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OF HENRY BAGWELL AND THOMAS STRATTON  
OF EARLY EASTERN SHORE VIRGINIABy Mary Burton Derrickson McCurdy, Ph.D.  
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

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## I.

Henry Bagwell, shipwrecked in the *Sea Venture* off Bermuda, arrived at Jamestown, May 1610, in the *Deliverance* along with Capt. George Somers, Sir Thomas Gates, and other notables. At the time of the 1624/5 muster he stated his age as 35.<sup>1</sup> This statement agrees well with the recently discovered baptismal date of 29 Oct. 1589 for Henry Bagwell, son of David Bagwell, at St. Petrock, Exeter, Devonshire.<sup>2</sup> No will has been found for David Bagwell, but we know from tax assessments in Exeter that in 1586 he was in the parish of St. Petrock, in 1595 in the parish of St. Mary Arches, and in 1602 in the parish of St. Olave.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, from other Exeter baptismal records we know that his son William was baptized at St. Petrock, 26 July 1587, and that younger children were baptized at St. Mary Arches—John, 2 April 1592; Elizabeth, 11 Sept. 1596; and Mary, 26 Oct. 1597. In Virginia, Henry Bagwell was in the muster of Robert Bagwell according to the records, but nothing more is known of this Robert. However, there was a Thomas Bagwell, an ancient planter, who like Henry in 1624/5 was living in West and Shirley Hundred. When Thomas Bagwell acquired a tract of land in Charles City County in 1638, he had a wife Joan.<sup>4</sup> He served as a Burgess in 1629/30 for Pasbehay in the corporation of James City,<sup>5</sup> at the same time that Henry Bagwell was a Burgess from Accomack on the Eastern Shore, to which he

1 Nell Marion Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, v. 1 (Richmond, 1934), pp. xiii, xviii, introduction by Robert Armistead Stewart.

2 LDS microfiche for Devon, seen in Raleigh, N.C., Source C050501 0523.

3 Margery M. Rowe, ed., *Tudor Exeter: Tax Assessments 1489-1595* (Devon and Cornwall Record Society, Publications, new ser., v. 22; Exeter, 1977), pp. 71, 76; W. G. Hopkins, *Exeter in the 17th Century: Tax and Rate Assessments 1602-1699* (*ibid.*, new ser., v. 2; Exeter, 1957), p. 4.

4 Nugent, *op. cit.*, p. 87.

5 *Ibid.*, p. xxxiii.

had moved about 1628.<sup>6</sup> Contact between the two was not lost; we find Thomas witnessing a deed of gift by Henry 25 May 1645, on the Eastern Shore.<sup>7</sup>

Henry Bagwell remained on the Eastern Shore, being a Burgess from there a second time in 1632 and appearing in the earliest court records of 1632/3 as clerk and continuing in that capacity until 1637, and serving again from 1639 to 1640.<sup>8</sup> By 1636 he had a wife Alice. She was at court 28 Nov. 1636 saying that she was due 200 acres for transporting herself, her son Thomas Stratton, and her two servants John Waltum and John Crowder "upon her own charges", and assigning 100 acres to her son Thomas Stratton and 100 acres to her daughter Mary Chilcott.<sup>9</sup> By this wife Bagwell had two sons: John, born somewhere between 1637 and 1639, and Thomas, born 1642.<sup>10</sup> It is not known when Henry Bagwell or his wife Alice died, but in the 1662 list of Northampton tithables the only Bagwell is their son John, tithable for two. The land of Henry Bagwell, on which he was living by 1635 and which was confirmed by a grant, 13 Aug. 1639,<sup>11</sup> of 400 acres located on Old Plantation Creek and Johnny Boyes branch near William Berryman, came into the hands of son John Bagwell, and he conveyed half of it by deed of gift to his younger brother Thomas, 28 April 1663,<sup>12</sup> when Thomas would have reached 21 years of age. The two brothers sold their Northampton land and moved up into Accomac County where John left a will in 1686 and Thomas in 1690. John had a wife Ann and children Henry, Alexander and Rebecca. Thomas married

6 Susie M. Ames, *County Court Records of Accomack-Northampton, Virginia, 1634-40* (American Legal Records, v. 7; Washington, 1954), p. xxi.

7 Susie M. Ames, *County Court Records of Accomack-Northampton, Virginia, 1640-45* (Virginia Historical Society, Documents, v. 10; Charlottesville, 1973), p. 429. This Thomas could not be Henry's son, then only about 3.

8 *Ibid.*, p. xvi; Ralph T. Whitelaw, *Virginia's Eastern Shore* (Richmond, 1951), v. 1, p. 117.

