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SOME RECENT FINDS REGARDING THE ANCESTRY OF GENERAL GEORGE ROGERS CLARK

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After making researches in Essex and Caroline counties, Virginia, in 1933 and 1934, I have come to the conclusion that the name of the wife of Giles Rogers, the immigrant, is not definitely known and that his son, John Rogers, married Rachel, probably an Eastham. Further, I believe that the George and Mary Eastham whose estates were administered upon by John Rogers and Robert Goodloe in Caroline County in 1748 and 1756, were the parents of Rachel Rogers and that the maiden name of Mary Eastham was Mary Bird. If my deductions, as here presented, are correct, then these are maternal grandparents and great grandparents of George Rogers Clark.

In the summer of 1877 I completed my freshman year at college. My father had some mining interests in Colorado which required his attention. My mother insisted upon one of their sons accompanying him, and it fell to my lot to do so. Not returning home until just before Christmas, I lost a year at college and spent the winter in Louisville, it being my first there for six years. During that stay I heard much of my family genealogy and history and of the part the past generations had played in the building of our nation. I still have the brief notes that I then jotted down. In the fifty-seven years that have passed since that winter I have had many interviews with members of my family and others; conducted a voluminous correspondence; consulted many letters and manuscripts, both public and private, also church records; and read a vast amount of printed material. I am still finding additional material in unsearched corners.

In doing this I have made researches at home, in other counties in my native state of Kentucky, in other states of our Union, and in Great Britain.

I have found quite a few traditions that could well be classified under the several headings of beautiful, doubtful, amusing, conflicting, and absurd. Each has its advocates, the warmest being those in which conflicts occur.

In arriving at the above-mentioned conclusions I have gone counter to a tradition that I myself have warmly supported, and am now making an unconditional surrender to the only unproven portion of what I class as a correct tradition, namely that the maiden name of Mrs. Mary Eastham, who died intestate in Caroline County, Virginia, in 1756, was Mary Bird.

IMMIGRANTS

There were twenty-six immigrants bearing the surname of Rogers, in its varied spellings, who settled in Virginia in the years 1635 to 1654, inclusive.¹ So far as I know there is neither evidence nor claim that any of them were related to me except my ancestor, Giles Rogers, who settled somewhere from 1680 to 1686 in what subsequently became King & Queen County. True, these twenty-six Rogers immigrants did not all settle in any one locality, but if what little we know of this twenty-year period is anything like a fair index to what occurred in the first century or century and a half of Virginia history, then those trying to trace their Rogers ancestry to the immigrant must be careful to avoid anchoring in the wrong harbor. Where possible, the claimants must cite official records or, lacking that, they must show strong presumptive evidence in support of, or in spite of, their family traditions.

PATENTEES SURNAMED ROGERS

With the settlement of Virginia in 1607, a great Utopian idea was instituted. The mighty and the weak, the rich and the poor, the educated and the illiterate each had an equal right in the soil and what it produced, also in the products of human endeavor. It was a great socialistic, communistic experiment, but it failed, and in 1623 was abandoned to make way for indi-

¹ *Early Virginia Immigrants*, by George Cabell Green, Clerk, Virginia State Land Office, Richmond, Virginia. W. C. Hill Printing Company, 1912, pages 283-284.

vidual or selective initiative, energy, and perseverance. What had before been held in common then came to be held in severalty and perpetuity, and from that date the success of the enterprise and prosperity of the colony became an assured fact.

The first patents for land, or land grants as we call them today, were issued in 1623. Records of them are in the State Land Office in Richmond, chronologically arranged, bound in volumes and carefully indexed. Photostats of those indices are in the Virginia State Library, where they can be consulted. Volumes I to XL range in date from 1623 to 1772, the patents for 1695 being divided, part in Volume VIII and the balance in Volume IX. I had the privilege of consulting these in September, 1934, and found that fifty-five of the patentees bore the surname of Rogers, in its varied spellings. Twenty of these were in or before 1695, one of whom, Giles Rogers, the patentee in 1670, was my ancestor. The remaining thirty-five came later. In this first lot of twenty there were nine bearing the Christian name of John, none of whom were related to me, so far as I know. In the second lot of thirty-five there were sixteen who bore the Christian name of John. In how many of these patents my ancestor, John Rogers, was interested I have not attempted to learn. There were certainly two patents on the Matta fork of the Mattaponi River, one for 1,525 and the other for 1,860 acres, in which he, John Rogers, his brother, Peter, and four others, each had a one-sixth interest, or 565 acres. These two patents were dated 1717, but it was some twenty-five years later that John Rogers and his family began to settle there.

George Washington, born 1732, was surveying for Lord Fairfax in 1748 at the age of sixteen. George Rogers Clark, born 1752, was a surveyor and locator on the upper Ohio at the age of nineteen. Under the conditions then prevailing more boys assumed responsibilities and obligations of men earlier in life than they do today. The fee for locating and surveying land then was one-third of the land located and surveyed, and in this way surveyors of that day often acquired large holdings of land. My ancestor, John Rogers, was a surveyor and is said to have patented a large amount of land.

Traditions vary as to the date of his birth. The earliest date given is 1680 and the latest 1686. I use the date 1695 for my division of these patents because in that year he was not

over fifteen years of age, and I am assuming that he was then not a surveyor and that his large holdings of land were acquired at later dates.

MIGRATIONS

Bulletin No. 9 of the Virginia State Library has a very interesting series of maps showing progressive steps in the early colonial settlements. The tidewater region was filled up before they extended beyond.

Whilst the laws forbade manufactories in the colonies or commercial trading with each other or with foreign countries, the law was not always obeyed, but as a rule their commerce was with England. Those colonists of large wealth owned vast amounts of land and had their own warehouses, wharves, and vessels. They conducted a commerce with the Mother Country in which they transported not only their own tobacco and other products of the soil but also those of smaller planters as well. These had to be in the tidewater section, for there were then no roads, worthy of the name, and water transportation was all upon which they had to rely.

The families that I have under consideration were the small land holders who did not have vessels of their own and were not anchored in the sense in which many of the larger and wealthier families were.

A primeval forest covered the land, and the surface soil consisted of about three feet of vegetable mold, the finest of tobacco soils. When the land was cleared and its soil cultivated, the heavy rainfall soon washed this rich, black loam into the lowlands and streams. The extension of the clearings was a constant progress, as was also the erosion of the soil.

As a rule the families were large and the children married young. The little farms of one hundred acres or so would answer for a man and his growing family, but not for them and their increase after the children were grown and married. As the younger ones married, they wanted breathing space and plantations of their own, so they acquired land by gift, purchase, or patent, and moved to the western frontier, then not far away. Often the heads of a family would take this migratory step with their children, relatives, and neighbors, sometimes even with their grandchildren and, as the country filled up, each step was longer than the one before.

When Giles Rogers came to Virginia as an immigrant, our traditions all agree that he settled in what afterwards became King & Queen County, but they do not agree as to just where he settled; some say on the Mattaponi, others along the Dragon Swamp. Traditions assign 1643 as the date of his birth and 1731 as that of his death. If they are correct, then he was about eighty-eight when he died.

His eldest son, Giles Rogers, Jr., is said to have moved to Hanover County and later to North Carolina, but when I do not know.

His second son, Peter Rogers, and Peter's son, John, were both dead in 1727. He was, however, survived by five other sons.

His third son, John Rogers, my ancestor, was married and living in Drysdale Parish in King & Queen County at or near the head of the Dragon Swamp in 1733, and his eldest son, John Rogers, Jr., was then sixteen years old. This plantation is about the location of the 400-acre patent that Giles Rogers obtained in 1670. I believe this was the end of the first migratory step in my branch of this Rogers family and that Giles Rogers, Sr., took it with, or it may have been following, his son John Rogers, and, if so, this must have been before 1731, if our tradition is correct that Giles Rogers died that year.

Information is hazy regarding my early Clark ancestors. It is claimed that the immigrant was named John and settled at Jamestown in or before 1623. If that is correct, then there were probably three migratory steps made by this family to the northward and westward before we find Jonathan Clark seated in Drysdale Parish in King & Queen County when he made his will, on April 9, 1734, and died soon afterward. In his will he named his wife, Elizabeth, and four young children, John, Ann, Benjamin, and Elizabeth. His wife was a niece of John Rogers, Sr. Their families were relatives, friends, and neighbors, and he named both his wife and John Rogers as his executors. In addition thereto, fifteen years later there was an intermarriage between two of their children.

