

312. JOHN CROOK

Born probably c1705 St Mary's County, Maryland
Died c1747 Prince George's County, Maryland
Married 313. Ann Crowley

Born
Died after 1747

Children (order of birth unknown):

156. John Crook Jr
b. probably c1722 St Mary's County, Maryland
d. after 1789 (perhaps in Kentucky)
m. 157. Amy -----

Richard Crook
b. c1725 St Mary's County, Maryland
d.
m.

Francis Crook
b. 07 Dec 1739
d.
m.

William Crook
b. 03 Jul 1742
d.
m.

John Crook was the eldest son of James and Mildred Crook (Crooke) of St. Mary's County, Maryland. Ann Crowley was a daughter of Bryan Crowley of Charles County, Maryland.¹

It has been stated, without documentation, that John Crook, Sr. was born about 1708 in St. Mary's County, that John Crook, Jr. was born in St. Mary's County about 1725 and that John Crook, Jr. moved to Prince George's County, Maryland, after the birth of his son Ozias in St. Mary's County about 1745. However it appears that John Crook, Sr. was in Prince George's County by 1733, when a list of taxables in Mount Calvert Hundred, Prince George's County, taken by Constable John Clagett, includes a John Crook.² This fact suggests that some of the children of John Crook, Sr. were born in Prince George's County. Since Absalom Crook, son of John, Jr. probably was born about 1742, John Crook, Jr. must have been born before 1725, probably about 1722, considering that his eldest son Richard had to precede Absalom. This indicates that John Crook, Sr. was born before 1708, perhaps about 1705. He could not have been born before 1704 because he was a minor when his father died in 1726. John Crook, Sr. was the eldest son of James Crook who died in 1726 in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The children and heirs of James Crook were minors when he wrote his will on 24 January 1725, which was proved on 30 March 1726,³ which means that John Crook, Sr. was born after 1704 and that John, Jr. was born about 1722. John Crook (Sr.) and his brother James Crook, Jr. shared their father's real estate after his death:

To eldest son John and son James and their hrs., real estate in Maryland equally; shd.

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either die without issue, survivor to inherit portion of dec'd; shd. both die without issue, sd. lands to youngest son Joseph and hrs.; he dying without issue, to dau. Margaret and hrs.; personalty at age of 21.

To wife Mildred, extx., and youngest son and dau. residue of estate equally; wife to have use of 1/3 of real estate during life.

Test. Robert Scot, Henry Gibbons, T. T. Greenfield.

James Crook owned two tracts of land in St. Mary's County, named Ludgate and Ridge. Ludgate went to James, Jr., whose grandson Justinian Crook later sold it, and Ridge went to John, whose widow possessed a tract by that name after his death.⁴

John Crook was the landed proprietor of land named Ridge, in Prince George's County, Maryland, when he died intestate before 20 August 1747. On that date an inventory of his estate was made and appraised by John Boone and Moses Orme. Ann Crook was administratrix and Richard Crook was identified as next of kin. Mary (Sim?) was a creditor. On 29 August 1747 Ann Crook filed an administration report, with Thomas Aston and Joseph Wilson as her sureties. The account showed an inventory valued at 15 pounds. Ann Crook made another accounting on 07 October 1747.⁵

Richard Crook must have been son Richard, who may have moved to Frederick County, Maryland, where Richard Crooks and James Crooks signed a petition to Governor Horatio Sharpe, on 05 March 1766, with about 450 inhabitants of the county:⁶

The scarcity of money is nowhere so fatal in its consequences as in Frederick County the petitioners pray that Sharpe will call the Assembly together in April for the purpose of issuing bills of credit to pay the public creditors.