9 Northampton [Accomack] Co., Va., Orders, Wills, Deeds 1632-1640, p. 65.

10 William R. M. Houston and Jean M. Mihalyka, *Colonial Residents of Virginia's Eastern Shore* (Baltimore, 1985), p. 5, noting five depositions given by John Bagwell with conflicting ages and one by Thomas in June 1682, the latter in agreement with another deposition of 18 May 1678 (Accomac Co., Va., Order Bk. 5, p. 156) not noted by them.

11 Nugent, *op. cit.*, pp. 30 (for Berriman, where Bagwell is spelled Bagnell), 112.

12 Whitelaw, *op. cit.*, v. 1, p. 117.

Ann Stockley, daughter of Francis Stockley, and left children William, Francis, John, Ann, Valence, Elizabeth and Comfort.<sup>13</sup>

## II.

-Let us now turn to Alice Bagwell who was twice a widow before marrying Henry Bagwell. It is often stated that Henry Bagwell married the widow Stratton. By that time, however, she must have been the widow Chilcott. From the records naming the headrights for which Thomas Stratton was allowed 100 acres (actually receiving 107) we know that his mother came into Virginia as Alice Stratton.<sup>14</sup> When did she arrive there with her Stratton son and her servants John Waltum and John Crowder? The answer seems to be contained in the deposition of John Waltham (as there spelled) given at court 16 Nov. 1635, when he declared that he was due 50 acres "for his servis in this county who hath remayned 7 years the bounds of land is est & north upon the house of Henry Bagwell SE upon Mayne Crk & NW upon Wm Berriman."<sup>15</sup> This statement points to 1628 as the year of arrival. At that time John Waltum would have been 17 or 18 to judge from his deposition of 19 Feb. 1734/5 when he said he was 24,<sup>16</sup> and Thomas Stratton would have been around 4, to judge from his deposition of 29 April 1658 when he was "aged about 34 yeares."<sup>17</sup>

Actually at the time of this deposition Thomas Stratton was in his 34th year. The baptismal register of Layham Parish, Suffolk, England, has as its last entry for the year 1624 (old style) "1624. March 24 Thomas son of Benjamin Stratton."<sup>18</sup> Thus Thomas Stratton was born at some time before 24 March 1624/5.

The Benjamin Stratton who christened son Thomas in 1624 was evidently one of the sons of Thomas Stratton, gentleman, of Shotley, Suffolk. This Thomas Stratton, in his will of 15 April 1596, names a son Benjamin, along with an elder son John, heir to the manor, and a younger son Joseph, and several daughters, and a wife Dorothy,

13 Accomack Co. Wills & Deeds 1676-90, pp. 433 (John Bagwell), 525 (Thomas Bagwell).

14 See 8 Aug. 1653 certificate to Thomas Stratton in right of Alice Stratton, Thomas Stratton, Elizabeth Wolsey, Jno. Drackett, Northampton Co., Va., Orders & c 4, p. 199; 5 Oct. 1654 grant of 257 acres, specifying 107 acres for transportation of Alice Stratton and Tho. Stratton, plus assignment of 150 other acres, Nugent, *op. cit.*, p. 295.

15 Ames, *County Court Records ... 1634-40*, p. 43.

16 Northampton Co., Va., Orders & c 1, p. 28.

17 Northampton Co., Va., Order Bk. 8, p. 15.

18 Layham Parish baptismal register at Ipswich & East Suffolk Record Office (Ref. No. FC 82); also seen on LDS microfiche, Raleigh, N.C., Source C063202 0903.



executrix conjointly with cousin John Morgan of Ipswich who was to serve as trustee until John Stratton reached his majority. Thomas Stratton died at Dedham, Essex, 29 May 1596, was buried at Shotley 1 June 1596, and the will was probated at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 4 Nov. 1596.<sup>19</sup>

