

## **Family and ancestry of Francis Clayton of Chesterfield County, Virginia**

*Efforts to trace the family of Francis Clayton of Chesterfield County, Virginia have had little success to date. Courthouse fires and other casualties wreaked devastating losses on colonial documentation in systems that were often not yet fully established. At this time, however, broad availability of electronic records and the emergence of genetic data are enabling research that would not have been possible ten or twenty years ago.*

*Francis Clayton was one of a family who lived in the Granville, North Carolina area in the 1750s and 1760s, along with members of associated families. Many of these then moved to the area of Spartanburg, South Carolina.*

*It seems beyond a reasonable doubt that the family descended from Jeremiah and William Clayton, who first appeared in Virginia in the late 1660s. There is room for some uncertainty in a few of the intervening steps, with very repetitive use of a few given names, and heavy record loss in a number of county courthouse fires.*

*Genetic and circumstantial evidence suggests the area of Lancashire and adjoining Yorkshire Counties in England as the place of origin of the family.*

\* \* \*

My investigations have drawn on much previous research. Three sources of information in particular deserve special acknowledgement: the Clayton FamilyTree DNA project, or FTDNA;<sup>1</sup> Mel Brashears's family trees, collectively called Mel's Website;<sup>2</sup> and (3) the website *Early Colonial Settlers of Southern Maryland and Virginia's Northern Neck*, here ECSSM.<sup>3</sup> (1) FTDNA includes not only genetic results, which are highly accurate, but also some family trees submitted by participants, which in my view are mostly but not always accurate. One of the FTDNA genetic groupings includes an ascent traced to Francis Clayton of Chesterfield County, Virginia. (2) Mel's Website includes Francis as an incidental offshoot, but in that inclusion provides the key insight that Francis and his siblings were present in Granville, North Carolina, as well as Virginia. (3) Finally, though ECSSM does not include Francis Clayton, it does provide scrupulous and exhaustive coverage of the geographical area its name describes.

This research nearly always insists on documentation from primary sources, but allows – perforce! – reasoning from circumstantial evidence. Documentation may come in various forms. (i) If they were recorded and preserved, vital records of births, marriages and deaths are the staples of traditional genealogy, but seldom available in this time and place. Property records including wills, land deeds, and tax lists were most often well kept, but by their nature limited to those who had property. In particular, women could not own property, except when a widow acquired rights by dower to part of her husband's estate. In tracing the events along the way, it is critical to distinguish from absence of records of interest reflecting the loss of all records, and absence of records of interest because the events did not actually occur as we are hypothesizing. (ii) Genetic data, carefully interpreted, can be revealing and decisive, but needs to be taken hand-in-hand with other evidence.<sup>4</sup> The conclusions from it can be no more accurate than the reported

family trees they tie to. (iii) As eminent genealogist Elizabeth Shown Mills has stressed,<sup>5</sup> migrations were of *groups*. Families maintained their ties with each other and with allied families for generations, even as they moved from place to place. Here, the families followed a common inland migration path from Virginia to north central North Carolina to north central South Carolina.<sup>6</sup> (iv) Unusual given names, or repetitive patterns of common given names, often have identifying value.

Two of these points deserve specific comment here. First, following the movements of other families gives us indications about the Claytons. If as happened here, someone who married a Smith<sup>7</sup> appears forty years later next door to a Smith,<sup>8</sup> that may be worth noting but not very convincing by itself. On the other hand, continuing chains of unusual names such as Tunstall,<sup>9-11</sup> Poythress<sup>12, 13</sup> and Ragsdale<sup>14-16</sup> associated with the Clayton family of interest in all probability go beyond mere coincidence. Second, the recurrent pairing of the common given name of William with the uncommon one of Jeremiah, across four or five generations, will be remarkable here.

Altogether, the documentation in this manuscript is most often indirect and detailed. That is in the nature of genealogical research based on circumstantial evidence. In particular, the repeated use of a small number of given names often leads to confusion and ambiguity. Unfortunately, it all makes for a longer manuscript than I would have liked.

### **Francis Clayton & Elizabeth —**

#### *Francis*

It is clear that Francis was present in Chesterfield, Virginia and in Granville, North Carolina. It possible that around 1748 he was briefly in Caroline County, the home of his somewhat removed cousin, Philip Clayton.<sup>17</sup>

The first clear appearance of Francis Clayton was in 1755, when he bought 200 acres of land in Chesterfield for £15.<sup>18</sup> He appears in the 1756 tax lists there, with three tithables, that is adults: himself and two apparent slaves, James and Annica.<sup>19</sup> In 1760 in Chesterfield, Francis Clayton successfully brought a lawsuit against John Roberts, winning an award of £8 7s 4p — a reasonably substantial amount, more than half of what he had paid for his land — plus court costs.<sup>20</sup> In 1762, the Chesterfield tax lists show Francis, Thomas (presumably Francis's son), and James (again, probably a slave).<sup>21</sup> Thomas was the first son listed in Francis's will.<sup>22</sup> In 1765, Francis was witness for the will of William Hatcher.<sup>23</sup>

It is worth noting, for the purpose of tracing the lineage back, that a Chesterfield Court case of William Clayton against Jeremiah Clayton was dismissed in 1767.

Meanwhile in Granville, North Carolina, in 1758 Francis Clayton is named as a chain-bearer, along with William Clayton, for a survey authorized in a land warrant to Jeremiah Clayton.<sup>24</sup> In 1762, the tax lists of Granville include Francis Clayton.<sup>25</sup> Does this mean he was a different person from the one shown in the Chesterfield lists for the same year? — I don't think so. My experience is that the same individual may appear in a number of tax lists of different

places if he owns taxable property in those locations. I have found no signs that Francis ever owned land in Granville; he might have had slaves or livestock there. There are many other contextual ties placing Francis's family in both areas. In Granville in 1763, William and Elizabeth Clayton granted 65 acres of land to Jeremiah Clayton. Witnesses were Samuel Whithead, John Roberts, Francis Clayton, John Clayton, and Goin Clayton.<sup>26</sup> In 1764, Jeremiah Clayton granted 100 acres of land in Granville to William Clayton, Jr. Francis Clayton was a witness.<sup>27</sup> In 1766, the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Granville County awarded to Thomas Bressie, plaintiff, against Francis Clayton, defendant, 22 shillings and 9 pence in Virginia money.<sup>28</sup> The next year, in an amusing verdict, the jury of the same court awarded Francis Nash one penny in damages against the estate of Francis Clayton.<sup>29</sup> — The levy in Virginia money, which was not common in that context, and the suit against the *estate*, i.e. the total assets of a person, living or dead, suggest that Francis Clayton might not have been personally present in North Carolina at that time.

Francis Clayton's will,<sup>22</sup> written in Chesterfield in 1771, names his wife Elizabeth, and "all my Children, Thomas, William, John, Lucy, Francis, Joseph & Betty." It seems reasonable to guess that the will lists the children the order of their births.

#### *Elizabeth (wife)*

I have found no direct documentation about Elizabeth beyond her name in her husband's will.

#### *Thomas (son)*

In 1784 a Chesterfield lawsuit of Thomas Clayton against Henry Randolph was settled out of court.<sup>30</sup> In 1790, Thomas Clayton and Mary Smith were married in Chesterfield.<sup>7</sup> In 1794 and 1796, Thomas Clayton patented two parcels of land in the Ninety Six District of South Carolina.<sup>31, 32</sup> 1798 will of abutter Benjamin Chaulkley (also witness to Francis Clayton's will) refers to land of Thomas Clayton.<sup>33</sup> The 1830 census for Spartanburg, a part of the former Ninety-Six District, shows Thomas Clayton, aged 80 to 90, next to Joseph Smith.<sup>8</sup> The age bracket indicates that he was born 1740 to 1750, and the surname (a very common one) of his neighbor matches that of the Chesterfield bride.

#### *William (son)*

There were a few different William Claytons in the family in that period, so that often there is no way to tell which was involved the record of in a particular event. It is reasonably clear that William, as co-executor of his father Francis's estate, sold the land from the legacy in 1773.<sup>34</sup> In 1774, two Chesterfield lawsuits involving William Clayton were dismissed because of his death,<sup>35</sup> but I would guess that the death was of Francis's brother William or, less likely, their father. The death may not have been in Chesterfield.

Curiously, William is the only one of the sons not to receive a specific bequest of land from his father, though since he was co-executor of the will, he was obviously a trusted and older son. I suspect the reason was that William already had land. It is possible that he went to

Granville, North Carolina along with other family members, at least a couple of them named William, but my guess is that from Chesterfield he struck out for South Carolina. In 1769, three years before Francis's death, a plat was laid out for William Clayton in then Craven County, a large, only partially defined area in the northern part of the state.<sup>36</sup> There are other land grants to him in 1774, 1775 and 1793 in that area.<sup>37-39</sup> The 1790 census shows him in Greenville County along with other members of the Clayton, Easley and Gowen families.<sup>40</sup> Later references to William Clayton may refer to family descendants.

#### *John (son)*

John is the only of Francis's sons known to have remained in Chesterfield. He purchased 200 acres of land in 1770 for £60.<sup>41</sup> He married Sarah [—] and had three sons: John, Thomas and Lennie (Leonard).<sup>42</sup> In 1776, he was shown on the tax lists of Dale Parish along with household member Lett, presumably short for "Lettice" or "L(a)etitia,"<sup>43</sup> the Latin form of "Joy." Her presence is curious. Perhaps she was a first wife, before Sarah; or perhaps this was a different John. The John of interest here died about 1785, his probate records indicate.

#### *Francis (son)*

In 1790, the census for Spartanburg County, South Carolina shows Frances [sic] Claton on one page and Jeremiah Claton on the next.<sup>40</sup> The 1830 census for the same area shows Francis Clayton as head of a household with a number of younger persons, who might be grandchildren.<sup>8</sup> That census categorizes him as 80 to 90 years old, which would place his birth at 1740 to 1750.

