

Genealogies of
VIRGINIA FAMILIES

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With an Introduction by
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CAPTAIN THOMAS CARTER AND HIS
DESCENDANTS.

By One of Them,

DR. JOSEPH LYON MILLER, Thomas, West Virginia.

Of the ancestry of Captain Thomas Carter of Christ Church parish, Lancaster County, Virginia, we know nothing, though it has been suggested that he may have been a brother or cousin of Col. John Carter of the same county and parish. However, there is plenty of evidence to show that he came of a good family, whose claim to gentility was unquestioned. He lived in an age when a man's pretensions to social consideration must bear thorough investigation before being allowed, and Capt. Carter's seems to have stood the test.

Mr. Bruce says: "There was the clearest recognition of class distinctions in every department of Virginian life during the seventeenth century, a fact brought out in numerous ways by the silent testimony of different legal documents which have survived to the present day. The colonial custom, following the immemorial English, was in such documents to fix by terms, whose legal meaning was understood, the social position of the principal persons mentioned therein. . . . In conversation the term "mister" was no doubt applied to both gentlemen and yeomen, but when it appears in a legal document as a prefix to a name, it signifies that the person so designated was entitled to a higher degree of social consideration than was enjoyed by a mere yeoman; the term seems in fact to have been reserved in those early times in all forms of written and printed matter for those who claim to be gentlemen in the broad social sense was admitted by all." Mr. Bruce goes on to say that this use was observed most constantly in the county tax lists, where only gentlemen received any designation at all and that was always either "Mr." or a military title if such was possessed.* The Lancaster records abundantly substantiate such a claim for Thomas Carter, as from his first appearance in the tax list for 1653 as "Mr. Tho: Carter" till his death in 1700 he does not appear without a distinguishing title.

✕ 1. CAPTAIN THOMAS CARTER,¹ appears first in the Lancaster records in 1653 when he paid tithes for himself and four servants. In 1663 he paid for twenty persons, and 1699 for nine; the number always varying according to the number of servants. Thomas Carter seems to have purchased his first land in Lancaster from Col. John Carter, as June 1, 1654, he acknowledged a debt due Col. John Carter for land, 12,852 pounds of tobacco to be delivered the following October at the dwelling house of the said "Mr. Tho: Carter"; and 130 pounds sterling Sept. 18, 1655. Jan. 14, 1656, George Marsh,

* These distinctions existed with even greater strictness on account of the lack of negroes in New England. During the next century *race* became the great distinction in Virginia, and every man was called "Mr."—*Editor*.

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Merchant, sold 560 acres to "Tho: Carter in ye County of Lanc: Planter." Dec. 8, 1674, he had a deed for 500 acres of land, one negro and other personalty from his father-in-law, Major Edward Dale. May 27, 1657, "Mr. Thomas Carter" had grant for 150 acres for transporting three persons; and Sept. 20, 1661, he was granted 220 acres for the transportation of five persons. The land books at Richmond show other grants for 470 acres in small parcels to Thomas Carter before 1700.

"Oct^b ye 21, 1663 According to order the Oath of a commissioner was this day Administered to Capt. Thomas Carter after which he sat in the Court." Until Nov. 8, 1665, he appears at every meeting of the court. March 8, 1670, "At the request of Mr. Edward Dale, Mr. Tho: Carter is Deputed Clerke for the said Dale," etc. For forty years he appears frequently as juryman, appraiser, etc. Bruce says, "No office, provided it carried a salary, was too insignificant to be coveted by the most conspicuous and even the wealthiest citizens." Captain Carter married Katharine Dale, daughter of Maj. Edward and Diana Skipwith Dale, prior to 1670, as their son Henry was born in 1674 and he was at least the third and probably the fourth of their children. Thomas, Jr., is named as the *second* son in the probate of his father's will; and was married and had children before 1695. In 1686 "Tho: Carter Jun^r." was one of the witnesses to a power of attorney given by Wm. Robinson of Belfast, Ireland, to "my trusty and well beloved friend Mr. Thomas Carter of Corotoman in the County of Lancaster and Colony of Virginia." Edward Carter seems to have been the elder brother, as he is named first in his father's will; was one of his grandfather Dale's executors in 1694, and all papers where he appears with any of his brothers is always named first.