Although I read and abstracted the Thomas Stratton will at the Public Record Office in London several years ago in the thought that Thomas Stratton of Virginia might be a grandson, it was not until 1985 that I decided to probe further and ran into Harriet Russell Stratton's *A Book of Strattons*,<sup>20</sup> which contains a pedigree and the ancient arms of the Strattons of Shotley traced back to Walter de Stratton (will 1392), the above-mentioned will of Thomas Stratton, and much other original material relating to the Shotley line of Strattons in England and the first Strattons in America. This book presents evidence that Thomas Stratton's youngest son Joseph sailed from England for Virginia in the spring of 1628 and that a grandson John, son of the heir to the manor, probably left the same year for Maine following the death of his father John Stratton in the previous year at Ardleigh, Essex, and his burial at Shotley, 4 May 1627. Just 19 days later his brother Benjamin Stratton was also buried at Shotley, 23 May 1627, four days after probate of John's will wherein Benjamin was left £6.13.8 and Joseph 40 shillings for a ring.<sup>21</sup> In view of all the circumstances it seems reasonable to suppose that the widow Alice Stratton who came to Virginia about 1628 with her son Thomas was indeed the widow of Benjamin Stratton. Apparently Benjamin Stratton named his son after his father Thomas, and Thomas in turn named his son Benjamin after his father, fairly clinching the argument. Perhaps the author of *The Book of Strattons* would have seen this if she had not made the mistake of assuming that Thomas and Alice Stratton were husband and wife. A similar mistake was made by Marie Ellen Russell in her manuscript at the Virginia Historical Society when she stated that Henry Bagwell married Alice Hawkins, widow of Thomas Stratton.<sup>22</sup>

19 P.C.C. Drake 84.

20 Harriet Russell Stratton, *A Book of Strattons* (New York, 1908).

21 *Ibid.* John Stratton's will was made 24 Sept. 1621 at his ancestral manor of Kyrketon alias Shotley.

22 Marie Ellen Russell, "Who We Are," manuscript Virginia Historical Society, MSS6: 1R9195: 1, pp. 1-2.

I have not found any document establishing Alice's maiden name. Search has been made in England for marriage or probate or other records which might throw light on her family and place of origin, with the assistance of Miss A. Plumb of the Ipswich and East Suffolk Record Office, who checked into the parish registers of Layham and Shotley, the most likely places for the marriage of Benjamin Stratton to Alice, 1609 through 1624. Unfortunately, there is a gap in the Shotley marriage registers from 1612 through 1624. Her results being negative, I turned to Boyd's marriage index for all of Suffolk,<sup>23</sup> and searched for any marriage of Benjamin Stratton from 1601 through 1625. I found none. I also examined the Essex microfiches without success. Miss A. Plumb checked the indexes of wills proved in the archdeaconry of Suffolk, the archdeaconry of Sudbury, the consistory court of Norwich, and other indexes at the Ipswich record office, without discovering the name of Benjamin Stratton; and she also checked administrations for any reference to Alice Stratton in the *Index of Probate Records of the Court of the Archdeaconry of Suffolk 1444-1700* with negative results. Nor is there any reference to Benjamin Stratton or Alice in the indexes of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury available in the *British Index Library* volumes.

All that we positively know about Benjamin Stratton is contained in five documents:

(1) Thomas Stratton's will of 15 April 1596 (probated 4 Nov. 1596) provides that Benjamin shall receive a life annuity of £10 out of the lands to be inherited by his elder brother John when John becomes 21, which would have been 12 Oct. 1602 on the basis of the statement in the Suffolk inquisition of 19 Jan. 1596/7 putting his age at that date as 15 years 99 days.<sup>24</sup> We thus know that Benjamin himself was not yet 21 in 1602. Only three baptismal records survive for the children of Thomas Stratton, and these three children, christened between 24 Feb. 1574/5 and 17 Dec. 1579 and including a son Thomas, the first-born,<sup>25</sup> were no longer living at the time of the will.

(2) Benjamin Stratton was one of the witnesses to the will of Nicholas Woodfen, tailor, of Ipswich, made 3 Sept. 1616; and his brother John Stratton "of Shotley" was one of the executors.<sup>26</sup> Some six months later their

23 Film borrowed from Salt Lake City by the LDS genealogical library, Raleigh, N.C.

24 Stratton, *op. cit.*, v. 1, p. 58.

25 LDS microfiche, Raleigh, N.C.

26 PCC Abstract of Wills, Register Soame, 1620, item 778, p. 260, Soame 66.

mother Dorothy, now Dorothy Linton, died, and administration was granted to son John Stratton, 4 March 1616/7.<sup>27</sup>

(3) The will of John Stratton made at Shotley 24 Sept. 1621 gave "Benjamin Stratton my brother £6.13.8," as previously noted. It was proved 19 May 1627 by widow Ann Stratton and eldest son John Stratton.<sup>28</sup>

(4) As also previously noted, Benjamin Stratton's son Thomas was christened in Layham parish 24 March 1624.<sup>29</sup> The mother's name is not mentioned.

