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ELIZABETH PRESLEY SAUNDERS COCKERILL

By [Ray Isbell](#) August 04, 2000 at 06:05:12

In reply to: [Re: William Presley 1608-1655 ENG>VA](#)

Ray Isbell 3/24/00

Here are two sources that say Ebenezer Saunders married Elizabeth Presley (daughter of Col. Peter Presley and Elizabeth Thompson) rather than Elizabeth Phillips:

These are:

1. Genealogies of Virginia Families from Tyler's Quarterly 1981 Vol. III p 73 and
2. Genealogies of Virginia Families from Virginia Magazine of History and Biography Vol. IV p 889 1981.

Objective: Locating records that prove the parentage of Elizabeth Saunders Cockerill.

One version is that she was a Phillips.

Another version is that she was a Presley.

There are a number of family traditions, which are good to have in lieu of more substantial documentation, but can legal documentation (or even family documentation) be found?

The following family is documented:

1. Dr. Edward Saunders (1625-1672) married Mary (Webb) Hudnall, widow of John Hudnall, and had two sons:

2A. Ebenezer Saunders b. 1661 d. 1693 m. Elizabeth (Presley? Phillips?) (she m. 2 John Cockerill)

issue: Edward & Mary Saunders; several Cockerills
2B.Edward Saunders b. 1663

Widow Mary Webb Hudnall Saunders married (3rd) William Thomas.

The foregoing family relationships are proved by the following records:

Northumberland Co., VA. Order Book 1678-1713

21 Aug 1678: Commission of Administration to Mrs. Mary Thomas on Estate of her dec'd husband, Mr. William Thomas. Mr. William Downing, Sen., Samuel Gooch, Mr. Edward Cole and Thomas WEBB to appraise Estate of Mr. William Thomas. EDWARD SAUNDERS (Jr.) chose his mother, Mrs. Mary Thomas, guardian. "EBENEZER SAUNDERS to be possessed with his land..."

16 July 1696: Differences between EDWARD SAUNDERS, Plf.(plaintiff), and JOHN COCKERALL and ELIZABETH his wife, Exx. (executrix) of EBENEZER SAUNDERS, dec'd., concerning land devised by sd. (said) Ebenezer Saunders AND (to?) HIS SON EDWARD, HIS DAUGHTER ELIZABETH AND HIS SAID BROTHER, EDWARD SAUNDERS, the Plf. ...

Northumberland Co., VA. Order Book 5, p. 318:

17 Jan 1704/5: EDWARD SAUNDERS petitions the Court to choose a new guardian and to summon JOHN COCKRELL, WHO MARRIED HIS MOTHER(,) to the next Court....

Northumberland Co., VA.

Wills & Administrations 1713-49, p. 42:

WILL OF ELIZABETH COCKARILL of St. Stephens Parish

Son: Presly Cockarell, and my daughter Hannah Cockarell - all my land lying in "COAN" to be equally divided between them. If my son Presly should die without lawfull heirs of his body, then my land to go to my daughter Hannah Cockarell. If my daughter Hannah Cockarill should die without lawful begotten heir of her body, then I give my land to my son Presly Cockarell. Son-in-law Charles Nelms, son Presly Cockarell and daughter Hannah Cockarell - all my land lying in "Yeccomico," to be divided equally between them. Son Presly Cockarell and daughter Hannah Cockarell - eight sheep to be divided between them.

Daughter Hannah Cockarell - two puter (pewter) dishes and two plates that was my sister Hannah Cockarill's. (NOTE: Sister-in-law?)

Daughter Hannah Cockarell - one cow and calf, one steer about three years old, and one gold ring.

My two daughters - to have all my wearing cloaths (clothes) to be divided equally.

Daughter Eliza Nelms - one horse cold that was my son Peter's.

Son (-in-law) Charles Nelms - two cows or steers which he likes best.

SON EDWARD SAUNDERS - five shillings.***

Rest of my estate - to be equally divided between my three sons

John, Willoughby and Presly.

My youngest son and daughter - should live with Charles Nelms until they are of age to take care of themselves.

Son-in-law Charles Nelms, executor.

Witnesses: Richard Smith, Richard Cockarell and Thomas Frost.

