

# I

## An Annotated Genealogy

HAVING stated in the introduction that this book is more than a genealogical study, this chapter is exactly that, genealogical information. First, it must be made clear that this information is incomplete. Persons wishing to continue the charts with more generations may do so. Secondly, purists may be upset that the information here does not include all branches of the different families. Again, that is not the purpose of this section. The purpose here is solely to show some of the ancestry of the primary characters in the rest of this book, whose roots in America went back to the early 1600s, and also give some anecdotal information about those early settlers. Readers interested in more genealogical information and all of the relationships may find that information in other sources. Some may want to just skim through this chapter at first and then, from time to time, return to it in order to clarify the relationship between different people. One technique used here will clearly indicate that people are missing from this chapter. If the end of a line reads “(four children)” and the next line begins, “(third child, 3rd)” then that means— that the first generation mentioned had four children, that the person on the following line is the third child, and that other children have been omitted from this material. To repeat, this summary does not attempt to follow all branches of the extended family. In addition, there may be a small amount of redundancy as one goes from one part of this chapter to another. This is meant to clarify the relationships rather than to complicate the readings.

Every effort has been made to use multiple sources to verify the information that is published here. However, errors often creep into genealogical information. In doing this research there was one reference to an uncle stating that he had died in 1890. It can be so easily be documented that this individual died in a Civil War battle in 1862 that one can only wonder how “1890” was ever published. Elsewhere there exists a chart stating that one ancestor died in 1858, but it is very easily documented that she had five children after that date and died in 1914. There is a book that incorrectly describes Annie Jennings Wise Hobson as Henry A. Wise’s sister. She was his daughter. Another book claims that George Wise, killed at Petersburg in 1864, was Wise’s son. George Wise was Henry Wise’s nephew. Please be careful when using genealogical information.

In the below material, generations are indicated by Roman numerals and “b,” “d,” “m,” and “div” are standard abbreviations for “born,” “died,” “married,” and “divorced.”





*Obscurity, birthplace of John Cannon Hobson, July 20, 1791. Photograph courtesy of Hobson Goddin.*

## The Virginia Ancestry

The Virginia ancestry begins with the arrival of immigrants from England in the early 17th century. In the ensuing years these settlers traded with and fought wars with the Indians, cleared and farmed their land, and then fought in the American Revolution. They held county offices and were members of the House of Burgesses. They were early settlers in this part of the new world.

### ☞ The Hobson family genealogy:

- I. Thomas Hobson, 1665–1717: m. Clark Winder, d. 1743.
- II. John Hobson, 1701–1777: m. 1733: Sarah (otherwise unknown).
- III. William Hobson, d. 1764: m. January 28, 1750: Elizabeth Merryman (otherwise unknown).
- IV. John Miller Hobson, d. September 19, 1824: m. October 30, 1777: Susanna “Susan” Hatcher, d. August 6, 1825.
- V. John Cannon Hobson (fifth son), b. July 20, 1791 at Obscurity in Cumberland County, Virginia: d. April 11, 1873: m. October 2, 1823: Mary Shaw Maben (also Maban), b. April 10, 1795: d. April 3, 1871, (five children below).
- VI. 1. John David Hobson, b. January 24, 1824: d. August 22, 1901: m. Martha Bland Selden, b. March 10, 1830: d. June 10, 1911. Lived at Howard’s Neck Farm in Goochland County, Virginia.
2. William C. Hobson, b. April 3, 1826: d. July 5, 1853 (or 1855): m. Virginia K. Pemberton, 1834–1860, of Clover Forest in Goochland County, Virginia.
3. Alexander Maben Hobson, 1829–1863: m. Polly Pemberton of Clover Forest in Goochland County, Virginia. Lived at Snowden in Goochland County, Virginia.
4. Frederick Plumer Hobson, b. February 24, 1833: d. April 4, 1868: m. July 9, 1856: Annie Jennings Wise, b. April 28, 1837: d. June 3, 1914. Lived at Eastwood in Goochland County, Virginia.
5. Mary Morrison Hobson, m. December 4, 1855: William H. Lyons, d. June 18, 1867, of Richmond.

### Mary Shaw Maben

Mary Shaw Maben was born in Dumfries, Scotland, the daughter of David Maben Jr. and Mary Morrison. Family letters say that this Mary Morrison was the subject of Robert Burns’ poem “Mary Morison.” In 1897, Mary Maben Lyons, researched the Family Bibles and on January 20, 1897, wrote to Henry Wise Hobson, her cousin, the following: “I can tell you nothing about the Morisons except that Grandma Hobson told Mother that Burns’ ‘Mary Morison’ was your Great–Grandmother. Great–Great Uncle David Maben had several of Burns’ poems in manuscript. He has a worthless grandson living in Amelia. I suppose he has them.” There is another sheet in an unidentified handwriting that reads: “There has been a good deal of confusion relative to Mary Morrison, there being two of the name resident in Dumfries County, Scotland at about



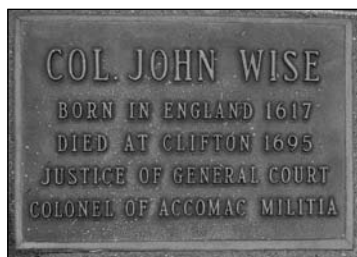
*Howard’s Neck, Goochland County, home of John David Hobson. Photo from Historic Virginia Homes and Churches by Robert A. Lancaster, Jr.*

the same period. The letters, documents, data, etc. in possession of the family prove however without doubt that Burns' "Bonnie Mary Morrison" and of his poems, is identical with Mary Morrison the wife of David Maben 2nd, who came to America with her husband, and is buried in Petersburg, Virginia, and who was the daughter of Robert Morrison and that Mary Morrison the daughter of Adjutant John Morrison, has no claim whatsoever to the honor of having inspired Burns to write his poem."