Capt. Thomas and Katharine Carter were the parents of the following children: 2. Edward; 3. Thomas; 4. John; 5. Henry, born 1674; 6. James; 7. Elizabeth; 8. Peter; 9. Katharine; 10. Joseph.

The will of "Thomas Carter, Sen." dated August 16, 1700,

was probated in Lancaster County Nov. 14, 1700, by his second Son Thomas Carter, Jun." By this will he gave one hundred acres of land to each of sons Edward, Thomas, John and Henry (then in England). Wife Katharine to have the home plantation, negro Dick, the great table; and her share of personal estate; also to have the right to cut timber for fence rails from the land of her sons. Son Thomas to have home plantation at wife's death. His two daughters and sons Peter and Joseph were provided for by their grandfather Dale so shared only in the residuary estate, and Wm. George, the husband of one of the daughters was charged with 1560 pounds of tobacco advanced on his wife's portion of her grandfather's estate by her father. Son James was to have land bequeathed to son Henry in case Henry did not return from England. All children shared in the residuary estate. The personal estate amounted to £236, and included "a parcel of old Bookes," a silver drinking pot, tankard, and twelve spoons. Captain Carter sealed his will with a seal bearing the Dale crest. It often happened that a man used a family seal bearing other than his own arms if it was more conveniently at hand.

SECOND GENERATION.

2. EDWARD² CARTER (Thomas¹) appears first in the Lancaster records in 1687 in a deed made by his grandfather Dale, and in 1694 was his grandfather's executor. In 1696 Edward Carter paid tithes for two persons, Thomas Carter, Jr. paid for four, and John Carter for one. June 24, 1703, "Edward Carter of ye p'sh of Christ Church in ye county of Lancaster Gent" gave a bond for five hundred pounds sterling to his brothers Thomas, Henry, and John Carter guaranteeing title to three hundred acres of land left them by their father "Thomas Carter late of this county Gent. dec'd." On the same date the other three gave a similar bond to Edward for a negro named Robin left to him by his grandfather Dale. This deed speaks of their mother, Katharine Carter, as now deceased. March 2, 1716, Edward Carter of Christ Church Psh gent sold 20 acres of land to John Rhodes, his wife Eliza-

beth Carter acknowledging the same. In 1721 he witnessed the will of his brother Peter Carter, and in 1732 the will of brother Henry. He sold at least a hundred acres of land to his brother Thomas Carter, and probably divided the rest between his sons before his death, as when he died in 1743 his estate consisted of only a parcel of books, some clothes, and furniture for one room amounting to £27. Son Thomas executor. He left at least two sons: 11. Thomas (died 1776); 12. William (died 1757).

3. CAPTAIN THOMAS³ CARTER, JR. (Thomas¹) seems to have lived and died at the old home place on Corotoman River, but also owned lands in King George County. In 1696 Thomas Carter, Jr., paid tithes on four persons, and in 1701 on six. July 12, 1699 James Corneline appointed "Mr. Thomas Carter Junr" his attorney; and in the next few years several other persons did the same. Like his father he was a Captain in the Lancaster Militia, and from Dec. 12, 1705, to May 14, 1729 he was continuously a Justice of the County Court sitting with such men as Robert Carter, Wm. Ball, Richard Chichester, Henry Fleet, Thomas Lee, and John Turberville. For many years he was connected in a business way with "King" Robert Carter of Corotoman, who said in his will—"Whereas Capt. Thomas Carter hath gone through a series of Business for me several years together in selling divers cargoes of Goods and upon other accounts, of whose honesty & integrity I have always had a very good opinion. It is my will that such accounts of my affairs, as he can make up, be received as satisfactory from him by my Ex'tors, and he be to no trouble at law upon my account." He also directs that all his "selling goods" coming in by that shipping be delivered to Capt. Thomas Carter to be disposed of by him with the goods already under his care. After appointing his three older sons executors "King" Carter continued, "And I do request, constitute, and appoint & make my Hon'ble & good friends & relations Mann Page, Esq., of Gloucester Co., Maj. Benj. Harrison of Charles City County, Maj. George Eskridge & Capt.

