

## WILLIAM COOK

### 276. WILLIAM COOK

Born probably c1710

Died

Married 277. Ann Griffin (Griffith)

Born

Died

Known child:

138. William Cook Jr

b. probably c1730

d. before 22 May 1790 Woodford County, Kentucky

m. 139. Margaret Jones c1750 Virginia

Probable child:

John Cook

b.

d.

m.

The parents of William Cook and Ann Griffin (Griffith), whose son William Cook, Jr. married Margaret Jones, have not been identified.<sup>1</sup>

William Cook, Sr. may have been living in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, in 1770, when William Cook, Jr. was involved in a lawsuit there:<sup>2</sup>

	Plaintiff	Defendant
25 Jun 1768	Samuel Patterson	William Cook
31 Aug 1770	Thomas Earls	William Cook, Jr.
31 Aug 1770	William Royce	William Cook
25 Jun 1770	Trent & Company	William Cook
30 Aug 1771	William Cook	Richard Doggat
23 Jul 1773	John Wilkinson & Co.	William Cook
25 Mar 1774	John Wilkinson & Co.	William Cook
25 Mar 1774	William Cook	William Devin

William Cook III was only about six years old in 1770, which supports the likelihood that some of the Halifax and Pittsylvania county records pertaining to William Cook in, and prior to, this period of time, involved William Cook, Sr.

Although the Bible of William Cook III indicated that William Cook, Jr. was an only son of William Cook and Ann Griffin, it appears that he may have had a brother John Cook. On 04 March 1776, John Bohannon, Joshua Bohannon and William Dunn, sons-in-law of William Cook, Jr., witnessed the will of William Cook of Bedford County, Virginia, who was a son of John Cook. John Bohannon married Helen Cook, Joshua Bohannon married Rhoda Cook, and William Dunn married Bathsheba Cook, daughters of William Cook, Jr. and Margaret Jones. This strongly suggests that William Cook of Bedford County was related to William Cook, Jr. who lived in adjoining Henry County at this time. Proved on 16 September 1777, the will of William Cook of Bedford County indicates that he was unmarried and probably a young man. He appointed his father John Cook as executor of his small

**:Prepared by WILLIAM G SCROGGINS 28 May 1998**

**: 718 Mill Valley Drive, Taylor Mill KY 41015-2278**

**1**

## **WILLIAM COOK**

estate, which included a white mare that he left to his brother John Cook, Jr., with the stipulation that, if John should not return from the war, the mare was to go the child of his brother's wife, who was pregnant at the time the will was written. The rest of his effects were to be distributed to his other brothers and sisters by his father John Cook.<sup>3</sup> William Cook of Bedford County appears to have been of the same generation as Helen Cook Bohannon and her siblings, so perhaps his father John was a brother of William Cook, Jr. of Henry County.

William Cook and John Cook were in Captain Buford's Company of Volunteers from Bedford County during Lord Dunmore's War in 1774.<sup>4</sup>

William Cook of Henry County was paid for a gun impressed by Captain James Lyon for an expedition against the Indians in 1783.<sup>5</sup>

According to family tradition, William Cook, Sr. came to America from Northern Ireland to escape political harassment. The tradition that he emigrated from Ireland may be true, but it is likely and logical that he was a native of Virginia and a grandson of William Cooke, Jr., who died in Isle of Wight County, Virginia, in 1698. A son of William Cooke and Mary Blackborne of Bristol, England, this William Cooke, Jr. was born in Bristol about 1633 and married Joan Roper, who was a daughter of Hugh Roper of Burnham, Somersetshire, England.<sup>6</sup>

William Cooke and Joan Roper had four sons, William, who married Rebecca Jones; John; Reuben, who married Hannah Atkinson Gee; and Thomas. From their wills it is known that John and Thomas did not have surviving sons named William. William Cooke, son of William Cooke and Rebecca Jones, married Elizabeth Rives.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, William Cooke, son of Reuben Cooke and Hannah Atkinson Gee, is the only William of this generation of this family, who could have been William Cook who married Ann Griffith. If Reuben Cooke and Hannah Atkinson Gee were married about 1710, their son William could have been born soon afterward and old enough in 1730 to have a son William, Jr., who resided in the Virginia counties of Halifax, Pittsylvania, Henry and Franklin before migrating to Kentucky, where he died about 1790.