Whilst a copy of this will has been preserved and published,^{*} the unfortunate destruction of the early archives of King & Queen County has deprived us of such benefit as we might have

^{*} See *Conquest of the Country Northwest of the River Ohio 1778-1783 and Life of Gen. George Rogers Clark*, by William Hayden English. The Bowen-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1896, Vol. I, pages 31-33.

derived from a study of the names and signatures on the original document and its accompanying papers:

Both John Rogers, Sr., and Jonathan Clark were considering the future and had their eyes turned westward. Rogers obtained patents for land in Caroline and Spotsylvania counties and Clark in the part of Goochland that is now Albemarle County. In each family these lands were occupied by the next generation.

PUBLIC ARCHIVES

In 1864 the records of King & Queen County were completely destroyed. It is here that Giles Rogers settled as an immigrant and where both my Rogers and Clark families lived before they migrated further westward. Thus it was that our family traditions obtained a stronger hold upon our minds and beliefs than they probably would have held had they been subjected to the uncompromising rigidity of contemporary official records.

I did not examine the archives in Middlesex County, but I understand they are in excellent condition.

At Tappahannock there are not only the records of Essex County, but also those of old Rappahannock County, out of which Essex was formed in 1692. Virtually all of the county records have been preserved and are accessible for the student. The Clerk's office is fire-proof, with steel racks for the record books. Above them is a row of a dozen or more cubby-holes, each approximately two feet cube, for loose papers. In these are filed the original wills, executors' and administrators' bonds, and other recorded documents, including many, if not most, of the original deeds. They were folded and tied in bundles, each marked with dates corresponding with the term of court at which they were presented and ordered to be recorded. Some of the books have been badly damaged by book worms. Some of the papers have been gnawed by mice. The evidences of dry rot and careless handling are there. The papers are now being opened out and flat-filed, which will help to reduce the danger of damage from future handling.

In the Circuit Clerk's office the papers in the old Chancery suits have been somewhat scattered, but they are now being assembled, properly arranged and flat-filed. When that work is completed, those papers, with their fertile field for information, will also be made accessible for the student.

As matters now stand, each office has more material than racks. The current records and papers must be kept intact, and the clerks have not sufficient staff to keep everything in its proper place. Lawyers are using the current, students and researchers the historic, and, not always knowing just where each belongs, the old material is sometimes in a more or less shuffled condition.

In 1864 Caroline County also suffered a loss of nearly all of its archives, such as the records of their deeds, wills, orphans' accounts, etc. Fortunately, the Order Books, which in some places are called Minute Books, were preserved. These, however, did not entirely escape damage, for at each end of each volume a few leaves, possibly ten or so, are gone and about an equal number are loose or fragmentary. However, about nine-tenths of each volume is intact, and for that we must be thankful. Such indices as they had were, of course, among the missing leaves. To consult these books properly one must turn every page and note each entry. It is a tedious undertaking.

These Order Books are neither numbered nor lettered, but each is known by the years in which its first and last entries were made as 1732-1740, 1740-1746, 1746-1754, 1755-1758, etc.

Each session of the court has its caption giving the day and date when convened and the names of the justices present. Any change in the personnel of the court is noted as a part of the proceedings. Adjournment from day to day or for any other reason is also noted. We thus have the dates and minutes of what occurred each day in their consecutive order.

When a will is offered for probate, the entry will show the name of the person who brought it into court, the name of the testator, the names of the witnesses by whom it is proven, and the name of the executor or executors. Then will follow a second entry stating that the executor gave bond according to law. Both will and bond will be recorded in the Will Book, but only the preliminary facts will appear in the Order Book. Orders will be issued to make an inventory and appraisement of the estate, and when made, the fact will be entered in the Order Book, but the record will be made in the Will Book. To illustrate, in the Order Book for 1755-1758, page 312, under date of November 10, 1757, we read, "Will of Wm Marshall dec'd presented in court by Elizabeth, Michael Yates & John Estis Executors proven by oaths of Saml Pittard, James Samuel &

Sarah Tomson." Six months later, on page 349, under date of May 11, 1758, we found: "Eliza Marshall's renunciation was proved by the oaths of Thomas Landrum & Wm Shachan Gent & admitted to record." On page 356, under date of June 8, 1758, we have: "The inventory of the estate of Wm Marshall dec'd returned & admitted to record."

I failed to copy any notation regarding the executor's bond, but this is an apt illustration because Marshall's namesake son in 1768 married Ann McLeod, the niece and ward of John Clark.

When one dies intestate, similar proceedings are entered in the Order Book, only we have an administrator in place of an executor, and no will to record.

In that day deeds were generally taken to court and there acknowledged and ordered to be recorded. The facts, together with the names of those concerned, were recorded in these Order Books, but the deeds were recorded in books especially provided for that purpose.

The justices of the peace, who constituted the county court, the sheriff, officers of the county militia, and others were appointed by the Governor and when their commissions arrived, they were formally exhibited in court, and the facts noted on the Order Book in their place in the proceedings of the day.

It was in making a page-to-page search that the following entries were found on a loose page numbered 53 in a volume containing the minutes of the proceedings of a Court held for Caroline County in February, 1764:

"Samuel Redd, Thomas Lowrey & John Miller, Jur, produced Commissions from under the hand and Seale of his Honour the Governour, to be Captains in this County, who took the oaths appointed by an Act of Parliament, Read & subscribed the Test"

"John Broadbuss, John Clark, Richard Allcock, produced Commissions from under the hand and Seal of his Honour the Governour to be Lieutenants, who took the oaths appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament, Read and Subscribed the Test;"

"John Thompson produced a Commission from his Honour the Governour to be Ensign who took the oath appointed to be taken by Act of Parliament read and subscribed the Test."

For a century the family and historians have been trying to determine what, if any, military service, John Clark, the father of General George Rogers Clark, rendered in either Colonial or Revolutionary days, and here we have it. He was then nearly

thirty-eight years of age. As above stated, it is on one of the loose leaves of its volume, and since it is merely a question of time as to when it will be lost a certified copy of it was sent to me.

TRADITIONS

Early traditions have been handed down by word of mouth, often for two or more generations, before they were recorded. These records do not always agree and they have been the subject of much controversy and correspondence extending over a period of fully a century.

Let us begin with Giles Rogers. He is supposed to have been born in Edinborough, Scotland. That statement is probably based on the fact that his Christian name is the same as that of the patron saint of that city. He is thought to have been born about 1643 and to have become a resident of Worcestershire, England, where our tale begins to unfold.

Our traditions state that as a young man he came to Virginia in or about 1670 with the view of possibly becoming a colonist, but that he returned to England. However, in Patent Book No. 5, page 333, I find that Col. Robert Abrall obtained a patent for 500 acres in New Kent County under date of April 26, 1664, for the transportation of ten persons, including Giles Rogers.^{*} Therefore, Giles Rogers' first trip to Virginia must have been earlier than our traditions state. However, he himself obtained a patent, dated April 18, 1670, for 400 acres in what was then New Kent County, Virginia—from which King & Queen County was formed—for the transportation of eight persons. That he subsequently settled in what afterwards became King & Queen County, Virginia, all accounts agree. They generally agree that he had three sons and three daughters, and, to a limited extent, as to the names of some of those children. The accounts, however, differ as to the name of his wife and as to whether he married in England or Virginia.

Some say that he settled in Virginia as early as 1680, bringing his wife and children with him. Others have it that he became involved in the disastrous rebellion of the Duke of Monmouth and, being desirous of avoiding the "bloody assizes" of Judge Jeffries, set sail late in 1685, reaching Virginia early in

^{*} *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, 1623-1800*, by Nell Marion Nugent. In five volumes. Vol. I. Press of The Dietz Printing Co., Richmond, Virginia, 1934, page 502.

1686. Those who have him marrying in England agree that his son, John Rogers, the maternal grandfather of George Rogers Clark, was born on shipboard.

Giles Rogers is said to have settled as an immigrant on a plantation on the north bank of the Mattaponi, and yet there are those who put his residence within his 400-acre patent on the northern side of the county near the Dragon Swamp. If he made a westward migratory step with his son, John Rogers, of which we have neither record nor tradition, it would account for this discrepancy.

