

Ancestral Glimpses » Alexander Ross (1682-1748)

genealogy online - Family trees

Personal data Alexander Ross

- He was born in the year **1682** in **Carrickfergus, NORTHERN IRELAND**.
- He died on **December 1, 1748** in Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia, British America, he was **66 years old**.
- He is buried December 1748 in Hopewell MH, Frederick, Virginia Colony, Great Britain.
- **Will on December 7, 1748** near Frederick County, Virginia, British America.

The will of **Alexander Ross** is recorded in **Frederick County Will Book 1**, page 226, is dated the "**24th of ye 8th month, 1748**," and was probated **December 7, 1748**. He therefore died sometime after August 24, and before **December 7, 1748**, aged about 66 years. His will was witnessed by James Wright Senr., Robert Hutchings, and Lydia Barrett, and makes **bequests to his wife, Catherine**, his sons **David, John, and George**, and his daughters **Mary Litler, Albena Thomas, Lydia Day, and Catherine Ross**, and requests that his slaves not be sold, but retained in the family.

Alexander and his son David died within days (or weeks) of each other as both of their wills were proved in Frederick County Court on **7 December 1748**. Alexander left all of his remaining land to be divided among his three sons, John, George and David Ross.

Some epidemic was doubtless raging in the community at that time, as his sons **David and John**, his son-in-law **John Littler**, his wife **Catherine**, and several of his neighbors died within a few weeks.

Household of Alexander Ross

He married **Catherine Chambers** ^{25 March} about 1706 at Chichester County, PA

Children:

1. **Albenah Ross** ± 1705-> 1750
2. **Mary Ross** 1706-< 1771
3. **Lydia Ross** 1708-> 1765
4. **David Ross** ± 1710-< 1748

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* 5. John Ross 1713± 1748

6, George Ross ± 1718-< 1781

7. Catherine Hardwick Ross ± 1720-1816

Notes about Alexander Ross

Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s [database online], Provo, UT: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2005

Name: Alexander Ross **Year:** 1693 **Age:** 11 **Place:** Pennsylvania

Source Publication Code: 6185

Primary Immigrant: Ross, Alexander

Annotation: Date and place of transportation or sale; a few are date and port of arrival. Some data extracted from *New Jersey Archives, 1st Series*, vol. 11:88.

Source Bibliography: Nicholson, Mary Ann. "Stolen Children." In *The Scottish Genealogist*, Edinburgh, vol. 29:1 (Mar. 1982), pp. 11-15. Page: 15

(2) O'Dell, Cecil, *Pioneers of Old Frederick County, Virginia*, Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1995, pp. 191-193:

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Alexander Ross (b. 1682 c.) of Chester County, Pennsylvania md. Katherine Chambers of Chichester Township, Chester County early in 1706. They had three sons: John md. Lydia Hollingsworth dau. of Stephen, David apparently never md. and George md. Frances ? and their four daus. were Albenah (md. Evan Thomas Jr.), Mary (md. John Littler, son of Samuel), Katherine (md. Robert Stewart) and Lydia (md. John Day of Nottingham on 21 Jun 1733 at Nottingham, Chester County, Pennsylvania). . . .

Alexander was taxed from 1718-1730 in West Nottingham Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. He and Morgan Bryan petitioned the Council of the Colony of Virginia on 28 Oct 1730 that there were 100 families desirous of settling in Virginia and requested 100,000 acres on the west and north side of "Opeckon" to the North Mountain and along the River Cohongarooton (Potomac River). With the advice of the Council, the Governor gave permission to Ross and Bryan to take up the 100,000 acres; patents would be granted, providing that the 100 families were present and dwelling upon the land within two years.

Ross probably moved to Virginia soon after he received notification of the Council's action. He received his patent from the Colony on 12 Nov 1735 for 2,373 acres. The tract is located west of Clearbrook, Virginia on Braddocks Road, Frederick County Highway 672. Interstate Highway 81 crosses the east part of the tract, Frederick County Highway 671 runs along the north side and County Highway 661 runs along the east.

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On **20 Mar 1737-38**, Alexander and Catherine sold 396 acres of the patent land to John Nickline/Nickland for £12. John was deceased by **14 May 1751**, devising the plantation to his son Joseph Nicklin.