(5) Burial was at Shotley 23 May 1627.<sup>30</sup>

### III.

The last reference we have to Alice Bagwell is in a court record of 28 April 1643, when the court "ordered upon the Affidavit of Alice Bagwell That Thomas Stratton shall be Cleared and Free from any service Claymed by Thomas Hunt And that the said Hunt shall pay Court Charges."<sup>31</sup> This action was in the context of a charge brought by Hunt against young Stratton<sup>32</sup> that he had damaged a boat of his, and at this same session of the court arbitrators were appointed to end the difference between Hunt and Stratton. The young defendant being in his minority, a kinsman stood security for him, declaring that he would accept the decision of the arbitrators and make payment. This kinsman was John Stratton.<sup>33</sup> The court's final decision, 10 Feb. 1643/4, was that Thomas Stratton, as recommended by the arbitrators, should pay Thomas Hunt 400 pounds of merchantable tobacco and the costs of the suit for having taken Hunt's boat from its landing place on Hunt's plantation with the consequence that the boat was split in a gust or storm; and that Hunt was to have possession of the split boat.<sup>34</sup>

Who was the "kinsman" John Stratton who stood security for Thomas Stratton in this case? My hypothesis is that he was Thomas Stratton's first cousin, the John Stratton who went to Maine in 1628 and in 1638 was a property owner in Salem, Mass., where he was called a merchant.

27 Stratton, *op. cit.*, v. 1, p. 48, pedigree chart 1.

28 *Ibid.*, p. 59, referring to P.C.C. Skynner 52.

29 See note 18.

30 Stratton, *op. cit.*, v. 1, p. 48.

31 Ames, *County Court Records ... 1640-45*, p. 267.

32 That Thomas Stratton was less than 21 is in agreement with the Suffolk baptism of 1624 and his deposition of 1658, cited above.

33 Ames, *County Court Records ... 1640-45*, pp. 283-84.

34 *Ibid.*, p. 328.

There is a Salem record of a letter of attorney made 19 July 1641 by him and his mother and two sisters, who had also migrated to New England, appointing Capt. Edward Gibbons<sup>35</sup> of Boston and Robert Stileman, a London merchant, to receive legacies left by the will of John Stratton's grandmother Mary Dearhaugh of Suffolk, England. At this point the evidence for John Stratton's presence in New England fades out. Two years later a Salem record notes that he is absent from the town.<sup>36</sup> That would have been about the time that John Stratton, "kinsman" of Thomas Stratton of the Eastern Shore, was appearing in his behalf in the boat case.

It is very possible that John Stratton, merchant, was establishing himself in Lynnhaven Parish, Lower Norfolk Co., Va., while still acquiring property in Massachusetts. Probably he was the John Stratton who received a grant of 200 acres in that Virginia parish 9 May 1638,<sup>37</sup> next to Robert West, who was one of the arbitrators appointed in the Hunt *vs.* Thomas Stratton boat case. Undoubtedly it was this same man who, 3 Aug. 1640 and 4 Jan. 1640/1, was a Lynnhaven Parish churchwarden. He was still active in the affairs of the church as late as 25 Dec. 1654 when he was one of the signers of a petition for a godly and able minister, at whatever charge, to fill the vacancy then contributing to "the genrall breach of the Sabbath day throughout the whole County."<sup>38</sup> In 1652 he married the widow of Thomas Causon shortly after Causon's death.<sup>39</sup> By 20 Aug. 1656 he had another wife, as appears from the will of Cobb Howell appointing "My father Jno Stratton and my mother his wife to act for my wife."<sup>40</sup> In addition to a number of court records about his activities in the county with reference to debts, jury service, boat

35 Gibbins is a significant figure. He was joint owner with Edmund Scarborough on the Eastern Shore of a ship called the *Artillery* (Whitelaw, *op. cit.*, pp. 630-31, Northampton County court case, Aug. 1654) and held a mortgage on a piece of John Stratton's New England land which he later gave to Stratton's daughter Ann (Stratton, *op. cit.*, v. 1, p. 82).

36 Stratton, *op. cit.*, v. 1, p. 81.

37 Nugent, *op. cit.*, p. 92.

38 *Lower Norfolk County, Virginia, Antiquary*, v. 1, pp. 139, 141; v. 3, p. 29.

