., p. 88.

¹⁷Ibid., p. 84.

¹⁸Ibid., p. 79.

¹⁹Ibid., p. 84.

Carotoman. Carter was the largest individual landowner in Virginia when he died in 1732, three years before Eskridge.²⁰

Eskridge gained his property in a number of ways, which leads one to believe he studied and mastered the rules of the game. He bought land; he claimed the headrights of dozens of indentured servants whose passage he paid;²¹ and he patented large tracts after the Treaty of Albany in 1722 through which Indians of the five eastern nations were forbidden to come south of the Potomac or east of the Blue Ridge Mountains.²²

All of the land that Eskridge—and Carter and everybody else in the Northern Neck, for that matter—accumulated was part of the proprietary owned in Eskridge's lifetime by the fifth and sixth Lords Fairfax.²³ The proprietorship had come under the control of the Fairfaxes through the marriage of the fifth Lord to Catherine Culpeper,²⁴ granddaughter of John Lord Culpeper to whom the grant originally had been made by Charles II in 1649.²⁵

The "Fairfax Grant," as it came to be known, covered the entire Northern Neck of Virginia, "bounded by and within the heads" of the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers. A conservative estimate of the area covered was close to one million acres.²⁶

This was a medieval system of land tenure which bonded the man to the lord through the payment of the quit-rent.²⁷ In this way Eskridge and his neighbors were obliged to recognize the higher title of the landed proprietors, Lords Fairfax.²⁸

This system, however, did not hamper the freeholder in control of his land. It was the right of the proprietor to "give, grant or by any other way or means sell or alienate" land within the proprietary. Lawful right to property so received from the proprietor could be held in perpetuity by the paying of the annual rent. The freeholder could give or bequeath the land according to the law of the colony, and he was free to exercise all the rights of possession.²⁹

The years of the proprietorship—1649 to 1785—were years of resistance and struggle against both the system and the proprietors. Colonial landowners of

²⁰Freeman, op. cit., p. 45.

²¹Ibid., p. 499.

²²Eskridge Archives, Northumberland Court Order Books of 1704, 1705, 1706

²³Freeman, op. cit., p. 34.

²⁴Ibid., pp. 484, 494.

²⁵Ibid., p. 481.

²⁶Ibid., p. 449.

²⁷Ibid., p. 450.

²⁸Ibid., p. 451.

²⁹Ibid., p. 452.

Eskridge's day were often in rebellion not against the crown, to which they remained loyal, but against the proprietor and his arrogant and demanding land agents.³⁰

At the 1730 meeting of the General Assembly, to which Eskridge was a representative in the House of Burgesses,³¹ the body approved a paper from the citizens of Westmoreland which was a protest against quit-rents, boundaring, manorial rights, titles, and all terms of proprietorship. The king was petitioned to take such action as would "relieve your subjects whose estates lie within the said territory against the exorbitant and unwarrantable powers contained in the Northern Neck grant."³²

Was Eskridge among the protestors? As a landowner of magnitude, he may have been. However, the several official services he performed for the crown may have kept him from being too outspoken on the matter.

IV. ESKRIDGE: ENGLISH-AMERICAN

Lawyer, Landowner, Westmoreland Neighbor, Representative of the Crown,
Representative of the People

The interesting but unanswered question of which side of the fence he was on in the colonial tensions over the proprietorship cautions us not to read too much, beyond available facts, into the life of George Eskridge.

In our study of this historical figure, we are indeed fairly limited to facts available in the court order books and other legal records of Northumberland County and the county formed from it in 1653, Westmoreland. For Eskridge left us no letters or diary—and his family Bible has disappeared—from which we could gain first-hand insight into the nature of the man. We are thus left to wonder not only about his ancestry but also about his personal hopes and desires, his political aspirations, his thoughts on devotion to crown and colony, his loves and friendships, his fears and defeats, his trust in man and God.

Perhaps he was too busy with living to spend time recording the details of that life.

³⁰Freeman, *op. cit.*, p. 451.

³¹*Ibid.*, p. 511.

³²THE VIRGINIA HISTORICAL REGISTER AND LITERARY NOTEBOOK, Vol. IV, edited by William Maxwell, The Reprint Company, Spartanburg, South Carolina, 1973, p. 192.

Probably only four things did Eskridge leave us on his own by which we can begin to know him: his last will and testament,³³ an inventory of his possessions, and two handsome portraits—of himself and his first wife, Rebecca Bonum.³⁴

The will of George Eskridge was dated October 27, 1735, and recorded November 25 of the same year.³⁵ He had died in the weeks between the two dates.

The source of Eskridge's wealth, seen in his will, was in his extensive ownership of several thousand acres of land, including "Sandy Point,"³⁶ "the house and plantation where I now live" (800 acres "more or less" on the Potomac), and a number of slaves. Curiously there is no mention at all of tobacco, but he does mention "cattle, hogs and horse upon my several plantations in Westmoreland County." The beneficiaries included "my loving wife" (second wife, Elizabeth Vaulx³⁷); his children Samuel, William, Robert, Elizabeth, Mrs. Willoughby Newton (and her husband), and Mrs. Howson Kenner (and her husband). He also mentions the children of son George, deceased.

Son Robert was directed "to pay all my debts I now owe any person in Whitehaven, in Great Britain." What, one wonders had he purchased in Great Britain and what did he use for exchange? Tobacco?

The inventory of George Eskridge has no date, so we do not know at what point in his life it was made or which of his homes the items furnished. Furnishings are listed room by room: The Entry, the Landing, the Old Hall, the Chamber Closet, the Parlor Chamber, the Hall Chamber, the Little Room. The kitchen is, apparently, a separate building.

Listed also are "thirty-five negroe slaves—3 white servants" and a "tobacco house." Again, he lists "19 negroes" and, again, "seven negroes."

The thorough historical detective might find clues of Eskridge's personhood in the lengthy catalogue of his books. Can you tell a man by the books he reads? Law books abounded in his library, including THE LAWS OF VIRGINIA, COKE UPON LITTLETON INSTITUTION in two volumes, SUNDRY ACTS OF PARLIAMENT, WEST'S PRECEDENTS, LAWS OF ENGLAND, and THE SPECTATOR, volumes 4, 5, and 6. Plentiful also are books on religion, including "A Latin Bible" and "My English Family Bible."

There is a French and English Grammar and a Latin Dictionary. Was he a formally educated man of letters or a self-taught man?

³³"Will of George Eskridge," NORTHERN NECK OF VIRGINIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE, Vol. XIII, p. 1077 f.

³⁴Ibid., Vol. XIV, p. 1311 ff.

³⁵"Will of George Eskridge," loc. Cit.

³⁶Eskridge Archives

He read history, philosophy, geography, biography.

He read THE WAY TO GET WEALTH in two volumes.

One can believe George Eskridge may well be reflected in the volumes of his library.

Eskridge was married twice, first to Rebecca Bonum—with whom he had six children—and second to Elizabeth Vaulx who bore his seventh child.³⁷ Eskridge became the venerated ancestor of many who live in Westmoreland County today as well as many others who live scattered across the United States.

In addition to his family responsibilities, he was also legal guardian to several minor Northern Neck children and their estates. The most notable of these was Mary Ball, who became the mother of George Washington.³⁸

Mary Ball was orphaned at the age of 12. The will of her mother Mary Johnson Ball Hewes³⁹ provides another clue to the person, George Eskridge: “I do hereby appoint. . . my trusty and well-beloved friend George Eskridge” executor of her estate. The will stipulated that the little girl remain during her minority under the “tutelage and government” of George Eskridge, which she did until her marriage in 1731 to widower Augustine Washington of Pope’s Creek.

Mary Ball was a wealthy young lady when she came to live with the Eskridges at “Sandy Point” on the Potomac in 1721. She had inherited property from her father, mother and brother.⁴⁰ Historians believe “almost certainly” that she named her first-born son George Washington, for her guardian, George Eskridge.⁴¹

George Eskridge was a “lawyer of distinction, a land speculator of skill, and a gentleman of character,” wrote Douglas Southall Freeman in his biography of George Washington. “Perhaps no man of his day served more frequently in the Northern Neck as executor of estates, and none served more acceptably.”⁴²

For most of the legislative terms of three decades—from 1705 to 1735—he was a Burgess from Westmoreland,⁴³ elected by the colonists to serve the colonists. We can certainly assume that the propertied male voters of the county believed in his ability to represent their interests.

³⁷Ibid., Mary H. West, “George Eskridge of Virginia.”

³⁸Ibid.

³⁹Freeman, op. cit., p. 43

⁴⁰THE VIRGINIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Vol. VIII, p. 286

⁴¹Freeman, loc. cit., p. 43 f.

⁴²Ibid., p. 47.

⁴³Ibid., p. 45.

The journals of the House of Burgesses show that he was a member of the most important committees and worked closely with the most influential men of the government.⁴⁴

Eskridge also served as a member of the county militia and as a vestryman and warden of Cople Parish.⁴⁵

A servant of the people of the Virginia colony, Eskridge was also a servant of the crown. In 1703 he was appointed Queen's Attorney. The court order book also shows that in 1719 he was appointed "Attorney for our Sovereign Lord, the King, in the County, which office the said Eskridge was willing to accept (excepting those causes he is now engaged in against the King)."⁴⁶

What clue is there in that phrase "those causes he is now engaged in against the King"? As revolutionary fervor and the idea of independence were still a half century away, does this perhaps refer instead to the tensions of the proprietary?

The official appointments of Eskridge were made by the governor in the name of the king. Among these were coroner, member of the Quorum of the county court, and tobacco agent.⁴⁷ We can assume also that he served as justice of the peace, because this position was usually required of the coroner and of a member of the Quorum.

The major duty of the coroner was to hold inquests over the bodies of persons who had met with violent deaths.⁴⁸

Members of the Quorum were judges of the county court (a lower court). The law provided that the court, which met monthly, could not convene unless four justices were present, at least one of who must be a member of the Quorum. The purpose of this provision was to assure that at least one of the justices would be "eminent for skill and discretion," because it was true that few of the magistrates were learned in the law or possessed a formal education. The Quorum appointment system was adopted in Virginia from the custom prevailing in England.⁴⁹

As tobacco agent, it would have been Eskridge's duty to inspect the tobacco warehouses "for preventing fraud in his majesty's customs."

⁴⁴Ibid.

⁴⁵Eskridge Papers, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond.

⁴⁶David W. Eaton, HISTORICAL ATLAS OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY VIRGINIA, The Dietz Press, Richmond, Virginia, 1942, p. 36.

⁴⁷Eskridge Archives

⁴⁸VIRGINIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY, Vol. II, p. 10

⁴⁹Oliver Perry Chitwood, JUSTICE IN COLONIAL VIRGINIA, Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, 1905, p. 104.

Eskridge's career of service to the Northern Neck counties of Northumberland and, most particularly, Westmoreland was grounded in the fact that he was a lawyer and, quite apparently, one of ability and dedication.

How, then, did he achieve this profession? Again, we do not know. We can only study the trend of the colonial times in this area and draw tentative conclusions.

In colonial America the study of law was common among the educated classes, and this was particularly true among the planters in Virginia. As in England, a general knowledge of the law was considered an important part of a proper education in the eighteenth century.⁵⁰

In England, a student destined for law would likely pursue his education through Eton, Oxford or Cambridge, and, finally, at the Inns of the Court. This route to the bar, or course, was not open to most Virginians.⁵¹

In Virginia, from 1680 to 1776, only 46 men—or 13 percent—of the 367 lawyers had college educations, and the majority of these had attended the College of William and Mary.⁵² There were no law schools in America prior to the Revolution.⁵³

In the period 1674 to 1700—the years when Eskridge probably would have been preparing for his profession—only nine Virginians are known to have attended the Inns of the Court in London.⁵⁴

Of all Virginians who were students at the Inns in the 1674-1776 period, the Northern Neck alone, however, supplied 29 percent of them. The reason for this lies in the fact that the area was dominated by wealthy planters who had a particular interest in law study because of their constant dealing in land transfer and disputes over deeds and boundaries.⁵⁵

If he could not seek education at the Inns, a man was forced to read law on his own, a difficult and demanding process. An aspiring lawyer could serve as apprentice to an attorney in England or the colony. Perhaps he would study law while serving in some governmental capacity such as county clerk. Some students even trained themselves through unsupervised private study.⁵⁶

⁵⁰Chitwood, loc. cit., p. 78

⁵¹VIRGINIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY, Vol. XXXVII, p. 12

⁵²Alan McKinley Smith, VIRGINIA LAWYERS, 1680-1776: THE BIRTH OF AN AMERICAN PROFESSION, Johns Hopkins University Dissertati, 1967, University Microfilms, Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1971, p. 61.

⁵³Ibid., p. 76.

⁵⁴Ibid., p. 115.

⁵⁵Ibid., p. 140.

⁵⁶Ibid., p. 143.

The catalogue of Eskridge's law books, listed in his inventory, certainly points to self-study and self-education. Two of these volumes are particularly notable clues of his situation: first, COKE UPON LITTLETON INSTITUTION was a universal basic text for the students of English law in Virginia;⁵⁷ and, second, Steele's SPECTATOR may reveal in Eskridge a kinship with the great satirist. Steele wrote disdainfully of the students at the Inns by saying they "frequent the Play House more than Westminster Hall, and are seen in all publick Assemblies, except in a Court of Justice."⁵⁸

In the colonies, far removed from London, there was no distinction made between barristers (those called to the English bar) and attorney but special privileges were enjoyed by those who had studied at the Inns. Other lawyers had to prove themselves in the county courts, and most of these never were admitted to the General Court bar. In Virginia from 1674 to 1776, there were only 20 barristers.⁵⁹

Statutes of 1643 and 1680, and again in the eighteenth century, provided for licensing of attorneys by the governor or General Court. Licenses were granted to qualified men who had passed examination by a person learned in the law.

Eskridge was a busy man, juggling several careers and activities. He also must have juggled several attitudes. One wonders, for example, how, in his own mind, his devotion to his church was compatible with his position as a slave holder. Did he have any thoughts on the matter?

To visit the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond and look into the face of George Eskridge's portrait, one is tempted to say to the man, "Speak to me! I have so many questions to ask you."

But the portrait is silent except to bear witness to Eskridge's station in life—and perhaps his vanity—because of the dress portrayed and because the subject took the trouble to have his likeness preserved on canvass.