George Turberville of Westmoreland County, Mr. Rich'd Lee of Northumberland Co., & Capt. Thos. Carter of Lancaster Co., to be assistant to my exec'tors & to be consulted and advised with upon all occasions." After dividing certain parts of his wearing apparel among his three older sons he directs "& my other clothes I would have some given to my good friends Capt. Thos. Carter & Mr. John Turberville." Sept. 12, 1706, Capt. Carter purchased Lot No. 88 in *Queenstown*, Lancaster Co. It lay between the streets called Duke and Fairfax, and was the second lot from Ann Street. Aug. 6, 1720 "John Cook, Butcher" sold a parcel of land adjoining land of Edward and Henry Carter to "Thomas Carter, Gent." both of Christ Church Parish. And between 1700 and 1722 Thomas Carter had grants for 1023 acres of land in various Northern Neck counties. Captain Thomas Carter's wife was named Arabella, and Dr. Lyon G. Tyler suggests that probably she was a daughter of Wm. Bertrand, son of Rev. John Bertrand, owing to the fact that the names Mary Anne, Jesse, Jeduthan, and Rawleigh Williamson found among her descendants are names that seem to enter into the Ewell and Ball families through a marriage between Mary Ann Bertrand and Charles Ewell. Thomas and Arabella Carter were the parents of eight sons as named in their father's will. 13. Thomas, died 1735; 14. Joseph, died 1751; 15. James, died after 1744; 16. Daniel, died 1759; 17. Peter; 18. Edward; 19. Dale, died 1776; 20. Charles, removed to Stafford.

April 24, 1728, "Thomas Carter of the County of Lancaster Gent." made his will, which was probated Oct. 10, 1733. Left entire estate to wife Arabella during her widowhood, after which it was to be divided among his sons as follows: Thomas to have home plantation; Peter to have half of the Kg. George plantation—250 acres next to the river; Edward the other half of Kg. George place; Dale to have negroes Harry and Winny, and he failing heirs to go to son Thomas Carter's son Jesse; Joseph to have negro Robin; Daniel to have negro Nanny; Charles, negroes Sarah and Mary; James to have his "great bed and furniture above stairs." November 13, 1728

he gave James by deed of gift a negro named Dick; Peter to have best bed and furniture below stairs; Edward the other bed and furniture above stairs; Thomas to have his great Bible. All children to share alike in residuary estate. Wife to be executrix, but in case of death or remarriage son Peter to be executor. Peter to have management of son Charles till he arrives at the age of twenty years, which was before his father's death. The original will shows a fine signature and the mark of a large seal which has disappeared. The personal estate amounted to £415 and besides the usual furniture etc. mentions 12 negroes, 19 books, 20 1/2 oz. plate, portrait of Edward Dale, and a picture called Hale's New Year Gift.

4. JOHN² CARTER (Thomas¹). No record after 1703, probably removed to another county.

5. HENRY² CARTER (Thomas¹), born 1674, died 1743. In a deposition made April 8, 1743, Henry Carter stated that he was about sixty-nine years of age. Sometime prior to 1704 he married Anne Harris, as shown by a lease for 200 acres of land, dated Nov. 9, 1704, from Henry Carter and wife Ann "who was daughter of Gainey Harris late of this county Gent, who by his will dated 14th April, 1693, left the above mentioned premises to his daughter Ann". From 1728 to 1740 "Mr Henry Carter" was continuously a Justice of the County Court. April 5, 1737, Henry Carter and brother Joseph were two of eleven signers to a memorial complaining of the misrepresentation of Wm. Ball, Jr., Gent. who had been a Justice of Lancaster for nine years and then omitted from the Commission because of misrepresentation.

Henry Carter was a vestryman of Christ Church and before his death in 1743 he was one of six vestrymen to meet with a like number from St. Mary's White Chapel to form a general vestry for the two parishes. His brother Joseph Carter was a vestryman from St. Mary's at the same time. Henry and Ann Carter had the following children:

21. Gainy, d. s. p. prior to 1749; 22. John removed to Stafford; 23. Catherine, d. s. p. 1749; 24. Anne; 25. Elizabeth; 26.