39 Beverley Fleet, *Lower Norfolk County, 1651-1654 (Virginia Colonial Abstracts, v. 31; Baltimore, 1961)*, p. 24.

40 Charles F. McIntosh, *Brief Abstract of Lower Norfolk County and Norfolk County Wills, 1637-1710* (n.p., 1914), p. 20.

hire, etc., we have the names of four sons—John, Thomas, Robert and Henry. At court 15 Oct. 1653 John Stratton, Sr., is ordered to bring in an inventory of the estate of Thomas Stratton, late son, deceased, for benefit of Robert Stratton, brother and right heir.<sup>41</sup> A deed dated 28 Oct. 1652 refers to land that had belonged to William East and now belongs to John Stratton, son of John Stratton.<sup>42</sup> A land patent to Thomas Goodacre 25 Oct. 1673 describes the land in question as having been bequeathed by Wm East to John Stratton and sold to Goodacre by Henry, the brother and heir of John Stratton.<sup>43</sup> No will for John Stratton, Sr., has been found; but, if the Virginia John Stratton is the same as the Salem man, he also had a daughter Ann who before 1670 had received from Major Gibbins a piece of land previously mortgaged to him by her father, and who in 1717 sold "100 acres of land granted to my honored father Mr. John Stratton Jan. 31, 1638."<sup>44</sup>

John Stratton had two brothers, William and Anthony, but by 1640/1, as we learn from a deposition before Lechford, he was the "only brother & heir & next of kin & creditor of William Stratton, gent, of Ardleigh, in the County of Essex, Eng., deceased."<sup>45</sup> To recover "debts due my father and my brother William in their life time," he brought suit against his uncle Joseph Stratton in Virginia, and this suit was supported by a petition from the governor of Massachusetts to the governor of Virginia, Dec. 1641.<sup>46</sup> Whether he knew it or not, his uncle Joseph was already dead and the estate was in the jurisdiction of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and, as of 2 June 1641, under the administration of his widow Jane.<sup>47</sup>

Joseph Stratton, John's uncle, was active in Virginia from 1628. He was a Burgess at James City, 24 March 1629/30, from Nutmeg Quarter and again, 4 Sept. 1632, for the area from Waters' Creek to Marie's Mount.<sup>48</sup> The

41 Fleet, *op. cit.*, p. 66.

42 *Ibid.*, p. 91.

43 Nugent, *op. cit.*, v. 2 (Richmond, 1977), p. 133.

44 Stratton, *op. cit.*, v. 1, pp. 82-83.

45 *Ibid.*, p. 81 fn. The deceased William is said by the author to have made preparations in 1628 to come to America with his uncle Joseph, but not to have come at that time, if ever.

46 *Ibid.*, p. 82 fn.

47 *Ibid.*, p. 76.

48 William Waller Hening, *The Statutes at Large ... of Virginia*, v. 1 (New York, 1823), pp. 149, 179.

area he represented was where 500 acres of land "in Denbigh Co." were patented to him by order of court, 25 Feb. 1630/1.<sup>49</sup> In July 1631 he was in England with other Virginia planters appealing for permission to unload tobacco from several ships without paying custom and import duties, his name appearing at the head of the list thus: "In the Ship Christopher and Marie, markt I. S. Imprimis Joseph Stratton 32 hogsheads, 4 Butts, 1 chest, 1 Barrell."<sup>50</sup> His nephew John later this same year was also in England obtaining a grant for his 2000 acres in Maine. In 1636, in an order dated 11 May and signed by the deputy governor John West and his Council, Joseph Stratton, "owner and Master" of a boat "now riding in Charles river," was commanded to take on board Lieut. Richard Popely and go in pursuit of Capt. Henry Fleet and others trading in and around the "Chesapian bay" illegally "without commission from the governor."<sup>51</sup> It is not surprising to learn that Joseph Stratton was owner and master of a vessel considering that he originated at Shotley, Suffolk, at the end of a peninsula formed by the rivers Stour and Orwell and directly across the estuary from the major sea port, Harwich, Essex, where in fact he was residing in 1623.<sup>52</sup> This whole region, including Ipswich, was a maritime region engaged in shipping and ship-building; and all the Stratton residences, whether in Suffolk or in Essex, were on or near important waterways, Layham (the site of Thomas Stratton's christening) being on the river Brett, a tributary of the Stour, some 15 miles distant from Shotley and within 5 or 6 miles of Dedham and Ardleigh, Essex, where Benjamin's father and brother John died. It appears that Joseph Stratton was well acquainted with travel by water as a tobacco merchant and ship-owner. Probably he had a son Joseph, granted 100 acres in "Denby Co." 18 March 1663/4.<sup>53</sup> I have seriously considered the possibility that another son was the John Stratton of Lynnhaven Parish, churchwarden, whom I have come to regard as identical with the Salem John Stratton, and thus his nephew rather than his son. It seemed unlikely that any

49 Nugent, *op. cit.*, v. 1, p. 25.

50 *Acts of the Privy Council of England, Colonial Series*, v. 1, 1613-1680 (Hereford, 1908), p. 164, item 275, dated Whitehall 15 July 1631.