- VI. Frederick Plumer Hobson (fourth child), b. February 24, 1833 in Petersburg Virginia. [Named after the Rev. Dr. Plumer, a distinguished Presbyterian.]: d. April 4, 1868: m. July 9, 1856: Ann "Annie" Jennings Wise, b. April 28, 1837: d. June 3, 1914: (six children; two, John Cannon Hobson, 1857–1890, and Henry Wise Hobson, 1858–1898, survived to adulthood).
- VII. 1st. John Cannon Hobson, (oldest child) b. April 22, 1857 in the Executive Mansion, Richmond, Virginia: d. February 15, 1890: m. May 20, 1878: Alice Virginia Pettit, b. May 18, 1860, (daughter of John M. Pettitt of Accomac County): d. February 17, 1933, (seven children below).
- VIII. 1. John Cannon Hobson, b. July 31, 1880: d. January 17, 1960: m–1st. Maude Douthit, b. December 17, 1888: d. February 14, 1941: m–2nd. Nellie Elizabeth King, b. May 30, 1913. d. Nov. 30, 1995.
2. Henry Wise Hobson, b. October 9, 1880: d. July 1898.
  3. George Richardson Hobson, b. April 13, 1883: m. September 28, 1918: Atilda Marie Wunderlicht, b. 1884.
  4. Mary Morrison Hobson, b. December 2, 1884: d. February 14, 1947: m. August 15, 1907: John W. Bryan, b. August 16, 1911: d. February 13, 1947.
  5. Otelia Armistead Hobson, b. May 5, 1886: d. September 9, 1886.
  6. Jennings Wise Hobson, b. August 15, 1887: d. December 6, 1955: m. November 5, 1913: Mary Louise Berkley, b. August 12, 1887: d. January 9, 1947.
  7. Alice Virginia Hobson, b. October 16, 1888: d. May 6, 1972: m. June 14, 1909: Harwood Syme Haynes, b. August 27, 1883.
- VII. 2nd. Henry Wise Hobson (second child), b. July 9, 1858 at Eastwood, Goochland County, Virginia: d. August 13, 1898 in New York City: m. December 17, 1887: Katherine Thayer Jermain, b. December 3, 1859 in Troy, New York: d. December 3, 1915 in Central Valley, New York, (four children below, all born in Denver, Colorado).
- VIII. 1. Katherine Thayer Hobson, b. April 11, 1889: d. September 9, 1982. Two marriages, no issue. m-1: Herbert Kraus, div.: m-2: Diether Thimme, div.
2. Henry Wise Hobson, b. May 16, 1891: d. February 1983: m. Edmonia Taylor Bryan, (four children).
  3. Eleanor Whiteside Hobson, b. January 7, 1893: d. April 28, 1985: m. June 22, 1916: George M. Mackenzie, b. Aug. 13, 1885: d. March 25, 1952. (four children). [The editor of this book is the third son of their eldest child.]
  4. Francis Thayer Hobson, b. September 4, 1897: d. October 17, 1967: m-1st. Janet Camp, div.: m-2nd. Priscilla Fansler, div. (one son): m-3rd. Laura Zametkin, div.: m-4th. Isabelle Garrabrants, b. September 3, 1903: d. January 7, 1960. (two children): m-5th. Elizabeth Davis.



*Hobson family plot, Hollywood Cemetery. Graves of John Cannon Hobson, right monument, and his wife, left. The stones read: "Mary S. wife of John C. Hobson Born at Dumfries Scotland April 10, 1795 Died April 3, 1871" and "John C. Hobson Born in Cumberland Col. July 20, 1791 Died April 11, 1873".*



Grave of Col. John Wise. Wise family cemetery near Chesconessex Creek, Onancock, Virginia.

☞ The Wise family genealogy:

- I. John Wise 1st, b. 1617: d. 1695: m. June 4, 1636: Hannah Scarborough. Wise sailed from Gravesend, England on July 4, 1635 and settled on Chesconessex Creek near Accomack. In Virginia he married Hannah Scarborough who had come from Norfolk, England with her father Capt. Edmund Scarborough. John Wise reportedly purchased just over 1,000 acres, on the Chesconessex and Onancock creeks, from the Indians in exchange for seven Dutch blankets.
- II. John Wise 2nd, d. 1717: m. Matilda West, d. 1722, (otherwise unknown).
- III. John Wise 3rd, d. 1767: m. Scarborough Robinson.
- IV. John Wise 4th, b. July 27, 1723: d. March 1769: m. Margaret Douglas, b. 1736: d. 1808.
- V. John Wise 5th, b. @ 1765: d. March 30, 1812: m-1st. Mary “Polly” Henry, d. (no issue) [Mary Henry was the niece of Patrick Henry.]: m-2nd. April 18, 1799: Sarah “Sally or Sallie” Corbin Cropper, b. 1777: d. 1813: (three of six children lived to adulthood). This John Wise is often referred to as Major John Wise and was Speaker of the House of Delegates, 1794–1799.
- VI. Henry Alexander Wise, (fifth child of above second marriage), b. December 3, 1806: d. September 12, 1876: m-1st. October 8, 1828: Ann Elizabeth Jennings, b. December 31, 1808: d. May 4, 1837: m-2nd. November 1840: Sarah Sergeant, b. 1817: d. 1850: m-3rd. November 1853, Mary Lyons, b. 1814: d. July 17, 1901.

Henry A. Wise had fourteen children, but only seven, four by his first wife and three by his second, lived to adulthood. There is strong circumstantial evidence that Wise fathered a son, William Henry Grey (also Gray), by Elizabeth Gray, one of his slaves. The children of Henry A. Wise that lived to adulthood:

m-1st to Ann Elizabeth Jennings, 1808–1837:

1. Mary Elizabeth Wise, 1829–1898, m. Alexander Y. P. Garnett.
2. Obadiah Jennings Wise, 1831–1862.
3. Henry A. Wise Jr., 1834–1869, m. Harriet Haxall.
4. Annie Jennings Wise, 1837–1914, m. Frederick Plumer Hobson.

m-2nd to Sarah Sergeant, 1817–1850:

1. Richard Alsop Wise, 1843–1900, m. Maria Peachy.
2. Margaretta Ellen “Néné” Wise, 1844–1909, m. William Carrington Mayo.
3. John Sergeant Wise, 1846–1913, m. Evelyn “Eva” Byrd Beverley Douglas, 1851–1925. [John S. Wise and his wife had nine children. Letters from two of them, John S. “Jack” Wise Jr. and Hugh D. Wise are included in this book.]

