



Jamestowne Society MAGAZINE

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Ancestry Research*
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WELCOME TO MILESFIES

by Moody Kellam "M.K." Miles, III,
Jamestowne Society Member



M.K. Miles, a Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor, is a 1971 graduate of VA Tech and served in the Air Force before working for the US Army Corps of Engineers for 35 years, retiring in 2008.

My love of Eastern Shore of Virginia (ESVA) genealogy began almost 50 years ago, in 1977, with the TV show "Roots" which I watched with my family. I told my mother, if they could find the information for "Roots" then a kid from Saxis Island, on the ESVA, should be able to write a story about his family's origins. She said: "sure you can" and brought a box from the closet that I had never seen before. She showed me how I was descended from the ESVA Scarborough family. That was the trigger point. It's been my obsession ever since.

The next year I met with my cousin Barry Wayne Miles (1940-2018), who was also raised on Saxis Island and was researching his Saxis families. We met at his home in Newport News, VA and started a 40-year partnership working together on ESVA genealogy. Together we published eight books on ESVA tombstones, marriages, wills, Civil War soldiers, and various families. That was before FamilySearch.org, Ancestry.com and Findagrave.com were online. In fact, some headstone information on Findagrave came directly from our tombstone book.

A CLOSER LOOK AT MILESFIES

The first version of the online MilesFiles which contained hundreds of ESVA families from Charlemagne to the present was created in 1996. In the same year an internet group known as Genealogy and History of the Eastern Shore (GHOTES) of Virginia was formed. GHOTES posted the database to their web page and named it MilesFiles in keeping with the then popular TV show "The X Files." It started with 10,000 names and now has over 126,000 names (114,000 deceased and 12,000 living persons) with 28,000 hits on an annual basis and over 500 hits per day. Most of the users are in the United States with the UK, Canada, Australia, and Germany having hundreds of users each. MilesFiles has been on the ESVA Public Library System Webpage (<http://espl-genealogy.org/MilesFiles>) since September 2000.

To find it search for MilesFiles with no space between the words and it should be the first hit. I became a member of the Jamestowne Society in 2005 due to the insistence of another cousin, George Yeardley Scarborough (1924-2013). My qualifying ancestor was my 10x great grandfather, Capt. Edmund Scarburgh I (1584-1635), whom at that time was in Adventurers of Purse and Person (AP&P), Virginia, 3rd Edition, 1987, as a First Family of Virginia (FFV). I followed the Scarburgh line for 10 generations to my great grandmother Katherine Rebecca Scarburgh (1867-1943) and three more generations to me. Everyone in all those generations lived on the ESVA, where I was born and live today. The sources/proofs required for my application are in MilesFiles. Since 2005 MilesFiles now shows another 10 ways I could join the Jamestowne Society.

In 2023 the MilesFiles database was migrated from the stand-alone software and database which had been on my personal computer since 1996, to The Next Generation (TNG), a totally web-based genealogy platform on the ESVA Public Library System's Heritage Center website. All I need is a laptop, a web browser such as Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge, a reliable internet connection, and a username and password. The Library's IT consultant in northern Virginia manages the server side operations and I manage the data input side and a team of volunteer editors. There are many new capabilities enabling users to create various charts and reports and to print or download them as PDF files. They can see event maps showing the GPS locations of births, deaths, burials, etc. on maps or satellite images, such as Google Earth, using only a web browser. It also can be accessed from a smartphone, but the small screen size limits some of its functions, such as looking at large pedigree charts. Real time updates may be made by the team of volunteer editors, including uploading pictures, documents, and audio-visual files. Passwords can be granted to guests to allow viewing details on living people in their immediate family, which would normally be shown simply as "Living."

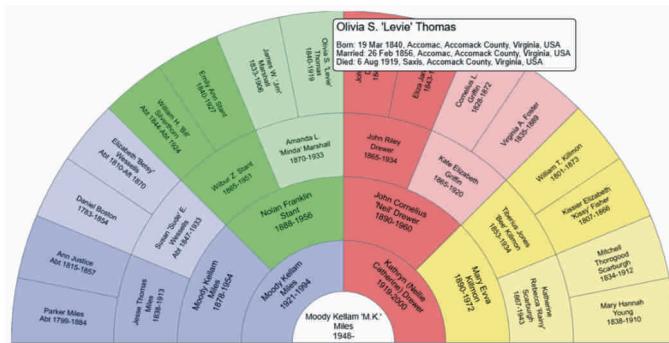
The top of the **Individual Record** screen for Sir George Yeardley is shown to the right. The Descendants tab, Vertical option and setting the Generations to 2 (out of 8) were selected to create the chart

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Individual Record screen generated by MilesFiles for Sir George Yeardley's descendants.