#### *Joseph (son)*

Joseph's given name is the only one in his family that does not have an apparent origin in earlier relatives' names. One possibility is that it was after Joseph Gowan, a member of a family close to the Claytons.<sup>44</sup> (Note the Gowen Clayton discussed below.)

There is disagreement about what became of Joseph. I personally find that the preponderance of the evidence is that he joined the Revolutionary War artillery company of Drury Ragsdale and subsequently moved to Kentucky.<sup>45</sup> Others have categorically ruled out this possibility.<sup>46</sup>

#### *Lucy and Betty (daughters)*

Unfortunately, I have been able to find nothing at all about the two daughters beyond their mention in their father's will. Women could not own property except by widowhood, and the surviving records — wills, deeds to land, and tax lists — largely dealt with property. Betty was obviously named after her mother; Lucy's name may be associated with that of the daughters of another family branch, Samuel Clayton and his son Philip,<sup>47, 48</sup> cited at the beginning of this section.

## Siblings of Francis Clayton

This material in this section is very detailed, far beyond the interest level of many readers. The circumstantial nature of much of the evidence makes the discussion even more lengthy. However, it is fundamental to understanding and corroborating the paths and relationships between the previous and coming generations, so I am including it. Some readers may wish to just skim it, others to skip it entirely.

### *Jeremiah (brother) & Frances –*

The first records I have found of Jeremiah are in a 1754 militia list of Granville, North Carolina, where he appears with William Clayton.<sup>44</sup> This is a year before Francis's first appearance in the purchase of land in Chesterfield,<sup>18</sup> supporting the notion that the three are contemporaries coming into adulthood. Also present on the militia list are William and Joseph Gowan, members of an allied family that appears with the Claytons in three states.<sup>49-52</sup>, and other families associated in their migrations, including the Stovalls, the Hembrys, the Osborns and the Yanceys. In 1755, Jeremiah Clayton appears on the Granville tax lists.<sup>53</sup> In 1757, he appears in Chesterfield, Virginia when a lawsuit he brought against William Graves is dismissed because of the death of the defendant.<sup>54</sup> In 1758, Jeremiah obtains a warrant for 640 acres of land to be surveyed.<sup>55</sup> William Clayton and Francis Clayton are listed as chain-bearers for the survey, further corroborating the proposed relationship as brothers. In 1762, Jeremiah Clayton is granted a patent for 640 acres of land on both sides of Jonathan's Creek in Granville.<sup>56</sup>

In 1763, William and Elizabeth Clayton grant 65 acres of land to Jeremiah Clayton for £10.<sup>26</sup> All are noted to be Granville residents. Witnesses include Francis Clayton, John Clayton, and Goin [Gowen] Clayton, as well as John Roberts. This transaction appears to buttress the hypothesis that William is the father of the other Claytons shown. It is natural that he would be helping a son get started in life. The younger William was explicitly designated as "Jr." in a land sale the next year.

Jeremiah Clayton holds the dubious distinction, despite the paucity of surviving records, of having at least four lawsuits against him noted, in two different states, within a period of three years. In 1767 in Chesterfield, a suit brought by his own brother William was dismissed.<sup>57</sup> In Granville, Jeremiah was defendant in three lawsuits from 1766 to 1768.<sup>58-60</sup>

The 1768 lawsuit is the last trace I have found of Jeremiah in Granville. By 1772, he has moved to South Carolina, I believe. A survey for a land patent that was never granted indicates that "one Clayton" was an abutter of the 300 subject acres in Craven County on the west side of the Catawba River.<sup>61</sup> The proposed grantee, William Hamilton, died sometime before 1784.<sup>62</sup> In 1786, his wife Mary received a patent for 300 acres "in the district of Camden [which included later Chester, Union, Spartanburg and York counties] on the Branches of Neilly Creek SW side of the Catawba River," which appears to be a somewhat altered version of the earlier parcel, now noted to be abutting Jeremiah Clayton.<sup>63</sup> As noted below, Jeremiah's younger brother Augustine reported living along the Catawba in 1775, he believed in Chester County. The 1790 census of Spartanburg shows Auston Claton and Jeremiah Claton on adjacent lines.<sup>40</sup>

Jeremiah married Frances, whose given name appears with his in land grants.<sup>64</sup>

*John (brother) & Hannah Kyle*

According to the military pension application of John Clayton,<sup>65</sup> he was born about 1734. In 1758 the Court of Granville, North Carolina found that he had trespassed against Edmund Covington without making the agreed restitution, assessing £6 14s 9p in damages.<sup>66</sup> The next year, William Johnson was awarded £10 7s for damages from John Clayton and John Coleman.<sup>67</sup> John Clayton served as a lieutenant in the Revolutionary War under Colonel [Samuel] Earle of Greenville, South Carolina. In 1791, John Clayton obtained a patent for 925 acres of land on the middle fork of the Tygar River in Greenville County, part of the then Ninety Six District of South Carolina.<sup>68</sup> In 1792, William Easley obtained a patent for 440 acres adjoining land of John Clayton.<sup>69</sup> In 1793, John Clayton conveyed his 925 acres land to William Easley. The deed was witnessed by Jno. Gowen & Allen Gowen.<sup>51</sup>

John married Hannah Kyle, who was born about 1769, on January 1, 1794. Sometime before 1809, the couple had moved to Hawkins County, Tennessee. He died on November 15, 1828.<sup>65</sup>

As always with very common names such as John, it is easy to conflate and muddle the series of events from different individuals' lives.

*Gowen (brother)*

The name Gowen is evidently derived from the surname of a family that the Claytons associated with across three generations and three states.

Gowen Clayton appears in the 1762 tax lists of Granville County, North Carolina.<sup>25</sup> He is a witness there in 1763 to conveyance of land by William and Elizabeth Clayton to Jeremiah Clayton.<sup>26</sup> In 1764 and 1765, he was defendant in two lawsuits in Granville, losing both cases.<sup>70</sup> <sup>71</sup> By 1790, Gowen has moved to the areas of Spartanburg, South Carolina. He is present there through 1820, along with a son Gowen. The 1790 census for adjoining Greenville County shows a notable clustering of members of allied families: William Easley, Allen Gowin, Samuel Easley, William Clayton, Gowin Clayton, and Ann Easley.<sup>40</sup>

The younger Gowen is shown as an ancestor in Group I of the FamilyTree Y-DNA Clayton results, along with the Francis Clayton of Chesterfield.<sup>1</sup>

*William (brother) & Elizabeth –*

There were two William Claytons present in Colonial-era Granville, North Carolina, who appear to me to be Francis's brother and their father. Sometimes the recorded name includes the suffix "Junior," which makes things clear, and sometimes the context seems to suggest a younger person. At other times, there is no way to tell which is involved.

A reasonable starting point for this proposed sibling would be to guess that he would be moving into adulthood at more or less the same time and place as his brothers, here Jeremiah and Francis. In fact we find that in 1758 Francis and William are designated as chain carriers in a survey of land in Granville warranted to Jeremiah Clayton.<sup>24</sup> The pairing itself suggests brotherhood, and the role of chain carrier in surveying virgin land required little skill but some stamina and vigor — a young man’s task. In the same year, William is assigned to a road crew in Granville, indicating that he was then hale and hearty enough for such heavy work.<sup>72</sup> In the same county, he is in the 1762 tax lists, listed explicitly as “William Clayton, Junr.” in the household of James Yancey.<sup>25</sup>

The presence of William Clayton in James Yancey’s household indicates a more than casual relationship of some kind. Mel Brashears in fact reports that William married James’s daughter Elizabeth.<sup>2</sup> However, James Yancey’s will<sup>73</sup> does not cite such a daughter, and there are conflicting reports across the internet of whether such a person existed and (if so) whom she married. It may be noted that James came from New Kent County in Virginia, within a few miles of the earlier Claytons discussed below, so it is possible but unproven that the clans knew each other there.

Granville County, North Carolina abuts then Lunenburg, now Mecklenburg County, Virginia. The family groups and activities of one sometimes spilled over into the other, so that it takes a full view of both sides of the border to grasp and follow the family connections. In 1757, the court orders for Lunenburg<sup>74</sup> appoint William Cleaton and John Cleaton for a road “into Ingrams Road that goes over Maherrin River,” which meanders across the border between the two states. In 1760, William Embry of an associated family left his will,<sup>16</sup> naming as executor John Ragsdale, whose grandson Drury Ragsdale was a close neighbor of the Claytons in Chesterfield and captain of the artillery company Joseph Clayton would join in 1777.<sup>75</sup> In 1762, William Cleaton bought 373 acres of land in Lunenburg from James Harwell.<sup>76</sup> In 1763, William Cleaton patented 400 acres of land in Lunenburg on the head of Miles Creek.<sup>77</sup> In 1764, Wm. Cleaton and Wm. Clayton, Jr. were listed together in St. James Parish with 375 acres of land and 2 tithables.<sup>78</sup> The Lunenburg tax lists for the same year show a number of members of associated families, including William Easley, George Newton (junior), John Ragsdale, John Puryear, and Richard Yancey.

In 1764, the Granville County Court awarded the executors of Darwin Elwick damages of £13 3s 10p, plus costs and interest, against William Clayton, who did not appear in court for whatever reason.<sup>79</sup> In 1766, John Pleasants recovered damages of £7 17s 8p against William.<sup>80</sup>

In 1774, Chesterfield, Virginia court records reflect two lawsuits involving William Clayton dismissed because of his death.<sup>35</sup> I suspect that this is the person of interest here. Since there are no Chesterfield probate records reflecting the death, it is reasonable to suppose that it occurred elsewhere. In 1787, a William Clayton and his wife Elizabeth were still living in Spartanburg, South Carolina along the Tyger River,<sup>81</sup> where his brothers William and Augustine Clayton had land (see below). I imagine that the last couple were the same as the William Clayton, Junior, and his wife Betsy in Granville County in 1765,<sup>82</sup> rather than the senior William.

