

624. JAMES CROOK

Born c1686 St Mary's County, Maryland
Died 1726 Prince George's County, Maryland
Married 625. Mildred ----- c1705

Born
Died after 1727

Children (order of birth unknown):

312. John Crook
b. probably c1705 St Mary's County, Maryland
d. c1747 Prince George's County, Maryland
m. 313. Ann Crowley

James Crook Jr
b.
d. after 1762
m.

Joseph Crook
b.
d.
m.

Margaret Crook
b.
d.
m.

James Crook was a son of John Crook (Crooke) and Sarah ----- Powell of St. Mary's County, Maryland.¹ The maiden name and parents of his wife Mildred have not been determined.

It has been stated that James Crook acquired two tracts of land in St. Mary's County, Maryland, named Ludgate and Ridge, through his mother Sarah, who was the widow of George Powell when she married John Crook. It is not known whether this land was transferred to James by deed or legacy.

James Crook inherited personal property from Richard Gardner of Calvert County, Maryland, whose will was dated 15 January 1693 and proved on 18 April 1694. Other heirs of Gardner were his wife Margery, his sisters Joan (Jone) Bennett and Mary Gardner who were living at William Scott's in Oxfordshire, England, goddaughters Elizabeth Hall and Cibby Jowles, Thomas Gosling, William Wickham and Thomas Stone. Wife Margery's legacy was three tracts of land in St. Mary's County. The will was witnessed by Charles Ashcom, James Keith (Keeth), Luke Gardner, and Charles Carles.² Richard Gardner undoubtedly was part of the Gardner family of St. Mary's County which suggests that the legatee James Crook was James Crook of St. Mary's County. This assumption is substantiated by the fact that James Keith and Charles Ashcom witnessed the will. James Crook and George Keith jointly owned a pew in All Faiths Church in St. Mary's County on 11 July 1723. George Keith and Thomas Hall attested to the inventory of the estate of John Crook on 06 August 1698. Charles Ashcom appraised James Crook's estate there in 1725.³ Calvert and St. Mary's

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counties adjoin on Chesapeake Bay.

On 11 January 1711 James Crook (Crock), John Seagar and Amy Ford witnessed the will of Samuel (Sam'll) Southoron of St. Mary's County, whose sole legatee was his wife Margaret.⁴

James Crook (Crooke), Charles Ashcom and Philip Key witnessed the will of James Keech, gentleman, of St. Mary's County on 14 January 1725. When the will was proved on 02 March 1725/6, it was noted that the witness James Crook (Crooke) was deceased at the date of probate.⁵ Since James Crook made his will on 24 January 1725, he died between then and 02 March 1725/6, probably in February. These dates are from the old Julian calendar, then in use, and all would be in the year 1726 on the present Gregorian calendar. The will of James Crook (Crooke) of St. Mary's County was proved on 30 March 1726.⁶

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

At the probate of James Crook's will, Mildred Crook made bond as his executrix and widow. Charles Ashcom and Charles Smith were appointed as appraisers of the estate. T. T. Greenfield, William Brogden Factor and Tobias Bonles were named in the record, possibly as creditors. Philip Singer and Sarah Singer were identified as kin. On 26 April 1727 Mildred (Muriel) Crook appears again in court records as executrix for James Crook.⁷ In these notes the three words, William Brogden Factor are juxtaposed to appear as the name of an individual, but they probably should have been punctuated to read, William Brodgen, Factor.

Sarah Singer and Philip Singer, who were described as kin of James Crook in an administration account of his estate, may have been married. Perhaps Sarah was a sister of James and a daughter of John and Sarah Crook.

James Crook owned two tracts of land in St. Mary's County, named Ludgate and Ridge. The early deed records of St. Mary's County, Maryland, were destroyed by fire, but later records reportedly show that James Crook, Jr. inherited the tract named Ludgate, which was eventually sold by his grandson Justinian Crook. James Crook, Jr. possessed the 50 acres of Ludgate during 1753-1761 and his heirs possessed it during 1762-1769.⁸ Ridge went to John, whose widow possessed a tract by that name after his death.⁹ 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 1747.¹⁰

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Ann Crowley who married John Crook was a daughter of Bryan Crowley of Charles County, Maryland.¹¹

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. *Maryland Calendar of Wills*, Jane Baldwin and Roberta Bolling Henry, Baltimore, 1917, Volume II, Wills Liber 2, folio 265.
- ³. *The Crook Clan*, supra note 1, Volume IV, 1980.
- ⁴. Supra note 2, Volume III, Wills Liber 13, folio 398.
- ⁵. *ibid*, Volume V, Wills Liber 18, folio 473.
- ⁶. Supra note 4, folio 474.
- ⁷. Supra note 3.
- ⁸. *ibid*.
- ⁹. *History and Lineage Book, National Society of the Daughters of the American Colonists in Missouri*, supra note 1.
- ¹⁰. *The Crook Clan*, supra note 1, Volume I, Issue 2, 1977; Volume II, Issue 1, 1978.
- ¹¹. Supra note 1.