- VII. Annie Jennings Wise (fourth child of first marriage above), b. April 28, 1837: d. June 3, 1914: m. July 9, 1856: Frederick Plumer Hobson, b. February 24, 1833: d. April 4, 1868. (Six children, two survived to adulthood. See Hobson family genealogy above.)



Grave of Scarburgh Robinson, “Wife of John Wise and Daughter of Co. Tully Robinson and his wife Sara West,” Wise family cemetery near Chesconessex Creek, Onancock, Virginia.



Located beside Chesconessex Creek near Onancock, Virginia, is the Wise family burial ground, where John Wise I through John Wise VI are buried with their wives and other family members. The brick wall surrounding the cemetery includes memorial plaques for some members of the family who are buried elsewhere. The plaques shown in the background in this photo, from left to right, are in memory of: Obadiah Jennings Wise, (1831–1862, son of Henry A. Wise and buried in Hollywood Cemetery), Eva Douglas Wise, (1851–1925, wife of John S. Wise and buried in Hollywood Cemetery), John S. Wise, (1846–1913, son of Henry A. Wise and buried in Hollywood Cemetery), Mary E. Lyons, (1814–1901, third wife of Henry A. Wise and buried in Hollywood Cemetery), Ann Jennings Wise, (1808–1837, first wife of Henry A. Wise, formerly buried in this cemetery but now buried in Hollywood Cemetery), Henry A. Wise, (1806–1876, buried in Hollywood Cemetery), Sarah Sergeant Wise, (1817–1850, second wife of Henry A. Wise and buried in Philadelphia), Richard Alsop Wise, (1843–1900, son of Henry A. Wise and buried in Hollywood Cemetery), Hugh Douglas Wise, (1871–1942, son of John S. Wise), Ida Hungerford Wise, (wife of Hugh D. Wise), and Henry A. Wise, (son of Jennings Wise & Elizabeth Anderson).

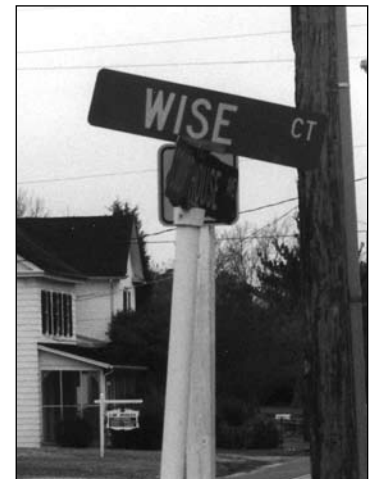
☞ Henry Alexander Wise on his ancestry:

Accomack June 29th, 1848  
To Mr. Hunt, author  
Albany, N. York

Sir.

The death of all the aged paternal relations, the last in 1842, of my family, makes it difficult for me to furnish you the requisite materials for the compilation of a genealogical record. I will give my recollections of facts, independent of records.

The name Wise, Wies originally, perhaps, is I believe of German origin, the root of which you will find in Burke's heraldry, the motto: *Ande sapere*. I can't fix the exact period to which to trace my European ancestry. You will find in Burke something curious respecting one of the ancestor's coat of arms, three eremites & the "fleur de lis," his wit making him, by a certain response to Henry VIII, I think a favorite or favored at least by the King. The wit was in a poem upon "lis" & "louse." His armorial bearings you'll see in Burke.





*Near Wise Point on Chesconessex Creek, Onancock, Virginia, where John Wise settled in 1635.*

My American ancestor was an emigrant from the North, I think, of England. I don't know the date & place of his birth. He was a Col. in the Kings commission and was a member of the Executive Council in Accomack Va. I don't know when he emigrated, but it was not long after the first settlement of Virginia. My father's patrimony, a tract of about 1,000 acres of land, still held by the male descendants of his oldest son, situated on Chesconessex Creek, Accomack Va., under this grant of the Crown of England was purchased from the Indians, of the hills called A— [illegible] by our first emigrant ancestor, Col. John Wise for 7 Dutch blankets. The date of this grant I am not able to ascertain, for the reason that the records of Accomack County were, many years ago, destroyed by fire.

Our Ancestor, the said Col. John Wise, settled on Chesconessex Creek, Accomack County Eastern shore of Virginia. He was married but I don't know whom he married. He and his wife died at Chesconessex, a place called Fort George, when I don't know, and there they were buried. They had two children whom only I know of, John (my grandfather) and Tully Robinson Wise (Robinson I suspect was their mother's patronymial. The dates of their birth I don't know. When they married I am not informed; but they married two sisters, daughters of an emigrant Scotch barrister, George Douglas (whose very old law books and whose coat of arms I now have.)...

John Wise, the elder brother, married Margaret (called Peggy) Douglas, and Tully R. Wise married Tabitha (called Tabby) Douglas. John inherited the estate, the manor place on Chesconessex, and Tully a large body of land on the west creek north called Deep Creek. I don't know when Tully died, but he was buried at Deep Creek... John was born the ~ day of ~ A. D. 17~, I don't know when he was married. He settled at Chesconessex, Fort George. There died, the ~ day of ~ A. D. 17~, and was there buried. He left two sons, the oldest named John (my father) and the younger named Tully Robinson Wise, and three daughters, Cassy, Elizabeth, & Mary. The 3 daughters all died childless. Tully Robinson Wise was a physician, married first a Miss Bowdoin of Northampton County Va, and after her decease, a widow (Mrs. Fisher) whose maiden name was White...

John Wise, my father... was a lawyer by profession and was as such highly esteemed for his integrity & success; he was Speaker for several years of the H of delegates of Virginia, from the year 1794 to the year 1799; and at the

time of his death was clerk of the County and Superior Courts of Accomack. He married first, Mary the daughter of James Henry, one of the judges of the Genl. Court of Virginia, of [illegible] Bay in Northumberland Co. Va. Several years after her death he married Sarah (called Sally) Cropper, the oldest daughter of [John Cropper] — [End of four page letter.]