There is record that William's wife was Elizabeth,<sup>26</sup> doubly confusing because his son William also married an Elizabeth. As will be discussed below, I am guessing that the father's wife was Elizabeth Dobyns.

*Augustine (brother) & Catherine Smith*

According to Augustine Clayton's Revolutionary War pension application, he was born on March 4, 1755.<sup>83</sup> The application further reports that in 1775, when he was living along the Catawba River in South Carolina,

... he entered the service of the United States under Captain John Gowan [John Gowen], Captain of a company of Light Horse; the Lieutenant of the company was John Clayton brother of Augustine... He afterwards volunteered in July 1776, to march against the Cherokee Indians... he got his discharge, in the winter of 1776: – He now removed to Spartanburg District, in the upper part of South Carolina, and was out occasionally under the same Captain Gowen of Thomas's Regiment, until the year 1780... in the year 1782 he enlisted for 6 months under Captain Gowen, and after serving the full time for which he enlisted was honorably discharged, return home on New Year's Day in 1783.

The 1775 location matches the initial South Carolina one of his brother Jeremiah and is about sixty miles from that of their brother William.

In 1785, Austin Clayton received a patent for 200 acres on Cedar Shoal Creek in the Ninety Six District of South Carolina.<sup>84</sup> In 1788, Austen Clayton obtained a patent for 190 acres on a branch of the Tygar River in the same District.<sup>85</sup> In 1793, Augustine Clayton received a patent for 872 acres on branches of Beaver Dam Creek, in the same district.<sup>86</sup> In 1796, he received a patent for 330 acres in the same location.<sup>87</sup> From 1795 to 1799, Rev. Augustine Clayton was co-pastor of the Tyger River (Friendship) Baptist Church, southeast of the Town of Spartanburg.<sup>88</sup> In 1800, he was a member of the Bethel Association of the church and deputed as a messenger to Georgia. At about this time, his house burned down and church members raised funds to help him deal with the disaster.<sup>83, 88</sup> In the same year he appeared in the census of Spartanburg, South Carolina.<sup>89</sup> In 1805, he moved to Kentucky.<sup>88</sup> He was in Warren County in 1820.<sup>90</sup> In 1834, he made an oral will there.<sup>91</sup>

Spencer's *History of Kentucky Baptists*<sup>92</sup> offers some amusing biographical notes:

Augustine Clayton was a preacher in this [Sinking Creek] church, a short time, about 1820. He possessed small preaching gifts, but being a pioneer, he exercised some good influence among the settlers.

Mr. Clayton was born in South Carolina, about 1764. He learned to read and write and studied the science of vocal music. In early manhood he married Kate Smith, and soon afterward, with his wife joined the Methodists, and became an exhorter among them. Afterward some Baptist preachers came into the neighborhood where he lived, and established a church. Mr. Clayton and his wife, becoming convinced that they had not been scripturally baptized, now submitted to the ordinance of immersion, and united with the Baptist church. He moved to what is now Allen county, Kentucky, in 1806. He united first with Bethlehem church, and served it as pastor about a year, when he moved to Tennessee, where he remained about three years. He then

moved back to Kentucky, where he spent the remainder of his life in Barren and Allen counties. He taught singing-schools and preached from house to house exhorting the people to repent and turn to the Savior. He was called to his reward about the year 1834.

His actions during the divorce process of his son, Augustine Jr., show a human side that I find of worthy of notice. He deposed that –

... he was present with Augustin Clayton Jr. & his wife at the house of Wm. Clayton on the day she left him last, he there told her he was going to Look out for a Home & while he was gone she must make her home at Wm. Clayton which she agreed to do.<sup>93</sup>

He was not displaying resentment at the slight to his family, as he might well have done, nor taking an unyielding stance, as a fundamentalist, fire-and-brimstone preacher might have done. He was actively working with the family to see that she had a home after leaving the one she had with the younger Augustine.

Augustine's tree is reported in the FamilyTree Y-DNA Group 1.<sup>1</sup> I have possibly sometimes confused a reported son named Austin with his father Augustine; who was also sometimes known as Austin. The birth date of 1755 reported in the military pension application would place Augustine almost a generation later in time than expected, yet there seems no particular reason to doubt his statement that he was the brother of John, who appears almost at the same time as the reported eldest brothers. Possibly his father married twice. It is beyond the scope of the current effort to sort out these issues.

Augustine married Catherine Smith, credibly reported to be the daughter of John Smith and Sarah Rice.<sup>94, 95</sup> A John Smith was deacon in the same Baptist group as Augustine<sup>88</sup> – but “John Smith” is probably the most common name there is.

#### *Ursula (sister) & George Newton*

Mel Brashears includes a daughter named Ursula, reporting that she married George Newton. There is a fair amount of indirect evidence to support this report. In 1762 in Granville, North Carolina, the tax lists show a household with three taxable males: William Clayton, Francis Clayton and George Newton,<sup>25</sup> which fits with the idea that George married a sister of William and Francis. There are many documents in which George Newton's name is in proximity to that of one of the Claytons, often as co-witnesses. A Granville conveyance of land by George Newton include the name of his wife, “Ursley.”<sup>96</sup> In 1807 in Davidson County, Tennessee “Ussley Newton” is one of the administrators for the intestate probate of George Newton.<sup>97</sup> Finally, we may note that the uncommon given name of Ursula was traditional and recurrent in the Dobyns family,<sup>98</sup> from which I believe that her mother came.

## William Clayton & Elizabeth Dobyms

### *Early context: Stephen Clayton*

Chronologically, the first Clayton I have found in the Granville area was Stephen. As will be discussed in a while, the William of current focus appears to fit as Stephen's brother, less likely his nephew or even son.

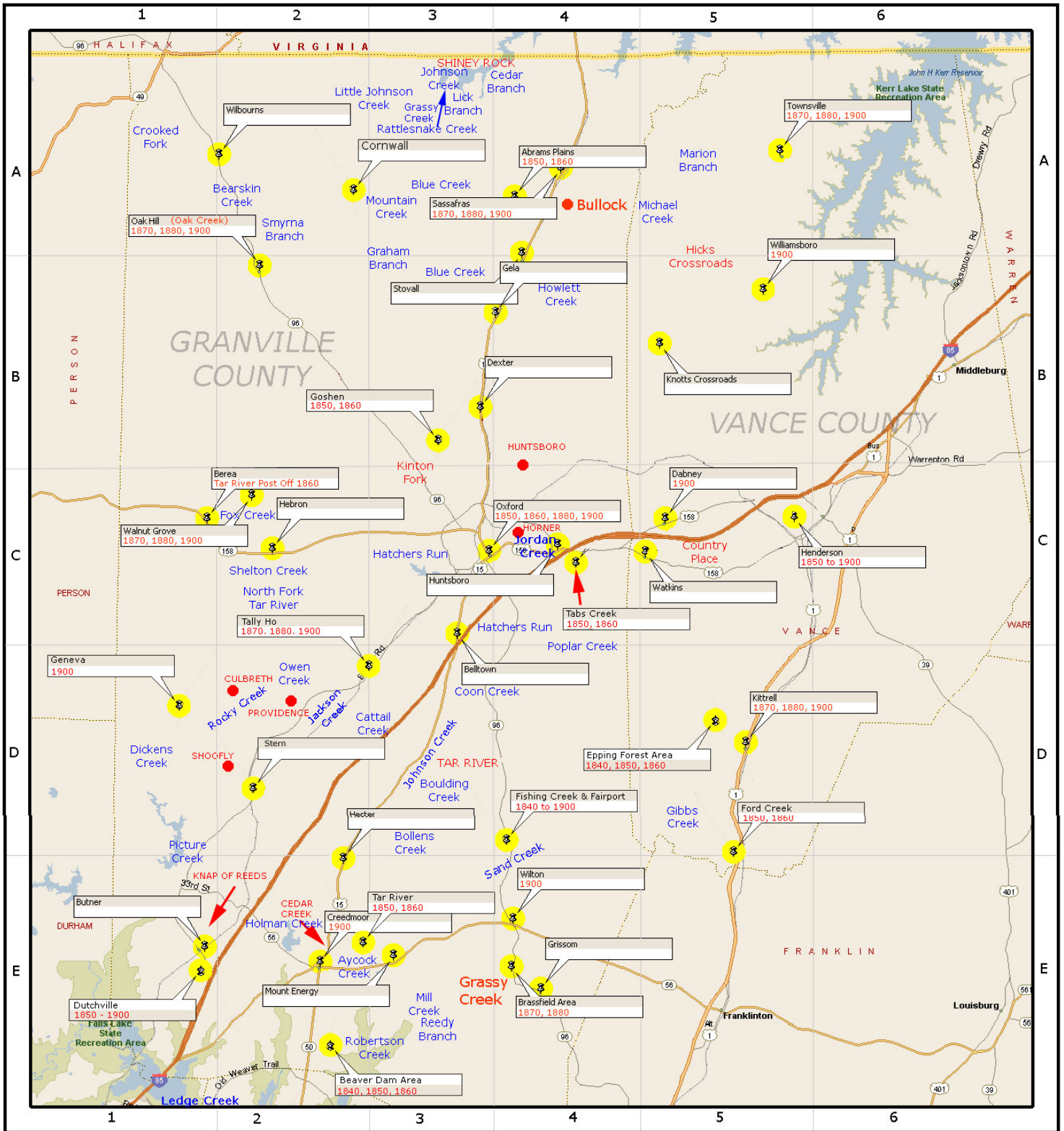
In 1734, Stephen Clayton and his wife Ann were summoned to court in Essex County to declare whether they would administer the estate of Robert Graves.<sup>99</sup> Surviving records indicate a close relationship of Robert Graves to Samuel Clayton. In 1716/7, Samuel had served as witness to a sale to land to Robert, and in 1729 witnessed Robert's inventory of the estate of Joseph Anderson.<sup>100</sup>

In 1731, Stephen had obtained a land patent in King William County and moved there.<sup>101</sup> By 1734, he and his wife sold the land he had patented and absent from later records of that county.<sup>102</sup> In 1740, Stephen Clayton obtained a 100 acre Colonial Grant "on the Beaver Creek Swamp so. side fishing creek."<sup>103</sup> (The area was part of Edgecombe County before the formation of Granville in 1752.) Fishing Creek is marked in quadrant D4 of the map on a separate page.<sup>104</sup> A Beaver Dam Area is shown somewhat to the southwest, though it is my experience that beaver dams are common and shifting presences – this may not be the same one as cited in the land document. In any case, the land patent clearly is in the middle of other locations of immediate interest, such as Grassy Creek and Jonathan's (now Johnson's) Creek.

