

GILES CARTER

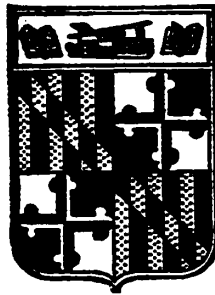
OF VIRGINIA

GENEALOGICAL MEMOIR

BY

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THE LORD BALTIMORE PRESS
BALTIMORE, MD., U. S. A.

1909

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The object of this memoir is to trace the branch of the Carter family of Virginia from which the author is descended. In pursuit of this object, insistence has been had upon authentic records for all statements of facts; traditions have served only as guides in the search for original records. The incompleteness of the work is fully recognized, but it is hoped that its publication at this time may be the means of more rapidly developing essential facts than has been accomplished through correspondence. The obstacles and delays encountered by the author may be understood from the mere statement that since the researches were begun about six years ago, his orders have required him to visit England and Europe to make certain investigations for the Government, and later to command a Department in the Philippine Islands, involving an absence of more than two years, and that he is now under orders again to proceed to foreign service.

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FOREWORD.

The great impetus given to genealogical and historical research in recent years, through the publication of rare documents hitherto unavailable, encouraged me to reopen communication with kinsmen, long neglected during my wanderings with a marching regiment. To my surprise I found these widely scattered nation builders quite as ignorant of family history as myself, possessed only of traditions, many of which were wholly dissipated by the strong light of scientific research through the musty and scattered records of three centuries. After much futile correspondence it dawned upon me that unless I was prepared to accept a line of descent by a sort of wireless genealogy, I must take the back trail and adhere to it faithfully whither it might lead.

The constant shifting of county and parish boundary lines in Virginia, and the talismanic beckoning which ever lured colonists on in the search for more and richer lands, have created most perplexing conditions for those who now enter upon the study of Virginia genealogy of the past three centuries. The frontier life bred a love of independence and adven-

ture that induced the virile men and women of Virginia to cross over the mountains to the West and South, in ever increasing numbers, where, for lack of reliable means of communication, they gradually lost touch with their kinsmen who remained along the tide water and in the valleys of Virginia.

As time passed and some of the colonists acquired fortune or became prominent through holding public office, their business transactions and official acts were carefully noted and their descendants may be generally identified, although, in many cases, all traces of contemporary kinsmen have been lost. The carefully devised English laws concerning the keeping of records of births, marriages, deaths and business transactions, were necessarily in abeyance amongst a people whose immediate call of duty was the clearing of forests, building of homes and perpetual preparedness to overmaster the cunning and stratagem of red men, become resentful at being despoiled of their hunting grounds. The existence, here and there, of a diary or other family record, serves only to accentuate the general deficiency of reliable data concerning the first half century of settlement. The destruction of many British records of that period, relating to the colonies, has caused many investigators to indulge in speculations wholly unsatisfactory to trained genealogists. It is impossible at this

time to establish from the fragmentary records the date and place of embarkation or even of the landing in Virginia of many of the earlier colonists who subsequently attained prominence, and the relationship, if any, of those bearing the same names.

When I look back at my initial efforts to unravel the tangled skein and recall the groping and floundering, I am amazed that I ever had the courage to go forward. I had entered the military service at an early age, at the close of the great Civil War in which the family, like many others in the border states of the Confederacy, had divided and cast its fortunes on opposing sides in the fratricidal conflict. The knowledge which comes in normal times as traditions from the passing generation was lost to me, and when I had fully awakened to the fact, nearly all those who could have aided in the research had passed away.

It was certain only that my grandfather had, with his family, joined the migration of over-mountain men from Southern Virginia, in the early years of the Nineteenth Century and that, with other kinsmen devoted to horse breeding, he had taken up lands in the fertile blue grass section of Middle Tennessee. His will had been accidentally destroyed before being probated, and the family Bible alone remained to furnish the solitary clew, the quaint name of my

grandmother, "Unity," which served as the beacon to light the genealogical pathway in Old Virginia, and to differentiate in a family where the same Christian names prevail in all the branches to the remotest degree of kinship. The marriage record, located after casting many nets in vain, served to reopen the family trail which led literally over mountains and through swamps, sometimes dim almost to obliteration, but which finally unfolded into a straight highway through the gradual accumulation of well defined mile posts on the genealogical journey.

It was a discouraging undertaking, but with each link of the chain forged anew, an enthusiasm and a charm was discovered such as had never borne me up and on in other tasks. Historical facts, hitherto passed over in a cursory way, took on new life when treated as of the period contemporary with a living, virile generation of my own ancestors. At times the unearthing of things essential, by a process of analytical reasoning, brought a deep and dignified sense of satisfaction, while at others, equally important ends came through blind stumbling along some hidden pathway. And when worn and tired with the unrest of every day life, a peaceful enjoyment always awaited me when I could take up the thread and fit some newly arrived link into the slowly growing chain.

The habit of wandering into the by-paths of colonial history steadily grew upon me and things hitherto but dimly outlined in the mind became as definitely fixed as the contents of a certain ironbound chest, the ransacking of which had served so loyally to fill in the rainy days of long ago. And when the trail had reached back in the past to a point beyond which all was dust and ashes, and from which the imagery of the veriest castle builder could no longer fashion virile men and women of his own clan, there came a keen sense of personal loss that the delving which had long fascinated me had come to an end. But there will remain as the direct result of this patient research a deeper sentiment of reverence and respect for the nation builders, whether cavalier or puritan, who dared the dangers of the sea in the frail vessels which for a century or more comprised the only fleet available for those who came to establish upon America's shores the initial plant which has grown to include the greatest agricultural, commercial and industrial development known in the archives of the world's history.

While delving in the old records there was constant temptation to stray from the strict object of research. For instance the record of the Henrico County court of August 1st, 1685, was observed to contain this order for the first ducking stool in the Colony of Vir-

ginia: "There being no ducking stool in this County as ye law enjoynes, Captain Thomas Cocke is requested and appointed, between this and October Court next, to erect one in some convenient place near ye court house and ye it be well and substantially done, for ye which he shall be satisfied in ye County levy; to ye which ye said Cocke consents and obliges himself to the performance thereof."

The immigrants to Virginia were not all cavaliers nor those of New England all puritans. It has generally been supposed, however, that the use of ducking stools was confined to the stern men of the northern settlements. If this ducking stool was ever used in Henrico County the record of it escaped observation.