Alexander sold 336 acres to his son-in-law John Day (admitted to Orange County Court, **27 Apr 1738** by Alexander Ross for Deeds of Lease and Release, but not entered in the Orange County, Virginia Deed Books). **This tract was sold by Alexander Ross (son and heir at law to John Ross deceased, and grand-son of Alexander Ross (b. 1682 c.))**, to John Day, husband of Lydia Ross of Pennsylvania, on **2 Aug 1765** for £5. The 336 acres is located . . . south of County Highway 672. On **5 Aug 1765**, John and Lydia Day of Pennsylvania sold this land to Gabriel Jones for £250.

Alexander sold "212 acres by Deeds of Lease and Release **19th and 20th Apr 1738**, Recorded in the County of Orange" **to his son George**. (Deed is not in Orange County, Virginia Deed Books.) On **18 Mar 1774**, George and his wife Frances sold 10 acres and six poles of this tract to Samuel Littler for £20. George inherited 303 acres from his father Alexander which he sold on **22 Mar 1760** to Thomas Berry for £500. He sold 479 acres, "where Alexander now lives," to his nephew Alexander Ross on **18 Oct 1773** for £22, 10 shillings.

On **21 Oct 1773**, Alexander and his wife Anne Ross sold the 479 acres to John Reynolds of Monmouth County, New Jersey for £479. This land, containing 303 and 479 acres, is located . . . along County Road 672 north of John Day's land. George was deceased on **7 Aug 1781** when his will was proved in Frederick County Court, leaving his wife, Frances, the 150 acre plantation and at her decease, it would devolve to their two daus., Jane and Mary Ross.

On **14 May 1742**, **John Ross purchased 220 acres** (part of the 2,373-acre patent land) **from his father Alexander (b. 1682 c.)**. **John was deceased on 8 Aug 1749 when his wife Lydia Hollingsworth Ross was named guardian of Alexander Ross, orphan of John Ross**. On **14 Jan 1760**, **John's son Alexander sold the 220-acre tract to William Jollife Jr. for £120**.

Alexander (b. 1682 c.) sold a 214-acre section of patent land . . . to Joseph Bryan on **12 Apr 1744**.

David Ross died in Nov 1748, leaving his estate to be divided among all his brothers and sisters, with the exception of Lydia Day of Nottingham, Chester, PA **Alexander and his son David died within days (or weeks) of each other** as both of their wills were proved in Frederick County Court on **7 Dec 1748**. Alexander left all of his remaining land to be **divided among his three sons, John, George and David Ross**. **David's will was written 10 days after his father wrote his own will**.

(3) **Frederick County, Virginia, Hopewell Friends History** [database online], Orem, UT: Ancestry.com, 1997:

In the State Land Office at Richmond are to be found recorded in Book 16, pp. 315-415, inclusive, the patents issued to the settlers who came to the Shenandoah Valley under authority of the Orders in Council made to **Alexander Ross** and Morgan Bryan. # 6

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All bear date of **12 Nov 1735**, and recite that the grantee is one of the seventy families brought in by them, and excepting location and acreage, are alike in wording and conditions, and are signed by William Gooch, Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony at that time. . . .

These patents were issued under the seal of the colony and were grants from the Crown, free of any obligation of feudal services to the Fairfax family, who claimed the land as lords proprietors of the Northern Neck of Virginia. The sixth Lord Fairfax, who later established his home at Greenway Court near Winchester, instituted many suits against early settlers in the Shenandoah Valley, but it does not appear that any Friend who claimed under Ross and Bryan was ever ejected from his land.

Although it is specifically stated that seventy families have been "by them brought in to our said Colony and settled upon the Lands in the said Order mentioned," only thirty-six patents issued to thirty-four grantees have been found. The names of these grantees are here given, together with sundry information gathered from the minutes of various Friends' meetings, from the records of the counties of Orange and Frederick in Virginia, and Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Alexander Ross, 2373 acres in what is now Frederick County, lying six miles north of Winchester. On this tract Hopewell Meeting House stands, on land set aside by Ross for that purpose, and nearby he established his home, where he was living at the time of his death in **1748**. Of the ancestry and early life of Alexander Ross much has been written, based upon tradition and unsupported by recorded evidence, but the recent investigations of Thomas Hays Fawcett of the court records of Chester County, Pennsylvania, supply the most authentic record of his life, so far discovered. Mr. Fawcett says:

"Alexander Ross of Pennsylvania and Virginia was probably of Scotch-Irish descent and was born abt. 1682. He was brought to Pennsylvania as an indentured servant when about eleven years old. The following is from the record of the Court of Common Pleas, Chester County, Pennsylvania, **1681-1697**:

["The boys that Mauris Trent brought into this country were called to be judged by the Court. Caleb Pusey's boy, **Alexander Ross, adjudged by the Court to be eleven years of age and to serve to the age of one and twenty** and to have the custom of the country and be discharged from his servitude by the said Caleb Pusey.