51 *Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia* (2nd ed., Richmond, 1979), ed. by H. R. McIlwaine, pp. 491-92.

52 Stratton, *op. cit.*, v. 1, p. 75.

53 Nugent, *op. cit.*, v. 1, p. 491.



son of Joseph's would have been mature enough in 1640 to be a churchwarden, nor do we find the name Joseph among the sons of the Lynnhaven John Stratton.

## IV.

Returning now to Thomas Stratton of the Eastern Shore, we note that he was granted a certificate for 200 acres of land, 8 Aug. 1653.<sup>54</sup> He married, about this time or a little later, Agnes Barnes, called a widow by Whitelaw.<sup>55</sup> She was Agnes Barnes 31 July 1652 when she signed a document as a witness along with Wm. Melling.<sup>56</sup> On 20 Nov. 1652 she made a deed of gift of a cow calf to Robert Mellinge, son of Wm. Melling and his wife Ann, again signing as Agnes Barnes.<sup>57</sup> She was about 22 years old at this time, as estimated from her later depositions.<sup>58</sup> She was still Agnes Barnes 4 July 1653 when patenting 150 acres in Northampton adjoining Wm. Mellinge for transporting three persons,<sup>59</sup> at the same time that Wm. Melling was patenting 500 acres for transporting ten persons, among them Wm Melling, Ann Melling and Agnes Barnes.<sup>60</sup> One suspects that Agnes Barnes was somehow related to Melling or his wife Ann. By Aug. 1656 she signs a legal document as Agnes Stratton, along with Thomas Stratton and Wm Melling.<sup>61</sup> In 1657 the Strattons sold Agnes' land to John Michael.<sup>62</sup> A document of 4 Jan. 1658/9 calls Thomas Stratton a cooper.<sup>63</sup> He made his will 13 Oct. 1659, proved 2 Nov. 1659. In it there are bequests to his wife Agnes, his daughter Ann, his son Benjamin, his "sister Hanby," and his "brothers" John and Thomas Bagwell; wife Agnes is appointed executrix, and "loving friends and neighbors" Mr. Wm Melling and Mr. Wm Smith are appointed overseers for her protection.<sup>64</sup> As we know from his 1658 deposition

54 See note 14.

55 Whitelaw, *op. cit.*, p. 127.

56 Northampton Co., Va., Orders &c 4, p. 119.

57 *Ibid.*, p. 118.

58 She appears at court as Agnes Powell in 1671, aged 42, and in 1682, aged 52 (Northampton Co., Va., Orders &c 10, p. 111; Orders &c 11, p. 240).

59 Nugent, *op. cit.*, v. 1, pp. 265-66.

60 *Ibid.*, p. 287.

61 Northampton Co., Va., Deeds &c 1655-58, 1666-68, #7-8, p. 8.

62 Whitelaw, *op. cit.*, p. 148.

63 Northampton Co., Va., Wills, Deeds 7, p. 41, where he is appointed by Maj. Wm. Waters to look after the interests of "John Many Orphant," a responsibility being exercised by widow Agnes Stratton, 3 Dec. 1659 (*ibid.*, p. 62).

64 *Ibid.*, pp. 245-46; Stratton, *op. cit.*, v. 1, pp. 144-45.

and from the 1624 christening in Suffolk, England, he was nearly 35 at his death.

The "sister Hanby" mentioned in Thomas Stratton's will was, as recently discovered, his half-sister Mary Chilcott. A great deal can be found about her in the court records of Northampton, although Whitelaw thought there was nothing more than the assignment in 1636 by Alice Bagwell of 100 acres to her as her daughter Mary Chilcott; and, noting that she was not mentioned as a headright, he speculated that she might have been left in England.<sup>65</sup> It is far more probable that she was born in Virginia, child of a marriage of Alice Stratton to some Chilcott in the period between 1628 and her marriage to Henry Bagwell. Was this second husband the Tho. Chilcott listed as a headright by William Stone?<sup>66</sup> If Mary Chilcott was born as early as 1629, she was still very young when she married Richard Buckland, perhaps in 1644; for her stepfather Henry Bagwell on 13 Nov. 1644 gave to "Mary the wife of Richard Buckland" a cow with her increase and a heifer, specifying that Richard "shall not have the power to dispose of them or their increase ... unless it appear to bee for their releife as buying cloaths but not to dispose of any of the breeders but they to remayne For the use of the said Mary and hir Children."<sup>67</sup> It was a difficult assignment, and Buckland seems to have been under some strain, being fined 3 July 1643 for using God's name in vain in court, and fined again 28 July 1644 for unjust molestation of a citizen.<sup>68</sup> During 1644 a house was begun for him under an agreement with Matthew Pett to build for 240 pounds of tobacco and a ewe kid a house 20 feet long with a Welsh chimney at the end and 15 foot broad with a partition and buttery in it.<sup>69</sup> Pett had died before the house was finished, and Thomas Hunt and John Dennis were ordered by the court to view the house and estimate how much it lacked of completion. Their report, delivered to the court 28 May 1645, was that finishing the house would be worth 225 pounds of tobacco, half of the weatherboarding still to do, the partition, the Welsh chimney, the loft, and a door.<sup>70</sup>