### Other Family Connections

#### ☞ The Jennings family genealogy:

- I. Jacob Jennings, b. @ 1711: d. 1787: m. unknown.
- II. Jacob (eldest child), b. 1744: d. February 17, 1813: m. Mary Kennedy, d. 1791, (eight children).
- III. Obadiah Jennings, (fifth child), b. December 13, 1778: d. January 12, 1832: m-1st. Mary Becket, (one child): m-2nd. Ann “Anna” Wilson, b. 1787, (daughter of Dr. James Wilson of Wye Mills, Maryland): d. 1841 (or 1842), (seven children).
- IV. Ann Elizabeth Jennings (second child of second marriage), b. December 31, 1808: d. May 4, 1837: m. October 8, 1828 in Nashville, Tennessee: Henry Alexander Wise, b. December 3, 1806: d. September 12, 1876. See Wise family genealogy above.
- V. Annie Jennings Wise, (fourth child), b. April 28, 1837: d. June 3, 1914: m. July 9, 1856: Frederick Plumer Hobson, b. February 24, 1833: d. April 4, 1868. Six children, two survived to adulthood. See Hobson family genealogy above.

#### The Jennings family

Jacob Jennings, 1711–1787, served in the American Revolution and is buried in Bound Brook, New Jersey. His son, also Jacob, studied medicine and was wounded at the Battle of Trenton during the American Revolution. After the war he was ordained in the Dutch Reformed Church and moved to Virginia where he continued to practice medicine and minister to two congregations. His son, Obadiah, was a lawyer and Presbyterian minister, living at different times in Washington, Pennsylvania, Steubenville, Ohio, and Nashville, Tennessee. In 1892 Annie Jennings Wise Hobson responded to an inquiry about her Jennings ancestors: “I have written requesting my sister Mrs. Garnett to send you the dates you ask for of the birth, marriage & death of my mother Ann Jennings—as she could give you more accurate data than I can. My Mother died when I was three days old...” Ann Elizabeth Jennings Wise, 1808–1837, was originally buried in Accomack but her remains were moved to the Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond after the death of Henry A. Wise.

#### ☞ The Littleton and Scarburgh family genealogy:

- I. Nathaniel Littleton, emigrated to Accomack County, Virginia @ 1638: d. 1654: m. Anne Southey, d. 1656. He became Chief Justice of Accomack County, a Member of the House of Burgesses in 1652, and a member of Governor Richard Burnett’s Executive Council.



*Grave of Ann Elizabeth Jennings Wise, 1808–1837, Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia. “Ann Elizabeth Wise — Daughter of O. Jennings D. C. and the wife of Henry A. Wise. Born the 31st day of December 1808 and Died the 4th day of May 1837 Be of good cheer it is I. Be not afraid.” At the time of her death she was buried in Accomac, Virginia. Her body and this stone were moved to the Hollywood Cemetery and the back of the stone reads: “Moved from Deep Creek Accomac Virginia May 1928 by her descendants”. See photo page 46.*

- II. Mary Littleton m. Edmund Scarburgh (also Scarborough, Scarbrugh and Skarborowgh)
- III. Matilda Scarburgh m. Lt. Col. John West.
- IV. Matilda West, d. 1722: m. John Wise 2nd, d. 1717. (See Wise family genealogy above.)

#### The Scarburgh family

Col. Edmund Scarburgh, born in England about 1617, came to Virginia with his father, Capt. Edmund Scarburgh. Col. Scarburgh has been described as being “very independent” and was a personal friend of Peter Stuyvesant of New Netherlands (New York). He owned a large number of trading vessels that sailed between New England, New Amsterdam, the West Indies, and Accomack, and he owned several thousand acres of land in Accomack and Maryland. Between 1629 and 1630 Capt. Scarburgh, the father, had been the first burgess from the Eastern Shore. In 1659 Col. Scarburgh commanded a force of 600 men in a campaign against the Assateague Indians and in that same year he imported thirty negroes from the Dutch in Manhattan—then the largest number of slaves ever brought into Virginia by an individual. In 1661 he was appointed a commissioner by Philip Calvert of Maryland to assist in surveying the boundary line between Maryland and Virginia. Taking advantage of this position, Scarburgh greatly extended the territory of Accomack to the north to include his Maryland land holdings and also took the opportunity to drive the Quakers out of Accomack county.

#### ☞ The Bowman & Cropper family genealogy:

- I. Edmund Bowman, emigrated to Accomack @ 1643: d. @ 1691: m. Catherine, three daughters. When Bowman came to Virginia he was given a grant of seven square miles of land upon Folly Creek where he built the house that would be known as Bowman’s Folly.
- II. Gertrude Bowman m. John Cropper who had come to Virginia from Scotland.
- III. Sebastian Cropper, d. spring 1727: m. Rachel Parker, d. 1727
- IV. Bowman Cropper, d. 1757: m. unknown.
- V. Sebastian Cropper Jr., d. spring 1776: m. Sarah Corbin, d. 1776.
- VI. John Cropper, b. December 23, 1755 in Accomack County, Virginia: d. January 15, 1821: m-1st. August 1776: Margaret Pettitt, daughter of William Pettitt, (two children lived to adulthood, Sarah “Sally” Corbin Cropper and Margaret Pettitt Cropper. Margaret m. Thomas M. Bayly). m-2nd. Catherine Bayly, (six children). Catherine Bayly, Cropper’s second wife, was the sister of Thomas M. Bayly, Cropper’s son-in-law.
- VII. Sarah “Sally” Corbin Cropper, oldest child, first marriage, b. 1777: d. 1813: m. April 18, 1799: John Wise 5th, b. @1765: d. March 11, 1812. (See Wise family genealogy above.)





*Left, the Cropper family cemetery and above, the view from the cemetery, Bowman's Folly, Accomac, Virginia.*

### John Cropper

*A Memoir of General John Cropper* by Barton Haxall Wise was published by the Virginia Historical Society in 1892 and reprinted by the Eastern Shore of Virginia Historical Society in 1974. As a boy of nineteen, Cropper was selected to be the captain of the local company of volunteers from Accomack, and in December 1776 he left his home and joined General Washington. He saw service at many of the early battles of the Revolutionary War including Trenton, Brandywine, and Germantown, was with the Virginia troops during the winter of 1777–1778 at Valley Forge, and throughout his life had a very close relationship with George Washington. His wife, Margaret Pettit Cropper died in 1781 when she swallowed some pins as she was helping her husband bandage his wounds. John Cropper later married Catherine Bayly and had six more children. The inscriptions on the tombstones of Margaret Cropper and John Cropper in the cemetery at Bowman's Folly read:

#### Margaret Cropper

Wife of John Cropper Jun. Daughter of William Pettit and Mary his wife of Northampton. Died 3rd June 1781, Aged 29 years, 1 month 21 days. At her feet lies Sabra Corbin Cropper, daughter of John Cropper Jun. and Catherine his wife, died 2nd November 1791, Aged 12 days.