In these modern days authors are prone to write of the need of uplift and a return to the honest and simple life of the colonial forefathers. That this presumed superior honesty is more imaginary than real is indicated by the oath of office required of one of the most powerful of the colonial functionaries, the commander or commissioner of a county:

"Ye shall swear that as commissioner of ye County, ye shall doe equal right to ye poor as to ye rich, to ye best of ye cunning, wit and power and after the precedents and customs of the Province and acts of assembly thereof made, and to hold ye sessions

or courts as ye are directed in ye commission or according to acts of assembly providing in ye behalf: and all fines and amercements as shall happen to be made and all forfeitures which shall fall before you, ye shall cause to be entered without any concealment and certify ye same to his Lordships Receiver of this province; ye shall not barr or hinder ye prosecution of justice or take any gift, bribe or fee to ye intent of delaying of judgment: but shall behave yourself wisely and truly to ye best of your understanding and power so long as ye shall persist in this office and untill ye shall be by lawfull authority discharged therefrom soe help ye God.”

The search of court records of to-day for data concerning the eighty millions of Americans would be discouraging and unprofitable, but in the early colonial period they constitute the most reliable source of information. Their value in this respect has come to be generally recognized. Much has been done for the preservation of records but much remains to be done, not only of mere copying, but of intelligent analysis and connection of historically important entries in widely separated records.

How quaint all the old fragments of colonial records, laboriously penned, seem in the light of the modern way! Schoolmasters were rare in the early days, actual money all but unknown and tobacco the

only currency of the colony for a hundred and fifty years. The vestry of each parish were sworn to abide by the doctrines and discipline of the Church as enjoined by the statutes of William and Mary, to bear true faith and allegiance to his Majesty the King and to disavow belief in the transubstantiation in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and in addition were burdened with many duties ordinarily pertaining to the secular administration of county affairs.

Amongst the varied and important functions of government devolving on the church vestrymen and wardens was the appointment every fourth year of "processioners" to view all boundary lines of land grants and claims, to arbitrate differences and to see that the shooting and range laws were complied with. There were no eleemosynary institutions in the colony, and had there been, the lack of transportation facilities would have rendered them inutile to the widely scattered settlers. It, therefore, devolved upon the vestry of each parish to provide for the poor and unfortunate, and, to that end, they were empowered to levy taxes, to bind minors to service, and to apportion the destitute amongst the more fortunate who were willing to undertake their care for a small allowance, usually paid in tobacco. So that while there was oftentimes complaint of some counties that horse racing, cock fighting and card playing were

too prevalent, there is abundant evidence that the corner stones and foundations of a people of high and abiding moral fibre were not neglected.

There is a dignity about the old marriage bonds, used for more than two centuries after the first settlement along the James, that appeals with peculiar force in these iconoclastic days. These documents have quite generally disappeared, but in one of the numerous counties where Carters lived and sought maids in marriage, the old bonds have all been preserved and thus they run:

“ Know all men by these presents, that I John Carter of Brunswick County and James Jones of the County of Surrey, are held and firmly bound unto our Sovereign Lord George the Second, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, etc., in the sum of fifty pounds current money of Virginia, to be paid to our said Lord the King, his heirs and successors to the payment whereof we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seals and dated this 3rd Jan’y, 1754.

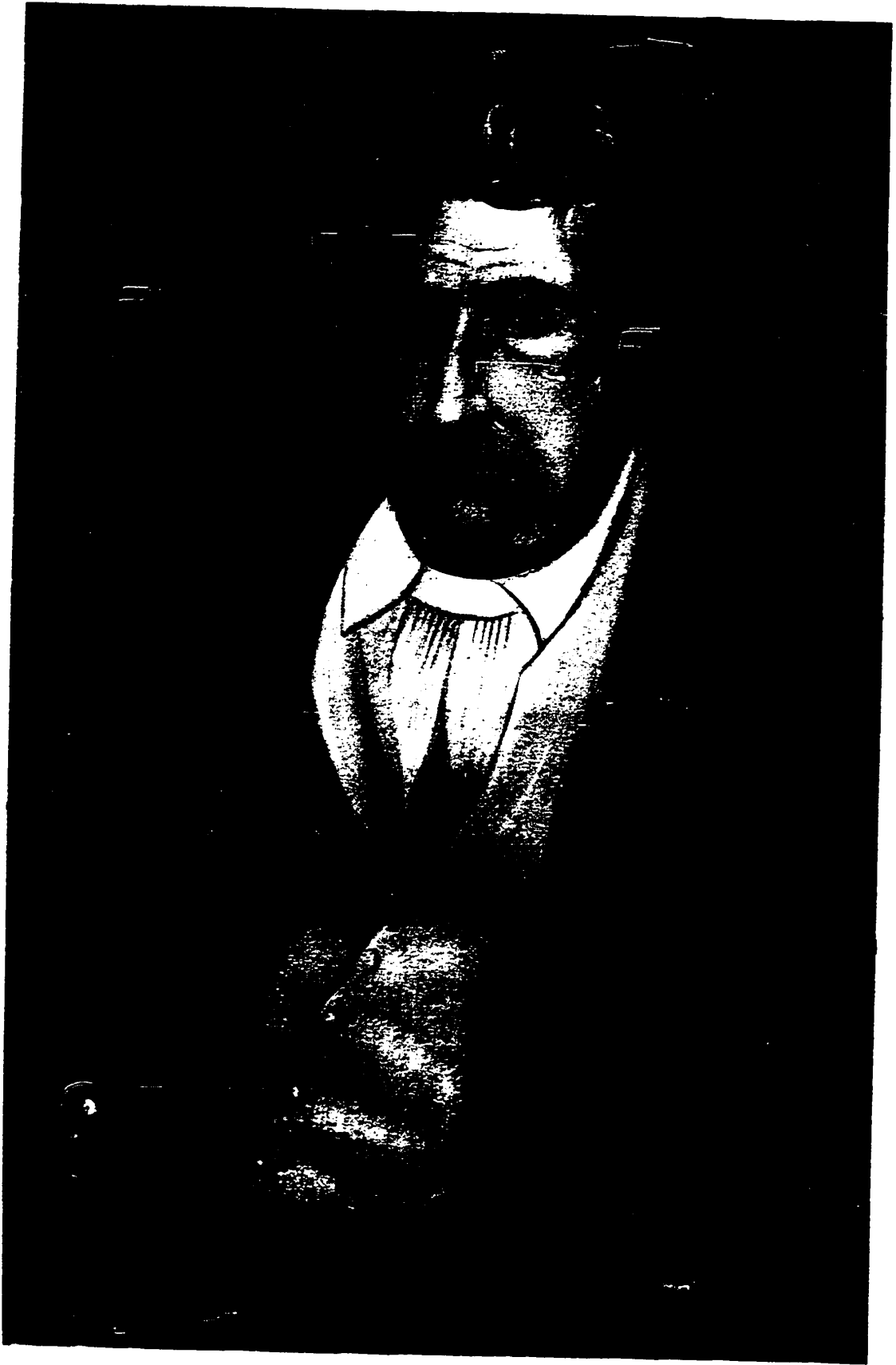
“ The condition of this obligation is such, that whereas there is a marriage suddenly intended to be solemnized between the above bound John Carter and Rebecca Stuart of the Parish of St. Andrew in