65 Whitelaw, *op. cit.*, p. 127.

66 See grant of 4 June 1635, Nugent, *op. cit.*, v. 1, pp. 27-28. According to Ames, *County Court Records ... 1640-45*, p. xii, Stone came to Virginia before 1628.

67 *Ibid.*, pp. 437-38

68 *Ibid.*, pp. 280-81, 284, 376.

69 *Ibid.*, pp. 395, 425.

70 *Ibid.*, p. 436.

Whitelaw describes a house built by Edward Stockwell in 1638 which is closely similar to the Buckland house, though one board longer, "twenty five ffoote longe sixteene foote wide with one particon one Chymneth one buttery."<sup>71</sup>

The marriage of Mary Chilcott and Richard Buckland was not a happy one. Ten years after the matter of the unfinished house, she petitioned the court in April 1665 for a divorce from Buckland "who hath lived from her many yeares, & continued in an adulterous life" and Buckland having confessed that he "had lived in Adultery with Mary Russell a longe tyne, & had a male Bastard by her," the court ordered, 30 Aug. 1655, that "the sd Mary Sillcocke bee hereby declared to be divorced by Lawefull Authoritie & consequently to dispose of herselfe in marriage att her discretion And that the sd Richard Buckland bee whipped & banished out of this County of Northampton."<sup>72</sup> It was a year after this in Aug. 1656 that Richard Hanby, shoemaker of Northampton County, entered into a marriage contract with his intended wife "Maria Chilcott ... single woman" by which her property rights were protected, a document signed by Tho. Stratton, Agnes Stratton, and Wm. Mellinge, and recorded 25 Sept. 1656.<sup>73</sup> From this contract we learn that Hanby had a son William but Mary Chilcott had no children. Richard Buckland afterwards had to be restrained from molesting Mary and Richard Hanby and the officers of the court, and he and Hanby signed an agreement, 29 Jan. 1658/9, to lay aside former differences between them.<sup>74</sup>

By the time Hanby made his will in 1683 he had another wife, Susanna. He named his sons William, Daniel, Richard and John, and daughter Rebecca wife of Symon Thomas, and daughter Elizabeth wife of Wm. Scott. With the exception of son William, who was named in the marriage contract with Mary Chilcott, all of these children may have been by Mary.<sup>75</sup> John, perhaps the youngest son, made his will 30 Oct. 1718, naming a son (his executor), a married daughter and her son, and a brother Charles Hanby.<sup>76</sup> As Charles Hanby was not mentioned among his sons by Richard Hanby in his will of 1683, he may have been a posthumous child by Susanna.

71 Whitelaw, *op. cit.*, p. 409.

72 Northampton Co., Va., Deeds &c 1655-58, 1666-68, no. 7-8, p. 16.

73 *Ibid.*, p. 8.

74 Northampton Co., Va., Wills & Deeds 7, 1657-66, p. 40.

75 Northampton Co., Va., Wills 13, pp. 296-97.

76 Northampton Co., Va., Deeds & Wills 23, p. 9.

Finally, a word on Thomas Stratton's widow and his two children. Widow Agnes Stratton married Lieut. Nicholas Powell, 6 June 1661.<sup>77</sup> She was again a widow in 1670, with a son John Powell, to whom she deeded land in 1684 when she was aged about 55, our last reference to her.<sup>78</sup>