The surviving original documentation is fragmentary, but persuades me that the Stephen Clayton of North Carolina is closely related to the Samuel Clayton of Virginia, perhaps his brother. The events are consecutive, logically plausible, within a very finite circle of Claytons in that time and place, and corroborated by other evidence. (See further notes on Samuel Clayton below in the section *First Virginia Settlers*.)

### *William Clayton*

William Clayton appears to be a good candidate for father of Francis and the siblings discussed above. He is of about the right age, in about the right place, and keeping the right company. William appears as a deed witness in 1740 in Goochland County, along with James Gowen.<sup>50</sup> This establishes that William was born sometime before, say, 1720 and provides a connection with the allied Gowen family. In 1747, William Clayton appears in a road petition in the Grassy Creek area of Granville County, North Carolina.<sup>72</sup> "Wm. Going & Son Joseph" appear in the 1755 Granville tax lists.<sup>53</sup> "James Going" is noted to have patented land in Granville and entered it in 1760.<sup>105</sup> There are similar links between Goochland and Granville in the allied Easley<sup>106, 107</sup> and Hembree (Embry)<sup>72, 108</sup> families. John Stovall and Joel Chandler, whose families appear as William Clayton's close neighbors in the 1755 Granville rolls, came from the south side of the James River in then Henrico, now Chesterfield County, which was Francis Clayton's location.<sup>25, 34, 109</sup>



## GRANVILLE & VANCE COUNTY, NC

Vance County was formed in 1881, taking part of Granville County. Years in red represent the years a townships name appears on the U.S. Census. Some township locations are approximations.

Creeks shown in blue

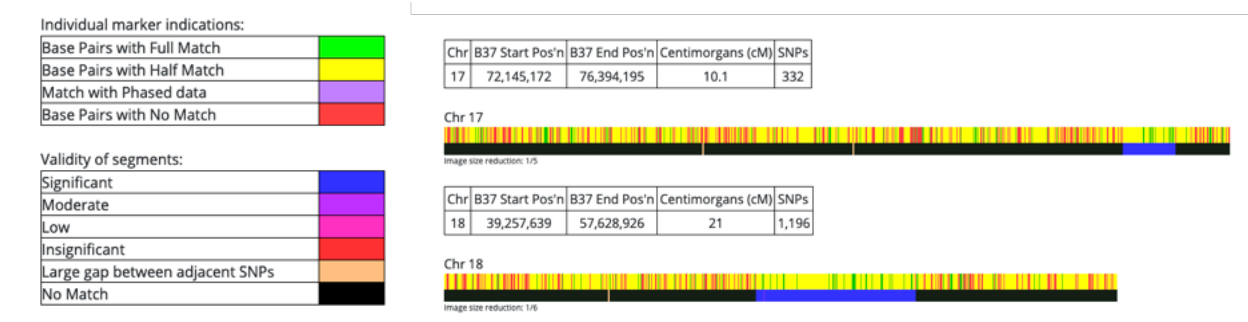
In 1763 William and his wife Elizabeth granted land in Granville to Jeremiah Clayton,<sup>26</sup> giving us the incidental fact of a wife's given name. They may have been Jeremiah's parents, setting him up to begin his new life as an adult, but that is speculation.

William & Elizabeth had at least five children: (i) Jeremiah; (ii) John; (iii) Gowen; (iv) William; and (v) Augustine. They probably had at least one daughter (vi) Ursula. Mel's Website reports in addition a son (vii) Isham, and there is another report of an (viii) Isaac,<sup>64</sup> but I have not been able to find corroboration so have omitted discussion of these last two.

### *Elizabeth Dobyns*

Although I normally would be very skeptical of filling in a blank in a family tree with a name that does not even appear in relevant documentation, I believe that William Clayton's wife (or one of his wives) was Elizabeth Dobyns. (1) A 1762 deed to land from William Clayton<sup>110</sup> cites his wife Elizabeth; because the land was surveyed for him in 1751,<sup>111</sup> it seems to refer to the father rather than the son. (2) My own DNA results tie to those of a reported descendant of William Dobyns, who lived very close to the Claytons in Granville. (3) The Dobyns family clearly, and the Claytons apparently, had roots in North Farnham and South Farnham Parishes, Virginia. (4) As noted just above, the uncommon given name of Ursula, reported daughter of William and Elizabeth, occurred with some frequency in the Dobyns family.<sup>98</sup>

Autosomal DNA usually isn't very helpful in research of remote ancestry, because — on average — it is diluted by half each generation. However, even a series of random coin tosses may have extended streaks of heads or tails, and adjacent segments of chromosomes may tend to stick together in non-random fashion. As genetic databases grow, the chances of useful individual matches grow. If a significant match emerges, it may be useful in confirming relationships already identified. Of more interest, a significant match that *doesn't* fit with any known ancestry may provide clues about unidentified ancestors — if there's a good family tree for the match. I was lucky enough to come across such a match in this research.<sup>112</sup> There is a significant amount of shared DNA on chromosomes 17 and 18. Even more remarkably, one of the reported ancestors on my match's tree,<sup>113</sup> William Dobbins (Dobyns), lived in the County Line District of Granville, North Carolina within a mile or so of William and Jeremiah Clayton. This combination of genetic and matching traditional records provides very strong evidence of some connection between the two families.



The first record I have found of William Dobbins in Granville is his 1758 attachment of the estate of George Morris, awarded to the plaintiff by the defendant's default.<sup>114</sup> In 1759, William Dobyys (so spelled) signed a petition for laying of a road near the head of Grassy Creek.<sup>72</sup> In 1761, William Dobbins purchased 140 acres of land on both sides of Grassy Creek, close to the Claytons on Jonathans (now Johnsons) Creek.<sup>115</sup> The 1762 tax list of Granville<sup>25</sup> shows William Dobbins five lines away from William Clayton, Jr., and includes Francis and other Claytons among its sixty-nine taxable households. In 1765, William Dobbins sold his 140 acres of land.<sup>116</sup> There is no release of dower or mention of his having a wife.

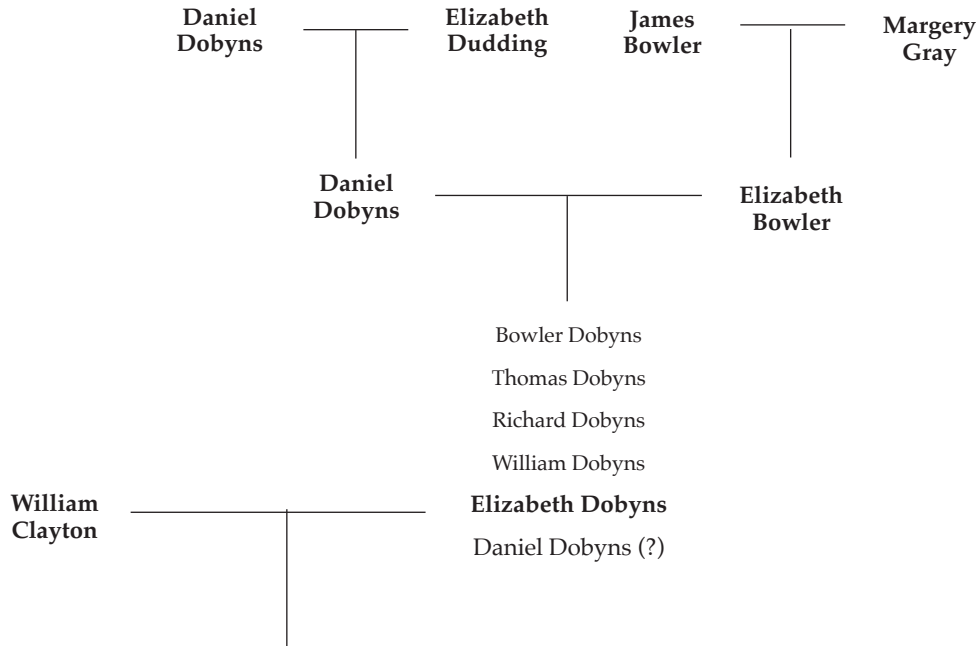
There are signs that William Dobyys was, along with William Clayton, in adjacent Lunenburg County, Virginia in the first part of the 1750s, prior to his first appearance in 1759 in Granville. It is hard to be sure, since there were at least two William Dobbins in Lunenburg around that time, one of whom died in 1751.<sup>117</sup> However, the time interval fits neatly and consecutively between the death of his proposed father, Daniel, in Essex County and William's appearance in Granville.