In memory of General John Cropper oldest son of Sebastian and Sabra was born at Bowmans Folley in the County of Accomac E. S. Virginia December 23rd 1753. He was an officer in the revolutionary war and continued until the end. He died January 15th 1821 being 65 years and 22 days old leaving a wife, seven children and 10 grandchildren.

### ☞ The Thoroughgood family genealogy:

- I. William Thoroughgood b. c. 1560 Norfolk County, England m. Anne Edwards.  
There is no evidence that either William Thoroughgood or his wife ever came to America.

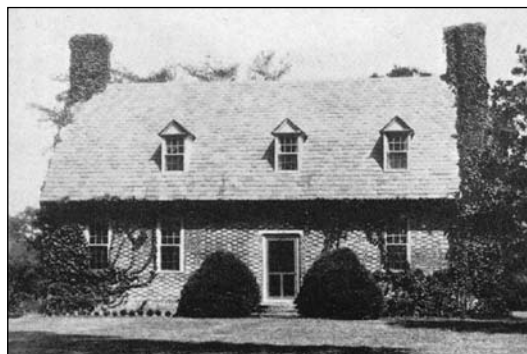
- II. Capt. Adam Thoroughgood b. 1603/ (or 1604) of Lynnhaven, England. Came to Virginia in 1621: d. 1640: m. 1624: Sara Offley, b. 1609, who came to America in 1626. (four children).
- III. Elizabeth Thoroughgood m. Capt. John Michael who had come to Virginia about 1656.
- IV. Margaret Michael m. Col. John Custis b. 1653: d. January 26, 1713.
- V. Col. Henry Custis m. Anne Kendall (otherwise unknown).
- VI. Robinson Custis m. Mary (otherwise unknown).
- VII. Mary Custis m. William Pettit.
- VIII. Margaret Pettit m. August 1776: John Cropper, b. December 23, 1755 at Bowman's Folly: d. January 15, 1821. (See Bowman and Cropper genealogy above.)
- IX. Sara "Sally" Corbin Cropper (oldest child, 1777–1813), m. April 18, 1799: John Wise 5th, b. @1765: d. March 11, 1812. (See Wise family genealogy above.)

#### Adam Thoroughgood

Adam Thoroughgood, 1603/1604–1640, came to America as an indentured servant in 1621 aboard the *Charles* and was a prosperous tobacco farmer when his indenture ended in 1624. He then returned to England to recruit more settlers for the Virginia colony. In England he married Sarah Offley who was only fifteen years old (some sources say she was 18 years old). She was the daughter of a wealthy investor in The Virginia Company and granddaughter of the Lord Mayor of London. For each indentured servant that Thoroughgood brought to Virginia he was granted 50 acres. Ultimately he owned over 5,000 acres along the Lynnhaven River and at one time was a member of House of Burgesses at Jamestown. The Lynnhaven River and Norfolk County were named by him after his birthplace. The Adam Thoroughgood House still stands in a residential area of Virginia Beach and is said to be the oldest brick home in America. Different sources give the date of its construction as either 1635 or 1680. If the latter date, then the house that bears Adam Thoroughgood's name was built by one his descendants and not by him.

*Right: The Adam Thoroughgood House, Virginia Beach, Virginia, before restoration and removal of dormers. Photo from Tidewater Virginia by Paul Wilstach.*

*Far right: The Adam Thoroughgood House. Photo from Historic Virginia Homes and Churches by Robert A. Lancaster, Jr.*



## The New York and Massachusetts Ancestry

The Massachusetts ancestry begins with the arrival of immigrants from England in the early 17th century but it was not until the middle of the next century that ancestors arrived in New York. As in Virginia, in the ensuing years these settlers traded with and fought wars with the Indians, cleared and farmed their land, and then fought in the American Revolution.

### ☞ The Thayer family genealogy:

- I. Thomas Thayer, from Braintree, Essex County, England, emigrated to Braintree Massachusetts. around 1630: d. June 2, 1665: m. April 16, 1616 (or 1618): Margery Wheeler, d. February 11, 1672 (or 1673).
- II. Fernando Thayer, b. in England (baptized April 18, 1625) and came to America with his parents: d. March 28, 1713: m. Jan. 14, 1651 (or 1652) Huldah Hayward, d. September 1 , 1690.
- III. Isaac Thayer, m. February 1, 1691 (or 1692): Mercy Ward. b. January 27, 1669: d. December 18, 1700.
- IV. Ebenezer Thayer, b. September 6, 1697: m. May 9, 1719 (or August 9, 1721) at Mendon, Massachusetts: Mary Wheelock, b. January 21, 1701 (or 1702) at Mendon, Massachusetts, (eight children).
- V. Ebenezer Thayer (oldest child), b. June 6, 1720: m. April 24, 1734: Hannah Greene of Mendon, Massachusetts. d. 1783.
- VI. Ebenezer Thayer, b. May 21, 1737: m. Martha White b. October 8, 1737.
- VII. Thaddeus Thayer, b. August 10, 1760: m. October 1, 1783: Rhoda Smith, b. 1759: d. December 24, 1817.
- VIII. Adin (also Aden) Thayer, b. January, 28, 1785 in Bellingham Cross, Massachusetts: d. Feb. 7, 1858 in Hoosick Falls, New York: m. December 1815 in Wilmington, Vermont: Mary Ball, b. March 19, 1795: d. March 15, 1864, (eleven children).
- IX. Francis S. Thayer, (fourth child), b. September 11, 1822 in Dummerston, Vermont: d. November 26, 1880 in Colorado Springs, Colorado: m. April 30, 1850: Catherine Whiteside McKie, b. June 16, 1827 in Cambridge, New York: d. January 4, 1901 in Colorado Springs Colorado, (two children below).
  - X. 1. Francis McKie Thayer, b. June 13, 1857: d. May 24, 1902: m. May 1898, Harriet Jones: (no children).
  2. Katherine Thayer, b. December 3, 1859 in Troy, New York: d. December 3, 1915 in Central Valley, New York: m–1st. June 7, 1882: Barclay Jermain, d. July 7, 1882, (no children). m–2nd. December 17, 1887: Henry Wise Hobson, b. July 9, 1858 at Eastwood, Goochland County, Virginia: d. August 13, 1898 in New York City, (four children below, all born in Denver, Colorado).

