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THE REVEREND GEORGE ROBERTSON

RECTOR BRISTOL PARISH, VIRGINIA (1693-1739)

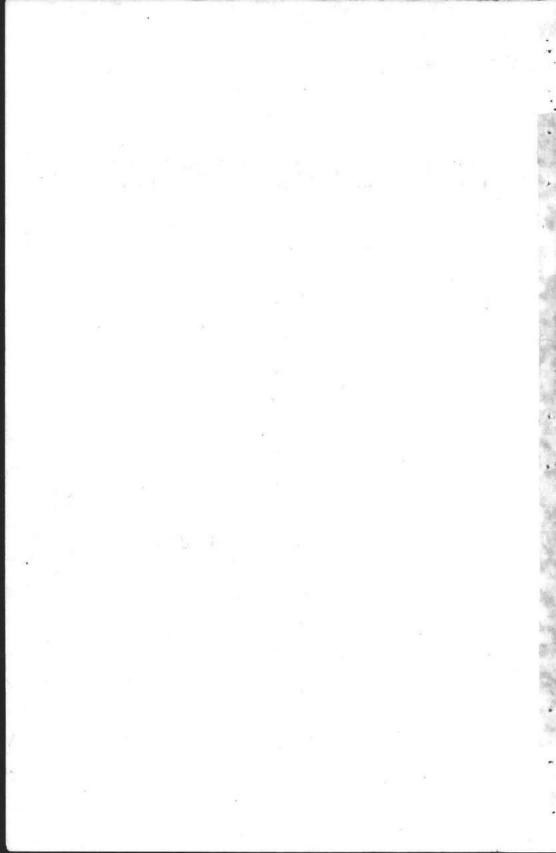
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THE REVEREND GEORGE ROBERTSON

George Robertson, of the Church of England, was minister of Bristol Parish in Colonial Virginia continuously for 46 years, from 1693 until his death in 1739. It has been said that he was the first of the Robertson name who immigrated to that colony, but this statement probably is inaccurate as it seems reasonably certain that members of one or more other Robertson families either had preceded him there or arrived contemporan-

eously with him.2

Little is known of the birthplace or birth date of the Reverend George Robertson other than that he was reputed to have been born in Scotland about 1668.3 It is said that he was educated there at St. Andrews College, Fifeshire and graduated.4 After preparing himself for the cloth, his ascent in the ministry was rapid: on December 20, 1691 he was ordained deacon; on January 14, 1692 he was made priest; and on February 20, 1692 he was licensed by the Bishop of London as a missionary to go to the Colony of Virginia. Sometime in that period, (possibly 1692) he was assigned as Chaplain to an English man-of-war⁵. A reasonable explanation is that upon his appointment as missionary, he resigned his naval chaplaincy and sailed from England to pursue his calling in the New World. No evidence has been discovered that he ever became a Doctor of Divinity.

A brief review of the origin of Bristol Parish and of its sketchy history prior to the incumbency of the Reverend Mr.

Robertson is germane to this article.

In 1618 the Colony of Virginia was divided into four great administrative areas or corporations, two of which were Henrico and Charles City. In 1634 this area was divided and Henrico County and Charles City (originally spelled Cittie) County became two of the eight original shires or counties of Virginia established when the political units of the colony were changed from plantations, buroughs and hundreds. Undoubtedly, the locations and limits of the counties upon their creation were fixed, but the records establishing these facts have not been preserved for posterity. The only record uncovered through a rather diligent search gives merely the names assigned to each of the eight original counties.⁶

Henrico and Charles City Counties lay on both sides of the James (or Powhatan) River and were adjoining, the latter being the easterly county. One eminent writer, without citation of supporting authority, has stated that Charles City County extended westwardly, on the north side of the James, to Turkey Island Creek and on the south side of that river to the Appomattox River. According to the same writer, Henrico County extended from Charles City County indefinitely westward.⁷

In his history of Bristol Parish, the Reverend Philip Slaughter, in giving the locations of the portions of these two counties lying south of the James River, says that the boundary separating the two portions was the Appomattox River; that Charles City County covered the territory below that river to

Chippoaks' Creek; that Henrico County included the land above the same river; and that both counties had an undefined western frontier.8

From these general and indefinite descriptions it is impossible to fix accurately the boundary between Henrico and Charles City Counties at the time of their establishment. The reader is referred to the earliest authentic map of this region which will show the division line that was recognized by the two counties.

Both Henrico and Charles City Counties originally were of such large extent that it was inevitable, as their areas became populated, that they would be reduced and that other counties would be formed from portions of them. First in 1702, the Grand Assembly reduced Charles City County by withdrawing from it the lands lying south of the James and setting up a new county which was named Prince George. In 1734, the southwest part of Prince George County was cut off and, with a part of another adjacent county, was formed into Amelia County. In 1727 Goochland County was created from the upper section of Henrico County on both sides of the James and in 1749 Chesterfield County was formed of the portion lying south and west of the James. And finally in 1752, Prince George County was further reduced by taking from it the area now comprising Dinwiddie County. In 1752 was in the county. In 1752 was further reduced by taking from it the area now comprising Dinwiddie County. In 1752 was further reduced by taking from it the area now comprising Dinwiddie County. In 1752 was further reduced by taking from it the area now comprising Dinwiddie County. In 1752 was further reduced by taking from it the area now comprising Dinwiddie County. In 1752 was further reduced by taking from it the area now comprising Dinwiddie County.

The early religious life of this part of Colonial Virginia began with the settlement made in 1611 by Sir Thomas Dale on Farrar's Island (originally a peninsula) in the James River near its northerly bank, a few miles below the present site of Richmond. This settlement was in Henrico Parish and was variously called Henrico, Henrico City or Hundred and Henricopolis, which soon gave way to Bermuda Hundred in importance. Among the first structures erected there was a substantial church of wood, but both it and the town were destroyed in the 1622 massacre. Although this settlement was then practically abandoned, the church having been permitted to fall into decay prior to the massacre, the parish about 1629 was reestablished and a new church was erected at Varina. In 1618 Henrico Parish was co-terminus with the plantation and in 1634 with the county of that name.

But the history of Bristol Parish is more closely associated with the settlement of Bermuda Hundred which was founded in 1612 by Sir Thomas Dale on the opposite shore of the James River and a bit downstream from Henrico. This settlement lay between the James and Appomattox (also called Bristol) Rivers at the mouth of the latter and extended upstream sufficiently far to include eight square miles. The assumption is justified that Sir Thomas Dale caused a church to be erected promptly here also. 19

In the settlement of Virginia the tide of immigration followed the inland watercourses so that the colonists would have an easy means of transportation for their produce. Hence it was that, as the mouth of the Appomattox was near the limit of navigation in the James for sea-going vessels, the valley of the former river became an enticing area for settlement. Within ten years of the founding of these settlements, that valley for a distance up the course of the Appomattox was well settled and the region became known as the plantation upon the Appomattox.20

In the Indian massacre of 1622, the settlers at Bermuda Hundred (although the settlement was not completely destroyed) and along the Appomattox suffered grievously.21 The few survivors for safety moved to other nearby settlements. But these pioneers were venturesome souls. To them the loss of their homes and lands was galling. Soon, the more courageous ventured back and again settled on the land which, at such sacrifice and labor, they had appropriated from nature without leave of the Indians. They were followed by other settlers who expanded the settlement further up the river until by 1638 the entire valley, as far as the falls near present day Petersburg, had been reclaimed and opened to civilization.22

These settlers along the Appomattox were far removed from the Parish Church at Bermuda Hundred, yet they were in need of spiritual ministration. So it was that they importuned the Grand Assembly for relief which was granted in the Act passed in March, 1642-3 reciting: "for the convenience of the inhabitants on both sides of the Appomattock River, being far remote from the Parish Church of the said plantation upon Appomattock, be bounded into a parish by themselves to be called 'Bristol.'" The bounds of the parish were fixed thus: to begin at Cawson's field within the mouth of the Appomattock on the eastward side, and at Powell's Creek on the westward side of that river, and to extend up the river to the falls on both sides.²³

From such description it is difficult to fix the original area of Bristol Parish. In general terms it extended on both sides of the Appomattox River from named points near its mouth upstream to the falls. It would make a length of nine or more miles but with an uncertain width. Although the Act fixed a definite western limit, later the parish assumed jurisdiction over an area considerably larger which extended, probably, to the limits of Charles City County and from which still later were carved largely the Parishes of Dale, Raleigh and Bath.24 It is certain however, that when created in 1643 the parish lay partly in Henrico County, and partly in the County of Charles City, and that it was carved out of the lower part of Henrico Parish, south of the James.25

In addition to the uncertainty as to its original area, there is another uncertainty relative to Bristol Parish, viz., did it include the whole or any part of the settlement of Bermuda Hundred, or did that settlement lie wholly in Henrico Parish? Two distinguished divines who, on account of their long connection with the parish, should have known better than others its true extent have differed on this question.

Bishop Meade claimed that Bristol Parish included the whole settlement of Sir Thomas Dale made in 1612 called Bermuda Hundred and located at the confluence of the Appomattox with the James. He claimed further that the parish served a much larger territory than that which lies on both sides the Appomattox to the falls.26

But the Reverend Philip Slaughter questioned the Bishop's

location of the Parish. He insisted that the parish line on the north side of the Appomattox was Powell's Creek which would have excluded Bermuda Hundred from that parish. He claimed further that the Vestry Book of Henrico Parish shows that on that side of the Appomattox Henrico Parish exercised jurisdiction to Powell's Creek until 1734,²⁷ in which year all that part of Bristol Parish north of the Appomattox, and the part of Henrico Parish south of the James, were combined and Dale Parish was formed.²⁸ However, Mr. Slaughter conceded that the parish originally extended at least five miles northwestward of the present site of Petersburg and included a portion of what is now Chesterfield County.²⁹

There are many instruments of record evidencing that originally Bristol Parish lay in those parts of Henrico and Charles City Counties south of the James River. These records will be here stated for the aid they may afford to others interested in determining the precise extent of the parish when created.

The earliest reference to Bristol Parish in such records which has been found is in the order of Henrico County Court entered February 2, 1690 based on information furnished by the Secretary of the County that "there hath been heretofore a Parish Court held in Bristol Parish in ye County of Henrico & Charles City which hath been discontinued for some years." The information further was that such books and records were in possession of an individual and in order that they might be preserved Henry Randolph, Clerk of the Court, was ordered to take possession of them.

In returning his execution of the order, Henry Randolph reported that he was delivered one old parchment book containing about two quires of paper, being the proceedings of Bristol Parish Court beginning with a court held at Fort Henry May 19, 1655 and ending with a court held January 27, 1675.³⁰

The Vestry of Bristol Parish was commanded by the Courts of Henrico County to perform these acts: (1) by order of the County Court of August 2, 1686, to take such charge of a bastard child (identified) as the law enjoined; 31 and (2) by order of the Orphans Court of October 5, 1725 to make inquiry of a mother as to her manner of educating and providing for her orphan children. 32

There are several instruments of record describing lands as located in Bristol Parish Henrico County, to-wit: patent to Judith Randolph, widow of Henry Randolph I, dated September 28, 1678 for 699 acres on north side of Swift Creek³³; patent to Henry Randolph II dated February 16, 1682 for 1000 acres on the north side of Swift Creek adjoining Swift Creek falls;³⁴ patent dated April 16, 1683 for 89 acres on south side James River and north side of Swift Creek;³⁵ patent dated April 16, 1683 for 206 acres on north side of the Appomattox River;³⁶ deed dated August 1, 1678 conveying to Henry Randolph II 1254 acres on north side Swift Creek;³⁷ patent dated April 21, 1690 for 206 acres in Aspen Swamp;³⁸ deed by Henry Randolph II dated June 18, 1692 conveying 252 acres on north side of Swift Creek;³⁹ deed dated November —, 1711 conveying 100 acres north side Swift Creek

at one time owned by Col. William Randolph;⁴⁰ and deed dated September —, 1712 conveying 59 acres north side of Swift Creek

and south side James River.41

There are other records identifying Bristol Parish with Henrico County, for instance: an account of surveys made in 1706-1707 of lands in Henrico and Bristol Parishes; ⁴² and the order of the County Court held March 1719 appointing road surveyors wherein a surveyor was appointed "for all the roads in Bristol Parish blow (sic) Swift Creek * * *".43

The will of Henry Randolph III dated August 27, 1726 recites his residence as Bristol Parish, Henrico County. 44 Other deeds and wills likewise identify the residences of the makers as being

in the same parish and county.45

In the record which has been preserved of Henry Randolph I and his descendants certain facts have been recorded which shed some light upon the history of Bristol Parish. This colonist came to Virginia in 1642 (almost contemporaneously with the establishment of Bristol Parish in 1634).40 and later acquired much land on the north side of Swift Creek in Bermuda Hundred where he presumably made his home, but the record referred to indicates his residence was at Appomattok. He contracted two marriages, first in 1652 and secondly in 1661, both of which were performed by the Reverend Edward Ffolliott. This record records the baptism of his several children and the ones by whom the baptisms were performed. It recites that in 1671 his daughter Judith was baptized in the Parish Church. He died in 1673 and was buried in the churchyard of Bristol Parish Church as were also in 1693 his son Henry Randolph (II) and his grandson Thomas Randolph. 47

There are other instruments of record conveying the title to land in that part of Bristol Parish which lay in Charles City County, to-wit: deed from Henry Randolph II dated October 1, 1687 conveying land on south side of the Appomattox River patented by his father, Henry Randolph I. on September 21, 1671;⁴⁸ patent to Henry Randolph II dated April 19, 1690 for 647 acres at place known as Second Swamp;⁴⁹ and patent dated April 21, 1690 for land in Warrock (Warwick) Swamp.⁵⁰

The Church of England was made the established church of Colonial Virginia by an edict of an early Grand Assembly and for the first one hundred years or more attendance at church, not only by the colonists but also by their servants, by various

acts of such Assembly was made highly compulsory.51

In March, 1623-4 the Assembly passed a general act for the governing of the colony and providing also for its religious life. It directed that there should be on every plantation where the people met to worship God a house or room sequestered for that purpose and for no temporal use whatsoever "and a place impaled in, sequestered only to the buryal of the dead." ⁵²