The ancestry of William Dobbins is reported variously among a number of unsourced web reports, including some showing as his father Daniel Dobyys (the third) of Essex County, Virginia. I found no direct ties between the Claytons and the Dobyys there, but there is documentation that both families were present in South Farnham Parish and so could be expected to have known each other there. In 1689, William Clayton was in North Farnham Parish in then Rappahannock County.<sup>118</sup> In 1694, Jeremy Clayton was witness for transactions involving Thomas Payne of South Farnham Parish; in 1695, Daniel Dobyys was ordered to respond to a petition by Thomas Payne's wife for assignment of land.<sup>119</sup> In 1724, William Tunstall, a member of a family with whom the Claytons were directly connected both in Virginia and in England, was, along with Nicholas Smith, witness to an application for an inn license by Samuel Smith. Nicholas Smith was one of Daniel Dobyys's abutters.<sup>120</sup> There are extensive records of the Dobyys in North Farnham for a number of generations.<sup>121, 122</sup>

How, specifically, did the Dobyys and Claytons families become related? The given name of Ursula appears to have come from the Dobyys family, suggesting that Ursula's mother was a Dobyys. There are more remote, apparently less likely ties that could be considered, including the possibility that the two families were linked indirectly through another.

I do not find it troublesome that there are no records of an Elizabeth as daughter of Daniel Dobyys, or of her marriage to William Clayton. Colonial era registers for South Farnham Parish, where her birth and marriage were likely to have taken place, have been lost.<sup>123</sup> The will of her hypothesized father, Daniel, survives and provides the best available documentation of family relationships.<sup>124</sup> It lists five sons, but also speaks of "all of my children," which one would expect to include daughters. I suspect that Daniel had already provided for any daughters at the time of their marriage settlements, as had his wife's father, so that they would not need inclusion in his will.<sup>122</sup> Since Daniel's wife was named Elizabeth, we might expect a daughter so named as well.

*Hypothesized pedigree*



The pedigree of the Dobyms family is well documented and described,<sup>121, 122</sup> so I will not reiterate it here.

**First Virginia Settlers**

A group of early settlers of New Kent County, Virginia, is plausible and credible as the origin of the family discussed here: (1) Jeremiah Clayton, who arrived by 1668; (2) Samuel Clayton, evidently closely related to Jeremiah and most likely his son; and (3) William Clayton, first appearing in 1669. Both Samuel and William had known sons named after their father. Samuel's family is of genealogical interest because succeeding generations lived in places where records survive. The best overview may be in the map that follows.

To encourage immigration into the colony, in 1618 the Virginia Company provided that each person who settled in Virginia or paid the transportation expenses of a settler would receive fifty acres of land for each immigrant. The process was formalized by a patent system in 1634.<sup>125</sup> Many of the earliest settlements were along the James River upstream from Jamestown, which in 1607 had become the first permanent English settlement in America.<sup>126</sup>



Map data ©2024 Google 2 mi

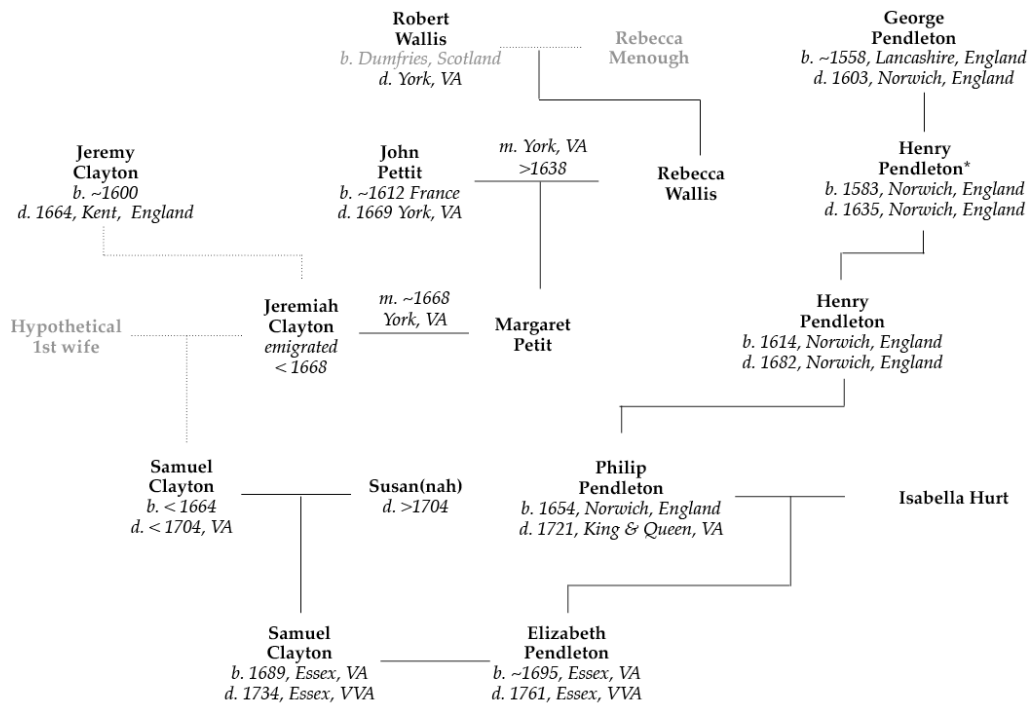
### *Jeremiah Clayton*

The earliest record of Jeremiah Clayton I have found is the 1668 issuance of a patent to John Peteete for 350 acres of land for transport of seven persons, including Jeremiah Claton.<sup>127</sup> In the same year, Jeremia Cleaton obtained a patent for 1,300 acres of land on the north side of Mattaponi River, on a branch of Acquicke Swamp, in Rappahannock County.<sup>128</sup> The grant cites abutters John Poteet and James Atkins. The patent recites that in part the grant was for his having paid for the transport of one immigrant, unnamed. John Poteet was a surgeon and a French citizen, who was present in the area by 1638.<sup>129, 130</sup> In 1669, John Poteet of York County made a will noting that his daughter Margaret was the wife of Jeremiah Clayton.<sup>131</sup> A family tree is shown on a separate page.

In 1682, the land Jeremiah Clayton had patented was described as belonging to Samuel Clayton. The passing-on indicates a close relationship, on the face of it more likely father-son than brotherhood or something more remote. Among various possible explanations, the one most consistent with the known facts is that Jeremiah had a previous wife in England. Perhaps the unnamed person whose transport he paid for was Samuel.

## Hypothesized partial pedigree including Jeremiah Clayton

Black text and solid lines indicate documented information, gray text and dotted lines indicate unconfirmed information. The tree does not show siblings and remarriages simply because of space constraints.



\* Henry Pendleton married Susan Camden, granddaughter of Sir Thomas Pettus, Mayor of Norwich. There are some reports that John Pettit, who emigrated to York, Virginia, was related to this family. There are arguments for and against this association.

In 1683, “Jerimiah Clayton” signed with his mark a petition from St. Stephen’s Parish in New Kent for permission for a new vestry.<sup>132</sup> In 1694, he was a witness to an Essex County deed along with Philip Pendleton,<sup>133</sup> who was the (adopting) father of Elizabeth Pendleton, wife of Samuel Clayton.<sup>134</sup> In 1704, the Quit Rent Rolls for King and Queen County show Jeremy Clayton (possibly Jeremiah’s son) with 325 acres, John Clayton with 400, and “Susannah Widd.” with 700.<sup>135</sup> John was evidently the son of Thomas Clayton of York County, who had died by 1685.<sup>136</sup> Susannah was the widow of Samuel Clayton.<sup>137</sup>

The 1704 Quit Rent Rolls, incidentally, show Thomas Tunstall in King and Queen. In 1667, the year before Jeremiah’s land patent, Richard Tunstall had been granted 1,368 acres of land, also on the north side of the Mattaponi in New Kent.<sup>11</sup> This is one of three conjunctions of the Clayton and Tunstall names (also found together in Henrico County in 1637 and Lancashire in 1601), consistent with a family connection for the Claytons involved.

### *Samuel Clayton*

As just noted, Samuel’s land ownership in 1682 implies a birth before 1661. This generally fits with the ages of later family members.<sup>48</sup>

In 1702, Samuel Clayton was witness to a deed in King William County, along with Philip Pendleton.<sup>138</sup> In the same year, he was a signatory to an oath of loyalty to King William III, being noted there as a justice of King and Queen County.<sup>139</sup> By 1704, he had died.

He left one known son, Samuel, and possibly other children. The pedigree forward is well-established,<sup>140</sup> so I will not repeat it here. It is, however, worthy of particular note that in 1734, the younger Samuel owned land south of Piscataway Creek in New Kent<sup>47</sup> – in the same area as William Clayton was in 1669 (see below).

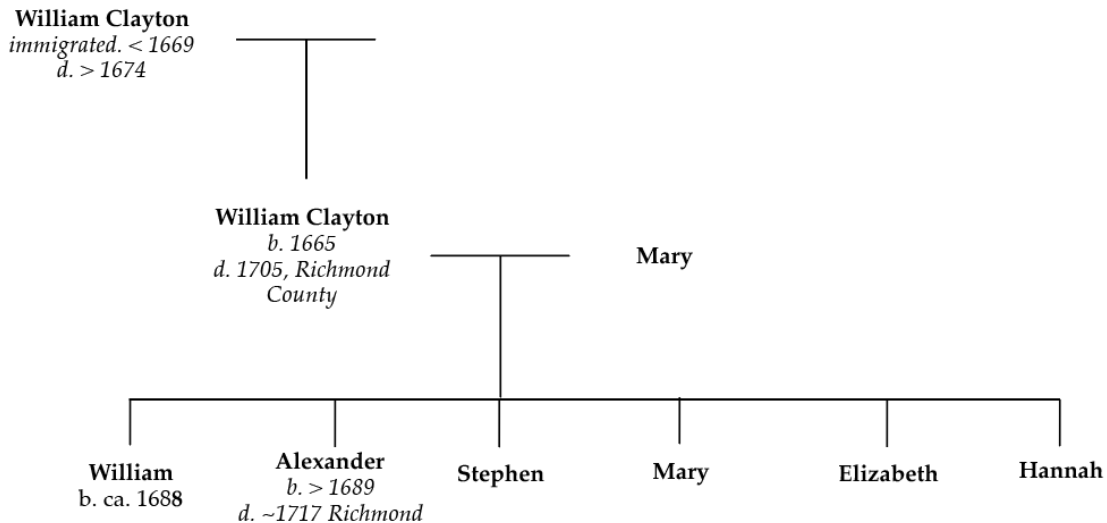
### *William Clayton and Mary —*

In 1669, William Cleaton of New Kent County bought 224 acres of land south of Piscataway Creek. This was a year after Jeremiah Clayton’s patent and perhaps ten miles away. William died sometime in the next several years, leaving a son, also named William.