- XI. 1. Katherine Thayer Hobson, b. April 11, 1889: d. September 9, 1982. Two marriages, no issue. m-1: Herbert Kraus, div.: m-2: Diether Thimme, div.  
 2. Henry Wise Hobson, b. May 16, 1891: d. February 9, 1983: m. Edmonia Taylor Bryan, (four children).  
 3. Eleanor Whiteside Hobson, b. January 7, 1893: d. April 28, 1985: m. June 22, 1916: George M. Mackenzie, b. August 13, 1885: d. March 25, 1952, (four children).  
 4. Francis Thayer Hobson, b. September 4, 1897: d. October 17, 1967: m-1st. Janet Camp, div.: m-2nd. Priscilla Fansler, div. (one son.): m-3rd. Laura Zametkin, div.: m-4th. Isabelle Garrabrants, b. September 3, 1903: d. January 7, 1960, (two children): m-5th. Elizabeth Davis.



*McKie Hollow Road, 2000.*



☞ The McKie family genealogy:

- I. John McKie, b. 1705: d. October 27, 1782: m. Mary Ann Wilson, b. 1718: d. March 31, 1806, (six children below).
- II. 1. Alexander McKie, died in Scotland.  
 2. Peter McKie, died in Scotland.  
 3. Mary McKie, came to America with her parents.  
 4. John McKie, came to America with his parents but later moved to Canada.  
 5. James McKie, 1760–1843, came to America with his parents. At age 22, James took over the management of the farm. (See below.)  
 6. Elizabeth McKie, came to America with her parents.
- II. James McKie (fifth child above), b. 1760: d. June 14, 1843: m. Elizabeth Wilson, b. 1765: d. December 27, 1849, (eleven children, below).
- III. 1. Sarah McKie, 1786–1860: m-1st. William Armitage: m-2nd. John Reid, 1766–1842.  
 2. Mary McKie, 1787–1845, no other information known.  
 3. John McKie, June 1, 1789–September 9, 1864: m. Catharine Whiteside, 1793–1824.  
 4. George McKie, August 14, 1791–January 15, 1861, (see below).  
 5. Elizabeth McKie, 1793–1855: m. Henry Mathews, 1784–1843.  
 6. William McKie, 1795–April 15, 1863: m-1st. Nancy Law, d. 1838: m-2nd. Julia Smith, 1805–1879.  
 7. Ann McKie, 1798–1856, never married.  
 8. Margaret McKie, 1800–1874: m. William Wilcox, 1803–1870.  
 9. Almy McKie, 1802–June 24, 1868, never married.  
 10. James McKie, 1805–May 5, 1869: m. Lucy Campbell, 1811–1875. James is the author of a diary excerpted in the following chapters.  
 11. Peter McKie, 1808–1856: m. Letitia McFarland.
- III. George McKie, (fourth child above), b. August 14, 1791: d. January 15, 1861: The seven children of George McKie by the two Whiteside sisters are:  
 m-1st Catherine Whiteside, b. February 12, 1793: d. February 20, 1824.  
 1. Neil W. McKie, June 17, 1815–April 27, 1862.  
 2. Edwin J. McKie, October 29, 1818–March 7, 1895: m-1st Antoinette Mosher: m-2nd Jane Short. There are no living descendants of Edwin McKie.

m-2nd Sophia Whiteside, b. April 6, 1796: d. January 21, 1878.

1. George Wilson McKie, August 23, 1825–May 27, 1860.
2. Catherine McKie, b. June 16, 1827: d. January 4, 1901: m. April 30, 1850: Francis S. Thayer, b. September 11, 1822 in Dummerston, Vermont: d. November 26, 1880 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. See Thayer family genealogy.
3. Henry M. McKie, September 6, 1829–April 22, 1851.
4. James McKie, September 13, 1831–November 1, 1855.
5. Peter McKie, December 25, 1833–November 1853.

### The McKie family

Born in Bargaly Glen, Minnigaff Parish, Newton–Stewart, Galloway, Scotland, in 1705, John McKie married Mary Ann Wilson and lived in Minnigaff, Scotland, until 1767 when, at the age of sixty-two, they emigrated to America. He purchased a large tract of land, perhaps 400 acres, in the Wilson Patent in what is now the town of White Creek, New York, about four miles east of Cambridge and moved there in 1774. This land, remote, hard to work, and covered with virgin forest, was reportedly purchased because he wanted to live in the hills to remind him of Scotland. *The History of Washington County*, published in 1878, described Whitecreek as follows: “The hilly districts afford extensive and excellent pasturage. The town on the whole is adapted to husbandry of a varied character... The broken and mountainous districts in the north part of the town are less adapted for tillage than the lands in most of the other towns of the county. Extensive tracts were possessed by single individuals and stocked mostly with sheep.” Though an elderly man when he arrived there, John McKie and his teenage sons carved a farm out of this wilderness where four generations of the family would live over the next 100 years.