Not only was attendance of the worshipers compulsory but the same act penalized any minister absent from his church above two months by forfeiture of half his means. Absence for four months forfeited his entire means and his cure.⁵⁸ The ministers were granted legal protection for any one unjustifiably disparaging a minister was to be heavily fined and required

to make public apology before the congregation.54

The hard lot, financially of colonial ministers was recognized by the Assembly so for their encouragement and in order that they might better attend both public commands and their private cures, an act was passed in December, 1656 providing that "every minister in his own person with six other servants of his family shall be free from publique levies.⁵⁵

The reference in the Act of 1642-43 creating Bristol Parish to the church "farr remote" from the settlers along the Appomattox is cogent evidence that there was then and had been for a time a church in Bermuda Hundred. According to Bishop Meade, for many years the colonists there had been ministered to by the early rectors of the church at Henrico City, who ferried the five miles or more of water to hold each religious service, the names of at least three of whom have been preserved. This circumstance also strongly suggests the existence of a church in that region when it was a part of early Henrico Parish. 57

Conversely, the recitals in the same act negative the assumption that a church existed within the limits of Bristol Parish prior to its passage. But it would be unreasonable to assume that after having sought the authority granted, action did not promptly follow by those seeking a convenient house of worship. Hence, it may be said with assurance that a church, or at least, a chapel of case, was erected in Bristol Parish in 1645 or thereabouts, and that it was called "City Church." 58

If neither church nor chapel was built in Bristol Parish under the authority granted by the Act of 1643, then most assuredly a house of worship must have been provided for the parish in fulfillment of the positive command of the Act of 1661-2. It provided that there be a church decently built in every parish "for the advancement of God's glory and the more decent celebration of his divine ordinances," unless any parish as now settled by reason of the fewness or poverty of the inhabitants be incapable of sustaining so great a charge, in which case such parishes shall be joined to the next great parish of the same county and that a chapel of ease be built in such places at the particular charge of that place.⁵⁹

Passing the date of its erection, the question arises: which church was the "mother church" of Bristol Parish and what its location? No effort will be made here to unravel this uncertainty. For the benefit of those who may be interested, the conflicting claims of the several writers will be briefly stated as an aid to further investigation.

The distinguished prelate Bishop Meade and the Reverend Mr. Slaughter suggest contrary answers to this question. Recently, a modern writer has joined the discussion and presents a claim different from that of either of his predecessors. He reminds us that "Mother Church" as understood in early colonial times, did not carry the present day signification of being the oldest or original church but designated, rather, the "parish" church, presumably as distinguished from the chapels. He says

further that each such succeeding parish church, as established, fell heir to both titles.60

From the information available to him at the time of his writing, Bishop Meade concluded that the first parish church, or "mother church," was located in Bermuda Hundred opposite City Point. In reaching this conclusion, he was influenced, undoubtedly, by the first and only reference to the "Mother Church" in the earliest Parish Vestry Book, viz., the vestry's directive of October 21, 1731 that a ferry be kept at the point and be attended when the service was at the "Mother Church." The Bishop assumed that the reference in the order to "the Point" was to "City Point." It seems that it did not occur to him that Bermuda Hundred might have been without the Parish. He also believed that this church, at City Point, was the Parish Church mentioned by the Assembly, in the Act, probably, of 1642-43.

The Reverend Mr. Slaughter questioned the Bishop's assumption that the reference to "the Point" meant City Point, remarking that there were other points on the river and ferries, referring particularly to the ferry mentioned in the first Vestry book as operating in 1720 at Conjurer's Neck.⁶² He also urged the fact, already noted, that Bristol Parish did not extend into Bermuda Hendred.⁶³ He said that many indications pointed to Wood's Church as the "Mother Church" which he assumed was erected in 1707,⁶⁴ five miles up the Appomattox River from Petersburg and on the opposite side,⁶⁵ although he recognized that between 1692 and 1707 there must have been other churches in the parish.⁶⁶

Mr. George C. Mason, who has given this subject careful study, concludes that the first church in Bristol Parish was built, after the passage of the Act of 1643, near the original site of old Charles City, then extinct, from which fact it took its name—City Church—and that it remained the only church in the Parish from 1646 to 1691.⁶⁷ He bases his conclusion as to its location on his belief that the early town of Charles City was not located on City Point but was on the south side of the Appomattox about three miles westerly from its mouth and some eight miles downstream from Petersburg.⁶⁸ He is positive that the mother church in 1731 was Jefferson's Church.⁶⁹

Like uncertainty does not attend the identity of the second house of worship in the Parish. It is generally agreed that this was a chapel of ease erected about 1692 near the south shore of the Appomattox within the corporate limits of modern Petersburg. It was a frame structure of simple design called, until 1727, merely "the Chapel" but thereafter referred to as "Ferry Chapel" by reason of its location near the ferry from Pocahontas to Bolling's point, 70 to distinguish it from the other chapels which were springing up in the Parish.

Prior to 1680 the history of Bristol Parish is meager and consists principally of the scant reference to it in several of the acts of the Assembly previously mentioned. But in that year, the colonial records show that the Reverend John Ball, Rector of the church at Varina in Henrico Parish, also ministered to the

church in that part of Bristol Parish north of the Appomattox, while the part of that parish south of that river and Jordans in Charles City County had layreaders only. No record has been found giving the name of any cleric who earlier ministered to the residents of Bristol Parish, save the record of births, marriages and deaths in the family of Henry Randolph (I) of Bermuda Hundred in which have been preserved the names of several early ministers of either that Parish or of Henrico Parish. 71

Such in outline is the history of Bristol Parish for the first fifty years, during which period those of the parish religiously inclined had to get along as best they could without the ministration of a rector of their own. And such was the setting of the stage in this frontier settlement for which destiny was seeking some courageous young cleric to assume its spiritual guid-

ance.

Then in 1693 came a young man, the Reverend George Roberton, barely 25 years of age, only a year out of the ecclesiastical seminary, to enter upon his novitiate. To have ventured into a country so new and so sparsely settled, to follow on the outskirts of civilization his pacific profession, he must have been surcharged with religious zeal. One of his early acts was to report to the Council held April 14, 1694 an incestuous mar-

riage.72

It would be interesting to know what fortuitous circumstance charted his course to this wilderness new-world parish. All that is known is what he himself has said, viz., that he was licensed by Dr. Compton, Bishop of London, as a missionary to Virginia. This would indicate that he resigned his chaplaincy in the Royal Navy and sought as a new field of endeavor missionary work in this virgin region of opportunity. Then, when he landed in Virginia, the parishioners of Bristol Parish most probably were seeking a minister, and he being available and receptive, the connection was made. It has been claimed that he was in charge of Henrico Parish in 1695.74

Be his coming fortuitous or no, the arrival of young Robertson in Virginia at this auspicious time and his selection as minister by the parishioners was a most fortunate decision for Bristol Parish. With his assumption of the rectorate, the authentic history of the parish commences. Bishop Meade says the first and most accurate account of the parish is contained in the letter the Reverend Mr. Robertson wrote in 1724 to the

Bishop of London.75

It is probable that soon after being called, Mr. Robertson settled in Bristol Parish south of the James River at "Picketts" on Swift Creek near its mouth. The description of the parish left by him is that it was 40 odd miles long by 20 wide and in spots "thinly seated." About midway his ministry, he reported that the parish contained some 430 families and 1100 tythables, among whom there were no infidels but there were negro slaves and a few Indian servants. The same call that the parish contained some 430 families and 1100 tythables, among whom there were no infidels but there were negro slaves and a few Indian servants.

Here another enigma arises: which particular church was Mr. Robertson's first cure? Neither its name nor location can be stated with certainty. However, Mr. George C. Mason states that it is traditional that the Reverend George Robertson lived at Revelans near the first Bristol Parish Church on the City Creek,78 which would indicate that the church identified by Mr.

Mason as "City Church" was his first charge.

Prior writers seem to have overlooked a rather significant fact, viz., that one acre on the north side of Swift Creek for the site of a church was given to Bristol Parish by Henry Randolph, Vestryman, on September 7, 1714, the deed providing for a reverter to the donor if the lot were not so used. Whether a church was erected on the lot or the lot reverted is not known.⁷⁹

If there is doubt as to his first curacy, there seems to be no doubt that Mr. Robertson also had charge, after its erection, of Ferry Chapel. He reported to the Bishop of London in 1724, that he had a church and "chappel" in which he officiated by turns. The chapel he referred to, it seems agreed, was the Ferry Chapel, which was the only one in Bristol Parish in service in 1720.

By 1720 the parish church evidently had become in disrepair so the Assembly that year passed an act authorizing the building of a church in Bristol Parish. St. According to Mr. Mason, this was the church erected of brick, known as Jefferson's Church, completed in 1723 and located across the Appomattox from the City Church in a northwest direction, in Chesterfield

County, and about two miles inland from the James.82

On its completion, according to the same writer, Jefferson Church became the second mother church and was the church referred to by Mr. Robertson in his report to the Bishop wherein he reported "that he had one service each Sunday, alternately at the church and at the chapel." And it, no doubt, was most gratifying to him that he was able to write "his congregations were good in good weather, sometimes more than the pews would hold."83 Old City Church was then retired from service or abandoned.84

Contemporaneously with the establishment of Bristol Parish the Assembly in 1642-43 enacted additional and comprehensive legislation regulating the governance of all parishes in the colony. Among other things, it provided that the Parish Vestry should consist of twelve of the most sufficient and selected men of the Parish together with the church warden and minister. Further, that the selection of the minister for the Parish should repose in the Vestry with the allowance of the Commander and the Commissioner, if living in the Parish, otherwise in the Vestry alone. Their recommendation was to be carried to the Governor by whom the minister had to be admitted. A minister could be suspended by the Governor but removed only by the Assembly.⁸⁵

The Act also provided that every minister should have his clark (sic.) and also sexton for the keeping clean of the church and other services in the absence of the minister. It likewise prescribed the minister's honorarium thus: every tithable was enjoined to bring for the minister to a place in the parish designated by him on November 20th yearly 10 pounds of tobacco and one bushel of corn (two bushels if unshelled) where he

personally, or by agent, was to be to receive the produce. It also fixed his permissible fees for religious services in these quantities of tobacco: marriage ceremony without license, 40 lbs., with license 100 lbs.; burial 10 lbs.; "churching" 10 lbs. One is tempted to ask: why the bargain rate for a ceremony without a license? 86

There is this evidence that sometimes the bridegroom would renege in paying the marriage fee: at a Henrico Court held June 1, 1708 the Reverend George Robertson of Bristol Parish was awarded a judgment for his fee against one whom he had married.⁸⁷

On account of the inconvenience in crossing the James River to attend Court, the colonists on its south shore in Charles City County for years had sought unsuccessfully to have a separate county set up on that side of the river. In 1656, the protest was recognized and the Assembly directed that the Court be held on the south side. This displeased the north shore residents so in 1658 the Assembly appeased all by directing that Court be held both north and south of the river. For the especial convenience of the residents of Bristol Parish, the Assembly in 1656 empowered the Commissioners living within the Parish to hold a parish Court with jurisdiction co-ordinate with the County Court and with the right of appeal to the County Court of either Charles City or Henrico County.

The first Vestry Book of Bristol Parish which has been preserved begins with the meeting held October 30, 1720 at the Ferry Chapel, the recital being that the Reverend George Robertson, Minister, was present. Dr. Slaughter states that thereafter all vestry meetings were held there until 1737 when Blandford Church was completed. If such was the fact, the custom of holding all vestry meetings there would indicate that the Ferry Chapel was the principal church in the Parish during that period.

Although Mr. Robertson was spiritual leader of Bristol Parish from 1693 to 1739⁹¹ (in 1724 he wrote that he had been in charge of the parish since 1693), ⁹² which period of service alone would indicate he had served his parishioners to their satisfaction, ⁹³ the early days of his ministry were not so auspicious. He had come to the parish imbued with the enthusiasm of youth and fresh from his station on the man-of-war where, presumably, he had acquired a militant background. If he had come as a missionary, his field of spiritual work was changed by the opportunity which awaited him, but the indications are the parish first took him only on trial or as a probationer. Thus was laid the foundation for the controversy which soon arose between him and his vestry, the gist of which is gathered from the record which he left. In this controversy, he probably was championing the cause of all his brother clerics similarly situated.

Within two years of his coming to the parish, the vestry denied Mr. Robertson, over his protest, possession of the church glebe on the ground that he was not an inducted minister. He also complained of the law which required the Vestry to hire him from year to year only, and of their fixing his salary. So on May 6, 1695, he presented to the Governor of the colony a petition reciting his grievances, protesting the practices as discouraging other ministers to enter the field, and craving judgment not so much for himself as for the other clerics in the colony.⁹⁴ It would be interesting to know the reception accorded the petition by the Governor and his action on it, but the record is silent.

The Reverend Mr. Robertson must have met and overcome in his formative years in the parish hardships that severely tried his mettle. His salary was paid in tobacco of inferior quality which netted a meager 45 pounds sterling annually. The church glebe was 40 acres of barren land not justifying cultivation, with no house. Being well educated, his discomforts did not dull his sense of humor; otherwise, when questioned by the Bishop if his glebe was kept in good repair, he would not have countered with this bon mot,—non entis nulla sunt accidentia,—"To nonentities no accidents happen."

In the article "Public Officers in Virginia, 1702, 1714" three ministers are listed for Henrico County and two in Prince George County, Mr. George Robertson being the only one listed in each county. Of course, it must be remembered that in 1702 Prince George County (including a portion of Bristol Parish) had been cut off from Charles City County but that Chesterfield County remained a part of Henrico County until 1749.