So we continue to study the facts, analyzing and interpreting them carefully. It could take a lifetime, but the results can be more fascinating, real, and human than any legend.

And, inevitably, we will be led to continue wondering about things. Perhaps he preferred it that way.

⁵⁷Smith, loc. cit., p. 144.

⁵⁸Ibid., p. 76.

⁵⁹Ibid., p. 206.

⁶⁰Ibid., p. 167.

⁶¹Ibid., p. 175.

⁶²Chitwood, op. cit., p. 118.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Beale, Lucy Brown, "Colonel George Eskridge," NORTHERN NECK OF VIRGINIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE, Vol. III, December, 1953.**
- Chitwood, Oliver Perry, JUSTICE IN COLONIAL VIRGINIA, Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, 1905.**
- Eaton, David W., HISTORICAL ATLAS OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY VIRGINIA, The Dietz Press, Richmond, Virginia, 1942.**
- Eskridge Family Association Archives, Westmoreland Colonial Memorial Museum, Montross, Virginia**
- Eskridge Papers, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond.**
- Freeman, Douglas Southall, GEORGE WASHINGTON, Vol. I, Charles Scribner & Sons, New York, 1948.**
- Knowles, Charles, PORTRAITS OF THE FOUNDERS, VOL. III, Boston, 1926, Reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1976.**
- Nash, Gary B., RED, WHITE, AND BLACK, Prentice-Hall, Inc., New Jersey**
- Newton, Blake T., "Inventory of Goods and Chattels of Col. George Eskridge, "NORTHERN NECK OF VIRGINIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE, Vol., XIV, December 1964.**
- Norris, Robert O., "Mary Ball Washington and Her Family," NORTHERN NECK OF VIRGINIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE, Vol. III, December 1953.**
- Smith, Alan McKinley, VIRGINIA LAWYERS, 1680-1776: THE BIRTH OF AN AMERICAN PROFESSION, Johns Hopkins University Dissertation, 1967, University Microfilms, Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1971.**
- TYLER'S QUARTERLY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE, Vol., IV, edited by Lyon G. Tyler, Richmond Press, Inc., Richmond, Virginia, 1923.**
- THE VIRGINIA HISTORICAL REGISTER AND LITERARY NOTEBOOK, Vol. IV, edited by William Maxwell, the Reprint Company, Spartanburg, South Carolina, 1973.**
- THE VIRGINIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY, Vol. I, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond.**

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

THE VIRGINIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY, Vol. II, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond.

_____, Vol. VIII.

_____, Vol., XXXVII.

Warner, Charles, Willard Hoskins, "George Eskridge of Westmoreland: His Age and Political Career," NORTHERN NECK OF VIRGINIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE, Vol. XVI, December, 1966.

Westmoreland County Court Order Books, Westmoreland County Court House, Montross, Virginia

"Will of George Eskridge," NORTHERN NECK OF VIRGINIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE, Vol. XII, December, 1962.

WILLIAM AND MARY QUARTERLY, Vol. VII, edited by Lyon G. Tyler, Whittet & Shepperson, Richmond, Virginia, 1899.

GENERATION 2

WILLIAM 2 ESKRIDGE

GENERATION 2

2008 Edition

GENERATION 2 --- WILLIAM 2 ESKRIDGE (GEORGE 1) was born ca 1693/1694 He died ca 1744.

He married Abigail Coulbourne (daughter of William Coulbourne and Ann Revel), probably in Somerset Co MD and probably around 1720. This probable date and court records that indicate the fact that on 28 March 1716, George Eskridge and his son William Eskridge witnessed a document – and you had to be 21 to witness any legal document “indicate the probable birth date of 1693/1694.

In 1747, Abigail Coulbourne Eskridge married William Dunbar. Abigail came from Dorchester Co MD. William 2 Eskridge and Abigail may have lived there as well as in Westmoreland Co VA. Abigail’s second husband William Dunbar must have owned property in Northumberland Co VA as his name appears in the records there together with the names of his stepsons Thomas 3 and Robert 3.

“William was the Colonel’s heir-at-law and therefore older than George Jr “

William Thorndale 18 May 1986

Children of William 2 Eskridge and Abigail Coulbourne:

1. George 3 Eskridge -- born 1726; died 1749 -- more
2. Robert 3 Eskridge -- born ? died? will filed in 1765
3. Thomas 3 Eskridge -- born? died ca 12 March 1761 -- more
4. Samuel 3 Eskridge -- born? died by 1750 -- more

GEORGE 2 ESKRIDGE

GENERATION 2

2008 Edition

GENERATION 2 --- GEORGE 2 ESKRIDGE (GEORGE 1) was born 1683. He died ca 1731/1732.

He married Hannah Rust ca 1720 of Northumberland Co VA -- daughter of Samuel Rust and Martha Butler. He died before his father, Col George Eskridge. This is known because Col George Eskridge willed his Flat Lick property (Flat Lick is a small stream which is a small tributary of Bull Run) to, among others, his grandsons -- sons of the deceased George 2 Eskridge jr.

George 2 died intestate in Westmoreland Co VA and administration was granted to his father 29 November 1732.

The colonel's will of 27 October 1735 says:

"I give unto the four sons of my son George, deceased, four slaves apiece when they respectively arrive at the age of twenty-one years"

also

"All of the rest of the said tract at Flat Lick I give to be equally divided among the children of my son George and the daughter of my daughter Margaret Kenner and their heirs."

The division of the Flat Lick land, then in Fairfax Co VA, is recorded in the Westmoreland Co records along with a plat showing that each of the grandsons -- Samuel, George, Thomas and William received 318 acres. In 1747, Samuel 3 of Northumberland Co sold his 318 acres and in 1752, William 3 and his wife both of St Stephens Parish Northumberland Co VA sold William's 318 acres. William's deed specifically says the tract of 318 acres "was given to the William Eskridge by his grandfather Col George Eskridge, deceased." There are absolutely no records of any other Samuel Eskridges or William Eskridges in Northumberland Co VA prior to the Revolution -- so the proof that these two were indeed the sons of George 2 Eskridge jr and the grandsons of Col

George Eskridge.

Children of George 2 Eskridge jr and Hannah Rust:

1. Samuel 3 Eskridge -- married 1747 Mrs Mary (Foushee) Lewis, widow of John Lewis. Samuel was guardian of his brothers Thomas & William -- more
2. George 3 Eskridge -- born 6 August 1724, died ?—a Rust family history reports that George 3 had died without issue as of 1756. We are not sure how this conclusion was reached. Recent DNA evidence points to this George as being the one that married Hannah Demourville and had at least 2 children: Lt William 4 Eskridge and Sgt. George Eskridge of Kentucky.
3. Captain William 3 Eskridge -- born after 1725; will 1782 -- more
4. Thomas 3 Eskridge -- a minor in 1746 -- more
5. Rebecca 3 Eskridge -- married John Arris

Info comes from 1) Genealogical and Biographical Sketches of the Descendants of William Rust, 1654-1940, By Ellsworth Marshall Rust, pp 53/54 and 2.) Mr William Thorndale, a Salt Lake City UT professional genealogist

SAMUEL 2 ESKRIDGE

GENERATION 2

2008 Edition

GENERATION 2 – SAMUEL 2 ESKRIDGE (Geo 1) was born ?; died 1746/47.

Samuel 2 Eskridge appears to have remained at home until after his father's death in 1735. According to the inventory of Col. George Eskridge's estate, his room was clearly that of a single man: "Mr Samuel Eskridge's room, one bed and furniture, one desk, 3 flagg chairs, 1 pr. pistols". Samuel's room was the only one mentioned by name. He was, very likely, assisting his father with the management of the plantation. The plantation – Sandy Point-- was left to him in the will of his father, to come to him at death of his step-mother – Elizabeth Vaulx Eskridge. This tract included about 800 acres as well as the house. Col George also left "Samuel and his heirs" 500 acres of land – part of a tract called Flat Lick, then in Prince William Co., VA – today it's Fairfax Co., VA. He also received 15 slaves.

It has been conceded that Samuel 2 married Jane "Jean" Ashton (born before 1706 Westmoreland Co., VA -- died 6 March 1781 Fauquier Co., VA). She was the daughter of Charles Ashton Jr and Margaret Hart (herself daughter of Margaret Field and Col. Edward Hart). In his will, dated 9 September 1724, Charles Ashton jr, named sons, John, Charles, and Burdett, and daughter Jane. All were under age 18 at the time of the writing of the will. Jane was put in the care of her Aunt Storke to be educated.

The children of Samuel 2 Eskridge and Jane "Jean" Ashton were Charles 3, Richard 3, Burdette 3, Rebecca 3 and John 3. The similarity of the names of 3 of these sons to those of Jane's father and brothers is significant. Burdett is an Ashton name, Frances Burdette being the mother of Charles Ashton Jr. Richard 3 was named for Richard Barnard, second husband of Jane's Aunt Storke. Rebecca, the only daughter, on the other hand, was probably named for Samuel's mother, Rebecca Bonum.

The Ashton connection continued to be reflected in later generations. Charles Gurley 5 Eskridge, grandson of Charles 3 Eskridge, and the Rev. Vernon 5 Eskridge, grandson of John 3 Eskridge repeatedly stated that they were related to the Ashtons. The name was passed to Harriet Ashton 5 Eskridge, daughter of William 4 (Chas 3) Eskridge as well as to 2 children and a grandchild of Hector Ross 4 Eskridge (Chas 3). The given names of the children of Jane Ashton and Samuel Eskridge were also perpetuated in succeeding generations.

The above information should be given to the Jamestowne Society in order to establish the Eskridge-Ashton connection.

From Westmoreland County Wills (abstracts), by Augusta Fathergill, 1654-1800

Ashton, Charles, 9 Sept 1724; 30 Sept. 1724

Land in Mattox to son John; youngest sons Charles and Burdett residue of my land; my daughter Jane 3 negroes and to be educated by her aunt Storke; my bro Burdett Ashton to be ext; all my children now under 1 years of age.

In 1737, Samuel was appointed a member of the Governor's "Commission of the Peace". Samuel Eskridge died in 1746/ 1747 and Jane Ashton was appointed administrator of his estate.

At Samuel's death, Peter Rust became guardian of his children, but was released in 1751. John, the youngest son, was then put with Col. James Steptoe (who married John's Aunt Elizabeth 2 Eskridge). As there was not sufficient estate (John's estate) to support him. Jane Ashton Eskridge was frequently in courts. On 30 June 1747, Augustine Washington was ordered to settle all differences between Ann 3 and Mary 3 Aylett, orphans of William Aylett and Mrs Jane Eskridge, administrator of Samuel 2 Eskridge.

Children of Samuel 2 Eskridge and Jane Ashton:

1. Charles 3 Eskridge – born 27 August 1737; died 12 July 1803; married twice -- more
2. Richard 3 Eskridge – born 1739 VA; died 1816 Caswell Co., NC; married 12 June 1764 Elizabeth Read – more
3. Burdette 3 Eskridge – born 1740 VA; died 1781 SC; married twice – more
4. Rebecca 3 Eskridge – born 1742; died ca 1820-1830; married Capt. Peter Rust -- more
5. John (Ashton) 3 Eskridge – born 1743; died 1803 or 1804; married twice -- more

ASHTON FAMILY INFORMATION

Jane Ashton was the daughter of Charles Ashton Jr and Margaret Hart

Charles Ashton Jr was born 1673/1675 in Northumberland Co., VA

In turn he was the son of:

Captain John Ashton and Grace Ashton Kay Meese

Captain John Ashton was in VA by 1654, aged 48 years or thereabouts
31 May 1671, hence born about 1623; died 1677.

There were at least 7 children

In turn Captain John Ashton was the son of:

Captain Charles Ashton, born 1621 ENGLAND & Isabella Ashton
DeClare

Charles H Ashton, a descendant of Captain John Ashton born about 1770, made some attempt to claim whatever might be coming to him as heir male of Sir Ralph Assheton, of Middleton. According to a letter of his lawyer, Augustine Fitzhugh, written about 1840, papers in his possession proved that Captain John Ashton was the brother of Sir Ralph Assheton, of Middleton, first Baronet, whose male line failed in 1765. this is not one of the fly-by-night estate claims and Fitzhugh said that the sole reason for dropping the claim was the death of his client without issue.

Tradition, often misleading, claims that Capt. John Ashton was an officer in Cromwell's forces – most of the Virginia gentry claimed to have fought on the other side.

Thanks to Coz. David Kelley for contributing information for this section.

**We have been told the following information will qualify descendants of
Samuel 2 Eskridge for the Order of Charlemagne.**

1. Charlemagne, 742-814 (Hildegard 753-783)
2. Louis I, 778-840 (Judith of Bavaria, -843)
3. Charles II, 838-877 (Ermentrude, -869)
4. Hersent of France, -877 ()
5. Giselbert, Duke of Lorraine, -939 (Gerberga, -984)
6. Albert I, 920-988 ()
7. Herbert III, 955-1000 (Ermengarde,)
8. Otho, 1000-1045 (Pavie,)
9. Herbert IV, 1032-1080 (Adela de Vixen,)
10. Adelaide, -1120 (High the Great, 1101)
11. Isabel De Vermandois, -1147 (Robert de Beaumont 1046-1118)
12. Robert de Beaumont II, 1104-1168 (Amica de Monfort,)
13. Robert de Beaumont III, -1190 (Petroalla, -1212)
14. Margaret de Beaumont, -1235 (Sainer Quincy, -1219)
15. Hawise de Quincy, (Hugh de Vere, 1210-1263)
16. Isabel de Vere, -1273/4 (Sir John de Courtenay, -1274/5)
17. Sir Hugh de Courtenay, -1291 (Eleanor le Desperse, -1328)
18. Eleanor de Courtenay, (Sir Henry Grey, -1308)
19. Sir Richard Grey, 1281-1334 (Jean Fitzpayn,)
20. Sir Robert Grey, K.G., 1320-1351 (Elizabeth de Briene,)
21. Elizabeth de Grey Fitzpayn, -1394 (Sir Robert Poynings, 1355-138_)
22. Jane Poynings, (Sir Richard Camoys, Knt)
23. Margaret Camoys, 1402 -1443 (Ralph Radmylde,)
24. Margaret Radmylde, -1495 (Sir John Goring of Burton,)
25. John Goring of Burton, (John Hewster,)
26. John Goring, -1520 (Constance,)
27. Constance Goring, (Sir John Kingsmill, -1580)
28. Mary Kingsmill, (Sir Robert Godd, -1610)
29. Bridget Goddard, (William Gordray, 1575-1623)
30. Bridget Cordray, 1629-30 (Samuel Ironmonger, -1650)
31. William Ironmonger, 1628-1695 (Elizabeth Jones, -1665)
32. Mary Ironmonger, 1640- (Abraham Fields, 1636-1674)
33. Margaret Field, bef. 1676 - (Edward Hart, -1703)
34. Margaret Hart, 1680-1724 (Charles Ashton, Jr, 1675-1724)
35. Jane Ashton, ward 1720-1788 (Samuel 2 Eskridge, 1710-1747)

ROBERT 2 ESKRIDGE

GENERATION 2

2008 Edition

GENERATION 2 ---- DR ROBERT 2 ESKRIDGE (Geo 1), born in Westmoreland Co Virginia after 1702; died at sea or in Guinea, West Africa, 16 July 1747

Dr. Robert 2 Eskridge (Geo 1) was one of the younger Eskridge children, not yet 16 in 1718. Named possibly for his maternal great grandfather Robert Philpot, he may have been a favorite son as he was the only one to be "sent home" to GREAT BRITAIN to be educated.

