

WILLIAM COOKE

1900/(2208?). WILLIAM COOKE

Born (bap.) 25 Mar 1613 Bristol, Gloucestershire, England

Died before 10 Nov 1679 Surry County, Virginia

Married (1) 1901/(2209?). Mary Blackborne 04 Jun 1632 Bristol, Glou., England

Born

Died before 05 Jan 1636/7

Children (1):

950/(1104?). William Cooke Jr

b. c1633 probably Bristol, Gloucestershire, England

d. 1698 Isle of Wight County, Virginia

m. 951/(1105?). Joan Roper

Married (2) Ann ----- before 05 Jan 1636/7

Born

Died before 10 Apr 1665

Children (2):

Philip Cooke

b. (bap.) 05 Jan 1636/7 Bristol, Gloucestershire, England

d.

m.

Married (3) Mary ----- before 10 Apr 1665

Born

Died between 03 Sep 1715 and 19 Dec 1716 Surry County, Virginia

Children (3):

Frances Cooke

b.

d. after 03 Sep 1715

m. John Person before 03 Sep 1715

William Cooke was a son of Philip and Elizabeth Cooke of Bristol, Gloucestershire, England. He was baptized there on 25 March 1613 at St. Augustine Parish church. In a deposition taken in Isle of Wight County, Virginia, in 1663, he testified that he was 33 years old. The parents of Mary Blackborne have not been identified. The maiden names of the second and third wives of William Cooke, Sr. are not known.¹

William Cooke and Mary Blackborne were married in St. Augustine Parish Church on 04 June 1632. Their son William, Jr. was born about 1733 but a record of his baptism has not been located. It has been speculated that perhaps he was born enroute to or in Virginia which seems improbable since the second son of William Cooke, Sr. was baptized at St. Augustine, "5th January 1636 (1637) was baptized Philip Cooke the son of Willyam and Ann his Wyfe." A marriage by William Cooke to his second wife Ann does not appear in the records of that church, so they must have been married elsewhere.² Since the father of William Cooke, Sr. has been identified as a mariner, it is possible that William was engaged in voyages to Virginia and that his first child was born on one of them. Perhaps Mary Blackborne Cooke died in childbirth on such a trip.

William Cooke, Sr. was married to his third wife Mary before 10 April 1665 when William Miles,

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

1

WILLIAM COOKE

William Cooke and Mary Cooke sold 100 acres on the Blackwater River adjoining John Oliver. William described his spouse as his "now wife Mary" on an Isle of Wight County deed dated 09 August 1669 which indicates a third marriage.³

Frances Cooke, daughter of William Cooke, Sr., married ----- Persons, ancestor of a subsequent governor of Alabama.⁴ Since Mary, the third wife of William Cooke, Sr., who married Robert Lacy after the death of William, named "Francis Parsons" as a legatee of her will in 1715, perhaps she was the mother of Frances Cooke Person.⁵

William Cooke, Sr. appears to have been in Virginia before 1636. He may have made two voyages from England to Virginia as an employee of Justinian Cooper who claimed headrights in Isle of Wight County for a William Cooke in 1636 and 1642. On 13 September 1636 Justinian Cooper obtained a patent for 1050 acres in Warrosquyoke (Warrisquick) County, northeast of his dwelling house, at the head of Lawnes Creek, for paying the transportation expenses of himself and 20 other persons to Virginia, including William Cooke. The name of Warrosquyoke County was changed to Isle of Wight County in 1637 and the patent was reissued on 16 August 1637 with the location of the tract being described as in Isle of Wight. On 16 March 1642 Justinian Cooper, gentleman, got a patent for 2400 acres in Isle of Wight County. He was credited for 4 of his own voyages, 1 of his wife Ann in 1618, 1 for Ann's brother Robert Olliffe, of whom she was heiress, and others including William Cooke. Several of the other headrights were of persons who appeared on the previous patent such as William Cooke.⁶

Ann Olliffe Cooper was married first to James Harrison. On 19 November 1624 Ann Cooper, wife of Justinian Cooper of Isle of Wight County, complained before the Surry County, Virginia, Court that her late husband Ensign James Harrison loaned a shallop to Lieutenant George Harrison, deceased, from whom she had been unable to retrieve the boat before his death. Captain Ralph Hamor and Captain Tucker testified on her behalf and the court ordered George Menefie, the administrator of the estate of George Harrison, to pay Ann Cooper for the boat. Lieutenant George Harrison was an early settler in Surry County. He became involved in a dispute with Captain Richard Stephens of James City which resulted in a duel on James Island in which Harrison was wounded near the knee. He died two weeks later but a Coroner's jury found that the actual cause of death was a fatal illness which Harrison had contracted before the duel.⁷