Henry, Jr., died 1784; 27. Josiah, died 1763; 28. Robert, removed to Stafford. March 21, 1732, "Henry Carter of the County of Lancaster Gent." made his will which was probated Oct. 10, 1743. He left home plantation and negro, Courtney, to son Gainy; negroes Tom and Jack to three daughters and son Robert all of whom were to have the right to remain at home till the daughters married and Robert arrived at the age of sixteen. Daughters also to have two beds and furniture and their mother's jewelry—Catherine the biggest gold ring, Ann the lesser ring, and Elizabeth the gold bobbs; Son John to have a chest in the "outward room", a new hat, his silver cup, and a ten shilling piece of gold he had from his mother Katharine Dale to make him a mourning ring; Son Harry his little trunk, new druggot coat and breeches and dimity and linen clothes; son Josiah, horse named Jack, a steere, new saddle and bridle; son Robert, the smallest bed and furniture upstairs. All to share equally in the rest of the estate. Brother Thomas Carter to have his silver seal. Desires that his "Cousin Thomas Carter" assist son Gainy in managing the negroes. This would seem to indicate that Capt. Thomas¹ Carter Sr. had a brother who had descendants in that part of Virginia. There was a family of Carters in Middlesex county, contemporaneous with Capt. Thomas¹ Carter and his sons, who had similar given names to those in Lancaster. Henry Carter's personal estate contained besides the usual furniture, and jewelry mentioned in the will, a large amount of clothing, 15 books, a pair of silver shoe buckles, a viol, twelve leather chairs, 2 pewter flower pots, etc.

★ 6. JAMES² CARTER (Thomas¹) married Aug. 10, 1724, Mary Brent, daughter of Hugh Brent of Lancaster Co. She was probably his second wife. They removed to Stafford where they had the following children born:

29. Joseph, b. 1725; 30. John, b. May 7, 1727; 31. James, b. Mar. 31, 1729; 32. William, (twin) b. Jan. 11, 1731; 33. George, (twin) b. Jan. 11, 1731; 34. Catherine, b. April 1, 1735; 35. Charles, b. October 10, 1743.

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James Carter, "an honest, good man", died October 24, 1743. (Overwharton Register.) Sept. 4, 1747, Joseph, John, and George Carter, sons of James Carter had a deed for 1137 acres of land in which their father James Carter of Stafford dec'd is spoken of as a brother of Joseph Carter of Lancaster.

7. PETER² CARTER (Thomas¹) and his brother Joseph were the heirs to their grandfather Dale's home plantation, and they and their descendants were the only Carters who lived in St. Mary's White Chapel parish where this plantation was located. Jan. 22, 1712, Peter Carter and Joseph Carter "now being above the age of one and twenty years" divided the plantation of Major Edward Dale according to the terms of his will. Peter Carter was married twice and had a son and daughter by each wife. The last wife's name was Margaret. His children were: 36. (I) Aaron, died 1772; 37. (I) Catherine; 38. (II) Moses, d. s. p. 1740; 39. (II) Margaret. July 5, 1721, Peter Carter of St. Mary's White Chappel Parish, made his will Oct. 11, 1721. He left home plantation to son Moses, and best bed and furniture to wife Margaret. Rest of estate among, "wife, Margaret, Moses the son of my now wife, Margaret the daughter of my now wife, and my other two children Aaron and Catherine Carter." Appoints wife and brothers Thomas and Henry executors. Will was witnessed by brother Joseph Carter and his wife Ann Carter, and Edward Harris. The wax of the seal of this will has crumbled away as has that on the other Carter wills. Peter Carter's appraisement amounted to £195. His funeral expenses were £2. .1. .1., and Dr. Thos. Sanford's bill for medicine and attendance was £3. .4. .6. June 26, 1722 Mrs. Margaret Carter married (second) Capt. Robert Galbraith. Aug. 11, 1738, Aaron Carter, orphan of Peter Carter, gained a suit against his guardian, Robert Galbraith, amounting to six hundred pounds of tobacco, a crop of tobacco, a crop of corn, and a negro man named Caesar.

10. JOSEPH² CARTER (Thomas¹) being above the age of twenty one in January, 1712, took possession of his half of his

grandfather Dale's plantation and appears thereafter as Joseph Carter of St. Mary's White Chappel parish, "Planter" or "Gent." He was a man of considerable standing and owned a good estate in Lancaster and Stafford counties. March 19, 1714, Joseph Carter purchased from John Pines for £96 sterling, a negro man, Punch, a negro woman, Nan, two beds and furniture, six leather chairs, a chest of drawers, and some kitchen utensils. It was probably about this time that he married Ann Pines, either a sister or daughter of the above named John Pines, as his wife's given name was Ann, and the name *Anne Pines* was used as a name for one of their granddaughters. In 1724 Joseph Carter purchased 133 acres of land from John Marshall; and April 11, 1740, bought 100 acres of land from his nephew Aaron Carter, this land adjoined his own plantation and possession was given in the old English fashion "by the delivery of Turfe and twigg in the name and token of seizen of all land and premises within mentioned in the presence of Dale Carter, Wm. George, and Gawin Lowry."