Thomas Mackie of Langtounsyde, a Glasgow SCOTLAND merchant, in his will dated 4 October 1718 and probated 30 April 1719, provided for the education and board of "Robert Eskridge, son of George Eskridge of Virginia". Presumably, Thomas Mackie was one of Eskridge's commercial agents in GREAT BRITAIN as claims from merchants in Glasgow, London and Whitehaven were filed against the estate of George Eskridge after his death. By the terms of Mackie's will, he appointed his executors to educate young Robert Eskridge " at the grammar-school of Woodend where he now is, and afterwards, in university and other learning and to pay the expenses of his education and board until he is sixteen years old, when he is to receive 30 pounds sterling and be sent back to his native country whence he was brought under the defunct's care. But if his father wishes to recall him before, then he is only to receive the 30 pounds." 1./

Woodend Grammar School is thought to have been in SCOTLAND, but this is conjecture. Whether Robert actually attended a university and earned an MD is also not positively known. It would appear so, however. In Virginia, he was styled "Doctor Robert Eskridge of Westmoreland and Northumberland Counties", whereas in ENGLAND as "Mr Robert Eskridge, apothecary and surgeon". The 2 designations are not incongruous, since few physicians in ENGLAND, surgeons excepted, are entitled even today, to the title "Doctor". Nevertheless, a search of student lists of the then

extant British universities yields no Robert Eskridge. The possibility remains that he either attended the University of Leiden in the Netherlands or was apprenticed to a surgeon-apothecary based in Glasgow.

Nothing further is heard of this British-educated son of Col. George Eskridge until 13 February 1734/1735 when the marriage of "Mr Robert Eskridge" to "Mrs Jane Biglands, Spinster" was solemnized at St Nicholas Old Chapel, Whitehaven ENGLAND. The name of the bride's father is not disclosed, but her mother was Mrs. Ann Biglands. Mr William Thorndale, a genealogist of Salt Lake City UT, who discovered the marriage record in 1986, suggests that "the fact that Robert's bride was called 'Mrs. Jane Biglands, Spinstr' , . . . strongly suggests her father had some social prominence or had a coat of arms, that is, he was regarded as a gentleman entitled to be addressed as 'Mr.'; and thus his unmarried daughter as 'Mrs.'; as a matter of courtesy."

The marriage between Dr Robert 2 Eskridge and Mrs Jane Biglands occurred "by license", not "after banns". The license turned up in 1987, thanks to the researches of Mr Alan J Phipps, Genealogist, Salt Lake City UT, in the Diocese of Chester ENGLAND, rather than in the Diocese of Carlisle, as might have been expected. The bondsman was Clement Nicholson and the witness to the bond William Brisco. The latter was also the Clergyman who issued the license.

Not long after his marriage, Dr Robert Eskridge brought his bride home to Virginia. He had hardly arrived when his father, writing his will (27 October 1735), appointed Robert as one of 3 executors of his will. Col Eskridge died within the month and on 25 November, Robert 2, his brother Samuel 2 and Captain George Turberville appeared in probate court to present the last will and testament of Colonel George

Eskridge.

By the terms of the will, Robert 2 received the following legacies:

1. Land at Machotic Quarter -- located in Westmoreland (now sw Fauquier) Co Virginia
2. Land at this Marsh, Prince William Co VA, upon condition that he /Robert/ pay all his father's debts owed at Whitehaven England. The word marsh at the time meant low, but tillable land, usually in a stream valley.
3. 16 negroes at Machotic Quarter -- names not given

Robert 2 and Jane (Biglands) Eskridge took up residence in Westmoreland Co VA at "Wilton". "Wilton" remains one of the oldest inhabited homes in the Northern Neck of Virginia, having been built about 1685 by John Gerrard, grandson of Dr Thomas Gerrard of St Clement's Manor MD, who purchased the property in 1662. It is a modest Fleish-bond structure, pleasantly seated between two streams which converge at the foot of the lawn to form Jackson's Creek. Of great dignity, the house is distinguished by its unusually thick walls and massive "outside" chimneys. A right dependency has been added in recent years.

This plantation came into possession of the Eskridge family upon the death of John Gerrard, grandson of Dr Thomas Gerrard, in 1711. On 6 June 1738 Dr Robert 2 Eskridge and Jane his wife sold "Wilton" to Richard Jackson, a merchant, and gave power-of-attorney to Willoughby Newton as they were "for to go to England".

Willoughby Newton was brother-in-law to both Richard Jackson and Robert Eskridge. Simultaneously, Jane Eskridge relinquished her dower thirds to Jackson. On the same day, Robert Eskridge signed the following document selling 6 slaves - Bowson, Taffy, Mingo, Nelly, Justy ? and Pegg to Richard Jackson.

KNOW ALL men of these present yt I Robert Eskridge of the County of Westmoreland in the Colony of Virginia Hath Bargained Sold & Delivered unto Mr. Richard Jackson Merchant Six Negroes Viz: Bowson, Taffy, Mingo, Nelly, Justy /?/ & Pegg for the Valuable Consideration of One Hundred pounds Sterling money of Great Britain which Said Negroes I do hereby Warrant unto the said Richard Jackson his heirs Exctrs Admtrs & c from the Claim or Claims of any person or persons Whatsoever -- as Witness my hand and Seale this six Day of June in ye Yeare of our Lord Christ One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Eight

s/ Robert Eskridge

Signed, Sealed & Delivered

In the presence of us - - -

Sam'll Oldham
Daniel Jennings
Willoughby Newton

What disposition was made of Robert's other 10 inherited slaves remains a question.

Robert and Jane seem to have lived first at Whitehaven and subsequently at Workington after their return to England, but Jane was living in Whitehaven, not Workington during the probate of his estate. The probate names Robert's mother-in-law as Ann Bigland, which confirms Bigland as Jane's maiden surname. Both are coastal towns in County Cumberland in nw England. In those days, Whitehaven did a lively trade with the Maryland and Virginia colonists as much of the Scottish-American trade went via Whitehaven to minimize customs duties and to circumvent trade restrictions. Col George Eskridge of Potomack was admitted as a Burgess and Guidsbrother of Glasgow on 17 December 1718 – gratis. During the early eighteenth century the city of Glasgow admitted a number of American residents, some Scots of Scottish origin, to the ranks of the burgesses at no cost – probably to generate

trade between Glasgow and the colonies. This also means that he was in Glasgow at that time and that he may have been a merchant-skipper trading from the Potomack to the Clyde and that Robert may have been in Scotland because of the tobacco trade. John Paul Jones, whose favorite town in America was Fredericksburg VA and who today is honored as "Father of the American Navy", was a native of Whitehaven.

On 10 October 1744, Dr Robert Eskridge, through his atty, Jane Eskridge, appointed his "Trusty friends" Willoughby Newton and Richard Jackson to collect all moneys due him in Virginia.

KNOW ALL Men by these presents That I Robert Eskridge of Whitehaven in the County of Cumberland Appothecary & Surgeon by Jane Eskridge my wife and Lawfull Attorney in this and other behalfs Lawfully Authorized Have made Ordained Constituted & appoint my Trusty friends Willoughby Newton and Richard Jackson both of Potomack in Virginia my true and Lawful Attorneys for me in my Name place and Stead to Ask Demand Sue Pr . . . /illegible/ of and from any person or persons whatsoever to us in any wise . . . evry Such Summ or Sums of Money are now or hereafter may become payable unto us from Such person or Persons aforesaid for any Cause matter or thing whatsoever And upon . . . Payment full or any Such Sum or Sums of Money I hereby give unto my said Attorneys Jointly & Lawfully full power and Authority in my Name place or Stead or in their own Name or Names upon my . . . for Sigi . . . Sufficit . . . or Discharges the Same And Lastly whatsoever Shall do Lawfully was by or Vertue of these presents I do hereby Allow Ratify and confirm to all intents and purposes as fully as if I my Self were present doing the Same in my own proper person. In Witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and Seal the Tenth Day of October in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and forth four . . .

s/ Robt Eskridge
by Jane Eskridge
his Attorney

Sealed & Delivered)
(on Paper duly)
Stampd) in the)
persons of us)

Joseph Rothmy	)	
Nicholas Wilson	)	
James Forbis	)	Done in England on Stamped paper. Robert Eskridge's seal was the King's head.

The question arises, why did Robert Eskridge appoint his wife to be his attorney in 1744? Could it have been due to his accepting a post as surgeon on board a "Guinea ship", so called? A "Guinea ship" was a merchant ship engaged in the lucrative trade along the GUINEA or GOLD COAST of WEST AFRICA. Such a voyage might entail absence from home for months at a time, or even longer, it being the first leg of the triangular voyage, originating in Great Britain and extending south to West Africa, then west across the Atlantic to the West Indies or the American Continental Colonies, back across the Atlantic, destination Great Britain. In the course of the voyage, trade goods, including firearms, from England were exchanged for African slaves, African slaves for West Indian rum and molasses, Carolina rice and indigo, or Maryland and Virginia tobacco and cotton.

Records of the Archdeaconry Court of Richmond, Deanery of Copeland, England, reveal that Dr Robert 2 Eskridge died 16 July 1747 while serving as ship's surgeon on the merchant "Guinea ship 'Duke of Queensborough'," belonging to Bristol, the leading port of southwest England. He died at sea intestate. Jane, his wife, acted as administratrix of the estate. The inventory was designated "uncertain", amounting to less than 30 pounds.

It remains uncertain whether Jane Eskridge re-married and where she is buried. It is certain that she was living at Whitehaven during the probate of her late husband's estate.

Jane and Robert 2 Eskridge had at least 4 children born to them after their return to England from Virginia -- 3 girls - Ann, Jane and Rebecca and a boy - Clement. The

christening records for Ann, Jane and Clement are preserved in the Diocese of Carlisle Bishop's transcripts; death records for Ann, Jane and Rebecca in the burial register of Workington, 1740-1750. Further investigation of the English records may yet yield Clement's date of death and place of burial.

There may have been other children, born between 1735 and 1738 in Virginia and/or between 1742 and 1747 in England. There was an Ann Eskridge, an orphan of 11 years of age in 1749 who was put in the care of Richard Jackson in Virginia, may have been still another daughter. Any surviving children, including Clement, may have been the ascendants of the persons who advertised in England ca 1850 for the heirs of Colonel George Eskridge of Virginia.

Children of Dr Robert 2 Eskridge and Jane Biglands:

1. Ann 3 Eskridge, christened 23 June 1739, St Nicholas Old Chapel, Whitehaven, County Cumberland England; buried 6 April 1740 Workington, County Cumberland England
2. Jane 3 Eskridge, christened 20 September 1740, St Michael, Workington, County Cumberland England; buried there, 27 June 1742
3. Clement 3 Eskridge, christened 20 October 1741, St Michael, Workington, County Cumberland England -- may have been named for Clement Nicholson, bondsman on Robert's marriage license, County Chester England.
4. Rebecca 3 Eskridge, buried 7 June 1743, Workington, County Cumberland England.

1./ Glasgow Testaments, Vol 48, "Virginia Gleanings in England", Virginia Historical Magazine, Vol XII, pp 86-87



Wilton c. 1903. *Photographed by John Rogers Williams.*

DANIEL 2 ESKRIDGE

GENERATION 2

2008 Edition

GENERATION 2 ---- DANIEL 2 ESKRIDGE (Geo 1) was born probably in Westoreland Co. VA; living 22 February 1726; died between 1727 and 1735.

Daniel 2 Eskridge is not generally listed among the children of Col. George and Rebecca (Bonum) Eskridge. That he was a son and was living in 1726; however, is attested by the will of a certain John King. In this will, Daniel Eskridge, son of Major Eskridge, is given as one of the heirs.

An abstract of this will reads:

"KING, JOHN, 3 December 1726; 22 February 1726 (1727?)
 Son James; grandson John Spence; my bro's daughter Mary; son in
 law John Spence 1 gun; Daniel son of Major George Eskridge 1 gun;
 wife, Margaret rest of estate." 1./

Daniel's name does not appear at all in his father's will, which was written in 1735. It is assumed, therefore, that Daniel had predeceased his father.

Nothing else is known with respect to Daniel 2 Eskridge. Perhaps he could be the grandfather of some of the unidentified northern Eskridges from the last half of the 18th century, but that is only conjecture.

1./ Westmoreland County Wills and Inventories, Augusta? Fathergill p. 86

SARAH 2 ESKRIDGE

GENERATION 2

2008 Edition

GENERATION 2 --- SARAH 2 ESKRIDGE (George 1) was born 1707 and died 2 December 1753 Westmoreland Co VA.

She married ca 1725 Capt Willoughby Newton (born October 1703; died 26 May 1767), son of Captain Thomas Newton and Elizabeth Storke (sometimes spelled Starke). Elizabeth was in turn the daughter of Nehemiah Storke and Behethland Gilson. Descendants of Sarah 2 and Willoughby Newton are eligible to join The Jamestown Society because they are descended from Capt. Robert Behethland, the sole 1607 Jamestown settler to leave present-day descendants. Capt Behethland accompanied John Smith on his visit to the "Emperor" Powhatan (see Smith's "Travels and Adventures," Vol 1, Page 166).