William Cooke, Sr. acquired a patent with William Miles for 1100 acres in Isle of Wight County on the Blackwater River on 29 September 1664. The tract was situated on the second branch of the Black Water at the upper corner tree of John Oliver's land with its boundary running down the swamp southwest to Mr. England's corner tree and thence south. The patent was issued for transporting 22 persons to the colony; Henry Wilson, Job Virgitt, William Gobson, John Johnson, Arthur Jones, Samuel Jenkins, Edward Miller, Sampson Clarke, Arthur Jones, Peter Plumer, John Harris, Margaret Jones, Hanay Boyce, John Jackson, Stephen Pettus, William Stephens, William Edwards, Edward James, Thomas Petegrew, Stephen Williams and Edward Williamson.⁸ The name Arthur Jones appears twice.

The Blackwater River is presently the western boundary of Isle of Wight County, dividing it from Southampton County which was erected in 1748 from parts of Isle of Wight and Nansemond counties.⁹

WILLIAM COOKE

William Miles, William Cooke and Mary Cooke sold the 100-acre parcel on the Blackwater River, next to John Oliver, to John Person, Jr. on 10 April 1665. On 09 February 1666 William Cooke acquired from the County Court the head rights of several people, which he used to obtain 850 acres of land that he subsequently conveyed to Hugo Mathews on 17 June 1667. On 06 November 1667 William Cooke bought from William Miles the rights to 450 acres of the 1100-acre tract which they acquired together in 1664.¹⁰

William Cooke, Sr. moved to Surry County, Virginia, before 09 August 1669 when he and “Mary his now wife” sold 400 acres of land in Isle of Wight County to Thomas Carter, Jr. The tract was “part of a patent we lived on before moving to Surry.”¹¹

William Cooke, Sr. was credited with paying for three voyages between England and Virginia by his third wife Mary Cooke. On 10 November 1670 William Cooke was issued a patent for 800 acres in Isle of Wight County on the second branch of the Black Water, adjoining Captain Baker and William Miles (Myles) for paying for the transportation of 16 persons, “Eliza. Beale, Wm. Langford, Peter Bedford, Jon. James, Richd. Ames, Jon. Vicars, Richd. Vicars, Mary Cooke 3 severall passages, Lettice Powell, 3 Negroes, John Beefe’s wife and 1 Childe.”¹²

John Wakefield and John Sherer got 1050 acres in Isle of Wight County on branches of the first swamp of the Black Water adjoining “Cooke’s lyne” on 05 April 1668. Thomas Woodward, Jr. obtained 1600 acres in Isle of Wight County, at the mouth of a branch of the Blackwater and on a branch between land belonging to John Sherer and John Clarke and the land of Mr. Sweete. It adjoined lands of Mr. Newman, Hugh Latimore, Thomas Tookes, Anthony Mathews, Edmund Palmer, John Portis and Henry West. The patent covered 1200 acres of land acquired by Woodward from William Cooke, Sweete and Sherer, plus 400 acres for bringing 8 people to Virginia. Major Nicholas Hill got 670 acres in Isle of Wight County at the Blackwater, near Parson’s Bridge on Beaverdam Run and on Hulls Branch and George Branch. The tract was adjacent to lands of George More, Miles and Cooke, Edward Jones and England.¹³

John Sweete had 1450 acres of land in Isle of Wight County on the east branch of the Blackwater River adjoining Justinian Cooper, Francis England and Captain Peirce.¹⁴ This places William Cooke, Sr. and Justinian Cooper in the same locality and supports the probability that William Cooke, head right of Justinian Cooper, was William Cooke, Sr.

An undated Surry County record confirms the sale of land by William Cooke, Sr. prior to his death:¹⁵

Robert Lacey, of Surry County, and Mary, his wife, late Relict and extx. of Wm. Cooke; whereas Wm. Cooke about A.D. 1677 sold Thomas Ward, late of Surry County, deceased, 100 acres of land on the south side of Second Swamp, Blackwater, in the Lower Parish of Surry County, part of a Patent for 800 acres granted to Cooke on 10 9ber 1670, but died before sealing, now confirms the sale.