By 1725 the colonization of Bristol Parish had so expanded and the population had so increased that it became necessary during that decade to provide several chapels of ease at convenient places to serve the parishioners, two of which were Saponey Chapel and Namozine Chapel. The Reverend Mr. Slaughter seems to say that about this time there was but one minister in the Parish who had under his care the Mother Church and several chapels where he officiated in rotation, but in order that there be no intermission in the services, lay readers were appointed for each congregation. Bishop Meade is specific in the statement that in 1724 the Reverend George Robertson's services were confined to the Ferry Chapel at Petersburg and to the Mother Church at Bermuda Hundred.

After years of service Ferry Chapel evidently became dilapidated so in 1733 a committee was appointed by the Parish Vestry to examine it and determine if it was worth repairing. Mr. Mason suggests a possible different reason for this action of the Vestry, viz., the anticipated loss to the Parish in 1735 of Jefferson Church. Be this as it may, the committee's report was unfavorable to its repair and the decision was reached to build

a new church.

So on March 11, 1733-34 the Vestry ordered that a new church be erected on Well's Hill, a site about one mile southeast of Ferry Chapel, on the same side of the Appomattox and now within the corporate limits of Petersburg. Specifications in great detail were prepared, according to which it was to be constructed with the best material and workmanship, in size sixty feet by twenty-five feet, the center aisle to be laid of

White Bristol stone, and to be completed by the last of July, 1737. 100

The contract price for the church was 485 pounds. 101 Its construction was started in the last part of 1733 or early in 1734. During construction, objection was raised to the site which caused a temporary suspension in building operations, on the Governor's order. The protest was heard but it being found to be without merit, was overruled and construction was resumed. Completion came within the contract time, or nearly so, as the first vestry meeting was held in the new church August 13, 1737, although Bishop Meade fixes its completion in 1738. 102 After its consecration, services ceased to be held in Ferry Chapel. 103

This new church antedated the town of Blandford which, although a petition for its establishment was submitted in 1745, was not actually established until 1748. At first, this new church was probably nameless, being referred to merely as the Brick Church on Well's Hill. A good guess is that the name Blandford was not applied to it until after the annexation of Blandford to Petersburg. It is now the major surviving land-

mark in what was the old town of Blandford. 104

When the decision was reached to erect the new church on Wells Hill, Dale and Raleigh Parishes had not been cut off from Bristol Parish so the parishioners in those parts of the Parish were assessed for its construction. But when the new Parishes were formed, the Assembly ordered Bristol Parish to refund to its parishioners the tobacco collected. This placed a heavy load on Bristol Parish but the parishioners met the burden. 105

This predicament of Bristol Parish, according to Bishop Meade, brought out the unselfishness of this pioneer cleric for in order to aid the Parish in weathering this emergency the Reverend Mr. Robertson voluntarily agreed to minister, gratuitously to the church until its finances could be recouped. 106

There is a suggestion that the material needs of Mr. Robertson were better provided for after the erection of Blandford Church in the statement that after its completion the vestry appeared to have been duly attentive to the wants of the minister as to a glebe and glebe house. 107 But the vestry may have been spurred to more adequately meet the necessities of their patient minister through passage in 1727 by the Colonial Assembly of the act for the better support of the clergy. 108

Although several of the clergy of early Colonial Virginia were guilty of such improper conduct as to cast disrepute upon the entire profession, there were many ministers of rugged yet impeccable character who served their parishes well and to the marked enhancement of the religious life of the colony. The long years of continuous service in one Parish of the Reverend George Robertson is cogent evidence that he belonged to the

latter class.

After the battle of Blenheim August 13, 1704 the Governor and the clergy of Virginia addressed a congratulatory letter to their sovereign commending the Duke of Marlborough for his great victory over the French. The Reverend George Robertson was one of the signers of this letter.¹⁰⁹

There are certain bare references to the Reverend George Robertson, —a few authentic, others questionable—which are worth being noted here. Some of the glimpses of this frontier divine have been preserved by the illustrious Col. William Byrd¹¹⁰ in his "Secret Diary" covering the years 1709-1712.¹¹¹ The two were contemporaries and apparently good friends, but the cleric was not his rector as the Colonel lived at Westover on the north side of the James and in a different parish.¹¹²

On January 4, 1710 Col. Byrd recorded that he went to a place unnamed to welcome a distinguished personage on his arrival in Virginia and that a large gathering was present, includ-

ing "Parson Robertson."113

A neighbor and kinsman of the diarist was taken sick in March of 1710 and after a lingering illness he died, his funeral being held April 14th following. The day preceding a Mr. Robinson came to Col. Byrd's as a guest to attend the funeral. His comment on the remarks of the officiating minister, presumably the rector of Westover Parish where the deceased lived, was frank and from a kinsman, too, and probably reflected a trend that was followed by early colonial ministers at the funerals of prominent colonists. He recorded that the sermon was an extravagant panegyric (or eulogy) and that at every turn he called the deceased "'this great man,' and not only covered his faults but gave him virtues which he never possessed as well as magnified those which he had."

Later the same year, some friends came to visit Col. Byrd, among whom was the Reverend Mr. Robertson. He was charm-

ed with the Colonel's library. 116

From September 22nd to 24th, 1711 Col. Byrd made a tour of inspection of the militia on the south side of the James River. He and "Parson Robinson" were overnight guests of Capt. Bolling. The intervening day being Sunday, all, including four companies of troops, attended church where the Reverend Mr. Robertson delivered the sermon. The diarist made no comment on its merit. The guests returned to their host's home for the night and next day all attended the Colonel to "the Hundred" where he took the ferry.¹¹⁷

Finally, the diary states that Col. Byrd attended church on October 28, 1711 and that the preacher gave "a good sermon but very badly delivered." There were few in the congregation, one of whom was a lady. 118 Doubt is cast upon this minister having been the Reverend George Robertson because the ser-

vice seems to have been held in Williamsburg.

In the record of the Randolph family there are these recordings concerning the Reverend George Robertson: on March 29, 1714 he performed the ceremony uniting in marriage Henry Randolph (III) and Elizabeth Eppes; and on February 11, 1721 he baptized Henry Randolph (IV), son of that couple. 119

Such is a brief resume of the early history of Bristol Parish and of the religious side of the Reverend George Robertson's life in colonial Virginia. What is known of his secular life? And what of his family and his descendants?

Despite the trivial stipend Mr. Robertson secured from his

parish, he seems to have been able to accumulate during the course of his ministry a considerable landed estate and some slaves. Perhaps his first acquisition of realty was his interest in 4000 acres granted April 24, 1703 to Col. Francis Eppes, to him and to others for importing 80 persons into the colony. 120 On January 16, 1720 George Robertson, Clerk, petitioned for 3,300 acres on Knibbs Creek which was granted, and on April 18, 1724 he petitioned for 1500 acres near Flat Creek and the Appomattox and 1,000 acres in the Forks of Smack's Creek, all these tracts being in Prince George County. 121 On February 2, 1726 he petitioned for a grant of 1600 acres in Prince George County adjoining his 600 acres on Flat Creek, which was allowed. 122 On November 1, 1728 he applied for patent on 800 acres in Prince George County adjoining his 2200 acres on the upper side of Flat Creek and he was permitted to take one inclusive patent for the whole.123 On February 2, 1735-36, a few years prior to his death, he deeded to his son George 996 acres in Henrico County on which the son lived, called "The Quarter," also 1200 acres in Amelia County beyond the Appomattox River above Flat Creek and 14 slaves. 124 It has been said he also owned land at Goose Island.125 He was a slave owner and recorded the births of many of them on the Parish Register. 126

In the petition filed by him with the Virginia Council and in the deed which he executed to his son George, both mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the Reverend George Robertson was described as "Clerk." ¹²⁷ But this designation of him as "Clerk" carried no particular significance because in Colonial Virginia members of the clergy customarily so described themselves. ¹²⁸

It is unfortunate that the book in which the will of Mr. Robertson was recorded has disappeared and that a copy was not otherwise preserved because this will undoubtedly would shed determinative light upon family relationship now obscure. The existence of the will is well established. Mr. Standard makes contradictory and erroneous statements (without citing the record on which he based either statement): one that the will was probated in 1737 and the other that it was probated in 1739 by the deceased's son John in Henrico County. 129

The Henrico County Order Book recites that the will of George Robertson, Clerk, i. e., the cleric, was presented May 5, 1740 by John Robertson and James Robertson, Executors, and was probated (p. 107)¹³⁰ and the same Order Book contains

these entries:

On November 5, 1739 John Robertson obtained letters of administration on the estate of George Robertson, deceased (p. 90), indicating that this person had died intestate. Hence he must have been George Robertson II or Jr., as the designation "Clerk" is absent.

On January 7, 1739/40 appraisers were appointed to appraise the estate of George Robertson, deceased (p. 94).

And on May 4, 1741 John Robertson presented his inventory of the estate of George Robertson, presumably the cleric, and also an account of his administration of the state of George Robertson, Jr. (p. 143).¹³¹

The deaths of the Reverend George Robertson and of his son, George Robertson II, evidently were not far apart, but which one died first? It has been generally accepted that the father predeceased the son. However, the appointment of an administrator for the estate of George Robertson II and of appraisers to appraise the state, prior to the probate of the cleric's will, suggests that the son preceded his father in death. In the face of this proof to the contrary, the general acceptance that George Robertson II survived his father is probably erroneous.

Two perplexing questions, and each a double question are next presented for solution, viz.: (1) how many times was the Reverend George Robertson married and what was the name (or names) of his wife (or wives)?, and (2) what were the names of his children and who was their mother (or mothers)? As the members of this Robertson line have been unable to agree on the proper answer to these questions, it is audacious, indeed, for one outside the line to attempt to aid in resolving these

uncertainties.

The genealogy of the family of the Reverend George Robertson published in the Richmond Times Dispatch of December 8, 1912, and particularly as to his marriages and children as there stated 132, is accepted as authentic by many of his descendants while other descendants claim that the data is inaccurate in several particulars. The genealogy states:

That the Reverend George Robertson married, first, a lady of unknown name, by whom he had a son George, and that he married, secondly, prior to 1711, Mary, daughter of Peter Eppes, by whom he had three children, John, James and Elizabeth. 133

Such for years seems to have been the pedigree immediately succeeding this ancestor which was generally accepted, and not until recent years did researchers, delving into the family genealogy, commence to question the accuracy of the pedigree which had so long been recognized. This writer hesitates now to do so as he realizes a flood of critical and countervailing views may be unloosened. But as accuracy is the basic principle of genealogy, he offers the conclusions of others and cites certain records which seem to reveal errors in such pedigree in the hope that any uncertainty, now and for all time, may be removed. Those interested should welcome the opportunity to check the old pedigree against such records and to determine to their own satisfaction its accuracy.

The question to be first answered is: was the Reverend George Robertson married more than once? Those who claim so can give neither his first wife's surname nor the place of marriage, but they agree her Christian name was Mary¹³⁴. It has been suggested that his first marriage was contracted in England. This is scarcely probable because he became Chaplain of the man-of-war when quite young, and he seems to have come to Virginia directly from the English Navy. There is no reference to his being married when he came to Bristol Parrish, a fact that would likely have been noted had it existed. No record which this writer has seen suggests that he was mar-

ried twice.

The suggestion by some persons, that the Reverend Mr. Robertson contracted his first marriage at an early age in England, is followed by the statement that by this wife he had one child, George, Jr. Persistent inquiry and search has failed to

develop any record substantiating the claims.

In 1924 the Reverend Clayton Torrence was employed by Mrs. Margaret Rankin Young, then of Ortega, Florida, to verify the lines on which she sought admission into the Society of Colonial Dames. He was not particularly concerned with the Robertson line but as the Reverend George Robertson was shown as an ancestor, he made certain observations as to him. Quotations from his report have been furnished, one of which is: "In one of the land transactions involving George Jr.'s land John is mentioned as George Jr.'s half brother, but I have not so far found any other reason for this. Reverend George Robertson names Mary as his wife in his will but there is no indication that his children were by different wives."135

Here was a vital fact: if the deed could be found evidencing the half-blood relationship between the sons of the Reverend George Robertson, the fact of his two marriages would be established. So Mr. Torrence was recently appealed to. His reply was that he had no recollection of ever having found such a deed and that he now had no reference to one. 136 But "not remembering" is not evidence that at some time he did not see such deed. A check of the records of Henrico, Amelia, Chesterfield and Prince George Counties might disclose such deed.

If the Reverend George Robertson was married twice, who was his second wife? Here, some writers, although they agree that her name prior to her marriage to the Reverend Mr. Robertson was Mary Eppes, disagree as to her identity. This is not surprising as there were, at least, two ladies bearing that name who lived contemperaneously during the fore part of the 18th century in that section of Virginia. And with temerity, the suggestion is now made that neither of these ladies was ever the wife of the Reverend Mr. Robertson,

The initial problem then is to identify and to account for

the two Mary Eppes.

First must be considered the Mary Eppes who is alleged to have been the daughter of Peter Eppes of Bermuda Hundred and who, it is claimed, married the Reverend George Robertson prior to 1711.137 Research, however, has failed to disclose a daughter of Peter Eppes named Mary living at a day so early as to have been the wife of Mr. Robertson. It is possible that there was no such lady and that this mythical Mary Eppes has been confused with the daughter of Col. Francis Eppes named Mary who will be next considered. 138

Col. Francis Eppes of Bermuda Hundred and his wife, Elizabeth Littlebury, (widow of William Worsham) had a daughter Mary who was born in 1664.139 She married about 1681 Col. Joseph Royall (1646-1732), being probably her second marriage and certainly his second marriage and possibly his third. 140 Some say that it was this Mary Eppes who married the Reverend George Robertson. 141 If so, the marriage could scarcely have occurred prior to the death in 1732 of her husband, Col. Royall, when she would have been above 68 years of age and the Reverend Mr. Robertson would have been of a like age. This marriage is highly improbable, but if it occurred, certainly there was no issue.