W.W. 25 April 1719 W.P. 20 May 1719

This proves that Elizabeth Saunders Cockerill first married to Ebenezer Saunders, the father of Edward Saunders, and married next to John Cockerill.

Now, regarding proof that Elizabeth was the daughter of Peter Presley and Elizabeth Thompson (daughter of Richard Thompson and Ursula Bysshe/Bish):

from THE JENKINS OF NORTHERN NECK AND OLD 96 (1988) by Amelia Gilreath:

Peter Presley Sr. d. 1693 in Northumberland County. He and wife Elizabeth Thompson had issue:

1. Elizabeth m.(1) Ebenezer Saunders

(2) John Cockerill

had sons Presly, Willoughby, Peter, etc.

2. Jane Presly b. 29 June 1664

m. (1) Richard Rogers (son of Capt. John Rogers), and brother of Wm. Rogers, 2nd husband of Ann Jenkins)

m. (2) Capt. Christopher Neale (Jr) (Sheriff, Justice, and Burgess)

their son Presly Neale m. Margaret Sanford,

dau of Robert Sanford Jr.

3. Ursula Presly

m.(1) Daniel Neale of Westmoreland Co., VA

m. (2) Wharton Ransdall

4. Mary Presly b. c1665

m. Charnock Cox, son of Vincent*

conflicting accounts of ch., but Self family claims:

Martha Cox m. Henry Self b. 1695

5. Peter Presly b. 1683 d. 1718 without issue

JENKINS OF NORTHERN NECK (VA.) AND OLD 96, p. 125

(and also reprinted in THE CLELAND-JENKINS BOOK, 1997, also by Amelia Gilreath, p. 183):

The following Deed first recorded by Col. (Peter) Presly in 1709 was burned with other records in 1710, and again recorded by Col. Presly in 1749 (1719?). It is of great value in determining family relationships...

21 Sept. 1709 - Christopher Neale, Gentleman(,) and Jane his wife, late Jane Rogers, widow of Richard Rogers, Gent., dec'd., AND ONE OF THE DAUGHTERS OF PETER PRESLY, Sr., GENT, late dec'd, of St. Stephen's Parish - to Peter Presly, now elder, of same parish, gentleman, for 264 acres...on N.W. side of Chincahan Creek(,) part of 1,000 acres granted by ____ to Richard Russell, dated 25 Sept. 1657(,)...deserted and taken up by James Pope by patent dated 12th Oct. 1660 for a valuable consideration; by sd. (said) Pope made over unto Wm. Presly and Peter Presly, the father, and donor of the hereby granted land to the sd. Jane by deed, dated 24 April 1662 ("this date was evidently erroneous and was 1682") sd. 264 acres bounded by the land of sd. Peter Presly, party to these presents, and land OF THE LATE EBENEZER SANDERS, dec'd, (son of Mary Thomas, dec'd(,) AND EDWARD SANDERS), now in the occupation of JOHN COCKRILL, WHO MARRIED THE WIDOW OF sd. SANDERS...

To my understanding, this deed does not say that Ebenezer Sanders' widow, Mrs. John Cockrill, is a sister of Jane Presley Rogers Neale, but apparently this has been interpretation of several researchers. The Sa(u)nders land adjoining the 264 acres may well have been (at one time) part of the original 1,000 tract owned by the late Peter Presley, but it

apparently came into the possession of Ebenezer Sanders & wife Elizabeth (Presley?)Saunders Cockerill from his father Edward Sanders and mother Mary Webb Hudnall Saunders Thomas, or why else would they be named and their relationships given such detail?

So I don't see that this document necessarily proves Elizabeth Saunders Cockerill was the same Elizabeth Presley, daughter of Peter Presley and Elizabeth Thompson. Of course, there are many associations with their relatives, and the same family names are handed down, so certainly the Saunders and Cockerill families were close friends of the Presleys if they were not related as the books say.

I should add that few researchers know these records and these families as well as Amelia Gilreath, having studied them for so many years and having gotten an intimate feel for them all. I would think that if she has a theory, it is likely the best theory, and I am not in a position to second-guess any opinion she might have. she already has other connections to some of these same families, so she is hardly likely to say a relationship exists just because she wants it to be so. The names Presly, Peter, Ursula, are all handed down in the Cockerill family.