Brunswick Co. Spinster—Now if there is no lawful cause to obstruct said marriage, then this obligation to be void, or else to remain in full force and virtue.

JOHN CARTER (Seal).

JAMES JONES (Seal).”

Upon the execution of such a bond, with approved security, the clerk issued a certificate authorizing any one licensed by the county court to perform the ceremony. If the marriage was to be celebrated according to the rites of the established Church, the words “solemnly intended” were inserted; if any other ceremony was to be used then the words “suddenly intended” were substituted. The licenses were not returned to the clerk of the court, and except for family Bibles and the private records kept by ministers, these bonds constituted the only marriage registers required by law, until the middle of the Nineteenth Century. Many of the clerks transferred the essential facts from the bonds to books for their own convenience, but fire and the sword, vandalism and the corruption of time have caused most of these to disappear.



ROBERT CARTER
BORN HALIFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA
22 DECEMBER, 1770

IDENTIFICATION OF FAMILIES.

This memoir concerns Giles Carter of Henrico, Virginia, and his descendants, but makes no pretence to be a complete record. The research was begun for the purpose of tracing by the records the direct ancestors of General William Giles Harding Carter. Information concerning collateral branches of the family has been noted, and while meager, is not sufficiently so to discourage one trained to genealogical research and with time available for its accomplishment.

While the connection between Giles Carter, of Henrico, born in 1634, and Giles Carter of Gloucestershire, England, who sailed from Bristol September 25th, 1620 (O. S.), on the Supply, for Berkeley Hundred, has not yet been established, the results of the author's study of the Berkeley Hundred Colony and the family connection of those interested in its establishment are included in this volume. In tracing back the Carter families of Gloucestershire bearing, in each generation, the same Christian names as the Virginia family which this memoir concerns, it was observed that they appear to have been of the landed or

agricultural class from a remote period antedating the published histories of their county. With but rare exceptions the descendants of Giles Carter of Virginia have adhered through more than two and a half centuries to the life of planters and stock farmers.

The branch of the Carter family descended from Giles and Hannah Carter, under consideration in this memoir, has not been prominently identified with high public office nor with great industrial or commercial undertakings. From their recorded wills and deeds, it is ascertained that they were land and slave holders, living the simple life of planters, enduring the hardships which were ever the lot of pioneers and playing their modest part in laying the foundations of now prosperous commonwealths.

Of the numerous daughters of this branch of Carters and their descendants, involved in three centuries of a shifting panorama of new states and territories in their formative period, there is but little of record recognizable to the casual investigator. It is only through a long and patient search of family Bibles and scattered records, that the history of these kinswomen and their widely dispersed descendants may be developed.

There are several families of Carters of Virginia, descended mainly from John Carter of Lancaster

County, Giles Carter of Henrico County and Thomas Carter of Lancaster County, which may or may not have sprung from a common English ancestry. The scattered descendants of Virginia Carters assumed for a long time that all were descended from Colonel John Carter of Corotoman and that he was descended from William Carter of Carstown, Hertford, England. It is unfortunate that the published genealogical records relating to the Carters of Virginia have heretofore been confined to the family of Robert Carter, commonly known as "King" Carter (1663-1732), and who was a son of Colonel John Carter and Sarah Ludlow, one of his five wives. Robert Carter became probably the wealthiest man of all the colonies. His immediate descendants intermarried with many of the most prominent families of the Old Dominion, and while those descendants bearing the name of Carter have not been prominent in public life during the past century, many of their kinsmen, in whose veins flowed the blood of Robert (King) Carter, have added laurels to the family escutcheon and imperishable pages to the nation's history.

The relationship, if any, of Colonel John Carter with Edward and Thomas Carter, living at the same time in Lancaster County, Virginia, has never been definitely determined, although it has been surmised that John and Edward were brothers.

It is not known from just what county of England Colonel John Carter emigrated. From the will of Edward Carter it appears that he was from Middlesex County, England, in the vicinity of London.

There is a British record of the marriage of John Carter of Stepney, Middlesex, to Jane Cleaves, widow of All Hallows, Barking, London, 25th of October, 1611. As Cleave appeared as a Christian name of the Carters in Virginia it may yet be determined to have been derived from the marriage mentioned and that John, Edward and Cleave were of Middlesex County, England. It is certain that the Gloucestershire Carters had lived in that county for several centuries prior to the settlement of Virginia, and the Christian names of Giles, William and John have always prevailed.

It is quite certain that Colonel John Carter of Corotoman was of unvarying Royalist sentiments, and it is equally certain that Giles Carter of Henrico fraternized with the opposition to Sir William Berkeley during his later service as Governor of the Colony of Virginia, and which culminated in the so-called "Bacon's Rebellion." King Charles II became convinced that Governor Berkeley's course had been unwise if not absolutely unjust, but the families of those in sympathy with Bacon were historically without the pale of public office or political prefer-

ment, for a long period, and were amongst the first to penetrate the unexplored regions of the Southwest.

During the early colonial period large families were the rule, and, being dependent almost wholly upon agriculture, the division of land, with each new generation, reduced the probability of success of those descendants who remained upon the home plantations. The result was a constant migration of those not heirs to large estates, away from the tide water region to the back counties and later to new territories and states. In this way the descendants of Giles Carter, during two and a half centuries, have become dispersed, from Virginia to Texas. Traditions as to their ancestors are generally vague, and were it not for the perpetuation, from generation to generation, of family names, it would be extremely difficult to locate the records necessary to identify many families.