The Newton family of Westmoreland Co VA is an ancient lineage, going back to the British prince Caractacus, one of the 10 Cunobelinus (Shakespeare's Cymbeline) and later King Caradoc. According to the Roman writer Suetonius, Caractacus, when hauled in chains before the Roman Emperor Claudius, is said to have addressed the Emperor thus:

"If to my high birth and distinguished rank I had added the virtues of moderation Rome had beheld me rather as a friend than a captive, and you would not have rejected an alliance with a prince descended from illustrious ancestors and governing many nations. The reverse of my fortune is glorious to you, and to me humiliating. I had arms, and men, and horses; I possessed extraordinary riches; and can it be any wonder that I was unwilling to lose them? Because Rome aspires to universal dominion must men therefore implicitly resign themselves to subjection? I opposed for a long time the progress of your arms, and had I acted otherwise would either you have had the glory of conquest or I of a brave resistance? I am now in your power. If you are determined to take revenge, my fate will soon be forgotten and you will derive no honour from the transaction.. Preserve my life, and I shall remain to the latest ages a monument to your Clemency.

"Immediately upon this speech, Claudius granted him his liberty, as he did likewise to the

other royal captives. They all returned their thanks in a manner the most grateful to the Emperor; and as soon as their chains were taken off, walking towards Agrippina /wife of Claudius/ who sat upon a bench at a little distance, they repeated to her the same fervent declaration of gratitude and esteem.”

John Newton, born ca 1639 near Hull, Yorkshire, ENGLAND, was the progenitor of the Newton family of Westmoreland Co VA. He was the grandfather of Captain Willoughby Newton and a master mariner. He migrated to Maryland in 1660 then crossed over to Westmoreland Co VA shortly thereafter. He became a Justice for that county and represented Westmoreland in the House of Burgesses. He died at his home “Wilmington” 1695-1697 as did his wife Rose, daughter of Dr Thomas Gerrard.

A tombstone still existent was raised on that part of “Wilmington” now called “Clover Dale”. The inscription reads:

”Beneath this stone are deposited
The Remains of
Mrs Sarah Newton
Daughter of Col George Eskridge
and the late wife of
Capt. Willoughby Newton
of Westmoreland County
Who after having Justly Established
The Character of
A dutiful child a beautiful friend
An affectionate Mother
And a sincere Christian
Departed this life
On the Second Day of Dec. 1753
In the 46th Year of her age.”

The slab on which this copy is brown sand-stone or slate, and is well preserved, the lettering very plain.

There is another slab like that of Mrs Newton’s grave, but no so long, from which

the lettering has disappeared, with the exception of “Day April, 1759”. Is this the grave-stone of Capt. Willoughby Newton? The two gravestones were removed to the church-yard of Yeocomico Church, Westmoreland Co VA some years ago.

Sarah 2 Eskridge and Capt. Willoughby Newton may have lived for a time in Richmond Co VA, as abstracts from the Register of Farmham Parish that county at the County Clerk’s Office, Warsaw VA, show:

“born Thomas, son of Willoughby and Sarah Newton, Dec 20, 1723/4
born Rebecca, dau of Willoughby and Sarah Newton, Oct 6, 1726” ____/
(VA Mag H&B, v VI, p 54)

There is no proof that this Sarah Newton was the daughter of Col George Eskridge or whether these children survived. However, they are not mentioned in Willoughby Newton’s will, drawn 7 December 1766; codicil 6 January 1767; probated 26 May 1767.

In an edited version of Captain Willoughby Newton’s will:

“ . . . I give bequeath and devise to my son John Newton, my Mill and all my lands in Westmoreland County to him and his heirs forever except the land I bought of Phillip Ludwell Lee, esq., I also give unto my son John Newton my Cherry tree desk and book case with glass door together with all my books One Silver Tankard and silver salver the new case of knives and forks with the dozen of silver spoons in the case and four silver salts and ladles two beds and furniture belonging to the rooms upstairs also One dozen of Chairs mad by Spence Monroe and three tables in the new house also twenty head of Cattle in Neck at Bonams and six negroes Vizt. Neck, Akey, Narvin, Caezar, Saul, little George and Isaac the black smith also Daniel Kanady the smith and the smiths tools to him and his heirs forever. . . . I give and bequeath to my grandson Richard Jackson One feather bed and furniture the desk and book case with the corner cupboard which I bought at his fathers estate also the large silver tankard with the large soop spoon and the dozen of silver spoons I bought of said estate and also the clock I bought of the said estate. . . . to my daughter Judith Brent and her heirs forever the land and plantation I leased to George Haden in Loudon County on great Rocky run . . . on the said run to and along the line of the land I made a deed of gift of to my son John Newton and along his line to the land I gave to William Jett and Katherine his wife and along their line to the great Rocky Run . . . I also Confirm my gift of all the slaves now in the possession of

my daughter Judith Brent which I gave her when she married with Mr Brereton Kennar. . . to my daughter Kathrine Lane the land where Demsey Carroll liv'd . . . to Mr William Jett and Kathrine his wife for five hundred acres of land. . . to my son in law Mr Thomas Lawson and Lettice his wife six Cows and twelve Sheep to be paid out of my stock at home. . . I also give them two Negroes more Vizt. Phillis and her Child Milley. . . unto my son in law Mr John Berryman and Martha his wife Seven Negroes that are now at my quarter in Loudon County Vizt. Aron, George, White George Denney, Pompy, Judy, and her child Isaac. . . to my son in law Mr Benjamin Berryman and Sarah his wife one feather bed and furniture. . . to my daughter Elizabeth Newton the use of my now dwelling house and plantation together with all the land. . . also . . . the ten following Negroes with their increase Vizt., Akey the Carpenter, Jack King, Darbey, Simon, Jack the Coachman, little Jenny, and her children Vizt. Alice, Charlott, Venus and Joe. . . Also four Mollattos Vizt Thomas Clark, Abraham Clark, Lawrence Clark, and John Clark to serve. . . until thirty one years old. also one servant woman named Hester Madden, also one servant man named John Cole the weaver and the two Looms.. . to my daughter Mary Newton the following twenty one Negroes with All their increase Vizt., Dick Moll, and their Children Vizt. Jack, Amay, Phillip, Nelly, Solomon, Billy, Neck Jenney and her children Vizt. Quamina, Nan, Nell, Joan Darby, Frank, Richard, Gumbey, Venus and her children Vizt Adam and Jude and neck Jack . . . divided equally between my daughters Elizabeth, Judith, Kathrine, Lettice, Martha, Mary and Sarah and my grand daughters Elizabeth Ashton and Ann Jackson . . . each of my nurses Ann Eskridge and Jane Durell be paid ten pounds . . .”

“Codicil bearing the date twenty seventh day of December in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred sixty six, as my son John Newton has departed this Life since the making and publishing my last Will and testament. . .

“I do hereby give and devise to my grandson Willoughby Newton son of my said son John Newton, all the estate I have by my said son John Newton . . .

He again mentions his “seven daughters Elizabeth Newton, Judith Brent, Catherine Lane, Lettice Lawson, Martha Berryman, Mary Newton and Sarah Berryman. . .”

Westmoreland Co VA Land Grants Book B:

175 Willoughby Newton 1728 250

Westmoreland Co VA Land Grants Book F:

261 Capt. Willoughby Newton 1746 358

However you measure it, Captain Willoughby Newton was a man of vast economic means and power. One only has to look at his land holdings, his slave holdings, his silver and livestock to see that he was very successful.

Children of Sarah 2 Eskridge and Capt. Willoughby Newton:

1. John 3 Newton, born 1730, died between January 1766 and January 1767 -- more
2. Katherine 3 Newton, born ca 1732; died 1762 -- more
3. Ann 3 Newton, born ca 1732 Westmoreland Co VA; died by 1767, married Richard Jackson II -- more
4. Judith 3 Newton, born ca 1734, married 1.) Brerton Kenner, son of Winder Kenner; 2.) 30 January 1766 Capt. Hugh Brent as his third wife. He was a justice for Lancaster Co VA, a member of the Committee of Safety, Co lieutenant, and Tobacco Inspector for both Lancaster and Northumberland Counties. He was a vestryman for Christ Church, and also church warden -- more
5. Lettice 3 Newton, born ca 1736, married Thomas Lawson -- more
6. Martha 3 Newton, born ca 1738, married Captain John Berryman, son of William Berryman? _____/ Fothergill, Westmoreland Co Wills
7. Sarah 3 Newton, born ca 1740; died ? by 1781? -- more
8. Elizabeth 3 Newton, born ca 1742 -- more
9. Mary 3 Newton, born 1744; died in KY -- more
10. _____3 Newton, (dtr), married _____Ashton -- more

**_____ 2 ESKRIDGE
(SPENCE)**

GENERATION 2

2008 Edition

GENERATION 2 -- _____2 ESKRIDGE (Spence) b. ? d.?

She married Patrick Spence c. 1715 – not named in Col. George's will of 1735.

Most of the evidence of this daughter's existence is derived from the will of Samuel Rust 16 August 1717; 26 March 1718 Westmoreland County Wills book 6

“ to Mr. Patrick Spence and his father-in-law Capt. George Eskridge; sons Peter, John and Mathew Rust; sons George, William and Benj Rust; dau. Ann Harrison; dau Hannah Rust; wife Martha and son Jeremiah Rust extras”

**MARGARET 2
ESKRIDGE**

GENERATION 2

2008 Edition

GENERATION 2 --- MARGARET 2 ESKRIDGE KENNER (Geo 1) was born 19 May 1712 at Westmoreland Co, VA and died 8 October 1801 in Warrenton, Fauquier Co, VA and believed to be buried there.

Margaret 2 Eskridge married in the early 1730's, in Westmoreland Co VA, Captain Howson Kenner, son of Francis Kenner and Hannah Howson (daughter of Leonard Howson and Elizabeth Lee -- herself a daughter of Col Richard Lee and Anne Constable of Dividers ? Cr, Lancaster Co VA). They lived in the part of Prince William Co VA from which Fauquier Co was formed (1759).

The Kenners were early settlers in Virginia. Richard Kenner Sr emigrated from ENGLAND to Virginia by 1636/7 and settled in Lower Norfolk Co. His son, Captain Richard Kenner jr, grandfather of Captain Howson Kenner, moved to Northumberland Co VA before 1664 and was a member of the House of Burgesses -- 1688, 1691 and 1692. His wife was Elizabeth Rodham, daughter of Matthew Rodham and Elizabeth Hewett -- herself the daughter of Robert Hewett. It is thought that Matthew Rodham was one of the colonists of Kent Island MD who was driven out of Maryland by Catholic persecution. Many of these colonists settled, as did Rodham, in Northumberland Co VA.

Captain Howson Kenner (Francis, Richard, Richard) was baptized 12 May 1712, St Stephens Parish, Northumberland Co VA. He died 24 May 1778 in Fauquier Co VA. He was a justice of the peace in 1742 and a vestryman of Dahlgren, Dettingen Parish, Prince William Co, 1749. He attained the rank of major in the Virginia Colonial Militia/ VA Colonial Military Notes/. His tombstone near Somerville, Fauquier Co, west of SR 610, is well preserved. The inscription reads:

"This drery vault, stranger, contains/ the body of Capt Howson Kenner who/ descended to the dust in a good old/ age, for he saw from his loins the/ third generatn he departed hence/ 24 of May 1778 age 66 this stone from a sence of his goodness is humbly/ dedicated to his memory by his youngest/ son Rodham Kenner. "

Captain Kenner's will (9 April 1778 / 28 September 1778), Fauquier Co,
bequeathed to:

eldest son, Francis Kenner, all money in hands of son-in-law, William Seaton (L 10) the balance of the money (L 210) said Seaton owes me for the 250 acres I sold him; dau., Betty Seaton, L 20; dau., Rebecca Clifton, L 10 - no more; dau, Mary Seaton, L 10 -- no more; son George Turberville Kenner, a tract of land & slaves; gd. son, Rodham Kenner (son of Geo.), tract; dau., Peggy & husb, Stephen Pritchard, a slave & L 20; gd. son, Howson Kenner (son of Francis), L 20 currency; son, Rodham, tract I now live on & L 20 currency; gd. son George Seaton, L 10 - no more; dau., Caty Markham, & her dau. Mary Ann, slaves & livestock; gd. son, Samuel Eskridge alias Kenner (son of dau., Susannah), 2 slaves & L 100 cash with which to educate him.

Exec's: Mr. Jos (.) Blackwell &
dau, Susannah

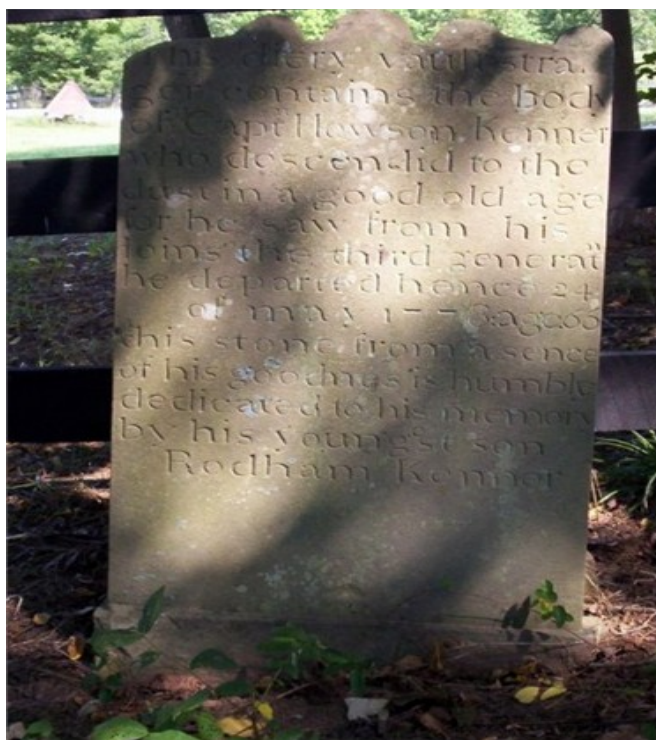
Wit's; Original Young and William Pope (Copied from Vircus, July 1949,
Vol 10 #3; Whole (95, p 19)

Margaret 2 Eskridge Kenner survived her husband, dying 8 October 1801 in Fauquier Co. She was awarded a certificate of recognition, which was personally presented to her, 3 April 1782, for her wartime service. She was accepted by the DAR "as a patriot who contributed supplies and aid to the Revolutionary Army."
____/ Fauquier Co Hist Soc Bulletin 3/4. DAR Ancestor #A064850. Howson does not have a DAR ancestor #, but he does have a SAR #P-259095. In addition, sons Francis #A064845 and Rodham # A064865 do have ancestor numbers.