Frederick County was formed from Prince George's County in 1748. Prince George's came from parts of Charles and Calvert counties in 1695. Charles County was erected in 1658 from Old Charles County, which was organized in 1650 and included parts of St. Mary's, Charles and Prince George's counties on the south side of the Patuxent River. St. Mary's was an original county that was established in 1637. Calvert County, which was known first as Patuxent, was an original county begun in 1654. St. Mary's County is a peninsula between the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. Charles County adjoins St. Mary's to the northwest and is across the Potomac from Prince William County, Virginia. Prince George's County is directly north of Charles County and across the Potomac from Fairfax County, Virginia, which adjoins Prince William County. Fairfax was formed from Prince William in 1742.

James Crook who signed the petition with Richard Crook could have been Richard's son or he may have been a brother. Surely John Crook, Sr. had children between Richard and Francis and it is reasonable that he would have named a son for his father James Crook. The birth dates of Francis Crook and William Crook, and their identification as sons of John Crook and Ann Crowley, must have come from parish records, but they appear in family records⁷ without source identification.

Richard Crook might have returned to Prince George's County from Frederick County or perhaps he never left. The 1790 census lists Richard and William Crook in Prince George's County:⁸

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| | Free white males | White females |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| William Crook | 1 | 16+ 3 |
| | 1 | -16 |
| Richard Crooke | 1 | 16+ 3 |
| | 1 | -16 |
| Charles Crooke | 3 | 16+ 7 |
| | 4 | -16 |

The only Crook in Frederick County in 1790 was the Reverend John A. Crook, who was enumerated as 1 male 16 and over, 1 male under 16 and 4 females.

John Crook, Jr. served in the Prince George's County Militia under the command of James Wilson in the French and Indian War in 1748.⁹

John Crook was a resident of Dettingen Parish, Prince William County, Virginia, by 1765 when his name appears on a tithe list, charged with two tithes.¹⁰

By December 1767, John Crook, Jr. resided in Prince William County, Virginia, on 328 acres of land on Bull Run, adjoining Francis Stone, which he leased from Harrison Manley on 07 November 1768. The deed named John's wife Amy and his eldest son Richard.¹¹

There was a Jeremiah Crook born in adjoining Fairfax County in 1761, near the residence of General Washington, who resided in Prince George County when he enlisted for service in the Revolutionary War on 01 February 1782. He married Jane Williams in Charles County, Maryland, on 07 October 1782 and moved to Kentucky about 1790, where he resided in Bourbon and Grant counties. He applied for a military pension from Grant County on 11 February 1833, aged 73, and died in Grant County on 14 June 1834. He was survived by his wife, who applied for a military widow's pension on 28 September 1846, aged 82, in Lewis County, Missouri, where she died before 28 February 1848. The pension file gives the name of only one child, the fourth, daughter Elizabeth Crook who was born about 1792, married Jesse Woodyard in 1810, and lived in Lewis County, Missouri, in 1848.¹² Jeremiah Crook and Jane Williams actually moved to Kentucky before 1784 when their first child was born. They were the parents of John, who was born about 1784 in Kentucky and married Mary Stewart in 1808; Robert, who was born about 1785-1790 and married Elizabeth Williams in 1811; Elizabeth, who was born about 1785-1794 and married (1) Joshua Swinford and (2) Jesse Woodyard; Richard, who was born about 1792-1793; George R., who was born about 1791-1794; William, who was born about 1796-1797; Jesse, who was born about 1799-1800 and married (1) Susan Williams in 1823 and (2) Christina Skinner in 1845; a girl born about 1801-1810; Jeremiah, Jr., who was born about 1805 and married Lucretia Johnson; and a boy, who was born about 1801-1810.¹³ Jeremiah Crook was taxed in Bourbon County, Kentucky, in March 1791¹⁴ and in Pendleton County, Kentucky on 21 August 1800.¹⁵ Grant County was created from Pendleton County in 1820.

Since Jeremiah was born in Fairfax County near the home of George Washington and named his first son John, it is likely that he was a son of John Crook who was a tenant of Washington on 23 August 1758 in Fairfax.¹⁶ The tenant of Washington may have been the John Crook of Fairfax County who brought his nephew Jeremiah Crook to Clark County, Kentucky, about the same time that Jeremiah Crook of Grant County came out from Virginia. The children of this John Crook have not been identified, so he may have been the father of Jeremiah Crook of Grant County.