The descendants of Giles Carter and their kinsmen have continued generally in the South. A notable exception to this occurred in the family of Richard Everard Bennett, of "Poplar Mount," Halifax County, whose wife was Ann Carter, daughter of Theodrick (Third) and Judith Cunningham Carter. A son of this marriage, Richard E. Bennett, Jr., moved to Illinois, and the senior surviving member of this family now (1909) bears the name Theodrick

Carter Bennett, his mother Maria Carter having been a first cousin of his father. Although born in Illinois, Theodrick Carter Bennett, being on a visit to his Carter kinsmen in Texas at the outbreak of the Civil War, joined Terry's Texas Rangers and continued in the Confederate Army to the end, when he returned to Illinois.

One of the Bennett descendants, Judge Walter Bennett Scates, succeeded Judge Lyman Trumbull as Justice of the Supreme Court of Illinois when Trumbull was elected to the United States Senate. He served in the Union Army as a lieutenant-colonel on the staff of General McClelland.

Doctor Walter Bennett, the progenitor of this family in Virginia, left a journal of his travels, and for his son Richard Everard Bennett, a recipe book in which appears a strange commingling of medical prescriptions for the human kind and animals; and records of births and deaths of children interspersed with entries such as these:

“North American, a sorrel horse-colt, foaled on Tuesday the 17th day of April, 1810 out of Nancy Maid, a bay mare purchased of Mr. Baird, Esq., got by gray Diomed, his dam by North Britain who was imported by John Baird Esq.”

To accurately and definitely trace a line of family descent court records are the most valuable because

usually made under oath and presumably accurate. Family Bibles appear to be next in accuracy, as to births in Virginia families, because the entries in church parish records show indubitably that the data concerning their scattered parishioners was collected by the ministers from time to time and not as records of each individual birth. Frequently all the children of a family are found as successive entries in parish registers, although the series of births may have covered many years. Marriage and death records are apt to be accurate, because usually entered at the time of the events.

The perpetuation of Christian names serves to greatly facilitate the identification of families in all records and contemporary history. In the several families of Carters of Virginia, certain Christian names peculiar to each family occur in each generation, while other names, such as John and Robert, are quite common in all the families even where no relationship exists. Giles and Theodrick have not been found in any other branch of the Carter family, although one or both have appeared in each generation of the branch which this memoir concerns, from Giles, the immigrant, down to the present generation. During one generation, 1775 to 1800, there were no less than seven members of this family bearing the name of Theodrick Carter. Giles or Gyles Carter

has been found continuously, back to the most ancient records of Gloucestershire, England, and has not been identified with any of the other Carter families in England.

While perpetuation of Christian names serves to identify families, it also leads at times to serious embarrassment, from the viewpoint of the genealogist, unless contemporary records are available to unravel the multiplication of identical names. As an instance of this, Theodrick Carter (First), a son of Giles Carter, had two sons named Theodrick (Second) and John. Theodrick Carter (Second) named his first three sons John, Theodrick and William. His brother John named his first three sons Theodrick, John and William. Each of these two brothers honored the other by naming his first son after the brother, the second being given his own father's name and the third in each case being named William. The wills of Theodrick (Second) and John served to unravel this confusion of names.

Certain parish, colonial and county records aid in identification of individuals. The date of death of Giles Carter (Second) is not known. The last record concerning him in the locality where he was born and lived is found in the following record of a vestry meeting held at Curl's Church, for Henrico Parish, the sixth day of December, Ano. 1735:

“ Pursuant to an act of Assembly of this colony, and in obedience to the order of Henrico County Court, made at a court held for ye said county, this first day of December, Ano. 1735: The vestry do order that John Cocke, Gerrard Ellyson and Giles Carter, with the assistance of the neighboring freeholders, do sometime before the last day of March next coming, goe in procession and renew the lines of all lands from Boar Swamp on Chickahominy Swamp, to the lower bounds of ye parish, thence southerly to the place where the Long Bridge road parts with Bottom Bridge road, and that the said John Cocke, Gerrard Ellyson and Giles Carter (or any two of them), do take and return to their parish vestry, an account of every person’s lands by them processioned, and the persons present at the same, and of all land in their precinct they shall fail to procession, and the particular reasons for such failure.”

An act of the general assembly of Virginia was passed in October, 1786, for clearing and extending the navigation of the Chickahominy River, and William Carter, a descendant of Giles Carter (First), was one of a committee of trustees appointed to supervise the clearing of the channel as far up as Meadow Bridge.

An act of the general assembly was passed December 21, 1795, under which Everard Meade, Joseph

Eggleston, Ryland Randolph, Edmund Harrison, Richard Venable, John Epperson, Francis Eppes, Henry Skipwith, Buller Claibourne, Samuel Carter, James Wade and other gentlemen were appointed " trustees for clearing, improving and extending the navigation of the Appomatox River from Banister's Mills as far up the same as they may judge it practicable, so as to have a sufficient depth and width of water to navigate boats, batteaus or canoes capable of carrying eight hogsheads of tobacco." Samuel Carter who was named as one of the trustees was a son of Theodrick (Second) and Anne Carter. Samuel's brother Waddill married Mildred, a daughter of James Wade, who was also named as one of the trustees:

At the Halifax County, Virginia, court, held in November, 1799, the following was ordered and made of record:

" Theodrick Carter, Gentleman, is recommended to his Excellency, the Governor or Chief Magistrate, for the time being, as a fit person to execute the office of Sheriff of this County for the ensuing year."

He filled the office for two successive terms. His identification aided materially in clearing up a tangled procession of Theodricks in that generation.