Those who place the date of this Rogers immigration at 1680 have John Rogers dying at the age of eighty-eight. Those who place the date of immigration at 1686 have him dying at the age of eighty-two. A little addition shows us that they agree upon 1768 as the year when this John Rogers died. As yet we have not found an official entry fixing the year of his death.

John Rogers is said to have lived and died in Drysdale Parish in King & Queen County and, together with his wife, to have been buried in the Old Park Church Yard. This old church has long ceased to exist. Its location was near the upper end of the present King & Queen County, about one mile west of Newtown. This is some eight or ten miles west of where John Rogers was living in 1733 and some twelve or fifteen miles east of where he was living at the time of his death. As a rule each planter had his private burial ground on his plantation and near his residence. I see no reason why this Rogers family should have departed from this custom and doubt if any of them were buried in the Old Park Church Yard.

All agree as to the identity of this son, John Rogers, that he was a surveyor and entered a large amount of land.

There is no suggestion that John Rogers ever married more than once. The year of his marriage is fixed as 1716, but the name and identity of his wife has been a bone of contention in the family for a century or more. The names of his children, the order in which they were born and the names of those whom they married are generally conceded to be as follows:

John Rogers, Jr., born 1717.

Giles Rogers, born 1719.

George Rogers, born June 11, 1721; married 1754 Frances Pollard.

Mary Rogers, born 1725; married 1745 Larkin Johnson.

Ann Rogers, born 1727 to 1729; married 1749 John Clark.

Lucy Rogers, born 1731, died 1764; married 1755 Capt. Samuel Redd.

Mildred Rogers, born 1733, died 1788; married 1759/60 Reuben George.

Bird Rogers, born 1735, married sisters; 1st, 1766, Mary Trice; 2nd, 1788, Martha Trice.

Rachel Rogers, born October 17, 1737, died 1792; married 1764 Donald Robertson.

It will be noted that the names of the wives of two of them are omitted and that the dates of the births of only two are definitely fixed; the other dates strike me as being mere approximate estimates. I am inclined to think that all married and had families, but if any of this generation left either family Bibles or any genealogical data, I have not located them.

From notes that I have gathered, the year of Ann Rogers' birth has been variously put at from 1727 to 1730. One has it as late as 1734, but among these recent finds is proof of the incorrectness of this last date. She married her cousin, John Clark, and bore him ten children, of whom General George Rogers Clark was the second, and General William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806, was the ninth. The dates of the births of her children have been carefully preserved. This would indicate that they had a family Bible in which such dates were recorded, but if there is such, I have not succeeded in locating it.

KNOWN FACTS

John Clark and Ann Rogers married about 1749. They migrated west and settled on a plantation, in Albemarle County, which he had inherited in 1734 from his father, Jonathan Clark, of Drysdale Parish in King & Queen County. It was in Albemarle County that their first three or four children, including George Rogers Clark, were born. But they were then living in a country beyond tidewater, with no roads worthy of the name and no means of transportation for their tobacco, so, about 1756 to 1758, they moved back eastward to a plantation in Caroline County, which John Clark inherited from an uncle, and there their remaining children were born. In 1784 they sold this home and together with their youngest son, William, and

three single daughters took a long westward step, joining⁴ their son, George Rogers Clark, at Louisville, in March, 1785.

Their Kentucky home was known as "Mulberry Hill." Its site was selected by their son, General George Rogers Clark, but he was too much occupied by Indian affairs to attend to the building of the two-story log house. That was erected by their eldest son, General Jonathan Clark, who came out to Kentucky to prepare the way for his parents and their younger children. Forty-three acres of this Mulberry Hill property, including the house site, the old spring, and the family burial ground, were given to the city of Louisville and are to be known as the George Rogers Clark Park. There Ann Clark was buried in 1798 and John Clark in 1799, both in unmarked graves whose sites are not even definitely known today. About 1890 the author, accompanied by his mother, went to Mulberry Hill and photographed the old log house, from which picture the accompanying illustration was made.

THE ROGERS FAMILY IN CAROLINE COUNTY

George Rogers was the uncle after whom General George Rogers Clark was named. He was past thirty-three when he married in 1754 and became one of the leading citizens in his county. The plantation in Caroline County on which he lived, reared his large family and died, extended over into Spotsylvania. Indeed, the line dividing these two counties is said to have passed between his residence and kitchen. It was on the next to the most southerly of the four branches of the Mattaponi River—what on our government maps is called the Matta River, the Po and the Ni being the more northerly branches. In the stream was quite a fall that made a fine mill seat that is still celebrated as such. There he had a grist mill, which, I think, was probably the one referred to in one of the Caroline County Order Books under date of March 11, 1742/3, reading: "Its ordered a road be cleared from the main road by Anthony Arnolds towards Rogers mill as far as this County extends and John Rogers Jr. is Appointed Over Seer of ye sd road & Wm Conner, Wm Olliver, Rice Williams, John Downer, Antho Arnold, Thos. Bankes and Thomas Eastis's people are to be added to the said road." I

⁴ See *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, Vol. 3, No. 1, "How the Parents of George Rogers Clark Came to Kentucky in 1784-1785," by Ludie J. Kinkead.

think this tract of land was a part of those two patents that John Rogers, his brother, Peter Rogers, and others had entered and patented in 1717. The mill was evidently a new one, as the road to it had not been built in March, 1743, according to our present calendar. John Rogers, Jr., was there, and the road overseer, at the age of twenty-five.

In 1742 John Rogers, Sr., was from fifty-six to sixty-two years of age—basing this on his presumed birth at the time of landing from 1680 to 1686—and I believe he had made up his mind to take a migratory step westward and settle on this land of his in Caroline and Spotsylvania counties. With this idea in view he probably sent his eldest son, John Rogers, Jr., to prepare the way, such as selecting the site, building the residence and outbuildings, clearing land and planting crops; the family to follow and reap the benefit of his pilotage.

Mr. Hopewell L. Rogers, who has made an extensive compilation relating to Giles Rogers and his descendants, places this John Rogers, Jr., as a resident of Halifax County, Virginia, in 1757 to 1786, and dying in Person County, North Carolina. In the Caroline County Order Book for 1755-1758, page 114, under date of September 11, 1755, we found an entry reading: "Mathew Boyle asks for Judgmt. against Natha. Tang, gent. Sheriff of Halifax on a Ex. delivered him agt. John Rogers Jr." This would indicate that he moved to Halifax County in or before 1755.

We thus have this John Rogers, Jr., in 1742/3, living on and developing this land that his father was interested in patenting and, in 1754/5 off of it and in Hanover County. Between those dates I have no information bearing on him. I do not know whether he was married or single, nor do I know what, if any, claim he had to this land. All I know is that he was on it in 1742/3 and developing the property; off of it in 1754/5, and in Hanover County. Therefore he took three migratory steps—first to Caroline County, second to Hanover County, and third to North Carolina.

An interesting query is, what if any members of this Rogers family came with him in this first migratory step? The destruction of records in King & Queen and the paucity of records in Caroline leave us the Caroline County Order Books as almost our sole reliance.

In the Order Book for 1741-1746, page 229, under date of September 9, 1743, we find that one Mary Rogers gave her deposition in a suit. John Rogers, Sr., had a daughter Mary, born 1725, who married Larkin Johnson in 1745, and she was therefore single and eighteen years of age in 1743. If this Mary were the daughter of John Rogers, Sr., then her father was probably living there at that time, but I have no other means of identifying her.

In 1743 and 1744 there are two mentions of a Robert Rogers and in 1744 mention of a Joseph Rogers, neither of whom were related to my Rogers family, so far as I know.

Under date of February 14, 1755, there is an entry regarding another Rogers who is not related to my line. This may interest our readers as an illustration of another type of entry in these Order Books not to be found elsewhere:

Page 31. "Thos. Rogers, gent, Came into Court & made Oath that he Came into the Colony from Great Britain in the year 1752 [possibly 1702] & this is the first time of proving his Impn either by himself or parents & assign the Same over to James Taylor, Gent."

Other entries regarding him show that he was an educated man and a lawyer:

Mar. 10, 1743. John Rogers & Abraham Estes on jury.

July 13, 1744. Geo. Eastham & John Rogers on jury.

Nov. 10, 1744. John Rogers Confessed judgment.