William Cooke, Sr. died in Surry County before 10 November 1679 when Robert Lacy of Surry County and his wife Mary sold to George Loether, 90 acres in the Upper Parish which had been granted to William Miles and William Cooke, late of Surry, deceased.¹⁶

Mary Cooke married Robert Lacy (Lacey, Lacie) after the death of William Cooke, Sr. and lived until

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

3

WILLIAM COOKE

1716. Lacy died in 1702 and bequeathed his land, houses, household goods, chattels and two negroes to his wife Mary for life and at her death to go to his brother George Lacy. Trustees appointed to implement this legacy were Samuel Cornwell of Lawnes Creek Parish, weaver, and Samuel Hargrove (Hargrewe), planter. The will, dated 12 March 1701/2 and proved on 01 September 1702, was witnessed by John Green, Melchisideck Duche and Roger Delke.¹⁷

Samuel Cornwell filed a report pertaining to the estate of Robert Lacy (Lacey) on 20 February 1716 which was signed by William Chambers, John Hancock and Charles Jarrett.¹⁸ Samuel Hargrove and Samuel Cornwell were sons-in-law of William Cooke, Jr. Another son-in-law, John Weaver, also was reported to have been a trustee.¹⁹

The will of Mary Lacy (Lacey) was dated "3 day 7th month called Sept. 1715" and proved on 19 December 1716:²⁰

Lacey, Mary: Leg. - To husband, Robert Lacey's couzens in England, the amount due me from the estate of Joseph John Jackman. Gives tobacco for repairs of meeting house in Surry. Bequests to Mary Bayley, Sarah Griffin, Francis Parsons, Ann Edwards, and to Elizabeth Griffin, daughter of John Griffin. Friends, Samuell Cornwell, and makes him Exer. Wit: James Griffin, Rob.Griffin.

The style of the date of the will, the bequest to the meeting house and the use of the term Friends indicate that Mary Cooke Lacy was a Quaker.

The appearance of legatee Francis Parsons supports the statement that William Cooke, Sr. had a daughter Frances who married ---- Person and was ancestor of Governor Person of Alabama. There was a Francis Person in Surry County who was son and heir of John Person whose will was dated 08 August 1721 and proved on 21 March 1738. The wife of John Person was named Sarah. He named ten children as legatees: John, Thomas, Francis, Joseph, Benjamin, Samuel, William, Jacob, Mary and Elizabeth Person. Grandson Joseph Tuke and sister Averelah Tuke were also heirs. He made bequests of two tracts of land on Fountain Creek, one on the second swamp of main Blackwater, one on the Meherrin River, one in Isle of Wight County, one on which he lives, one on which his son John lives and one on which his mother lives.²¹

Joseph Tuke and Averelah Tuke (Tooke) were grandchildren also of John Tooke whose will, dated 17 November 1720 and proved on 15 February 1720/1, included as heirs Joseph Tooke and "Aureola" Tooke. John "Parsons" was named as an executor and also as an overseer of the will.²² Obviously a son of John Tooke married a daughter of John Person.

John Person and John Person, Jr. witnessed the will of Susanna King Jones on 19 December 1691 which was proved in Isle of Wight County on 06 May 1713.²³ Arthur Jones and Susanna King had a daughter Mary who married Thomas Cooke, son of William Cooke, Jr. Arthur Jones was transported to Virginia by William Cooke, Sr.

The association of Mary Cooke Lacy with James Griffin and Robert Griffin, who witnessed her will, and her legatees Sarah Griffin and Elizabeth Griffin, daughter of John Griffin, provides a continuity with the later William Cook (Cooke) who married Ann Griffin about 1730.

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

4

WILLIAM COOKE

It is unclear how Mary Cooke Lacy acquired her interest in the estate of Joseph John Jackman who apparently died in England. The will of Joseph John Jackman of "Surrey County Collony of Virginia, gent." was dated 27 April 1714 and proved on 27 May 1714. His legatees were his mother Catherine Jackman; godson Josiah John Halliman, who inherited 100 acres on the south side of the Nottoway River in Isle of Wight County called Joseph's Mount; brother William Jackman; children of sister Mary Harris, brother-in-law Richard Slade; Catherine his wife and daughter Mary Slade; sister-in-law Catherine Allen; cousins (cosen) John and Arthur Allen; and wife Mary. Joseph John Jackman married (1) Elizabeth Allen Canfield, daughter of Arthur Allen and widow of Captain Robert Canfield or Caufield, and (2) Mary -----. On 06 June 1700, Joseph John Jackman, gent., of Surry County, and his wife Elizabeth sold 400 acres on Lawnes Creek in Surry to John Wilson, of London, merchant, for 30,000 pounds of tobacco. This may have been Elizabeth's property. That year, J. J. Jackman was assessed at 19 tithables. In 1702, he was appointed as a justice of Surry and became sheriff in 1705. On 22 December 1706, he bought a 1650-acre plantation, called Swann's Point, from a former resident of Surry County, Samuel Swann of North Carolina, for £450 sterling. He sold Swann's Point to George Marable, of James City County, for £250 in February 1706. Arthur Allen, the father of Elizabeth, came to Virginia before 1649 and settled in what became Surry. Her brother Arthur Allen (Jr.) was a speaker of the House of Burgesses.²⁴ Mary Cooke Lacy must have been a relative and subsequent heir of one of the legatees.