**DESCENDANTS OF MARGARET 2 ESKRIDGE AND CAPT HOWSON
KENNER CAN QUALIFY FOR THE JAMESTOWN SOCIETY THROUGH
RICHARD KENNER – Ancestor # A4510 a Burgess, Northumberland Co VA 1688,
169**

Children of Margaret 2 Eskridge and Captain Howson Kenner:

1. unnamed child recorded in the family Bible
2. Elizabeth "Betty" 3 Kenner, born ca 1733 Northumberland / Stafford Co VA, died after 1790 (FW) -- more
3. Francis 3 Kenner, born ca 1734; died 1784, probably Hawkins Co TN -- more
4. George Turberville 3 Kenner, born 1736 -- more
5. Rebecca 3 Kenner, born 1738/40 -- more
6. Rodham 3 Kenner, born 1740; died 5 June 1793 Fauquier Co VA
7. Mary Ann "Molly" 3 Kenner, born 1742 Fauquier Co VA; died there after 1796 -- more
8. Katherine "Cathy" 3 Kenner, born 1744
9. Margaret "Peggy" 3 Kenner, born ca 1748, Fauquier Co VA; died ca 1806 Winchester VA -- more
10. Susanna 3 Kenner, born 1750 -- more



Howson Kenner's grave

**ELIZABETH 2
ESKRIDGE
GENERATION 2**

2008 Edition

GENERATION 2 ---- ELIZABETH 2 ESKRIDGE (Geo 1) was born ca 1716 .

Elizabeth 2, daughter of Col George Eskridge by his second wife Elizabeth Vaulx Craddock-Porten, married 1), in 1735 Col William Aylett, originally of King William Co VA. She was his second wife. Col Aylett was the son of William Aylett and Ann Woodward Spencer. He was much her senior and had come from his native King William County by his first marriage with a daughter of Col Henry Ashton who inherited the Fine Nomini plantation on the Nomini river.

The first Aylett (Ayliffe, Ayloff, Aylif, Aylot) to come to Virginia was John Aylett, Gent. He had fought on the Royalist side during the English Civil War (1642-1648) and then fled to the Northern Neck in 1656 after the collapse of the "Cavalier Uprising" of the previous year. John Aylett was the son of Sir Benjamin Aylett, MP, Co Essex ENGLAND, whom the Protector Oliver Cromwell had sent to the Tower.

Elizabeth 2 Eskridge had 2 daughters by her first husband: Anne 3 Aylett and Mary "Molly" 3 Aylett.

After Col Aylett's death in 1744, his widow married Col James Steptoe, Hominy Hall, Westmoreland Co, who already had 2 daughters by a previous marriage. Steptoe's first wife was Mary (Spence) Lee, widow of Charles Lee, Ditchley, Northumberland Co. VA. At least 4 sons were born to Elizabeth 2 (Eskridge) Aylett and Col James Steptoe.

Because the daughters of Col Aylett and Col Steptoe by their previous marriages are frequently confused with the daughters of Elizabeth 2 (Eskridge) Aylett-Steptoe, a clarification seems appropriate at this point.

Col William Aylett married 1). Anne "Annie" Ashton, daughter of Henry Ashton and Elizabeth Hardidge, Nomini Plantation. The 2 daughters by this union were:

1. Elizabeth Aylett, born and died at Nomini Plantation; married Col William Booth
2. Anne Aylett, born Nomini Plantation; died Wakefield, Westmoreland Co; married Augustine "Austin" Washington, heir of Wakefield, birthplace of his half brother George Washington.

The following abstract of Col Aylett's will, 29 March/28 August 1744, clearly explains the relationship between the Aylett sisters:

"Land and slaves from my decd. father William Aylett of King William Co., and my first wife's father Col. Henry Ashton, decd. to my two daughters Elizabeth and Anne issue of my first marriage, when they are 21 years of age if they die without issue to my wife Elizabeth; land and mill in Westmoreland and land in Fairfax to Anne and Mary her children; my brother John Aylett decd. ; my brother Philip Aylett; brother Benjamin Aylett, decd; Major Lawrence Washington; son in law Augustine Washington; brothers Philip and Daniel McCarty exrs."

Two of the daughters of Col James Steptoe and Mary (Spence) Lee were:

1. Anne Steptoe, born 10 October 1737. "Hominy Hall", Westmoreland Co; died 14 March 1777 "Harewood" WV; married 1) Willoughby Allerton, "The Narrows", son of Isaac Allerton 3rd and Anne Corbin, 21 March 1764; 2) Col Samuel Washington, "Harewood", youngest brother of George Washington.
2. Elizabeth Steptoe, born 22 November 1743, "Hominy Hall", died ca June 1789, "Fendall House", Alexandria; married 1) Philip Ludwell Lee "Stratford Hall" ; 2) Philip Richard Fendall, son of Benjamin Fendall of MD and Elinor Lee.

It follows that the daughters of Col James Steptoe, Anne (Steptoe) Allerton-Washington and Elizabeth (Steptoe) Lee-Fendall and the first 2 daughters of Col William Aylett, Elizabeth (Aylett) Booth and Anne (Aylett) Washington were step-daughters and not blood kin of Elizabeth 2 (Eskridge) Aylett-Steptoe.

Anthony Steptoe (1653-1709), the first of the name in Virginia, accompanied the John Cossen family to Virginia ca 1669, when Steptoe was about 16. They apparently came from Curdrige, Bishops Waltham, Co Hampshire, ENGLAND. Curdrige is a

pretty English village nestled in a charming rural setting, not 12 miles from Winchester, King Alfred's old capital. The group probably sailed from Southampton and voyaged via Barbados near the coast of South America to Northumberland Co VA.

After Anthony Steptoe had completed his indenture, he is thought to have returned to ENGLAND, where he married Lucy Stephens (died in England). Back in Virginia, he purchased (1682) land at the Crossroads (now a part of Kilmarnoch, Lancaster Co) and called it Steptoe's Ordinary. He had at least 2 children:

1. Judith Steptoe, married Richard Lee, son of Hancock Lee, Ditchley, Northumberland Co VA
2. John Steptoe

John Steptoe married Elizabeth, widow of John Eustace, Lancaster Co. The latter was related by his former marriage to the Cossens. John Steptoe and Elizabeth Eustace had at least 3 sons and 2 daughters.

One of the sons was James Steptoe, who married 1) Mary Spence, widow of Charles Lee, Cobbs Hall, Northumberland Co VA. It was through this marriage that James Steptoe came to live in Westmoreland Co at Hominy Hall. His first wife had inherited this property from her family. He married 2) Elizabeth 2 (Eskridge) Aylett and they had at least 4 sons.

The following records will entitle the descendants of Col James Steptoe to membership in any hereditary 18th century colonial society:

"At a Court held for the County of Westmoreland on May 30, 1749, James Steptoe, Gent., Presented a Commission from the Honourable Sir William Gooch, Baronet, appointing the said James Steptoe Captain of a Horse Company of Soldiers in this County and in the Pursuance thereof took the oaths of a Vestryman at the same time" Order Book, 1747-50, p 120

Also:

"A Commission from the Honourable Sir William Gooch, Baronet, to James Steptoe, Gent, to be Sheriff of this County ec. sd. James having taken the oath etc was Sworn etc." Court Orders 1747-50, p 127, June 27 1749

The will of Col James Steptoe, Hominy Hall, appears in Westmoreland Co Wills, Book 13, pp 95-98.

"In the Name of God, Amen. I, James Steptoe, of the Parish of Cople in the County of Westmoreland, Gent., being now in Perfect health and strength of Body and mind, Considering the uncertainty of My Life do Declare this to be my Last Will and Testament. Imprimis my Soul I do entirely begin up again with all humility and Sincerity my fraile Strength is able to express to the Lord God of the Heavens and the earth my great Creator from whom my Sinful flesh Received it in Steadfast hope or Mercy and forgiveness of all my Offences Only through the Sufferings and merits of his most beloved only Son Christ Jesus my alone Redeemer and Saviour Amen, Amen, Amen.

Item - my Body I desire May be buried at the Discretion of my Executors herein-after Named and I forbid my Having a Funeral Sermon.

Item - I order all my Just Debts paid. Item - I give and Bequeath to my Son George and the Heirs of his Body lawfully Begotten, all my Lands in Yeocomico Neck in Westmoreland County and for want of Such Issue to my Son James and his Heirs forever ----

Item - I give and Bequeath to my Son George and his Heirs forever my part of the mill at Yeocomico Church Owned by Mr Daniel Tebbs & my Self.

Item - I give and Bequeath to my Son George and his Heirs forever my Stock in Westmoreland County.

Item - I give and Bequeath to my Son James and the Heirs of his body Lawfully Begotten my Land on Pohick Run in Fairfax County granted by Patent bearing date of twenty fifth day of July in the Year Of Our Lord Christ, One thousand Seven hundred and twenty eight to Col George Eskridge for six hundred and forty acres more or less, and Conveyed to me by Richard Lee Esq. by Deeds of Lease and Release bearing date of twenty Sixth and twenty Seventh days of February in the Year of our Lord Christ, One thousand Seven Hundred and fifty five, and my all Lands in the Said County of Fairfax Conveyed to me by Thomas Winslow and Samuel Earle and my Water mill and for Want of Such Issue to my Son Thomas and his heirs forever.

Item - I give and bequeath to my Son Thomas and his Heirs forever five Hundred acres of Land in Fairfax County to the Same more or less granted by Patent bearing date of six Day of November in the Year of Our Lord Christ One thousand Six Hundred & Sixty Six to Col. Nicholas Spencer and Conveyed to my /sic/ by Richard Lee Esq. by Deeds of Lease and Release bearing date the twenty Sixth and twenty Seventh days of February in the Year Of Our Lord Christ One Thousand Seven hundred fifty five.

Item - I give and Bequeath my Stock of Cattle, Sheep, and Hogs and Horses in the County of Fairfax to be equally Divided between my two Sons James and Thomas.

Item - I give and Bequeath my Negroes to be Equally Divided among my Children now Living and xxx child xxx now xxx with when my children arrive at xxx years, and those Negroes given to my Daughters when they Marry if that Should be Before they arrive at the age of twenty one if my Executors think Proper.

Item - I give and Bequeath to my Daughter Ann my Silver Tankard.

Item - I lend my wife Elizabeth all my household furniture during her widowhood except the Tankard given to my Daughter Ann and afterward to be equally divided among my Children.

Item - I give to my wife Elizabeth one third Part of my Lands and Negroes, as her Dower in my Lands and Negroes.

Item - I give my wife Elizabeth one third Part of all my Stocks and Childs Part of my Personal Estate besides what Legacies I have left her.

Item - I give my wife Elizabeth my Charriott and Six Horses that usually draw it.

Item - I desire my Estate may be kept together until my Children arrives at their respective ages of twenty one years, for their Mentaince and Education and the Profits to be then Divided among them in the Same manner as my Negroes.

Item - I Give and bequeath the Dower Negroes given to my wife Elizabeth to be Divided among my Children as My Negroes before Given,

Item - I give and bequeath my household furniture after my wife's Widowhood or Death to be Equally Divided among my Children.

Item - my will and desire is that my Son George be Continued and Educated in Britain, at the Expense of my Estate and be Brought up to Some Profession as my my /sic/ Executors thinks Proper.

Item - I desire my two sons James and Thomas to be Educated Out of my Estate and to have as good an Education as my Estate will afford and to be brought Up to Some Profession of Calling, as my Executors think pxxx Elizabeth may have the bringing up of my Daughter Ann, and my Sister Currell /Carroll?/ the bringing up of my Daughter Elizabeth.

Item - I Revoke all former Wills by me made and do Constitute and Appoint my wife Elizabeth Executor, During her widowhood, My Friends Richard Lee, Philip Ludwell Lee and George Lee of the County of Westmorland, Esq. Executors and Guardians to my Children. In witness whereof I have Set my hand, fixed my Seal the Tenth day of May in the Year of Our Lord Christ, One thousand Seven Hundred and fifty five, and in the twenty eighth Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord George the Second of Great Britain, France and Ireland King.

/s/ JAMES STEPTOE (SEAL)

Signed Sealed Published and declared to be the last will
and Testament of James Steptoe Gent.
in the Presence of

Nathal. Jackson
Stewart Redman
Thomas Lawson

Westmoreland Sct
At a Court held for the Said County
the 28th Day of June 1757

This last Will and Testament of James Steptoe Just Deceased was presented into Court by Elizabeth Steptoe Philip Lud Lee George Lee and Richard Lee the Executors therein named who made Oath thereto and being proved by the Oaths of Nathaniel Jackson, Stewart Redman and Thomas lawson the Witnesses thereto is x x x x or of the Said Executors and there Performing what the Law Requires in Such Cases Certificate is granted them for Obtaining a Probate thereof in due form.

Test
George Lee CCW

Recorded the 7th Day
of July 1757
/s/ G L CCW

Children of Elizabeth 2 Eskridge and Col William Aylett:

1. Anne 3 Aylett, born ca 1736, Nomini Plantation, Westmoreland Co VA;
died 12 December 1768, Chantilly, same county --- more
2. Mary 3 "Molly" 3 Aylett, born ca 1738, Nomini Plantation, Westmoreland
Co VA, died April 1778, Belleview, Stratford Co --- more

Children of Elizabeth 2 (Eskridge) Aylett and Col James Steptoe:

All were probably born at Hominy Hall, Westmoreland Co.