Secondly, the daughter of Llewellyn and Angelica Eppes named Mary will be noticed. She was thrice married and thrice widowed, her husbands being: (1) Littlebury Royall (d. 1749), son of Joseph Royall, Jr. (1681/2-1747) and grandson of Col. Joseph and Mary Eppes Royall; (2) James Robertson (d. 1757), son of the Reverend George Robertson, whom she married in 1750; and (3) the Reverend Thomas Wilkinson, then Rector of Bristol Parish, whom she married about 1757.142

The identity of this Mary Eppes is clearly established by

these records:

(a) Will of Littlebury Royall dated 7/10/1749 in which he identified his wife as the daughter of Llewellyn and Angelica Eppes, being her first marriage, and named his sons Joseph (who died September 10, 1783), Littlebury and John Royall, 143

(b) Will of James Robertson (son of the Reverend George Robertson) dated November 4, 1757 in which he named his wife Mary and his five living children who, with their approximate birth dates, were: George (1742), Martha (174—), James (1751), Mary (1753) and John (1755). He also referred to an unborn child who, after birth (1757) was named Elizabeth.¹¹⁴

(c) Deed of gift, 1790, from Mary Robertson (commonly called Wilkinson), wife of James Robertson, conveying her estate, after her death, to her children and grandchildren, naming them. Among others she named these sons: John Royall and

James and John Robertson. 145

(d) Deed, Mary Robertson (alias Wilkinson) to Major

Richard and Mary (Robertson) Jones, et al. 146

(e) Deed of release, 1803, by Mary Robertson to her sons, Littleberry and John Royall, of all her interest in share of John Eppes Royall in right of his father, in the estate of Joseph

Royall, deceased. 147

(f) Suit brought in 1804 in the Nottoway County Court by Mary Robertson (alias Wilkinson) as plaintiff vs. James and John Robertson; Elizabeth Comer; John and Elizabeth Royall (children of John Royall); Elizabeth, James, Mary Epes, Martha Ann and Caroline Jones (children of Richard Jones, Jr.); and Mary Robertson, daughter of James Robertson, Mary Robertson, daughter of John Robertson, and Richard Jones, Jr. 148

(g) Will of Mary Robertson dated May 11, 1798, probated November 7, 1805, in which she named certain of her "Royall" and "Robertson" children, issue of her first and second marriages; also certain grandchildren; and mentioned Thomas Wilkinson, evidently referring to her last husband, then deceased. 140

The coincidence of a Mary Eppes having married, first, a Royall, and secondly a Robertson possibly caused early writers to jump hastily at the erroneous conclusion that this "Mary Eppes" was the lady who married, first, Col. Joseph Royall; secondly (as they claimed) the Reverend George Robertson;

and thirdly the Reverend Thomas Wilkinson. But such writers, had they noted the birth and death dates of those three gentlemen, would have realized that the lady who married first Col. Joseph Royall (1645-1732) and who they claim, married secondly the Reverend George Robertson (1668?-1739) could scarcely have been the one who married thirdly the Reverend Thomas Wilkinson (who died about 1784). As she survived the Reverend Mr. Wilkinson and died in 1805, it is unlikely that she was born prior to 1715. Hence, to have been the same person, she must have been very young indeed when she married the two old men first named who died in 1732 and 1739.150 The improbability refutes the claim.

A probable and plausible explanation of the misidentification of the Mary Eppes who married the Reverend Thomas Wilkinson is that the ones guilty of the error had never seen the records which so positively identify her. 151 The clinching records corroborating all prior records as to the identity of the thrice married Mary Eppes-Royall-Robertson-Wilkinson wherein she left a clear trail of her first and second marriages and mentioned her third husband are, to-wit: (a) the suit brought by her in the County Court of Nottoway County wherein she named the children of her first and second marriages and her grandchildren; and (b) her will wherein she again made similar re-

citals, and mentioned her third husband. 152

Another plausible suggestion (original with Mr. James A. Groves, according to this writer's belief) is that the Reverend George Robertson married Mary Worsham. The basis for this suggestion is the will of John Worsham dated and probated in 1729 in which he names, among other children, his daughter, Mary Robertson. 153 This deduction, however, remains to be proved as Mary Worsham could have been the wife of the Reverend Mr. Robertson's son, George, Jr. (if he married) who died in 1740. But if the Reverend Mr. Robertson's first wife was Mary Worsham, he could have married secondly some Mary Eppes, although no record of such a marriage has been found. 154

To identify the mother (or mothers) of the children of the Reverend Mr. Robertson seems hopeless. The statement that his first wife bore him only one child, his son George, Jr., appears to rest alone on family tradition. The further statement that George. Jr., was half brother to John and James has not yet been substantiated. George, Jr., died about 1740 supposedly unmarried and without issue. 155 Although the will of John Worsham throws no light on the age of his daughter Mary, it was possible for her, if she became the wife of the Reverend Mr. Robertson, to have been the mother of all his children. 156

It is not only possible but probable that the four children of the Reverend George Robertson were of the whole blood. Some say that his second marriage occurred late in life.157 Certain facts tend to establish that his three sons were not the issue of a late marriage. In 1735 he made a deed to his son George who, prima facie, was an adult at the time. His sons John and James as Executors probated his will about 1740. Hence, they manifestly were adults then. 158

Such is the paucity of the information developed relative to the marital ventures of the Reverend George Robertson. It is exasperating that persistent inquiries have failed to uncover

any record that would remove all doubt on the subject.

The next inquiry will be as to the correct order of births of the Reverend Mr. Robertson's children. The order heretofore generally accepted, viz., George, John, James and Elizabeth 159 will be adhered to here. However, for what they are worth, certain facts will be stated which bear on the question whether George was or was not his father's first born male.

The single circumstance supporting the assumption that George was the eldest child of the Reverend Mr. Robertson. (other than the assertion in the Richmond Times Dispatch pedigree and elsewhere that he was the only issue of his father's first marriage) is that he was named for his father, it then being common practice, probably more so than now, to carry on the father's name in his first born male child; unless the execution of the deed by the cleric to his son George can be considered also as corroborative of the assumption. 160

As has been shown, the son George predeceased his father by a short period, the records indicating that the death year of the former was 1739 and of the latter 1740.161 After the death of the father, it seems that his son James is found in possession of the Robertson homestead at Picketts, 162 which single fact has caused some writers to conclude that he was the eldest male child.163 But it remains to be determined whether he was in possession claiming title or only by permission of the legal own-

er.

Speculation must serve to establish the course of descent of the Robertson homestead at "Picketts" after the deaths of the Reverend George Robertson and of his son George, Jr., The father had deeded the homestead to his son George in 1735 (page 27, note 183) who died within a few years unmarried and intestate (page 23, note 161; page 27, note 184). The English rule of primogeniture was the law of Colonial Virginia in case of intestacy.164 Under this law "Picketts" would have descended to the elder brother of George Robertson, Jr. But was his brother John or his brother James the elder?

Mr. James A. Groves concluded that the brother John Robertson was the elder of the two surviving brothers but that he "having married many years before his father's death had established a home in Amelia Co., leaving James, his younger brother, with the family to fall heir to the homestead at "Picketts." He was further of the opinion that the lost will of the Reverend George Robertson, if available, would show that "Picketts" had been devised by the cleric to his son James. Mr. Groves asserted as a fact "that George, son of Rev. George, and who died 1740, was never the heir to the old homestead at Picketts which was bequeathed to James who willed to his son George."165

Mr. Groves either discredited or ignored the fact that the Reverend George Robertson in 1735 conveyed to his son George land which included "Picketts." The conflicting claims as to the devolution of this homestead will be commented on later. 166

Secondly, the Reverend George Robertson by his will named his sons John and James as executors. His failure to name his son George as an executor (if he was the eldest child) indicates that he had predeceased his father. The father's naming first as executor his son John (which the lost will, most likely, would disclose) is strongly persuasive that John if not older than his brother George was the elder of his brother James. This assumption finds corroboration in John Robertson being regularly named first as executor with his brother James in several court proceedings affecting the father's estate. 167

The relationship as brothers of John Robertson and James Robertson (who was of Dale Parish, Chesterfield County and died in 1757) is made certain by the will of the latter wherein he named his wife and his brother John as executors. ¹⁶⁸ In view of this intimate relationship, it is not singular that the younger brother James Robertson, upon the death of his father, the cleric, came into possession of the Robertson homestead (as has been previously noted, supra p. 23) with the permission of his elder brother John, who, apparently, was its legal owner. ¹⁶⁹

No suggestion can be offered as to where the daughter, Elizabeth, should appear in the order of births. From the leads given, some one interested, to whom the records are easily available, should make further research and remove all uncertainty

as to the correct order of births of these children.

The genealogy of the descendants of the Reverend George Robertson which appeared in the Richmond Times Dispatch of December 8, 1912 was copied, according to Mr. W. G. Stanard, from a manuscript in the possession of a Mr. Robertson whose name and address he had forgotten. That genealogy was probably the basis for the Robertson note published in 1924 in the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography (Vol. 32, p. 54), both of which undertook to outline the marriages and children of the Reverend George Robertson. The question is: in the par-

ticulars stated, was the information given correct?

The Times Dispatch pedigree (and the note in 32 Va., p. 54) record these facts as to the marriages and children of the Reverend Mr. Robertson: (a) that George was the child of his first marriage; and (b) that his second marriage was contracted prior to 1711.171 The Times Dispatch article then identifies this George Robertson as having lived at Picketts, and as having been a Colonel of Militia in the Revolutionary War. As that war did not commence until 1775, George Robertson, the cleric's son, if born as late as 1710, could not have been less than 65 years of age when he entered the military service—a fact highly improbable and one which the author of the article must have overlooked. 172 But the truth is (supra, p. 23) George Robertson, Jr., died about 1740; presumably unmarried. So the conclusion is nescapable that the George Robertson referred to in the Times Dispatch article as the son of the Rev. Mr. Robertson was a different George Robertson. 173

Apparently, not until a day fairly recent did the long hiatus in the birth span of the children assigned to the Reverend George Robertson in the Times Dispatch genealogy seem to attract attention. But eventually this long gap was recognized. Then it was that certain ones interested in the lines conceived that the generation immediately following the original American ancestor had been missed—that the four children named in that pedigree as the children of the Reverend Mr. Robertson were not, in fact, his children but were his grandchildren, being the children

of his son James Robertson.

About 1932 Mrs. Fannie Dunn Baldwin of Birmingham, Alabama, being desirous of joining the Society of Colonial Dames, submitted to Mr. William B. Marye, the Maryland genealogist for that organization, for checking the line of descent on which she sought admission. Among other ancestors disclosed was the Reverend George Robertson¹⁷⁴ as to whom Mr. Marye advised her "that the Robertson line as published in the Richmond paper had evidently left out a generation." Thereupon, she employed Miss Page Williams (now deceased), formerly genealogist for the Virginia Society of Colonial Dames, to make a research as to her Robertson line. Miss Williams' report dated February 23, 1933 on the question now under consideration reads:

"Now for the Robertson line. I have found some interesting wills, etc., in the Chesterfield records, which I believe prove beyond a doubt that James Robertson, who died at the age of 77 in 1828 in Arnelia Co. was the son of James Robertson of Chesterfield, who died in 1757, leaving a wife Mary, sons George, James and John, daughters Martha and Mary, and unborn child, who scems to have been Elizabeth. None of these children were of age at the time of their father's death, but George seems to have come of age about 1766, so I have concluded he was a half brother of James and John and Elizabeth. I do not know whether Mary and Martha were the children of Mary or not. The widow Mary seems to have married first Littleberry Royall, and 3rd the Rev. Thomas Wilkinson, but I have been unable to find out what her

maiden name was.

"However, as you probably remember, the Times-Dispatch, the Robertson data which you sent me and other accounts say that James Robertson who married Ann Archer was the son of the Rev. George Robertson and there has always seemed to be a missing generation there, and that is the generation which I think I have found in this James Robertson who died in 1757, leaving three sons under 21 years. So far I have not found proof that James who died in 1757 was the son of the Rev. George Robertson, but we know that the Rev. George had a son George, and that a John Robertson presented the will of the Rev. George Robertson for probate in Henrico Co. (Chesterfield was not formed until 1749) and that this John was undoubtedly his son but the will has been lost and that John was the brother of James who died in 1757 and named his brother John executor and that all of them had sons named George and all had land in Amelia and Chesterfield Co.

"I know I have made you dizzy, but I do think I have found a link in the Robertson line which has been left out in

the written accounts of the family.

"I failed to say that the reason I think the much married Mary Robertson was not the mother of George Robertson (son of James, who died in 1757) is that her first husband Littleberry Royall did not die until 1749 and that she was hardly the mother of six Robertson children; in her will she mentions sons James and John Robertson and daughter Elizabeth. I hope before long to have all of this finished and to make a complete report to you."

Precisely the same conclusion stated by Miss Williams was later reached, entirely independently, by Mr. James A. Groves of Atlanta, Georgia, although he previously had accepted the early genealogy as set out in the Times Dispatch pedigree, largely because his father, Dr. Joseph Asbury Groves, deceased, who had accumulated much data on this Robertson family, had accepted

it. 176

The identity of the thrice married Mary Eppes-Royall-Robertson-Wilkinson did not become a live question in the Groves family until after the death in 1884 of John Royall Robertson who lived his declining years in the family of his son-in-law, Dr. Joseph Asbury Groves, whose home was then in Alabama. This elderly gentleman, grandson of James and Ann (Archer) Robertson, distinctly remembered his paternal great-grandmother, he being about nine years of age at her death, and he particularly remembered the unusual circumstance of her having contracted three marriages: first, with a Royall; secondly, with a Robertson; and lastly with the Reverend Thomas Wilkin-He also imparted to the Groves family considerable information relative to the genealogy of this Robertson family but he never revealed the names of his great-grandmother Robertson's parents nor the Christian names of her Royall and Robertson husbands.177

After the death of his father-in-law, Dr. Joseph Asbury Groves made efforts to locate records which would establish the identity of Mary Eppes-Royall-Robertson-Wilkinson but without avail. However, about ten years ago the volume "Notes on Southside Virginia" (by Judge Walter A. Watson) came into the possession of Mr. James A. Groves. On examining it he found references to the records already noted (supra, p. 21) which did establish her identity and which were of record in Nottoway County where her family had moved. Here, at last, had come to light the long sought for records. 178

From these records, Mr. Groves saw that the names given of the "Royall" and "Robertson" children of Mary Robertson (alias Wilkinson) agreed exactly with the names of her children as they had been given to the family by his grandfather, John Royall Robertson. Thus, he was able to untangle the mixup in the Times Dispatch "Robertson" pedigree (repeated in the note in 32 Va., p. 54) as to the generation immediately following the Reverend George Robertson, and he clarified the

confused relationship as there stated in this manner:

The four persons, who for so long a time had been assigned to the Reverend George Robertson as his children, proved to be the children of his son James. That is, the George, John, James and Elizabeth named were not the children but were the grandchildren of the Reverend Mr. Robertson. Thus another generation entered the line of descent to span the former long gap which had caused so much confusion and false speculation.¹⁷⁹

This coincidence of the names of the known children of the Reverend George Robertson, viz., George, John, James and Elizabeth, being also (with the addition of Mary and Martha), the names of the children of his son James Robertson, evidently contributed to the omission of the one generation. With such similarity existing in the names of the two sets of children so close in relationship and in time, it is not surprising that confusion has resulted.