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Jeremiah Crook, who came to Kentucky from Fairfax County, Virginia, with his uncles John and Charles Crook, married Elizabeth Hickman, daughter of John Hickman, on 26 July 1798 in Madison County,¹⁷ and resided in Lincoln County, Kentucky, afterward. Jeremiah was a son of Solomon and Jossina Crook of Mecklenburg County, Virginia. Solomon, who was born about 1740, died before 1775 and his wife died soon afterward. Their children went to live with relatives and Jeremiah went to Fairfax County, Virginia, to be with his uncles John and James N. Crook, who resided on the Potomac River across from their cousins Joseph and John Crook, sons of John.¹⁸ Fairfax County is across the river from Prince George's County, Maryland, which suggests a connection with the family of John Crook, Sr., whose son John, Jr., moved from Prince George's County to Prince William County, Virginia, adjacent to Fairfax County, by 1767.

Jeremiah Crook and his uncle John reputedly settled first in Clark County, Kentucky, which was formed from parts of Bourbon and Fayette counties in 1793. They probably came to Kentucky before 1790 and settled in the part of Bourbon County that became Clark County because there was a John Crook taxed in Bourbon County in March 1791.¹⁹

There was a John Crooks taxed in Fayette County on 27 February 1790²⁰ who went to Montgomery County, Kentucky, before 1800 when he was taxed there as John Crooks.²¹ He later resided in Bath County, Kentucky, and undoubtedly was a relative of Uzal Crooks of Montgomery and Bath counties, Kentucky, whose descendants used the pluralized spelling of the name. Uzal, who was born on 13 August 1774, possibly in Maryland, was a son of James Crooks and Ann Braden. Uzal married Margaret Mary Crooks on 26 June 1800 in Montgomery County, Kentucky. Margaret Mary, who was a daughter of Richard Crooks and Levina Wilson (or Dorsey), was born on 19 November 1778, near Fort Pitt, Pennsylvania. Richard (1745-c1819), who was a son of James Crooks of Washington County, Pennsylvania, and his family came to Kentucky from Peters Township, Washington County, before 1793 when their daughter Sarah Crook married Andrew Shanklin. James Crook, the father of Uzal, was born in Virginia about 1745, married (1) Ann Braden on 04 August 1773 in Sussex County, New Jersey, and (2) Elizabeth Warford, daughter of Abraham Warford, on 15 March 1787, probably in Loudoun County, Virginia. James resided in Loudoun County in 1782 and died there about 1816.²² Loudoun County, which was formed from Fairfax County in 1757, is across the Potomac River from Frederick and Montgomery counties, Maryland.

James Crook (Crooks) of Washington County, Pennsylvania, who was born about 1708-1713,²³ and named a son Richard, may have been James Crook, Jr., son of James and Mildred Crook of St. Mary's County, Maryland. Their son John was born about 1705 and named a son Richard. There are unsubstantiated traditions that the Crooks of Washington County were immigrants, but it is possible that James Crook just moved up the Potomac River from Maryland to Pennsylvania. However James Crook, Jr. has been said to have had a grandson, Justinian Crook, who sold the Ludgate tract that James, Jr. inherited, and the family records of descendants of James Crooks of Washington County do not include a grandson named Justinian, although the records are apparently incomplete. Those records begin with James, whereas the records of the Crook family of St. Mary's County end with James, Jr., excepting for the reference to grandson Justinian, whose father was not identified.