The last but one in the branch of the family herein traced, to bear the name of Theodrick, and who was

Theodrick (Sixth) in direct line, entered the Confederate service from Tennessee at twenty-one years of age and accompanied General Zollicofer to Kentucky. Subsequent to the death of his chief at the battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky, he served as captain and A. D. C. upon the staff and accompanied Hood's army on its march north for Nashville in 1864. The battle of Franklin was peculiarly fatal to the Confederate Army in its loss of officers and none was more tragic than that of young Theodrick Carter, thus described by General J. D. Cox, U. S. Volunteers, in his history of the battles of Franklin and Nashville:

“ But even civil war rarely furnishes so sad a story as that which the Carter family have to tell. The house was occupied by an elderly man and his two daughters. . . . The battle, when it came, broke upon them so suddenly that they did not dare to leave, and they took refuge in the cellar. The house was in the focus of the storm which raged about it for hours. . . . The long night ended at last, and with the first light the young women found relief in ministering to the wounded who had crept into the house and out-buildings, and in carrying water to those on the field. But, as they climbed the parapet at the rear of the house, among the first they found was a young staff officer, their own brother, mortally wounded, lying,

as he had fallen at sunset, almost at the door of his home.” *

The name of Waddill appeared in the fourth generation of the Carter family in Virginia, as a Christian name. It is believed to have been introduced through the marriage of Theodrick Carter (Second) with Anne Waddill. A daughter of this marriage was named Anne Waddill and a son named Waddill. John Carter, a son of Theodrick (Second) and Anne, named his first daughter Anne Waddill. The Waddills lived in St. Peter's Parish for many years, as shown by the register and other parish records. William Waddill, Sr., was a vestryman and also church warden of St. Peter's Parish. His name was spelled Waddell in all the records until the meeting of August 18th, 1704, after which it was always spelled Waddill until it disappears from the vestry proceedings, the last entry being at the meeting of October 8th, 1737. William Waddill, son of William Waddill, was baptized April 29th, 1694. William Waddill was a witness to the will of John Carter's father, Theodrick Carter (Second). One of the witnesses to the will of John Carter of Halifax was Noel Waddill.

* The mortality amongst the Confederate generals at Franklin included General John C. Carter, and was unparalleled in any other battle of the war. It is said to have resulted from an impatient remark of General Hood, over the failure to crush the Federal Army before reaching Franklin, which caused the generals and other officers to recklessly expose themselves in the battle which followed.

Other Christian names are traced less directly. The old Henrico records show " Mr. Robert Woodson, Mr. Richard Ferris, Mr. Giles Carter, William Ferris and Roger Comins," as partners in a land grant.

At the date of taking the census of 1625, John Woodson, who came over in " The George " in 1619, and his wife Sarah, lived at Flower de Hundred, on the south side of the James. A son Robert married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Ferris, and had issue: John, Robert, Richard, Joseph, Benjamin and Elizabeth, who married John Pleasants. A son of Richard, also named Richard, married Anne Michaux. Anne Michaux Woodson had two daughters; one, Elizabeth, married Nathaniel Venable and the other, Agnes, married Francis Watkins, Clerk of Prince Edward County.

Nathaniel Venable and Francis Watkins were executors of and Agnes Watkins a witness to the will of Theodrick Carter (Second) which was probated January 19th, 1777. The second Theodrick's son, John Carter, named one son Francis Watkins, one Richard and one Robert. Robert Carter named one son Robert Michaux and a daughter Sarah Venable. The second Theodrick Carter's son, Theodrick (Third), named a son Nathaniel.

Abraham Venable, who married Elizabeth Michaux, daughter of Jacob Michaux, was a witness to the will of Waddill Carter, son of Theodrick Carter (Second). Martha Venable, a sister of Abraham, married John Holcomb of Prince Edward County, Virginia. Samuel Venable, son of Abraham and Elizabeth Michaux Venable, married Ann Anderson, daughter of Thomas Anderson of Mecklenburg County, Virginia. Francis Watkins Carter married Sarah Holcomb Anderson.

Samuel was given as a Christian name by Theodrick Carter (Second) to one of his sons and has been perpetuated to the present generation.

It appears from the English and Virginia records that Giles, John and William have come as Christian names through many generations of Carters in Gloucestershire, England; that Theodrick has been a favorite name since about 1650, in Virginia, and that Richard, Robert, Waddill, Samuel, Nathaniel and Francis have come through association with the Michaux, Waddills, Venables and Watkins in Virginia.

In examining the old records the writer was particularly interested to find that in Gloucestershire, England, one of the daughters of Giles Carter had married William Harding in the Sixteenth Century; that contemporaries bearing the names of Giles Car-

ter and William Harding were in Henrico County, Virginia, with the Gloucestershire settlers in the early part of the Eighteenth Century, and that in the Twentieth Century the writer should bear the name of William Giles Harding Carter.

DIRECT LINE OF DESCENT.

The plan followed in developing the line of descent has been to trace back, generation by generation, to Giles Carter, who was born in 1634. Having followed out the immediate line to its source in America, the course was then reversed, and beginning with Giles Carter, the line of descent was proved and information of record concerning collateral branches was noted and analyzed.

In the pursuit of the information necessary to work out the completed chain, and to accomplish the identification of individuals and families, it was sometimes necessary to draw deductions from scanty and widely dispersed details. By a process of elimination and comparison the direct line was finally established and this has been followed by persistent examination of records and contemporary biographical and historical writings.

The first Giles Carter of whom there is any record in Virginia came from Gloucestershire, England, with William Tracy on the Supply, which sailed from Bristol September 24th, 1620 (O. S.), and arrived at Berkeley January 29th, 1621 (O. S.). After looking

over the situation Giles Carter returned to England immediately before or just after the Indian massacre of Friday, April 1st, 1622. The Carter family of Gloucestershire, England, in which Gyles or Giles appears as a Christian name, was connected with the Tracy family by the marriage of Giles Carter and Elizabeth Tracy. This Giles was a son of John Carter of Lower Swell, who was High Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1612. The family and its connections are considered in a separate chapter, for the reason that in the fragmentary state of the published records of that early period, it has not yet been practicable to identify the parents of Giles Carter who was born in 1634, who lived at Turkey Island during Bacon's Rebellion, and whose will is preserved in Henrico County, Virginia. From the incomplete records of the first half century of colonization in Virginia, it is difficult to find continuous and accurate data of even those who bore the most prominent part in colonial affairs.

Beginning with Giles Carter of Henrico County, Virginia, whose descendants are traced in this memoir, the recorded wills have been preserved and the direct line of descent is traced by means of these wills and other county records and family Bibles.

The records of Henrico County, Virginia, establish, in a deposition, that Giles Carter was born in

1634. At the period of Bacon's Rebellion he was the intimate friend of Colonel James Crewe of Turkey Island, Henrico County, one of Bacon's active and prominent adherents. For his participation in Bacon's Rebellion Colonel James Crewe was tried by court-martial and sentenced to be hanged.

The record of the proceedings of the court-martial which tried Colonel James Crewe has been preserved as follows:

“ At a Court-martial held at Green Spring the 24th day of January 1676-7.