3. George 3 Steptoe, born 3 March 1746; died 22 January 1783/ 27 May
1784 (will) at Windsor, Westmoreland Co; buried at Yeocomico - more
4. James 3 Steptoe, born 16 July 1750; died 9 February 1826 Federal Hill
Bedford (later Campbell) Co - more
5. Thomas 3 Steptoe, born 10 August 1752; died at sea 1784/85 en route
from INDIA to ENGLAND - more
6. William 3 Steptoe, born 22 May 1755; died before 8 November 1805.

The First Four Generations

Descendants of Col. George Eskridge of Virginia

First 4 Generations

1st Generation

1. George ESKRIDGE b? d 1735 m(1) Rebecca BONUM (dau Samuel BONUM & Margaret PHILLPOT) d c1715 (2) Elizabeth VAULX Craddock-Poten c 1715 (dau Robert VAULX II & Mary FOXALL)

2nd Generation

1. Children of George Eskridge & Rebecca Bonum

2. William ESKRIDGE b c 1680-83 d c 1744 m Abigail COULBOURNE (dau of William COULBOURNE & Ann REVEL)
3. George ESKRIDGE jr b 1683 d c 1731/32 m Hannah RUST c 1720 (dau Samuel RUST & Martha BUTLER) d before George Sr (1735)
4. Samuel ESKRIDGE b ? d 1746/47 m Jane ASHTON c 1736 (dau Charles ASHTON & Margaret HART) d before 28 Aug 1781
5. Robert ESKRIDGE b after 1702 d 16 July 1747 m Jane BIGLANDS 13 Feb 1735(dau _____ & Ann BIGLANDS)
6. Daniel ESKRIDGE b?d? living Feb 1726 not named in Col. George's will 1735 – his existence is proven by the will of John King VA 1726 – may have been named for Col. George Eskridge's good friend Daniel McCarty
7. Sarah ESKRIDGE b 1707 d 2 Dec 1753 VA m c 1725 Capt Willoughby NEWTON(son of Capt Thomas NEWTON & Elizabeth STORKE) b Oct 1703 d 26 May 1767
8. _____ ESKRIDGE b?d? m Patrick SPENCE c 1715 Not named in Col. George's will
9. Margaret ESKRIDGE b 1715 VA d 8 Oct 1801 VA m Maj Howson KENNER 1732 (son of Francis KENNER & Hannah HOWSON) d 24 May 1778

1. Children of George Eskridge & Elizabeth Vaulx

10. Elizabeth ESKRIDGE b c 1716 d ? m (1) Col William AYLETT 30 Mar 1736 (son of William AYLETT & Anne WOODWARD Spencer) d 28 Aug 1744 (2) Col James STEPTOE c 1744 (son John STEPTOE & Elizabeth EUSTACE) d 28 June 1757

3rd Generation

2. William Eskridge children:

11. George ESKRIDGE b 1726 d 1749 m Priscilla COULBOURNE (sis of William, Elijah, Michael & Solomon COULBOURNE) living in 1771
12. Robert ESKRIDGE b? d will filed in 1765
13. Thomas ESKRIDGE b? d 12 Mar 1761 m Nancy DUNBAR
14. Samuel ESKRIDGE b? d by 1750 m Jane _____

3. George Eskridge jr children:

15. Samuel ESKRIDGE b 15 July 1723 d 1771 m Mary FOUSHEE Lewis c 1747 (dtr John FOUSHEE & Elizabeth DAWSON)
16. George ESKRIDGE b 6 Aug 1724 m Hannah _____
17. William ESKRIDGE b after 1725 d 1782 m (1) Elizabeth "Betty" FARNED 1751; (2) Elizabeth WEBB C 1768? (dtr Giles WEBB and Elizabeth KIRK Hack)
18. Thomas ESKRIDGE b minor in 1746 d? m ? Nancy WOOLFORD

19. Rebecca ESKRIDGE b minor in 1746 d ? m John ARRIS

4. Samuel Eskridge children:

20. Lt Col Charles ESKRIDGE b 27 Aug 1737 VA d 12 July 1803 VA m (1) Hannah GULEY 10 Dec 1758 (b 5 Nov 1739 VA d 12 June 1769 VA – dau James GULEY & Elizabeth _____ (2) Mrs Mary Ann WILLSON Lane 11 July 1771(dau of John WILLSON) (3) ? Sally G. _____
21. Richard ESKRIDGE b 1739 VA d 17 Aug 1821 NC m Elizabeth READ 12 June 1764 VA(b 26 July 1746 d 18 Nov 1835 – dtr Joseph READ & Barbary WALKER)
22. Burditt ESKRIDGE b 1740 d 17 Nov 1781 m (1) Ann (Nancy) GRIGGSBY (dtr Nathaniel GRIGGSBY & Elizabeth BUTLER) living 1779; (2) Mrs Hannah BELL Watson
23. Rebecca ESKRIDGE b 1742 d c 1820-30 m her coz Capt. Peter RUST 1764 (son Samuel RUST & Elizabeth COX) 1745-1781
24. Lt. John (Ashton?) ESKRIDGE b 1743 d 1803/04 m (1) Rachel DAVIES 23 May 1767 d 7 Feb 1783; (2) Elizabeth (widow of John) MOXLEY 9 Dec 1789

5. Dr. Robert Eskridge children:

25. Ann ESKRIDGE Chr 23 June 1739 bur 6 Apr 1740 ENGLAND
26. Jane ESKRIDGE Chr 20 Sept 1740 bur 27 Jun 1742 ENGLAND
27. Clement ESKRIDGE Chr 20 Oct 1741 d? ENGLAND
28. Rebecca ESKRIDGE buried 7 June 1743 ENGLAND

6. Daniel Eskridge children:

No Known Descendants

7. Sarah Eskridge children:

29. John NEWTON b 1730 d between Jan 1766 & Jan 1767 m Elizabeth "Betty" VAULX
30. Katherine NEWTON b ca 1732 d aft 1767 m (1) 25 Nov 1759 William JETT jr (2) ca 1762 Dr John LANE (3) Joseph Flavius LANE
31. Ann NEWTON b ca 1732 VA d by 1767 m Richard JACKSON II
32. Judith NEWTON b c 1734 d 22 Jan 1785 m (1) Brereton 5 KENNER (2) 30 Jan 1766 Capt. Hugh BRENT
33. Lettice NEWTON b c 1736 m Thomas LAWSON VA
34. Martha NEWTON b c 1738 m Capt John BERRYMAN (son of William BERRYMAN))
35. Sarah NEWTON b c 1740 d ? m Benjamin BERRYMAN (dead by 21 Aug 1783) son of William BERRYMAN
36. Elizabeth NEWTON b ca 1742 d by 1781, m Thomas ESKRIDGE ?
37. Mary NEWTON b 1744 d KY m (1) ca 1770 Col Joseph LANE b 1734-40 VA d c 1786 (2) Richard PICKETT KY
38. _____ NEWTON dau m _____ ASHTON

8. _____ Eskridge Spence children:

39. _____ SPENCE – a young Spence mentioned as Grandson of Col. George Eskridge in a will

9. Margaret Eskridge Kenner children:

40. Unnamed child recorded in family Bible
41. Elizabeth “Betty” KENNER b c 1736 VA d ca 1800 PA m James SEATON jr 24 July 1749 (b 1723 d c 1782 – son of James SEATON sr & Frances _____)
42. Francis KENNER b 1734 VA d 1784 NC/TN m Elizabeth HOWARD 1756 (b 1736 d 1822 TN) dau Col Francis HOWARD & Diana TABB
43. George Turbeville KENNER b c 1736 VA d 5 Sept 1810 VA m Martha _____ c 1758
44. Rebecca KENNER b 1738-1740 d after 1800 m Burdette E CLIFTON jr 2 Dec 1759 (son Burdette CLIFTON sr & Frances HILL – b 1736 d 1792/8
45. Rev. Rodham KENNER b 1740 VA d 5 June 1793 VA m ? Judith Beverly KENNER c 1778
46. Mary Ann “Molly” KENNER b c 1742 VA d after 1796 VA m (1) William SEATON 6 Feb 1764 (son James SEATON sr and Grace CLEMENTS) d aft 8 May 1782 (2) Jonathan BROWN July 1795
47. Katherine “Caty” “Cathy” KENNER b c 1744 d ? m (1) Capt James Lewis MARKHAM 1 Oct or 20 Nov 1770; (2) David MAYHEW 15 Dec 1785
48. Margaret “Peggy” KENNER b 1748 VA d 1806 VA m (1) Stephen PRITCHARD 19 June 1769 (son Rees PRITCHARD – b 1744/45 d 20 May 1819
49. Susannah KENNER b 1750 VA m before 1772 (1) _____ ESKRIDGE (d bef 1798 SC) --(will exists in Westmoreland Co VA for a Susannah ESKRIDGE) (2) Spencer MORGAN 14 Oct 1780 VA

10. Elizabeth Eskridge Aylett children:

50. Anne AYLETT II b c 1736 d c 1768 m Richard Henry LEE 3 Dec 1757 (son of Thomas LEE and Hannah LUDWELL – b 20 Jan 1732 d 19 June 1794)
51. Mary AYLETT b c 1738 d April 1778 m Thomas Ludwell LEE after 26 Nov 1758 (son of Thomas LEE & Hannah LUDWELL – b 13 Dec 1730 d 13 Apr 1778

10. Elizabeth Eskridge Aylett Steptoe children:

52. Dr George STEPTOE b 3 (31) Mar 1746 d 1783/4 m Elizabeth Sturman RANSDELL Davenport aft 1772
53. Thomas STEPTOE b 10 Aug 1752 d c 1784 at sea
54. James STEPTOE b 16 July 1750 d 9 Feb 1826 m Frances CALLOWAY 18 Feb 1781 (dtr Col James Calloway & Sarah TATE – b c 1760 d 12 Jan 1805)
55. William STEPTOE b 22 May 1755 d bef 8 Nov 1805 m Elizabeth ROBINSON 19 May 1782 (dtr Christopher ROBINSON & Elizabeth WORMELEY) still living 26 Oct 1810

4th Generation

11. George Eskridge children:

56. Mary ESKRIDGE living in 1749; dead before 6 Sept 1751
57. Elizabeth ESKRIDGE living 12 Mar 1759
58. George ESKRIDGE, not named in his father’s will; may have been born posthumously; minor on 12 Mar 1759; m Elisabeth COULBOURNE (dtr of William COULBOURNE & Jane HANDY) b 28 June 1746

12. Robert Eskridge children:

no known issue

13. Thomas Eskridge children:

no known issue

14. Samuel Eskridge children:

no known issue

15. Samuel Eskridge children:

59. George ESKRIDGE b 3 Nov 1753 d 1 Nov 1754
60. Hannah ESKRIDGE b ? / d 11 Jan or 1 Nov 1754
61. Mary Elizabeth ESKRIDGE b ? d living 1771; m Vincent GARLAND 16 Apr 1768
62. Sarah ESKRIDGE b ? d living 1771; m William FALLIN Dec 1768
63. Charlotte Foushee ESKRIDGE b 22 Aug 1755 d May 1756
64. Capt George ESKRIDGE b Feb 1757 d ? living in 1840 m Nellie HARVEY (dtr George HARVEY) b ca 1756
65. Thomas ESKRIDGE b ? living 22 Oct 1779; m _____ who later married a Mr. Haskell
66. Samuel ESKRIDGE b ? d 3 Nov 1780 at sea

16. George Eskridge children:

no known issue

17. William Eskridge & Elizabeth Farned children:

67. Peter Rust ESKRIDGE b 2 June 1751 d bef 9 Apr 1771
68. Edwin ESKRIDGE – d without issue
69. William ESKRIDGE b 10 Mar 1754 d bef 9 Apr 1771
70. Thomas ESKRIDGE b 9 Mar 1757 d bef 9 Apr 1771
71. Rebecca ESKRIDGE b ? d ? but living 7 May 1782 m Thomas HOBSON bef 7 May 1782

17. William Eskridge & Elizabeth Webb children:

72. Jiles ESKRIDGE b ? d ? living 7 May 1782
73. Lucy ESKRIDGE b ? m George Coles 1782
74. Elizabeth “Betty” ESKRIDGE b 29 Nov 1771 d 2 Apr 1825; m Thomas Winter HUGHLETT 9 Nov 1797
75. Capt William ESKRIDGE b 19 Feb 1774; m Ann EDWARDS 23 Nov 1797 (dtr Robert EDWARDS)

18. Thomas Eskridge children:

may have married Nancy WOOLFORD & left descendants

19. Rebecca Eskridge Arris children:

no known issue

20. Lt. Col. Charles Eskridge & Hannah Guley children:

76. William ESKRIDGE b 27 Oct 1765 VA, d VA; m Mary TENNILLE VA (d aft 1797)

20. Lt. Col. Charles Eskridge & Mary Ann Willson Lane children:

77. Hector Ross ESKRIDGE b 19 Sept 1772 VA d 2 May 1823 VA; m 6 Mar 1794 Susannah Barbara COCKERELL (b 9 May 1778; d 26 July 1823)

21. Richard Eskridge children:

78. George ESKRIDGE b 1765 VA d after 1830 m Elizabeth “Betsy” DOBBIN 25 Nov 1790
79. Elizabeth ESKRIDGE b 18 Jan 1767 VA; d 1847 TN; m Matthew PRICE 22 Feb 1786 NC -- son of John & Sarah PRICE b 13 July 1764 d 18 Aug 1842

80. Richard ESKRIDGE b ca 1768 VA d 3 Nov 1831 NC; m Elizabeth REYNOLDS ca 1794 (dtr Hamilton/ Hambleton & Sarah REYNOLDS) b 1772 d 2 Mar 1856
81. Rebecca ESKRIDGE b 1771-1780 unmarried in 1809 – still living 1850
82. Sarah “Sally” ESKRIDGE b ca 1775 VA d ? living 1820; m Nicholas COIL 9 Feb 1796
83. Samuel ESKRIDGE b 1775 or later alive in 1840 TN; m Susannah JOHNSTON bef 1809
84. Thomas ESKRIDGE b ca 1777 NC, d 1850-60 TN?
85. Mary “Polly” ESKRIDGE b 1779 NC d 1850-1860 TN; m James STAFFORD 8 May 1799 NC
86. Anna ESKRIDGE b 1780-1784 unmarried 1809
87. Birdit “Bird” ESKRIDGE b 1780-1790 NC d 1836 NC; m Nancy R JOHNSTON 27 Nov 1821 (dtr Benjamin & Mary JOHNSTON)
88. John ESKRIDGE b ca 1787 NC d 3 July 1860 TN; m Frances “Franky” SMITH 22 Nov 1811 (dtr William & Mary SMITH)
89. Martha ESKRIDGE b 1789 NC unmarried 1809 died 1816-1836
90. William ESKRIDGE b 1792 NC d aft 1860 TN m Mary “Polly” JOHNSTON 4 Jan 1820 (probably dtr of Benjamin & Mary JOHNSTON)