I still do not see documented proof that Peter Presley and wife Elizabeth Thompson had a daughter Elizabeth, whether she married Saunders and Cockerell or anybody else. Maybe it is in the Jenkins books and I need to go through them more carefully. There are many records abstracted, and perhaps I overlooked it. There are supposed to be deeds or a deed between John Cockerell and a husband of his supposed Presley sistier-in-law, but I don't know if these deeds prove the relationship or not.

There are a lot of associations between the children of this generation, who would be cousins, but I don't see documents directly between Elizabeth and any of the Presley siblings, other than the deed above referencing Jane Presley Rodgers Neal and the Saunders with regard to Peter Presley's estate.

Jenkins of the Northern Neck, p. 123 states that Elizabeth Presley Cockerill

died (April-May) 1719, and Peter Presley Jr. 's will (Nov. 19, 1718) doesn't name her, only his two sisters Mary and Ursula. However, his sister Jane Presley Rodgers Neale is proved, and she is omitted from Peter Presley's will.

JAMESTOWN TO WASHINGTON: LITTLE BIOGRAPHIES OF 12 GENERATIONS FROM BEHEATHLAND

TO COX, 1607-1950 by Louise Cox Morrell, p. 28 lists just these 4 children of Peter Presley & Elizabeth Thompson:

Jane, Mary, Ursula, & Peter Jr.

THE COX FAMILY, WESTMORELAND CO., VIRGINIA by Laura Collison Ray, p.

10, also shows no daughter

Elizabeth; only Jane, Mary, Ursula, and Peter Presley Jr.

However, the two Jenkins books by Gilreath and many later researchers do include Elizabeth Presley Saunders Cockerell.

This site also lists Ebenezer Saunders' wife as Elizabeth Presley, daughter of Peter Presley and Elizabeth Thompson:

<http://pesaunders.home.mindspring.com/Saunders.htm><http://pesaunders.home.mindspring.com/Saunders.htm>

In fact, it appears all over the internet that Elizabeth Presley married Ebenezer Saunders & John Cockerill.

There are three IGI records at the LDS of interest:

Ebenezer Saunders m. c1682 Elizabeth Presley

Ebenezer Saunders m. c1684 Elizabeth Presley

Ebenezer Saunders m. c1687 Elizabeth Philips*

Regarding the will of Elizabeth Cockerill:

The will shows she owned land IN COAN, which may or may not be part of the original Coan Hall estate of Col.

Mottram.

I don't have other land records showing exact boundaries of Elizabeth Saunders Cockerill's property or the Coan Hall property. So I don't know whether or not she could have inherited part of Coan from her grandmother, Ursula Bish

Thompson Mottram Colclough Allerton.

The reference in Elizabeth Saunders Cockerell's will to "my sister Hannah Cockerill" probably refers to her husband John Cockerell's sister Hannah b. 20 Feb 1680, "unmarried" (Jenkins by Gilreath, p.146)

Or is there any evidence that Edward Phillips had a daughter Hannah who married a Cockerill?

Sources saying that Elizabeth Saunders Cockerill was a PHILLIPS:

EARLY SETTLERS OF ALA. by James E. Saunders (1899):
p.341 says Ebenezer Saunders (son of Edward Saunders & Mary Webb Hudnall) m. Elizabeth Phillips, daughter of Edward Phillips, and says "(See note on page 363)" but on p.363 there are only Webb family notes. Continued over on p.364, there in a list of references, including:

Will of Edward Phillips, recorded 1710 York Co., VA.; witnesses James Cook, Orlando Jones & Wm. Jones. (These Joneses were relatives of mine, and Orlando is Martha Washington's grandfather.) It seems odd if James E. Saunders made a mistake, but he also omitted any reference to Elizabeth Phillips Saunders having married second to John Cockerill, which is clearly proved above.

A Saunders descendant tells me there were a lot of Phillips connections to Thompsons, and of course Peter Presley married Elizabeth Thompson, daughter of Ursula Bish Thompson (my ancestors on another line). In fact, Ursula Bish Thompson Mottram Colclough Allerton is mentioned elsewhere in Saunders' EARLY SETTLERS OF ALA., but he doesn't mention her as his own ancestor.