In 1729 Joseph Carter was a member of the Lancaster court; and Nov. 25, 1741 "Mr. Joseph Carter, *Sherif*" made oath before Mr. Edwin Conway as to the true return of a poll for the election of Burgesses just had. He was a vestryman of St. Mary's, and of the general vestry for the two parishes. Col. James Gordon in his diary under date Aug. 11, 1761, says: "Mr. Hunt and old Mr. Joe Carter to dinner. . . . Had much discourse with old Mr. Carter and gave him a book to read". In 1734 Richard Chichester, Esq., made "my friend Joseph Carter" one of the trustees of his will and gave him and his wife Anne a mourning ring apiece. Aug. 31, 1724, "Rich^d Chichester, Esq."¹ conveyed by deed of gift without any named

¹ The term "Esquire" was confined at this time to members of the Council, and to the sons of knights. Richard Chichester, was, therefore, the son of a knight, as he was not a Councillor. He located lands in Virginia in 1702. See CHICHESTER FAMILY in Hayden, *Virginia Genealogies*, 93. Tradition states that he was the brother of Sir John Chichester, who was murdered in Liverpool on the eve of his embarking for America, by his own servant and the keeper of the hotel where he lodged.—*Editor*.

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consideration, a negro boy called "Gift" to "Judith the daughter of Mr. Joseph Carter." He may have been her god-father which was his reason for so valuable a present. Besides this daughter, Joseph Carter, in his will dated Jan. 12, 1764, proved Aug. 19, 1765, mentions four sons: 40. Judith; 41. Jeremiah, to whom he gave 400 acres in Stafford to which he removed; 42. Joseph, died in 1771, to whom he gave the rest of his land in Stafford; 43. George, died in 1791 at a very advanced age; 44. Henry. He left land in Lancaster to Joseph, George and Henry. Gave son Joseph his chariot and three horses, his watch and gold rings. Mentions son Joseph's daughter Anne Pines Carter. Son, Joseph Carter and nephew Dale Carter executors.

Of 7. ELIZABETH³ CARTER, and 9. KATHARINE² CARTER, daughters of Capt. Thomas¹ Carter I have no record other than that one of them married William George of Lancaster between 1694 and 1700; and he died in 1710 leaving to his wife (unnamed in the will) all his property to bring up his children, also not named. I could find no settlement of the estate where they were named. The inventory of his personal estate amounted to £106. and included a large and excellent assortment of household goods. This Wm. George was probably an ancestor of the Methodist Bishop George of Lancaster.

(To Be Continued)

CARTER GENEALOGY.

By DR. JOS. LYON MILLER.

Stephen Fox, in his will made at sea in 1662, mentions certain tobacco of his in the hands of Capt. Thomas Carter at Nansemond in James River. If this refers to the Capt. Thomas Carter, who settled in Lancaster, and it seems probable that they are the same, it makes what would seem to be a peculiar coincidence unless explained by some tie of blood—as brothers or cousins—when it is very simple. The coincidence is that three men, apparently unrelated, of the same surname, the same social station, and nearly the same military rank, emigrated to Virginia about the same time; all settled in the same county—Nansemond; later all three purchased land in another county—Lancaster—where two of them settled as neighbors for the remainder of their lives while the third returned to England. There certainly seems to have been something more than coincidence guiding Col. Edward Carter, Col. John Carter, and Capt. Thomas Carter in the selection of their homes.

3, Thomas² Carter (Thomas¹) was commissioned a captain in the Lancaster Militia April 7, 1711, by Governor Spotswood. His original commission is now owned by one of his descendants—Thomas Davis, Woodford County, Ky.

Aug. 10, 1719, "Mr. Edward Carter" (son of Capt. Thomas Carter, Sr.) had a negro boy, son of a free negro woman, bound to him till he was of age, and besides finding him suitable maintenance in his service he was "*to cause him to be taught to read and write.*"

Also there is a strong probability that the above Edward Carter was the father of Joseph Carter, who died in Prince George County in 1761, as the names of the children of Joseph point strongly to a connection with the Lancaster family. As we have full data of the children of Capt. Thomas

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