In 1686 the son was noted to have “arived to the age of one & twenty yeares,”<sup>141</sup> giving us a birthdate of 1665. He had rights to twenty-three head of cattle held in trust for him, for which he petitioned the court. In 1689, William and his wife Mary sold the land he had inherited.<sup>142</sup> The couple then moved to Richmond County, Virginia. They had a number of children. William died at the age of about forty, with all of his children still minors. His will<sup>143</sup> specifically singles out his son William to be taught to read and write. It is worthy of note that the name William Landman appears both as a witness to the 1705 will and as seller in the 1666 land purchase by William Clayton’s father; perhaps the William Landman of 1705 was his father’s namesake as well.

Mary’s given name appears in property documents associated with her husband,<sup>144</sup> but I have been able to find nothing about her beyond that.

William and Mary Clayton had six children: (i) William (b. 1688); (ii) Alexander (b. > 1689, d. ~ 1717); (iii) Stephen (b. > 1689); (iv) Mary (b. > 1689); (v) Elizabeth (b. 1689); and Hannah (b. > 1689). The son William of Richmond is to be taught to read and write, according to his father's will, and both the Henrico attestation of 1740<sup>50</sup> and the Granville deed of 1762 from William Clayton<sup>110</sup> have his signature, not his mark



### *The bottom line*

One may appropriately look with sceptical eye at some of the conjunctions discussed here – is William in place *X* really the same as William in place *Y*? But here we have a *combination* of Jeremiah + William + Stephen disappearing from King and Queen County, and then appearing in Granville. It is possible that there is generational confusion and conflation with sons named after their fathers, but I find recurrence of the trio of names fully convincing.

### *Other early Clayton settlers*

There are a number of Claytons of possible relevance in the relatively small community of seventeenth-century York County, Jeremiah's arrival point. These include Margaret, sister of Sir Jasper Clayton, who decided to emigrate on her own in the 1630s.<sup>145</sup> There is James, who died about 1746.<sup>146</sup> There is Richard, who was transported there in 1658.<sup>147</sup> There is Thomas, who died by 1685.<sup>148</sup>

## Lancashire & Yorkshire

There is a Y-DNA trail leading back to Clayton roots in Lancashire. Three other Colonial Virginia Claytons also have identifiable roots in the area. The pedigrees date back hundreds of years. A volume of Dugdale's classic series of heraldry, *The Visitation of the County Palatine of Lancaster: Made in the Year 1664-5*, outlines the main branches of these.<sup>149</sup> The broad outlines of these pedigrees are widely accepted, although there are some differences about particulars. And no doubt the full story includes chapters of a much more humble nature than the exalted armorial ones. Under the system of primogeniture, only the oldest direct-descent male inherited the title and estate!

The Y-DNA evidence of interest runs from Francis Clayton of Chesterfield, Virginia to the family of Clayton Hall in Lancaster. One of the family trees submitted to Clayton FTDNA for Group I — which includes Francis of Chesterfield — indicates ancestry from “Ralph Clayton (b. bef 1604 England d. 1668 Woodditton, Cambridgeshire, England).”<sup>1</sup> A manuscript in *The Genealogist*<sup>150</sup> reports that Ralph's father was “William Clayton, of the Old Croke, Whittle, Leyland, and Fulwood, co. Lancaster; eldest son and heir of Thomas Clayton.” Raphe's grandfather, also named Raphe, married Bridget, daughter of Robert Tunstall of Aldcliffe, in the northern part of Lancashire.<sup>149</sup>

### Further work

After four years' work, I am beginning to have a proposed picture of the Virginia descent, rather than hopeless confusion of mostly disconnected dots. It is possible that having this overall framework will enable me to fix details more clearly.

Separately, I am beginning to have at least a plausible picture of the English origins of the family.<sup>151</sup> It is not easy going, but I aim to try to connect that proposed scenario with information attached to Y-DNA results.

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March 12, 2026

## Notes

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2. Mel R. Brashears. Our Family Tree. [http://www.mels.website/EverWeb/Don%27s%20&%20Pat%27s%20Documents%20-%20Periodic%20Updates/Reunion%2011%20Master%20Surname%20Index/ps23/ps23\\_410.htm](http://www.mels.website/EverWeb/Don%27s%20&%20Pat%27s%20Documents%20-%20Periodic%20Updates/Reunion%2011%20Master%20Surname%20Index/ps23/ps23_410.htm), viewed December 12, 2020.
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5. Elizabeth Shown Mills. Evidence Explained: Historical Analysis, Citation & Source Usage. <https://www.evidenceexplained.com/content/quicklesson-11-identity-problems-fan-principle>, viewed February 11, 2021.
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10. Patent to Edward Tonstall. Virginia Colonial Land Office, November 21, 1636. [https://va.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?context=L&vid=01LVA\\_INST:01LVA&search\\_scope=MyInstitution&tab=LibraryCatalog&docid=alma990008333860205756](https://va.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?context=L&vid=01LVA_INST:01LVA&search_scope=MyInstitution&tab=LibraryCatalog&docid=alma990008333860205756), viewed February 14, 2021. Grant is of 450 acres in Henrico County.
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  18. Deed, Francis Clayton from Cornelius Short. Chesterfield County, Virginia, Book 3, Page 26. August 12, 1755. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4V-VPKY?cat=406477>, viewed December 13, 2020.
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<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS7S-M9HV-G>, viewed February 26, 2026.
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<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLK-ZSWD-2?cat=157946>, viewed February 21, 2021. The jury awarded the amount of one penny as damages in the complaint of Francis Nash against the estate of Francis Clayton. The complaint is unspecified.
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45. Nordberg, P. Origins of Joseph Clayton of Nelson County, Kentucky. <http://www.paulnordberg.net/pdfs/origins-of-joseph-clayton.pdf>, viewed December 21, 2020. Notes: This file was replaced by a later version covering Joseph Clayton and his wife Eleanor, but is still available online.
46. Walter Clayton. Joseph Clayton of Nelson KY is not the son of Francis Clayton of Chesterfield VA. <https://www.genealogy.com/forum/surnames/topics/clayton/3814/>, viewed December 13, 2020. Notes: Similar comments are posted in Ancestry.

47. Will of Samuel Clayton. Essex County, Virginia, January 17, 1734. Book 4, Page 349, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9PX-2SN3-9?cat=133358>, viewed February 19, 2021. Samuel Clayton is of the Parish of South Farnham. He cites land on Piscataway Creek. He names sons George (land recipient, Phil (eldest), Samuel, John, daughters Elizabeth (Anderson) & Lucy Clayton; wife Elizabeth.
48. Early Colonial Settlers of Southern Maryland and Virginias Northern Neck Counties. Philip Clayton, 1712 - 1786 (74 years). <https://www.colonial-settlers-md-va.us/getperson.php?personID=I111872&tree=Tree1>, viewed November 20, 2024.
49. Land patent to William Gowen. Granville County, North Carolina, Book 11, Page 368. February 6, 1762. <https://www.nclandgrants.com/grant/?mars=12.14.66.296&qid=607621&rn=1>, viewed January 12, 2021. Land of 640 acres on both sides of Spewmarrow Creek. File no. 298, MARS 12.14.66.296.
50. Deed from William & Elizabeth Lax to John Sanders, and accompanying bond. Goochland County, Virginia, Book 3, Part 1, Page 405. February 19, 1740. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99P6-9Q5Z?i=662&cat=406600>, viewed February 11, 2021. The deed was witnessed by James Gowen (with a mark), William Clayton, and James Robertson.
51. Deed from John Clayton to William Easley. Greenville, South Carolina, Book C, Page 292. June 23, 1792. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS79-13FQ-P?cat=472237>, viewed February 13, 2021. The land contained 925 acres, lying on the Tygar River. Witnesses were Jno. Gowen, Allin Gowen, and V. Anderson.
52. Deed from Anne Easley to Edmund Bearden. Greenville, South Carolina, Book B, Page 253. July 16, 1790. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS79-138Z-R?cat=472237>, viewed February 13, 2021. The deed is witnessed by Jno. Gowen. It recites “a branch Call’d Isham Claytons Branch”.
53. Tax lists, Granville County, North Carolina, 1755. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLF-D9YG-R?cat=353959>, viewed February 10, 2021.
54. Jeremiah Clayton, plaintiff, against William Graves, defendant. Order Book of Court of Chesterfield County, Virginia, March 1757 session. Book 2, Page 277, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4V-BSW1-S?cat=401632>, viewed December 24, 2020. The suit was dismissed because of the death of the defendant.
55. Warrant for 640 acres land. North Carolina, Granville Proprietary Land Office, September 4, 1758. <https://archives.ncdcr.gov/doc/search-doc>, viewed February 20, 2021. Record ID SR.12.8.3.018. From Find box, search for “Jeremiah Clayton”.
56. Land patent to Jeremiah Clayton. Granville County, North Carolina, Book 11, Page 337. <https://www.nclandgrants.com/grant/?mars=12.14.66.151&qid=607616&rn=1>, viewed January 12, 2021. Grant No. 44, issued February 6, 1762, for 700 acres on both sides of Jonathan Creek. File no. 153, MARS 12.14.66.151.
57. William Clayton, plaintiff, against Jeremiah Clayton, defendant. Order Book of Court of Chesterfield County, Virginia, March 1767 session. Book 4, Page 22, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4C-SHZX?cat=401632>, viewed December 13, 2020.