22. Burditt Eskridge & Ann Grigsby children:

91. Samuel Burdette ESKRIDGE b c 1764 VA d 1852 TN; m Sophia (Selphey) YARBOROUGH 9 June 1803
92. Frederick Grigsby ESKRIDGE b ca 1768 d aft 1779 of yellow fever in Charleston SC
93. Richard Edmund ESKRIDGE b 27 Mar 1775 SC; d 4 Dec 1860 MS m 18 Oct 1797 Mary Livingston RUTLEDGE (b 8 Oct 1782 d 10 Oct 1821)
94. Elizabeth Butler “Betsy” ESKRIDGE b SC d GA m Joseph Jefferson THOMAS (eldest bro of Frederick Gible THOMAS-son of John THOMAS)
95. Rebecca Ann ESKRIDGE b ca 1776 SC d 26 Oct 1859 AL; m Frederick Gible THOMAS ca 1795 GA (b 8 April 1771 d 9 Mar 1851)
96. Austen Pollard ESKRIDGE b aft 23 Mar 1779 SC d 27 Apr 1844; m Anna DABNEY in AL (dtr of Col. Charles DABNEY and niece of President James Madison) b 1783 SC d aft 1860 AL

22. Burditt Eskridge & Hannah Bell Watson children:

97. Martha ESKRIDGE b 1780-1782 SC m _____ OGLIVIE

23. Rebecca Eskridge Rust children:

98. Elizabeth RUST b 24 June 1765 VA alive 1781
99. Samuel RUST b 29 July 1767 VA, living in 1798
100. Jane RUST b 30 June 1769 VA
101. Charlotte RUST b 19 May 1772 VA, m Joseph READ 12 Dec 1805 VA
102. Mary Sophia RUST b 3 Feb 1773 VA, d 1862 VA; m George Washington EDMONDS 5 Mar 1798 (son John EDMONDS & Frances Jane WILDY) b 1 Dec 1758 VA d 3 June 1840 VA

103. Peter Cox RUST b 3 Nov 1774 VA, d 1 Jan 1863 MO; m Elizabeth TAYLOR 3 Dec 1799 (dtr Mandley TAYLOR & Sarah RUST (b 29 Jun 1775; d 12 Dec 1862))
104. Harriet RUST b 4 June 1776 VA living 1781
105. Lucinda RUST b 14 Feb 1778 VA; m Edward TAYLOR 15 Mar 1800
106. Caroline RUST b 17 Sept 1779 VA, d 28 Sept 1810 VA; m Walter LANHAM 29 Dec 1802
107. Jeremiah RUST b 1 Dec 1780 VA, d 1853 MO; m Harriet Ashton 5 ESKRIDGE 5 July 1814 (dtr William 4 ESKRIDGE & Mary TENNILLE) b ca 1790 VA, d between 1860 & 1870 MO

24. Lt Col. John Eskridge & Rachel Davies children:

108. Elizabeth Lawson ESKRIDGE b 11 Apr 1769 VA d 16 Apr 1820; m Seth STARR 7 Apr 1789 (son Lt William STARR & Sarah ROBERTS) b 25 Sept 1763, d 21 Jan 1811
109. Burdette ESKRIDGE b 4 Feb 1772 VA d 20 Mar 1815 VA; m Ann WASHINGTON Jan 1801 (dtr Col Thomas WASHINGTON & Ann MUSE)
110. Thomas Steptoe ESKRIDGE b 24 Mar 1774 VA, d bef 2 Dec 1813; m (1) Winefred EYLES 13 Feb 1797 (2) Margaret “Peggy” WILKERSON 13 Sept 1806
111. Mary ESKRIDGE b 20 Feb 1777 – not named in her father’s will 3 Aug 1803/23 July 1804
112. Sally ESKRIDGE b 8 Jan 1780 VA; m Rodham Moxley 24 Dec 1803
113. John ESKRIDGE jr b 30 Oct 1782 VA; d 1831 VA; m (1) Elizabeth_____, (2) Sarah CUMMINS 5 Oct 1824 (dtr Willis CUMMINS & Behethelon “Hethy” COMBS) b 26 Mar 1799

24. Lt Col. John Eskridge & Elizabeth Moxley children:

114. Harriett/Harriott ESKRIDGE b 1790; m James T EMBRY 28 Dec 1806 VA (son of John EMBRY) b c 1774 VA, d 28 Sept 1859
115. Samuel ESKRIDGE, b 14 June 1792; d 1 June 1833; m Lucy LEWIS 24 Dec 1813 (dtr Britain LEWIS) b May 1796, d Jan 1835
116. Rodham Moxley ESKRIDGE b 1794, d 1866; m Anna _____
117. Sabella ESKRIDGE b 11 Nov 1794, d 4 June 1841; m John OLIVER 5 Feb 1816; b 4 Feb 1793, d 4 Dec 1840
118. Meredith ESKRIDGE b 16 Jan 1796, d 20 May 1863; m Sophia Smith BRIDWELL 18 Dec 1828 (dtr of Lewis BRIDWELL & Elizabeth STARKE) b 19 Sept 1807, d 5 May 1874
119. Lucinda “Lucy” ESKRIDGE b 14 Aug 1797 VA, d 27 Oct 1876 MO; m James Vernon FOX 29 Dec 1812 VA; d 14 Aug 1875 MO
120. Sydnor E ESKRIDGE b 1799 VA, d 22 Oct 1877 MO; m (1) Lucy HOPPER, 27 June 1823 (dtr Joseph HOPPER & Mary STEPHENSON) b 1806/07, d in VA; (2) Emily DULIN 15 Dec 1837; (3) Elvira SPRAGUE 26 Dec 1859

25. Ann Eskridge children:

none

26. Jane Eskridge children:

none

27.Clement Eskridge children:

no known descendants

28.Rebecca Eskridge children:

none

29.John Newton children:

- 121.Willoughby NEWTON II b 1761, d 1812; m Sally Bland POYTHRESS Lee on 23 May 1796 (dtr Peter POYTHRESS, widow of Squire Richard Lee) b 1747 d 24 May 1828
- 122.Sarah Vaulx NEWTON b 14 July 1767 VA, d 17 June 1865 VA; m David BALL 20 Mar 1783 (son of Joseph & Hannah BALL)b 23 Nov 1754, d 3 Dec 1815

30.Katherine Newton & William Jett Jr children:

- 123. Anne JETT, born 1760
- 124.Willia Eskridge JETT b 17 Apr 1762 VA, d 8 July 1822, m 30 Dec 1777 Thomas NEWMAN (b 10 July 1754; d 17 Feb 1821)

30.Katherine Newton & Dr John Lane children:

- 125.Letitia Lawson LANE m William LANE Jr -her 1st cousin-- (son James Hardage LANE) d 1808

31.Ann Newton & Richard Jackson II children:

- 126.Ann JACKSON

32.Judith Newton & Capt. Hugh Brent children:

- 127.Charlotte BRENT b 6 Nov 1766; d ?; m 15 March 1782 Joseph STEPHENS
- 128.Prescilla BRENT b 7 Oct 1768, d? m 15 Aug 1787 George STEPHENS VA
- 129.Hugh BRENT (5th) b 16 May 1775; d 16 Feb 1814; m (1) Mary T LAWSON 9 Jan 1796 (d 25 Jan 1797); (2) Alice MARTIN 5 Dec 1799 (b 29 Apr 1784, d 12 Aug 1855)
- 130.Martin BRENT b 6 Oct 1776, d 1848 KY? m 29 Dec 1796 Ann CHILTON
- 131.Kenner BRENT b 7 May 1778, d c 1796

33.Lettice Newton & Thomas Lawson children:

- 132.Catherine LAWSON m Richard BENNETT

34.Martha Newton & Capt. John Berryman children:

no known children

35.Sarah Newton & Benjamin Berryman children:

- 133.Willoughby Newton BERRYMAN
- 134. Henry Eskridge BERRYMAN

36.Elizabeth Newton & Thomas Eskridge children:

- 135. ? Judy ESKRIDGE b 14 July 1770VA
- 136. ? Willoughby ESKRIDGE b 19 Nov 1771 VA

37.Mary Newton Lane & Col. Joseph Lane children:

- 137.William "Billy" Carr LANE m _____ TAYLOR KY
- 138.Joseph "Joe" Eskridge LANE b 1773, d April 1852 WV unmarried
- 139.Willoughby Newton Washington LANE b 1775 d 25 Aug 1847; m Mary Ann RIDDLE 1798 (dtr John RIDDLE & Rebecca MCKEE)
- 140.Thomas "Tommy" Chew LANE b 1777, d 9 Sept 1833 PA
- 141.James Starke LANE d unmarried
- 142.John "Johnny" Newton LANE m _____BELL no issue

143.George Steptoe LANE m Elizabeth STRIBLING 14 June 1810

144.Elliott Tolley LANE b ca 1789-90, d 1841; m Jane BUCHANAN 1830 (dtr James BUCHANAN & Elizabeth SPEAR & sis of Pres. James BUCHANAN II)b 1793 d 1839

145.Martha (Margaret) "Patty" LANE m _____ WEBB

146.Mary "Molly" LANE m _____MILLER – no issue

147.Sarah "Sally" LANE m _____CARTER

38._____ Newton Ashton children:

148.Elizabeth ASHTON

39._____ (Patrick??) Spence children:

no known children

40._____ Kenner children:

none expected

41.Elizabeth Kenner & James Seaton Jr children:

- 149.John SEATON b ca 1750 VA
- 150.Elizabeth SEATON b 13 July 1750 VA; m James CARMICHAEL ca 1780
- 151.James SEATON III b 19 July 1751 VA, d 1830; m Mary CLARK
- 152.Mary Rebecca SEATON b 1752, d 1846 m Samuel HYDE bef 1775
- 153.James Kenner SEATON b 13 Mar 1753, d 29 July 1829 KY; m (1)1772 Rachel CHENOWETH (7 May 1754 – 4 July 1807); (2) Jane _____ on 11 Nov 1811 KY
- 154.George SEATON b 1754, d 1841 m Sarah SEATON 23 May 1786 VA
- 155.Rodham SEATON b 17 Dec 1755 VA; died bef 2 Dec 1805 KY; m Mary Elizabeth CURRY on 13 Aug 1787 KY
- 156.Francis SEATON b 1756, d 1820; m Rebecca GREGG in 1780
- 157.Thomas Washington SEATON b 1757, d 1805; M Barby ZINKS 1811
- 158.Richard Aycliffe SEATON b ca 1758; m (1) Fatima CUMMINS, (2)Sophia BRAMLET
- 159.Howson Kenner Bonum SEATON b 1761 VA; d 2 May 1803 KY; m Sarah Kenner 4 Pritchard (b 1769, d 15 Aug 1856) 5 Jan 1788 or 9 VA
- 160.Margaret SEATON b ca 1766; d 14 Jan 1779
- 161.Sarah Kenner SEATON b ca 1768; m John Jacob Boreman 1787 PA
- 162.William SEATON b 1770, d 1814; m Sarah MYER in 1792
- 163.Samuel SEATON b 1772

42.Francis Kenner children:

- 164.Dr. Howson KENNER b Jan 1757, d 1828; m Lucy CALLAHAN 1787
- 165.Rodham KENNER b c 1759, d 18 Oct 1814; m c 1786 Malinda PAINE (d 20 June 1837)
- 166.Rosamond KENNER b 19 Aug 1766 NC, d 21 Jan 1842; m (1) Daniel HAMBLIN Jr 1794 (b 1752, d 1802); (2) Thomas MCCULLOUGH
- 167.Nancy KENNER b ca 1768 NC; d 1848 TN; m Milton Center (Senter) in 1790

168. Winder KENNER b ca 1769, d 23 Dec 1856 MO; m Mary Elizabeth DAVIS ca 1793 (b c 1768, d 1848 TN)
169. Elizabeth "Betsy" KENNER b 1773 NC; m John HUNTSMAN 23 May 1798 TN
170. Francis KENNER II, b ca 1777 NC, d 30 Dec 1830 MO; m Elizabeth PILLARS MO 14 June 1804
171. Margaret "Peggy" KENNER b 1779, d 19 Aug 1823 TN – never married
172. Colonel Eskridge KENNER b Oct 1779 NC, d 10 Sept 1858 AR; m Dorcas BURUM 1804 (b 19 Dec 1788 VA, d 13 Oct 1857 AR)
173. Thomas KENNER d 1784-89 unmarried
174. Elizabeth KENNER b 1791, d 1889; m _____ SAVAGE

43. George Turbeville Kenner children:

175. Rodham Eskridge KENNER b 1 Aug 1763 VA, d 24 Aug 1842 KY; m (1) Eleanor WROE -dau William Hyrum WROE & Grace CHANCELLOR - on 20 Dec 1790 VA, (2) Elizabeth HADDOCK ca 1800
176. Thomas H. KENNER b ca 1765
177. Robert KENNER b ca 1767 VA; m Dolly CLARKE 11 Feb 1785
178. Sarah KENNER b ca 1770; m Original WROE II -son of William Hyrum WROE & Grace CHANCELLOR
179. Judith KENNER b ca 1770 VA; d bef 1822; m William HADDOX on 3 Mar 1791 VA
180. Martha G. KENNER b ca 1785 VA; m Griffin HAYNIE on 24 July 1805
181. Elizabeth KENNER b ca 1790; m Jonathan COOPER on 24 Jan 1815 VA