James McKie, 1760–June 14, 1843, was born in Minnigaff Parish, District of Galloway, Scotland, and came to America with his parents when he was seven years old. He was fourteen when the family cleared the farm in what is now McKie Hollow. In 1780, James McKie, then twenty, was one of sixty mili-

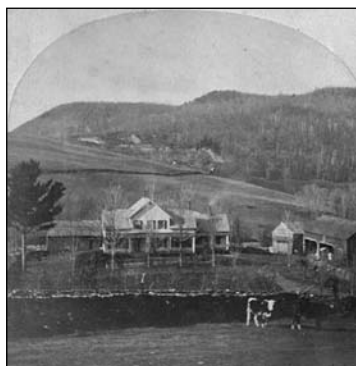


*McKie Valley showing Snake Hill and Sugar Loaf Mountain in the distance. Stereoscopic Views published by L. F. Hurd, Greenwich, New York.*

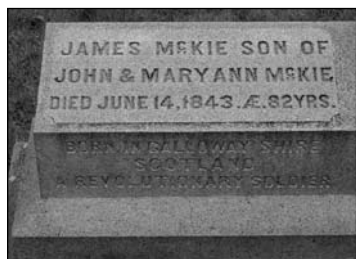


*Looking up McKie Valley, showing Two-top and Pittstown Mountains. Stereoscopic Views published by L. F. Hurd, Greenwich, New York.*

*Farms in McKie Hollow, 2000.*



*William McKie's Residence, McKie Hollow, Hurd's Stereoscopic Views, Greenwich, New York.*



*Grave of James McKie, 1760–1843, Woodland Cemetery, Cambridge, New York. "Born in Galloway Shire, Scotland, A Revolutionary War Soldier."*



tiamen from Cambridge and Salem who were summoned to serve as a garrison at Skenesboro at the south end of Lake Champlain where British raids, under General Carleton, were harassing the settlers. After two uneventful weeks, most of the garrison returned home to Cambridge and Salem leaving thirteen men to hold the position until a relief force arrived. Before the relief force arrived, the remaining soldiers were attacked by British soldiers. James McKie was one of only three members of the garrison who escaped capture. He dived into Wood Creek and swam underwater to a clump of bushes which was snagged on chunks of ice where he concealed himself until the attacking soldiers withdrew. Two years later, in 1782 when his father died, James McKie, at age twenty-two, took over the management of the family farm.

In 1785 James McKie married his first cousin Elizabeth Wilson, 1765–December 27, 1849, of New York City. Elizabeth Wilson was the daughter of George Wilson, 1737–February 7, 1808, and Sarah Dawson, 1737–November 1797. George Wilson was the brother James McKie's mother, Mary Ann Wilson McKie.

George McKie, 1791–1861, James' second son, was a farmer, first in White Creek and later on the Peter Whiteside farm in Cambridge, New York, where the family prospered for many years. Though he was twice married and had seven children, George McKie's only living descendants are through his daughter Catherine McKie, 1827–1901, who married Francis Thayer, 1822–1880. As the Episcopal Church forbids the marriage of in-laws, George McKie became a Presbyterian when he married Sophia Whiteside, the sister of his first wife.

#### ☞ The Whiteside family genealogy:

- I. Phineas Whiteside, b. January 31, 1716, County Tryone, Ireland: d. April 1, 1793: m. Ann Cooper, 1731–March 13, 1800 (seven children below).
  - II. 1. John Whiteside, 1752–1841: m. Margaret Robertson, 1754–1849.
    2. William Whiteside, 1754–1803: m. Lois Freeman, 1761–1840.
    3. Peter Whiteside, 1755–1835: m. Ann Robertson, 1756–1815.
    4. Thomas Whiteside, 1758–1830: m. Elizabeth Cramer, 1762–1838.
    5. Ann Whiteside, 1761–1806: m. John Cochran, 1763–1838.
    6. Edward Whiteside, 1763–1844: m-1st. Ann French, 1768–1806: m-2nd. Asenath Murray, 1782–1836.
    7. Oliver Whiteside, 1766–1804: m. Susanna Prendergast, 1766–1804.
  - II. Peter Whiteside (third child), b. 1755: d. May 26, 1835: m. March 12, 1789: Ann Robertson, 1756–1815. (Three children, Niel, 1791–1814, Catherine, 1793–1824, and Sophia, 1796–1878.)
  - III. 2nd. Catherine Whiteside (second child), b. February 12, 1793: d. February 20, 1824: m. December 17, 1812: George McKie, b. August 14, 1791: d. January 15, 1861. (Two children, see McKie family genealogy above.)
  - III. 3rd. Sophia Whiteside (third child), b. April 6, 1796: d. January 21, 1878: m. George McKie (his 2nd marriage), b. August 14, 1791: d. January 15, 1861. (Five children, see McKie family genealogy above.) Sophia's headstone is clearly engraved "1796" and that date is used in this book. Two other publications, Ida

Whiteside's *A History of Phineas Whiteside and His Family* and Islay V. H. Gill's *The McKie Family of the Cambridge Valley*, incorrectly state that she was born in 1795.

- IV. Catherine McKie, second child of second marriage, b. June 16, 1827; d. January 4, 1901; m. April 30, 1850: Francis S. Thayer, b. September 11, 1822, in Dummerston, Vermont; d. November 26, 1880, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. (Two children, see Thayer family genealogy above.)
- V. Katherine Thayer, second child, b. December 3, 1859; d. December 3, 1915; m-1st June 7, 1882: Barclay Jermain, d. July 7, 1882 (no children); m-2nd December 17, 1887: Henry Wise Hobson, b. July 9, 1858, at Eastwood, Goochland County, Virginia; d. August 13, 1898, in New York City. (Four children, see Thayer or Hobson genealogies above.)

It was a small world in the 1800s. Barclay Jermain's mother, Catherine Ann Rice, had been born in White Creek, New York, on February 27, 1823, the daughter of Clark Rice and Ann Hutton Rice. Catherine Ann Rice married James Barclay Jermain and had three daughters and one son. Catherine Ann Rice Jermain and Catherine McKie Thayer, 1827–1901, were very close friends in Cambridge, White Creek, Albany, and Troy.