“ Present Sir William Berkeley, Knt. Governor and Captain General of Virginia.

Colonel Bacon Colonel Ludwell Colonel Ramsey

Colonel Ballard Colonel Claiborne Major Page.

Colonel West Colonel Hill

“ James Crewes being brought before the Court for treason and rebellion against his most sacred majestie, and pleading nothing in his defence, and the court being very sensible that the said Crewes was a most notorious actor, aydor and assistor in the rebellion therefore the court are unanimously of opinion, and doe adjudge him guilty of the accusation: Sentence of death, therefore past upon him to returne to the prison from which he came, and from thence (on Friday next) to be carryed to the galloves, there to be hanged until he be dead.”

It is not known in detail just what part Colonel Crewe took in Bacon's Rebellion, but when the Virginia Assembly passed an act granting pardon to those who had participated in it, he and about fifty others were excluded.

Subsequent to his execution a bill of attainder was passed, which contained this final proviso:

“ Provided always, and it is the true intent and meaning of the act, that the severall estates of the severall persons herein mentioned to be convicted and stand attainted of high treason, shall only be inventoried and security taken that the same shall not be embezzled, and upon such security, the said estates nor any parte thereof shall not be removed, but shall remaine and be in the hands of the person or persons now possessing the same untill the King's majesties further pleasure shall be signified therein.”

The act of attainder was repealed by proclamation July 8th, 1680.

Sir William Berkeley, in his report of those executed, says: “ Condemned at my house (Green Spring) and executed when Bacon lay before Jamestown:

“ 1. Colonel Crewe, Bacon's parasyte, that continually went about ye country, extolling all Bacon's actions, and justifying his rebellion.”

The exclusion of Crewe from amnesty after he had

been executed was of little moment except to his heirs. The wise provisions of the bill of attainder are now believed to have been inserted to secure estates to rightful heirs and to prevent Governor Berkeley from personally confiscating them. Viewed in the light of documents since made public, Colonel Crewe was a patriotic, self-respecting gentleman. He was officially slain by the verdict of a court-martial assembled to do the bidding of an irascible and vindictive governor, who appeared willing to sacrifice the lives and property of the English planters that his own interests in the Indian trade might continue undisturbed. Many descendants of members of the court were to be found among the colonists who contended on the field of battle, one hundred years later, for the principles laid down by Bacon and Crewe in 1676.*

The career of Colonel James Crewe is of particular interest because of the provisions of his will relating

* Early in his investigations the author became imbued with the opinion that Bacon's adherents had been misrepresented from the very inception of trouble with the Indians, and had been treated with marked disfavor and injustice by Sir William Berkeley, producing a dissatisfaction which remained as an open wound in the body politic long after Berkeley had been deposed from the office of governor. After a study of all available documents relating to that period the author's opinion became a conviction, and he prepared a monograph on Bacon's Rebellion, and, upon its completion, learned that Eggleston had already published "Bacon the Patriot," based upon a similar study.

to Giles Carter and his family. The will of James Crewe was executed the 23d of July, 1676, and proved before the Henrico County court the 10th of December, 1677. The name is spelled Crews by the clerk of the court, except the record of the signature which is Crewes. The spelling used by Governor Berkeley—Crewe—conforms to that in the Gloucestershire records of this family. He appears to have been “ Captain ” Crewe from the recorded will, but was designated as “ Colonel ” by Governor Berkeley.

Colonel James Crewe appointed his cousin Mathew Crewe of England sole executor. There is an entry in the Henrico County records stating that administration on the estate was granted to Mr. William Sherwood, attorney for Rowland Place Esquire, who was attorney for Mathew Crewe gent., son of Francis Crewe, deceased, brother of Colonel James Crewe; and to Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Grendon, attorney for Sarah Whittingham, sole daughter of Edward Crewe, brother to Colonel James Crewe, the heirs living in England.

The estate of James Crewe, known as Turkey Island, was on the James River between Shirley and Bremo, the latter the residence of the Cocke family for two hundred years. Turkey Island received its name from the large number of wild turkeys found there by the first party sent up the river from the

colony at Jamestown. The estate was sold by James Crewe's heirs in 1684 to William Randolph.

By an indenture made the 25th of February, 1684-5, Giles Carter, "planter," and his wife Hannah transferred their rights in a parcel of land pertaining to the Turkey Island plantation of Colonel James Crewe, to William Randolph. By his will Colonel Crewe had transferred the land to Giles Carter during his lifetime for "one grain of Indian corn." The estate of Colonel James Crewe was settled by the court held June 1st, 1686, the various legacies to Giles Carter's family being then approved and paid.

It is not known just when Colonel Crewe arrived in Virginia. The records show that he was a witness to a receipt given by Thomas Hallam April 14th, 1656, and recognized in court June 25th, 1656.

It has not been determined just when Giles Carter, who was associated with Colonel James Crewe, arrived in Virginia. There is a deposition recorded in Henrico County, Virginia, which states, on behalf of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Grendon, that he loaned a rapier to Colonel James Crewe "once when he was going to England." The date of this visit can not be determined, but it seems probable from subsequent incidents and records that Giles Carter and his family returned with Crewe and were still at his planta-

tion when the Indian troubles preceding Bacon's Rebellion began.

Giles Carter received grants of land for the expense of bringing a number of immigrants to Virginia, but their names, as shown in the court records and grants, are not found in any of the published lists of persons sailing from ports of England, the records of which are intact. This fact strengthens the evidence that Giles Carter and the group affiliated with him at the time of Bacon's Rebellion and afterwards, were from Gloucestershire and sailed from Bristol as did the first Giles Carter who came on the Supply. The only records of sailings from Bristol preserved are those of the Margaret and the Supply, found with the private papers of John Smyth of Nibley. Both ships were chartered for the Berkeley Hundred Colony.

The will of Colonel James Crewe contained, amongst other provisions, the following: "I give unto Hannah, wife of Giles Carter, my negro maid Kate forever and her increase," and in event of the death of Hannah Carter, the woman Kate was to become the property of Theodrick, son of Giles and Hannah Carter. Mary and Susan, daughters of Giles and Hannah Carter, each received under the will "ten thousand pounds of tobacco," and minor legacies. Many of the old wills make provision for

mourning rings and other small gifts for personal friends. Such generosity as Colonel Crewe bestowed upon Giles and Hannah Carter and their children was generally reserved for kinsmen.