Nov. 8, 1745. County levy to John Rogers for building Middle River bridge 1010 [probably pounds of tobacco].

If these entries refer to John Rogers, Sr., the surveyor, then he had at the age of fifty-seven to sixty-three, made this (his second?) migratory step to the westward with his son, John Rogers, Jr., and had taken with him his five daughters and youngest son, Bird Rogers, all unmarried. John Rogers, Sr., left in King & Queen his third son, George.

Of the early life of this son, George Rogers, I know very little. Inferentially, he did not take the migratory step to the plantation in Caroline and Spotsylvania counties with his father, John Rogers, Sr., his brother, John Rogers, Jr., and the six younger members of the family in or about 1743, and yet he eventually acquired that plantation, but how and when I do not know; he reared a large family on it and died there in 1802.

From an abstract of a deed in the Virginia County Records, Vol. I, Spotsylvania County, page 184, dated December 4, 1750,

I learn that Abraham Rogers (youngest son of Peter Rogers and first cousin of George Rogers) and wife, of St. George's Parish in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, conveyed to George Rogers, of Drysdale Parish in King & Queen County, "joyner," a ten-acre tract of land in St. George's Parish and his right to a grist mill.

So we know that in 1750 George Rogers was still living in King & Queen County, probably on his father's old plantation. He probably took his migratory step to join his parents and family in Caroline County soon after his marriage in 1754, and that was practically coincident with the migratory step of his elder brother, John Rogers, Jr., to Hanover County.

FAMILY OF DONALD ROBERTSON AND WIFE, RACHEL ROGERS

Rachel, the youngest child of John Rogers, Sr., was born October 17, 1737. On September 27, 1764, she, at the age of nearly twenty-seven, became the second wife of Donald Robertson, who came to Virginia in 1753 and soon thereafter established a celebrated school in King & Queen County, nearly four miles above what was then known as Todd's Landing and later known as Dunkirk. She was his junior by some twenty years. By him she had three children; the first died in infancy.

The second, Lucy, was born July 9, 1773. Her father, Donald Robertson, died January, 1783, when she was less than ten years old. Her mother died in 1792, when Lucy was only nineteen, after which she lived with her cousin, Ann Clark Gwathmey, the eldest sister of George Rogers Clark, until March 23, 1797, when she married Major John Walker Semple and with him migrated to Kentucky. By him she had nine children. After his death she married a second time, but had no children by this second marriage.

The third child of Donald Robertson and his wife, Rachel Rogers, was Isaac, born August 27, 1776. He studied law under Bushrod Washington, moved west with his sister and her husband and settled at Louisville, Kentucky, where, in 1799, he married Matilda, daughter of Commodore Richard Taylor. Among their descendants are some of the noblest of Kentucky's sons.

A grandson of Isaac Robertson, named William Kyle Anderson, born 1849, made quite a study of his family history and genealogy and, being justly proud of their achievements, em-

bodied his findings in a book of 263 pages, exclusive of the index.* In preparing his data for this work he had access to the family papers of his great aunt, Mrs. Lucy Robertson Semple, and others, and made a trip into King & Queen County at a time when the roads were poor and transportation uncertain and difficult. He described his trip somewhat in detail. His purpose was to locate the homes and haunts of his ancestors, interview the residents and study the archives. He was fortunate in locating the site of the old Donald Robertson School, but the destruction of the early county records proved to be a stumbling block that he could not bridge.

WHO WAS THE WIFE OF JOHN ROGERS, SR.?

We have now come to consideration of the question as to who was the wife of John Rogers, Sr. The most popular of the three traditions, and the first one to consider, is that she was Mary Byrd, a daughter of the first Colonel William Byrd of Westover and his wife, Mary Horsemenden, and that she had brothers William, Dr. Philip, and Otway Byrd.

The next in popularity is that she was Mary Bird, daughter of William Bird, an irascible Burgess from King & Queen County in 1702.

The third and least popular is that she was Rachel, the daughter of a Mr. Eastham or Easom and his wife, Mary Bird, who made a runaway match in the early colonial days.

Mr. Anderson devotes some fifteen pages (208 to 223) to the discussion of this subject. I shall not attempt to follow him at length.

In replying to the first of these three traditions he very pertinently calls attention to the fact that the first Colonel William Byrd of Westover had no brothers named Philip or Otway. He had, besides Colonel William Byrd, the 2nd, only one son, who died in infancy. The name of Otway did not appear in that branch of the family until the children of William Byrd, 3rd, one of whose sons was named Francis Otway. The name Philip was not in any of these early generations. Further, Mr. Anderson says that the only entry of the Mary Byrd, claimed to have been the wife of John Rogers, Sr., is on that Byrd chart

* *Donald Robertson and His Wife Rachel Rogers*, by William Kyle Anderson. Privately printed, Detroit, Michigan, 1900.

as unmarried in 1698, therefore, presumably, of marriageable age, fifteen or older, in 1698, and thirty-three or older, in 1716, when John Rogers married. The wife of this John Rogers, Sr., bore him nine children, the dates of whose births ranged from 1717 to 1737. At this last date this Mary Byrd of Westover would have been not less than fifty-four years of age. This may have been possible, but it certainly was not probable.

When Mr. Anderson comes to the second of the three above traditions, he sidesteps the question as to Mary Bird of King & Queen County being the wife of John Rogers, not because he denies Mary Bird as an ancestor, but because he accepts the third tradition, and that places Rachel Eastham (pronounced Easom) as the wife of John Rogers, Sr., and her mother as Mary Bird. It is well to state here that, as far as I know, there is no published genealogy of the Bird family of King & Queen County.

There are two letters from Mr. Thomas Rogers, son of George Rogers, 1721-1802, to his cousin, Mrs. Lucy Robertson Semple, dated respectively December 1, 1848, and May 16, 1850. Mr. Anderson had both of those letters before him, but he did not have the intervening letter from Mrs. Semple to Mr. Rogers. Pertinent quotations from it were given in the second letter from Mr. Rogers. Mr. Anderson also had before him an original letter from Mrs. Semple, dated July 1, 1856, to his mother, from which he quoted: "Grandfather, John Rogers, lived and died in King and Queen county. He married Rachel Eastham. She was daughter of Mary Bird, and that is the way Bird came into the family." This gives concisely Mrs. Semple's contention in her letters to Thomas Rogers and others.

Mr. Anderson did not have access to that great storehouse of information in the State Historical Society at Madison, Wisconsin, known as The Draper Collection of Manuscripts. They had not then been arranged and bound by Dr. Reuben Gold Thwaites. In them are many letters from Mrs. Semple, Thomas Rogers and other descendants of John Rogers, Sr., bearing on this subject. In 1916 I spent the summer at Madison, Wisconsin, studying those Draper papers and have continued studying them ever since then. My conclusion is that there was no consistent, persistent effort to study and record the ancestry of these Rogers and Clark families until some years after the death of General George Rogers Clark, which occurred in 1818.

Mann Butler, in gathering data for his *History of Kentucky*, did some work along this line about 1832, but the great mass of it was done as the result of the efforts of Dr. Lyman C. Draper, which he began about 1841 and continued until his death in 1891.

Each of the three traditions has had, and still has, its warm advocates, but that of Rachel Eastham, as having been the wife of John Rogers, Sr., is the least popular.

Mrs. Hoggatt Clopton, now of Washington, D. C., whose maiden name was Virginia Marshall, is a descendant of Giles Rogers, Sr., through his daughter, Lucy, but she is not a descendant of John Rogers, Sr. In her efforts to unravel the tangled skein of her Rogers and Clark ancestors she made an extensive research in tidewater Virginia and collected a mass of material of which she kindly let me have the benefit. Data which she found in Essex, which adjoins King & Queen County on the north, was the cause of my going to Tappahannock, the county seat of Essex, where I spent ten days in October, 1933, and three weeks in September, 1934. Acting on the best of advice, I elicited the assistance of Mr. Thomas H. Warner, the county surveyor, who takes a keen interest in such work and holds the confidence of the county officials and of the entire community. His knowledge of the old land grants and of those who have owned the lands, down to and including the present property holders, is marvelous, and his knowledge of and familiarity with the county records is equally valuable.