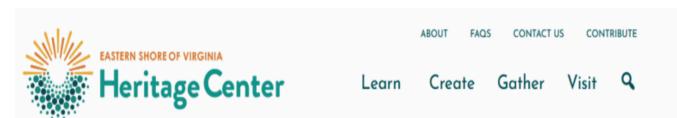
showing his children and their spouses. The other options for creating Descendants charts are shown on the line with Generations below. The other tabs yield similar results. A **Relationship Chart** showing how Sir George Yeardley and M.K. are related is shown later in the article. The Suggest tab opens an email directly to the site administrator (myself) allowing users to suggest changes for a specific person.



The **Fan Chart** shown above generated by MilesFiles, shows 5-generations of M.K.'s ancestors, with a pop-up box showing details of a person in a box as you mouse over each box. Clicking on the name in any box will take you to that person's record.

The **Family Chart** shown to the right, generated by MilesFiles, shows that Jesse Miles and his wife Susan Wessells' 6th child Moody Miles (left column) married Nolan Stant (right column), the 1st child of Wilbur Stant and his wife Amanda Marshall, and together they had 4 children (middle column). Clicking on the + icon (left column) will offer the option to switch to Moody Miles' other wife and her parents and their children. Clicking on the + icon (right column) will offer the option to switch to Nolan Stant's other husband and his parents and their children. Clicking on the up and down arrows will move the chart up or down a generation.

Clicking the **More** button in the bottom right corner of the front page will take you to clickable lists of materials on the ESVA Heritage Center webpage, external links to more genealogy resources, and lineage societies like the Jamestowne Society. There are also clickable lists of Royal and Gateway Ancestors, First Families of Virginia (FFV) and 17th Century Burgesses (as shown below), 17th Century Governor's Council & Ministers, 17th Century Free People of Color, D.A.R. Patriots, of whom are the ancestors of folks living on the ESVA today and those whose families left the ESVA generations ago. Due to the power of Google and other search engines constantly indexing MilesFiles, over 50% of users simply key in the names and dates of ancestors into Google which takes them directly to that person's record in MilesFiles. Many of the users that have contacted me have never been to the front page. The image below is from the More page. Those listed under First Families of Virginia and 17th Century Burgesses are qualifiers for membership in the Jamestowne Society.



First Families of Virginia (FFV)

- Andrews, Lt. Col. William (I)
- Bogwell, Henry (I)
- Bibby, William (I)

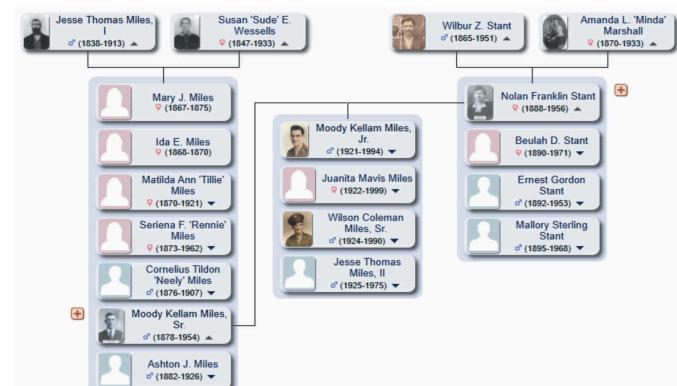
Other 17th Century Settlers

- Ayres, John (Hunting Creek)
- Barnes, John (Accomack Bay Side)
- Bayley, Richard, Gent. (Cradock)
- Charlton, Capt. Stephen

17th Century Burgesses

- Anderson, William
- Andrews, Maj. William (2)*
- Bayly, Capt. Richard Jr. (II)
- Browne, Devereux
- Charlton, Capt. Stephen