Prior to his discovery of the explanatory records, in 1928 Mr. James A. Groves prepared for the Compendium of American Genealogy (Vol. 3, p. 548) the genealogical article on his sister, Elizabeth Royall Groves. In this article, he fell into the common error of skipping the generation which immediaely succeeded the Reverend Mr. Robertson and it is his desire that proper correction be made, now that the error has been uncovered. 180

Another descendant of the Reverend George Robertson, who has accumulated a wealth of information as to her particular branch of the family and who concurs in the belief that the generation immediately following the original American ancestor was missed in the Times Dispatch genealogy is Mrs. Glenn (Anne Mays) Miller of Ridley Park, Pennsylvania. 181 She relies largely upon the following records as establishing the authenticity of her lineage from the Reverend George Robertson. 182

(1) Deed dated February 2, 1735 from George Robertson, Clerk, (the cleric) to his son George conveying two tracts: (a) the land on which the son George lived called the Quarter (was this Picketts?) on the Appomattox River in Henrico (now Chesterfield) County containing 996 acres all purchased from Col. William Byrd except 35 acres bought of Richard Herbert; and (b) 1200 acres in Amelia County on the Appomattox above Flat Creek, being part of a large grant to George Robertson, the father, the part conveyed to be laid off to the son at his pleasure. 183

(2) Administration proceeding on the estate of George Robertson, the son, his brother John Robertson being the administrator. 184

At this point a supposition must be indulged, viz., that in some way undisclosed the land which George Robertson, Jr., owned, at his death, passed to his brother (or half-brother) John Robertson. 185

(3) Will of John Robertson, probated in 1765, by which he devised to his son Francis land on the river, 186 i. e., the

homeplace at Picketts.

(4) Deed dated June 16, 1769 from Francis Robertson to Thomas Tabb, conveying the homeplace of the grantor containing 700 acres, 665 of which the grantor's grandfather bought from William Byrd and 35 acres from Herbert.¹⁸⁷

The chain of title to the land described indubitally establishes that it was purchased by the Reverend George Robertson, then deeded by him to his son George, Jr., on whose death

it passed to the other son John, under whose will it finally

passed to the grandson (James) Francis Robertson. 188

By the records which have been commented on, it is submitted that the omission of the generation immediately following the Reverend George Robertson in the Times Dispatch "Robertson" genealogy has been established with reasonable certainty. In the same genealogy, there are certain other errors in the data given as to those named as the cleric's children which will next be noticed.

(1) The Times Dispatch genealogy records that George Robertson, Jr., married Martha Field Archer, daughter of John and Sarah (Randolph) Archer and had James, Archer and Martha. First no record has been found that George Robertson, Jr., ever married. Secondly, he could not have married Martha Field Archer because the couple indicated, in this writer's opin-

ion, had no daughter so named. 190

Apparently the George Robertson referred to was confused in that pedigree with Col. George Robertson (d. 1797)¹⁹¹ who was the son of James Robertson (d. 1757) and grandson of the Reverend Mr. Robertson. This George Robertson married Michal Archer, (daughter of Peter Field Archer and his wife who was probably Elizabeth Osborne)¹⁹² and had five children, viz., George, Martha Field, Ann, James and Archer.¹⁹³

Hence, it seems manifest that the published genealogy missed the generation represented by James Robertson (d. 1757), the father of George Robertson who married Michal

Archer. 194

(2) The Times Dispatch genealogy also records that John Robertson, second son of the Reverend George Robertson married (1st) Ann Royall by whom he had five children, viz., John Royall, Edwin, Mary Epps, Anne and Elizabeth; and that he married (2nd) Miss Branch, by whom he had four children, viz., William, Joseph, Henry W. and Pattie.

John Robertson (d. 1765), son of the Reverend George Robertson, did not marry Ann Royall or Miss Branch. This is established by his will which names his wife as Sarah although

it does not give her maiden surname. 195

The John Robertson who married (1st) a Miss Royall and (2nd) a Miss Branch was the John Robertson called Senior (b. 1755, d. 1826). He married (1st) June 31 (sic) 1776 (July, 1777 is given by one) 196 Elizabeth Royall and had four children, viz., John Royall, Ann, James and Mary Eppes; and then in 1786 he married (2nd) Bettie Branch Worsham (widow of his cousin, William Robertson) and had four children, viz., Edwin, Joseph, Elizabeth and Martha (Pattie). 197

Although the two sets of children assigned in the published pedigree to this John Robertson differ slightly from those as last given, they are so nearly identical as to clearly indicate that the John Robertson named in the published pedigree was the grandson of the cleric. So, here too, that pedigree skipped the

generation.

(3) The Times Dispatch genealogy states that James Robertson, third son of the Reverend George Robertson, married Anne Archer, daughter of John Archer and Sarah Randolph,

his wife, and that they had eight children, viz., John Archer, James, George, William Henry, Theoderick, Mary Eppes, Sarah

Randolph and Harriet Field. 198

But the fact is that James Robertson (d. 1757), the third son of the Reverend Mr. Robertson, about the time of his father's death, married (1st) Martha Field Archer (daughter of John and Martha Field Archer) by whom he had two children, George and Martha; and that he married (2nd) Mary (Eppes) Royall (d. 1805) widow of Littlebury Royall (daughter of Llewellyn and Angelica (Bray) Eppes) by whom he had four children, viz., James, Mary, John and Elizabeth (posthumous). 199

The James Robertson who married Anne Archer, daughter of John and Sarah Randolph Archer, was not a son of the Reverend George Robertson, as stated in the published pedigree. He was the James Robertson (b. 1751, d. 1828) called "Sr." and "Capt.," who was son of James Robertson (d. 1757) and grandson of the Reverend Mr. Robertson. The children of their marriage were the identical ones named in that pedigree as the

children of James Robertson, the third son of the cleric.200

So here again, it is clear that that pedigree in stating that it was giving the marriage and children of James Robertson, son of the cleric, was in fact giving the marriage and children of the James Robertson who was the cleric's grandson,—another evidence that a generation was missed.

There are two other James Robertsons named in the Times Dispatch genealogy who are not only mislocated in that pedigree but about whose identity some difference of opinion also has arisen among members of the Robertson line. An effort will

now be made to clarify this confusion.

First, there is the James Robertson who, according to that genealogy, was the son of George Robertson II and grandson of the Reverend George Robertson. It stated that this James Robertson (b. 1751), lived at Oak Grove Island, Amelia County, Virginia; married his cousin Martha Field Archer (b. 1756, d. 1812 or 1814) of Bermuda Hundred; and that he died in 1822 leaving three sons and five daughters: George Q. (b. 1784), John Alexander (b. 1795), James William (b. 1797), Elizabeth Archer, Nancy (Anne), Madeline, Caroline (d. y.) and Frances who married Benjamin Schenck and died without issue.²⁰¹

The information given, in the main, is correct with this exception: this James Robertson was the great-grandson—not grandson—of the Reverend George Robertson, his father being George Robertson III and his grandfather being James Robertson (d. 1757). His manor was Goose Island (Oak Grove being probably a companion name). His will dated in 1810 and probated in 1822 (Amel. W. B. 8 p. 341) identifies his children, save

one, as given in the published pedigree.202

Some members of this Robertson family claim that it was this James Robertson who was Virginia State Senator for several terms. But other members insist, and it seems on much better authority, that it was the James Robertson to be next considered who was so honored.²⁰³

Secondly, there is the James Robertson who, according to the same genealogy, was the son of James Robertson, who was

the son of the Reverend George Robertson. It stated that this James Robertson was (Virginia) State Senator 1816-1822; and later removed to Louisville, Kentucky; that he married (1st) his cousin Mary Eppes, daughter of John Robertson and had John Thompson and Algernon Sidney; and that he married (2nd) a Miss Poindexter and had Mary Eppes who married Thomas (W. R. J.: see p. 30) Dunn of Amelia County, Virginia. 204

Here again, the information given, although incomplete, is accurate except in this particular: this James Robertson called variously "Col.," "Jr." and "III" was the great-grandson-not grandson-of the Reverend George Robertson. His father was James Robertson II (b. 1751, d. 1828), called "Sr." and "Capt.,"205 and his grandfather was James Robertson I (d.

1757).206

This James Robertson's home, called "Clifton" was on the Genito Road in Amelia County; hence this particular branch of the family is sometimes designated as the "Clifton" Robertsons.207 He was married twice: (1st) on November 1, 1798 to his cousin Mary Eppes Robertson²⁰⁸ by whom he had John Thompson and Algernon Sydney; and (2nd) on November 23, 1823 Frances Lightfoot Poindexter (b. October 12, 1803), 209 by whom he had James Poindexter and Mary Eppes who married William Ransom Johnson Dunn.

Col. James Robertson III was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1807 through 1815 and a member of the Virginia State Senate from 1816 through 1822.210 signed the office of Senator and was elected Register of the Land Office.²¹¹ He was also a member of the Petersburg, Virginia Common Council from 1826 to December 14, 1829 when he resigned. Thereafter, he removed to Louisville, Kentucky, practicing law, and died there in 1840.²¹²

(4) The Times Dispatch genealogy fails to show the marriage of Elizabeth, daughter of the Reverend George Robertson. She married — Herbert, which marriage is inferred from the power of attorney executed July 3, 1752 by one John Herbert to his two uncles, John and James Robertson.²¹³ Assuming that John Herbert was at least 21 years old when he executed this instrument, he could not have been born later than 1731. And assuming further that his mother was at least 20 years of age at his birth, she could not have been born later than 1711 and probably earlier.214

Elizabeth Robertson, daughter of the Reverend George Robertson, has been confused by the compiler of the Robertson "Tree" (of which the writer has a photostat) with the Elizabeth Robertson (b. 1757), daughter of James Robertson and granddaughter of the Reverend Mr. Robertson. The granddaughter Elizabeth Robertson married Thomas Comer May 23, 1783.215

Members of this Robertson family have discovered other errors in the Times Dispatch "Robertson" genealogy, but the correction of such further errors will not be undertaken here.

The old Robertson home, a pretentious structure for that day and time, noted for its massive chimney, erected on the bank of Swift Creek, most probably by one of the sons of the Reverend George Robertson, stood for a long time but is not standing now.²¹⁶ There are many descendants of this hardy pioneer of the Episcopal Church in colonial Virginia scattered throughout the country. It is regrettable that some member of this prominent family has not heretofore compiled and published a corrected genealogy and removed the many uncertainties which plague those who seek to untangle the misstatements which have been made as to the several "Georges," "Johns" and "James" Robertsons, and unravel the many complicated relationships among them and their numerous descendants.

Another interesting enigma, which has a bearing upon the proper order of births of the sons of the Reverend George Robertson, is: how did the Robertson homestead "Picketts" descend after the death of the Reverend George Robertson? Some say it was inherited by the cleric's son John and passed under his will, while others contend it passed to the other son, James.

and was disposed of by his will.

Previously, in this article, the devolution of this homestead. urged by Mr. James A. Groves, viz., that it was devised by the cleric in his lost will to his son James and then deised by James in his will (page 23, note 165); and the devolution urged by Mrs. Ann Mays Miller, viz., that it was inherited by the son John from his brother George and then was devised by John in his will (page 27, note 106) have been stated. But it is possible that neither Mr. Groves nor Mrs. Miller was familiar with the records which rather positively indicate that "Picketts," after being acquired by the cleric's son James, either by devise from his father or by inheritance from his brother George II. passed under his (James') will. The author will not undertake to decide the question at issue, viz., which of the brothers, John or James, acquired title to "Picketts," but the records supporting the two claims will be stated so that any one interested may draw his or her own conclusion.

The deed from the Reverend George Robertson to his son George, Jr., conveyed two tracts: (a) the land on which the son George lived called the "Quarter" on the Appomattox River in Henrico (now Chesterfield) County containing 996 acres purchased from Col. William Byrd except 35 acres bought of Richard Herbert and (b) 1200 acres in Amelia County on the Appomattox above Flat Creek. It seems now to be generally

accepted that "Picketts" was the tract first described.

George Robertson, Jr., died unmarried and intestate in 1739 (page 23, note 161; page 27, note 184). Under the rule of primogeniture his lands were inherited by his elder surviving brother (page 23, note 164). But was his brother John or his brother James the elder?

Those who claim that John Robertson was the elder brother

and inherited "Picketts" rely on these records:

(1) The will of John Robertson probated in 1765 which contains this devise: "To my son Francis * * * the land whereon I now live beginning where the line crosses John Norris' spring branch, thence down that branch with meanders to the river, containing by estimation seven hundred acres" (page 27, note 186).

(2) The deed from Francis Robertson to Thomas Tabb

dated June 16, 1769 conveying the grantor's homeplace containing 700 acres, 665 of which the grantor's grandfather bought from William Byrd and 35 acres from Herbert (page 27, note 187).