44. Rebecca Kenner & Burdette E. Clifton Jr children:

182. Bryan CLIFTON b ca 1761 VA; m Polly HARRIS ca 1780
183. Howson CLIFTON b ca 1762 VA, d May 1794 KY; m Nancy Brashear 26 August 1787 KY
184. Sarah "Sally" CLIFTON b ca 1768 VA; died 1815 KY; m Gen John Edwards KING on 11 May 1791 KY—son of William Alfred KING & Elizabeth EDWARDS
185. Rodham CLIFTON b ca 1770 VA
186. Thomas CLIFTON b ca 1772 VA
187. Elias "Ely" CLIFTON
188. William CLIFTON
189. Samuel CLIFTON
190. Rebecca CLIFTON b 4 Dec 1772 VA; d 30 Nov 1856 IN; m Sgt Richard PILE (b 1760; d 1816) in Jan 1792 (son of Dr Richard PILE VA)
191. Mildred CLIFTON b ca 1775 VA; d 1843; m Jesse GRIGSBY on 5 Oct 1802 VA
192. Mary CLIFTON b ca 1777
193. Elizabeth CLIFTON
194. Rev. Baldwin CLIFTON
195. Fanny CLIFTON b ca 1780; m Arthur Emory GIBBINS KY 26 Jan 1797

45. Rev. Rodham Kenner children:

196. Lucy Eskridge KENNER b 1779 VA; m William WINSTON

197. Laurence Stern KENNER b VA d young; m Lucy A WINSTON
198. Judith Eskridge KENNER b 1790 VA, d 1841; m (1) Dr Joseph A CARDEN 1811 (b 1789 ENGLAND, d 1827); (2) Richard SMITH 1829

46. Mary Ann Kenner & William Seaton children:

199. Margaret SEATON b ca 1767 VA; m David WICKLIFFE II 28 Oct 1782 (son of David & Jane WICKLIFFE) b 31 Mar 1755, d 1840 VA
200. William SEATON jr b ca 1767; m Judith TALIAFERO bef 1 Oct 1805 (dtr Harry TALIAFERO)
201. James SEATON b 1771, d Sept 1836 KY; m Elizabeth "Betty" JAMES 16 Oct 1792 VA (b ca 1774 VA)
202. Sarah SEATON m her cousin George SEATON

47. Katherine Kenner & Capt. James Markham children:

203. William MARKHAM b ca 1771 VA; m Mary SMITH on 14 Aug 1789 VA
204. Nancy MARKHAM, b ca 1773; m George GOOD
205. Mary Ann MARKHAM b 1773 VA; d 1839 m William BARKER 1800
206. Betsy Kenner MARKHAM b ca 1775; m Nimrod COMBS 12 Nov 1791 VA – son John COMBS & Sarah ASHBY

48. Margaret Kenner & Stephen Pritchard children:

207. Sarah Kenner PRITCHARD b 1769 VA; d 15 Aug 1858 IL; m 5 Jan 1789 Howson Kenner Bonum 4 SEATON
208. Margaret Eskridge PRITCHARD b c 1772 unmarried in 1819
209. Mary Ann PRITCHARD b 1773; m Samuel PEW
210. Reese PRITCHARD b 8 Dec 1775 VA; died 25 Jan 1852 IL; m (1) _____ SIMPSON (2) Sarah E PETERS on 28 Dec 1808 OH (b5 Dec 1788 VT, d 5 Dec 1844)
211. Stephen PRITCHARD b ca 1777; m Mary CARTWELL
212. Susannah James PRITCHARD b ca 1779; m Dr Cornelius BALDWIN ca 31 Aug 1819
213. Betsy Kenner PRITCHARD, b ca 1781; m James STACKHOUSE
214. Howson Kenner PRITCHARD b 1783, d 1852 m Margaret _____
215. Judith "Judy" Kenner PRITCHARD, b 1785 d 1855

49. Susannah Kenner & _____ Eskridge children:

- circumstantial evidence
216. Samuel Eskridge KENNER, b ca 1772 VA, d 1845 SC may have been "grandson Samuel Eskridge, alias Kenner, son of dau Susannah" Named in Howson Kenner's will; m (1) Patsy GRASTY; (2) Lucy GOREE (b c 1783; d 1865)

49. Susannah Kenner & Spencer Morgan

217. Nancy Ann MORGAN m John MCMORRIES (b 1769 SC; d Jan 1824)
218. Frances "Fanny" MORGAN m James MCMORRIES

50. Anne Aylett & Richard Henry Lee children:

219. Thomas Ludwell LEE, b 20 Oct 1758; d 1805/7
m (1) Mildred WASHINGTON ca 15 Oct 1778
(dtr John Augustine WASHINGTON, bro of
Gen George Washington, & Hannah
BUSHROD); (2) Elizabeth Ashton BRENT
220. Ludwell LEE b 13 Oct 1760, d 23 Mar 1836; m
(1) Flora LEE 25 Jan 1789 (dtr of Philip
Ludwell LEE & Eliabeth STEPTOE Lee-
Fendall --- and his cousin) b 1765/66, d ca 1795
(2) Elizabeth "Betsy" ARMISTEAD 1797 (dtr
Bowles ARMISTEAD & Mary FOUNTAINE)
221. Mary "Molly" LEE b 28 July 1764 VA, d 26
Nov 1810; m Col William Augustine
WASHINGTON, (son of Augustine WASH-
INGTON, bro of Gen. George Washington, and
Ann AYLETT I, half sister of Molly's mother)
d 26 Nov 1810
222. Hannah LEE b ca 1766, d 1801; m Corbin
WASHINGTON 10 May 1787 (son of John
Augustine WASHINGTON, bro of Gen George
WASHINGTON, & Hannah BUSHROD)
b 1765, d 1800

51. Mary Aylett & Thomas Ludlow LEE children:

223. Thomas Ludwell LEE II d 1807; m Penny
CARTER (dtr Robert Wormeley CARTER &
Winifred Travers BEALE) d ca 1810
224. William Aylett LEE – d young & unmarried
225. George LEE d 1805; m Evelyn Byrd
BEVERLY (dtr Robert BEVERLY &
Maria CARTER)
226. Ann Fenton LEE m Daniel Carroll BRENT
on 3 Jan 1782
227. Lucinda LEE; m Dr John Dalrymple ORR
228. Rebecca LEE d unmarried
229. _____ LEE (per Ethel Armes, GREAT
HOUSE OF THE LEES)

52. Dr George Steptoe children:

230. Edward STEPTOE liv 22 Jan 1783; d at age 10
231. unmarried son, b aft 22 Jan 1783; d bef 8 Nov
1805

53. Thomas Steptoe children:

no known descendants

54. James Steptoe children:

232. Maj. James Callaway STEPTOE, b 10 Dec 1781
d 24 Oct 1827; m Catherine MITCHELL (sis
Harvey MITCHELL—dau of William Manning
MITCHELL & Sarah HAWKINS) b ca 1784, d
6 Aug 1858
233. Elizabeth "Eliza" Prentice STEPTOE b 13 Feb
1785, d 26 Mar 1820; m Hon Charles
JOHNSTON aft 1802 (b 1769; d June 1833)
234. Dr William STEPTOE b 3 Aug 1785, d 3 Dec
1862; m (1) Nancy BROWN (dtr Henry
BROWN & Frances THOMPSON); (2) Mary
DILLON (b ca 1796 VA; d 27 Jan 1872 VA)
235. George STEPTOE b 3 Aug 1785, d 24 July 1858
m Maria Anne THOMAS 22 Nov 1810 (dtr
Norborne THOMAS & Judith WYATT) b 18
Mar 1792, d aft George

236. Richard Henry Lee STEPTOE b 31 Dec 1786, d
3 Feb 1819

237. Kitty STEPTOE b 10 Jan 1789, d 14 Sept 1790

238. Robert Callaway STEPTOE b 21 Aug 1791, d
1845 or later; m (1) Elizabeth LEFTWICH 15
Feb 1820 (dtr James LEFTWICH & Matilda
CALLAWAY) b ca 1800, d 9 Nov 1840; (2)
Almira L Anderson SCOTT before 23 June 1846
(b 12 May 1804, d 5 Oct 1873)

239. Fanny Maria STEPTOE b 14 July 1793, 14 Jun
1797

240. Lucinda "Lucy" STEPTOE b 25 Mar 1795, d ca
1879; m Robert Cowan PENN Esq 15 June 1814
(son James PENN Esq & Margaret COWAN) b
1789, d 1856

241. Sally Tate STEPTOE b 6 Oct 1796, d 30 July
1828; m William MASSIE 20 Oct 1814

242. Frances "Fannie" STEPTOE b 5 July 1798, d 13
Apr 1832; m Henry Scaisbrook LANGHORNE

243. Thomas STEPTOE b 25 Dec 1799, d Apr 1880;
m Catherine Louisa YANCEY (dtr Maj Joel
YANCEY & Elizabeth MACON) b 16 July 1812
d 20 Oct 1876

55. William Steptoe children:

244. Thomas Ludwell Lee STEPTOE, minor in 1805

245. Sarah "Sally" R STEPTOE minor in 1805; m
Philip GRIMES 20 May 1806 or 1807

246. James Robinson STEPTOE, minor in 1805; m
Jane SYPHAX 29 May 1819

247. Dr. George N. STEPTOE, minor in 1805, d
between 1837 & 1840; m Anne _____ b
ca 1805 NC

248. Walter I. STEPTOE, minor in 1805

249. Matilda "Martha" Grymes STEPTOE, minor in
1805 m 3 times, the last to _____ BOURKE

250. Elizabeth Robinson STEPTOE, b ca 1798; m
Dr Richard Allen CHRISTIAN (son Capt John
CHRISTIAN & Elizabeth Ashfield GRAVES)

251. Mary B. STEPTOE, minor in 1805; m _____
BRENT

The following are also probably 4th generation, but we don't
know where to put them:

252. Lt William ESKRIDGE, b ca 1756 VA, d 3
Oct 1830 VA; m 26 Feb 1789 VA Elizabeth
SCOTT (b ca 1760; d 13 Jan 1844 VA)

253. Sgt George ESKRIDGE, b 24 July 1763 VA, d
18 Aug 1827 KY; m (1) Frances KENNER
(b 1760 VA), (2) Elizabeth ROBINSON 17 Feb
1792 VA (b 20 Dec 1770 VA, d 21 July 1844
KY)

This listing is not considered the final word, we welcome
corrections, changes and suggestions

Index

Master Index

Last	First	Middle	Generation	Book	Page Number
Arris	John		spouse	First 2	103
Ashton			spouse	First 2	126
Ashton	Jane		spouse	First 2	32, 105
Aylett	Anne		3	First 2	140
Aylett	Mary	"Molly"	3	First 2	140
Aylett	William	Col.	spouse	First 2	33, 134
Berryman	John	Capt	spouse	First 2	126
Biglands	Jane		spouse	First 2	32, 111
Bonum	Rebecca		spouse	First 2	32, 45
Bonum	Samuel		In law	First 2	45
Brent	Hugh	Capt.	spouse	First 2	126
Charlemagne			Way back	First 2	109
Coble	Elise	Virginia	7	First 2	2
Coiner	Elizabeth	Hampden	7	First 2	4
Coulbourne	Abigail		spouse	First 2	32, 100
Demourville	Hannah		Spouse ?	First 2	103
Eskridge		(Spence)	2	First 2	32, 128
Eskridge	Ann		3	First 2	117
Eskridge	Burdette		3	First 2	107
Eskridge	Charles		3	First 2	107
Eskridge	Clement		3	First 2	117
Eskridge	Daniel		2	First 2	32, 120
Eskridge	Elizabeth		2	First 2	33, 134
Eskridge	George	Col	1	First 2	20-33
Eskridge	George		2	First 2	32, 102
Eskridge	George		3	First 2	100
Eskridge	George		3	First 2	103
Eskridge	George	Sgt	4 ?	First 2	103
Eskridge	Jane		3	First 2	117
Eskridge	John	(Ashton)	3	First 2	107
Eskridge	Margaret		2	First 2	32, 130
Eskridge	Rebecca		3	First 2	103
Eskridge	Rebecca		3	First 2	107
Eskridge	Rebecca		3	First 2	117
Eskridge	Richard		3	First 2	107
Eskridge	Robert		2	First 2	32, 111
Eskridge	Robert		3	First 2	100
Eskridge	Roger		unk	First 2	12. 19
Eskridge	Samuel		2	First 2	32, 105
Eskridge	Samuel		3	First 2	100
Eskridge	Samuel		3	First 2	103
Eskridge	Sarah		2	First 2	32, 122
Eskridge	Thomas		3	First 2	100
Eskridge	William		2	First 2	32, 100

Eskridge	William	Lt	4 ?	First 2	103
Eskridge	William	Capt.	3	First 2	103
Eskrigge	George		unk	First 2	12, 19
Foxall	Mary		In law	First 2	48
Jackson II	Richard		spouse	First 2	126
Kenner	Brerton		spouse	First 2	126
Kenner	Elizabeth		3	First 2	132
Kenner	Francis		3	First 2	132
Kenner	George	Turberville	3	First 2	132
Kenner	Howson	Major	spouse	First 2	32, 130
Kenner	Katherine	"Cathy"	3	First 2	132
Kenner	Margaret	"Peggy"	3	First 2	132
Kenner	Mary Ann	"Molly"	3	First 2	132
Kenner	Rebecca		3	First 2	132
Kenner	Rodham		3	First 2	132
Kenner	Susanna		3	First 2	132
Lawson	Thomas		spouse	First 2	126
Lewis	Mary	Foushee	spouse	First 2	103
Newton			3	First 2	126
Newton	Ann		3	First 2	126
Newton	Elizabeth		3	First 2	126
Newton	John		3	First 2	126
Newton	Judith		3	First 2	126
Newton	Katherine		3	First 2	126
Newton	Lettice		3	First 2	126
Newton	Martha		3	First 2	126
Newton	Mary		3	First 2	126
Newton	Sarah		3	First 2	126
Newton	Willoughby	Captain	spouse	First 2	32, 122
Philpott	Margaret		In law	First 2	45
Rust	Hannah		spouse	First 2	32, 102
Rust	Peter	Capt	spouse	First 2	107
Spence	Patrick		spouse	First 2	32, 128
Steptoe	George		3	First 2	140
Steptoe	James	Col.	spouse	First 2	33, 134
Steptoe	James		3	First 2	140
Steptoe	Thomas		3	First 2	140
Steptoe	William		3	First 2	140
Vaulx	Elizabeth		spouse	First 2	32, 48
Vaulx II	Robert		In law	First 2	48
West	Mary Henry	Hope White	7	First 2	3