MilesFiles includes 30 members of the First Families of Virginia (FFV) that left Jamestown starting about 1620 and moved to the ESVA and Maryland. When John Frederick Dorman (1928-2021), published AP&P, Virginia, 4th Edition, 2007, he included 5-6 generations of their descendants, a total of about 4,000 individuals, which I added to MilesFiles. Dorman's numbering system for each family, starting with "(1)" for the first in that family in Virginia is shown in MilesFiles as "(1)" between the person's first and last name. For instance, Sir George (1) Yeardley, his son Argoll (3) Yeardley, his grandson Argoll (7) Yeardley and his great granddaughter Frances (12) Yeardley. See Sir George (1) Yeardley's descendant chart above. This helps users living today with ESVA ancestors to identify their FFV ancestors and the sources cited in MilesFiles will help them complete their **Jamestowne Society** applications.



Family Chart screen generated by MilesFiles shows the relationship between the Husband's family and Wife's family.

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For more on “Fred,” as those of us who knew Dorman referred to him, see the **Jamestowne Society Magazine**, Vol. 49, No. 1, Spring 2025. In the process of adding those 4,000 individuals to MilesFiles, I compared Fred’s lineages and sources to those in MilesFiles and found a few differences. Particularly, William Munns (1600-1658) and Walter Scott (1586-1638) are both in the Feb 1624/25 Muster on the ESVA, as shown in Fred’s **AP&P, 4th Ed, vol 1**, but their families are not in either of the 3 volumes. They are in MilesFiles and listed under “Other 17th Century Settlers” on the MORE page, with a note that they “Qualify for FFV, but not approved at this time.” I started communicating with him about those differences and was pleasantly surprised when he agreed with my suggested changes and asked me to send them to him in letters, which he planned to keep and pass on to whomever compiled the next edition of **AP&P**. Once I retired from HQ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Washington, DC, in 2008 and moved closer to Fred in Stafford County, Virginia, we became genealogy buddies. I’ll always remember the day he complained about all the errors in Ancestry.com family trees. I agreed there were lots of errors in those trees and I showed him how to find a copy of an original 1850 census page on Ancestry.com for work on his Slaughter family. He said: “don’t touch that keyboard, leave it right there.” He worked on his Slaughter family for years until his eyesight failed. As a genealogist working on Virginia families, knowing and sharing information with Fred Dorman was a dream come true. I deviated from ESVA families for a few weeks and added Fred and a few of his ancestral families to MilesFiles, taking some of his maternal lines back 400 years. The source I created for the personal information I obtained in an interview with him in his home in Stafford County is labeled “John Frederick Dorman’s Family (As told to M.K. Miles on 8-30-2019).”

Since being descended from 17th Century Burgesses also qualifies those living today for membership in the **Jamestowne Society**, the label “Burgess” was added as a suffix to the names for those 42 individuals who served as Burgesses in the 17th Century from the ESVA. Since the same applies to those who served on the 17th Century Governor’s Council, “Councilor” was added to their names. For those who served as 17th Century Ministers, “17th Century Minister” was added to their names.

Clickable lists of all the names of the members of the above groups can be found by clicking on **MORE** at the bottom of the front page that takes you to the ESVA Heritage Center webpage.

The **Relationship Chart** to the right, generated by MilesFiles, shows Sir George Yeardley is the 10 x great grandfather of M.K. Miles. The numbers in the middle of their names infer the top 7 generations were based on **AP&P, 4th Edition, 2007**, compiled by



M.K. with
Christopher Pote

John Frederick Dorman (1928-2021).

MilesFiles traces many of the descendants of the above groups to folks living today on the ESVA, and those whose families left the ESVA generations ago, showing their ancestors on all sides of their family going back 400 years on the ESVA and another



800 years in the UK and Europe to Charlemagne.

On September 30, 2025 at a 25-year celebration of MilesFiles being on the ESVA Public Library Heritage Center’s website, former Virginia Humanities Board member Kellee Blake presented M.K. with an award for “lifetime of dedication and achievement to advance the humanities” and M.K. & Christopher Pote, Director ESVA Public Library, signed a Deed of Gift ensuring MilesFiles will live at and be maintained by ESVA Heritage Center in perpetuity.