The description in this deed clearly identifies the land as being part of the 996 acres conveyed by the Reverend George

Robertson to his son George, Jr., i. e., "Picketts."

Those who claim that James Robertson was the elder brother and acquired "Picketts" are bolstered by the fact that he was found in its possession afer his father's death (page 23,

note 162). They also rely on these records:

(1) The will of James Robertson dated November 4, 1757 devised his homestead to his widow, Mary, for life or during widowhood with remainder to his son George III (page 29, note 199). As the widow later married, on a date unascertained, the Reverend Thomas Wilkinson, the possession of the homeplace on her remarriage passed to her stepson, George Robertson III.

(2) Col. George Robertson III (d. 1797)²¹⁷ by his will gave to his wife, Michal Robertson, for life or during widowhood his

homeplace with remainder to his son George IV. 218

(3) George Robertson IV in 1790 leased the homestead to

John Brander. 219

(4) George Robertson IV died unmarried and without issue. He had a sister, Ann Robertson, who married William McCraw and this couple had a daughter, Harriet A., who married James A. Brander.

(5) On March 12, 1828 James A. Brander and his wife, Harriet A., executed a deed conveying, according to its recital, "'Picketts' heired by Harriet from uncle George Robertson."²²⁰

This recital identifies "Picketts" as the homestead of James Robertson and thus contradicts the claim that the homestead of his brother John Robertson was "Picketts" unless the homestead of each one was so called.

The recital also indicates that George Robertson IV had outlived his brothers and sisters and that at his death his niece,

Harriet A. Brander, was his sole heir.

The belief of Mr. James A. Groves has already been noted that the will of the Reverend George Robertson, if it could be found, would disclose that "Picketts" was devised by the cleric to his son James.²²¹

Here we will leave this interesting family. It is the hope of this writer that some of the errors which have developed relative to its early history have been corrected and that in what he has written no additional errors have been added to the confusion which already exists.

NOTES

15 Va., p. 91; 8 Va. p. 63; 32 Va. p. 54; Watson, p. 179; Clark, p. 236;

Goodwin Pt. II p. 302.

² The determination of who, of the Robertson name, was the first immigrant to Colonial Virginia is beyond the scope of this article. Another noted Robertson sire of early Virginia was "Scotch Bill," so called from his native Scotland. Members of the two lines, although recognizing them as distinct lines in America, claim that the Rev. George and "Scotch Bill" sprang from a common source in Scotland, being members of the Struan clan there; Mrs. Glen Miller 3/13 and 27 and 4/10/1944 and her "Robertson" notes; Jas. A. Groves 10/30/1942 and 4/29/1944. Slaughter p. 222. Another Robertson family in Colonial Virginia (or it may have been a branch of the "Scotch Bill" line) is the family which produced the three distinguished brothers, Governor Thomas Bolling Robertson of Louisiana, Governor Wyndham Robertson and Judge John Robertson both of Virginia. Still another ancestor seems to have been Rev. William Robertson. Although residing in the same section of Virginia, the descendants of these different ancestors never claimed kinship: Edward A. Wyatt 9/28/1944. See: 1 Mackenzie, pp. 443-6; 2 idem. pp. 548-554, 598; 1 Burke, p. 456; 34 Va., p. 78.

3 32 Va., p. 54 n. 19 (should be n. 16); Robertson "Tree" dated 7/14-

1928; Groves 4/29/1944.

4 McPherson p. 749.2 Letter dated June 10, 1943 (Wyatt correspondence p. 31) from The Library, University of Edinburgh stated that a George Robertson was graduated there April 3, 1684 but gives no details of his later history: See letter and Edward A. Wyatt's notes, p. 9. Was this Rev. George Robertson? A letter dated August 4, 1944 from St. Andrews College to the writer states that its matriculation records for that period are unprinted, but that if printed, they would give no information as to Rev. George Robertson. (Wyatt-Randolph correspondence p 31a,)

⁵ 8 Va., p. 63; Slaughter, p. 9; Clark, p. 236; Chamberlayne, p. —; Groves 4/29/1944 and his notes p. 1; McPherson p. 749.2; Coles Notes p. 14. Mrs. Glen Miller's notes and chart; Mays, p. 180; Mrs. Fannie Dunn

Baldwin 7/19/1944; Goodwin Pt. II p. 302; 3 A.C.A.G. p. 348.

6 1 Hen., p. 224; 1 Foote, p. 12; 2 Bruce (Inst.), pp. 294, 296-297; 2 Burk (Hist. Va.), p. 43; 55 Va. p. 45; 23 W.&M. (2) p. 249. 1 Meade, p. 448, seems to say Henrico County was established in 1632. Slaughter (p. 4) was inaccurate in stating that in 1618 the Governor and Council were instructed to divide the colony into counties. The instruction was to make the division into cities, buroughs, etc.: 1 Hen., p. 115.

to divide the colony into counties. The instruction was to make the division into cities, buroughs, etc.: 1 Hen., p. 115.

7 Tyler "Cradle," p. 118. See: 23 W. & M. (2d), p. 249. Charles City Corporation (Capitol Charles City at City Point) was so bounded as to include Bermuda Hundred on south side of the James and Farrar's Island on north side: Tyler "Cradle" pp. 117-118, 136. See: 55 Va., pp. 48, 147 and

map, p. 150.

8 Slaughter, pp. 4-5.

9 See map: 23 W. & M. (2d) p. 249.

10 8 Hen., p. 223; 23 W. & M. (2d.). p. 249; Slaughter, p. 10 n.

11 4 Hen., p. 266; 23 W. & M. (2d.), p. 250.

12 Robinson Virginia Counties, p. 208; 55 Va., P. 45; 23 W. & M. (2d.), p. 250; Tyler "Cradle," p. 119; Col. Va. Reg., p. 6. The Act establishing Chesterfield County, if in Hening's Statutes, is not indexed.

13 6 Hen., p. 254; 1 Bell, pp. 35-66; 23 W. & M. (2d.), p. 249.

- ¹⁴ 24 W. & M. p. 122; Slaughter, p. 2; 1 Bruce (Va.), p. 144; 2 Bruce (Inst.), pp. 297-298; 55 Va. p. 48.
- 15 Henrico Parish dates from 1611: Ves. Bk. & Reg. St. Pet. Par. p. 697. According to Moore (p. 6) Henrico Parish in 1634 included the present Chesterfield and Powhatan Counties south of the James and Goochland County on its north side. See: 55 Va. pp. 45-46.

16 55 Va. pp. 46, n. 14, 147-148.

17 Tyler "Cradle," pp. 29, 31, 63, 136; 1 Perry, p. 58; Ann. Hen. Par. p. 6; 55 Va. pp. 47-48.

18 Tyler "Cradle," pp. 31-33; 55 Va. pp. 47-48, 49-50.

19 23 W. & M. (2d.), pp. 256-7. Ann. Hen. Par. p. 5; 55 Va. pp. 147-148.

Sir Thomas Dale in 1612 also erected at Bermuda Hundred "a guest house for sick people," i.e., a hospital: 23 W. & M. (2d.), p. 261.
20 23 W. & M. (2d), pp. 256-7; 1 Perry p. 618.

21 Ann. Hen. Par. pp. 8-9; 55 Va. p. 147; 23 W. & M. (2d.) pp. 256-257.

22 23 W. & M. (2d.), pp. 256-7; 1 Meade, p. 439.

23 1 Hen., p. 251; Slaughter, p. 6; 23 W. & M. (2d.), p. 257; 55 Va. pp. 45, 148. "Robertson" article Rich. Times Dis. 12/8/1912. 1 Meade (p. 438) says

Bristol Parish was established in 1662; also p. 439.

24 23 W. & M. (2d.), pp. 249-50. In 1734 the west part of Bristol Parish was cut off and with a part added from St. Andrews Parish, Raleigh Parish was formed: 4 Hen., p. 266; 23 W. & M. (2d.), p. 250. The same year the part of Bristol Parish west of the Appomattox was added to a part of Henrico Parish and Dale Parish was created: 4 Hen., p. 443; 23 W. & M. (2d.) p. 250; 55 Va. pp. 52, 149; Ves. Bk. & Reg. Bris. Par. pp. 80-81; Ves. Bk. & Reg. St. Pet. Par. pp. 697-698. In 1742 a generous area of Bristol Parish was taken away and Bath Parish was set up: 5 Hen., p. 212; 23 W. & M. (2d.), p. 250. Soon it was discovered that this last reduction was unfair to Bristol Parish and a portion of Bath Parish was then returned to it: 5 Hen., p. 261; 23 W. & M. (2d.), p. 250. In 1749 the area comprising Dale Parish was taken from Henrico County and Chesterfield County was formed: 23 W. & M. (2d.) p. 250. In 1752, Bath Parish was cut off from Prince George County and Dinwiddie County was created but with a slight deviation in its eastern boundary: 6 Hen. p. 254; 23 W. & M. (2d.) p. 250. The major expansion of Bristol Parish occurred, most probably, subsequently to 1691: 23 W. & M. (2d.) p. 259.

25 55 Va. p. 45.

26 1 Meade, p. 439. 27 Slaughter, pp. 6-7.

28 4 Hen., p. 443; 1 Meade, p. 448: 55 Va. p. 46.

 Slaughter, p. 7n., 10.
 Hen. Rec. Vol. 1688-97, p. 185, 3 Val. pp. 1390-1391. Fort Henry was established after the Indian massacre of 1644 at the falls of the Appomattox for the defense of the English settlers south of the James River. Its site was north of the present intersection of West High and South Streets, Petersburg: Wyatt's "Along Petersburg Streets," pp. 21-22, and his "Old St. Paul's, etc." Petersburg Prog-Index, Oct. 6, 1935. There was an earlier Fort Henry at Hampton: 15 Va. p. 228; 1 Hen. p. 326.

31 Min. Hen. Co., July 1682, Apr. 1701, etc., p. 215, 1 Val., p. 276.

- 32 Hen. Co. Orph. Ct., Vol. 1677-92, p. 55, 3 Val., p. 1781.

- 33 Va. Land Off. Vol. 6, p. 655, 3 Val., p. 1468. 34 Va. Land Off. Vol. 7, p. 710, 3 Val. p. 1468. 35 Va. Land Off. Vol. 7, p. 278, 2 Val. p. 807. 36 Va. Land Off. Vol. 7, p. 250, 3 Val., p. 1803. 37 Hen. Rec. Vol. 1677-92, p. 448, 3 Val., p. 1375.

38 Va. Land Off. Vol. 8 p. 46, 3 Val., p. 1560.

39 Deed of confirmation by Henry Randolph III on Apr. 3, 1721 refers to deed stated in text: Hen. Co. orig. papers. 3 Val., p. 1374.

40 Hen. Rec. 1710-14, p. 121, 2 Val., p. 1085. 41 Hen. Rec. 1710-14, p. 122, 2 Val. p. 1085.

- 42 Hen. Rec. Vol. 1706-09, p. 49, 2 Val., p. 856. 43 Hen. Rec. Vol. 1719-24, p. 14, 2 Val., pp. 857-8.
- 44 Hen. Rec. Vol. 1725-37, p. 78, 3 Val., pp. 1416-1418.
- 45 3 Val., pp. 1434, 1766, 1794, 1795. 46 23 W. & M. (2d.) pp. 249, 266.

47 4 W. & M. pp. 125-126. 48 Hen. Rec. Vol. 1677-92, p. 462, 3 Val., p. 1376.

49 P. B. 8, p. 60, 3 Val., p. 1468, 50 Va. Land Off. Vol. 8, p. 35, 3 Val., p. 1559.

51 1 Hen. pp. 144, 155, 180, 434.

52 1 Hen. p. 122. See also: 1 Hen. p. 241.

53 1 Hen. p. 123. 54 1 Hen. p 124.

551 Hen. p. 424. By Act of 1657-8 colonial church government was largely divorced from the Church of England and vested in parishoners: 1 Hen. pp. 429-430 n.; p. 433.

56 1 Meade, p. 442. There is scant documentary evidence tending to

establish the existence of a church at Bermuda Hundred Point when Bristol Parish was created viz., the call for the "church yard" as a monument in the description of land there granted by a patent dated Jan. 30, 1664 which refers to a prior patent dated July 24, 1645; 23 W. & M. (2d.), p. 257 and map same page: 55 Va. pp. 148-149.

57 See: 55 Va. pp. 147-148. 58 23 W. & M. (2d.) p. 258.

59 2 Hen. p. 44.

60 23 W. & M. (2d.) p. 263.

61 1 Meade pp. 439-440; Slaughter p. 10, But see 23 W. & M. (2d.) p.

262; 55 Va. p. 149.

62 Slaughter p. 6. The map in 23 W. & M. (2d.) p. 257 shows City Point as the peninsula at the southwest confluence of the Appomattox with the James and across the Appomattox from Bermuda Hundred. It also shows Bermuda Hundred Point and Pace's Point on the west shore of the James in Bermuda Hundred.

68 Slaughter pp. 7 n., 10.

64 See: 55 Va. pp. 153-154. Bishop Meade said that during a repair of Wood's Church the figures 1707 were discovered on a beam: 1 Meade 462; 1 Perry p. 618. No doubt, this was the basis for Dr. Slaughter accepting 1707 as the year of its erection. But Mason suggests that the figures were incorrectly read and, in truth, were 1767 which date he seems to accept as

the date of its construction.

65 Slaughter and Mason agree as to the location of Wood's Church. But Mason says that Wood's Church could scarcely have been the "Mother Church" mentioned in the vestry order of Oct. 21, 1731 for this reason: that church, if then standing, could easily have been reached by the parish ferry which was operated continuously from 1720 to 1735 between the Ferry Chapel and Archer's Point. Therefore, he deduces that the ferry, mentioned in the order, was a special ferry operated at some other point: 23 W. & M. (2d.), pp. 262-3 and map, p. 249. Woods Church is now in Chesterfield County: Wyatt 6/29/45, p. 3.