This supposition is supported geographically. Franklin County, Virginia, was erected from Bedford and Henry counties in 1785. Bedford County was organized from Lunenburg and Albemarle counties in 1753. Henry County came from Pittsylvania County in 1776. Pittsylvania was cut off from Halifax County in 1766. Halifax was formed from Lunenburg County in 1752. Lunenburg emerged from Brunswick County in 1746. Brunswick was established in 1720 from Surry County. Surry was shaped from Isle of Wight County, one of the original shires of Virginia, in 1652.

The surviving children of Reuben Cooke and Hannah Atkinson Gee were named in his will, which was dated 19 November 1750 and proved in Isle of Wight County Court on 01 August 1751. Reuben and Hannah were probably married after 05 July 1709, when she was involved with the estate of Charles Gee, in Surry County, as Hannah Gee, so that their children were born sometime after that date, perhaps as early as 1710. However only one daughter was married when he wrote his will:<sup>8</sup>

... Item I Give and Bequeath unto my Son John Cook the Plantation whereon Abraham Brawler formerly did Live with one half of the Land that I bought of the sd Abraham Brawler to him and his Heirs forever likewise one Feather Bed and Furniture

Item I Give and Bequeath unto my Son Benjamin Cook the remainder part of the Land which I

**:Prepared by WILLIAM G SCROGGINS 28 May 1998**

**: 718 Mill Valley Drive, Taylor Mill KY 41015-2278**

**2**

## **WILLIAM COOK**

bought of Abraham Brawler it being the Land whereon Abraham Brawler Junr did Live to him and his Heirs forever likewise one Feather Bed and Furniture

Item I Give and Bequeath to my Son Joel Cook the Plantation whereon I now live with all the Land thereunto belonging and his Heirs forever likewise one Feather Bed & Furniture and Still

Item I Give and Bequeath unto my Son Nathan Cook Twelve Pounds Cash likewise one Feather Bed and Furniture

Item I Give and Bequeath unto my Daughter Ann Whitehead One Feather Bed Rugg Sheet and Blanket

Item I Give & Bequeath to my Daughter Hannah One Feather Bed Rugg Sheet and Blanket

Item I Give and Bequeath unto my Daughter Thamer Cook One Feather Bed Rugg Sheet and Blanket

Item And as for the Rest of my Estate I Give the Use of it to my wife Hannah Cook during her Natural Life or Widdowhood and after her Decease my Will is that the Remainder of my Estate shall be equally devided between seven of my Children (to wit) John Benjamin Nathan & Joel Hannah Elizabeth and Thamer

Item I Give and Bequeath unto Son William Cook five Shillings Cash

I likewise constitute my Son Joel Cook my whole and sole Exor of this my last Will and Testament ...

The fact that married daughter Ann Whitehead was not included as a residuary legatee indicates that she had received her principal share of her father's assets as a marriage dower. The bequest of only 5 shillings to son William Cook suggests that William was the oldest son, already in receipt of his basic inheritance, a blacksheep or a wanderer off in the wilderness. First born sons often were named for their paternal grandfather which supports the probability that William was the first born.

The Cooke and Griffin families were associated as early as 1715 in Surry County, Virginia. The first William Cooke married (1) Mary Blackborne on 04 June 1632 in Bristol; (2) Ann ----- before 05 January 1636/7; and (3) Mary ----- before 10 April 1665. William died before 10 November 1679 in Surry County, Virginia, and his widow Mary married (2) Robert Lacey. In her will, dated 03 September 1715 and proved on 19 December 1716, Mary Lacey, widow of Robert, made bequests to Sarah Griffin and to Elizabeth Griffin, daughter of John Griffin. James Griffin and Rob. Griffin witnessed the will.<sup>9</sup>

Ann Griffin may have been a daughter of James Griffin whose estate was filed in Surry County by Elizabeth Griffin on 06 September 1709. The report was witnessed by Edward Moreland and Samuel Cornwell.<sup>10</sup> Samuel Cornwell was married to Sarah Cooke, daughter of William and Joan Roper Cooke.

The names Griffin and Griffith appear to be used interchangeably in early public records.