When I arrived there in September, 1934, the first thing Mr. Warner confronted me with was a copy of the will of one John Bates, Jr., dated December 30, 1733, and recorded February 19 following. Apparently this will was made in contemplation of an early death. Though a reduced facsimile and a complete copy of it accompany this article, I wish to quote here two pertinent paragraphs.

"It. I give and bequath unto my God daughter Ann Rogers (the daughter of John and Rachell Rogers) Ten pounds, Current Money."

The later item reads: "Lastly I do hereby Constitute and Appoint my loving friends John Rogers (of King & Queen County) and William Motley (of Essex County) to be my Executors of this my last Will and Testament, hereby Revoking and making Void all former Wills by me made."

There was no question in our minds but what Mr. Warner had found record evidence that the maternal grandparents of

General George Rogers Clark were named John and Rachel Rogers and that the legatee, Ann Rogers, here mentioned, was the one who, in 1749, married John Clark and, in 1752, became the mother of George Rogers Clark.

This find was a confirmation, in part, of the conclusion at which Mr. William Kyle Anderson had arrived from his study of what his great aunt, Mrs. Lucy Robertson Semple, had asserted in her letters written in 1848 and 1856.

I have described the conditions in the Clerk's office at Tappahannock in Essex County, Virginia. In one of the cubby holes we found the original will of John Bates, Jr., above quoted from. The signature of the testator indicates two efforts, probably due to weakness incident to ill health. Among the witnesses is the signature of John Rogers, Jr., then a boy of sixteen.

At that day printing presses were not in use in the colony and such forms as were frequently required were written out by the clerk, or his deputies, when opportunity afforded, to be filled in when and as required. Such was the case with the executors' bond that the law required of John Rogers and William Motley. Their bondsman was Anthony Samuel. A sister of John Rogers is said to have married a Mr. Samuels, and it is probable that Anthony Samuel was that brother-in-law.

A reduced facsimile of this original will accompanies this article; also a facsimile of the signatures to the executors' bond. That of John Rogers, Sr., is especially worthy of note as being peculiarly characteristic and therefore easily identified.

THE CLARK SIDE

Back of Jonathan Clark, the paternal grandfather of General George Rogers Clark, our data is vague. This Jonathan Clark was probably born about 1695 to 1698. He married, in or about 1725, Elizabeth Wilson, a granddaughter of Giles Rogers, Sr., and died leaving a will, dated April 9 and proven June 24, 1734,* in which he named his widow and four young children, John, Ann, Benjamin, and Elizabeth, and bequeathed to his two sons equally: ". . . All that land whereon I now live . . . after their mother's

*See *Conquest of the Country Northwest of the River Ohio 1778-1783 and Life of Gen. George Rogers Clark*, by William Hayden English. The Bowen-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1896, Vol. I, pages 31-33.

death . . . all that tract or parcel of land whereon my mother now liveth . . . all that tract of land which I lately took up in Goochland county, on James river." As executors he named "my loving wife, Eliza Clark, and my loving friend, John Rogers." The widow soon appears as the wife of a Mr. (William Bird?) Richards by whom our traditions say she had two sons.

It is unfortunate that the destruction of the records and papers in King & Queen County prevents our seeing the signature of John Rogers to the executors' bond that the law required. But the near blood relationship that existed between his wife, Elizabeth Clark, and John Rogers is significant. Again they were friends and near neighbors. I feel justified in assuming that my ancestor, John Rogers, Sr., was one of the two executors named in this will of Jonathan Clark of 1734.

Again, the third tract mentioned in this will of Jonathan Clark was one of 3,277 acres in Goochland County. The patent to it is dated May 25, 1734, after Jonathan Clark's death, and he had only a one-fourth interest in it, so his sons inherited a joint interest in nearly 820 acres. When Albemarle County was formed in 1744, this became a part of the new county. Accompanying this article is a small map showing the location of this patent and how it was subdivided.

I am informed that the certificates and plots of survey upon which these early patents were issued have not been preserved, hence the name of the surveyor is not known. But in 1748 the tract was divided into four equal parts by a surveyor. Two of those plots were not recorded, but the other two were, the originals still being on file in the Clerk's office in Goochland County, where Mr. Warner recently saw them. He informs me that they both bear the characteristic signature of John Rogers as attached to the bond which he gave in February, 1733/4, when qualifying as executor under the will of John Bates, Jr.

John Clark was, I think, born October 9, O. S. 1726, though some say 1724. At the age of twenty-three he married his cousin, Ann Rogers, daughter of John Rogers, Sr. Benjamin Clark at about the age of twenty-one married Miss Elizabeth Lea, daughter of William and Rachel Lea of Amelia County.* These two Clark brothers arrived at an amicable division of their 820-

* This relationship is shown in the will of William Lea, dated June 18 and probated September 20, 1770, in Amelia County, Virginia, Will Book 24, page 328.

acre interest in the 3,277-acre patent, and each took a westward migratory step, settling on his 410-acre portion, but neither lived there very long. Their deeds of partition and sale are on record in Albemarle County.

The Albemarle Chapter of the D. A. R. at Charlottesville have placed a tablet on this tract near the site of the John Clark house, thus marking the site of the house where General George Rogers Clark was born.

Ann, the eldest daughter and second child of Jonathan Clark, of the will of 1734, was born about 1728. She married a Scotchman named Torquil McLeod, but the date of their marriage is variously placed at from 1742 to 1751. However, our traditions agree that she died in childbirth about a year later, and that McLeod left the child with her uncle, John Clark, and returned to Scotland.

Mr. Warner has located the ninety-six-acre tract of land in Essex County, Virginia, for which Torquil McLeod obtained a deed on August 21, 1751, on which he lived and the possession of which made him a legal voter in the election for Burgess in January, 1752, in which election he cast his vote. Incidentally, it was the only election recorded in Essex County, Virginia, in which McLeod did cast a vote.

On March 17, 1752, the Essex County Court appointed John Clark administrator of the estate of "Torkle" McLeod, deceased. The administrator's bond was, of course, signed by Clark as the principal, but it also bears the signatures of James Pollard, Joseph Wood, and George Rogers as sureties. This George Rogers was a brother-in-law of John Clark and the uncle after whom General George Rogers Clark was named. He was also that member of this Rogers family who acquired the plantation in Caroline and Spotsylvania counties that I think was settled by this Rogers family in or about 1743 and on which he reared his family and died in 1802. I am also reproducing the signatures to this bond. In doing this I am showing that of John Clark a few months before the birth of his son George Rogers Clark, also that of George Rogers the uncle after whom George Rogers Clark was named and from whom many of our best citizens of Kentucky trace their descent.

I am also reproducing the signature of John Clark to his final report in the settlement of the "Torkle" McLeod estate on April 12, 1759.

A few years after bringing his unmarried daughters to Kentucky with him they married, and as each was under twenty-one at the time, the law required that he give his consent before the marriage license could be issued. In each case he wrote out his consent and signed it in person. For the sake of comparison and identification I am reproducing these three consents as follows:

August 1, 1787, for the marriage of his daughter, Eliza Clark, to Colonel Richard C. Anderson.

July 13, 1789, for the marriage of his daughter, Lucy Clark, to Major William Croghan.

February 21, 1791, for the marriage of his daughter, Fanny Clark, to Doctor James O'Fallon.

When John Clark moved his family back from Albemarle County to Caroline County, about 1755 to 1758, a tradition states that it was to occupy a plantation that he had inherited from a bachelor uncle. I thought it would be well to go to Caroline County and see if we could gain information as to when and from whom he inherited that property. We made two trips of a day each to Bowling Green, the county seat.

We covered only a small part of the period through which we wanted to search and did not find what we went after, but we did find the data presented above. We also found other entries that we believe to be materially pertinent to the genealogy of this Rogers family.

One of them, in the Order Book for 1746-1754, under date of June 10, 1748, page 83, reads: "Will of George Eastham presented & proved by Joh Rogers, Henry Samuel & Robert Goodlow." Closing time, 5:30 p. m. had come. The Clerk kindly allowed us to finish copying this one entry, but what follows must be left for another trip.

In a later book covering the years 1755 to 1758, which we had previously gone through, we found this under date of June 10, 1756, on page 168:

"On the motion of Robert Goodlow & John Rogers its Ordered they have Admr. of the Estate of Mary Eastham & ack. a bond for same."