There are many entries in the old records of Virginia concerning Giles Carter and his descendants, extracts of which are included to show their early land holdings and family connections.

In the records of Henrico County, Virginia, is a list of tythables, in 1679, residing in the old settlements of Bermuda Hundred, Curls and Turkey Island. At the last named place the list includes:

Richard Cocks	5
William Randolph	5
Giles Carter	6
Thomas Cocks	8
William Cocks	2

The record recites:

“An account of the several forty tythables, ordered by this worshipful court to fitt out man and horse and arms, etc., according to act.”

The act referred to required that a man and horse should be provided for service in the militia by each forty tythables. The numbers opposite each name indicated the numbers of persons for whose poll tax each was responsible.

Giles Carter was appointed by the court August 15th, 1681, as one of the persons to appraise an estate.

William Cocke, of Henrico County, recorded a deed of a parcel of land sold February 28th, 1684, to Giles Carter, "said land lying upon Turkey Island Mill Run and beginning at the upper beaver dam on said River."

Giles Carter was appointed by the court, February 1st, 1685, as an appraiser of the estate of John Clyburn, deceased.

The records of the court held at Varina for Henrico County, Virginia, June 1st, 1687, contain the following:

"Upon the petition of Giles Carter, certificate is granted unto him for eight hundred (800) acres of land due for ye importacion of these sixteen (16) persons under written, being legally proved in court; viz:

Jonathan Cocke	Cornelius Orts	William Wheeler
Philip Marshall	John Green	Nicholas Lund
Mary Allen	Mary Richards	John Bengany
John Holmes	Moses Martin	Thomas Smeethers
Elianor Bushell	Jno. Cocks	Rachel Lockerson."
Katherine Price		

An order of the same court appointed Giles Carter as an appraiser of and to divide the estate of Will Humphrey, deceased.

Amongst the recorded land patents in Virginia is a grant, dated October 21st, 1687, for 1875 acres in

the Parish of Varina, at the White Oak Swamp, on the north side of the James, to " Mr. Robert Woodson, Mr. Richard Ferris, Mr. Giles Carter, William Ferris and Roger Comins." This patent was issued in October, 1688, and signed by Francis Lord Howard, Baron of Effingham. Roger Comins having died and William Ferris having failed to pay any part of the charges accruing, the land was divided among the three remaining, Giles Carter's share being 552 acres lying along the main run of White Oak Swamp. This land was granted for having brought emigrants to the colony, among them being John Strong, Jno. Hickson, Geo. Swallow, Moses Reese, Jno. Worthy, Antho. Gant, Wm. Norris, Dan'll Waller, Tho. Adcock, Tho. Clark, Ed Davehill and others, thirty-six in all. By his will, one hundred years after the granting of this patent, John Carter, a grandson of Giles, gave a piece of land described as at the White Oak Swamp to his son and namesake John Carter, Jr.

The will of Giles Carter, father of Theodrick Carter (First) and of Giles Carter (Second), was executed the 14th day of December, 1699, and is recorded in Henrico County. The witnesses who proved the will were Thomas Smythes, William T. Sewell and James D. Davis. The will names his wife Hannah; son Theodrick; daughter Susanna, wife of Thomas

Williamson; daughter Mary, wife of Thomas Davis; daughter Ann, wife of James Davis; son Giles, Jr., who was under eighteen years of age when the will was executed. The will was probated February 2d, 1701-2, Hannah Carter being, under its provisions, sole executrix. After devising a few minor legacies including a "phillie" or young mare to his namesake, Giles, Jr., he directed that upon the lad's arriving at eighteen years of age he should divide the estate with his mother, but that she should not be disturbed in her possession of the plantation during her lifetime.*

A deed was recorded at the court held at Varina December 10th, 1701, for 550 acres of land sold by

* John Rolfe, when in England with Pocahontas, wrote a letter to King James concerning the plantations in Virginia which contains the following:

"At Henrico, on the north side of the river, ninety odd myles from the mouth thereof, and within fifteen or sixteen miles of the Falls or head of that river (being our furthest habitation within the land) are thirty-eight men and boyes, whereof twenty-two are farmers, the rest officers and others all whom maintayne themselves with food and apparell. Of this towne one Captain Smaley hath the command in the absence of Captain James Davis."

The abstract of Virginia land patents shows:

"Thomas Davis planter, son and heir of James Davis, late of Henrico in Virginia, gentleman, deceased, 300 acres in Warwicksqueake on Warwicksqueake Creek; due 100 acres in right of the said James Davis, his father, an ancient planter, for the transportation of two servants into the country, (viz) George Cooke and Alice Mulleins, who came in the George in 1617; 100 acres in right of Rachel Davis for her personal dividend, an ancient planter. Granted by Harvey 6 March, 1633."

John Cocks, of Oldman's Creek, Charles City County, to Thomas Williamson, husband of Susanna, daughter of Giles and Hannah Carter. The land was described as a parcel sold by Giles Carter, Sr., to Cocks.

The will of Giles Carter names two sons, Theodrick Carter (First) and Giles Carter, Junior. The records of Henrico County, Virginia, show that Theodrick Carter (First) transferred March 2d, 1701, to John Pleasants certain land called the Low Grounds lying on the north side of James River "on Run of Turkey Island Creek," for ten thousand pounds of tobacco. This land was devised to Theodrick Carter (First) by the will of his father Giles Carter. Theodrick Carter (First) bought from John Pleasants, at the same time, the property known as "Round Hills," on the south side of the Chicahominy Swamp. This Round Hills land serves later to identify John, the son of Theodrick Carter (First), to whom it was willed.*

The will of Theodrick Carter (First), son of Giles Carter and his wife Hannah, was executed the 22d day of July, 1736, and probated at a court held at

* John Pleasants was elected to the House of Burgesses 1692-3, and upon refusing to take the oath, Captain William Randolph was elected in his stead. When Colonel William Randolph's will was presented for probate November 16th, 1742, the witnesses proving the document were William Mayo, John Scruggs and Theodrick Carter.

Varina, the first Monday in April, 1737, being recorded in Henrico County. The witnesses to the will were Thomas Watkins, John Spear and Will W. Loatham. The will names his wife Elizabeth, who was made executrix of the estate and survived her husband about ten years; son Theodrick (Second), to whom was devised a small plantation of two hundred and eighteen acres; son John, to whom was willed the land on Round Hill branch and Chicahominy Swamp bought from John Pleasants; daughter Mary. Under the will a few slaves and the usual feather beds, rugs and other articles considered necessary in colonial households were distributed. His son John received his gun and "great chest."