William Cooke, Sr. may have been the father of Henry Cooke, whose will was proved in Isle of Wight County in 1698; James Cooke whose will was proved in Surry County on 03 March 1701/2, leaving wife Elizabeth; John Cooke whose will was recorded in Isle of Wight in 1703/4; and Isaac Cooke of a 1728 Isle of Wight will.²⁵ One of these men may account for Richard Cooke and John Cooke, who got patents for land in Brunswick County, Virginia, on the same day. On 07 July 1726 Richard Cooke of Prince George County was granted 198 acres on the south side of the Nottoway River and both sides of Stoney Hill Run adjoining Anderson and Harwell, while John "Cook" received 286 acres on the south side of Stoney Hill Run.²⁶

Mary Blackborne Cooke probably was related to John Blackborne, a tailor who lived in Southwark Parish, Surry County, Virginia, in 1652. By an indenture dated 11 9br 1652, he sold land at the head of Sunken Marsh to John Dibdall for 400 pounds of tobacco. John Blackborne described himself as about 30 years of age in a deposition 15 X'br 1652. That gives him a birth year of about 1622, so he was of the same generation as Mary Blackborne Cooke, who must have been born about 1612 to be married in 1632. Perhaps they were siblings or cousins. John Blackborne died before 23 January 1653, when his widow Jane assigned John's share in a patent for 670 acres of land, owned jointly by John Blackborne, Richard Bavin and Daniel Hutton, to William Holmwood. On 02 September 1656 Jane Blackborne, relict of John Blackborne, assigned to Robert Staunton her right and title to a bill of sale from William Jennings to John Blackborne for a cow.²⁷

William Blackburne, aged 26, who gave testimony in court on 04 July 1677, probably was son of John and Jane Blackborne, born about 1651.²⁸ William had land at Upper Sunken Marsh whereas John had land at the head of Sunken Marsh. William Blackburne signed a report of an estate administration by Elizabeth Cling pertaining to the estate of John Bentley on 04 July 1710. The will of William Blackburn was dated 10 July 1710 and proved on 20 March 1711. His legatees were sons John, William and Benjamin. The administrator's report of the estate of William Blackburn mentions a brother Joseph Blackburn and a sister Mary Brown. The estate of Joseph Blackburn was administered by Faith Blackburn whose report was recorded 15 August 1733. The will of Mary Brown, dated 22 September 1736 and proved on 20 July 1737, contained bequests to her sister-in-law Faith

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

5

Blackburn and to Faith's children, William, Mary and Faith Blackburn.²⁹

NOTES

1. *Southside Virginia Families*, John Bennett Boddie, Baltimore, 1966.
2. *ibid*,
3. *ibid*.
4. *Squah Book*, Volume IV, Book I, Adele Whitby Olney, privately, San Bernadino, CA, 1972.
5. Surry County, Virginia, Will Book 7, page 37.
6. *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, Volume I, Nell Marion Nugent, Virginia Land Office, Richmond, 1934, reprinted Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1979, Patent Book 1, Part I, pages 380 and 454; Patent Book 1, Part II, page 874.
7. *Colonial Surry*, John Bennett Boddie, Richmond, 1948, reprinted Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1974.
8. Supra note 6, Patent Book 5, page 399.
9. Virginia State Highway map, Richmond.
10. Supra note 1.
11. *ibid*.
12. Supra note 6, Volume II, Patent Book 6, page 497.
13. *ibid*, Patent Book 6, pages 116, 467 and 506.
14. *ibid*, Patent Book 1, Part II, page 911.
15. *Surry County Records*, Eliza Timberlake Davis, reprinted Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1980; Surry County Record Book II, 1671-1684, page 300.
16. Supra note 1.
17. Surry County, Virginia, Will Book 5, page 246.
18. *Wills and Administrations of Surry County, Virginia, 1671-1750*, Eliza Timberlake Davis, Smithfield, VA, 1955, reprinted Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1980, Will Book 7, page 14.
19. Supra note 1.
20. Supra note 18, Will Book 7, page 37.
21. Surry County, Virginia, Will Book 9, page 51.
22. *ibid*, Will Book 7, page 308.
23. Isle of Wight County, Virginia, Record of Wills, Deeds, etc. Volume 2, 1661-1719, Virginia State Library Reel 23, page 565.
24. *Virginia Gleanings in England*, Lothrop Withington, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1980.
25. Supra note 1.
26. Supra note 6, Volume III, Patent Book 12, pages 529 and 531.
27. Surry County, Virginia, Record Book I, pages 17, 18, 66 and 89.
28. Surry County, Virginia, Record Book II, page 130.
29. Surry County, Virginia, Will Book 6, pages 27 and 47; Will Book 8, pages 267 and 314; supra note 18.