Thomas Griffith had land on the north side of Blackwater River in Surry County next to James Jones, Jr., brother of Rebecca Jones who married William Cook. James Jones bequeathed this land to his son Richard in 1725.<sup>11</sup>

William Cook, Jr., son of Ann Griffin (Griffith) Cook, settled in Halifax (now Franklin) County, Virginia, in 1755. William Griffith, who also settled there that year, probably was related to, perhaps a nephew of, Ann Griffin (Griffith) Cook. George Griffith, Sr., who had land on the north side of Little Creek, a

**:Prepared by WILLIAM G SCROGGINS 28 May 1998**

**: 718 Mill Valley Drive, Taylor Mill KY 41015-2278**

**3**

## **WILLIAM COOK**

tributary of Blackwater River, patented to him on 12 May 1759, probably was a brother of William Griffith. George Griffith, Sr. had a son George, Jr. and both were alive in 1786. At that time George, Sr. was living in Wilkes County, Georgia. George, Sr. also had a son Benjamin whose wife was named Catherine. Benjamin inherited land on Blackwater River in Franklin (formerly Bedford) County, Virginia, that had been patented to George Griffith on 15 August 1764. George Griffith, Sr. sold 111 acres in Bedford (now Franklin) County on the branches of Griffiths Creek and Doe Run on 09 December 1785. On 25 July 1782 William Griffith married Susannah Jones, daughter of Thomas Jones. They had land on Rockey Branch of Little Creek and on Turners Creek adjoining Thomas Jones, Sr. The second tract was granted to William Griffith on 01 September 1788. William and Susannah sold their land on 02 October 1788. Other contemporaries in Franklin County were Abraham and Isaac Griffith who witnessed a deed in 1792 with George Griffith.<sup>12</sup>

Reuben Cooke and Hannah Atkinson Gee had a son named Benjamin. There was a Benjamin Cook living in Henry County during the same period that William Cook, Jr. resided there but their relationship has not been established.<sup>13</sup>

Cook, Benjamin	1 poll tax; 8 slaves
Cook, William	1 poll tax

Benjamin Cook resided at the junction of old Tyree Road and Creek Road in what became southeastern Franklin County between Snow Creek and Crawford Creek where they join Crab Creek below Turkey Cock Mountain.<sup>14</sup>

There was a William Cook, who was born on 15 October 1763 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, who moved to North Carolina during the Revolutionary War and volunteered for service under Captain Bohannon and Lieutenant Brice Martin of Green County, North Carolina, on 01 September 1779. He also served under colonels Shelby, Sevier and Christie in the Battle at Long Island in Tennessee against the Indians. Colonel Christie commanded a regiment from Virginia. Discharged in June 1781 but, after six weeks at home, volunteered again. As a resident of Green County, received patents for tracts of 107 and 187 acres in Henry County, Virginia, on 01 June 1782. On 22 July 1784, sold tracts of 67 and 100 acres in Henry County. Lived in South Carolina for 18 years before moving to Graves County, Kentucky, where he applied for a pension on 15 November 1832. He traveled to Kentucky over the Daniel Boone Trail.<sup>15</sup> The connections with Captain Bohannon and Colonel Christie are intriguing coincidences.

## **NOTES**

---

1. *The Cook Book*, Eunice Cook Konold, privately, San Diego, CA, 1970, citing Bible of William Cook III.

2. *Alphabetical Index to the Court Order Books of Pittsylvania County, Virginia, 1767-1800*, Genealogical Services, Danville, VA, 1982.

3. Henry County, Virginia, Will Book 1, page 6.

4. *Virginia Colonial Militia*, William Armstrong Crozier, Southern Book Company, Baltimore, 1954.

## WILLIAM COOK

---

- <sup>5</sup>. Henry County, Virginia, Order Book 3, page 82.
- <sup>6</sup>. *Southside Virginia Families*, Volume 1, pages 161-162, John Bennett Boddie, Baltimore, 1966.
- <sup>7</sup>. *ibid.*
- <sup>8</sup>. Isle of Wight County, Virginia, Wills and Accounts, Volume 5, 1745-1752, Virginia State Library Reel 24, pages 355-357.
- <sup>9</sup>. Surry County, Virginia, Will Book 7, page 37.
- <sup>10</sup>. *ibid*, Will Book 5, page 426.
- <sup>11</sup>. Prince George County, Virginia, Deeds, etc., 1713-1728, microfilm reel 2, pages 832-834, Virginia State Library.
- <sup>12</sup>. Data of Gertrude C. Mann, Franklin County Historical Society, Rocky Mount, VA, 1984.
- <sup>13</sup>. *Virginia Taxpayers 1782-87*, Augusta B. Fothergill and John Mark Naugle, Richmond, 1940, reprinted Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1978.
- <sup>14</sup>. *Supra* note 12.
- <sup>15</sup>. Data of Charles L. Cook, 3212 Buckhorn Drive, Lexington, KY, 40515-1009, 09 Oct 1997.