Thomas Stratton's daughter Ann, born about 1655, married William Burton of Accomac County and had by him Agnes, William, John, Thomas, Benjamin, Joseph, Stratton, Woolsey, Jacob and Samuel, named in Burton's will of 5 Jan. 1695/6, recorded 24 March 1695/6.<sup>79</sup> None of the sons at this time had reached 21, but daughter Agnes was married to John Revell and had three children, Frances, Elizabeth and Edward. Widow Ann Stratton Burton later married James Alexander. His will, probated 1 Feb. 1708/9, left bequests to all nine of his Burton stepsons and to his wife Ann.<sup>80</sup> Her own will was probated 4 March 1711/2, mentioning all the Burton children except John and Agnes, both deceased, and mentioning also son-in-law John Revell, and the Revell and Burton grandchildren.<sup>81</sup> Ann Stratton Burton's nine sons inherited large tracts of land from their father William Burton, three of them in Accomac Co., Va., two in Somerset Co., Md., and four in Sussex Co., Del. (then a part of Pennsylvania). The brick house built by son Woolsey in 1717 still stands in Sussex County on the northern bank of the Indian River in Long Neck on land granted to William Burton in 1677 by Edmond Andros representing the Duke of York and long known as the White House Farm.<sup>82</sup>

Thomas Stratton's son Benjamin was born 25 Feb. 1657 and died 22 Oct. 1717, aged 60. He married Ann Wilkins, daughter of Nathaniel; she was born 10 Feb. 1662 and died 16 June 1700. Their children were Agnes, Ann, Benjamin, Nathaniel, John, Thomas and Joseph.<sup>83</sup> At the time of Benjamin Stratton's will in 1717 his only surviving children were Benjamin and John; his deceased daughter Agnes, however, had left him two grandchildren, Benjamin and Ann Johnson. Benjamin Stratton, Jr.,

77 Hungars Parish records, in *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*, 1st ser., v. 22, p. 42.

78 Whitelaw, *op. cit.*, p. 317

79 Accomac Co., Va., Wills 11, pp. 100ff.

80 *Ibid.*, p. 463.

81 *Ibid.*, p. 560.

82 Was the name Woolsey a family name? The only occurrence as such in the records of Accomack-Northampton is Elizabeth Wolsey, listed as a headright by Thomas Stratton, Woolsey Burton's grandfather.

83 Stratton, *op. cit.*, v. 1, p. 146.



inherited "Stratton Manor" (pictured in Whitelaw's *Virginia's Eastern Shore*, p. 128), erected perhaps in its first version as early as 1694 by his father, on the land patented by Thomas Stratton in 1654—partly for his and his mother's adventure to Virginia in 1628. The house remained in the hands of Thomas Stratton's descendants until late in the 19th century.

## THE CHEATHAM FAMILY

## OF COLONIAL VIRGINIA

By Alberta Marjorie Dennstedt  
San Diego, California

(Continued from V. 29, p. 265)

## V. WILLIAM CHEATHAM

William Cheatham, the fifth son named in the will of Thomas Cheatham, was born *ca.* 1695. Before 1727 he married into the prominent Branch family; his wife, Obedience Branch was the great-granddaughter of the immigrant Christopher Branch. Her parents were Christopher and Ann (Sherman) Branch. Christopher Branch made his will 11 Aug. 1727 and it was recorded 1 Jan. 1727/8. He named his son Henry and daughters Mary Walters, Susannah Bass and Obedience Cheatham. Obedience received a cow and heifer in the possession of William Cheatham and 15 shillings for a ring. He named his son Henry as executor and the witnesses were Henry Vanderhood, Seth Ward and William Baugh.<sup>1</sup>

William, like his father, was educated and always signed his name. His first purchase of land was for 150 acres on the south side of Swift Creek, bounded by John Farmer and part of a 3000 acre grant made to Richard Grill in June 1714, for which he paid £7.10.0 to Richard Grills and his wife Sarah on 29 June 1716; witnesses were Lodwick Tanner and John Soane.<sup>2</sup> As mentioned before, he purchased 154 acres from his brother Marmaduke. He also purchased on 2 July 1733 for £30 from Jeffrey Robinson or Robeson and his wife Elizabeth a tract of 308 acres on the main fork of Procter, bounded by William Bass, where Thomas Bass lived, Robert Beasley and William Farmer; witnesses were John Green, Will Baugh and William Marshall.<sup>3</sup> And on 9 Oct. 1734 he purchased for £22.10.0 300 acres, part of Williamson's patent dated 1734, bounded by Richard Grill, the west side of Spring run and Dry Creek. Witnesses were Arthur Moseley, Martha Moseley and William Hardin and the deed was recorded Nov. 1734.<sup>4</sup> This totaled 912 acres and must be the amount he held at

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- 1 Henrico Co., Va., Deed Book 1725-37, p. 163.
  - 2 Henrico Co., Va., Deed Book 1714-18, pp. 102-03.
  - 3 Henrico Co., Va., Deed Book 1725-37, p. 403.
  - 4 *Ibid.*, pp. 453-54.