"Caleb Pusey of Chester, a last-maker by trade, had a mill and was a prominent member of the community. **Alexander Ross acquired the trade of a joiner.** His term of service would have been up in **1703. Early in 1706 he married Katherine Chambers of Chichester.** About the year **1709 he bought a lot in Chester and built a house on it**, which he sold to George Simcock of Chester for 112 pounds. (**Chester Co. Deeds, Book C** p. 126.) In **1713** he removed to Radnor and bought a tract of 150 acres in Whitland Township. He secured a warrant dated **9th month 5th, 1714**, from the Commissioners of Property for the survey of 500 acres of land, for which he agreed to pay £50 and a quit rent of *one shilling* per 100 acres. This was surveyed in the neighborhood of Nottingham Township on Conowingo Creek, **20 Apr 1716**. He moved his certificate to Newark Monthly Meeting **9th month 8th, 1716**. When New Garden Monthly Meeting was set off from Newark Monthly Meeting in **1718**, he fell within the

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limits of that meeting. New Garden Monthly Meeting was divided, and the first monthly meeting was held at Nottingham **4th month 20th, 1730**. Almost at once he appears in the Nottingham Minute Book:

["]6th month 15th, 1730, Alexander Ross and others appointed to labor with Samuel White, **["]and very frequently thereafter, until the establishment of Hopewell Monthly Meeting in 1735."**

Tracings of the signatures of this Alexander Ross of Nottingham, and Alexander Ross of Virginia, are apparently identical, and evidently were written by the same man.

The records of Orange County, Va., show that during the period Ross's land lay within its bounds, 1734-1743, he sold but two tracts from his original 2373 acres. The first one, recorded in Deed Book 2, p. 465, is from Alexander Ross and Catherine his wife of Orange County, Colony of Virginia, to John Nickline of the same place, for 396 acres, being part of his patent of 12 Nov 1735. This deed bears date of 21 Aug 1738 and is witnessed by James Wright and Arthur Barrett. The second conveyance, recorded in Deed Book 5, p. 149, is from Alexander Ross of Orange County, Colony of Virginia, Yeoman, to John Ross of the same place, Yeoman, and is for 220 acres, part of the same tract. The deed is witnessed by James Wood, William Glover, and Isaac Parkins. The Frederick County records show but one conveyance &, (Deed Book 1, p. 75), and that is to Joseph Bryan, son of his partner Morgan Bryan, to whom he sells 214 acres on 13 Apr 1744. No other sales appear in the records, and as he bought no additional land, he could hardly be considered a speculator in land, as some have claimed.

The will of Alexander Ross is recorded in Frederick County Will Book 1, p. 226, is dated the "24th of ye 8th month, 1748," and was probated 7 Dec 1748. He therefore died sometime after August 24, and bef. 7 Dec 1748, aged about 66 years. His will was witnessed by James Wright Senr., Robert Hutchings, and Lydia Barrett, and makes bequests to his wife Catherine, his sons David, John, and George, and his dau. Mary Litler, Albena Thomas, Lydia Day, and Catherine Ross, and requests that his slaves not be sold, but retained in the family.

Some epidemic was doubtless raging in the community at that time, as his sons David and John, his son-in-law John Littler, his wife Catherine, and several of his neighbors died within a few weeks of each other.

His home plantation came into the possession of the heirs of his dau. Mary Littler, and from them by marriage to the Stribling family, who sold it to Maj. Burwell B. Washington. Maj. Washington's descendants held the property until a few years ago, when it was sold to a member of Hopewell Meeting, Mr. William Robinson, and it is now owned by his heirs.

The Alexander and Katharine Chambers Ross House is located in Clear Brook, Virginia (6 miles north of Winchester). It has been owned by the Stiles family since 1967. It was started abt. 1732-34. It has a couple additions, and I'm not sure when they were added. I think the back porch was added by the current family about 30-40 years ago. They ran a dairy on the farm. They have taken beautiful care of the home and property and were incredibly welcoming of our family coming for a visit.

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