66 Slaughter, p. 7 n. In substantiation of his conclusion, Dr. Slaughter stated that before the building of Blandford Church, a "Mother Church" is spoken of in connection with a family which had lived immemorially near the site of Wood's Church and that according to tradition, Wood's Church was named for Maj. Abram Wood, a distinguished resident of the neighborhood, who would have been very old in 1707. (Mr. Mason controverts this assumption: 55 Va. p. 153.) Dr. Slaughter suggests there may have been a prior Wood's Church, and if not that the church may have been named for a son of Maj. Wood. For sketch of Maj. Wood see: "First Explorations, etc." by Alvord & Bidgood; "Jones Family" by Fothergill, pp. 11, 303-311.

67 Mason gives the "Mother" Churches in this order: (1) City Church 1643-1723; (2) Jefferson's Church 1723-1735; (3) Brick Church on Well's Hill 1735-1789; 23 W. & M. (2d.) p. 263 n. 51.

68 23 W. & M. (2d.), pp. 258-9 and map p. 249. Dr. Tyler concluded that old Charles City became the present City Point and was known, for a time, as Charles City Point: "Cradle," pp. 111-118, 136. 1 Perry p. 617.

69 55 Va. pp. 154, 157-158.

70 23 W. & M. (2d.), pp. 260, 266 and map p. 249. Its site is believed to have been near the present Appomattox River Bridge and also the N. & W. R. R. station in Petersburg; Wyatt's "Along Petersburg's Streets", pp. 2-3 and letter 12-26-1944 p. 5.

71 Slaughter, p. 8; 1 Meade, p. 442; 4 W. & M. pp. 125-126. Rev. John Banister may have been the predecessor of Rev. Geo. Robertson: Wyatt 12/26/44, pp. 3-4. He baptized Henry Randolph (III) at Appotmattox Jany. 5, 1689; 4 W. & M. p. 126.

72 1 McIlwaine pp. 309-310.

73 Slaughter, p. 9; 32 Va. p. 54 n. (19); Times Dis. 12/8/1912; Groves notes p. 1.

74 Moore p. 9.

75 1 Meade, p. 439.

76 Times Dis. 12/8/1912; Groves notes p. 1 and letter 8/14/1942 and 4/29/1944. Wyatt "Along Petersburg Streets" p. 72. The original name

may have been "Pucketts": Wyatt 1/11/1945. The photo in 32 Va. p. 55 is of "Pucketts."

77 A tythable was every male 16 years and upward, and all Negro, mulatto and Indian women of the same age (not being free) save those being excused by the vestry as charity cases, of whom there were 848 in the Parish in 1723: Slaughter pp. 9 and 10. In 1702 there were only 518 tithes: 1 Va. p. 374.

78 23 W. & M. (2d.), p. 263.

79 Hen. Rec. Vol. 1710-14, p. 286, 3 Val. p. 1406. This donor most probably was Henry Randolph III, grandson of Henry Randolph I, and not (as stated in 45 Va. p. 84) Henry Randolph, son of Col. William Randolph of Turkey Island: Dr. Clayton Torrence 3/3/1942. He was present at the first Vestry meeting held Oct. 30, 1720: Slaughter pp. 10, 121. The last Vestry meeting he attended was June 12, 1726: Chamberlayne p. 28.

80 Slaughter, p. 9; 23 W. & M. (2d.), pp. 260, 263.

81 Slaughter p. 10; 4 Hen. p. 95.

82 23 W. & M. (2d.) pp. 260-263; 55 Va. pp. 52, 149. Jefferson Church was cut off with Dale Parish in 1735 and thus lost to Bristol Parish: 23 W. & M. (2d.) p. 264. Slaughter p. 10. Bishop Meade says it was only a chapel: Vol. 1 p. 440.

83 Slaughter p. 9; Rich. Times Dis. 12/8/1912; Wyatt "Along Peters-

burg Streets" p. 72.

84 23 W. & M. (2d.) p. 263 and n. 51, Mr. Mason reads Mr. Robertson's report to the Bishop as establishing that Wood's Church did not exist as a church in 1724 and he says the Vestry records after that date contain no hint of its construction: Idem p. 263.

85 1 Hen. pp. 240, 241, 243; Slaughter p. 121.

86 1 Hen. pp. 241-243.

87 Stanard's Hen. N. B. p. 199, 49 Va. p. 174 n.

88 1 Hen. pp. 426, 497; 3 Hen. p. 223; Slaughter p. 8; Tyler "Cradle" p. 119.

89 1 Hen. p. 424; Slaughter p. 8. This Court was held from 1655 to 1673 as evidenced by the order of the County Court directing Henry Randolph II, its Clerk, to take possession of its records: See n. 30.

- Slaughter p. 10; 1 Meade pp. 439, 444.
 Groves notes p. 1; Rich. Times Dis. 12/8/1912. Bishop Meade says (Vol. 1, p. 442) Rev. George Robertson died in 1740. It has been said he was in charge of Henrico Parish in 1695: Ann. Hen. Par. p. 9.
- 92 Slaughter p. 9; 1 Meade p. 439. For the minister's report for Henrico Parish, see: Ann. Hen. Par. pp. 9-10.
 93 Wyatt "St. Paul's etc." Petersburg Prog-Index 10/6/1935.

94 Cal. Va. State Papers Vol. 1, pp. 49-50; Wyatt "St. Paul's, etc."

Petersburg Prog-Index 10/6/1935; Goodwin Pt. II p. 302.

95 1 Meade pp. 439-440; Slaughter pp. 9 and 21; Rich. Times Dis. 12/8/1912; Wyatt "Along Petersburg Streets" p. 72.

96 1 Meade p. 440 n.; Slaughter p. 9. 97 2 Va. pp. 5, 12; 48 Va. pp. 145, 150.

98 55 Va. p. 149.

99 Slaughter pp. 11-12; 1 Meade p. 440; 23 W. & M. (2d.) pp. 266-267.

100 1 Meade pp. 439, 440-441; Slaughter p. 13; 23 W. & M. (2d.) pp. 264-265 and map p. 249; Wyatt "St. Paul's, etc." Petersburg Prog-Index Oct 6. 1935. Meade says the site was on Will's Hill-manifestly a typographical error.

101 23 W. & M. (2d.) p. 264; Wyatt "St. Paul's, etc." Petersburg Prog-Index Oct. 6, 1935. Slaughter (p. 13) says the contract price was 584 pounds current money of Virginia.

1021 Meade p. 441; 23 W. & M. (2d.) p. 264.

103 23 W. & M. (2d.) pp. 264-265; Wyatt "Along Petersburg Streets" p. 3. Pictures of the original Blandford Church are in 1 Meade p. 444 and Wyatt's "St. Paul's, etc." Petersburg Prog-Index Oct. 6, 1935; and as it now is in 23 W. & M. (2d.) p. 265. 1 Perry pp. 619-620.

104 Wyatt 6/29/1945.

105 Slaughter pp. 14-15; 4 Hen. p. 525; 23 W. & M. (2d.) p. 264.

106 1 Meade p. 439; Rich. Times Dis. Dec. 8, 1912.

1071 Meade p. 441.

108 1 Hening p. 204.

109 8 Va. p. 49.

110 Col. Byrd sometimes referred to him as "Parson Robinson" and sometimes as "Mr. Robinson." As there were other "Robertsons" and "Robinsons" in that part of Virginia at the time, it is impossible frequently to identify the individual referred to: W. & T. p. 9, n. 5.

111 The original notes were in short-hand: W. & T. pp. VII-VIII.

112 The rector of Westover Parish for 24 years was the Rev. Charles Anderson whose will was dated 1712 and probated 1718: 4 W. & M. p. 127.

113 W. & T. p. 126 and n. 1. 114 W. & T. p. 165. 115 W. & T. p. 165. 116 W. & T. p. 226.

117 W. & T. pp. 409-411. 118 W. & T. p. 428. 119 4 W. & M. p. 126; Clark p. 203.

- 120 Va. Land Pat. Book 9, p. 540; Watson p. 138; Groves notes pp. 1, 2 and 13. In 1705 the 4,000 acres were divided and Rev. George Robertson received his share: abstracts 1705, p. 180; Mrs. Glen Miller's Robertson
 - 121 1 C. pp. 197, 199, 207,

122 32 Va. p. 7.

123 33 Va. p. 387 (see page 296 for date of Council meeting); Goodwin

pt. 11 p. 302.

124 Hen. D. & W. B. 1725-37 p. 514; 5 Va. p. 91; 8 Va. p. 63; Rich. Times Dis. 12/8/1912; Groves notes pp. 3 and 9 and letters 9/25 and 10/26/1942; Watson p. 114.

125 Nimmo Notes Vol. 3 p. 106, Wyatt's notes p. 19.

126 32 Va. p. 54.

127 See notes 121 and 124.

- 128 See; any standard dictionary; 1 McIlwaine pp. 309-310; Wyatt 12-26-1944 (p. 38).
- 129 Rich. Times Dis. 12/8/1912. 5 Va. p. 91; 8 Va. p. 63, which note is also assumed to be by Mr. Stanard.

130 Hen. O. B. 1737-46 p. 107; Groves notes p. 3.

131 Hen. O. B. 1737-46 pp. 94 and 143; Groves letters 9/25 and 10/26/1942 and his notes p. 3; Wm. J. Van Schreeven 12/10/1947.

132 See also: 32 Va. p. 54 n. 19 should be "16": see 32 Va. p. 7. 133 Rich, Times Dis. 12/8/1912; Robertson "Tree" says she was Mary

and d. 1727 (?); Mrs. Charles A. Dempsey 3/5/1944. 134 See note 133.

135 Rev. Clayton Torrence "Moseley" research furnished by Mrs. Glen Miller 3/5/1945.

136 Rev. Clayton Torrence 6/6/1944. James A. Groves (4/29/1944) in commenting on this deed supposedly discovered by Mr. Torrence, offers this explanation: the Rev. George Robertson had grandchildren who were the issue of the two marriages of his son James Robertson. These grandchildren had the same names as had the children of Rev. Robertson, viz., George, John, James and Elizabeth. But the grandchild George was halfbrother to the grandchildren James. John and Elizabeth and certain records of the time dealing with these grandchildren recited they were of half blood. Hence, it was possible for Mr. Torrence to have seen the records pertaining to the grandchildren and to have concluded they referred to the children of the Rev. George Robertson. See: note by Miss Page Williams p. 25.

137 Rich. Times Dis. 12/8/1912; 32 Va. p. 54 n. 19; Robertson "Tree"

7/-/1928; Mrs. Chas. A. Dempsey 3/5/1944.

138 James A. Groves 4/27/1944 and his Eppes chart. Dr. Joseph Asbury Groves first thought that a Mary Eppes, daughter of Col. Peter Eppes and Mary Poythress, his wife, married, about 1730 Col. Joseph Royall. But Mr. James A. Groves now believes his father was confused as to this Mary Eppes: see his letters 4/29/1944 and 3/5/1945.

139 This Mary Eppes married first Lt. Col. John Hardyman (who died before 1713) by whom she had before she was 17 (if the date of her second marriage is correct) five children: James A. Groves 4/27/1944 and

his Eppes chart.

140 James A. Groves 4/27/1944 and his "Royall" chart; Col. Joseph Royal must not be confused with Joseph Royall (1600-1658) mentioned in 8 Va. p. 75. Col. Joseph Royall may have married (2nd) between 1677 and 1681-2 Sarah, widow of George Archer (d. 1677): 32 Va. pp. 411-412; 33 Va. p. 421.

141 Henrico Records (1681-1698) identify this Mary Eppes as the wife of Joseph Royall and the Eppes wills show her parentage. After his death it is not known if she remarried; neither is her death date known:

32 Va. p. 411; 33 Va. p. 103. Robertson "Tree" 7/-/1928.

142 Clark pp. 158, 234. Groves 9/24/1942, 4/27/1944 and his "Royall" chart. The Rev. Mr. Wilkinson resigned his charge in Bristol Parish in Nov. 1763; was rector of Christ Church near Crews in Nottoway Co. from 1773; and died 1782. Slaughter p. 20; 1 Meade p. 443. McPherson p. 749.2 but she omits the third marriage to Rev. Thos. Wilkinson.

143 Hen. O. B. p. 111; 33 Va. pp. 103, 105; Ches. W. B. 1, p. 5; Watson p. 120; Groves 5/27 and 6/1/1944 and his "Royall" chart.

144 Ches. W. B. 1 p. 272; Groves notes p. 5 and letters 9/24 and 10-16/1942 and 5/27 and 6/1/1944; also 4/3/1944 and his "Robertson" chart 4/27/1944; Clark, p. 234; Watson p. 115.

145 Not. D. B. 1 p. 166; Watson p. 117; Groves notes pp. 7-8, 9 and

letter 9/24/1942.

- 146 Not. D. B. 1 p. -; Watson p. 117; Clark p. 158. 147 Not. D. B. 2 p. 420; Watson p. 117; Clark p. 225.
- 148 Not. Co. Ct. Order Book 3, p. -; Watson p. 81. 149 Not. W. B. 2, p. 217; Watson pp. 115, 117-118; Clark pp. 115, 158, 234-236; Wyatt's notes pp. 5-6; Cole's notes pp. 14, 15; Mrs. Fannie Dunn Baldwin's "Archer" chart p. 2; Groves' notes p. 9; letters 8/14/1942 and 5/27/1944 and his "Archer" chart 11/6/1942; Supra pp. 21 and 25. After Rev. Thomas Wilkinson's death in 1784, his widow must have resumed the name "Robertson" because she then executed several deeds and her will over that name: supra p. 21.

150 Groves 9/24/1942.

- 151 Groves 10/16/1942. Rev. Thomas Wilkinson was Rector of Bristol Parish 1754-63 and of Christ's Church Nottoway 1773-84 when he died: Slaughter p. 20. 1 Meade p. 443 says he resigned his Bristol Parish cure
- 152 See note 148. The suit of Robertson vs. Robertson also sets out Mary Epes-Royall-Robertson-Wilkinson's children and grandchildren: Watson p. 81.
- 153 Hen. D. & W. B. 1725-37, p. 248; Clark p. 119; Groves 4/3/1944 and notes pp. 1 and 3; McPherson p. 749.2; Mrs. Glenn Miller's "Robertson" notes; Mrs. Fannie Dunn Baldwin's "Robertson" and "Worsham" notes. The will of John Worsham, Jr., dated 11/25/1768 also names his sister "Mary Robertson": James J. Worsham 3/19/1939. His notes p. 2 state "Mary Worsham m. Rev. Robertson." Cole's notes pp. 14-15.