There was a Brian Crowley in St. Mary's County, Maryland, whose will was dated 16 December 1687 and proved on 21 April 1688. To his wife Ann, whom he named as executrix, he left 1/2 of 50 acres named Morriss's Mount. The residue of Morriss's Mount was bequeathed to daughter Mary and Ann

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and their heirs equally. Daughters Elizabeth and Eleanor (Ellinor) and son-in-law John Wilson received personal property. Timothy Mahony and Thomas Dillon were named to oversee the will, which was witnessed by Michael Cooks, William Marsan and Jemima Capscio.²⁴

Ann Crowley, the daughter of Brian Crowley who died in 1688, was of the generation preceding the Ann Crowley who married John Crook, who was born about 1708.

Several persons owned land called Morriss's (Morrisses) Mount which may have represented different tracts or sections of one tract. The mutuality of ownership may imply familial connections. In his will, dated 25 April 1683 and proved on 07 May 1683, Derby Donnavin of St. Mary's County left 100 acres of Morriss's Mount to Elinor Hurley, daughter of Dennis Hurley who was, with Cornelius Donnavin and Pierce Wall, a co-executor and residual legatee of Derby Donnavin. Lawrence Dillon, son of Thomas Dillon of Charles County, inherited personal property from Derby Donnavin.²⁵ Pierce Wall (Pearce Walls) of St. Mary's County left part of Morriss's Mount to Thomas Dillon, the executor of his will which was dated 18 May 1685 and proved on 26 August 1685.²⁶ Thomas Dillon was the overseer of Brian Crowley's will.

NOTES

- ¹. *History and Lineage Book, National Society of the Daughters of the American Colonists in Missouri*, Mellcene Thurman Smith and Jessymin Thurman Lewis, St. Louis Law Printing Company, 1936; data of B. F. Crooke, 1908, vertical file Crook, Kentucky Historical Society, abstract by Betty Harvey Williams, Warrensburg, MO, *The Crook Clan*, Volume III, Issue 1, L. M. Crook, Jr., McCrory, AR, 1979.
- ². *Calendar of Maryland State Papers No. 1, The Black Books*, Hall of Records Commission, Annapolis, 1943.
- ³. *The Maryland Calendar of Wills*, Jane Baldwin and Roberta Bolling Henry, Baltimore, 1917, Volume V, Wills Liber 18, folio 474.
- ⁴. *History and Lineage Book, National Society of the Daughters of the American Colonists in Missouri*, supra note 1.
- ⁵. *The Crook Clan*, Volume I, Issue 2, and Volume II, Issue 1, supra note 1.
- ⁶. Supra note 2.
- ⁷. Supra note 4.
- ⁸. *The Crook Clan*, Volume I, Issue 3A, supra note 1.
- ⁹. Supra note 4.
- ¹⁰. *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*, Volume 30, Number 2, May 1992, The Virginia Genealogical Society, Richmond, VA.
- ¹¹. Virginia State Library Reel 4, Prince William County Deed Book R, 1768-1771, pages 25-27.
- ¹². National Archives pension file W8634.
- ¹³. *The Crook Clan*, Volume I, Issue 1, 1979, supra note 1.
- ¹⁴. "First Census" of Kentucky 1790, Charles B. Heinemann, Washington, 1940.
- ¹⁵. "Second Census" of Kentucky 1800, G. Glenn Clift, Frankfort, 1954.
- ¹⁶. *The Crook Clan*, Volume IV, Issue 1, supra note 1.
- ¹⁷. Madison County, Kentucky, Marriage Book A.
- ¹⁸. *The Crook Clan*, Volume I, Issue 2, 1977, supra note 1.
- ¹⁹. Supra note 14.
- ²⁰. *ibid.*
- ²¹. Supra note 15.
- ²². *The Crook Clan*, Volume III, Issues 1 and 2, 1979, Volume IV, Issue 1, 1980, supra note 1.
- ²³. Supra note 16.
- ²⁴. *Maryland Calendar of Wills*, supra note 3, Volume 2, Wills Liber 4, folio 305.
- ²⁵. *ibid.*, Volume 1, Wills Liber 4, folio 13.
- ²⁶. *ibid.*, folio 155.