Ursula Bish/Bysse m. 1 Richard Thompson
m. 2 Col. John Mottram of Coan Hall
m.3 Maj. George Colclough
m.4 Isaac Allerton Jr. (and their daughter was great-grandmother of President Zachary Taylor)

All the Thompson children went to live at Coan Hall after their mother's

marriage to Col. Mottram, and Ursula and Maj.

Colclough lived there later also.

On a Colclough genealogy webpage, George Colclough is described as first marrying to Elizabeth Webb, some relation to Mary (Webb) Hudnall Saunders Thomas.

However, Gilreath p. 127 states that Col. George Colclough m.1st Elizabeth (Thorowgood) Oversee, widow of Simon

Oversee, and daughter of Capt. Adam Thorowgood (whose daughter Anne Chandler, Mrs. John Chandler, calls Elizabeth Colclough "Sister").

Was this the same George Colclough? Did he have 3 wives? The Colclough webpage says he had no children.

See this site:

<http://members.fortunecity.com/chtii/colclough/cap11.htm><http://members.fortunecity.com/chtii/colclough/cap11.htm>

It mentions the lawsuit by the Mottram children which said George Colclough persuaded Col. Mottram to revise his will, after drinking with him all night, and then married Col. Mottram's widow when he died.

The home of the Presleys was called "Northumberland House" (circa 1640-50) and this mansion was burned 1812-14 by the British (Gilreath). Morrell, p. 27: "Near the end of the 18th century" it's bricks were reclaimed and used to build "Mantua" nearby on the Coan River.

On another line, my ancestor Susannah Thompson Yarbrough and brothers Drury, Benjamin Jr., & Jennings Thompson (etc.) had a sister Mary Thompson b. c.1750 who married a Phillips. I know next to nothing about all these Phillips, but there is a lot about the Thompsons in Saunders' EARLY SETTLERS.

The will of Elizabeth Saunders Cockarell proves she had two marriages. Her family was intimately associated with the Presley & Thompson families, but I cannot understand that the abstracts above prove that she was the daughter of Peter Presley and Elizabeth Thompson (daughter of Richard Thompson & Ursula Bysshe/Bish).

Ursula Bish's line goes back to Sir Oliver Zouche, which may be found at this site:

<http://www.familytreemaker.com/users/c/h/r/Lisbeth-Christensen/GENE1-0012.html><http://www.familytreemaker.com/users/c/h/r/Lisbeth-Christensen/GENE1-0012.html>

(search for "Bysshe")

La Zouche is traced to Charlemagne, but I don't see Sir Oliver's descent in La Zouche articles from Burke's Peerage that I have seen.

Regarding Mary Presley who married Charnock Cox:

Some name just four children named in Charnock Cox's will, but others list Molly and Elizabeth. William and Peter are additional sons, according to AMERICA'S FIRST FAMILIES webpage (Vincent Cox biography).

Others list Martha Cox who married Henry Self b. 1695. Their son Thomas Self m. Elizabeth Jenkins, d/o Ezekiel, s/o John Jenkins & Martha Garner. The names Presley, Charnock are handed down through the Selfs also. This is my mother's line.

Her first husband (my half brother's father) descended from Elizabeth Saunders Cockerill.

The following is from another researcher:

I have not seen Elizabeth (Presley) Saunders Cockarell's will online. I ordered a copy of the will from The VA State Archives. It is found in Northumberland County, VA, Record Book 1718-1726, Reel 4 p 42 and is likely available on film from the Morman Library. In this will she mentions her Cockarell children and her daughter Elizabeth Nelms (that is Elizabeth Saunders) and her son Edward Saunders.

Another good source is..."Marriages of Some VA Residents" by Wulfeck, Vol. II 1986 p 114.

I did find a source such as Tyler's or William & Mary's that said Ebenezer Saunders married Elizabeth Phillips. This was proven incorrect by Elizabeth's will.

Quiz

Which of these Italian titles is passed through the Massimo Lancellotti line?

Earl of Prossedi

Prince of Prossedi

King of Prossedi

Duke of Prossedi

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