154 Groves 9/24 and 25 and 10/16/1942; 10/9/1943.

155 Supra pp. 18 and 27; Groves 5/27/1944.

156 Mention of Mary Worsham Robertson in the will of John Worsham, Jr., made in 1768 establishes that she survived Rev. George Robertson. Mention of her in John Worsham, Sr.'s will made in 1729 also as "Mary Robertson" is rather persuasive that she was the cleric's only wife and the mother of all his children.

157 Groves 4/3/1944.

- 158 Groves 10/16/1942 and 4/3/1944.
- 159 Groves 11/6/1943; Rich. Times Dis. 12/18-1912.

160 See note 124. Groves 5/27/1944.

161 See p. 23 Groves' notes p. 3. Bishop Meade gives the death year of the cleric as 1740: Vol. 1, p. 442. Mr. Groves gave both years 11/6/1943 and 5/27/1944.

162 Groves 11/6/1943.

163 Groves 11/6/1943 and 5/27/1944.

164 Davis v. Rowe 6 Randolph (Va.) Repts. p. 355.

165 Groves 11/6/1943 and 5/27/1944.

166 See: p 37 n. 186.

167 Groves 9/14/1942. There was still another George Robertson (d.

1775, Ches. W. B. 3 p. 394); son of John Robertson and grandson of Rev. George Robertson: Groves 10/16/1942, and 11/6/1943.

168 Ches. W. B. 1 pp. 272, 482-3; Watson p. 115.

- 169 This John Robertson's will is dated 10/19/1765 (Ches. W. B. 1 p. 444); inventory on his estate was dated 6/6/1766 (Ches. W. B. 2, p. 187); somewhere between those dates he died: Groves notes p. 6 and letter 10/20/43.
- 170 Mrs. Fannie Dunn Baldwin 7/31/1944 quoting from letter W. G. Stanard to her 9/6/1932.
- 171 The Robertson "Tree" says Rev. George Robertson's first wife died in 1727 but the authority for this date is not known. It should not be accepted without further verification.

172 Wyatt 9/28/1944.

173 See: p. 28.

174 Mrs. Fannie Dunn Baldwin's "Robertson" line is: (1) Rev. George Robertson; (2) James Robertson I (d. 1757; m. (1st) Martha Field Archer and (2nd) Mary Eppes); (3) James Robertson II called "Sr." d. 1828; m. Ann Archer); (4) Col. James Robertson III (called "Jr." d. 1840; Va. State Senator; m. (1st) his cousin, Mary Eppes Robertson; (2nd) Frances Lightfoot Poindexter); (5) Mary Eppes Robertson (d. 1905; m. William Ransom Johnson Dunn).

175 Mrs. Fannie Dunn Baldwin 7/31 and 8/7/1944.

176 3 A. C. A. G. p. 548. The error in Dr. Jos. Asbury Groves' data (3 A. C. A. G. p. 548) is manifest from this: he stated that Rev. George Robertson d. 1739 and that his son "Capt." James Robertson was born ca 1740, i. e., posthumously,—an impossibility as the cleric named his son

James as one executor: supra p. 24.

177 Groves 8/14 (p. 5), 7/28 and 9/24/1942 and 10/9/1943; 33 Va. pp. 105 (7), 210 (7); Cole's notes pp. 14-15 George E. Robertson of Chesterfield Co., a contemporary of John Royall Robertson, also remembered Mary Eppes-Royall-Robertson-Wilkinson but he likewise seems to have fallen into the common error of confusing her identity: Watson p. 179. Supra, pp. 26-27.

178 Groves 9/24, 10/3 and 11 and 16/1942. The Groves family "Robertson" line of descent is: (1) Rev. George Robertson; (2) James Robertson (d. 1757); (3) James Robertson called "Sr." d. 1828): John Archer Robertson (d.—) married Elizabth Royall; (5) John Royall Robertson (d. 1884) married Eliza Edmunds Cocke; (6) Elizabeth Royall Robertson (d. 1900)

married Dr. Joseph Asbury Groves (d. 1923).

- 179 Groves 8/14 and 31 and 9/24/1942. The Robertson "Tree" also skipped the first generation. In 32 Va. p. 55 it is stated there is a MSS. genealogy of this Robertson family which this writer has not seen unless it be the Times Dis. Robertson article. This MSS genealogy is not with the VA. Hist. Soc.: Torrence 8/5/1948. A wealth of genealogical data, so far unpublished was accumulated on his wife's branch of the Robertson family by Dr. Joseph Asbury Groves (1830-1923) who married Elizabeth Royall Robertson. The information was furnished in part by his wife's maternal grandparents. John Royall Robertson (1796-1884) and his wife, Eliza Edmunds Cocke (1808-1885) and was partly obtained from County, Church and published records which Dr. Groves secured from Virginia and which have been preserved and supplemented by his son, Mr. James Alston Groves of Atlanta, Ga. (now deceased).
 - 180 Groves 3/20/1944 and his Roberston chart 11/6/1943.
- 181 Mrs. Miller's "Robertson" line is: (1) Rev. George Robertson: (2) John Robertson who married Sara—; (3) James Robertson (d. 1778) married Lucretia Townes; (4) Mary Ann Robertson (d.—) married Joseph Moseley; (5) Mathew Francis Moseley (d. 1870) married Mary Ann Brown; (6) Catherine Elvira Moseley (d. 1894) married Samuel E. Mays; (7) Mathew (James) Francis Mays (d. 1938) married Maria Eliza Walton.

182 Mrs. Glen E. Miller 4/10/1944.

183 Hen. Co. Rec. Vol. 1725-37 p. 514; Watson pp. 114, 180; 5 Va. p. 91; 8 Va. p. 63; Groves' notes p. 3 and letter 11/6/1943.

184 See: p. 18 n. 130.

185 Supra p. 23. Mrs. Glen Miller 4/10/1944 p. 2. The supposition stated in the text is strongly persuasive that George Robertson, Jr., did not

marry. Otherwise, his lands on his death would most likely have passed

to his widow and heirs, if any, by will or by the intestate laws.

186 Ches. W. B. 1, p. 444; Watson p. 116. This will also devised to the testator's sons William and George land in Amelia Co. at the mouth of Flat Creek; named his daughters Martha, Mary Walke, Mary Robertson; grandsons John (son of John) and John Walke; wife Sarah. Inventory Ches. W. B. 2, p. 187.

187 Ches. Rec. Bk. 6 p. 187; Mrs. Anne Mays Miller 3/5/1945. 188 Mrs. Glenn Miller 9/10/1944 p. 2; Hen. O. B. 1737-46 p. 143.

189 See p. 24.

190 The present writer is preparing a genealogy of the descendants of Henry Randolph I (1620-1673) of Virginia, to which line Sarah Randolph who married John Archer belongs. His investigation fails to show that

this couple ever had a child named Martha Field Archer.

191 Col. George Robertson's will was dated 1795, Executors James Robertson and James Brander: Watson pp. 114, 180. His obituary fixes his death on Sept. 13, 1797: Petersburg Intelligencer Sept. 15, 1797. Subsequent issues of the same paper contain notices signed by the named ex-

ecutors: Wyatt 6/29/1945, p. 3.

192 Mr. Stanard in his Archer genealogy states that Field Archer m. Elizabeth -If her identity has not been confused, the will of this Elizabeth Archer dated 1785 is in Ches. W. B. 4 p. 1: Watson pp. 85-86. In this will she named among other granddaughters Elizabeth Osborne Dowman and Elizabeth Osborne Moseley, a persuasive circumstance that her maiden name was Elizabeth Osborne. Mr. James A. Groves in his Archer chart and letter of Oct. 26, 1942 and letter of 11/12/1942 suggested that Peter Archer (d. 1784) married Elizabeth Osborne (d. 1785).

193 This George Robertson's will is in Ches. W. B. 5 p. — (1795); Groves 8/31 and 10/16/1942; 11/6/1943. Watson pp. 114-115, 180; Wyatt

9/28/1944, p. 10.

194 See: No. 132 Robertson line and No. 1335 Archer line. To minimize confusion, two other George Robertsons should be identified: (a) George Robertson (d. 1775), son of John Robertson (grandson of Rev. George Robertson) m. Sarah -—. His will named his children, viz.: 1) James; 2) George; 3) Lodowick; 4) Phebe; 5) Margaret; 6) Jane; 7) , a daughter: Ches. W. B. 3, p. 394; Watson p. 114; James A. Groves 10/16/1942; (b) the George Robertson and wife, Betsy, of Pittsylvania who, in 1792, deeded to John Robertson of Nottoway land on Mailory's Creek seems to have been a different Robertson family: N. D. B. 1 p. 328; Watson p. 114, John M. Harrison 9/17/1945.

195 See note 186.

196 33 Va. pp. 104, 107, 423; 16 W. & M. p. 281.

197 Groves' Robertson Chart and letter 6/1/1944; Watson pp. 179-180; 16 W. & M. p. 281.

198 Note in 32 Va. p. 54 states this James Robertson married some lady unknown.

199 Groves' Robertson Chart; see note 144. Wyatt's notes p. 2; W. & T. pp. 437 & n., 438, 439, 446. This James Robertson was of Dale Parish, Chesterfield Co.: Ches. W. B. 1 pp. 272, 482-3; Watson p. 115.

200 Amel. W. B. 11 p. 301; Watson pp. 115-116; Wvatt pp. 2, 5-6; Archer Chart p. 2; Fannie Dunn Baldwin 7/31/1944; No. 3115 Randolph line. Mc-Pherson p. 749.2 gives the birth year 1742 of this James Robertson who m. Ann Archer.

201 Robertson "Tree"; Wyatt 6/29/45 p. 3. The rame "Schuret" as given in the Times Dis. Robertson genealogy was evidently a misprint.

202 Watson pp. 115, 180; Wyatt p. 2. Randolph line No. 31113.

203 Wyatt 9/28/1944. "James Robertson Sr. (or II) died 1828 at the age of 77. In his will probated in Amelia Co. he left among others a son James Robertson, Jr., who was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates 1807-1815 for Amelia Co., State Senator 1816-1822 (Register Virginia Assembly, by Swem & Williams, compiled from original records; Watson's Notes on Southside Va. p. 180). James Robertson, Jr. could not have held office in 1807 had he been the son of James and Martha Field (Archer) Robertson of Amelia, married in 1788, so that strengthens the argument that the James Robertson who married in 1798 was the same James Robertson Jr. who was a member of the House of Delegates in 1807, and we may definitely say that James Robertson Jr. of Amelia was the son of James Robertson and Anne Archer": Miss Page Williams "Robertson Family," loaned by Fannie Dunn Baldwin 7/31/1944.

204 Wyatt 6/29/1945 p. 3.

205 Obituary Rich. Enq. 9/26/1828; Amel. W. B. 11, p. 301.

206 Clark p. 225; Wyatt 9/28/1944, and his notes pp. 5-6; Miss Page Williams, Note 203; Amel. D. B. 24, p. 221.

 207 Wyatt 9/28/1944, and his notes pp. 2 and 5.
 208 Crozier p. 70; James A. Groves' Marriage Recs. 6/1/1944; Marr. Bond Amel. Co. 10/22/1798. Her obituary Rich, Eng. 5/1/1818; Wyatt notes

209 This marriage date was taken from Dunn family Bible in possession of Mrs. Fannie Dunn Baldwin; Clark p. 225.

210 Swem & Williams Reg. Va. Assem. p. 423.

211 Rich.-Times Dis. 1/8/1923-100 Years Ago (1823): "Yesterday both branches of the Legislature proceeded by joint ballot to the election of Register of the Land Office. Wm. G. Pendleton, the late incumbent, James Robertson Jr. of Amelia, a Senator, and James Miller, a Clerk in the Register's office were nominated. James Robertson Jr. was elected on the third ballot by the majority of one vote": Wyatt notes p. 8.

212 Wyatt 9/28/1944 and notes pp. 2, 6-7. Judge Watson is in error

as to this person: Watson p. 180.

213 Ches. D. B. 1, p. 334; Groves' notes, p. 4.

214 Groves 4/3/1944.

215 Groves' Robertson Chart and letter 5/27/1944; Watson p. 81; Clark pp. 158, 236; Cole's notes p. 14.

216 Watson p. 179; Groves 9/16 and 10/16/1942; Wyatt notes p. 10. A picture of this house is in 32 Va. p. 55 and in Stanard's Col. Va., etc., p. 56.

217 See n. 191; p. 28.

218 Will of Michal Robertson is in Watson p. 118. In his letter of Oct. 16, 1942 James A. Groves first gave the devolution of the Robertson homeplace thus: from Rev. George Robertson to his son, James (d. 1757); to his son, George III (d. 1795); to his son, George IV. But in his letter of Nov. 6, 1943 he retracted the above and gave the devolution thus: Rev. George Robertson (1739); James (1757); George (1795); James 1751-1828), -still incorrect.

219 Ches. D. B. 12, p. —, Watson p. 114. 220 Ches. W. B. 5, p. —, Watson pp. 114-115, 180; Nimmo notes Vol. 2, p. 167, Wyatt notes p. 18 and his letter 12/1/1945. James A. Groves in his letter of Nov. 6, 1943 indulges in these assumptions: that George Robertson IV died unm. before he came into the possession of "Picketts" and that after his death his estate was divided by lot and "Picketts" fell to his brother, James Robertson (1751-1828) of Goose Island who gave it to his son, James Robertson, of Chesterfield. But Mr. Groves evidently was ignorant of the records set out in the text which seem to disprove his assumptions.

221 Supra. p. 23.

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