#### The Whiteside family

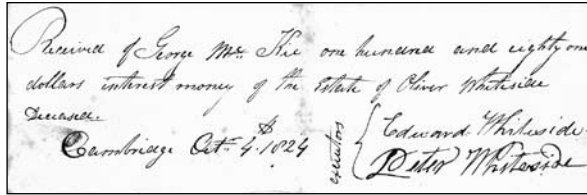
Born in 1716, Phineas Whiteside came to America about 1735–1736 from County Tyrone in North Ireland, but little is known of his forebears. He had some education to prepare him for the ministry, and when he came to America he settled in the Pequea Valley in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where, in 1752, he married Ann Cooper of Leacock township. In 1754 he was ordained an elder in the Covenanter Church at Octararo, Pennsylvania. In 1764 he traveled north from Pennsylvania with a missionary from Scotland. Two years later



*Graves of Peter Whiteside, 1755–1835, and Ann Robertson Whiteside, 1756–1815, Whiteside Cemetery, Cambridge, New York. Ann's stone reads: "A loving wife, a tender parent. A friend of the poor & a sincere Christian. She died esteemed of her friends and acquaintance."*



1799 & 1800 Promissory Notes of Peter Whiteside's: "Cambridge, December 24, 1799, Received of Peter Whiteside twenty-eight pounds I say received by me. Nathaniel Potter"



Receipt for funds from the estate of Oliver Whiteside, 1766–1804. Includes signatures of brothers Edward Whiteside and Peter Whiteside: "Received of George McKie one hundred and eighty one dollars interest money of the estate of Oliver Whiteside, deceased. Cambridge, October 4, 1824. Edward Whiteside & Peter Whiteside, Executors."

he repeated the journey and decided to settle in the Cambridge, New York, area where he purchased 800 acres of land and obtained a perpetual lease on an additional 600 acres. One story claims that he climbed the tallest tree he could find in West Cambridge and vowed to purchase all of the land that he could see. The *History of Washington County* notes that during the American Revolution Phineas Whiteside "was one of the few who pledged himself for the credit of his country to the amount of £10,000."

Phineas Whiteside was the second person buried in the Whiteside cemetery, a small cemetery adjoining the Whiteside Church in Cambridge, New York. His wife, Ann Cooper Whiteside, died in 1800 and is buried beside him. His epitaph reads:

In Memory Of — Phineas Whiteside Esq., by birth an Hibernian was born Jan. 31, 1716. He saw this and many parts of America a wilderness. He saw Columbia struggling for liberty, in which he took an active part; He saw her successful. He died April 1st, 1793 in the 77th year of his age.

"Full ripe in virtue as in age, For endless bliss he quit the stage."

Catherine McKie Thayer, 1827–1901, once copied the following letter from Mary Whiteside, (born August 26, 1718), in Ireland to her brother Phineas who had come to America. Phineas never saw this letter since it was written after his death but before that news had reached his sister.

Killycolpy June 2, 1793.  
Mr. Phineas Whiteside Cambridge, County Albany York State America  
Much Regarded Brother—

We and friends here are well thanks to God for it. We continue writing every year to you but very seldom get a letter from you. Therefore I entreat you or family to continue writing to us and to let us know in what occupation your family is in or if they are married all yet or not.

Dear Brother, my eldest son is in England this three years again the 12th of August next, learning to be a doctor and I expect him home again November and my two daughters and other son are living at home with me yet.

I hope if this reaches you that you will not omit to let me hear how you all are and give us an account of the Circumstances, form, and state of that part of America— or if you expect peace will continue in it. The English is very much engaged in war against the French at present and has or is about raising



Whiteside family graves. Graves of Phineas and Anne Whiteside, right, and row of gravestones for their descendants. Whiteside Cemetery, Cambridge, New York.



Grave of Phineas Whiteside, 1716–1793, "He saw Columbia struggling for liberty," Whiteside Cemetery, Cambridge, New York.



a militia in almost every County in this Kingdome. My kind love to you and family. –*Mary Whiteside*.

☞ The Wheelock family genealogy:

- I. Ralph Wheelock, b. at Shropshire, England in 1600: Left England in 1637: d. Medfield, Massachusetts. January 11, 1682: m. Rebecca, (nine children).

Ralph Wheelock matriculated at Cambridge University in England in 1623 and there received his education. An ordained minister, Wheelock was much more interested in education than the ministry. He left England and sailed to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1637. He was to teach in the free school in Dedham, Massachusetts, from 1644–1651, the first free school in Massachusetts and one of the first schools in New England supported by a town tax. In 1651 he was one of the founders of Medfield, Massachusetts, and later a teacher in the first school established there. In the 1650s he took up collections for Harvard College, the first college in America, founded in 1636.

- II. Benjamin Wheelock (fourth child), b. January 8, 1639 (or 1640) in Dedham, Massachusetts: d. about 1720 in Mendon, Massachusetts, m. May 21, 1668, in Medfield, Massachusetts: Elizabeth Bullen d. 1689 (three children).
- III. Benjamin Wheelock (second child), b. December 12, 1678, in Medfield, Massachusetts: d. September 13, 1746, in Mendon, Massachusetts, m. December 9, 1700 in Mendon, Massachusetts: Huldah Thayer b. March 11, 1682.

Huldah Thayer was possibly the daughter of Fernando Thayer, 1625–1673, and Huldah Hayward (d. 1690), see Thayer family genealogy. If that was the case, then Mary Wheelock and Ebenezer Thayer, “IV” below, were first cousins. Benjamin Wheelock had a cousin, Eleazar Wheelock, who founded Dartmouth College.

- IV. Mary Wheelock, b. January 21, 1701, (or 1702) at Mendon, Massachusetts, m. August 9, 1721, at Mendon, Massachusetts: Ebenezer Thayer of Bellingham, Massachusetts, b. September 6, 1697 (eight children, see Thayer family genealogy above).

In 1895, when Katherine Thayer Hobson, 1859–1915, sought to join the Colonial Dames, she listed Ralph Wheelock on her application, she being a ninth generation descendant of his. Her application was approved.

☞ Some family confusion:

There has been confusion ever since two Whiteside brothers, Peter and John, married two sisters, Ann and Margaret Robertson. Each family had a daughter named Catherine. The two Catherines married two brothers, George and John McKie. Peter’s daughter married George McKie and John’s daughter married John McKie. Islay V. H. Gill’s pamphlet *The McKie Family of the Cambridge Valley* (1960) and Ida Whiteside’s *A History of Phineas Whiteside and His Family* (1961) both incorrectly give the years of John’s daughter as being the years

of Peter's daughter. John's daughter lived August 6, 1793 –November 21, 1880, and had three children and Peter's daughter lived February 12, 1793–February 20, 1824, and had two children.



The story of these different families, the Hobsons, Wises, Whitesides, Thayers, and McKies, is now best told in the letters, diaries, and other writings that survive them, and that is the rest of this book.