58. John Almond v. Jeremiah Clayton. North Carolina Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Granville County, 1766. Book Minutes 1746-1789, Page 146, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLK-ZSWF-4?cat=157946&lang=en&i=112>, viewed February 21, 2021. In John Almond v. Jeremiah Clayton, a jury find for plaintiff in amount of £5 9s 3 farthings. Complaint not specified. Session of August 1766.
59. Thomas Person v. Jeremiah Clayton. North Carolina Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Granville County, 1768. Book Minutes 1746-1789, Page 82, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLK-ZS7L-3?cat=157946>, viewed February 21, 2021. Suit for debt to Thomas Person against Jeremiah Clayton & George Newton awarded for £3 3w 4p plus costs & interest
60. Hampton Wade v. Jeremiah Clayton. North Carolina Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Granville County, 1766. Book Minutes 1746-1789, Page 35, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLK-ZS7L-H?cat=157946>, viewed February 21, 2021. Action for trespass by Hampton Wade against Jeremiah Clayton, damages of £8 4s 2p Virginia money.
61. Land plat for William Hamilton. State of South Carolina, July 8, 1774. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS73-9SB8-R?lang=en&i=1146>, viewed March 2, 2026. Unrecorded plats for lands not granted.
62. Sale of the estate of William Hamilton, deceased. Camden, Kershaw, South Carolina, March 4, 2026. Book A1, Page 127, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939L-JDSR-C9?lang=en&i=110>,
63. Plat For 300 Acres On Branch Of Neiley Creek. Camden District, South Carolina, Book 12, Page 250. November 12, 1786. <https://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>, viewed March 8, 2026. Search for *Hamilton, Mary* and scroll down to relevant document.
64. Deed from Jeremiah Clayton to Ester Shockley. Granville County, North Carolina, Book G, Page 293. August 11, 1764. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9CR-7NZN?cat=360398>, viewed June 24, 2024.
65. Pension application of John Clayton R2031. Monroe County, Tennessee, April 8, 1845. <https://revwarapps.org/r2031.pdf>, viewed January 14, 2021.
66. Edmund Covington v. John Clayton. North Carolina Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Granville County, 1758. Book Minutes 1746-1789, Page 51, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLK-ZS7K-T?i=58&cat=157946>, viewed February 21, 2021. Edmond Covington p. vs. John Clayton d. for trespass. Jury found John Clayton had not made payment, ordered payment of £6 14s 9p.
67. William Johnson v. John Clayton and John Coleman. North Carolina Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Granville County, 1759. Book Minutes 1746-1789, Page 56, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLK-ZS72-B?cat=157946>, viewed February 21, 2021. William Johnson v. John Clayton & John Coleman, jury found for plaintiff £10 7s.
68. Clayton, John, Plat For 925 Acres On Middle Fork Of Tygar River, Greenville County, Ninety Six District, Surveyed By William Thomas. South Carolina Patents, Book 27, Page 515. December 5, 1791. <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>, viewed February 13, 2021. Search for *Full name* "Clayton, John" and then, in *Places*, "Greenville County".
69. Easley, William, Plat For 440 Acres On Motlows Creek, Greenville County, Ninety Six District, Surveyed By John Young, Jr. On December 15, 1792. South Carolina Patents,

- Book 32, Page 532. December 15, 1792. <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>, viewed February 13, 2021. Search for *Full name* “Clayton, John” and then, in *Places*, “Greenville County”.
70. William Hamilton v. Going Clayton. North Carolina Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Granville County, 1764. Book Minutes 1746-1789, Page 103, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLK-ZS7K-D?cat=157946>, viewed February 21, 2021. Jury found case for plaintiff, assessing £6 4s 9p plus costs.
  71. Evan Stokes v. Going Clayton. North Carolina Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Granville County, 1765. Book Minutes 1746-1789, Page 127, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLK-ZS72-9?cat=157946>, viewed February 21, 2021. Action for trespass by Evan Stokes, plaintiff, against Going Clayton, defendant, awarded to plaintiff with assessment of £6 15s 2p plus costs.
  72. Granville County Genealogical Society 1746, Road Records, Granville County, NC. Granville Connections, 1995. 1(2). <https://www.gcgs.org/journal/GCGS-1995-2.pdf>, viewed February 16, 2021.
  73. Will of James Yancey. Granville County, North Carolina, December 30, 1779. Book 1, Page 252, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C956-FS9F-4?cat=358185>, viewed April 4, 2021.
  74. Pawlett, N.M. and T.J. Boyd. Lunenburg County Road Orders 1746-1764. [http://www.virginiadot.org/vtrc/main/online\\_reports/pdf/93-r17.pdf](http://www.virginiadot.org/vtrc/main/online_reports/pdf/93-r17.pdf), viewed May 29, 2021. Notes: January 1993, revised April 2004. Part of a series sponsored by Virginia Transportation Research Council.
  75. Fold3. Joseph Clayton in Revolutionary War Service Records. <https://www.fold3.com/image/9211663?terms=joseph%20clayton>, viewed March 1, 2017. Notes: Subscription required.
  76. Deed from James Harwell to William Cleaton. Lunenburg County, Virginia, Book 7, Page 390. 1762. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4L-8SQX?i=205&cat=372284>, viewed May 29, 2021.
  77. Land grant to William Cleaton. Virginia Colonial Land Office, Book 35, Page 275. July 7, 1763. [https://lva.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01LVA\\_INST/9cpp9q/alma990007370630205756](https://lva.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01LVA_INST/9cpp9q/alma990007370630205756), viewed May 29, 2021. Land in Lunenburg County is noted as “400 acres on the head of Miles's Creek and Great Creek adjoining Malone, Pennington &c.”.
  78. Sunlight on the Southside: Lists of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1748-1783. <http://www.usgwarchives.net/va/lunenburg.htm>, viewed May 29, 2021. Compiled by Landon C. Bell
  79. Executors of Darwin Elwick v. William Clayton. North Carolina Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Granville County, 1764. Book Minutes 1746-1789, Page 140, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLK-ZSWD-F?i=109&cat=157946>, viewed February 21, 2021. Defendant failed to appear, and plaintiffs were awarded damages of £13 3s 10p plus costs and interest.
  80. John Pleasants v. William Clayton. North Carolina Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Granville County, 1766. Book Minutes 1746-1789, Page 39, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLK-ZS72-5?cat=157946>, viewed February 21, 2021. John Pleasants awarded damages by jury from William Claton of £7 17s 8p in Court session of September 1766.

81. Deed from William and Elizabeth Clayton. Spartanburg County, South Carolina, Book IA, Page 234. April 4, 1787. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQ3-19F9-2>, viewed February 25, 2026.
82. Deed from William Clayton Junior and wife Betty. Granville County, North Carolina, Book G, Page 307. January 21, 1765. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99CR-7NP8?lang=en&i=207>, viewed February 25, 2026.
83. Pension application of Augustine Clayton S12693. Warren County, Kentucky, September 3, 1832. <https://revwarapps.org/s12693.pdf>, viewed January 14, 2021.
84. Land patent to Austin Clayton. Ninety Six District, South Carolina, Book 4, Page 223. June 10, 1784. <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>, viewed January 13, 2021. Plat for 200 acres on Cedar Shoal Creek. For Archives search, select “Ninety Six District” as *Place*, “Clayton, Austin” as *Full Name*.
85. Land patent to Austen Clayton. Ninety Six District, South Carolina, Book 24, Page 159. December 5, 1788. <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>, viewed January 13, 2021. Plat for 190 acres on Branch of Tygar River. For Archives search, select “Ninety Six District” as *Place*, “Clayton, Austen” as *Full Name*.
86. Land patent to Augustine Clayton. Ninety Six District, South Carolina, Book 31, Page 327. June 22, 1793. <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>, viewed January 13, 2021. Plat for 872 acres on Branches of Beaver Dam Creek. For Archives search, select “Ninety Six District” as *Place*, “Clayton, Augustine” as *Full Name*.
87. Land patent to Augustin Clayton. Ninety Six District, South Carolina, Book 32, Page 612. April 13, 1796. <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>, viewed January 13, 2021. Plat for 330 Acres on Branch of Beaver Dam Creek, Greenville County. For Archives search, select “Ninety Six District” as *Place*, “Clayton, Augustin” as *Full Name*.
88. Leah Townsend, P.D., South Carolina Baptists, 1670-1805. 1936, Florence, South Carolina: The Florence Printing Company. 391 pages. <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015069274382&seq=7>, viewed February 20, 2021.
89. United States Census 1800, Spartanburg, South Carolina. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9R8W-F88?i=72&cc=1804228&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AXHRC-HRZ>, viewed February 10, 2021.
90. United States Census 1820, Warren County, Kentucky. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YYK-39YY?i=29&cc=1803955&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AXHLR-R91>, viewed February 10, 2020.
91. Noncupative will of Augustus Clayton. Warren County, Kentucky, December 26, 1834. Book D, Page 80, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GPS3-9S4?i=41&wc=37RJ-2NL%3A173792001%2C174009902&cc=1875188>, viewed February 10, 2021.
92. Spencer, J.H., A history of Kentucky Baptists: from 1769 to 1885, including more than 800 biographical sketches. 1886: privately published. <https://archive.org/details/historyofkentuck01inspen/page/388/mode/2up>, viewed February 22, 2026.