The St. Peter's Parish register records the birth of another daughter a few weeks after the execution of the will, and before it was probated, as follows: "Elizabeth, daughter of Theodrick and Elizabeth Carter, born August 22d, baptized September 26th, 1736."

The will of Elizabeth Carter, widow of Theodrick Carter (First), was executed July 8th, 1747, and probated before the Henrico court held the first Monday in December, 1751. The witnesses to the will were Hannah H. Morgan, Theodrick Carter (Second) and Mark Clarke. By a comparison with that of her husband, Elizabeth's will shows in addition the names of

the daughters, including Mary, who was probably not married when her father's will was prepared. To her oldest son Theodrick (Second) was willed the Great Bible and certain live stock. It is barely possible this Bible is still in existence, but no trace of it has yet been discovered. A considerable amount of live stock was given to each of her children, including a horse in nearly every instance, and the remaining estate was then devised to her son John Carter, who was appointed sole executor. The daughters' names were Anne, Susannah, Martha, Mary, and Elizabeth. A legacy, a mare foal or filly, was left by Elizabeth Carter to her "grandson Cuthburd Webb," but whether Webb was part of his Christian name is not known. A family named Webb owned the plantation adjoining that of Theodrick Carter (First).

As the two brothers, Theodrick (Second) and John, duplicated the names of their sons to such an extent as to cause confusion, John and his descendants will not be considered until after the direct line of descent has been carried through to the present generation represented by General William H. Carter, and this plan is followed with reference to all collateral branches concerning which any information has been secured. A constant procession of Theodrick Carters occurred in the generation now to be considered, there being no less than seven so far

traced, with the records of several families yet undiscovered. Under these circumstances those bearing the name in the direct line to General William H. Carter have been designated Theodrick (First), Theodrick (Second), Theodrick (Third), and Theodrick (Fourth).

The will of Theodrick Carter (Second), son of Theodrick (First) and Elizabeth Carter, was executed the 7th day of December, 1777, and was probated before the court held for Prince Edward County January 19th, 1778. The witnesses to the will were Agnes Watkins, William Waddill and Elizabeth Clarke. The executors named were his son Waddill Carter and his friends Nathaniel Venable (a member of the Virginia Assembly 1766-68) and Francis Watkins, who was Clerk of Prince Edward County at that time. The will names his wife Anne; daughter Susannah, wife of ——— Stubblefield; son John; son Theodrick (Third); son William; son Richard; daughter Anne Waddill, wife of ——— Thompson; son Waddill; daughter Molley; daughter Salley, and son Samuel.

The will devised some of the lands to Waddill Carter and the balance, including the home plantation, to Samuel Carter. Susannah Stubblefield and three of the sons, John, Theodrick and William Carter, received each a nominal legacy, the slaves and

other property being distributed amongst the other sons and daughters. The legacies of the unmarried daughters are of special interest as, in addition to two slaves and the usual live stock, feather bed and furniture to each, they were given Horses, Saddles and Bridles, which, more than a century later, was unwittingly adopted as the title of a book of which the writer is the author and which is the standard textbook for instruction in those subjects at West Point and in the regular army.

Although the marriage record has not been found, corroborative evidence exists to make it quite certain that the wife of Theodrick Carter (Second) was Anne Waddill, who, according to St. Peter's Parish register, was baptized January 24th, 1713. The St. Peter's Parish register also shows that John Carter, son of Theodrick (Second) and Anne Carter, was born August 26th and baptized October 30th, 1737.

There is a record, at Houston, the county seat of Halifax County, of the sale of a tract of 183½ acres of land on Dan River, by Theodrick Carter (Second) of Prince Edward County, to his son John Carter of Halifax County, Virginia.

The will of John Carter, son of Theodrick Carter (Second) and his wife Anne, was executed June 18th, 1781, and probated before the court held for Halifax County, Virginia, September 20th, 1781. The wit-

nesses to his will were Benjamin Hobson, David Bates, Noel Waddill, Theodrick Carter (Third), and Charles Carter, a son of Theodrick (Third). The executors named were his wife Mary Carter, Captain James Turner, William Boyd and John Carter's brothers Richard and Theodrick Carter (Third). The will named his wife Mary; daughters Anne Waddill, Elizabeth, Mary, Judith, Salley; sons Richard, Theodrick (Fourth), Robert, James and Francis.

The appearance on the will of John Carter's brothers Richard and Theodrick (Third) as executors serves, with other evidence, to definitely fix the relationship of father and son between Theodrick Carter (Second) and John Carter of Halifax County and to differentiate that John Carter from a considerable number in Virginia bearing the same name.

The will devised to his eldest daughter Anne Waddill, who had married a Waddill, a nominal legacy. To the unmarried daughters were bequeathed slaves and the usual feather beds and furniture, only one daughter, Salley, receiving her share in gold. The three oldest sons, Richard, Theodrick (Fourth) and Robert, all minors when the will was executed, received jointly a plantation containing four hundred and fifty acres; James received the home plantation, his mother to have it, with the slaves necessary to run

it "during her widowhood." Francis, the youngest, received two hundred and ninety acres and provision was made that in case either James or Francis died before coming of age the deceased brother's share should go to the other, and upon the youngest becoming of age all the slaves then on the home plantation, except those given to the daughters, should be divided.

As previously stated, the will of John Carter, of Halifax County, amongst other provisions, devised to his three sons, Richard, Robert and Theodrick, four hundred and fifty acres of land purchased from George Ridley. The records of Halifax County, Virginia, show that Robert Carter sold his share of the land to George Marable.

The court records of Halifax County show that Robert Carter was married to Unity Cook, by William P. Martin, November 1st, 1792.

The last business transaction recorded by Robert Carter, in Halifax County, Virginia, prior to his removal to Tennessee, was the sale of two negroes to William Ferrell on June 19th, 1801. This closes the record, in direct line, of the branch of the family herein traced, in Virginia, as Robert Carter moved with his family to Tennessee about 1805, there being, at that time, six children, Sarah Venable, Henry Cook, John Blackgrove, Robert Michaux, Polly and Samuel Jefferson Carter, all of whom, according to