Then followed the next entry: "Its ordered James Martin, John Estis, Michael Yeates & Acquilla Johnson or any 3 of them being first Sworn before a Justice of the peace for this County Appraise the Estate of Mary Eastham dec'd and return there proceedings to next Court."

Under date of October 14, 1756, we have on page 224: "The Inventory & appraisement of the Estate of Mary Eastham returned and admitted to record."

If John Rogers, Sr., died in 1768, which would accord with our traditions, then he was living at the time of these entries in 1748 and 1756 and probably on this Caroline-Spotsylvania county plantation.

We have deeply imbedded traditions that one of our ancestors in this Rogers line was named Mary Bird or Byrd. Lucy Robertson, who married first Major John Walker Semple, and second William Green, was born, reared, and always lived in an atmosphere of culture and refinement. Her mother was Rachel Rogers, the youngest of the nine children of John Rogers, Sr. Mrs. Semple tells us most emphatically that her maternal grandmother (the wife of John Rogers, Sr.) was named Rachel Eastham and that Rachel Eastham's mother was a Bird.

We now have the record proof that the wife of John Rogers, Sr., was named Rachel. We also have the record proof that John Rogers and Robert Goodloe were both equally interested in the estates of George and Mary Eastham.

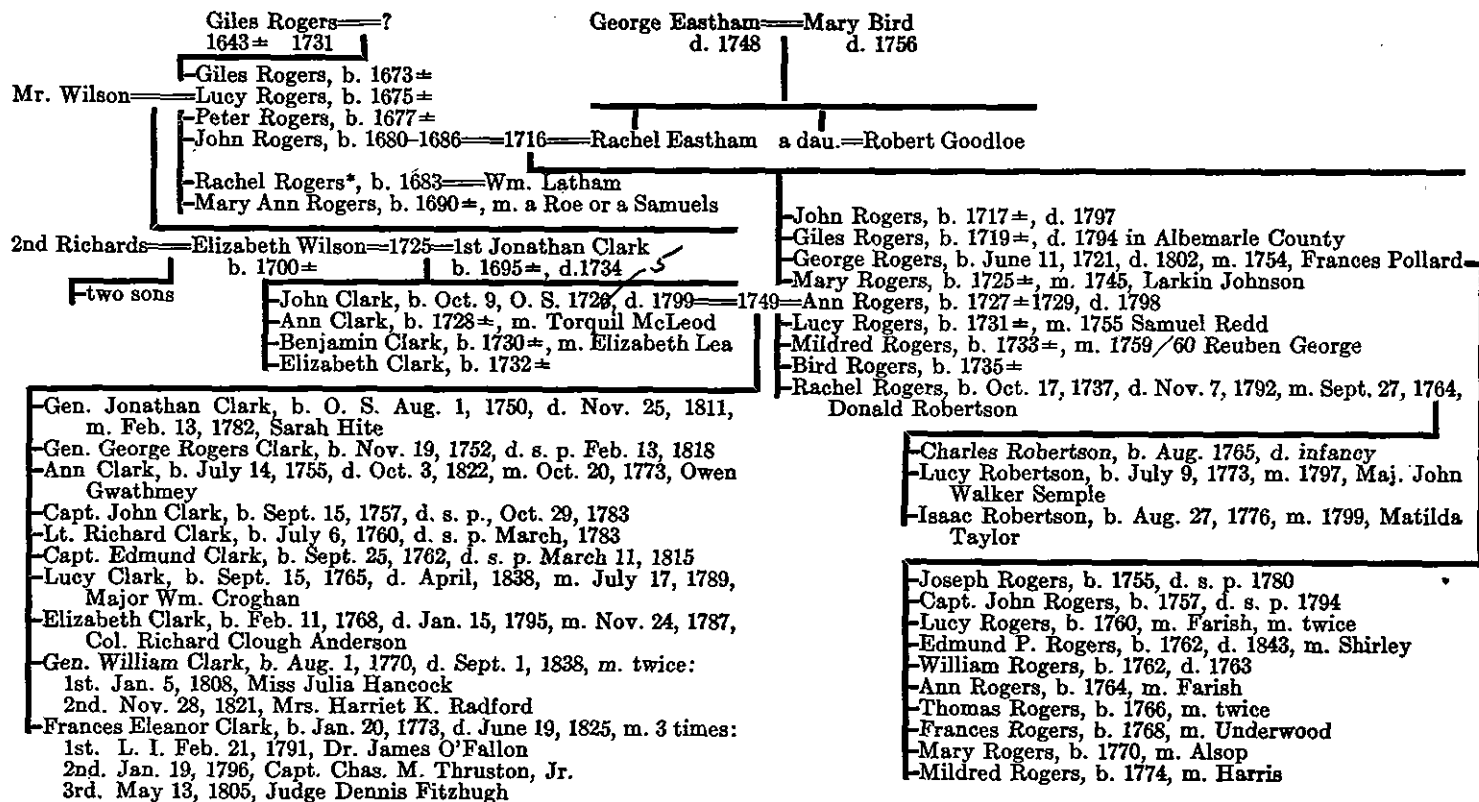
But for the destruction of the records in Caroline County, I believe we would have record proof that John Rogers and Robert Goodloe married sisters who were daughters of George and Mary Eastham. The evidence is too strong for me to doubt it.

I am fully convinced that there were three generations who together took this western migratory step from King & Queen County to Caroline and Spotsylvania counties in or about 1743 and that these three generations consisted of George and Mary Eastham, their two, or two of their, daughters with their husbands, John Rogers and Robert Goodloe, and the Rogers and Goodloe children, one of them being Ann, the daughter of John Rogers, Sr., the legatee of John Bates, Jr., in 1733, married to John Clark in 1749 and the mother of George Rogers Clark in 1752.

The one remaining point in Mrs. Semple's affirmation, in support of which we have found no record evidence so far, is that the maiden name of Mary Eastham was Mary Bird.

I feel that we have found enough to warrant our accepting this assertion of Mrs. Semple's without any further question.

Based on the foregoing, the accompanying genealogical chart can be presented with a strong probability of its being correct.



* I think this entry should be Susannah in place of Rachel Rogers, and John in place of William Latham.

L. I.—License Issued

POSTSCRIPT: Just before going to press the following was received:

"At a Court held for Caroline County [Virginia] at the Court House on the 9th day of September 1794

"George Rogers came into Court & relinquished his Executorship of John Rogers deceased On the motion of Thomas Rogers Admr with the Will annexed of the said John is granted Thos Rogers Oath Admr bond Acknd A O R [And Ordered Recorded] Lewis Timberlake Elisha Estis Richd Hawes & Atwell Coghill or any three Appd Apprs." From Minute Book, Caroline County Court, from June, 1794, to December, 1796, page 25.

This shows that John Rogers, Sr., resided in Caroline County at the time of his death; that he left a will; that his son, George Rogers, was executor; that in September, 1794, the estate had not been settled and George Rogers, at the age of seventy-three, relinquished the executorship in favor of his son, Thomas Rogers, who was born in 1766. I have a memorandum stating that Bird Rogers, the youngest son, was named as an executor in the will of his father, John Rogers, Sr., but as yet I have not found a record to that effect.

We have not located the term of court when the will of John Rogers, Sr., was offered for probate. The minute of that proceeding was probably on one of those leaves, at the beginning or ending of some book, that is now lost or missing. If that suggestion is correct, the nearest we can come to it will be to locate between what dates the missing pages belong. As yet that has not been done.

WILL OF JOHN BATES, JR.,

Dated December 30, 1733. Proven February 19, 1733/4, Essex County, Virginia.