93. Augt. Clayton vs. Phebe Clayton. Barren County, Kentucky Circuit Court, December 2, 1816. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-F3ZQ-RVQ7?lang=en&i=440>, viewed March 10, 2026. Equity judgments bundle 85-100.
94. Selber, K.A., Query: I am seeking information about brothers, Augustine and John Clayton. Fairfield County Genealogy Society, 2018. 29(2). [https://www.fairfieldgenealogysociety.org/Members\\_Only/Newsletters-Fairfield/Fairfield-2018-Vol-29-Nr-2.pdf](https://www.fairfieldgenealogysociety.org/Members_Only/Newsletters-Fairfield/Fairfield-2018-Vol-29-Nr-2.pdf), viewed June 27, 2024.
95. Marriage of John Smith and Sarah Rice. St. Philip's Parish, Charlestown, South Carolina, May 1, 1739. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9B8-G916-G?lang=en&i=89>, viewed February 26, 2026. From the transcription of the register edited by A.S. Salley, Jr.
96. Deed from Newton to John Young. Granville County, North Carolina, Book L, Page 309. May 5, 1778. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L9C5-X7TV?i=218>, viewed November 11, 2024.
97. Inventory of George Newton. Davidson County, Tennessee, April 1807. Book 3, Page 162, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:2:77TV-TPK7?i=574&wc=M6Q3-SZ9%3A179633601%2C179650701&cc=1909088>, viewed February 11, 2021.
98. Dobyons, K.W. and M.S. Thorpe. DOBYNS/DOBBINS material. <http://www.myoutbox.net/DOBHOMES.HTM>, viewed June 21, 2024.
99. Court orders. Essex County, Virginia, January 21, 1734. Book 9, Page 50, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSY6-3S9X-G?lang=en&i=52>, viewed March 11, 2026.
100. Early Colonial Settlers of Southern Maryland and Virginias Northern Neck Counties. Robert Graves, 1683-1735. <https://www.colonial-settlers-md-va.us/getperson.php?personID=I129847&tree=Tree1>, viewed March 12, 2026.
101. Deed to Stephen Clayton. Virginia Northern Neck Grants, Book D, Page 44. 1731. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSYD-X3RY-7?lang=en&i=58>, viewed March 12, 2026.
102. Lease and release from Stephen Clayton to John Gregg. Prince William County, Virginia, Book B, Page 297. June 2, 1734. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-Y958-7?lang=en&i=168>, viewed March 12, 2026.
103. NC Land Grants. Edgecombe Co. File No. 120, Stephen Clayton. <https://nclandgrants.com/grant/?mars=12.14.59.120&qid=1115149&rn=1>, viewed November 25, 2024. Notes: Website users will need to validate that they are human before being taken to the destination page.
104. USGenWeb Archives Project - North Carolina. Townships and Districts of Granville County, North Carolina annotated with known Plantations and farms of slave owners. <https://www.ncgenweb.us/ncgranville/other/gran-landmarks.pdf>, viewed November 24, 2024.
105. Land patent to James Going. State Archives of North Carolina MARS database, Book 14, Page 108. November 29, 1760. <https://www.nclandgrants.com/grant/?mars=12.14.66.1119&qid=620389&rn=10>, viewed February 20, 2021. The land contained 229 acres in Granville.
106. Will of John Easley. Goochland County, Deed Books 1741-1749, Probated August 19, 1746. Book 5, Page 159, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9P6->

- 9SNM?i=385&cat=406600, viewed February 18, 2021. The will names his sons Samuel, John, William, Robert, and Millinton; his daughter Judith; and his wife Joyce.
107. Land Warrant to John Easley. Granville County, North Carolina, November 10, 1762. <https://archives.ncdcr.gov/doc/search-doc>, viewed February 18, 2021. The warrant was for 700 acres on Aaron's Creek, to be surveyed. To view summary electronic record, using link shown, in the *Find* field, enter *easley granville*.
  108. Larry Petrisky. The Abraham Hembree Data Project, Revision - February 2004. <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~tnmcm2/AbrahamHembree.htm>, viewed February 17, 2021.
  109. Land grant to Joel Chandler. Virginia Colonial Land Office, Book 13, Page 225. October 13, 1727. [https://lva.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?context=L&vid=01LVA\\_INST:01LVA&search\\_scope=MyInstitution&tab=LibraryCatalog&docid=alma990007348950205756](https://lva.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?context=L&vid=01LVA_INST:01LVA&search_scope=MyInstitution&tab=LibraryCatalog&docid=alma990007348950205756), viewed April 7, 2021. 400 acres in Henrico County on the south side James River adjoining the land of Bartholomew and John Stovall.
  110. Deed from William Clayton et ux. to Thornton Yancey. Granville County, North Carolina, Book F, Page 301. October 27, 1762. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89C5-6Z92?cat=360398>, viewed June 23, 2024.
  111. Land patent to William Clayton. Granville County, North Carolina, Book 11, Page 335. April 26, 1754. <https://www.nclandgrants.com/grant/?mars=12.14.66.143&qid=607618&rn=5>, viewed January 21, 2021. Patent for 575 acres of land on both sides of Jonathan's Creek. Grant no. 162, File 145, MARS 12.44.66.143.
  112. Verogen Inc. GEDmatch. <https://www.gedmatch.com/>, viewed September 15, 2021.
  113. WikiTree. Family Tree & Genealogy Tools for Richard Wall. <https://www.wikitree.com/genealogy/Wall-Family-Tree-4783>, viewed September 26, 2021.
  114. Granville County Court, William Dobbins vs. the estate of George Moore. Court of March 7, 1748. Minutes of 1754-1791, p. 50. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLV-V9HL-Q?i=77&cat=157946>, viewed September 25, 2021. Notes: The court awarded judgment and costs to the plaintiff upon the defendant's failure to appear.
  115. Deed, James & Elizabeth Roberts to Wm. Dobbins. Granville County, North Carolina, Book F, Page 217. 1761. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9C5-6ZXW?i=174&cat=360398>, viewed September 25, 2021. Land is 140 acres of land on both sides of Grassy Creek, abutting property of Norris. Consideration is twenty-three pounds and ten shillings, Virginia money.
  116. Deed of William Dobbins to William Frazer. Granville County, North Carolina, Book H, Page 267. November 8, 1765. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L9C5-6H1G?cat=360398>, viewed September 25, 2021. Land is 140 acres on both sides of Grassy Creek.
  117. On the face of it, the William Dobbins (Dobyns) who died in Lunenburg by 1751 does not seem a good fit with William Dobyns, son of the Daniel who died in Essex County in 1748. The latter was willed one slave valued at £20. The former had two slaves worth £75 together, with personal property worth £164 9s 3d. (See inventories in Essex Book 9,

- Page 48 and Lunenburg Book 1, Page 48.) That a relocation would happen so quickly, with such an increase in assets, seems to be a bit too much, a bit too fast.
118. Early Colonial Settlers of Southern Maryland and Virginias Northern Neck Counties. William Clayton Bef 1646 - Bef 1686. <https://www.colonial-settlers-md-va.us/getperson.php?personID=I115803&tree=Tree1>, viewed February 27, 2021.
  119. Early Colonial Settlers of Southern Maryland and Virginias Northern Neck Counties. Thomas Payne, Abt 1662 - Aft 1694. <https://www.colonial-settlers-md-va.us/getperson.php?personID=I51194&tree=Tree1>, viewed September 26, 2021.
  120. Early Colonial Settlers of Southern Maryland and Virginias Northern Neck Counties. Nicholas Smith, Bef 1694 - 1757. <https://www.colonial-settlers-md-va.us/getperson.php?personID=I65089&tree=Tree1>, viewed September 26, 2021.
  121. Early Colonial Settlers of Southern Maryland and Virginias Northern Neck Counties. Daniel Dobyns, Aft 1673 - 1741. <https://www.colonial-settlers-md-va.us/getperson.php?personID=I32548&tree=Tree1>, viewed September 26, 2021.
  122. Dobyns, K.W. and M.S. Thorpe, Daniel Dobyns of Colonial Virginia: His English Ancestry and American Descendants. 1969, Arlington, Virginia: Self-published. 161 pages. <http://www.myoutbox.net/DOBHOMES.HTM>, viewed September 16, 2021.
  123. FamilySearch. South Farnham Parish, Virginia. [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/South\\_Farnham\\_Parish,\\_Virginia](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/South_Farnham_Parish,_Virginia), viewed September 16, 2021.
  124. Will of Daniel Dobbins. Essex County, Virginia, October 6, 1748 (will date). Book 8, Page 129, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9PX-2SVF-K?cat=133358>, viewed September 16, 2021.
  125. Daphne Gentry. Headrights (VA-NOTES). [https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/va4\\_headrights.htm](https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/va4_headrights.htm), viewed May 18, 2021. Notes: From the Publications and Education Services Division, Library of Virginia,
  126. Wikipedia. Jamestown, Virginia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamestown,\\_Virginia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamestown,_Virginia), viewed May 18, 2021.
  127. Court Orders. York County, Virginia, Book Deed, orders, wills etc. 4, Page 111. June 24, 1668. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9TZ-C3GP?cat=367215>, viewed July 27, 2024.
  128. Land grant to Jeremia Cleaton. Virginia Colonial Land Office, Book 6, Page 162. April 8, 1668. [https://lva.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01LVA\\_INST/9cpp9q/alma990007370610205756](https://lva.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01LVA_INST/9cpp9q/alma990007370610205756), viewed February 28, 2021. 1300 acres on the north side of Mattapony River, on a branch of Aquicke Swamp, located in New Kent County.
  129. Court Orders. York County, Virginia, Book Deed, orders, wills etc. 4, Page 111. June 24, 1668. York County, Virginia, October 23, 1666. Book 4, Page 151, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9TZ-C3DF?i=294&cat=367215>, viewed July 28, 2024.
  130. Land grant to John Poteete, Chiurgion. Colonial Land Office of Virginia, February 22, 1638. [https://lva.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01LVA\\_INST/altrmk/alma990008091940205756](https://lva.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01LVA_INST/altrmk/alma990008091940205756), viewed July 28, 2024.

131. Will of John Petit. York County, Virginia, Will dated November 1, 1669; probate April 20, 1670. Book 4, Page 287, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9TZ-CQ22?cat=367215>, viewed July 12, 2024.
132. Virginia Historical Society, A Petition of the Inhabitants and Housekeepers of St. Stephen's Parish in the County of New Kent. *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, 1933. 41(3). <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4244522>, viewed June 26, 2024.
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