In the Name of God, Amen, the the thirtieth day of December in the year of our Lord Christ one Thousand Seven hundred and thirty three, I John Bates Junr of Essex County being very Sick and weak in body but of perfect mind and Memory thanks be to God And Calling to mind the Mortality of my body and knowing that it is Appointed unto all men once to die do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following that is to Say principally and first of all I give my Soul to god who gave it (hoping that through Mercy and the Merits of Jesus Christ my Saviour to Receive the Same again with a full pardon for all my Sins in this life Committed, and my body to the Earth to deasently buried at the discretion of my Executors hereafter mentioned, And as for Such Worldly Estate

wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me I give and dispose of in manner and forme following

It It is my will and desire that all my just Debts and funarall Charges be first paid out of my personall Estate,

It I give and Bequeath unto my loving frind James Wall and to his heirs and Assigns forever two hundred and Twenty five Acres of land lying in Spotsylvania County on the Mountain Run

It I give and bequeath unto Henry Nance Motley (the Son of my Sister Mary Motley dect:) three hundred and Seventy five Acres of Land in Spotsylvania County on the Mountain Run to him and to his heirs and Assigns forever

It I give and bequeath unto William Motley (the Son of my Sister Elizabeth Motley) three hundred and Seventy five Acres of Land in Spotsylvania County on the Mountain Run, to him and to his heirs and Assignes forever

It I give and bequeath unto my loving friend Anthony Garnett (the Son of John Garnett) all my working Tooles and all my wareing Cloaths

It I give and bequath unto my God daughter Ann Rogers (the daughter of John and Rachell Rogers) Ten pounds Current Money

It I give and bequeath my Negro and all the Rest of my personall Estate (that is Not already given) to be Eaquially divided between My two Sisters Sons Viz Henry Nance Motley the Son of my Sister Mary Motley dect: and William Motley the Son of my Sister Elisabeth Motley

lastly I do hereby Constitute and Appoint my loving friends John Rogers (of King & Queen County) and William Motley (of Essex County) to be my Executors of this my last Will and Testament, hereby Revoking and making Void all former Wills by me made In Witness Whereof I have hereunto Sett my hand and Seal the day and year above written

the word (Junr:) in the third line and the word five in the twenty Second line were Interlined before Signed

John Bates junr. [Seal]

Signed Sealed published and declared by John Bates to be his last Will and Testamt: In presence of us

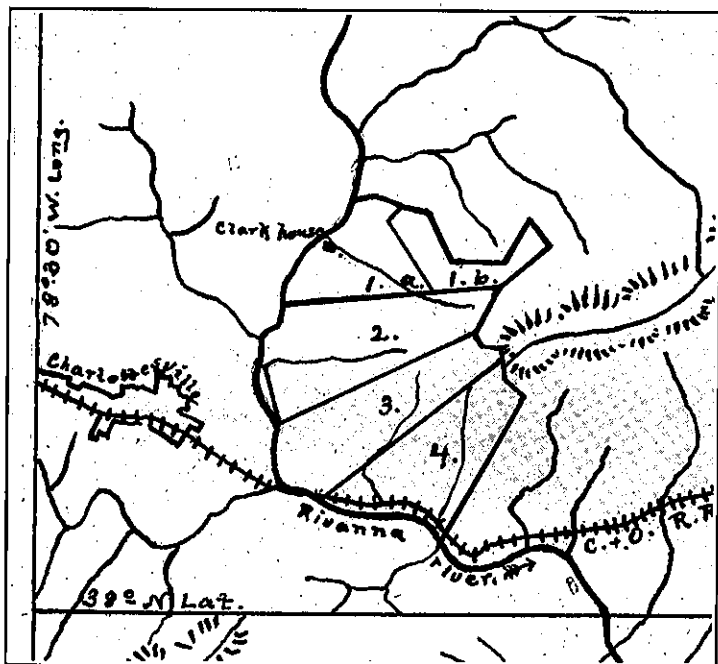
John Cordell

John Rogers Junr:

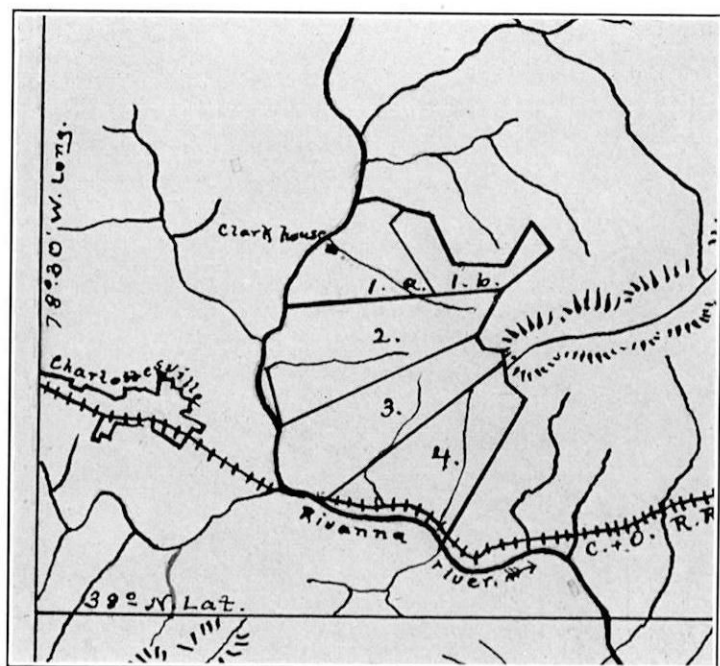
^{his}
William X Taylor
^{mark}

At a Court held for Essex County on ye xixth day of February ano Dom MCDCCXXXIII This last will & Testament of John Bates junr decd. was presented in Court by the Exrs therein named—who made oath thereto & being further proved by the oaths of John Cordell & John Rogers Junr. Witnesses thereto was ordered to be recorded—

Test
W Beverley Cl



The 3,277-acre patent, dated May 25, 1734, as plotted and traced in 1934 by Thomas H. Warner, on a Gordonsville Quadrangle, U. S. Geological Survey; scale about one-half inch to one mile. It shows the division of the patent into four parts; and the further division of the northern or Jonathan Clark fourth between his two sons John and Benjamin Clark: 1a. John Clark; 1b. Benjamin Clark; 2. Thomas Graves; 3. Joseph Smith; 4. R. Hickman.



The 3,277-acre patent, dated May 25, 1734, as plotted and traced in 1934 by Thomas H. Warner, on a Gordonsville Quadrangle, U. S. Geological Survey; scale about one-half inch to one mile. It shows the division of the patent into four parts; and the further division of the northern or Jonathan Clark fourth between his two sons John and Benjamin Clark: 1a. John Clark; 1b. Benjamin Clark; 2. Thomas Graves; 3. Joseph Smith; 4. R. Hickman.

In the Name of God Amen, the the thirtieth day of December in the year of our Lord Christ one Thousand seven hundred and thirty three, I John Bates of Essex County being very sick and weak in body but of perfect mind and Memory thanks be to God And Calling to mine the Mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed unto all men once to die Do make and ordain this my last will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say principally and first of all I give my Soul to god who gave it (hoping that through Mercy and the Merits of Jesus Christ my Saviour to Receive the same againe with a full pardon for all my Sins in this life Comitted, and my body to the Earth to decently beuryed at the discretion of my Executors hereafter mentioned, And as for such worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bestow I give and dispose of in manner and form following

It is my will and desire that all my just debts and funerall Charges be first paid out of my personall Estate.

I give and Bequeath unto my Loving friend James White and to his heirs and Assigns forever two hundred and twenty acres of Land lying in Spotsylvania County on the Mountain Run

I give and Bequeath unto Henry James Motley (the Son of my Sister Mary Motley dec'd) three hundred and twenty five acres of Land in Spotsylvania County on the Mountain Run to him and to his heirs and Assigns forever

I give and Bequeath unto William Motley (the Son of my Sister Elizabeth Motley) three hundred and twenty five acres of Land in Spotsylvania County on the Mountain Run, to him and to his heirs and Assigns forever

Facsimile of first page of the original will of John Bates, Jr., dated December 30, 1733, and probated February 19, 1733/4, in Essex County, Virginia. Reduced to about one-fourth

In the Name of God, Amen, the the thirtieth day of December in the year of our Lord Christ one Thousand Seven hundred and thirty three, I John Bates of Essex County being very sick and weak in body but of perfect mind and Memory thanks be to God, And Calling to mind the Mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed unto all men once to die do make and ordain this my last will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say principally and first of all I give my Soul to God who gave it (hoping that through Mercy and the Merits of Jesus Christ my Saviour to Receive the same again with a full pardon for all my sins in this life Committed, and my body to the Earth to decently be buried at the discretion of my Executors hereafter mentioned, And as for such worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me I give and dispose of in manner and form following

It is my will and desire that all my just debts and funeral Charges be first paid out of my personal Estate.

I give and Bequeath unto my loving friend James White and to his heirs and assigns forever two hundred and twenty ^{five} Acres of Land lying in Spottsylvania County on the Mountain Run

I give and Bequeath unto Henry Nance Motley (the Son of my Sister Mary Motley dec'd) three hundred and twenty five Acres of Land in Spottsylvania County on the Mountain Run to him and to his heirs and assigns forever

I give and Bequeath unto William Motley (the Son of my Sister Elizabeth Motley) three hundred and twenty five Acres of Land in Spottsylvania County on the Mountain Run, to him and to his heirs and assigns forever

I give and bequeath unto my loving friend Anthony Garnett (the Son of John Garnett) all my working Tools and all my wearing Cloaths

I give and bequeath unto my God daughter Ann Rogers (the daughter of John and Rachel Rogers) Ten pounds Current Money

I give and bequeath my Negro and all the Rest of my personal Effects that is not already given to be equally divided between my two Sisters Sons viz Henry Mottley Motley the Son of my Sister Mary Motley dec^d and William Motley the Son of my Sister Elizabeth Motley

Lastly I do hereby constitute and Appoint my loving friends John Rogers of King & Queens County and William Motley of Essex County to be my Executors of this my last Will and Testament hereby Revoking and making void all former Wills by me made In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this day and year above written

the word (Juni) in the third Line
and the word five in the twenty second
Line were inter-lined before signed } John Bates) ⁱⁿ

Witness sealed published and declared
John Bates to be his last Will and
Testament In presence of us

John Conolly

John Rogers Jun^r

William Taylor

mark

Also Court held for the
County on 22nd day of
February an^d Geo. M. D. 1797
This last will & Testament of
John Bates Jun^r was presented
in Court by the said William
Taylor who made oath & being further
proved by the said John Rogers
John Rogers Jun^r Witnessed that he
was indeed the said

Test
Wm Taylor

John Bates

1797

Facsimile of second page of the original will of John Bates, Jr. Note the bequest to Ann Rogers, and the naming of John Rogers as one of his executors. Reduced to about one-fourth

I give and bequeath unto my loving friend Anthony Garnett (the Son of John Garnett) all my working Tools and all my wearing Cloaths

I give and bequeath unto my God daughter Ann Rogers (the daughter of John and Rachel Rogers) Ten pounds Current Money

I give and bequeath my Negro and all the Rest of my personall Effects (that is not already given) to be ^{equally} divided between my two Sisters Jones viz Henry Mame Motley the Son of my Sister Mary Motley dec. and William Motley the Son of my Sister Elizabeth Motley
lastly I do hereby constitute and Appoint my loving friends John Rogers (of King & Queen County) and William Motley (of Essex County) to be my Executors of this my last Will and Testaments hereby Revoking and making Void all former Wills by me made In Witness Whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal the day and year above written

The word (June) in the third Line
and the word five in the twenty second
Line were inter-lined before signed

John Bates Jr.

Signed Sealed published and declared
by John Bates to be his last Will and
Testament In presence of us

John Conell

John Rogers Junr

William Taylor
nephew

A Court held for Spots County on 7th day of February an Ord. made atty
This last will & Testament of John Bates Junr Dec. was presented in Court by the Ex. Executors named who made oath thereto & being further proved by the oaths of John Conell & John Rogers Junr Witnesses thereto was ordered to be recorded

Thos Bowers Jr

Facsimile of second page of the original will of John Bates, Jr. Note the bequest to Ann Rogers, and the naming of John Rogers as one of his executors. Reduced to about one-fourth

them. That his Obligation to be
 is to remain in ~~the~~ Fort & Virtue
 Rogers
 Mm mrtley
 Anthony Samuel

Facsimile of signatures to the executor's bond, under the will of John Bates, Jr., 1733

Testament being first read and made in presence
 of the said and of none other over to remain
 John Clark
 Jas. Pollard
 Joseph Woods
 George Rogers

Facsimile of signature of John Clark as administrator of the estate of Torquill McLeod, together with those of his three sureties, 1752

Given Under my Hand & Seal of John Clark

Facsimile of signature of John Clark on his final report in settlement of the estate of Torquill McLeod, 1759

& them Chose this Obligation to be
 is to remain in full force & Virtue
 Rogers
 Wm. Miller
 Anthony Samuel

Facsimile of signatures to the executor's bond, under the will of John Bates, Jr., 1733

Testament being first read and made in presence
 of the said and of our effort over to remain
 John Clark
 Jas. Pollard
 Joseph Wood
 George Rogers

Facsimile of signature of John Clark as administrator of the estate of Torquil McLeod, together with those of his three sureties, 1752

Errors Exp'd John Clark

Facsimile of signature of John Clark on his final report in settlement of the estate of Torquil McLeod, 1759

Sd To the Clerk of Jefferson County
 This is to certify that I am willing a Licence should issue out of your
 Office for the marriage of my Daughter Elizabeth (Clark to Col.^d Richard Clough Anderson
 Given under my hand this 1st day of August 1787

Test
Edm^d Rogers
W^m Clark Jun^r

John Clark

Facsimile of consent of John Clark to the marriage of his daughter Elizabeth to Colonel Richard Clough Anderson,
 dated August 1, 1787. Witnesses: Edmund Rogers and William Clark, Jr. (youngest son of John Clark).
 Jefferson County Court Records, Louisville, Kentucky

To the Clerk of Jefferson County
 This is to certify that I am willing a Licence should Issue out of your
 Office for the marriage of my Daughter Elizabeth Clark to Col.^o Richard C. Anderson
 Given under my hand this 1st day of August 1787

Test
Edm^d Rogers
W^m Clark Jr.

John Clark

Facsimile of consent of John Clark to the marriage of his daughter Elizabeth to Colonel Richard Clough Anderson,
 dated August 1, 1787. Witnesses: Edmund Rogers and William Clark, Jr. (youngest son of John Clark).
 Jefferson County Court Records, Louisville, Kentucky

Sir
 This is to certify that I am willing a license should
 Issue out of your office for the Marriage of my
 Daughter Lucy Clark to Maj. William Croghan
 given under my hand this 13th July 1789
 Wth William Johnston
 John Clark
 Edmund Rogers
 Wth Clark

Facsimile of consent of John Clark to the marriage of his daughter Lucy to Major William Croghan,
 dated July 13, 1789. Witnesses: Edmund Rogers and William Clark (youngest son of
 John Clark). Jefferson County Court Records, Louisville, Kentucky

54
 This is to certify that I am willing a Licence should
 Issue out of your office - for the Marriage of my
 Daughter Lucy Clark to Maj. William Croghan
 given under my hand this 13th July 1789
 W^m William Johnston Clk
 Edm^d Rogers
 W^m Clark
 John Clark

Facsimile of consent of John Clark to the marriage of his daughter Lucy to Major William Croghan,
 dated July 13, 1789. Witnesses: Edmund Rogers and William Clark (youngest son of
 John Clark). Jefferson County Court Records, Louisville, Kentucky

15)
 This is to certify that I am selling Licence should issue out
 of your office for the Marriage of my Daughter Fanny Clark
 to Doct: James O'Fallon given under my hand this 21th day
 of Feb: 1791

 W
 William Johnston Esq:
 Clerk of Jefferson County

 Test
 W Croghan
 G Clark

Facsimile of consent of John Clark to the marriage of his daughter Fanny to Dr. James O'Fallon, dated
 February 4, 1791. Witnesses: William Croghan and George Rogers Clark. Jefferson County
 Court Records. Louisville. Kentucky

15/ This is to certify that I am willing Licence should be given out
 of your office for the Marriage of my Daughter Fanny Clark
 to Doct^r James O'Fallon given under my hand this 21th day
 of Feb^r 1791

To
 William Johnston Esq^r
 Clerk of Jefferson County

John Clark

Test
 W Croghan
 G Clark

Facsimile of consent of John Clark to the marriage of his daughter Fanny to Dr. James O'Fallon, dated February 4, 1791. Witnesses: William Croghan and George Rogers Clark. Jefferson County Court Records, Louisville, Kentucky



Mulberry Hill, near Louisville in Jefferson County, Kentucky, was built for John Clark in 1784. This photograph was taken about 1890, at which time the house had been abandoned as a place of residence and was then being used for storing farm products. To the left of the cabin can be seen a part of the old brick smoke-house which was near one end of the low brick row in which the slaves were quartered.

Forty-three acres of the Mulberry Hill tract were purchased and given to the city of Louisville in 1921, to be known as The George Rogers Clark Park.



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